



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

...to find more about Probud go to www.probus.org

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John Hoyle
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Peter McCabe
604-224-4870

Next Meeting: July 8, 2003

Time: 9:30am

**Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre,
Lower Level**

Speaker: Dr. Andre Gerolymatos

Topic: Islam

JULY 2003

Minutes of June 10, 2003 - Attendance: 112 and 1 guest

Still trying (see June Newsletter)
President Don started the meeting at 9:56 a.m. ("early", said I). **McBride** (The Pidge) announced the formation of the Probud Club of the North Shore (Vancouver) and introduced two of its officers who said they expected to have 60 members by September. Our President advised the membership that Probud Vancouver had made a \$700 loan as seed money to Probud North Shore.

Reference was made to the Rotary Club of Vancouver golf tournament on September 26.

Fred Cotton announced that he had finally found "religion" and that July's speaker would be on Islam via SFU.

It was announced by our President that the convention had "broken even" (there were several "sightings" of **Wallace** at the meeting but since he said nothing, the announcement could not be confirmed at press time).

Gordon Thom mentioned a

backstage tour of the Aquarium this fall, **Chris Lee** mentioned a Roedde House tour start in October and **John Hoyle** received a positive show of hands for a night at the races in August.

Progress is being made. The question, what does **Doug Lambert** do has been answered! He does GREAT WORK!! Applause at this point. (Editorial comment: much overdue accolade).

Visits and Entertainment, as a group, reminded all of us to FILL OUT THE FORM, PAY BY CHEQUE (NOT POST DATED) and NEVER, NEVER, use CASH for non meeting events.

You know you are in real trouble when the guest speaker, David Halliday, is, in part, described as a Weld Procedure Certifier. He has been responsible for the design, manufacture and construction of some of the world's largest telescopes and enclosure structures. It was in the impossible to grasp details of the "largest" and "structures" that gave our

members their "shock" and "awe" at that meeting. Land based telescopes today are looking at 13 billion light years away (at 16B, it "disappears"). Split white light, measured in nanometres (nano is a factor of one thousand millionth) has something to do with this - bigger the mirror - larger sensitivity - able to see further. Deep Field Images, red shift, expanding (accelerating) universe and composition of cosmos are also all part of this (whatever that is!). Anyway, Hawaii is a great (best) place to put one of these structures (telescopes) and there, inter alia, you'll find Keck I and II (nomenclature not too sexy but these weigh in range of 350 tonnes. A tonne = a metric ton, a unit of weight equal to 1,000 Kilograms - 2,205 lbs.). The mirror is approximately 3.6 M (roughly 11.8 feet) across i.e. the individual mirrors that make up these windex wonders.

Something here about seeing the headlights of a car 500 miles away and being a 1,000 times thinner than human hair. And, of course, you have to have your actuators and your interferometers. The actuator is the gizmo that moves the individual mirrors and the inter etc. is the gizmo to trick the telescope as to its expansion ability. You need this later item (and other bells and whistles) to get around problems of daylight, humans and the environment. These structures may be the mother of all telescopes but they are so sensitive that human body heat can distort image and a 5K wind can cause - trouble.

"Starfire" was a recent project in New Mexico where a great deal of time and effort was put into tricking the telescope to ignore daylight atmospheric conditions - by neutralizing wavefronts and servo control?

Computers have been the major influence on the whole astronomical community and the next generation of telescopes will be in the 1,000 tonnes range with 20 - 30 M across in mirrors. Off the shelf, about 1 Billion dollars per telescope. Computer modeling has taken Halliday and his group off on side trips to work on a GM test track in Florida, various Disney Projects, Spiderman, Flight Simulators and

Batman and Robin rollercoasters! It was around here in his talk that Halliday returned briefly to earth by pointing out that all this computer/space/telescope stuff could lead to "loosing touch with reality" - really! As an example, he referred to a proposed Helix bridge in Seattle that simply could not be built - not competitive - too theoretical. Our space trip ended with a computerized fly through the Orion Nebula - a black hole - yes, it's dark but man, it's limitless! Oh, yes, just about all the personnel, design, fabrications etc, of Halliday's group are done here, in the lower mainland.

Our speaker was introduced by **Kilgour Shives** and thanked by **Fred Field**.

