



SONS OF NORWAY

NEWSLETTER

service

Dear Lodge/District Editors:

We are pleased to provide the latest edition of the Newsletter Service. This complimentary service is printed six times each year and may be used as a supplement to your lodge newsletter. The Newsletter Service provides a variety of information, ranging from current news and culture related articles to word finds and crossword puzzles. The Newsletter Service is also available on the Web at www.sonsofnorway.com, under the “Members Only” section. We hope you enjoy this issue and find its content to be beneficial.

Fraternally,

Eivind J. Heiberg

November 2004

A Little in English...

Munch's Masterpieces Stolen

Several armed thieves entered the Munch Museum in Oslo, August 22nd and took the world-famous masterpieces "Scream" and "Madonna" by force. Police are currently combing the capitol for the criminals.

"There were many witnesses to the robbery. Several of the witnesses have naturally reacted strongly to what they have seen. One woman has been driven to emergency in shock. We have mobilized all available resources, on the ground and in the air," Kjell Pedersen, head of crime operations at Oslo police-headquarters, told Aftenposten's web edition.

One of the employees at the Munch Museum café told Aftenposten's Internet edition that she saw two men walking with the two paintings held between them.

One of the criminals reportedly threatened one of the museum staff with a revolver to the temple.

Americans Mary and Christina V. Assiliou from New Jersey were eyewitnesses to the theft.

"We heard no alarm and it took a terribly long time before the police arrived," mother and daughter Assiliou told Norwegian news agency NTB.

-from Aftenposten

november 2004

Litt på norsk...

Ranet til seg "Madonna" og "Skrik"

To bevæpnede personer truet til seg de verdenskjente maleriene "Madonna" og "Skrik" inne på Munch-museet i Oslo på 22. august.

Det er mange vitner til selve rante, blant dem mange utenlandske turister. Flere av vitnene har naturligvis reagert voldsomt på det de har sett og vært med på. En kvinne er kjørt til legevakten med sjokkskader. Vi har satt inn alle tilgjengelig ressurser, i luften og på bakken, sa Kjell Pedersen, vaktleder ved kriminalvakten ved Politi distrikt til Aftenpostens nettutgave.

En av de ansatte på cafeen på Munch-museet forteller til Aftenpostens nettutgave at hun så to ransmenn komme gående med de to maleriene mellom seg. En av gjerningsmennene skal ha truet en av de andre ansatte i museet med en revolver mot hodet.

Amerikanere Mary og Christina V. Assiliou fra New Jersey ble øyenvitne til ranet. "Vi hørte ingen alarm og det tok forferdelig lang tid før politiet kom" sa mor og datter Assiliou til nyheten NTB.

-fra Aftenposten

Group Plans New 'Kon-Tiki' Expedition

Group plans new 'Kon-Tiki' expedition

Five Norwegians, one Swede and a parrot plan to set off again from Peru next year in an exact copy of Thor Heyerdahl's raft *Kon-Tiki*. They aim to land in Polynesia 101 days later.

The new expedition is timed to take place during Norway's centennial celebrations, marking 100 years since the country broke out of a forced union with Sweden in 1905.

"We still need a navigator with a sailing background," says expedition leader Torgeir Sæverud Higræff. "But in Norwegian sailing circles there are a lot of people with a lot of knowledge, so we figure we'll get someone in place."

Heyerdahl first made his famed 8,000-kilometer trip across the Pacific in 1947 and thus proved it was possible to cross an ocean on rafts made of reeds. He also claimed that oceans couldn't isolate civilizations.

One of Heyerdahl's grandchildren, Olav, is among the crew, which includes Inge Meløy in charge of safety and logistics, Anders Berg in charge of film and photos and Dag Oppen-Berntsen in charge of research. Olav Heyerdahl will be responsible for building and repairing the raft.

They're calling their venture "The Tangaroa Expedition," after a Polynesian god of the sea, and their focus will be on environmental issues. The venture is expected to cost more than NOK 6 million, with support from sponsors and private individuals.

They expect to leave from Lima on April 28.

