

Each year at this time, the University of Alberta's two World University Service scholars report on the seminar they attended the previous summer.

Last summer, the WUS seminar was held in Sweden. Representing U of A were Bob Church, ag. 4, and Dave Jenkins, law 2.

Below, Bob gives his views on the "soft" life of Swedish university students, and Dave attempts a rapid-fire summary of the multifarious aspects of Swedish society.

In addition, each of the 40 Canadian delegates was turned loose for a one-week project. Bob studied Swedish agriculture and Dave contrasted Swedish and Canadian prisons.

Leader of the Swedish seminar was Dr. A. G. McCalla, dean of the faculty of graduate studies at the U of A. He was assisted by five professors from different Canadian universities.

Following the seminar, Bob made a grand tour of 14 European countries. Dave specialized in Moscow, Leningrad, East and West Berlin, London and New York. In Paris, Dave attended a university North Atlantic Treaty Organization conference, at NATO headquarters.

WUS scholars are chosen on the basis of academic performance, maturity, and leadership qualities. Both men had averages of over 80 per cent in the term of their selection, and were active in extra-curricular fields. B.W.

THE LIFE OF RILEY

by Bob Church

Once a Swedish student has graduated from "Gymnasium" or high school, and has passed the entrance exam of one of the Swedish universities, he settles down to six or seven years of "living the life of Riley."

Because of the taxation framework, there is no economic class differentiation in Sweden; but there exists a very strong and rigid academic class structure which has the university professor at the pinnacle. This acts as the incentive for young people to acquire university education and join the group which students feel will rule the country in the near future; the "young intellectuals." There is no recognition of the successful business man's skills or the trade skills of the worker.

"CO-ED RESIDENCES"

At the University of Uppsala which was founded in 1477, a student, once admitted, spends an extended length of time living in fabulous co-educational residences. The residences are built by different districts of the country for students from that area. In these ultra modern structures each student has a private room with "water closet." Each hall has a kitchen where a student has a cupboard and shares a stove and fridge with three others.

There are no matrons or chaperons in these student run units. Rent is about \$30 a month. Although the room is rented on a twelve month basis, rent is only paid for the nine months while university is in session. Interest free and low interest loans are available for board and room. Books, tuition and other university facilities are free.

"FOOLISH TO WORK"

Summer, to university students means a holiday basking in the Riviera sun. The Swedes say it is foolish to work while at University as they have a lifetime for work; now is the time to travel.

Students aren't required to attend lectures but simply obtain a course outline and bibliography from the professor in charge of the course undertaken. When the student feels he has the course material mastered he goes to the professor and asks for an exam. This may be several months or a year or so later depending on how diligent the student has been. A student is free to take a week or two off from study whenever he feels in need of a holiday, if his grades are satisfactory.

Swedish students make the most of their university days as they feel university offers them time to mature in their thinking and to learn to live a fuller life. The relaxed atmosphere allows a student with personal initiative to be most successful. Most students are 19 or 20 years old upon admission to university.

This system leads to many "professional students," many of whom have been in university as a student for 15 or 20 years. There is no desire to get out into a world of high taxes, job immobility and lack of housing.

Impromptu parties are common and Swedish students have long had a reputation of being tolerant to "snaps" (a vile and deadly brew). Legislation has led to wine becoming the cheapest and most popular beverage.

"PROPORTIONED GIRLS"

In this country nothing brings quicker response than reference to the beautifully proportioned and dressed Swedish girls. Swedish girls live up to this reputation! Female students don't go to university to "catch a husband," as I suspect many Canadian girls do, but rather to better themselves and make a contribution to society equal to that of any male. So strong is the desire to be equal, that the "weaker sex" is willing to forgo the female considerations considered essential by our women.

Perhaps Swedish graduates of the humanities have a wider background than do their Canadian counterparts. This is especially true of languages, when one considers the average Swedish student speaks three or four languages. In the field of science the Swedish system gives a very narrow approach which is rather antiquated in this day of rapid discovery. I believe our four year science program gives a student a broader and more up to date training than the Swedish degree; and in less time.

