

Summer Time...



High School Graduation Season in Sweden

The 24th week of the year (the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th of June) is the week that schools all over Sweden celebrate the end of the school year. Graduating Seniors from each of Lund's secondary schools celebrate this week with colorful graduate balls, usually at the Grand Hotel (where else?). But the highlight of the ceremony occurs at the end of each school's graduation ceremony. Tradition calls for each graduate to be driven home from school in a fancy vehicle, so watch out for happy graduates decked with garlands on ponies, donkeys, sports cars, hot-air balloons or bi-planes. Have fun!

Team Lundian

The Lundian's own Man of the Year



After Your Party at AF -- Who Cleans Up?

Meet Jalil Fecily, The Lundian's *Man of the Year*. He's one of the persons who keeps AF Borgen clean and gets it ready for the next student party: THE "CLEAN-UP MAN". (Unfortunately, the other members of the staff, literally the "clean-up women", did not want to be photographed. See article in Easy-to-Read Swedish on Page 2

In This Issue

- *Farewell to The Lundian
- *Swedish Midsummer
- *Incident in Copenhagen
- *Don't be a Victim
- *Summer Calendar
- ' Swedish History 101



Jakob:

"I did this layout -- plus Page 6."



John:

"Struttin' my stuff on Page 3."



Ola:

"Check out my work on Page 2."



Karin:

"See my work on Page 4."



Justine:

"All the artwork plus Page 5."



Ola 'master of internet services' Larsson

A harmonic person that tries to live one day at a time. In a spite of a strong urge not needing to draw his life in a calendar, a lot of things tend to happen around him. Why

sleep when you can be awake.

Interests: movies, listening to and playing music.

Intervju med Jalil Fecily, lokalvårdare på AF-borgen



1 – Hur länge har du arbetat här vid AF-huset?

Svar: Jalil Fecily har jobbat som lokalvårdare i AF-huset i 2,5 år. Han kom till Sverige för sex år sedan.

2 – Hur stort är AF-huset ?

Svar: Hela huset är 1200 kvadratmeter (m²). Det är fyra stycken som arbetar i huset, de städar främst uthyrningslokaler och korridorer och andra allmänna utrymmen. Städpersonalen är också ansvarig för att ställa fram och tillbaka bord och bänkar i salarna.

- Tentadagarna är värst. Då är det extra mycket som ska ställas i ordning och städas undan.

3 – Hur dags börjar du arbete varje dag?

Svar: Arbetsdagen är från sex på morgonen till tre på eftermiddagen. Man arbetar i femtimmarspass som är uppdelat på fyra tjänster. Varje vecka går efter ett bestämt schema, som är anpassat efter hur lokalerna utnyttjas.

4 – Hur många rum finns det att städa?

Svar: Det är omöjligt att veta hur många rum som städas, men många är det. Och det är ett hårt arbete som görs.

5 – Hur blir huset efter en stor studentfest? Valborgsafton till exempel?

Svar: Hemskt, det går inte att beskriva! Man kan hitta allt möjligt, allt från spyor till ännu värre saker...Nu på lördag (17/4) ska hela huset hyras ut till Malmö nation. Så söndag kommer att bli en hård arbetsdag.

6 – Är studenter i Lund mer "festliga" än andra studenter?

Svar: Städpersonalen som arbetar på AF idag har inte någon annan erfarenhet av studenter så det är svårt att avgöra för dem om Lunds studenter är stökigare än andra.

7 – Hur kan studenter själv hjälpa dig att hålla huset rent?

De grovstädas efter fester, men de är ofta som de kommer mycket väl förberedda och har planerat mycket, och sedan är de trötta och orkar inte med städningen.

Egna utrymmen städas de själva, som till exempel rummen på fjärde våningen.

8 – Kommer studenter med blommor och tack hälsning ibland?

Svar: Våldigt sällan, vi är bara som luft. Att vara städare är ett mycket otacksamt arbete, det kommer mycket folk

som inte bryr sig om vårt jobb och snabbt skräpar ner.

Det är också ett mycket ensamt arbete. Man har ingen att prata med och om man stannar upp för att prata med någon i till exempel hissen tror folk att man inte gör sitt jobb ordentligt. Det är många som bara räknar med att det ska vara rent, det är ingen som bryr sig om hur det går till och vem som gör grovjobbet!

