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**GRAPE
VINE**



A Presidency for the 21st Century?

SHOULD THE KING HAVE A CROWN?

**VIGDÍS: ICELAND'S 2ND
MOST FAMOUS WOMAN**

**WHAT MAKES AN
ICELANDER ICELANDIC?**

**PADDY'S LIFE IN
THE CARWASH**

**DOES REAGAN'S GHOST
LIVE IN HÖFÐI?**



the REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

ISSUE THREE : JUNE 25 - JULY 8 , 2004

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Dear Grapevine,
I'm a bit confused with your mission statement: "The aim was to create a paper that would be informative and entertaining, as well as a useful guide for what is going on in Reykjavik for visitors as well as locals." You indicate that the paper is for tourists. I'm not sure what to make of your #2 issue in 2004 with the black women wearing an Icelandic costume. As a tourist why would I want to come to Iceland to experience the multiculturalism that I can see in practically every American town and most large cities in Europe[?]. If I come to Iceland and engage in the social and cultural activities I want them to be Icelandic/Nordic and not African.

Regards,
G. Pomrenke, Virginia USA

Talk to Sasa. He'll put you on his mailing list.

Received SMS:
Tuættir ad skammast tin..lata eikkern negra vera islenska tjodbuningnum. Ekki gera somu misok tvisar

I'd translate this, but it would lose too much of its style in translation. When you have learned the fundamentals of the Icelandic language, or indeed any language, I might talk to you. To tell you you're an idiot.

A black woman wearing Icelandic national costume!
Whatever next?
T-shirts depicting Jesus being crucified on the Icelandic flag for sale on Laugavegur no doubt.
Hassan Harazi
101 Reykjavik

Are you suggesting that our cover was intended for shock effect? Then please tell us what about it was so shocking. It looks fine to me.

What a pity that the organisers of Icelandic National Day couldn't have chosen another day to hold their celebrations rather than the same day as Og Vodafone Day. This is now the second year running that they have shamelessly hijacked this celebration of mobile telephones, text messages and polyphonic ring tones.
Hassan Harazi
101 Reykjavik

The weather is brought to us by phone company Tal. Why shouldn't Independence Day be brought to us by Vodafone? At least they seem to do better with the weather.

Hi you there, I just wanted to thank you for showing how prejudiced Icelanders are in fact towards black women, ie towards two minorities, but it made me happy that that at least there were some WOMEN who wanted to lend you these beautiful clothes.
Regards, Halla.

Ps.1. It seems typical of Icelanders to not want to admit how prejudiced they are.
Ps.2. I am very prejudiced against Icelanders.

Thank you for existing and thank you very much.

Well, we weren't trying to show that ALL Icelanders are prejudiced towards black women. They're not, not even the non-women. But it's nice to get a non-Nazi letter for a change.

You know you're doing something right when you're pissing off the wrong people. After our first issue of the year, which had an article about the new immigrant laws, we received a letter addressed to Paul Fontaine-Nikolov. Paul has this to say:

It's always a pleasure to find something in the mailbox that wasn't sent out in mass circulation. Something personal, something from the heart. Like white supremacist literature.

Without any note of explanation as to what I'm supposed to do or think about it, Nordwave ("the Euro-American racialist update") arrived at Grapevine's office, addressed to me. Do they want me to join? Is someone trying to point out the existence of racists in Iceland? Is this a veiled warning of some kind?

The cover story, by "Anonymous", first lamented "that the Jewel of the North, Iceland, should be overrun by mongrel bastards that share our blood." Scenes from American History X came to mind; namely, the pseudo-intellectual racist played by Stacy Keach who doled out literature to his swastika-tattooed minions. Then this cover story went on to discuss one racist Icelander who belched forth his ideas during a newspaper interview and was summarily charged with a hate crime. While I'm all for freedom of speech, I admit I have a hard time feeling sorry for this guy.

In this same newsletter, I learned such fascinating tidbits as Rudolf Hess' assassination by the British Secret Service, and that "only 375,000" died at Auschwitz. "Only 375,000"? Even if this were true - and it isn't - to be able to say "only 375,000 died" must take an amount of callousness that Pol Pot would find exemplary.

It's a sad fact that even in 2004 there are still people who place so much importance on skin colour, as if it were capable of tarnishing everything from a national costume to the nation itself. It'd be a good idea if they all shipped off to Utah and set up their own bleach-blonde utopia; I don't think any of us would miss them. The rest of the world is moving forward. Without them. And I think they know it.

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THE FUTURE'S SO WHITE

by Valur Gunnarsson (I gotta wear shades)

It always rains on the 17th of June, they say. The tradition goes back to the first 17th of June celebrations in 1944, where it rained so hard the newly elected President had problems signing the oath. And as, in the popular imagination at least, it has continued to rain on that day every year since, it seems like divinity passing judgement on the state of the nation. Much like waking up with a hangover every New Year's Day seems to symbolize yet another miserable year.

This year, though, the weather was sunny if not calm. The rays fell down as the wind blew the flags to full erection, symbolising a vibrant and stormy, but hopefully also a bright, future. And it seemed most people were in a mood to celebrate without excluding anyone living here. As we all stood there on Ingólfshóll, celebrating the best and the worst of our culture from the Lady of the Mountain (who, by the way, did not have blonde hair this time) to the latest production of Hair, the republic turned 60. I sincerely hope that we can move away from a colour-based description of society and will not worry about whether the future is black, yellow or white, but concentrate on making it a bright one for us all.

A serious matter

The day of unity over, city officials were busy fishing Og Vodaphone popcorn bags from the pond and 15 year olds were recovering from their hangovers in an enviably short amount of time. We now had to start thinking again about finding a figurehead for this nation of ours, someone to symbolize the wind and the rain and the Lady of the Mountain and the hangovers and the endless productions of Hair, Grease and Fame and everything else that goes with being Icelandic. Except the figurehead is no longer just a

figurehead. As anyone living here will have noticed, the President, for the first time in the history of the republic, last month refused to sign a bill put forward by Parliament. When the president refuses to sign a bill, the constitution states that it will then go to referendum. How exactly this is to be conducted it says nothing about, sparking yet another controversy. The constitution is little changed since it was brought here by a Danish king in 1874, except the word "king" has been erased and substituted with the word "president". It also states that parliament wields the powers of the presidency except, it seems, when the president refuses to sign bills. The constitution even states that the president can choose or dismiss his ministers. Everyone has just always assumed this to mean that they should be democratically elected. There is no doubt the constitution is in bad need of an overhaul. But I do not question the president's right not to sign. I just wish he would have done so a lot earlier, on various different occasions. Bringing democracy to the people is something I am generally in favour of. Representative democracy is a 19th Century invention, when you had to traverse miles on horseback to get to the nearest election booth. The physical act of voting has become a lot easier in the age of information, and we should be



A helium balloon (pictured in the background) for the kids on Independence Day costs 850 krónur. Contraception is hard to get here, but it makes you think twice.

allowed to do it more often. Whether you are in favour of the media law or not, whatever decision will be reached will be easier to live with if you know the majority of the country has approved it. If the majority of the population had voted for damming (and damning) Kárahnjúkar, I would be more willing to accept it. If the majority of the population had voted for US military presence rather than protesters being gassed, I would have been more willing to accept it (they're leaving anyway). If the majority of the population had voted for the immigrant laws, I would move somewhere else. But at least I'd know. Hence, the president, who has the power to put disputed laws to referendum, can play an important part in the democratic process. But with great power comes great responsibility, as the saying goes. From now on, we will not just be voting for a figurehead to go to cocktail parties on our behalf. We will be voting for a person that has the final power to refer decisions to us. It

now actually matters who gets to be president. The tradition of treating all opponents to an incumbent with mockery must come to an end. This has become a serious matter. It so happens that we now have three presidential candidates. Baldur Ágústsson is rightly concerned about domestic affairs, such as the increasing debts of the younger generation. Ástþór Magnússon wants world peace. I tend to agree. Ólafur Ragnar, however, due to his long experience, is the most presentable of the three. All these virtues are ones I want my president to have. But, unless there's a last minute breakthrough in genetic research, we'll have to choose one. We talked to all of them and, on page 11, you'll find our interviews where the three contenders present themselves, in alphabetical order. Choose wisely. You never know when you might need them.

