

## Zoo Subjects are camera ready

Most zoos, especially here in Detroit, are eliminating cages as much as possible, designing habitats closely resembling the actual environment of the animals.

This presents a tremendous opportunity to the photographer who wishes to capture an animal on film in his natural surroundings.

Let's begin with equipment. In addition to your camera body, a long telephoto (300-400mm) and a short telephoto (85-135mm) will work just fine. A flash for indoor exhibits will round out the essential equipment. Provisions for close-up photography will come in handy, too.

As do people, animals have distinct personalities. Some are active, some lazy. Some are interested in us "humans" peering at them, while others could care less. Take time to study their movements and habits. Watch their routines — animals tend to be repetitious.

Focus in on the part of the act you like and shoot. Animals are most alert and active right before feeding so you be on the alert, too. Shortly after feeding, most animals clean and groom themselves. Then it's siesta time. Each of these phases of



photography  
**Monte Nagler**

animal behavior offers rewarding photographs.

As always, be sure to check out your background. Make them as natural as possible, avoiding fences, telephone poles and other zoo visitors. If you have to shoot through a fence, don't worry. Just place the lens as close to the fence as possible and use a wide lens opening to minimize depth-of-field. In the final picture, the fence won't even be there.

Don't let those snakes and lizards behind glass in these indoor exhibits scare you off. If you press your camera and flash against the glass, all will be well and unwanted reflections will be eliminated. Did you know that zoos offer much more than animal photography? In addition to a fantastic place for

flower and other foliage photography, zoos are a great place to observe other people, especially kids. Children and their reactions to the different kinds of animals and animal behavior can result in prize-winning candid pictures showing amazement, humor and surprise.

Spring is here and no better opportunity presents itself for obtaining impact filled photos of our animal friends at the zoo.

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A 300mm telephoto lens enabled Monte Nagler to capture this photo of a proud jaguar in his natural environment at the zoo.

## Mexico field trip opportunity offered

Registrations are being accepted for a special program, Academic Options Abroad, an off-shoot of an independent study program, Academic Options, offered by Schoolcraft College.

The two-week program will focus on field study in the Mayan and Spanish cities of the Yucatan, Mexico. Participants will be able to earn up to nine hours of credit by independent study in: anthropology, archaeology, art history, English composition, folklore/mythology, geography, geology, history, sociology, or other appropriate disciplines, according to Suzanne Kaplan, Schoolcraft instructor in charge of the program.

"We are also inviting guest stu-

dents," she said, "but they should check with their admission office about receiving credit."

Kaplan, who started the AO program several years ago, said the group will hold three preparation and orientation sessions prior to the trip set for June 17-July 1 "to decide what we want to do." Three more sessions will be held at the trip's conclusion to decide how the research data will be presented.

Cost for the two-week trip will be approximately \$600 and will include everything except tuition. A one-week option is being planned for June 17-24.

For more information or to register for the trip, contact Kaplan at 591-6400, Ext. 442.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

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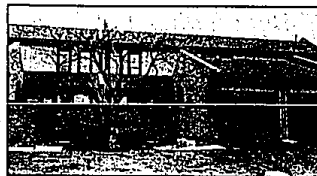
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