

Of course Christians claim that Jesus is the son of God and that we are to follow him wholeheartedly. It's no surprise then that that changes how we look at our world and society (and I make no apology for that).

Pearl's article highlights that although we may not share all her views, we need to be careful. Too often we have not applied our beliefs carefully and have supported immoral or uninformed positions. And at the heart of the issue, when we tell others about what we believe as Christians we must follow our master and do it with love, integrity and respect.

Hugh Prattis, Randwick

THE PROBLEM WITH INTELLECTUALS

I'm writing in to thank you for so blatantly stating your leftist ideals with the current article about the supposed "anti-intellectual renaissance" (The Beast, May 2013).

It takes a great deal of courage to put forward an article like this, a trait rarely seen in leftists, but I can explain exactly how it fails to touch on anything intelligent or based on fact.

The reality is, the reason for a turn back to religion is the very connection that the author of this article stupidly makes: the association of socialist leftists with Atheism. Just like the author magically connects their religious beliefs and their political agenda, so do people associate religion with anti-socialist and leftist ideals.

Yes, people have had enough of feminists, leftists, socialists and Labor, and so Atheists and non-Atheists alike are turning back from them and towards the group of people that has constantly been critical, which just happens to be majority Christian.

The author seems to ignore that Ayn Rand was an Atheist herself, not to mention the other prominent Atheists who are conservative or libertarian such as Julian Assange or Penn Jillette.

Not to mention Richard Dawkins, who has been very critical of feminism, and Christopher Hitchens, who holds very traditional views.

Why does the author deny this? Yes, they might just not be very smart, and I would not run that past them, but more likely than not it is a panic mechanism that their religion - socialism - is under attack and their need to justify their ideology sees

them grasping at imaginary straws as more and more Atheists leave morons like them under the bus.

Atheism does not equal intelligence, as the author plainly shows, and nor do you by publishing such drivel. While you may have your socialist following in Bondi, I can tell you there are a lot of conservatives, Atheists and otherwise, who are going to pick up your magazine and never read it again after the article.

If you would like to right a wrong, I highly recommend you find a conservative writer to counteract this dribble and find them fast! Hell, I could write a more concise article than this one. Being a capitalist, however, you would have to pay me for my time as I would rather simply throw your magazine in the trash along with my fellow libertarians and conservatives in Bondi.

Art Grigolia, Bondi

"If you would like to right a wrong, I highly recommend you find a conservative writer to counteract this dribble and find them fast!"

BONDI JUNCTION CAR SHARE SPACES

Who is running Waverley Council?! I am appalled by the authorised car share spaces in Bondi Junction.

One of the car share organisers is the same individual who has already made a fortune exploiting the Tamarama area and seriously upset me by stealing the view of the beach from the bus shelter on Marine Drive for his play equipment sails so he can entertain outdoors, having built on every square inch of his site abutting Tamarama Gully and chopping down the gully trees to improve his view.

Kathleen, Tamarama

BREAKING ALL THE RULES

Those of us who are opposed to the shopping mall development at the Bronte RSL site were happy to read that the last president of the now defunct Bronte RSL Club, Duncan Horscroft, seemed to say that he op-

poses any development at the site that does not comply with planning law (The Beast, Letters, April 2013).

We now look forward to Mr Horscroft signing our petition and lodging his objection letter for DA 72/2013 (Bronte RSL site) because this development proposal clearly breaks a number of planning controls.

The developer himself admits that, at 20 metres, the building is 7.5 metres above the current height limit for the site. He also says that the building has a floor area of at least twice that which is allowed under the planning controls. The shopping mall area contains a supermarket that is approximately 3 times the size that will be allowed once Waverley Council's draft LEP amendments become law. Under any reading of the planning controls, this development should be rejected outright by the consent authority.

Save Bronte is not anti-development. We recognise that re-development at the Bronte RSL site is needed. As such we have developed a set of principles that we would like to see govern development at the site. They are available for viewing now on our website at www.savebronte.com.

We would like to see a development that improves the amenity of our neighbourhood centre and abides by the local planning law with which the rest of the community has to comply. We would like a development that services the local community, not an extended catchment of up to 2km. We want local shops for local people.

