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Swedish Press

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Swedish Press

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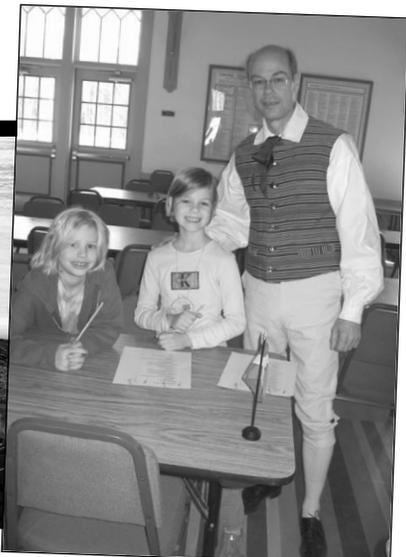
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"I just received a letter from the Swedish Consulate regarding the new rules for applying for a passport. I have to travel to Ottawa???? Any comments from The Swedish Press?" writes Kristina McKinnon. This is just one of the many letters (see *This Month*) we have received regarding the new rules for Swedish passports.

(Let me say at the start that as Honorary Consul of Sweden in Vancouver for British Columbia and Yukon Territory, I am in a conflict of interest when it comes to the new passport regulations.)

As Editor I completely understand the outrage of readers living, for example, in Vancouver who realize that from January 1, 2008, they will have to go all the way to Ottawa or cross the border and make their way to Los Angeles to apply for a Swedish passport in person.

In the initial period it will be possible to pick up the new passport at the Consulate in Vancouver, but after a fingerprinting requirement is introduced in 2008, it will be necessary to go back to Ottawa or Los Angeles to pick up the new passport.

The biometric passports with a greater degree of security have become a necessity in today's world. Their main feature is the photograph of the passport holder, that must be taken by a special camera, and in North America this will only be allowed at the embassies in Washington and Ottawa and the Consulate Generals in New York and Los Angeles. As of 2005 Swedish travel documents have been equipped with a computer chip which stores the holder's personal data, photo and eventually finger prints. At border controls, the passport holder can be photographed and the photo compared to the data.

Valborg was celebrated with bonfire, singing and a speech to welcome the spring at the Danish-Swedish language weekend camp at the Concordia Language Villages near Bemidji in Minnesota. Photos: Valorie Arrowsmith (Below) A biometric Swedish passport

Ever since I found out about this new order of things, I have questioned why Sweden, as a member of the EU, cannot use the services of another EU country with a career consulate in Vancouver, for example Holland, France or Great Britain, that are installing the special equipment here. This should be entirely possible as Swedish travel documents have to be in compliance with the requirements established in the EU.

As Consul, I advise all Swedish citizens in Canada to renew their passports this year while the old regulations are still in place. This way you have a passport that is valid for the next five years.

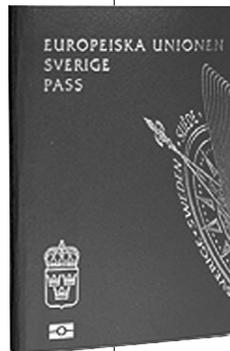
After this the only way to avoid travelling all the way to Ottawa is to either have a dual citizenship or spend a couple of days of your precious vacation in Sweden lining up for a passport at a passport office. The normal wait time is reportedly one week.

Just one more mitigating fact - the procedures for temporary/emergency passport remain unchanged, so if you need a passport in a hurry, you will still be able to turn to the Consulate for this.

Have a nice June

Anders

PS. The next issue of Swedish Press will be slightly delayed as your Editor will be in Sweden and Finland for the next few weeks doing interviews and collecting exciting material for the coming issues.



Omtanke*

*Många av våra elever har sina föräldrar långt bort i världen. Det är då omtanke och förståelse är viktigare än någonsin.



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ÄR DET SVEN STOLPE?

ÄR DET JAN MYRDAL?

NEJ; DET ÄR KAPTEN STOFIL!

Svenska SKÄMT- TECKNARE #124

S På samma sätt som Stålmannen tar skydd bakom Clark Kent, så döljer sig den bakåtsträvande superhjälten Kapten Stofil (*ovan*) bakom en vardagstönt vid namn Joakim Lindengren. Det är samma namn som tecknaren **Joakim Lindengren** som skapade serien på 80-talet i *Galago* och som nu ger ut fyra Kapten Stofil-album om året med den allt populärare seriehjälten som

läses av barn, men älskas av vuxna. När skurkar som Mamma Scan, Galne Gunnar eller Walt Disney hotar mänskligheten med mördargrönsaker eller förvandlar gamla Konsum-butiker till 7-Elevenaffärer då förvandlas seriens Joakim Lindengren till Kapten Stofil och rycker ut i världen för att bekämpa nymodigheter och okultiverad kommersialism. Nyligen kom ett samlingsalbum med 16 av Kapten Stofil's äventyr som finurligt och med många pasticher och parodier mejslats ut av Göteborgs-tecknaren som anser att allt var snyggast på 40-talet.



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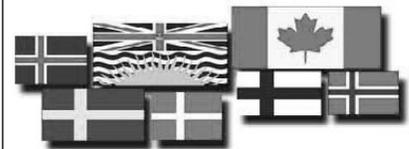
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This Month

Thank you for showing my



bed in your May07 issue. Your description and text was very good. I read your articles and I hope some day to go to Sweden. If I would stop buying antiques I might be able to afford to go.

Lloyd Ryder Jordan ON

God bless you!

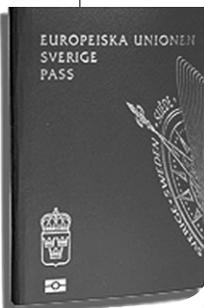
We do look for you every month! We cherish your many efforts! You're like family! Just love your publication! We are most grateful for the translations! It's a whole new dimension to the fun!

Elsie & John Livengood Ventura, CA

Jag måste uttrycka min

S bestörtning att konsultservicen reduceras ytterligare i Kanada. Har man i berörd myndighet egentligen någon uppfattning om avståndet i Nord Amerika och de orimliga kostnader som det medför för landets medborgare att åka 2 ggr till i vårt fall närmsta pass ansökning- och utgivnings plats i Los Angeles om man fortfarande har ett giltigt pass.

Ponera detta scenario, vår familj på 4 personer skall åka till Sverige. Mitt pass och mina barns har gått ut, vi kan således inte åka till Los Angeles (måste ha giltigt pass för att flyga till USA) vi åker till Ottawa c:a \$2500 t/r + förlorad arbetsinkomst och ansöker i per-



son om nytt pass, ärendet blir behandlat och passen kan hämtas i person efter t.ex en månad i Ottawa c:a \$2500 t/r + förlorad arbetsinkomst - \$5000 innan ens biljetterna är köpta till Sverige. Konklusion vi kan inte åka till Farmor och Farfar.

Jag finner det också mycket olämpligt att försämra konsulatets befogenheter och möjligheter inför OS i Vancouver. Om något borde den Svenska Staten profilera sig bättre, med högre service för de som är intresserade av vårt land. Att t.ex få arbetskraft invandring till Sverige från en region som har stora likheter med Sverige torde vara verkligen något att eftersträva, våra idrottsstjärnor är våra bästa ambassadörer, låt oss inte vara pinsamt opressionella gentemot de professionella som kan vara intresserade av oss.

Emil Wessner

Victoria BC, som fick det officiella svaret nedan, som vi återger något avkortat:

Bäste Emil Wessner,

S Ditt e-post meddelande till Sveriges honorärkonsulat i Vancouver f v b till Carl Bildt och utrikesdepartementet har lämnats för besvarande till den konsulära och civilrättsliga enheten. Jag som fått i uppdrag att besvara dina frågor arbetar på denna enhet med bl a frågor om biometri i pass.

Jag vill försäkra dig om att utrikesdepartementet sedan lång tid utreder de möjligheter som eventuellt finns för att underlätta för utlandssvenskarna att ansöka om ordinarie pass även utomlands. Det finns tyvärr inga enkla lösningar som inte är

förknippade med säkerhetsrisker och stora kostnader. Ett utvecklingsarbete har också inletts för att se om det är möjligt att ta fram mobila fotostationer, men ännu finns inga sådana lösningar...

Sverige har 96 utlandsmyndigheter (ambassader och generalkonsulat). Under året kommer alla dessa att utrustas med den teknik som gör det möjligt att säkert, snabbt och korrekt hantera svenska medborgares passansökningar. Av säkerhetsskäl kommer inte längre honorärkonsulaten att kunna handlägga ordinarie pass och nationella id-kort. Inom regeringskansliet är det Justitiedepartementet och dess myndighet Rikspolisstyrelsen, som har det övergripande ansvaret för passfrågorna. Det finns krav på att det är en svensk medborgare och en från Sverige utsänd handläggare som hanterar databasen och beslutar i passärenden. Dessutom anser man att honorärkonsulaten inte har det skalskydd (säkra lokaler) som krävs för att hantera den nya tekniken för "biometrifångst". Jag är den första att beklaga att många utlandssvenskar nu får längre till närmaste passmyndighet, men det beror alltså på faktorer som vi inte råder över.

De säkerhetsmässiga bedömningarna gör alltså att man inte kan kompensera för nackdelarna med att placera ut fler fotostationer vid honorärkonsulaten...

Helena Melin Hultgren UD/KC Stockholm

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Swedish Picks



TASTE JUDGES

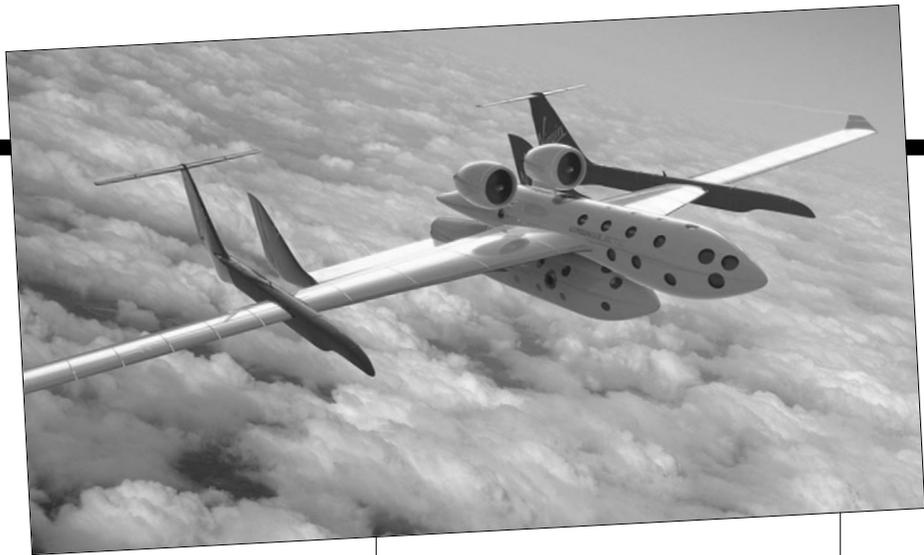
Moose and reindeer at the open-air museum Skansen in Stockholm are to decide which is tastier - traditional road salt or a sweeter alternative.

According to studies carried out by the Swedish National Roads Administration it is better for the environment and car tires when sugar is mixed with the salt that is spread out over icy asphalt. The question now is whether moose will be even more attracted to the roads to lick this mixture.

So now a ten-animal jury will be given access to two different blocks of salt and at the end of the trial period, the blocks will be weighed to see which one was the favourite. If the moose and reindeer go for the sugar variety, it could become a problem since the biggest cause of highway accidents in Sweden are collisions with deer, moose and other wild animals.

Plock Godis

S I Sverige äts det cirka tio kilo godis per år och person och det ger en plats i mitten av den västerländska godisligan. Dock finns det få länder med så mycket plockgodis. Det är ingen hejd på svensk uppfinningsrikedom. Bland annat finns avbildningar av allt möjligt - kroppsdelar, bilar, flaskor, djur, frukter, ädelstenar, mynt, ägg, bomber - på godishyllorna. Dessa blandas alltefter med nyskapelser som citronläppar och jordgubbsbananer. Alla möjliga smaker blandas och provas i smågodisvärlden. Saltlakrits kombineras med hallon, choklad med cola smak. Godis som poppar i munnen och flytande godis på sprayburk har blivit favoriter.



Swedish space tourism

The first tourist trips to space will take off from New Mexico. However Sweden is on its way to becoming the first country in Europe to offer trips to space. In five years it should be possible to take a return trip from Kiruna to space. An agreement to start space travel from Kiruna in 2012 has been signed between entrepreneur Richard Branson's British company, Virgin Galactic and Spaceport Sweden, a new company comprising several Kiruna-based businesses, including the Swedish Space Corporation and the Jukkasjärvi Ice Hotel.

Kiruna has been identified as a perfect area for the send-off because it is relatively free of other air traffic. The town's historic ties with the space industry and its proximity to Esrange, the European Space and Sounding Rocket Range, are also decisive factors in the choice. An added bonus for travellers taking off from Kiruna is the possibility of flying straight through the northern lights. For around 1.5 million kronor (\$200,000) tourists will get to spend five minutes in a weightless environment 120 kilometers above the earth's surface. The ride will be the culmination of three days of training.

Virgin Galactic has ordered five "SpaceshipTwo" (above), each able to accommodate six astronaut passengers. For the first part of the trip, the spaceship hitches a ride on a specially designed carrier aircraft, "the mother ship". Once at a level of approximately 50 kilometers, the spaceship is released from the mother ship and its hybrid rocket is ignited. The spaceship then begins an ascent to a level of 65 kilometers (75 000 feet) at which

point the rocket is turned off and it continues its ascent to over 140 kilometers (360 000 feet). This takes about 90 seconds and the spaceship reaches a speed of just over three times the speed of sound. Now the astronauts are weightless and can look down on Mother Earth from the spacecraft's fifteen windows. After four weightless minutes, the passengers have 45 seconds to get back to their seats and prepare for re-entry. Shortly before the apogee (maximum altitude) of its flight path, the spaceship feathers (folds its wings) in preparation for re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, drawn by the earth's gravitational pull. As the spaceship meets the resistance of the upper atmosphere, the feathered wings act as air brakes, safely positioning and decelerating the spaceship, allowing for a carefree re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. At approximately 60 000 feet, the spaceship's wings are re-configured into their original position allowing for an unpowered glide landing back at the spaceport.

Some 70 000 people are already on the waiting list for a space flight.

68-year-old Bengt Söderqvist has already bought a ticket on Virgin Galactic.

"My wife is scared of flying and doesn't want me to do it," says Söderqvist who was born in Kalmar "but I think it will be safer than driving. My three sons think it is great".

Söderqvist has always been something of a dare-devil. In the 1960s he left a steady job as a surveyor in Sweden for a stint in Turks and Caicos in the Caribbean. He is still active there although nowadays he lives mostly in Florida, where, according to him, most of his friends spend more on their boats than he will on his space trip.

Vad kommer efter Robinson?

S Utröstningsceremoniernas lägereldar har slocknat i dokusåporna. Men ryktet om reality-tv:s död är överdrivet. I höst tar kanalerna nya tag med verkligheten.

Efter succén med *Bonde söker fru* har TV 4 försprång i trendjakten inom tv-genren reality. Just nu pågår sökandet efter bönder som är villiga att göra sin kärlekstörst offentlig.

Vanlighet och vardag är det nya vackra. I dokusåpans barndom skulle deltagarna isoleras i så skruvade sammanhang som möjligt. Den typiske *Big brother* deltagaren levde bara vidare på löpsedlar och under barturnéer. Dagens dokusåpa-hjälte ska vara "på riktigt", trovärdiga, inte konstruerat. Många ska känna igen sig. Flärden är borta, det ska vara mer substans och djup. Den dagliga reality-serien, som *Big brother*, som gjorde Kanal 5 till en stor kanal, är passé.

TV 3 har haft hyfsade framgångar med så kallade makeover-reality, där personer med problem får hjälp av experter.

Dokusåpornas urmoder *Robinson* försvann från tv-rutan förra året. Allt lägre tittarsiffror i kombination med en dyr produktion blev dödsstöten. *Robinson* var länge dokusåpan nummer ett i Sverige - finalavsnittet 2000 hade över fyra miljoner tittare - och den blev genombrottet för dokusåporna inte bara i Sverige utan runt hela världen.



E45

The road has not really changed, but now it has the green EU signs and has been officially designated as European Road Number 45. It starts in the little church village of Karesuando (178 kilometers from Luleå) on the border with Finland and then passes Gällivare and Östersund going all the way to Göteborg where with a ferry to Fredrikshavn you are in Denmark from where you continue all the way through Hamburg, Munich and Innsbruck to reach Gela on the south coast of Sicily at the very bottom of Italy, where the E45 ends.

Madonna FLOPS

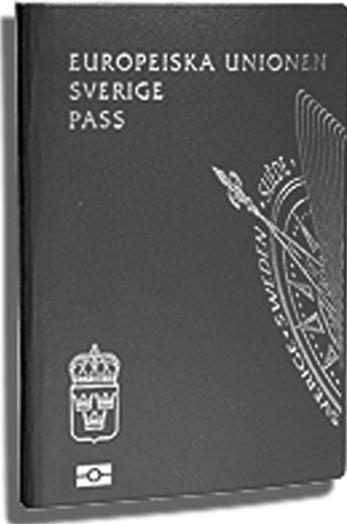
In early April, a group of performance-art vandals in Shoreditch, England climbed the scaffolding behind a giant street billboard featuring Madonna posing for H&M, cut a hole through her left eye, and dumped a can of fluorescent green paint through it. And Madonna wept. Perhaps for her collection at H&M that has underwhelmed fashion aficionados.

