

## FOREIGN STUDENTS' ISSUE



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.

If you are a foreign student or a guest researcher you will find Lund a charming city, and *The Lundian* a helpful newsletter. See our website: [www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com) Editor.

### 2010 is an Election Year in Sweden

This year's general election in Sweden will be held on Sunday, the 19th of September. Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (photo at bottom left) leader of the governing coalition Alliance for Sweden, and his conservative Moderate Party is facing a tough election battle against the opposing Red-Greens socialist coalition led by Mona Sahlin, leader of the Swedish Social Democratic Party (photo at bottom right). Good luck to all.



Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt  
Photo by Powel Flato



Opposition leader Mona Sahlin  
Lundian archive photo

### Statistics on Who's Who in Lund

Ten years ago there were 127 different nationalities living in Lund, 1,358 (21%) coming from a Scandinavian country. There were a total of 13,943 persons in Lund who were either born abroad or are had an immigrant background. Of this total, 6,514 were citizens of another country, while the rest were Swedish citizens. The largest numbers of foreign nationals living in Lund then were from Denmark (506), the USA (436), Iraq (414), Germany (376), Finland (350), Poland (345), Great Britain and Northern Ireland (295), China (286), Norway (265), and Iceland (237). Africa had 333 persons, the largest from Ethiopia (54). Today there are 109 thousand people in Lund, and 4.8% are foreign born. Source: *Statistics Central Bureau, www.scb.se. See page 6.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editorial

Your Right to Vote

News and Facts about Sweden

Survival Guide

# STUDENT NEWS

## OBEY THE LAWS OF SWEDEN

Regardless of your citizenship or social status (student, researcher, immigrant or asylum-seeker), please respect the laws of Sweden. Serious offenses could land you in prison and/or deportation. If you know that you can't do the time...don't do the crime. Here's a short-list of some dos and don'ts:

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. 1.0 promile will land you in jail for drunk driving. Do not drive without a valid 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 applies to same sex persons too. 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 a wallet or an unlocked bike, a watch or other items, 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 046-165000. Do not walk around naked, urinate or defecate in public. If you 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 or not. If it doesn't, you will be released; if it does the court will order you held for 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. Check with a lawyer on these questions. Most of them speak good English. You'll find them under "Advokat" in the Swedish Yellow Pages. XXX

## TRAFFIC RULES FOR CYCLISTS IN SWEDEN

Biking around town is the cheapest way to get around Lund, but there are rules, and if you break them, you could pay a fine -- or even go to jail. So, to scare you before you get on a bike here are some helpful tips (rules): You must wear a helmet if you are under 15. Do not bike if you are under the "influence" of alcohol. Stay on the bike paths, follow road signs, stop at stop lights and stop signs. Adopt your speed to a safe level for others. Make a hand signal before turning or switching roadways. Use the bell when necessary. You must have a light on the front, back, and a reflector on each wheel when dark. You aren't allowed to take more people on a bike than what it is built for. Failure to follow any one of these rules and a cop can stop you and you could get fines ranging from 400 to 600 SEK. Biking through a red light: 600 sek., biking without lights: 300 sek., biking up a one-way street: 400 sek. Bike Carefully.

The Editor

## FOREIGN STUDENTS CAN WORK IN SWEDEN

The law allows foreign students to work in Sweden year-round, such as during Christmas, Easter and during the summer break. To find out more about this get in touch with the Swedish Department of Labour (Arbetsförmedling) at Stora Södergatan 49, Lund. Open after 10 am. xxx

## WHAT WILL YOU DO THIS AUTUMN? PARTY...PARTY...PARTY!

**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 Solistice, and we lose an hour when we go off the daylight savings time we have been on since April.

**October:** *ALL SAINTS' DAY.* This holiday is of rather recent vintage in Sweden. Popular demand for a holiday honouring the memory of departed friends and relatives grew steadily through the course of the first half of the present century. Two world wars undoubtedly did their part in feeding the demand, as did increased contact with Catholic cultures. As a result, for the first time in modern Swedish history a holiday was reinstated in the Swedish calendar in 1952. All Saints' Day is now celebrated on the Saturday following the 30th October. Families lay wreaths and flowers on the graves of their loved ones. As night falls, graveyards are aglow with twinkling candles and lanterns.

