

English summaries

Erkki Karvonen

How viewers used a comic sketch TV programme to gain control of their life and make it more comfortable

The article discusses the ways in which viewers used a popular television series to make their everyday life more meaningful and more comfortable. The discussion is based on culture theory as well as on interviews with and letters from viewers. It is argued that the series, a primetime comic sketch programme called *Kummeli*, provided elements for what is described as "comfort work": for making life more comfortable at home, at school, at the workplace, in the army. Apparently capturing and reflecting its viewers' everyday life in a relevant manner, the series clearly "empowered" them and offered a diversion, as well as providing them tools for gaining control over their life.

Timo Kuronen

The European road to the Information Society

Europe is changing into an information society; or at least the European Union is hoping that that is the case. The European Commission is now in the process of preparing a joint information architecture for Europe, modelling it on the *National Information Infrastructure* as put forward by the Clinton Administration in the United States. The article begins with a brief description of the main goals of the NII. The EU's information architecture is outlined in the report compiled under Martin Bangemann as well as in two Commission documents. The main tenets presented in these documents

are discussed and their goals are compared with those of the NII. Reports published in Finland on the information society are more or less exact copies of the EU version; the article makes only a few preliminary comments on these reports.

Matti Leivo

Presidential elections on the stage

The article applies a stage analogy to media politics, comparing media politics to the theatre stage and to the staging of a theatre piece. The media play is examined in the light of the 1994 presidential elections in Finland, and particularly against the lines of journalists. Inasmuch as models are incomplete descriptions of reality, they describe it from a certain point of view. The stage model offers the audience of the play, i.e. the voters, a useful perspective by facilitating a critical and analytical examination of media politics.

Tarja Savolainen

The gendered history of Finnish film

This discussion of the history of Finnish film is restricted to old, traditional histories; excluded is the more recent work which started in Turku in the late 1980s (e.g. Koivunen 1992; Laine 1994). The assessment of the texts is based, on the one hand, on the recent debate that has been going on in research on film history; and on the other hand, on a feminist perspective. The main concern is with general histories of film as well as with the studies that are considered to form the hard core of the history of film in Finland. These are at once the texts that contain the canonized ideological structures which are usually repeated in texts in other fields as well and which represent the so-called official truth — and which are countered by texts representing different values and based on different interpretations. Comments are also made on certain specific histories and reports, which offer useful examples with regard to the questions dealt with.