



home, but this is pretty close and a lot safer. Melbourne Zoo's Gorilla Rainforest celebrated its 22nd birthday yesterday. Yuska (pictured) became Australia's first gorilla mother when she gave birth to Mzuri in 1984 and has lived there since opening day. Picture: Craig Abraham

**5%**  
**SEALY**  
**EPPMAKER**

## SEALY

For example:

'Prestige' Emerson plush or firm queen ensemble was \$4195 now **\$2495**

'Advance' Maison plush or firm queen ensemble was \$3595 now **\$1975**

# Academics protest over 'exorbitant' journal fees

By **BENJAMIN PREISS**  
HIGHER EDUCATION REPORTER

HUNDREDS of Australian academics have joined the boycott of an international publishing house accused of charging excessive fees for access to taxpayer-funded research.

They are among more than 9000 academics worldwide who have joined the campaign opposing the "exorbitantly high prices" publisher Elsevier charges for its journals.

At least 110 local academics have signed up to the Cost of Knowledge website. On the site, academics have nominated their level of commitment to the boycott. Many have said they will not publish, referee or do any editorial work for Elsevier publications.

University of Melbourne associate professor of mathematics David Wood said Elsevier charged ridiculous prices for its publications.

He said the company compelled university libraries to

buy bulk subscriptions for numerous journals so they could stock a small number of titles they wanted. The company has denied this criticism.

"I just find the whole thing quite obscene, so now's the time to change," Professor Wood said.

Elsevier had previously published about 20 of his articles. He said he would not withdraw articles he had submitted before the boycott but would use other publications for his work in future.

Professor Wood said the company made about \$1 billion in profit each year. He said it was unfair taxpayers funded much academic research only for university libraries to use taxpayer money to buy the journals where the research was published.

Elsevier produces peer-reviewed journals in which submitted articles are scrutinised by other academics before publication. Elsevier's Australian branch was not available

for comment yesterday. A company spokesman told British newspaper *The Guardian* the cost of articles "had never been lower than it is today on a cost-per-download basis".

In an open letter on its website, the company said it offered many options for access to publications and libraries were never forced to buy bundled packages. It said it supported public access to publicly funded research.

"While some of the facts about Elsevier are being misrepresented, the depth of feeling among some in the research community is real and something we take very seriously," it said. *The Guardian* reported that a subscription to one of Elsevier's most expensive journals, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, costs more than €18,000 (about \$22,900) a year. It is unclear whether the company charges similar prices in Australia.

b.preiss@theage.com.au

# Finks face jail on car theft

By **MARK RUSSELL**

FINKS bkie gang enforcer

They face a maximum 15 years' jail.

The pair were wearing black

did not care or believed staff at the car dealership were so scared that they would not call