



PRESIDENT

Karen Overbosch
(082) 574 5952

SECRETARY

Stephen Bredenkamp
(082) 570 4440

TREASURER

Mike Schreiber
(021) 689 4466

WYNPRESS EDITORIAL BOARD

Barry Cleveland
(021) 788 6781

Biffy Danckwerts
(082) 4687504

Mervyn Wetmore
(084) 5856055

JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH



EDITORIAL

(WITH Christmas upon us) We are confronted once again by the great unanswered, frivolously profound question of whether Santa is a capitalist or a socialist. Overwhelmed by soaring global population, he is frantically doing his final inbox checks on what people want him delivering down chimneys, how to motivate his newly unionised elves running behind their production schedule, what to do about Rudolph's red nose, and who was good or bad.

To settle the matter after centuries of uncertainty I conducted a snap survey among experts.

"He's a lefty," said the first, a professor of festive sociology. "He wears red, has a beard like Karl Marx, employs green vertically challenged elves, and rides an environmentally friendly sleigh."

"No, no," said a professor of Christmas derivatives, "his iconic red originates from subliminal capitalistic Coca-Cola ads, he refuses to recognise the Elf Union, pays the market-clearing Arctic wage, which is zero, and monopolises Arctic industry. Add his portly belly, and he's a capitalist through and through."

A more analytical econometrician pointed out that empirically anyone under 25 who is not a socialist lacks a heart and anyone over 25 who is not a capitalist lacks a brain. "He is therefore," she concluded, "a socialist for kids who get bountiful gifts at someone else's expense, and a capitalist for adults who produce the wealth Santa redistributes."

One of the most insightful responses was from the CEO of an NGO funded by CSI. That's corpspeak for charity and philanthropy. In other words, bosses giving shareholders' money to people like me. "Capitalism is where people redistribute their own wealth instead of redistributing other people's wealth; that makes Santa a capitalist," she said with pseudo-intellectual certitude.

Her view was echoed by an investment consultant, who added that Santa's factory was located in a tax haven without labour laws, soul-destroying government housing or cockroach-infested public hospitals.

It was all going well — nice binary yes-no answers — until a pretentious political science professor of obscurity argued compellingly that he's a Georgist — a protagonist of Henry George's physiocratic view that respects all property rights except land, which is communal. "That is why he trespasses with impunity, descends down private chimneys, and gives according to performance not need. He certainly isn't Marxist or Maoist since people get gifts they want of conspicuously unequal value."

In desperation, I turned to the new boy on the block, Julius Malema, who, by a massive margin, had more words than wisdom. "He uses child labour (elves aren't real), abuses animals (Rudolph's bloody nose), hunts polar bears during the Arctic summer (as they float helplessly on ice fragments), and gives the most expensive presents to white kids. He is an evil, historically advantaged, white, fat (fatter than me), greedy, racist oppressor and polluter. One of the first things the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) will do is nationalise him."

A Buddhist monk plunged the matter into cosmic confusion by suggesting compellingly that: "He's a figment of imagination, neither socialist nor capitalist, which are also figments of imagination. He's Buddhist because he doesn't care about property; every year he gives away all his material possessions."

The chief rabbi, who confessed to being ambivalently quizzical, answered with questions: "What does he pay his physically impaired dwarfish helpers? Who funds him? What is his carbon footprint? Why is his factory in the last bastion of pristine wilderness? Does he support Greenpeace? Or Palestine!? Why does he break into homes without permission, like the South African Revenue Service, and eat and drink whatever he finds on the table? Did Coca-Cola invent him? If not, why did Saint Nicholas previously wear a purple coat and a tall pointy hat? Why do capitalists love his ability to get people to overspend, and socialists love his ability to produce copious wealth out of thin air? That, my friend, is the answer."

By Leon Louw, Executive director of the Free Market Foundation.
Published in Business Day, 18 December 2013.

MEETING OF 16 JANUARY 2014

ATTENDANCE

Membership: 28
Present: 15
Make Ups: 5
Apologies: 7
Attendance: 70%

Visitors: Keela O'Driscoll, Anne O'Driscoll, David & Zoe Browne, from Brisbane, Australia, Hugh Maunder, Simisha Pather (guest speaker), Trina and Gunnar Marnum, Wenche Hovstad.

Attendance to Biffy 081 325 9570 or aecon.e@mweb.co.za.

SLOTS

Jackie James: Spoke to and encouraged us all to sign up for two upcoming events, sign-up forms for which she passed around:

1. Beer and food pairing: social event on Thursday 30th January at 6.30pm at the Devil's peak Brewing Company, Durham Avenue, Salt River (map to follow closer to the time). R100/person. Bring partners, friends and potential members.
2. Opera in a Convent Garden: social event on Sunday 2nd February at 5.30pm at Springfield Convent School. Meet at ticket table at 4.30pm. Bring picnic, chairs, warm clothes, partner, friends and potential members. Picnic food also on sale at event. R120/person.

