

Produce high contrast



photography
Monte Nagler



Both the positive and negative stages of Kodalith film were used for Monte Nagler's multi-image photograph of the two Jimma Memorial. The upper half was made from the positive and the lower half from the negative. Note the absence of any gray values.

This week I'm directing my comments mainly to those of you who have darkrooms and do your own processing and developing. And to the rest of you, please read on. You'll discover an interesting aspect of photography you may not have known about and at a later time may want to pursue.

Look closely at any black and white photograph and what do you see? Usually some blacks, some whites, and numerous shades of gray, all of which make up an image which you can easily recognize.

Now, imagine how a photograph might look if there were no grays at all — if the picture contained only blacks and whites similar to a pen and ink drawing.

Well, imagine no more. There is a film possessing such extremely high contrast that absolutely no gray values appear in the negative.

THIS FILM, made by Kodak, is called Kodalith. It is available in 4 by 5 sheet form. With Kodalith, you can produce truly dramatic results, many of which may not even look like photographs at all.

Begun by pinning one of your favorite negatives in your enlarger. Negatives with a moderate amount of contrast work best.

Be sure to use a dark green safelight or no safelight at all. Make an exposure onto a piece of Kodalith cut to the largest size your enlarger can accommodate.

This is to facilitate handling of the negative. However, if you wish, you can make a contact exposure onto Kodalith under a piece of glass, using your enlarger as the light source.

Once the exposure is made, develop, stop, and fix in the normal way. While Kodak recommends a special Kodalith developer, your basic D-76 will do just fine.

You may have to experiment to get the correct exposure and development times. When your film has dried, take a close look and you'll see that you have a Kodalith "positive," a recognizable image made up of either clear or opaque areas on the film.

TO GET A Kodalith "negative," repeat the process, this time contact printing the positive onto another piece of Kodalith. Now, after development, you have a Kodalith negative.

You may get some small pinholes in your film. If so, use Kodak Opaque and a brush to eliminate them. You can also use opaque to point out areas on the negative you wish to appear white on the finished print.

Once your Kodalith negative is completed, simply make your print in the normal manner. Or, if you want a different look, use the positive Kodalith to produce a print. It's as simple as that.

Want to experiment even further? Produce a Kodalith using a color transparency instead of a black and white negative.

Then, after developing, sandwich the Kodalith with the transparency (with the negative side out of line) and place in a glass slide mount. You'll have a truly exciting slide to either project or from which a print can be made.

*Monte Nagler

Writer wins LIT contest

Elaïne Seech of Farmington has been awarded a first-place prize in the 14th Annual High School Writers Contest by Lawrence Institute of Technology (LIT).

All high school students in the metro Detroit area were eligible for the contest. It was divided into three categories: poetry, short stories and essays.

LIT's humanities faculty judged the more than 200 entries from 40 area high schools.

Students were awarded cash prizes for their entries.

Seech, a junior at Farmington High School, was awarded the prize for her short story, "The Model Love."

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