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Down under

Tunnel digging on
Manhattan Norwegian
style 16-7



In Brief...

Norwegian Royalty in NYC

Princess Martha Louise, husband Ari Behn, and daughter Maud Angelica are moving to the Big Apple. The family has decided to leave Oslo this fall. Earlier plans for the couple to move to New York were postponed when Crown Princess Mette-Marit became pregnant last year. Princess Ingrid Alexandra was born in January.

Rise to the challenge

Sports Illustrated will feature an article on the Tromsø snowboarding festival, The Arctic Challenge. The Challenge was created four years ago by snowboarding legend Terje Håkonsen.

New Statoil head

Statoil has found a new CEO in the 42 year-old Helge Lund. In a statement he said that he will focus on the long-term economy, as well as industrial development of the company both within and outside of Norway. Lund previously worked as the CEO at industrial conglomerate Aker Kvaerner.

Party poll-itics

The Conservative and Labour parties of Norway continue to see increasing support. In a recent poll, the Labour Party was supported by 25.2%, while the Conservatives had 20.2%. The Conservative Party now has greater support than the Progress Party. The poll was conducted by Intera Research for the newspaper Vårt Land.

Healthy King returns

King Harald has returned from his sailing trip to the United States, where he recuperated from bladder cancer surgery. The King remains on sick leave, presumably until after Easter when he will resume his royal duties once again. King Harald's son, Crown Prince Haakon, has been acting as regent in the interim.

Backen finishes third in Iditarod

Kjetil Backen earned a third place finish at this year's Iditarod, winning a prize of USD 57,000 as well as the Wells Fargo Bank Alaska Gold Coast Award, USD 2,500 in gold coins, for being the first to reach the coast at Unalakleet. Backen lost his lead dog, *Takk*, in the final stages of the race.

Front page: Svein Arne Skjervheim has traveled together with this TBM (tunnel boring machine) since it was built in 1990. "I guess this machine will have to do," he says, "seeing that I'm not married." For the last two years, Skjervheim has worked deep underground on Manhattan as a consultant for an American company building a water tunnel. Read the whole story on page 6-7.



Filmmaker Elly Taylor, left, received a generous round of applause after the screening of her film "Through Hell and High Water". The film's heroes, Archie and Nancy Kelly, were the evening's center of attention.

Love in hell

An unlikely love story was the main headline when the second annual Henry Bacon Memorial took place in Washington on February 21.

The month was February, the year 1945, and the Second World War was almost over. For the population of Finnmark at the very north of Norway, though, the worst part of the five-year war had just come.

When the Nazis fled south from Finnmark at the beginning of 1945 because of Soviet forces pushing from the East, they did not leave without a fight. In one of the last Nazi efforts of the war, the Germans torched local houses, arrested Norwegian inhabitants and spent their last torpedos on allied ships in the area.

Nancy Kelly, then a young native of Finnmark, had by February 1945 just endured three ice cold months in a small cave on Sørøya outside Hammerfest. When she and 500 other refugees were picked up by an allied convoy, a brand new life started for the 21-year-old.

Not only did the war end on her part, she also met the love of her life, a young Scottish sailor named Archie. The entertainer and musician was part of the crew on the destroyer HMS Onslaught, and it was his job to make sure the refugees felt a bit better while on the ship.

"It was love at first sight for me," he told News of Norway, adding: "And I'm not just saying that because I'd been on a boat without any women for several months."

On February 23, 59 years later, the couple was the star of the night as the Norwegian Embassy invited 120 guests for a screening of

"Through Hell and High Water," a documentary by Scottish filmmaker Elly Taylor on the extraordinary couple.

The film, followed by a reception at the Navy Memorial & Heritage Center, constituted the second annual Henry Bacon memorial event, recognizing the heroism the crew of the SS Henry Bacon, a Liberty Ship that lost 28 American sailors when it sank on February 23, 1945.

The captain of that ship had ordered the majority of the crew to sacrifice their seats in the lifeboats in order to save the 19 civilian Norwegian refugees on board.

The Henry Bacon had traveled with the convoy that brought Nancy to freedom. The 19 Norwegian refugees were part of the same group of 500 that carried the young girl from the biting winter of war-torn Finnmark to the peace and relative warmth of Scotland.

"I remember all the green," Nancy says in the documentary. "After all those months of white snow and dark water, it was fantastic to see green again."

The couple now lives in the evergreen lands of Seattle, where they moved eight years after the war ended.

Director Elly Taylor, who spent three years on the film, was thrilled after the screening.

"Their story is so fantastic," she said. "I mean — this is not something you could have made up, this is a good example of how reality can be more exciting than fiction."

The 84-minute documentary has been broadcast on several large TV stations in Europe, including the BBC. Ms. Taylor is now hoping that PBS or the History Channel will be interested in running the documentary.

Viestad's still cooking

While *New Scandinavian Cooking* is still airing on PBS stations across the United States, the Norwegian food journalist Andreas Viestad is hard at work finishing season two of his popular TV show.

So far, 106 stations have committed to airing the yet-to-be completed second season of the show, where Viestad travels along the coast of Norway and cooks delicious meals along the way.

Armed with charm, wit, knowledge and a mobile kitchen, Viestad has made a name for himself with both the TV show as well as the companion book.

"In many ways I have rediscovered my own country while making this series," Viestad says.

"I actually found it incredibly exotic."

At a food fair in Minneapolis, MN in February, there was little doubt that Viestad is becoming a household name for many Americans. All the seats were filled when he demonstrated a few examples of his modern-traditional repertoire.

"I've watched every one of his shows," said one of his female admirers.

"Just watching him make all that wonderful food outside in those beautiful surround-



ings makes me want to cook something delicious for myself."

