

the **INSIDER**

#5 (91) 2008

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Interview
The Economist

Dear readers,

As 'the Day' was rapidly approaching some of us probably asked ourselves "do I really want to go back there". And they were probably right. The summer stolen, lots of our older friends scattered all over the world and Finance just behind the corner. After all, it was still summer, still hot and sunny outside when we gathered in Soros to hear what our rector had to say. And he said "let's drink!" (among other things) – I know that lifted my spirits a lot and for a moment even fooled me into believing that summer was not over yet.

However, the end of one thing is usually the beginning of another. For 116 people that was the beginning of an exciting journey to the center of the world of Economics.

Their frightened faces have grown somewhat familiar over the past month and there is hope that Year2 and Year1 might learn to get along. Camps, pub tours, parties, Summer Symposium and many other events were there to help close the gap between the two classes. And most of these events will be waiting for you in the next 22 pages.

Yes, it's true. The Insider also came back from vacation and is once again ready to bring drama, intrigue, horror and joy to all of its loyal readers. We will find it our responsibility to keep You informed and entertained at the same time. The topics covered in this issue range from work to leisure, from scandal to giving pleasure, so fasten your seatbelts and get on this emotional rollercoaster!



The INSIDERS:



Jonas



Karolis



Justinas



Laurynas

The 'R-word'

Things still move fast in the Baltics but now it is in the downwards direction... Not long ago we were talking about overheating of the economies – unsustainably high growth, ultra-low unemployment pushing up wages and thus inflation. Now the 'R-word' has appeared – recession aka declining economic activity. Recession is often defined as at least two quarters in a row where seasonally adjusted GDP (i.e. economic activity) declines.

As so often Estonia is the leader among the Baltic countries and seemingly also when we speak of recession. Estonia entered recession first due to being the first country where the property bubble burst. Latvia officially entered

recession on the 8th of September while those Lithuanians with a growth rate of 5% look smug. But that won't last – Lithuania is behind in the business cycle and although they may be grinning at the Estonians and Latvians it will come to an end.

The coming two years will be tough for some businesses and for some consumers but I think it is already now time to look ahead and ask: What will drive growth in the future and thus take the economies out of recession again? Hmmm.... Tricky question.

The Baltic countries were great econ labs while overheating but they will be just as great for economists while in recession. At least some can enjoy that the party is over!



News from the Student Association

Business.com – P&G leisure room will be opened soon


Business.com is currently putting the main emphasis on two projects – the Days of Opportunities 2009 and the P&G Leisure Room which is approaching the final stages of its development. Soon you will be able to evaluate the room yourself, but while you're waiting, flip a couple of pages and read the story behind the most relaxation-related project in our school's history.

Sports.com – the winners of Betway.com Summer Symposium 2008

On the 6th of September Betway.com Summer Symposium 2008 took place at the conference and recreational center "Lejastiezumi". Approximately 300 people divided into 16 teams competed in various sports and had a good time in Indian summer like weather. The graduates from the team "Bottomline" were the winners, another graduates' team "..but who cares anyway" were the second, and the team "KOMAnda" grabbed the third place.

Party.com – the Baptizing party on October 6

The baptizing week of Year 1 students is approaching. The event and all Year 1 challenges will take place in the beginning of October and will be finalized by the Baptizing party. The theme and program are coming in a little while, so just check your mailboxes and wait for the hot topic! Home Coming party is going to be held on the 7th of November.

 Investment Fund – preparations for the Investment Game and educational seminars

iFund is currently involved in organization of several activities. First of all, it is preparation of Investment

Game 2009 which will be launched at the end of October. This year's game is thought to become more convenient, error-free and user-friendly as well as include new features that will make the investment process much more interesting. Secondly, in cooperation with previous board members, at the end of September the iFund team is starting a series of educational seminars for SSE Riga students (mainly Year1, but Year2 are also welcome to visit them). The aim of the seminars will be to increase knowledge about financial markets and investment opportunities. Another important task for upcoming months will be portfolio management and, taking into account tough trading conditions at global markets, it will be a quite challenging task indeed. By the way, information about iFund's deals is planned to be published in each Insider's issue.



Peak Time 2009 – fundraising and promotional activities in the process

The Peak Time foundation is pleased that new members from Year 1 have joined them. They are really satisfied with the enthusiasm of the new helpers and hope that this will help to turn Peak Time 2009 into an event to remember.

Peak Time organizers are currently mostly focusing on issues concerning fundraising and promotion. In addition to private partners, talks have been started with the Asia-Europe Foundation, Riga City Council and the Chancery of the President of Latvia. The next few months promise to be rather busy.



Days of Opportunities 2009 – visit the new website doo.edu.lv!

During the summer DoO'09 team visited several companies both on the organizer's and their initiative which demonstrates that companies are

interested in the career fair.

The website with a completely new design has been launched: type doo.edu.lv in your browser and you will be able to check it yourself.

Really soon DoO'09 team will welcome new Year 1 members as the recruitment campaign has been concluded. These will be the people who will work alongside us to bring the largest companies and the most prestigious universities to the SSE Riga lobby on April 3, 2009.



Leif Muten Society – the new Board starts working

The new Board of the Leif Muten Society was elected. The new members are: Dmitrijs Mūriņš – President, Juris Rumba – Vice-President, Dmitrijs Minajevs – Vice-President, Agnė Kapočiūtė – PR Officer, Ignas Daunys – Treasurer. The website with updated information about the new Board is about to be ready. Check <http://leifmutensociety.org>.

LMS is planning to make a presentation for students at the end of September. It is advisable for Year 1 students to check the webpage beforehand. LMS together with all the sponsors works to ensure that SSER community would continue to prosper and enjoy various benefits.



Charity Club – still open for new members

As every year new members from Year 1 and Year 2 students joined the Charity club. That was marked by a small party. Currently the club is looking for a new president and vice-president.

However, the members of the club are not only busy with inner events and changes. They are thinking about new projects, cooperation and new traditions. The Charity club is still open for a new people who want to make the world a better place to live! So, come and join! ;)



Je Joue – a new organizing team has been elected

Je Joue 2009 organizing team has been elected consisting of Mara Bukovska and Kristine Katlinska. The organizers have already agreed upon the theme and have approximated the date of the event. This year the artistic events of Je Joue are planned to take place within one week in the middle of May. Everyone who has any suggestions about Je Joue or willingness to help is welcome to approach organizers via e-mails mara.bukovska@gmail.com or kkatlinska@sseriga.edu.lv.



Board Games Club - game evenings every Wednesday

Board Games Club and Poker Club opening evening was held on the 17th of September. The organizers offered not only amazing time while playing, but also provided free drinks and snacks for the gamblers. Board game evenings will be organized every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy!



Debate Club – incredible number of new debaters

Having held a show debate and an introductory presentation for Year 1 students on 11 September, SSE Riga Debate Club welcomed an overwhelming number of want-to-be debaters in its first practice session. Sparkles in the eyes of almost 40 newcomers well betrayed their eagerness to engage with controversy while their performance definitely exceeded the expectations of the more experienced members. Introductory argumentation exercises were a nice warm up, yet way more challenging activities will follow. It's just the right time for rigorous preparation as numerous debate tournaments are approaching, Oxford and Cambridge competitions being the highlights among them. Everybody is still welcome to join the club during our practice sessions every Monday and Tuesday at 18.15 in room 303.

News from the Administration

SSE Riga Alumni Scholarship Awards Fall 2008.

The Alumni of 3 Baltic States joined their forces to help some of the students by awarding them scholarships to cover the tuition fee. On September 4, 2008 the SSE Riga Scholarship Award Committee (SAC) hold a meeting to review 15 applications (1/LT, 5/EE, 9/LV) and 3 scholarships were awarded to Year 1

students to cover their tuition fees.

