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SOME regional councillors, city planners, academics, CBD business owners, community leaders and customers would have us believe a lack of parking is responsible for the retail downturn and economic demise of Toowoomba's central business district.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

The CBD has no vibrancy, no soul; lifeless and empty, it is like a floundering fish, a no-go zone - unappealing and a dreaded destination fraught with inconvenient traffic snarls and inherent travel delays.

Ruthven Street, from Herries to Russell Streets is an economic graveyard of has-been restaurants and beleaguered businesses seemingly cursed to fail.

In fact, the reason our CBD is financially sodomised to the brink of bankruptcy is more - excuse the pun - deep rooted, disturbing and sinister to say the least.

Up until about 2003, when our then civic leaders allowed the erection of those four upside-down obelisks, our city was relatively prosperous and free from fiscal strangulation, natural disasters and extreme weather events like the inland tsunami of 10 January 2011 which killed over 30 people.

Designed by artist and sculptor Stephen Hart and ceramic artist Stephanie Outridge Field, the four inverted 7.5 metre high solid granite obelisks - each weighing a considerable 13.5 tonnes - cost ratepayers a whopping \$238,000!

Far from being plinths, the obelisks are known by many names, terms, and designations - from the bawdy to the lewd and everything in between: big thingies, the Ruthven Street erections, dicks, the tombstones of Ruthven Street, ridiculous monstrosities, pen holders, quirky, an embarrassment, an eyesore and a blight on the skyline.

In the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (2007; Vol. 2: N-Z; p. 1968) an obelisk is defined as "a tapering, four-sided stone pillar with a pyramidal apex, set up as a monument or landmark."

The word obelisk comes from the ancient Greek 'obeliskos', a prong for roasting.

Now obelisks were once venerated by the ancient Egyptians who placed them in pairs before the portals (gateways) of temples - entrances to the netherworld.

In the sacred language of the Egyptians an obelisk was called 'tejen', or 'tekhenu' - the term synonymous with defence and protection against negative forces, influences and the dark arts.

Interestingly, from the word 'tekhenu' is derived 'tekhne', the Greek root of the English word 'technology'.

Standing upright, erect and pointing upwards rising to the sky, obelisks were symbolic of the penis of the Egyptian Sun god RA - the giver of life.

The ancient Egyptians referred to obelisks as 'benben', the first objects to be touched by the rays of the rising sun.

Regarded rather like objects signifying phalluses - or penises if you will - obelisks were considered to be the superconductors of solar and male sexual energy, generative power, rebirth and resurrection.

Basically, the bigger the phallus, the greater the fertility of the god they were raised to, which in turn meant copious and fruitful crops coupled with bountiful harvests.

Esoteric doctrine as practised by Freemasons, Knights Templar and Rosicrucians promulgates that obelisks exemplify the polar axis of the Earth and the human spinal column; they are built to represent the energy they will generate, because such symbols are the physical manifestation of the thoughts which create them - they are a physical thought form.

Obelisks are not put just anywhere, they are purposefully placed where they will resonate an energy field at a vibrated frequency that will clandestinely affect the thoughts, feelings and actions of people.

Obelisks, or pillars sit at the heart of modern Freemasonry because they are the work of stonemasons; they are symbolic of strength, power and unity - they are perfect insulators that are extremely sensitive to incalculably minute proportions of



Inverted Obelisks: Toowoomba's own Da Vinci Code.

magnetic forces which they will respond to.

The obelisk is a common sight in the monuments and buildings of the Freemason Brotherhood.

Now here is the coup de grâce.

The obelisks planted into the ground in our CBD are inverted, or reversed; this is akin to pushing needles into a voodoo doll to elicit bad tidings upon a person, or in this case, the heart our community.

Obelisks should rise upwards from the ground not be upside-down.

Those who are superstitious and those well-versed in symbology and the esoteric crafts know all too well that inverting mystical objects invokes demonic tidings.

Now similarly as the former President of the United States Ronald Reagan beckoned the then General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, in June 1987 to "tear down this wall" that had divided West and East Berlin since 1961, I strongly urge our mayor Mr Paul Antonio to "tear down those obelisks!"

**-George Helon**