

GLOBAL NEWS



BATH COUNCIL: “BUT THEY’RE NAKED UNDER THOSE BIKINIS ON TAXI ADS!”

The early-sixties didn't just see the advent of the minicab in London, it saw something equally shocking in its own right... the miniskirt! Nowadays, the occasional head is turned at the sight of a long pair of pins, but the sensationalism went some 40 years ago – although not in Somerset and in particular, not the lovely Georgian city of Bath.



For a city famed by its hot springs and Roman baths, one wonders whether the locals actually jump into their own baths fully clothed! This followed some stuffy licensing official's decision to ban a taxi holiday ad that saw an ultra-attractive bikini-clad young lady and a swimming-trunk-wearing man. The reason? They were seen as being 'inappropriate and too raunchy' for a nice city such as Bath.

The firm behind the taxi ad, Holidaylettings.co.uk, said the prudish council had even initially suggested covering the man and woman's bodies with T-shirts and shorts in some form of body censorship. They also added that London had passed the ad in January and they'd received no complaints of people passing out in shock! In fact, because the decision had come around April 1, they had even considered it might have been an April Fool gag! But no, the council were serious. In an email from the council's senior licensing officer, John Dowding, he wrote to the holiday firm: "Having discussed the artwork with my manager, it has been deemed the proposal is inappropriate for licensed vehicles." The holiday firm then let the decision slip out to the local press, forcing the embarrassed council to climb down and allow the images to be plastered over Bath's licensed taxis – even when passing Roman remains!

A council spokesman said: "After an internal review, Bath and North East Somerset Council has agreed the advertising covers the bare essentials of our licensing requirements and has written to holidaylettings.co.uk to give consent for its taxi advertising scheme."

We think that Mr Dowding should think twice before any planned visit

to London as skirts are once again moving in a northerly direction and we wouldn't want to give the impression that the capital was inappropriate...!

AND SPEAKING OF “WET” – A SINGAPORE TAXI GOES FOR A SWIM!

Never mind Bath, a Singapore taxi driver recently went to a condominium to pick up a radio job in atrocious weather conditions. But somehow he left the driveway and inadvertently drove his cab into the condo's swimming pool! It was raining heavily and cabby Ling Hong Loom claims that the almost-monsoon conditions prevented him getting a good view of the pool area.

"I knew it was a pool only when my taxi went in," Mr Ling told Taxi Globe. The pool was about 50m from the entrance of the condo and without realising it, he had left the main drive and headed straight into it. As his yellow taxi splashed bonnet first into the 4ft deep water, he crawled into the backseat and managed to open the door. "I really thought I was going to drown," he said. Clearly shaken, he called his mistake "embarrassing." Mr Ling, a cab driver for around a year, said that he had been going at 20-30kmh before driving in. "When I was in the pool, I tried to break the windows, but couldn't get enough power in my blows. I tried waving at the two passengers waiting for me, but they just stood there looking shocked."

But even worse was to come - the residents would not allow a vehicle recovery machine to drag out the cab as they claimed it would damage the pool! They demanded compensation first. The taxi company and condo owners are currently discussing a compensation package. As for Mr Ling, he no longer wants to talk about it. "I'm fed up," he told us, "all my fellow cabbies now refer to me as the "Man from Atlantis!"

San Diego Cabby Kills Passenger Over \$5 Fare Dispute!

Lee Crump had to be at his McDonald's job by 6 am, but with just 4 hours to go he was still at an aunt's apartment and needed to get home for some sleep and to change. With only \$5 in his pocket, he called a cab believing that would be enough to get him to his apartment. But it wasn't, so five blocks from home, he apparently paid the cabby the \$5 and jumped out of the taxi. According to police, the cabdriver then chased him on foot before getting back in his taxi, driving over a few lawns and straight into Crump. He died the next day.

"I don't understand why this happened, but I know there's a God up there," Lee's father Albert said. "Perhaps if I keep praying, I'll get an answer. But I don't have it right now."

From what Albert Crump understands, when Lee saw he didn't have enough money, he paid the \$5 and jumped out of the cab. He didn't refuse to pay but told the driver to stop when he realised that he didn't have enough so at the most, he may have been \$2 or \$3 short. "I always wanted Lee to be a good boy," said Albert, "I told him not to do drugs and to be somebody. And that's what he did. Then a guy comes along and kills him for a few dollars taxi fare. It wasn't drug-related, it wasn't gang-related, it was just some guy who had a chip on his shoulder and ran over my Lee with his cab. He didn't have to do that. If he never intended paying the fare, he wouldn't have bothered paying the \$5."

His parents spoke of their son who wanted to go back to college, who believed in working hard, who didn't mind getting up early to go to work, a young man who enjoyed the theatre, writing, bowling and ice-skating. "I don't know what kind of person we're dealing with," said Albert, "but he has to be sick. He must pay for this in court, but he can never really pay for it. Nobody can ever pay for this. My son is gone."

The cab driver, Jack Bayley, aged 52, has been charged with second-degree murder.