**November:** *ST. MARTIN'S DAY,* or "Martin Goose". St. Martin's Day is celebrated on the 11th of November, especially in Southern Sweden. Originally in memory of St. Martin of Tours, the festival has also come to be associated with Martin Luther, who is celebrated the day before.

*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. Commercial interests have been the driving force behind this festivity from

the beginning, and the Father's Day gift is a prominent feature of its observance.

**December:** *ADVENT* is the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, and it also marks the start of Christmas festivities in Sweden. More people visit Swedish churches on the first Sunday of Advent than any other time of year. They come to sing the well known Yuletide hymns. This first Sunday is also the day communities decorate their streets and squares with wreaths, garlands, lights and Christmas trees. At home, wedes light one candle on each of the four Sundays leading to up to Christmas, in special four-pronged candelabra. Another way of counting the days until Christmas is the Advent calendar, a card with 'windows' that you open, one by one, for each passing day until Christmas Eve. These calendars, which were introduced as late as the 1930s, have become increasingly popular. Swedish radio and television broadcast daily Advent programmes for children based on a specially published calendar. During Advent many people hang luminous stars of paper, straw or perforated metal in their windows. Introduced from Germany around 1910, these stars have become a central feature of Swedish Advent celebrations. Candelabra are another common window decoration at this time of the year.

*LUCIA* is celebrated on the 13th of December. Originally the day was dedicated to St. Lucia of Syracuse, but the Swedish holiday seems to have little to do with her person. According to folk tradition, this date marked the longest night of the year—an artifact of the medieval calendar. It

## EDITORIAL

LUND. THEY SAY that history is made by those who tell it, and if you're not telling your own history, you never will have one. I'm going to abide by that adage and tell you about the history of *The Lundian* myself. I do so because I sincerely hope that it will serve as an inspiration for others. Please read on.



When I came to Sweden as a foreign student back in 1970 there was hardly any information available about Sweden or how to deal with its countless bureaucracies. In Lund, the student cafeteria at AF-borgen was where everyone met and I made many friends there. In the interest of having a voice with university and government officials, a group of foreign students, researchers, regular immigrants and Swedish friends formed the Lund University Foreign Students' Organization, which we called LUFSO. We produced a newsletter in English that offered guidelines on how to survive in Sweden.

In 1973 we produced a 30-minute documentary examining those issues. The late journalist Gary Engman was the host in that documentary and it became a major part of a one-hour debate on TV2 about foreign students in Lund. The debate resulted in some positive changes in the treatment of foreign students at that time.

LUFSO closed around 1985 but the Chairman at that time, the late Dr. Raouf Ressaissi, encouraged me to continue producing a newsletter as there was nothing

else available for Lund's growing international community. So, in 1987 I put together a new group in order to launch a second newsletter to carry on the ideals of LUFSO. The first three issues were called "Torsdag", after the Swedish god of iron, Tor. But no one was happy with that name.

When it became known that we were looking for a new name, Ulf Wallin at Kursverksamheten (now Folkuniversitetet) suggested we call the new newsletter *The Lundian*, just as *The New Yorker* is named after New York. The name stuck, and the first issue with the new name appeared in March of 1988.

The *Lundian* now has many volunteers who send in articles, opinions, photographs, do the layout and help with distribution. We have an office at AF-borgen, a website and send news and information to our subscribers by email. We also have regular contact with university, municipal and national government officials. Some of our readers suggest that our articles and opinions inspire the actions and policies of those people, but I will leave the writing of that history up to them; my mission is to ensure that we have a platform for freedom of expression.

With this issue I would like to say "Thank You" to the many dedicated volunteers, supporters and subscribers who have contributed to the ideals of *The Lundian* these past twenty years. A warm "thank you" also goes to Lund's City Council and to Vipeholm School's Media Course for their support of our efforts at free speech.