Upcoming events:

September 23-24 – guest lecture “Economic Development in Turkey” by Prof. Ayten Ayşen Kaya from the Ege University in Turkey

September 30 – the Entrepreneurship bootcamp by Mads Qwist from Denmark. It is organized in cooperation of SSE Riga and Junior Chamber International


October 1-2 – International Conference METAMIND 2008

“Open Mind” scholarship competition – the deadline for reports October 31

Hansabanka and the Scholarship Fund of the University of Latvia are organizing the "Open Mind" scholarship competition. Year 2 and Year 3 students are invited (individually or in a group) to apply for the scholarships. The deadline for submitting reports is October 31, 2008. For more information visit www.open.lv.



“Dreams minus doubts equals reality”
AdCopy Team

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Dishonest Practice Cycles

By Diana Pauna

In August during the Re-exam Period I two cases of cheating in examinations were reported. First, both students were asked to submit written statements on suspected instances of dishonest practice. Second, students were invited to meet the Rector and the Pro-rector to review their cases individually. Since students did not choose the offered alternative, on September 2, 2008 the Disciplinary Committee convened; and after three hours of inquiry procedures, the Disciplinary Committee deemed both students to suspend studies for a stated period of time, i.e. the Year 2 student for two years and the Year 3 student for three years.

Looking through the binder of decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee and the statements written by students who have demonstrated dishonest practice, a certain regularity pattern becomes obvious. The experience shows that cheating has been little, if any help, when it comes to passing the exam, hence students run a big risk for something that really does not help them during the exam. In all previous cases both students and the staff have had great concerns about maintaining high standards of ethical behaviour like it has been in the above

described situation. The evidence shows that after publication of the decision on the notice board, hopefully for this generation at SSE Riga, i.e. all 345 students now, there will be no other incident of cheating for about two to three years.

What can we do better to communicate our commitment to high standards at SSE Riga to reach each and every student? I think that the key word is "communicate". Formally, we have the "Regulations and Procedures", "Examination Rules", "SSE Riga Writing Guidelines" and "The Bachelor Thesis Memorandum"; and we will produce "Guidelines for Invigilators", so that the invigilators know precisely how to act in case of cheating during examinations and/or tests. I am afraid that creating one more document would not help very much, because it is the responsibility of students to know the rules. In fact, I find campaigns organized by the Student Association very powerful, because students address their peers to act in a fair and reasonable manner to maintain the SSE Riga as a place of excellence. Also, when it comes to cheating, the students who have cheated, they have cheated their fellow students most of all.

What could students do if they know or suspect somebody else cheating?

In fact, the discussions in the Disciplinary Committee have revealed that students know who the students cheating are. Therefore, again the key word is "communicate". It is possible to talk to the suspected student and in this way help him/her get out of the trap. If you find this option difficult, then talk to your peers and/or to the Chair of the Education Committee, and I am certain that you will be able to come up with a strategy to help the suspect in dealing with the problem. Finally, the case can be discussed with the pro-rector and/or the Rector. Remaining uninvolved would support the wrong-doer, but if you feel a moral obligation, then get involved by finding a way to communicate and make SSE Riga a place of honest academic practice.

What is next? First, it should be mentioned that bringing in a mobile phone will count in the same way as bringing in cheat sheet(s). Second, during the Advisory Committee meeting in the following week we will discuss the action plan for this year and most importantly for a sustainable development plan for a three to five year period to avoid dishonest practice cycles at SSE Riga.



Charity actions in May

By Ieva Strupiša



May was quite an active month for Charity Club. We finished one quite big Project and also participated in a project of "Pēdas" – joint work. There was an opportunity for everyone to do something good and nice for society.

The first event in May was participating in "Pēdas" organized joint work with a motto "Joint work – 'for'; campaign – 'against'". This event was also like an action against burning last year's grass, not only cleaning nature. Our school's students also participated. We cleaned up Mežapark's surroundings. Unfortunately, in the beginning there were not a lot of people but pleasing was the fact that later also local inhabitants joined us. In order to make work more interesting and funny, we decided to make a small informal contest – "The Rubbish of the Day". In the beginning Ieva and Māra hoped that their findings – an old wash

basin and linoleum were interesting rubbish. But later it turned out that these things could not be compared with the finding of Zane – an old "Playboy", which was nominated as "The Rubbish of the Day". In the end we managed to gather four full containers of rubbish. We worked for only two hours, but we were gratefully rewarded. We were able to hear the performance of a famous Latvian band "Astro'n'outs" and others. We also got dinner and some sweets. Besides, we were lucky and got nice T-shirts from the insurance company "If" and got an interesting opportunity to draw. Overall, the event was interesting and funny. All participants enjoyed it.

The second event was finishing the project "Let's make those children who really deserve it feel happy!!!" We did not manage to get some money for it directly, so we had to get it in

other ways. We organized an auction with the support of our lecturers and organizations. Mother school, Morten and Gunnar as well as Peak Time 2008, iFund, Days of Opportunities, The Insider, Student Association and the choir helped us. In this auction we gathered 61 LVL. The most valuable thing was the donation from iFund – a bottle of "Red Label" and three books, including Larry Stout's book, which we sold for 25 LVL. On the next day Kristīne went to "Brain Games" and bought 10 interesting games. Friday was the day when the end of the project came. Ieva and Kristīne went to Riga Hanza Secondary School and gave these games to first, second and third grade pupils for successes at school, orderliness, helpfulness and participating in different activities. The common thing for those children was that their families cannot afford to buy some presents for their children because of tough financial situation. All in all, it was really nice to see the happy and a bit scared faces of the children. It was a very touching moment.

These were main activities of Charity Club in May, but we still don't sit and wait for miracles. We are always working, busy like bees. New ideas, several thoughts and miracles can happen! The reason is that we believe that we can make the world better and we are in process. ;)





★ ★ ★
A candidate's diary

★
 By Simona Tijūnaitytė

If you get to SSE Riga, it's not important anymore how difficult (or not) it is. However, when you try to remember that it doesn't seem so easy. This is a diary that shows the whole story of one Lithuanian girl's attempts to get in SSE Riga. So...Try to come back to the very beginning.

The first step: Exams

Everybody is telling me how secure I should feel. „Oh, you know everything. You are perfect in English and Math“. However, I was not so sure about it. I watch movies and understand only about 50 percent of them. Everything seems to be so simple in math tasks but I cannot solve them. These things don't encourage.

I passed the step. After the exams I was more confident about myself and my studies in Riga even though I told everybody that it's not so good. It is more pleasant to get more when nobody believes in you.

We know the results. 99 for English,

great! I'm preparing for the tests in Riga and have no doubt that I'll be in the list of candidates. I believe in it, buy some Latvian money, even try to meet new people who are trying to get in there too on the internet.

The second step: SSE Riga tests

I was right. I am in the lists even though almost everybody is there with far lower exam results than last year. Everybody is confused about almost everything connected with the admission procedure and arguing on the internet. Moreover, the results are announced on Friday and we have a long weekend when no school is working. Almost everybody is worried about grade transcripts which are almost impossible to get. I have the same problem. I'm calling the headmaster and almost crying. I don't want to fail just because of a paper misunderstanding. Phew, I have it in my hands in the tests' eve. Till late evening I'm trying to translate everything and have no time for repeating mathematical formulas. Sleep with worries.

We are in Riga. There're a lot of new people, I just can't stop smiling at them. They are so clever, so cute. Of course, it seems that some people are doing nothing but learning. However, I'm smiling at them too. Another big problem that occurs is just a simple attempt to remember people's names. The number of them is growing every second.

We are sitting in that huge auditorium where I as an SSE Riga student shadow spent quite a lot of time. Now it looks absolutely different. I'm one of them, not just a

spectator. Everybody looks so clever, nobody is smiling. It seems like the myth about cruel rivalry in admission in SSE Riga is the truth.

