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Joe Diestel In Memorium

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1 Introduction

The woods are dense,dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
Miles to go before I sleep
(RE Frost)

2 Joe's Curiosity

It is a matter of great sadness to his friends that Joe has gone to sleep when there are miles to go. He continually wanted to learn, and expose something new or of interest to him and others. His greeting used to be "what are you doing" or "what is the good word" (ie.in math.) To some it may be intimidating but that was not the intent, his native curiosity in math. When in 1972 at the Salt Lake City,Utah Conference on Vector measures,his first words were the above. Those were the days when VM were in vogue;he was invariably accompanied by his Colleague, J J Uhl(Jr) called "JJ". One of the "new" results was the one with Barbara Faires on the special place of the space c_0 in VM.In fact the "talk of the day" in that Conference was Per Enflo's A counter Example to the Approximation Problem . The disbelief and incredulity it created was remarkable.

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3 Joe's style

His special style will be apparent on even a cursory look at his several monographs.Let us mention his last book On The Joyof Haar Measure with Angela Spalsbury. We refer to the Section on Brunn- Minkowski Theorem and some of its consequences, esp. the Isoperimetric Inequality for this.

His style sometimes was criticized and he took it well Let me cite only for this purpose my joint paper in Comment Math (Poland) 1991 with him . The chief editor was the immortal W .Orlicz(same!! student of Stefan Banach) and referee L Drewnowski. To quote from the editors first response:-..." The referees objections were raised on account of the too informal style....too much

liberty was taken in referring to Dunford and Schwartz as THE BIBLE; Rewrite paper,make some changes and it will be accepted”

Re this paper; Joe have a talk on it and related matters in Seville Spain; the able group there took the problems there and ” Made our paper obsolete” Likely it is the easiest paper with Joe Diestels name

4 students and,colleagues visitors

Joe had a kind heart especially for his students and friends. This was clear on visiting him in the VFW Bar at Kent.He talked about these with real feeling. Joes home in Kent was the venue for several parties ; some of the Classical Greats in Banach Spaces or/and Vector measures were there. Bob Bartle, Billy J Pettis, RC James to mention a few. There were also many other younger, ” contemporary ” greats. Further, with his Colleague, JJ UhlJr and (others) Joe arranged several Conferences on Banach Space theory. These are now classical and fruitful

5 Conclusion

Joe had good standards and did not pass everything or everybody. However he helped one and all. May he find Everlasting Peace