For Viestad, that quote spells "Mission Accomplished."

"Cooking should be fun," he says.

"People are so afraid to make mistakes when they're cooking. But the mistakes are often what makes the food interesting."

One of his aims is to rid the cooking world of the conception that traditional Norwegian food is bland and boring.

"Spices have been part of the Norwegian cuisine for hundreds of years. It was traded in exchange for dried cod. I've actually discovered a recipe for chicken from the 11th Century. It requires cumin and saffron. So don't tell me that Norwegians don't have a history of eating spiced-up food," Viestad says.

Kavli's million-dollar gift

After selling his successful company in 2000, the Norwegian physician Fred Kavli has dedicated his life to promoting scientific research through his Kavli Foundation. At a press conference on March 10, he announced that he is establishing seven new research centers at universities in the United States and Europe — a donation worth no less than \$100 million.

"My goal in establishing these institutes is to support research at the frontiers of science," Kavli said at the news conference.

The centers will focus on three main areas: Astronomy, nanoscience and neuroscience.

"The Kavli Institutes will pursue science at astronomical scales — the universe; at the most infinitesimal scales — atoms and molecules; and in the most complex of all things — the human brain," Kavli said.

The Institutes will be formed at Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Caltech, the Universities of Chicago and California as well as at the Delft University of Technology in Holland.

Two such institutes are already established: the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California in Santa Barbara and the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology at Stanford University.

Fred Kavli is no stranger to donating money to what he sees as worthwhile causes. In 1998 he gave \$2.5 million to a cultural center in the small town of Thousand Oaks in California. The owners promptly named the center the "Fred Kavli Theater of Performing Arts" as a token of their gratitude.

The success story of Fred Kavli begins when he as a young physician founded Kavlico Corporation after moving to California in 1955. The company sold sensors to producers of cars and airplanes, and soon became one of the leading players in its field.

With a revenue of several hundred million dollars a year, the company was attractive to investors. After several years of turning down lucrative offers, the Norwegian eventually sold his company and formed the Kavli Foundation.

In Brief...

Welcome to Norway

71 percent more people were granted asylum in Norway last year than in 2002; of the nearly 600, many came from Chechnya, Iraq, and Afghanistan. More than 3,500 received residence permission on humanitarian grounds. Norway's immigration agency believes the rise in asylum approvals is due to more effective UN refugee guidelines.

Optimistic employers

In a recent survey, 82 percent of Norwegian employers said they planned to keep their staff size stable, while 12 percent will seek to add employees, leaving only five percent with plans of cut-backs. Optimism is setting in across the country, particularly in Northern Norway and around Oslo. The industries looking most to expand jobs are the service, transport, and communications sectors.

"No" once, twice, ...?

Whether or not Norway should enter the European Union has recently been on the minds of many politicians. Erna Solberg, the new leader of the Conservative Party, recently said that she would like to see Norway enter the Union in the next four years. While the leadership of the Labor party agrees, other party heads are contemplating the issue. Norway has voted "no" twice; in 1972 and 1994.

A Norwegian Requiem

An extended version of Ståle Kleiberg's Requiem — created for victims of Nazi persecution — will be performed at the National Cathedral in Washington on September 11 this year. The Requiem, with newly written lyrics by the Scottish poet Edwin Morgan, will be the cathedral's main event on the historic day.

Norman out, Meyer in

Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik has seen the first personell change of his cabinet since he took office in the fall of 2001. Victor Norman, the Minister of Labour and Government Administration has resigned, leaving the position for Morten Andreas Meyer.

Restauranteur? Moi?

Norwegian celebrity chef Trond Moi has fulfilled his lifelong dream of owning a restaurant in the U.S. On March 13, Bølgen & Moi opened its doors in Hudson, New York. If it is successful, Moi hopes to open a Manhattan branch later this year.



Kim Holland has worked as Administrative Director at the Norwegian-American Historical Association for four years. "It's so much fun for us to provide a link to Norway for people," she says.

Bringing the past to life

Most Norwegian-Americans probably know that there are more people who claim to be of Norwegian descent in the United States than there are Norwegians living in Norway. More than five million Americans have a link to Norway. Many of them contact Administrative Director Kim Holland at the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) for help and information about their ancestors.

"There are a lot of people who come here to find out about their families and their own backgrounds," she says.

Holland is one of three people who work part-time for NAHA, which is based at the bottom of a staircase in one of the campus buildings of St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

"These days, we get a lot of requests from people over the Internet, as well. For a fee,

we're happy to do research for those who aren't able to come and visit us in person."

Among the many tools NAHA has at its disposal are thousands of books and other documents that document various aspects of Norwegian-American life and history.

The most astonishing piece of documentation is perhaps the library of 200,000 obituaries. Glued neatly on old library cards and placed in two discarded shelves from the college library, the obituaries manage to bring the past to life.

"Previously you had to be 100 percent Norwegian in order to be included. But these days we'll usually include it if we see mention of Norway in the obituary," she says.

Most visitors with a link to Norway will be likely to find a link to another branch of the family tree in these files. This writer found 22 people by the name of Ronneberg in the

library, all of whom were complete strangers.

Around Kim Holland's neck hangs a bracelet that used to belong to her mother.

"By wearing it, she is always with me," she says.

By coming to work every day, as she has been doing ever since her predecessor Lloyd Hustvedt retired four years ago, she is also keeping in touch with her Norwegian heritage.

"My father always spoke Norwegian, and my grandmother never learned to speak English," she says proudly.

"When I was growing up, I was told of two holy lands by my father. One was the place where Jesus was born, the other was Norway."

NAHA is open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For appointments call (507) 646 3221 or send an e-mail to naha@stolaf.edu.