Tests are done. It looks like there's no hope for me to get into this university. I feel like I failed! I've done maybe a half of all tasks and almost every person whom I talk to has done everything. Nice. I made a bet with one lovely person. If I fail, I'll get a dog. During my entire trip home I'm solving various problems connected with my future friend - how to teach him not to pee in the house or how often I should feed him. However, I still feel sad and I'm waiting for the list with anxiety.

Thursday afternoon. I'm having a walk and chatting with my friend on the phone. The idea of trying to check the SSE Riga homepage comes to our minds. "You're in!" - the voice in my phone is shouting. I can't believe and rush home to check. I'm really here. My joy bursts outside by smiling, shouting and laughing.

Interview

Tomorrow I'll have the interview. Of course, I am afraid again. I'm getting used to it. Everybody on the internet is chatting about the questions that may be asked, clothes to be dressed and other things. Sometimes it looks as though the commission of the interview would be a group of angry people who all want to fail you. I'm still certain that if you are worth it, you'll get in.

Well, we'll see. Good luck for everybody!

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 You only by





A Story of a Room, the Story of the P&G Leisure Room

IT all began a long long time ago (last spring) when we had one empty room in the Wallenberg building and lots, more like a buzz of ideas of what to do with it. Would it be a storage room, some organization's room, eating room, or a student chill-out lounge? Of course it did not take long to go for the best solution which would benefit the students. We had a crazy vision to create something cool and totally refreshing for you as a project of the year from our SA. That was the time when the vision of Leisure Room came into being, a thought of a comfortable and inspiring room that would differ from all the premises in SSE or in other words to make a room that rocks! While we were brainstorming what the room would be like and what functions it could have we came up with many ideas. We were thinking of a variety of colours, high tech gadgets, designs and functions to make the room challenging. We put them on a sketch, formed a proposal and went to our long-time partner Procter & Gamble. P&G was very interested in the little project of ours and so we joined forces. By the beginning of the summer there was me, Janis, Vanda and Linda (both from P&G) in our team. Throughout the summer we were having



meetings about planning, design and budget; and of course the best part, actually going to stores, choosing the furniture and of course testing it if it meets our studently needs. Step by step, the PG Leisure Room was getting ready and the tension was rising. There was something in the air.

Some of you know something about it already; some of you don't so we will enlighten you. The room itself is located in the old SA room in the opposite corner of the yard archway. It will be colourfully intriguing and comfortable featuring many interesting geometrical furniture solutions and of course soft sittings. There will be a multimedia entertainment system and more creative leisure opportunities. We are certain that you will like the room and enjoy the premises. Everything will be revealed in

detail during the opening ceremony of the PG Leisure Room, but we will promise you that this is a totally new concept of creating student premises in SSE and we have put a lot of effort in this project to make it enjoyable.

Finally we proudly announce that the P&G Leisure Room, the thing we've all been waiting for is now ready (and an opening ceremony will take place very soon)! During the opening you will have the chance to test out the room, if it's not too crowded, and just chill, and watch TV and listen to music, and chill some more. And hopefully some totally groundbreaking ideas will emerge while you are sitting in a beanbag, playing board games or just lying on the sofa.

A big, more like huge, thanks goes to the SA sponsor Procter & Gamble, and especially to Linda Udre and Vanda Bruvele who have helped us during the project in every way.



Note: I would also like the students to bear in mind that the room is for common use and we encourage you to act responsibly and feel like the premises were your home. Any misuse will be taken seriously by the LR manager.





Conquering the Titans in America

By Vytautas Liatukas

From 17th to 21st of August a contest called Hewlett-Packard Global Business Challenge took place in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. I, Vytautas Liatukas, your fellow SSE Riga student, was also there competing with my team-mate Matas Dilpsas against seven other teams from all around the world.

Let me introduce you to the competition. During this contest, a game called TITAN is played. This game is a computer program providing people with the opportunity to compete in a virtual market simulation. In this game players have to manage their virtual companies and make decisions on marketing expenditure, R&D spending, investment in the factory expansion. Also players have to decide the factory utilization rate and to make a right price for their products. There are also a few more minor adjustments in this game but I don't want to go too much into detail. So, I think, you got the main idea what we were doing during that competition.

This competition held in the end of summer was the final of HPGBC. To qualify for it, teams had to pass three other rounds, one of them being the national qualifying to have a chance to participate in the HPGBC at all. There were eight teams from different countries in the final and those countries were USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Argentina, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Poland and, of course, Lithuania.

As you can see, surprisingly, there were a lot of countries from Eastern Europe. And two of those managed to finish in the TOP 3. Our Lithuanian team, called Hattrick, were the ones who were the best and got the first place. However,

it wasn't that clear, that we could win this challenge in the beginning of the final stage of the tournament, because we made quite bad decisions in the first period (the game consists of several periods and one represents three-months of the year; the final consisted of 12 periods). Fortunately, after quite hard starting periods, we managed to get back on the right track and overtake the leaders at the moment. The second half of the tournament was a lot easier for us and we were just making our advantage against our opponents bigger and bigger. We were informed that the winner won't be announced the same day and only the next day during the luncheon. However, our competitors started to congratulate us immediately after the last period because, honestly, the difference between our team and the second place team was too big for someone to manage to overtake us in the last period. So we were almost sure that we would be announced as the winners the following

speech, because it was almost clear that we would have to make it. Furthermore, there was an interview with local television.

So the competitions were held for two days, and we were in

USA for about five days. That means that we weren't only participating in the competition. We also had a free day on Sunday, 17th of August, because our team and Estonian team came one day earlier than other teams. We spent that day to see the town of Colorado Springs and to do some shopping. We also got to the bar that isn't to be found in the Baltic States. The bar is called Hooters and some of you should know that name, it is quite a common bar in the movies made in USA. We also had an excursion to the wonderful place called Garden of The Gods. That place is amazing because of the beautiful mountains out there. The next day we had a chance to see what the American country life really looks like. We got to the ranch, where we ate traditional American steak and each of us had a chance to ride a real horse. Another day we went to a traditional American arcade place, where we tried some old school arcades like the ones you can see in the movies.

All in all, it was a very exciting trip for us; even the flight was exciting because neither Matas nor I had flown in an airplane before. Especially when the flight took about twenty four hours. So I think it was worth missing the first week of studies at SSE Riga to go the USA and participate in the HP Global Business Challenge, even though I was a bit sorry to miss a lot of events and parties down here in Riga.



day. On the following day a friendly competition was held, where all teams had one extra member that either was a staff member from Junior Achievement or from HP. Unfortunately, the first place was taken by the Polish team and we came in only second but that was mainly because of unclear schedule and regulations of this contest. Moreover, we weren't very angry or sad, because the main tournament was played the day before and during the luncheon it came clear that our competitors were right and we became the champions of HPGBC. After this announcement we had to make a speech in front of the quite big audience, but we were prepared for that





Betway.com Summer Symposium

By Peteris Mikelsons

It was a very early Saturday morning when I arrived at „Lejastiezumi”. First I met the guard near the entrance who in a quite calm and understanding voice informed me about the previous evening's party and that only one lamp outside has been broken. I thought, quite nice, only one...Then I went to the conference hall to get all the stuff from the trunk. Suddenly, when I wanted to open the doors one very surprised and tumescent face lying on his mattress on the floor looked at me through the window in an expression like: “who the f... are you?”... Well, actually I was expecting that, nevertheless I entered the hall and there were some forty five more the-same-looking-faces. It was fun! Further, at about nine o'clock a captain's meeting was planned to take place; some came after half an hour. In the meantime, the weather did not seem to be pleasant. It was raining a little and it did not seem to be a good day for sport activities. I realized once more that the area of the whole territory and surprise, surprise; it seemed even larger than the previous time I visited this place. I did not hang my lip! I went to the administrator and he gave me a bicycle which more or less saved the day. Of course some teams arrived even later than I was expecting. The starting ceremony had to be cancelled otherwise the games would not start at all. The games began with a significant delay. Thank God they did at all.