Grapevine will return on the 9th of July in expanded form. Please feel free to send us material.

Standing Still

Name? Birgir Örn Thoroddsen
Where are you from? Err.... I'm from the City of Árbær.



What are you doing? I'm going to the opening of Paul McCarthy & Jason Rhoads's art show; The Sheep Plug. It's at gallery Kling & Bang.

Have you been here long? Two days.
What is the best thing about Iceland? It's unspoiled nature. No, wait, we fucked that up already. Then it's...hum...ahh.. the clean and unpolluted air we breathe here.

What is wrong with Iceland? Public paralysis, the population's inability to protest against anything (see page 6 for some helpful pointers -ed.)

What's your favourite spot in Reykjavik? The spot where you can see over all of Reykjavik when you drive down Ártúnsbrekka.

What can Iceland learn from the outside world? It can get more variation from the outside world.

What can Iceland teach the outside world? We can teach the world how to respect other people. Well, no, I forgot how we behave in the weekends. Let's say we can teach the world how to make the present blend in with nature.

Where would you prefer to live? In Reykjavik.

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THE DAY AFTER THE CAPELIN DISAPPEARED

by Kristinn Hrafnsson

One would think that a nation overly dependant on fish export would get at least a little bit worried when a whole stock of fish suddenly disappeared from the waters, but Icelanders are keeping their calm in light of recent report from the Icelandic Marine Institute (MRI) on the disappearance of the capelin.

The capelin is a small insignificant fish nobody particularly likes to eat, except the Japanese, but is dried, ground and sold abroad as livestock feed. The capelin is not Iceland's top export but still brings in about 6-7% of the total export revenues of the country. What should be more worrisome, though, is the fact that the capelin is the preferred diet of the cod, which is Iceland's top export. The cod stock hasn't shrunk in terms of number but the IMR found that each cod is leaner and smaller. The cod is simply hungry.

The scientists are telling people not to lose sleep over these changes even though the fish is paying for everything imported from cars to designer jeans. They point at the fact that the capelin stock has vanished before, in 1980 to be exact, but it did eventually return. Until it shows itself again, the Icelandic economy will simply have to live with losing 11 billion ISK a year. The marine scientists seem to have managed to calm the Icelandic nation, and even though they have no idea where the capelin is, they have a fairly good idea why it decided to play hide and seek this year.

According to the IMR, the ocean surrounding Iceland is dramatically warmer than in previous years and the capelin apparently isn't particularly happy with it. The temperature change is up to 5 degrees Celsius. For anybody who saw film The Day

After Tomorrow, this should seem a phenomenal change and certainly not a mere fluctuation. The president of the IMR, Jóhann Sigurjónsson, stresses that this does not have to mean that we have a catastrophe in the making and he will tell you that the sea has been this warm before, even though you have to go back almost 40 years to see a similar ocean climate. The scientists do not know why there is such an abundance of warm seawater flowing to the coasts of Iceland now; they will not rule out global warming but stress that there are always natural fluctuations.



Whaling boats lie dormant in the harbour. Will the capelin boats go the same way?

Every Icelander is taught in school that the reason for the general wellbeing in this northern country is the Gulf Stream - the warm ocean current that flows from equatorial areas to the north. Without the warm current, Iceland would be almost, if not completely, uninhabitable. Also, the current is salty and mixes with colder and fresher currents close to the country, hence forming the ideal environment for the fish. So this warm current brings mild climate and money to the bank. Of course the good news is that the weather is better and that almost every month a temperature record is broken. Maybe somebody should worry about the banks and the long-term effect of possible global warming which brings us back to The Day After Tomorrow. Some scientists think that global warming will at first warm up the northern hemisphere with pleasant benefits such

as drinking coffee at a table outside the cafes in Reykjavik without being covered in thick blanket of snow. But then the warm climate will rapidly melt the arctic ice (which it certainly has in recent years) and cold sea water will flow in abundance to the south. Now, pessimistic scientists predict this could lead to severe changes, such as disrupting the natural balance in ocean currents, such as driving back the Gulf stream and then... well then we would have a new Ice Age.

In that case, it would not be so pleasant to sip coffee at an outdoor cafe in Reykjavik (probably buried anyway under a mile thick ice) and Iceland would be at last true to its name.

So shouldn't somebody be at least a little worried about the capelin?

Apathy is a Myth

by Paul Fontaine-Nikolov **A workshop in civil disobedience**

A line of protestors are seated on the ground, linking arms, and chanting political slogans. Security guards stand around, waiting for the police, who are expected any minute. Journalists fire questions at the protestors. This has never happened before in Iceland. Only what's happening isn't an actual protest - it's a workshop.

A workshop on non-violent civil disobedience hosted by Milan Rai and Emily Johns, two long-time political activists from England, took place at MÍR cinema on Vatnsstígur. The incident described above was a form of role-playing, wherein the different people in attendance could act out the different players who take part during an act of civil disobedience. I arrived just as the "police" were dragging the "protestors" away.

Role playing for peace

In addition to role-playing exercises there was training in tactics and organisational skills. For example, a limp body is harder for the police to drag away than a tensed one and consensus decision-making gets things done without the need for a leader or leadership (not in this office -ed.). A complete crash-course for the budding activist.

Both Rai and Johns emphasised peaceful action throughout the course; that using non-violent means of protest draws the sympathy of the

"We are being lied to about the power we have."

public, which in turn puts pressure on decision-makers in power. Conversely, when protestors use violence, they alienate the public, while the decision-makers can take the public's attention away from the issue and place it on the violence itself.

Jail for ten days

After the course wrapped up, the participants' reactions seemed divided between the unconvinced and the greatly inspired. I asked Rai some of the questions I didn't get to ask during the course, the first one

being, "What got you active politically?"

"I got involved politically while I was in school, during the British invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982," said Rai, "From this, I got involved in the nuclear disarmament movement. It was a friend who introduced me to non-violent civil disobedience during college and I've been practicing it

ever since. My first act was to break into the Upper Hayford Air Base, paint a hangar, and wait for the cops to show up. Since then, I've been arrested about a dozen times, been to court maybe seven or eight times, and been to prison twice; once for 48 hours, and once for ten days."

People care

"In terms of the public," he continued, "activists often take on this very elitist idea that most people care only about watching football. I believe



An Icelandic protest in full swing.

that most people do feel hurt by the major issues of the day, and that it's not irrational to avoid thinking about things which cause you pain if you're convinced of your powerlessness. We're brought up feeling this powerlessness, and it's careless of us to confuse a lack of action with a lack of caring.

Non-violent civil disobedience is not a panacea and it's not the only way.

News in brief

Cartoonists against prejudice



Over 500 people are currently working to create a 15 minute cartoon to be called "Samferða" ("Together"). The short is directed against prejudice in daily life. A technique that's never been used in the country is being employed, ensuring that anyone interested can participate in the making of it.

Palestinians kicked out



The three Palestinians who arrived here in the beginning of May have all been deported. They arrived with the Smyril Line ferry from Denmark and had forged or stolen documents. They were arrested two weeks after arrival and asked for asylum.

No Mad Cow disease



It may be the most expensive country in the world, but at least it doesn't have mad cow disease. According to the international institute OIE, Iceland, Argentina, Uruguay and Singapore are the only countries completely free of the disease.

For my part, I'm from Nepal, which is in the middle of a civil war. Both Bush and Blair are supporting the repressive regime there, and I haven't done anything about that yet. But I will."

Anyone interested in more on Milan Rai can go to the Justice Not Vengeance website (www.j-n-v.org).

