

Networks Host a Conference on Diversity**"Dallas" Diabaté and Rahel Haile.**

LUND, SEPTEMBER 19TH. (Culture Day / Night I LUND). A warm and sunny autumn day contributed to the success of the newly-built Afro-Swedish Cultural Society and the African Swedish Diaspora Network conference in Lund on this year's "Lund Culture Day". Entitled "Strength in Diversity", the conference offered its audience a full afternoon of seminars on the importance of supporting young people in their effort to diversify and integrate in Lund.

Lund's City Hall auditorium was the venue of the conference which had Daniel Rubenson, an engineer living in Lund as the moderator. The list of [See page 2](#)

Sweden's Student Nations

What would Lund be without all its student unions, you might ask. To most of those who study at the university, it's normal that you should become a member of one of the student unions. But what is a student union really, and why is it so important for young students to belong to one?

At the universities of Lund and Uppsala, it has obligatory since 1667 to be a member of one of the many unions. The unions themselves are student associations with connection to the universities. Most of the unions don't have any political stance, both run restaurants and libraries for the students and arrange housing for its members. The Swedish and Finnish student unions can be traced back to universities in the late Middle Ages in Paris and Bologna, among others, where students were split into different organizations depending on where they came from, geographically.

The unions are supervised by an inspector, originally a professor who, on behalf of the university, supervised how the students were doing. Nowadays, the inspector

Photos from the Conference...**Two Speakers from the "Green Youth" Party.****Resident of Lund and Lundian Subscriber Armelindo Kanjungo was one of the first guests.****Andy, Enid, Rahel, Angelina (and husband) and The Lundian publisher M. A. Diakité (showing the book).****Text and Photos: Monique Fransen****IN THIS ISSUE --**

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Conference on Diversity speakers was a mixture of politicians and officials from Lund and Malmö.

After a brief introduction of Rahel Haile, an active member of the Afro-Swedish Cultural Association, the legendary Dially Mory "Dallas" Diabaté briefed the audience on his work with young people in Rosengård, Malmö. Other speakers from Malmö were Andreas Konstatinidis and Torbjörn Karlsson from the City of Malmö, Rolf Tufvesson from Region Skåne, Esmael Salehi from the County Board of Skåne, and Braemar Sager from the Emergency Services of Skåne. Lund Municipal politicians Mats Person and Mats Helmfrid Person told of their experiences and ambitions in Lund, and Berndt Clavier from Malmö University (IMER) briefed the audience on migration and international and ethnic relations.

After a short pause we heard from Andy Collins from "Urban Life", Stockholm), Jonas Otterback from Lund University, Madubuko A. Diakité of the African Swedish Diaspora Network and Elizabeth Kaleebi of JP Factor (Malmö), hip-hop singer Behrang Miri and Nathalie Fältlöv of Project MINE. A number of youth representatives from local political parties, the Free Church and an environmental organization also gave briefings. Unfortunately, Helena Jacobsson, the integration coordinator for Lund Municipality and Christina Merker-Siesjö of the Rosengård/European Social Fund, were not able to attend.

There were a number of exhibitions that contribute to the environment: Sara Nikiito showed her beautifully patterned children's clothing (African patterns) and the African Swedish Diaspora network had copies of AFRICAN SWEDISH VOICES (Ed., Kolade Stephens, Notis Publishers, 2009) for sale. The Environment organization Green Youth also had a table with information and materials for distribution. Lund's municipal umbrella group for immigrant associations, LIFS, offered low-priced coffee and sandwiches.

All participants and speakers agreed that the arrangement was a very good initiative and that there is a great need for more like that efforts.

The event ended with a live performance of Afrobeat and hip-hop artist Behrang Miri. Text & Photos. M. Fransen.



Top to bottom: Behrang Miri, Elizabeth Kaleebi, M. A. Diakité and Dially Mory "Dallas" Diabaté

How Foreign Students Can Work in Sweden

Foreign students can now work in Sweden year-round. Check with the local labour office for exact details. Meanwhile, take note of the following:

Civil registration. If you move to Sweden and intend living here for at least one year, you normally have to be registered as a resident. The Tax Authority can tell you more about the rules of civil registration in Sweden.

National Registration Numbers. Every person registered as a resident in Sweden is allotted a national registration number. This number is composed by the tax authority at the time of registration.

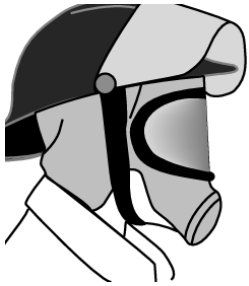
Social Security. The rights of EU/EEA citizens to social benefits and their liability for social security contributions are governed by the EU rules and the EEA Agreement. Citizens of non-EU/EEA countries come under the Nordic Social Security Convention. Social security charges payable in Sweden are normally paid by the employer, but the basic health insurance contribution and the general funding charge

for cash unemployment benefits are paid by the employee and are deducted at source, together with preliminary tax.

