

Vampires in Media Lecture Notes

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(Note: All caps sections are written as such to denote times in which a broad topic is summarized or input from the text chat is referenced. I hope that their inclusion will be helpful in following the flow of the live discussion, though at times they are an imperfect truncation of a much broader discussion that was impossible to fully capture.)

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INTRODUCTIONS ARE HAD

Our discussion will be over the vampire community and media presence. This is a very controversial subject for the community. A lot of people are for or against this, or somewhere in between.

Back then, a lot of the community, with their code of conduct in houses or what have you, were very interested in secrecy. It was always written within their code. Even for Black Swans and Donors, they didn't want outside info being leaked to the public. Which is interesting because, when you think of this era (80s-90s), this quickly shifted in the early 00s with media coverage, and it came from the same generation that spoke about secrecy as tradition. It was the traditionalists that brought the VC under the media's eye. A lot of vamp politics is very much involved with media presence—if it's bad, or good, necessary, a detriment, etc.

Is anyone else familiar with this whole concept of traditionalist vs. modernist thoughts on media presence?

I would like to say it's not about which category you fall into. There's a lot of modernists who don't think it's very good, but in general traditionalists lean on the secrecy side of things.

As a reminder, we do take questions in the chat for this call!

[REFERRING TO CHAT FOR THOUGHTS ON THESE PERSPECTIVES]

So you know, that's the past. It was very much taboo, and if you were on the news or in an article or in a documentary, it was very much frowned upon. Before the Black Veil got updated with M. Belanger's writing, the whole discretion part was a lot more serious. Of course, Michelle Belanger has been absolutely everywhere on the internet, with articles and the like.

[PAUSE AS A CONTACT LENS ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE LADY NOVA]

Okay guys, I'm going to be doing this discussion half-blind now.

[ANSWERING QUESTIONS, SOMEONE SAYS THEY THINK MEDIA REPRESENTATION IS DANGEROUS FOR THE VC]

I think those are very valid concerns when it comes to media representation. Not everyone wants that idea out there, but then also the person who is speaking on their identity might not hold the same values as many in the community, and that could cause some—especially with documentaries and specials—interesting perspectives. There was definitely some bullying towards the VC because of these documentaries, maybe not too too bad, but it was there. For me, I think media presence is good so long as you are not making a spectacle of things. That's very hard to say, of course, I mean if you're going on a documentary or the news. But things like not having a creepy backing track of organs while blood-letting is being shown, extreme filters and the like. That's what a lot of documentaries from the early 00s were like with the VC, unfortunately.

But if the information you're putting out there is general, and doesn't go in depth calling out specific organizations or houses, it could be a good thing to break the ice towards the identity. It could be good for questioning people. There are some who might be awakened because they watched something about vampyres. We've had a huge, huge influx of people from the Strange Aeons video. There was quite a few people who thought the idea resonated with them, and they sought out VC spaces as a result. I would say Strange did a good job—staying unbiased while also sharing very accurate information that wasn't humiliating. I think that there is evidence of media representation done right.

We had to do our regular quarterly purge early because we had over 100 people join from that video, and they were all very nice. We didn't have a single person who came on to bully. So there's the proof of positivity. That's my stance on media representation, at least. You can't make everybody happy in the community, but it can be done well.

Everyone not agreeing is another downside to these sorts of exposes. Especially with the psi/sang distinction. A lot of Hollywood veers towards the sang side of things because it's flashier and maybe seems more “extreme.” But there are definitely gradients of these things.

Alright, I am going to go ahead and stream some media representation now!

Really quick, let me show you what happens when we type in “real vampires?” Of course first we have the AI overview—oh, linking to another Youtube media coverage, Reddit. Here we have Don Henrie. We have this Youtuber—oh, Don Henrie again, and again. You'll see a lot of that because they were kind of the face in the media for a while. New York Post, Facebook, CNN, you know we're getting various articles. It's not that hard to really find them once you start looking. That's how much media coverage we have. You can just google the community and stuff will pop up. But you'll notice we haven't seen a single real community that's popping up here. We have to modify the search for that. I always find that interesting. Ten years ago this wasn't really the case. Maybe you had an article or two, but other than that it was very difficult.