To those writing Swedish news and history I would like to say this: Please get all of our histories -- and get them right!

M. A. Robinson Diakité, Publisher and Editor, *Lund*.  
Email: [thelundian@hotmail.com](mailto:thelundian@hotmail.com)

was thus a time when Man and beast needed extra nourishment. Originally, only men celebrated this festival, with much food and drink. Documents from the late eighteenth century, however, tell of young girls dressed in white with crowns of candles in their hair, serving the master and mistress. This ceremony has since spread, not least through the activities of clubs and mass voluntary organizations. In the 1920s, a Stockholm newspaper arranged a contest to choose a Lucia-girl to represent the city and, the custom spread like wildfire. Lucia morning is celebrated in practically every Swedish home, and every community, office, school or club chooses a Lucia, who, dressed in a white gown and with a crown of candles in her hair, brings a tray of coffee, traditionally shaped saffron rolls, and ginger biscuits. Lucia sometimes serves 'glögg', a mulled wine. She is generally accompanied by a train of white-clad attendants, the girls wearing glitter in their hair and the boys wearing tall paper cones with stars on them. All sing the traditional Lucia carols.

*CHRISTMAS*. Christmas is the biggest and longest holiday of the year. Schoolchildren are on holiday for a couple of weeks. The height of the celebrations is Christmas Eve, the 24th of December, followed by the two holidays Christmas

Day and Boxing Day. *CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES* involve numerous traditional activities and attributes, the most important of which are the Christmas tree, the Christmas meal and the visit of the 'tomte' or Christmas gnome. Introduced into Sweden from Germany, the Christmas tree has been a part of Christmas in Sweden since the 1700s. It was not until well into the present century that the custom became general, however. Nearly every Swedish household now brings in a tree one or two days before Christmas and decorates it with sparkling objects, gaily wrapped candies, glass bulbs and other small trinkets, many made of straw. The tree is also adorned with lights - usually electric these days, although some still use stearin candles. The tree is kept watered, and many households keep their trees until the very end of the holiday, which falls on the twentieth day after Christmas - Knut's day in the Swedish calendar (more about this day later). This is the day of the Christmas feast, which comprises a 'smörgåsbord' including a few traditional dishes such as ham, jellied pig's feet, 'lutfisk' and rice porridge. 'Lutfisk' (literally 'lye-fisk') is most likely a throwback to a period of fasting from pre-Reformation time. It is a dish prepared of ling that is dried and the boiled. The Christmas feast also includes a tradition called 'dipping in the kettle', in

## Lund University News

Lund University in southern Sweden has introduced a separate admissions process for foreign students after criticism that the current system discriminates against even those with top grades.

Criticism has mounted in both Sweden and Denmark during the summer over the new admissions system introduced in time for the autumn term 2010.

The criticism has partly concerned the fact that applicants with foreign qualifications end up in their own quota group which is at times so small that few, or even none, get accepted, despite sound merits.

According to the new regulations places are allocated to a percentage of applicants in each group, resulting in a small risk of the foreign group not securing any places.

According to Lund University the system could be in breach of requirements to offer a fair and equal treatment to all and, in respect of Sweden's EU commitments, has now introduced its own admissions system for students with foreign grades.

In practice the decision means that applications will be handled on a case by case basis in the incidence of no one being admitted from the specific quota group.

"I think we have found a sound solution. I hope that more follow our example," said Per Eriksson, Lund University head, to news agency TT.

