

FOCUS online

NCSU LIBRARIES

VOLUME 23 NO. 2

2003

PART II LIBRARY EVENTS AND SEMINARS

PHOTOGRAPHY AT ITS FINEST
PULITZER PRIZE PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITION PLANNED FOR
NCSU LIBRARIES

CAPTURE THE MOMENT: THE
PULITZER PRIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

VOLUME 23 NO. 2, PART I
LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 23 NO. 2, PART III
NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL
JULY–AUGUST 2002

VOLUME 23 NO. 2, PART IV
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 23 NO. 2, PART V
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

[FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY](#)

[LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT](#)

[SCHOLARLY
COMMUNICATION CENTER](#)

© NCSU Libraries 2003
CB 7111
Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7111

Photography at Its Finest Pulitzer Prize Photography Exhibition Planned for NCSU Libraries

By LINDA McCORMICK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Certain photographic images remain indelible in America's consciousness—Jack Ruby's assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald, a Vietnamese girl running toward a camera with her body burned by napalm, or American Marines hoisting the flag at Iwo Jima during World War II. These compelling, eyewitness images, which captured a moment in American history, are all past winners of the Pulitzer Prize in photography and will be featured among other Pulitzer photography winners in an upcoming exhibition at the NCSU Libraries.

The exhibition, entitled *The Pulitzer Prize Photographs: Capture the Moment*, will run from September 19 through December 14, 2003, in the D. H. Hill Library. Cyma Rubin of the Business of Entertainment, Inc., an NC State alumna, curated the original exhibition in 2000. The traveling exhibition that will be shown at the Libraries has been updated by Rubin since then and features more than 120 Pulitzer photographs dating from 1942 to the present.



1958 Pulitzer Prize for Photography. Policeman speaks to a young boy at a parade in Washington, D.C. Photo by William C. Beall. Courtesy of Scripps Howard News Service.



[Left] 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News. United States federal marshals seize Cuban boy Elián Gonzalez from the home of his relatives in Miami. Photo by Alan Diaz. Courtesy of the Associated Press.



1974 Pulitzer Prize for
Feature Photography.
*An American prisoner of war
returns home. Photo by Slava
Veder. Courtesy of the
Associated Press.*

The Pulitzer Prize for photojournalism documents the breadth of human experience, from the triumphs to profound moments of despair. These photographs have the power to move viewers to action, as well as to encourage contemplation of the world both past and present. Rubin notes that each time she views a Pulitzer photograph she sees “the movement. The photographers have an innate sense of what is happening emotionally and intellectually to the subjects they are photographing.” According to Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Lucian Perkins of the *Washington Post*, “The Pulitzer recognizes photography that many times goes unrecognized, and by recognizing it gives the reader a second chance to look more closely at the image and the story it tells.” A family’s joy in greeting a father returning from a prisoner of war camp in 1974 is visceral. Photographer Greg Gibson’s 1993 image of former President Clinton talking with a small boy offers a special glimpse into the world of an American presidential campaign. Photographer John H. White, born in Lexington, North Carolina, received a Pulitzer in the feature photography category in 1982 for his photography portfolio covering a

year in the life of Chicago for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. The NCSU Libraries is very pleased to present this stunning exhibition for the university community and for the general public. Admission to the exhibition is free, and copies of the catalog will be available for purchase.

Hungarian-born newspaper magnate Joseph Pulitzer (1847–1911) established an endowment in 1904 to create the Pulitzer Prizes, which are awarded each year in the categories of journalism, literature, music, and drama. Pulitzer sought to foster excellence in his beloved profession of journalism, and the prestige accorded to the Pulitzer winners attests to the success of his intentions. The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded in 1917. The Pulitzer board established a prize for photojournalism in 1942, and in 1968 the category was divided into awards for breaking news and for feature photographs. To qualify for nomination, photographs have to have been published in an American daily or weekly newspaper.

Exhibition curator Cyma Rubin (see “Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs,” page 5), who graduated from NC State in 1947 with a degree in textile management, has led a

distinguished career in the arts. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library at NC State. Rubin cowrote the exhibition catalog with Eric Newton of the Newseum in Arlington, Virginia. The catalog features photographs and biographies of the prize-winning photographers as well as interviews with many of the photographers. Rubin, a Broadway producer, also produced and directed “Moment of Impact: Stories of the Pulitzer Prize Photographs,” an Emmy Award-winning TV documentary examining six Pulitzer photographs.

For further information regarding the exhibition, please call Linda McCormick (919-515-8120) or Bernard McTigue (919-515-8119) in the Libraries’ Special Collections Department. ❖



*1945 Pulitzer Prize for Photography.
U.S. Marines raise the American flag atop
Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in the South Pacific,
February 23, 1945. Photo by Joe Rosenthal.
Courtesy of the Associated Press.*



*[Left] 1964 Pulitzer Prize for Photography.
Jack Ruby shoots Lee Harvey Oswald. Photo
by Robert H. Jackson. Courtesy of Robert H.
Jackson.*

*1985 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News.
Members of the Orange County Register’s
photography staff won the 1985 Pulitzer for
their coverage of the 1984 Olympics in Los
Angeles. The photography team consisted of
Rick Rickman, Hal Stoelzle, and Brian
Smith. This photo was taken by Hal Stoelzle.
Courtesy of the Orange County Register.*



Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs

BY CYMA RUBIN,
BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

I started to research the Pulitzer Prize photographs in 1994. The work would eventually lead in 2000 to the first major United States exhibit of Pulitzer photos. What in the world, I wondered, do these pictures have in common? They do not pretend to be a complete look at history—the photography Pulitzers have been given only since 1942. They are not the country's most popular photos, they are only those from newspapers that chose to enter the contest. Many of them show blood and guts, but not all, and they certainly do not cover all of the wars of the second half of the twentieth century.

So what do they have in common? Each of them has a life of its own. These photographs have a strange power, a force that can carry human emotions across barriers of language, time, and place. They have an ability to reach people, to get through, to communicate. Quickly and clearly, they say war is brutal and victory sweet, children are innocent, and life is



1993 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography. This photo is taken from a portfolio of photos created by the photography staff of the Associated Press during the 1992 presidential campaign. Photo by Greg Gibson. Courtesy of the Associated Press.

fragile—and they say it equally to men and women of different classes and cultures. Perhaps most important of all, the very best pictures change the way we think about racism at home or a famine halfway around the world, about the miracle of birth, the pain of war, the joy of a family united, the sorrow of a loved one lost.

When photographers go to a battle or into a blizzard, they go for us. They are there because we would like to know what is going on but do not want to be there ourselves. Photographers are our eyes, and when they do it well, when they capture the moment, they help us see the unseen, know the unknown, and feel the things that connect us all. ❖

1949 Pulitzer Prize for Photography. Babe Ruth's final public appearance. Photo by Nathaniel Fein. Courtesy of the Nat Fein Estate.





Focus, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>