New stamps depict tourists in summery Norway

Although National Geographic Traveler Magazine put Norway at the top of a recent list containing the world's greatest tourist attractions, a set of new Norwegian stamps show that the fjords are just one of many destinations for visiting tourists.

The three stamps, which were issued on March 26, show three different sides to Norwegian tourism. "Bicycling in Lofoten"

illustrates a biking trip in Norway's northernmost regions. "Paddling outside Hvasser" gives an indication of what a summer vacation on the islands outside Norway's south coast can be like. Finally, "Tourists over Styggebreen" contains a picture of people walking across one of Norway's major glaciers.

"The most exciting one has to be the one with the glacier," says Birgitte Lund Nakken,

a spokesperson for Norway Post.

"Crossing the glacier can be dangerous. During the summer it may contain cracks that are covered by new snow and therefore difficult to see," she continues.

More than 2.3 million people visit Norway each year. Most of them – 28 percent – come from Sweden, while five percent are from the U.S. Foreign tourists spend on average seven days in Norway.

Annan opens Norwegian exhibition

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his wife Nane were the guests of honor when an exhibition featuring eight Norwegian artists opened in New York in February. "It is an opportunity for me to encourage young artists in their work," Mr. Annan said.

The grand opening took place on February 11 at the Trygve Lie Gallery in Manhattan. The gallery, which opened in late 2003, is part of the Norwegian Seamen's Mission in New York.

Mr. Annan was quick to pay homage to his predecessor, Trygve Lie, who became the first Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1946.

"Many people might have forgotten the role he played in the U.N. This gallery serves as a reminder of him and his contributions," he said.

The Secretary-General, who has traveled extensively in Norway, also praised the nation's strong relationship with the United Nations.

"Norway is in many ways what I would call a model nation in the U.N.," he told the crowd of 300 people that had been packed into the Seamen's Mission for the occasion.

The exhibition, curated by famed art expert Elfi von Kantzow Alvin, featured eight Norwegian artists of different styles, backgrounds and ages. The common thread binding them all together is their residency in New York.

"This place is probably one of the most competitive markets in the world for an artist," says Håvard Homstvedt (28), whose two paintings attracted much attention at the opening.

"But it is also the place where great things can happen. The fascination of the place lies in the fact that you can make it really big here if you hit the right combination of hard work and luck."

Along with Anki King, Sol Kjøk, Andre von Morisse, Tomas Ramberg, Vebjørn Sand, Kjeld Tidemand-Johannessen and May Rolstad Trien, Homstvedt's luck and hard work has paid off and is visible to the public at the Trygve Lie Gallery.



Curator Elfi von Kantzow Alvin and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan meet Norwegian artist Vebjørn Sand at the opening on February 11 in New York.



Eva Joly has been at the forefront of the global fight against corruption for many years, and her advice is sought by governments and businesspeople all over the world. Her efforts have been recognized by among others Transparency International, who described her as a person of "extraordinary valor" when awarding her the Integrity Award in 2001. Here she is seen giving a lecture to a group of Russian entrepreneurs in Washington, DC in March.

Teaching de-corruption

Few people are more crucial in the global rebellion against corruption than Norwegian Eva Joly. Hailed by believers in transparency and democracy while hated by corrupt businessmen and politicians, Joly has over the past 20 years cast unflattering light on some of the most shady areas there are. In March, the corruption hunter, now a special consultant for the Norwegian department of justice visited Washington.

Eva Joly is the enterprising and stubborn-minded Oslo-born girl who went from being a student in Paris to becoming one of France's most relentless enemies of corruption. "The bulldozer from the North" plunged into the spotlight in 1995, when the law expert began investigating corruption in the formerly state-owned French oil company Elf-Aquitaine.

Within a short period of time, Joly uncovered a tangled web of lies, whitewashing, corruption and bribes surrounding the seemingly respectable oil company.

Now, Joly is famous and hailed worldwide as one of the most important and knowledgeable experts on corruption. Her enemies are powerful, but her fans are as well.

In Washington, Joly met with a group of Russian entrepreneurs. In her lecture, Joly explained why there is so little corruption in Norway.

"There are many historical reasons for Norway's transparency and lack of corrup-

tion," she said.

"The democratic tradition in Norway is very old – as far as I know the first assembly of free men in Norway happened over a thousand years ago."

She went on to describe how the relatively small differences in income combined with a high level of transparency contributed to the low level of corruption.

"In Norway, your income is made public. For the past few years they have even been posted on the Internet. It is extremely difficult in Norway to have unexplained wealth," she said.

Joly added that public officials were given relatively good salaries, diminishing the temptation to accept bribes.

"Our bureaucrats are considered competent and efficient," she said.

She did not, however, deny that corruption exists in Norway.

Last year, the Norwegian oil giant Statoil came into the spotlight when it was discovered that payments had been made to the son of a former Iranian Head of State at the same time Statoil was applying for licenses to operate in Iran. The scandal resulted in the dismissal of several company heads, among them the CEO and the Chairman of the Board.

"Although the Statoil scandal shows that Norway does experience some corruption," Joly said, "it also shows that society does not tolerate it when it sees it."



Not a boring job

Deep, deep, under the cover of manholes, under the basements of skyscrapers, under the networks of subway stations, under 600 feet of hard, Manhattan concrete, there's a group of men digging a tunnel. And not just any tunnel. This 50-year, \$6 billion, 60-mile water tunnel project was once described by former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as the underground equivalent of the Great Wall of China. In the middle of it all stands Svein Arne Skjervheim, a tunnel boring expert from Etne outside Stavanger in Norway.

“My task is equivalent to that of a machinist on a ship,” says the 43-year-old Skjervheim as he puts on his hard-hat and gets ready to board the elevator that will take us down the shaft and into the beginning of his nightshift.