Intervju med Kristina Wollter, Lunds nya studentteater

I över tjugo år har Lunds Nya Studentteater verkat och engagerat teaterintresserade studenter. Med ett mål om att bjuda Lund på teaterupplevelser startades föreningen 1981 ur dåvarande Lunds Studentteater. Det fanns då mycket scenutskott, men ingen teater, säger Kristina Wollter, som idag är en av de aktiva på Lunds Nya Studentteater. Idag har föreningen ca 50 medlemmar och arbetar med både större produktioner och mindre uppsättningar och anordnar teatercaféer.

Lunds nya studentteater är ett utskott inom AF. Det är en amatörteater, men man producerar också större produktioner och anordnar teatercaféer. Föreningen har 40- 50 st. medlemmar.

LNS är inte bara en teaterförening för dem som vill stå på scen, utan man kan också arbeta med allt runtomkring. Den fyller även en social funktion. LNS startades för teaterintresserade studenter 1981 (har över 20 år på nacken) ur lunds studentteater som fanns i lilla teaterns lokaler. Man startade den nya studentteatern för att det fanns mycket scenutskott, men ingen teater.

Den huvudsakliga verksamheten är att göra teater, att bjuda Lund på teaterupplevelser. Ett mål är att sätta upp två till tre uppsättningar per år. En viktig del i verksamheten är att låta alla få en chans genom att erbjuda en mängd olika verksamheter på olika nivåer.

- Genom att både göra stora och små projekt får vi en bredd som ger alla möjlighet att vara med, säger Kristina.

Det är inte bara teater utan man Annordnar och så kurser och lär ut bla teatersmink. Man har också anlitat en röstpedagog som har hållit i en kurs.

Hittills har man gjort och genomfört "en mängd grejor". Man har satt upp flera stora verk, i höstas satte man upp Hamlet och genomförde en teaterfestival.

Det är till största delen färdiga pjäser som utgör uppsättningarna, men man har också satt upp egenskrivna pjäser.

Under våren har föreningen en rad projekt på gång. Under världsteaterdagen den 27 mars ska man göra specialiten "Teater i en skrub" som går ut på att skådespelaren och publiken som består av en person i taget befinner sig i en liten skrub. En intim och väldigt speciell upplevelse som har blivit mycket populär under kulturnätter och lundakarnevaler genom *see page 3*



Kristina Wollter

The Lundian is published in English by The English International Association of Lund for the benefit of the thousands of immigrants, foreign students, researchers, businessmen and other non-Swedish residents of the 1000-year old city of Lund, which is home to Scandinavia's largest university. The publisher aims to provide readers with local community news and current events, hence most of the articles are contributed by readers and members of The English International Association of Lund. The Lundian is distributed through membership in English International, by subscription, or by picking up a free copy at the Lund City Library, the University Library or the Tourist Office. For subscription details see our website: www.thelundian.com or send us an email at: englintern@hotmail.com (write subscriptions in subject area) Phone: +46 46 211 2825.

Kristina Wollter åren. Man ska också göra en större uppsättning i maj. Det är pjäsen "Linje Lusta" av Tennessee Williams.

Om man vill vara med i studentföreningen Lunds Nya Studentteater, kan man komma upp till kontoret på AF-borgen och anmäla sig och prata, det gör man lämpligast mån- fre 11- 13, men vid större uppsättningar har man öppen intresseanmälan. För att vara med gäller dock som i alla andra utskott i AF att man är ledamot i akademiska föreningen, vilket man är om man är medlem i någon nation undantaget Smålands.

Teatercaféerna som LNS annordnar innehåller föreställningar, musik och dikter. Man säljer också ekologiskt fika. Caféet kostar 30 kronor för icke medlemmar och inträffar kl 19 i källarsalen i AF-borgen ett par ggr per termin.

Inför framtiden vill man utveckla verksamheten för att få en starkare profil i Lund. Man har tidigare samarbetat med andra föreningar tex. Steve, Radio AF och klädkammaren, nu vill man också vidareutveckla samarbeten med andra föreningar.

Även studenter som inte har svenskan som modersmål är välkomna att delta. Det har tidigare varit flera utländska studenter som har deltagit. Även om det är svårt att stå på scenen, då de flesta uppsättningar är på svenska, så finns det ju mycket annat att göra.

Vi är öppna för mycket, säger Kristina och tillägger att alla är välkomna, och vill man inte delta får man gärna komma och titta.

Man kan också lösa stödmedlemskap i Lns.



Two Photos From John Nordh's Photo Gallery...



