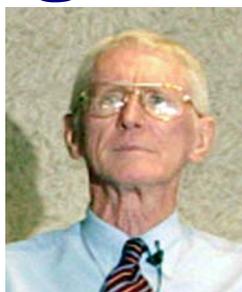


# Remembering Those Who Have Passed



By **Justin Berton**, San Francisco Chronicle

**Bob Wilkins**, the cigar-wielding host of *Creature Features*, the late-night movie show that aired on KTVU's Channel 2 through the 1970s, died on January 7 in Reno from complications of Alzheimer's disease, his family said. He was 76.

For a generation of science fiction and B-movie enthusiasts, Mr. Wilkins was the bespectacled TV host who drolly introduced underground flicks with titles such as "Attack of the Mushroom People."

"Don't stay up tonight," Mr. Wilkins sometimes told viewers. "It's not worth it."

For the same generation of Bay Area children, Mr. Wilkins was also the host of the after-school KTVU program *Captain Cosmic*, donning a silver motorcycle helmet and crimson cape to introduce Japanese cult shows such as *Ultra Man*.

Mr. Wilkins' selections (he previewed the films before airing them) suggested an aficionado's taste

for genre cinema, but he held no special attachment to the movies, said his longtime friend and sometime co-host **John Stanley**.

"Bob had no passion for horror," laughed Stanley, who described the Indiana native as bemused by the subject. "I'm sure he enjoyed it, but he didn't take it seriously."

Mr. Wilkins worked his way up from the mailroom at a Chicago advertising agency to become a copywriter, then headed to California in 1963, where he landed a job as an ad salesman at television station KCRA in Sacramento. In those days, ad salesmen helped hold the camera equipment when shooting commercials, even serving as the on-camera talent in a pinch, Stanley said.

After watching Mr. Wilkins entertain as a master of ceremonies for a retirement party, a station manager suggested Mr. Wilkins host a late-night movie show designed to run through the station's library of old films.

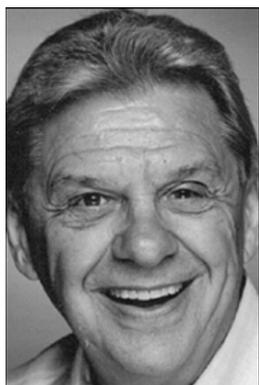
The show was meant to compete with local stations that played the national anthem and went off the air after the 11 p.m. newscasts. **Tom Wyrsh**, author of *The Bob Wilkins Scrapbook*, said Mr. Wilkins' understated demeanor became a hit with viewers.

After the Sacramento show brought in high ratings for its time slot, in 1970, Oakland's KTVU offered Wilkins a 9 p.m. weekend slot for *Creature Features*, a show he hosted until 1979.

Bob and his wife **Sally** retired in Reno. "I don't think he ever realized how many young people he influenced," his wife said. "Every once in a while, a person would recognize him on the street and say, 'Hey, you're the guy I would watch from my bedroom late at night.'"

Bob's Web site is at [www.bobwilkins.net](http://www.bobwilkins.net).

## George Rodman



George T. Rodman (Silver Circle class of 1990) died in the early hours of January 2, 2009, in Covington, LA, from Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Janis Rodman**. George was born August 13, 1927 in Escanaba, Michigan.

In the course of his over 50-year career in the broadcast industry, he was based in Chicago, San Francisco, New York City and Carmel, CA. He was Director of Creative Services first for ABC-TV owned television stations and later for the CBS-TV owned stations division. In 1974 he formed his own company - George Rodman & Associates - the television industry's first promotion agency and consulting service, which he operated until 2002. Through his years with the networks and with his own firm, Mr. Rodman had assisted more than 70 television stations - in the US, South America, and Asia — in the improvement of their brand identities and marketing and promotion efforts. Mr. Rodman also served as President of PROMAX International, a broadcast industry professional organization.

## Kristine Ramos



**Kristine Marie Ramos**, daughter of **Manny** (former CBS 5 reporter and Silver Circle member) and **Robin Ramos** was killed December 29, 2008 in a domestic violence incident in San Jose. She leaves four young children that now have no mother.

A trust fund has been established for the children. You may make contributions to:

The Kristine Ramos Children's Assistance Fund  
P.O. Box 3128,  
Santa Clara CA 95055

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Manny and Robin from all of us in the NATAS family.