



Image: Ruben Bolling

Seeing through  
the artifice of  
adult world

# Ray X

*X-Rayer* #125

17 September, 2016 (C) Ray X

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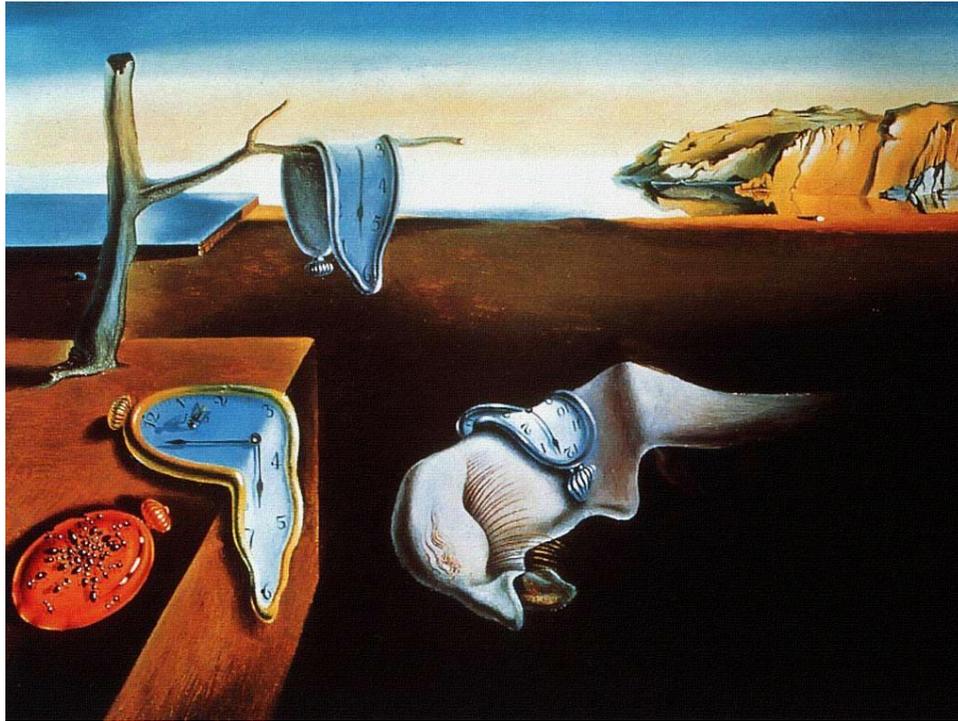
<http://x-rayer.com> [raypalmx@gmail.com](mailto:raypalmx@gmail.com)

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



<https://www.instagram.com/thedom1945/>

*Ray X observes: I'm impressed with this image. To me it depicts what would happen if a radioactive pianist bit Spider-Man.*



*The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dali.*

## **Tunnel Vision**

Can you name all 49 states of the United States of America?

You know that there are 50 states? Apparently you missed the 240 time storm.

Back in 2002 someone envisioned a new take on the 1960s TV series Time Tunnel. The original series followed the adventures of two scientists lost in time. In the original pilot film the viewer is taken inside Project Tic-Toc, a Department of Defense base hidden below an Arizonan desert.

Producer Irwin Allen wanted to impress viewers with the size of Tic-Toc. It's 800 stories deep with 36,000 personnel. During the following episodes we only saw the control console used by scientists tracking the lost travelers through time; no mention of the 36,000 other personnel.

With the population of a small city I wonder what all those people did. How did the US government supply the hidden base with food, water and other necessities? How was garbage and waste disposed? I would hate to see what happened if everyone flushed the toilets at the same time, 800 stories of discharge.

The 2002 remake did away with the impressive but useless scale of the original. The time travel operation is smaller, operated by the Department of Energy. In the original pilot Tic-Toc was set up to discover a way to time travel. In the remake the discovery is by accident. DOE is screwing around with nuclear fusion and it creates a time storm. For 240 minutes history is changed outside the DOE facility. Only the people near the fusion tunnel remember a world with 50 US states.

I've complained the theatrical version of the 1960s TV series *The Man From UNCLE* changed the set-up so much it had nothing to do with the original. With the 2002 *Time Tunnel* pilot the same thing happens but unlike the *UNCLE* movie most of the changes were for the better.

In contrast to the original TT the new version allows for changes in history. The main character, Doug Philips, has a wife and two children. Lurking in the background is the possibility he might badly influence history and his family would no longer exist when he returns to his own time.

In the first adventure former Marine Doug Philips is recruited, joining a team traveling back to World War II to the scene of a key battle. Apparently the time storm has screwed things up by transporting someone forward from 1520 to 1944. The team has to find the displaced person and fix the changes his presence causes.

To blend in the team are disguised as US soldiers -- including two attractive women. They arrive during the daytime and no one notices how feminine these two pseudo-soldiers appear. Hard to buy that detail. It would be like if the team had to return to WW II disguised as WACs. A real drag for the guys.

