



photography

Monte Nagler

Background can show subject in environment

In past columns, I mentioned the need for simple, plain backgrounds that would not distract from the main subject in your photograph. Plain backgrounds assure the viewer's attention will be directed towards the subject and will normally result in greater impact in your shots.

But there are times when using the environment as a background can add an extra dimension to your pictures, especially of people.

A background can add information to a photograph of a person, particularly where the surroundings form his natural environment. A background can tell us something of a person's interests, job, condition or social status.

Even though the person will invariably

be the focal point of interest in your picture, don't allow the background to dominate. The environment should complement the subject, not overpower it.

TRY PLACING your subject in the middle or near foreground for pleasing size proportions. For good composition, don't center the subject in the viewfinder. Be sure your aperture is small enough to place both the subject and background in the camera's depth-of-field.

The accompanying photograph was taken in Matamoros, Mexico. Notice how the little girl is without doubt the focal point of the photograph, but see

also how the surrounding elements help create the mood.

In this case, the impact of the photograph is derived from the complementary background. Notice, too, how much information about the girl is conveyed by the background, how it helps to "tell the story."

Internationally known photographer Arnold Newman is an expert at photographing people in their natural environments. His books "Artists" and "One Mind's Eye" are in-depth studies of people in their natural surroundings. A look at these exciting books will be a valuable experience for you.

1981 Monte Nagler.



This photo of a Mexican girl by Monte Nagler gets its impact from the background, which complements but doesn't overpower the subject.

Peace Corps chief to speak to chamber

The Oakland Chamber of Commerce is accepting reservations to hear Peace Corps Director Lore Ruppe at noon Monday, Sept. 14, in the Pontiac Silverdome's banquet room.

The event will kick off the 20th anniversary celebration of Peace Corps Week in the state. Tickets at \$10 may be ordered from the chamber office at 335-6148 and 644-3863. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Mrs. Ruppe, of Houghton, was co-chairwoman of the 1980 Michigan Reagan-Bush campaign. She will be introduced by 19th District Congressman William Broomfield, ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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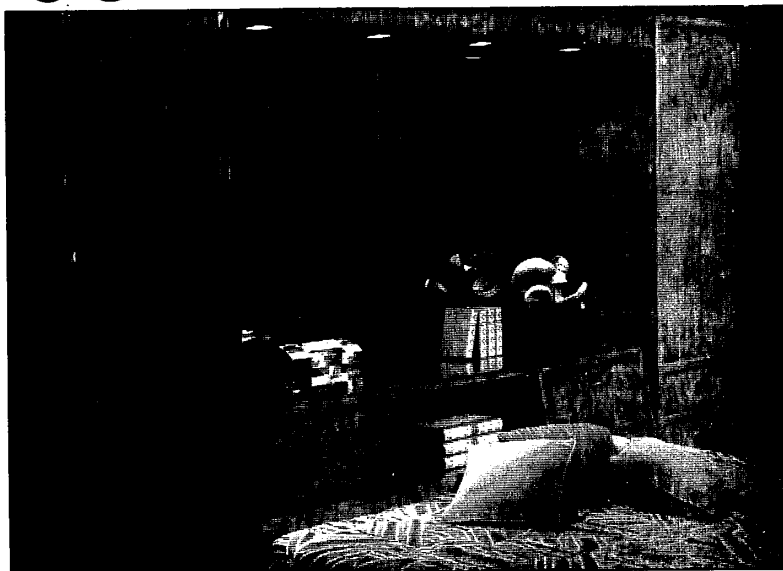
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