Later, when the playoffs had to start,

one rather interesting accident with a car happened. I will not dig into the details, everyone saw it. It is just worth to mention that from my point of view the loss already was large and probably it could have been reasonable not to call the police. However, people from the Spamma team are doing quite a lot of things their way. Unfortunately it was possible to finish only the basketball tournament and I am really sorry for it. Nonetheless the winners got their awards, the party was enjoyable also for those who could not walk but just jump on one leg. I truly hope that



“So once again, the day is saved, thanks to the Bicycle!”

everybody who came found something interesting and had a good time in the community of SSE Riga. Some teams showed a good performance, some were more focused on “litraball”, and some were focused on how to steal thirty five towels and one remote control and

not get caught till the present. Some, on the contrary, were just very selfish and took without any sign of self-rebuke more rooms than they deserved, while others did not have a room till the very evening. Although the diversity at SSE Riga is still noticeable we are all determined to reach the highest peaks even in sports. After intensive games in various sports “Bottomline” did it again, they won in the overall ranking, “..but who cares anyway” did care a bit but not enough to win, thus eventually were second and the beloved “KOMAnda” closed the pedestal.

It was a fairly large challenge for me to change the place of location for the Summer Symposium because it has been in one place since the school was established. Of course I could have organized the event at good-old “Vecupe” and everything would be more or less the same and quite good enough because the weather was pretty fine. Frankly speaking, I am glad for what I did and I am not talking about the distance made on the bicycle. It was a huge and very useful experience. Even though some things were not done as smoothly as they should have been done, in large Betway.com Summer Symposium 2008 took place in a new place and the weather was fantastic for the beginning of September. It is worth to mention once more and express my gratitude especially to Jānis Trēgers & Betway.com and all the others for supporting and helping me to organize this event! Thank you!



"This is what I wanted"

With a bottle of vodka in my hand I sat full of expectations in the car towards Summer Symposium. I was persuaded to go to this sports event, even though I hate sports, mainly because of the



promises of a "massive huge party" with a little bit of sports in between which nobody took really seriously.

As a Norwegian exchange student I didn't know exactly what to expect, but I thought it might be similar to a so-called "sports event" at my school called Economical Winter Games. It is supposed to be a skiing trip, but we are too busy

drinking, puking, playing mom and dad, and last but not least trashing our hotel for thousands of Lats. (After last years event we were on the front page of all the national newspapers with pictures of the destruction under the title: "This is how our future leaders party.")

Therefore, I was rather confused when we were the first ones to arrive at 10 p.m. Where are the people and why are the light bulbs, chairs and windows still intact?

People finally arrived some hours later, but they were mainly concentrated on painting T-shirts. Okay, maybe the huge massive trashing party will be tomorrow instead, I thought.

After three hours of sleep I woke up in an empty house. Where is everyone? Oh, of course, they are out throwing frisbees in the mud. With red eyes and a heavy headache I stumbled out to find my team. It didn't take long before I was covered in mud. Oh well, I thought, we will probably start to drink soon anyway.

Several long hours later our team ran back and forth to play football, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, basketball and "tautas

Study Hard, Exercise Harder! When shall we drink God damn it ???

By Nina Schage

SSER students usually have the energy level of Superman on speed. That is usually a good thing – but during Summer Symposium you went over the top.

bumba", not once, but THREE times each. And that was before the quarterfinal, semifinal, final and third place match. It took an unbelievable 14 hours before the last final had ended.

Our team won the basketball final, so for a second it almost felt like it was worth it. I tried to party with the never-ending Duracell-Russians, but I soon had to give in to an extreme urge to rest after one of the most absurd days of my life.

I'm impressed by how seriously you take sports. But even Superman should know his limits.



"This is what I got"

Gossips

Gossip of the Month:

**Many men, many minds.
Many women, twice as
many tits ;)**

They say Ignas (Y2) is a blowjob master

They say that Olja doesn't keep up the gossip flow by not telling other people news about other people. PS That was Toms.

They say that Ivan (Y2) is secretly communicating with all the girls from SSER.

They say Mihail S. (Y6) is still here!

They say all Y1 are from Ludza. And Geysari (Y2) as well.

They say that on September 10 at 03:17 p.m. Arturs G. (Y2) was arrested in front of the school by Fashion Police. He has been pressed charges of heavy fashion abuse and decent dresscode harassment.

They say that after the killing game nobody agrees to "go out for a second" with Liene (Y1).

They say "if tomorrow never comes.." - then deadline also will not!

They say that it is hard to imagine something more sexy

than Rihards' (Y2) pants during SS... hotttttt.....

Beware! They say they do "knockas-knockas"

They say that Ilga (Y1) knows how to provide first aid. She really does.

They say that Andrius (Y1) knows the color of Mantas (Y1) pants.

They say that Liene (Y1) misses her personal trainer...

They say that the first words that Armands (Y1) learned in English were 'It depends...'

They say that 2 Lithuanian guys (Y1) have changed their names to Vīraks and Kastanis!

They say that Karolis Jasinskas (y2) calls himself AN ENTREPRENEUR.

They say that the Outsider will be back.

They say that 8 year1 guys did Cosmo test "Do you think like a woman?". Half of them turned out to have sincere women thinking.

They say that Petras (Y1) prefers to sleep at Anetes (Y1) bed, especially in the mornings.

They say that Anete V. (Y1) was seen opening wine bottle with an inappropriate tool. Anyway, they say that she is really good in it.

They say that many groups considered selling their members for EBP company project.

They say that on 1.September 4 guys had a new, similar haircut. They wonder whether they had one hairdresser or the same (small) amount of money :)

They say that Laura's (y1) bed is wide enough for three people.

They say that Kristians (Y1) and Hedijs (Y1) are seriously afraid of gossips!

If you call your "thing" EUR to USD, then it can behave as exchange rate - depreciate and "sexy-time" will not happen.

They say that Arturs (Y1) has missed a lot of Elina's (Y2) adventures during the last year

They say that teaching assitants in Math are the most handsome men at SSER

They say that Irina A (Y2) has now big choice of her mature ex-shadows

They say that Elina Šakela (Y2) and Arturs krušas (Y1).

They say that in newcomers camp y1 students learned new meaning of the word "overnight".

They say that Andris A. and Dmitrijs S. (both Y2) had really hot time together during Wild-

wild West party.

Ilze (y1) is so nice, that even John W. couldn't resist looking on her nametag, which was situated on her *umps.

They say "po langu Krušas".

They say that New Comers' Camp should be called New Couples' Camp.

Alf says: "The size DOES matter."

They say that Y1 is not ready for overnights because there were only two persons at newcomers camp, who haven't slept all night.

As experience proves after a couple of bottles of beer Mr. Henrijs Jansons is not Latvian anymore, he is Estonian!

They say during Newcomers camp a new game- čiksīball was invented...

They say that the Je Joue team (newcomer's camp) weren't preparing their performance, because they were concentrated on sausages.

They say that smiling is the second best thing you can do with your lips in SSE Riga

They say that from now on all 4 hens (vystos) live in Ganu.

They say Jefik (Y3) tried the bedroom of AdCopy king!!!

They say that if Latvians have a newspaper "5min", Lithuanians - "15min" then Estonians must have "1hour"

(at least...) :P

They say that Google is the God of internships!

They say that Egle M. (Y2) has an internship at Pikelis (Y2) :) The main task is to prepare a coffee three times a day :)p

They say Knopka 16 has a baby already.

They say that Baiba D. is happy of being "never never" gossiped. Not any longer..

They say that Laurynass (plural) (Y2&Y4) enjoy while helping drunk girl(s) to get to the bed;)

They say that naked guys in Dzakuzi are already a tradition of IFund after-parties.

They say that Economics of Networks course was created specially for Aurimas (Y3) and brothers Merilo (Y3).

They say that riebalai knows everything!

They say that Paulius (Y2) will not get his voice back for a long time...