Above: "The Streets of Lund" (No.100)
Right: AF-Borgen, the Student Center



John 'Hej, jag tar bilder' Nordh

For John, being creative is very important and whenever there's a guitar or a camera lying around he is happy. His greatest passion in life is

skateboarding and everyday, he rides around in the streets with his friends searching for new spots to skate. Music is another topic close to this eighteen-year-old's

Nu är det hela över, ett farväl av Team Lundian

I BÖRJAN AV FEBRUARI kom vi, sex osäkra praktikanter från Vipeholmskolans Medieprogram upp till kontoret. Där blev vi mottagna av ingen mindre än Mr. Buko och hans medarbetare Betsai. Kontoret var litet och kvavt och definitivt inte designat för sex personer. Vi trodde aldrig att vi skulle trivas där uppe, i den lilla skrubben till kontor högst uppe i AF-Borgen. Fel hade vi. Allt eftersom tiden gick trivdes vi mer och mer på vår arbetsplats och vi lärde känna varandra bättre och bättre och kände att vi tillhörde en grupp. Gruppen döpte vi sedan, lite skämtsamt, till Team Lundian.

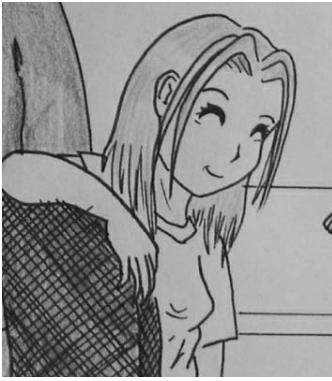
Vi har gjort 2-pages, vi har gjort 4-pages och för att inte tala om alla 8-page Lundians vi har snickrat ihop med bra resultat, gör att vi vågar påstå att tidningen har fått sig ett litet ansiktslyft sen vi kom hit. Det har visat sig att våra moderna idéer och oändliga energi tillsammans med Mr. Buko's erfarenhet har varit en bra blandning.

Sex veckors praktiktid gick snabbare än en weekendresa och det är med blandade känslor som vi nu kan konstatera att det hela faktiskt är över. Inga fler Lundian's för våran del, istället väntar studenten och sommaren med allt vad det innebär - Musikfestivaler, roadtrips, utlandsresor, havet, skogen och sena sommarnätter ute i friheten. Kanske ses vi ute i det blå någonstans. Till dess: Ha en skön vår och sommar, det tänker vi ha!

(Obs! Vi är medvetna om att en fri sommar även innebär arbetslöshet och pengabrist men om man inte låtsas om tråkigheterna så lider man inte heller av dem...kanske).

JN





Karin ‘storyboard’ Lundberg

Karin is a very explosive girl in many ways. She has a positive attitude and she is very social toward all the people she meets. If Karin walks by, everyone will notice the friendly vibes around her and therefore take her to their hearts.

Swedish Midsummer – A Traditional Festive Event

Midsummer is the occasion of much festivity in Sweden. This is when the days are longest and in the north it is the time of the Midnight Sun. Literally, “Midsummer” is a misnomer since Sweden’s northerly climate, summer is just beginning. Consequently, Midsummer celebrations in Sweden resemble May Day festivities on the continent. On the ecclesiastical calendar the 24th of June is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and in many countries Midsummer is celebrated as the Feast of St. John. It was decided in the 1950s in Sweden that Midsummer should be celebrated on the weekend nearest the 25th, with Midsummer Day on Saturday. Many old traditions are associated with this holiday, most of them relating to Midsummer Eve, and the summer solstice. In some parts of Sweden people continue to observe these customs on the 23rd of June.

On the morning of Midsummer Eve Swedes decorate their homes, cars, churches and dancing pavilions with garlands with flowers and leafy branches. Then, in the afternoon, they gather round the maypole. Practically every town and village, however small, has a maypole, a tall cross clad with leaves and flowers. The pole is raised in the mid-afternoon in the centre of the village square or playground. Once the pole is raised, the dancing begins, first in a ring around the pole, then later in the evening in a barn or outdoor pavilion. Most city-dwellers flee the city for the countryside at Midsummer, some travelling great distances. Some regions and provinces are widely renowned for their celebrations, as tens of thousands of tourists flock to Dalarna in central Sweden. People living in urban centres such as Stockholm migrate either to a favourite island in the archipelago or to Skansen, the oldest open-air museum in the world. The festivities within various rural iron mill towns in Uppland, north of Stockholm, are also popular.

