

At some point during the most recent `Imus scandal` I realized that Imus is the Borg Queen. He is not interested in the thinking of individuals, but instead he favors a hive mentality or hive mind. With that insight I could perceive a problem with science fiction. Though the character of the Borg Queen was presented artistically and with sophistication and depth, it was still, for the most part, too difficult to look at today`s society and determine who was or wasn`t a Borg Queen by using the Star Trek portrayal of the hive mind as a template.

In general there is a difficulty in using science fiction scenarios, no matter how insightful, as templates to analyze events of today. This difficulty exists with other genres as well. That is why the juvenile science fiction book *The Eye, The Ear and The Arm* by Nancy Farmer may be one of the most relevant and important works of science fiction. And it did win the 1995 Newbury Honor so it must be worthwhile. It deals, perhaps obliquely, with matters of race relations that are relevant to today.

The `O`Reilly scandal or non-scandal` that is

unfolding now is of interest to science fiction fans because at some level it seems to be an example of the hive mind at work. In some quarters, it is believed that on December 18, 1965 James Farmer put forth the notion in an editorial in *The New York Times* that an individual could be a racist even if that individual honestly and intelligently and comprehensively analyzed his character and determined he was not a racist.

James Farmer was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement he was the leader of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE). It is claimed by author Gordon MacInnes in his book *Wrong For All The Right Reasons* that Farmer`s notion became the conventional wisdom and that it has gone largely unchallenged to this day.

The novel *The Eye, The Ear and The Arm* explores issues such as the relationship between the hive mind and the tribal mind in the context of a fast paced adventure story with some humor in which the protagonists are children.