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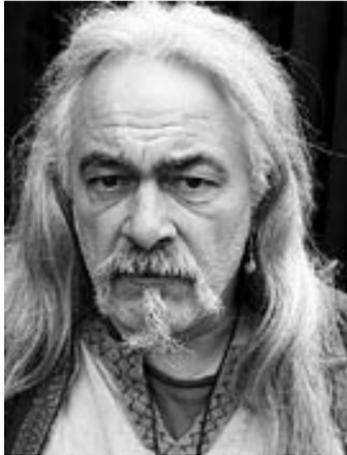
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“EVERYONE WHO EATS DRY FISH AND DRINKS A LOT OF BEER CAN BE ICELANDIC.”

by Eydís Björnsdóttir

A couple of years ago, foreign Vikings first graced our shores to entertain at a Viking festival. Some people were offended by the fact that they were foreign, convinced that Vikings should be a copyright trademark of Iceland. Even though these opinions have been in the decline, it is interesting to note how some things become holy once they're part of national ancestry. Part of the problem is the fact that people have very different ideas of what it takes to be Icelandic. To give us a new perspective on the matter, we asked some foreigners what they thought makes a person Icelandic. Some suggested that appearance plays a big role, and that the typical Icelander is blonde with blue eyes. Others seem to think that the conditions we live in and the character we possess is the essence of our nationality. Most seem to agree it's got something to do with fish. This is what 10 foreign Vikings thought makes an Icelander Icelandic:



Name: Harold
Age: 50
Place of origin: Denmark

You have to be born in Iceland. I've been up here many times. There are not so many people and you all have to work very hard. You have to be strong. It is not a place to be weak. You've got to like fish and lamb.



Name: Cecilia
Age: 31
Place of origin: Sweden

You have to eat dry fish. You don't get a lot of sun, but you drink lots of beer. So everyone who does that can be Icelandic.



Name: Gunnvá
Age: 21
Place of origin: The Faeroe Islands

Icelandic people are fine. You are similar to Faroese people. You have received me well. Sometimes people become annoyed if I don't understand them when they are drunk.

Name: Niels Harbo
Age: 38
Place of origin: Undisclosed. Spent two years in London

It is to be free and close to nature. It's so many things. It's to be a Viking. To have mountains around, be near the sea, and have spirits in the face. That is what London lacks.



Name: Troll
Age: 30
Place of origin: London

You're all mad. You've been stuck on this island for too long. It is a combination of this and being forced to eat fish every day for centuries which has made you crazy. But I like crazy people, so I have a great time here.



Name: Dean Hobbs
Age: 36
Place of origin: London

You're all wrong. The hot water is wrong, it stinks like eggs. Your sense of smell is somewhat different. The road signs are weird and the language strange.

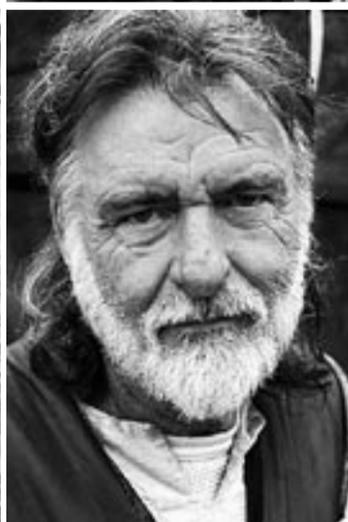
Name: Philip Burthem
Age: 42
Place of origin: London

You have to believe in the little people, not want to sleep very much and pay a great deal of attention to your reputation. You've also got to like fish.



Name: Robin Cowel
Age: 36
Place of origin: London

You have to have looks that appear to have been sculpted from an iceberg, the strength of granite and a stomach of an ox. You have to be very happy to be talking to beautiful women all the time.



Name: Tsali
Age: 59
Place of origin: Texas

I have encountered nothing but polite and nice people. I haven't experienced the stress of Texas. It is very peaceful and I don't have to worry about the law. The fish is fresh, it doesn't taste fishy.



Name: Robin Evans
Age: 64
Place of origin: Texas

You have to have blonde hair and steel blue eyes. That is very distinctive, otherwise you don't look typical. I haven't seen that in the other European or Scandinavian countries. I see a lot of strength in Icelanders. You are cordial and warm people. You are beautiful people. Very healthy, there are not many heavy people (compared to Texas, you mean? -ed.).

News in brief

Iceland really is expensive



According to ECU international, Iceland is the most expensive country in the world to visit. I'm sure this is news to all of you. Japan, Martinique, Norway and Denmark (where we go to do cheap shopping) come in next. Oh, and before you ask, Egypt is the cheapest.

The strongest priest in the world



The Reverend Gunnar Sigurjónsson lifted 510kg in front of an international judge in Digranes church, thus becoming the strongest priest in the world. The previous record was at 127kg, set by Bosnian priest Ante Ledic, a Catholic who works among war casualties. Gunnar was quoted as saying he had buried the previous record.

Mayor catches salmon



The Mayor of Reykjavík, Þórolfur Árnason, opened the city's salmon river for the summer. Seven salmon had managed to swim through the counter by the electrical plant by the time the river opened. Three have already been killed, one by the mayor himself.

Icelander at risk in siege



A 13 year old student came to class at Bull Run elementary in the State of Virginia, USA, armed with two rifles and a handgun. In the classroom was an Icelandic boy, Andri Þór Guðmundsson. The gunman surrendered after a two hour siege by police. No Icelanders were harmed. Nor, incidentally, was anyone else.

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Blanda Hydro Station
On the Kjölur route – North Iceland

Holy cow!
Art exhibition – one picture for each day of the entire "Great Cow Year of 2003."



Laxá Hydro Station
Near Húsavík

Goya In the vaults
The faces of ignorance, pride and arrogance, devils andimps from the series Whims (Los Caprichos).
'In co-operation with the Akureyri Art Museum.



'What of the Gods?'
Sculptures by Hallsteinn Sigurdsson and an exhibition on the Nordic gods and their myths.

SHOULD THE KING HAVE A CROWN?

by Robert Jackson

When Ólafur Ragnar declined to sign the media bill and sent it to the people for referendum, the presidency, until then a sleepy backwater, became the only issue on the political agenda. In keeping with the journalistic mood of the times, I will happily mix my metaphors and say that - the gloves were off and it got personal

Some background is needed. The position of president is best defined as a paradox. The role was created at the same time that the country had fought for and gained its independence from Denmark in 1944. Perhaps typically, for a country fond of its idiosyncrasies, it did so at a time when it was still under the occupation of a foreign power, the United States of America, as was Denmark, which had for several years been governed from a jack-booted Berlin.

Whatever the timing, it was one of the most significant moments in the nation's history and huge efforts were made in drawing up the constitution to ensure that the country had a government that reflected the independent nature and needs of its people. Merit was seen in a Head of State and the position of President was created to fill the void left by the role previously played by the Danish King. But significantly, all powers given to the president were simultaneously vested back to the Prime Minister. It has been said that the president was essentially created to be 'a king without a crown'.

"Don't mess with government and we won't mess with you."

The constitution gave the president the authority to decline to sign any bill put forward. If he did so then a national referendum would be held to settle the matter. This article has been left untroubled for the last 60 years as there have been two essential 'traditions', which have been followed by the four men and one woman who have held the post since its inception.

Firstly, no competitor will stand against a president seeking a new mandate, and secondly, the president will not refuse to sign bills put before him by the government of the day. These traditions have created a relationship between president and country that can best be described as 'don't mess with government and we won't mess with you.'

