

## FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

# Focus on people for candid shots



MONTÉ  
NAGLER

As we all know, people are among the most fascinating of all photographic subjects. And if you can catch them unaware, you'll end up with shots that are both natural in expression and exciting in content.

There are two basic approaches to candid photography: 1. You can intentionally provoke a reaction by attracting your subject's attention and snapping the camera at that instant, or 2. You can try to be unnoticed and capture a slice of life as it happens.

The first approach will freeze a person's instant response to your camera. You'll get expressions of surprise and humor that can be very revealing.

The second approach, shooting unobserved, will produce natural looking pictures of people going about their everyday lives. When photographing in a public place, an airport, a park or a crowded street, try to attract a minimum amount of attention to yourself. Blend in with the surroundings and become a quiet observer of the action.

A telephoto lens is certainly helpful in candid photography because you can fill the frame without the need to get too close to your subject. With a telephoto, you can often get striking shots of people absorbed in work or play and they won't even know you're there.

But don't rule out normal or even

wide-angle lenses. They'll give you more background in your shot, which can be valuable in placing subjects in their natural environment.

Wide-angle lenses, due to their increased angle of view, will enable you to include people in the viewfinder without having to point the camera directly at them. People rarely believe they're being photographed unless the camera is aimed in their direction.

Don't forget candid shots close to home. Whether it's a family gathering at holiday time or a ballgame in the back yard, candid shots will provide you with natural looking, lasting memories.

To get good candid shots, have your exposure predetermined so that you can trip the shutter quickly without a lot of fussing with the camera's controls.

In all candid photography, speed is an important ingredient — not so much shutter speed or film speed, but the speed with which you can react to the image and decide on composition, focus and exposure of your shot.

A thorough familiarity with your camera equipment is essential if you are to operate quickly and unobtrusively to get the shots that count.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Candid camera: Shanghai, China, was the location for this candid shot of a smoker deep in thought. Monte Nagler snapped the shutter at the exact moment when a puff was being exhaled.



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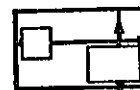


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