



Malcolm  
Naudi  
See pages 12-13

# maltatoday

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## Attard Montalto beefs up campaign with unlikely duo

Kurt Sansone  
and Matthew Vella

LABOUR CANDIDATE John Attard Montalto is leaving no stone unturned in his quest to be elected to the European Parliament and in his latest campaign venture he has secured airtime during an afternoon tele-shopping spot hosted by Nancy of 'Grilioso' fame, on Super One TV.

Mid-way through a cooking 'spree' to promote kitchen equipment, Attard Montalto is interviewed for a couple of minutes by Nancy on matters related to the EU.

But targeting the traditional housewife, typical of Nancy's audience, is only one aspect of Attard Montalto's multi-faceted campaign.

The Labour MP has also recruited former MP Rita Law, best known for her lacklustre interventions during parliamentary debates, and botched EP candidate Sharon Ellul Bonici to form part of his campaign office.

The two women are popular in the more euro-sceptic south where Attard Montalto has no political base and is looked upon sternly among Labourites for having



Bridging the gap: John Attard Montalto has recruited Sharon Ellul Bonici (left) and Rita Law (right) for the 12 June election. He defends the choice and says that before the 2003 election everybody in the party from the leader downwards was a eurosceptic

announced his intentions to contest the Labour leadership on Net TV, so soon after last year's general elections.

Talking to *MaltaToday* yesterday,

Attard Montalto confirmed that he drafted Law and Ellul Bonici into his campaign team because they were from the south.

"They are both ex-MLP candi-

dates and I also wanted to have women on my team given that the party has not fielded women candidates," Attard Montalto said.

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### Saliba suggests *MaltaToday* looks elsewhere for its answers

IF THERE was ever need of proof that the political parties namely the Labour party and the Nationalist party are closed books when it comes to their internal finances, the proof came with the abrasive answer given to this newspaper by Joe Saliba, Secretary General of the Nationalist party.

Mr Saliba made it clear that *MaltaToday* had no right to further information on the PN's finances. "Regular meetings are held by our administrative bodies to discuss and analyse, amongst other matters, the PN Organisation's accounts. It is the right of the members within these bodies, to have access to the information you requested, and not *MaltaToday*."

Forgetting all arguments about transparency in politics, Mr Saliba suggested that this newspaper looks elsewhere: "I suggest that if *MaltaToday* wants the whole picture of the PN organisation's financial details, you can try to get it in the same manner your paper did with the Malta Labour Party's accounts."

*See MLP and PN in silence game over party finances, page 8 and 9*

## Grand Harbour turns into a private paddling pool for 1 May

Matthew Vella

THE WELCOME Europe consortium, organisers of the 1 May spectacular that will herald the accession of the Maltese islands into the European Union, have claimed the seas for a few hours. According to the agreement negotiated with the government for the 30 April-1 May celebrations, the consortium have been granted permission to charge a fee to boats and yachts moored in the Grand Harbour on the night of the 30 April.

An interested yacht-owner was asked to pay Lm60 to be granted access to the Grand Harbour for a 30-foot craft with ten people on board. Speaking to a representative of the consortium on a publicly announced mobile number, he was told access had been restricted to 35 crafts, and around five others were on a waiting list.

*MaltaToday* was also

approached by individuals who had chartered their crafts on the night of the fireworks and light spectacular, and confirmed the Welcome Europe consortium were charging all boat owners a fee of Lm5 per passenger. On one occasion, a consortium representative asked specifically for 10 free VIP tickets apart from the standard fee of Lm5 per passenger on the boat.

Owners who were planning to charter yachts into the harbour remarked how only a week after the celebrations, when they will be chartering their crafts once again for the Malta Fireworks Festival, no fees are expected to be charged. "We have specifically told our passengers that their fee also covers the Lm5 payable to the consortium. I guess we just have to grin and bear it," one owner told *MaltaToday*.

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See also Saviour Balzan on Sunday and Editorial on page 15*

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Telephone enquires also taken on Sunday