

Daily Star-Progress

La Habra/Brea, California

Photo Buff...

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female beginner at that."

Pushing past professional photographers from local publications Schwitters aimed her second hand camera and shot her first newspaper photo, a picture destined to become an award winner.

Once the wheels began rolling, recalls newspaper advisor Mary Dodd, there was no stopping the novice shutterbug.

"She started off quite well and just got better and better," says Dodd.

She adds that dealing with teenagers can sometimes delay production, but Schwitters displayed an unusual sense of responsibility.

"It was so nice to have a person you know could come through," said Dodd.

Judging from a few recent editions of *The Scotch Tape*, Schwitters may have done more than just come through.

Under practically each picture in every copy are the words: "Photo by Lis Schwitters."

In fact, everyone got so accustomed to putting her name beneath photos that Schwitters began receiving credit for pictures that weren't hers.

But the confusion was soon corrected as Schwitters continued to enlarge and develop her skills, often by bluffing her way into news events to rub shoulders with the pros.

"I'll watch what newspaper photographers are looking for and learn from it," says Schwitters, whose admiration quickly turns to self-confidence. "Sometimes they'll take bad shots that I wouldn't take."

Bound for the Photocommunications Department at Cal State Fullerton, Schwitters also critiques commercial as well as news photography, carefully studying the layouts in her three issues of *Playgirl Magazine*.

"I always look at the pictures and evaluate the work," says the unembarrassed photographer.

While in school, Schwitters dedicated her time to homework and photography by not taking any part-time jobs.

However, facing the fiscal facts of life, the young graduate says she's tired of depending on birthdays and Christmas to support her hobby.

Thus, Schwitters keeps her camera loaded by serving sandwiches at a La Habra fast-food restaurant.

But despite her new job, rising photography expenses sometimes force the Dutch-American teen-ager to become somewhat resourceful.

"I've been crushing aluminum cans to get money," admits a blushing Schwitters, who quickly adds, "I don't usually stoop so low."



(Photo by Lis Schwitters)

THE FACES OF LIS — Using mirrors, La Habra High graduate Lis Schwitters takes a self-portrait. The 17-year-old photojournalist has won numerous awards for her work on the LHS student newspaper and plans to continue her budding career at Cal State Fullerton.

Photo Buff Lis Schwitters Develops Professional Skill

By Tony Saavedra
DSP Staff Writer

LA HABRA HEIGHTS — Spending evenings at home, 17-year-old Lis Schwitters usually locks herself away in the family bathroom until the wee hours of the morning.

Pausing only to answer annoying and sometimes anxious knocks at the door, Schwitters doesn't spend the time brushing, combing or teasing her hair.

Neither does she loll away the hours soaking in a bubble-filled bathtub.

Temporarily transforming the bathroom into a homemade darkroom, photography buff Schwitters toils among her chemicals and equipment, finishing the job

that began in her camera.

"Sometimes my brother complains because he can't go to the bathroom," jokes the young La Habra Heights resident. "But as soon as I let him in, he'll head for the light switch."

A recent La Habra High graduate, Schwitters has already garnered eight photojournalism awards from Los Angeles and Orange County colleges. She will also be among seven Heights students receiving special commendations from the City Council on Thursday.

Stuffing her long, blonde mane under a cap, the fledgling photojournalist seems to have a knack for pointing her Minolta in the right direction.

Known for capturing moments of ecstatic joy and freezing emotion-filled expressions, Schwitters entered photography quite haphazardly.

Originally an artist, the former high school coed applied for the cartoonist position at LHS's student-operated newspaper, *The Scotch Tape*.

Accidentally bringing her camera to the interview Schwitters was immediately drafted as the newspaper's head photographer and told to cover homecoming ceremonies.

"I was so scared at having to go up to the stage," remembers Schwitters. "I thought to myself, 'Oh God, I'm only a beginner - a

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