

Photographer views job as public relations work

By ALIS MAHLEN
Reporter

Derrick Grubbs earns his living by pushing a button. As University Photographer, Grubbs has been published in almost every major newspaper in Texas, he said recently.

Grubbs, a Texas A&M Class of '79 graduate, has been taking pictures since high school.

As University Photographer, Grubbs works with the Office of Public Information in the Reed McDonald Building.

"When newspapers don't have enough money to send a photographer for a shot, they know they can call me and get quality photos fast," he said.

The Office of Public Information generates stories every day, Grubbs said. The Office also puts stories on the wire which are moved nationwide.

Whether they are used depends on the various editors, Grubbs said. "Sometimes you take the greatest shot and know it's never going to be used," he said.

Grubbs' regular "beat" is the Corps of Cadets and student activities. "Spring is much busier than fall," he said. During the school year, Grubbs covers such events as bonfire, the March to the Brazos and award ceremonies.

The office generates publicity for the entire campus, outside of those areas that already have their own, Grubbs said. Grubbs also does radio

spots of current events on campus. Grubbs takes 90 percent of his pictures in black and white. "We're primarily dealing with newspapers here," he said. However, if a paper or magazine calls and asks specifically for color shots, Grubbs obliges.

Grubbs, born and raised in Bryan, said he has always been "obsessed" with sports. He has been the public address announcer at Olsen Field for the past 10 years, he said. At Bryan High School he was a statistician.

Upon entering Texas A&M in 1975, Grubbs began working as a student assistant sports information director. Baseball was his primary responsibility and at times he worked up to 50 hours a week without pay for the first four years, he said. However, he got to travel with the teams and met many people who eventually became friends, he said.

Grubbs also has a 1977 and a 1978 baseball Southwest Conference Championship ring and a gold watch from a later tournament given to him for his dedication, he said.

Grubbs went to the Office of Public Information as a student worker in the fall of 1981. He became a full-time photographer in January 1983.

"I'm doing PR (public relations) work here, which is something I've always wanted to do," he said.

Grubbs gets assignments from almost anywhere. "Some days I come to work thinking I have nothing to do, then bang — the phone rings and I'm busy."

If a writer for the office has a story and sees that his subject has

good potential for a picture, Grubbs takes the shot. "The writers here are great," Grubbs said, "but any way of sending art out with a story makes it better."

Grubbs does a lot of feature material. Recently, he took photographs of the bells for the Bell Tower right after they had been unloaded. Grubbs photographed the placing of the first bell, he said. For this shot, he had to climb to the height of the bell on the scaffolding.

"I wasn't happy about climbing that high with nothing to hold on to, but I knew it would be a dramatic shot," he said, adding that he dislikes heights.

Grubbs also worked closely with the production crew for the movie "The Bear." Before the crew arrived, Grubbs sent them a Corps uniform and pictures of the old football jerseys.

For one of the opening scenes, Grubbs arranged for the entire Corps of Cadets to be used as extras, he said. Also later, during bonfire scenes, several people from the Theatre Arts department became extras.

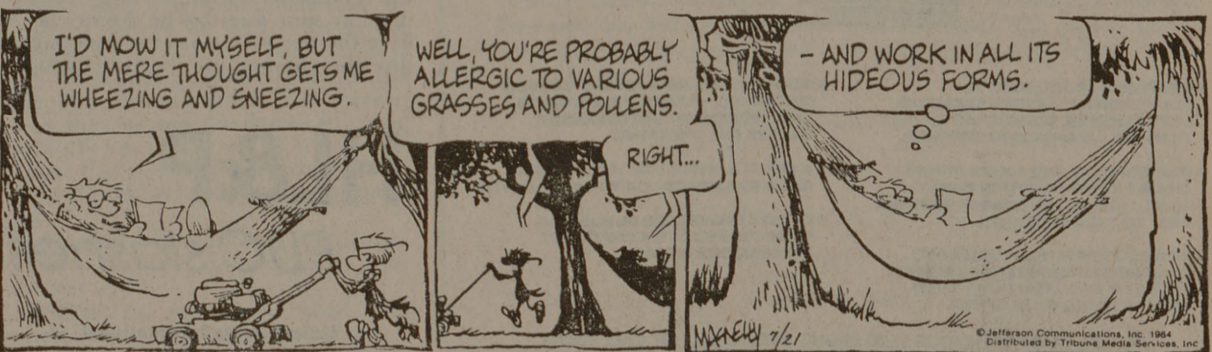
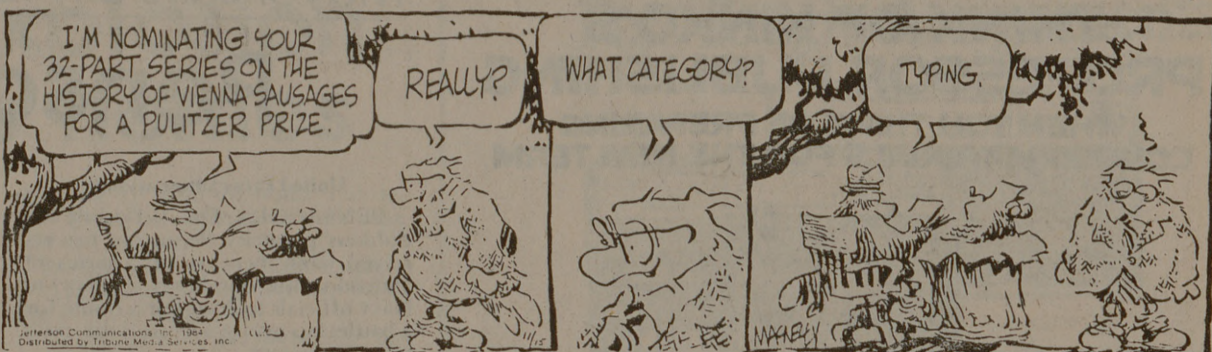
"It was good to see the students involved in the actual production," Grubbs said.