Despite the fact that there are few people affected it is important that they can compete based on their grades and not as a group on a quota basis, he said.

which the assembled family and guests dip bits of bread in the broth left over after boiling the ham. Both 'lutfisk' and 'dipping in the kettle' are actually poor man's fare from the olden days, but they live on thanks to their role in holiday festivities. After the meal, it is time for a visit from the 'tomte' or Christmas 'gnome'. He was believed to live under the floor-boards of the house or barn. The 'tomte' was credited with looking after the family and their livestock. Toward the turn of the past century a Swedish artist began producing greeting cards illustrated with gnomes. Her figures were a tremendous success, and soon the 'tomte', had assumed the role comparable to that of other countries. He is believed to come with presents. In many households nowadays someone disguised as a 'tomte', a big sack over his or her shoulder, appears on a doorstep sometime toward the evening of Christmas Eve. By tradition Swedes attend church in the small hours of Christmas morning. In olden days it was customary to race in sleds or horse-drawn wagons home from the services. The winner was believed to have the best harvest the coming year. Otherwise, the day is spent quietly within the family circle, with Christmas parties and get-togethers the following day and on through the holidays until Knut's day a week after Twelfth Night.

End xxxx

Source: *The Swedish Institute*, Stockholm.

"Even if there aren't that many it means a lot for the individual student. We do not want to reduce the number of foreign students, we want to increase it. We have a very mathematical system, international it is very often a straight grades comparison," said Per Eriksson.

According to a university press release the issue concerns the review of around 120 of the total 1,100 courses that can be applied for, with an expected 75 students admitted in this way.

The Local reported in July that the Higher Education and Research Minister Tobias Krantz had indicated that the new admissions rules will be subject to a national review following criticism.

"We have to be honest and say that we could not foresee all of the consequences. We will appoint a new commission to go through this properly," Krantz said while stating that "the core of the reform will remain the same".

TT/The Local (news@thelocal.se /08 656 6518)

### **Email Notice:**

**U.S. Consul to Jönköping September 17 and to Gothenburg September 20, 2010.**

Consul Martin Tatuch will be in Jönköping on September 17, and in Gothenburg on September 20 to take applications for consular reports of births, passports, social security numbers, and to notarize documents that will be used in the U.S. Please note that we will not be able to accept applications for immigrant visas.

For more details and information on how to obtain an appointment, please visit the U.S. Embassy's website: <http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/gothenburg-visit.html>. Please note that appointments will be given on a first come, first served basis.

American Citizen Services  
American Embassy  
Dag Hammarskjolds v g 31  
SE-115 89 Stockholm  
Telephone: +46 (0)8-783 53 75  
Email: [stkacsinfo@state.gov](mailto:stkacsinfo@state.gov)



# Survival Guide Number 101

## English - Swedish List of Foods You Might Buy to Survive\*

\*Originally translated by a foreign student, this list was revised by Elenor Axelsson of English International.

English Name	Swedish Name	Packaging
Dairy Products	<i>Mejeriprodukter</i>	
Eggs	<i>Ägg</i>	6 or 12 pack
Sour cream	<i>Gräddfil</i>	Blue/White Carton
French sour cream	<i>Crème fraîche</i>	Small round tube (color according to fat content)
Whole milk	<i>Mjök</i>	Orange/White carton
1,5% milk	<i>1,5% mjök</i>	Blue/White Carton
Skim milk	<i>Lätt mjök</i>	Red/White Carton
Buttermilk	<i>Filmjök</i>	Varied package
Coffee cream	<i>Kaffegrädde</i>	Green/White carton
Whipping cream	<i>Vispgrädde</i>	Red/White carton
Butter/unsalted	<i>Smör/osaltat</i>	Varied package
Butter/extra salted	<i>Smör/extra saltat</i>	Varied package
Margarine for baking	<i>Margarin</i>	Varied package
Liquid Margarine for baking	<i>Flytande Margarin</i>	Yellow plastic bottles
Margarine for table use	<i>Bordsmargarin</i>	Golden package
Extra-salted	<i>Extra saltat margarin</i>	Varied package
Dietary margarine	<i>Extra lätt margarin</i>	Varied package
Cheese spread	<i>Mjukost</i>	Blue/White tube
Mild common cheese	<i>Herrgårdssost</i>	See-through package
Cottage cheese	<i>Keso</i>	White package
Strong/sharp cheese	<i>Stark lagrad ost</i>	See-through package
Fish	<i>Fisk</i>	
Anchovies	<i>Ansjovis</i>	
Salmon	<i>Lax</i>	
Cod	<i>Torsk</i>	
Flounder	<i>Flundra</i>	
Plaice	<i>Rödspätta</i>	
Caviar	<i>Kaviar</i>	
Meat	<i>Kött</i>	
Ham	<i>Skinka</i>	
Liver Paté	<i>Leverpastej</i>	
Salami	<i>Salami</i>	
Liver	<i>Lever</i>	
Tongue	<i>Tunga</i>	
Brawn	<i>Sylta</i>	
Kidneys	<i>Njure</i>	
Ground beef	<i>Nötfärs</i>	
Ground pork	<i>Fläskfärs</i>	
Mixed ground meat	<i>Blandfärs</i>	
Pork chops	<i>Fläskkotletter</i>	
Lamb chops	<i>Lammkotletter</i>	
Beef brisket	<i>Oxbringa</i>	
Inner thigh of beef	<i>Ox innanlär</i>	
T-bone steak	<i>T-bone stek</i>	
Poultry	<i>Fågel</i>	
Chicken	<i>Kyckling</i>	
Goose	<i>Gås</i>	
Turkey	<i>Kalkon</i>	
Game	<i>Vilt</i>	
Moose	<i>Älg</i>	
Rabbit	<i>Kanin</i>	
Venison	<i>Rådjurskött</i>	

