

the **INSIDER**

#5 (105) 2010 Stockholm School of Economics in Riga

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HELLO, OUR DEAR SSE RIGANIANS!

PLEASE WELCOME THE FIRST INSIDER ISSUE THIS YEAR. THIS TIME IT IS FULL OF LONG ARTICLES WRITTEN BY A RECORD AMOUNT OF PEOPLE! MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED US, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL DEFINITELY JOIN US IN PREPARING OUR NEXT ISSUE! :) AS FOR US, THE INSIDERS, WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO HEAR YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

BY NOW THE INTRODUCTORY COURSES FOR Y1s HAVE ALMOST FINISHED, BUT REMEMBER – LIFE ISN'T GOING TO BE EASIER IN THE FUTURE! SO TAKE THE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE TIME YOU HAVE: MEET FRIENDS, PARTY, DO SPORTS, READ BOOKS... AND, OF COURSE, BROWSE THROUGH THE INSIDER'S PAGES FROM TIME TO TIME ;) BELIEVE US, ALL Y2s ARE ENVYING YOU BECAUSE SOON YOU ARE GOING TO MEET ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING SSE RIGA LECTURERS, AND THEN YOU WILL GET TO KNOW YOUR REAL BUDGET CONSTRAINT :) AS THE MESSAGE ON OUR COVER SUGGESTS, IT IS BETTER TO BE PREPARED FOR THE LECTURE....

THAT'S ALL BY NOW,

YOURS,

THE INSIDERS



MORTEN'S COLUMN

YOUR FAVOURITE BELARUSSIAN WILL SOON BE BACK...



IT'S A LITTLE BIT BORING TO BE MY KIND OF ECONOMIST AT THE MOMENT. I MEAN, THIS WEEKEND (AT THE TIME OF WRITING THE WEEKEND OF 18-19 SEPTEMBER) THE ESTONIANS WILL HOST A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE ISSUE OF EURO CHANGEOVER. JEAN-CLAUDE TRICHET, THE ECB BOSS WILL BE THERE AND WE KNOW THAT ESTONIAN CENTRAL BANKERS WILL BE GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR. ALL FINE, NO PROBLEMS I.E. BOOOORING.....

YOU CAN'T EVEN RELY ON THE LATVIANS TO PROVIDE SOME DOOM AND GLOOM AT THE MOMENT – THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED THE PLAN THAT WAS AGREED WITH THE IMF AND EU AND FINANCIAL MARKETS ARE REWARDING THE COUNTRY FOR THAT: LATVIA HAS BEEN ABLE TO SELL T-BILLS AT LOW INTEREST RATES AND THE RATING AGENCY FITCH HAS CHANGED THE COUNTRY OUTLOOK FROM NEGATIVE TO STABLE. PRUDENT AND WISE ECONOMICS, ALL VERY FINE, BUT BOOOORING.....

LITHUANIA? PHHHH....

SO WHAT IS A GRUMPY ECONOMIST TO DO??? AH – LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: I SEE THAT 19 OCTOBER IS NOT SO FAR AWAY – TIME AGAIN TO SWITCH IDENTITY TO MY ALTER EGO, ALEXANDER GRIGORYEVICH L.....

YEAR 2 AND 3: HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER! YEAR 1: WELCOME TO MICRO AND SEE YOU SOON!

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Debate Society

Greetings, ladies and gentlemen! SSE Riga Debate Society is happy to announce the new season of debating, and it's our great pleasure that so many Year 1 students have already attended our sessions. This summer has been very productive for us (read more about our trip to the Netherlands in this issue), and we are willing to share our experience with all of you. The schedule is similar to last year's - two sessions every Monday and Thursday, at 5 pm and at 7 pm; so far we have been working only with single speeches, but we promise that full four-team debates will start really soon! Moreover, we are planning to make a set of knowledge sessions at 7 pm, each devoted to a certain concept and the ways one can use it in a debate. Stay tuned!



Days of Opportunities

Days of Opportunities 2011 Organizing team has been fully formed!

This year competition was especially tough as a record number of 26 Y1 students were willing to take part in organizing our annual career fair. We are more than happy to announce the selected team:

Junior Latvian Coordinators: Anastasija Vasiļevska, Baiba Lokenbaha, Andrejs Birjukovs;

Junior Lithuanian Coordinators: Justina Juškaitė, Rasa Girtaviciute, Daina Gailiushaitė;

Junior Estonian Coordinator: Meelis Tara;

Junior Media Coordinator: Laura Zauere.

The Days of Opportunities 2011 event will take place on April 8th, 2011. The organizing team has already started working to make DoO'11 truly remarkable!



Investment Fund

It is our pleasure to meet 43 new iFunders this year. Currently iFund is working with a number of major financial institutions and foundations, as well as the alumni network in order to make Investment Game 2011 greater than ever. We are also planning how to make the revival of our portfolio happen, so that we could truly invest ourselves. In the upcoming weeks first seminars on financial markets will take place; they are mostly devoted to Y1 students, but Y2s are also very welcome to come.



Charity Club

Hey, guys!

It's another year, and Charity Club starts operating again! You can still catch the last days of school books' donation near Wallenberg's elevator!

Also, we started looking for new Charity Club members. If you have not caught one of our meetings but still want to participate in a project, contact us via the email Laura.Danberga@sseriga.edu.lv.

Additionally, we still have our blog and twitter account running: <http://ssercharityclub.tumblr.com>

<http://twitter.com/ssercharityclub>

See you soon!

Your Charity Club



Peak Time

The new Peak Time team is working really-really hard on a new project – Junior Peak Time. The main concern now is promotion. Things are happening, and so far we have received almost 400 applications. Despite all difficulties in Estonia, there are still a couple of participants and, hopefully, Estonians are not that slow as people say.

Fundraising: Dmitrijs Sureņans, Giedrius Jacunskas, Justas Ložinskis, Linda Vīksne, Martynas Stankevičius, Paulius Jurgutis

Promotion: Anna Aile, Liudvikas Galvanauskas, Nadežda Zute, Olga Peškova, Rasa Girtavičiūtė, Tatiana Arventi

Event: Aistė Mažulytė, Anda Kikute, Jeļena Gvardina

Media: still under consideration, but coming soon

We would like to thank all those who applied, and we are looking forward to working together with you to make Peak Time even more thrilling!



Leif Muten Society

On September 14th during the general meeting of Leif Mutén Society, the new board was elected. This year, unlike the previous one, a competition was present, and all candidates gave decent presentations, thereby making it a tough decision for the members of the society. Ilgvars Nātans Krauja and Zane Siliņa were elected As the President and the Vice-president, respectively. The duties of the second vice-president are assigned to Paulius Lingys. Zemgus Žagata was trusted to fulfill responsibilities of the treasurer. Bruno Vāvers from now on will be the PR officer. In addition, a change of board election date was approved. From this day future LMS board elections must take place in May, the following year after election.

During the general meeting the success stories were shared. Matīss was talking about his summer experience in summer school in Washington, D.C., his internship in the embassy of Latvia and how he met lots of important people, including our prime-minister. Zemgus, however, shared his impressions about smoky Russia and the infinite battle of environmental protectionism.

During the last week of September a successful overtaking dinner was held; so let's congratulate the new board and hope that they will continue the good traditions of LMS. Also, don't forget to apply for LMS membership. It is easier than it seems. Go to www.leifmutensociety.org and follow the instructions. The membership fee is 3Ls for 3 years. Also, follow us on Twitter to find out the newest happenings of the society (Leifmuten). Good luck in the new study year!



LMS board 2010-2011

THE FIRST IMPRESSION ABOUT SSE RIGA

The first month has passed, giving freshly baked Year 1 students a chance to warm their feet and get to know SSE Riga from the inside. Coming from various Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian cities, they all had their views on what life in SSE Riga will be like, and now it is high time to see whether their expectations were correct. A random sample of Y1s were asked what they were surprised and disappointed to find here, what stereotypes they had about SSE Riga, how they liked the Mexican party and what student organizations they are planning to join.

Firstly, most of the respondents were surprised to find out that the environment for studies is very good and lecturers are very attentive, while the students themselves are very motivated, versatile, and practical. Also, many were pleased by the conveniences the school provides, namely the comfy couches that are often occupied by sleeping Lithuanians. Despite interesting lectures, almost all students replied that they don't enjoy spending long hours at school and lack some exercise. However, there were people who could not name a single disappointment during these four weeks and are very pleased with what they have found here. When asked about stereotypes about SSE Riga, most people mentioned those related to studies; the most common one was that



people here study very hard and are very career-oriented. Yet everyone agreed that this is only partly true as people have plenty of time for various clubs, activities, and, of course, parties. Speaking of the latter, most of Y1s enjoyed the Mexican party yet were a bit disappointed by the DJ and said that overall the party was not as good as they were expecting. As for the extra-curricular activities, PeakTime was by far the most popular among Y1s, leaving IFund, the Student Association, Debate Society, and Days of Opportunities behind. There were also occasional mentions of the choir and Business Lab.

So it seems like Y1s are getting used to the life at SSE Riga with its pros and cons and are trying to get involved into the diverse and fun life of SSE Riga.



And some food for thought from Year1 students:

Y1s say that SSE Riga is...