This was uploaded 18 years ago. I don't know exactly when it was on television. I am going to mute my microphone so it doesn't feed back through the stream.

[WE PAUSE TO WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY CLIP]

Vampires: Is It Real? | National Geographic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=539xWgHhatM>

"Narrator: This is Don Henrie.

DH: I am a vampire, I do consume human blood. There is a real live community that exists, not only in the United States, but also throughout the world.

Narrator: According to Henrie, he and his kind do not prey upon the innocent.

DH: Well, these days we don't go ripping people's throats out or anything like that. We're quite mature with what we do. We keep things indoors. We don't go out searching for victims or anything like that.

Narrator: Henrie claims he will only drink from consenting donors. But clearly there are others who aren't so considerate. In 1985, a motorist traveling down a backroad in Florida came across a young woman on the side of the road, handcuffed and partially clothed—barely able to walk. The victim was rushed to the local hospital, where Lt. Bob Lethero of the Bravard Cty. Sheriff's Dept. was brought on the case.

BL: The doctors and paramedics realized that she had lost a significant amount of blood and possibly could have passed away from exposure.

Narrator: Just 19 years old, the girl had a terrifying story to tell.

BL: She informed me that she was out on the roadway hitchhiking, and this gentleman picked her up. He looked very well dressed, he offered her a ride—

Narrator: But once in the car, the driver overpowered her and choked her unconscious. It was then that the nightmare really began.

BL: She woke up later on, unknown amount of time, and she was on a countertop in the kitchen. She was tied down and the suspect was putting a needle—syringe—into her arm, and draining her blood out into a beaker.

Narrator: But why?

BL: He said that he was a vampire, and that he drank of the blood."

Narrator: The nightmare continued for hours. In between feedings, the kidnapper kept her handcuffed in the bathtub. It was through the bathroom window, still handcuffed, that she was able to escape onto the nearby road. The victim in this case escaped, but others have not."

So as you can see—I think if you're going to do some VC representation you wouldn't want to put yourself side-by-side with an incident like that.

[TALK ABOUT THE EXPLOITATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY SCENE]

Yeah, I feel like some of these people who went to go on these things were very much disrespected. Again, shock value. That's the whole premise of going onto a show like this. I think it can be educational, but can you really trust the editors of a thing like that. Like, this scene right here—



This is what I was talking about before we played these videos. They always have this mysterious music playing. It's never serious. If it was done right, it wouldn't be bad. These youtubers—we'll get to that, but the VC has been popping off on Youtube recently and those representations have not been bad. People have done a really good job in terms of making it entertaining and educational. It's more of a show-and-tell sort of thing. I think it's okay to poke a bit of fun, but it has to be in the right way. Vampire puns or joking around with the person you're interviewing. I think that can be very valid and fun. This approach though, not really.

Now, you thought we were done with Don Henrie. No, we're not. We've got the Tyra Banks show. I actually don't think this was a bad showing, just that the interview was being disrespectful. You'll notice this is a recurring theme. These people are being disrespected when they go on things like this, it's unfortunate. I think it's something where you can expect whatever you like, but when you're actually there in the studio it's very different. You don't know what kind of angle they're going to spin. It can be very unethical.

Don & Sarah Tyra Banks Appearance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7yzxNLIdQ4>

“DH: Hello hello!

We crossfade to later in the special after Don Henrie is seated.

TB: There’s three different types of vampires, (DH: Yes, there is.) tell me about the first type.

DH: The first kind would be considered a blood-feeder. The definition would be called a Sanguinarian. And a Sanguinarian as they feed on the blood, the blood is a rudimentary means of being able to transform the life-force energy per se.

TB: So tell me about the second type.

DH: The second kind would be the Psychic Vampyre, what we call Psi for short. And that would be a person who has pretty much gone away from the blood—blood these days has been considered a taboo subject, you know what I mean—and it’s blood, y’know?

TB (incredulous): It’s just blood.

