



Color Monitors The Black Face of Technology in America

By Martin Kevorkian

Cornell University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 224 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. Color Monitors looks at a particular subset of imagined computer use, focusing on scenarios that demand from the person at the keyboard an intimate technical knowledge. My research has uncovered a peculiar pattern: race comes into sharp relief when computer use is depicted as difficult labor requiring special expertise. Time and again, in such scenarios, the helpful person of color is there to take the call to provide technical support, to deal with the machines. In interpreting such images, Color Monitors analyzes the computer-fearing strain in American whiteness, an aspect of white identity that defines itself against information technology and the racial other imagined to love it and excel at it. Martin Kevorkian Following up on Ralph Ellisons intimation that blacks serve as the machines inside the machine, Color Monitors examines the designation of black bodies as natural machines for the information age. Martin Kevorkian shows how African Americans are consistently depicted as highly skilled, intelligent, and technologically savvy as they work to solve complex computer problems in popular movies, corporate advertising, and contemporary fiction. But is this progress Or do such seemingly positive depictions have more disturbing implications...



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