### Know Your Rights

As a foreign student, researcher or a resident of Sweden, you have rights you may not be aware of. If you want to learn about your basic human rights in Sweden, attend our study circles on human rights.

To join up call: 070-654 2126 or send an email with your contact information to [englintern@hotmail.com](mailto:englintern@hotmail.com)  
Hurry, classes start soon.

**The Lundian** is published by  
The English International Association of Lund,  
Sandgatan 2, 4th floor, 223 50 Lund  
Phone: +46 70 654 2126 or  
+46 46 222 1229  
E-mail: [englintern@hotmail.com](mailto:englintern@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com)

#### Publisher and Managing Editor:

M. A. Robinson Diakité.

**Copy Editor:** Don Lane.

**Art Director:** Monique Fransén.

Also a **Special Thanks** to the Interns of Vipeholmsskolan's Mediaprogram, Lunds Kommun, the Board of E.I., Johan Albertén, and many others.

ISSN: 1404-9511

© 2010 English International.

## NEWS & FACTS ABOUT SWEDEN

(Source: Swedish Statistics Centre, [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se))

**2010-08-20** - Investment funds, assets and liabilities  
Fund wealth decreased. The total fund wealth of Swedish-registered funds dropped during the second quarter. The rising trend of the last four quarters was thus broken. At the end of the quarter, fund wealth amounted to SEK 1 454 billion. This figure is SEK 27 billion less than the first quarter.

**2010-08-19** - New construction of residential buildings  
Twice as many dwellings in new construction  
New construction was started on twice as many dwellings in multi-dwelling buildings during the first six months of 2010, compared to the same period the year before. This is the sharpest increase that has ever been registered, and new construction is again at the same level as in 2004. In addition, new construction of one- or two-dwelling buildings also increased during the same period.

**2010-08-18** - Industrial capacity utilisation  
Capacity utilisation decreased second quarter  
According to preliminary estimates, actual capacity utilisation in the Swedish mining and manufacturing industries decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 84.2 percent during the second quarter compared to the first quarter.

**2010-08-18** - Industrial inventories  
Industry continues to raise stock levels  
Total stocks in industry increased by SEK 3.8 billion during the second quarter, which corresponds to a 2.2 percent rise compared to the first quarter of 2010. Compared to the second quarter of 2009, total stocks in industry were down 5.3 percent.

**2010-08-17** - Real estate prices and registrations of title  
Real estate prices up 2 percent  
Real estate prices for one- or two-dwelling buildings increased by 2 percent during the last three months (May through July) compared to the previous three months. On a yearly basis the prices increased by 7 percent, compared to the corresponding period last year.

