

# Ray X *X-Rayer* #122

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

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## **Plottastic!**

### **Attack of the Blood Bay Lamprey Zombies**

Sometimes my creative genius surprises me.

I'm all set to work on a screenplay for the ultimate SF horror movie.

Plot: An international athletic competition is being held in a major South American city. (For legal reasons this competition isn't the 2016 Summer Olympics and the city isn't Rio, Brazil.) The city abuts a large body of water that some call Blood Bay. This bay has been used for countless years as a sewer, the locals dumping in all sort of environmental nasties – garbage, chemicals, sewage, etc.

The South American host city assures the international athletic committee that the bay will be cleaned up before the games begin, especially those occurring in

the water.

So what if some human body parts wash up on the beach area set aside for the volleyball games. Just a fluke. Anyway the bay will be in good shape. Trust us.

But when the games start the pollution reduction is only partially completed. The international athletic organization doesn't mind, the games must go on, too much money will be lost. Anyway the aquatic athletes are tough, especially the swimmers.

The host city thinks that everything should be OK, nothing to worry, even if the whole world is watching.

The swimmers, blinded by the glory of gold and silver prizes, decide to compete.

So during one race a group of swimmers encounter a green glowing glop floating on the surface. (I forgot to mention that radioactive waste also gets dumped, a fictional detail needed for the SF angle.) The swimmers enter the mutagen spot and are paralyzed, sinking to the bottom.

A search is launched but the bay is so polluted the bodies can't be found.

Then a couple of nights later strange creatures rise up from the water, walk onto the beach. They look human but their faces are replaced by a large circular sucker mouths ringed with fangs. They enter the city, attack people people, turning them into lamprey zombies. The contagion quickly spreads –

OK, this won't fly. Why? Suspension of disbelief. Too unbelievable.

No one will believe that an international athletic organization would allow swimmers to be exposed to such pollution. And the swimmers would never enter the water knowing they risks they would be taking.

And what major city would allow the world to focus on its polluted bay, especially with a multitude of critical articles in the media about its insalubrious state.

All of that – no one will buy it.

Scratch this screenplay.

## **Brides of Blood A Second Look**

In my previous article I discussed this 1968 Filipino horrible film about a place called Blood Island being menaced by mutations caused from wacky radiation

from an A-bomb test. In one scene a character, Carla, mispronounces a key word while talking with her husband Paul about his reserved manner.

Carla (or the actress Beverly Hills) pronounces stoic as one syllable, saying "stoick" instead. Since I'm a thorough researcher (or just plain anal retentive) I checked the dialogue again. I thought Carla said "Don't be such a stoick!" In fact she said, "Paul, you're such a unbelievable stoick." You can hear this around the 39:00 minute time mark with this YouTube upload: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQUJjpiHBmg> .

And to Get Carla/Beverly the benefit of a doubt I Googled "stoik" and "stoick" in the rare event there was such a word.

Now stoick is an obsolete form of stoic. It is still pronounced as two syllables ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrf7Dyf905Y> ).

I did come across an unbelievable stoick, that is a character named Stoick the Vast from the animated action-fantasy movie How To Train Your Dragon (2010). But his name is pronounced as one syllable.

Sorry Carla/Beverly – you meant to say sto-ic, not stoick (one syllable).

Another point I want to mention. The damn clapping. For some reason the footsteps are really loud in this movie. OK, I can understand being in a mansion with stone or hardwood floors but you even hear clapping when the characters are traveling by foot through the jungle. For example you can hear Peace Corp worker Jim Farrell (John Ashley) run and clop across a soft jungle floor and sand. (52:00) Must be that wacky radiation again, mutating parts of the terrain into a soundstage floor.

Enjoy characters saying the obvious? Around the 18:00 time mark Paul and Carla encounter a mutated banana tree, its tentacle getting an erection.

CARLA: "Paul, it's moving."

PAUL: "Yes."

And there's key dialogue at 36:00 . Peace Corp worker Jim Farrell (John Ashley) speaks with a local girl about the sacrificial offerings, villagers tied to stakes at night. It seems Paul is puzzled why only young nubile girls, not males, get the special treatment, being ripped apart.

The island girl explains the monster only prefers females. She adds: "He doesn't devour his victims. He merely satisfies himself on them." Wham, bam, thank you ma'am.

I'm glad I don't have to haul those corpses away. Ick.

And my parting shot: the sound effect for the monster, the noise it makes when on the loose. Really annoying. It sounds like a constipated grizzly bear straining ad nauseam.

## **MailboX**

*Ufology (Re: XR #121)*

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Hi Ray,

For me UFOlogy is a strange subject because of my own history with the material that has shown up within the field.

Once in awhile a pilot would share a story with my dad about an encounter but they were not about to share it with anyone else. The fear of losing their job and livelihood was too great to hazard telling anyone about such things. The sightings were not aircraft of any known type since most aviators kept up with developments in the field.

The East Los Angeles airfield in the early days was a hotbed of aviation and a skinny kid named Tony LeVier used to hang out there saving his money for flying lessons. My father and other pilots used to take him along when they went for lunch. Tony told my dad in later years that it was what kept him from starving.

Tony was an air racer in the 1930s and when WW2 broke out he went to join the military. He was turned down for a heart defect. So he said I went and got a job as a test pilot. The test pilot on Lockheed P-38 fighters had just been killed on a test flight. Tony took that job because there was an opening. In the next era he was Lockheeds chief test pilot and flew their first jets. Lockheed was involved in doing interesting things for the government and Kelly Johnson needed a place to do the experimental work. Tony flies around and finds Groom Lake, the site looks good so Lockheed moves their Skunk Works to there. It is better known as Area 51.