Despite this flaw the pilot did merit a series but the Fox TV network gave it a pass, never airing it. But Fox did air godawful pilots for *Doctor Who*, *Generation X*, and even *Nick Fury: Agent of SHIELD* with David Hasselhoff as the lead. (The best way to watch Hasselhoff's portrayal of Fury is with two eyepatches, one for each eye.)

The 2002 *Time Tunnel* can be viewed courtesy of YouTube. It's worth a look. Better than watching a Boston Yankees game.

## **SF BSer: The Wrong Hugo**

During my last year of college I belonged to a science fiction fan club. The group was small but the members knew the basics about SF. There was no need to explain that the Hugo Awards were named after Hugo Gernsback who popularized science fiction through his *Amazing Stories* pulp magazine.

One time I was hanging around a bar and another student asked me if I was into science fiction. I said yes. He brought over a friend who was supposedly a SF authority.

This expert with his nose up in the air started bloviating, mentioning the Hugo Awards. I asked him where the name Hugo came from.

The self-proclaimed authority exuding cool confidence replied: "The awards are named after Victor Hugo who wrote the science fiction novel The Hunchback of Notre-Dame."

## **MailBoX**

Dave Haren re: XR 124      tyrbolo@comcast.net

Hi Ray,

I doubt that was a guy from rural Nevada. To my knowledge places where you can get to see fog are an unbelievable rarity there. Unless you count the miasma from the overburdened sewer plants in Vegas as fog. They had a huge building boom and the local infrastructure got expanded last, usually too late.

Interesting saucer tale, the green colour has to be oxygen so whatever the beam was would have to energize the oxygen in the air. I would not want to be in a helicopter that was close enough to a meteor strike to be shoved off course.

The super skeptics can get pretty snotty about it which doesn't do much for their credibility, once someone steps outside the boundaries of their narrow scientific field they tend to windbag and assume their science is a meta theory all else must bow before. Note that I didn't say that things shouldn't follow rules of evidence or be subject to some investigations. Science is ill equipped to deal with isolated events that can't be experimentally verified. Because those are outside of its provence.

That can be used to make all kinds of half-assed claims about the set of phenomena in disregard for rules of evidence and Occams Razor needs to be run over them with a vigorous stroke.

The psychological implications could use a much deeper look in the UFO cases as well. I read a blog called Overweening Generalist that had an article a couple of days ago where he made a linkage between some well known Occultists who suffered from asthma. Maybe there is a link between the altered states of asthma and becoming interested in the occult. We know allergy alters brain states in addition to its other effects. Early asthma drugs didn't do people any favours either, someone said Crowley had been treated with cocaine then used heroin to kick his cocaine addiction. Hopefully we have better ways to treat it now.

I'd expect the ubiquitous cellphone should have increased UFO sights as the population increased. If the phenomena is material that should have occurred, if it is linked to brain chemistries then it wouldn't mirror the population increase rise. That looks like a job for the Google AI: plot UFO mentions against a population increase curve.

Or maybe pass the problem to one of these boffins.

[https://www.edge.org/conversation/seth\\_lloyd-quantum-hanky-panky](https://www.edge.org/conversation/seth_lloyd-quantum-hanky-panky)

The attached is a French invention, I'll refrain from giving it a sarcastic name.

Til next time.

Dave

*RX: A mammary washer, eh? That's one way to make a clean breast of it.*



Re XR 122 & 123 - Lloyd Penney

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
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August 31, 2016

Dear Ray:

I am not at the above address as I type this, but I am at umpteen thousand feet on a WestJet Airlines plane, flying out of London Gatwick, and heading home to Toronto Pearson. We've just enjoyed a two-week vacation in England, in London and Lincoln, and you've got to do something on a 7-hour flight! So here goes with a loc on issues 122 and 123 of X-Rayer.

Go for it re the horror movie. I have seen episodes of a series on life in South America, and some of the fish even in small rivers will take a big bit out of you, if not eat you. Ten-foot long piranhas, anyone? If it's successful, it will make sure the Olympics are never held on that continent again. Rio de Janeiro, through the Brazilian government, made so many promises, and broke most of them. Our Canadian team did very well, but I did not watch the Olympics this year. Too busy getting ready for the trip we've just taken!

If indeed there ever were any real UFOs, it makes me wonder why there are so few seen these days? Perhaps we're not very interesting, or not too advanced, not worthy of study. Or, they've decided we're going to destroy ourselves, and they'd better get out of the vicinity. I wish

they'd come back, and visit with us, and explain themselves. Then, we might hear what I've always thought to be the most poignant line in all SF films and television..."Take me with you."

My loc...My ISP Bell Canada seems to be finally adapting to Windows 10. All e-mail problems were finally fixed before we went to England, and now, the problems are with Facebook adapting to another new version of the Android tablet's OS. That's getting fixed, but there's so much to realign. Fortunately, updates for Android versions of popular programmes have been coming fairly frequently. Each one has been necessary, for Facebook. I gather that Canadians pay among the highest rates for cellphone usage and cable television in the industrialized world. Yvonne actually did call Bell Canada to demand a refund, and she got a 50% reduction on that month's bill.