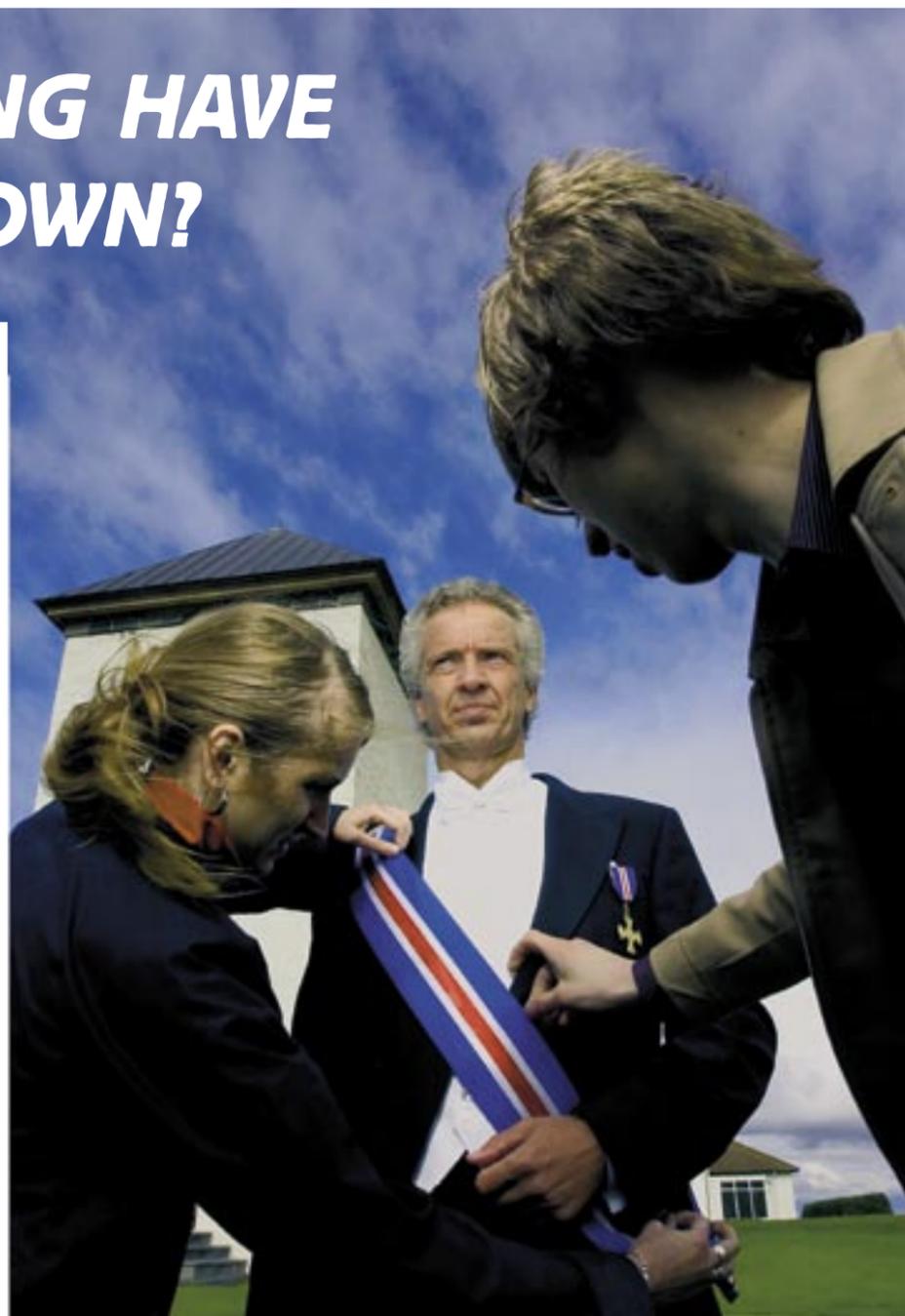
All that changed in June when Ólafur Ragnar declined to sign the media bill. This is not the time to go into the rights and wrongs of this particular bill, (for now. Ed) but suffice it to say that it was controversial and by its very nature dominated papers, radio and television for many weeks in the build up to the debate. Accusations of personal vendettas and vested interests flew back and forth between the antagonists, some of which were close to libelous. The debate itself, which coincided with the beginning of the Presidential Election campaign, saw the bill passed, and it duly went across the water to Bessastaðir, only to be returned with a large blank where normally a signature should be.

Off went the fireworks. The papers, who had already been pushing the obituaries further to the backpages as they published letters from all who would send them, pushed them further back still. Discussion programmes were extended and it seemed for a while that Euro 2004 would be forgotten altogether, as people readied themselves for the inevitable clash between Davíð Oddsson and his troublesome president. We sat and waited for the bell, like spectators at the ringside. We were to be disappointed.

Two masters of the skills of politics decline to join battle

The president read a short statement saying that he had not signed the bill as he felt that to do so would create disunity in the country. More importantly, he declined to go into detail, take questions or make any further comments. For a while there was no response from the prime minister who, when he finally did speak, gave a dignified statement about the need to hold a referendum and that, as this had never been done before, some time would be needed to prepare for it. The sense of anticlimax was palpable. Here we were at the very moment when the debate, which to this point been waged with venom and fury, had now become political history. At this same crucial moment the two protagonists, both masters of the skills of politics, declined to join battle. I'm sure that the interests of unity and the impending June 17th Independence Day celebrations had much to do with the stand-off, but stand-off it was and of an almost Mexican kind.

It is against this background that Ólafur Ragnar is seeking re-election for his third term of office. Ólafur Ragnar, unlike his predecessors, is a politician to his core; a former political science professor and then leader of the People's Alliance, he subsequently enjoyed office as Finance Minister between 1988 and 1991. A family man with a popular wife, Guðrún Katrín, he was seen as a needed change of image from the independent single mother that the previous incumbent, Vigdís, had successfully given the role. With the marriage to his second wife Dorritt, he has been more active in recent years on the international stage, supplying the media with a rich diet of international parties and celebrities. Icelanders have lapped it all up. There is genuine consensus that he, along with Dorritt, are doing a good job in promoting the country abroad, that he is fulfilling the role as unifier at home. All seemed set for a long and happy presidency for as long as he wanted the job.



A politician, not a diplomat

Timing is of importance, because the media bill was due for signature the day after nominations closed for prospective candidates to run against Ólafur Ragnar. In one sense the timing could not have been better for the President. It effectively meant that he could block the bill, thereby entering the political arena, but no *new* opposition could be mounted against him for doing so until the next presidential election in 2008. What he was risking was that if the country felt that he was wrong over the bill and decided to galvanise behind either of the two candidates, then he could lose all. It was the considered risk of a politician, not a diplomat.

It is widely felt that Ólafur Ragnar will be re-elected on 26th June, that he will brush aside the two sparring partners who have entered the arena, but he cannot be assured an easy ride for his next term of office. In refusing to sign the media bill, he has crossed the line and there is no doubt that when Davíð finally decides to leave the corner he will come out swinging. It will be all too easy to accuse Ólafur Ragnar and his first lady Dorritt of having ambition of the sort that in a Shakespearean context, is always the prelude to a downfall.

For his part, Ólafur Ragnar will have to persuade the country in the build up to the election that he has made a brave decision based upon conviction. As a professor in the science of politics he will be more than aware that to thwart the will of an elected government is to enter a battle, which goes to the very soul of democracy.

What is unarguable is that the Ólafur Ragnar's refusal to sign the Media Bill has meant that the two traditions that have lasted these sixty years have now been relegated to the history books. He could not be much clearer about his intentions for the future; the former finance minister and political leader wishes to see the presidency play a fuller and more active role in the government of the country.

Does Iceland have a king in search of a Crown? Is the country now ready to give him one? We will find out the answers in the months to come.



ÁSTÞÓR MAGNÚSSON:
**“I am the only
Icelander to have
gone to prison for
my beliefs about the
war in Iraq.”**



Ástþór Magnússon is mounting his third campaign for President now. He first appeared in 1996 when he ran and secured 2.8% of the vote. In 2000 he ran again but failed to secure the 1,500 nominations necessary to mount a legitimate campaign, although he is adamant that the counting of the names was rigged. He has had a successful career as a businessman and runs on a platform for world peace. He feels that he has, in the past, been given a rough ride by the media.

“It is strange how Icelanders talk about democracy and yet when it comes to presidential elections, for this important office there is a tradition to rubbish and discredit any one who runs against the incumbent.”

On his views for the president’s ability to pass a bill for referendum, he is clear. “I am in favour of the ability to call a referendum but I believe that it has been misused in this case. Firstly, Ólafur Ragnar is undoubtedly connected to Nordurljós. He will say that the group did not exist at that time but the companies and people who supported him certainly did. Secondly, what he has done may be good for his short term popularity but will ultimately undermine the office of the President. There is even discussion that the role would be abolished completely.”

Grapevine asked him whether he felt this was a satisfactory election. “We should have more candidates. Between 3 and 5 is a healthy number and easy to handle in the media. I have for weeks been campaigning for the elections to be held in a democratic way.”

And then asked how he would approach his first days in office. “I would use my time to have the Althing debate and agree once and for all how this veto can and should be used. I would work with the government of the day. You don’t have to change the constitution but you can put a legal framework around how it is used and any President with sense will follow them. So then certain issues would go to referendum. This would be healthier because it would mean that governments can only go so far without having to go back to the people in a referendum. It would avoid the kind of havoc we are experiencing now.”