...a positively doomed place.

...a place where EBP should be held by A.S.

...a nice place to graduate from.

...the best place to live college life and have the most awesome parties.

...a place which takes your life away and creates a totally new one...

Rasa Girtaviciute

OBSERVATIONS FROM NEWCOMERS CAMP

Every August the most wanted event for newly admitted SSE Riganians is surely the Newcomers' Camp. It is a chance to meet your new fellow students and experience the very first SSE Riga party as a fully accepted member. However, for Year 2 students who organize this event it is an awesome opportunity to check out the "fresh meat" before the rest of the SSE Riga dwellers.

I would like to notice that the students don't have evil intentions, but it is a viable tradition or even a rule that freshers should get a dose of mocking before entering studies. By the way, they still need to get through the baptizing party ceremony...

I'm sure, most of us can still remember when we met totally unknown guys who all were thought to be as great "geniuses" as you are. Okay, I am not talking about Latvian 1st Gymnasium people, who just come as a package, but most of the students here need to make friends with a bunch of totally unknown people.



Fortunately, they got to know each other "closer" during a game called "treesome", where "true friendship" flourished not only in usual heterosexual couples, but even slopped over some male couples. I would take it as a good sign and an indication of people who can party without boundaries.

As a representative of the "seamonster", I can say that I was a little bit disappointed with the warm weather and the fact that people wore not so many clothes - this meant we could not drench as many Y1s as we would like to, as they were willingly jumping into the water. However, the sad part was not thinking out of the box. Many of them missed the part of making fun of themselves and, most importantly, going around some rules. They still need to learn this quality to survive here.

But the good news is that this year's naked mile was a little bit more "flexible" than last year. As far as I am informed, three teams surpassed last year's record. I guess every year Y2 students are getting better at tutoring the new guys. I hope that next year the bar will be raised even higher!

Additionally, they got into their first fight. Skipping the fact that this time it was over freshly grilled sausages, I guess they pulled it out pretty good. At least, no one was injured.

In the evening we had an opportunity to single out the next "beer-monster-to-be". They probably took an example from this year's "hero", who drank 19 beers during the day and by the evening was pretty tired. However, he still kept the level quite high, and some of the newbies were trying to catch up so hard that later they needed to be carried to their beds. For example, I was "blessed" with two of them and found it quite sad when they cried over the fact that they had no place to go to. But I am pretty sure that a talent to find a place in a bed (usually next to a girl :) will be developed during the three years of studies.

Finally, I wanted to stress the fact that the last men standing were mostly Y2, and the new "party animals" still had to do some catching up regarding real partying. However, we all are a single community now, and I hope that Y1s enjoyed the Newcomers' Camp as much as the organizers did. Let's see how this will happen the next year. See you then!



Laura Danberga

INTERNSHIP STORIES: THE INTERNSHIP AT SSE RIGA BUSINESS LAB

Every student faces a situation when he or she has to make an important decision - to choose a place for internship. Some want to work in the office, some want to work at home. Some would like to deal with marketing, while others prefer accounting. Well why not to have it all?

This summer I've got a chance to find out what running a small business is all about. I was working in a souvenir company Riga Art Nouveau Collection, which was based in our Business Development Lab. In a team of 3 we were trying to introduce to the market new line of Art Nouveau souvenirs with some story behind them.

Our sales process started at the end of June. The main location of souvenirs was Sienna Art Café, and we were cooperating with Art Nouveau district guides. Unfortunately, the daily sales were not as high as we expected. As a result, all collection was sold in September.

I would like to share the main difficulties we have faced and tell what I have gained from this job.

DIFFICULTIES

- You should always bear in mind that you are not a worldwide known company with 100 years of experience. Sometimes firms will just don't want to talk with you, so you have to try again and again.



TM

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- Moreover, summer is time of vacation, and it might be hard to get in touch with the right person because he is sunbathing somewhere in Greece or Turkey.
- You may lack some skills and knowledge in different fields, so you have to use your imagination and resourcefulness.
- And the most important lesson - you should never set high expectations because everything might become absolutely unpredictable.

PLUSES

- You don't get daily assignments, where is said what exactly you have to do today. You get a chance to plan your week freely. You can be in the office, at home or in any other place.
- You will have to do everything! Starting the company, drafting contracts, calling clients, going to business meetings, writing press release and proposals, etc. So this is an amazing opportunity to learn things which you have never done before, or to improve some of yours already existing skills.
- You get not only experience but also a huge list of useful contacts and data, which you can easily use in your further activities.

So if you have any wonderful ideas you want to implement, don't hesitate, just do it.

Kristina Golovkina

Insider 7

PROS AND CONS OF BEING EMPLOYED IN MOSCOW

This summer I was lucky to spend 4 valuable weeks in Moscow as an intern at Gefco Russia, a leading logistics service provider in Russia and Central Asia. Knowing the thirst of SSE Riga students, especially Y1s, for career stories, I'd like to share some of my observations of being an employee in probably one of the most controversial countries in the world. So I will present you a list of good and bad sides of working in Russia.

PRO #1: Russia is an enormous country, and it is really underdeveloped and inefficient in almost all the sectors existing. This makes hundreds of companies search for employees all the time, offering them outrageously high salaries. Nowadays, when it is hardly possible to get a paid internship in the Baltics, in Moscow you might count on as much as 700 EUR for being an assistant of an assistant. Moscow's unemployment rate of 0.98% at the time of my employment perfectly illustrates this fact.

PRO #2: In addition to a good pay, one can get invaluable experience while working in Moscow. Business deals happen every day, covering the whole Russian territory and countries in Central Asia. There are constantly expanding industries to explore. As an intern, I worked with automotive industry, which started to develop in Russia in the early 2000s; since then, there has been a huge inflow of car components coming from Europe, the US, and Asia and multiplying business opportunities of companies every day. The one who catches the flow happens to be rich in logistics business, which was exciting me throughout all my internship.

PRO #3: Russian people are very helpful and open-minded. I stress 'Russian people' because it seems that all the minorities in Moscow will become one big majority soon. Russia is a people-factor country. You can't survive there without negotiation, communication, and other social skills. This is definitely a pro for SSE Riganians, since it's all about work with people here.

CON #1: Did I mention that Russia is really underdeveloped and inefficient country? So is Moscow, despite huge financial flows every day. Expect to stand in long queues to shops, museums, ticket offices. When using the public transport, you have to buy a ticket from the bus driver, which means only one door is opened and the bus will



not move until every person on every bus station doesn't buy a ticket. You can't imagine how I missed our e-talon system. Also, expect to see dirty and smelly streets, buses and trams from Soviet times, corrupted police, as the government appears either to have different priorities or not to be ready (or willing) to fix the problem.

CON #2: Prices in Moscow are as outrageous as salaries are. When you get your intern's 700 EUR, don't think that you are finally rich because you have to pay at least 500 EUR for the cheapest flat possible. When it comes to food issue, expect to see expensive, awful, small-portioned food everywhere. Since unemployment is very low, anyone can be employed in restaurant business. So, the quality of services is very poor, at a price which an employee with start-up salary can afford.

CON #3: People-factor is as con as it is a pro. People are open-minded in Russia, which means they really talk a lot, without being troubled to do so during work time, which means that productivity leaves much to be desired. Be ready to greet everyone personally, regardless of the number of people in the office. That is very humane, but so unproductive. Communication with policemen sometimes happens at very unexpected times and about unexpected topics, which may leave you spending a lot of time and money on some laws you didn't know.

VERDICT: If I wanted to do business in Russia, I would choose the following strategy: I would graduate from SSE Riga, enjoy high European standards of living in either country of the EU while gaining experience, and then go to Russia as an executive, consultant or business developer to make big money in this land of opportunities.

Vadims Pikarevskis

WORKING AT CIVITTA, OR HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER INTERNSHIP

"It is going to be a great year for you, the only thing left is to get an interesting internship," replied an acquaintance of mine after I told her about passed Finance and an opportunity to go on exchange. Seven months later I can certainly say that her words came true. The two months spent at Civitta was a great and fun experience which enabled me to grow a lot both personally and professionally. But let me start from the beginning...

PART 1: TAKING THE RISKS

At the time I started looking for an internship, talks about a new company called Civitta were spread around the school. No one could tell exactly what the company was all about or how it appeared on the list of recruiters of SSE Riga graduates, and this was a reason for a negative attitude towards the firm - you know, who would trust some Civitta that has no website and the only info available is a random blog with three posts and a page with legal details on another random site. Moreover, hearing stories about people working on Sunday evenings could not add confidence in the firm either. Similar thoughts came to me as well and stopped me each time I would consider a possibility to apply, even though I have wanted for a long time to take a closer look at what management consultants do. Nevertheless, after talking to my friends employed by Civitta, the concerns diminished, and I took a risk, the return of which exceeded my expectations.

So I applied. I should say that I haven't participated in more logical selection process than that of Civitta's. I loved the fact that motivation letter was not required. I have always found the letter to be the most stupid thing to ask for - it cannot say anything real about the person, maybe only how good they are in creative writing. On the other hand, for the first time I was asked to send my



DURING TRAININGS ELECTROTECHNICS ABC

grade transcript. Further steps were different as well: no usual HR questions and a small case checking your analytical thinking (you can hardly be prepared for it in advance); a practical task for the evening followed.

