

## DIVERSIONS

# Use a strong center of interest to create impact

Many good pictures you see are not the result of a fortunate accident or taken by chance. Most often, they have been planned and created by the photographer.

## FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



**MONTA NAGLER**

How do you create strong pictures? Begin by learning good composition techniques which include choosing an effective center of interest for your shot.

For example, have you ever composed a photograph in the viewfinder only to realize that something just isn't right? There's an element missing that if included will give your shot special impact.

Perhaps it's the sunset picture over the lake that just doesn't make it until you include the silhouette of the lighthouse in the viewfinder. Or maybe it's the landscape that lacks impact until you place the dramatic mountain peak in view.

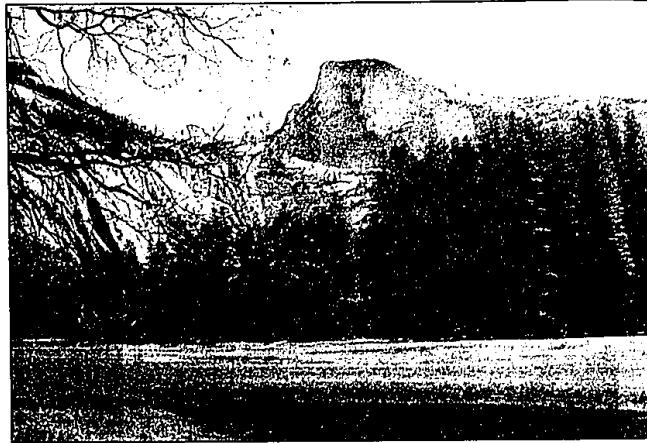
You see, including a center of interest can make a weak composition into one that's strong in view or interest.

Avoid placing your center of interest in the center of the picture. In the center, your shot may look static and uninteresting. Use the "rule of thirds." When you divide your scene into thirds both vertically and horizontally, the dividing lines intersect in four places. Any of these intersections provides a pleasing position for your center of interest.

"Framing" techniques and "lead-in lines" that I've discussed in past columns also help to add special impact to your main subject.

What better center of interest in California's Yosemite National Park than the famous Half Dome. There are many angles and views from which to photograph it. The one I selected places Half Dome off-center for a stronger composition. I then used the trees, foreground and small pond to further enhance the picture. The photograph's elements all came together resulting in an image that captures the flavor of one of our great national parks.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



**Memorable image:** Half Dome, quite naturally, makes a strong center of interest in this Monte Nagler photograph taken in Yosemite National Park.

## Click and go online to find Michigan vacation destinations

PRNewswire - Web surfers looked for more information this year than last year on things to do in Michigan, according to Travel Michigan. Inquiries to the state's official Web site for tourism information in 2001 rose 23 percent over Web inquiries in 2000. Nearly 1.6 million Web sessions were recorded in 2001, up from nearly 1.2 million the previous year.

"We certainly view this information as a positive indicator for leisure travel in Michigan in 2002," said George Zimmer-

mann, vice president of Travel Michigan. "We know that more than 50 percent of the consumers who use Michigan.org for tourism information then travel to and within Michigan."

"Perhaps one of the more interesting findings in the year-end report is that inquiries were up an average of more than 23% each month following September 11. We felt that people would travel closer to home following the terrorist events, and the Web stats seem to reflect that."

The Travel Michigan Web site

allows visitors to search for Michigan tourism activities by interest, by season or by location. Web visitors can also sign up for a free monthly electronic newsletter about Michigan destinations, attractions, and deals and discounts.

Travelers may obtain Michigan travel information by visiting the Travel Michigan Web site at michigan.org; or by calling toll-free 888-78-GREAT (784-7328), 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday or 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

## Baby from page B4

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cal and educational professionals, "You are a Masterpiece" is available on DVD or VHS formats. Suggested retail price is \$19.95 each.

Bilingual Baby videos are available for \$16.95 at major retailers nationwide and via the Small Fry Products Web site at <http://www.small-fry.com>. Visit Small Fry Productions and Bilingual Baby at Toy Fair booth 6205 or call 1-800-521-5311.

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Pierre-Laurent Aimard piano

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Ravel: La Valse  
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