**2010-08-16** - Population statistics  
Many marriages and births during the first six months  
During the year, the Swedish population has increased by 32 697 people and on 30 June it amounted to 9 373 379 people. The rise is due to high immigration and a greater number of births. The number of marriages also increased. The Royal Wedding and the well-publicised "drop-in" wedding ceremony at the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm may have contributed to this.

## EQUALITY IN SWEDEN: WE ARE ALL EQUAL IN SWEDEN -- OR ARE WE?

The year's most truthful book is on the stands. The book that tells how things really are in this country. How large are the salary differences between men and women? How much money does the average Swede spend a year on candy and fruit? And so much more. Of course, we're talking about the Statistical Yearbook of Sweden 2010. Follow along on a veritable adventure in a forest of figures!

Let's start with the 'older news' in the Statistical Yearbook, namely, history. Someone counted out how in 1901 there were 93 893 bee colonies. One wonders what they were all 'abuzz' about. Maybe it was all about those hard working miners, who just the year before had extracted 453 tonnes of bedrock and ore each. However, they did

**2010-08-16** - Living Conditions Survey of Children  
Girls stressed by high demands on themselves  
Stress related to school is most common among pupils at the upper (senior) levels of compulsory school and upper secondary school. It is more common for girls to have high demands on themselves and to be stressed about homework and tests than it is for boys.

**20-08-13** - New orders and deliveries in industry  
New orders for Swedish industry up second quarter  
According to preliminary estimates, new orders for Swedish industry increased by 3.1 percent during the second quarter compared to the first quarter. This reflected a 1.0 percent decrease in the domestic market and a 6.3 percent increase in the export market.

**2010-08-13** - Industrial production index (IPI)  
Industrial production remains strong  
Swedish industrial production increased by 12.0 percent in working day adjusted figures in June compared with the same month of the previous year. When comparing June with May, production has increased by 1.1 percent in seasonally adjusted figures.

**2010-08-12** - Consumer Price Index (CPI)  
Slightly higher inflation rate  
The inflation rate was 1.1 percent in July (0.9 percent in June). Adjusted for the direct effect of the decrease in interest rates (CPIF), the July inflation rate was 1.7 percent. The Swedish Consumer Price Index dropped by 0.3 percent from June to July (-0.5 percent in July 2010). The CPI for July 2010 was 302.04 (1980=100).

READ ENTIRE PRESS RELEASES AT [WWW.SCB.SE](http://WWW.SCB.SE) .

not get all that rich from it.  
Instead, today's securities traders have a better chance to earn the big money. If they were men, these professionals earned an average of SEK 91 900 a month in 2008. Their female colleagues made do with SEK 59 800 a month. Thus, they earned 65% of their male colleagues' salaries. Much is equal but some things are different  
While we speak of differences, we can consider the following figures from 2008: Women with a post-secondary education of at least three years had an average monthly salary of SEK 29 100. Men with the same level of education were thankful for their SEK 38 200 a month. Sixty-nine percent of men among persons aged 20-64 worked full time. The percentage of women doing the same was 49 percent. Women aged 30-49 years spent SEK 145 a month on their personal hygiene. And what did men spend? A tidy SEK 21 .  
Almost half of all women enjoy reading books at least once a week. Not even a third of men share this pastime on a weekly basis. Then of course there are those who never read: a tenth of all women and one third of all men. The book about Sweden  
All this and much more can be found in the Statistical Yearbook of Sweden 2010. You will also find updated information about the average Swedish family the Svenssons who should really be called the Johanssons, since they outnumber the Svenssons. The book consists of more than 700 pages with text and four-colour illustrations of maps, graphs and tables. You also get a glossary in both Swedish and English. You

See Page 8

## USING YOUR VOTE – TO CHANGE THINGS

*Back in 2001, two local politicians decided to speak to some foreign students and researchers about their right to vote. The resulting article dealt with the issues so completely till we feel that it is worth repeating for you, the new generation of foreign students and new immigrants. So here it is again, back to haunt you into voting.*

