

A GUIDE TO CKCU

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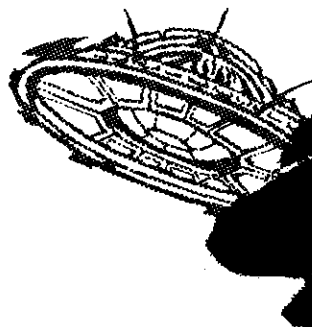
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FREE

MARCH 1991



**These Shadowy
Men Grace our
Space Issue
See Page 8
Also inside:
Sun Ra and
Douglas Adams**



night creatures

there was golf
and bone disease
to forestall
lunar boredom

gravity loss
would be compensated
by strolling
on the ceiling

David Lewis
06-04-86

giggling drunk
in the corridors
of space
amazing to become a swan

FEATURES

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED JAZZ?

For the first time in a long while, Bytown Beat looks into the jazz scene in Ottawa. Rob Frayne reports.

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SHADOWY MEN ON A SHADOWY PLANET

Is Toronto really a shadowy planet? Mike Wyeld interviews the drummer of Canada's own Ventures.

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SUN RA...COSMIC VIBES

Just what *is* the philosophy of this spacey jazz musician? Timeless in his appeal and unwavering in his iconoclasm - the thoughts of CKCU's David Lewis.

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GREEN CASUALTIES

CKCU's Derek Raymaker investigates some of the horrific environmental consequences of the war in the Persian Gulf.

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LAST CHANCE TO SEE

The creator of *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and all those other cool books has gone...environmentalist?! CKCU's Brendan McCoy speaks with the man himself.

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RACE TO THE SCREEN

This conference exploring the representation of race in film and video was held in Toronto last month. It's now reviewed by participant, Larissa Lai.

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GRAPHIC: HELEN WINTER



Race To The Screen

by Larissa Lai

A conference / festival exploring race and representation in film and video: January 26 - February 3 at The Euclid Theatre, Toronto.

Race to the Screen involved a week's worth of screenings, presentations, and panels dealing with issues as diverse as AIDS, the Native struggle, South Asian women, and being a black, gay man.

New York/Toronto filmmaker Helen Lee gave a talk on the Asian female viewer and her relationship to such films as *The World of Suzy Wong*, which espouse clearly racist stereotypes and further set the viewer up to identify with the white, male protagonist rather than the Asian female object. She suggested that it's possible for Asian women to take pleasure from viewing such work at the same as being highly critical of it. Her film, *Sally's Beauty Spot* is a careful deconstruction of *The World of Suzy Wong*. Helen Lee's film features an Asian female protagonist contrasted against very flat, objectified white and black male characters, turning the tables on Hollywood treatment of women and racism.

Richard Dyer gave a kitch and campy treatment of a new-found issue: "White and Representation". In true liberal form, he agreed that it would be unfair to think of Whites as an ethnic group in the same way as Blacks, Asians, and Natives, because such thinking doesn't

take into consideration the power advantage the former have over the latter. As whiteness is perceived as the norm that all other groups are expected to



Sally's Beauty Spot, by Helen Lee

relate to, he argued, there is no other norm to juxtapose it against. Further, since whites are so ubiquitous on the big screen, there are no stereotypes of them per se. Rather, they are viewed as a diverse group with a variety of characteristics that can't be pinned down. Having said that, however, he proceeds to outline some stereotypes of white people - the Blond Bombshell, the

Tarzan / Schwarzenegger Musclemans, etc. He discussed at length how lighting techniques are designed to make only the whitest of white women beautiful. His treatment, however, assumed that only "white" people are

fair-skinned, which, as anyone who has chanced in on the odd Kurosawa film knows is not the case.

In the panel on race as a social construction, Richard Fung brought up, among other things, the question of who gets to speak for a group. Miki Onodera had been told earlier this year that a piece to be broadcast on the CBC series *Inside Stories* would have to be edited so that the lesbianism of her protagonist wouldn't be evident. To present a Japanese lesbian on such a program, they suggested, would be tantamount to saying that all Japanese are gay!

The discussion then moved to how race is defined. Cat Cayuga, a First Nations woman, and Roger Simon, a Jewish man, talked about the difficulties of being perceived as "white" when they felt that they differed culturally in a very distinct way from the mainstream. Cat Cayuga expressed her dismay at the difficulties she has with such things as casting agencies who won't cast her because she doesn't "look like an Indian". Hollywood, she argued, has taken the power of self-definition away from Natives.

Marlene Nourbese Philip argued that African-Canadians must define themselves by their skin color because it's by that standard that they're identified and discriminated against, especially by the police. Betty Julian, a Black woman brought up by white parents, disagreed saying that because she was culturally more white than black, she wasn't treated in a similar fashion to those brought up in the black community. She argued that race is primarily a social, political construction.

This, of course, is only the tip of the iceberg. There was much discussion, many screenings, and the odd festivity. No final answers were found, but the mere fact that these issues were brought to light and dealt with constructively made it worth the trip.

Irene's RESTAURANT PUB

885 Bank St.
230-4474

Saturday Nights:
 Mar. 2: Crossroads
 Mar. 9: Bob & Kirk (Folk-sixties)
 Mar. 13 & 14 & 16: Bill Stevenson Keyboards (Quartet)
 Mar. 23: Beck & Rusty
 Mar. 30: Reverend Ken

Every Sunday:
 Lonesome Paul's Country & Western Show