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## Heavens above, how did that happen?



If this isn't the worst effort at car parking in Carlton so far this year, we want to see evidence to the contrary. It raises the question: do learner drivers actually get taught reverse parking these days? And what the hell do they get up to in the privacy of their own garage?

Photo: *Leon Prentice*

Suzanne Carbone and Lawrence Money  
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IT WAS one of your more unusual newspaper admissions: Murdoch's *Australian* noted that, in a book review last Saturday, some of the content was "similar" to that in a review of the same book by someone else in London last October. Not uncommon in this age of Google, perhaps, but rarely do you see mention of a name like this one: the Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, **Mark Coleridge**.

Diary understands a reader first challenged the archbishop's review of *The God Delusion*, by **Richard Dawkins**, soon after it appeared. It was said to contain "discernible portions" of similar material to that in a review in the *London Review of Books* last October by **Terry Eagleton**. In fact, His Grace quoted Eagleton by name ("As critic Terry Eagleton put it in a review of the book ...") but the challenge is about further material that had no attribution.

Diary emailed Archbishop Coleridge on Wednesday, seeking his view, but his office told us yesterday that, although he would have seen our email, he was travelling and would not return until last night.

The freshly appointed *Weekend Oz* editor **Paul Whittaker** told Diary the cleric's review had been printed "in good faith" (pun possibly intended) and that the clarification was published as soon as the similarities were brought to his attention. Nevertheless Diary understands there is still a bit of head-scratching going on.

Archbishop Coleridge, ordained as a priest at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne in 1974, was promoted to the Canberra patch last June. He was among various churchmen having a whack at Kevin Rudd in October over his views on abortion and euthanasia.

### Pass the scones

GOOD thing the Spring Street asylum has resumed. Now they can get on with those important matters of state. For example, MP for Frankston **Alistair Harkness** delivered a full report this week on a local teddy bears' picnic. "It was an enormous pleasure to attend with my family," bleated AI to a stunned assembly.

"Each year I have the pleasure of judging the fancy dress and teddy-bear competitions. As usual, the contest was difficult to judge with many children going to a lot of effort to ensure that they and their teddy looked their very best."

There's a whole Hansard page of that. Your tax dollars hard at work.

### Flat out

HANG ON, here's something with a bit more fire. **Nick Kotsiras** opened up with both barrels about "the lazy, inept and incompetent Labor Government for employing more cardigan-wearing, folder-carrying and coffee-drinking public servants in their own departments." (Diary: You have to respect a bloke who can squeeze in that many hyphenated adjectives.) Kotsiras says these new bods will be part of the Department for Victorian Communities senior group's "horizontal leadership" structure. "I hope his definition of 'horizontal leadership' does not involve sleeping on the job after a meal and a cappuccino at taxpayers' expense," quipped Kotsiras. No, that sounds like the teddy bears' picnic.

### Friday feedback

■ From **Alfie Noakes**, of Oakleigh: "Every time I tune in to the 3AW Hospital Hour, **Ernie Sigley** seems to be reading an advert for a diarrhoea remedy. Is that the effect his program has on the listeners?" (Diary: What is this? Kick Ernie Year?)

■ Reverend **Mary Anderson** (tersely), re Scientology invasion of Ascot Vale: "Scientology is a religion recognised by the High Court of Australia. Membership is in the order of 10 million and expanding." (Diary: **Tommy Cruise** is doing his best.)

■ **Marty C**, re the Rudd Labor/Rod Laver imbroglio: "When the little *Young Talent Time* singer comes back from France to perform in her home town, will it be the Tina Arena Arena?"

### What the hell?

"THE mobile telephone in its current form is a tool of the devil, it's an instrument of hell," rants Exclusive Brethren leader **Bruce D. Hales**. So it came as a great surprise to Diary that two of his loyal subjects indeed possess such diabolical instruments.

**Warwick John** and **David Stewart** wrote to federal MPs and senators to "improve understanding" of the cult and invited them to get in touch ... on their MOBILES (we can pass on the numbers).

Another great mystery of planet Brethren is that Warwick and Dave are banned from reading evil newspapers but want to counter "misleading media reports" about their 13,000 members. Sorry to break it to you, Bruce, but the devil is flat out dialling and reading.

### It makes sense

NO LONGER radiating as the Speaker of Spring Street, **Judy Maddigan** still has an appetite for history of the grand edifice, devouring old Hansards while doing some research at Monash (she's a brainiac in her spare time, too). She directs us to the great tea debate of 1880: "Mr L. L. Smith asked the Attorney-General, pursuant to notice, whether he would introduce a bill dealing with the question of the adulteration of food and drink, which was said to have been pigeon-holed in the law department for the last six years, and which, if passed, would enable the Central Board of Health to confiscate spurious