Despite having been heralded by H&M on every major street intersection in 26 countries around the world, Madonna's fashion collection has not received the kind of enthusiasm that earlier H&M collections by Karl Lagerfeld, Viktor & Rolf or Stella McCartney, have done.

Initially the much-touted Madonna launch saw crowds lined up in New York, London and Paris but it never sold out. The problem was, reportedly, the petite sizes and the dominance of black even though this was spring fashion. Or perhaps it was customers showing their disdain for celebrity fashion collections?

Now H&M is at again with a "H&M loves Kylie" Minogue collection.





New Swedish Passport?

In today's world, it has become increasingly important that documents required to travel – passports and identity cards – are secure.

For this reason, the police in Sweden now use photo stations to photograph everyone who applies for a passport or identity card. The aim is to ensure the quality of the photo and also to eliminate the risk of someone using another person's photo to acquire travel documents unlawfully.

(For more information, in Swedish, see www.polisen.se)

The new procedure means that a person who is applying for a new, regular Swedish passport or national identity card must make two personal visits to a Swedish Embassy, Consulate General or a passport office in Sweden equipped with the special photostation. As Swedish missions abroad begin to use photo stations, the honorary consulates will cease to accept applications for regular passports and national identity cards.

In the United States, the Embassy in Washington DC and the Consulate Generals in New York and Los Angeles have already introduced the new routines. Commencing January 1, 2008, applications for Swedish passports, in Canada, must be submitted in person at the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa.

New passports and identity cards may still be picked up at the honorary consulates until Sweden introduces fingerprints in travel documents, which is planned for 2008. The handling and application procedure for temporary or emergency passports will remain unchanged. The documents affected by the new procedure are regular passports, extra passports and national identity cards.

www.swedenabroad.com/News or call the Swedish Embassy in Ottawa 613-244-8200



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SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO SELL OFF MAJOR COMPANY HOLDINGS

Only one in three Swedes support the government's privatization plans, which will see the state holdings in six major Swedish companies sold off.

Of those questioned by polling firm Sifo, 44 percent were opposed to the sell-off.

The greatest support for the government's plans, around 60 percent, was to be found among Liberals and Moderate Party voters. Supporters of the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats are less sure, with 38 percent and 40 percent support respectively.

A full 67 percent of supporters of the Social Democrats, Left Party and Green Party are opposed to the plans. Older people are less in favour of privatization than young people, with 52 percent of those in the 50-64 age group declaring opposition.

The government has not indicated if it is going to sell all of its interests or a smaller stake. The sales are expected to generate 150 billion kronor for the Swedish state over the next three years, and have a potential of affecting thousands of jobs.

The money raised will be used to pay down public debt which presently is a little above 40 percent of gross domestic product, one of the lowest ratios in Europe.

The companies in which the state will divest all or some of its interests are TeliaSonera, Nordea, the OMX stock exchange, wine and spirits manufacturer and owner of the Absolut brand, Vin &

Sprit, real estate company Vasakronan and the mortgage lender SBAB. Nordea is the largest bank in the Nordic region. TeliaSonera is the dominant telecommunications operator in the region, with interests as far afield as Azerbaijan. OMX is the owner of several Nordic stock markets, as well as a leading securities-trading technology company.

All six companies presented record profits last year. TeliaSonera handed over more than SEK 12 billion in dividends to the government which owns about 45 per cent of the company's shares.

More sell-offs are likely in what is probably the biggest process of privatization in Swedish history.

"We close no doors; we keep all options open," says Mats Odell, Minister for Local Government and Financial Markets. "The only requirement is that it makes business sense."

The privatization plan promises to be as financially lucrative as it will be politically charged. Mats Odell agrees that there is an ideological component to the sell-off, describing it as the start of a thorough restructuring of the Swedish corporate sector.

The government is open to all types of transactions, block sales of shares, mergers, initial public offerings and private equity deals. The team handling the sale is already fielding calls from "all types of buyers from

Mats Odell (above) is in charge of selling off such Swedish "crown jewels" as Vasakronan's Hötorget skyscrapers and V&S's Absolut Vodka brand

large parts of the world."

So far, most of the public announcements of interest have come in relation to V&S, the beverage company. Both Bacardi, the maker of the world's leading rum brand, and Pernot Ricard, have openly expressed interest in acquiring the company, which has been valued at about 40 billion kronor. The American company Fortune Brands is also considered a contender.

Financial circles in Stockholm are also buzzing with speculation about strategic deals in the Swedish banking sector, with Nordea merging with one of its leading competitors, like SEB.

The state is the biggest company owner in Sweden. The government administers 55 companies/groups of which 41 are wholly owned and 14 partly owned by the state. Some 200 000 people are employed by these companies. Some state-owned enterprises like Vattenfall and LKAB have been very successful of late. But through the years there have also been great failures. In the beginning of the 90s the government had to put in tens of billions of kronor to save Nordbanken, the embryo of today's Nordea. In the 1970s there were great losses in the government-operated steel industry.

News at a Glance

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS EXTEND POLL LEAD

The centre-right government would be roundly defeated if a general election was held today, according to a new poll from the Sifo institute.

According to the poll, the Social Democrats are bigger in their own right than all the parties of the ruling Alliance combined.

44.1 percent of the people polled would vote for the Social Democrats if an election were to be held now, compared to 41.4 percent for the Alliance parties. Together with the Left and Green parties, the Social Democrats have a lead of 12.4 percentage points.

The poll is good news for the new Social Democrat leader, Mona Sahlin. Since she was elected, voter support for the Social Democrats has risen by 4.8 percent.



The royal family is up in the polls

RIISING CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS

Swedes have rising confidence in their national institutions, with the monarchy, parliament and government all looking up. Even the healthcare system and police make the mark while unions and the EU leave people unimpressed. The results for the EU are in stark contrast with those for the United Nations. 44 percent of Swedes have confidence in the UN, and only 18 percent do not.

In a poll conducted by the SOM Institute at Gothenburg University, 45 percent of Swedes feel the monarchy is doing a good job, while only 19 percent think it is doing a bad job. The royals have thereby regained much of the ground lost between 2003 and 2005, when confidence in the monarchy dipped considerably. This coincided with controversial statements by the king on a state visit to Brunei praising the Sultan's "closeness to his people".

Of all institutions, the health service inspired most confidence in Swedish citizens, with 57 percent saying that they believed it was doing a good job.



SUN BEATS WIND WHEN SWEDES WANT MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

More Swedes than ever want the country to expand its use of environmentally-friendly energy sources.

Support for hydroelectricity and biofuels has increased in the country according to a study from Gothenburg University, which also shows that just over three quarters of people want Sweden to concentrate more on wind power, while 83 percent of Swedes want more use of solar power.

However there is not much change in Swedish views on nuclear power, with only 10 per cent of the 3 000 Swedes surveyed saying the country's nuclear plants should be closed quicker than planned. Four in ten think they should continue to be used until the end of their natural lives.

In 1980 Swedes voted in a referendum to phase-out nuclear power and so far two of the country's 12 reactors have been taken off-line permanently.

1986 CHERNOBYL FALLOUT CONTINUES TO KILL SWEDES

People in parts of northern and central Sweden around are still dying from cancer caused by radiation from the Chernobyl accident that took place more than two decades ago. And the worst could still be to come, according to scientists at Linköping University.

In the world's worst nuclear power accident, it was not only large tracts of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus that were severely contaminated, many parts of Sweden were also affected.

Engineers at Sweden's Forsmark power plant were the first to warn the world of the nuclear emergency after detectors showed soaring radiation levels. After ensuring that there was no leakage at Forsmark itself, Swedish officials were able to confirm that the origin of the radiation was in Ukraine.

A radiation was carried by wind currents

Wind power and cars with less carbon dioxide emissions and less use of fossil fuels

GREEN CAR REBATE

The government has introduced a rebate of SEK 10 000 to be given to private individuals who buy a new green car before December 31, 2009. This includes conventional cars, gasoline and diesel cars, with carbon dioxide emissions that do not exceed 120 grams/km; alternative fuel cars that can run on fuels other than petrol or diesel and with fuel consumption that does not exceed 0.92 litre petrol/10 km, 0.84 litre diesel/10 km or 0.97 cubic metre gas/10 km; electric cars meeting with energy consumption that does not exceed 3.7 kilowatt hours/10 km.

The government is allocating SEK 50 million in 2007, SEK 100 million in 2008 and SEK 100 million in 2009 for the rebate. The Swedish Road Administration does not promote a specific technology or fuel.

over the Baltic Sea and throughout Finland. It then swept across northern Sweden and Norway, dissipating in the Arctic part of the Norwegian Sea. In Sweden areas around Gävle and Umeå were the hardest hit. Radiation in these areas is still considered to be much higher than normal levels.

Radiation from Chernobyl has been cited as a factor in more than 1 000 cancer deaths in Norrland between 1986 and 1999 by scientists at Linköping University who have found that new types of malignancies were formed as an effect of the radiation cloud. The majority of the cancer cases have been found in farming and herding societies in the north, since they eat mushrooms and berries growing in soil with high levels of radiation, fish from affected water, or deer and moose which have been grazing in the affected areas.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WANT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BACK

The Social Democrats and the trade union confederation LO are calling for a reversal of the government's decision to lower unemployment insurance payouts.

Writing in *Dagens Nyheter*, the newly elected leader of the Social Democrats, Mona Sahlin and the President of LO, Wanja Lundby-Wedin claim that recent changes to the system have made people so fearful of unemployment that their creativity is hampered and they are less willing to try something new. The net result is damaging for the development of society.

The upper limit for unemployment benefits was dropped from 730 kronor to 680 kronor per day on March 1. After 200 days of unemployment, payments are to be reduced to 70 percent of the previous wage, followed by a further reduction to 65 percent after 300 days. Before the centre-right Alliance came into power, those covered by the scheme received 80 percent of their previous income regardless of the length of their unemployment.



Boat driver's licenses are underway

BÅTKÖRKORT NÄSTA

Ⓢ Efter något års utredande om körkort för fritidsbåtar har utredaren Lars Högdahl lättat lite på förlåten och sina kommande förslag. Bl.a. obligatoriskt körkort för fritidsbåtar över sju meter och/eller snabbare än tio knop och vattenskotrar liksom svävarfarkoster. I båtar som går att köra över 25 knop skall föraren ha särskilt högfartscertifikat. Dessutom skall en databas inrättas av båtorganisationer och försäkringsbolag där alla fritidsbåtar skall registreras. Segelbåtar utan motor, roddbåtar, kanoter och kajaker, oavsett storlek är körkortsbefriade, liksom vindsurfingbräddor, oavsett att dessa kan komma upp i farter betydligt över tio knop.

För att få båtkörkortet skall både ett teoretiskt och ett praktiskt prov avläggas, men den som har lång erfarenhet av båtliv kan få båtkörkortet utan att avlägga prov.

De delar av utredningen som redovisats har mötts av i huvudsak positiva reaktioner. Särskilt databasen med alla fritidsbåtar kan vara ett sätt att få bukt med den ökande handelen med stulna båtar. *Sthig Jonasson*



Quicker recognition for foreign doctors

IMMIGRANT DOCTORS TO BE FAST-TRACKED

The Swedish government is to invest 148 million kronor to ensure that immigrants with healthcare training from countries outside the European Union are fast-tracked into care jobs in Sweden. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting - SKL) has welcomed the investment.

Under the current system, healthcare workers from EU countries can get Swedish authorization within a couple of weeks. But language and qualification validation problems mean that foreigners from non-EU countries can be forced to wait for up to four years.

Changes to these rules have been discussed for years and many projects have been launched to try to make use of this important resource for the healthcare sector that is in dire need of doctors and nurses.

A completely new supplementary education programme is now expected to speed staff from non-EU countries into Swedish healthcare. The new investment is timely, according to SKL. At least 500 doctors from non-EU countries are currently waiting for their Swedish registration.

OSTEOPOROS NEGLIGERAS

Ⓢ Benskörhet - osteoporos - är en av Sveriges största folksjukdomar. Sjukdomen drabbar varannan kvinna och var fjärde man. Svenska kvinnor anses ha de sämsta skeletten i världen. Höftfraktur är till exempel dubbelt så vanligt i Sverige som i Frankrike. En osteoporos fraktur innebär stora risker för de äldre. 20 procent av de cirka 18 000 som varje år får höftfraktur dör inom ett år. Många frakturer kan med rätt insatser förhindras. Men trots att man kan halvera frakturrisken för de sämst ställda görs detta inte i någon större utsträckning i dagens Sverige.

ÖVERSKOTT PÅ LÄRARE

Ⓢ Sverige har för första gången på länge för många grundskolelärare. Alla lärare har inte ett jobb att gå till. En del måste ta jobb i förskolan som formligen skriker efter folk.

Behovet av lärare i grundskolan väntas minska från 100 000 år 2004 till 92 000 år 2009 på grund av mindre elevkullar.

SNUS SAFER ALTERNATIVE

Ⓢ Snus, the popular Swedish oral snuff, carries no risk of lung or mouth cancer. However a study published in *The Lancet* has identified a link between snus and pancreatic cancer.

The results of this study have sparked calls for snus to be declared a safer alternative to cigarettes. The Swedish snuff is banned as a carcinogenic across the European Union (EU) with a special exception being made for Sweden. The snus lobby would like to shange that, especially in a country like Finland that has many users despite the ban.

A moist, powdered form of tobacco, snus is not smoked, inhaled or chewed. It is tucked behind the upper lip, usually contained in a small perforated paper packet.

Swedish epidemiologists have studied 280 000 construction workers, first recording their tobacco consumption habits and then assessing their health years later.

The first part of the study - assessing the tobacco use - was carried out from 1978 to 1992. The doctors then assessed the volunteers' health up until 2004.

Compared to counterparts who had never smoked, the snus-users had about the same level of risk for oral cancer and a slightly lower risk of lung cancer.

Smokers, on the other hand, faced a nearly 10 time higher risk of lung cancer and more than double the risk of oral cancer compared with non-smokers.

On the downside, snus takers were around twice as likely as non-smokers to develop cancer of the pancreas, according to the study. But smokers faced a risk of this disease that was three times higher compared with the non-smoking group.

Snus has been found to have lower levels of many toxins compared to other smokeless tobacco.

On the downside, in addition to the confirmed risk of pancreatic cancer, snus has also been implicated in gum recession and pregnancy complications. The evidence on cardiovascular risk is still contradictory.

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In Focus

CHALMERS

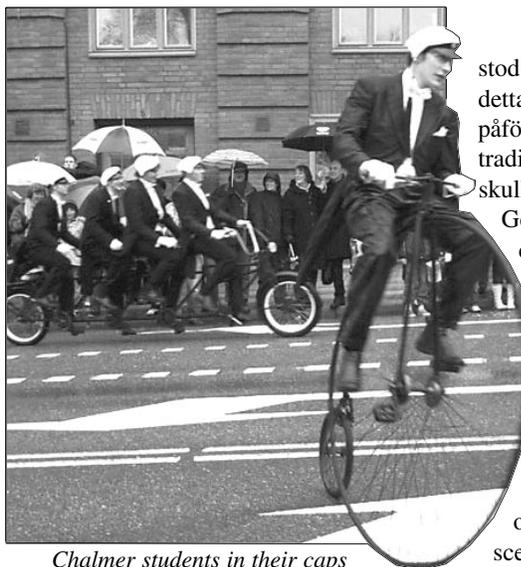
S Göteborg är Sveriges näst största stad, efter Stockholm, men anses åtminstone av göteborgarna vara rikets främsta, belägen på Sveriges framsida.

Göteborg har också Sveriges förnämsta Tekniska Högskola: Chalmers. Det tycker inte bara vi som gått där. Här finns omkring 12 000 studeranden i tekniska ämnen av alla de slag. Chalmers grundades 1829 genom en donation av skotten William Chalmers, som kommit till Sverige från Kina 1793 medförande en ansenlig förmögenhet.

Det som gör Chalmers unikt är inte bara utbildningens höga kvalitet, som bidragit till att så många chalmerner återfinns i det svenska näringslivet. Unikt är också den speciella, positiva anda som råder bland chalmerner och som ibland gör det lite lättare för en teknolog att ta sig igenom en krävande utbildning.

Chalmernernas alumni-organisation heter Chalmersska Ingenjörssällskapet. Den tillvarar intresset för omkring 33 000 civilingenjörer och arkitekter. "CING" firade i slutet av april 2007 sitt 100-årsjubileum med pompa och ståt i Göteborg. Det började med en ceremoni, där William Chalmers himself hade återuppstått för att hålla ett välkomsttal, upphissad i en kran över de församlade chalmernerna i alla åldrar, den äldste 92 år gammal.

Följande dag, den stora dagen, samlades alla på Götaplatsen, där CING:s vårmöte hölls inför den 1000-hövdade skaran. Chal-



Chalmers students in their caps parading through the centre of Göteborg

mers egen "AllianceOrchestret", med motot "Musik för tusan", underhöll. Årsmötet var avklarad på 20 sekunder blankt.

Nu var det dags att förflytta sig till Svenska Mässan, plats för eftermiddagens och kvällens begivenheter, bankett och baluns. Från Götaplatsen till Svenska Mässan är det omkring 700 meter. För att inte de närmare 1100 deltagarna skulle gå vilse under vägen hade införskaffats ett c:a 800 meter långt, blått rep i vilket alla anmodades att greppa tag och därefter anträda gåsmarschen, anförda av Chalmers säckpipeorkester (med tanke på William Chalmers' skotska härkomst synnerligen passande). Under vägen till Svenska Mässan måste man passera Korsvägen, en av Göteborgs mest trafikerade gatukorsningar. De luttrade göteborgarna måste nu finna sig i att det plötsligt upp-

stod trafikstockningar. Egentligen var ju detta bara en försmak av vad som väntades påföljande dag, Valborgsmässoafton, då den traditionsenliga chalmerscortegen effektivt skulle komma att stänga av hela centrala Göteborg under flera timmar. Chalmers cortège är sedan 98 år tillbaka en tradition varje Valborgsmässoafton. Den är för varje göteborgare en sann folkfest och har blivit en del av Göteborgs själ. Det är humor och galna upptåg som förlöser den glädje som har blivit instängd under vinterhalvåret.

