

DR.RUPNATHJI(DR.RUPAK NATH)

CYBOR

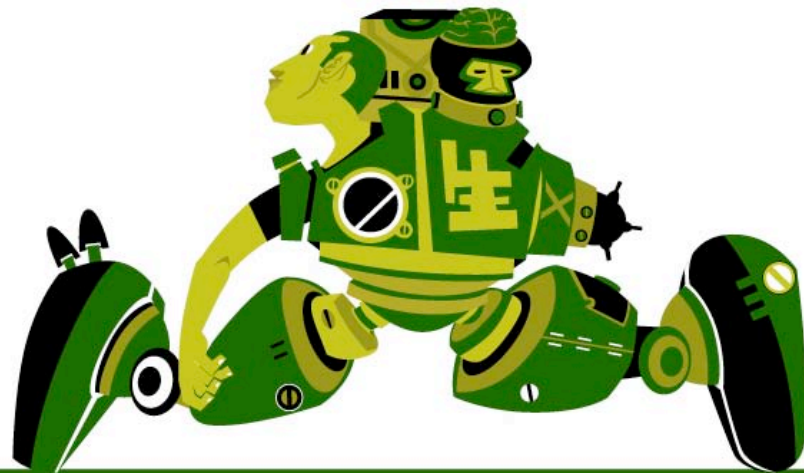
GS:

embodying
humanity

definition

- Part human and part machine
- No direct physical connection between the technology and the human must exist

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definition

- organic bodies supported by technologies like prosthetics and medical implants
- natural bodies that have undergone cosmetic surgery
- those who spend leisure time interfaced with technology
- people holding occupations that entail prolonged technological mediation or engaging in routine tasks like factory work
- those whose thought patterns and belief systems are shaped by their environment and mass media
- (Short 44-45).

purpose

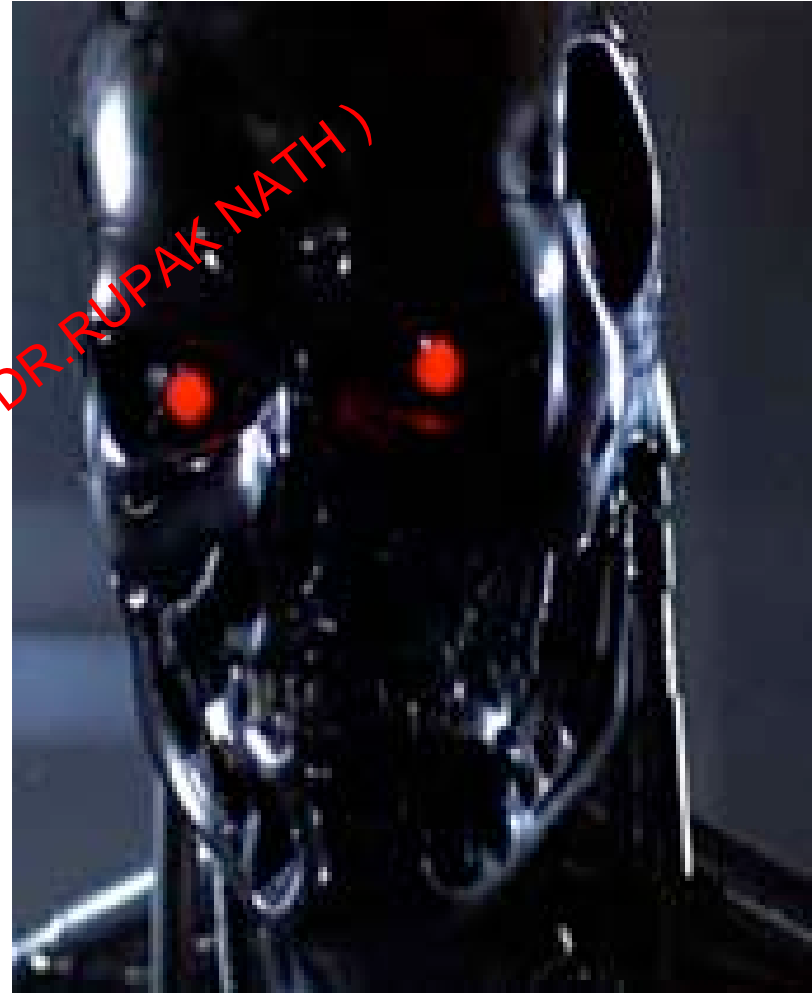
- Society's dependence on technology invites
 - the literal assimilation of technology into human bodies
 - the technological conditioning of human behavior
 - warfare techniques over the decades prompted a regression in the ethical principles of the military cyborg
 - killing is done 'at a distance' without the shock of direct confrontation

cultural fears

- proposed similarities between man and cyborg threaten the uniqueness of man
- cyborgs exhibit positive human characteristics
 - the will to survive, autonomously think, and the capacity to feel emotion, reason, and learnas well as negative human traits
 - sadism and pathologies (malfunctions) that lead to irrational thinking and violence

cultural fears

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cultural fears

- humans only equate themselves to the positive or neutral, non-human annihilating, qualities of cyborgs
 - the adoption of computer jargon
 - “debug” or “input” to describe human actions (Edwards 28) constitutes a sort of “upward social comparison”: computers surpass human intelligence in computational and informational processing
 - the attribution of a human possessing the machine-like nature of staccato speech carries negative connotations of disease and inhumanness

cultural artifacts

- First cyborg novel
Mary Shelley's
Frankenstein (1818)
identifies the
cyborg's creator,
Dr. Frankenstein, as
the true monster of
the film



cultural artifacts



- 1960, Manfred Clynes and Nathan Kline coin the term cyborg in their paper “Drugs, Space and Cybernetics”
- proposed physical and chemical modifications to human astronauts in order “to free man to explore [space], to create, to think, and to feel”

