

Thousands of Foreign Students Arrived in Lund this Autumn. "The Largest Group Ever."



LUND. THE CITIZENS of Lund opened their hearts and warmly welcomed the largest number of foreign students ever to arrive at one time in Sweden's "biggest little city." Foreign students filled the streets of central Lund and the halls of the AF building with their back-packs, books and thousands of questions to staff and anyone else who just happened to be in their paths. Everyone obliged them.

The rumor that there wouldn't be enough rooms for them faded as university officials, county government politicians and ordinary citizens opened their homes to those students who were either too late or too early to register for a dorm room. Everybody got a place to stay.

The Lundian volunteers who gave out information on the International Student's information day expected as many as 1,800 student. Anja Hartnor, Betsai Goitan, and Amir Ressaissi were there giving out information about The Lundian, English International, and Radio AF to the students when they arrived.

Exact statistics are hard to come by, but lots of foreign languages besides German, English, French and Italian can now be heard in the halls of the AF building these days.

And everyone seems to be having fun.

Ole!



Radio International

(99.1, 99.9 FM)

Welcome to Lund!

International students make up an important part of the flavor of the multi-cultural city of Lund. As part of an ever-growing group of foreign residents including immigrants, researchers, professionals, etc, international students have a voice that needs to be heard.

International Radio is the radio program by international students for international students. Broadcasting in English every Monday from 16-17 on Lund University's Radio AF 99.1 FM, the show mixes news, info, humor, music, opinions and observations, with the international perspective in mind.

Sponsored by the International Secretariat of Lund University and the English International Association of Lund, the show needs volunteers to host, operate the mixer board, do reports, and generally contribute to the program's success!

If radio broadcasting sounds like fun (and it is!), please get in touch with us soon. Sharon Bowker and I would love to have you as a regular host on Radio International.

I can be reached at: eric@radioaf.com; Sharon can be reached at: sharon.bowker@intsek.lu.se.

"Radio" Regards,
E.I. DJ volunteers,
Radio International
c/o

Radio AF, Sandgatan 2 (2nd floor), Lund

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Guest Editor Anja Hartnor | 2 |
| Lundian's Shopping Guide | 3 |
| Liberia, News Briefs | 7 |
| This Season | 8 |

Take Action Now!

Guest Editorial

© 2003 Anja Hartnor

May I have your attention for a few minutes?

I would like to tell you about a project that I worked with during my stay in Kenya in April 2003. I lived in a Masai area called Laikipia and I stayed in a small hut in a small village called Ilpoliei outside Dol-dol. The head office of the project was right in the heart of Dol-dol. The project is run by a local Kenyan NGO called Impact, and their main goal now is to see that justice is served to the hundreds of Masai women who have accused British Army soldiers of raping them while they were out fetching water, firewood or tending their cattle. The number of accusations has so far reached a total of 650, and the women say that this has been going on for over 30 years. The British soldiers have had permission to pursue their annual military maneuvers in the Masai area and this agreement is something that is between the Kenyan and British governments. It has brought to the area horrible consequences, such as rape, gang rape and systematic abuse of the Masai women. One woman told me during an interview how the soldiers had fought amongst themselves about who was going to rape her first.

Impact (the NGO) is in the midst of fighting for justice for the Masai women. A case was won last year against British soldiers who had left unexploded bombs and mines behind in the area, and the Masai received economic compensation. Martyn Day was their lawyer then and is their lawyer during the current case as well. Day has said that there is proof of knowledge that such horrible crimes have been occurring but the British officers in charge never took any action or made any formal charges against the perpetrators. He stresses that the reason why the Masai women haven't come out more strongly with their accusations is that rape in the Masai culture is considered dishonouring and mostly the victim's fault, and is followed by rejection and stigmatisation of the victim. One woman told us that she was thrown out of her own home by her husband. Many lost the chance to continue their studies, due to pregnancy and family rejection and the consequent lack of support. Today the women are stronger and it is thanks to lawyers and organisations such as Martyn Day, Impact and Amnesty International that the women have come this far in their struggle for justice.

Britain is today one of the biggest sources of aid (in the form of loans) to Kenya and that creates a dependent relationship on the part of the Kenyan people. The indigenous people, the Masai, need to strike back and reclaim what was once taken away from them, their own

bodies, their human rights and their land. It is not OK for one country to throw away the lawbook while visiting another country for whatever reason. I would like to challenge you readers to take action now! It won't take more than 5 minutes of your time but it could change the lives of over 600 Masai women.

Amnesty has created an Immediate Action campaign and your support would be to send an already composed e-mail to the Prime Minister of Britain, Tony Blair, asking him to deal with this case in an independent and impartial manner. If the Masai women win their case, they stand to receive collective compensation, and more importantly, acknowledgement on the part of the British military that crimes have been committed and will not be tolerated now or in the future!

Visit www.amnesty.org and read the article "UK:reports of hundreds of rapes of Kenyan women by UK Army personnel shrouded by impunity", read and copy the letter at the bottom. Go to <http://number-10.gov.uk/output/page821.asp>., select a subject, choose CRIME, click on GO, then paste in the letter, give your full name and e-mail address and sign it. Submit it and then you're done. It won't take long, but it will mean so much to so many people. If you have any questions please e-mail me: (Attn: AnjaB in subject field) englintern@hotmail.com or leave a message at: "The Lundian", 046 - 211 2825.