Lund, 1 April, 2001: "The right of immigrants to vote in Swedish elections" was the subject of a seminar held on 1 April at Folkets House in Lund. Speakers at the seminar were two well-known political figures in Lund, Ove Persson, who gave an excellent historical perspective on voting rights in Sweden, and Margareta Dovsjö, a politician with many years experience in local politics. Gillian Nilsson of ABF-Lundabygden and M. A. Diakité of English International introduced the seminar, which was well attended by many members of Lund's international community. There were persons from Europe, Africa and the Americas in attendance, as were a number of Swedish persons. The Chairman of LIFS at that time, one Mr. Aldo Marzo, also attended.

Mr. Persson gave a thorough explanation of the history of voting rights in Sweden, beginning with the two-chamber Parliament of 1866, where only men, with a good income had the right to vote. At that time, only 5% of persons voted, a system that changed only gradually. In 1921 women got the right to vote, but it wasn't until 1970 that the one-chamber Parliament was finally established. Immigrants got the right to vote in county elections 1976, though the system has flaws because many still cannot vote in national referendums. Why the numbers of immigrants voting has fallen since 1976 (from 60% in 1976 to 35% in 1998) remains a largely unanswered question, but economics seem to have much to do with this problem. "But the important thing here", he said, "is to realize that we have certain problems that must be dealt with in Sweden, such as class differences and discrimination. We must acknowledge that we have such problems before we



**These residents of Lund who attended the seminar said, yes we will vote. And they did!**

can begin to deal with them effectively", he said. Ms. Dovsjö addressed a number of concrete ways and means to influence the outcomes of local political issues.

"The solution", she said, "is to join the party of your choice, then become active within that party. The best place to be to influence local issues", she added, "is on one of the Boards [Commissions, which are known as "Nämnderna" in Swedish]. Such Boards are the absolute best places to influence decisions that affect a community, be it the Board of Housing or the Board of Education. That's the best place to work within the political system," she said, as she described a number of Boards that she has worked on here in Lund.

The question and answer period proved to be the most interesting. Mohsen Abtin, the Chairman of the Social Democratic International Association, asked Ms. Dovsjö what her party would do if an extreme right-wing group started campaigning for votes to come into the county government. Ms. Dovsjö responded that it would be the duty of all persons in Lund, not just immigrants, to resist such actions through the democratic process as much as possible. x x x

**Free Information About...**

**Your Rights**

in Sweden

is available on our website at  
[www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com)

Email: [englintern@hotmail.com](mailto:englintern@hotmail.com)

Phone: Tel: 070 - 654 21126

**Volunteer**

**We welcome articles by students  
and others who feel they have  
something to say. Send an email to**

**the Editor, the Lundian:  
[thelundian@hotmail.com](mailto:thelundian@hotmail.com)**

**or call**

**070 - 654 2126**

**[www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com)**

**Z  
D A  
F X H  
P T N D  
X A Z F N  
H T X U D F  
U Z N D F X T  
A P H T X Z N U**

can order a hardbound copy of the book or downloaded it in pdf format at Statistics Sweden's website. Study materials for schools are also available there. The information in the yearbook refers to 2008.

**TO THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF SWEDEN**  
Responsible authority and producer  
Statistics Sweden, Communications Department,  
Editorial Unit, Stockholm.

