

Who Can Explain the Times ...

By Rod Fraser



Planet Thrae (Earth spelled backwards)

WHO CAN EXPLAIN the times? When I met Don this morning for coffee, he told me his recent golf game was a surreal experience. The game was okay. Don shot 50 in nine holes. It was the conversation after the game that was so peculiar.

Over coffee, all but Don agreed the United States under President Donald Trump was going to 'Hell' and Trump was personally responsible. Don claimed there was no reasoning with them. They

wouldn't even admit the economy was doing well. Don attributed it all to Cable News.

Leaving aside the political bias of Don's golfing companions, I've noticed the same thing. People who rely on Cable News to keep up-to-date in the United States are being manipulated and misinformed. This can't be a good thing. This applies to all cable channels, but it is particularly so for those networks that lean left.

Now the purpose of this article isn't to take sides or debate specific issues, but to point out that current day Cable News resembles a comic book series from the 1960s called '*Bizarro World*', published by DC Comics.

'*Bizarro World*' spoke of a cube-shaped fictional planet *Htrae* (Earth spelled backwards) where "up was down, first was last, good was bad, wrong was right, giving was taking, insanity was sane, liberty was tyranny" and so on. If this all sounds like the Cable News of today, you can see where I'm going with this argument.

Htrae operated on the '*Bizarro Code*'. In simple terms, it stated "Us do the Opposite of all Earthly things". In one story, a salesman was hired to sell '*Bizarro Bonds*'. His sales pitch emphasized "they

were guaranteed to lose money.”

In another story, the mayor placed an incompetent detective in charge of a serious criminal investigation, because he was unlikely to solve anything. His incompetence was hailed as a great virtue. This is how *Htrae* functioned.

As you might imagine, for a young lad in his early teens, it was a lot of fun to read these comics. I saw the adult world portrayed as a bunch of bumbling Keystone Cops, crashing into each other, acting irrationally and making no sense whatsoever. It appealed to my inner conviction that adults were, more often than not, delusional.

Of course, I was also mature enough to understand the parody. But as Scott Fitzgerald said, “it is often possible to keep two contrary notions in your mind and still function.” It was my first exposure to satire and I liked the genre.

INITIALLY THE BIZZARO characters featured in the American comic series were Bizzaro versions of Superman, Lois Lane and their children. *Htrae* was a normal planet with a spherical shape. But '*Bizzaro Superman*' turned it into a cube as part of a plea bargain with the Justice authorities.

'*Bizzaro Superman*' was convicted of doing something perfect on *Htrae*. This would normally result in a long prison sentence, but '*Bizarro Superman*' agreed to turn the planet into a cube if his sentence was commuted.

The Justice authorities liked the idea, as it would further distinguish their planet from Earth. A deal was quickly arranged and '*Bizzaro Superman*' used his powers to bring about a cube-shaped *Htrae*.

In looking for a picture to accompany this article, I couldn't find a photo of a planet that looked like a cube. But I did find one that looked like a 'light bulb'. I expect it will do just fine. It looks slightly odd and appealing. I'm hoping those who live on *Htrae* will approve.

FOR THOSE OF you who have pulled the plug on Cable News (literally or figuratively), or watch it while 'holding your nose', you probably see the parallels of '*Bizzaro World*' with today's cable programming. Both are comic distortions of the truth, but only '*Bizzaro World*' was intended as satire.

Still not convinced? Consider the CNN coverage of Nick Sandmann. When they saw a young white teenager with a MAGA hat, attending a pro-life rally, they threw all sense of fair play or objective

reporting out the window. Without waiting for the facts, they demonized Nick Sandmann on air, hour after hour.

According to Nick's lawyer,

"They really went after Nicholas with the idea that he was part of a mob that was attacking the Black Hebrew Israelites, yelling racist slurs at the Black Hebrew Israelites. Totally false."

"... If you took the time to look at the full context of what happened that day, Nicholas Sandmann did absolutely nothing wrong. He was the only adult in the room. But you have a situation where CNN couldn't resist the idea that here's a young boy, with a 'Make America Great Again' cap on. So they go after him."

"The CNN folks were online on Twitter at 7 am retweeting the little one-minute propaganda piece that had been put out. ... They maintained it for at least two days. Why didn't they stop, take an hour and look through the Internet to find the truth and report it? Maybe do that before you report the lies."

CNN got it wrong, and along with another prominent media outlet, are now being sued for \$250 million each. I hope Nick Sandmann is

successful. We would all benefit if Cable News decided to dump their '*Bizzaro World*' business model and returned to reporting news that is "fair, balanced and unafraid."

June 30, 2019