Anja Hartnor.

Anja Hartnor is a Swedish-American student who has just completed a development studies course at Tomelila Folkhögskol. She spent four months in East Africa (Egypt, Uganda, Kenya) as an intern with a women's self-help organisation. Ms Hartnor is now doing another internship at Amnesty International, Malmö. She will prepare articles and be a guest on Radio International in the near future.
Editor



Anja Hartnor

Know Your Rights

As a foreign student, researcher or naturalized Swedish citizen, you have rights you may not be aware of. If you want to learn about your basic human rights such as the right to non-discriminatory treatment and/or the right to vote in local elections (if you have a permanent residence permit), call and make an appointment:
Telephones: 070 - 654 2126 or 046-211 2825.

Why We publish the Lundian

Lund receives more guest researchers and foreign students than statistics can accurately show. 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.

To learn more about The English International Association of Lund or to subscribe to The Lundian, visit our website: www.thelundian.com or send us an e-mail: thelundian@hotmail.com or give us a call at: 046-211 2825.

News Briefs and Contributions

Liberia: The Sad Story From Firestone

© 2003 by Charles Massaquoi

I was born and bred in Firestone Margibi County. To the outside world the Firestone Plantation Company was a nice place to work and earn a living. In fact, in the 50s and 60s Firestone was competing with companies in Malaysia and Brazil. One of the largest rubber plantations in the world is in Harbel Firestone (Liberia). But there is a dark side to the Firestone story. It was a place where one group of people exploited another, mainly the plantation workers.

Firestone is an American Company based in Ohio. America purports to be a champion of human rights. In Liberia those who worked at the rubber plantation were denied the most elementary rights and decencies. Firestone made huge sums of money in Liberia, but the plantation workers benefited little from Firestone's profit. The monthly salary for some of the workers was pocket money.

My late father Samuel L. Massaquoi worked for the Firestone Plantation Company for 20 unbroken years. He was an overseer. We lived in a red-brick house, but there was no electricity and running water. I remember as a child we used to run to the creek to get drinking water. The light from the kerosene lamp was the only light we had at night. After my father retired in the 70's the family moved to Totota Bong county. While it is true that Firestone built elementary schools, provided free medical care and housing, there was no high school for 25 years. The population in Firestone was approximately 40,000. My oldest sister, who is currently residing in Switzerland, attended the Konola Academy. To travel to Konola was quite a distance, but my sister had no other choice. The authorities at Firestone were under pressure to build a high school.

News Brief...News Briefs....

DIVERSITY IN SWEDEN. Foreign born doctors are the highest number of employed immigrants in Sweden (20.7%) according to a survey by the Swedish County Association (Svenska Kommunförbundet) and the Bureau of Central Statistics (Statistiska Centralbyrån). The survey showed a bar-graph with the percentages of foreign-born persons in various professions. The second highest number of foreign-born workers in Sweden are cleaning personnel (18.3%). Other professions filling the gaps included dentists (12.5%), psychologists (12.4%), nurses aides (9.7%), high school teachers (7.%) and doctors secretaries (4.9%). The lowest percentage of foreign-born persons working was for fire-fighters: 2%. (See Kerstin Hansson, SDS 12 August: "Landstingen bäst på mångfald")

CONFLICTS IN AFRICA, the title of a seminar sponsored by SIDA that will take place in Stockholm on the 30th September. The place: Hörsalen, Sveavägen 20, from 1 – 5 p.m.

Information: mittafrika@hotmail.com

Commission on Human Rights Report. The report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (first and second sessions) is now available. You'll find the report at www.un.org (E/CN.4/2003/21).

ANTI-RACIST CENTRE IN SWEDEN. An NGO center for information and support against racism is being established in Sweden. It will be known as the Center Against Racism and is initially being supported by the Swedish Board of Integration.

NADIA JEBRIL (20), the Swedish-born Muslim lady who was denied a job as a presenter on State-run Swedish TV last year because she wears a scarf has finally won her battle to get a job there. Swedish TV has now backed down and Nadia will wear her headpiece while doing a program series entitled "Eat", which premieres next spring. The program will feature the many types of meals now being eaten in Sweden thanks to diversity. Nadia was awarded the English International Human Rights Award for 2002 at its annual meeting earlier this year.

In the 80's the Government of Liberia under the leadership of the late William R. Tolbert obliged Firestone to build a high school. The Staff, which included some Liberians, were living in bungalows built by Firestone. Their children were sent aboard to further their education. Some enrolled at the University of Liberia and a few in high schools in the Liberian capital Monrovia. The Liberian staff had access to electricity and standby generators. The plantation workers were in a dreadful plight. Their fellow Liberians were well aware of the problems, but they turned a blind eye in order to keep their jobs.

