



501 N. Calvert St. P.O. Box 1377
Baltimore, Maryland 21278-0001
Tel: 800/829-8000

January 23, 2015

Pulitzer Prize Board
Columbia University
709 Pulitzer Hall
2950 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10027

Dear Judges,

Cartoonist Kevin Kallaugher, better known as KAL, provides a rare blend of journalism and artistry. His cartoons are funny and poignant, but above all, they reflect a mastery of a wide range of subjects, international, national and local. His use of a particularly intricate and instantly recognizable visual style fosters unique storytelling techniques that inform the reader and make a point.

His cartoons epitomize the purpose of satire – to deflate pretense and to stand up for the little guy against the powerful, whether he’s taking up for the unaccompanied migrant children caught up in the squabble between the president and Congress or skewering NFL commissioner Roger Goodell’s efforts to defuse the Ray Rice domestic violence scandal. KAL has spent many years drawing cartoons for the Economist, which has given him a welcome and unusually strong perspective on international affairs and on how the United States is seen around the world. That was on clear display in his cartoons about the Ukraine crisis and the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, as well as America’s over-hyped reaction to a handful of Ebola cases here.

But KAL also delights Sun readers with his acerbic commentary on local affairs. Maryland’s deplorably negative governor’s race provided plenty of material this year, but KAL also eagerly prodded the opponents of Maryland’s minimum wage increase and efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. KAL cut through a candidate for local office’s muddled explanations of his membership in a Southern secessionist organization, and he spoofed our former governor’s presidential ambitions.

Some of KAL’s strongest work this year focused on cybersecurity and the surveillance state – particularly important topics in Maryland, the home of the NSA – as he wrestled with the continuing debate over Edward Snowden’s revelations and the Sony hack. The work is a distillation of KAL’s point of view on the individual buffeted by uncaring and even sinister institutions, and it clearly demonstrates the way his style and technique enable a more sustained and nuanced conversation than editorial cartoons typically afford. Each of these pieces has a punch line and a message, but they also serve to foster readers’ understanding of the complexity of the issues of the day in a way that few of his peers can match.

KAL's broad range and mastery of his craft truly set him apart. He is most deserving of the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trif Alatzas', written in a cursive style.

Trif Alatzas
Senior Vice President, Executive Editor