PART 2: WORK

The main reason why I found my internship so great was that I had a chance to become a member of a team that worked on restructuring energy sector in Lithuania. Sounds big? I would say massive, complex, and thus extremely interesting. I got extremely lucky - I doubt that there are many students that could participate in such an important project on the national level. To be more specific, I worked with a team dealing with the merger of two Lithuanian energy distribution companies. I was forced to learn not only about existing organizational structures, responsibilities of each department and other economics-related stuff, but also about pillars, wires, voltages, and engineering. My responsibilities mostly included performing Excel-based analyses, summarizing information from piles of documents, and preparing presentations for meetings. The greatest thing was dynamic (and thus never boring) work: even if there were cases of spending several days in a row on preparing the same presentation, the following day could bring trainings or a field trip to a center monitoring



CIVITTA PART OF MERGER TEAM

the performance of the whole distribution system in Lithuania. In addition to spending hours in front of the computer, I was also participating in meetings with top management of the companies. This was a chance not only to get more information from people directly related to the project, but also to learn about general yet important things: ways to communicate with different types of people, conflict management, etc.

PART 3: BREAKING THE MYTHS

There are many people who believe that Civitta is strange in every possible way, and some of these ideas were stuck in my mind before joining the company as well. Nevertheless, after two months in the company I should say that basically none of those prejudices are true.

The intensity of studies and profile of SSE Riga in general force students to communicate with a rather closed circle of people, so internship is a chance to

get away from this environment. However, around half of Civitta employees are former students of the school, so working in the company becomes like boiling in your own juice once again. I agree with that, but there is another side, too. First, as my experience proved, there are still many things you can learn from the people you thought you know everything about. Second, in my case, the fear turned out to be unnecessary as I worked with only one SSE graduate on the daily basis; five other colleagues were strong personalities of various age and experience. And they are the main reason why I don't regret any single day spent in office instead of enjoying this year's hot summer somewhere outside. Aside from this, Civitta has a common practice of rotating the circle of company employees. This means that after finishing a project you will most likely start the next one in a different team, which makes the work even more dynamic.

Do Civitta employees work so much that they have no personal life? Maybe. Or, more precisely - it depends. And it depends on many things: the project you are working with, the project's stage, your own time management skills, and, most importantly, your preferences. Yeah, once I was late for an 8pm meeting with my friends, and there were some evenings I worked at home, and some tasks were done during weekends, but... I believe one rarely can avoid such things when working within the management consulting industry, and those who choose this career know that. However, these things do not happen every day, so no one loses their "normal" life by default - it changes, but it is up to a person by how much.

Summing up, while some people blame SSE Riga internship program for destroying their summer, I can only be happy about mine. The first part of the summer was great because of FIFA World Cup; the second one was as great due to the internship: interesting work, amazing colleagues, and many myths busted. It might sound sick, but there were moments when I thought that I would rather stay with the project than leave to Paris for my exchange semester.

Ginville Ramanauskaite

GROWTH	6.14
SUPERVISION	4.67
RESPONSIBILITY	6.10
RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES	6.14
RELATIONSHIP WITH MANAGER	5.52
SECURITY	4.29
WORK ITSELF	5.57
RECOGNITION	4.71
WORKLOAD	5.10
TRAININGS	3.95

I MADE A SMALL SURVEY AMONG CIVITTA EMPLOYEES TO FIND OUT WHETHER MY OPINION ABOUT THE JOB IS JUST A STARTER'S EXCITEMENT, OR MAYBE THERE ARE MORE HAPPY WORKAHOLICS. AND HERE ARE SOME OF THE RESULTS.

THE FACT THAT ATMOSPHERE IN THE COMPANY IS GREAT IS SUPPORTED BY THE FACT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH COLLEAGUES IS EVALUATED THE HIGHEST OF ALL THE ASPECTS (6.14 IN THE SCALE OF 7), TOO. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INVESTMENT INTO EMPLOYEES OR, IN OTHER WORDS, TRAININGS PROVIDED IS EVALUATED ONLY AT 3.95, WHICH THOUGH IS HIGH IN ABSOLUTE TERMS IS RELATIVELY LOW ON THE COMPANY LEVEL.

JUNIOR PEAK TIME



Many of you might have noticed different links and posts on FB/Twitter containing „Junior Peak Time” words. While Peak Time part is more or less clear to SSE Riganians, the Junior part makes many of you wonder.

WHAT IS IT?

Basically, Junior Peak Time is a smaller Peak Time version for younger students intended to give an opportunity to high-school students (10th-12th grades) from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to gain valuable experience and to spread a word about SSE Riga.

HOW EVERYTHING WORKS?

There are two rounds – preliminary and finals. The preliminary round tests students' individual capability to search for necessary information, make decisions and calculations. It begins on October 1 and lasts until October 10. After that the 40 best students will be invited to the finals in Riga.

The finals will take place on November 6 and will last for one day; during it participants will have a guest lecture explaining a new and challenging concept that they will have to apply afterwards in their individual and team work tasks. Before working in teams, there will be a small introduction to the subject (remember the first lectures of Team Building?). Moreover, the teams will have to present their ideas.

WHO MAKES IT POSSIBLE?

Main initiators of the project were current Y3s – Aiste (ex-PT organizer), Ginvile (ex-Insider editor), Modestas (ex-PT organizer), Simona (ex-Edu.Com):

“After coming to the university, we realized that high school education in the Baltic states is very technical, and only few of us had any understanding of what economics is all about. And then the idea about creating a new, analytical-thinking and creativity based contest came to our minds! – tell the creators. – We shared our thoughts with the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga administration and lecturers. Everyone fell in love with the idea about providing interesting knowledge and unique experience for high school students. So the project development started.”

Currently Peak Time 2011 organizers – Aija, Anna, Ieva and Marius (Y2s) – take care of the organizational issues and are working hard to make all the ideas come true. The main concern until the end of September is promotion of the competition; afterwards, the fun part will definitely begin. So wait and see... :)

P.S.

The application process ends on September 30, 23:59 (GMT +02:00). To apply, students need to register at www.juniorpeaktime.org



All tasks are related to economic and business spheres (and are in English); however, no specific knowledge in these fields is needed as tasks are developed to test analytical and critical thinking, not some previously obtained knowledge.

P.P.S.

Pass the news to those who might be interested and challenge them – it is worth it ;)



Junior Peak Time Team

CLASH OF MINDS

DEBATING IS A COMPETITION OF MINDS, AND AS YOU PRACTICE MORE AND MORE, YOU START WANTING TO INCREASE ITS SCALE. ONE BEGINS WITH SHORT SPEECHES, THEN SWITCHES TO FULL FOUR-TEAM DEBATES, THEN TAKES PART IN LOCAL TOURNAMENTS AND, WITH TIME, STARTS GOING TO INTERNATIONAL ONES. ONE OF THE LARGEST TOURNAMENTS ONE CAN PARTICIPATE IN IS, UNDOUBTEDLY, THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP (EUDC OR EUROS) THAT GATHERS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE COMING FROM AS DISTANT PLACES AS IRELAND TO ISRAEL. I WOULD LIKE TO TELL ABOUT SSE RIGA DEBATE SOCIETY'S GREAT SUMMER EXPERIENCE.

PREPARATION

At the end of the first study year it was announced that our Debate Society was selecting people for the EUDC 2010. Those to be chosen could really hit the jackpot: not only they received the right and honor to represent SSE Riga at the preparatory tournament in Rotterdam and at the Euros themselves, but also participation fees (including accommodation) and travelling costs were covered by the society. People were being selected on grounds of three criteria: debating skills, level of activity and what contribution they had made to the Debate Society. Eventually the choice was made, and two teams (Nikita and Roberts, Reinholds and I) and one judge (Edvīns) started packing up for the trip. We decided to prepare hard and read a few smart books and watch some debate videos even before workshops in Rotterdam. Finally, on July 3 we took off.

THE FUN BEGINS

Our first stop was Brussels as RyanAir did not offer direct flights from Riga to Holland. We decided to turn this fact into an advantage and enjoy every moment of our stay in the capital of European bureaucracy; hopefully, it was very easy because a brother of Mārtiņš Veiss, one of our debaters, lived in Brussels and agreed to meet us and show the city. To be brief, it was terrific – Brussels was a great mix of Gothic architecture and modern buildings, and the whole city was pulsating with all kinds of political/cultural/sport events. We attended an exhibition of Latvian art; witnessed Tour de France; ate the famous waffles (tasty indeed); tasted great Belgian beer; did some shopping; finally, we were extremely lucky

to be there when Belgium was celebrating its newly obtained Presidency of the Council of the European Union. City authorities organized a massive event with light performances and shows involving acrobats, artists, and singers that performed everything from the EU anthem Ode an die Freude to Alors on danse. It was truly one of the greatest events in my life and one of those rare moments when I was really proud to be a European citizen. Amazed and inspired, we went to Rotterdam by train the next day.