“I’ll do the rounds and make sure that everything is working, and then I’ll fix problems as they happen. And, of course, I make sure that the sandhogs are treating the TBM the way we want them to.

There are several elements in that last sentence that needs explaining.

Firstly, a TBM is short for Tunnel Boring Machine, a giant, cylinder-shaped monster of a locomotive with steel cutters attached to its front so that it can grind its way through almost any foundation. The TBM, up to 50 feet in length, contains the equipment and the motors that are needed to give the necessary thrust and torque that is transferred to the steel cutters through the cutter head at the front of the machine. A TBM can clear between 55 and 75 feet of rock a day. That’s twice as much as the old method of using dynamite, a dangerous practice that was abandoned as late as in 1992.

This particular machine, the Robbins HP model 1215-257, was built in Seattle in 1990 and is now owned by a Norwegian subsidiary of the Swedish company NCC. Skjervheim has followed the stone-eating power tool from Svartisen outside Trondheim to South Africa to Hong Kong before he escorted it to New York.

At 195 tons, it was the heaviest object ever to cross the George Washington Bridge.

“I guess I know this machine quite well,” Skjervheim says with his trademark modesty.

The sandhogs affectionately refer to this particular machine as “the mole.”

Which leads us to explaining the term “sandhog”.

“The tunnel borers of New York are a separate brand of people,” says Skjervheim. “They’re tough, strong and extremely dedicated. Not everybody can handle the pressure of staying for such long periods of time underground. Those who manage to stick around are called sandhogs.”

As he explains, one of the other guys at the night shift walks past.

“You’re our Norwegian sandhog, Svein,” he shouts and pats Skjervheim merrily on the back.

Skjervheim blushes upon receiving the enormous compliment.

The elevator takes us 600 feet down towards the center of the Earth. Waiting patiently in line at the bottom is a group of joyful-looking men, all covered in mud and a fine layer of dust.

“Good weather for digging,” a man yells as he heads up towards the surface at the intersection of 10th Avenue and 30th Street on Manhattan.

A sandhog next to me laughs back:



Photos: Facing page: Svein Arne Skjervheim, a Norwegian engineer currently working on a water tunnel on Manhattan, inspects the Norwegian-owned tunnel boring machine (TBM) with a colleague. The scars on the granite wall are covered with foam to prevent the tunnel from filling with dust when the TBM drills its way south on the New York island. This page, clockwise from top left: The instructions and signs on the TBM are written in both Norwegian and English; a view of the tunnel. Electricity is transported on the sidewalls, while fresh air is brought in along the ceiling; a young "sandhog" takes a break during the long, long nightshift.

"Who cares about the weather? Down here it rains all the time anyway!"

He's right. As I gaze out into the cave at the bottom of the cylinder-shaped shaft, I see that the entire place is leaking. Water runs along the walls, it drips from the cave ceiling, it lies in puddles between the tracks running along the floor. At either end of the cave I see that the tracks lead away. One track goes north, another south.

What I'm looking at is the largest construction project ever in New York. Water Tunnel Number 3 was talked about already in then 1950s, when administrators decided that having only two tunnels in a densely populated area like Manhattan was a bit risky. So work began on a third tunnel in 1970. If everything goes according to plan, the 60-mile tunnel carrying water from the Hillview reservoir in Westchester, upstate New York to the population of Manhattan will be completed in 2020.

Stage One of the tunnel was completed in 1998, and took the sandhogs from Westchester through the Bronx and northern Manhattan to Queens. Residents in the area are already using the tunnel for their water supply.

Stage Two, known as the Manhattan leg, will take the tunnel to the southern tip of Manhattan before taking a U-turn and heading North to the Lincoln Center. The Manhattan leg was officially kicked off by Mayor Michael Bloomberg on October 8, 2003.

"It is important for the public to understand the significance of what's taking place in the lower depths of our City as we build new infrastructure for the 21st Century," he said.

"This is an engineering feat of gigantic proportion. Though rarely seen by the public, this project will increase our water systems reliability and will instill a sense of security in our City's ability to provide essential services for future generations."

One of the reasons why a third water tunnel is needed is that the two others both have to operate all the time for the city to have a water sup-

ply. Only when the 8.5 miles of Stage Two of the third tunnel has been dug and covered with 79,000 tons of concrete will it be possible to shut down the other two for inspection. It's high time for an inspection – the tunnels haven't been looked at since they were made in 1917 and 1936 respectively.

Svein Arne Skjervheim got the chance to meet Mayor Bloomberg when he opened the tunnel.

"That was quite fun," he admits.

Skjervheim works for NCC, the company that owns "the mole". Together with another Norwegian he makes sure that the machine is working properly and that the sandhogs are treating it the way it should.

"The guys here are great. You know, they could have greeted an outsider like me quite differently."

The sandhogs are indeed a special group. Many of the guys doing the nightshift say that they are third generation tunnel workers.