### SPONSORS...

**Call for Prices for a Full or Half-page Ad.  
We Also Have Special Rates for Color.**

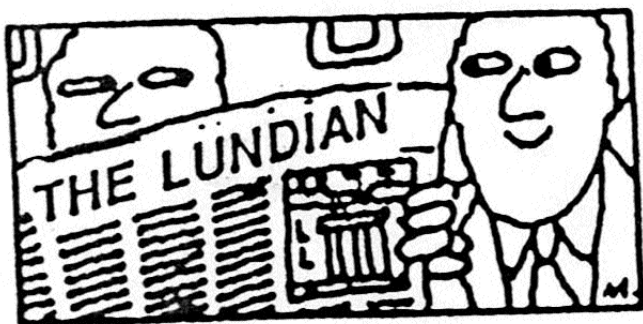
**070 - 654 2126  
or send an email to  
thelundian@hotmail.com**

### WRITING A THESIS OR A DISSERTATION?

**We Edit and Proofread Text and Offer  
Tutorials on How to Write a Thesis,  
Grammar and Pronunciation of  
Swedish and English**

**English International  
Sandgatan 2:4th flr, Lund  
Call for an appointment**

**070 - 654 212 6  
Email: englintern@hotmail.com**



### Who Reads The Lundian?

**THE WHOLE WORLD:** Tourists, Businessmen, Foreign Students, Guest Researchers, Journalists, Entertainers, Retailers, School Children, Immigrants, Refugees and many more. Subscribe and have it sent to your home.

**WEBSITE: [www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com)**

There is More **Information About Lund** at Lund's **Tourist Office**, Kyrkogatan 11, (across frm the Cathedral) Open: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tel: (046) 35 50 40. There is also a website: [www.lund.se](http://www.lund.se)

### PASSINGS...

**LUND.** On August 20th, memorial services were held for Dr. Kabunda Elizabeth Kayongo, who passed away on the 2nd of June in Mongu, Zambia.

Dr. Kayongo, or Mrs. Kabunda as she was widely known in Lund, was described in the local Swedish newspaper as "*the student who became a Minister*" (Sydsvenskan 20-08-2010), which she indeed did. She was one of several former foreign researchers at the Department of Sociology in Lund during the 1980s who returned to serve her country. At one time she held two ministerial posts: the Minister of Education and the Minister of Community Development and Social Services. Both positions were under President Frederick Chiluba.

The many eulogies at the Memorial Service in Lund told a poignant story of a courageous African woman who never let the odds interfere with her goals. She mounted her two daughters onto front and back children seats on her bicycle to get them to their day-care centre, then continued on to classes - even during winter and in the snow. She struggled with difficult teachers and supervisors, many claiming they knew nothing about Africa or development, and persevered to earn her Ph.D. and return home to help her people. To emphasize their appreciation for her services, President Rupiah Banda of Zambia said in a message of condolences that her passing was not just a loss to the family but to the entire nation. She received a State funeral complete with a 21-gun salute.

Dr. Kayonga is survived here by her two daughters, one a medical doctor in Lund and the other an architect. She also leaves behind six grandchildren, two sons-in-law, and many, many friends. Dr. Kayonga was a genuine role model for African women here in Sweden and Africa. May she rest in peace.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SWEDEN

*In addition to Sundays, the official, legal public holidays in Sweden are as follows:*

- NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1 January
- EPIPHANY - 6 January
- GOOD FRIDAY - The Friday Closest to Easter Sunday
- EASTER SUNDAY - The Sunday closest to the full moon that occurs on or closest to March 21.
- EASTER MONDAY - The Day after Easter Sunday
- INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY - 1 May
- ASCENSION DAY - The sixth Sunday after Easter
- WHITSUNDAY - The seventh Sunday after Easter
- SWEDEN'S NATIONAL DAY - 6 June
- MIDSUMMER'S DAY - The Saturday between 20 and 26th June.
- ALL SAINT'S DAY - The Saturday between 31 October and 6 November
- CHRISTMAS DAY - 25 December
- BOXING DAY - 26 December.

None-official days that are also celebrated by people in Sweden include the Orthodox Christian and other religious holidays, United Nations campaign days, Nobel Prize Day, Halloween, Mårtens Goose Day, Thanksgiving Day (USA), Valentine Day, Martin Luther King Day, Women's Day, Children's Rights Day, and the Gay Rights parade day. Lund has a Cultural Day in September, and Malmö has an African Cultural Festival and a City Festival in August each year. Hope for good weather. *Source: Wikipedia.*