What we don't want is a major new shopping centre, complete with traffic and trucks, that sets a precedent whereby Macpherson Street becomes the new Coogee Bay Road or Bondi Road. We don't want a shopping mall that is 10 times the size of most of the existing shops on Macpherson Street that will attract traffic to our suburb. We don't want a truck delivery route that goes past the Clovelly Public School and the Bronte Child Care Centre.

Bronte is at a crossroads. The future of our suburb can be determined by an outside developer who wants to create a major new retail centre in the Eastern Beaches or it can be determined by the residents who want appropriate development. We can have a shopping mall,

trucks and traffic or we can have local shops for local people.

If you don't want our suburbs to be changed for the worse forever then lodge your objection to DA72/2103 today.

Stephen Lightfoot, Save Bronte

YOU GET WHAT YOU DESERVE

In reply to Joanne Savill (Letters, The Beast, May 2013): you refer to the "run-down neglected [Bronte RSL] site". It may well be run-down now but it wasn't this time last year. The RSL Club Ltd did not let the club get run-down, that occurred after the Club Ltd closed.

You say the community did not let the club get run-down. The Bronte community failed - yes, failed - to support the club, and I am talking about 99% of you people who want to hold meetings and demonstrate against development.

Had you people walked into the club, had a meal or a drink and played a game of Keno or participated in the club raffles, then the club may still be open.

We organised a live band night and the people living around the club objected to the council about the noise levels being unacceptable, yet the club was there prior to most of them moving into the area.

These are the same people complaining about development of the site. Yes, the Sub-Branch charged us high rents and previous boards made bad decisions, but all in all you people who failed to support the club are the people responsible for what is happening now.

The next time you attend a meeting you should ask the person standing next to you how many times they walked into the club.

They would probably reply with: "Are you kidding? Why would I want to support that club? That place is below me." You will get what you deserve and if that happens to be a large development with a supermarket than so be it!

The Broke, Bronte

BRONTE 'EYESORE HELL'

Dear Sally Bassett (Letters, The Beast, April 2013), I too feel like a minority but on the opposing side.

You shouldn't feel alone because if this development goes ahead you will have 30,000 people and their cars heading down Macpherson

Street to share the traffic and shopping congestion it will create.

We are all entitled to our own opinion but I do hope your decision is due to the misinformation that there is going to be a 'nice little fruit shop with a nice little RSL'.

This development is the same size as if you were to lay the Ocean View apartments on its side. It is extremely oversized and does not comply with any building regulations for this neighbourhood zone area.

Savebronte.com is not anti-development, it is against the over-development of Bronte.

One thing we all agree on is that this area needs development, but the current plan is not suitable to this area, zoning criteria, infrastructure or the needs of residents.

The other concern is that once this development goes ahead it sets a precedent for other developers to lodge plans for more oversized, non-compliant structures so Bronte will soon be turned into an overdeveloped and ugly area.

Please don't be fooled by the Waverley Council smoke screen trick they have played on all of us. They led us to believe this development was just about the RSL site when in actual fact it is the whole area down to St Thomas Street.

And shame on you Duncan Horscroft for stating that you "sit on the fence as long as this complies with regulations". As you are the president of Bronte RSL I would expect you of all people to take notice of what is going on, considering the developer has allocated a place for the RSL.

Perhaps you could confirm that the RSL is not taking residence in the new development, as many of your members are eagerly awaiting the return of the RSL.

You always have your finger on the pulse regarding other issues but this seems to have slipped your mind. How can you pretend you do not have any idea what is going in your own backyard? Shall I spell it out for you? It does not comply with any current regulations, so get off the fence and help your community with a development that does comply and doesn't impact on the lifestyle that attracts everyone to live here.

I propose your next article investigates this development application (DA72/2103) and how many planning controls it fails to comply with.

It may also be worth mentioning that this DA is not only for the RSL site but includes the whole area as far as St Thomas Street. Bronte eyesore hell - lest we forget!

Rebecca, Randwick

LIGHTEN UP PEOPLE

Hey people, lighten up! Rupert's Rant is tongue-in-cheek, well at least that's how I read it. When did everyone get so serious and so easily offended?

Nads

FORMALITIES

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Letters To The Editor

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