And then, of course, I also have here issue 123... I suspect that someone took a pile of ideas from assorted horror movies, threw them all together in a hat, and pulled out an unlikely combination of sharks and tornados. I have never seen anything with Sharknado in the title; too silly for me. Having been in England for two weeks, we've been in one hotel or another. The TV is moot; we watched the BBC while getting ready for the day's activities. One hotel also had BBC Radio through the TV, and that was a nice change, being able to listen to the radio while we rushed around, packing or unpacking, or digging out personal kits.

I think most of us suffer from Too Much Stuff at some time. The solution we found was multi-part...the first step we took was to go to a collectibles' shop to see if they were interested in what we had. They were, we brought in a big box of our assorted collectibles, and after some negotiation, we walked out of there with a mostly-empty big box of stuff, and \$600. The shop closed down some months later; we were never sure if we had a part in that. The second step was to take a dealer's table at a local con, and price things reasonably. We did that for a few years, and then we discovered that we could attend a convention and see all the people we wanted to see from the comfort of a couple of chairs behind a table, and make some money, too. Around that time, we also got interested in steampunk, being costumers back in the 80s and 90s, and I learned how to make basic jewelry with a tool set Yvonne gave me, and we were in business, and we still are. (The only thing wrong with being behind a table all weekend is that your friends find you there, see you are a captive audience, and pour out their tales of woe...the divorce is not going well, Dave is spending his inheritance poorly, I had my operation, I need another operation on my hip, this new restaurant I went to is crap, whine, moan, complain...that was earlier this year. The moaners, whiners and complainers chased a lot of business away, and all we got for our trouble that weekend was \$250 and a migraine each.)

I've never met Cassandra Peterson as herself or Elvira, but I gather she is a sweet lady. I hope she enjoys her retirement, and that Elvira continues on, as campy and nubile as ever. The latest Ghostbusters movie? A success. The latest Star Trek movie? A total flop. A new Star Trek series is being shot, and it's in Toronto, of all places.

All done for the moment; as I type, I am somewhere over the Atlantic. I will save this, e-mail it to myself, and get it to you...eventually. See you then!

(Of course, this was composed on the plane, and only now sent out at home. I see issue 124 has arrived, and I will get to that soon, I hope.)

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*RX: I used to deal with whiners and moaners while stuck behind a bookshop counter. One old lady who frequented the store always shared her observations about the weather.*

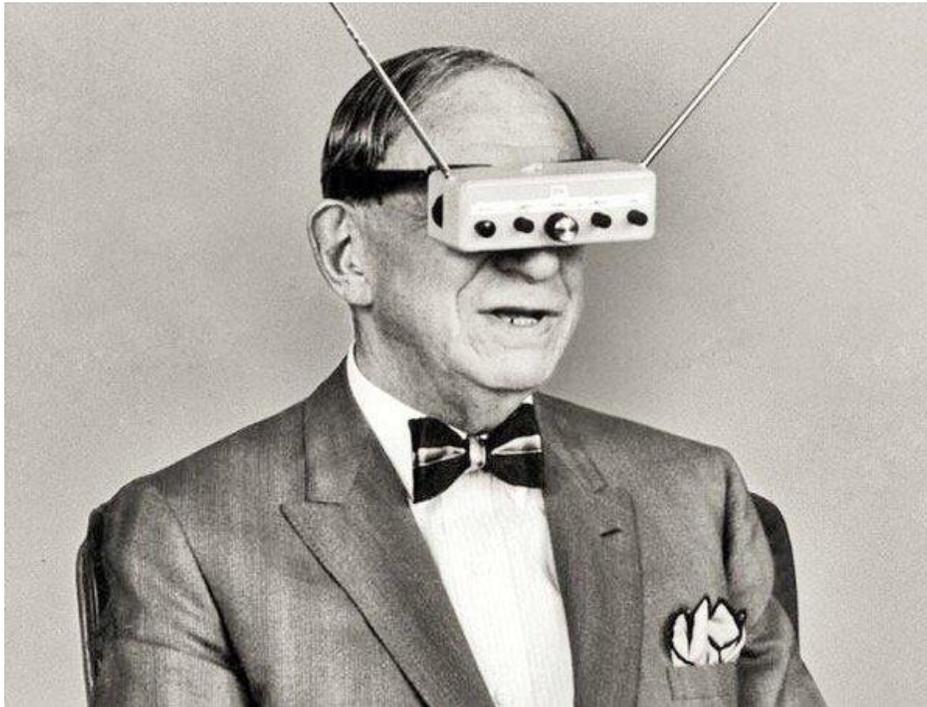
*On a sunny day she would come in and moan: "It's too hot, too hot."*

*On a rainy day she would complain: "Too damp, too damp."*

*And on a wintry day she whined: "Too cold, too cold."*

*On any day she came in I wanted to say: "Shut up, shut up."*

*Good to hear you had a good time on your trip. I've been long overdue for a vacation away from here. I wouldn't mind taking a trip to London, Ontario.*



*Hugo Gernsback wearing his television glasses.*

*Early VR.*

-- END XR #125 --