"The life of Riley" may seem attractive at first glance but as I have indicated Swedish students have as many problems with their studies as Canadian students.



SEX PANEL—One of the most interesting panel discussions in the seminar was presented by the Swedes pictured above. They discussed Swedish sex viewpoints and morals. All the Swedes pictured are students, except for a professor and his wife, fourth and fifth from the left. The consensus was that Canadians engage in as much pre-marital sexual intercourse as the Swedes. The difference is that Canadians sneak around in motels and back seats of cars—while the Swedes are more open, natural and frank (i.e. mature) about it.

SWEDEN: SELF-CONTROL, SECURITY?

by Dave Jenkins

Can Sweden be summed up in a brief yet meaningful page or two?

At one point I almost thought so. I could see Sweden as an 'island' of rational people; people who had their way of life serenely under control and looked askance at the barbarians who populate the rest of the world.

Sweden has what is probably the highest standard of living in the world. There are no slums. The people are well dressed, and the streets are cluttered with automobiles. Sweden's north-land is thriving—a town of 20,000 and huge iron ore mines are located inside the Arctic Circle. Prisons are clean and modern. At one, television camera scan the yards. Every worker receives three weeks' holiday with pay annually.

The Swedes are prudent. Stand at a street corner and you see that half the drivers wear seat belts. Birth control is taught in school and contraceptive machines stand on the busiest street, ready to act in any emergency. A driver barely drunk by our standards is sent to jail. Abortion is an omnipresent problem anywhere, so in Sweden it has been made legal.

People like to gamble, so Sweden has a state lottery. Since the Swedes have shown the world they can do so

"3% GO TO CHURCH"

much so well, who needs a God to lean on. So why go to church? If you grow old and become worried about heaven, there is still time to go to church then. And why plant grass on cemetery plots? Gravel looks just as neat, and only needs raking once in awhile.

The Swedes are orderly. No milling mobs on the sidewalks for them; everyone walks on the left side. Strictly no jay-walking. No bloodthirsty cudgelling at hockey games. No strikes. No one comes late to the cinema.

The people are honest. I dashed for a streetcar and left my change at a newsstand. Two days later I returned and the money was waiting for me. Some of the curses of modern civilization have been

snubbed—there are almost no hot air hand dryers in the public bathrooms. It is easy to see why this Nordic race has a strong army for defence, a policy of neutralism and is ready to retreat to its great bomb shelters when we barbarians begin to destroy the world.

But Sweden cannot be tied into such a neat bundle. There is more to be said about a country that is chuckled about as having "everything but sleep" well regulated.

Will the country survive if its birth rate remains so low? Can its medieval universities keep pace with the world? What should we think about

"MORALLY DEGENERATE"

a European younger generation that idolizes U.S. rock'n roll and Mad Magazine? Is it healthy for political parties to be indistinguishable from one another? Is a Swedish co-ed morally degenerate if she carries a contraceptive diaphragm in her purse?

Does it mean anything if you can't find any books in a Swedish university library due to poor indexing; address professors in the third person; or sit on streetcars wondering what would happen if someone smiled?

Do all officials, regardless of rank, have to be so bureaucratic and pompous? Doesn't anyone question authority? Doesn't any ask questions?

I lived for a week with a Swedish policeman who earned the equivalent of \$400 a month in Canadian money. He pays 33 per cent of his salary to the government as income tax. No deductions. His wife pays 31 per cent.

My policeman friend said he feels the government is controlling almost all of his income above what he pays for the necessities of life. He has no say. He would like to do what he wants with some of the 33 per cent, instead of accepting more social security. He says he has reached the point where he can't breathe.

Who said Sweden can be summed up in a few terse paragraphs?

VARM KORV!

Layout by Carol Anderson

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