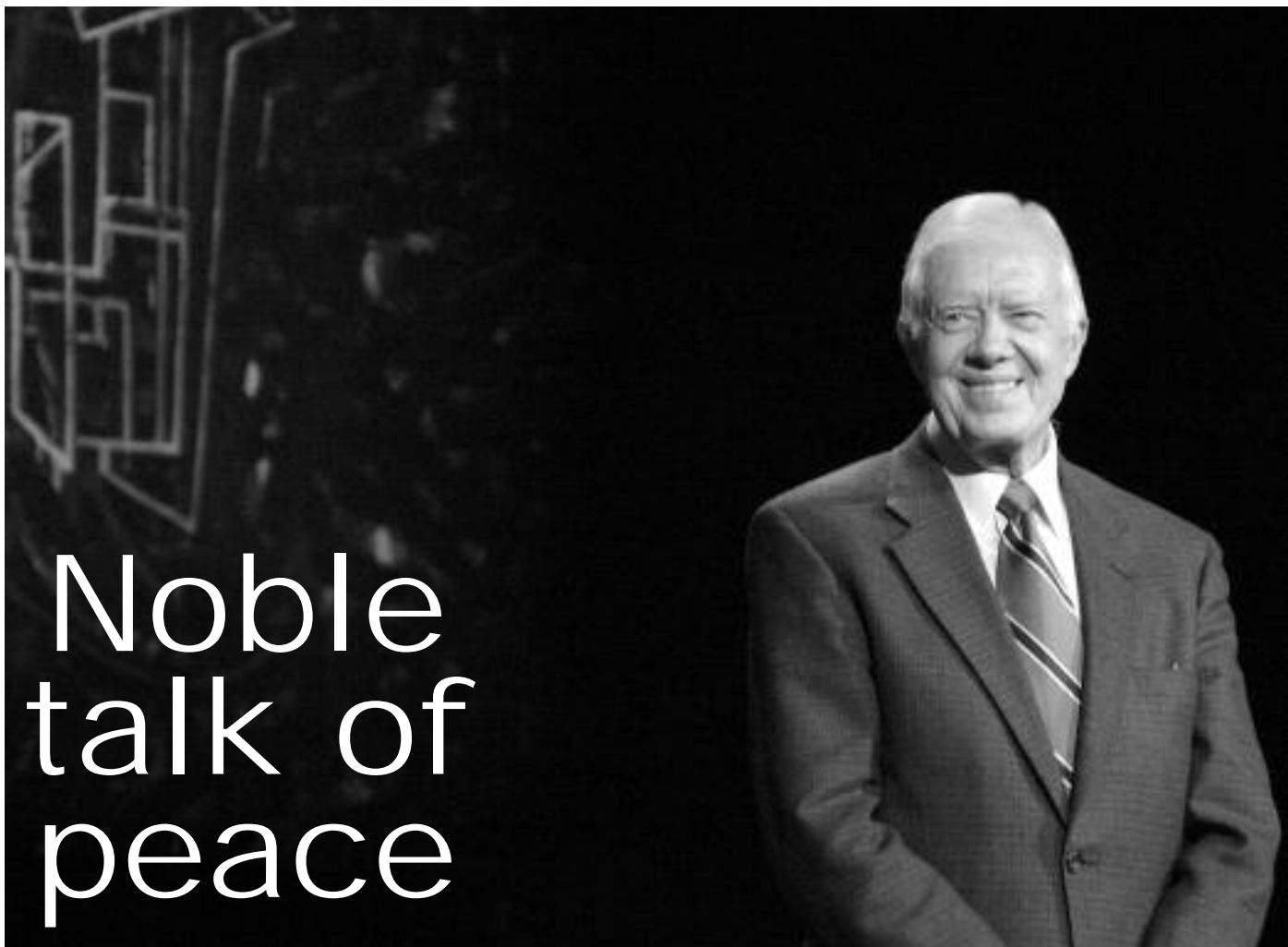
"It's not a healthy job," laments a jovial sandhog called Paul. "My father and my grandfather had trouble breathing when they got older. I'm noticing the same thing, so I've told my kids to find another job. Something on the surface."

Being a sandhog is dangerous. So far, 23 people have died while constructing the tunnel. That's almost one per mile. With nine miles to go in Manhattan alone, and 27 in future phases, the statistics are scary thoughts for even the most tough-skinned, steel-jawed sandhog.

The compensation for this risk-taking is a salary of \$2,000 a week. On a project such as this one, that means a nice, steady income for the guys involved.

After a round of inspecting the TBM and the Norwegian-built wagons behind it that carry the stone and dust from the machine to the shaft to the surface, Svein Arne Skjervheim takes a coffee break in the large cave surrounding the shaft. On the wall next to him someone has painted two flags: One is Irish, the other American.

"Someday, I'll put up a Norwegian flag there." Skjervheim smiles.



Noble talk of peace

One event is sure to place Norway in the world's spotlight every year. Cameras and eyes worldwide are fixed on Oslo's City Hall every December 10 when the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded. But the Peace Prize also serves as inspiration for people on a global scale, perhaps particularly in the Midwest region, where the annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum is held in February. At this year's Forum, none other than former President Jimmy Carter, the Peace Prize laureate of 2002, came to spread a little bit of motivational wisdom.

Former President Jimmy Carter was quick to get to the point during his lecture. "Peace around the world is dependent on the basic right of freedom," he told his attentive audience.

President Carter was the keynote speaker at the 16th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum, held this year at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota on February 20-21.

The Forum, which is sponsored by four colleges in addition to St. Olaf, has since its inception managed to obtain the Peace Prize laureate of the previous year as its keynote speaker.

Jimmy Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Nobel Committee on December 10, 2002.

Speaking in front of 2,700 people at the college's Skoglund Auditorium, Mr. Carter noted that Norway's humanitarian efforts were a goal at which the United States should aim.

"We give one thousandth of our income to others. Norway gives seventeen times as much," he said, adding that economic growth in the third world was essential for there to be peace in current war-torn areas.

"The greatest challenge we face is the growing gap between the richest and the poorest countries in the world," Mr. Carter continued.

"We still live in a great country, with great potential. But that potential can only be realized if we adhere to the broadest definition of

human rights: the right of every person on earth to live in peace, the right of everyone on earth to be free. The right of everyone to have a democratic government, to have their environment and our environment protected, not destroyed. The right to have individual rights not be abused, and to alleviate suffering."

