

Lens flare can add flair, but exposure is tricky

Lens flare is light reflecting off the many outer and inner surfaces of the camera lens.

Most photographers avoid it. Flare produces a glaring spread of light that probably has ruined countless photographs.

But when carefully used and monitored through the viewfinder of your camera, flare can produce spectacular and exciting results and give your pictures an artistic flavor. Handled properly, lens flare can display dramatically the blinding presence of the sun in your pictures while at the same time tone down a cluttered background.

Flare can give your photo a romantic feeling and enhance an otherwise dull scene. With the sun just outside the scene, often times a misty, diffused look will be obtained in the final picture.

ALTHOUGH LENS manufacturers go to great lengths to prevent flare by using special coatings on their lenses, flare is still easy to obtain.

Usually, just having the sun or other bright light source in or just outside a scene is likely to produce flare. This is because light rays are picked up and reflected by the front glass elements of the lens.

Remember, a lens shade ordinarily is used to prevent flare, so it is important to leave it off the camera when you desire flare in your shot.

Determining exposure can be tricky. Your camera's meter will translate the presence of bright light into an expo-



photography

Monte Nagler

sure that will produce a darker than normal print. But this is fine if your desire is to silhouette the main subject.

In fact, try neglecting your meter altogether by setting the aperture at f-16 and using the fastest shutter speed. All solid objects in the scene will come out jet black, and the sun will appear like a sparkling star.

IF YOU WANT to produce a more normal-looking image, determine exposure by pointing your camera away from the source of flare.

Then manually set the exposure according to that reading, disregarding the meter when the flare reappears in the viewfinder. With automatic expo-

sure cameras, you'll have to use the manual override.

Remember, for your eye's safety, never look directly at the sun through the viewfinder. With a little practice, you'll find it easy to place the sun where you desire in your composition without having to look straight at it.

Correctly used, flare can add excitement and interest to your picture. So don't always think of it as something to avoid in your photography. Learn to improve your photographic style... with "flair."

• 1982, Monte Nagler. On Feb. 11 Monte's column will be on "Mirror Lenses: Reflect on That."

OCC offers program in energy alternatives

In response to rising energy costs and diminishing supplies of fossil fuel, Oakland Community College recently developed a program in Alternate Energy Technology.

Courses explore basic techniques used to harness wind and solar energy. In addition, students and/or homeowners are given the opportunity to learn energy-saving techniques to reduce home heating costs.

"Since introductory classes in alternate energy technology are geared to meet the needs of the average person, engineers, heating and cooling specialists and builders, students are able to

learn techniques which they can put to personal use," said Debra Rowe, an instructor at the Auburn Hills campus, west of Rochester.

Students who wish to pursue their studies and graduate with an associate degree in alternate energy technology will be able to design, construct, install and maintain alternate energy systems.

Courses are already under way for the winter term, but interested persons are encouraged to call an admissions counselor at 852-1000 for information on the spring term.

OCC students win 2 grants

Two area Oakland Community College students are recipients of scholarships awarded by the Michigan Restaurant Association for the 1982 spring term.

David A. Dunn of Birmingham and Margo S. Weiss of Southfield each are receiving \$100.

The Michigan Restaurant Association, which has 1,800 members representing 3,000 dining establishments in the state, encourages young people to pursue food-service careers through assistance grants.

The OCC students were among 43 state food service students who will share \$10,250 in scholarship awards.



Creatively used, lens flare adds a dramatic effect to Monte Nagler's photo of a Roman statue, taken in Italy. Exposure was manually set at 1/16 at 1/500 second, disregarding the meter reading.

Short shots

• Monte Nagler will show slides and prints of his Baffin Island trip from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8 in the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Tickets at \$5 (\$4 for students and senior citizens) may be ordered by calling the center at 477-8404.

• D.E. Cox will present a slide seminar on "China through the Camera's Eye" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, giving tips on dealing with the camera-shy Chinese. The widely-traveled photographer will discuss organizing further photo excursions to Asia. Meteor Photo Co., 1099 Chicago Road, Troy, is charging \$25, with the price refundable in Meteor services. Call Meteor at 583-3039 for registration information.

• Two seminars in underwater photography will be presented Feb. 16 and March 16 at Meteor Photo, in conjunction with Recreational Diving Systems of Royal Oak. The first will cover care of equipment; the second will cover techniques. Registration for each is \$10; send check and choice of seminar to Meteor Photo, 1099 Chicago Road, Troy.

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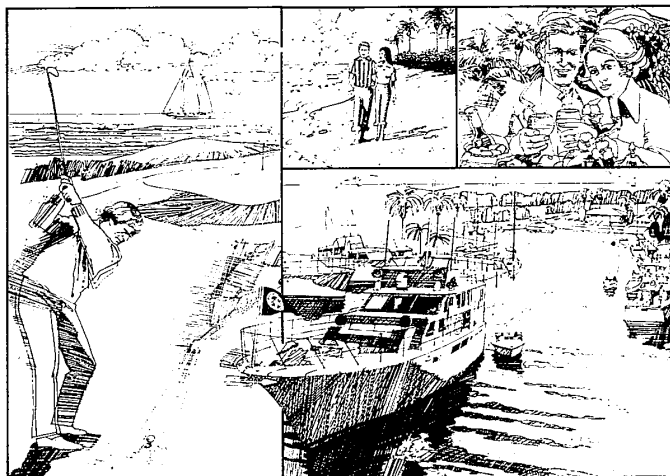
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