

## Levin documentary examines roots of modern photojournalism



The U.S. Department of Agriculture charged Roy Emerson Stryker with documenting the successes of the Farm Security Administration during the Great Depression. What Stryker ended up with was a visual chronicle of the hardships suffered across the country as the economy hit rock bottom.

*Stryker's America*, a documentary by **Laurence Levin**, BS'82, tells the story of Stryker's mission. It shows the work of the photographers whom Stryker hired and Stryker's dedication to showing evidence of the suffering experienced during the Depression era. The

documentary was featured in the April issue of *News Photographer* magazine.

The film assembles interviews, footage and photographs from the Great Depression to show Stryker's work and to prove how he redefined photojournalism. Levin, a former *Arbutus* editor and *Indiana Daily Student* photographer, said although photography has become more technology-based, the basics taught remain the same.

"Photographers still have to do research," he said. "There are still mentors and people in the background."

Levin said he is grateful to the experience he gained at the *Arbutus* and *IDS*. The School of Journalism, he said, is "a wonderful institution that helped me move forward in my career."

Levin is the project manager at The Assignment Desk in Washington, D.C., which matches freelance writers, editors and photographers with clients.

*Savannah Worley*