-from *Aftenposten*



Barnebirkie Contest

Sons of Norway Heritage members have an opportunity to design the official stickers for the 2005 Barnebirkie cross country ski race in Hayward, Wisconsin. Contest rules are available in the Summer 2004 issue of *Viking for Kids* or by calling 1-800-945-8851. Entries must be received by November 15, 2004.



Change in Essay Contest

NORTANA (the Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America) has made a minor change/correction for their essay contest. While the deadline for submitting an essay remains the same, December 1, 2004, the award has been changed from June 2005 to August 2005. Information about the contest is available on the NORTANA website: <http://www.nortana.net/essay.html>

December 2004

A Little in English...

Oslo and Paris Expensive Pleasures

Norway may again have been ranked as the best place to live in the world, but capital Oslo is a reminder that this honor often comes at a certain cost.

Oslo and Paris are ranked the most expensive cities in Europe according to a new survey carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The EIU studies the price levels in the world's major cities twice a year, and the good news is that Oslo has company - six months ago it ranked as Europe's most expensive city and the world's third most expensive.

The EIU said in a press release that Oslo has chances of challenging Japanese cities Osaka and Tokyo for the dubious honor of being the most expensive spot in the world.

Two factors are behind the latest changes in ranking, price levels and the exchange rate of the US dollar. Paris' rise is largely attributable to the higher cost of living in Europe due to the weakening of the dollar.

Copenhagen is behind Oslo in fifth place. Stockholm is number 16 on the list and is therefore considerably cheaper than Oslo.

-from Aftenposten

december 2004

Litt på norsk...

Oslo og Paris dyrest i Europa

Oslo deler nå med Paris den tvilsomme æren av å være den dyreste byen i Europa, ifølge en ny undersøkelse.

Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) undersøker prisnivået i verdens storbyer to ganger i året.

For et halvt år siden var Oslo alene om å være Europas dyreste og verdens tredje dyreste by. Nå deler Oslo plassen med Paris, men ser samtidig ut til å kunne utfordre prisnivået i japanske Tokyo og Osaka, som troner øverst på listen, ifølge en pressemelding fra EIU.

Det er to faktorer som fører til endringer i rangeringen. Den ene er endringer i prisnivået og den andre er dollarkursen. At Paris deler tredjeplassen med Oslo er først og fremst et resultat av det siste. Europeiske byer er blitt betraktelig dyrere på grunn av dollarsvekkelsen.

København ligger like bak Oslo på en femteplass. Stockholm er nummer 16 på listen og dermed betraktelig billigere enn Oslo.

-from Aftenposten



See Live Pictures of Norway Online!

Do you long to see the fjords and the North Sea? Perhaps Karl Johan's Street in Oslo? Now on-line pictures of beautiful Norway are only a click away! Simply visit www.aftenposten.no/english/webcam. A list of web cams is located on the right-hand side of the web page. Choose from more than 150 web camera locations all around Norway!

For those of you who wish to see up close and personal views of Bergen and the West Coast, Bergens Tidende (the Bergen Times) offers many choices of its own. Visit www.bt.no/kamera/english for pictures and descriptions of various places near Bergen.

All of this information is available in Norwegian, of course, if you wish to practice your language skills.



Aftenposten Offers Norwegian Radio

It's now possible for Aftenposten readers all over the world to tune in to 18 Norwegian radio stations. Listen to anything from Norwegian Christmas songs to the country's most popular programs.

The stations are broadcasted in Norwegian, but if you're interested in listening to the local language, check out www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article691692.ece. Your computer must have sound capability to listen to the radio.

Among the stations you can listen to are those offered by Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK), including NRK P1, P2 (culture and classical music), P3 (youth channel) and Alltid Nyheter (News all the time). By clicking on the NRK button, you'll get the full list of NRK stations.

There'll be a slight pause after you click, while the sound loads up to 100 percent.

Commercial stations include P4, NRJ and Klem FM (easy listening). By clicking on P4, for example, you can choose among the station's hits, ballads and oldies.

Clicking on "Andre" (which means "other" in Norwegian) will bring you to, yes, other selections such as a special Aftenposten station offering Christmas songs (Aftenposten Julradio).