



## The mystery of Mister Ra

Howard Goldstein and Steven Hacker

When he first appears on stage to the accompaniment of "The World is Waiting For the Sunrise," dressed in space threads complete with tacky sequined cape, one is inclined to write the whole affair off as a bad joke. As his Omniverse Jet Set Arkestra starts to play though, one quickly begins to respect the goings on, for the precision with which they play, not to mention the scope of their music, has seldom been heard before.

An extended percussion piece featuring all twenty members of the band banging on anything in sight (including "Space" Jackson on the Egyptian Infinity Drum which is really a four feet high Elephant's foot) is instantly followed by a stirring sentimental version of "Stardust", propelled by John Gilmore's breathtakingly full-bodied tenor. That is the kind of stuff which makes up a Sun Ra concert—which incidentally runs at least three hours.

The man behind this virtual history of music is Sun Ra (born Sonny Blount), an unusual mixture of mystic, big band leader, and comic. To some he is

just a joke, to others he is a religion, an indication of how wide and varied the response to him has been.

He started out as an arranger with the Fletcher Henderson orchestra in the late '40's. Later he was the house piano player in clubs in Chicago until he could get his own band together in the late fifties (some of the people in that band are still with him). Today he is recognized by some in jazz to be its truest innovator, especially in a big band context. His show is one in which you can expect anything from slap dancers to fire eaters.

Fine entertainment and humour, coupled with the finest music makes a Sun Ra concert an event beyond words. Fortunately we were able to catch up with him following a recent concert in Lewiston N.Y. to fill us in on some of his cosmic musings.

*For those who've not heard your unique approach to music, how would you describe it?*

Music is the universal language. But I'm presenting it from an omniverse standpoint. You know the universe is but a tiny grain of sand in the omniverse. To give people the impression of endlessness or infinity, is very good because it

takes seed in their minds and spirits; They will feel the impossible and be the impossible. What I really am attempting to do in music is the impossible because it breaks all the laws and standard traditions of what music should be. Rising up above, beyond the common things, jumping over to the rare things. People have had enough of the common things. Mostly the common things are misery. I'm trying to present something else that is not part of that particular dimension, which is about happiness and impressions of celestial harmony, not about righteousness and sin, that's not my department. My department is the impossible department governed by the governor of the omniverse. I'm trying to get people over to the celestial connection but I found out people don't know what I'm talking about. I'm not dealing with faith and hope, and not with conjecture.

*What are the significance of those equations?*

I think that when the world sees the equations they will recognize that the equations are valid and are just as proper as the sun rising on time. Everything is

Continued on page 14.

Dr. Arthur Train, Dentist  
is pleased to announce that  
Dr. G. Mohebat  
will be joining his practice as an associate for the  
practice of general family dentistry.  
For appointment call: 661-4888  
75 FourWinds Drive (including Saturdays)  
University City Plaza, Downsview, Ontario

It's a real party. Feast on  
bread, soup,  
shish kabob,  
spareribs,  
crabclaws,  
chicken,  
onion rings,  
mushrooms,  
corn on the cob,  
potatoes, fruit and nuts,  
eat with your fingers  
and be entertained  
by magicians, clowns  
and minstrels.

**LORD STANLEY'S FEAST**  
26 LOMBARD ST. RESERVATIONS 363-8561

**\$299**  
Vancouver  
round trip

**\$259**  
Edmonton  
round trip

The  
Christmas  
Star

**TRAVEL CUTS Christmas Charter Flights**  
The best prices available!

- All flights from Toronto
- Calgary flight also offered
- Air transportation: Pacific Western 737s
- Prices do not include departure tax

TRAVEL CUTS also offers money-saving Christmas Star Charters originating in Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary. All flights subject to government approval.

Be sure of a seat - book now!  
Contact



**TRAVEL CUTS**

**The Way to Go!**

44 St George Street  
Toronto Ont M5S 2E4  
416 979-2406

96 Gerrard Street East  
Toronto Ont M5B 1G7  
416 977-0441

Or Your Travel Agent

## YUKON JACK ATTACK #4.



### The Frost Bite.

Warm several small cubes of frozen water with 1 1/2 ounces of Yukon Jack. Toss in a splash of sparkling soda and you'll have thawed the Frost Bite. Inspired in the wild, midst the damnably cold, this, the black sheep of Canadian liquors, is Yukon Jack.

**Yukon Jack**



The Black Sheep of Canadian Liquors.  
Concocted with fine Canadian Whisky.

For more Yukon Jack recipes write: MORE YUKON JACK RECIPES, Box 2710, Postal Station "U," Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5P1.