A typical Swedish Midsummer menu features different kinds of pickled herring and boiled new potatoes with fresh dill and a dessert of fresh strawberries. And lots and lots of beer, of course. As in the case of many other Swedish “eves”, Midsummer Eve is also believed to be a night of supernatural happenings and magic, and much of this element of Midsummer is present in thousands of plays, novels and films. Shakespeare’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream* may have been inspired by Swedish or Danish midsummer festivities, while the plot of *Fröken Julie* (*Miss Julie*), the story of a love-hate relationship between an upper class girl and a farm worker by August Strindberg took place during Midsummer festivities. The dew of Midsummer eve is believed to have special

properties, and he or she who manages to collect a small flask of Midsummer dew can use it to cure illnesses. Certain plants are also collected during this time for the same purposes, and in times past, people believed that ferns bloomed at night.

Another superstition that has emerged from Midsummer eve is one believing that you could foresee the future during this time through dreams. For example, to see the person you would soon marry in your dreams you should pick a bouquet of seven or nine different varieties of flowers from as many meadows or ditches and place it under your pillow. Or, to learn of future events through your dreams you should eat “dream herring” or porridge that has been spiced – with lots of salt.

This article is based on an original text by Ingemar Liman. With notes from literature and film reviews. Source: Traditional Festivities in Sweden. The Swedish Institute.



Radio AF’s International Radio: A Historic Profile of Student Broadcasting in Lund

Radio International is the radio programme for and by foreign students at Lund University. The non-profit station has roots in Sweden’s history of local radio broadcasting. 1980 was the first year that local radio stations got their own airwaves, and by 1981 local stations were allowed to operate in Gothenburg, Umeå and Lund. By 1982 Radio Lund was in full swing, and Radio AF was part of the network of radio stations that shared air time.

But it was the remaining members of a group of foreign students who had established Lund’s Foreign Student’s Organisation (LUFSSO) back in 1972 who kicked off Radio LUFSSO, the first foreign student radio show. Broadcasting in English, Radio LUFSSO established the profile of English language broadcasting in Lund. The two-hour show which was produced by Arthur Diakité offered a variety of local information, news and music – with no sponsors, back then. The show’s most talented host during those early days was a young man from Lund named Tobias Björling, who hosted foreign students as DJs and guests as a regular feature. Radio LUFSSO ended its broadcasting around 1988, but Tobias and a new group of dedicated producers kept the ideals of local radio for Swedish and foreign students in Lund going for some time. One of these was Partick Larsson, who went on to produce many other local radio shows in Southern Sweden.

Today’s Radio International is sponsored by the International Secretariat at Lund University and a host of other student associations at Lund. One of these is English International, the publishers of *The Lundian*, and it is hoped that other student associations will follow this lead and continue to keep the tradition of giving the foreign student community a radio platform to express opinions, ideas, information – or to just have fun on radio – live. It performs a valuable function in Lund, serves the community and the university well, and has more than 100 thousand listeners.

Stay tuned to Radio AF, 99.1 and 91.9 on your FM dial.

The Editor

DON'T BE A VICTIM: LEARN TO RECOGNIZE UNFAIR TREATMENT WHEN IT HAPPENS

In its Annual Report for 2003, the Swedish Board of Integration has published an overview and an agenda for integration and diversity in Sweden. The report describes the difficulties that many foreign-born and second generation persons living in Sweden endure while living here.

A research report published by the network of Anti-discrimination bureaus in Gothenburgh, Stockholm, Norrköping and Umeå point out that 37% of 2,000 foreign-born persons living in Sweden claim they have been discriminated against at least once in the past three years. The report, which received 55% of its questionnaires returned, claims that more than half of those born in Africa claim they have met with discrimination.

While serious measures and efforts are being taken by the government to ensure that Sweden does not become a segregated society, much work needs to be done. As a type of assistance to all concerned, we are publishing a description of the types of discrimination some people claim they are victims of. Hopefully, most of you will never experience any of them. But if you do, call us for help: The Anti-discrimination Bureau in Lund, (046) 211 2825.

DIRECT DISCRIMINATION

A Shop owner who refuses to hire suitable qualified people as shop assistants simply because they are of a particular racial or ethnic origin and, in his view, might lose him customers is guilty of direct discrimination.

An employer who specifies in a job advert that only young people should apply even though the job in question can be done perfectly well by an older person is also guilty of discrimination.

