

# The LUNDIAN

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LUND, FEBRUARY 1. **Sweden's Minister of Education and School**, Mr. Thomas Östros, came to Lund specifically to support the launching of a campaign by Lund University's Recruitment Delegation to recruit high school students to attend Lund university. One of his first lines to the packed City Hall Auditorium was that he was a bit apprehensive coming onto the stage because it was on this same stage that he had a pie thrown at him during an earlier visit to Lund. But to the relief of the audience, there were no pies this time.

During his short stay, he made it quite clear that the best way to reduce social inequalities in society is to ensure that under-represented groups are able to get a higher education.

*"Swedish universities are no longer a place for producing generations of elites, where fathers, sons and grandfathers are privy to higher educations. They are now a platform for the people, and should be a new tool for the social "integration" of all the people"*, he added during his 30 minute speech. The Minister presented interesting statistics, such as the fact that 24% of new students are from working class homes, and that Swedish universities should cease to be a reflection of existing class differences. Mr. Östros offered his own recipe for decreasing social inequality at Swedish universities which includes improving information about higher education in high schools. *"Every municipal government should have a plan for how to reduce unequal social recruitment of students to universities,"* he added, reminding the audience that the new anti-discrimination law for students is now in place.

## Thomas Östros Got No Pie in Lund

-- Swedish Minister of Schools and Education joked about the pie he got during an earlier visit to Lund.

Another speaker was Dr. Sanimir Resic of the Recruitment Delegation. He pointed out to the audience that *"Calling for diversity means that Lund University must itself be representative if it wants to attract more students. This means that students must see persons of different ethnic backgrounds, ages and gender including non-heterosexual persons. All these things must be considered during the recruitment process"*, he pointed out to the audience.

The Vice Chancellor of Lund University, Dr. Boel Flodgren, gave the opening speech for the conference. Other speakers were Karl-Axel Nilsson of the Evaluation Office and Leif Brynfors of Lund University Technical College. There was an open forum after lunch where many questions and ideas came from the audience. An evaluation report, which was the result of recruiting research that had been conducted, was distributed (ask for Rapport 2002:214. It's in Swedish). The report recommended that high schools see to it that their students get to attend Lund University's open house events when they occur; that the university cooperate with Komvux considering its own very diverse student population, and that Lund University improve its routines for providing information to high schools on what it is really like to be a student at the university.

A strategic plan will be developed and announced at a later date.

Copies of the Evaluation plan (in Swedish only) are available at [www.evaluat.lu.se](http://www.evaluat.lu.se) or by calling 046-222 9453. You can also request one by E-mail: [evaluat@evaluat.lu.se](mailto:evaluat@evaluat.lu.se). X X X



Thomas Östros

**ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE AT  
INTEGRATIONSVERKETS CONFERENCE  
IN STOCKHOLM**



Left to Right: James Houston (Malmö), Gary Corter (Landskrona), M. A. Diakite (Lund), Ruffin McKinley (Malmö), Nadia Gebril (Lund) and Stanley Worgu (Lund University). (Lundian Photos.)

Right: Nadia Jebril and Jose Garcia Diaz of Integrationsverket. Below: Gary, James and another representative.



National Integration Board lawyer Paul Lappalainen smiling for the camera with a colleague during a break at the Conference.

**The Last Word**

*Written by Gary Corter, Landskrona Area Manager*  
Like each of my other exhausted fellow English International members, with bags unpacked, feet kicked back, and taking in a deep satisfied sigh with a cup of home brewed cappuccino in hand, I relaxed with my notepad to reflect on the educational results of my first experiences encountered this last weekend at the Swedish Integration Boards' NGO Forum on Combating Structural Racism which took place in Stockholm on December 7th and 8th.

**The Stockholm NGO Forum Report of December 7-8, 2001**

I wish to begin straight away by thanking The Lundian's Managing Editor, M. Arthur Diakité for his personal handling, professional guidance, and invitation to become an involved, significant new member of this publication and research team representing the city of Landskrona.