DH: But at the same time it’s a transference of the life-force energy without touching someone or just by laying of the hands and such.

TB: Okay and then the third type is the hybrid, which means both (DH: Correct). Which type are you?

DH: I am a hybrid.

TB: You’re a hybrid (DH: Correct). So you drink people’s blood?

DH (with a knowing smile): Correct.

Pause as the audience issues sounds of disgust and shock, the camera holds on Tyra’s concerned expression.

Crossfade to a pre-recorded explanation of Don Henrie’s practices.

Narrator: For Henrie, drinking blood is on one level a part of his identity as a vampire. But Henrie claims that the need to ingest blood is also physical and tied to his health and wellbeing.

We fade back to the interview. Audiences vocalize disgust about seeing a clip of Henrie drinking blood from a glass.

DH: I was expecting that reaction.

TB: That is crazy. Do you sleep in a casket?

DH: No, there is a difference between a casket and a coffin. (TB: What's the difference?) A casket is something that's been brought over from Europe, and it usually has the two different sections. And it looks a lot more modern—there's my coffin right there (TB: Oh a coffin is one thing, one top) Correct. And that would be considered a toe-pincher. That one right there is about 7 feet long, about 2 feet tall, that was custom made for me.

TB: And you sleep in that?

DH: Uh, from time to time, it's considered a sort of sensory deprivation chamber.

TB: So you don't hear anything, smell anything.

DH: Correct.

TB: Okay. So, what is this about 'all your birthmarks fell off,' what's that mean?

DH: That's one of those things that just happens, uh, over time. Especially through purification—I've done lots of purification practices.

TB: So the birthmarks fall off of your body?

DH: Yes.

Crossfade to later in the interview.

TB: You've been tested by a medical doctor to find out why you crave blood and why you have extreme abilities. Because he's supposed to be able to like, benchpress a lot and do a lot of interesting things—check this out.

We fade to another pre-recorded bit, this time interviewing a doctor.

Narrator: Dr Mostafa begins with the traditional Dr. Patient consultation.

Dr: My initial thought would be that this person has a psychiatric disorder, but I don't think it's unreasonable to consider the possibility that there is an underlying medical condition. I don't think this is a passing fancy or a fad for him, um, he talked about the need to drink blood since childhood, and I really have to take him very seriously.

Narrator: He's looking for any abnormality that could suggest a medical reason why Don Henrie ingests blood. For now, the blood-drinker will have to give up his own blood, which he willingly does in the name of science.

DH: If for some reason there is a physical cause for my condition, I would love to know. But I would not trade who or what I am.

Dr: Throughout history patients have been called crazy because on the surface they're doing something uncommon, harmful, unusual. But when we dig deeper we find that they have a true condition. So I think any time a patient presents like this, the medical community needs to take them seriously.

Narrator: Hm, perhaps science can't explain this one, but we're not quite done.

We fade back to the live interview.

TB: No we're not quite done, okay--so you got the blood test, and he tested you and what were the results?

DH: The results were inconclusive (TB: And what does that mean?) Meaning that I have the same type of blood pathogen level, things like that, everything just came out pretty much inconclusive, they weren't able to come out with any results per se.

TB: Any results, at all. Were they strange results?

DH: Uh some things were, yes. Higher glycemic levels, things like that.

TB: What about--uh, you have no body fat, right?

DH: Correct uh, if I were to place my hands on one of the electronic counters it comes out as "error" every time.

TB (jovially): Really? Wow, well mine comes up as something else."

[The remainder of the interview will be summarized, as it's at this point that it veers away from a deep-dive into the experience and attempts to explain it, and more towards spectacle. We also skipped a portion of the latter half of the video during the discussion as it veered suddenly into 18+ topics.]

A segment follows in which Don Henrie is blindfolded and asked to identify a number of items on smell alone, placed on covered silver platters. Don claims to have a heightened sense of smell. Within the clip, all three are correctly identified, with only the raw steak being momentarily misidentified as blood, though Don corrects himself before Tyra is able to fully respond to the initial guess.

