Sales last Sunday, 7,300



Lino Farrugia See pages 12-13

# maltatoda

18 April 2004 – issue number 232

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## Sant chooses silence over tax evasion revelations

Kurt Sansone

MALTA LABOUR Party leader Alfred Sant seems to be unperturbed by damning revelations that the Party was implicated in tax eva-

sion in the payment of its employees for the financial years ending 30 June 2002 and 2003.

Sant chose not to comment when confronted by MaltaToday with the allegations made in an auditor s report that was sent to then-MLP secretary general Jimmy Magro in November of last year. The 'management letter was drawn up by the Party s auditors Ernst & Young, and stated that "not all remuneration paid to full-timers and part-timers is being declared for tax purposes.

The revelations were published for the first time by MaltaToday last week and the management letter also implicates the Malta Labour

Party in not exercising internal control over the collection of Party funds. It states that funds collected by MLP volunteers years ago remain uncollected.

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Victory: Malta's high flying rugby team (in white) defeated Serbia-Montenegro in its first game of the European Nations Cup, Division 3A, yesterday. Photo by Stephen Gatt

## Emmy's anti-clerical party in the offing

THE POLITICAL landscape will soon have its new 'kid on the block after long-standing advocates for the introduction of divorce, Emmy Bezzina and John Zammit, are set to form a new political party.

In comments to MaltaToday, lawyer and former Labour candidate Emmy Bezzina said the party would focus on an agenda based on the introduction of divorce, gay rights, abortion, cohabitation, illegitimate children, and "the constant interference of the local Catholic Curia on sensitive issues such as marriage annulments."

Bezzina said he would be announcing the name of the party shortly in a press conference. The sole two candidates, Bezzina and Zammit, said they already have a team of volunteers and financial backers supporting the party.

"If we generate a positive response in the forthcoming elections, we are not ruling out a longterm campaign based on the nation-al elections," Bezzina said, who along with John Zammit, has been the figurehead for the Men s Rights Association and the Divorce Move-

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### **Health authorities** give Blue Pain Relief ads thumbs down

Karl Schembri

ON TELEVISION, he makes it sound like a miracle cure instant relief from rheumatism, arthritis, sciatica, leg cramps, sports injuries, infections - all from a Lm20 bottle of blue jelly. For the Department of Public Health, however, 'Blue Pain Relief is just one of those products making unauthorised health claims that have to be banned from TV commercials.

The 'wonder gel is not certified the nealth authorities.

The decision to ban the adverts was taken a month ago and circulated to all TV and radio stations through the Broadcasting Authority after months of unfettered advertising featuring the famous importer himself, Syrian national Nidal Binni, promoting the so-called 'Made in America products.

Referring to commercials promoting Blue Pain Relief and

three other creams which allegedly cure psoriasis, eczema and haemorrhoids, the public health department warned the broadcasting authority that these were making unauthorised "health claims" and therefore could not be broadcast.

Acting on the department s information, BA Chief Executive Kevin Aquilina sent a letter to all broadcasting stations on 16 March to stop the commercials.

"Please ensure that the products of 'Made in America are not advertised until the necessary authorisation is obtained of Department Public Health," he wrote.

An official at the public health department confirmed the ban.

"Those commercials were making health claims without a permit so we had to stop them," the official told MaltaToday, adding that the ban does not apply to other Made in America products which are marketed for cosmetic

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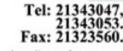
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Telephone enquires also taken on Sunday

#### Free recipe inside