På Chalmers har det sedan begynnelsen sjungits och musicerats, i körer och musikgrupper, på fester och från scener, skämt blandat med allvar. År 1948 kom det första Chalmersspexet. Spex är en genuin svensk företeelse, med anor sedan mitten av 1800-talet. Det är en sorts musikal eller opera, där huvudpersonen ofta är en kung eller annan potentat. Samtliga kvinnoroller gestaltas av manliga teknologer, precis som i antikens teater, fast roligare. Lagom till 100-årsjubileet har CING producerat en ny sångbok betitlad rätt och slätt *Sångboken*. Det är i själva verket Chalmers sånghistoria från slutet av 1800-talet fram till idag.

Göran Rygert

ZARAH LEANDER

Zarah Leander, who would have celebrated her 100th birthday on March 15, is going to be the subject of a film by the Dutch director Ben Verbong. *Zarah L* will tell the story about the singer and actress who was a big star in Germany during the Nazi era.

The main theme of the film is Zarah Leander's relationship with the Nazis and her career in the Third Reich. Why she, even though she never actively participated in Nazi propaganda, allowed the Nazis to exploit her, is a question that has been debated through the years. Ironically Zarah Leander had Jewish grandparents.

She was born Zarah Stina Hedberg in Karlstad, and died in Stockholm in 1981. Although she studied piano and violin as a small child, and sang on stage for the first time already at the age of six, Zarah Leander made a serious attempt to live an ordinary life as an adult. In her youth she lived for two years in Riga where she learned the most important language of the time, German. She worked as a secretary, married Nils Leander, and had two children.

However, in 1929 she was taken on as an amateur in a touring cabaret by the leading entertainer and producer Ernst Rolf. It was on his show that she first sang *Vill ni se en*

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Legendary singer and actress Zarah Leander stjärna, - Do you want to see a star? - that was to become her signature melody.

The following year, Zarah Leander made her first records, one of them being a cover of Marlene Dietrich's *Falling in Love Again*. She also had a small role in a film. But it was as Hanna Glavari in Franz Lehár's operetta *The Merry Widow* that she had her definitive break-through in 1931.

Now she embarked on a spectacular career as an artist on stage and in film. Her popularity and fame in Scandinavia brought in proposals from all over Europe and even from Hollywood. Leander opted for a career on the European continent, ruling out a move to America in consideration of her school-age children, especially since by this time she was divorced from their father. Despite the political situation, Austria and Germany were also an attractive option as Leander was already well-versed in German.

A second breakthrough and her international debut came in 1936 in the world premiere of *Axel an der Himmelstür* in Vienna, directed by Max Hansen. This was a parody on Hollywood and not the least a parody on the German star Marlene Dietrich, who had fled a Europe marked by Mussolini's, Stalin's and Hitler's stars.

Zarah Leander was not only a successful actress and singer, she was also an astute businesswoman with a reputation of being an extraordinarily tough negotiator, demanding influence and high wages, half of which had to be paid in Swedish currency and transferred to a bank in Stockholm. The stupefied German Propaganda Minister, Joseph Goebbels dubbed her an "enemy of Germany", but that did not hinder Leander from getting leading roles in ten films, most

of which became great successes.

She played roles with essentially the same personality in all her German films. This was the femme fatale, independent, beautiful, passionate and self-confident. According to some film historians, Zarah Leander was actually playing herself. Many of her songs had a frivolous undertone, or could at least be interpreted that way.

Unlike other film stars from this era, Leander never socialized with leading party members nor did she participate in official Nazi party functions. However her films contributed greatly to the Third Reich's propaganda, at a time when it was facing massive international criticism and isolation, not the least from Sweden.

Zarah Leander's last film in Nazi Germany premiered in 1943. The same year her villa in the fashionable Berlin suburb of Grünewald was hit in an air raid, and the increasingly desperate Nazis were pressuring her to apply for German citizenship. At this point she decided to break her contract, and retreat to Sweden, where she had bought a mansion at Lönö, not far from Stockholm.

By this time public opinion in Sweden had swung against the Nazis and Zarah Leander was largely shunned in her home country. Eventually she did manage to get roles on the Swedish stage and after the war she also returned to Germany and Austria, giving concerts and acting in musicals. But she never regained the popularity that she had enjoyed before and during World War II.

Anna från Duvemåla

Det var så Vilhelm Moberg hade tänkt kalla sin romanfigur i *Utvandrarna*. Men så mötte han en Kristina i Stockholm och inledde en kärleksrelation med henne som ledde till att hon fick ge namnet till bondhustrun från Småland som emigrerade till Amerika: Kristina från Duvemåla.

Vilhelm Mobergs kärlekshistoria nystades nyligen upp på en presskonferens när Moberg-forskaren Stefan Linderöth visade upp en samling böcker han kommit över billigt på en bokauktion. Böckerna hade Vilhelm Moberg givit sin älskade Kristina med dedikationer som "Till Kristina, min älskade, som lånar sitt namn åt den kvinnliga huvudpersonen i denna bok ... *Utvandrarna*". Böckerna kommer att finnas med i en stor Moberg-utställning i Utvandrarnas Hus i Växjö i sommar.

Vilhelm Moberg (1898-1973) skrev sammanlagt över 400 noveller och berättelser och hans *Utvandrarepos* har valts till "år-



Wilhelm Moberg and a dedication to the woman

who gave Kristina from Duvemåla her name

hundradets svenska roman" av svenska folket vid omröstningar både 1987 och 1998.

Den 47-årige författaren träffade den 28-åriga Kristina 1945 samtidigt som hans fru väntade deras fjärde barn. Vad som började som en stormande passion och ett förhållande som varade till 1949, övergick sedan till "innerlig tillgivenhet". Kristina som var själv gift fick en skilsmässa från sin förste man 1947 och gifte om sig senare samma år med sin andre make, ungefär samtidigt som Vilhelm Moberg avseglade med sin familj till USA där han forskade om den svenska immigrationen. Kristina, som var sekreterare på ett svenskt storföretag, skilde sig igen 1961 och gifte om sig med sin tredje man som dog efter två års äktenskap. Hon fick en dedikerad bok av Moberg så sent som 1969 och böckerna som lämnades in till auktion efter hennes död 2005 är fyllda av bilder på författaren samt tidningsurklipp om honom. Det fanns till och med ett program till premiären av musikalen *Kristina från Duvemåla* i Stockholm 1998 där Helen Sjöholm bland annat sjöng *Du måste finnas*. Till goda vänner har Kristina antytt att hon kände författaren, men när en litteraturforskare hade kommit relationen på spåret och kontaktat henne hade hon vägrat att låta sig intervjuas.

Verklighetens Kristina har beskrivits som lång och vacker och kamratlig och ganska lik Karl Oskars beskrivning av Kristina i *Utvandrarna* som gavs ut 1949: "Hon har ett tjockt ljust hår och ett par milda ögon, som var gröna eller blå eller bådadera. Ansiktet var grant och mjällhyat, fast näsan var litet fräckig...Hon var en reslig flicka, nästan lika lång till växten som han själv...Hon hade kraftiga höfter, men var smal om livet. Ögonen var blyga och mycket lockande."

Swedes in the News

EUROVISION LOSER Sweden's *The Ark* came 18th in the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest held in Helsinki, a major disappointment for a band which was touted as one of the favourites to win. However lead singer and songwriter **Ola Salo** noted that the chance of playing in front of 200 million TV viewers across Europe was a victory in itself. The Ark was not the only Swedish content in the Eurovision Song Contest. Greece, Latvia, Norway and Spain were also competing with songs written by Swedish songwriters. Songs have become a lucrative export product. The music industry has discovered that there is a foreign song market to conquer and Swedish songwriters are making a name for themselves in this genre. Furthermore nowhere else is the Eurovision Song Contest as big an affair as it is in Sweden and this hysteria also helps to promote Swedish songs in other parts of Europe.

LYXPARADIS DRÖM Åtta svenska företagsfamiljer håller just nu på att bygga ett lyxigt semesterparadis i Brasilien. Beläget i Itacaré i Bahia, är lyxparadiset ett av de mest unika, påkostade och högtflygande projekt av det här slaget någonsin. Bland investerarna märks **Patrik Axelsson**, **Per Bystedt** och **Magnus Lindahl** som var stor-ägare i Spray respektive Icon Medialab. Artisten ① **Tomas Ledin** ska också ha skjutit till pengar, liksom **Kronprinsessan Victorias** pojkvän ② **Daniel Westling** och **Björn Ulvaeus**.

"Vi bygger alla varsin drömvilla plus ett hotell i absolut världsklass. Det arrenderar jag," säger **Alessandro Catenacci** som äger *Café Opera* och *Operakällaren* samt flera andra av Stockholms kända restauranger.

"Hotellet ska ta ut alla de svängar man inte kan i Sverige. Vi ska bli världsunika på välmående, service och paradis," säger Catenacci. Han kom till Sverige tillsammans med sina föräldrar på tidigt 60-talet. Bara 18 år gammal, öppnade han sin första egna verksamhet, en klädaffär. 1980 startade han en restaurang på Söder som blev en

succé. Sedan växte verksamheten och det slog ner som en bomb i Sveriges restaurangvärld när han 1987 tog över anrika Operakällaren efter **Tore Wretman**. Sandro Catenacci drev också övriga Wretman-koncernens krogar med stor framgång.

THE RETIRED PM BECOMES A LOBBYIST Former Swedish Prime Minister ③ **Göran Persson** has found a new job. He will start working as a consultant at the public relations agency JKL Sweden in August. The head of JKL, **Anders Lindberg**, says it is a "dream" to get Persson on his team.

THE RICHEST SWEDES **Ingvar Kamrad** is the fourth richest man in the world, according to US magazine Forbes. The Ikea founder and his family are worth \$33 billion (230 billion kronor). Other Swedes to rank among the world's richest people include ④ **Stefan Persson**, owner of clothing retailer H&M whose \$18 billion fortune puts him at 17th place on the list. Tetra Pak heiress **Birgit Rausing** and her family have assets worth \$11 billion, putting them at 55th place. **Hans Rausing** is at 73rd place with \$9 billion.

LEGENDARISK KOCK Hovtraktören ⑤ **Werner Vögeli** har avlidit efter en tids sjukdom. Vögeli, som kom från Schweiz, blev 77 år gammal. Han var Sveriges främste kock från 50-talet fram till sin död. Han lagade mat i tv långt innan Jamie Oliver och ⑥ **Tina Nordström** var födda. Han var hela svenska folkets kock, och den svenske kungens festkock. Han lagade mat till 42 Nobelmiddagar och utnämndes till hovtraktör av ⑦ **Carl XVI Gustaf** år 1977. Vögeli var mycket känd internationellt och var bland annat ledamot av Académie Culinaire de France. Han var även hedersdoktor vid Umeå universitet. Sedan 1989 delas ett kockpris ut under namnet Årets Werner.

MAKING A NAME IN FRANCE 22-year old **Fredrika Stahl** has made a name for her-

self in French jazz. The singer and songwriter, signed to the Vogue label (a part of Sony BMG) of France, made it straight to number two, after Norah Jones, on the French jazz list with her debut album, *A Fraction of You*. She has written all the lyrics and music for the album herself. Along with singing, Fredrika plays the piano and guitar. Her lucky break came in 2004 when piano player Tom McClung, came upon one of her samples. He fell in love with her folk-pop sound and offered to do some arrangements to her music.

SKJUTJÄRNSJOURNALISTEN En av Sveriges mest banbrytande journalister är död. **Lars Orup**, som införde en ny intervjustil i Sverige, avled efter en längre tids sjukdom. Han blev 88 år gammal. Tillsammans med kollegerna **Åke Ortmärk** och **Gustaf Olivecrona** ställde han politiker mot väggen. De tre "O:na" satt i Aktuellt studio på det svartvita 1960-talet. Detta var i en tid när Sverige bara hade en tv-kanal, och de tre O:na fick ett enormt genomslag. Deras metoder blev banbrytande för den politiska journalistiken i tv:s barndom.

CONTENDER OUT OF NOWHERE A few days before her performance in the semifinal in Gothenburg for the Swedish Melodifestivalen 2007, ⑧ **Marie Lindberg** rehearsed in front of a handful of journalists. This was the biggest performance of her life. Two days later she became the song competition's strongest breakthrough ever with the song *Trying to Recall*. She was the only non-professional artist and unknown act in the second semifinal, but qualified, together with *The Ark*, for the final competition in Stockholm. The song *Trying to Recall* subsequently placed fifth at the Melodifestivalen 2007 final. The teacher, singer/songwriter and guitarist's entry was written and composed by her in May 1998 but it was not until last year that she sent in the song to the competition for fun.



Local News

NEW ORLEANS

N O T E S

Carola sang at the Norwegian Seamen's



Church in New Orleans in conjunction with the Jazz Fest at the end of April. Performing with the popular Swedish singer (left) was the singer/songwriter Theresa

Andersson, who moved to New Orleans from Gotland 17 years ago. Carola came to New Orleans from Jackson where she performed at the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce gala dinner as well as at the "Mississippi Celebrates a 50 Year Grammy Legacy" gala together with Elvis' legendary guitarist James Burton. Carola was the only artist with no connection to Mississippi. But through her gospel she is considered doing music that has its origin in the region.

LINDSBORG

N O T E S

The identity of the mysterious investor, who wants to buy the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg and transform it into a living history museum, has now been revealed. Bill Wood is a 70-year-old retired lawyer from Wichita who, besides building a residence on the museum grounds, wants to spend \$600 000 to spruce up the 15-acre site that includes the 1898 Smoky Valley Roller Mill and Ferdinand Boberg's Swedish Pavilion from the 1904 World's Fair. Wood envisions community members dressing and acting as characters from Lindsborg's Swedish history. He also wants retail and wine-tasting.

The reports of the sale of the county-owned museum with its 30 000 artifacts has the museum director and staff worried, but many townspeople feel this could be a boost for the little Swedish town on the Kansas plains.

VANCOUVER

N O T E S

SWEA Vancouver's second Undergraduate Scholarship of \$1 000 for Swedish language studies in Sweden has been awarded. to Björn Bean, a 2nd year biochemistry undergraduate student at U.B.C. who has just completed the Scan 310 Introductory Swedish II course.



SAN DIEGO

N O T E S

The San Diego State University has a new auditorium and Swedes in San Diego have a new venue. Local organizations and the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC have rallied behind an impressive group of Swedish community leaders, including SWEA founder Agneta Nilsson and Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey, recipient of the Los Angeles Swedish American Chamber of Commerce 2006 Eliason Merit Award, who have spearheaded the establishment of The Swedish Center. Newly married Consul, Dr. Ulf Brynjestad will be the chair of the new institution that will focus on "academic exchange, cultural and scientific enrichment and evolvment, connecting Sweden with our future generations of the region." The Swedish Center will be based in SDSU's newly opened Arts and Letters building where the new 500-seat auditorium bears the name of Ulla Lotta Wiik, in recognition of a donation by the Stockholm-born entrepreneur Lotta Wiik Lambert.

LOS ANGELES

N O T E S

The comedian-actor Will Ferrell and his Swedish wife, Viveca Paulin-Ferrell, have been awarded "The 2007 Viking Prize" in recognition of their involvement in the Swedish School of Los Angeles. The Ferrells with three-year-old Magnus and three-month-old Mattias, accepted the award and a beautiful marble sculpture created by Swedish artist Jeanette Sedacca, from Margareta Saperston, principle of the school.

(Above) Chris Milewski, Denise Fiala and Agneta Eineigel organized the Spring Plant Sale at Vancouver's Scandinavian Center, complete with a Carl Linneaus display. (On the left) San Diego Consul Ulf Brynjestad with Lotta Wiik Lambert at San Diego State University's new Ulla Lotta Wiik Auditorium.

SWEA

N O T E S

Den världsomspännande svenska kvinnoorganisationen SWEA har vid sitt Världsmöte i Amsterdam delat ut tre stipendier på vardera 10 000 dollar samt utsett Årets Svenska Kvinna.

Sigrid Paskells stipendium för Scen-konsterna gick i år till en musiker, nämligen klarinettisten Marcus Forss, för närvarande på Australian National University School of Music. Årets Litteraturstipendiat heter Yuliana Grigoryeva och är ryska, men det är det svenska språket och dess utveckling som är föremål för hennes avhandling vid S:t Petersburgs Statliga Universitet vid Institutionen för nordiska språk. Avhandlingen handlar om svensk språkhistoria och syntax med bibelöversättningarna från år 1917 och 2000 som grund. Yuliana Grigoryeva har sökt stipendiet för att kunna fördjupa studierna vid Lunds universitet samt utnyttja flera svenska bibliotek.

Agneta och Gunnar Nilssons stipendium för studier av Interkulturella relationer har i år tilldelats 26-åriga Kajsa Hallberg, född i Umeå och uppvuxen på Gotland som studerar Migration och vad den för med sig.

Till Årets Svenska Kvinna har SWEA utsett Marianne Forssblad, som under 27 år varit eldsjäl och ansvarig för Nordic Heritage Museum i Seattle, det enda i sitt slag i USA som arbetar med och för samtliga nordiska länder med en varierad utställningsverksamhet utifrån nordisk mångfald.

