

Village View by Andrea Leonard



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Are you a camera fiend, a shutter-bug, a film fan? Do you like taking pictures, shooting film, making snapshots?

How about dirty pictures? That's right. Pornography. Want to enter a contest for taking dirty pictures?

(All my faithful readers are gasping!)

This contest is in support of eliminating a certain kind of pornography--by exposing it even further. It's backed by federal funds. Your tax dollars.

Sort of a strange way to go about it? Read on.

Dispite efforts by private groups and local, state and federal government, there are still pockets of porn, areas offensive to the eye and ear--and if you're close enough--the nose.

Someone's come up with the notion of taking pictures of the rotten dirty business and holding a contest for the best photographs of these eyesores.

It's hoped these films will serve to stimulate improvement, and also as educational tools to graphically demonstrated the need for continuing programs against degradation.

Honestly. That's what the government publication says.

It also states the contest, entitled "The Dirty Picture Program", is open to all amateur photographers in New England. The government is seeking black and white or color pictures to dramatically record areas in need of cleanup.

How about that?

All right. Now I'll quit the clowning and admit I've done a little bit (but not much) editing.

The government agency sponsoring the contest is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the filth they're trying to root out is ecological and environmental degradation.

Not the kind you were thinking of.

If you're interested in particiapating in this program, please follow the rules outlined below:

1. All amateur photographers in New England are eligible to participate.
2. There are no entry fees.
3. Color or black and white photos may be submitted, and will be judged separately. You may enter a single photo or as many pictures in each of the two categories as you wish.
4. Original slides of any size, or prints may be submitted. Any type of camera or film may be used. It's asked, however, that original negative accompany each print. Prints must be unmounted and may be no larger than 8" x 10". Minimum size is 3½ x 3½.
5. Each picture must be accompanied by a detailed caption giving the date and location of the subject.

6. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges to be appointed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Photographic quality, creativity and nature of the subject will be the criteria used to select winning entries.

7. Plaques and certificates will be awarded to winners of the contest. Winners will be notified during December 1974.

8. Deadline: All entries must be postmarked not later than November 15, 1974.

9. All entries should be accompanied by the name of the photographer and complete address (including telephone number).

10. The Environmental Protection Agency and others designated by the EPA shall have the right to use the winning pictures for purposes of publication, illustration, and exhibiting in any manner. All entries will become the property of EPA.

All entries should be sent to:

Dirty Picture Program

Public Affairs Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Room 2203

J. F. K. Federal Building

Boston, Mass. 02203

So, Get your camera loaded with film, polish up your lenses, put your light meter in good order, sort out your filters, flash guns, zoom and wide-angle lenses, and go out looking for eco-porn.

You may win with a picture of a not-so-tiny mountain of beer cans heaped alongside a country road--where the fall asters bloom and nod beneath a riot of autumn leaves.

A shot of a castaway match book cover nestled at the foot of a single plant of beach grass could take a prize. The blue ribbon may go to a picture of a smashed glass bottle or a wire fence blanketed with street litter, plastered there by an October breeze.

Your picture of a smoke-spewing chimney against a cloudless blue sky could be a winner. Perhaps at the local dump you'll snap a sea gull hobbled by a plastic beer pack holder. Some gulls even manage to get their heads through one of the six circles, and choke to death.

Maybe you can record on film the rotting garbage dump seeping and oozing on the edge of a fresh water pond--part of our water supply--or someone spreading rat poison at such a spot.

Perhaps a wrecked car graveyard will inspire a colorful picture you can enter in the contest. The oil spill in Buzzards Bay last week may be fertile ground--for taking pictures--though not for marsh life, of course.

Creativity as well as photographic quality will be an important consideration, so do some brainstorming and see what you can come up with.

We won't have to search far or long for examples of the kind of pornography this contest requires. All that's needed is your talent as a photographer and an observant eye.

Let's get busy and show the whole world what a dirty condition New England's been left in by those who live here and those who've visited us this past season.

It may be that the EPA has come up with an excellent program for exposing the results of the careless don't-give-a-hoot attitude of too many people who pass through our once-beautiful countryside.