

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

Soar with your creative bubble



MONTE
NAGLER

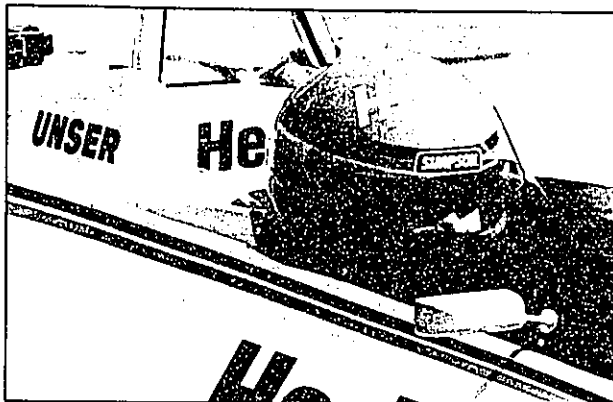
Every creative endeavor has its pitfalls, traps, even a room of private torment. It's difficult to keep a wave of creativity in constant momentum.

This applies to photography, too. Even with our modern cameras, lenses and knowledge of the craft, we all have those dark nights of confusion and doubt and we seem to lose perspective of what we're doing.

Well, don't store away the camera in favor of a long vacation in front of the television. The recognition of frustration and a tendency to be overly critical of your photography are part of creativity. After all, it often takes a setback to achieve further growth.

So at those times you feel you're at the end of your creative rope and you're ready to pack up the camera — don't!

Review your past work and begin to ask yourself some questions. Are there any particular trends or themes you may be overdoing? Is there a variation of our subject matter that will produce a fresh outlook? Can you get a different



A new track: Try photographing something different when the creative bubble bursts. A trip to the Detroit Grand Prix provided Monte Nagler with this up-close photo of driver Al Unser Sr.

perspective by another lens or camera angle or by shooting at a different time of day? Are there ways you can add more of your own individuality to your

pictures? Knowing where you've been will help you chart a course for the future.

Take another look at the world around you. There may be subject material you never considered photographing before that will now interest you. If you've always shot landscapes, perhaps now is the time to begin to photograph people. If you've always shot distant scenes, maybe now is the time to take an intimate look at textures, patterns and closeup details. If you've always been a realist, how about taking a look at some abstracts?

Start looking at more photographs. A trip to one of the local photography galleries or a leisurely browse through photography books will be rewarding and inspiring.

And keep some inspiring thoughts in mind, too. Remember that you are making photographs, not just taking snapshots. Shift your photographic vision from the recording of a scene to an expression of mood. Remember that the two most important things when you photograph are you and your subject, and strive to really get to know your subject. And remember to use imagination and spontaneity when you photograph.

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