We crossfade and now Sarah is also being interviewed. There is talk about sleep and regular bodily functions. Sarah insists that since highschool she had found herself unable to stay awake during the day in spite of any stimulants. She also affirms Tyra's question about if she can go multiple days without food, saying that she simply "feeds on other people's energy."

As you can see, there are very interesting... questions and representation here. They had something going, but they kind of lost the plot at a certain point. At the very beginning it was more about terminology, what it means, how he felt, etc. After that it snowballed into the shock value of it all. I don't know what he meant by his birth marks falling off? To this day I still don't understand. And I've seen this interview dozens of times over the years. I still couldn't tell you what that meant.

He has an instagram now, and if you go on there he's very much a gym bat. He looks exactly the same, though his hair is chopped off. Very buff, maybe doesn't lean in the VC anymore. He's more lifestyle-y.

[INTRODUCTION TO THE NEXT VIDEO, EXPLANATION OF WHO M. BELANGER IS, THE GENERAL STATUS OF MEDIA PRESENCE AROUND THIS TIME]

Real Vampires and Vampire Culture | FOX8 News (w. Michelle Belanger):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knKCKvJ-icE>

Narrator: From folklore to fiction, haunting historical figures to hollywood's fanged fascination. For centuries vampire tales have terrorized and tantalized mortals.

MB: The vampire in fiction is an immortal, undead, blood-sucking individual who stalks the night.

Narrator: Northeast Ohio author and national merit scholar Michelle Belanger studies vampires and the fledgling fantasy.

MB: Some elegant svelte kind of person who will, kind of come through the french doors and romance you. He's the quintessential Demon-Lover.

Narrator: But that's fiction, right? Michelle says no: that there's an actively growing vampire subculture.

MB: Folks who call themselves real vampires run on a continuum. There are those who drink blood. There are those who really just adopt the vampire as a fashion archetype.

Narrator/Host: According to the Atlanta Vampire Alliance or AVA, there are thousands of people all around the world who consider themselves real vampires. From Amsterdam to London to right here in Cleveland. But, they say, they aren't out trolling around cemeteries at all hours of

the night, and they aren't Satanic and sacrificing small animals. They say they're just regular people. Your friends, family, even coworkers.

MB: There are... different types of vampires.

Narrator: The first group are Lifestylers. Draped in black. Some lifestylers will permanently transform their teeth into fangs. The next group is also the most controversial, Sanguine vampires or Sangs. They feed on real human blood.

MB: Blood is something they can see, and touch, and taste, and therefore it's real.

Narrator: Entire websites are dedicated to finding blood donors. This site discusses drinking animal blood, but many sangs feel that only human blood is best.

Mal: What you are getting is the energy out of the blood.

Narrator: Mal is a sanguine vampire that we spoke with by phone to protect his identity. His awakening began as a teenager.

Mal: My energy patterns were not where they should be, especially compared to other people.

Narrator: He needed energy, and caffeine was not cutting it.

Mal: I did have blood cravings, but the first person I fed on sanguine, I was about 18.

Narrator: Mal began regularly and cautiously feeding.

Mal: I cannot stress enough how potentially dangerous it is to sang feed off of someone. Get tested, make sure your donor gets tested.

Narrator: Done properly, Mal says his health dramatically improved.

Mal: Think of blood as like electricity. The blood is a better conduit for that energy than just trying to pull it through the air.

Narrator: But some vampires say that they can draw energy from the air.

MB: Vampires like me, who are psychic vampires.

Narrator: Michelle was a sickly child who underwent two open heart surgeries. She'd experimented with meditative energy exercises, and absorbing energy from classmates and crowds.

MB: The fact of the matter is we all interact with one another on this energetic level. It's breath-life energy, laying on of hands, hands of light techniques, or Reiki, any other energy healing techniques it functions on the exact same principles. The only difference is instead of putting energy in, you're taking it out.

Narrator: It worked! Until—

MB: I just went through this period where I'm like 'Nobody's gonna take any of my academic work seriously if I persist with this!'

Narrator: Then one day she collapsed.

MB: They actually asked me if I would be willing to be put on a heart transplant list, and in my world the third time is not the charm.

