

# The Man in the Brown Beret

**I**N HIS BROWN BERET, he may be seen working over his high-powered research photography microscope or out on campus catching "something unique and of lasting interest" with his camera.

Whatever his subject, be it pig embryos or Jesse Hall, University photographer, Andrew Tau, finds his work absorbing.

Employed by the University since 1952, Tau today works primarily with the Agriculture Experiment Station as technical and research photographer. "I find this photography particularly interesting because it constantly presents problems in research."

Proud of his new research photography microscope, Tau spends many hours in his small laboratory helping the agriculture department present its findings in pictures.

But he estimates that 25 to 30 per cent of his work is outside the agricultural services. "When the sky and sun are right, I go out and take pictures. I see a thing that occurs and, like that, I catch it. These are things of lasting interest."

All of Tau's work is available to the University and many of his pictures appear in offices throughout the academic buildings. "I do a great deal of public relations work especially for the Office of Public Information." This semester one of his pictures appears on the cover of the Arts and Science booklet. (See inside front cover.)

Refusing to specialize in any one field, technique or subject matter, Tau says: "I try to take pictures of situations and places that I would like to keep. I'm looking for unique things, a picture that will be of interest for more than one day."

And because clothes styles change so quickly, Tau avoids pictures of people on campus. But one of his few pictures of students did win an honor in national competition sponsored by the University Photographers Association in 1964. It focused on a couple walking away from Jesse Hall.

But entering contests does not interest him. "I don't enter competition. I think it's pointless and I prefer one-man shows." And many one-man shows in Columbia and other cities have featured the work of this

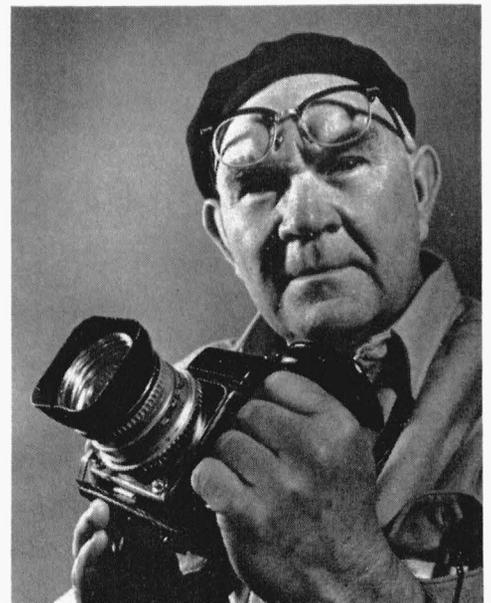
University photographer. Last month several groups of his work were displayed in the Art Department Gallery in the Fine Arts Building.

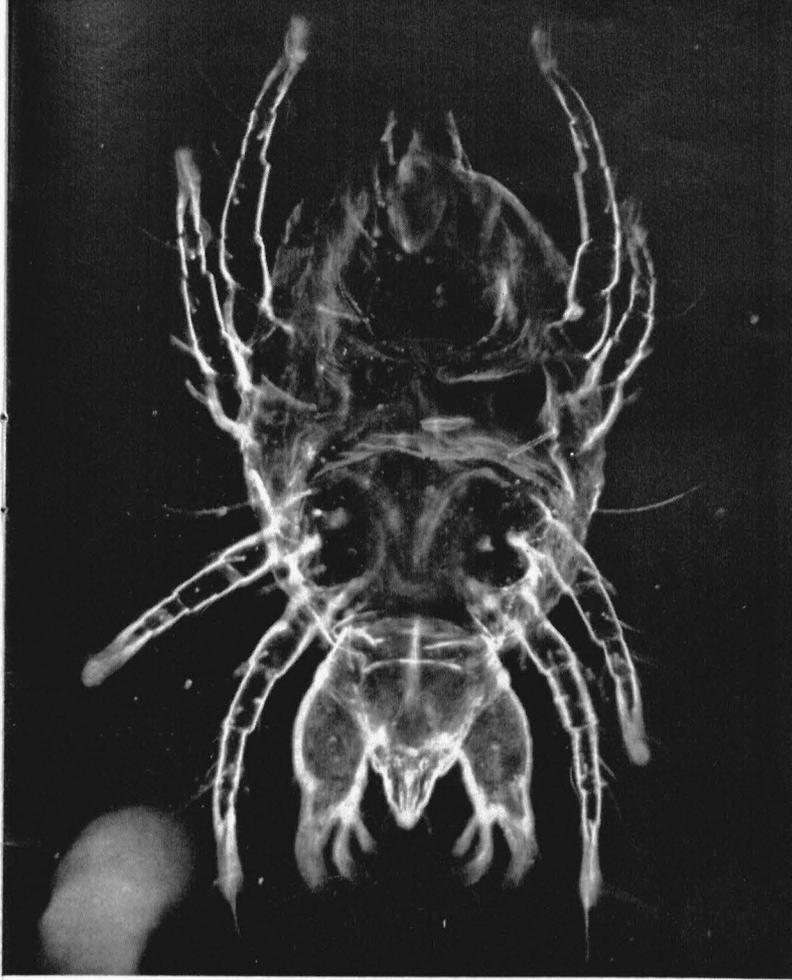
All Tau's photographs have numbers and the negatives are neatly filed in his office. Of the pictures of the University does not use, Tau keeps many at home or: "I give the pictures to the public library, Boone County Hospital or my friends and relatives. Some are sold, but I don't try to get money for them."