So what is the role of the President?

“The president should be a unifier for the country and also a unifier for world peace. This can be done without being at war with the government and would be positive for the people of Iceland. This is the key to my campaign. I use the illustration of Vigdís and women’s rights. I would put world peace at the top of our agenda. 90% of Icelanders were against the war; where are they now when they have a peace candidate?” Ástþór is no stranger to controversy, when he pointed out that when Iceland joined the Coalition of the Willing, creating the possibility that Icelandic passenger airplanes would be a legitimate target for Al Qaeda, he was arrested. “I am the only Icelander to have gone to prison for my beliefs about the war in Iraq,” he points out.

BALDUR ÁGÚSTSSON
**“The President
is first and
foremost
a President
for Icelanders.”**



Baldur started his career as a wireless operator on board a fishing boat, and moved on to become an air traffic controller at Reykjavík city airport. Meanwhile, he also set up Iceland’s first security firm, Vardi. In the past years he has lived in Britain where he has been engaged in property business.

This is his first time to the presidential elections. With privately funded campaign headquarters, merchandise, television and press advertising, his campaign has the feel of something that could build momentum in the three weeks allotted to it. Grapevine asked him about the referendum.

“I personally believe that Ólafur Ragnar should not have used it on a smallish issue such as media bill. It is a bit like a lifeboat. You don’t use it when you want to go on a trip, you use it when there is an emergency and this was not an emergency. The fact that nobody has used it for 60 years is proof that parliament has done a good job. This is a local issue, it is reversible. It is not a time to use the lifeboat. It is there for instances such as the introduction of the death penalty which are irreversible. What has happened as a result of the president not signing is a division of the nation.”

Why did he decide to break with tradition and run against an incumbent president?

“My feeling is that the respect for the Presidency has gone down in recent years. I look back to the times of Kristján Eldjárn and Vigdís. They managed to be neutral; they were the father and mother of the nation and everyone looked up to them. They did not belong to a political group. I want to go back to that time. The president can do more locally. The president is first and foremost a President for Icelanders. The bulk of his work should be in this country. He should, of course, support industry and culture abroad but mainly his work is here. Crime, drugs, deteriorating health systems, the young carrying too much debt – I would get involved in these issues.”

How would you present Iceland overseas?

“We can teach by example if we can build a society which is harmony and happiness. Show them that it is possible to bear down on drugs and crime. That would be a wonderful example to show other people.”

Have you had a fair hearing in the media?

“I have no complaints. I will say that the campaign started a little late, but I have been treated fairly.”

ÓLAFUR RAGNAR GRÍMSSON
**“Parliament is not the
sovereign body, but
the nation.”**



Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson is the current head of State, elected to the office in 1996 with 40.6% of the vote. His second term was uncontested in 2000.

But how would he define his role?

“There are many roles. The formation of government, encouraging the nation to join hands to work together and promoting the business and cultural communities abroad.

The Icelandic presidency has changed very much over recent years. It is a very dynamic role, it is not an end result of absolute traditions or defined thinking, it moves and grows with the times. But its position is enshrined in the constitution which states that there is joint legislative power and makes it clear that parliament is not the sovereign body, but the nation. Parliament can never be above the nation and on critical issues it is the decision of the nation that is supreme. The essence is that the nation chooses the individual who is capable and will if necessary exercise his or her judgement on issues of fundamental rights. Any person who is not ready to exercise that responsibility, for whatever reason, cannot really carry on his or her shoulders the expectations, trust and responsibility that the nation has put in the presidency and should not put themselves forward for candidature. This is the cornerstone of the Icelandic constitution, but of course the most desirable thing should be that these occasions never arise.”

How would you answer those who say that instead of unifying the country you have disunified the country?

“I would say that the president has many roles. One of the roles is to unify the country certainly, but the president has responsibility in the constitution. He has to exercise his rights as part of the legislative process, he may have to enter negotiations with respect to forming a government, and his responsibilities might contradict with his unifying role. There often is no solution that will make everybody happy. We live in a time when people seek a president who is actively involved. It is absolutely clear that as a 21st century president I have to be much more active than some of my predecessors.”

Is there any need for change in the constitution?

“I don’t think that there is any doubt in the constitution about the current position. But there are those who argue for a stronger president and those who would see the position weakened. I’m sure we will enter into some deliberations about this in the coming months and years, and I welcome that.”

Ólafur Ragnar enjoys a high level of media exposure, so we asked whether the timing of the media bill had benefited his presidential campaign.

“The timing was not of my choosing. Other candidates have had four years to mount campaigns. I surely cannot be criticised for taking the most difficult decision to refer the media bill to a referendum shortly before an election. It means that the country has the power to react not only through the referendum but also the ballot box. And at a time when the matter is still fresh in everyone’s mind.”

SPEEDING IN THE CAR WASH

by Pádraig Mara



The summer I arrived in Iceland was one of the most beautiful on record. I spent it standing in a parking lot in the industrial outskirts of Reykjavík. After my dismissal from the shipyards, I scanned the wanted ads daily, picking ones that seemed as though tax concerns were optional, you might say. I answered one that looked promising: a car-wash looking for employees. "Speed was the key", it said. Yeah...

I was hired on the spot by the twin brothers who ran the place. Brothers One and Two explained the deal to me, each in turn. I swiveled my head back and forth, finding the same face with the same voice.

BROTHER ONE: We pay once a week, 30% of the total money made divided by how many workers there are.

I nodded. Brother Two piped up. BROTHER TWO: We pay all in cash, no tax taken out. It's a good job. Very soon we're expecting an average of 50 cars a day.

I nodded again. I was beginning to get a heavy David Lynch vibe. Brother One had something to add. BROTHER ONE: Just remember to always be quick. No one likes to wait. ME: I gotcha.

I walked off figuring to myself, 30% of 50 cars per day divided by five workers seemed like a pretty good bit of money to take home each week. However, I thought, 30% of zero cars per day divided by five equals, uhh, carry the two...sweet fuck-all.

I shook that thought off. I went to the back room to introduce myself to my workmates. I found the four of them, grey faced and bloodshot eyed, playing cards around the table. I asked one of them if there was anything to do. He shuffled the deck, slammed it on the table with a bang. "We wait", he said. I was dealt in.

We showed up every morning at 8 o'clock, Monday through Saturday. We left at 6 o'clock every night, and no earlier. In between there was waiting. Waiting and speed.

One of my workmates was having a debt owed him payed off, if not in cash then at least in something he could use. So he got speed. It was always there. It made us wait faster. We talked little, never bothered to get to know one another, each caught in this situation for our own reasons. We listened to the radio, "Have a nice day" by Stereophonic was always on. We played with our cell phones. Drummed out complex rythms on the table and against the concrete walls. We ate candy. We jogged around the block. We read pornography and smoked, one cigarette lighting the next. We stood out front watching as 50 cars per day constantly failed to pull up. Downtown it was summer, suntans and clinking glasses. Here it was chocolate and amphetamine, like the siege of Stalingrad.

This is not to say that cars NEVER came. They came just often enough to give us hope that perhaps the promised 50 cars a day was on the horizon, perhaps tomorrow. Maybe tomorrow we'd have a nice day.

When the odd car did come, they were handled with all the grace of a carjacking. Idiot customer would idle up to the cave-like entrance now and again and roll down his window...

IDIOT CUSTOMER: Hi, I'd like... CARWASHER: (speeding their ass off) Out.

IDIOT CUSTOMER: ...a wash and just some tire...

CARWASHER: Yes? OUT!

The car would be pulled inside at the speed of sound and stopped, tires screeching. Four of us would fall on

it like hyenas on a dying gazelle. It was the fifth car's job to make small talk with Idiot Customer.

IDIOT CUSTOMER: Beautiful day though, isn't it? CARWASHER (pupils dilated, nodding their head too quickly to "Have a nice day" on the radio): What are you, the weatherman?

We could wash, detail, polish and shine one car, depending on size and level of filthiness, in under 13 minutes. That's quick. We couldn't help it at this point, it was impossible to slow down. Speed was our way of life.