Narrator: Immediately, Michelle called a friend for a feeding.

MB: And the next day I was back to lifting weights—I was fine.

Narrator: Michelle says psychic vampires are all around us, whether they know it or not.

MB: Very aggressive, dominant people who get up into your space, and by the time they're done with their confrontational behaviour you feel drained.

Narrator: Both vampires say they would never feed on someone against their will. They don't melt in the sun, wooden spikes are for tents, and garlic is a great spice but nothing more.

MB: I think the word vampire is a stumbling block for a lot of people. I know that by the fact that I call myself a psychic vampire, the extreme skeptics are gonna go 'Well, uh huh, sure,' but don't take my word for it—go out there and find an experience, and judge for yourself.

Narrator: Suzanne Stratford, Fox 8 News.

Okay. That one was okay! So much better than the Tyra Banks interview. Of course there are some things I wouldn't agree with. Not everything in these representations is going to feel 100% relatable. These are perspectives coming from the person being interviewed. I'm a bit skeptical of claims that feeding will cure diagnosed health conditions, personally, though that's just me. We always tell people to refer to doctors here in Project V.

[DISCUSSION BACK AND FORTH ABOUT THE EDITING AND PORTRAYAL]

Yeah I think they were very much trying to make it more... cringy or lifestyle-y.

Okay, last one. This was from two years ago, on Fox News. I went ahead and skipped over most of the stuff, all the political pieces. But this was during the Tiktok ban. But I want you to

focus specifically on what this vamp influencer has to say about the VC. Considering this is a very recent one. I watched this when it came out, though I haven't seen it since then. I know a lot of people were not happy about this one. I had a disclaimer about this one. This is not an invitation for political debate, we are purely looking at these for VC education.

The Vampire From Fox News | Jesse Waters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMwFKzeFKH8>

JW: America has had it with Biden. He's lost ground with blacks, hispanics, muslims, and now thanks to his Tiktok ban, young people are saying sayonara! Even though there are privacy problems with the chinese app, most Americans don't care. Nearly two thirds of young people don't want Tiktok banned. But Joe Biden is losing another pivotal voting bloc—vampires. Remember Hellie, she's an energy vampire, primetime, had her on on Halloween. Now she's back with a stern warning for the big guy.

(Hellie appears in a pre-recorded clip taken from her Tiktok in a relatively understated alt form of expression)

H: I'm fired up, and you should be fired up too because we worked hard to get here. And Tiktok is the platform that gave us a voice and now that voice is being threatened to be taken away from us from leaders that represent a country that are supposedly all about freedom. And after our president signed that bill on Wednesday, I don't feel very free right now.

(We cut to Hellie being interviewed by Jesse Watters directly, now sporting very vibrant vampire makeup and prominent fangs)

JW: Hellie the vampire joins us now, Hellie nice eyes! Oh—and nice teeth!

(Hellie makes a point to really grimace to show the teeth and gestures with her hands, then hisses directly at the camera)

JW: Oh boy, I'm already terrified—Oh my god, I was not ready for that. Alright Hellie, so you're mad at the big guy and you wanna suck his blood.

H: Uh I do not want to suck his blood no. Nor do I advocate for draining his energy because he is a little too old for that, we are talking like Palpatine level frail. I don't think that is very ethical, haha.

JW: Okay, well, we don't want to suck his blood and we don't want to drain his energy but what do we want to do to Joe Biden, you're mad about him banning Tiktok.

H: I'm extremely mad about him banning Tiktok because, uh, it proves to me as very unamerican to take away something from us that small business owners, uh, small creators, entertainers like myself who have made a name for ourselves without big names attached to

us. We find a platform that's finally pushing our content, and we literally you know, grabbed ourselves by the bootstraps and now he wants to take it away from us—to the point that the CEO of Tiktok is fighting for our American rights more than our president—so what I say we should do is we should voice our disdain for this and not vote him back into office. Now I'm not a right winger, um, I'm not saying you should vote for Trump instead, I'm saying you should vote for people who align most with your values and for me that's not Joe Biden.