There was another program in Henderson, Nevada at a place called Basic Metals that was doing interesting things and one of my uncles smuggled a piece of a miracle metal called Titanium out of the plant. It looked like and weighed a lot like aluminum but they had tried to drill through it with a drill press but only got half way through it in 15 minutes, about 1/8th of an inch.

Later on a Colonel Stapp had a program on a place called Mormon Mesa in southern Utah. That was using a rocket sled on railroad tracks with a water scoop brake to test ejection seats at jet fighter speeds.

Notice that there aren't any alien craft involved but the whole region is full of odd stuff that can be easily interpreted as such.

A lot of the grainy UFO photos are fairly easy to recognize as the F-117 stealth fighter when it was being hidden from the world. All of this does not explain every sighting but it does start to prune the mass of oddities down to only a few.

Now we switch gears to a psychonaut named Terence McKenna who was quite open minded about the whole idea of UFOs. His experience was to have a bit of jungle fog in the Amazon basin combine across a lake and move towards him. It also had the SF movie saucer sound effects. Frightened he had to sit down on a muddy slope convinced he was about to have an encounter or abduction. It passed over his head. His problem was that it was the Adamski 1932 Hoover end cap of the Vacuum Cleaner but 40 feet in diameter and 200 feet over his head. So now we have an eyewitness account from someone who knew what he was seeing but it contained the seeds of its own debunking within the experience. It turns out that the mind is far too ready to unpack any pre-loaded baggage into any event which is out of the ordinary enough to trigger it. The serotonin of normal brain function is very close to the psychochemicals that hallucinate. We also manufacture DMT as a normal part of our chemical metabolic process.

I don't know if there are UFOs made of material flying around the skies of Earth, but I do know there are a lot flying around in the heads of humans in this day and age.

My favourite mystery object is the Black Knight in its polar orbit which was seen before we had any human spaceflight capability at all.

You need to remember that they only completed a complete Earth mapping in 1959-1960 and we still haven't done an ocean mapping with any precision.

Most people rarely look up because most of our evolutionary history has been on the savannah and plains so the tendency to misidentify what we see in the sky rises because of the unfamiliarity of what is up there.

In the golden age SF fans were the types who moved into sciences and engineering and that mindset tends to be debunkers and skeptics who want a piece of the craft to bang on before they decide it is an alien spacecraft. This also makes them even more skeptical of what the human mind can do to itself at random.

There is also an entire thread through the historical Illuminatus about the

impossibilities of things like meteorites according to the leading minds of the day. So we must first disabuse ourselves of the silly notion that we now know everything, then we can work on the idea that we can identify any of the unknown things we see correctly based on our own vast knowledge base.

I myself saw a UFO on television. There was some talking heads program on I believe CNN and they had a camera pointed out the window of a high rise while the windbagging was going on. Not on purpose it was just video filler. In the shot was a silver ovoid hovering in the air without moving. Finally the program moved on to other video feeds. I don't think anyone was even aware of what they had shown and without any other information it is impossible to decide what that apparent object was. If you do not discard the rules of evidence when examining the testimonys then the whole case is pretty thin stuff. The internal mental states of folks who believe are much more interesting material to investigate.

There has been an information spillover between the UFO crowd and SF readers but I'm not sure it has convinced anyone to become a true believer either way.

: ^ )

Dave

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July 26, 2016

Dear Ray:

Thank you for issue 121 of the X-Rayer. This might have to be short and fast, but then, that describes me, too. Let's see what I can do.

Great cartoon on the front cover, and so true, too. Some must wonder if the final days are close by, and are starting to read Revelations. I think it's just our insanity on the rise, and the veneer of civilization becoming thinner to the point of transparency. Far too many deaths at the hands of terrorists and police.

Suspension of disbelieve if great, but even better if you can believe entirely, immerse yourself in a great storyline, and emerge at the end emotionally moved. I think many of us would like that in a novel, too.

Brides of Blood...how did these aloof scientists ever get married? After that, how did they ever father beautiful scientist's daughters? A real bunch of stoiks. Nudity? I guess as long as they are natives, it's okay. Isn't the Legion of Decency a comic book? Perhaps it should be.

My loc...still having computer problems. My ISP is Bell Canada, and it hasn't been able to provide me with e-mail service for over three weeks now. I call and get the usual regrets at the inconvenience, but it is beyond the inconvenience stage. I have no idea who's been trying to reach me, and Bell doesn't seem all that motivated to fix their problem. I haven't given up on the job hunt, for my benefits have just ended, but I have suspended them, for we're going on the vacation to England we've been planning for years.

Done for the moment. We will see you with the next ish!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*RX: You might as well travel since you have the time, the main benefit of being unemployed/retired. It's been too long since I've vacated Plattsburgh, NY; I'm overdue. But options are limited with no extra money, no car, and no affordable place I could stay at a destination. I vacate thru my computer to the outside world.*

*As for your ISP problems I can relate. My service is the slowest provided by Verizon. I recently checked all the items on my last bill and saw they were charging me for a faster speed. I got a refund for the overcharge and had the correct rate put back. Always check your phone bill. It's amazing what they try to sneak by. This isn't the first time I've caught Verizon trying to cheat me. Previously they were charging me for long distance but I had opted out of that. I found out that I wasn't required to have long distance service. Incompetence or thievery or both? You should be getting credit or a refund from your ISP for not providing the proper service.*

*Enjoy your vacation.*

- END XR #121 -