Tax liability / Less than six months

If you stay in Sweden for less than six months, your tax liability is limited. This means that you only have to pay tax on certain kinds of income originating in Sweden and not on income received, for example, in your country of domicile. Taxable earned income is subjected either to special income tax for persons domiciled abroad (SINK) or special income tax for artists, athletes etc. domiciled abroad (LSI). ***Six months or more.*** Your tax liability in Sweden depends on how long you stay here. If you stay in Sweden for a continuous period of six months or more, your tax liability will normally be considered unlimited. This means that you are fiscally equated with persons domiciled in Sweden. You will then be liable for tax on all income acquired in Sweden and abroad.

For more information: Contact your local Employment Office if you want to work in Sweden.



How to Fight Colds and the Flu in Sweden

NOTE: NONE OF THIS IS MEDICAL ADVICE, BUT HEED IT AND YOU MIGHT STAY HEALTHY.

WINTERS IN SWEDEN can be harsh and very cold for people from warmer climates. That is why the advice for the winter months is: 1) DRESS WARMLY

- wear wool clothing, warm jackets and coats, sweaters, wool socks, gloves and use a scarf around your neck. Above all, wear a decent winter coat, preferably one that covers your knees and legs. 2) VITAMINS SUCH AS E, AND C (oranges, tangerines, grapefruits and other juices) help your resistance to colds. Ask for them at your health food store or local super market. 3) ECHINACEA. At the first sign of a cold, take some Echinacea +. Ask for this miracle home-remedy at your local health-food store. Some grocery stores also carry it. It really works at the first sign of a cold if you take it as prescribed. 4) COLD AIR. Avoid unnecessary drafts, like the window being open on cold nights. Below freezing air blowing into a window brings only one thing into a room: cold air. 5) SNEEZES. AVOID SNEEZING PEOPLE. Try to avoid facing people who are sneezing. It may appear rude, but try not to shake their hands (in fact, washing hands regularly helps avoid transmitting cold bacteria. But then you know that, right?), and face the other direction when in a crowded room or elevator with them. 6) COUGH MEDICINES AND SYRUPS - should be taken if you have a cough that persists. Health food stores carry some good ones, and the personnel understand

English if you speak slowly and demonstrate that you have a cough - which should be easy if you have a cold. 7) HOT CHICKEN SOUP. It may sound ridiculous, but getting a friend to make you some hot chicken soup which you can regularly take during your cold really works. It's a miracle, to say the least, so keep some hot chicken soup around. It will do you good. 8) THE DOCTOR. When all these precautions fail (and they will if you run around in sandals, shorts and a tee shirt during the winter), go see a doctor if the cough is really bad, and don't wait too long to do so. Get plenty of rest. xxxx

Why We Publish in English



Though Swedish is clearly the first language of Lund (after all, we are in Sweden), English has always been the lingua franca of the Swedish academic community. This is why The English International Association of Lund publishes this newsletter with tips and information for you in English until you know enough Swedish to read Swedish newspapers. If you have an article (pro-bono only, please.) or opinion that you would like to share with others, send an inquiry at englintern@hotmail.com. We publish articles in Swedish or English and have a website: www.thelundian.com

Student Nations has only a ceremonial role, but sometimes he or she acts as the chairman of the unions board. The daily work at the unions is lead by several people entitled "kurator" (welfare officer), who all belong to the enforcing management group called "kuratelet".



Lunds Nation

Lunds Nation - During its first term, the union had 67 members, compared to today's 5,000.

Most unions in Lund were formed a long time ago; the first one was created in the late 1660's while the latest one was created in 1928.

In Lund there are 13 unions spread all over town. All of them are named after some Swedish town or district. Originally every student was a member of the union that represented his or her home town/district, but today each student chooses freely which union he or she would like to belong to.

The student unions in Lund mainly dedicate themselves to organizing student social activities in order to guard the students well being alongside their studies, but all unions today have different ways for you to achieve happiness, which means that your own interests play a large part in choosing union.

All unions in Lund are non-profit associations. That means that all students who work for a union do this on a volunteer basis. But that's never a problem because

the students who decide to volunteer gain a lot by engage in the activities. The unions in Lund run many different projects, and arrange all kinds of different events, such as dinners, lunches, as well as night-clubs and restaurants, and since the unions aren't trying to gain any profit from their activities, the prices are some of the lowest in town.

The unions in Lund also have access to different student stipends that they award to their members. The union's basic thought is to make studying in Lund a fun time, and bring those who study together under the same roof. They create friendships among the students and the family feeling is an important part of it, especially if you arrive from far away just in order to study in Lund.

But even if you don't belong to a union, and still want to participate in their activities, there is something called the student union fee, which is a fee paid to the union in order to get a student identification card, which gives you access to all the activities that the different unions arrange.

