

## Words and Action

*Lindsay Labanca*

The bland speeches of colleagues create in me a desire so wretched and clawing that the possibility of dissatisfaction sends bile dripping into fire-pools in the gut, flaming into every breath, nauseous at the very suggestion of something otherwise - this irrational disgust supported by their deluges of unwanted information, the slimy measured voices urging rational possibilities until everything is complete, the perverted intellectual stroking of the studies without purpose. But I digress, caught up in the process rather than the answer, and this very issue at-pen begins with the repulsive suffix, the worst addition to the English tongue, the classification -ism marking the prescribed behaviour of its adoring adherents, who cling to that convention like a shining "I Care" ribbon twisted on their breasts. It's the -ism that is the antithesis, the lack of vision to encompass whatever the effix came before, it's the -ism that reduces smoldering passion to expectations and the scrutiny of an issue rather than the end of its scholarly usury, I don't want to follow environmentalism, or activism, nor veganism, and never pacifism built on such rage, the dividing -isms throwing up walls between the gatherings, and the word coalition will never enter my vocabulary, for the firmament-solid conviction that -tions and -isms appear where nothing's actually being done, where action, yes, even that insipid word cannot survive, and why should those whose fires smolder so deeply be restrained because of solution and mediation and relativism? And it's me, the activist, who cannot just shut the fuck up and step down from the mountain of my own lecturing, when if less ego and more effort were thrown upon the causes and the heartsprings of beliefs, and not the reason and meter and rhyme, if we spent less on looking different and acting different while all the stereotypical same, gave more of our complete selves on being different from this concrete-blanketed world - then we might have to ignore the scientific evidence to the contrary and create the miracle, instead of sacrificing visions in a glorious expenditure of bluster and aimless rage.