



Why social movements remain unhitched

Ever wondered whether there are any eligible lefty type men left. This concern might only apply to the Bulletins female readers. If so, your days of wondering are over especially if you are reading one of the many women's magazines instead of SACP's publication Umsebenzi. A recent edition of Femina ran an article on why a group of eligible bachelors were not married - not a unusual occurrence. However, this time the group included former SACP stalwart now prominent Anti-Privatisation Forum activist Dale McKinley who was applying his mind to some deep questions as to why he does not support the institution of marriage. He provided some interesting tips on the art of remaining free and single - from a revolutionary perspective of course. With this foray into the world of womens' magazines, what next TV or perhaps a radio show: Dales tips on how to revolutionise your love life?

Confronting the power of capital

Staying of the subject of reading material, one wonders what international fund managers read, given the perception of a short attention space and no or limited social conscience. Senior labour and government leaders, who formed part of a recent Millennium Labour Council (MLC) visit to London, were surprised to discover what fund managers do

read. The trip to London was part of a process whereby members of the MLC could develop a better understanding of how people make their decisions around investment. Presumably this formed part of an attempt to educate union leaders about the factors hampering foreign direct investment. The group included AngloGold CEO Bobby Godsell, Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi and Num general secretary Gwede Mantash. They were certainly surprised when, during a meeting with a fund manager, he did not pull out the usual reading material targeted at capitalists but a well thumbed copy of Cosatu's 2015 plan. A further surprise awaited the SA delegation when the fund manager read the following sentence from the plan: 'we are doomed unless we confront the power of capital'. After a slightly embarrassed silence, the group shared the humour of the moment. What else could they do in the presence of the power of capital!

Boomerang

Former trade union activist and labour lawyer Halton Cheadle (who graced the pages of this publication on numerous occasions from its inception) was instrumental in the drafting of the constitution. From drafting the constitution he is now devoting his time to defending it on behalf of government. He is setting up a

constitutional court unit in the state attorney's office to help government to defend itself against any constitutional claims. No need to hunt far for the loopholes.

Salga's version of strategic skills intervention

Government in the form of finance minister Trevor Manuel recently announced measures to ensure greater financial accountability in local government as well as plans to improve service delivery. Manuel has obviously not heard of the major strides embarked upon by South Africa Local Government Association (Salga) - the employer body in local government to ensure financial accountability and strategic interventions to develop skills in local government to ensure better service delivery. Redeye was interested to hear the type of skills training Salga has proposed. It is believed that Salga had approached the very effective local government Seta (on the list of poor performing Setas) to fund the development of skills for councillors. Nothing wrong so far. The hitch is that Salga wanted the Seta to fund a programme to teach councillors how to fill out their tax returns to the tune of over R9m. Councillors obviously need to learn some innovative ways of filling out their returns - a critical skill to ensure better service delivery and achieve the vision of Bathopele!

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