Some facts about the nations in Lund:

Smålands Nation - This union is mainly known for its obvious socialistic profile and is the one union in Lund that still has a clear political stance. The union of Småland is also the only one of the 13 unions that has decided to stay out of Akademiska Föreningen, since they in the 70's then decided that they didn't want non-students isolated from students, which is a belief that still lives in the union's arrangements. The union today has 1,800 members and is situated at Kastanjegatan in central Lund.

Malmö Nation - In 1967, the union debated if it should start "slabbing", which is an unpretentious form of disco dancing in dark

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Student Nations

basements where lots and lots of alcohol is consumed in plastic mugs. The decision appears to have been a positive one, since the union quickly became most popular one.

Helsingkrona Nation – Every year in the first weekend of October, this union arranges its yearly ball, called Snörsjöabalen, which got its name from a bog in Småland. The union's name is a result of a union merger between Landskrona and Helsingborg.

Kristianstads Nation - This union's yearly ball is called "Snappehane-festen". Their colours are blue, yellow and red, taken from the colours of the city's coat of arms.

Sydsånska Nationen - Every year in the middle of March, the union arranges their ball with the name Knävilingagillet.

Blekingska Nationen - On 26th November 1993, the club master Urban Jürgensen arranged a Friday club, with alternative music, and unlike the Friday club they already had, it was a big success. A year later, Klubb Indigo started in order to attract new members and the club was already from the beginning aimed at the alternative styles. The unions' yearly ball is celebrated in the third week of November and is called "Höstblotet".

Hallands Nation - The union of Halland is the

youngest union in Lund. Not long after it was founded, the rules were changed and it is today no longer possible to start a new union in Lund.

Kalmar Nation - Since 1897, the union of Kalmar has arranged plenty of "Kroppkakefester", and it is today a very popular party. It is the oldest student ball in Lund and is arranged every second year.

Wermlands Nation - When this union was founded in 1682, and started with only four members

Göteborgs Nation - 1964 the nation arranged its first Gustav Adolf-ball, which today has grown to being the second biggest yearly dress suit party in Scandinavia (the Noble party is number one). The GA-ball is held in connection with Gustav Adolf's day in November at AF in order to celebrate the King who founded Göteborg. This union is still one of the smallest unions in Lund with only 1,600 members.

Sources: www.wikipedia.se; www.studentlund.se

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Autumn Holidays in Sweden

SEPTEMBER: There are no big, major red-letter holidays in Sweden during August, September and October, but there are a number of days worth taking note of. September 20th is the day of the

Autumn Solstice, and the clock lose an hour when they go off the daylight savings time they were on since April. Nevertheless, there are lots of occasions to have fun in Sweden during the autumn.

ALL SAINTS' DAY. This holiday is now celebrated on the Saturday following the 30th October. Families lay wreaths and flowers on the graves of their loved ones. There is also Halloween events amongst students.

ST. MARTIN'S DAY or "Martin Goose" St. Martin's Day is celebrated on the 11th of November, especially in Southern Sweden. Roast goose is the traditional dish this day, even though most Swedes have long since left the farm and St. Martin's has lost its importance

FATHER'S DAY. Father's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in November. Modeled on Mother's Day, this festival has spread from Sweden to the other Nordic countries. These are followed by the longest holiday season in Sweden, Christmas, New Year and Epiphany.xxxx



WIN A TRIP TO COPENHAGEN

Write a brief article and take photos about how and why you like Lund. If selected, your story will win you a trip to Copenhagen. Info: The Editor: thelundian@hotmail.com.

Respect Swedish Laws...

Regardless of your citizenship, or if you are a student, researcher or a refugee, here are some common-sense things not to do in Sweden. Committing some are a criminal offense that is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. In some cases you could get deported after being punished. So if you know that you can't do the time - don't do the crime!

Do Not smuggle in or use narcotic drugs. Do not drink and drive. The allowed alcohol in your blood when driving is 0.2 promile. With 1.0 promile you will be sent to prison for drunk driving. Do not drive without a license. Do not litter. Do not use racial, ethnic or homophobic slurs to offend someone. Do not get into physical fights, even if you feel you did not start a confrontation. Do not engage in forced sex, i.e., rape. (This goes for females forcing males, too!) It is also a crime to walk around naked, to urinate or defecate in public in Sweden. Do not engage in forgery or fraud, such as a Pyramid or other confidence game. Do not "buy" an obvious piece of stolen property. If you find someone else's property (like an unlocked bike, a watch or a wallet) the law requires you to take or send it to the local police station. The phone number to the local police station in Lund is 046-16 50 00. P.S. If you do get arrested on suspicion of committing a crime in Sweden, there is NO BAIL. The prosecutor has between one and five days to decide to prosecute because the evidence points to a serious crime - or release you if it doesn't. If evidence supports the suspicions, the local court will order you held for an additional 15 days, after which you will have your first hearing. Further investigation means you will be held till trial. A lawyer will be appointed for you by the court if you cannot afford one. Information about driving in Sweden in English is at: www.vv.se. Check with a lawyer. Most of them speak good English and you'll find them under "Advokat" or "Jurist" in the Swedish Yellow Pages. xxxx

