

# Racial divide explored on FX's 'Black. White.'

In the new reality/documentary series "Black. White." (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA), two families, one white and one black, submit to extensive special effects to pass as members of another race.



Kevin McDonough

The families share a single house and help each other understand the experience.

Brian Sparks, a black man, finds life changes quickly when he becomes white. His wife, Renee, laughs in his face and tells him she no longer finds him remotely attractive.

Brian goes to a golf club/driving range, where he finds white duffers much more friendly. He's really surprised when a shoe-store salesman gets down on his knees and slips Brian's foot into a shoe and laces it up. No one had ever done that for him when he was black.

Bruno and his wife, Carmen, take their transformation into blackness with an earnest righteousness that proves immediately and continually annoying. Despite his "black is beautiful" attitude, Bruno contends that race doesn't really matter and he accuses Brian of looking for, or imagining, racial slights.

When Bruno and Brian go shopping at a posh boutique, Bruno believes that the shop attendants hover around him because they are polite. Brian tells him they are suspicious because they think he is black.

The men spar frequently about these perceptions. Carmen and Renee never get along. At least the teens, Rose (white) and Nick (black), seem more open to the transformation.

Despite its profundity, the series can't help remind viewers of comedy bits, including Eddie Murphy's classic "SNL" sketch as an undercover white man, or Dave Chappelle's incendiary skit about being a blind black man in a white hate group.

"Black. White." would probably work better as a 90-minute film than a multi-part reality show. For obvious reasons, none of the participants seems entirely comfortable in his or her new skin, and the burden of being part of an experiment grows wearisome for all, audience included.

In the documentary "All We Are Saying" (8 p.m., Showtime), Rosanna Arquette interviews more than 50 musicians about work, life and changes to the music business.

The result is a quick roundup of short clips from what might have been fascinating conversations, digested here to sound bites.

David Crosby seems most disgusted by the clueless corporate ownership of the industry. Joni Mitchell mourns the decline of rock journalism. Steven Tyler regrets the loss of value to his song catalog due to illegal downloading. Tom Petty and Elton John dis-

miss the destructive side of life on the road. Chrissie Hynde recalls trying to rock on stage while wearing a nursing bra. Debby Harry and Stevie Nicks discuss their decision to not have children, while Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore and Kim Gordon joke about their daughter and her wish that her parents made more popular and accessible music.

### Tonight's other highlights

- The remaining men warble on "American Idol" (8 p.m., Fox).
• Tyra Banks hosts a new incarnation of "America's Next Top Model" (8 p.m., UPN).
• Kate and Sawyer tangle over a briefcase on a repeat "Lost" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG, D, L) from last season.
• Something strange in the water on "CSI: NY" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).
• Mariel comes clean on "Invasion" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-PG, D, L).

### Cult choice

A crass member (Rodney Dangerfield), a New Age golfer (Chevy Chase) and a gopher-obsessed groundskeeper (Bill Murray) upset the status quo at a country club in the 1980 comedy "Caddyshack" (9 p.m., Spike).

### Series notes

On two episodes of "Still Standing" (CBS, TV-PG), deception (8 p.m.), graduation (8:30 p.m.) ... Tons of fun on "The Biggest Loser: Special Edition" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) ... Childhood demons on "George Lopez" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-14) ... power outage on "One Tree Hill" (11:30 p.m., WB, TV-PG) ... Matchmaking on "Freddie" (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) ... students slain on "Criminal Minds" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

### Late night

Beyonce Knowles and Stephen A. Smith appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Tim Allen, Michelle Rodriguez and Bon Jovi on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Michael Rapaport, Elisha Cuthbert and Matisyahu appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

MARCH 8, 2006

Table with 12 columns (Time slots: 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows listing various TV programs and channels like WTTV, WRV, WISH, WTHR, WFYI, WNDY, WTIU, WHMB, WCLJ, WXIN, WIPX, WTBG, A&E, AMC, AP, BET, BRAVO, CNBC, CMT, CNN, COM, DISC, E!, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FNC, FOOD, FOXMV, FOXSM, FX, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MSNBC, MTV, NICK, OXY, SCIFI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TVL, USA, VH1, WE, WGN, DISN, ENC, HBO, SHOW, MAX, TMC, STARZ.

## ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

### Pairing of actress, mayor attracts attention

It was only two weeks ago that San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and actress Sofia Milos were introduced, but the pair's possible romance already has sparked discussion of religion, divorce and other weighty matters, at least among political pundits.



