



## Dept. of CorreXions

Back in XR #137 I wrote that Anglia TV broadcasted the *Alternative 3* mockumentary in 1997. (Article: *Pssst... Have You Heard About That Top Top Secret Space Program?*) Sharp-eyed Terry the Censor noticed I was off by two decades: the year should have been 1977. ThanX, Terry. It's been fiXed at my blog. If you print out the ezine version please take a blue pen, cross out 1997 and note the correct date. There's enough misinformation out there already.

## Bad Girl



Fox News commentator Tomi Lahren has provoked an outcry over her US flag Halloween costume. Some of her conservative audience are angry that she has desecrated the great symbol of America in such a way, especially cutting up the flag to create a cape.

I hope Captain America gives her a good spanking.

## Hamstrung With Samsung

My war with technology continues.

My 7 inch Dell tablet was tough but it finally wore out. Dell no longer makes stand-alone tablets so I had to purchase another brand. I had tried Amazon Fire with its semi-Android operating system and hated it. It didn't play and work well with Android. Also Amazon switched the default search engine to Bing. Compared to Google Bing sucks.

I had a Samsung tablet some time ago and it was OK. So I purchased one which fit my budget (under \$100) knowing that its internal memory was really limited. But the Samsung included a micro SD card slot, a feature I like because I could move files and apps over to external storage, freeing up the needed internal space as I had done with other tablets.

But my new tablet wouldn't allow any such transfers. I returned to Best Buy and a Geek Squad tech spent over half-an-hour trying to make it work. He told me the version of Android -- 4.4 -- on my tablet had been crippled to stop access to external storage, supposedly a security move.

Imagine buying a car with a large trunk, plenty of storage room but the hood has been welded shut.

So what about spending 40 or 50 dollars more for the next model up from that with a newer version of Android? No go. That model was also crippled. I had to get one with Android 6.0, a unit way out of my price range.

Apparently there are workaround apps to the problem but I can't be bothered. I blame Google for creating this problem. And while Samsung didn't create the restriction it should've warned customers about the SD card limitation.

So with my eXperience with modern tech -- how they like to screw up a good thing -- I'm looking forward to jumping out of the way from self-driving cars.

### Giving Them Enough Rope Ladder To Hang Themselves



The two miners -- known to be sober and truthful -- asked the sheriff if they could shoot at a flying saucer that had been trespassing on their camp.

Over at his site -- The Flying Saucers That Time Forgot -- Curt Collins covers this event with the post "Flying Saucer Ambush: Brush Creek, CA, 1953." (Link: <http://bit.ly/2hMLIWv> )

Curt shares news clippings about the miners and their unusual situation. For me all the details with any UFO/flying saucer story have to fit. When even one key detail is dubious then the whole story is suspect.

Of course newspaper reporters can make mistakes. For example the articles don't match up regarding the miners's activity. They are described as either mining gold or titanium. Or maybe they kept changing their story a bit with each interview.

The gist of the story is that on two occasions -- both on the 20th of each month at 6:30 PM -- a saucer would appear, landing on a sandbar with its tripod legs. A diminutive alien would get out, scoop some water out of the creek, and return to the saucer with his sample, handing it to someone inside. Then interstellar vehicle left.

The sheriff told the miners that the saucer could be shot but only with a camera.

Considering the visitation pattern the miners assumed the saucer would be back on the 20th of the following month. On that day a crowd gathered, including reporters and cameramen, to verify the truth behind the story.

The saucer never appeared. But that is no surprise when we check out some details to the miners' story.

The miners described the saucer's dimensions as four feet high, seven feet long. Now that's really small. How thick was its hull? How large was the craft's instrumentation and propulsion system? The water-scooper was described as only four feet tall. Obviously no real headroom inside the saucer. He must've been traveling crammed into a intergalactic sardine can.

A detail that bugs me much more is the use of a prosaic aluminum pail to get some water. Wouldn't the aliens extend a hose from the craft to pump up the water instead of having someone go outside and get it, exposing himself to danger?

But this is the buggiest detail: ingress/egress to the saucer was gained with the use of a rope ladder.

FTL technology and they're still using a rope ladder? When leaving in a hurry climbing up a rope ladder adds time. And hauling up the rope ladder delays flight even more.

A knotty situation that quickly results in the truth of this saucer story kicking the bucket.

And I didn't mention how the little alien was attired: a suit and tie with a green cap and green trousers.

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Hi Ray

Interesting piece about Claud. There's a certain amount of hidden material lying in wait beneath the surface of that comic.

Would you trade away substantial parts of your organism to achieve freedom from things that are necessities ? Does the act of becoming a mechanism relegate you to the status of a cheerful servant who waits tables on the organic over lords ?

I think the individual would answer these question differently based on their own assessment of themself. there are those who do min max calculations around their own flexibility in morality and ethics leading to such trite cliches of falsity as cultural truths that faced with folk who hold rockhard steadfast refusal to compromise they are dumbfounded. This led the ancients to decide that society had three built-in layers leaders, farmers, and slave laborers. Some moderns are sure that this can all be educated away or legislated out

of existence in some magic fashion. All it does is make the victims of their schemes uncomfortable.

So what we see in Claud is an uncomfortable look into the zeitgeist of those lovely days right before my generation ruined the ambiance of their bullshit by trying to force the elders to live up to their propaganda. The sad truth is you can cut slaves free from physical chains but they will forge a new set and ask you to admire the glitter and shine of their own bondage.

I think they are building the wall on the Mexican border to keep us in. The fact that no one sees the irony of USA building an iron curtain makes it doubly ironic.