Swedish Midsummer Traditions



MIDSUMMER DAY IS CELEBRATED in Sweden on the weekend closest to the 24th.

Midsummer is a descendent of a prehistoric summer solstice festival. When Sweden adopted Christianity the Church chose to adopt many of the heathen festivals and legitimize them by giving them a proper Christian content. Hence midsummer was named John the Baptist Day.

The celebration includes feasting, traditional games and dancing into the nocturnal brightness that in most parts of Sweden never dims to more than twilight at this time of the year. Nature always plays an integral role in the traditions surrounding Midsummer. Birch is used to decorate houses, barns, churches and the outdoor venues where most of the festivities take place.

For Swedes midsummer holds visions of a shimmering lake bathed in the golden glow of the midnight sun or flowing meadows filled with wildflowers. But Swedes who can't get away to the countryside can participate in the joyous celebrations that almost all cities and towns organize. In Stockholm there are wonderful festivities at the open-air folk museum, Skansen.

The centerpiece of all gatherings is the "midsummer pole" or "maypole" decorated with flowered garlands and greenery that represent the renewal of life. At bigger celebrations the pole is raised using traditional forked-sticks. The higher the pole, the more skill it takes to raise it and onlookers help with enthusiastic and robust shouts of support. After the pole is secured, all the participants, young and old, join hands and

circle the pole with a "långdans" accompanied by old-time music provided by fiddlers and other folk musicians.

The tradition of the maypole, like so many traditions, has come to Sweden from Germany where it has been part of the mayday celebrations since the 13th century. When Germans moving to Sweden brought with them this native custom, they found few flowers and leaves in May so decorating the maypole was postponed to midsummer. That Swedes continue to call their pole a maypole but this does not have anything to do with the month of May but rather with the word "maja" which means to decorate the pole.

There are many variations on how the maypole is to be decorated. Many communities have their own model. In the very traditional poles, no string or wire is used and all garlands are painstakingly woven together from birch branches, and then topped with spruce branches. This ensures that the pole stays green much longer. The pole is then decorated with tamarack, lupine, daisies and buttercups. Yellow and blue ribbons are hung from the crossbar and in some communities the pole is topped with a wooden rooster. Some communities hang round wreaths at the end of the crossbar while others have no crossbar but a series of large wreaths encircling the pole.

The traditional midsummer meal includes herring, gravlax, cucumber salad, new potatoes, and lots of aquavit to be topped by the compulsory strawberry cake.

For young girls midsummer night is a

A maypole is raised with forked sticks (left) in Dalarna in Sweden, while Midsummer is celebrated with a parade of flags at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis (below)

time to gather seven kinds of wildflowers from a meadow and place them under the pillow in order to dream of the husband fate has in store for them. Today most girls choose to go to a midsummer dance instead and not leave too much to fate.

The midsummer night is said to be a night full of magic and abandon. In the old days people did various things on this night to ensure love, fertility and riches. They swept the four corners of the house at midnight and then placed the broom in the middle of the floor and waited for their future love to come and sit on the broom. If this did not happen they could gaze into a well at sunrise and remain utterly silent to await the image of their future spouse to appear in the water. For a strong and healthy life rolling around in the midnight dew was strongly recommended. Or dew could be collected in a bottle, especially from a cemetery, to cure illnesses.

In the olden days midsummer was celebrated with a bonfire. These were common in the provinces of Skåne and Halland until the 40s. Now the custom that is still prevalent in the other Nordic countries has all but disappeared from Sweden.



MALMÖ TIPS

40 ticket for adults and SEK 10 for children 7-15 years old).

The Castle is a short walk from the centre of town and here you find the **City Museum**, the **Natural History Museum**, the **Aquarium** and **Tropicarium**, and the **Konstmuseet**. There is something for all ages and all interests and art lovers will love the **Carl Larsson** sketches in the foyer, the modernism of **Carl Fredrik Hill** (1849-1911) and the largest collection of pre 20th century Russian oil paintings.

ATTRACTIONS On June 20 singer songwriter superstar Sir **Elton John** will give his only concert in Sweden at the Malmö Stadium. The **Malmö Festival** August 17-24 brings in a lot of acts and entertainment, not to speak of food, especially seafood and a crayfish party you will never forget. As most everything comes with a price tag, take special aim at the always free **Sommarscen Malmö** events starting June 15. Sommarscen offers adults and children an extensive program with both local and international artists at Pildammsteatern and in other parks or along the seawall.

EXCURSIONS In the olden days the most popular excursion was a ferry ride to **Copenhagen**, that many people took just for the food and drink on board. Today there are no ferries or fast hydrofoils, but with the **Öresund bridge** all the Copenhagen attractions are within easy reach by car or even better by train. With frequent commuter trains you can be at the **Kastrup** airport in 21 minutes, **Radhuspladsen** in 35 minutes, the **Louisiana Art Museum** in 87 minutes or at Hamlet's **Elsinore Castle** in 80 minutes. Not to speak of a quick trip to the idyllic **Lund** university town in 16 minutes.

SHOPPING Malmö is one of the best places in the world to buy vintage Scandinavian design in places like **Moderna Möbelklassiker** (*Norra Vallgatan 74, modernamobelklassiker.com, 040-239500*), **Studio Carina Grefmar** (*Regementsgatan 14, studiogrefmar.se, 40-302336*) and **Kazoom** (*Friisgatan 10, kazoom.se, 040-303170*). Here you find all the Nordic furniture designers and if you are lucky you can find real bargains like chairs by Hans J. Wegner, **Finn Juhl** and **Arne Jacobsen**.

RESTAURANTS **B&B** (*Butik och Bar, 040-127120*) is an inexpensive bistro in the **Saluhallen** food market that is ideal for a SEK 65 fixed-price lunch. This is good unpretentious cuisine with special emphasis on all the goodies the chef finds fresh in the food market. There is a fiery Cajun-inspired

tagliatelle with blackened chicken, a New Orleans-inspired jambalaya and a pasta with salmon-flavored vodka sauce, besides the many typical Swedish dishes. If you want to experience something special you book a dinner at **Årstiderna i Kockska Huset** (*at Franss Suellsgatan 3, just off Stora Torget, 040-230910*) where you dine under vaulted brick ceilings from 1480 in what used to be the home of the Danish governor of Malmö, Jörgen Kock. As the restaurant's name "The Four Seasons" implies, the menu here changes seasonally. Depending on the time of the year look out for specialties like "fried monkfish with parsley butter, salmon roe, and Norwegian lobster; orange-glazed wild duck with flap mushrooms and honey-rosemary sauce; filet of venison in a herb crust with chanterelles mushrooms and juniper-berry sauce; and a chocolate terrine with cloud-berry sorbet and a compote of blackberries" (*and expect to pay SEK 330-500 for a fixed-price dinner*).

NIGHT LIFE From May to September many locals shun the city's many nightclubs (like **Club Privé** and **Etage**) and head out to **Folkets Park** - "People's Park" (*at Amiralsgatan 35, bus 11, 13, 17 from Gustav Adolfs Torg, 040-70990*). Here from 3pm to midnight you can enjoy all sorts of amusements, dancing, vaudeville acts and open-air concerts in the beautiful grounds. Children love the small zoo, reptile center, puppet theatre and playhouse. Admission is free except when there are big-ticket acts. If you want to stay inside **Wallman's Salonger** (*Generalsgatan 1, 040-74945*) is a restaurant where all the staff breaks out in song and dance and tries to amuse you in every possible way. Here you come for the 3-course set menu (*SEK 380-495*) and stay for the dancing and entertainment.

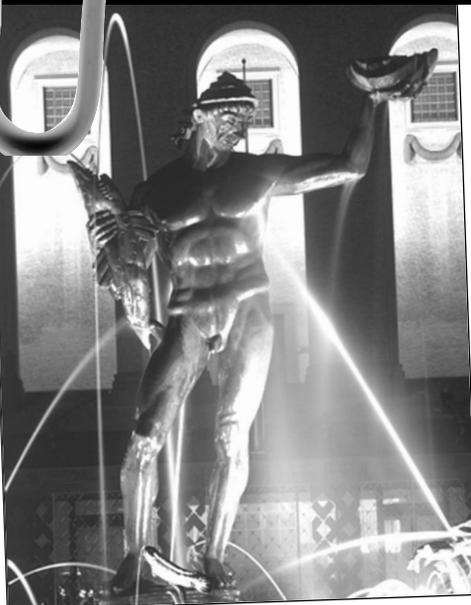
HOTELS The **Mäster Johan Hotel** (*masterjohan.se, 040-6646400*) in a beautifully renovated 19th century building is the most personable hotel right in the centre of town. Freshly designed rooms (*from SEK 1300*) have oriental carpets on the wooden oak floors and comfortable modern and French provincial furniture. The buffet-style breakfast even manages to up the generally great breakfast standard at Swedish hotels. On August 1 a new hostel **STF/HI Hostel Malmö City** (*Rönngatan 1, 040-406116220, svenskaturistforeningen.se*) opens right in the centre of town next to the Malmö Opera both for tourists and savvy business travellers. Starting at SEK 180 you have plenty for souvenirs and entertainment. ♦



GUIDES Malmö is a city of parks, so it is a wonderful place to visit in the summer. Pick up the daily **Metro** and **City** free newspapers, in Swedish, where you can check out local events. Depending on how long you are staying, the **Malmö Card** may be a good investment for free parking, transportation and attractions (*from SEK 130 and free for accompanying children up to 16 years old*). You will find all the information you need at **Turistbyrå** (*Malmö.se/turist*) down at the Central Station. Most days a **sightseeing** bus tour guided in English and Swedish (*SEK 100 for adults, SEK 50 for children*) leaves from here at noon that takes in the obligatory Öresund bridge, the beautiful parks, **Turning Torso** (*above*) and the old narrow streets of the city.

SIGHTS Take a walk around the seaside **Vestra Hamnen** to see Turning Torso up close as well as all the exciting architecture of this sustainable development. If it is a warm day bring your **bathing suit** for a swim in the sea and don't forget to take an iced coffee or a gelato from one of the nice promenade cafes. If you want to devote a day to culture, you will find five museums in the 15th century **Malmöhus Castle** and another three nearby (*all for a single SEK*

GÖTEBORG TIPS



SIGHTS At the top of Göteborg's main boulevard, **Avenyn** with

the imposing **Milles sculpture** of Poseidon (left) lies the **Konstmuseet** (*Götaplatsen, konstmuseum.goteborg.se, 031-612980, closed Mondays and at Midsummer*) that is designated with three stars in the Green Guide Michelin. This is the best place to see important works of art by **Ernst Josephson**, **Carl Larsson**, **PS Kroyer** and **Anders Zorn**. You should also check out the **Hasselblad Center** for Photography at the museum. Close by is the **Röhsska Museet** of Decorative Art and Design (*Vasagatan 37-39, designmuseum.se*) where there are interesting exhibitions about trends and design running this summer. The SEK 40 ticket at Konstmuseet, Röhsska museet, **Göteborgs Stadsmuseum** as well as **Sjöfartsmuseet** is actually valid for a full year.

Universum (*universum.se, SEK 135 for adults and SEK 95 for children 5-19 years old*), with an indoor rain forest, and the **Museum of World Culture** (*SEK 40, världskulturmuseet.se*) are two new and novel museums that will also keep your children excited. One great attraction is missing from the waterfront and that is the reconstructed historic ship **Göteborg** that will not be back in its home port until September 12.

ATTRACTIONS Until June 17 you can catch **MammaMia!** at the Scandinavium but it is mostly sold out. Friday August 3 is the only Swedish date for the **Rolling Stones** "A Bigger Bang" show at the Ullevi Stadium. A lot of international stars congregate for the **Göteborg Jazzfestival** August 10-12 when you can take in world-class New Orleans jazz, Swing, Blues, Dixieland, Big-Band, Gospel, Bebop, street parades and much more at eight downtown stages. The week after the Jazzfestival, **Göteborgs Kulturkalas** (*August 14-19*) takes over the city with musical performances, a wide array of foreign food booths and lots of beer. Everywhere in the parks there are picnics and much hilarity. The city council has issued a warning that it will cancel the festival if public drunkenness cannot be brought under control. It is better to stay off Avenyn and the very centre of town and check out the events and parties at other venues where crowds are smaller.

FOR KIDS **Liseberg** is the biggest amusement park in all of Scandinavia, with lots of different rides for all ages (*á SEK 315 for an Åkpass+ with free rides all day and*

entrance to the ghost hotel Gasten). This is Sweden's top tourist attraction with the highest number of visitors. Here you come across hoards of visiting Norwegians and Germans who spend a night in Göteborg on their way to their cottages around the country. Be sure to try **Balder**, the new wooden roller-coaster and enjoy the food on the beautifully groomed grounds. If you and your children are interested in less commercial play, **Möldals Museum** has an exhibition about play that includes a play area for children ages 4-10 until August 5.

EXCURSIONS The trams are almost a symbol of Göteborg. Buy a magnetic tram/bus card at the Pressbyrå shop (*SEK 100 for ten rides*) and start exploring the city on one of the 207 trams. When you start a trip within the city, you insert the card in the ticket machine and press the "2" button. When changing to another tram or bus, you press the "byte" button. Tram 4 takes you to **Saltholmen** where the boats leave for several of the islands in the beautiful archipelago. There is also the vintage Lisebergslinjen tram that takes you from the central station to Liseberg (*for SEK 18 for adults or SEK 9 for children*).

SHOPPING Göteborg has a lot of very good shops and you find many of them at **Nordstan** (*just west of the Central Station*) which is the largest shopping center in Scandinavia. This is a convenient place for comparison shopping and seeing what is up and coming in the nordic countries at for instance **Bling**, **Esprit**, **Flash**, **Gina Tricot**, **H&M**, **Indiska**, **JC. KappAhl**, **Lindex**, **Mexx**, **Monsoon**, **Mouche**, **MQ**, **Nygårds Anna**, **Sisters**, **Twilfit** and **Vero Moda**.

RESTAURANTS One of the musts in Göteborg is the fish market that has, since 1874, been housed in the **Feskekyrka** building that really looks like a church. Here you find the freshest of seafood arranged row upon row like works of art. Up in what appears to be a choir loft is an excellent restaurant where you can sample shrimps, *västkostsallad* or other lunch favorites. In the evening **Sjömagasinet** (*Adolf Edelsvärdsgatan 5, 031-7755920*) fish restaurant in Klippan that has earned a star in the Michelin Guide Rouge is an excellent choice for continuing the seafood feast. Göteborg is famous for its gourmet restaurants like **28+** and **Fond**. An amusing one is **Råkan** (*Lorenbergsgatan 16, 031-169839*) where you sit at wooden-plank tables around a little artificial lake on which battery-powered boats, with you at the controls, bring you your seafood platter. ♦

GUIDE The traditional way to get your bearings in Göteborg is to take a sightseeing tour with the **Paddan tourist boats** (*Kungssportsplatsen, borjessons.com, 031-609670*) through Sweden's most important harbour and through some of the canals the Dutch helped the founder of the city, **Gustav II Adolf** to build. The 50 minute long trips (*SEK 120 for adults and SEK 60 for children*) leave at frequent intervals. You can also opt for the **Dramapaddan** trips (*SEK 160 for adults and SEK 80 for children*) that feature local history dramatized by actors.

HOTELS Göteborg is the first European city to offer a hotel package (*"Göteborgspaketet", goteborg.com*) that allows you to book your stay on the internet. Included in the package is **Göteborgspasset** (*from SEK 225 for adults and SEK 160 for children up to 16 years*) that takes care of transportation and entrance attractions during your stay. Hotel prices are not set in advance so you get the best price off the rack through this new service. With two towers and 23 floors **Hotel Gothia Towers** (*Mässansgata 24, gothiatowers.com, 031-7508800*) is the largest hotel in Scandinavia. On the top floor you will find the critically acclaimed Heaven 23 restaurant and sky bar, with magnificent views. Rock stars seem to prefer the five star **Elite Plaza Hotel** (*Västra Hamngatan 3, elite.se, 031-7204000*) and many frequent travellers to Göteborg stay at the recently renovated **Elite Park Avenue Hotel** (*Kungssportavenyn 36-38, elite.se*) for its superior location right on the Avenyn.

STOCKHOLM TIPS

SIGHTS Each day at noon you can see the

Changing of the Guards at the Stockholm Royal Palace and if you are lucky you may spot one of the royals in the inner courtyard. The State Apartment, the Treasury and Gustav III'S Museum of Antiquities, are all open to visitors from May to August. Other Musts is the **Town Hall** (left) and the **Vasa Museum**, a short ferry ride away on the island of Djurgården, that is Scandinavia's most visited museum. Surrounding the 17th century ship are several permanent exhibitions, cinemas, a shop and a restaurant. Just a short walk away is **Skansen** (skansen.se), Europe's first open-air folk museum with 150 buildings and a zoo and **Mini-Skansen** the children will love.

SNACKING Wherever you go there seems to be a new coffee place, so you are never far from a latte in Stockholm. But take time to visit a few old-fashioned coffee places like **Vetekatten** (Kungsgatan 55) that opened in 1928 and **Thelins Konditori** (St Eriksgatan 43, thelinskonditori.se) where you can get something good to go with your coffee or tea. Right now there is also a crepe boom going on. A galette (savoury) or crepe (sweet) are great around the clock at places such as **A la Crepe** (Katarina Bangata 42, 08-6421273). If you have a bit more time go to **Rosendals Trädgård**, once again on Djurgården (rosendalstradgard.com, 08-54581270) where they will even provide crystal glasses with your rosé wine and a throw that you can use for a picnic along the lovely Djurgårdsbrunnskanal.