MILOS



NEWSOM

Milos, whose TV credits include a role on "CSI: Miami," and Newsom were fixed up Feb. 19 by a former city supervisor whose son got married that day. Newsom, whose divorce from Fox News Channel legal commentator Kimberly Guilfoyle is not yet final, was spotted with Milos at a restaurant after the wedding.

The mayor flew to Los Angeles the following weekend to accompany Milos to a dinner hosted by a group co-founded by the Church of Scientology that opposes the widespread use of psychiatric drugs. Milos is a practicing Scientologist.

By last week, Newsom was being asked about his attendance at the dinner and whether he had any interest in converting to the church founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

"My gosh, folks," he said. "Relax. I'm a practicing Irish Catholic. I'm not a Scientologist, and I couldn't tell you two things about it."

As for his relationship with Milos, Newsom wouldn't reveal anything about it.

LOS ANGELES

### John Travolta back in musical swing

After a long break, John Travolta's got the music in him again. He thrilled moviegoers in 1977 as a disco dancer in "Saturday Night Fever," and he was a bad-boy bopper in 1978's "Grease."



TRAVOLTA

Then Travolta put musical roles aside. Until now. The actor will take on the role of Edna Turnblad in "Hairspray," an upcoming film adaptation of the hit Broadway musical based on John Waters' 1988 movie. Travolta will star opposite singer-actress Queen Latifah, who has signed on to play Motormouth Maybelle, according to New Line Cinema.

Advertisement for CANARY CREEK CINEMAS 8, listing showtimes for Monday through Thursday with movies like Ultra Violet, 16 Blocks, and Aqua Marine.

# Actress well suited to be inside 'The Loop' CALENDAR

By BRIDGET BRYNE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## LOS ANGELES

However glamorous you look at 50, finding a role that suits can be a challenge for actresses. For Mimi Rogers, though, the process can be ready made.

The creators of Fox's new comedy "The Loop" wrote the part of Meryl with Rogers in mind. A high-powered executive for a Chicago-based airline, Meryl has more than professional interest in the company's young new hire, Sam (Bret Harrison). He, though, is busy struggling to balance the demands of his first real job with the still party-heavy lifestyle of his friends and roommates.

Meryl's constant come-ons to sweet stressed-out Sam are clearly not politically correct, but then not much is in this anarchistic look at the conflict between work and play, co-created by Pam Brady and Will Gluck (premiering at 9:30 p.m. March 15).

"There's a fine line between tasteless and crass and just outright, offbeat sensibility," says Rogers, while having tea at a Los Angeles hotel. "This is sophisticated lunacy. ... If you are looking for a very broad, silly comedy, it works on that level, but if you are



AP PHOTO

Mimi Rogers stars as Meryl on Fox's new comedy "The Loop."

looking for something intellectually subversive that's really there, too." Rogers is married to producer Chris Ciuffa and they have two children. But she's still inundated with questions about her previous husband, Tom Cruise. Their marriage ended in 1990.

She handles them with aplomb. "Any time anything happens with him I get a call: 'What do you think of Katie?' 'What do you think about this?'" ... "Yeah, he's having a kid. Of course I think it's great. What do you want me to say?" "Do you

think he'll be a good father?" "How do I know any more than I would know what kind of parent you would be," she says, explaining her responses to such media prying.

Rogers clearly copes, whatever the challenge. She's worked almost continuously in film and television since 1981 when she nabbed a recurring role as a night-school teacher at the end of the first season of "Hill Street Blues."

With Ciuffa, she's produced a number of television movies, including "Harlan County War" and "Charms for the Easy Life." They are now producing "8888," a big budget Fox feature film.

She seems untroubled by the ageism barriers that can limit actresses' careers. "There is a certain awareness on my part that when it comes to leads, I'm not the actress they are going to look at, because I'm way too old ... but I guess having family — that kind of kills your ambition. I don't really care about being a big movie star."

Today Meetings section listing various events like White River Rotary Club, Christian Businessmen's Committee of Greater Greenwood, Business and Professional Exchange, Columbus Star Quilters, TOPS, Bargarville Area Senior Citizens, and Order of the Eastern Star Chapter.

Advertisement for SHOWPLACE 16 Movies with Magic, listing showtimes for March 8-9 with movies like 16 Blocks, Aqua Marine, and Dave Chappelle's Block Party.

Advertisement for AMC Greenwood Park 14, listing showtimes for March 8-9 with movies like 16 Blocks, Aqua Marine, and Ultra Violet.

Advertisement for A Zodiac Dream Family Salon & Spa, featuring a Grand Opening on March 11, 2006, with special offers and prizes.