The former President, who opened his speech by playfully lamenting the fact that the Norwegian government never invited him for a visit while he was in office, was introduced by his former Vice President Walter Mondale, who is famously of Norwegian descent.

The day before Mr. Carter's remarks, many of the thoughts he shared with the audience at the Skoglund Auditorium had been voiced by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, who opened the Forum.

Dr. Brundtland, who headed the World Health Organisation until last year, emphasized the need to keep a strong focus on health in the third world.

"We have massively underestimated the effect health can have on economic development," she said, adding that ten billion USD is needed each year for the next ten years to help fight malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis.

Like Mr. Carter, Dr. Brundtland also emphasized the need for the first world countries to give a greater proportion of their incomes to



Photos: *Facing page:* Former President Jimmy Carter spoke to an audience of more than two thousand during his keynote speech at this year's Nobel Peace Prize Forum. He had little trouble charming his audience with jokes, stories and a message of peace.

This page, clockwise from top: Former President Carter received a standing ovation following his speech. Among the applauders was his former Vice President Walter Mondale, who also introduced President Carter at the Forum; Former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland (right) and Geir Lundestad, the Secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Committee and Director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, met with children from the Minneapolis area at a peace prize seminar for students. Some of the children were dressed as former prize winners. Here, Mr. Lundestad presents a chocolate "Peace Prize" to Alfred Nobel himself; President Chris Thomforde was proud to host this year's Nobel Peace Prize Forum.



help development in the developing world.

"Look to the Nordic countries," she told students when receiving an honorary doctorate at St. Olaf on February 20.

"I'm not ashamed to say that, although I used to be too bashful to say it back when I was in office. Look to the Nordic countries and to what they have done in the field of development assistance."

Elaborating at her forum opening, Dr. Brundtland encouraged her mostly young audience to try to help increase the American contribution to support development in the third world.

"If you could double or triple the U.S. contribution from 0.1 percent of GNP, there could be made major changes towards solving the main problems we face," she said.

"There is no common future unless we invest in people, in all people, in their future health and well-being. Without it, there will be no hope of sustainable development, prosperity and peace."

Chris Thomforde, President of St. Olaf College, was a happy man when the Forum had opened. "It's good for us to get this opportunity to gather all these fantastic people," he said, adding that he was inspired by Dr. Brundtland's remarks.

"She gave us a great formal presentation that challenged us to think about several important issues," he said.

Nodding, Peter Agre, the 2003 Nobel Laureate in physics, added: "She's such a good role model."

The two-day forum was filled with inspirational speakers and motivating workshops. Among the speakers were executive director Dr. Eboo Patel of the Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago and the honorable Julia Chang Bloch, a former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal.

"I like helping kids strengthen ties in the religious community," Dr. Patel said during his plenary speech. "It's the fundamental place where we develop values and leadership skills."

The annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum was founded in 1989 and is still the only program of its kind outside of Norway. In addition to St. Olaf, the Forum is sponsored by the following colleges: Augsburg (Minneapolis, MN), Augustana (Sioux Falls, SD), Luther (Decorah, IA), and Concordia (Moorhead, MN).

Each of the five colleges was founded by Norwegian immigrants, and they still retain a strong connection to Norway. Their affiliation with the Norwegian Nobel Institute is crucial because the Peace Prize winners are strongly urged by the Institute to hold the keynote speech at the Forum.

"It works well for both parts," says Geir Lundestad, the Secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Committee and Director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute.

"This place is the heartland of the Norwegian America. For us, the initiative the Forum represents is positive and very important. It is definitely a great way for us to keep in touch with the Norwegian environment here in the United States."

This year marked the 11th visit to the Forum for Lundestad, who had brought a bag full of chocolate "Peace Prizes" from Norway which he gave away to people he met during his stay.

The 17th Peace Prize Forum will be held at Augsburg College in 2005, the year when Norway celebrates one hundred years of independence. If everything goes according to plan, Shirin Ebadi will be there to hold the keynote speech. And Geir Lundestad will arrive with a big bag of chocolate peace prizes.

Dig down your salmon...

Some days are quite unlike other days for chef Frode Selvaag at the Norwegian Ambassador's residence. Thursday, March 11 was definitely different.

With make-up in his face, a microphone on his collar and four cameras pointed at himself, the young Norwegian had to get accustomed to a new role — that of a TV chef.

"Aaaaaaand... action!"

Producer Dan Corrigan (seen to the left on the center photograph below) gives the orders as director Larry Herskowitz watches the activities on a monitor in a neighboring room.

Corrigan and Herskowitz are in a hurry; although they arrived at the Residence at 6:30 a.m. they need to work fast in order to wrap the entire kitchen scene by the end of the day.

Three dishes are on the menu: a gravlaks starter, a bacalao main course and a dessert featuring Norwegian krumkaker. The gravlaks is described underneath, while the other two dishes have been featured in the

past two issues of News of Norway.

The taping of Selvaag's kitchen magic is part of the Norwegian episode of Embassy Chefs, a series on the Goodlife TV network hosted by Christopher Kent.

"The show is so much fun," Kent says, "although I wish I could participate a bit more in the watch."

He has already hosted 13 shows under the direction of Larry Herskowitz, of which 11 have been aired.

"This is definitely one of the most beauti-



Frode Selvaag, the head chef at the Norwegian Ambassador's residence, had to accept that his kitchen was filled with cameras, crew and a whole lot of equipment during the filming of the "Embassy Chefs" episode. "It was actually a lot of fun," he says.

ful sets we've been at," says Herskowitz between two takes.

"And Frode is such a nice person to work with."

The show will air on the Goodlife TV network in April.