DAPDI

Rotterdam welcomed us as an ultramodern city of huge skyscrapers and contemporary art pieces scattered all over the place. The city was heavily bombed during the WWII, and Rotterdam's center with all medieval buildings was almost completely destroyed; thus, modern architecture was free to enter the city and fill it with glass and concrete. But let's get back to the story. Erasmus University Rotterdam is home to the oldest debating society in the Netherlands; every summer Erasmus organizes Dutch Anglo-Saxon Parliamentary Debating Institute (DAPDI) that offers high quality of debating and a great chance to explore the city and socialize with people all around Europe. This year's DAPDI was especially useful as it was held right before the EUDC; therefore, dozens of teams willing to get ready for the Euros arrived. The organizers expected such influx and invited amazing judges from Oxford – we learned a great many things during varied lectures and workshops, and the preparatory tournament was really helpful to get us into the debating mood. As for





the fun part, we visited many cool clubs and pubs and enjoyed the green indulgences of the Dutch drug policy. Celebrating the break of the Netherlands national football team, or Oranje, into the World Cup Final, when the whole city went orange-mad, was the best DAPDI ending one could imagine. We spent a terrific week in Rotterdam; however, all the wonders were yet to come.

AMSTERDAM

Football followed us in Amsterdam as well as we arrived a day prior to the Final. The whole city was pulsating in anticipation of the game, so we had a little walk around the city and a small museum/shopping tour before going to the Museum square and joining other 100 000 people to watch the game. It felt so great to be among the Dutch and other tourists and support the Oranje; too bad they lost – we could have made so many new friends that night...

But the next day began what we all anticipated so much – the Euros. A few words about the scale and structure: in total, 192 teams (384 persons) participated in this year's EUDC, of which 104 were EFL (English as the First Language) and 88 were ESL (English as a Second Language). Add to this a hundred or so of judges and several dozens of organizers and you'll get a huge event that gathered 500+ people. There were 8 preliminary debates with EFL and ESL teams participating together; during them one had to gain team points (allocated for one's place (1st to 4th) in a debate) and speaker points (assigned to each speaker individually based on quality of his/her speech). Usually speaker points are not so important, but not during the EUDC when there is a vast number of participants – of the teams with the same number of team points, the ones with the highest total speaker points are ranked

first. Eventually, the sixteen best teams in each category were identified, and separate EFL and ESL quarterfinals started.

The EUDC lasted for a week and was sponsored by several Dutch universities, the city of Amsterdam, and many other organizations. The whole event was held at the top level: we lived in 4-star hotels in the center of Amsterdam and were taken to universities by bus; we visited a variety of nightclubs throughout our stay; the semifinals and finals were organized in the premises of beautiful churches in the heart of Amsterdam; finally, after the closing ceremony, a canal cruise dinner and a set of excursions across

Amsterdam were offered to participants.

Overall, it was smashing and surpassed all my expectations. I think it's needless to say that the level of debating was excellent, and although it was quite tough to have 4 debates per day two days in a row, we enjoyed every single moment of it. It is also very exciting to debate with native speakers: yes, it is much more difficult, but it feels so good to beat an EFL team :) Unfortunately, we did not break into the quarterfinals, though we had quite good chances: we gained 12 points during the preliminary rounds while the lowest passing score was 13 points – one more point, and we could have been in the Top 16! As for the results, the ESL champions were Slovenians, and the main Final was won by an Irish team – for the first time in history!

AFTERWORD

To conclude, I would say that debating is not only a means to develop your critical thinking and speaking skills; it is also a great way to make international friends and travel easily (and cheap) around the world. The next Euros will be held in Galway, Ireland, and SSE Riga Debating Society will definitely take part in it. So don't miss your chance, come to our sessions, and you might be one of the lucky five going there! :)

P.S. If you got really interested in Amsterdam EUDC and debating in general, here are some useful links:

- amsterdameudc.org – here you can find full info about the Euros, including motions, results, team tabs and speaker tabs;
- [youtube.com/user/wortgefechte](https://www.youtube.com/user/wortgefechte) – here you can watch the Open (EFL) Final.
- Facebook – search for 'SSE Riga Debate Society' and find out everything we're up to!

Vladimirs Zlotnikovs

GOSSIP*

* WARNING. THIS PAGE CONTAINS MATERIAL WHICH SOME READERS MAY FIND OFFENSIVE. THE INSIDER TEAM DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTENT APPEARING HERE AND THE ACTIONS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AFTER READING THE GOSSIP PAGE. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU COULD BE OFFENDED IN ANY WAY, SKIP THIS PAGE. AND REMEMBER, THIS IS JUST FOR FUN ;)

THEY SAY THAT ADMINISTRATION OF SSE RIGA IS USING THEORY X TO DEAL WITH STUDENTS...

ALUMNI SAY THAT THE GOSSIP PAGE IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE

THEY SAY ARTURS' HAIR CAN MAKE ROCKS BLEED

THEY SAY THAT ARTUR'S HAIR CAN MAKE FASHION POLICE CRY

ARTURS' HAIR DOESN'T GO OUT OF FASHION, THE FASHION GOES OUT OF ARTURS' HAIR

THEY SAY THAT ZEMGUS IS APPLYING FOR THE SUMMER OLYMPICS 2012. BE AWARE, MICHAEL PHELPS.

27 NEW APPLICANTS FROM ESTONIA... TUITION FEE OF 3500 IS A WAY TO GO

THEY SAY THAT ARTURS' HAIR CAN KICK MACGYVER'S HAIR ASS

ARTURS' HAIR THINKS THAT FASHION IS A MYTH... MYTHBUSTERS?

THEY SAY THAT ARTURS' HAIR WOULD HAVE A LOT EASIER LIFE IF IT WOULD LIVE IN THE '80S

THEY SAY THAT PAULIUS BRAIN IS VIRGIN.

THEY SAY THAT THE NEW SA WORKS SO HARD THAT THEIR WEBPAGE IS DOWN.. AGAIN.. WAIT.. OH, STILL DOWN. NOW? NO, STILL DOWN.

THEY SAY THAT KARL IS NOT SLOW. OH, WAIT, THEY DON'T.

THEY SAY THAT IFUND=ICLOWNS

THEY SAY THAT DURING PARTIES SSER STUDENTS ARE SOMETIMES TALKING ABOUT MAXIMIZING HAIRSHOULDERS' VALUE

THEY SAY THAT KARL CAN MAKE 100 GUYS HAPPY

THEY SAY OLGA PAKAMORE.

THEY SAY THAT OLGA KOZLOVA IS TOGETHER WITH MANTAS PAKAMORE. THEY ALSO SAY THAT MANTAS PASSED FINANCE WITH 100 POINTS...

THEY SAY THAT IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY JOB/INTERNSHIP OFFER FROM ANY OTHER COMPANY, YOU CAN ALWAYS GET ONE FROM CIVITTA.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WONDERING, WHETHER THE FACT THAT EVERY DAY WE ARE RECEIVING (SPAM) EMAILS TO SSE MAIL BOX ABOUT BUYING DIPLOMA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A SIGN.

THEY SAY THAT FOR IEVA T CREATIVE THINKING PROCESS IS NOTHING BUT BLOWSTORMING

THEY SAY SOME Y1 GIRL GOT ADMITTED TO SSER FOR EUR 10K

THEY SAY THAT ZEMGUS HAD AN AFFAIR WITH A MARRIED WOMAN IN RUSSIA.

THEY SAY LAURYNAS (Y2) PROVIDES SEXUAL SERVICES OVER THE PHONE.

THEY SAY THAT CLASS 2013 ARE REALLY IMPOLITE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO SITTING IN PLACES THAT ARE ALREADY TAKEN. WELL, WE WILL TEACH YOU SOME GOOD MANNERS.

THEY SAY, "3 ESTONIANS? REALLY!?"

THEY SAY ALF VANAGS IS NOT AWAKE DURING HIS LECTURES - HE HAS SIMPLY DEVELOPED AN OUTSTANDING ABILITY TO READ WHAT'S WRITTEN ON PPT SLIDES WHILE BEING ASLEEP (AND EVEN AUTOMATICALLY TELL RANDOM STORIES ABOUT HIS PAST).

THEY SAY THIS YEAR THERE ARE SO FEW ESTONIANS BECAUSE THEY WERE LATE TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TESTS

THEY SAY SAMSUNG WHEN THEY MEET ZEMGUS, WHERE "THEY"=RANDOM DRUNK ESTONIANS

THEY SAY THAT THERE IS A NEW UNOFFICIAL SSER BAR CALLED - PRIEKSI! (THE HAPPY PLACE)

SOME SAY THAT MAIJA MELINOVSKA (Y2) IS A LITTLE SAUSAGE.

THEY SAY THAT TOMAS ZUOZA (Y2) LIKES TO 'ACCIDENTALLY' TOUCH LIENE'S BREAST.

SOME SAY THAT SOME Y1 GIRLS DO NOT SHAVE.

THEY SAY THAT PAULIUS LINGYS (Y2) GOT BITTEN BY A NAIL.

THEY SAY THAT WHEN KOZLOVSKIS (Y2) DISCOVERED THE TAG FUNCTION ON FACEBOOK HE WAS SO EXCITED THAT HE TAGGED EVERYONE IN THE NEWCOMER'S CAMP PICTURES.