Denis W.H. Creighton, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reunions have become a part of my current life. It is a phase we all reach when the 65th to 70th birthday rolls around. High school reunions are especially shocking because body changes have maximized. Some teenage beauties have become blowsy obese chain smokers. Plain Janes on the other hand may have weathered nicely. Trim former athletes complain of numerous health problems and all are arthritic. The Spocks often look the best because of perhaps a better life style. Professional reunions tend to be less traumatizing because we have kept up with each other over the years.

A compensating factor is that the reunions provide a forum for mutual rehabilitation, or failing that, group therapy. Where else can one meet with peers who share the same background and disabilities. If one does not currently suffer from age related afflictions a window is opened to the future to prepare us for the worst. If one is a current sufferer there is comfort from learning that you are not alone, and perhaps may learn of a useful tool or two. For the deceased a moment of silence - we do not wish to spend too much time on that.

It is also a time for reflection on our own lives. Seventy years compressed into a weekend gives an opportunity to remember that we have survived triumphs, failures, and tragedies.

I like to think that PROBUS provides similar reunion encounters. We are among peers. There are many of us enduring similar health problems. Some of us have suffered separation from loved ones. The shared experience I hope offers some therapy when needed.

Don Farquhar, President

Serene, I fold my hands and wait,
Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea;
I rave no more 'gainst time or fate,
For Lo! my own shall come to me.

-John Burroughs (1837-1921)

Waiting (1876), st. 1

DR. ANDRE GEROLYMATOS

Andre Gerolymatos, was educated in classics and modern history at McGill University in Montreal. He specializes in Military and Diplomatic history, and has published several articles and books on these fields such as as Espionage in Classical Greece and Guerilla Warfare and Espionage in Greece 1940-1944.

From 1987-1996 he was the Director of the Hellenic Studies Center at Dawson College in Montreal and in 1996 he received the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Chair in Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. In 1997 Dr. Gerolymatos was appointed Director of the Research Institute on Southeastern Europe at Simon Fraser University.

Recent works include: "A Diplomatic and Treaty Analysis of the Southeastern Aegean Sea Boundaries", Ocean Yearbook, Vol 14 (Chicago: Chicago Press 1999). He has collaborated with several scholars on a study of Sovereignty and the Law of the Sea: Aegean Sea Issues After the Cold War, for (London: Macmillian Press 2000 in which he also contributed "The Greek-Turkish Military Balance of Power in the Aegean: Strategic and Tactical Objectives", and Greece and the Balkans: Challenges and Opportunities. 1975-1995 (New York 1999). He is the co-editor of British Documents on Foreign Affairs, Part IV, Series F: Europe, 1946-1950.

His most recent publication is The Balkan Wars: Myth, Reality, and the Eternal Conflict published in Canada by Stoddart Publishing Co. in April 2001, and in the United States in 2003 by basic books under the title: The Balkan Wars: Conquest, Revolution and Retribution from the Christian Era to the Twentieth Century and Beyond. Currently he is working on a monograph on Greece, Turkey and the Southeastern Mediterranean: The Dodecancer: a Case Study.

NOTICES

MEMBERS SERVICES DESK: Tom McCusker

For those of you that ordered tickets for the July 24th (Thursday) performance of The Merchant of Venice at The Bard on the Beach, they are enclosed. Seating is festival/rush style and it is recommended you arrive 40 minutes prior to the 8pm curtain to choose and secure your seats.

For those of you that wish tickets for the July 24th (Thursday) performance of The Merchant of Venice at The Bard on the Beach you may still be able to obtain individual tickets from the Bard on the Beach Office. Over 60 Probus members or guests will be attending that night!

A DAY AT THE RACES

CASH DESK: Bob Weese, Hank Ballou **GREETERS:** Newt Hopkins, Leo Sauve

BARD ON THE BEACH

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Date: Thursday July 24nd

Time: 8:00 PM



HASTINGS PARK

12:30PM SATURDAY AUGUST 23, 2003

A casual event on a summer afternoon for our Probus members and their guests along with members and guests of Vancouver Rotary Club.

The all inclusive package price is \$29.00 per person which includes club house admission, official racing program, wagering guide, reserved seating and a fabulous full course buffet in the Silks Restaurant. First parade to the post 1:23 pm.

Cheques only please payable to Probus Club Vancouver. See registration form enclosed. Deadline is August 12.

Further information call John Hoyle 604-926-2667