

Alternative realities in a nearby universe

by rebelart@cyber-pod.com

Part 4

The following speech from the newly elected Leader of the Galactic Defense Initiative was broadcast via the EtherNet on the U17 Diplomatic channel...

"I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our galaxy, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone. At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of the GDI, every man woman and child of them.

"The GDI together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their planets, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength and even though many old and famous planets have fallen or may fall into the grip of the ID-ten-T, we shall not flag or fail.

"We shall go on to the end, we shall fight them with our cannons, we shall fight them with our fleets, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Alliance, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the moons, we shall fight on the launching pads, we shall fight in the Debris Fields and in the spaces in between, we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this GDI or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our friends, armed and guarded by their fleets, would carry on the struggle, until, in good time, a New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

A speech like that ought make your heart pump, a speech like that ought make you proud to be associated with the GDI and a speech

like that ought sway others to your cause, or so hoped the leader of the GDI when he chose it from his memory banks and rearranged the words to suit the situation he faced and is still facing. I know this because I am the new leader of the GDI and yes, the responsibility of leadership weighs heavily upon me. I have never aspired to be a leader of anyone or anything, I have only ever tried to play my own game for my own reasons, to lead by example and never by force or coercion. Of course, its the example that I have set that has resulted in me being the only contender to lead the GDI in its time of greatest need. My

fleet is the most numerous and powerful, my fleet is the only fleet in the GDI to have a winning record with zero defeats, the

defence on my home planet has repelled every ID-ten-t attack that has come its way and I lead the GDI in number of robots and levels of technology. I put down my notes and gaze into dark places between the large spaces between the planets and the stars as I contemplate the next strategic move in the campaign to create the Biggest Bang since the BIG one. BanG goes the door as the youngest runs in. Is it tree buying day to day dad? I want to plant more trees and flowers.

P.S. to reveal the true id of the ten-T alliance, you have to think alphanumerically; id10t

Real Life vs Game Life

The late Mr Churchill's words are certainly inspiring, and they don't only apply to

the GDI and the metaphoric space ships I control. They can also be applied to the situation we face as environmental activists....

"I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty and plant more trees, if nothing is neglected, and if the best native seedlings are chosen, as they are being chosen, that we shall prove ourselves once again able to regrow our planet, to ride out the storm of environmental pollution, and to outlive the menace of consumerism, if necessary for years, if

necessary alone. At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of the rainbow warriors, every man, woman and child of them.

The hippies and the ferals, together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their forests, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength and even though many old and famous trees have fallen or may fall into the grip of the loggers, we shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end, we shall fight them from our tripods, we shall fight them with our voices, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength on the internet, we shall defend our eco-system, whatever the cost may be, we shall replant the cities, we shall plant new trees in the open fields and cannabis for food, fibre medicine and fuel in the spaces in between, we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this planet or a large part of it were subjugated and ravaged, then our children's children, would carry on the struggle, until, in good time, a fresh garden world, with all its power and magic, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.



Discrimination by the alphabet

by David McMinn

Political Life

People with the first letter of their surname near the beginning of the alphabet will always appear near the top of any alphabetical listing. This gives them a big advantage over people with surname initials in the latter half of the alphabet.

According to *The Economist* (editorial Sept 1, 2001), there are many subtle forms of discrimination due to alphabetism. A teacher may arrange the classroom alphabetically to allow them to better remember student names. Students with the first letter of their surname at the beginning of the alphabet will appear at the front of the class, which would allow better teacher - student interaction and resultant better academic outcomes.

At university graduation ceremonies, the A, B & Cs get their awards first, but by the time people with family names beginning X, Y or Z get their awards, the audience is bored and looking at the exits. Problems also arise in job interviews arranged alphabetically - the first candidates will always make a better impression than the last ones as the interviewers find the process increasingly tiresome. At academic and business conferences, speakers and attendees will tend to be listed alphabetically so that the greatest attention will be given to those near the top of the listings. Joint academic papers may have their authors listed alphabetically so that people with A, B, C beginning surnames will gain the greatest credit.

