

A Little in English...

Princess Märtha Louise expecting

Princess Märtha Louise and Ari Behn announced that they were expecting their second child, the palace said in a press release. The baby is due in the middle of April 2005 and the birth will take place at the Rikshospitalet University Hospital in Oslo.

The palace said that the princess, 32, was in good health and a normal pregnancy is expected.

The princess and Ari Behn have a daughter from before, Maud Angelica, born April 29, 2003.

The news has not affected the couple's plans to move to USA in October.

Princess Märtha Louise and Ari Behn delayed their plans to move to New York City in 2003 because Märtha wanted to give birth in Norway. Then King Harald fell ill and finally Märtha wanted to be at home to celebrate the arrival of Crown Prince Haakon Magnus and Crown Princess Mette-Marit's first child.

-from Aftenposten



Litt på norsk...

Prinsesse Märtha Louise er gravid

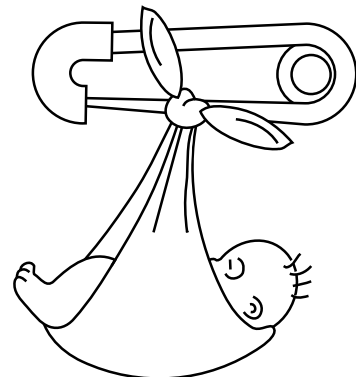
Prinsesse Märtha Louise og Ari Behn har den gleden å kunne meddele at de venter barn, heter det i en pressemelding fra Slottet. Barnet ventes i midten av april og fødselen vil, ifølge Slottet, finne sted på Rikshospitalet i Oslo.

Prinsessen er i fin form og det forventes et normalt svangerskap.

Paret har en datter fra før, Maud Angelica, som ble født 29 april 2003.

Nyheten har ikke endret parets planer om å flytte til USA i oktober.

Prinsesse Märtha Louise og Ari Behn utsatte sine planer om å flytte til New York City i 2003 fordi Märtha ville føde i Norge. Kong Harald ble deretter syk og Märtha ville i tillegg være hjemme for å feire det første barnet til Kronprins Haakon Magnus og Kronprinsesse Mette-Marit.



Norwegians trusting and happy



A new survey indicates that Norwegians are among the happiest and most trusting people in Europe. These are some of the admittedly subjective findings from the European Social Survey (ESS), published in Statistics Norway's magazine *Samfunnspeilet* (Society Mirror).

Interviews of 40,000 Europeans about their feelings about their lives showed that Norwegians were quite content.

"Norwegians are very high on the list of the happiest in Europe but not top. Denmark is on top, well over countries like Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Norway. Even if the United Nations development fund has ranked Norway as the best country in the world to live in, this does not have to mean that Norwegians are the happiest people," said Professor of Sociology Kristen Ringdal. Norwegians are very trusting, both towards authorities and in their fellow man.

"We have great faith in societal institutions such as the judicial system and police, and faith in most people," Ringdal said.

-from *Aftenposten*



From Headquarters

If your lodge is planning on holding an event to recognize the special 100-year anniversary of Norway's independence from Sweden in 1905, please let us know! You can send or email ljonsen@sofn.com with event details. We would also love for you to post your event on our website, www.sonsofnorway.com. Click on "Events" and then "Post your Event."



Beloved entertainer Erik Bye passes

He was a multi-talented man – a journalist, author, folk singer/troubadour, actor/entertainer, husband, father – he was Erik Bye. Together he and his politician wife Tove Bye celebrated their Golden Anniversary last year.

Seattle, WA– Erik Eriksson Bye (78) died Wednesday, October 13, 2004 following a long battle with cancer. Born March 1, 1926 in Brooklyn, NY to Norwegian opera singer Erik Ole Bye and Rønnaug Dahl Bye, he moved to Norway at the age of six.

During World War II, teenager Erik joined the resistance movement, and was later forced to flee to Sweden, where he joined the Norwegian police force in training.

Following WWII he returned to the United States to continue his education. He studied English, journalism and drama at Midland College in Nebraska and received a Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Bye returned to Norway and worked as a journalist, including a stint as news editor for the AP bureau in Oslo from 1953-1955 and as a reporter for the BBC until 1958. He joined state broadcaster NRK and worked there until his retirement in 1996.

In his work at NRK, Bye was credited largely with being responsible for bringing 'the Norwegian America' to Norway's eager viewers and listeners. Bye was the most award-winning Norwegian radio and television personality ever. The King of Norway bestowed upon him the Order of St. Olav, Knight First Class and he was a Knight of the Icelandic Falcon Order.

Erik Bye wrote fourteen books and released 19 albums featuring both his own and traditional songs. A champion of the ballad, Bye has often been grouped with Norway's most prominent troubadours such as Alf Prøysen and Otto Nielsen. As a result of his outstanding work Bye was twice recipient of the coveted *Spellemannsprisen*.