JW: Okay so you're an RFK person, I can see that loud and clear. What about China, Hellie, I mean they have access people say they're gonna use it to mess with the American Republic, they're gonna invade our privacy—what do you say?

H: I say there really isn't a whole lot of evidence to support that they're doing that, and to even counter that further, what about Google what about Facebook. Those aren't safe. I mean you can talk to your friends about wanting a Gucci perfume and all of a sudden you see ads on your Google about Gucci perfume, what's that about?

JW: Alright well I guess would you rather be spied on by the chinese or by the american government. I know it's kinda like Sophie's choice, but, ahah, it is what it is—

(At this point Jesse Waters tries to wrap up the segment. Hellie tries to counter a point that he's said previously for a moment but he continues to speak over her and things fizzle out)

JW: Hellie can you heal my twitching eye quickly? Quickly.

(Hellie gestures in a very exaggerated fashion at the camera, baring teeth and hissing)

H: I hope you're better now.

JW: (laughing) Oh my god it worked. Thank you so much Hellie. We love you very much and I'm shocked that you're not a right winger. Have a great weekend.

So you can see why the VC was very upset by this. Despite the message that was being put out there, I think people were upset that the VC was headlined multiple times on Fox News by this individual, while inciting political debate. Based on the comments, again it could be very much filtered.

Around this time, this individual was being moved out of some VC spaces for this sort of thing. But it makes me really think like how the hell did this person get on the news. How do the things of talking about the VC and then talking about politics intertwine? There's no real connection with the VC besides that, and a lot of people in the VC don't even like Tiktok vamps. I think her and The Vampire Jack Townsend have very similar Tiktok content. She does the same sort of makeup that he does. They also do this series of "what would you do if a vampire [blah blah blah]." They're more focused on lifestyle and roleplay but they are in the VC. So this was quite controversial for a number of reasons.

You can tell that the interviewee was very much running with the whole vampire thing as a gimmick. It was not good media representation, I'll say. We're seeing examples of really bad media representation, and that's unfortunate! I think there is such a thing as good media rep. We've seen that, if you look up some of these articles, those have done outreach to the general VC public or to those questioning and that's how you find community. As long as these people remain unbiased to all different perspectives within the VC, it can really get somewhere.

Now, finally, since we went over media representation, we're gonna see how exactly this evolved into being recognized by the government. Again, this is not an invitation for political debate, I'm just recognizing how the VC has been seen by government officials worldwide.

Government acknowledgement of these communities, non-profit organizations, etc. Interesting thing. Now, I do have sources on this, I don't know where they've gone—let me cut the stream real quick so I can pull it up.

<https://redevampirica.com/vampyres-in-brazil-history-and-perspectives-from-last-15-years/>

Over the years there has been various government acknowledgements. Not just the US, Brazil as well as some others. It's part of the timeline I created a few months back. 2003, in Sao Paolo. They consider it a state within Brazil. This is an article by Read Vampirica. The state government officials started recognizing the cultural significance of the Brazilian vampire community. They really paved the way there, and put the Brazilian VC on the map. If I remember correctly, this was shortly after they started recognizing their holiday. They recognized the community for their artistic and cultural work, and they even gave them a holiday—Day of Vampires.

"We are the the only city in the world where vamps have a official date called Day of Vampires (since 2001 as independent and since 2004 as City Official Date Calendar and law with BloodDrive campaign at public hospitals) created by actress, director Liz Vamp, daughter of legendary Coffin Joe, icon of terror and horror movies the campaign is supported by REDE VAMP since 2004;"

Rede Vampirica has a whole streaming service. They're very cool.

We also have the South African Vampyre Community, not to mention in the US we have a lot of non-profit orgs. 2005 the New Orleans Vampire Association became an NPO. We also have House Kheperu doing the same. Let me google this so I'm not giving a false definition. Of course, there's also the Temple of the Vampyre—that one was a very early development, I would say in the 90s. So becoming a religious org, they received tax exemption in 1989. They began posting newspaper ads to promote their church around the same time. All the way back in '89.