They say that Ivan (Y2) and Egle G. (Y1) really want each other. Really...

They say that all pretty Y1 girls want to visit Hanzas 8-3 at least once.

They say that Dmitrij N (Y2) has become acquainted to almost to all girls Y1

Photo of the Month



"They say the most innocent looking person isn't so innocent at all. She just can't stand the seductive power of Ivan and Vitalijs (Y2)"

(Ivika (Y2) was nominated for this title in Yearbook 2008)

The bottle of champagne goes to Vitalijs (Y2) **Send your photos to insider.sseriga@gmail.com**



London,

here we come!

By Pavels Berezovskis



In the end of June the majority of SSE Riga community was celebrating Ligo and drinking beer. But not everyone was enjoying the holiday fully. This article tells the story of five SSE Riga students, IFund Board members, who went to an investment conference in London this summer to extend their knowledge, acquire new contacts and also have some fun.

It was early morning of June, 24. The city was quiet and still after a sleepless night and the ever-crowded roads were completely carless. And this was the time when we were heading towards Riga airport to board a plane that would take us to the financial capital of Europe. Excitement and worry was in the air – wearing suits and having backpacks on our backs we were extremely happy that the moment we have been waiting for came, but some uncertainty still remained. It was 11:15am when the plane took off and headed to the west. We had two hours to relax and have a nap. London awaited us.

There are several stereotypes that come to mind when mentioning London and one of the most famous ones is London weather, rainy, windy and foggy. When landing in the Stansted airport we were quite surprised by an absolutely clear sky and pleasant sunshine. Luckily for us, sunny weather was there during almost all of our journey and we didn't have a chance to experience the full potential of British climate. Another thing coming to mind is left-hand driving, in the beginning you get puzzled for a while, then it bothers

you a little and afterwards you get used to it and even take it for granted.

A bus from the airport took us to Stratford in less than an hour, then twenty minutes on a tube and we're at Northern Greenwich. This is a place where one can literally stand on the Greenwich meridian, where the O2 is (former Millennium Dome), where you get a fascinating view of the City and where former SSE Rigeans Yuri Romanenko and Paulius Ramanauskas live. These guys hosted us during our visit in this wonderful city and during the following days Yuri was our guide.

The first day of our visit had no connection with the conference whatsoever, so we decided to explore London as much as we could. This included drinking beer in the Soho Square, getting stuck in the London Eye, lots of walking and going back to Yuri's place on one of the last underground trains. We also wanted to visit the Houses of parliament, but they were already closed for visitors. By the way, it was prohibited to consume alcohol in public transport in

London only in June 2008 and you can consume alcohol on the streets, so Riga is far ahead of London in alcohol consumption restrictions.

A separate paragraph should be devoted to London pubs, which are a parcel of their culture. There was an impression that all clerks after finishing their work go to a pub to chat with colleagues and friends. Our little pub-tour started on Tuesday and continued every evening till the end of our journey. British pubs differ from places one usually calls 'pubs' in the Baltics. And the main difference is a unique pub culture. When it is not raining it is absolutely normal to see a crowd of people standing outside a pub and drinking beer while discussing something with others.

But the main aim of our visit was the conference, which happened during the second and the third days of our stay in London. The conference "ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) & Indexing Investments Europe" was an event where you could hear speakers from The Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, FTSE, Deutsche Bank and other companies presenting their views and ideas on the





topic. For those who do not know what an exchange traded fund is, it can be defined as a fund that tracks an index, but which can be traded like a usual stock. The iFund board decided to go to this particular conference for several reasons. The main reason was that ETFs are a relatively new investment instrument on the market, and it mostly remains unknown or undiscovered for people in the Baltics. If one tries to track how funds we are used to, mutual funds, perform comparing to an index, usually they underperform. In case of ETFs this happens more rarely. Moreover, ETFs are mainly cheaper for an investor when looking at transaction and upkeep fees. Usually, they are also more liquid comparing to mutual funds. Another advantage of ETFs is the diversity of these instruments available in the market, including commodity ETFs that allow you to invest in commodities without really buying them and short ETFs that allow going short in the market even if it is not

allowed by the authorities. After the conference the board decided to introduce ETFs to Investment Game 2009, so that players could try out these instruments themselves.

On the last day of our stay only Mindaugas, Olga and Pavels were still in London, Dmitrijs and Marius went to Riga on Thursday. The day was not remarkable, except that we never managed to visit the Parliament and almost got soaked to the skin under a real English rain. It was sad to leave London and our wonderful hosts to come back to Riga after such a wonderful week there.

We want to express our great thanks to all benefactors of the SSE Riga



Investment Fund in 2007-2008: Hansabanka, SEB Enskilda, Linedata Services, Finasta, OMX Riga. Only thanks to their generous support this journey was made possible. We also want to thank Yuri and Paulius who hosted us and made sure that we had a good time during our stay.

Day one

is where you rise to the challenge

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He had work, I had balance

Poland is definitely not the most exciting country for spending your summer in. It's just on the other side of the border; there is no ocean, no orange trees, and no samba dancers. But the country's capital can be a perfect city for an internship: they do host the largest and the most attractive companies here in Warsaw. And so we tried two of them, McKinsey & Company and Procter & Gamble. For both of us, it started as a dream internship...

By Aurimas Račas and Ernesta Orlovaitė

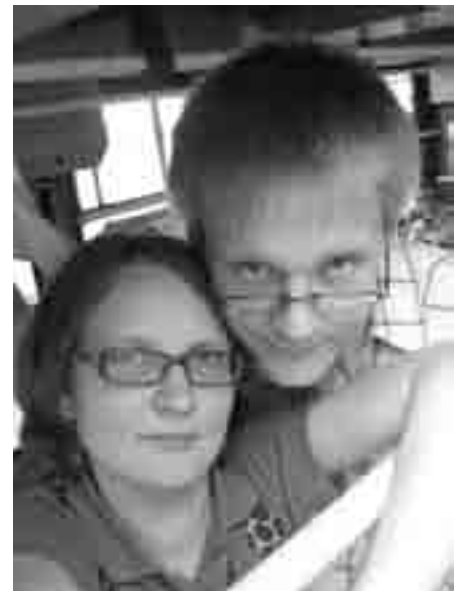
McKinsey & Company: The Dream Internship

Aurimas:

Imagine yourself presented to an endless pool of knowledge, and having got a job that requires to absorb as much of it as possible. That's probably the best description of my summer internship at McKinsey & Company. It was tough, working hours were around 70h a week, but it was damn rewarding. Not in monetary terms (although these were not far from perfect, either), but rather in the knowledge I gained. In the beginning, there were 4 guys who knew nothing about airlines; in the end we presented a restructuring program counting numbers with 8 zeros, and the supervisory board believed in us. Common internship problems – not enough responsibility, boring tasks, attitude "oh, you're an intern" – forget about them. I was a team member, the one who could do at least as little as anybody else. Calling ex-pilot in the USA to find out about fuel consumption specifics or an Italian to get advice on better design of pilot salaries was an everyday job. You could find information about anything – cheese industry in France, or insurance industry prospects in the Baltics, and, perhaps, UFO... So it was quite perfect, but I'm still unsure whether I'd like to return for a full-time position. Living on the edge for 2 months is fine, but shouldn't life be more than just work?

Ernesta:

They wear expensive suits, take taxis to work, earn more than they can spend, have access to (almost) any information, and don't know what personal life is. Besides, they have an impressive knowledge base, can choose the country for their next assignment, and are smashingly intelligent. You gotta be good, and you're valued for that. But... The fact that the Firm pays your phone bills doesn't outshine the fact that you're calling at 10 pm just to say that you're stuck at work again, does it? You can love it. But there'll be somebody near you who hates it.



