

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Local Black Author Pens Time Travel Novel That Excites and Teaches Lost Chicago History**

*Chicago, Illinois – July, 2016* - A son of a slave with the mind of a genius designs a time machine that requires technology beyond his own era. A modern day African-American Illinois Tech student stumbles upon these plans and creates a time ship that travels back to the year 1919. He finds himself not only out of place, but embroiled in the bloodiest race riot in Chicago's history. A mingling of science fiction and historical fact brings the past to life in the gripping new novel, *The Chronocar*.

Lauded by sci-fi fans and non-geeks alike, *The Chronocar* tells a chilling story of how dangerous time travel could actually be, while revealing a little known violent period in Chicago's past, The Red Summer. In a series of upcoming events, author Steve Bellinger will speak on his groundbreaking novel and tell the story of how a teen's simple error led to a riot that killed 38 people and left over 500 injured in the community now known as Bronzeville.

"Every thoughtful Chicagoan should know about the city's 1919 race riot," says Dr. Ralph A. Pugh, University Archivist at the Illinois Institute of Technology. "Its tragic loss of lives and property was not the end of the story, however. For in and through it, African Americans fought back and proved that the Black Belt (now referred to as Bronzeville) was here to stay. They demonstrated the truth that America is not a single racial group but a value system that all races and creeds can make their own; that—as the Founding Fathers recognized—freedom is the glue, but one which must be perpetually renewed through ceaseless struggles for justice and inclusion. Mr. Bellinger's book advances this awareness through a wonderful narrative, set in the part of town (the near South Side) where Chicago's history is truly rooted."

Sir Winston Churchill once said, "Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Get the book. Join the discussion. Learn a little history.

The Chicago Red Summer Riot took place in late July, 1919. On the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this landmark episode, Steve Bellinger will speak and sign books at three events that are free to the public.

Saturday, July 23, 2016, 7:00 to 8:00 PM: The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd, Glenview, IL 60026 (847) 904-7304

Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 11:30 to 1:00 PM: (actual date the riot began): Barbara's Bookstore, Willis Tower, 233 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606 (312) 466-0223

Saturday, July 30, 2016 2:00 to 4:00 PM: APS Books and More, Ford City Mall, 7601 S Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL 60652 (855) 937-1277

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*The Chronocar* is published by Barking Rain Press

Barking Rain Press is an imprint of the BRP Publishing Group (BRP), which is a non-profit publisher located in the greater Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area—a thriving hub for independent publishers, writers, and literary venues. BRP currently operates three imprints, including Barking Rain Press, Virtual Tales, and Nitis Books. Find out more about the BRP Publishing Group at their website, [www.barkingrainpress.org](http://www.barkingrainpress.org).

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