THEY SAY THAT THERE IS JACOB IN YEAR1

THEY SAY THAT VIKTORIJA (Y3) HAD SO GOOD TIME IN CINEMA WITH NESTERENKO (Y4) THAT SHE EVEN DOES NOT REMEMBER WHAT THE MOVIE WAS ABOUT

THEY SAY THAT RŪTA ABRAMAVIČIŪTĒ EXISTS.

THEY SAY THAT THE MEXICAN FIESTA WAS FRIKING AWESOME.

THEY SAY THAT SOME Y1 GIRLS WERE VERY WILLING TO GET RID OF THEIR CLOTHES DURING 'NAKED MILE'.

THEY SAY THAT MARCIS (Y2) STILL HAS THE SMELL OF CHAMPAGNE FROM NEWCOMERS.

THEY SAY THAT YEAR 1S HAVE LEARNT ONLY "STUDY HARD" PART OF THE PHRASE SO FAR :(

THEY SAY THAT A GAME OF 'PSYCHOLOGIST' REVEALED THE SEX LIFE OF MORE PEOPLE THAN WE WOULD HAVE GUESSED...

THEY SAY Y1S DON'T PARTY, THEY HAVE EBP

THEY SAY THERE IS SCHOOL OF SEXUAL SEDUCTION IN RIGA.

THEY SAY THAT THE CAPTAIN OF TEAM ARTUR'S HAIR WAS CAPTAIN MORGAN

THEY SAY THAT THERE IS NO POINT OF COUNTING BEES IN SPRING

THEY SAY THAT IF YOU WANT TO TOUCH BOOBIES YOU HAVE TO DRIVE AT LEAST 90 KM/H.

THEY SAY ČIK LAIKS? LAIKS IEDZERT!

THEY SAY THERE'S NO GETTING SOBER.

THEY SAY THE EASIEST WAY TO ATTRACT WOMEN IS TO TAKE SOME CONDENSED MILK (ALSO KNOWN AS 'SGOOSCHIONKA') AND PUT IT ON THE TABLE – YOU'LL SEE, THEY WILL SURROUND YOU LIKE BIRDS OF PREY

THEY SAY THAT POLITICAL ECONOMY LECTURES WOULD START AT 5 AM, IF THE SCHOOL WAS OPEN.

THEY SAY THAT SOCIALISING AND DRINKING BEER IS GOOD. BEST FRIENDS COME FROM RE-EXAMS.

THEY SAY THAT ALMA IS LIKE A BAD APPLE – LOOKS GOOD WHEN YOU FIRST SEE IT, TURNS OUT ROTTEN WHEN YOU TAKE A BITE.

THEY SAY EXCHANGE ALEXANDRA IS VERY SEXY IN SHORTS

THEY SAY VIKTORIJA AND BOGDANOVŠ & EDGARS (Y2) AND STUKULS (Y5)

THEY SAY THAT Y1 STUDENT WAS SO INSPIRED BY NEWCOMER'S CAMP THAT CAME AS A FAKE STUDENT AT RSU (RIGAS STRADINA UNIVERSITY) OPENING PARTY

THEY SAY THAT YEAR 2 WERE UPGRADED FROM TEA AND TOMATOES TO WINE AND CHEESE.

THEY SAY CHEBURASHKA IS BACK.

THEY SAY THAT LIENE G. IS RIGHT – THERE ARE MANY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS IN SSE RIGA. BUT LIENE – YOU HAVE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL INNER WORLD. ;)

THEY SAY THAT MOST OF THE NEW Y1 ARE A SNOTTY BUNCH OF SPOILED BRATS WITH RICH PARENTS.

THEY SAY THAT AFTER THE SA BOARD VISITED SSE IN STOCKHOLM, THE SPORTS COMMITTEE THERE IS MISSING A FOOTBALL HELMET.

THEY WONDER WHO WILL BE THE NEW VAIRIS...

THEY SAY THAT MADIS IS LUKE'S FATHER

THEY SAY IT IS VERY EASY TO GET KATYA (Y2) INTO BED – ONE JUST HAS TO WATCH A HORROR MOVIE WITH HER;)

THEY SAY LUKAS GADEIKIS IS NOW LUKAS SKYWALKERIS.

THEY SAY THAT YAROSLAVA AND KAMILE LOSE THEIR STRAIGHTNESS IN EVENINGS.



THEY SAY MAGICAL CREATURES INDEED EXIST IN SSE RIGA.

WHOLE EUROPE FOR €200

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE TRIP

DISTANCE: 8000 KM

TIME: 25 DAYS

EXPENSES: 100 EUR EACH+RYANAIR TICKET (15 LVL)

COUNTRIES: SEE MAP

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: LITHUANIAN, RUSSIAN, LATVIAN, ENGLISH, 20 WORDS IN GERMAN, 5 WORDS IN SPANISH AND ITALIAN.

WEATHER: IT RAINED ONLY TWICE, SUNNY ~+25-30 AVERAGE

LIVING CONDITIONS: 4 NIGHTS OUT OF 25 SLEPT IN A FLAT, OTHERWISE- OUTSIDE

LONGEST TRIP IN ONE CAR: 2 DAYS OR 2200 KM (FROM PARIS TO GRANADA)

HITCH-HIKING COUNTRY RATING:

1) GERMANY, 2) POLAND, 3) CZECH REPUBLIC, 4) AUSTRIA, 5) FRANCE, 6) SPAIN & ITALY

EASIEST WAY TO HITCH-HIKE: WITH TRUCK DRIVERS

FRIENDLIEST DRIVERS: UKRAINIANS

WASHING? WE WASHED OURSELVES AND CLOTHES ON THE GAS STATIONS. ACTUALLY BY THE END OF THE JOURNEY GAS STATIONS HAD BECOME OUR SECOND HOME - WE WERE EVEN SLEEPING THERE.

Usually in our countries in towns with population of 4-5 thousand there is not a lot to see except poverty. Here it is vice versa - rich people prefer living in smaller cities. It was cozy and had ruins of a castle on the opposite coast of the Mosel river. We even managed to get there, and in the end we were sleeping under the arc on that hill.

The next city, Trier, despite being more famous (it's the oldest city in Germany), didn't have any particular atmosphere. Its main street was crowded with tourists and looked like Klaipeda during the Sea Festival. Still, its sights were quite spectacular.

A Stradiņa university student whom we met on the plane suggested that we should go to Cologne, and so we went there. We decided to sleep in a park; in some time several people came there to do barbecue. This fact by itself isn't surprising, what's more interesting is that they brought couches to the park and were sitting there like in a flat. Cologne is a student city. We were there the evening when Germany beat Argentina 4:0, so in the morning there were no people in the streets, just broken glass and lots of rubbish (cleaning people, it seems, were partying hard too).



GERMANY

After a successful landing in Frankfurt-Hahn airport we took out our printed Google maps and tried to find our way. It turned out that those maps are not very helpful; fortunately, two Bulgarians took us to some turn of the road near a small city. We found ourselves on a forest road where frequency of cars was 1 per 5 minutes (that's not a lot). Still, soon we were taken by a policeman or an army guy who drove us to Traben-Trarbach, a small yet pretty German city.



at Damien's place. Finally, we were able to sleep in a flat! So the next morning we slept a long time, and when we came to Louvre, it was almost closed. We still managed to see Mona Lisa (it was easy to find because of huge crowds of Japanese tourists around the painting). On the second day we visited Damien's most beloved museum, Musee d'Orsay, and, of course, took a photo with the Eiffel tower, visited the Triumph arc, Sacré Coeur, and so on.. Paris is a cool city, it has everything from large avenues to small streets, lots of really different people, a skyscraper district, strange suburbs, museums, history... But it was time to go further.

Streets were so deserted that we even managed to drive along one in a shopping cart. When we visited the main sight, Cologne Dome, it was time to move, but then some strange people started to appear around us... Music, dancing, costumes, strange people, water, condoms, rainbow colors, leather...Bingo! It was a gay parade! A bit surprising for our Eastern European eyes... Hm... why there is no Straight parades? I guess, too many homosexuals in the government block any proposal of such parades.