EXCURSIONS With its 24 000 islands, the Stockholm archipelago is a unique place to spend time all year round. The trip in a historical steamship is an attraction in itself. If you just want to get a feel of the Stockholm archipelago, take a 25 minute boat ride to **Fjäderholmarna** (SEK 90 return call 08-587 140 00 for timetable) which is the closest archipelago island to Stockholm. You can sunbathe on the cliffs or enjoy a snack at one of the many cafés or restaurants. **Fjäderholmarnas Krog** (08-7183355) serves gourmet food in a beautiful setting.

SHOPPING Stockholm is a haven for modern design and even if you are not in the mood to buy furniture, it is an interesting place to see the latest trends. **R.O.O.M.** (Alströmergatan 20, room.se) has all the latest designs as well as a café if you need a break. **Nordiska Galleriet** (Nybrogatan 11) has modern classics and if you love Josef

Frank and the discreet charm of the bourgeoisie, then **Svenskt Tenn** (Strandvägen 5, svenskttenn.se) will be your favorite. For emerging design that has as yet to find regular distribution you go to **Designorget** (in Kulturhuset). If you want to explore the very latest in fashion you go to the stores in **SoFo** (south of Folkungagatan on the Söder island), and if you want to explore the latest on the art scene you go to Stockholm's **Art Chelsea** (around Hudiksvallsgatan 8 in Vasastan). For everything else you go to the department stores **NK**, **PUB** and **Åhléns**.

Simply visit the capitals three department stores: the posh **NK**, or the more basic **PUB** and **Åhléns**, that have longer opening hours.

ATTRACTIONS Many Swedes make an annual pilgrimage to **Allsång på Skansen** (Tuesdays June 26 to July 31), a summer song fest and beloved summer tradition that has been running since 1935. The sing-along is broadcast into the living room of nearly 2 million viewers. Depending on when you visit Stockholm there are always great festivals like the **Jazz Festival** starting July 17, the **Pride Festival** starting July 30 and the **Kulturfestival** starting August 14. The latter is a toned-down version of the Water Festival and it includes a great music concert at **Sjöfartsmuseet** on August 19.

RESTAURANTS You really feel at the top of the world at Erik Lallerstedt's **Gondolen** (gondolen.com, 08-6417090) 33 meters above the **Slussen** landmark. The bar-restaurant, is located on top of the 1930s Katarinahissen elevator with wonderful views of Stockholm. Restaurants with views are often tourist-traps, but the French-Swedish inspired food here is excellent.

NIGHT LIFE Start the night at the **Absolut Ice Bar** (inside Nordic Sea Hotel, Vasaplan 4) where the temperature is kept at a constant -5°C. Another curiosity in a country that has traditionally frowned on alcohol and gambling is **Casino Cosmopol** (Kungsgatan 65, passport required, 08-7818800) within walking distance. When it comes to the club scene, the problem is really getting into the trendy clubs like **Spy Bar** (Birger Jarlsgatan 20), but it is worth trying your luck at **Cafe Opera** (in the Opera building).

HOTELS Each room comes with a teddy and an ABBA cd at the **Rival** (Mariatorget, rival.se) boutique hotel cum cinema, since the owner happens to be Benny Andersson. The charming **af Chapman** ship hostel will not be back until September after a renovation, but the beautifully located ex prison **Långholmen** (Langholmen.com, 08-7208 500) hostel comes highly recommended. ♦



GUIDES The **Stockholm Card** (stockholm-town.com from SEK 290 for adults and SEK 120 for children) gives you free entry to 75 museums and much more. The harbors of Stockholm are jammed with excursion boats of every variety, but the "hop-on hop-off boatseeing" service will give you your bearings. For bookings, brochures and other information go to the **Sweden House** (destinationstockholm.se) located at Kungsträdgården across from the NK department store.

FOR KIDS -Where shall we take the kids? is the first thing parents think of when they come to a new place. In Stockholm many of the tourist attractions like Skansen and the Vasa Museum work for all ages, but a special treat for the kids is **Junibacken** (at Djurgården, junibacken.se, 08-58723000). This is the wonderful world of Astrid Lindgren. Play in **Pippi Longstocking's** house, the Villa Villekulla, and meet a whole host of other characters such as Alfie Atkins, Old Man Festus and Mercury the Cat. If there is energy left after Junibacken, **Gröna Lund Tivoli** (gronalund.com) is next door with all the rides you can think of and with this year's newcomer, **Kvasten** an absolute must. If you are left wondering if anything comes free these days, make time for a free performance. **Parkteatern** has, since 1942, provided an amazing program of plays, musicals, and dance performances in various parks, including **Galärparken** nearby (between June 8 and August 26). If you need a break downtown, **Kulturhuset** (Sergelstorg) has great exhibitions going, but above all it is a wonderful oasis to sit down with books and magazines or cut yourself off completely from the hustle and bustle outside with an audio book. And it is free.



Top UK opinion maker and The Guardian columnist

Polly Toynbee:

“ I honestly can’t think of any other society that has worked better than the Swedish one, even if it is not perfect. A perfect society does not exist. ”

Her description of Sweden is so positive that Swedish officials in London whose job it is to promote Sweden almost look like critics of the country. Polly Toynbee is a journalist and writer in the United Kingdom, and has since 1998 been a highly influential columnist for The Guardian newspaper. She recently topped a poll of 100 "opinion makers", carried out by Editorial Intelligence. She was also named the most influential columnist in the UK, with one in ten people nominating her as one of their top three commentators.

She has written extensively about Sweden, and especially about the social democratic model, frequently comparing it to the policies of the Labour Party in Great Britain.

This interview was done in May 2007.

Swedish Press: Why do you feel Swedish social democracy has been so successful?

Polly Toynbee: I think the main thing is that besides creating a strong welfare state and investing especially in children, it supports open markets and job flexibility, allowing employers to restructure in response to changing demands. But this is done with support from the unions that are very strong and they in turn give their support because of the generosity of the benefits, the safety-net for the workers who are displaced. This

Interview.

pact between state, employers and workforce is the magic ingredient. Lavish public services and benefits are actually the secret to economic success.

Do you think the model is transferable, for example to Great Britain?

PT: Swedish social democracy has been a beacon for the people of the left around the world to show that you can combine an amazingly successful economy with a very strong welfare state and a strong social sense. Sweden is a kind of icon. On the whole the right prefers to point to the Soviet Union and the communist countries and say that socialism leads to economic collapse, it leads to total disaster and lack of freedom. But nobody could call Sweden and the other Nordic countries unfree or unsuccessful when they are more successful than most European economies. Then the right always has to say that the Nordic countries are quite exceptional as another reason for why we can't use the Nordic model. But none of those reasons really hold water. They say that social democracy works for the Scandinavians because the countries are small but that would not explain it, or they would say it is because they are culturally

homogenous but that does not explain it either because particularly now Sweden has a higher rate of immigration than Britain does. So there is constant argument going on over this. Now of course the critics are saying that Sweden has voted to the right and that shows that people are very unhappy with these high taxes and that this is not a tolerable, sustainable political system. To that I say that a Swedish right-wing government would look extraordinarily left-wing if you transplanted it to Britain, certainly far to the left of Tony Blair. The Swedish social democratic model has always been treated as a bizarre historical freak we could never emulate, too pacifist, too nice. People here say, their social and economic miracle could never be ours; their politics and taxes are impossibly Utopian. Or people point at Sweden's great global industries like Ikea, Volvo, Eriksson and ask how we could compete. But I think the Swedish model could actually very well be imported to many countries.

How would you do that?

PT: I think to import the model to Great Britain, you have to begin with the idea which Sweden did and it takes maybe a long time of a great deal of political persuasion and passion to persuade enough of the people, you won't persuade them all, to want to be social democrats. You want to

persuade them that money isn't everything, that well-being depends on a very strong welfare state, on well-paid and well-qualified public servants. That the things people will mind about most in life, their health, their children's education, public spaces, public security, a public sense of a generosity towards the public's fear, that these things are the things people really value to feel that they are in a good country to live in. We have to persuade them that is more valuable than the things that they can buy privately with the money in their pockets. After Thatcher that is a difficult thing to do and it will take a lot of heavy lifting by left-of-center parties in this country. But I don't think that is impossible because we have just lived through a decade of extraordinary growth for us and yet people are not happier, they are actually miserable, complaining, unhappy. It might be a good time to say, look we have had ten years in which everybody is nominally, not that it is particularly evenly distributed, thirty percent richer. But are we thirty percent happier? No. It is hard in this country where we have such a right-wing press. They will tell people that high taxes mean economic failure. And that is the most important lesson of the Swedish model, that high taxes are not here or there when it comes to economics and they may even be a motive for economic success and it may even be that the reason why we have done better here economically in the last ten years is because we have had much more public spending. I can't see why the Swedish model shouldn't be a model for emerging post-communist countries. If Russia had only looked towards Sweden instead of towards America, there might have been a chance of a more stable transition, to do something more civilized and less brutal. Everybody carries the scars of their political past and the scars of a communist country are just so deep that the very word social democracy gives them shudders down their spine, makes them feel that it is a risk to every kind of freedom.

You have described all the positive aspects of the Swedish model, are you also aware of the problems?

PT: Of course I am aware of the grumbling that goes on in Sweden and the problems with unemployment, integration and health care. But when you think about it, has there been a society that has worked better? Was the Roman Empire better when it was at its best? Not really, they had slavery and did brutal things in the countries they con-

quered. I honestly can't think of any other society that has worked better than the Swedish one, even if it is not perfect. A perfect society does not exist.

What were the weaknesses in the Social Democratic Party that prompted a change of government last year?

PT: It was a mixture of things. It was partly the leader. They should have brought in a new leader earlier. The Swedish Democrats were very weak, Göran Persson did not look electable. It was more that they lost than the other side won. You have to accept that democracies from time to time have to throw out their government. There was a strong sense of giving the other lot a chance particularly if they had moved to the center. Somewhere along the line Sweden, and to some extent the other highly successful Nordic economies, have also lost their unquestioning sense of purpose and pride. Older social democrats grumble that the young take all this for granted, without realizing how exceptional their society is. Boggled down in the daily details of governing, renewing the vision after years in power seems beyond the Social Democrats. Now our own Conservatives in Britain are certainly looking at the Swedish Moderates and trying to imitate them in an attempt to regain power.

What do you think of Sweden with the new government?

PT: I haven't been back since the new government. Last time the right was in power, in the early 90s, it did lasting harm to social democratic institutions, things not easily repaired later. They made some quite significant changes to education. They allowed selection in schools, which are now as a result far more class-segregated in a country that once prided itself on relative classlessness in education. The right allowed people to set up small private schools within the state sector and almost all of these are used exclusively by the upper middle classes. It was also the right that privatized three of the hospitals. But perhaps this time there will not be fundamental changes as the right-of-center parties seemed to have moved closer to the Social Democrats.

Do you think the Swedish model can survive in an increasingly globalized world?

PT: I can't see any reason why it shouldn't. The Swedes seem to lack self-confidence, they are intimidated by global neocon

warnings. Despite their strong economy, they worry about the unknowns of globalization. Sweden and other Nordics should boast about their economic model that is far more successful than the rest of the EU and be more self-confident. After all Sweden is one of the most successful societies the world has ever known.

How can Sweden integrate its immigrants into the Social Democratic model?

PT: It takes a huge national will that Sweden has not yet really got its mind around. Maybe they want to be able to navigate that. They need to persuade people that it needs a great big national endeavour to get these people to speak good Swedish and get good jobs and put their children in good schools and not to be living in isolated ghettos and to be properly integrated, and that would take an enormous amount of determination and a lot of high spending which is very hard to do. I don't know if that impulse towards great generosity to developing countries, towards international peace and all of these things that make Sweden a very good country - partly good abroad because it has been good at home - whether you can revitalize some of that sense towards your own immigrants. It is difficult because in general people in Europe hate immigrants. They are frightened of them, particularly the Muslims.

How did you discover Sweden?

PT: I have been a social democrat all my life. I was a member of the Labour Party and then in the 1980s when the Labour Party had made itself unelectable with extreme left-wing policies, I was part of the Social Democratic Party that split away. I stood for election as a Social Democrat. We did not get anywhere. Then the party fell apart. And I have not since then been a member of any party and I have since been a political and social commentator. I find it easier not to join a party partly because I believe in proportional representation and would envisage future governments to be coalitions between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. I have always looked at Sweden from afar and I have visited once or twice and I have been invited back a couple of times for conferences and such and I have had friends among Swedish journalists and I keep in touch with them. I am not a great expert. It is simply that I am always on the lookout for interesting models. I would love to speak Swedish so that I could have a direct source of information.

Business News

ADIDAS APPOINTS SWEDE

Adidas has appointed Patrik Nilsson as President of Adidas North America.

Nilsson started his Adidas career in 1991 as Head of Sales and Marketing in Sweden. In 1994, he joined the Global Marketing organization, and during his tenure as Business Unit Manager Tennis, Adidas regained market leadership in this category globally. In 2000, Patrik Nilsson was appointed Head of Adidas' Global Sport Heritage Division where sales doubled under his leadership. Since November 2003, Patrik Nilsson has been Managing Director Area Nordic. In this role, he brought Adidas back to a leadership position in the Scandinavian market-place.

IKEA WINS COURT BATTLE

A Court of Appeal in Sweden has overturned the judgement of a District Court in a drawn-out legal battle between Ikea and Mag Instruments regarding a copyright infringement on their Mini Maglite torch.

Ikea's torch was cleared by the Court of Appeal that did not grant Mag Instruments SEK 640 000 in compensation for the use of the design of the torch, lost sales, market damage and loss of goodwill, or the many millions of kronor claimed in costs. Instead, the American company was required to pay Ikea almost four million Swedish kronor in court costs.

RISE IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Foreign investment in Sweden rose sharply in 2006, driven primarily by the expansion of Chinese and Indian companies. Sweden is now number three, after Ireland and Holland, in the European league of countries that attract most investments.

The attractive features in Sweden for foreign investors are the hi-tech development, IT, telecom, environmental technology, biotech and the auto industry. The IT, bioscience and retail sectors attracted the largest flow of investments, with the tourism industry also faring well.

The most remarkable investment is an exhibition area in the Kalmar area to which the Chinese hope to bring business people from all over Europe to check out their companies. Even more bizarre is an investment in Älvkarleby in Uppland where a Chinese town in miniature, an exhibition hall in the form of a dragon and a copy of the Great Wall of China are planned.

Norwegians have also been investing heavily in Sweden. The number of foreign-owned companies in Sweden has risen from 3 600 to 10 400 in the last decade.

SWEDISH CEOS WORST PAID

Wages for Swedish CEOs are at the bottom of the European pile, according to a study by executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles. German CEOs top the payment league, with the average rate for wages and benefits amounting to 22 million kronor, compared to 9 million for a Swedish CEO.



A room at Scandic Anglais

SCANDIC LEDARE PÅ MILJÖARBETE

En minskning av koldioxidutsläppen med 65 000 ton, 360 miljoner färre engångsförpackningar och en vattenbesparing på 1,7 miljarder liter. Det visar Scandics nya sammanställning av tio års miljöarbete.

De minskade koldioxidutsläppen har åstadkommit dels genom sänkning av förbrukningen av energi, dels genom byte till förnyelsebara källor. Koldioxidutsläppen är i dag drygt 30 procent lägre per gästnatt än för tio år sedan. Till detta bidrar lågenergilampor, termostater ställda på 21 grader, behovsstyrd belysning, energisnåla apparater, användning av frånluft för uppvärmning, miljöklassade tjänstebilar och utbyte av fossila bränslen där så varit möjligt.

På avfallssidan har Nordens största hotellkedja, med 128 hotell, minskat osorterat avfall till 0,5 kilo per gästnatt mot ungefär tre gånger så mycket för tio år sedan. Man har slutat med engångsförpackningar och papperskorgarna på rummen är indelade i tre fack - för organiskt avfall, papper och övrigt.

Nyrenoverade Scandic Anglais i Stockholm har en avfallskvarn som gör det möjligt att omvandla köksavfall till biogas. Det malda avfallet samlas i en tank som töms varje vecka av Stockholms kommun. Via rötning förvandlas matresterna till biogas.

Ungefär hälften av Scandics rum, eller drygt 12 000, är så kallade miljörum. Det innebär att materialvalet varit viktigt, bomull och ull i stället för syntet, kakel, klinker och trä i stället för plast. Påfyllnadsbehållare för tvål och schampo och vattenkaraffer med text som uppmanar till användning av kranvatten i stället för buteljerade alternativ är sådant som ingår.

Man satsar också på ekologiska matvaror

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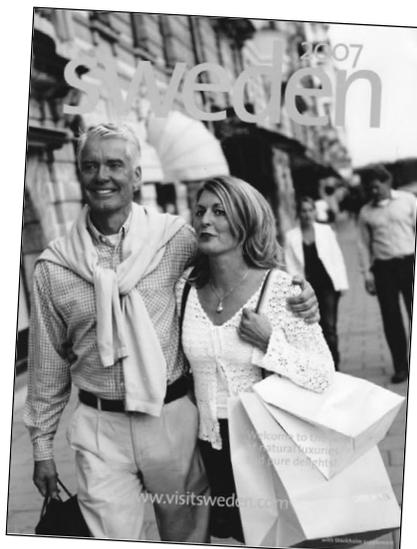
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AstraZeneca		54.19	51.82	66.49

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CompanyFile

Filippa K is a rapidly growing Swedish fashion label with a distinct design and brand profile that evokes Scandinavian style, simplicity and quality. Priced in the affordable middle-to-high range between H&M and expensive designer labels, Filippa K has smart men's and women's fashion that combines timeless design with a contemporary edge.

