



# ANDREW ON WEDNESDAY

## On the agenda

### The President

Last Saturday, I interviewed President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca during my radio show on Radju Malta, *Ghandi xi Nghid*. The President has consistently and steadily grown incrementally into this role. Initially I thought she wouldn't manage to ride over her past political roles but I was wrong. She is managing to use the Presidency to leave a positive impact on the community. Even though she might come across as impetuous it is very clear that she thinks things through. When it comes to civil rights she is as consistent and persistent as they come and would leave no stone unturned to make sure she achieves her aims.

During this interview on *Radju Malta* we spoke at length about the political discourse being used and how she finds it worrying and concerning that such language might be influencing negatively the way children and young people are now perceiving politics. Her tone of voice did give her away showing that she is terribly upset that politicians need to relate to each other in this way. Nonetheless, I share her position that even though some politicians might be a let-down she made it clear that politics and politicians should be at the forefront of change and community transformations.

### Car accidents

Once again, our news portals are reporting endless car accidents

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some of which are fatal or else having very serious outcomes. People being run over like skittles, cars overturning, motor-bikes and quads crashing with buses and falling off cliffs – and the message is that ‘life goes on!’ This is a situation that is spi-

ralling out of control. Responsibilities?

### Dean's Awards

Like most faculties, last Friday, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing celebrated its Dean's Awards. The focus is on the students that were placed on the dean's list for their intellectual prowess and intelligence but the faculty also celebrated two other awards.

The Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity, Dr Michael Farrugia, presented the *Social Commitment Award* to Jennifer Cauchi, a student reading a BA with the Department of Youth and Community Studies. Her engagement in the community and commitment to the cause of supporting young people in Gozo is simply inspiring. Dr Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, and the Head of the Department of Criminology, Prof. Saviour Formosa, on the other hand presented the *Jacqueline's Social Engagement Award* to Kristina Zammit following an electronic poll among 1,200 members of staff and students. Kristina Zammit has distinguished herself in the cause of migration and has worked tirelessly with the JRS to make things work in this sector. The other nominees for this award were George Busuttill, Mgr Philip Calleja, Martin Diacono, Dr Lara Dimitrijevic, Fr Hilary Tagliarferro, Dr Roberta Lepre, Connie Magro and Rita Borg.

### Cockfights

Can't understand how this country lives a double life. We talk about civil rights, we argue about transparency, governance, improved justice, strengthening our institutions and at the same time we still have a group of people placing bets on cockfights. What type of savage would put a prized animal into the ring hoping it won't get too battered so that it could be used for the next scrap. This is indeed another example of a country gone bananas.

### Murders

Another one bites the dust it seems. No end in sight. This 'safe Malta frame of mind' will be shattered if we do not stop this flurry of crimes.

### CCF

I went to visit CCF with my colleagues some days ago. It wasn't my first visit but as always I came out of that visit distraught and troubled. Apart from the infrastructural works that some sections of the place need, it is so worrying that *lifers* do not yet have possibility of parole and we still have seclusion to contend with as a punishment. These are policy and political issues that need to be sorted out. We also need to see more contribution of civil society to educational and recreational programmes for inmates. The spirit of the staff at CCF is indeed willing.

“Ghandi xi Nghid”  
by RADJU MALTA and GAZZARIN XI QLETTAM

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### 1 March 1950

## Communist spy jailed for 14 years

A top nuclear scientist has been jailed for 14 years at the Old Bailey for spying for the Soviet Union.

Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs, 38, a civil servant from Harwell in Berkshire, pleaded guilty to four offences under the Official Secrets Act.

German-born Fuchs, who fled his home country to escape Nazi persecution in 1933, had come to be regarded as one of Britain's top atomic scientists.

But beneath the facade was a committed Communist who had been passing secrets to the Russians for most of the past decade.

### 'Unswerving devotion'

He was convicted on four counts of disclosing atom secrets "calculated to be directly or indirectly useful to an enemy" – in England in 1943 and 1947 and in the United States in 1944 and 1945.

The Attorney General, Sir Hartley Shawcross KC, who opened the case for the prosecution, said Fuchs had undoubtedly passed information to the Soviets on many more than four occasions even though he was on trial for four specific offences.

His motivation, said Mr Shawcross, was

his "unswerving devotion to Communism".

Fuchs, who until his arrest last month was employed as senior principal scientific officer at the Harwell Atomic Research Establishment, arrived in Britain from Germany, via France, in 1933.

When France was invaded by the Germans in 1940, Fuchs was interned and deported to Canada.

He was released in 1942 and was headhunted by Birmingham University to carry out atomic research.

It was at this stage he made contact with the Soviets and began regularly passing information relating to atomic energy, the court was told.

Between 1944 and 1946 he worked in the American Atomic Research department in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where he was involved in the construction of the first atomic bomb.

The court was told that it was information from the Americans which first led British detectives to suspect Fuchs of espionage.

Defending, Mr Derek Curtis-Bennett, KC, said it was at about this time that his client had started "having doubts about the Russian policy" and began to "see the

light".

He added the first three offences had in fact been committed when Russia was an ally of Britain and therefore information passed could not have been regarded as prejudicial to the interests of the state.

Passing sentence, Lord Chief Justice Lord Goddard said: "You have betrayed the hospitality and protection given to you by this country with the grossest treachery."

After the trial the British security services were criticised for not having made the appropriate checks on Klaus Fuchs, who never denied his Communist connections.

But in a statement to the House of Commons, the Prime Minister Clement Attlee said although it was a "most deplorable and unfortunate incident" there was no evidence to suggest any wrong-doing on the part of MI5.

Ten months after Fuchs was jailed another Harwell scientist, Professor Bruno Pontecorvo, went missing and it was later discovered he had fled to Russia.

Fuchs was released in 1959 and went to live in East Germany where he became deputy director of the Central Institute for Nuclear Research in Rossendorf.