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**Series:** 2002: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**Body**

Nearly all of the photos you see in the St. Petersburg Times, including these, are taken with digital cameras. 2002 marked the first full year that our staff of 34 photographers was outfitted with the new equipment. No film, no processing or chemicals; just a memory chip in a plastic case no larger than a pack of matches. Using a phone line or a ***cell phone***, the image can be transmitted back to the newspaper almost immediately.

Film still captures finer detail in low light and is more forgiving when the exposure is less than perfect. But now a page designer can place a news photo on a page as little as 15 minutes after the photographer presses the shutter button.

The technology has raised concerns about altering the content of news photographs. Can you believe what you see?  In truth, there has always been only one guarantee against photographs that lie: the integrity of the photographer and their supporting news organizations.

The photo staffers at the St. Petersburg Times take their responsibility as documenters of our community and the world very seriously. We will never knowingly publish an altered news photograph. Our mission is always to reveal and enlighten, never to disguise or deceive.

You may remember some of these images, chosen by the Pasco bureau's photographers as their personal favorites from 2002. We hope you enjoy seeing them again.

- SHERMAN ZENT, PICTURE EDITOR

Rodeos are very visual - from the high-flying bull riding action to the intermission antics by the clowns. I found my favorite moment in a quieter spot; where flood lights cut through the twilight and pre-ride anticipation hangs in the air. This scene gave me that feeling, and captured the energy that the event is all about. The photo features Jason Paris, left, and Tim Edge at the Odessa Rodeo and Festival in April.

- BRENDAN FITTERER

One morning I was groaning about shooting soccer in the wet weather. I noticed two girls under their umbrellas. I watched them whisper and giggle. Then one would move her umbrella to feel the rain on her face. I realized I looked at the day all wrong. - JANEL SCHROEDER-NORTON

I was in awe being around these men who lived the events that I read about in history books. As the Polish Legion of American Veterans in New Port Richey burned the flags on Veterans Day, I could see the care members took as they disposed of worn copies of Old Glory. - JOSEPH GARNETT JR.

Catlyn Harrier, 8, is getting a lesson in how to wear a Muslim head covering from Maysi Hnin during a demonstration by the Muslim Students Association at USF who visited St. Anthony's Catholic School in San Antonio. There was a real connection made between the Muslim and Catholic students. I could tell, in the beginning, that the children, teachers and parents from the Catholic school were apprehensive about their visitors, but by the end of the demonstration, there was a palpable sense that a bridge had been built between the cultures. - LANCE A. ROTHSTEIN

With the controversy and confusion connected with the 2000 election, this photo seemed perfect as people voted in 2002. Everybody was anticipating problems with new electronic ballots, but 3-year-old Hannah Presson had the right idea as she danced while her grandmother, Susan Schlechty, voted in Land O'Lakes. - DAN McDUFFIE

**Graphic**

PHOTO, BRENDAN FITTERER; PHOTO, JANEL SCHROEDER-NORTON; PHOTO, JOSEPH GARNETT JR.; PHOTO, LANCE A. ROTHSTEIN; PHOTO, DAN MCDUFFIE; Jason Paris and Tim Edge at the Odessa Rodeo and Festival in April.; Two little girls enjoy a rainstorm from under an umbrella.; Members of the Police Legion of America Veterans in Port Richey watch closely as old U.S. flags are disposed of in a; special ceremony.;  Catlyn Harrier, 8, is getting a lesson in how to wear a Muslim head covering from Maysi Hnin during a demonstration by the Muslim Students Association at USF who visited St. Anthony's Catholic School in San Antonio. ;; Three-year-old Hannah Presson dances as her grandmother, Susan Schlechty, votes in Land O'Lakes.

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