The manager of a hotel who refuses admittance to the bar to someone whom he believes to be associated with gypsies, or members of the Roma or "travelling" community, and for no other reason than this is equally guilty of discrimination.

INDIRECT DISCRIMINATION

A translation company insists that all those applying for jobs as translators have driving licenses because there is an occasional need to deliver or collect work from clients. Since this bars some people with disabilities from applying and since driving is not a core requirement for doing the job, the company is effectively discriminating against this particular group of people, unless it can demonstrate that there is an objective and justifiable reason for the ban.

A department store introduces a ban on its employees wearing hats when serving costumers. The effect of this is to ban people whose religious beliefs require them to cover their heads, such as Muslim women, from working in the shop. The store is guilty of indirect discrimination, unless it can demonstrate that there is an objective and justifiable reason for the ban.

INSTRUCTION TO DISCRIMINATE

A dentist who instructs her receptionist not to register any patients from a particular part of the city where the large majority of residents belong to an ethnic minority community is guilty of discrimination in the same way as if she had directly turned away these patients herself.

Harassment

Someone with mental health problems is constantly

Justine 'I can draw' Nilsson

I'm just an incurable romantic soul who is generally all in a fluster. And get to hear it every once in a while by my friends.

Interests: drawing, Manga/Anime, fantasy, books, animals, etc.

Future plans: illustrator, cartoon-artist or working with animals.

Note: Justine drew all the illustrations in this edition. Editor



Boelspexarna

Boelspexarna är ett utskott inom AF. Det är ett spex med runt 100 personer i ensambeln. Karaktäristiskt för Boelspexarna är att det bara är tjejer på scen. Killar får däremot gärna vara med arbetet runtomkring.

Boelspexarna startades 1994 i samband med lundakarnevalen, där alla studentföreningar, spex och kårer blandas tillsammans.

Maria Thagg har varit aktiv i tre år, hon började först i sexmesteriet, men är nu förman och ytterst ansvarig för spexet. Hon är den som ser till att allt fungerar och är Boelspexarnas ansikte utåt. Man startade spexet för att i de spexen som redan fanns - toddyspexarna, lundaspexarna och jesperspexet - fick bara killar stå på scen. Som en motpol till dem vill man i Boelspexarna bara ha tjejer på scen.

Den huvudsakliga verksamheten är det årliga spexet som boelspexarna arrangerar varje höst. Under våren gör man en turne till vanligtvis någon sydligt belägen stad i Sverige med höstens uppsättning.

Under sommaren jobbar manusgruppen med manuset, och man skriver allt material själva. Manuset ska vara klart tills när höstterminen och intresseanmälningarna börjar.

För då, vid hälsningegillet, söker Boelspexarna efter folk som vill vara med och göra årets spex. Sedan görs en uttagning, och för dem som ska stå på scen, en provspelning.

- Om man verkligen vill vara med så syns det på en, och då kommer man med, säger Maria Thagg. *See page 6*

taunted by fellow workers because she has spent a short time in a psychiatric hospital. If she informs her superiors of what is happening and nothing is done about it, then she is entitled to bring a case of discrimination against her employer because of the harassment suffered.

A gay office worker is subjected to continuous verbal abuse about his sexual orientation from other people in the office. If his complaints to the office manager are ignored, then he is entitled to bring a case of discrimination against his employer.

See the full report in English and Swedish on the Swedish Board of Integration's homepage: www.integrationsverket.se

Maria Thagg När sedan repetitionerna börjar är det fyra veckor med repetitioner sex dagar i veckan fram till premiären. Man repar söndag till fredag med en fest på fredagen.

På frågan om hur man klarar skolan vid sidan om detta svarar Maria:

- Man är med för att man tycker det är jättekul!, man tycker inte att det är jobbigt att gå dit och då klarar man av att sköta skolan brevid. Repen varar mellan ca sex och nio. Man får då också mat, och man hade antagligen ändå inte pluggat under dom timmarna.



Resten av året, när inte spexet är, händer det inte så mycket inom boelspexarna. Det är lite olika fester inom olika sektioner.

Hur gör man då för att bli engagerad i boelspexarna?

- Man ska för det första komma på intresseanmälan som äger rum vid hälsningsgillet på höstterminen. Då får man info om vad man kan göra i spexet och man kan anmäla sig till det man vill göra. "Det är då man ska ta chansen".

