

# Obama the 'Antichrist'

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IN LOS ANGELES

AMERICANS who suggest Barack Obama should rot in hell are apparently deadly serious.

Nearly a quarter of Republicans believe the Democrat President "may be the Antichrist", according to a survey yesterday.

An even greater number compared him with Hitler.

Mr Obama was jubilant this week after securing his \$US940 billion (A\$1.04 trillion) healthcare reform plan.

But his triumph seems only to have inflamed his critics among evangelical Christians from the US heartland, who kept George W. Bush in power for eight years and have demonised his successor.

According to the Harris poll, 24 per cent of Republicans and 14 per cent of Americans overall thought Mr Obama was the Antichrist - the term used in the New Testament to refer to the adversary of Christ.

The survey also showed that 38 per cent of Republicans and a fifth of all Americans thought Mr Obama was "doing many of the things Hitler did".

US liberals call the phenomenon Obama Derangement Syndrome - a pathological



CRITICS INFLAMED: Protesters ahead of Barack Obama's appearance in Iowa to talk about health care. Picture: AP

hatred of the president posing as patriotism.

The White House said yesterday it was confident Mr Obama's health reform law had a solid legal foundation after 14 states vowed to challenge it on constitutional grounds.

However, there was some concern last night after it was revealed the bill would have to

go back to the House for final congressional approval after the discovery of "two minor provisions" that violate budget rules.

The two provisions, dealing with grants for low-income college students, will have to be removed from the bill.

Once those provisions are deleted and the Senate passes

the measure, the House will have to approve the legislation before sending it to Mr Obama for his signature.

The overhaul will extend coverage to some 32 million Americans who are currently uninsured, ensuring 95 per cent of US citizens under age 65 will have health insurance.

Democrat leaders on Capitol

Hill say the Bill was carefully drafted to ensure it complied with the US Constitution.

Unrest has turned to vandalism and threats this week with bricks hurled through Democrats' windows, a gas line cut at the home of a congressman's brother and menacing phone messages left for MPs who supported the Bill. AFP/AP

## FAST NEWS

### Rich to pay

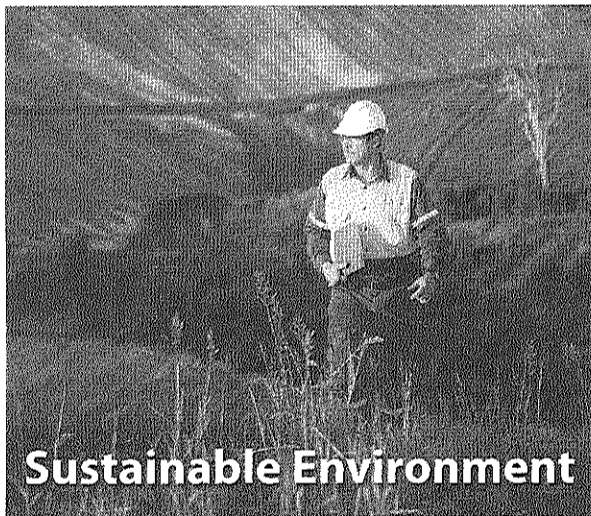
LONDON: British Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling vowed yesterday to lift taxes on the rich to help the poor hit by the global downturn, and to cut borrowing targets in a Budget unveiled weeks before a knife-edge election. Mr Darling warned that growth would be weaker than expected in 2011 as Britain recovered from a record recession, as he announced the last Budget before the general election which is expected on May 6.

### Striptease ban

REYKJAVIK: Iceland's Parliament has voted to ban striptease shows, making it an offence for any business to profit from the nudity of its employees. Iceland's legislature, the Althingi, passed the ban with just two abstentions and no votes against.

### Deadly problem

SEOUL: South Korean religious leaders have joined a Government-led campaign to reduce one of the world's highest suicide rates. Officials say 23.9 in every 100,000 South Koreans committed suicide in 2007, the highest rate among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is the leading cause of death among young people.



Sustainable Environment



Sustainable Community



Sustainable Economy

# Sustainable Stradbroke

Since sandmining began in the 1950's on North Stradbroke Island (NSI) it has helped build the strong community we see today. Whether through directly employing local people, undertaking best practice rehabilitation or underpinning demand for important services, mining plays a key role in the sustainable future of Straddie.

### World's best practice rehabilitation

- Unimin is restoring the Island's dunes to a self sustaining ecosystem
- Unimin operates Queensland's first accredited plant nursery specialising in mining rehabilitation
- Plant nursery production averages 140,000 plants used to restore 75 hectares per year
- Unimin is willing to work toward the expansion of the National Park on North Stradbroke Island

### Mining supports Island services

- Mining families account for one in five of the 2,000 people who live on the island
- Around 40 % of all children in childcare and at school on NSI come from mining families
- Around 15 % of mine workers are from the local Indigenous community
- One third of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services members on the island are mining employees
- In the past ten years Unimin has invested over \$1 million in community development projects on NSI

### Local jobs and services for the island

- \$70 million is injected annually into the local economy through mining on Stradbroke
- Unimin Stradbroke Island employs around 270 staff, the largest employer in the Redlands
- Regular ferry services and other infrastructure rely on year round demand created by Unimin's mines
- Unimin Stradbroke Island generates around \$5 million in royalties each year to the state



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