

Making her way to the south of France - step by step



KAREN MARTINEK

LIVING ABROAD
I was wrong. It was not when I deplaned in France that I wanted to return to the United States. Instead, it was when I was standing lost in a Paris railway station, dragging my luggage, searching for the exit, that I realized I was

waiting for the metro and explained I was lost and needed to find an exit where I could catch a taxi. He stared at me incomprehensibly until he caught the word taxi and then directed me up three flights of stairs and a right turn to the taxi. He even offered to carry my bags - who says the French are cold?
Step Four - The Taxi: Inside the cab, on my way to the Gare de Lyon, my mistake came when I tried to make conversation with

the driver by asking him if that's where I caught a train for Nimes. Instead of conversation, I received a 10-minute lecture in French followed piece by piece with its English translation, on why it is important to ask questions at the information desk of the train station before assuming anything. I finally gave up trying to explain that computerized information thing.
Step Five - The Gare de Lyon: Finally at the Gare de

Lyon, I paid some man 10 francs for a luggage cart that I believe was free. At that point my luggage was dead weight and I didn't care. Taking the driver's advice I went first to the information office to find it closed for no apparent reason. So, I chose a window with a patient looking clerk and purchased my ticket to Nimes on the TGV with a connection to the local train in Avignon.
Twenty-four hours after departing Detroit, I arrived in Nimes

without the phone card necessary to use the public phones in France. Vandalism has forced them to change the phones from coin operated to card operated. Waiting ever so patiently in a once-again abandoned information booth, I was finally able to purchase a card from a woman passing by and I made my call. My French family arrived and took me to Ales where I took a bath and went straight to bed. Welcome to France!

Born and raised in Southfield, Karen Martinek graduated from Marian High School in Bloomfield Township and the University of Michigan where she studied English and education. Taking a break from teaching high school English, she will work for a year as a nanny in the town of Ales, on the southern coast of France. Her column will compare life there with life in our communities.

for from home. Unfortunately, Paris, like Detroit, situated its airport 45 minutes from the city and any motor means of transit. Thus, I couldn't just deplane and jump on the train headed south. Instead, I had to go through the rigorous process of finding the train station from which southbound trains departed and a means of getting there. I planned ahead a little and had asked the French woman next to me on the plane how I might get myself on the road to Nimes. She was very helpful and gave me the following five-step process:

Step One - The Airport: The Paris airport was simple - I just followed everyone else. I dreaded customs because I had already run into trouble at Metro due to those visa complications. I expected the same in Paris. Yet, after passing through customs, the process leads me to believe you could bring anything you wanted into the country. It consisted of filling out a yellow card with my vital statistics and passing that with my passport to a woman in a booth. She stamped the card and barely glanced at the passport before tossing it back to me. No nasty warnings or threats of deportation. Relieved, I claimed my baggage and I was off.

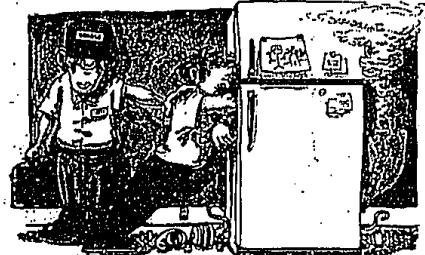
Step Two - The Bus: Unfortunately, at the baggage claim, I lost my guides because my luggage was first off. I figured it was a good time to start practicing my French, thus I asked the Frenchman at the information booth where to find the bus headed to Paris. He pointed me toward an exit and I waited for the bus. My mistake here was in not following everyone else. Once aboard the bus, I had no idea where to get off. I suppose I should have taken the clue when everyone else exited at the same time, but no, I waited. Then I realized I wanted off. Panicked, I asked the driver to stop, but he ignored me. Fortunately, the bus had only rolled about 10 feet in order to pick up new passengers bound for the airport.

Step Three - The Metro: Although I didn't understand the map, I knew I had to get to the Gare du nord (Paris's north train station). Upon exiting the metro, I tried to follow the signs for the information booth. The arrows pointed me not towards a human being, but a computerized directory which made no sense. Finally I gave up and began searching for the exit. Again, I followed the signs which read "sortie" with a downward pointing arrow. Pardon my American ways, but a down arrow means down, no? I dragged my luggage to the escalators where there was no "down". Realizing my bags were being examined with an unhealthy curiosity, I accosted some Frenchman