Var vårens turné ska någonstans är ännu inte bestämt, eller så är det så pass lite bestämt att det fortfarande är en hemlighet. Maria Thagg berättar i alla fall mycket lite om vad som komma skall.

Namnet Boelspexarna kommer från Boel Flodgren, Lund Universitets första kvinnliga rektor. Hon är nu hedersmedlem och hedersgäst vid alla spex.

Man har vid några tillfällen haft utbytesstudenter med i spexet, men det kan bli svårigheter om man inte kan svenska eftersom spexet alltid görs och framförs på svenska. Maria Thagg säger att man har översatt några sånger till engelska några gånger, och att det hade varit kul att göra det mer internationellt för då kunde man åka utomlands på den obligatoriska turnén. Men än så länge finns det inga planer på det, det blir otroligt mycket jobb att översätta hela spexet. Men det finns såklart mycket annat att göra för dem som inte behärskar svenskan fullt ut.

Slutligen vill Maria Thagg understryka att alla får vara med och att alla är hjärtligt välkomna till intresseanmälningen i höst. Hon vill också dementera en stor missuppfattning om att man måste stå på scen för att vara med i spexet.

- I ensamblen ingår ca 100 personer, men det är bara runt tjugo som står på scenen.

Justin Nilsson

Why We Publish

Though Swedish is clearly the first language of Lund (after all, we are in Sweden), English is definitely the lingua franca of the non-Swedish community here, which is why we publish this newsletter with tips and information for you in English until you know enough Swedish to read Swedish newspapers. If you have an article or opinion that you would like to share with others, send it to us at thelundian@hotmail.com We publish articles in Swedish or English. (Pro-bono only, please.) www.thelundian.com

Jakob 'bla, bla, bla, bla' Lindholm

A very pleasant young man. He radiates an energy that makes his fellow comrades stay in a very energetic state of mind. He enjoys the art of music and movies. Jakob has



a very balanced state of mind and when Jakob's around there's not a dull moment of the day.

US Army buys Anti-armor Weapons, Training Systems from Swedish Saab

STOCKHOLM, April 19 (AFP) - The US Army has ordered anti-armor weapons specially developed for urban warfare from the Swedish high-tech company Saab, it said on Monday.

"The AT4 CS are short-distance weapons for one-time use aimed at taking out tanks," Anders Florenius, a spokesman for Saab business unit Bofors Dynamics, told AFP. Florenius refused to reveal how many of the weapons the US Army had ordered, or the value of the contract, which was finalized following a year-long qualification round.

"The value of this contract doesn't lie in this first order," he said. "It lies in the fact that the AT4 CS has passed the army's stringent qualification. We think there will be many more orders."

The US Army bought large quantities of AT4 CS's predecessor, the AT4 starting in the 1980s, according to Florenius, who said there hadn't been much competition for the contract. "They liked the predecessor, so they tested the next generation," he said.

Another Saab business unit, Saab Training Systems, also announced Monday that it had won a 14-million-dollar (11.6-million-euro) contract for delivering six instrumentation systems to the US Army.

"This is the first order from the US Army for the combat simulation systems for use in the US itself. They have been using the systems in Europe ... This confirms that the US Army is pleased with our product, and we hope they'll buy more," Saab Training Systems spokesman Lars Birging told AFP.

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The Daunting Challenge of Catching a Taxi at Copenhagen International Airport

Senai Terrefe

My wife, my three-year-old son and I, were the unfortunate victims of what I can only qualify as an overtly shocking racist act perpetrated by a Taxi driver at the Copenhagen International Airport. Although we were not physically assaulted the mistreatment we were inflicted by the Taxi driver and the events that ensued were nothing short of humiliating. The incident occurred on Sunday evening the 25th of April at approximately 20:00 hours. After waiting for several minutes in the rain, and being exhausted, my wife and I were guided by an airport security agent who saw us waiting in line. He identified a Taxi with sufficient space in the trunk to place our son's stroller.

Once our turn came we were relieved and asked the Taxi driver if we could get on board. At which point the driver rudely replied that he "wanted no babies" on board. Realizing how awkward his comment sounded in public, he then quickly fudged his initial response by stating that he had no child car seat available and hence could not take us. Next in line in the Taxi line, a couple belonging to the white Caucasian race were also waiting with a stroller carrying a child. Ignoring our request for transportation the Taxi driver offered them a ride instead. The tone of voice and attitude was markedly more polite and respectful than he had used with us, the contrast was quite glaring. In response, we reacted by saying that this was grossly unfair, as we were first in line and should be given headway. The white couple agreed we had priority as we were only stating what was blatantly obvious to everyone who witnessed the scene. Embarrassed by the turn of events he reluctantly agreed to take us on board.