FRANCE

However interesting the Gay Parade was, it was time to move on to Paris. Miraculously, we managed to get there the same day (you shouldn't forget: Germany has the first place in the list the friendliest hitch-hiking countries). We were in Paris at 00:30. The only thing we had was a screenshot of Google Maps where you couldn't see any street names and address of Damien's work and flat (NB: Damien is an exchange student from France who kindly allowed us to stay at his place and showed us Paris, and fed us, and generally is a very cool guy :) We first went to the nearest underground station and started to plan our way, when it turned out that we were actually looking at the bus map. Just asking people turned to be a better idea, they suggested us get out at the largest stop (Opera) and from there to search further. Later we needed to ask the way in 2 hotels, and approximately in 40 minutes we were

Here it gets more and more complicated to hitch-hike. French people are afraid of violence. Nonetheless, one day we managed to move approx 20 km from Paris. The next morning we were going to Mont Blanc: it turned out that we were really mostly GOING (not driving) as nobody was driving in our direction, or just we looked too suspicious. By 2 PM we found ourselves standing on a highway for already 2 hours, we tried all signs, cars simply were not stopping! Then, finally, one car stopped. We were so desperate that told the guy, "In any direction", and he replied, "I'm going to Spain." One rule of hitch-hikers – longer you stay, longer you go (at least for us). We went 2200 km with him until Granada. We didn't take paid highways but were driving on small roads, so we were able to see the nature and also Mountains! The





SPAIN

Totally different from our countries. Different trees (lots of olives), more hills and mountains, and ultra hot. It was so hot that the car's disc reader wasn't working. That night we had to sleep under an olive tree. Funny, but first mosquitoes showed up only here, in Spain, country with the hottest weather. We tried to hitch-hike to the sea, it was very hard, and Spanish were even more afraid than French people. A German-Spanish economist finally took us, but he said that if we were not foreigners, no one would take us. We understood our comparative advantage - Stas' fair hair, so later he never wore a hat. In Malaga, the most popular Mediterranean resort in Europe (as they say), Stas scraped his feet and hands on the sharp rocks because he went to swim in a suspiciously-empty-of-people place. We were sleeping that day in a construction building because there was no other place to sleep in that city. The only big green area on the map turned out to be a mountain :(

guy was driving through the middle of the Pyrenees, views were spectacular. But we think we were driving with a rally driver, he was in such a hurry that even on a flat mountain road he was driving 120 km/h, hoping no cars will come from the other side. In the mountains we took a hitch-hiker girl from France, which implied that in Peugeot 206 there was even less place for our feet. When we were stopped at the border of Spain and the police checked our passports, they were confused: what would a Belgian, a Latvian, a Lithuanian, and a French do in one car?

In such heat we suddenly remembered that we were 4000 km from our home, and we started to pack our bags to move North, away from the sun.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Stanislavs Filatovs

Day one
is your time to shine

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EXCHANGE GUIDE...

SSE RIGA IS A PLACE TO MEET STUDENTS FROM ALL OTHER THE WORLD. FALL SEMESTER 2010 IS NOT AN EXCEPTION: WE HAVE STUDENTS FROM GERMANY, RUSSIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, SLOVAKIA, PORTUGAL, ITALY, AND SPAIN.

WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THEM AND THEIR COUNTRIES?



FROM GERMANY?

Vicky Barth, Kristina Künzig, Alexandra von der Marwitz, Ulrike Schulz, Alina Herrbold, Jan Lannert, Reiner Kelkel, Fabian Fruth, Adrian Dungert, Matthias Massop

GERMANY IS... Prost!

DURING THE WEEKEND GERMAN PEOPLE LIKE... having barbecues from Friday to Sunday in the summer and watching "Bundesliga" (REAL soccer).



ANY GERMAN MAN SHOULD DEFINITELY... know how to make a proper barbecue.

A WOMAN OF A DREAM IN GERMANY IS... hot, willing, and uncomplicated.

THE MOST FAVORITE ACTIVITY OF GERMAN STUDENTS IS... drinking coffee while pretending working hard.

ANY STUDENT COMING TO GERMANY SHOULDN'T... applause after the lecture, but knock on the table instead.

ANY TOURIST COMING TO GERMANY SHOULD... drive at least 200 km/h on the Autobahn once.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE THINK ABOUT FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT... it's not our fault!

WHAT ELSE ? Germany will win the soccer world cup in 2014!

RUSSIA?

Alexandra Malysheva

RUSSIA IS... "Avos". It's nearly impossible to translate this word into any other language. "Avos" means something like "I hope" or "perhaps" or "let it be". So the whole thing means that Russian people never plan anything properly and just hope they are lucky and will avoid any difficulties.

DURING THE WEEKEND RUSSIAN PEOPLE LIKE... gathering their friends and relatives and celebrating random events, which aren't actually any special occasions, but the things like "mom's new dress" or "someone's 34th week in the university". Russian people love to celebrate something!





ANY RUSSIAN MAN SHOULD DEFINITELY... be able to repair his car, because cars get broken very often when driving on Russian roads :)

A WOMAN OF A DREAM IN RUSSIA IS... the one who is beautiful and patient. She can serve beer and chips for her boyfriend and his friends while they are watching football on TV and keep silent despite everything.

THE MOST FAVORITE ACTIVITY OF RUSSIAN STUDENTS IS... celebrating the end of the exam session (They have exams only twice a year, so when it's exam session they do not sleep for 5-6 days in a row and have to pass exams every day. But after it all finishes... :).

ANY STUDENT COMING TO RUSSIA SHOULDN'T... expect to see bears in the streets, people drinking vodka all day long and all that other stereotyped stuff. I'm sorry if I disappoint you guys, but Russian children don't play with "matryoshkas", we don't wear those 'traditional' Russian hats and boots, and don't play "garmoshkas" and "balalaykas". We do drink vodka, but not more than any other nation. And yes, actually, I've never seen a brown bear in my life...;).

ANY TOURIST COMING TO RUSSIA SHOULD... come in winter! To be able to say proudly that he survived in Russia.

THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE THINK ABOUT FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT... They don't care!

WHAT ELSE? The winter Olympic Games 2014 are held in Russia. So, except Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and Syberia, there is also Sochi in Russia :) And the symbol of the Olympic Games is Cheburashka.

FROM KAZAKHSTAN?

Dasha Strekozova and Olzhas Tamabayev

KAZAKHSTAN IS... huge and hospitable.

DURING THE WEEKEND KAZAKH PEOPLE LIKE... going to the mountains, visiting night clubs, sleeping and eating a lot.

ANY KAZAKH MAN SHOULD DEFINITELY KNOW... where is Barakholka (the biggest bazaar in central Asia).

A WOMAN OF A DREAM IN KAZAKHSTAN... is beautiful, loves her boyfriend/husband and her job, keeps home tidy and cozy, is self-confident and smart.

THE MOST FAVORITE ACTIVITY OF KAZAKH STUDENTS IS... traveling, driving a car, socializing with peers, enjoying life.

ANY STUDENT COMING TO KAZAKHSTAN SHOULDN'T... drink alcohol on the street, it's forbidden by law.

ANY TOURIST COMING TO KAZAKHSTAN SHOULD... go to the mountains to ski or snowboard (there is one of the world biggest skiing resort, called Chimbulak, which is beloved by the PM of Russia -- Vladimir Putin :); visit our President Park, which is huge, green and very beautiful; eat Kazakh traditional food (Beshbarmak - some kind of soup with meat and dough); catch a taxi, bargain with a driver about the price of the trip, and reduce it until



150 tenge (1 dollar)!

THE KAZAKH PEOPLE THINK ABOUT FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT... it has changed a lot for us, but everything that happens eventually leads to a better way of living. So, the approach of Kazakh people is optimistic.

WHAT ELSE ? Kazakhstan is really big. It will take you about a week to go from one border of the country to another by train.

FROM SLOVAKIA?

Katarina Kordulakova



SLOVAKIA IS... a country of proud people that is mostly omitted by tourist traveling in central Europe and usually confused with Slovenia.

ON THE WEEKEND SLOVAK PEOPLE LIKE... to stay at home with their families. Saturday is usually devoted to cleaning, and Sunday is spent on eating family lunch and watching football in the afternoon.

ANY SLOVAK MAN SHOULD DEFINITELY... drink. As like other Central-European nations, Slovaks are not exception: the drinking is a social criterion of man's virility.

A WOMAN OF A DREAM IN SLOVAKIA IS... usually correlated with combination of ideal catholic woman: devoted to the family and her husband. And a woman in Slovakia is "sexy" creature: that is the beauty of the mankind (especially her breast part).

THE MOST FAVORITE ACTIVITY OF SLOVAK STUDENTS IS... partying on Thursdays.

ANY STUDENT COMING TO SLOVAKIA SHOULDN'T... remain only in Bratislava, which is a common mistake; Slovakia is interesting mainly for its nature beauties that you can't find in the capital city.

ANY TOURIST COMING TO SLOVAKIA SHOULD DEFINITELY... come in winter, taste all traditional dishes and drinks: žinčica or slivovica, and go skiing in the mountains.

THE SLOVAK PEOPLE THINK ABOUT FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT... Slovakia suffered again due to the external reasons, but Slovaks can overcome it, as they have overcome the painful transition period.

WHAT ELSE? Be aware that Slovaks are proud of being Slovaks, even though they seem to holler about the State and other citizens. And never tell Slovaks about Hungarians, especially that their multinational state from the 19th century is worthy to resurrect.

FROM KYRGYZSTAN?



Anna Charintseva and Nazgul Osmonalieva

KYRGYZSTAN IS... Mountains!

ON THE WEEKEND KYRGYZ PEOPLE LIKE... to go to Issyk Kul (the lake).



ANY KYRGYZ MAN SHOULD DEFINITELY... ride a horse and taste a shoro.

A WOMAN OF A DREAM IN KYRGYZSTAN IS... a woman who can do something with guts and felt!

THE MOST FAVORITE ACTIVITY OF KYRGYZ STUDENTS IS... to play "Kyz-Kuumay" – a game when a man on a horse should chase a girl on another horse and kiss her.

ANY STUDENT COMING TO KYRGYZSTAN SHOULDN'T... miss an opportunity to try EVERYTHING!

