Subject: Dyson
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 31 Oct 2005 01:45:01 GMT
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While waiting for the CD I have been listening to some of the examples of his speeches on the net. Very interesting; lacking the usual tone and stridency of many of the contemporaries.Off topic but Gregory Corso passed away last week. A true primer for the beats and a great street poet.That got me thinking about the beat influence on culture and how the rennaissance is due."There is no tell throughout,The ages,That a messenger-spirit,Ever stumbled into darkness."Gregory Corso

Subject: Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Mon, 31 Oct 2005 03:01:40 GMT
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Should be there Mon- Tue. I recall Corso as one of the City Lights Poets alongwith Ferlinghetti and some other stuff I forgot. The only poem I remember by him was called "Bald"the first line of which was:"My hair is dead!" As to the rennaisance, I've been waiting for that my whole life.Just recently I was talking with someone about revolution poets.I thought of and mentioned The Last Poets who, as a group, werea major influence on early rap music and are referred to byname on the "Thank you" section of one of the Public Enemyalbums by Dr. Dre. I was surprised to find it is availableon cd and so, after a mail to the request line at the publiclibrary, they now own a copy of "When The Revolution Comes""This is Madness" and the other items on the first Last Poets.As to the Beats, the best Beat for me was and is Ken Nordine--famous for his Word Jazz recitations and recordings first heardon Chicago radio. Nordine who is a radio personality was morefamous for being the voice of Folger's Coffee. But his recording techniques have been widely copied by the advertisingbusiness for radio. If you heard the originals you would knowand recognize these techniques immediately.Oh yeah, and Stan Freberg. Stan Freberg saw the inherenthumor in the over-seriousness of the Beat Movement and made fun of it mercilessly. I guess if, as Kerouac said,that Beat meant worn out and worn down as in 'beat up',then Freberg in his humor was the anti-beat, the Upbeat.lon
Ken Nordine stuff

Subject: Re: Dyson
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 01 Nov 2005 13:18:05 GMT
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Recieved the Dyson speech; thanks much Lon; very kind of you.Why do the Last Poets seek to distance themselves from Gil-Scott Heron?Many of their lyrics are interchangeable; since they appear at the same time period it seems to be a puzzle.Can you extropolate the meaning of a

movement from the perspective of history? I know definately in terms of music which is the reason for this forum that the importance and effect of music on our day to day is nowhere near what it was in the late 60's and 70's. It had a different meaning then than it does now.Read Damir's musical commentaries and you can see what I mean; the importance music heald to him and his contemporaries over there as a soundtrack to change.What do you think of Kerouac?

Subject: Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Tue, 01 Nov 2005 18:46:48 GMT
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As a literary historian I'm not much. The Last Poets and Gill ScottHeron are, I imagine studied in Black studies courses along withNzake Shange, Angela Davis etc. etc.Best joke I've heard over the past few years is one phrase:"Colin Powell-- The Other White Meat."As the educated or middle class has become integrated, whatevermovement there was is significantly diluted.Most recently, the work of Malik Raheem in New Orleans showswhat long term activism is about: community building and infrastructure in the form of clinics and other services.Angela Davis is a professor some place. So is Ishmael Reed.But it takes someone like Dyson who is a "power talker" in the sense of old line pre-television smoothe politicians who givesan actual boots on the ground message to those of us in the under class. And, I count myself as one of them.Everything I know about Jack Kerouac I learned from Steve Allen.Steve Allen made a documentary about him. What is more interestingto me is the fact that John Cassavetes old tv show called Johnny Staccato has been recently made into a film festival.I don't know if dvd production of that will take place, but it's certainly more signifcant than The Dick Van Dyke Show.I think this thread is about nostalgia. I really have no nostalgiafor 'the good old days.' But in those old days there area few things worth remembering which I call my "personal oralhistory." I mainly talk about that.If I recall correctly, "This Is Madness" was the last compositionby the Last Poets as a group. "This Is Madness" was about bad drug trips. That just about says it all.

Subject: Re: Dyson
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 02 Nov 2005 00:55:10 GMT
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"Everything Old is New again!", did Cole Porter wright that?Nostalgia is a word fraught with meaning. For those who see all things as progressing in a linear fashion from point a to the dirt nap then it takes on a grim connotation.Do people really hold their world view in such a prescriptive manner? I wonder.Gil-Scott Heron makes great music and writes beautifull songs; what has that to do with nostalgia? And Kerouac can suck you in emotionally like all true writing should so that serves a modern purpose.I never put on rose glasses; but those things that were good didn't get bad over time. They bridge the things we do with experience; not always remmembered correctly but then nothing has the exact reality for each of us and niether does the passing of time.I hope this doesn't sound confrontational because it isn't but as an older guy these

things have a immediacy that demands attention.I think also the current lack of valuable musical and written art available forces us to examine the best of all that we have at hand.And what is shared events but the evolving of culture.I believe that music had a more connected effect back in the day and I also think it will as everything does resume that function.Why If I may ask are you a member of the underclass?