Procter & Gamble: Values at Work

Aurimas:

A huge, quite bureaucratic organization for smart people who are able to limit their eagerness to change things – that's my impression about P&G. Having heard stories from Justas (my flatmate) about laptop checking procedures, or the feedback process from Ernesta, I decided that it'd be a perfect company to work in. But only when I'm old. Yes, work's still interesting there, after all, you work in a leading FMCG company which is organized in a very interesting

Ernesta:

They are the desired ones in the world. And no wonder – you work from 9 to 5, earn enough to spend wonderful holidays in Latin America, get tons of benefits, can change projects every 2-3 years, and feel completely comfortable at work. Oh, and you can switch from marketing to finance to HR (or any other function you can think of), feel free to choose. I chose Information and Decision Solutions, a mix of creative IT, service management and vendor relations. Sounds good, looks even better in reality. And I loved their values – I doubt any other company sticks to what they say as much as P&G. I loved their attitude towards me – responsibility and trust from day one. I should also admit that a few bags of Wella, Oral-B, Gillette, Always, Pantene, and Venus products have also boosted my affection towards the company (it's sad they do not give away Hugo Boss so easily...). But there's the other side. The one where you finish your job at 5 and go home. Where you're not forced to reach the edge of your abilities. For now, I need more. But one day, P&G will definitely be my number one.

profit-center approach, and yes, you earn not so little either, but where's the fun when everybody's working till 5 only? :)





Warsaw the Beautiful?

Ernesta:

Warsaw – a city that has more inhabitants than Estonia, has been completely destroyed during WW2, and will host European Football Championship in 2012. Any places you must visit here? Well, a few parks, Stare Miasto (the Old Town), and the Palace of Culture and Science, a gift from the Soviet Union from the 1950s. You can also do some shopping in one of those gigantic malls or take a walk around the downtown with a handful of skyscrapers. Finally, as I have a taste for graveyards, I'd recommend seeing Powazki Cemetery: very old, very beautiful, and full of famous (yet dead) people...



Where All Your Problems Start

Ernesta:

Warsaw has almost any kind of public transportation you can think of: buses, trams, metro, and trains (no trolleybuses,

though!). For those who live near the underground, it's a heaven – comfortable and fast. For those (like me) who have to commute every day, it's a bit of a hell – you get stuck in endless traffic jams, get crushed by a mass of people, and start hating the whole world by the time you actually reach your destination. But there's a thing that Poles do. They read. Apparently, that's their only salvation for now...

Aurimas:

To be honest, I have not seen much of Warsaw. When you spend 5 days in the office, weekends are perfect to be spent doing nothing. And when you happen to get a free Friday's evening, words like “club” or “bar” do not even pop up to your mind. All my colleagues claimed that they do not like Warsaw as it lacks Old Town, but for me it was... well... just a normal city. I disliked the queues that were everywhere; I was quite surprised by piles of trash in the center, and working time of shops (max till 9pm).

But the fountains and the parks probably outweighed those problems...

Aurimas:

Underground is definitely the best mean of public transport. Especially when one of its end stations is just nearby Tesco, probably the only

shop in Warsaw that works 24/7. I liked the fact that you can reach pretty much any point of “main” Warsaw in 30 minutes. However, buses are not that perfect there... 20 years old Ikarus is a standard... Fortunately, I did not have to deal much with public transportation – the Firm's policy allowed us to take paid taxi rides from and to the client site... well, one gets used to such convenience very quickly :)



And Where All Your Problems End

Ernesta:

They say networking is the key to success. I used to believe it's only important when you're in big business, but I was wrong. Personal networks might even get you an empty 2-room flat for your internship at no cost in the Old Doctor's street. Well, the district was not the coolest one, I admit. It probably would have been difficult to find a flat further from the city center as well. But I had it green and quiet. As opposed to Aurimas and Justas' flat that was larger, almost in the center of the city, and unbelievably hot and noisy. And so I don't complain :).

Aurimas:

I spent the first week of mine in a hotel (it was a part of the internship package). However, afterwards I had to find a flat, and that was not much easier than tasks at work as nobody wants to rent a flat for two students only for two months. I was becoming quite desperate, involved an HR manager, a secretary of the Firm, and recalculated the ceiling price several times, but in the end I succeeded – and that's how me & Justas ended up living in a cozy 2-room flat near the city center. But I sincerely envied that marvelous view around the Old Doctor's street.

Overall

Overall, we think it was worth it. Another country is still another country, no matter how close it is. And experience in huge multinational companies proves you that one of the most important things during your internship is to get access to real knowledge and real experts. Or at least to have enough responsibility so you can develop yourself.

It also makes you think whether investment banking is really THE choice, as working 14 hours a day does not look that attractive anymore. Sometimes you just want to have time for yourself and the others around you. But a boring life of 8 hours of work a day does not make you happy, either...



My first internship at



By Henrijs Jansons

I will start from the beginning... This summer I was really tempted to work in Hansapank in Estonia (due to the heart warming recommendations by Janar and Harlis). Unfortunately, my lacking knowledge of the Estonian language and a slowdown of the economy ruined my plans to work in the northern part of the Baltics. Since the response from Hansapank was quite late I was desperate to find an internship, so I went to our pro-rector Diana Pauna. She posted a request on the Alumni webpage and after 2 days I received an e-mail from Rimi HR department. My first thought was something like: "I am President of the Student Association in SSE Riga but my internship will be in Rimi?!" Anyway, since I had no other options, I agreed to go to the interview which I thought would most likely happen somewhere in Alfa above the retail store. I was surprised: they have a huge office building in Plavniekos! (see in the picture). The interview consisted of standard questions that we were taught in Career development, so I passed it and started to work the next Tuesday!

So, what did I have to do there? Well, my internship was divided in two parts: For the first two weeks I worked in HR department where I had to carry out a project "How to attract students to Rimi". Basically what I had to do was to come up with a plan how to make students like myself to imagine Rimi as a large international company not a working place where you have to carry boxes or work as a cashier. After those two weeks I had to present my plan and it seemed to me that they liked my ideas. In the next couple of weeks I was moved from the HR department to the Logistics department. Before I went to Rimi, to me Logistics was only about carrying goods from place A to place B. It took my not more than 2 minutes to understand that it's much more than that. My boss in Logistics was our

graduate Anna (the Alumni who suggested me for Rimi). She explained me everything I had to know about Rimi Logistics (we even had an excursion to Rimi warehouse) and was very helpful during my stay in the company. Later "The Boss" Logistics & Supply Chain Director Bernardo Machado (he is Portuguese as all the Top management in Rimi) arrived and we also had an interesting conversation with him not only about Rimi but life in general. He also promised to help me any time in topics related to retail and/or logistics which was very kind from him. My only task in the department was just to forecast

the changes in the oil price in the Global market and then derive the possible changes in consumer behavior and shopping patterns. You think it's impossible? So did!! I was very

lucky to have a partner Thomas (nice German guy working from Rimi in Estonia which means I had a chance to work internationally) who actually carried out the toughest part of the report. After the two weeks of hard work me and Thomas had to present our findings to the whole Rimi Baltic Logistics managing people. For this reason a rest-house was rented in a place called Medzabaki and I was given a company car to drive there and back. Believe me, to give a presentation to such an audience is both a challenge and fun together. After the presentation I was told that it was very good, which made me feel fantastic!

And now, some general stuff about my internship place:

First of all, I WAS PAID A SALARY THERE! Moreover, we had free tea or coffee and later even free fruits (such as bananas, apples, oranges and peaches (beat that))!

People working in Rimi were very friendly and helpful. In the first days I was told everything about Rimi back in time, now and in the future. Actually, if we would look at this company from an HR perspective I would say it would be almost impossible to find any drawbacks.

I also learned how to use document clinching machine

There also is something SSE Riga and Rimi have in common: an Amica



cafeteria.

To end my story, I suggest everybody (especially year1) to have their internship in Rimi, since you are actually treated as a worker of the company and it's possible to carry out very interesting and experience bearing projects.