Only a few seconds after we entered the car he continued to be loud and menacing. As my wife and I were carrying my three-year-old son in our arms in the backseat of the Taxi, we became increasingly fearful for our safety and that of our child on board. As we told him our destination the driver's hostility grew and his tone of voice remained highly pitched and deeply offensive. Although most of the words he uttered were in Danish which we did not completely understand, (my wife speaks Swedish) the words he spoke left no doubt about his reckless state of mind. We therefore asked the driver to let us off at the airport as we felt the journey would be unsafe with him as the driver. Deeply disturbed by the driver's incredibly offensive attitude, we decided to file a police complaint. We got off the Taxi and explained the incident to the airport security agent who had helped us to find the Taxi in the first place. He seemed equally at a loss of how to cope with the driver's aggressiveness. He stated that he "honestly did not understand why the driver was behaving in this manner". The driver still continued to gesticulate angrily even as he provided explanations to the agent until he was told to "cool off" by the agent who took the matter to the central police station at the Copenhagen Airport central police station.

At the Copenhagen Airport central police station, we were told that Danish law does not enable a person to press charges for abusive behavior if physical violence has not been perpetrated. Although I clearly explained to

the police officer that the Taxi driver was much more threatening than he appeared at the police station. I was told that I had to hire my own lawyer if I wanted to press charges. I was told to consider this an unfortunate incident and to avoid reckless taxis in the future. Perplexed by the rationale pursued by the police, my wife, child and I left the police station without feeling that any wrong was rectified or being any more secure to take another taxi from the airport. As a result we took the train to the subway station. The Train caused us to have 40 minute delay when compared to the time it would have taken us by Taxi minutes.

I do not know or inquire if the Taxi driver was originally a Dane or not because I do not judge or pre-judge a person based on his national origin, religion skin color or creed but by the content of his or her character. All I know, is that the Taxi driver had no valid reason not to take us on board, that he cannot select customers based on race let alone verbally abusive to them. Moreover, he cannot refuse to transport children because they are using strollers. It is my view that Taxi companies and law enforcement should ensure that such Taxi drivers are promptly sanctioned. Swift action will not only prevent such persons from doing harm to customers but will prevent tarnishing the country's image by holding abusive Taxi drivers to account. I am a citizen of the United States of America and my wife is a Swedish citizen, to put this incident into perspective, it must also be said that we are both of African origin. We are in Denmark for a limited time frame, I am an international lawyer by profession whilst my wife is pursuing higher studies in Business.

As I write about this incident the pervading sentiment I would like to share is one of profound disappointment. Thus far, I only had admiration for Denmark's fine arts and cultural heritage; the beauty of its Tivoli gardens. I also marveled at the degree of public discipline which causes Danes to stand up and leave their place when a mother or father enters Bus carrying a baby stroller. Another positive example of the place of infants in Danish society are the elevators that are provided to passengers at every railway and subway station. These practices, I had come to understand, reflect a genuine Scandinavian system of values that place children and family life in high esteem in all walks of life. In stark contrast, the treatment we experienced was one which is clearly at odds with such tradition and values and reminiscent of the most xenophobic societies in the world.

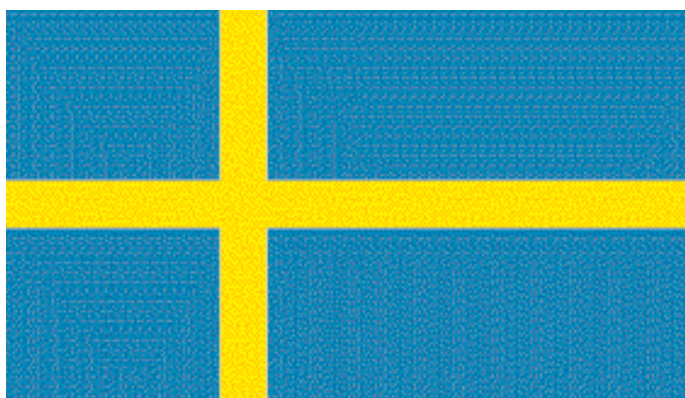
It is often said that a Taxi service is the mirror image of a society. I certainly would like to believe that the behavior of one isolated Taxi driver does not represent a wider trend. However, if such behavior continues unchecked among Taxi drivers it will become increasingly difficult for me to derive such a positive conclusion.

