

Dates ‘n’ Things

—Paul Fijn

In amidst foamy waves crashing against boardwalks you hear a loud horn nearby: a ship docking into the port. You can’t help but notice the lack of staff and it seems like the security guards in the port (probably having signed Workchoices agreements), have taken up the dual role of security and port maintenance. As a leaking pipe distracts them, you swiftly and silently sneak past the guards and through the main gates.

The main building of the complex lies tantalizingly close, just a quick dash through what appears to be a vast container yard. And so focussed are you on getting inside undetected that you’re halfway across before noticing what is pictured on the sides of the massive containers you are passing - giant murals of cows, row upon row of them. Could this be the shipment of steak that Kekovich was talking about? Even as this thought crosses your mind, you are disturbed by voices in the distance, and you slink out of sight behind the nearest container.

Half an hour of crouching later, bored out of your mind, you can’t help but curse Sam Kekovich and his outlandish claims of steak-facilitated megalomania. Beef, gasoline - it all seems so far-fetched. And the justification for his hysteria? That people had been acting more like Americans! Sure you had noticed a few more “like’s” than usual, but there was a perfectly rational explanation - the new season of American Idol which had just started on TV.

With nothing better to do you pull the propaganda leaflet out of your pocket. Though Channel Deepening didn’t really float your boat, some form of distraction was what you required. Reading though the leaflet, you realise that the protesters must have made a mistake. Instead of flouting the ills of Channel Deepening, the leaflet contains nothing more than a series of dates, subsequently mangled into gibberish. If these are the dates of upcoming demonstrations, at least you now know how to avoid the fanatics.

URGENT MESSAGE:

JANUARY 13 DELTA 26 DELTA
FEBRUARY 14 ALPHA 7 ETA STOP
MARCH 12 ALPHA 24 ALPHA 17 TAU
APRIL 6 BETA 30 ALPHA STOP
MAY 28 MU 31 XI
JULY 4 BETA 12 DELTA
JUNE 30 IOTA 5 ALPHA 10 THETA 3 MU STOP
AUGUST 8 EPSILON 13 ALPHA 7 DELTA STOP
SEPTEMBER 1 ZETA 3 DELTA 5 ALPHA 7 EPSILON 27 SIGMA STOP
OCTOBER 31 EPSILON
NOVEMBER 6 THETA 25 EPSILON 28 GAMMA(2)
DECEMBER 6 ETA 7 ZETA 8 LAMBDA STOP

OVER AND OUT