

Ray X X-Rayer #121

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<http://efanzines.com/RXXR/index.htm>

www.x-rayer.com

Artist: Peter Caballero



The Dept. of Aw, C'mon! But THAT Fishy Story You Don't Buy?

Suspend my disbelief? Sure unless such suspension starts hoisting me up by my balls.

An author creates a world that has to keep to some extent within the parameters of real life. In science fiction you can fudge some science but when completely illogical events happen it jolts the audience.

With a SF TV series an inadequate foundation for disbelief suspension might occur in a particular episode, the problem just limited to that one story. Or within the

continuity of a series illogic keeps popping up, characters acting as if previous events never happened. Continuity amnesia.

Let's take a look at the 1960s TV series *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*. The crew of the super-submarine *Seaview* faced a variety of enemies week after week. The encounters can be divided into two general categories: Cold War era espionage capers and fantastic creature battles.

Under the category of fantastic creatures *Voyage* depicted the gamut from space aliens to colossal sea monsters. By the time season three rolled around the lead characters, Admiral Nelson and Captain Crane, were veterans at dealing with the extraordinary. The unbelievable could happen.

In the season three episode entitled "The Mermaid" Captain Crane encounters the title creature. He's alone during his sighting. Once back on board the *Seaview* he reports the incident to Admiral Nelson.

And how does Admiral Nelson response. He scoff and sneers. "A mermaid? C'mon Captain Crane. Be real."

Not to say that Nelson should buy any story at face value. But in a world of giant seaweed monsters and invaders from Venus one would expect the admiral to have an open mind toward reports of incredible encounters. A mermaid is more believable than an alien plant trying to turn the *Seaview* into a giant greenhouse as part of its world domination scheme. (Season One, "The Terror")

Consider that this alien plant gained control of someone on the *Seaview* to put its plan into action. That person? Admiral Nelson.

Also during the series Nelson turned into a werewolf – twice. All due to radiation exposure.

Let's see, which one do I buy? A mermaid or a radiation-induced werewolf admiral?

Classick Movie Brides of Blood

Thanks to the miracle of YouTube I can relive my drive-in viewing experiences back to the day when I was a young boy.

In those times there were no movie ratings like PG-13 or R to inhibit a cinematic genius. Movies like *Brides of Blood (BOB)* (1968) could get away with some edgy stuff.

BOB is one of those wacky radiation movies, i.e., atomic fallout has produced some mutant monsters that defy the laws of nature. Best described as a Filipino horrible movie BOB takes place on Blood Island, a cursed place on the edge of a nuke test zone.

The line-up: John Ashley as Jim Farrell, young Peace Corp worker; Kent Taylor as Dr. Paul Henderson, aloof scientist; and Beverly Hills as Carla Henderson, wife of Paul, a woman with – ahem – a warm personality. Dumping an ice bucket over Carla's head would produce blinding steam. She never met a man she didn't like – or licked.

If you consider sex and gore great qualities then BOB is a piece of art. But some might say BOB = POS.

As a good Catholic boy I was kinda shocked/embarrassed/intrigued by scenes of naked island women tied to poles as sacrifices to a bloodthirsty monster. This creature – do you think wacky radiation is involved? – comes out at night for a ripping good time.

The outstanding star of this film is Beverly Hills. Bev provides a deep portrayal as Carla, a wife trying to jump start her reserved husband. The character is much more than a woman suffering from overfriendliness with strangers (that is, the strangers equipped with penes.)

And speaking of things phallic wacky radiation has mutated the banana trees, providing them with long hungry tentacles. Using their probing protrusions the monstrous trees attack Carla. The guys save her but I'm surprised she resisted.

Carla's big problem (besides writhing banana tree tentacles): her husband's detached manner. Her extracurricular exercise program doesn't phase him. In a moving scene she confronts him about this problem. Not running low on coolant for a moment she demonstrates a surprising super IQ for a dyed blonde.