I would like to thank once again Thomas with whom together we forecasted oil prices, my supervisors Rita and Anna who spent a lot of their time talking and explaining stuff to me I needed to know in order to carry out my tasks, and also Mr Bernardo with whom I hope we will meet in the future (he said he would like to give some guest lecture here in SSE).

All in all, this was definitely one of my best summers!



Welcome to the economic Orange County! Autumn has greeted us with orangeness of leafs and School, sweet school with boldness of Orange. Vivid and bright. Juicy and intensive.

The autumnness in the Orange County

By Autumnised Sommer VV

This season has always awoken the deepest feelings in me. Seems that the orange colour of the sun is bound to incise all the fakes and truths around. Autumn brings the cold from the outside. Rationally speaking, it is the lack of the sun and the decrease of atmospheric pressure which, day by day, slowly creeps to us and entangles us with loneliness and sorrow. We are, however, too busy analysing tariffs, voting rules and profitability of EBP projects. Economists in general are pretty much indifferent towards the season changes (until it becomes a factor in our production function). Autumnly enough, it is not only the weather which makes us long for warmth. The Orange County is pierced with autumn feelings.

Autumn-hunger – it does not matter what you had for breakfast or when. You feel the need to eat something almost constantly. Perhaps, it is the grinding of the knowledge stone that makes us so famished. Irregardless, the tempting smells of fresh bakery, coffee, hot chocolate, anything that can be chewed, crumbed or spooned suddenly becomes irresistible.

Autumnosity – the kind of animosity, which is remarkable at the Orange County. You're well-liked if you're rated higher. Counting upon warm heart feelings

has a hard-landing. Friendliness is coloured in plastic-orange.

Autumnomy – to reach this one, you'll need O.C. experience and a beating heart. The first dose will have its effect after you have gladly walked through the gates of Orange County for the first time. Lots of new, interesting, intelligent, smart people. The O.C. is bewildering at first. And then you'll suddenly realise – when was the last time you saw your friends? Two months ago. Right? By your second year you'll have new friends and old ones will learn just how expensive your time is. There comes the second dose of autumnomy - nothing is what it seems. If nothing other than cordial passion for economics connects you to your friends – your ways will soon be parted. Autumnly enough, you'll also learn that your love for economics may be second-rated by the new elite of TA's and TopScorers. The last dose of the autumnomy will present itself during the third year. Half of you (no matter how much liked or not) is away. The other half busily working, getting married, studying for a higher GPA. You realise that the past years of orangeness at the Orange County, no matter how harsh they've been, have made you this distinct shade

of orange you are now. And they are just about to end.

On the Orange side of things!

The Indian Summer is somewhere on the way to the Orange County. The baptizing, where the freshmen will get cold and dirty only to get hot and even dirtier during the party. The drunken kisses. The sober over-nights. The getting to know a lot of people better. After all they all are pretty orange by now. You'll learn that size does matter, and how to check whether your instrument is strong, how wearing a short skirt becomes a public good and how a man can impersonate a balance sheet.

Stay Orange to the Orange County, for they don't really orange you like that anywhere else.



Pause.MovieTime

September 23

We offer you one of the best movies that were ever created – Fight Club. An incredible philosophical and chaotic piece directed by David Fincher based on the novel by Chuck Palahniuk. We cannot say anything more about this flick, because the first rule of the fight club is that you do not talk about it.

September 30

A very naughty film written and directed by Kevin Smith will wait for you in Soros - Clerks. The auditorium will experience a new low as clerks will set a new F-word per minute record this time. It is Smith's debut, shot only for 27 000 USD (another 27 000 were spent on the soundtrack), which is about two convenience store clerks and their workday.

October 7

An English romantic comedy. With zombies. C'mon! You've gotta see this one! From Simon Pegg (writer, lead actor) and Edgar Wright (writer, director) comes one of the best zombie flicks ever made... Ok, one of the funniest zombie flicks ever made – Shaun of the Dead.

Newcomer's Camp

- Regret If You Were Not There!

If you are a year 1 student and somehow missed the Newcomer's camp, read the following and you will get to know what you have missed from the eyes of a newcomer.

By Karolis Čekauskas

The day of Newcomer's Camp finally "arrived". We had a really nice journey driving to the camp site, which was somewhere beyond Jurmala. We were four in the car: Laurynas, me, Egle Mazulyte and some 70 bottles of Coke and Sprite on the rear seat (foto).

The newcomer's camp was totally amazing. Just after arrival, we watched Olympic basketball game, in which Lithuania was facing Croatia. We smashed them in the fourth quarter by some 20 points... Come on! That was a great beginning. Afterwards, we gathered in the main square, where we were divided in smaller, 12 person teams and started playing some introduction games. They were really interesting and funny, thanks to the organizers. Then we had a big competition to do some tasks better than our rival teams. There was a storyline that Newcomer's camp boss Pikelis was

kidnaped by bad people (he was somehow walking around the camp during this game, however). We had to save him from evil kidnappers. That was an interesting activity, but it also cost a lot of energy.

There was a cute dinner after the competition, we were eating grill sausages. Everyone was really happy because we had been starving all the day long. We had to present a short performance based on the topic we were given. Our team, for example, got the topic "Laptop addicted". We all gathered into the main hall of the camp and watched other group's plays and performed ours. We were laughing out loud, quietly drinking and doing stuff like that.

The last and the best part came straight after organizers awarded teams – drinking! We started with a considerable amount of alcohol going round the hall and finished dancing somewhere outside. That was a really massive drinking. Everyone was pleased and enjoyed that part best. That's where my memory fails to regenerate things...

Huge thanks to the organizers of this great and unforgettable event!!!



It's fresh. It's new. It's the first SSE Riga Newcomers' Camp in history!

Organizers point of view: Kotryna Drąsutytė

It was early spring when we first began to think about organizing a camp for the new Year 1. Where did this idea come from? Well, many Lithuanians had either experienced themselves, or heard of “fuxus camps” that bring together freshers of Lithuanian universities for lots of fun before studies start. Marius Raugalas was constantly nagging us, the new SA, to organize such a camp for the first time in SSE Riga. Needless to say, we were enthusiastic about the idea as well!

Of course, the actual organization of the camp didn't begin until it was almost summer and everyone was already packing to leave for their internships. Paulius was appointed the main organizer (who knows, maybe this will be a new traditional duty for the PR.Com?) and a handful of course-mates signed up to help. Eventually, somehow, the main organizing team ended up consisting of only Lithuanians.

We had a common vision: to team-build the new students so that the first weeks of school would not be too overwhelming, and to inspire them to be active in school's activities.

We also remembered how Lithuanian and Estonian newcomers have their national meetings with their corresponding SSE Riga communities before school starts, and thought that it would be great if more mingling could happen between the 3 nationalities and exchange students. I guess that's something our year (Y2) unfortunately hasn't achieved...

So how did we make it happen? As summer was approaching its peak, we were somewhat stuck in the middle of nowhere, still lacking a place to hold the camp, and uncertain about the money issues (it is no longer a rumor that the SA has

some holes in the budget...). But it all turned out well: Peteris found a nice

place, and ... well, it might be that this camp was one of the very few, or even the only event organized by the SA that was profitable!

With location and money in place, we concentrated on more earthly problems. We set up a blog (ssecamp.wordpress.com) and launched registration, spamming Year 0 in any way we can.

I still remember how funnily Pikelis was stressed out some two hours after the invitations were sent: “Come on, why don't they register, it's been already 2 hours!” It's true, though, that we had little idea how many participants to expect! Our estimations of around 60 were by far exceeded... Almost 100 newcomers registered. Which meant that they would need to learn how to share a bed: we ordered only 60 of those!

The week before the camp was the most hectic. The newcomers had to be counted, sorted and contacted to make sure that none were lost. The camp program was still being prepared. Some of the food that was “foodraised” had to be somehow transported from Lithuania to Riga. These were the famous “Oho” chips—yes yes, the same ones on which some Ganu people cheerfully feasted for another two weeks!