Tau's first pictures were taken in Chicago where he worked in a laboratory testing steel. "The branch office needed some pictures taken of equipment." And this incidental job developed an enthusiastic photographer: "I got really interested and bought my own small camera."

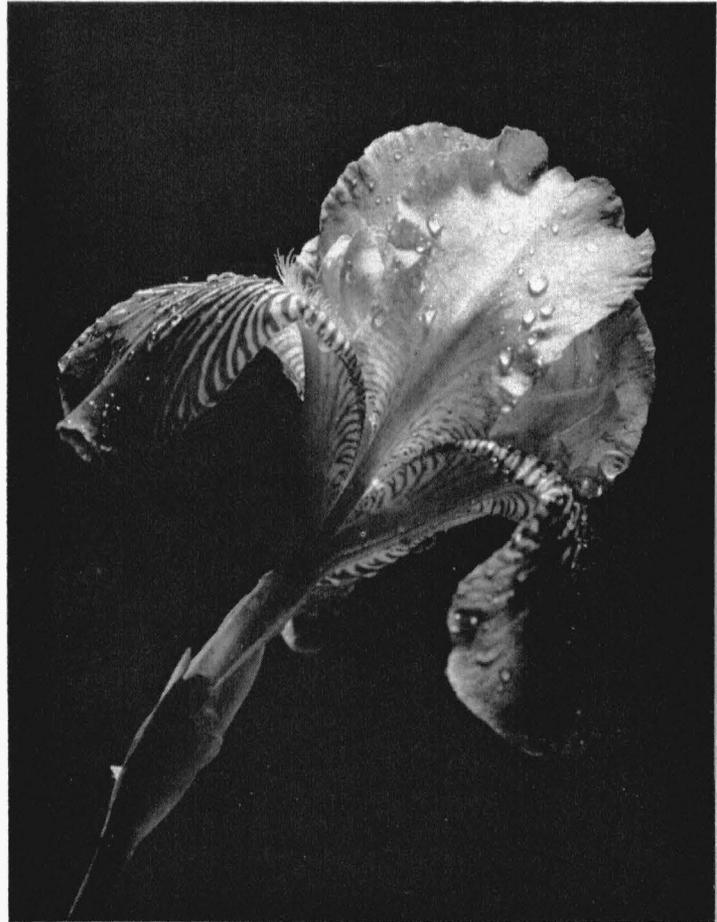
And with this small camera, some film and paper, a homemade dark room and a desire to learn, Tau trained himself.

Today it has become a profitable and full-time job, but for Andrew Tau, it will always have some of the delightful qualities of a hobby; "I take many pictures on my own time and at my own instigation. I like to take pictures to please me." □

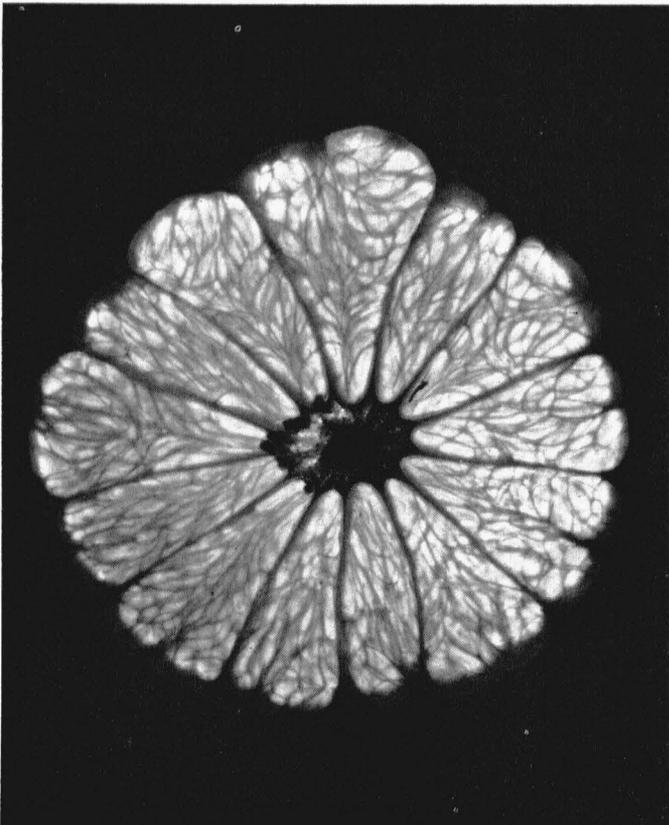




*Mite, magnified 100 times*



*Columbia iris*



*Grapefruit half*

*The Man in the Brown Beret*



*Jackson Park, Chicago*



*Boone County timber*



*California seascape*