Sponsored by the Afrosvenskarnas Riskförbund (ASR), and Integrationsverket, I found myself amongst a variety of influential network contacts and extremely ambitious and excited NGO members. As in every yearly event, I was reminded, time became of the essence for each NGO to stick to the Agenda while still being able to express their missions, accomplishments, and failures in a peaceful, effective manner.

Though not out of hand, I observed several unnecessary heated opinions, and personal resentments between the NGO delegation members that were only about Financial Operational stability, rather than what the discussion topics as well as questions/answer topics were about. Discipline over the NGO Forum had to eventually be maintained by the Forum Monitor.

I did find myself (as others) extremely disappointed knowing two NGO member participants expressed their statements and simply left without notice, not even engaging in the question/answer sessions. I was pleased however to find that the various workshops that were conducted afterwards were very successful and informative as a whole, though time and schedule limitations would not permit everyone that satisfaction of getting all of the audience's questions answered.

Though anti-discrimination efforts in the USA were discussed in both the negative and positive, I felt a dangerous resentment towards American suggested policies. Most of my own personal questions went unanswered while another was totally ignored during the "Stockholm Police" workshop. The last straw for me was when they insisted on speaking only in Swedish and not in English, the language of this "international" conference, so I could understand. After all, this was supposed to be a non-discriminating Forum using both English and Swedish. It's shameful.

Need I include the recent threatening political proposals that Denmark is seeking to make concerning Immigrants there? Somehow, the general picture I'm getting with all this is a building up of a Racial, "dis-united" Discriminating European Union more than a "united" one. It also seems like very few NGO efforts are really being considered and placed into action where it counts with Government support. In this existing world it is said that "money talks and "B.S." walks". Without proper financial support and credibility are we really succeeding in our cause?

I'd like to think that English International is. Why? Well for one thing, E.I. displayed and distributed the only newsletter product there that was readily available. Others only provided short two to three page typewritten leaflets. As for the Forum hospitality that was offered, I give 3 stars! The meals, and all the fix- ins were great. And for this, I am very grateful.

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**Swedish Integration Board**

Box 633, 601 14 Norrköping, Sweden

Website: [www.integrationsverket.se](http://www.integrationsverket.se)

For questions concerning the action program contact [integrationsverket@integrationsverket.se](mailto:integrationsverket@integrationsverket.se)

## A Tale of Two Cities

### -- And The Adoption of Their Integration Plans

In 2001 the Swedish government adopted a national plan for integration (popularly known as "diversity" in Sweden) to ensure non-discrimination and equality for immigrants and minorities. All municipalities are expected to adopt similar plans, but so far, many have resisted outright to do so or have been bogged down in endless debates. This is the tale of how two small cities in Southern Sweden are adjusting to the Swedish government Directive on Integration.

**Lund.** An article in the Swedish daily newspaper *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* on January 7th reports that after more than a year of discussion politicians in Lund have indicated their agreement on a programme and budget for a diversity (reads better as integration) plan for Lund.

But the proposed budget of 2 million SEK per year for three years to finance the programme appears not to meet with the expectations of many of the county's interests, the article added. At least half of the budget is aimed for an information center for LIFS, the umbrella organisation for immigrant associations in Lund, while the rest is to be shared by county departments concerned with schools, health care, handicapped persons and politicians interested in open dialogue with immigrants. A project job within the county is also to be supported from this budget. The amount of the budget has been severely criticised by a number of county departments, politicians and university officials.

(See *Klartecken för Integrationsplan*, av Anne Aobadia, *Sydsvenska Dagbladet*, January, 2002.)

**Landskrona.** Meanwhile, the Landskrona Municipal government charged ahead and their programme on June 18th last year — leaving "multikulturel Lund" way behind. The Landskrona programme has:

- \* anti-discrimination clauses in service contracts with local businesses
- \* a plan to actively combat segregation in housing
- \* a plan to actively lobby small businesses to show that they have an anti-discrimination plan
- \* a plan to set aside an annual budget of 80 thousand kronor for municipal employees to receive training about diversity and integration
- \* a plan to hold an annual conference on diversity and integration
- \* a plan to publish an annual report on progress being made with its diversity programme — and more.