If I was Lloyd I'd start lobbying Canada to complete fencing in the US until the dust settles here. The east Germans were told that the Berlin Wall was to keep back the ravaging hordes of fascists on the other side.

I've been reading SF lately. That turned up a hole in my books Jack Vance did a series of books on the Demon Princes. The hero tracked down and killed each one of them for massacre of his family and neighbors. I don't have The Face and can't remember if I ever read it at all. My days of endlessly rummaging in the used bookstores have run into the problem of those places fading away.

Not that I have a book shortage between the shelves, internet archive, and project Gutenberg I have far too much to read now.

With the way things are going internationally Trump is the least pressing of our problems. The Rus have a naval base in the med now thanks to our mad rush to rubbleize the middle east. North Korea claims it can now hit Chicago Illinois with ease. The EU are about to cycle their banking crisis once again. Our congress decided to freeze widows and orphans of europe to fix their lack of a fracked gas market here.

Mentioning Israel and Venezuela would be overkill of the good news for today.

Warm Regards

Dave

*[RX: I like your analysis of the Claud the Cyborg syndrome. It makes more sense than Robin Bright's dense blather.*

*Like you I don't have to add to my reading list. The Gutenberg Project by itself is overwhelming. And there are all these comic book files I've got stacked up. Some people don't like reading on a screen but I prefer that over spending mucho \$ for a comic printed on cheap newsprint that is just yellowing away.]*

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Lloyd and Yvonne Penney [penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net)

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August 25, 2017

Dear Ray:

I am travelling again...right now, I am in West Nipissing, Ontario, formerly known as Sturgeon Falls, and we have a comfortable hotel room as we plan to formally inter Yvonne's mother Gabrielle into the family plot at the Cache Bay Public Cemetery tomorrow morning at 11am. I am not going to simply sit and mourn, I think Gabrielle wouldn't want me to, so I brought some fanzines with me, including X-Rayer 137.

I always thought it presumptuous that any American government might join a galactic organization, not consulting with any other government on Earth. There's 200+ countries here... I could see a fictional world government making such a decision, but any US government? What ego! I could see DT45 doing this, and then crying 'fake news!' yet again.

I get the feeling the Alternative 3 programme on Anglia Television was meant to be as much of a shocker as War of the Worlds. I never did see the Space Man comic books, but at least shows like Star Trek gave us all the vision of something much bigger than ourselves, a Federation of Planets with grand ideals, ideals that the average SF fan would eagerly embrace. It might need to be hidden from us, and I suspect for good reasons...should we ever discover life elsewhere than on Earth, there will be screaming from religious types. More fake news, perhaps.

My loc...in some ways, I did train for a career, but the requirements of the career were redefined as I graduated, and there I was with a degree that largely couldn't get me work. I have been a good proofreader, copy editor and data entry clerk, and while there have been jobs for all those, I haven't gotten any real work in close to two years now. Just lately, I have found some great jobs, and about 7 or 8 of them, and as I say, I only want one.

All done for the moment, Ray...I hope you don't have to redesign the next issue to get this loc in. Thanks for this, and see you with the next one.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

*[RX: My condolences. Sorry for your loss.]*

*Your LOC is dated the end of August and here I am nearing the end of November, finally getting an ezine out. So there was no problem fitting your LOC into this issue. I've been suffering the doldrums lately, not much positive reinforcement in my environment. Yesterday was another quiet holiday, just hanging around my apartment. And I'm not one of those greedy lemmings cramming into the mall today for prices they could get online without risking life and limb.*

*As for aliens contacting our world and the reaction by various religions: I've toyed with the idea of writing a story about technologically superior visitors from Out There who are atheists -- and also who have a scientific formula proving there is no God.]*

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I know, it has been a long time since I last wrote a letter to you, Ray, but this little thing called a TAFF Trip took my wife and I out of the country for five and a half weeks, and I am now finally getting back into the swing of things at home. School has resumed (I'm a college English professor) and home life is what it is: hectic. Still, we persist. And that is where this particular letter is coming from.

I am positive you have had a few more issues of Ray X X-Rayer published since this one in June, but I have a printed copy of #136 in front of me, so it gets locked. Your interview with Guy Lillian is a great introduction to a long-time fan who is a good friend of mine. You touched on many aspects of his varied life - fan history, working at DC Comics, his college years at Berkley, being a Public Defender - which gives readers an overview of Guy's interests and experiences. He and his wife Rosie (daughter of science fiction author Joseph L. Green) currently live in Merritt Island, Florida, which is not far from Cape Kennedy, so they can watch rocket launches literally from their front yard. How cool is that?

In the letters, Lloyd Penney mentions that he still enjoys paper copies of fanzines. Well, so do I. That explains why I usually print out fanzines from efanzines.com - double-sided, of course - for reading and loc-writing purposes. Besides, there is something relaxing and tangible about holding a fanzine in your hands; it certainly reminds me of my younger days in fandom back in the 1970s. Ah, youth...

Enough of that for now. Thank you for the fanzine, and keep them coming. I will have to get onto efanzines again to see further issues of yours.

All the best,

John Purcell  
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[RX: ThanX for your comments. I still enjoy the dead tree format but as I've mentioned above it's cheaper to read some stuff on a screen.

Sounds like you had a good time with TAFF. I need to travel. I haven't had a vacation in years. Budget constraints. Maybe I'll be hit by a zeta beam free of charge.]

**Another Image Submitted By Dave** ([tyrbolo@comcast.net](mailto:tyrbolo@comcast.net))



- END XR #138 -