Oddball approach aids food bank

The Food Bank of Oakland County is inviting you not to attend its third annual "Non-Dinner Dance."
The Food Bank's promo brochure notes that "this non-event requires: No schedule juggling. No crash dieting. No stretch limousine."
"By not attending you will receive: No rubber chicken. No reggae lessons. No party hats."
Requesting donations of \$10 to \$100, the brochure goes on to say that "Peter Duchin won't play. Pressed duck won't be served. Your picture won't appear in the Eclectic. No one will see your gold lame dinner jacket."
Bob Bauer, the Food Bank's resource development director, said the oddball fund-raising approach has worked well in past years. "It strikes people's fancy," Bauer said. "You've got to laugh."
The Food Bank collects chow and supplies it to Oakland County's 90 shelters, emergency food pantries and soup kitchens.
Donations should be mailed to the Food Bank of Oakland County, Box 430630, Pontiac, 48343. Or you may drop your donation off at the Food Bank office on East Columbia between Baldwin and Jowlyn in Pontiac.
For additional data, call Bauer or Jim Macy at 332-1473.

IT'S OVER.



ALL MERCHANDISE PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE TAKE WITH

PRICES GOOD JULY 22 THRU JULY 25, 1993

SERVICE DID ALL THEY COULD DO. IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON. WE CAN HELP.

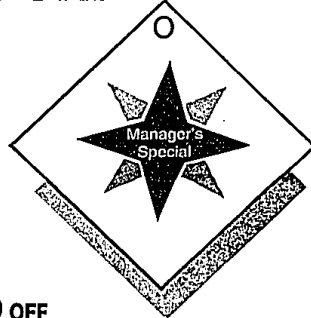
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD LETTING GO. BUT IF, YOU'RE READY, SO ARE WE. HERE'S THE DEAL: NOW THRU JULY 25, YOU'LL SAVE AN ADDITIONAL 20% OFF SELECTED APPLIANCES AND 40% OFF SELECTED FURNITURE...THAT'S A TOTAL SAVINGS OF 20%-60% OFF SEARS REGULAR RETAIL PRICES. SO STOP BY NOW FOR A LITTLE SYMPATHY AND A WHOLE LOT OF SAVINGS. LOOK FOR THE MANAGER'S SPECIAL TAGS.

SELECTED APPLIANCES

(WASHERS, DRYERS, RANGES, AND REFRIGERATORS)

TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 20% OFF

OUR CLEARANCE PRICE



SELECTED FURNITURE

(LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM, AND BEDROOM FURNITURE)

TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 40% OFF

OUR CLEARANCE PRICE

SAMPLE PRICING

REFRIGERATOR	
REGULAR RETAIL PRICE:	\$625 ⁰⁰
OUR CLEARANCE PRICE:	\$539 ⁸⁸
NOW ADDITIONAL 20% OFF SAVINGS OF	\$108 ⁰⁰
YOU PAY ONLY \$431⁸⁸	
FREEZERS NOT INCLUDED	

SEARS

LIVONIA WAREHOUSE OUTLET STORE

ITEMS ADVERTISED ARE READILY AVAILABLE FOR SALE

SEARS WAREHOUSE OUTLET

12001 SEARS AVE. LIVONIA

1 MILE WEST OF MIDDLEBLET OFF PLYMOUTH ROAD

PHONE: 422-5700

The Sears Outlet Store is a central clearing house for furniture and appliances from Sears retail stores. Returns, floor samples, damaged in transit, one-of-a-kind items are received daily and offered at tremendous savings. Quantities are limited, so hurry! All items are subject to prior sales.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUES ON MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS

ASSORTED SIZES SOLD IN SETS AND SOME SEPARATELY

- SPRING AIR - FIRM BEDDING -

74612	TWIN SET	NOW 199 ⁸⁸
74100	TWIN MATT	89 ⁸⁸
74003	TWIN BOX	89 ⁸⁸
74200	TWIN MATT & BOARD	129 ⁸⁸
74304	FULL MATT	149 ⁸⁸
74004	FULL BOX	109 ⁸⁸
74614	FULL SET	299 ⁸⁸
74306	QUEEN MATT	179 ⁸⁸
74005	QUEEN BOX	139 ⁸⁸
75660	QUEEN SET	359 ⁸⁸

IN STOCK CONDITION

PREVIOUSLY SELECTED MERCHANDISE NOT INCLUDED ★ LIMITED STYLES, QUANTITIES AND MODELS
Merchandise selection consists of new, used, reconditioned and damaged merchandise.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON.-FRI. 10:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M., SAT. 10:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M., SUNDAY 12:00 NOON TO 5:00 P.M.