The bias also arises in voting, where candidates are listed alphabetically on the ballot. The candidates at the beginning will tend to receive more votes than the ones at the end due to the 'donkey vote'. Thus, the discrimination against the alphabetically challenged persists throughout life, with severe ramifications to the sufferers' self esteem, feelings of self worth and potential for success in life.

The best example of alphabetical bias appears in politics. Since federation in 1900, there have been 24 Australian prime ministers, of which 19 had surname initials in the first half of the alphabet. Amazingly since 1940, there have been 13 prime ministers with surname initials in the first half of the alphabet and only one in the latter half - Gough Whitlam. Of the 30 cabinet members in the Howard government, 11 have a surname initial of A, B or C, compared with 7 in the latter half of the alphabet. What chance does alphabetically challenged Kevin Rudd have for becoming prime minister? This remains to be seen, but it probably would have been better if he had been named Budd rather than Rudd.

Of the 42 US presidents to date, 31 had the surname initial in the first half of the alphabet and 9 with an A, B or C. The same effect also shows up for failed presidential hopefuls. Of the 38 presidential candidates, who never won a presidential election and who won at least 20 electoral votes, 27 had a surname initial in the first half of the alphabet with an amazing 11 candidates having B & C initials.

Of the 20 British Prime Ministers in the 20th century, 8 had surnames beginning with the first three letters of the alphabet and only two with surnames beginning with the last 13 letters of the alphabet. There are 23 members of the British cabinet, of which 9 have a surname initial of A or B. There have been 16 Canadian prime ministers since 1900, of which 12 had a surname initial between A & M and five had the initials B & C.

The impact of alphabetism does not show up strongly in New Zealand. This country has had 23 prime ministers since 1900, with 16 having the their surname initial in the first half of the alphabet with no notable emphasis on the first few letters of the alphabet.



What can you do????

If female, you could marry 'up' for a name change from say Anne Zimmerman to Anne Abbott, although this may be hard to arrange. Alternatively, you could change your surname to Mr or Ms Aaron so that you would always be at the top of any alphabetical list. In such situations, the damage has already been done by adulthood and a name change later in life would not make much difference.

If you are having a baby, you could give him/her a surname with a first letter near the beginning of the alphabet. This would break the convention of giving a child their father's surname, but who cares if it increases your child's chances of becoming prime minister or a successful professional?

However, if everybody adopted that approach then all children would have surnames like Adams, Allen, Burr, Barry, etc and any advantage would be lost. So the problem becomes intractable. The government has banned most forms of discrimination against women, racial and sexual minorities, an individual's marital status and so forth.

It is unlikely that laws will ever be passed to protect the rights of the alphabetically challenged. No government would introduce election quotas for candidates with surname initials in the latter half of the alphabet or pass laws for job interviews to be conducted randomly rather than alphabetically.

It looks like sufferers will just have to continue to suffer. All the best on that one if your name is Scott, Williams, Yeates or whatever.

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Nimbin Bowling Sport and Recreation Club

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 For information of members and guests.

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 Lunch & Dinner

Walks program for February

Saturday 17th Feb

Terania Creek Basin

(members only)

Leader: Michael Smith
6689-9291

Grade 4. 3.5km return, 3 hours; Walk along old overgrown logging tracks, then off track (not as bad as Mulgum Falls). A place you will never forget. Some leeches.

Meet: Nimbin car-park 10am, or at The Channon Pub 10.30am, or at the start - Protesters Falls car-park at the end of Terania Creek Road 11.15am.

Bring food for picnic & water, meditation mat as place is dusty and swimming gear for creek.



Ageing gracefully. Nimbin bushwalkers beside a forest giant in the Border Ranges National Park.

Picture: Len Martin

Wednesday 21st Feb

Lillian Rock – The Summit

Leader: Miriam Ella

6689-7488

Grade (?) Very short walk but not on tracks and with some steep grades. Followed by coffee at Blue Knob Gallery - ideal for new and prospective members.

Meet: Nimbin car-park 10am, or Blue Knob Gallery and café 10.15am

How?