Based in the trendy south island of Stockholm, Söder, the company now operates a growing number of Filippa K stores in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The men's and women's lines are also represented by some 650 retailers throughout Scandinavia, Europe and North America, like Fred Segal in Los Angeles and Moulé in Vancouver.

There are currently around 120 people working for the company which has an annual turnover of roughly 35 million euros. Not bad for a 1993 start-up in the cut-throat fashion business.

For the Spring and Summer season, founder Filippa Knutsson and head designer Åsa Stenerhag were inspired by the Bauhaus movement and in particular Mies van der Rohe "whose modern, minimalist architecture and furniture represents a purity and sensual simplicity that we feel is completely timeless". For the Fall and Winter collections the designers fell for Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which was also the inspiration for a spectacular show that comprised a timely contrast between stylish futurism and classic old world.

Each season Filippa K strives to create a collection that is "both classic yet modern, clean yet exciting, sophisticated yet wearable". The style comes without any obvious logos. Great effort is put into giving the clothes a really flattering fit, and although Filippa K clothes are never skinny they have a reputation for making the wearer look skinny. While some critics feel that the brand is too "safe and unprovocative", fans swear by their Filippa K wardrobe.

Filippa Knutsson was born in Sweden but grew up in Great

Britain. When she was 21, she went back to Sweden to work at her father's *Gul&Blå* fashion company, learning the ins-and-outs of the industry from Lars Knutsson who started Stockholm's first trendy fashion empire from a small store in the Birger Jarls passagen in 1966.

More than 25 years later his daughter started Filippa K with then husband, designer Patrik Kihlberg, and friend and designer, Karin Segerblom, and with much production assistance from Gul&Blå's old suppliers in Italy. The first collection included jeans, women's jerseys and knits.

From the Filippa K Fall Collection



Filippa Knutsson

Filippa K

Just four years after the start, by which time the company had its own stores in Stockholm and Oslo, and stretch jeans were all the rage, Filippa Knutsson was awarded the coveted Guldknappen design prize for Swedish Fashion Designer of the Year.

Since that time, the company has expanded steadily with the introduction of men's lines and through its own purpose-built stores in Europe that look much more like art galleries than fashion boutiques. The latest feature is the recently launched Filippa K Ease line.

The blond and blue-eyed Filippa Knutsson could easily have become a favorite target of the gossip media in Sweden, but the successful designer and single mother of three has always kept a low profile.

"What I do is much more important than who I am," she says. As creative director and keeper of the Filippa K philosophy, she applies her values to every detail of every single thing the company does including "the look and feel of our fashion, the design and ambience of our stores, the direction of our shows, the artistic photographs of our ads and the way in which we meet our customers in the store."

"Filippa K is not only a strong brand, it is also a well-run company. The company has enjoyed high and profitable growth in recent years and is heading for its best year ever. I am looking forward, together with Filippa Knutsson and other members of the management team, to developing the company still further," says Chairman of the Board Jan Carl Adelswärd who takes over as CEO of the company this August, bringing strategic management, increased financial expertise and strong leadership to the company.



Jan Carl Adelswärd



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SPORT



NO MEDAL FOR SWEDES IN RUSSIA

A hectic week at the world ice hockey championship in Moscow ended in a fourth place finish for reigning champions Sweden. Russia beat Sweden 3-1 in a consolation game for third place to win the bronze.

Alexei Emelin and Sergei Zinoviev scored in the first period and Alexander Frolov added a power play goal early in the second to put the home team in control.

Toronto Maple Leafs' **Alexander Steen**, the only NHL player on the Swedish roster, scored midway through the third period to bring his team to life, but the Russians, who beat Sweden 4-2 in the qualifying round, held on for a comfortable win.

24 hours earlier Canada had dashed Sweden's hopes of defending their title with a 4-1 semi-final win. Canada had a commanding 3-0 lead before the first intermission. **Johan Davidsson** reduced the arrears 6:13 into the second period, also clinching the lead in the top scorers contest with 14 points (7 goals + 7 assists), but the Swedes never came any closer than that. Canada's three-goal lead was restored with 4:43 remaining before the second break.

ZLATAN UNDERGOES SURGERY Inter Milan striker **Zlatan Ibrahimovic** has undergone surgery in the Netherlands to strengthen his abdominal wall. The 25-year-old Swede, who had been ruled out for the remainder of the campaign because of a groin injury, had been putting off the operation until Inter wrapped up the title.

Ibrahimovic, who played a significant part in Inter's Scudetto success with 15 league goals, also missed the club's Italian Cup final against Roma.

He is also likely to be ruled out of Sweden's 2008 European championship qualifying matches in June against Denmark and Iceland.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is the golden boy of Swedish football. Raised by a Bosnian father and Croatian mother in the Malmö suburb of Rosengård, he has made the journey from Sweden's most maligned neighbourhood to the centre of the soccer world.

As a player, his moments of genius are tampered by periods of pure mediocrity. But at his best, Zlatan has a fleetness of foot that can make even the most expert defender seem like an amateur.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's first major club in Sweden was Malmö FF, once a giant of European football. It did not take long before he was courted by Dutchman Leo Beenhakker, who negotiated a transfer to Ajax of Amsterdam in 2001, when Zlatan was 20 years old. The deal was worth a record-breaking 7.8 million euros, by far the most lucrative any Swedish side has struck.

In 2004, Ibrahimovic moved from Ajax to Juventus for a 19 million euro transfer fee. And then last August he signed a four-year contract with Inter Milan for 24.8 million euros. His start at Inter was sensational and he was instrumental in placing the club way beyond the grasp of the chasing pack.

GOLF Fredrik Andersson finished in joint second place behind England's Lee Westwood at the Valle Romano Open de Andalucia in Marbella. Westwood finished two shots ahead of Andersson and fellow Englishman Phillip Archer.

The Swedish hockey team celebrates before the losses, while Zlatan shows his form and Sven-Göran "Svennis" Nilsson looks on.

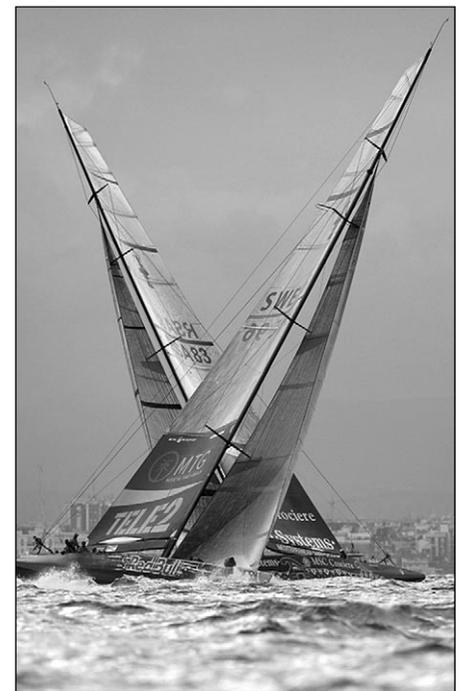
SVENNIS LOOKING FOR A JOB Former England manager Sven-Göran Eriksson, who has admitted to being bored after almost a year out of work, would be interested in talking to Newcastle about the vacant manager's job. After last year's World Cup, when a lackluster England was eliminated by Portugal in the quarter-finals, Eriksson handed over the reins to Steve McClaren. He is still being paid compensation by the Football Association but the Swede is looking for a way back into the game.

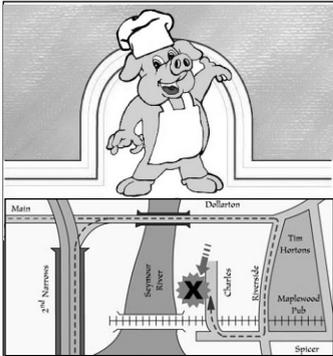
Eriksson fared well in a phone poll of fans carried out by Newcastle-based radio station Metro, although he is not figuring high on chairman Freddy Shepherd's shortlist.

KIWIS KNOCK SWEDES OUT OF AMERICA'S CUP

Swedish yacht Victory Challenge ended its pursuit of the 32nd America's Cup after losing a close-fought encounter with Emirates Team New Zealand. The Swedish team had defied expectations after securing a victory over Spanish team in the Louis Vuitton Cup off Valencia. The success against the Spaniards in the eleven-team regatta was a vindication for a team which had struggled with financial difficulties for many years before securing a new sponsorship deal last March. But the dream was to come to an end for the team founded by the late business mogul Jan Stenbeck and now operated by a syndicate headed by his son Hugo.

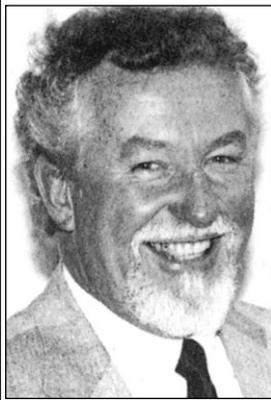
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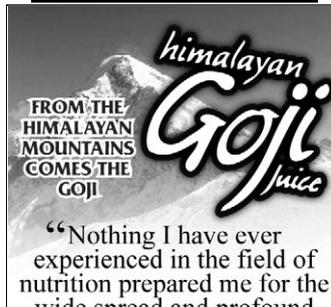
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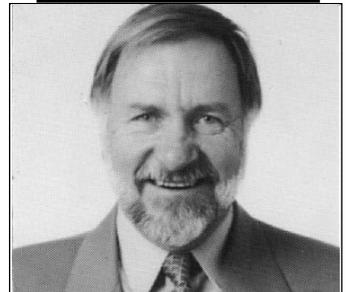
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Treats

A la Jan and Mark in Seattle

"A free trip to Sweden," says Mark Hammarlund every time he and his wife Jan Peterson have been to a Kulturförbundet event in Seattle. They are both Americans who learned Swedish as adults and now love to speak it with "real" Swedes. Through Kulturförbundet, of which Jan right now is the president, the couple also learns more about Swedish traditions, hoping that their interest will rub off on their children Sarah, 18, and Erik, 12,

"Sarah now speaks better than we do," say the proud parents of their daughter who spent a summer in Scandinavia with family friends and relatives. Sarah hopes to follow in the footsteps of her mother and take an extended stay at a folkhögskola in Sweden, as part of her future studies at the University of Washington.

Jan (or Janet) Peterson grew up in a Swedish-American home in Omaha, Nebraska. All her ancestors were Swedish which was the case for many other residents of the city, and her family attended an almost entirely Swedish Covenant church. Jan's "farmor", who lived next door, had left Småland as a 19-year-old but held on to both her Swedish citizenship and the language to the day she died at the age of 86. From her Jan learned "tack så mycket", "varsågod" and the first verse of "Tryggare kan ingen vara", but that was about all the Swedish she knew when she started courses in Swedish and Psychology at North Park College in Chicago.

In 1976 North Park started an exchange program with Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola near Jönköping and Jan was among the first group of students who spent a wonderful term at the boarding school, immersed in the language and all things Swedish. Later the school asked her to come back to teach English to the Swedish students who were going to North Park for their college exchange. Without any teaching background, Jan spent two years at Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola as an English teacher and liked it so much, that she fell into a career that she had never planned for.

When Jan later visited her twin sister, who was in the peace corps in a small village in northern Kenya, she ended up teaching English there too for a year and picking up some Swahili in the process. After a Graduate ESL exam in Arizona,



Jan taught English in Yugoslavia where she picked up Serbian.

"I seem to get involved in languages that start with S - Swedish, Swahili, Serbian and Spanish," says Jan.

In Seattle she still teaches ESL at the Edmonds Community College, while her husband Mark is a clinical psychologist with his own practice in Everett.

Mark was born and raised in Washington State. His "Hammarlund" great-grandparents, immigrants from Småland, had a homestead in the Swedish community of Gig Harbor, near Tacoma. Mark never learnt any Swedish or, for that matter, very much about his Swedish background.

When he was a young boy, his family lived in Copenhagen while his father had a sabbatical from the University of Washington. The family continued to keep close ties with their good friends in Denmark. At college Mark studied German and also spent some time in Germany.

It was when he met Jan in Seattle, that Swedish first appeared on his radar screen and now he too is eagerly looking for opportunities to speak the language.

"To study and live in Sweden for a few years gave me the chance to meet relative and learn more about MODERN Sweden and not only the stories about the old Sweden that my grandma had told me. Now I am only sorry that my grandmother died before I learnt Swedish and lived in her beloved Småland," says Jan Peterson.

Here are two of the favourite recipes.

☞ **HUCKLEBERRY BOY BAIT**

Blend thoroughly: 2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups sugar

Jan Peterson and Mark Hammarlund with their children Erik and Sarah

1/2 cup margarine or butter
Add 2 tsp baking power. **Stir.**

Mix: 3 egg yolks, slightly beaten

1 cup milk 1 tsp salt

2 tsp vanilla Combine with dry mixture.

Fold in 2 cups huckleberries (can be substituted by blueberries). Put in a 9" X 12" baking dish. Top with more berries and sprinkle cinnamon on top. Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes. *We pick huckleberries (a type of blueberry) at our family cabin in Northern Idaho, says Jan.*

☞ **ISLAND BLACKBERRY COBBLER**

4-5 cups blackberries (can be substituted by 4 cups rhubarb + 2 cups fresh sliced strawberries)

1/2 cup sugar 1/2 cup margarine

1/8 tsp salt 1 cup flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 cup milk 1 cup sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1 cup boiling water

Spread berries evenly in 9" X 13" baking dish. In a large mixing bowl, cream together sugar and softened margarine. Add salt, flour, and baking powder alternately with milk. Drop by spoonfuls over berries. Mix together 1 cup sugar and cornstarch and sprinkle over batter. Pour boiling water evenly over all. Bake at 375 degrees for 45-60 minutes, or until top is light brown and berry juice is starting to set. *Excellent with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Blackberries grow wild in the Seattle area. We pick them in the neighborhood and always enjoy this dish in September.*

LANDSKAPS

S STOCKHOLM Landhöjningen har gjort att Strömkajen måste byggas om. Kajen är så hög att det är besvärligt att ta sig ombord på en del Waxholmsbåtar. Men den främsta anledningen till ombyggnaden är att kajens grundskikt av trä vid lågvatten ligger ovan vattenytan och därmed riskerar att ruttna och göra hela kajen instabil. Stockholms trafikkontor och hamn delar på arbetet som beräknas komma i gång hösten 2008.

GÖTEBORG Hotell Gothia Towers i mitten av stan kommer att byggas ut med ett 29 våningar högt hotelltorn. Dessutom kommer ett av de befintliga tornen att byggas på med sex våningar. Efter utbyggnaden kommer Gothia Towers att ha fått 500 nya rum och det totala antalet rum kommer då att uppgå till 1 200 rum, vilket gör hotellet till Europas största. Hela utbyggnaden av hotellet ska vara färdig 2010. Hotel Gothia Towers ägs och drivs av Svenska Mässan och är redan

idag Nordens största. Förra året övernattade 272 883 personer på hotellet, vilket var nytt rekord. En stor del av förklaringen till att det går bra beror på att antalet kongresser och konferenser ökat markant under de senaste åren.

MALMÖ Tre nätter i rad härjades Rosengård av anlagda bränder, stenkastning mot polis, brandkår och allmänt stök. Oroligheterna kom som en fullständig överraskning för de flesta i stadsdelen. Här var stora problem för fyra år sedan, då stadsdelen blev en symbol för arbetslöshet, kriminalitet, fattigdom och misslyckad integration. Men sedan dess har det mesta blivit lite bättre. Allt fler får jobb, de blir positiva förebilder för sina barn och socialbidragen har minskat med 20 miljoner kronor. Eleverna presterar allt bättre i skolorna och det mesta pekar uppåt. Oroligheterna blossade upp när en polispatrull skulle ta upp en anmälan. En stor grupp ungdomar kastade sten och ägg mot poliserna och jagade bort dem. Senare

stacks tre sophus i brand. Ett stort problem i Rosengård är att många föräldrar tappat kontrollen över sina barn. Barnen pratar svenska, medan föräldrarna inte förstår språket. Det ger barnen en helt felaktig maktposition i familjen. När föräldrarna försöker tala maktspråk hotar barnen med att anmäla dem för polisen. Trångboddheten gör att många barn inte vill vara hemma. På norra sidan av Rosengård finns det bostadsrätter, där är det oftast lugnt. Det är på den södra sidan, och särskilt i kvarteret Herrgården som de stora sociala problemen finns. Förvärvsfrekvensen här är 15 procent. Den disponibla inkomster per person och år är mindre än hälften av genomsnittet för Malmö. 97 procent av de boende har utländsk bakgrund, en tredjedel är från Irak. Trångboddhet är ett allt större problem. Herrgården byggdes för 2 000 - 2500 personer. Nu bor där närmare 5 000 personer och då är inte så kallade ebos - asylsökande som bor inneboende hos vänner och släktingar, inräknade.



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Scandinavian Airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

NYHETERNA

GÄSTRIKLAND

Världens största vindkraftspark planeras på Finngrundan utanför Gävlebukten. Till en kostnad av 15 miljarder kronor skall elproducenten WPD Scandinavia AB bygga 210 vindkraftverk som beräknas producera lika mycket el-energi som ett kärnkraftverk. Byggandet av de 166 meter höga vindsnurorna kan komma igång 2010 efter undersökningar av havsbottens flora och fauna och den mängd skeppsvrak runt Finngrundan som betraktas som fornlämnningar som inte får förstöras.