Terminator 2: Judgment Day

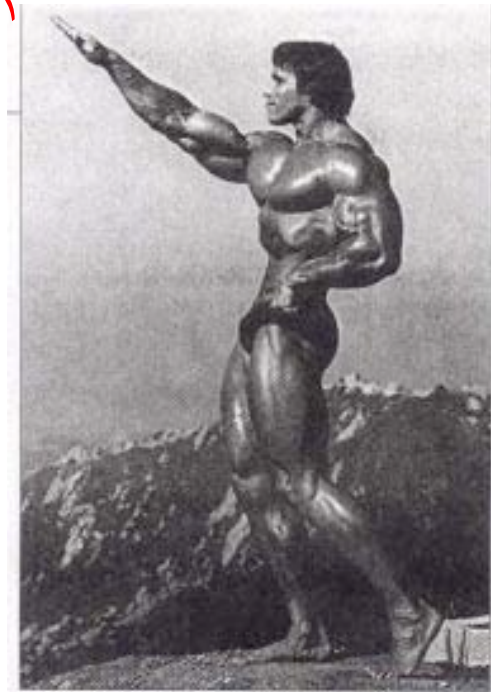
- The film eases dissonance about the devolution of man by demonstrating human's positive influence on cyborg behavior
 - “you just can't go around killing people!”, young John Connor
 - The Terminator autonomously make the decision, against John's wishes, to terminate himself

Terminator 2: Judgment Day

- Reverses the T-800 cyborg's role from villain to humanity's liberator
- introduces philosophical questions about what, if anything, distinguishes man from cyborg
- theme: “there [is] nothing more human than ‘learning’—particularly a moral and ethical learning”

Terminator 2: Judgment Day

- Theorist Jonathan Goldberg claims that Schwarzenegger's natural voice aurally links the Terminator to the Jewish Holocaust in its "Germanic recall of the concentration camp that marks the past/future".
- reflected public anxiety about nuclear weapons, and a computer-initiated nuclear holocaust



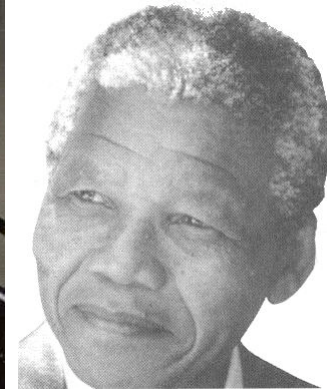
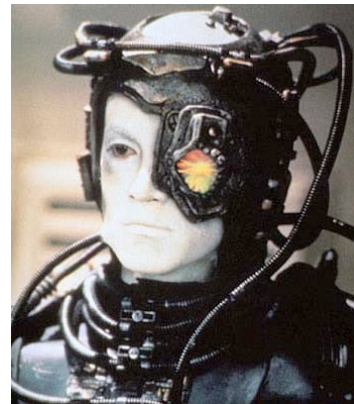
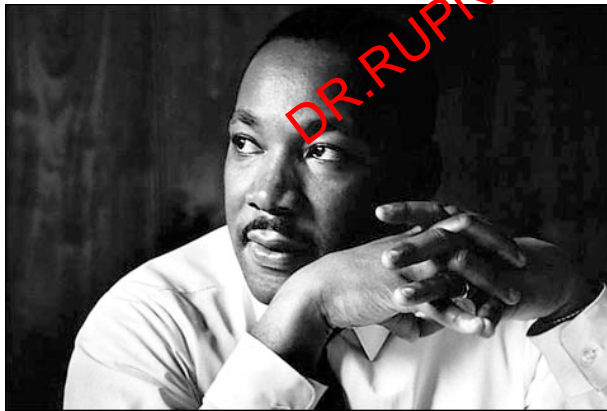
SCHWARZENEGGER WAS MR. OLYMPIA SEVEN TIMES

purpose revisited

- But some utilize cyborgs for the purpose of empowerment
 - Gay fans of Star Trek: The Next Generation, have expropriated the Borg to “provide a cartoon antithesis to the series’ endlessly reiterated thesis that humanist values (read: the American way) are destined to triumph over the enemies of democracy and free enterprise” (“Slashing the Borg”, Dery)

purpose revisited

- racial empowerment in the case of the Underground Resistance's association of black historical figures like Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela to cyborgs



images cited

- Slide 1.** Frakes, Jonathan, dir. Star Trek: First Contact. Perf. Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, and LeVar Burton. Paramount Pictures, 1996.
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- Slide 14.** Martin Luther King, Jr. <<http://www.africawithin.com/>>
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