The filming over the Thanksgiving holiday last year took three days, Grubbs said. During that time, Grubbs was with the crew constantly.

"I didn't have a holiday," he said. "I gave thanks when they left."

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Proposed legislation would give states oil lease control

United Press International

HOUSTON — The oil industry must work against congressional legislation that would give states power to control the size and location of oil leases in the Outer Continental Shelf, an industry spokesman said Tuesday.

In 1983, a federal appeals court in California ruled OCS lease sales must be consistent with approved state coastal zone management programs. The U.S. Supreme Court later overturned that decision. But the high court's ruling led to the introduction of legislation that would, in effect, void the Supreme Court decision.

Although that proposal was not enacted in the last session of Congress, it probably will be re-introduced in 1985, said Paul Kelly, vice president of Rowan Companies Inc. and chairman of the National Ocean Industries Association Pro-Leasing Task Force.

"Industry will continue to strongly resist legislation which would worsen the effect of the Coastal Zone Management Act on OCS oil and gas operations by undercutting the Supreme Court's ruling," Kelly told the American Petroleum Institute.

He urged the industry to defend the Supreme Court ruling that such consistency standards do not apply to lease sales and that they should not apply to exploration and development of the OCS.

There is little danger of environmental damage during the exploration stage, Kelly said, noting there has not been a major oil spill in U.S. waters as a result of drilling activities since 1969.

Companies can more quickly explore an area if they do not have to meet state standards beforehand, he said, and existing federal legislation requires environmental hearings before development can begin.

"I simply cannot understand how state and local agencies and environmental organizations can afford to spend so much of their time and constituents' money throwing up roadblocks to exploration at a stage when it still is not known whether any oil and gas deposits are present in their area," Kelly said.

The pro-leasing task force is a group of about 450 companies involved in all phases of offshore exploration and development.

"NOIA is taking this unusual step because despite what you hear about declining oil prices and an oil glut, our nation is in danger of becoming increasingly more reliant on imported oil at a time when there is considerable political instability in many of the oil-producing regions of the world," Kelly said.

"Obstruction of reasonable OCS development threatens the nation's energy security."

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Tuesday.

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
- A brown Schwinn Continental 10-speed bicycle was stolen from the Herman Heep Building and the Old Creamery.
 - A brown Shaiman 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside the Zachry Engineering Building.
 - A blue Bianchi 10-speed bicycle was stolen from in front of an apartment at Married Student Housing.

THEFT:

- The battery was stolen from a 1973 Dodge Van issued to the Texas A&M University Press.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
- Someone broke the glass in the door to 012 Thompson.
 - Someone broke a plate glass door on the eighth floor of Kyle Field. A chair was dropped from the third level.
- BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:**
- A woman's purse was stolen

from her Plymouth station wagon in the Southside Apartments parking area.

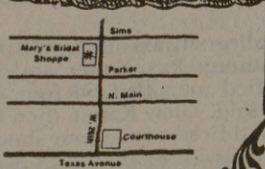
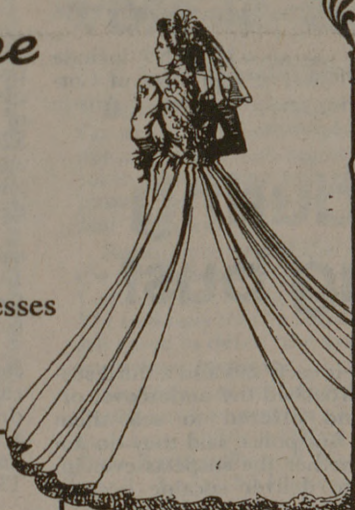
- Two stereo speakers were stolen from a 1981 Chevrolet pickup in Parking Annex 46.
- A Proton AM/FM cassette player and 10 tapes were stolen from a 1978 Chevrolet Camaro parked in front of Married Student Housing.
- A key ring with 11 keys and a United Bank checkbook were stolen from a 1983 Chevrolet Camaro in Parking Annex 60.

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