After operating in Liberia for a century, the Americans left the country when the contract with the Liberian Government was finally over. Today there is a democratically elected government in Liberia headed by Charles G. Taylor. His government has been asked on several occasions to resolve the conflicts in Firestone. Firestone is being managed by another company. The issue of human rights remains a question.

CM

U.N. Wants to Spread Its Tentacles to Churches

(UPI, Monday, July 14, 2003)

ASAN CITY, South Korea. At the next meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in September, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines is to present a formal proposal for the establishment of an Inter-religious Council at the world body. It would be an institutional part of the United Nations, with status similar to that of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council or the Trusteeship Council. At her meeting with President Bush at the White House in May, Arroyo suggested the United States might want to co-sponsor the proposal. Bush, a practicing Christian with a keen sense of the power of religion, expressed deep interest and asked his NSA advisor, Condoleezza Rice, to study the matter. In fact, Dr. Rice already knew of the plan. Two of her aides, Karen Brook and James Moriarty, had already been briefed on the plan by the speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives, Jose de Venecia, who has waged a campaign for such a religious infusion into the work of the United Nations. "We in the Philippines feel that President Bush should try and avert the confrontation with the Muslim world that seems to threaten," de Venecia then wrote to Rice, in a letter which United Press International now has a copy. "And while the really grievous need is for a global Christian-Muslim dialog, the effort must also encompass Buddhists, Hindus, Confucians and Jews, heads of churches, temples, synagogues and mosques, political leaders as well as representatives of global civil society." The idea is not entirely new. Even before the United Nations was founded in 1945, the English Bishop Bell of Chichester suggested the formation of an Advisory Committee of religions to work with the United Nations, an idea quashed by the atheist Soviet Union. But the United Nations has already granted observer status to the left-leaning World Council of Churches, and a number of religious bodies and their associated non-governmental organizations are affiliated with UNESCO. 'Resource Body' for the U.N. In August 2000, as part of the U.N.'s Millennium events, 1,000 religious and spiritual leaders met at the U.N. and established a new World Council. But they decided to retain their independence from the U.N. structure and to act instead "as a resource body for the Secretary-General and the U.N." The proposal for an Inter-religious Council to become a formal part of the U.N. structure is ambitious and new, and de Venecia has put his formidable energies behind the task of winning political support through his connections with "Christian Democrat" parties around the world, and particularly in Europe. This may be a timely idea.

Submitted by James Houston, Jr., Malmö, Sweden.

Mr. Charles Massaquoi and Mr. James Houston are regular pro bono contributors to The Lundian. Editor.

Från: The English International
Association of Lund
Box 722
22007 Lund
Sweden

B Föreningsbrev

SIGHTSEEING IN LUND

Sightseeing tours in English can be arranged for you at the **Tourist Office, Kyrkogatan 11, Lund** (opposite the Cathedral). **Phone: 046-35 50 40**



Foreign Student Photo Contest

Take a picture in Lund, send it to
thelundian@hotmail.com



The farmers' market at Mårtenstorget.



Oh -- What A Party

Some Recommended Reading*

If you really want to know about Sweden and Swedish people, here are some books you might want to read:

Traditional Festivities in Sweden, by Ingmar Liman.
Swedish Institute Publication

Lund Cathedral (Arken Books). A great little hand
book about the Cathedral in Lund

Samhälls Guiden (A Swedish guidebook on your
rights and duties in Sweden)

The Lundian: An International Magazine (Our
newsletter). www.thelundian.com

Sweden News: www.sweden.se

* Some of these books are available at the local library.

HEY! YOUR OPINION MATTERS !

Do you have any opinions or articles in English you
want to share with other Lundian readers? Are you a
good writer who can also edit text.

If so, call us at: 046-211 28 25 or e-mail to:
thelundian@hotmail.com.

Till:

Happenings Around Our Town

September-October-November

Every Monday, Radio International, 4 - 5
pm. on 99.1 and 99.9 FM. To join up and be
a guest on the radio show, write to
thelundian@hotmail.com .

October

24/10: UN Day. Lots of events around town.
30/10: Halloween in the US, but it has
become a light-hearted day of fun here in
Sweden too. Especially in Lund. Watch out
for witches and goblins. Have fun.

November

1/11: All Saints Day. The day of
remembrance for those who are no longer
with us. Light a candle.

xxx

Who Lives in Lund?

Lund. Lunds statistic section newsletter, *Lundasiffor 2003:3*,
published that on December 31, 2002, 6,814 of the total
population of 100,402 persons in Lund were foreign citizens
(6,8% of the total population). The figure does not include
naturalized Swedish citizens, but only those holding foreign
citizenship. Foreign citizens living in Lund increased that year
by 57 persons in 130 different nationalities. The regional
totals: 1,421 Scandinavians, 1,336 EU Citizens, 1,100 non-
EU Europeans, 340 Africans, 557 North Americans, 182
South Americans, 1,747 Asians, 67 Oceanians, 25 stateless
and 39 from unkonwn regions or countries.

A copy of Lund County newsletter *Lundasiffor 2003:3* is
available at the City Library. Just ask for it there. You can also
call the Drättselkontor: *Drättselkontor: 046- 35 50 00*