Brother One or Two (Who could tell the difference? Who cared?) would check in once or twice a day to make sure the empty cashbox was still present, that we'd been faithfully recording all business done and to assure us that 50 cars per day was just around the corner. Tax-free money. We'd all be wealthy at the end of the summer. Didn't we all feel lucky?

We were doomed and we knew it. Weeks passed. Blue skies, warm weathered weeks. The 50 cars per day never materialized, we'd average two on a busy day. We were lucky to take home 1,500 kr. on Saturday afternoon. I sang along to "Have a nice day", 25 times too fast, creepy-crawling around the concrete floor. "Doot do doot do doot do doot do doo, have a nice day, have a nice day", as we waited at the speed of light. School was starting soon. Something had to change.

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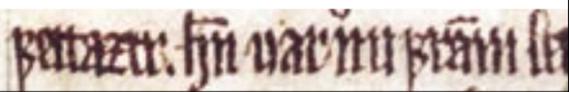
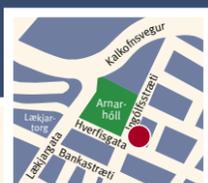
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GUESTS OR GHOSTS?

by Lára Hanna Einarsdóttir

Höfði House in Reykjavík - ever heard of it? If yes, fine. If no, you should...and I'll tell you why. Built in 1909 for the French consul who only stayed there until the First World War, Höfði was the largest and most elegant house in Iceland's capital.

Several people owned and lived in Höfði over the next 50 years, among them one of Iceland's most revered poets and entrepreneurs, Einar Benediktsson. From 1938 to 1951 it housed the British Embassy which was moved, reportedly because the ambassador couldn't live with The White Lady, the ghost of Höfði.

Reykjavík City then bought the house and it was restored in the 60s. Since 1968 it has served as the official reception facility for the city council.

A Ten-Day's Notice That Shook the World

Höfði's fame soared beyond Iceland in October 1986 when, with only 10 day's notice, it became the site of an

international political event that reshaped the world.

When US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev held their summit in Höfði in 1986, nothing much happened... or so we thought. However, it's generally acknowledged that this meeting was the beginning of the end of The Cold War and the collapse of Communism in Europe.

Höfði has been and is closed to the public but I was curious to know whether it would be of interest to foreign visitors. My experience as a tourist guide has taught me that this house is much better known than we realise and it's been rumoured that a wealthy Japanese businessman was so taken with it that he built an exact replica of Höfði in his homeland.

We



managed to be let into Höfði and with us were four American guests on a short visit to Iceland.

The interior of the house is absolutely beautiful. The designers in charge of renovation and preservation have done a marvellous job. Tasteful colours, the old and new intermingling effortlessly and fantastic artwork by Icelandic artists of all generations adorn the walls and windowsills, enhancing the spirit of this old, historic house.

Having walked through the house from the basement to the top floor we all felt privileged for having been there and breathed in a rare chapter of history.

But what do the Americans think?

I asked the Mertz family from New Jersey, USA: Would Höfði House be of interest to visitors?

BARRY: Could be one of the most popular sites in Reykjavík.

FAYE: Providing everything is left intact, definitely.

SCOTT: No comment. (He might have a future in politics!)

MICHELLE: This house signifies peace and as such it's of great interest to everyone.

Ronald Reagan has passed away now and although we could neither see his ghost, The White Lady, nor other resident phantoms on this bright summer day, we most certainly felt the peaceful spirit, the great soul and

the undeniable historical significance of Höfði.

The question remains if the city will open the doors to guests or if the ghosts will continue to live peacefully in this beautiful White House in Reykjavík.

I like the idea of combining the two.



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AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

There seems to be a dearth of presidential candidates here for what has suddenly become a very important office. Variety is the spice of elections as well as life, so we want to see some more contenders. These are the people we would like to see run for president in 2008.

Bishop Karl Sigurbjörnsson

The bishop seems concerned about the lot of all people living in Iceland, regardless of colour or creed. He also mentions us in his speeches. As president, he could mention us in even more speeches. The bishop for president!



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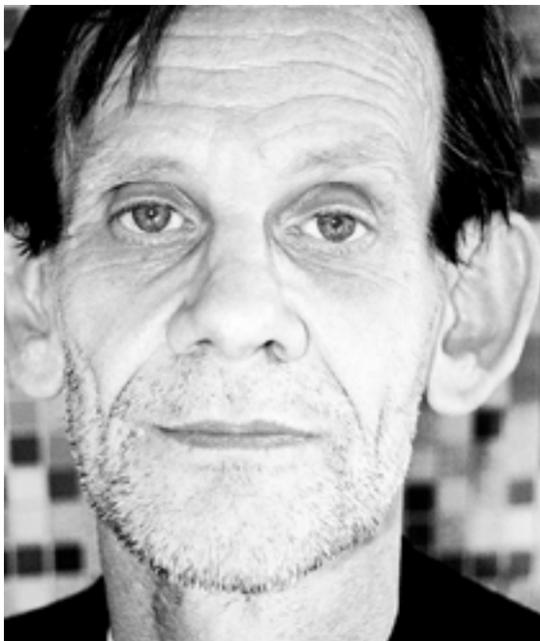
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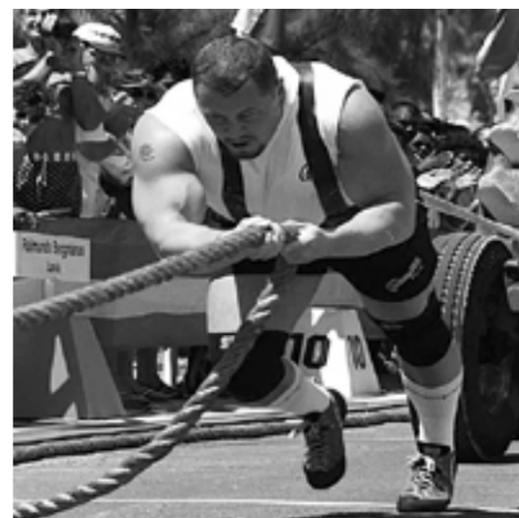
Megas

Megas is perhaps not the most intelligible person in the country, but he may very well be the most intelligent. Mike Pollock is translating him into English, so he could be his PR man abroad. It's about time Megas earned a decent wage. He may even have his album released. Megas for president!



A whale

Whales are really intelligent, we're told. Which is rarely said of political leaders these days. Foreigners like whales. And since the president represents us abroad, they'd be impressed by a whale. A whale for president!



Magnús Ver

Some of our leaders suggest that we need an army. With this man as president, we wouldn't need an army. He'd be a one-man army. Which could come in handy, as we believe leaders should fight wars themselves rather than send off teenagers. Magnús Ver for president!

Linda Pé

The most beautiful woman in the world. As voted for by foreigners so it must be true. Her charm would come in handy for a president. And the tabloids already like her, which seems to be essential these days. Linda Pé for president!



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THE BAND THAT ROCKED THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

by Bart Cameron



"We kind of kept our clothes on," says Trabant drummer Doddi about the band's performance this winter at Bessastaðir, the president's house. "Though Ragnar did open his shirt."
 When last the Grapevine reported on Trabant, they were all but naked and simulating sodomy while screaming "I'm a nasty boy." Now they're releasing a CD recorded at Iceland's White House. In America, this would suggest that the band had found Christ and/or rehab. Here it just means the president - or the president's wife actually - has remarkable taste.
 Dorrit Moussaieff coordinated the show after Ólafur Eliasson requested that the band play at the reception for his "Frost Activity" exhibit. It was she who undertook the sizable task of convincing the Master of Ceremonies at Bessastaðir that the band was trustworthy.
 As the recording of the show, sold as a limited edition EP, indicates, the band did control themselves. "We just played lounge versions of our songs. We were waiting to see if we would get kicked out or not," says Doddi of the evening.
 The band wasn't kicked out. They were invited to play a second set, this time improvising with jazz musicians Tómas R. Einarson and Ómar and Óskar Guðmundsson. The result, the third track on the EP, was a surprisingly smooth modern funk.
 And the result of the strange evening, was, well, more strange evenings.
 The Baroness Francesca Von Habsberg enjoyed Trabant's Bessastaðir performance so much that she invited them to the city of Basel to play at a reception. As the band relates it, the Baroness "had a festival party where the guests were only millionaires and art collectors. There was a dinner and then they cleared the tables and we came on."
 For this gig, Trabant allowed themselves to cut loose, freeing themselves of their clothes as quickly as possible. Though there was one limitation. "We were upset that we couldn't use stage bombs."
 Trabant's single "Nasty Boy" will be distributed this summer, and the band will begin recording their next album in the fall. They will be playing very few shows while planning the next album, although they will be playing at the Idno theatre at Verslunarmannahelgi (first weekend of August).