• Walks meet in Nimbin car park next to Information Centre to arrange car pooling, or at start of walk. Membership fee, \$25 individual, \$40 family.

Contact Kay and Len Martin
PO Box 61 Nimbin 2480;
6689-0254. Unless otherwise

specified, visitors (non-members) are welcome, but will be required to pay a fee of \$5 per walk (deducted from the membership fee when they join Nimbin Bushwalkers Club Inc).
• 2007 Membership fees are now due (contact Kay on 6689-0254)



Keen gardeners

Members of the Nimbin Garden Club celebrate Gai Reid's 55th birthday at Calurla Chalets in January.

2007 is shaping up as a big year for the Nimbin Garden Club.

The first meeting for the year will take place on Saturday 17th February. It will be held at Annie and Peter Hajenko's, 69 Basil Road, at 2pm. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome to attend.

Future activities include a Club visit to Nimbin's own Rivendell Organics in March,

with the Nimbin Open Gardens being held over the weekend of 14th and 15th April.

The open gardens will feature seven local gardens (four at Nimbin and three at Coffee Camp) being opened to the public. More detail will be included in future editions of NGT.

More information may be obtained by contacting Gil Schilling on 6689-0581, or Caroline MacDonald on 6689-1945.

Let's get physical

by Sue Boardman
Coordinator, Nimbin
Building Active
Communities (BAC)
Project

Contact: 66881454
Monday & Tuesday or
sueb@nrahs.nsw.gov.au

Free Community Health and Exercise Information Sessions

1. Exercise and Back Pain

Have you ever suffered from or are still experiencing back pain? Let local physiotherapist Joy Smith explain the causes of back pain and offer various proactive strategies for dealing with it. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a towel with you as part of the session will include the demonstration and practice of floor-based exercises.

Morning tea will be provided.

When: 10am-12noon
Monday 12th February,
Dance Studio, Nimbin
Community Centre.

Please RSVP by February 6 to Sue Boardman (see above).

2. Exercise and Pregnancy

For all women who are pregnant or who have recently given birth. Trish Long will cover such topics as: the benefits of exercise while pregnant; safe exercising ie knowing when to stop & what to watch for; the general dos and don'ts; alternative ways of exercising comfortably; & post-pregnancy exercise.

Morning tea will be provided.

When: 10.30am Tuesday
27th February Venue to be confirmed. Please check the Physical Activity Noticeboard on the side of the butcher shop wall closer to the date. Please RSVP by 20th February to Sue (see above)

Netball

The Nimbin Netball team started their second twilight competition in Lismore on Monday 5th February. We wish them luck.

A reminder to all those interested that there is an Orientation to Coaching course in Lismore on the 10th March from 9am-4pm. If you are interested in doing the course please contact Sue.

The team desperately needs a few more players to be assured of having a full quota



for the winter competition which starts late April and runs till late September. There is a registration and insurance fee of \$120 per player for the winter season.

Basketball

Basketball returns with (James) Koker on Friday 23rd February 6-8pm at the Nimbin Central School MPU. Koker is not sure he can carry on indefinitely as the only coach in Nimbin.

If the community wants to see Basketball continue for our Nimbin youth then some community members need to step forward and make the commitment to both Friday nights (6-8pm for 8 weeks during the school terms) and to training as a basketball coach (a weekend workshop).

Nimbin BAC will pay for this training. If you are interested please contact Sue (see above).

Martial Arts & Tai Chi

Daniel Keszler's classes have started again at the Showground pavilion.

Martial Arts – Adults: Mondays 8pm, Wednesdays 11.15am and 8pm; Kids: Wednesdays 5.30pm. Tai Chi (all ages): Mondays 6.45pm, Wednesdays 9am and 6.30pm. Kung Fu Fitness (all ages): Tuesdays 8pm, Thursdays 9am.

For information call Daniel on 0429-793-693.

Nimbin Garden Club

Nimbin Garden Club and its volunteers are organising another Gardens of Nimbin weekend on April 14 & 15. Seven gardens will be open to the public. Be inspired by the love and work that has gone into creating unique garden landscapes that capture the peace and natural beauty of our local environment and the quirky nature of its inhabitants. Remember that gardening is not only beneficial for the soul but also for the body.