Bev/Carla trips up on a key word in her dialogue, pronouncing the word "stoic" as one syllable. She tells her husband: "Don't be such a stoik!"

Did I mentioned this was a low budget movie? No time for retakes, explaining to the actress how to properly pronounce sto-ic.

There's another key bit of dialogue uttered by John Ashley when he first arrives on the island. He tells a local girl: "We weren't expecting supermarkets or laundromats." Was he talking about Blood Island or Plattsburgh, NY?

Besides the nudity and sex BOB also provides its share of gore. While transporting the remains of the monster's sacrificial victims to the sea one of the carriers trips, the blood-soaked bag opens, and a severed arm and head spill onto

the beach.

I watched BOB with my father. Looking back I'm surprised he didn't say his back was bothering him again, an excuse to start the car and slink away from the drive-in under the cover of darkness.

Maybe he stayed because he thought the film had been approved by the Legion of Decency. I mean with all the wholesome Catholic values it espoused.

Let me wrap this up with one note of interest: Beverly Hills – AKA Beverly Powers – left Hollywood behind, becoming an ordained minister in Hawaii. I wonder if her portrayal of Carla was mentioned in any of her sermons. In Brides of Blood the monster rips off Carla's dress, then rips up Carla. The end result of the wages of sin.

Hey, Readers! Struggling Writer Needs Help

I'm hoping to write an article comparing two different worlds: UFOlogy and SF fandom. I want to avoid a concentration on stereotypes while aware a stereotype can be based on an actual personality type. Is there generally a difference in POV between UFO followers and SF fans? Are SF fans more skeptical towards towards UFO reports? Is there that much overlap between the two worlds?

Of course any interest can have its extremists despite the efforts of rational followers. For example with UFOs it's blind believers who buy into any fantastic story like Nazis operating an UFO base in Antarctica since the end of World War II. Within the broad category of speculative fiction fans you have people who dress up as real life superheroes to fight street crime.

I've only been to a few comic book conventions, no UFO cons. Maybe one of you have attended both kinds. If you're mainly a SF fan that's fine; I just want your personal observations and recollections. Your experience with average fans and extremists, skeptics and believers.

I'm also looking for input from UFOlogists regarding SF fans.

Email: raypalmx@gmail.com

MailBoX
Letters of Comment from discerning Readers

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June 11, 2016

Dear Ray:

I am catching up, really, I am...I have here issues 117 and 118 of the X-Rayer, so comments to come, asap.

117...I have never been a comics reader, so it looks like I have saved thousands of dollars in not going to any movie connected with comics. So many people seem to be disappointed with the latest batch of comics-based movies, so maybe...it's time for...original ideas? I know, insane idea, but in the age of insanity, it might just work. C'mon, Hollywood, give it a try!

I see job ads for closed captioners, and I apply, without luck. Sometimes, I see closed captions on television, and it's an unreadable mess. Hey! I'm over here, and willing to try to do a better job!

My loc...the computer is back from the shop, it's got Windows 10 on it, it's been a pain, and because of the demands of a bigger-than-ever OS, I will need a wifi booster to make sure I've got enough signal coming in. My computer seems to have as many peripherals as a porcupine has quills. I am sure something is overheating somewhere.

118...I remember reading some of the stories that kept horny boys happy, with space girls showing off a lot of curvy flesh...that truly was the heyday of SF, especially for those boys. I am sure someone is still writing stuff like that, but it is probably hidden away on the Net, the world's biggest porn shop. I am sure Mr. Google will show some off to those who ask for it. (RX: *You mean newsgroups like alt.startrek.creative.erotica.moderated?*)

My, my...a little dab'll do ya. I used to worry about that, once my father finally gave up on me getting brush cuts. I still use a little bit of gel when my fly-away hair wouldn't behave, but as my hairline elevates slowly but surely, I won't have to worry about that too much very soon.

The job hunt continues, and I will not say more, because it's been repetitive. I am praying for a lucky break, such as a successful interview or a lottery win. Thanks for these two issues, and I hope to see more soon.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

RX: ThanX for your LOC.