Senai Terrefe

*Mr. Senai Terrefe earned a Masters Degree in International Law and Human Rights (LL.M.). We are grateful to him for his article. Your pro bono articles are also welcome. Spell and grammar check (UK) before sending to: thelundian@hotmail.com.
Editor*

Learning About Sweden

This issue is about GV-I and the Swedish Flag. Read on.



Swedish History 101

Saturday 6 th June, we celebrate the national day and flag day of Sweden. The reason is King Gustav Vasa's coronation in June 1523 (Also known as GVI.) Here is a synopsis of the history:

*1520 GVI started a 'folk uprising' against the Danes and the 'Christian tyranny' that ruled the land.

*1521 GVI hailed as the nation's leader. Took Stockholm with the help of a metrology ship from Hansan in Lubeck.

*1523: 6th June GVI chosen as Swedish king - Gustav I Day. His accomplishments:

*1527 - GV-I pushed through a 'Reformation' and reorganized state administration.

1527-43 GVI put down many peasant uprisings, including Dackefejden (1543).

* 1544 - GVI made the monarchy inheritable and became himself in principle, sovereign

*1560 GVI died and was buried in Uppsala Cathedral.

THE SWEDISH FLAG

According to myth, the Swedish Flag originated when Erik the Holy saw 'a golden cross against a blue sky' in 1157. In 1275 Heraldic arms in blue and gold became the kings arms for Magnus Ladulås. In 1364 King Albrekt of Mecklenburg determines the official Swedish Arms. In 1448 Karl VIII unites the royal and state arms, with a cross in the middle. This can be the source of the current flag. In 1569 Johan III Establishes that 'a gold cross' shall always decorate Swedish flags, banners and military insignia. In 1663 the Swedish flag's design ('blue with a gold cross') becomes officially decided in the 1663 flag law. The Tricolour (three tongued variant) becomes 'our, and the state's flag'.

THE PRESENT-DAY FLAG

In 1894 a flag in lighter colours was presented and in 1906 Flag Day was officially adopted. In 1916 June 6th became the un-official national day in character with Sweden's flag day. In 1983, June 6th became Sweden's official National Day.

Source: The Swedish Institute

Summer Calendar

Important Dates to Know About in Sweden. Some stores and services may be closed or slowed down on some of the following days.

20 May Ascension Day

26 May Shavout

30 May Mother's Day (Mors dag)

30 May Pentacost (Pingstdagen)

31 May Pentacost Monday

06 June Swedish Flag Day

06 June Swedish National Day

25 June Midsummer Eve

26 June Midsummer Day

Source: 2004 World Almanac and Book of Facts. A New York Times Book

GOOD SUMMER READING...

TITLE: YOUR RIGHTS TO LEGAL PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION IN SWEDEN. Published by English International Association of Lund. 2004.

THIS BOOK describes and analyzes Swedish laws designed to protect vulnerable groups such as migrants and ethnic minorities from discrimination. It is largely focused on protections adopted prior to the adoption of Council Directive 200:43:EC (of 29 June, 2000) which, in Article 27, calls upon European member States to take all necessary steps to ensure that they can at all times guarantee the results imposed by its principles.

The main focus of the book is on applying the rights described in the Migrant Worker Convention (1990) to immigrants in Sweden. I say yes, because even though the term "migrant worker" may not be a comfortable one for many persons, and may not apply to all categories of immigrants, it broadens the playing field of protection from discrimination in areas that are not covered by existing human rights treaties or national laws. This makes the term migrant worker— and the rights described in the new Convention — an additional tool to use in the protection of the migrants to Sweden who, one way or another, eventually become a part of the national labour force.

The intended audience for this material are those who have a serious need to understand Swedish laws that protect its foreign born residents and citizens from all types of discrimination. This includes lawyers, politicians, sociologists, scholars, government officials, private employers, county officials, educators, NGOs and anti-discrimination bureau personnel (ADB) who are engaged in that struggle. It is written in English to enable members of the international community to share views and opinions on Swedish laws with their many English-speaking Swedish colleagues. Hopefully, many others will find it useful.

M. Arthur Diakit  Lund 046 - 211 2825

Dear Members of English International,
We need you to volunteer for a forthcoming activity this summer. Please call us at:

046 211 2825

Thanks, Activities Committee