A small fee paid to enter the gardens allows the club to make donations to local community-based greening projects. Recent past recipients of Nimbin Garden Club donations have been the Nimbin Community Garden, Headers Sports Club and Nimbin Central School.

Table Tennis, Morning Tea and a Chat

Specifically for parents of young children. Games will rotate around all the parents. When you are not playing you can enjoy morning tea and a chat while sharing the children's supervision at the Nimbin Family Centre (part of the Nimbin Community Centre).

Morning tea will be provided by Nimbin Building Active Communities Project. A donation to the Nimbin Community Centre would be appreciated.

Starts 10am-1pm Monday 19th February at the Dance Studio, Nimbin Community Centre. For more information contact Sue (see above).

Accredited Coaching Training (Cricket and Basketball)

Nimbin BAC is looking for locals who are interested in training as accredited cricket and basketball coaches. Please contact Sue if interested.

Funded Training Opportunity

Nimbin Building Active Communities Project is calling for Expressions of Interest from community members who might be interested in undertaking fully funded Department of Sport and Recreation training to qualify as **Fitness Trainers**.

This training will qualify individuals to deliver activities (on a fee for service basis) through the Nimbin Building Active Communities Project.

Please contact Sue Boardman for further information: 6688-1454 or sueb@nrahs.nsw.gov.au

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Junior Fishermen show how it's done



Heavy. The boys (left to right) Pavo, Jesse, Jake and Zac with their marlin at the wharf at Iluka harbour.

by **Grahame Ward**

Nimbin Heads Junior Fishing Club members showed the old men how to fish on their first outing on Thursday 25th January.

The 4am wake up time was a dramatic shock to Jesse and Zac: 'In the morning?' was their simultaneous question.

The 'Lady N' left Iluka at 5.15 am on the inaugural NHJFC Trip. On board were Jesse Ward, Zac Fuller, Huon Ward, Jake Stanton and Pavo, with 'responsible adults' Grahame Ward, Wayne Fuller and Bruce Young, together with Skipper Peter Tait, Decky Fred and Hostess, the Lovely Lee. We headed north, in close initially to try the shallow reefs.

After an hour or so drifting over the reefs, and three nice flathead in the tank, we headed out wide to take

advantage of the slower current on the high tide. One and a half hours to the outer reef, five teenagers on board... I could read in the look in their eyes ... 'I'm bored'. Out comes hostess Lee and on goes Wesley Snipes in 'Drop Zone' in the saloon lounge.

Thirty odd kilometres out, the lines are in 26-degree water temperature, with the promise of pearl perch. It didn't take long 'I'm on' the call comes out, 'me too' you beauty.

After a few hours drifting over and over the reef in 80 metres of water, with fifteen peony perch, four flathead and a number of mowong in the fish box, it was time to head in. Decky Fred threw out two lines in the hope of picking up a spotted mackerel on the way back in.

We were passing through a current at 26.7 degrees C,

the boys surrounding the box of fish discussing who caught the largest fish, when 'Bzzzzzzzzzz' - we have a strike on the line. Zac was the only one not to catch a fish, so he was thrown into the fray. Rod in hand, harness strapped on, Skipper Peter next to Zac for advice, the fight was on. Two to three hundred metres away, a huge black marlin leaps a few metres into the air. Wayne and I look at each other. 'No Way!'

After a half hour fight, with Skipper Peter constantly advising Zac, we land the Marlin, estimated by Fred the Decky at 50 to 70 kilos. An awesome effort by Zac.

An hour later we entered the harbour with a small crowd, including the local constabulary, wanting to check out the catch.

What a great day, great boat and great crew.

Demons – they're back

A Demons Family Day will be held on Saturday 10th February from noon at the Demons field, Nimbin Showground. All welcome.

The Day marks a significant step towards launching the club into the 2007 AFL season, and follows a highly successful get-together of interested players on Australia Day. This year's committee has now been formalised, and it's all systems go, with the call going out for both players and supporters on posters around the village.