ANY TOURIST COMING TO KYRGYZSTAN SHOULD... drink Kumyz, taste Shoro, go to the Issyk-Kul lake, and play "Kyz-Kuumay" =) and... experience a recently appeared activity – participate in a revolution =D

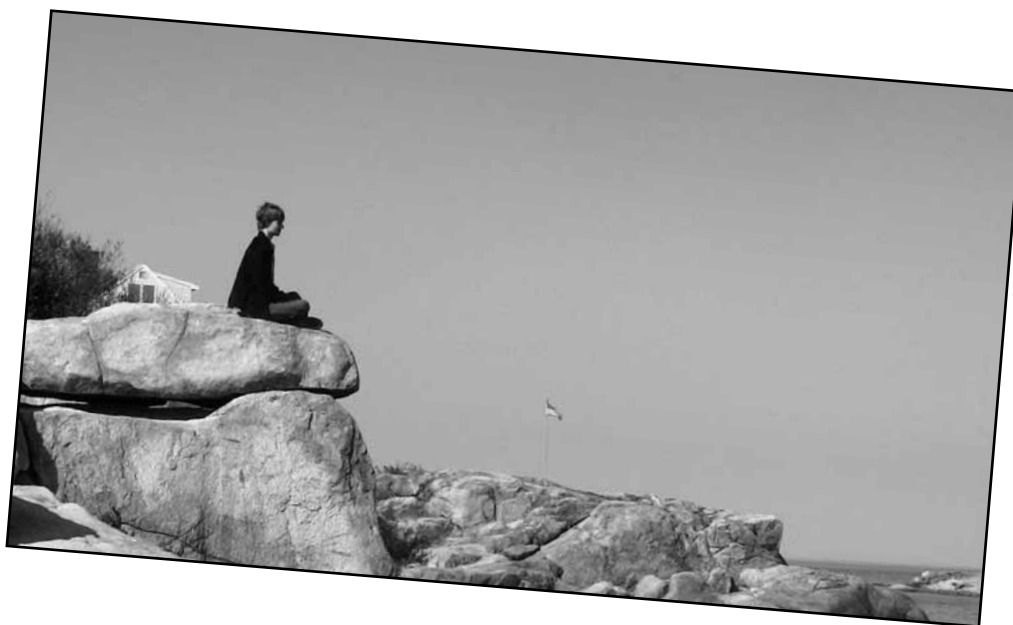
THE KYRGYZ PEOPLE THINK ABOUT FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT... it got tired of getting to Kyrgyzstan through mountains.

WHAT ELSE? Its nature is really awesome. You definitely should come and explore it!

Tatiana Arventi

REST, TRAVEL, WORK, AND REST

"Everyone keeps asking me who you are," whispers a girl sitting next to me during the lecture. So this is the first impression I'm going to leave to my new course mates - someone who asked a question which took Alf 15 minutes to answer. As most of you might not be familiar with me, this article is meant to introduce myself and to tell you about my year-off experience .



Here I was, in June 2009 - not having a company to do my internship at nor any motivation to find one. With quite a few courses failed in the second semester, a debt of 4000 euros, and the prospect of tripling this sum before graduating, the most important problem I probably faced was that I did not know what I want to do with my life. I was having serious doubts about this whole "Bachelor in business and economics" thing. One thing was clear - I needed to take some time to put myself together. Thus, with Diana's approval, I submitted my application to suspend my studies for a year.

So, when all of my course mates were preparing to spend hours in the offices doing their internships and dreaming about all the great things they could do with such an amazing weather, I actually had a chance to do all those great things. I spent almost a month in my grandparents' summer cottage, taking naps in the hammock and eating strawberries and raspberries for almost every meal of the day. Then I spent a few weeks near the sea, enjoying all the pleasures that only the sea can provide. Finally, I spent a week in a cottage by the lake where my 19th birthday caught me by surprise. It was one of those summers that I haven't had since childhood.

Having my batteries recharged to the fullest, I started devoting time and energy to projects that I had always wanted to complete but never had the time to: I took my driving lessons, I tried learning to play guitar, I learnt to swim (something that I had previously accepted I would never be able to do). Finally, I reconnected with

my friends back in Lithuania, some of whom I had not seen for almost 5 years.

The highlight of my year was October, all of which I had spent in the USA. As it was my cousin's 30th birthday, and he really wanted me and my father to be there, we found ourselves unable to refuse. I had a chance to walk the streets of Manhattan; try some of the most delicious food; admire the ocean; spend a couple of hours wandering around the shops in the lobby of Atlantic City's casino while "the grownups" were having fun inside; visit Met and MOMA and see the original works of many of my favorite painters; ride a 4-wheel bike; sail down a lake on my uncle's boat; and just have a great time in general. Overall, I was rather satisfied with the trip, even though I only managed to visit 5 states.

Having practically hibernated through the winter in front of my computer, I once again found something to do when the spring came - my father's business had some work that he needed my help with, and I was more than happy to help him. Over the course of 5 months I tried myself at practically anything that you can do in an advertisement/billboard manufacturing business. There were moments when I really understood what the education was needed for - namely, to avoid a job that involves putting a huge logo on a truck till 3 AM until I was no longer capable of lifting my own arms above the shoulders. While physical exhaustion after a day full of work does bring a sense of pride and

accomplishment, it's not something I'd enjoy on a daily basis; so I felt relief when August came around, marking the last days before returning to Riga to continue my studies.

Overall, I think the experience was very good for me. I saw life from the perspective of someone going to a boring job every day, and I started to look at my own career prospects more seriously. I gained the willpower to carry out tasks I didn't enjoy without delays or complaints because I knew that there was even more to be done the next day, and no one else was going to do them for me. But, most importantly, I feel like I've found some sense in my life - having this year free to experiment with what I want to do and having almost zero responsibilities, I had a clean sheet of paper to draw the outlines of what I want my life to look like. Sometimes the freedom not to do something (in my case, returning to studies) is all that is necessary to make a decision to follow through. Now I see how this is to my own benefit and why it is in my best interest to put an effort into it.

So, in case you find yourself lost and not really knowing what to do with your life and whether the path you're taking is the right one - don't be afraid to stop, take a break, look at the map, compass, and set the new course. Maybe you'll find out that you were on the right track all along.

As a finishing touch, I give a big thanks to Katya for asking me to write this article and being among the first people to welcome me back here.

Petras Nutautas



SSE RIGA STUDENTS GOT TALENTS

It is obvious that SSE Riga gathers a lot of smart, skillful, and talented students. One of them is Martynas Stankevičius (Y1). Once upon a time an innocent fight game encouraged him to take Jujitsu trainings and become a master of this art.

The Bujinkan organization is the modern continuation of the Ninpo martial art that was carried on and adapted from its foundations in feudal Japan. Thus, Bujinkan taijutsu has many similarities with older forms of other Japanese martial arts, including Aikido and Judo.

Bujinkan Budō Taijutsu practice does not normally include participation in competitions or contests, as the school's training aims to develop skills to protect oneself and others through the use of techniques that often focus on disabling (breaking) the attackers' limbs and which can also intentionally cause their death. The Bujinkan does not adhere to any guideline or set of rules to limit action or techniques during training because many of the staple responses of a student would be illegal in most competitions. Specifically, however, the Bujinkan is mostly known for teaching koshijutsu (pressure point, muscle attacks/tears and joint dislocations), koppojutsu (bone breaking), jutaijutsu (throwing, grappling, ground fighting), dakentaijutsu (strikes), happo bikenjutsu (various modern and traditional weapons), and ninpo tactics and strategies (Ninjutsu). The depth of training in the Bujinkan is designed to open a student's eyes to the endless possibilities and potential in all situations.

Even though Martynas had to stop Jujitsu trainings, he still has a hope to gather a group of students for friendly fight trainings. So, if you are interested in it, do not hesitate and contact mstankevicius@sseriga.edu.lv. What is more, girls can be sure about one thing: if you are near him – you are safe. And if you are one of his enemies – I'm sorry for you...

Daina Gailiusaite

HERO OF THE MONTH

TATIANA ARVENTI

Favorite course: Marketing

Favorite lecturer: Morten Hansen

Favorite film: The Pursuit of Happiness

Favorite book: Pride and Prejudice

I have never... had a hangover in my life.

STUDY HARD

PLEASE TELL US BRIEFLY ABOUT YOURSELF (BACKGROUND, SCHOOL, HOME UNIVERSITY, ETC.)

I was born in Chisinau and went to one of the city's best lyceum with mathematical inclination. I was an exemplar student participating in all activities and Olympiads. My life was planned 10 years ahead - to enter the Medical University of Moldova and become a doctor like my mother is. However, after finishing the high school, I brought my documents to the Academy of Economic Studies. It seemed easier to take care of numbers than of people, and it turned out to be a clever decision. I found everything I needed: interesting subjects, friends, - and very soon I became the President of the faculty of General Economy and Law and one of the editors of the Student Union Newspaper; all this gave me the lucky chance to go on exchange.

HOW AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE SSE RIGA AS YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION?

A good friend of mine was an exchange student here in the fall semester 2009, and he described the school and life in Riga only in bright colors. As I was involved in many activities in AESM, at work, and in some NGOs, I struggled with time management and prioritizing. He told me that I'd have 6 months of rest and only two things to worry about: Study Hard and Party Hard. Who will not go for that?

WHAT WAS THE MAIN THING THAT MADE YOU STAY HERE FOR STUDIES?

