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We somehow were brought up with the notion that documentary pictures were the equivalent of a testimony that was credible because it was a photograph.

In other words, the very nature of being photographic was a good enough reason for all of us to consider the photograph as a reliable witness of events in our daily life. Because something was depicted in an image we had the firm conviction that things were as we saw them.

After all we could compare that which we saw with that which we photographed and knew that they were identical. Or at least we thought that they were.

So the question is, aren't they? and as so many other things in life, the answer is ambivalent. Yes and No.

Yes, because there are certain unequivocal equivalents, that make us feel that the comparison holds up, between that which we see and what has been photographed. However, upon closer inspection and scrutiny, we start to find all sorts of loopholes that bring up a high degree of doubt to this otherwise empirical comparison between the photograph and reality.

So what would some of those loopholes, just mentioned, be? For instance, white other than a few cases of visually impaired eyes, and that such black and white photographs are at best, an abstraction of what reality looks like.

Or if you prefer colors, then the same theory applies; what colors are we actually talking about? as all film based images have their specific color bias, and it all depends on who does the printing of a picture what the color actually ends up being.

Another of such loopholes has to do with idea that a photographic image can be self explanatory by just looking at it. We now know that the personal interpretation of the viewer brings to the reading of the image, his or her own prejudices borne out of ideological, educational, psychological or cultural reasons. In other words the photographic image is malleable in what the viewer wishes to read into the image. If you liked documentary work, you are going to love digital images.

Another interesting topic has to do with what we call the manipulation of the image. The traditionalists have it that they go about their work without any sort of manipulation, of course overlooking that the very act of photographing is by its very nature already a process of editing and thus an intervention.

The idea that traditionalists defend so vehemently about photographing life as it is found, flies in the face of the very reality they so staunchly defend. Take the instance of photojournalists, who by their very presence with a camera, already alter the behavior of those that they are photographing. People tend to pose, they tend to present themselves as they imagine they look best, either for narcissistic reasons or for political ones. And if you photographed a place devoid of people, no one can deny that the angle from which the image was shot, the sort of lens used, or the time of day, will alter significantly that which we get to see as THE reality.

Even surveillance cameras have a point of view and if you will, a certain aesthetic as well. Although not determined by a photographer because it operates in fully automatic mode, it was nevertheless defined at the time the camera was set in place for the first time.

# La Jornada

DIRECTOR FUNDADOR: CARLOS RIVAS VELAZQUEZ ■ DIRECTORA GENERAL: CARMEN LUNA GARCÍA ■ FUNDADOR: O. F. ADO TRICCE ■ FUNDADOR: 1963

■ Lícita, la desobediencia civil ante abusos, dice el arzobispo

## Rivera: la Iglesia *puede* y *debe* actuar en política

■ En educación y medios, la sociedad marcará adónde debemos ir, señala

El arzobispo de México, Norberto Rivera Carrera, declaró ayer que la Iglesia "puede y debe actuar en política". En una entrevista con el periodista Carlos Rivas Velázquez, el prelado dijo que la Iglesia debe estar presente en la vida pública, pero que su papel debe ser de mediación y no de imposición. Rivera Carrera dijo que la Iglesia debe estar presente en la vida pública, pero que su papel debe ser de mediación y no de imposición.

TENDENCIA CRECIENTE DE ASALTOS BANCARIOS, VAN 335 ESTE AÑO



Unos 300 asaltos por día en el país han registrado estos días policías, militares y fuerzas de seguridad. Los asaltos se han registrado en los últimos días de este mes, a lo largo del país. Los asaltos se han registrado en los últimos días de este mes, a lo largo del país.

■ Mientras la canasta básica se encareció 663 %, el salario subió 375 %: CT

### En 9 años de pactos, 50 % menos poder adquisitivo

- En ningún año de 1987 a 1996 los salarios han crecido más que los precios
- La brecha se ha ahondado incluso en períodos de recuperación económica
- Restricción salarial, condición para un nuevo acuerdo: líderes obreros

HOY LUNES 21 DE OCTUBRE DE 1996

■ México independiente

### Proclaman el triunfo de Alemán en Nicaragua; gran desorden

2 mil 500 soldados, entre ellos, Alemanes, 700 de ellos, se han movido a la zona de guerra. Los Alemanes se han movido a la zona de guerra. Los Alemanes se han movido a la zona de guerra.

### Acepta Córdoba reunirse con diputados del PRD "sin condiciones"

Por el

■ José Alcázar

### ¿Valle de excepciones?

Por el

■ Héctor Aguilar Camón

### La cuestión indígena

El Congreso Nacional Indígena ha rechazado las demandas de "reconocimiento constitucional a las pueblos indígenas", a los "derechos y libertades indígenas", a los "derechos indígenas" y a los "derechos indígenas".

### Por mi madre, bohemios

El día de Gobierno será suceso

El día de Gobierno será suceso. El día de Gobierno será suceso. El día de Gobierno será suceso.

5.4.96

top

In 1996 he gave a few days to speech the front page of the main newspaper in the Americas, El Comercio, and



## If you liked documentary work, you are going to love Digital Images

Written by Pedro Meyer

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die, for his place



Some of the more interesting photographs were taken of the people of the sheep that

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## If you liked documentary work, you are going to love Digital Images

Written by Pedro Meyer

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It was more than thirty years ago that the first digital images were created, and they were not the staged attacks by N



[the first digital image](#) was a photograph of a ship, and it was not the staged attacks by N

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<http://zonezero.com/magazine/articles/meyer3/04.html>