Demons president Mick Martin explained that a coach is being sought from out of the area to give the team a winning edge. "Many experienced local players have come forward, but we are looking for new blood," he said.

The regional pre-season competition begins in March.



Never boring at the Bowlo

It's been a busy time at the Nimbin Bowling Club, with club championships starting, poker nights resuming and an innovative selection of live entertainment on the go, and it promises to get busier.

The first round of the club championships, held on the first weekend of February, was innovative, as it was an open 4s competition, breaking with the tradition of single-sex teams. Hippy Phil's team defeated Viola's 20-15, while Stan's defeated Anton's 34-14. Hippy Phil's team will play Stan's team in the grand final on Saturday 10th.

The club's annual carnival will be held on the weekend of 24th and 25th February, with men's triples on the Saturday and open triples on the Sunday.

F-troop, the social bowls phenomenon, returned to the greens in late January with a fanfare provided in high energy fashion by local rockers Antibodies. Every Sunday is now F-troop – come as you are – and every Friday is twilight bowls from 6pm.

Sunday 18th February will see a visit by the Iluka men's team. Bowlers are wanted to



All Champions! Eligible bachelor and born-again bowler Chub Nowland displaying the style that is fast earning him a reputation...

play the Iluka team, see bowls director Anton Eldridge.

The disco-funk band Boogie Nights will be performing on the greens from noon, it's Happy Hour every Sunday afternoon anyway and it's Chinese New Year too, so it should be a great day.

Vincent has gone crazy in the Asian Star restaurant, and is now serving 300g char-grilled steaks in Wednesday nights for \$9.90. On Thursdays he is doing all seafood dishes for \$10. How does he do it? Friday night live music coming back to the restaurant, too, with the classy

classical guitar sounds of David Julian.

Monday nights are poker nights, and are attracting lots of players. The tournaments are part of a national competition with serious prize-money at the end. Names in by 6.30pm, play starts at 7. See the club for more details.

Members afternoons continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-6pm, with discount drinks and promotions. A reminder that memberships for 2007 are now due. Be involved in your community club!

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Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
8:00	2:35	3:20	Lismore Transit	8:00	2:35
8:10	2:45	4:00	Goolmangar	8:10	2:45
8:20	3:00	4:15	Coffee Camp	8:20	2:55
8:45	3:20	4:30	Nimbin Ave	8:35	3:10
9:30	3:30		Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
9:40	3:40		Blue Knob	9:10	3:40
9:50	3:55		Twin Bridges	9:15	3:45
9:53	4:00		Mt Burrell	9:20	3:50
10:10	4:20		Uki	9:40	4:10
10:15	4:25		Mt Warning turn	9:45	4:15
10:30	4:40		Murwillumbah	10:00	4:25

Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
7:10	1:50	Murwillumbah	7:30	2:15	
7:20	2:03	Mt Warning turn	7:42	2:28	
7:30	2:08	Uki	7:55	2:33	
7:55	2:30	Mt Burrell	8:10	2:55	
8:00	2:35	Twin Bridges	8:20	3:00	
8:32	2:40	Blue Knob	8:30	3:05	
8:45	2:50	Nimbin arrive	8:40	3:15	
7:50	9:00	3:30	Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp	9:10	3:40
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar	9:20	3:50
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit	9:35	4:00
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot		

This service runs Monday - Friday excluding public holidays
Enquiries phone 6622 6266 Mobile 0428-255-284

HELP RESCUE THE FUTURE
Please send this thought-seed on to as many people as you can as soon as possible. Thank You.

The goal is for most people on Earth to see this colourful idea at least once, towards creating a safer, saner, healthier and happier future for everyone.

Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers
53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689 1246

February Gig Guide

Friday 9th	Chester Story & The Glory Touring Canadian Country Rock
Saturday 10th	The Anti-Bodies Local band + The Passengers
Friday 16th	The Last Resort Local band
Sunday 18th	Sugar Cane Harris Acoustic Sunday Blues 1 - 5pm
Friday 23rd	The Re-Mains Local Country Rock Legends

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