...and see it done on TV



Gravlaks wrapped in lefse with sweet mustard sauce

Since making a good gravlaks takes several days, it is a good idea to make a big portion. This recipe calls for one large salmon, enough for about 20 people if used as an appetizer.

Gravlaks

- 2 3lb. fillets
- 2 cups finely chopped fresh dill
- 2/3 cup salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. Aquavit (optional)

Sweet mustard sauce with red onions

- 6 Tbsp. sweet grainy mustard
- 3 Tbsp. dijon mustard
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 Tbsp. finely chopped dill
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 1 Tbsp. brine from the gravlaks pan

1. Rinse the fillets in cold water and pat them dry with a paper towel.
2. Combine the salt and sugar and rub the mix on the fleshy side of the fillets.
3. Place one fillet skin side down in a deep dish. Sprinkle over the dill and Aquavit and place the other fillet, flesh side down, on top.
4. Cover with plastic wrap and put a plate on top. Place a heavy object, approximately 5 lbs., on top of the plate. Leave the salmon in room temperature for an hour and then place in the refrigerator for 3-4 days.
5. Turn the fish every day and baste with the brine that accumulates. Before you serve the fish, make sure to remove the brine and the dill. Place a fillet on a cutting board and make thin slices with a carving knife. Cut the rest of the fish into sizes of your choosing and place in the freezer after wrapping them in plastic foil.
6. To prepare the sauce, mix all the ingredients together and stir well until they form a firm, thick sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste.
7. To assemble the fish as seen above, you need lefse. If you can't find it or bake it, it is perfectly acceptable to use a fresh potato tortilla.
8. Spread the sauce over the lefse and cover 3/4 of it with thinly sliced gravlaks.
9. Roll the lefse as tight as possible. Leave for two hours to three days in the refrigerator.
10. Cut the roll into pieces of about 2 inches. Serve with the rest of the sauce.

calendar of events

Slooper Monument Project

The project has been an extensive project about retrieving a bauta (monument stone) from Tysvær in Norway to California, a project which developed from four enthusiasts' interest in Norwegian-American immigration history. Raising an historical marker such as the bauta to honor someone's memory is not an uncommon practice in Norway and has roots that date back to Viking times. This time it is raised as a dedication to the Norwegian-American Jakob Slogvik who immigrated to America on a Sloop in 1825.

Where: Napa Tulocay Cemetery

When: The ceremony takes place on *Saturday, May 15, 2004*

Info:

http://www.wheelerfolk.org/slooper/slooper_monument_project.htm

"Tvert Imot - Images in the Mirror of Ibsen" - Paintings by Raoyal Nebeker

Nebeker is an internationally recognized figurative painter of Norwegian and Danish heritage. Entitled "Tvert Imot" (*"Just the opposite" - Ibsen's last words*), the exhibition highlights the artist's continuing interest in the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen (1828 - 1906). Admission: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and college students, \$4 children 5-17, children 4 and under: free.

When: April 1 - 30, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Where: Lisa Harris Gallery, 1922 Pike Place, Seattle WA
Info: Marianne Forssblad (206) 789 5707

Fe-Mail concert in San Francisco

Fe-mail is a noise duo consisting of Maja Ratkje and Hild Sofie Tafjord, both known from the anarchistic improv quartet SPUNK. The girls have played together for 10 years, but had their debut concert as a duo in Tokyo 2000. Since then they have spread their sonic inferno around the world.

They play electronic music based on improvisation with live sampling as well as recordings of their own generated sounds and field recordings. It is characterized by the use of old fashioned, analogue electronic and acoustic sound sources such as pan pipes, harmonica, and other underesti-

mated instruments, side by side with computers and samplers. Fe-mail's debut album, the mighty vinyl "syklubb fra hælvetet" will be re-released on important records in the end of February 2004.

Where: Recombinant Labs Compound, 1070 Van Dyke, San Francisco.

When: May 3, 2004

Info: <http://www.femailmusic.com>

Rosemaling on the Edge

The Vesterheim Norwegian-American museum presents an exhibition of contemporary rose-maling. The artwork is testing new areas of rose-maling traditions, from rose-maling on cement, kinetic sculpture, furniture and garments, often with a humorous spin of the traditional Norwegian rose-maling. The exhibition features award-winning artwork. "Rosemaling on the Edge" is presented in conjunction with "First Flowers: Rosemaling by Early Masters" and the symposium "The Art of Rosemaling: Traditions Meet the Creative Mind"

When: From March 27th through May 17th, 2004
Where: Vesterheim Norwegian-American museum, Hauge Gallery in the museum's Westby-Torgerson Educational Center. 523 W. Water St, Decorah, Iowa
Info: 563 382-9681 www.vesterheim.org

The 55th Biennial Sangerfest of The Norwegian Singers Association of America (NSAA)

Twelve male choruses from five states comprised of some 300 singers will demonstrate their enthusiasm for good music and singing.

When: June 10 - 12, 2004. At June 12th 7 p.m. a concert in the Great Hall of the Wahington Pavilion of Fine Arts is open to the public.

Where: Sioux Falls, SD

Info: www.washingtonpavilion.org or call 605 367 6000

Norway Day

The Norwegian League of Minnesota arranges the 72nd annual NORWAY DAY. The entertainment of the day starts off with a fun-loving "barnetog" - a children's parade. Performances by some of the best singers, dancers and musicians of the Norwegian-American community will follow throughout the day. A combined

choir of the Norwegian Glee Club and the Nordkap Male choir of Minneapolis will lead the national anthems of Norway and the U.S. Also, Norwegian and Norwegian-American picnic food and arts and crafts will be on display and on sale the whole day. The day opens with an open air Christian worship service at 10:00 a.m.