If you can read Swedish, call Landskrona Municipal government and ask for your copy of their diversity and integration programme. The phone number to the central exchange is: 0418 - 47 00 00.

*Ed. Note: Gary Corter, Landskrona, did the research for this article.*

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For more info on Sweden's Integration Plan see the website of the Swedish Integration Board:  
**[www.integrationsverket.se](http://www.integrationsverket.se)**



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought and died in the struggle for civil and political rights. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. (Picture credit: UPI/ Bettman)

### Activities this Spring

**AF's Radio International's Radio** is on the air on Tuesdays, 4 – 5 p.m. Join in on Radio AF's International Radio (99.1 FM) programme for the international community. Be a DJ for one of the shows. Send an email with your name, address and phone number to (write radio show in the subject area) [moritz@radioaf.com](mailto:moritz@radioaf.com)

**Open House:** English International. Wednesdays, 1.30 – 4.30 at our office at: Sandgatan 2, (AF House), 4th floor. Other times by appointment only. Phone: 073 - 675 4061 or 070 - 654 2126.

**Help with English.** We can help you with your English Text. 070 654 2126.

**Important Dates** 14 February, Valentines Day; 18 – 22 February: Sport holidays in Lund. All public schools will be closed. Book all trips well in advance.

**More articles and photographs of our events can be found on our web page at:**

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

### ***The Andrés Cespedes Special Edition***

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## B Föreningsbrev

### Don't Forget to Vote

Since this year is an election year, check out the various parties and make your decision on which one to vote for. Their websites are as follows:

Centerpartiet – [www.centerpartiet.se](http://www.centerpartiet.se)

Folkpartiet – [www.folkpartiet.se](http://www.folkpartiet.se)

Kristdemokraterna – [www.kristdemokrat.se](http://www.kristdemokrat.se)

Miljöpartiet – [www.mp.se](http://www.mp.se)

Moderata samlingspartiet – [www.moderat.se](http://www.moderat.se)

Socialdemokraterna – [www.sap.se](http://www.sap.se)

Good luck!!

Editor

**Till:**



### Know Your Rights

Foreign students, researchers, immigrants and naturalized Swedish citizens can learn about the basic civil and political rights here in Sweden, such as...

#### 1 - The Right to Equal Treatment

Unfair discrimination is illegal in Sweden. The Swedish Constitution gives every one the right to equal treatment. If you feel you are being treated unfairly, or discriminated against for any reason, contact us for advice on where to go to and who to call for help.

#### 2 - The Right to Vote

Sweden is unique because if you have lived here for at least three years with a permanent residence permit, you have the right to vote in local elections. Get to know the politicians and their politics. Be informed and take part in the politics of the community you live in. We regularly give information on the right to vote, so get in touch with us to find out where and when you can get information. In other words...

### Know Your Rights

**Phone: 070 - 654 2126**

**Sandgatan 2 (AF House) Lund.**

**E-mail: [englintern@hotmail.com](mailto:englintern@hotmail.com)**

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

## Etnisk diskriminering

Vad ger lagarna för skydd?

OMRUDSMANNEN  
MOT ETNISK  
DISKRIMINERING

**DO**

[www.do.se](http://www.do.se) Råd på 15 olika språk

Tel 08/556 09 500

### *PRESS STOP!*

STOCKHOLM, 11 FEBRUARY. The Office of the Discrimination Ombudsman published its application to Labour Court to issue a summons to a company in Lund under the new labour law against ethnic discrimination (SFS 1999:130). The application lists the reason for the summons being because the company refused to hire a young lady who spoke Swedish with a foreign accent (Dnr.626-2001). The job was for a telemarketer.

The DO's reasoning for the application is that the request to speak Swedish without a foreign accent was neither a sufficient motive, a necessity nor a suitable reason to claim that she would not be able to perform her job. The company also failed to judge the applicant's language abilities correctly.

The case is available on the DO's webpage at  
[www.do.se](http://www.do.se)