Stigh Jonasson

HALLAND

Som ett byggnadsprojekt i världsklass skildrades tunnelbygget genom Hallandsåsen nyligen i Discovery's serie "Kings of Construction". Det var inte så att problemen med bygget förnekades men de beskrevs som utmaningar värda att övervinna, inte tecken på att hela projektet skulle vara misslyckat. Beslutet att bygga en väspårig tunnel genom Hallandsåsen fattades av riksdagen redan 1988. Tunneln skulle vara ett sätt att effektivisera gods- och persontransporterna samt göra dem mer miljövänliga. Men problemen har avlöst varandra sedan starten 1992 och enligt Discovery-reportaget betraktas projektet i dag som världens mest komplicerade tunnelprojekt någonsin. Hallandsåsen är sprucken och vittrad med vattenfyllda sprickor, vilket gjort arbetet extremt komplicerat. Läckaget in i tunneln bekämpades ursprungligen med tätningsmedlet Rhoca-Gil men medlet innehöll det giftiga ämnet Akrylamid i sådana mängder att det ledde till förgiftat vatten och en av Sveriges största miljöskandaler. Arbetet stoppades 1997. Tunnelbygget återupptogs först 2006, och man började borra med hjälp av en för ändamålet specialbyggd tunnelbormaskin. Järnvägstunneln genom Hallandsåsen ska bli cirka 8,5 kilometer lång och bestå av två tunnelrör med ett järnvägsspår i varje rör. Den blir en del av Västkustbanan, järnvägslinjen mellan Göteborg och Lund. Det enkelspår som hittills använts över åsen genom Sinarpsdalen är kurvigt och svårforcerat för godståg. Tunneln ska ge en kapacitetsökning från 4 till 24 tåg i timmen. Slutkostnaden för tunnelbygget beräknas nu till cirka 7,5 miljarder kronor, ungefär åtta gånger dyrare än vad man hade tänkt från början och stå klar 2012, sexton år senare än beräknat.

JÄMTLAND

Åre kommuns beslut att sälja tomtmark till Konsum trots att lågpriskedjan Lidl erbjöd en betydligt högre summa har blivit ett EU-ärende. Enligt ett preliminärt beslut från EU-kommissionen är affären olaglig och strider mot EG-fördraget. Lidl gör stora förluster i Sverige. Matvarukedjan har förlorat nästan en miljard kronor sedan etablering i Sverige 2003. En förklaring till de stora förluster är att Lidl alltid bygger upp sina butiker från grunden, i stället för att flytta in i redan befintliga lokaler.

SKÅNE

Samtidigt som en man i Helsingborg körde bil, bötfälldes och råkade ut för en trafikolycka vid tre olika tillfällen, fick han pengar för bristande ledsyn. Nu kräver Försäkringskassan tillbaka pengarna. Mannen har fått totalt 268 600 kronor i handkappersättning under tio år för att han uppgav sig sakna ledsyn.

Nu får Marianne Lindberg De Geers skulptur med två bronskvinnor framför Växjö konsthall kameraövervakning. Länsstyrelsen i Kronobergs län har gett tillstånd. Konstverket har utsatts för vandalisering upprepade gånger enda från den dag kommunen köpte det. Skulpturgruppen består av en svårt anorektisk kvinna samt en gravt överviktig kvinna, bägge med ansikten som föreställer konstnären själv. Gruppen, köpt för en halv miljon kronor, har även väckt ömma känslor och de nakna kvinnorna har klätts på i vinterrusket. Men när någon sågade av den magra kvinnan jäms med fotknöarna gick det för långt.

SÖDERMANLAND

Nynäshamn har för många tomma lägenheter. I ett slag tappade kommunen många hundra arbetstillfällen när Ericssonfabriken lade ned produktionen samtidigt som den marina verksamheten på Muskö stryptes av regeringen. Ett starkt bidragande orsak till svårigheterna att fylla tomrummen är de usla kommunikationerna mellan Nynäshamn och övriga Stockholm. Utbyggnaden av väg 73, "dödens väg" har börjat men det dröjer flera år innan förbindelsen är helt klar. Än värre är de dåliga pendeltågsförbindelserna med enkelspår till Västerhaninge.

VÄSTERGÖTLAND

Kommunerna kring Vänern kräver att möjligheterna att tappa av Vänern förbättras. Annars kan stadskärnorna i många kommuner komma att ligga under vatten vid nästa högvatten. Klimat- och sårbarhetsutredningen konstaterar att industrier, bostäder och infrastruktur kring Vänern ligger alldeles för lågt. Utredningens experter råder kommunerna att inte planera bebyggelse under nivån 47,4 meter över havet. Men i Vänersborg skulle det betyda att man inte längre kan utveckla de centrala delarna, som ofta har anor från medeltiden. För en stad som Mariestad förändras förutsättningarna helt. En vattennivå på 47,4 meter innebär att hela centrala Mariestad med hamn och industriområden står under vatten.

VÄSTMANLAND

Vägverket förbjuder vägs skylt med texten "Bed & breakfast". Bilister förstår den inte, anser verket. Skylten är uppsatt vid en herrgård utanför Nora där Camilla Krupmann driver ett pensionat. -Antalet turister i Noratrakten ökar ständigt och många kommer från andra länder. De förstår inte "Rum och frukost", säger hon. Krupmann och Vägverket har processat om skylten i två år.

Translation?!

Email anders@nordicway.com for a Free monthly *SweMail* translation of the Swedish parts of Swedish Press.

RysslandsMåste

S Det var **Vikingarna** som skapade Ryssland och nu kan man följa i deras kölvatten ombord på ett komfortabelt **kryssningsfartyg** ner för floden Dnjepr (12 dagar från SEK 13,395 med flyg från Norrköping eller Köpenhamn, grand tours.se). Resan börjar i **Kiev**, där vikingen Oleg blev härskare år 882, och fortsätter ner till svartahavskusten och semesterparadiset Jalta. På vägen görs utflykter till Karl XII's **Poltava**, kossakernas Zaporozje och till Gammelsvenskby där svenskättlingarna ännu talar en ålderdomlig svenska.

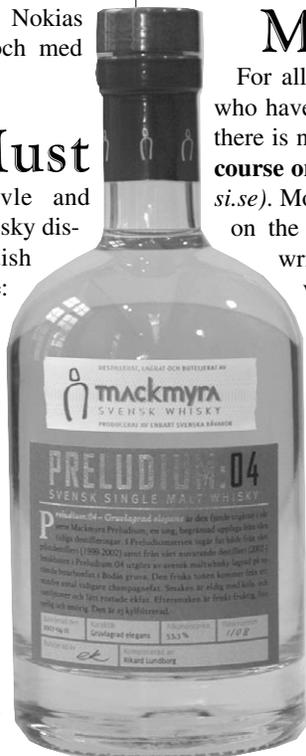
MustRead

Swede Dreams by Eva Apelqvist (available from Amazon.com ISBN 978-0-14-240746-2) is a cute story about Calista Swanson from Wisconsin who has just begun her study-abroad semester in Stockholm. This is a great book for high school kids who may be contemplating a study year in Sweden or for Swedish American young adults who want to take a peek at the old country from a contemporary's point of view.



MustCourse

For all those Swedish Americans who have put off learning Swedish, there is now a convenient beginners **course on the net** (à Euro 500 from si.se). Most of the course material is on the internet, but there is also written material as well as video clips and pronunciation exercises on a CD-ROM. You communicate with your teacher and fellow students via email, chat-rooms or phone. At the end of the course you should be able to speak and write basic Swedish, not to mention all the insights you will have got into Swedish culture and society, and after completing a test you also get a certificate in Swedish as a foreign language.



VykortMåste

S Om du är sen med en hälsning till någon i Sverige kan du komponera ett vykort på **www.posten.se** (för 20 kr) som når adressaten redan nästa dag. Du kan skriva texten "för hand" med hjälp av en klurig penna på siten och sedan välja en egen bild från datorn, eller ta ett av Postens standardmotiv (ovan). Posten trycker upp korten och levererar dem över hela världen. En del av Nokias nya mobiltelefoner har till och med vykortsfunktionen inbyggd.

WhiskyMust

In Valbo, between Gävle and Sandviken, you can visit a whisky distillery **Mackmyra** Swedish Whisky (Bruksgatan 4, Phone: +46 (0) 26 5418 80 www.mackmyra.se) the only one of its kind in Sweden. You can check out the different stages of production, from the malt mill to the splendid copper vats and afterwards test the six different Swedish malt whiskeys produced here. There is a shop where you can buy whisky tasting glasses and other exciting whisky products. For the whisky itself, however, you have to go to the nearest **Systembolaget**.

*Instant Post Cards,
Swedish Whisky
&
Swede Dreams*

OperaMåste

S I sommar satsar Vadstena-Akademien på att visa upp maktens olika yttringar genom att sätta upp två sällan spelade verk i bröllopsalen på **Vadstena slott**. I juli spelas Georg Friedrich Händels **Saul** från 1739 som bygger på bibelhistorien om Saul (Anton Eriksson) och David (Matilda Paulsson), en av Gamla Testamentets mest storslagna och dramatiska berättelser som sjungs på engelska. I augusti spelas så italienaren Jacopo Foronis orättvist förbisedd bel canto-opera **Drottning Kristina** (*Christina di Svezia*) som är en musikdramatisk rekonstruktion av drottning Kristinas abdikation och hennes kärleksrelation till kusinen och den blivande kungen Carl Gustav. Kristina sjungs av Liine Carlsson och Carl Gustav av Linus Börjesson medan Iréne Lindh gör en talroll som Kristina. *Shig Jonasson*

EthnicMust

One of the best features of the National **Museum of Ethnography** (Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 34) in Stockholm is its restaurant **Babajan**, that serves lunches, tea and snacks from all over the world. The restaurant by itself warrants a visit to this museum but once there you will also enjoy the various exhibits like "Bringing the World Home" that tells the story of Swedish travellers and explorers who dared to encounter foreign worlds. The disciples of **Carl Linnaeus**, **A E Norden-skiöld**, **Sven Hedin** and **Sten Bergman** are among the people featured in this exhibit. The original inhabitants of North America is another theme introduced at the museum. Among other things, the collections display a gifted totem pole from the Haisla First Nation of British Columbia.

Prices

Approximate SEK 1 = USD 0.15
Exchange Rates SEK 1 = CAD 0.16

Calendar

GUIDE TO INTERESTING AND FUN EVENTS IN SWEDISH NORTH AMERICA - AT A GLANCE

ASTORIA

Jun 15, 16, 17 - Scanfest at Clatsop County Fairgrounds. www.astoriascanfest.com

ATLANTA

Jun 6 - Swedish National Day. celebration. Info: 404-815-2292

CALGARY

Jun 6 6pm - Swedish Society Annual General Meeting at Scandinavian Centre. Info 931-0370.

CHICAGO

-Jun 10 - Exhibit "Floral Families, Folk Fashion and Fine Art" at Swedish American Museum, 5211 North Clark St. Info 773-728-8111.

CINCINNATI

Jun 23 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" by Arrival, the original ABBA band at Riverbend. Info www.arrival.se.

CONNECTICUT

Jul 11-15 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" in Uncasville. Info www.arrival.se.

DENVER

Jul 27 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" performance. www.arrival.se.

DETROIT

Jun 16 - Midsommar Festival at Detroit Swedish Club. 9:30-11am Swedish pancake breakfast \$5, noon maypole, folk dancing, games & chorus singing, 1pm buffet dinner \$10. Info 313 274 1566.

ILLINOIS

Jun 28 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" by Arrival in Highland Park. www.arrival.se.

JAMESTOWN

Jul 20, 21, 22 - Scandinavian Folk Festival at JCC. Info 487-1849.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jul 19 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" in Cape Cod. www.arrival.se.

Jul 20 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" in Hyannis. www.arrival.se.

MILWAUKEE

Jul 5-8 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" by Arrival. Info www.arrival.se.

MINNEAPOLIS

Jun 1-Oct 7 - Exhibit "Sacred Beauty: Treasures from Swedish Cathedrals and Churches at American Swedish Institute. Opening Jun 1 5-9pm. Talk by silversmith Anna-Stina Åberg at 7pm. 612-871-4907. Jun 16 10am-4pm - Midsommar Celebration at ASI. Info 612- 871-4907.

Jun 24-Sep 2 - Exhibit "A Mirror of Nature: Nordic Landscape Painting 1840-1910" featuring Carl Larsson at Minneapolis Institute of Arts. (888) 642-2787.

ASTORIA OREGON 40th MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

The 40th annual Midsummer Scandinavian Festival in Astoria, Oregon will be held on June 15,16, 17 at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

This year's featured entertainer is Swedish-born conductor Magnus Mårtensson who is currently Music Director of The Slee Sinfonietta and The Scandinavian Chamber Orchestra of New York, and who guest conducts in Europe and South America. He performs as a comedian/pianist in the style of the great Victor Borge.

The festival opens on Friday afternoon at 2pm when booths will open for business. A Salmon Dinner will be served by the Astoria Lions Club. The grand kick off of the Astoria Scandinavian Festival actually happens Friday evening with the selection and crowning of Miss Scandinavia 2007. After the coronation you can follow Miss Scandinavia and her court to the bonfire after which the dance will start. The Wet Dog Café will be providing a beer garden (Friday night until midnight and Saturday 12pm-12am) with ice-cold beverages.

Saturday starts off with The Midnight Sun Scandinavian Breakfast, from the Scandinavian Café. After this there will be a walking parade through downtown Astoria. This will be followed by a flag raising ceremony as well as the raising of the Midsummer Pole on the Fairgrounds. Events and entertainment continue all day. Luncheon will feature Swedish Pea Soup. Saturday evening begins with the Honored



Clatsop County Fairgrounds • Astoria, Oregon

Immigrant program followed by the Grand Concert featuring the Western Division of The American Union of Swedish Singers.

Sunday begins with the famous Rotary Pannukakku breakfast. On the Troll Stroll you can spot the trolls as you cover a 1.5, 3.0 or 5.75 mile run/walk through the countryside. At 4 pm the winner of the grand prize, round trip tickets for 2 to Scandinavia, (and many other fabulous prizes) will be drawn at the closing ceremonies.

The Clatsop County Fairgrounds is located less than 5 minutes out of Astoria on Highway 202. Admission is \$6 for an adult 3-day souvenir button, \$2 for children 6 - 12, children 5 & under are free. *For further information go to www.astoriascanfest.com.*

Jul 2-6 - Viking Times Day Camp at ASI. 9am-4pm \$160, members \$160, 8am-5pm \$195, \$170 members. Session 2 Jul 9-13, 9am-4pm \$190, \$165 members. 8am-5pm \$230, \$200 members. Info 612-870-3374.

MINNESOTA

Jun 8-9 - Nisswa-stämman Scandinavian Folk Music Festival at Nisswa Pioneer Village. Info 218-764-2994.

Jun 16 10am - Linnaeus Garden Party at Gammelgården Museum, Scandia. \$15. Free to Gammelgården Life Members and those with the names Linnea, Linn, or Linnaeus. 651-433-5053

Jun 19-24 - Dala Häst Fest at Gammelgården, Scandia. 651-433-5053.

Jun 22 10am-2pm - Dalapalooza, a day for children to celebrate the Dala Horse. Crafts, stories, & lunch. Ages 6 and up. \$15. 651-433-5053.

Jun 24 - Midsommar at Gammelgården, Scandia. Smörgåsbord. 651-433-5053.

Jul 17, Aug 7 - Comin' to Amerika Part I. Aug 9 - Comin' to Amerika Part II. Children role play life for an immigrant family packing up their trunks and leaving their homeland. Gammelgården, Scandia. 651-433-5053.

Aug 19 - Spelmannsstämman at Gammelgården, Scandia. 651-433-5053.

NEW JERSEY

Jun 23 noon - Scandinavian American Heritage Society of New Jersey, 19th Annual Midsummer Celebration at Vasa Park in Budd Lake. www.sahsnj.org.

Jul 21 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" in Ocean Grove. Info www.arrival.se.

NEW YORK

-Jun 10 - Exhibit "Bruno Mathsson: Architect and Designer" at the Bard

Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture, 18 West 86th St. Info 212-501-3000.

-Jun 15 - Just Scandinavian presents 17 Swedish women designers at 161 Hudson St. 212-334-2556.

-Jul 1 - Maria Friberg exhibit in Global Feminisms at The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. (718) 638-5000.

Jun 16 - 67th Annual Sweden Day at Manhemp Club, Throgs Neck. Info www.sweden-day.com.

I NEW YORK

Jul 18 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" in Westbury. Info www.arrival.se.

Jul 28 - "ABBA: The Tribute Show" performance in Albany. www.arrival.se.

NORTH CAROLINA

-Jul 29 - Retrospective Exhibition of >>>>

Ads & Info

SWEDISH PRESS CLASSIFIEDS - THE FAST AND INEXPENSIVE WAY TO BUY, SELL OR TELL

Work by Swedish glass artist Ann Wolff at the Mint Museum of Crafts and Design, Charlotte. Info (704) 337-2000.

PENNSYLVANIA

Jul 22 - "ABBA: The Tribute Band" performance in Lancaster. www.arrival.se.

PHILADELPHIA

-Jul 1 - "Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America" - exhib. at American Swedish Historical Museum. Info 215-389-1776.
Jun 23 4-8pm - American Swedish Historical Museum's annual Midsommarfest. \$8 adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. 1900 Pattison Avenue. Info 215-389-1776.

PHOENIX

Oct 12-14 - SWEA regionsmöte. Upplysningar www.swea.org

PORTLAND

Jun 23 11am-6pm - Midsummer Festival at German American Cultural Center, 7901 SE Division. Dancing 6-9pm. Info 503-977-0525.

ROCKFORD

-Jul 18 - Exhibit "HE & SHE" art glass by

Bertil Vallien and Ulrika Hydman-Vallien at Rockford Art Museum. 815-972-2881.

Jun 16 - Midsommar Fest. Info www.swedishhistorical.org.

Jun 25-29 - Camp Sweden for grades 1-4.
Jul 2-6 - Camp Sweden for grades 4-8. Info www.swedishhistorical.org.

