

focus on photography

Edit your pictures for more impact



MONTE NAGLER

You should always edit your pictures once you get them back from the processing lab.

How often have you visited friends or family just back from a trip and been subjected to slides out of focus or improperly exposed, or too many shots of the same subject?

Of course, not all the pictures may be like that, but many people just don't give enough attention to weeding out the unsuccessful or uninteresting ones. Even good pictures lack impact if they are submerged in a flood of bad shots.

Look at any magazine such as Life or National Geographic. In a photo spread, the few pictures that have been printed were selected from hundreds of shots.

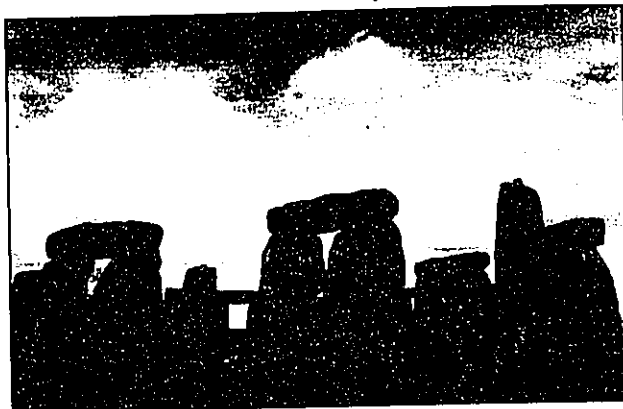
Begin to edit by discarding those pic-

tures that are badly exposed or out of focus. Next, look at subjects of which you've taken more than one shot. Select one or two that are the most interesting and that give a good overall view.

Then decide whether any pictures would be improved by being cropped. With color or black and white prints, you can either trim a picture to a more pleasing size or you can enlarge a portion of the negative. With slides, you can buy pre-cropped slide mounts or use polyester film tape to block out unwanted parts of a picture.

It is easy to select the best shots from a vacation, but greater care is needed for a series of portraits. Here, look for frames that show your subject in the most flattering and pleasing way.

It may seem wasteful to discard so many pictures, but the results will be that friends and family will look forward to seeing your shots and people you have photographed will be pleased with being seen at their best.



Mystical: After careful editing, Monte Nagler selected this photograph to represent the drama and mystique of Stonehenge, near Salisbury, England.

*For those unaccustomed to compromise...
From those who never considered it.*

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