In recognition for his cultural contributions Bye received an Honorary Doctor's Degree from Midland College and was presented with the University of Wisconsin's Distinguished International Alumni Award. He was also an Honorary Member of the American Collegiate Press. He maintained his strong ties to the US and visited frequently.

-from *Western Viking*

A Little in English...

Norway - beautiful, expensive, cold

A new study by international survey bureau KRC Research has found that visitors to Norway are struck by the country's natural beauty, high prices and aloof inhabitants, newspaper Dagbladet reports. The study was commissioned by the firm marking Norway's centennial celebrations in 2005.

The study is based on interviews with 4,000 people over the age of 18 from eight European countries.

The strongest impression Norway leaves is one of natural grandeur, mountains and fjords. Very few are impressed with or even notice Norway's humanitarian or peace brokering efforts, which are such a source of domestic pride.

Neighbors Sweden and Denmark were particularly annoyed with the prices in Norway and Germans and the French found Norwegians a cold and aloof people. German and French respondents were also the most critical to Norway's whaling.

Ranking a list of Norway's positive sides resulted in "a nation rich in resources, such as coastal, fish and marine resources", followed by "a nation with a very well educated population", "a nation with friendly and open people", "a nation with a liberal and socially relaxed culture" and "a nation dominated by egalitarian and democratic values" as the top five choices.

One finding that will not surprise Norwegians is that many Danes thought Norway's soccer was the worst thing about the country.

The survey interviewed subjects from Britain, France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Denmark and Sweden.

-from Aftenposten



Litt på norsk...

Turister om Norge: vakkert, dyrt og kaldt

Vakker natur, men høye priser og kalde mennesker. Slik beskriver andre europeere Norge i en fersk undersøkelse. Undersøkelsen ble foretatt i sommer av det internasjonale meningsmålingsbyrået KRC Research på oppdrag for selskapet "Hundreårsmarkeringen Norge 2005".

Ifølge Dagbladet er 4.000 personer over 18 år fra åtte land spurt om hva de mener om Norge. Det største inntrykket folk forbinder Norge med, er storslått natur med fjell og fjorder. Nesten ingen nevner humanitær eller fredsskapende innsats, som nordmenn gjerne liker å slå seg på brystet med.

Naboene, Sverige og Danmark, mener prisene her er altfor høye, mens særlig tyskere og franskmenn mener Norge er en kald og lukket nasjon. Franskmenn og tyskere er dessuten kritiske til den norske hvalfangsten.

En liste med Norges positive sider resulterte i "en nasjon rik på ressurser, slik som kyst og fiske," fulgt av "en velutdannet nasjon," "en nasjon med et vennlig og åpent folk," "en nasjon med en liberal og sosial avslappet kultur" og "en nasjon dominert av demokratiske verdier" som de fem øverste resultatene.

En del dansker mener derimot at norsk fotball er det aller verste.

De spurte kommer fra Storbritannia, Frankrike, Tyskland, Polen, Italia, Spania, Danmark og Sverige.

-fra Aftenposten



Svalbard gets golf

In the end of October the northernmost indoor golf center in the world opens, in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. The idea has taken just over a year to carry out and now arctic residents and visitors have something to do when conditions outside are intimidating, *golf.no* reports.

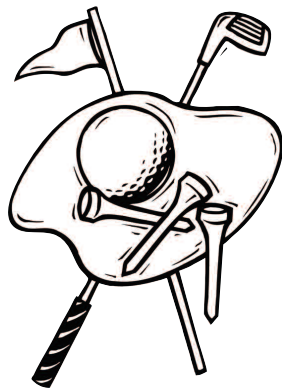
Torill Isachsen Gjerde, manager of Golf Spitsbergen got the idea for an arctic indoor center after moving here just over a year earlier from the mainland and needed a way to keep her golfing skills intact.

"The people of Longyearbyen have a new activity to cheer them up during the polar night," Isachsen Gjerde said.

The center will be open 24 hours a day, every day of the year and will always provide something to do when the vagaries of Svalbard - which Isachsen Gjerde says has "a lot of weather" - force people indoors.

Svalbard was the site of the 2004 Drambuie World Ice Golf Championship.

-from *Aftenposten*



Resources for Everyone!

We would like to remind all Sons of Norway members that a wealth of information is available through our web site, www.sonsofnorway.com. This includes Mini Presentations, Idea Banks and Information Banks small articles on everything from Norwegian holidays to Norwegian games, to "How to Plan a Family Reunion."

This information and more, including lists of our media lending library contents and the ever-popular "Norwegian in 5 minutes a month" with sound, are at your finger tips simply by accessing the "Members Log-in" portion of our website. If you are a new member or have not accessed our website after September 2004, just follow the log-in procedure outlined in our Sons of Norway Membership Portal.