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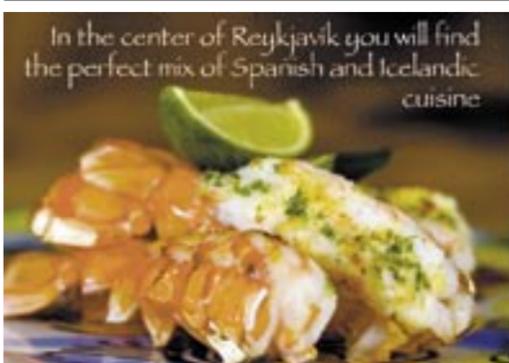
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GUIDE TO THE CITY CENTER

This pullout has all the information one might need, so for a safer journey, pull it out and put it in your pocket.

CAFE'S

1. Segafredo

By Lækjartorg
McDonalds has departed from the centre of Reykjavik and instead Italian chain Segafredo has arrived, which isn't a bad trade-off. You can smoke indoors, which gives you a nice continental feel, the staff is Italian and the prices are in Euros as well as krónur. Although Segafredo isn't one of the more expensive places, you wonder whether knowing how much things cost might ruin your vacation.

2. Ráðhúskaffi

City Hall
With view over the city pond, Ráðhúskaffi is situated inside the City Hall. Coffee and great cakes as you enjoy the view. Free internet access for costumers and, in the lobby of City Hall, you'll find a big 80m² model of Iceland.

3. Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16a
Grái Kötturinn is across the street from the National Theater and is very small and very popular in the early hours of the day. A good place to start a day the British way, with eggs and bacon and other traditional breakfasts on the menu. The lunch menu is also inviting, but somewhat pricey.

4. Súfistinn

Laugavegur 18
A smoke-free café in the city centre, right inside Mál & Menning bookstore. You can buy or borrow books, magazines and newspapers from the bookstore, and read them there over a cup of coffee and/or a snack.

5. Mokka

Skólavörðustígur 3a
An Icelandic tradition since 1958, Mokka is the oldest café in Reykjavik and the first one to make coffee with an espresso machine. The walls are covered with art for sale and, though seats are usually filled by loyal customers, every now and then you'll catch a glimpse of the owners, a really nice and friendly couple in their seventies who have owned the café since its inception.

6. Kaffivagninn

Grandagarður 10
By the harbor where fishermen and sailors along with bus drivers and aging tough guys gather for lunch and a cup of coffee. If you want to try out traditional Icelandic food, pancakes, or bread with smoked lamb, this is the right place to see another side of Reykjavik.

7. Café Paris

Austurstræti 14
Situated in the heart of the city with a view over Austurvöllur, spacious,

popular and usually full in the afternoon, Café Paris is international like the city it's named after. In the mornings it is more quiet and a hangout for philosophers and artists. Offers you light meals and the opportunity to sit outside when the weather is nice.

8. Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27
With the exception of Mokka, Tíu Dropar is the oldest café in downtown Reykjavik. The place has a very special feel to it, the decor, the tables and the chairs, along with the service makes you feel very much at home. It's almost like your sitting down for a cup of coffee in your grandma's kitchen. The menu is limited, but has the advantage of constant changes, with new items every day.

9. Café Árnes

By the harbour
Once a ferry, Café Árnes has recently been turned into a coffeshop by day and seafood restaurant by night. The cardeck in the basement now functions as a bar. Situated by the harbour (obviously), have a traditional waffle with lots of jam and cream and watch the whale watchers come in.

10. Bleika Dúfan

Laugavegi 21
The name means the Pink Pigeon. A bookstore that specialises in books in English, so there are a lot of foreigners there as well as people who work in the surrounding area. A mostly veggie menu (apart from

the ham and cheese sandwich) and internet.

BARS & BISTRO

11. Hverfisbar

Hverfisgata 20
Very long queues to get in, and once there, you wonder what the fuss was about, or whether the queue was in fact the best part. When it's four o'clock on a Sunday morning and you're still going strong, this might be the place you'll wind up, by which time you probably won't care that the same song seems to come on every half hour.

12. Café 22

Laugavegur 22
Has recently undergone a major facelift. The top floor is now dedicated to artist Jón Sæmundur, aka Dead, whose Dead label can be seen on quite a few people these days. Downstairs is a decent bistro (try the Gringo), whereas the middle floor houses a dancefloor. Open until the wee small hours, and a great place for a late night drink for those who want drink along with a less trendy (and perhaps more cool) crowd. Be warned, though, they do charge 500 krónur entrance after midnight.

13. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1
Kaffibarinn is Cool Reykjavik, or at least tries to be. Reykjavik prides itself on having more artists per capita than any other capital in the world, and the crowd here seem to be trying to prove the point, with

musicians, actors and writers so famous. Blur's Damon Albarn it was cheaper than buying drinks director of the film 101 Reykjavik the film.

14. Sirkus

Klapparstígur 30
"Welcome to the Jungle/ We g welcome to the party that never ending any time soon. Usually or want to be students of the I musicians and other members floor, for whatever reason, look

15. Nelly's

Þingholtsstræti 2
The cheapest beer in Reykjavik drinkers as well as expats. Trou covers though. In the weekend large dancefloor on the upper floor, midnight on weekends.

16. Vegamót

Vegamótastígur 4
Wants to be the in-spot to be seen up, flaunt it and enjoy the view there, and the fittest, or at least Kitchen open every day until 2 brunch. Try the lobster pizza.

17. Kaffibrennsla

Þingholtsstræti 9
One of the largest selection of few bars in Reykjavik where you after midnight on weekends. C they are generous with the refil

18. Celtic Cross

Hverfisgata 26
Arguably the bar in town that Irish, even though the Dublin back, it's very much alive. Live on the upper floor and a band make a living as human jukebox

