



An unusual composition combined with the use of a wide-angle lens produced Monte Nagler's striking photo of the Toronto City Hall.

Be on the lookout for the unusual

All photographers like to have their egos stroked with the oohs and aahs from those viewing their pictures. This not only means that the photographs were well received, but positive feedback serves as an incentive to make you want to go out and take more pictures.

How can you improve your photographs and get positive acclaim? One good way is to be on the lookout for the unusual, which most often, is right there in front of you. What needs to be done is to develop your skills in seeing the unusual and then producing the image on film. Here are some things to look for that will help you capture that something different on film.

As you look through the viewfinder of your camera, really begin to "see." For example, a backlit shot



photography
Monte Nagler

can transform your subject into an unusual, dramatic silhouette. Or a shadow cast by an early morning or late afternoon sun can add that extra touch to your shot.

How about an unusual cloud formation or perhaps an approaching thunderstorm? A keen photographer's eye can isolate a small detail or a striking pattern that will produce a photograph of unusual quality. Even using backgrounds effectively can add impact to your shot.

And keeping your eyes open for an exciting splash of color may be the final ingredient for that special shot.

Don't overlook reflections and pay close attention to careful framing and composition, all of which will generate those oohs and aahs.

Using your camera's controls creatively can add the unusual to your pictures, too. Slow shutter speeds can blur the action and give a misty, dream-like appearance to subjects such as flowing water.

Fast shutter speeds will, of course, freeze the action at its peak. Remember that your aperture controls depth-of-field that in turn can be used to get an unusual look in your picture.

Even candid shots will capture that unusual, fleeting expression that is so elusive in posed portraits.

For you vacationers, put your traveler's vision in gear and be on the lookout for the unusual. An obscure street scene or other out-of-the-way image will add impact and interest to your travel photographs.

In summary, it's OK to deviate from the norm in your photography. Being a little unusual in your photographic thinking will reward you with pictures of which you'll be proud.

3 rules in follow-through principle

Talk about a blooper. My last article was about follow-through, but I rambled on so long that by the time I got to my "follow-through principle," I ran out of room and it didn't get printed. So let me first mention my follow-through principle and then I'll ramble on.

Number one is to have a good idea or subject. Number two is to possess the technical skill to rightly represent the idea or subject. Number three is the good presentation of a well executed idea or subject. A lack of any one of the three principles will result as a flaw in your follow-through. For example: a good idea rendered poorly is no better than a poor idea rendered well. Even a good idea rendered well is halted if it is poorly presented.

Because we teach art, we see many portfolio pieces. Any piece entered into a portfolio should represent the best the artist can do. Eight to 10 good examples of an artist's work is much better than two dozen mediocre pieces. A portfolio should speak for itself and never require an explanation from the artist.

I have to smile when viewing some portfolios. The artist will often say things like: "Now here's a pencil sketch of my girlfriend, but, we broke up so I never finished it," or "Here's a pen and ink product rendering but my cat kinda walked



artifacts
David Messing

on it." If the follow-through principle ever applied to anything, it would apply to an artist's portfolio.

ANATOMY is another good example where "the principle" really is needed. We have, in our anatomy class, wonderful models. We have male and female adults and children of all ethnic backgrounds. Regardless of how good the model is, if the drawing is out of proportion or out of alignment, there is a hitch in the follow-through. A multitude of lines, textures and details can never offset poor structure.

Alignment and proportion is the foundation upon which every finishing stroke sits. A foundation of proper alignment and proportion often screams for a careful touch of finished rendering. Both can be canceled or, at least, weakened

briefly speaking

● **Gregor lecture**
Harold Gregor, distinguished professor of art at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., will speak on "Looking at My Art; Looking at Your Art" at 2 p.m. Sunday in Bloomfield Township Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Dr. Gregor is internationally known for his large scale highly realistic landscapes as well as his uniquely colorful aerial view of "landscapes" of the agrarian flatlands of the Midwest. His work appears in numerous exhibitions as well as in private and public collections throughout the U.S.

Refreshments will be served. The public is invited. There is no charge. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Water Color Society.

● **Wildlife Art Festival**
Seventy of the top wildlife artists from around the country will participate in the Michigan Wildlife Festival March 23-25 in the Southfield Pavilion, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Southfield.

Back by popular demand is wildlife miniatures, a collection of small

affordable original art. Special guest artists will be Jim Hautman of Plymouth, Minn., and Jim Killen of Owatonna, Minn.