When: Sunday, July 11th

Where: Minnehaha Park on the south side of Minneapolis, MN

Info: 952-832-0164 or 612-866-0373

Marit Følstad in FILLING UP/ SPILLING OUT

Norwegian artist Marit Følstad takes part in this collective exhibit at PBICA with her work *Strategies For Living* (2003). In *Filling Up/Spilling Out*, the body serves as a vehicle for challenging limitations and boundaries of the physical and social being. Comical and disturbing actions executed for the camera focus on the human form, engaging its orifices and residues in unusual rituals. Exposing vigor and vulnerability of flesh, these artists continue the tradition of using the body: breathing, eating, smoking, dressing, as material in these performative works. Exhibition curated by Jody Servon, assistant curator at PBICA.

When: March 20 - June 6, 2004

Where: Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, 601 Lake Avenue, Lake Worth, FL 33460
Info: (561) 582-0006, info@palmbeachica.org or www.palmbeachica.org

SISSEL tours the U.S. with her new album "My Heart"

My Heart, the luminous new Decca album from the Norwegian singing sensation Sissel, has an inspiration that is pure and simple. "This is the music that is closest to my heart right now," Sissel says. With its March 2 release in the U.S., *My Heart* is the right album at the right time. Sissel's whirlwind career, with worldwide album sales topping 8 million, at last has landed triumphantly in the U.S., where her self-titled Decca debut album last year won her new fans and inspired a PBS special. *My Heart* made its debut in Norway at the end of 2003, entering at the top of the pop charts with the new REM and Josh Groban albums. With the release of her first album,

the New York Post predicted, "Sissel is about to hit the big time here in the States." Sissel will tour the U.S. coast-to-coast in April and May. The tour begins April 20 in Troy, NY., and ends in mid-May with two concerts in St. Louis. Some East Coast dates are:

When: Tuesday, April 20

Where: Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 7 State Street, Troy, NY 12180 (north of Albany)

Info: For tickets: Scott Sauer, WMHT, (518) 357-1782. Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Information: (518) 273-0038, <http://www.troymusichall.org/contact.htm>, www.sissel.net

When: Wednesday, April 21

Where: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Washington D.C.

Info: For tickets: Janet Riksen, WETA, (703) 998 - 1782,

When: Thursday, April 22

Where: WHY Y Studios, Philadelphia, PA

Info: For tickets: Suzanne Fiske, WHY Y, (215) 351-2044

When: Sunday April 25

Where: Park West Chicago, 322 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, IL 60614

Info: For tickets: Jerry Liwanag, WTTW, (773) 509-5535. Park West Information: (312) 440-9191

Captain Sabertooth (Kaptein Sabeltann) at Tribeca Film Festival

Calling all pirates! This animated feature film is based on the wildly successful Norwegian films about the pirate *Captain Sabertooth (Kaptein Sabeltann)*. The film will be launched at the Tribeca Film Festival in May. The creator, Norwegian artist and writer Terje Formoe, is the brains behind this concept, which also includes a live show in a theme park in Norway, numerous CD's, a magazine, and merchandise. Tribeca Film Festival, founded in 2002 by Robert De Niro and others, received more than 300,000 visitors last year.

When: Saturday, May 1 at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Where: United Artists Battery Park Theater 11 (102 North End Avenue - Vesey Street), New York City

Info: For tickets:

www.tribecafilmfestival.org.

Please check www.norway.org for complete and continuous updates.

A new spring for www.norway.org

The newspaper has often been put to death. It happened in the early 1920s, when radio started delivering news across the airwaves in realtime, straight to the listener's living room. It happened twenty years later, when the television began feeding its audience with images of newscasters reading out the latest events.

And it happened in the 1990s, when the dotcom-bubble was growing at a pace resembling the tulip craze of Holland in the 1600s. As the Internet became an increasingly important source of information to millions of consumers, a similar increasing number of newspaper editors were twitching nervously at the prospect of becoming superfluous.

Again, the news of the newspaper's death was premature, if not straight-out wrong. Although the newspaper industry in both the United States and in Europe has undergone some pretty large changes over the past 20 years, there is little doubt that we need our papers even if all the information we need is available at the click of a button in front of our computer screen.

This newsletter has existed since 1941, and it has grown steadily during those 62

years. This edition of News of Norway will be printed in more than 35,000 copies, and it will be read by approximately 100,000 people.

Judging by the many, many e-mails, letters and telephones we receive here at the Embassy, the newsletter is a welcome source of information about Norway and Norwegians. In addition to the privately-owned Norway Times, Viking Magazine and Western Viking, we feel that News of Norway provides a necessary tool for communication with you, the readers.

But this is not to say that there is no need for us to provide you with up-to-date information on the Internet! For the last ten years, we have used our web pages at www.norway.org as a wonderful tool to tell readers about news, events and information relating to Norway. Every month, a total of 90,000 people stop by, and we are happy to note that this number is constantly on the increase.

On April 13, which is probably around the time this newsletter lands in your mailbox, Norway's Foreign Minister Jan Petersen will formally open the Embassy's brand new

Internet site as well as its sister site at www.norway.com.

Our address will be the same, and we will of course continue to provide you with information and news. There will just be more of it, presented in a way we hope is even more enjoyable to the eye.

In a major project that has been several years in the making, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo has developed a brand new site that will be used by all the Embassys of Norway around the world.

Here in the United States, we are a dedicated group of people at the Embassy and the four Consulates General who will make sure that the pages are presented with an American audience in mind -- meaning that our pages will still be a great source of events, information and news relating to Norway and Norwegians in the United States.

So, take a look at the new pages and tell us what you think. We're constantly aiming to provide you with the best source of information we can.

KRISTOFFER RØNNEBERG | EDITOR

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