

YOU & THE NEWS

Focusing on photography

By Claudia Cangilla

LITTLETON, CO — How does it feel for an eight-year-old, first-time photographer to have one of his pictures published in a famous book? "It feels great," says Brian McAdam from Littleton, Colorado. Brian's photo was selected for the *A Day in the Life of America* book.

A Day in the Life of America was a \$5 million project that gathered 200 of the world's best professional photographers to photograph life in America on May 2, 1986.

The book's sponsors wanted to use photos taken by kids, believing "children see the world with fresh eyes." Kodak gave disk cameras and film to 200 kids. Brian was one of them.

When the exciting day arrived, Brian woke up early. He wanted to take a picture of the first thing he sees every morning — his younger brother Kevin still sleeping in bed. Then, with his camera and film, he went to school.

His teachers knew about Brian's project and let him "shoot" school scenes. "I took pictures of the kids studying, on the playground and in gym class," Brian says.

After school he photographed horses in a nearby field, his cousin in a baseball cap, his brother on a skateboard and neighborhood friends.



Brian shoots

Near the end of his last disc of film, Brian took the photograph which would eventually end up in the book.

A Day in the Life of America project director Rick Smolan believed all along that "kids tend to be very spontaneous, and they tend to photograph the things that are important to them."

Brian proved him to be correct. His winning photograph captured a special moment his family looks forward to every day. "It was a picture of my dad when he came home from work," Brian explains. "He's kissing my brother at the front door."

The professional photographers took some 250,000 photos and only 238 were selected for the book. The 200 school chil-



winning photo

dren turned in 9,600 photographs. Only 12 of those were picked for the book.

When Brian flips open his copy of the book, he immediately turns to page 134. It features the picture of his dad and brother. It is surrounded by other kids' pictures of baby lambs, of ducks and of children on a playground.

Brian is excited about his work. "The whole thing was really neat," he remarks. "I love the book because it shows a lot of pictures by great professional photographers."

Just like the professional photojournalists, Brian McAdam and the other kids photographed the meaningful moments and special people who make up each and every day in the life of America.

Kids publish own books

HARTFORD, CT — Eighth grader Michelle McFarland is a published author thanks to her school's own publishing company. Her book about self-esteem was the first one to come off the school's press.

More students at Thomas J. Quirk Middle School will publish their book ideas. After students research and write the book, they work with the graphic arts teacher to learn about paste up, plate making, printing, collating and binding.

School's small store is big business

EAST HARTFORD, CT — Signing the loan for \$2,000 made the eighth grade students nervous because it was the first time they had borrowed money from a bank.

The students at East Hartford Middle School decided they wanted to start a school store and took out the loan for start-up funds. Of course, the principal had to co-sign with the students.

The student council members run the store. If there is any money left after they pay their monthly loan bill, it goes to pay anti-drug lecturers and for food given to needy families during the holidays.

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