SSE Riga family. Being an exchange I experienced how it feels to be part of it. I have never thought of studying abroad until SSE Riga administration



informed me about this opportunity. And I know for sure that I'm here to get knowledge and experience, not one more degree in economics.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE ONLY NON-BALTIC FULL-TIME STUDENT?

Amazing! I feel very special. It's pretty annoying when somebody is asking, "Are you that Moldavian student?"; although Moldova is not the world's best country, I love it and like to answer "Yes!". I hope that the next year more Moldavian students will join me, and who knows, maybe we'll be more numerous than Estonians :)

PARTY HARD

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF? (PERSONALITY, TRAITS, OUTLOOK, ETC.)

I am a very optimistic person. I smile a lot, sometimes more than required, and this gave me my 10th grade nickname "LadySmile" that I am still keeping. I am always focused on what I want, and sooner or later I am getting it. I like people and I am trying to find the best part in everybody. I can't live without friends, but it turned out that I can leave them sometimes. I'm lucky I can find good people everywhere. I believe that Dreams always come true but they don't come cheap. And yes, a positive outlook on life will bring only positive things.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO BARS AND CLUBS? WHICH ARE YOUR FAVORITE?

If I am in Chisinau, then once a month :) Here at least once a week! I like that in Riga places have

their own individuality and everyone can find a location that suits them mostly. I like to go to the Opera House, it is awesome. However, I've been to a lot of pubs and clubs in Riga and still I couldn't find a favorite one, it always depends on a company you are going with. But I'll rather prefer a club to a bar as dancing sounds better for me than drinking.

How would you spend a million dollars?

First of all, I'll spend buy a house for my parents. Also, I'll travel a bit around Europe with my family. I'll use the rest to open a business in order to make more money and make my dream come true. I always wanted to open an educational center for poor children in Moldova, as it is very needed there.

INTROVERT VS EXTROVERT



Probably everyone has heard some vague definition of extraversion-introversion trait. This article does not aim at providing a scientific explanation. Instead, following a quick introduction of how these traits can be recognized in daily life, it shows how one can improve his communication with a person of the opposite trait by understanding his/her personality better.

While few "pure" introverts or extraverts exist, many of our acquaintances can undoubtedly be said to lean more towards one of the two. However, we may display different personality characteristics in different circumstances. For instance, one may be an extreme extrovert at school, while at home the person is more of an introvert. Thus one should not label one way or the other as humans are complex and may embody a mixture of both traits. Also, by adjusting his behavior a person can distinctly change his traits.

Due to extraversion being more common (and in author's subjective opinion - less interesting) and space in this student press limited, this article puts more focus on understanding and learning to communicate with introverts.

EXTROVERT PERSONALITY TRAITS

Extroverts gain their energy from the outside world. They need activities and they thrive on physical stimulus in keeping themselves happy. They enjoy chitchats just for the sake of communicating and find it easy to share private

information. Extroverts react quickly and often regret saying something that they did not intend to. Research shows that in general they are happier than introverts and being an extravert is socially more desirable in Western culture.

Everyone recognizes the extravert in social party animals, who enjoy talking to everyone and being in the room's center of attention, making them natural leaders. However, it goes the other way too – the extroverts often lack the ability to stay concentrated for extended periods of time and thus don't pay much attention in lectures. Also, sometimes extroverts may seem shallow and insecure about themselves, as they need attention from other people.

INTROVERT PERSONALITY TRAITS

Introverts are driven by their inner worlds. They gain energy from their own ideas and emotions and may feel drained after having a long day filled with other people and activities. "Having a good time" might consist of reading, painting or simply daydreaming. Introverts gain their knowledge from narrow, in-depth focus. They can focus their attention for extended periods of time without being distracted by other



Introversion is often confused with shyness and being a social outcast. Introverts avoid social activities by preference, while shy people avoid social encounters out of fear and social outcast faces solitude not by his own choice

things, thus they tend to get better grades and are frequently considered more intelligent. In discussion, they're interested in more "serious" matters like philosophy, life and feelings.

Introverts do not express themselves enthusiastically and they hesitate before sharing personal information. They may need to be asked to speak and prefer taking their time to respond - they are likely to feel uncomfortable giving a toast or making a public speech. It's not uncommon of them to dislike parties and large groups. It's not that they dislike communication – they do. Quietly and not in large doses. They also prefer small groups and 1-to-1 communication. Usually, they have a small circle of close friends and are known to be "hard to get to know". They may also be seen as outsiders as they do not find it necessary to communicate as much as extroverts and due to introvert trait usually putting them in a minority.

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH AN EXTRAVERT

While some people may have spent time trying to find a way to communicate with introverts, it should be noted that there are also things which an introvert can do to improve his communication with an extrovert.

- > Exercise some non-productive chit chat.
- > Respond in a lively manner – quickly and energetically.
- > Be expressive – demonstrate your interest and emotions.
- > Ask questions and initiate conversations – extroverts love seeing other person being interested.
- > Tell the other person how you feel – they honestly care about it.

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH AN INTROVERT

- > Give them a chance to talk. Silence may prompt an introvert to share his thoughts.
- > Don't interrupt. It may seem like a full stop for an extrovert while the introvert may have just paused.
- > Write when speaking fails - introverts may prefer written communication as it puts less pressure and lets them take some time to express themselves.
- > Set a time in advance if you want to discuss something important as it gives an introvert a way to prepare.
- > Don't try to change them to become more social. There is a high possibility that they are happy with themselves the way they are.

While numerous societies may prefer the majority of people who are extraverts, there is nothing wrong with belonging to any of the two groups. The key is to remember that while behavior of other human beings might seem puzzling and annoy you, it may simply be the result of the other person having different personality traits. Thus the relationship can be improved simply by developing understanding. Additionally, one might gain from being aware of his own personality and then building his life around it. A true extrovert may not find himself too happy as an accountant and it might not be the best idea for an introvert to seek a career in marketing or sales.



While it is next to impossible for a pure extrovert to understand how uncomfortable social events can be for a true introvert, an introvert is not likely to recognize the joy extravert gains from meeting new people.

P.S. Thanks to Harijs, Alexandra, Laura, Ruta. And special thanks to Petras for the contribution towards authors' better understanding of the introvert nature!

Liene Grizāne

TRICKY QUIZ TIME!

BE THE FIRST TO SEND IN THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO INSIDER.SSERIGA@GMAIL.COM AND WIN A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE! SSE RIGA STAFF IS MORE THAN WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE QUIZ AS WELL!

[IF NOBODY ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS CORRECTLY THE CREATORS OF THE QUIZ GET THE CHAMPAGNE AND CONSUME IT WILDLY!*

(2) WHO IS KNOWN AS „JESUS” IN YEAR 2?

- A) MĀRTIŅŠ ZVEJNIEKS
- Z) VADIMS PIKAREVSKIS
- O) VLADIMIRS ZLOTNIKOVŠ

(6) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LECTURERS HAS LATELY BEEN USING THE MOST SWEAR WORDS DURING HIS LECTURES?

- T) MORTEN HANSEN
- W) WACHESLAV DOMBROVSKY
- M) ARNIS SAUKA

(10) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FEMALES HAS BEEN THE SA PRESIDENT?

- Z) EGLE EIDUKEVIČIŪTE
- D) ZINTA BRŪNA
- T) JULIJA DZIGULSKA

(5) HAVE YOU CONSIDERED TAKING SAT TEST? THEN YOU MUST LEARN WHAT „ENAMOR” MEANS!

- K) TO AWAIT
- Z) TO RAISE OR LIFT WITHOUT EFFORT
- A) TO INSPIRE WITH ARDENT LOVE
- O) TO ADAPT

(8) WHY WAS THE EVENT NAMED „DAYS OF OPPORTUNITIES” INSTEAD OF „A DAY OF OPPORTUNITIES”?

- L) THE NAME WAS COPIED FROM A SIMILAR EVENT
- E) THE EVENT IS ONE WEEK LONG
- F) THE DOO WERE INITIALLY TWO DAYS LONG

(4) THEY SAY THAT „PAUSE. MOVIE TIME.” WILL GET NEW SPONSORS WHO WILL PROVIDE...

- H) FREE COKE
- R) FREE POPCORN
- A) FREE SEX

(7) AT NEWCOMERS CAMP, THE WINNING TEAM TRADITIONALLY RECEIVED VODKA. WHICH BRAND?

- M) FINLANDIA
- Z) SMIRNOFF
- D) TRIS GRAUDU

(3) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LECTURERS DOES NOT SPEAK LATVIAN AT ALL?

- U) MORTEN HANSEN
- R) TĀLIS PUTNINŠ
- I) HAKAN LYCKEBORG

(1) AS OF THIS MOMENT, GUNNAR LINDHOLM'S FACEBOOK FAN PAGE HAS A BIT MORE THAN ...

- F) 20 FANS
- N) 200 FANS
- Z) 2000 FANS

(9) ANOTHER GREAT WORD FOR THOSE WITH SUPERIOR ENGLISH SKILLS. WHAT DOES „GYRATE” MEAN?

- Q) TO PRODUCE BY SEXUAL GENERATION
- S) TO REVOLVE
- N) TO INDULGE IN PROFANE OATHS



BRIGHT IDEA?!
TELL US!

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