

New photojournalism teacher brings a lifetime of experience



Above: Max Gutierrez, professional photographer and Clackamas photojournalism instructor, in action at the Washington Park Zoo.

Below: The Print chose this photo essay of the playful bear with frisbee, again at the Washington Park Zoo, as one of the series at which Gutierrez excels-- fast shooting and steady aim earned Gutierrez UPI's "Photographer of the Year" award for his Mt. St. Helens work. Gutierrez free lances and teaches today.

SANDY LUPO
Opinion Editor

Max Gutierrez, Clackamas photojournalism instructor, has photographed every president of the United States since John F. Kennedy, and was named photographer of the year by United Press International, his employer, for his work on Mt. St. Helens the year it erupted, 1980.

Gutierrez has taught photography since 1972, long before his retirement from UPI. He uses his own 35mm slides to teach lighting techniques for the time of day and the time of year; the effects of telephoto, wide angle or fish-eye lenses; and the use of such gear as polarizing filters and infra red color film. In this class, seeing is learning.

Gutierrez has seen a lot, and gotten the pictures. He began his photography career with UPI in 1955 in San Francisco, his hometown, where he covered the Presidio, the hippie movement and the Vietnam War protests.

Portland has been no less exciting for this professional since he transferred to the Rose City in 1969. Gutierrez traveled to Alaska when the pipeline was being built, and again when it exploded; he "covered" the Sunshine Mine disaster in Idaho when only two of 95 trapped miners were rescued; he photographed Evil Knievel's unsuccessful attempt to leap the Snake River Canyon; and he spent an evening with President Kennedy at Yosemite National Park, CA.

"He offered us coffee and he was a very nice man. (Just) to be in his room

with him was something special."

UPI sent Gutierrez from Portland to cover the kidnapping of 45 school children and their bus driver outside Fresno, CA; to photograph the DC plane crash at 159th and Burnside; to follow the Rajneeshees in Central Oregon; to snap Magic Johnson and other great athletes; and to cover the Mt. St. Helens eruption and its aftermath.

"I just shot anything that moved," he joked.

Steve Tank, who makes his living as an aerial photographer, printer and processor, attends the Thursday evening class at Clackamas.

"I've known Max almost 25 years," he said, "and he is still my inspiration."

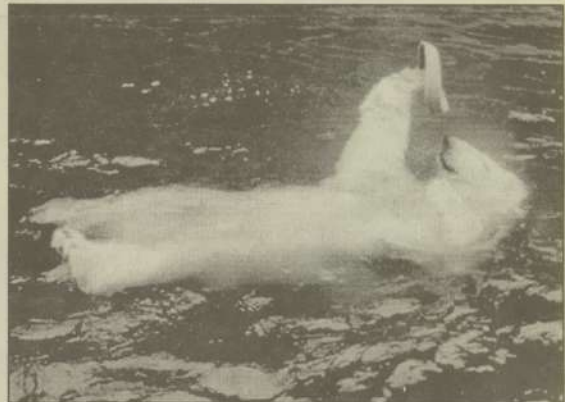
Gutierrez inspires not only with his skill, but also with his ongoing dedication to the work he loves. In addition to the class at Clackamas, he free-lances photographic assignments for magazines and newspapers, works two days a week at Citizens' Photo in SE Portland, and teaches photography at the Metropolitan Learning Center one night a week.

"I found out long ago that if you don't keep active, you will stagnate," he remarked.

Gutierrez and his wife Carole live in Portland, and share Carole's hobby of gardening when the photographer is not on assignment. They raised eight children, who visit, or whom they visit, whenever possible.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAX GUTIERREZ



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- Entry deadline Friday, Feb. 16th
- Submit one 4x6 photo to Mike Pollock in room B104 with full name and a short description
- Winning photo will be published in the paper
- Photos will not be returned