Once we survived the Friday of Printing and Cutting Nametags, the camp day finally came. The precise planning paid off! Arrival, the team-building games, orientation game, meal breaks and the evening program went amazingly well according to the time schedule. The weather was nice, people looked like they were having fun and with every

hour it became more apparent that we will have lots of leftover food to take home and eat for the rest of our lives. Or maybe a bit less. Anyway, what more could you wish for?

Probably the only disappointment was that so many people left during the night. Our ingenious rule of “no alcohol till 19:00” was meant to be a prelude to massive partying in the evening, yet I guess many people just prefer to wake up in their own beds. After all, the same thing tends to happen in SS!

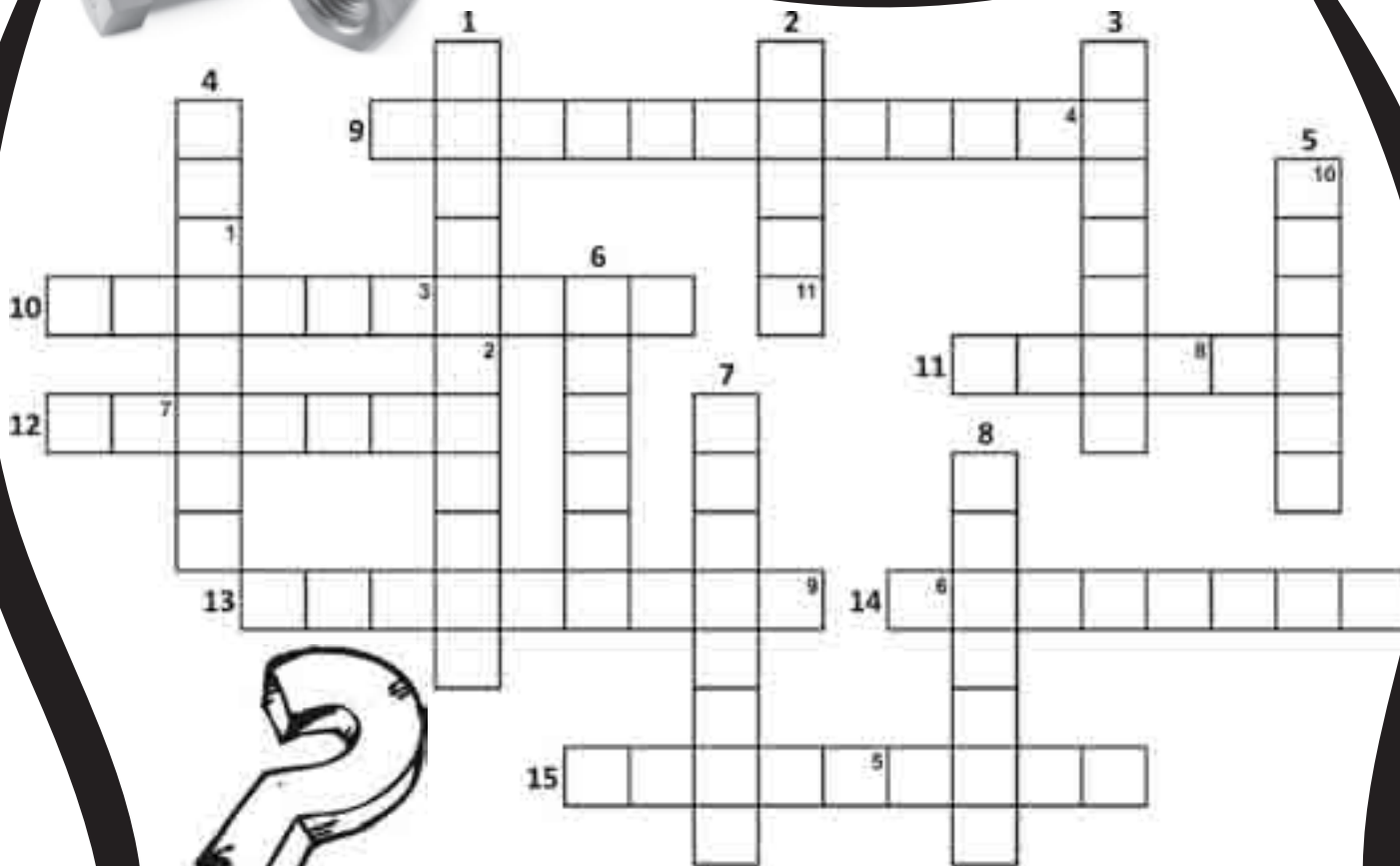
After all the partying, Sunday morning was as difficult as never before. And we still had to clean up... I remember running around searching for all the keys, squeezing in the car with 4 people on the back seat, with tons of “Oho” chips on our knees, and finally reaching Riga to fall straight into my bed.

It was so worth it!!!





CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Questions:

1. The magic word, which is highly associated with Morten and Latvia
2. The club presented in SSE Riga premises on September 23
3. The thing that SS organizer started to love a lot during the event
4. The real man from the team which won Basketball competition in SS 2008
5. The place visited by the previous board of one SSER organization
6. Who will be the ... one?
7. The team which became HPGBC winners in 2008
8. "The Rubbish of the Day"
9. The campsite near the lake "Usmas"
10. Rectors invented the name of the team participated in SS. Which team?
11. Where did A&E have their internship? (country)
12. Where the most visible people in the gossip page come from?
13. The nostalgic "iela" which Y2 and Y3 are eager to visit again; however, almost nobody will meet them there.
14. The initiator of the Newcomer's camp currently having a good time abroad
15. The person whose nickname is Santa Claus

Be the first who sends the correct answer to insider.sseriga@gmail.com and win the special Insider T-shirt!!!

*Congratulations to Marius R (Y3) for being the quickest in the previous BrainSCREW!!!
The correct answer was faintaisie.*

Secret word

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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Days of Opportunities 2009

www.doo.edu.lv

14th Annual SSE Riga Career Fair
April 3, 2008

doo@sseriga.edu.lv

Hey hey;) As I recall, Morten asked a tricky question in his section!

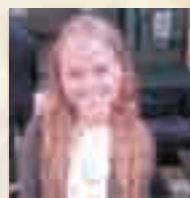
What will drive growth in the future and thus take the economies out of recession again?...Hmm... Tricky question!

Well, the smartest students of the Baltic States have provided some really creative answers!



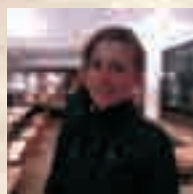
Armands (Y1)

More smiling people!



Baiba (Y2)

ME!!!



Anna (Y1)

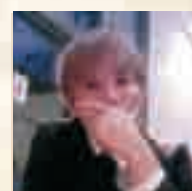
Growing vegetables and cheese. You should also dance a lot.



Kristijans (Y1)

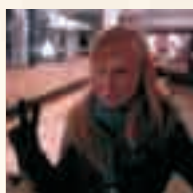
Synergy

1+1=3 ;)



Kristaps (Y1)

Sexy Synergy Foundation



Liva (Y1)

You have a head (or two) – think of something yourselves.



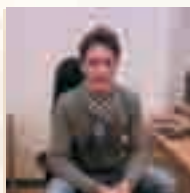
Coglar

I have no funny answer, sorry. Just a serious one. If there is too much prostitution, then there might be another migration of skilled labour force, but this time foreigners will move here;)



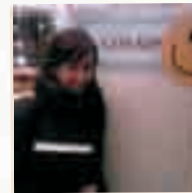
Karolis (Y1)

Prostitution will make things grow alright! :) By making us more productive, thus we will produce more with smaller costs, so the output will increase » Growth!



Ruslans (AdCopy)

The main thing in economies is people, highly skilled and knowledgeable people. So if we provide a really high quality education to people who are passionate about developing themselves, they will develop the economies in return.



Viktorija (Y1)

Seeing future vision and having a definite purpose!