Let's get into the specifics of what qualifies as an NPO. Based on the article here:

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/n/non-profitorganization.asp>

“A nonprofit organization is an entity that is created and operated for charitable or socially beneficial purposes rather than to make a profit. A nonprofit might serve religious, scientific, charitable, educational, literary, health, or animal welfare purposes.

In the U.S., many nonprofit organizations are granted [tax-exempt](#) status by the [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#). Donations made to a nonprofit organization are typically tax-[deductible](#) and the nonprofit itself pays no tax on donations or on money earned through other fundraising activities.

Nonprofit organizations are sometimes called NPOs or [501\(c\)\(3\) organizations](#) based on the section of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax code that permits them to operate.”

So essentially, they may receive donations from individuals, corporations, and government entities. They are recognized by the government for taxation purposes, and they are established to benefit society in some form. Like the New Orleans Vampire Association, they host charitable donations for the homeless at certain times. They'll host a gathering of products like a month in advance, then on the holiday they'll give these things away. And for these purposes, they're tax exempt. They're doing really good things. There are a lot of NPOs with the VC.

House Kheperu was established in 1996. They became a non-profit in 2017. I have a linked resource, you can look up various non-profits through this site if you know some information about the organization. It's a good way to do research:

https://app.candid.org/profile/9650796/house-kheperu-82-2616039?_gl=1*1eiex37*_gcl_au*NTc5MzYwMjkyLjE3Njg1OTY4OTQ.*_ga*MTAzMDI3MzMwNC4xNzY4NTk2ODk2*_ga_5W8PXYGBX*czE3Njg1OTY4OTUkbzEkZzAkdDE3Njg1OTY4OTYkajU5JGwwJGgw

They give the summary, the website, all of that. It's very cool. A good way to find non-profits. It helped me make the timeline and do a deep dive, find a lot of these places. Despite the very bad media coverage, I think it's interesting how far the VC has come. We have our ups and downs, but we have some really cool organizations that are recognized by the government. People are scared about the idea of the government finding out, but like, they already know. If they seriously had an issue with the VC, something would have already happened.

The number one thing that people come to me about is these fears. Of course, never let your guard down. You should always be following internet safety protocols. But I had a discussion not too long ago—I think I was going over the VC timeline? Someone brought up the Discord update that was happening, and they had concerns about Project V and the VC and the like. “They’re going to tell the government about vampires!” And I had to tell them, hey, yeah actually they already know. We’ve been on media. We are recognized.

I mean, in Florida there was a short period of time where people were very mad that tax money was going into research on the VC. Brownings, he was doing a paper on the VC using college funding and some people were very upset about it. They called the VC nerds and weirdos, edgy,

emos, etc. They didn't understand what exactly it was for, a psychology paper over various community cultures. I think they also did one for Therians, if I remember correctly?

I think a lot of new people don't realize how far we've been in the public eye. People think the VC is a super secret thing—it's not. It's been out in the public since the early 00s, at the very latest. We had zines and things before even that. No matter what type of the archetype you're on, modernist or traditionalist, we've all contributed to putting the VC out there when you really think about it. Any time you make a website, join an interview, comment on a youtuber's video about the VC, you are putting the community out there. You are broadcasting stuff about us and spreading the word. Despite what your belief on media for the VC is, you are actively—right now—participating in it. I think that's worth people thinking about.

There is no going back. There is a pipe dream among some vamps of going dark and going back to in person events, make it like a secret club again. Secret VIP room for vamps. It's not going to happen. The internet is forever. This is here, and it's part of our history, and I don't think it's something to be ashamed of—despite our cringing at some of these documentaries. I think it's interesting that we were taken seriously enough to at least appear in media. And doctors were looking into it, considering it. That's what we need, in a way. Especially with the Med Sang community. We want to find the cause of this phenomenon, one way or another, whether it's physiological or psychological. I think there are some very important things in all of this that we should be hopping onto. But of course, as stated before, there are good and bad ways to make the VC visible in the media.

