

GLOBAL NEWS



German Taxi Driver Forces Passenger To Enter Airport Naked!

A taxi passenger was forced to traipse through Munich Airport naked after an enraged taxi driver took all of his possessions when he couldn't pay the whole fare! The passenger had been in Munich to visit a nightclub on what he said was business. On his way back to the airport in a taxi, he realised he only had €60 in cash, which did not cover the €64.20 fare the driver was demanding. The passenger told the Daily Bild that the driver took both his mobile phones, all of his identification and his keys! The still-shocked passenger went on to say that the driver then made him take off all his clothes until naked and took his glasses as well.

It was around 2 am when the totally naked passenger – save for a newspaper covering his not quite so private parts - approached a cleaning crew inside the airport's Terminal 2. They used a bin liner with the bottom cut out and he wore that like a skirt! Airport police later gave him some jogging pants and a t-shirt for the flight home. The taxi driver has not yet been found, but the authorities are investigating the incident as theft. The possibility that perhaps there was some drinking involved, rather than a story of a taxi driver wasting all that time over €4, has not yet been discussed...

No Talking In New York Cabs?

New York's cab drivers and passengers are about to catch up with us on this side of the pond when they install a cab-sharing system this month, similar to the ones at Paddington and Euston etc. But it seems that passengers are becoming frantic and in unison, asking one important question: What do they talk about to the stranger sitting next to them? Should they exchange names? Numbers? Discuss politics? The etiquette might seem fuzzy at present, but worried Manhattanites can look toward the one officially-sanctioned taxi stand in Yorkville. That one is for those Upper East Siders who have been using shared taxis for a quick ride to Wall Street for over 20 years!

Their answer: Just follow one strict rule... no talking! That way the social interaction gets completely cut out of the equation. Complete silence accompanies a new seating hierarchy right out of high school. In fact, and like London during that morning sharing period, some passengers would rather spend more money and wait for their own taxi rather than sit in the back and wonder whether to speak or not! Taxi and Limousine Commissioner, Matthew Daus, promises to post a code of conduct in the new shared cabs, because apparently the drivers that operate from Yorkville like the scheme so much, that they force some passengers to wait up to an hour to guarantee a full cab and the maximum fare to Wall Street. Mind you, it does give the passengers something to talk about!

Nz Taxi Driver Refuses Uniform

Nelson City is a lovely part of New Zealand. It contains the best of both worlds, with city life mingling with a cultural and less brash side. The last word you'd expect to hear in Nelson City is Nazi.

But a cab driver that works for a company within the Nelson City Taxi Society has created a storm by refusing to wear the cab company's new uniform, because he claims it reminds him of the Nazi Third Reich. Harald Kleiven worked as a taxi driver for the Russell Moore Taxi Company, who during 2008 adopted the Nelson City Taxi Society uniform that included a black shirt. The scheduled start for the uniform was this February. But Mr Kleiven, who was born in Norway and there as a young child during WW2, was suspended for refusing to wear the shirt. He told an industrial tribunal court that to him, the shirt was an offensive reminder of the "wickedness perpetrated by agents of the Nazi Third Reich throughout continental Europe."

He went on to tell the court of a terrible incident in his Norway home during the war in which his whole family, including himself, as that small boy, were put up against a wall outside their home and threatened with execution by black-shirted Norwegian collaborators for some minor transgression against the occupying Nazi forces. Tribunal chairman, James Crichton, summed up the situation for the court by saying: "Mr Kleiven sees the black shirt to be worn by the company's staff and members as a reminder of those tragic days in the Second World War and he does not wish to traumatise himself, or indeed be seen perpetrating the black shirt myth by wearing a uniform comprising of a black shirt."

However, Mr Crichton went on to say that he was satisfied that the company/society had a legal right to insist its staff wore a uniform. A spokesman for the company said that while he had the highest regard for Mr Kleiven and that he was an asset to the business, they felt it could not make an exception for him in regards to wearing the shirt. Harald Kleiven had been sacked after his refusal to wear the shirt and told the court that in his view the company policy was wrong and that he had been unjustifiably dismissed and should be awarded compensation.

The court found that Mr Kleiven had not been dismissed from the company, rather he had been blacklisted, so there was no question of compensation. However, the final judgement went on to say that the court hoped that the company and Mr Kleiven might come to an agreement where perhaps they might rethink their refusal to give Mr Kleiven an exemption, given his passionate belief that the present uniform shirt is a symbol of past evil.

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