Regarding your efforts to find work: job searching sucks.

One time I applied for a job and did get an interview. The manager told me the position only paid minimum wage. No benefits, no sales commission.

I told him I had been trained in my previous job, had experience and so I deserved more than minimum wage. He pointed to a stack of job applications on his desk and said: "Why should I pay you more when all of these people are willing to work for minimum wage?"

The business went under. Maybe that manager is now getting paid minimum wage for cleaning toilets. I know from my own personal experience what great benefits a janitorial career offers.

Hang in there.

Ray

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Jun 17, 2016

Hi Ray,

I just saw an announcement for this one, since superheroes are on the agenda.

Kill Six Billion Demons: <http://killsixbilliondemons.com/>

This particular webcomic has to be looked at to appreciate. Making it in comic book form creates a real treasure for the fans. Make sure you grab it if you see it on the shelves.

The excessive mania for control seems to strike everywhere these days and the magic combination of the 'evil empire' and 'spandex crapola' is sure to cause grief for anyone fool enough to think fair use is legal when they lack the legal defenses of a giant corporation. It is only legal if you have pockets deep enough to nail the corporation to the wall in court. That's the current state of "Rule of Law", it only applies to the little people.

Fadeaway-49 has a nice summation of the e-book realities versus the traditional publishing business. The Net has made it into a readers paradise once you go electronic. The problem then becomes what to read not how to afford enough books to keep busy at it. I no longer read the backs of cereal boxes so maybe the new flood of material is an improvement. My SciFi folder right now has 1,843,707,904 bytes in it in 5,719 files. It is also all legal stuff. The trouble is unlike the printed material which lines my lair, I can no longer say that I have read it all.

This is the curse of the modern age. Our entire society is based on what was worked out in ages of scarcity. Once the dread specter of scarcity faded into a ghost without substance we are still faced with the contrivances to fend it off and caught in the gears of those contrivances. Most of the cultures around us spend their efforts trying to keep the future from making any changes in the wonderful Panglossian utopias we live in. We need Sheckley back to do the exegesis of this for us.

I think people who see reptilians everywhere have watched too much V as children. Once that image is buried in the psyche they are doomed by the Illuminati plot which was hidden in the TV program.

Dave "the Unspellable"

RX: Kill Six Billion Demons looks interesting. Maybe someday I'll have time to read it. As you mention there's a surfeit of entertainment. I have to get caught up with a few TV series and movies before the VHS tapes deteriorate. I wonder if I still have those episodes of the NBC TV show Surface? Then again there's no rush since the networked canned the show in the middle of the story. But on the other hand there is Lake Bell...

* * *

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Jul 9, 2016

LOC on RX XR #121

Hey there, Ray! Here is a quick letter of comment on your latest issue on efanzines.

Yeah, publishing fanzines online is a huge savings in time, cost, and effort. I still produce a small personalzine - Askew - that remains paper-only, and for that I maintain a small mailing list of 57 names of 40 USA and 17 International. That keeps the postage costs down. Now for Askance, which is always the larger zine, that stays online. In fact, you should have received that pdf a few days ago when I sent it out to my fanzine fans email group. If you didn't, let me know and I shall fire it off.

You know, I am glad you put that history of the efanzines.com website we both use. It is a great resource not only for current faneditors, but to scan and archive old paperzines. Back in 2003 I ran across this site and started up a small e-zine called In a Prior Lifetime, which rekindled my old fanzine-producing heart. I haven't been the same since. Good idea to write this up.

Well, I think that will have to do for now. Thanks for publishing, and I look forward to your next effort.

All the best,

John

RX: A total of 57 readers for a paperzine? That sure beats my record. I should've been writing about science fiction instead of UFOs. It's a relief that I'm wrapping up this issue minus the battle of making a computer printer work properly. The downside: less exercise walking to the post office to drop off the dead tree copies. But I'm willing to make that sacrifice with my physical health for the sake of my mental health.

-- END XR #121 --