Subject: Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Wed, 02 Nov 2005 04:53:28 GMT
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Everything Old is New again!", did Cole Porter wright that? --> No I don't think so. He said Anything Goes.Nostalgia is a word fraught with meaning. For those who see all things as progressing in a linear fashion from point a to the dirt nap then it takes on a grim connotation.Do people really hold their world view in such a prescriptive manner? I wonder. --> I know this is rhetorical above but I'm of the mind that the good old days that everyone 'remembers' including the tv producers of That 70's Show or the whatits-- blended family that I never watched-- have a view of that time that I don't share. The good old days then and I'd venture to say now as well largely depend on your position in society.Gil-Scott Heron makes great music and writes beautifull songs; what has that to do with nostalgia? And Kerouac can suck you in emotionally like all true writing should so that serves a modern purpose. --> In point of fact, GSH hardly sang at all but talked poetry.I never put on rose glasses; but those things that were good didn't get bad over time. They bridge the things we do with experience; not always remmembered correctly but then nothing has the exact reality for each of us and niether does the passing of time.I hope this doesn't sound confrontational because it isn't but as an older guy these things have a immediacy that demands attention. --> What things? I'm an old fart too.I think also the current lack of valuable musical and written art available forces us to examine the best of all that we have at hand.And what is shared events but the evolving of culture. --> There's always new art. I'll venture to say neither of us have heard any of the good stuff. We are not current with it. One of the great experiences of my life as an 18 year old was seeing Julian Beck's Living Theatre live on a college campus in Appleton Wisconsin. I was in the right place at the right time.I believe that music had a more connected effect back in the day and I also think it will as everything does resume that function. --> Until then people will keep on going ooblah dee ooblah dah with their old Beatles records.Why If I may ask are you a member of the underclass? --> No comment.

Subject: Re: Dyson
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 02 Nov 2005 12:53:11 GMT
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Lon; my friend. How does all the points we make about music and art reduce to the Beatles?? Were there no other musical styles or artists available back then. What about Jazz?GSH; I'm a fan

and as such know of many songs he actually sung; here's one thats gorgeous;"Rivers Of My Fathers."Another"Lady Day And John Coltrane." I am sorry if I overstepped with the underclass question; I can't figure if you are being rhetorical.Television shows prior to the Regean repeal of the Broadcast Standards Act were better because they were limited by law to no more than a small amount of commercial airtime per hour. Thats why in re-runs or on DVD the older shows last longer and have a more complete story line than everything that came after Regean. Now it's all commercials and they can't get a narrative flow going; thats why all the new major network shows suck.We both make attempts to find the new and good in art so where the heck is it?I can write a very long essay about what was better or different about the years from 1965-1980. I'll spare that but I do believe there was a more coherent culture that assesed value and worth that we don't see today.A friend who graduated from City College back when it was considered a great school says this:"When I sat in the graduation commencement ceremony back then there were five Summa Cum Laude awards. I attended a ceremony there recently; same number of students, 30 or more Summa's. What the hell are these people doing, it can't be that everyone got much smarter."

Subject: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Wed, 02 Nov 2005 17:55:30 GMT
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I think our narrative has started to ramble.Maybe it's best pursued in mail.Yes, the phenomenon of grade inflation is well known andpercolates down to the high school level where there have beenas many as 38 valedictorians at one schoolgraduation.In the era of children being raised on Mr. Rogers where everyone is special and above average (Prairie Home Companion) parents have been able leverage and influence teachers. Recently I was told by a retired university professor that at the end of term, the teacher is required to hand out one of those "how am I doing cards" with the numbers 1 (poor) through 5 (great!) which are reviewed by facultyor somebody. So the teachers have had to become pleasers.On this whole subject of everyone being special and exceptional there is an excellent book which all Americansshould read called "Mediated" by Thomas DeZengotita. The author writes for Harpers and has published this book onwhat he calls the portrayal of the individual as one of flatteringrepresentation. It's narcissism by another name and it has affected the national psyche.
Mediated

Subject: Re: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 02 Nov 2005 19:04:41 GMT
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I'm familiar with the Harper's articles and agree 100%. This subject affects me in a personal way regarding my son in private high school for which I pay dearly to escape that very affliction plagueing the public education sector.I have attended meetings of parents who are attempting to defuse this insult to individual accomplishment.Which in a roudabout way brings us back to the

past and past practices.

Subject: Re: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 05:01:55 GMT
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We should get off these subjects and talk about some movies and music.But one note on Harpers: the most recent article they had on educationwas by Jonathan Kozol on the re-segregation of the school system.Kozol offers this anecdote in that piece: He said, "When I go to the house of some well-to-do acqaintancesthey look at at me cautiously. They think I want to redistributetheir wealth. I do."

Subject: Re: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 07:32:52 GMT
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Yeah I missed that one but I agree. Music and Movies; have you read the posts? Where are they. This is the only thread played out now. I would talk music and movies all day but not to re-play the same one pointed adjectives in one line reviews endlessly repeated.

Subject: Re: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 18:59:20 GMT
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Ok. back to business.

Subject: Re: Grade inflation-- Re: Dyson
Posted by lon on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 19:59:53 GMT
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I am really po'ed.Just did some thoughts (pretty long) on Sin City and my operatingsystem blew up.Linux is always in a state of upgrade.I got through the write up fine, then tied to make a link toIMDb for reference and that's when it hit.

Subject: Sin City
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 21:08:45 GMT
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Oh, man, that suuuuucks. I'm doing a port of a huge middleware system (like MQSeries or Unicenter) from Solaris to Linux. So needless to say, I empathize. And I've lost a few of those hour-long dissertation posts too, so I know how frustrating a glitch can be. But wait 'til tomorrow, you'll be ready to do it again.Sin City