Don Lidgley:

3. Brought us good tidings from his old Rotary Club back in England.

Zoe Browne, a visiting guest from Toowoomba, Australia:

4. Gave us an interesting insight into the running, activities, challenges and value of an Interact Club in the school where she teaches French. She is in charge of the Interact Club at her school.
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MEETING MINUTES

Simisha Pather who works for **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AFRICA** and who often attends Rotary Wynberg as a guest and whom we all hope will join our Club gave an interesting talk: '**Energy and Sustainable Development**'. The talk provided an overview of energy, how it affects our lives and the



problems associated with it viz. energy supply and diversity, electricity access and distribution, poverty and the burden on the poor, fossil fuels, pollution, climate change, human rights and, sustainable transport and city planning. Due to energy issues being so complex, what is needed is a holistic approach where there is a nexus of science, economics and social sciences. This strategy needs to be innovative and flexible and be adoptable for developing countries like South Africa such that we can lead the way to sustainable energy provision. The talk ended off with 2 tips for reducing energy consumption: **go renewable and adopt a solar water heater; and change personal modes of transport and driving behaviour.**

‘An advanced city is not a place where the poor move about in cars, rather it’s where even the rich use public transportation.’

PROGRAMME

January 2014	Committee: James, Danckwerts, Schreiber, Smith, Williams, Lidgley
23 January	Kathryn Hoeflich: Indian Ocean tsunami warning centre
24-26 January	Rotaract Kiddies Camp
30 January	Social - TBA
February 2014	Committee: Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalowsky, Wetmore, Jackson, Schonegevel
2 February	Opera in a Convent Garden
3 February	Board meeting
5 February	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
6 February	Business meeting
12 February	Retreat Rotaract meeting
13 February	Interact evening
14 February	Valentine’s Day
15 February	Valentine’s Day social
19 February	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
20 February	Wendy Dias “Anti-Counterfeiting and Security.”
23 February	Rotary International birthday (109 this year)
26 February	Retreat Rotaract meeting
27 February	Elizabeth Daly – Public knowledge and stormwater quality in Cape Town: implications for management.
March 2014	Committee: van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave, van Niekerk
3 March	Board meeting
5 March	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
6 March	Business meeting
9 March	Argus Cycle Tour
12 March	Retreat Rotaract meeting
13 March	Normal meeting /Rotaract Birthday
15 & 16 March	Proms
19 March	Wynberg Rotaract meeting

20 March	Normal meeting
21 March	Human Rights Day / Public holiday
26 March	Retreat Rotaract meeting
27 March	Normal meeting
28 March	School holidays start

April 2014	Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Howard, van Eeden, Du Plessis
2-4 April	Rotary Family Health Days
7 April	School term starts
1-4 May	District conference

DUTY ROSTER

DUTY	23 January	30 January	6 February	13 February
Sergeant	Gowdy	<p><i>SOCIAL</i></p> <p><i>Beer & food pairing: social event on Thursday 30th January at 6.30pm at the  Devil's Peak Brewing Company, Durham Avenue, Salt River (map to follow closer to the time). R100/person. Bring partners, friends & potential members.</i></p>	Cleveland	Van Wyk
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts		Danckwerts	Danckwerts
Wynpress Editorial	Bredenkamp		Hovstad	Howard
Minutes for Wynpress	Danckwerts		Cleveland	Danckwerts
Compilation of Wynpress	Wetmore		Danckwerts	Cleveland
Door Duty	Bird		Gowdy	Hovstad
Grace	Howard		Du Plessis	Gavin
Loyal Toast	Williams		Bird	Bredenkamp
International Toast	Vivian		James	Wetmore
Speaker Introduction	Schonegevel		TBA	James
Speaker Thanks	van Eeden		Vivian	Williams

JACKPOT:

Graham Todd being AWOL there was no Jackpot/Swindle this evening so the Jackpot remains as it was previously: R1555.00 I think it is unless **THE COMMITTEE** has met and unanimously decided otherwise as is the Committee's wont!

PRESIDENT'S QUOTE:

President Karen gave us two trenchant quotes to ponder upon:

- 1. If everyone is happy with you then surely you have made many compromises in your life!***
- 2. If you are happy with everyone, surely you have ignored many faults of others (or you are Mother Theresa)***

TAILPIECE

THE IRISH ARE BLIKSUM PROFOUND:

After 100 years lying on the sea bed, Irish divers were amazed to find that the Titanic's swimming pool was still full.