That may sound silly coming from me. Of course, Project V is all about that kind of visibility and education. I'm a little biased on this front. But that is my stance. If it is done right, you will get positive reactions and outcomes. We see this with the modern Youtube videos, as stated before.

They really just laid it out, and said that we see it as a sort of identity, or spirituality, and that it's a spectrum, we have extra needs, etc. I think that's a very good message to have, and they were unbiased in how they presented it. Talking about the bad is just as important as the good. Especially when talking about controversial figures. If you open the can of worms that is the VC, you might as well highlight some of those things as well to warn outside observers. Media is a very powerful tool, and how we wield it determines a lot about what is learned.

Additional Links:

Strange Aeons' Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktitzVSfV2w&pp=ygUMc3RyYW5nZSBhZW9u>

Kaz Rowe Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTq8nJYoYI4&pp=ygUQa2F6IHJvd2UgdmFtcGlyZQ%3D%3D>

Vampyres (2007): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=433Xz9osWX4>

DISCUSSION CIRCLE BEGINS

(Note: this may be the first time I've spoken in one of these transcripts? Finally, the transcriber herself converses with the Vampyres :p)

"I do have a thought on—if it's okay, it might take a minute for me to get through. Okay. I think it's interesting that this modern long-form content feels so different than a lot of like the older expose pieces, interviews, that sort of thing. And I don't think it's a mistake, I think there's something very distinct about these sort of Youtube 'Internet Historian' people that distinguishes it from media personalities and documentaries. You know?"

"We kind of mentioned it earlier but I did take a course on this sort of reality tv and documentaries and that sort of thing, and they always have an angle, a story, and you never know how that's going to shift when it gets to the editors. But they always have a narrative that they're trying to push, and the same definitely goes for a lot of interviewers. They select their interviewees, they give them leading questions, they're trying to make a spectacle of it.

"So like, they always have an angle they're trying to push, and I don't think you see that as much with—I haven't seen the Kaz video yet but I have seen the Strange one—and I think with Strange you don't see that as much with their content because it's, the whole brand itself is a sort of earnest and I would say kind approach to the weird corners of the internet. And I think a lot of that is because this new generation of like internet historians grew up being the people in these communities that were bullied by the mainstream media. They understand that you might not get exactly why somebody feels a certain way but, you know, a lot of people don't get why you feel a certain way! They've always been the scene kids in a way, if that makes sense."

- Autumn

Youtubers tend to be more ethical with this than companies that have been around for years. They have more values and ethics and professionalism and such than a lot of these media corporations. It really puts it into perspective, and I'm liking the direction the VC is going with appearing on Youtube right now. Of course there are some bad takes on Youtube—I'll go into it. A bit of vamp politics. There was a recent interview that was headed by two individuals of the VC, our representatives. In this interview they're fear-mongering, talking about hunters and such. Putting on a spectacle for this youtube channel. And they're spreading a lot of misinformation. So you have to watch who you're being interviewed by, but you also have to be careful with what you give to the public. Some people within the VC self-sabotage. They make poor choices, or they word things poorly, and it causes trouble for all of us. I think in the New Orleans Vampire Community... an older leader literally rose from the dead and posted that link to spread the word that it had happened. So you know it's bad if that happens.

[FROM THE CHAT: "I wanna say that I will never see it as n "illness" or idk. I see it as a natural need and that's it. I do not agree to that. It can be studied but the "condition" label I don't agree with it."]

Right, I think this gets even more difficult to talk about with the media if you align with one way or another, sang or psi, traditionalist or modernist. A lot of this depends on so many factors. We are all so different, and that's why having spaces like Project V is so lovely.

I think that I want to see more of this, provided it's educational, ethical, talks about the variations on the identity, etc. There's a lot of moving parts in all of this. This discussion wasn't made to change anyone's mind. I want to put that forward. You can continue to not like VC media coverage. I can understand that perspective. But I hope that I've given you some things to think about with respect to VC media coverage. In the future, we'll have to see what things are like. Maybe things will improve, or get worse, we can't know. But hopefully, if I've done my job right, you can have a bit wider of a perspective to handle whatever happens going forward.

DISCUSSION ENDS