

# Rockwell's America: Did it exist?

Judge for yourself at the Woodson's latest exhibit

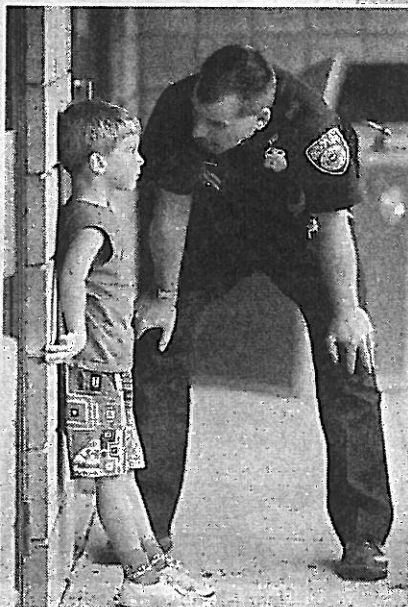
**Some critics dismissed** painter and illustrator Norman Rockwell, saying his work was too idealistic, sentimental and nostalgic. One even said Rockwell created "an America that never was and never will be." Rockwell, 1894-1978, countered, saying he showed "the America I knew and observed to others who might not have noticed."

You be the judge. Few Rockwell paintings have graced the walls of the Woodson Art Museum in the past, until now. Thirty five of the American icon's paintings, drawings and lithographs hang in an exhibit called *In Search of Norman Rockwell's America*. You'll have more than just your musings, though, to determine whether Rockwell's America really exists.

Award-winning photojournalist

Kevin Rivoli has captured slices of American life the past 20 years — singular black and white images of family, community, milestones, simple pleasures and patriotism. Not until years after he began his endeavor did he realize similarities existed between Rockwell's works and his own, in mood, subject and often in composition. Thirty five Rivoli images hang next to Rockwell's works at the Woodson, providing a visual argument that indeed the *Saturday Evening Post* legend's view of America did exist.

If nothing else, the exhibition will remind you to look for those moments of happiness, pride, mischief, courage and patriotism in everyday life. **CP**



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The exhibit opens Saturday and runs through Jan. 24. Museum hours are 9 am to 4 pm Tues.-Fri., noon to 5 pm Sat.-Sun., closed Mondays and holidays. Free. 845-7010.

Kevin Rivoli is the guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's Route 51 call-in talk show Thurs., Nov. 19, 5-6 pm. Tune in and call in for this pre-opening event as host Glen Moberg spends an hour with Rivoli discussing the photojournalist's career, Norman Rockwell's influence on his work and how Rivoli came to organize *In Search of Norman Rockwell's America*.