


Preparation is key in making, not taking, great photos

We all know that a champion athlete has to mentally prepare himself for the challenge of what will hopefully be a peak performance.

In photography, this same theory applies.



Focus on Photography

Monte Nagler

We have to emotionally prepare ourselves, too. And a large part of this is getting into the state of mind that you are no longer going to be taking snapshots; rather, from now on you will be making photographs.

Here's how you can go about

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making this shift and developing a new attitude about your photography.

First, slow down. Don't rush into snapping your shutter. Leave your camera in its ease as you begin to study your subject. Ask yourself how best you can portray the subject. Should you move in tight or keep your distance? Is one camera angle better than another? Is early morning or late afternoon light better to enhance your image? Perhaps a different focal length lens will add greater impact.

Are you beginning to see what is happening? You are starting to go through a conscious, planned out thought process to produce a photograph that says it all about the subject. You see, you're starting to make photographs, not take

Let's go further. Use all the depth-of-field that is available

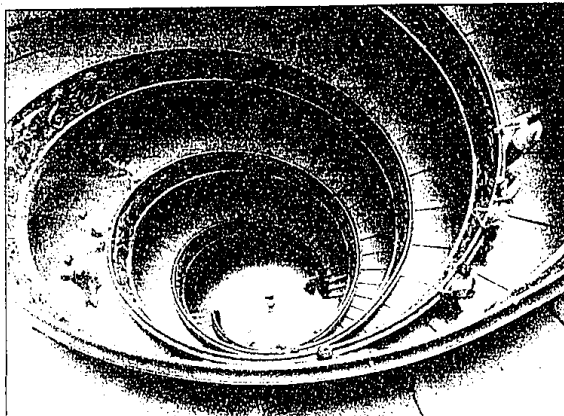
to you. Did you know that your normal 50mm lens will give you a depth-of-field of 7 feet to infinity? So next time you're shooting scenery, take advantage of this. Rather than snap just the mountain in the distance, carefully study the scene for foreground objects such as that pile of boulders that will give a "foundation" to your composition or those tree branches that act as a perfect "frame."

How about the stream or fence that "lead" you into the scene. These techniques will shift you into the "making photographs" mode.

You'll often want to place the subject off-center to add a dynamic dimension to your photograph. Consider the use of filters to enhance a blue sky, add some color to a dramatic sunset or add a "starburst" of excitement.

Once again, the planned out, well executed thought process is at work ... you are making photographs, not taking snapshots. See how it works?

Remember, also, that you are an artist creating a beauti-



Monte Nagler had 'making a photograph' in mind in this image from the Vatican in Rome. Selecting an interesting subject with careful composition produced this unusual picture.

ful image. "See" with your feelings and emotions and keep in mind that it is you making the

photographs, not the camera.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer

based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message for him at (734) 953-2047.

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THE Observer & Eccentric

Congratulates the Feature Teacher for June 2003

Each teacher will receive a dozen roses and 4 music passes courtesy of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Wesley Berry Florist and Star Theatre.

— Kathryn Chrzanowski —

Congratulations to Kathryn Chrzanowski an Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Teacher of the Month for June.

Kathryn was nominated for this month's award by Joette Morden and Laura Sparron of the life management and English departments, respectively at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

"Because she's a member of our smallest department and works on the second floor, Kathryn Chrzanowski is a sort of hidden treasure of Harrison, and it's time for us to share the secret with our community," wrote Morden and Sparron in their nominating letter.

"Except for maternity leaves, Kathy has been teaching in this district [Farmington Public School District] since 1970, mostly here at Harrison. In the course of her career, she's taught not only English but also business and life management. In fact, in life management alone she's taught an impressive array of courses including Text books, Family Sociology, Personal Finance, Parent and Child Development, Taxes and Nutrition I and II, Housing and Interior Design and Fashion Textiles/Textile Arts."

"And her Novel Processing and Accounting and just we're not only an extremely flexible teacher but also one whose life work has been preparing our kids to manage the practical aspects of their lives, so they can make the most of themselves - and their families."

"Not to be taking the easy road here, even at this state of her career. At a time when all too many teachers sag into the easy and familiar, year after year, Kathy continues to challenge herself every day. Recently she was trained in using computers for textile design, went to implement the "Winning Future" program for at-risk kids, established a branch of the Livingston Oakland Credit Union at Harrison, and personally demonstrated her commitment to those fighting disease by donating her long hair to "Locks of Love."

Harrison High School and Farmington Public Schools are grateful to have Kathryn Chrzanowski - a treasure indeed for public school students and this month's Feature Teacher for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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— Jacquelyn Laymac —

Jacquelyn Laymac, a teacher at Avondale High School, is bright, enthusiastic and works with staff, community and above all her students to deliver the best in public education.

Congratulations to Jacquelyn Laymac, an Observer & Eccentric Teacher of the Month for June.

Jacquelyn was nominated for this month's award by John Pettis, assistant principal at Avondale High School in Auburn Hills.

"Her lessons are the product of much thought and create a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. Her students are actively involved and are able to practically apply their knowledge," wrote Pettis.

Jacquelyn Laymac also is a big contributor outside the classroom.

"She developed a ninth grade team teaching program, served on curriculum committees to establish new science courses and worked with the special education staff and counselors to improve the school's work program. She currently coordinates Avondale's Career Education Program."

"She is truly a visionary who is driven by her desire to see her students succeed," wrote Pettis. "She is known throughout Oakland County and the state of Michigan as a leader in the field of career education."

In addition to her work at Avondale, Ms. Laymac is currently enrolled in the Oakland County Aspiring Administrator's Program. Coordinated through Oakland School, it serves as a training ground for educators who wish to explore the possibilities of administration.

"I think most highly of Jackie Laymac," wrote Pettis. "She and her husband, Tom, along with two young children, Zachary and Allie, live in Grand Blanc and attend many school functions."

Her involvement is most appreciated by staff and students and by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as one of our Feature Teachers for June.