Admission (weekend pass) is \$5; seniors over 60 and students, \$3. Children under 5 admitted free.

● **Cabaret concert**
Reservations are now being taken for the Livonia Symphony's annual Cabaret Concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 7, beginning with snacks at 7 p.m. Music begins at 8 p.m. For information regarding reservations of tables of eight and 10, call Betty Jean Awrey, 522-1100, Ida Krandle at 551-4524, or the symphony Hotline, 422-8090. Tickets are \$10.

● **Scrab exhibition**
The Scrab Club Gallery will open its annual silver medal all-media art exhibition featuring selected works from various Michigan-Ontario artists. The juried exhibition runs through the 23rd. Gallery hours are weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends, 2-5 p.m. There will be works for sale and admission. Parking is free. The gallery is at 217 Farnsworth, Detroit, behind the Detroit Institute of Arts.

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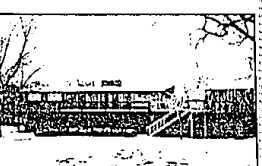
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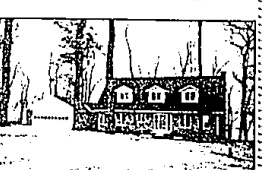
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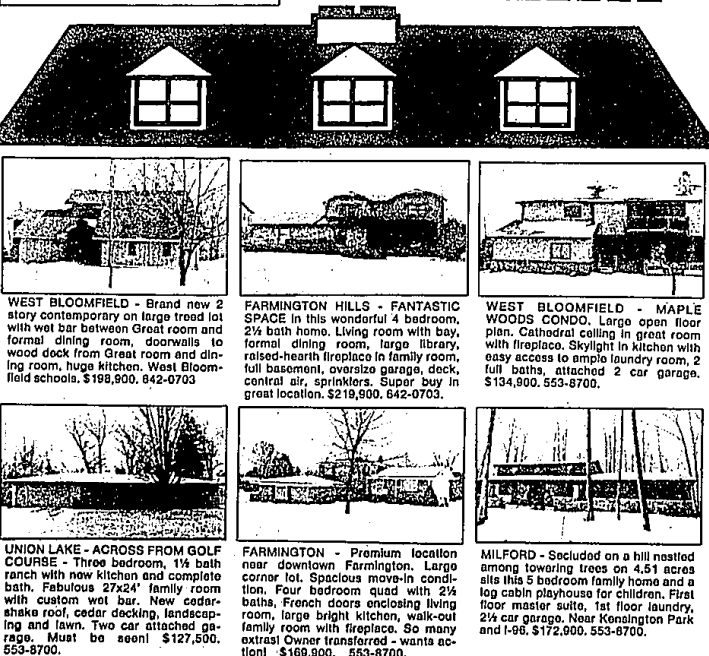
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WEST BLOOMFIELD - Brand new 2 story contemporary on large treed lot with wet bar between Great room and formal dining room, dormers to wood deck from Great room and dining room, huge kitchen. West Bloomfield schools. \$199,900. 642-0703

FARMINGTON HILLS - FANTASTIC SPACE in this wonderful 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. Living room with bay, formal dining room, large library, raised-hearth fireplace in family room, full basement, oversize garage, deck, central air, sprinklers. Super buy in great location. \$219,900. 642-0703.

WEST BLOOMFIELD - MAPLE WOODS CONDO. Large open floor plan. Cathedral ceiling in great room with fireplace. Skylight in kitchen with easy access to ample laundry room. 2 full baths, attached 2 car garage. \$134,900. 553-8700.

UNION LAKE - ACROSS FROM GOLF COURSE - Three bedroom, 1 1/2 bath ranch with new kitchen and complete bath. Fabulous 27x24 family room with custom wet bar. New cedar-shake roof, cedar decking, landscaping and lawn. Two car attached garage. Must be seen! \$127,500. 553-8700.

FARMINGTON - Premium location near downtown Farmington. Large corner lot. Spacious move-in condition. Four bedroom quad with 2 1/2 baths, French doors enclosing living room, large bright kitchen, walk-out family room with fireplace. So many extras! Owner transferred - wants action! \$169,900. 553-8700.

MILFORD - Secluded on a hill nestled among towering trees on 4.51 acres sits this 5 bedroom family home and a log cabin playhouse for children. First floor master suite, 1st floor laundry, 2 1/2 car garage. Near Kensington Park and I-96. \$172,900. 553-8700.



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