SALT LAKE CITY

Jun 23 3pm - Midsummer Celebration at International Peace Gardens, 1060 S 900 W. Dinner Info 969-1685.

SEATTLE

Jun 1 - Skandia Folkdance Society Dance at Cedar Valley Grange, 20526-52nd Ave. West, Lynnwood. Teaching at 7:30 pm, Dance at 8.30pm. Info (206) 784-7470.

Jun 3 4pm - A Scandinavian Serenade concert at Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th. Smörgåsbord. \$37, \$34 members. Info 206-789-5707.

Jun 15 - Skandia Folkdance Society Dance at Cedar Valley Grange, 20526-52nd Ave. West, Lynnwood. \$9, \$7 members. Info (206) 784-7470.

Jul 11-Aug 8, Wednesdays 7:30 to 9 pm Scandinavian dance classes at Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N, Room 32, Info: (206) 784-7470.

Jun 24 11am-6pm - Skandia Midsommarfest at Saint Edward State Park, 14445 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore. Free. Info 206-784-7470.

Jul 7 10am-6pm, Jul 8 11am-5pm - Tivoli/Viking Days: at Nordic Heritage Museum Days Pancake breakfasts Saturday from 9am-12pm and Sunday from 10am-1pm, and a barbequed Salmon Dinner Saturday at 5pm and 7pm. Info 206-789-5707.

Jul 5-Aug 2 Thursdays 2pm-3pm - Terrific Trolls! Read aloud program for children preschool to age eight. Free. Nordic Heritage Museum. Info 206-789-5707.

Sep 8 6.30pm - SACC Crayfish party and fundraiser at Swedish Cultural Center. Info 206-467-8200.

TORONTO

Jun 3 4pm - Sveriges Nationaldag firas med gudstjänst. Sång av svenska kören, folkdans och servering. Agricolakyrkan, 25 Old York Mills Rd, North York. Upplysningar 416-496-7907.

Jun 10 4pm - Högmässa i Agricolakyrkan. Upplysningar 416-496-7907.

Jun 11 7.30pm - A Celebration of M'lle Jenny Lind's Grand Concert in the Great Hall of St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. East. \$30. Info (416) 487-0605.

Jun 16 11am - Traditionell skolavslutning i Agricolakyrkan. Info 416-964-6386.

Jun 17 4pm - Högmässa i Agricolakyrkan.

VAD HÄNDER?

*Kom och ät laxmiddag
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(som ska fö också underhålla på midsommarfestivalen)
Musik och underhållning*

20 juni kl.18.00 Scandinavian Centre

\$30.00 per person (dryck ej inkluderad)
Anmalan till Yvonne Spence 604-980-8866 senast den 13 juni.

Svenska Kulturföreningen

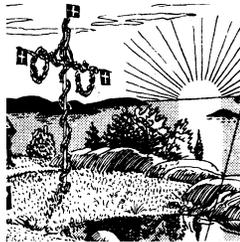
Midsummer Celebration

June 23, 3 PM at
International Peace Gardens,
1060 S 900 W, SLC.

Dinner catered by
"A Viking's Feast", 5 PM.

For information call 969-1685.

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Jun 23 2pm - Svensk midsommar friluftsgudstjänst hos Arja-Maria Lindfors, 124 Wood Lane, Richmond Hill. Alla välkomna. Info 416-496-7907.

VANCOUVER

Jun 8 noon - Scandinavian 55+ Monthly Luncheon at Scandinavian Centre. Bring a plate of sandwiches or cakes to share & pay \$2 pp towards coffee & expenses. Info 604-294-2777.

Jun 13 - Scandinavian Business Club monthly Dinner Meeting at Scandinavian Centre. Info 604-244-9300.

Jun 20 6pm - Laxmiddag, musik och underhållning på Scandinavian Centre, 6540 Thomas St. \$30. Upplysningar 604-980-8866.

Jun 22 - Nordic Youth Association Midsummer Bash at Scandinavian Centre. Info 604-294-2777.

Jun 23 8pm - Swedish Sten Sandell Trio performs at Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables St. Info 604-872-5200.

Jun 23 1.45-2.45pm - Alan Matheson Septet at Steam Clock, Water & Cambie. Free. Info 604-872-5200.

Jun 23-24 - Midsummer festival at Scandinavian Centre. Info 604-294-2777.
Jun 25 8pm - Sten Sandell Trio performs at The Ironworks, 235 Alexander St. \$15. Info 604-872-5200.

Jun 25 1-2.30pm - Pianist/ vocalist Sten Sandell free workshop at Tom Lee Music Hall, 929 Granville St. Info 604-872-5200.
Jun 26 11pm - Bassist Johan Berthling, Saxophonist Fredrik Ljungkvist and pianist/vocalist Sten Sandell perform at The Ironworks. 604-872-5200.

Jun 27 - Fredrik Ljungkvist and Yun Kan 5 perform at Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Info 604-872-5200.

Jun 28 11pm - Fredrik Ljungkvist and Yun Kan 5 perform at The Ironworks, 235 Alexander St. Info 604-872-5200.

Jul 13 noon - Scandinavians 55+ luncheon at Scandinavian Centre. 604-294-2777.

VICTORIA

Jun 17 10am - Midsummer Celebration at Beaver Lake. Info 250-656-6040.

Aug 11 - Swedish Club Garage Sale at 2438 Amherst Ave., Sidney. 250-656-6040.

WASHINGTON

-Jul 15 - Exhibition Lars Jonsson - Wings Over Northern Shores at House of Sweden. 202-467-2600.

-Jul 15 - Exhibition Brutus Östling - Penguins at House of Sweden, 901 30th St NW. 202-467-2600.

WINNIPEG

-Aug 19 - Exhibit "In the Shadow of the

Midnight Sun: Sámi and Inuit Art 2000-2005" at Winnipeg Art Gallery, 300 Memorial Boulevard. Info (204) 786-6641.

Jun 24 - Midsummerfest Picnic at Vasalund. Info 204-897-1216.

CALGARY ORG.

SVENSKA SKOLAN i Calgary bedriver undervisning för barn 3-15 år gamla på lördagar kl 9.30-12. Alla barn är välkomna. Undervisningen sker på svenska. Kontakta Svenska Skolan genom Scandinavian Center 403-284-2610 eller skicka epost till contact@swedishschool.com. Läs mer om vår skola på www.swedishschool.com

B.C. ORGANIZATIONS

CONSULATE OF SWEDEN Tuesday-Friday 9am-12noon, 1-3pm or by appointment. #1480-1188 West Georgia Street. (604) 683-5838.

THE RONEBERG CHOIR meets Wednesday nights at 7 pm at the Swedish Canadian Resthome, Burnaby. Everyone welcome. Call Bertil Johansson 604-421-1594.

SCANDINAVIAN BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB meets every second Wednesday of the month. New members welcome. Phone Ben Marklund 604-524-2915.

THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE 6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, B.C. V5B 4P9. 604-294-2777.

SVENSKA KULTURFÖRENINGEN Ordf. Yvonne Spence, 604 980 8866. Kassör Åsa Eidelöf 1937 Rufus Dr. N. Vancouver, B.C. V7J 3L8 604-988-9882. Läs månadens program i "Vad Händer?"

SVENSKA SKOLAN en gång i veckan för barn mellan 3 och 14 år. Ordförande Christer Hollberg 604-738-8294, Adm. Eva Andersson 604-921-1580.

SWEDEN HOUSE SOCIETY President Monica Olofsson 604-987-6086, Vice-President Jan-Wilhelm Sköllsberg, Treasurer Håkan Telenius 604-922-7997, Secretary Dorothy Carlson 604-325-1512.

SWEDISH CANADIAN CLUB 1800 Duthie Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 2R8 President Karin Trygg, Vice-President Ulla Fagerberg, Secretary Dorothy Carlson, Treasurer Mary-Joan Giffin, Social Director Sven Svensk

SWEA - Swedish Womens Educational Association. Du, svensktalande kvinna. Kom med i SWEA. Vi träffas en gång i månaden för att ha kul, lära nytt och prata svenska. Kontakta Ingmar Byssé 604-689-8090 eller Gun Pennink 604-921-9903. Besök oss på www.chapters-swea.org/vancouver/.

SWEDISH CANADIAN VILLAGE - Swedish Canadian Manor and Gustav Vasa Place at 1800 Duthie Avenue in Burnaby, B.C. V5A 2R4 604-420-3222 provides retirement apartments, beautiful grounds. Just steps from the bus. Enquiries welcome. Adm. Karin Trygg 604-420-3222 Swedish Canadian Resthome Association President Erik Nordholm, Vice President Anna Johnstad Moller.

VICTORIA B.C. ORG.

SWEDISH CLUB OF VICTORIA meets the third Friday monthly. Contact Lars Larsson (250) 652-3392. Saturday Swedish lessons for children 4-7 9:30 - 11:00am at Norway House, 1118 Hillside Ave. Info (250) 389-0079. www.victoriaswedishclub.ca

WASHINGTON ORG.

NORDIC HERITAGE MUSEUM in Seattle, 3104 N.W. 67th St., Ballard 206-789-5707 Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Monday closed.

SWEDISH CULTURAL CENTER, 1920 Dexter Ave., N, Seattle, Wa 98109; Tel. (206) 283-1090. Open Mon-Sat. Catering available for all events.

NAMNSDAGAR

Jun 1	Gun, Gunnel
Jun 2	Rutger, Roger
Jun 3	Ingemar, Gudmar
Jun 4	Solbritt, Solveig
Jun 5	Bo
Jun 6	Gustav, Gösta
Jun 7	Robert, Robin
Jun 8	Eivor, Majvor
Jun 9	Börje, Birger
Jun 10	Svante, Boris
Jun 11	Bertil, Berthold
Jun 12	Eskil
Jun 13	Aina, Aino
Jun 14	Håkan, Hakon
Jun 15	Margit, Margot
Jun 16	Axel, Axelina
Jun 17	Torbjörn, Torvald
Jun 18	Björn, Bjarne
Jun 19	Germund, Görel
Jun 20	Linda
Jun 21	Alf, Alvar
Jun 22	Paulina, Paula
Jun 23	Adolf, Alice
Jun 24	Johannesdöparens dag
Jun 25	David, Salomon
Jun 26	Rakel, Lea
Jun 27	Selma, Fingal
Jun 28	Leo
Jun 29	Peter, Petra
Jun 30	Elof, Leif

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SWEDEN'S GREEN SECRET

MY COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE MOST ENERGY-EFFICIENT IN THE WORLD AND ECONOMIC LEADER. CANADA CAN DO IT TOO.

Sustainability is no longer a word that conjures up images of a Utopian world. It is part of a profitable business concept that is here to stay.

A sustainable business concept integrates environmental, social and economic factors and is key to economic progress and human welfare. From a market perspective, the opportunities for companies and entrepreneurs to reap the benefits of sustainable development are vast. The examples below will focus on the Swedish industry sector.

Compared to Canada, Sweden is small in size and population, but when one considers our climates, economies and industry types there are clear similarities.

Like many of the world's developed nations, including Canada, Sweden became rapidly industrialized and urbanized during the late 19th and early 20th century. The structure of both of our economies, namely the share of GDP for primary, secondary and tertiary activities, is exactly the same: 69 per cent for services, 29 per cent for manufacturing, and two per cent for agriculture.

For industry, sustainability often means making more efficient use of energy to reduce operating and capital costs. In Sweden, a small number of sectors accounts for the bulk of industrial energy use. The pulp and paper industry, for example, uses about 50 per cent of the total energy used, while the iron, steel, chemical and engineering industries use another 30 per cent. In the short term, industrial energy use essentially follows variations in industrial output.

In the long term, however, energy use is affected by taxation, fluctuations in energy prices, energy-efficiency improvements, investment, technical developments and structural changes in the types of goods produced. Although Sweden's total industry output increased by 78 per cent from 1992 to 2003, total energy use increased by only 16 per cent.

How is that possible? Many of Sweden's large energy users have actually become net suppliers of energy.

The waste heat created by industrial production, energy that, in the past, was hard to recapture and use, is now sold and trans-

ferred to district heating companies, which in turn distribute steam or hot water to multiple build-

ings using energy from a variety of sources, are used to heat and cool half of all buildings, including homes, in Sweden. In Canada, fewer than 5 per cent of buildings are heated and cooled this way.

Stora Enso, one of Sweden's most prominent paper, packaging and forest product companies, is an excellent example of how industry can integrate sustainability in the production process. Not only does wood-based biofuels account for 62 per cent of Stora Enso's energy consumption, a significant proportion of the total amount of biofuels used by the company actually comes from its own processes. Overall energy efficiency is further strengthened by the fact that 11 Stora Enso mills deliver surplus heat to nearby communities in the form of district heating.

Sweden's energy policy uses a mix of government involvement and lightly regulated market forces in order to become more energy efficient.

On the one hand, Sweden has relatively high rates of energy taxation and one of the largest electricity companies is state owned. On the other hand, as part of the Nordic Power Market (Nord Pool), Sweden is one of the pioneers in liberalized electricity sectors and generally employs a very light-handed approach to regulating energy companies.

During the tax reforms of the early 1990s, Sweden began its "green tax shift," whereby taxes on energy were raised while other taxes, such as payroll taxes, were decreased by an equivalent amount.

To a certain extent, producers, and energy-intensive industries in particular, are given energy tax exemptions so their competitive positions in the global marketplace are not undermined. However, even after taking these exemptions into account, Swedish industry still faces energy-related taxes on a par with industrial companies in other EU countries.

On May 1, 2003, a new support system for renewable energy was introduced,

based on trading in electricity certificates for renewable electricity. All electricity users, with the exception of manufacturing processes in energy-intensive industries, must buy a certain percentage of their electricity from renewable sources.

Is the Swedish system working? In its 2004 country review, the International Energy Agency concluded that Sweden's "Mix of government influence and free market forces has been judiciously applied and consequently, Sweden has a successful history of providing its citizens with low-cost, reliable, secure and environment-friendly energy."

In its 2004 comparison of business and growth competitiveness within developed countries, the World Economic Forum ranked Sweden fourth on the business index and third on the growth index. Canada ranked 15th on both. Clearly, Sweden is proving that environmental protection and profits can go hand in hand.

Although new technology is an important aspect in addressing energy and environmental issues, we sometimes put too much emphasis on it and forget that many solutions already exist. Green building practices, district heating, heat pumps, biofuels, ethanol, and energy-efficient cars and public transport systems are just a few that are widely available. By comparison, many new technologies are still in the early stages of development and are, therefore, more expensive to use.

In Sweden, where the sustainable market is highly competitive, existing environmental technologies are no longer considered luxury items for a few fortunate consumers, they are affordable for the ordinary citizen.

We have come a long way in our environmental and social efforts. In the 1970s Sweden was the highest per capita importer of oil in the world; today Sweden relies on oil for only about 30 per cent of its total energy supply. It is clear that effective environmental and energy technologies and policies played an important role in moving Sweden away from oil dependency, and will continue to do so in our future.

Lennart Alvin

The author (right) is the former Ambassador of Sweden to Canada





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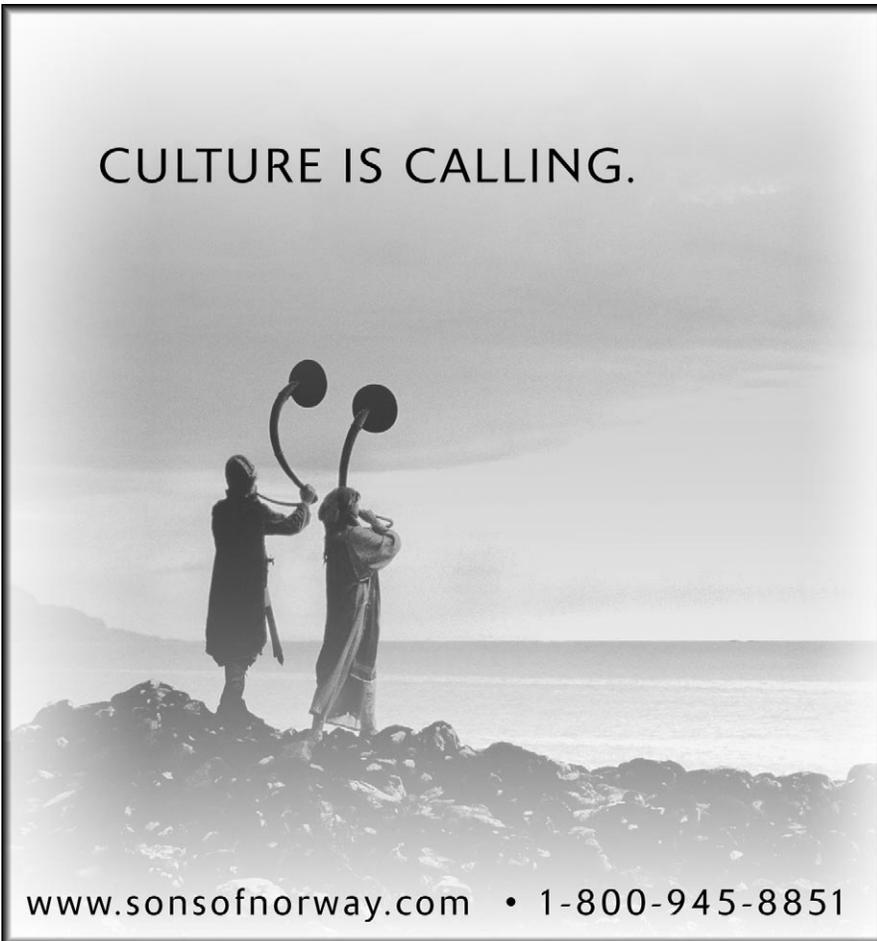
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