19. Grand Rokk

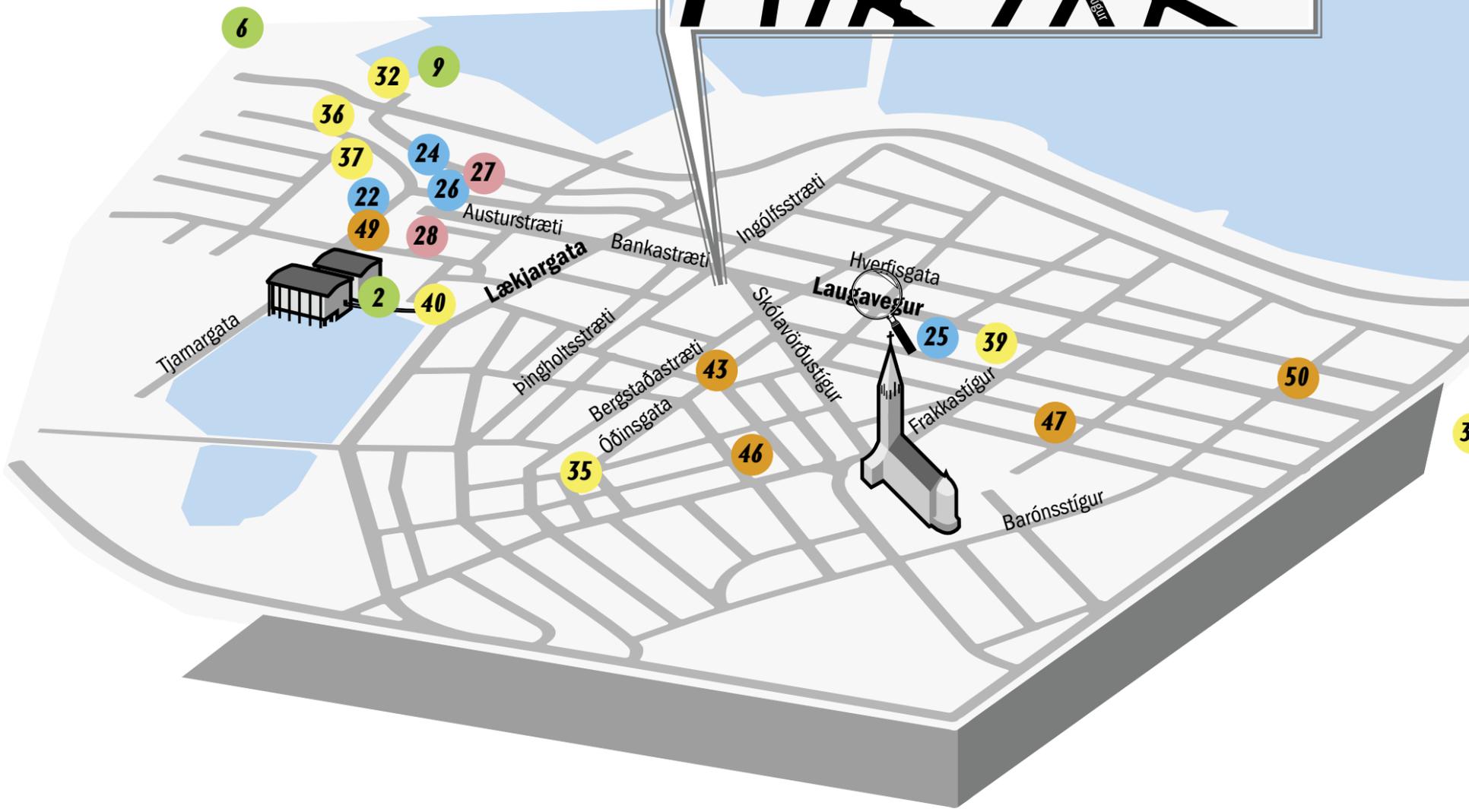
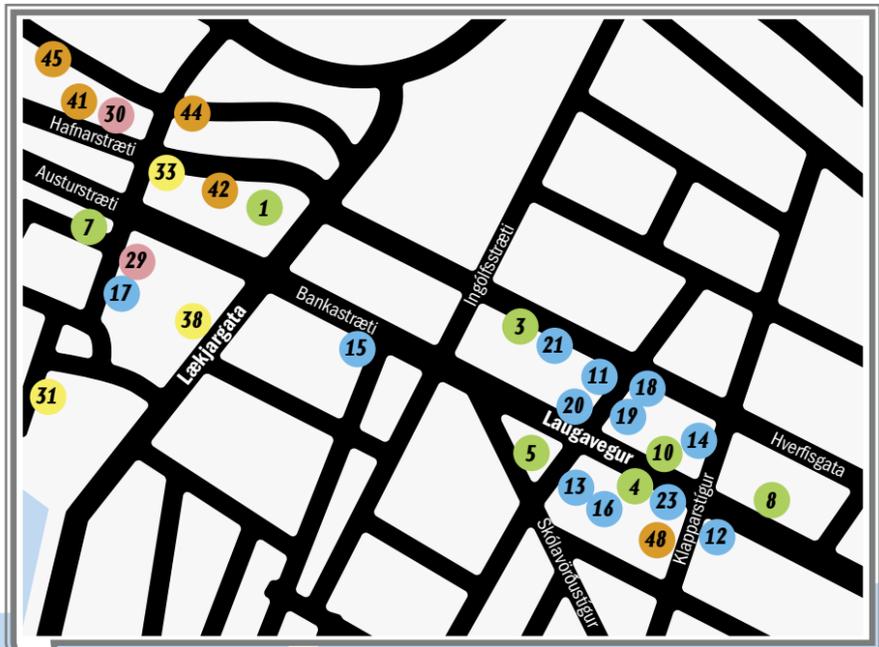
Smíðustígur 6
A place true to the spirit of Ro Better and lesser known Iceland three bands a night, four night



SPOT THIS

Músík og Meira

The first thing to catch your eye will probably be café "Bleika Dúfan" on the ground floor of this old house. But in the cellar, on your left, you'll find the most recent record store in Reykjavik, called Music and More. Along with old vinyl records, most of them gems from the early 80s punk explosion in Iceland, you'll find CD's with world music, new Icelandic releases and a shelf with various gifts. The store is owned and run by Jóhann Vilhjálmsson, member of the old punk band Vonbrigði, the very band that started the legendary Rokk í Reykjavík documentary of said punk explosion.



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anging from the hopefuls to the world owns a share of the bar, probably figuring nks all the time. Another owner is the vik, and the bar figures prominently in

or not is up to the bands, but if they do, all proceeds do go to starving artists. Grab a beer and rock on! During the day this is a hangout for chess players, challenging each other and anyone that might wander in here for a game, as every table doubles as a chess board. One of the best places to meet locals for a chat, every night of the week.

20. Bar 11
Laugavegur 11
The rock hangout, be it live music or the riff-heavy jukebox. Iceland's premier rock band Mínus are regulars. Bands play and/or poetry is recited most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, A good place to come down on Sundays, with a screening of cult films.

21. Kaffi Kúltur
Hoerfisgötu 18
For those who grow tired of seeing nothing but palefaces about town, Kaffi Kúltur might be a pleasant diversion. During the day its something of a hangout for the actors from the National Theatre, just across the street, but in the evening it is populated by both new and older Icelanders. They have multi-ethnic food and frequent concerts. Wednesday night is tango night. Anyone can join in, but this is not a place to learn as the regulars know their way around a dancefloor.

22. Jón Forseti
Aðalstræti 10
The oldest house in Reykjavík is now, you guessed it, a gay club. Named after founding father and national hero Jón Sigurðsson, who lived there for a while, it now has various events, including concerts, plays and a gay cabaret, performed on a small stage that tries its best to look big with curtains and everything. So how long until they change George Washington's old place into a gay bar? You heard it here first.

23. Café List
Laugavegur 20a
"List" means "art", the art mostly consisting of jazz bands that play there frequently. Looks perhaps more like a hotel bar than a seedy jazz club, but the prices of beer has gone down, so they deserve our support.

24. Glauubar
Tryggvagata 20
This American looking bar often feels like the Beverly Hillbillies have come to downtown Reykjavík, got drunk and ended up here. A classic pick up joint for those who've tried everything else and are running out of options.

25. Dillon
Laugavegur 30
A nice place to sit and chat, good folk themed music and no dance floor to worry about. Has interesting horse themed décor, and the balcony is open on the weekends. Finds a nice medium somewhere between the hipsters and the drunks.

26. Dubliner
Hafnarstræti 4
The city's main Irish pub, which, as in many cities, means that it's a hangout for all sorts of foreigners. At the weekends there's also a large influx of locals, often of the slightly older variety. If you like the darker stuff on tap, this is probably the best place to go.

CLUBS

27. Gaukur á Stöng
Tryggvagata 22
Iceland's oldest club is turning 20 this fall. During the day it's a pool pub and on weekday evenings there are live rock concerts by more mainstream bands. On weekends there is usually a lot of action with cover bands playing everything from Britney to the Beatles. Without exception you'll be charged at least 1000kr for entrance in the evenings. Crowd: 20+

28. Nasa
by Austurvöllur
Used to be a theatre, but is now a club. Great sound system and occasional live bands. The towns biggest club, but the high prices do limit the crowd somewhat. Admission 1000 krónur.

29. Mojito bar
Austurstræti 16
Situating on the 5th floor, and is only accessible by elevator. A place where you can run into MP's and business tycoons living it up. That might be some indication of the price range. The candleholders, for some inexplicable reason, are Turkish hashpipes. It's only open Fridays and Saturdays between 11 and 3.

30. Kapital
Hafnarstræti 17
The town's premier dance music venue. Regularly features top dance DJ's from around the world, as well as the hottest local talent. Watch out for DJ Fashionably laid, who is also the art director of a reputable local publication. Occasional live bands as well. Huge dance floors on both floors.

RESTAURANTS

31. Við Tjörninna
Templarasund 3
The most novel fish restaurant in Iceland. The owner, Chef Runar Marvinnson, is known for innovative fish dishes made from a variety of rare fish and shellfish and related raw materials. Mr. Marvinnson is also a respected food and cooking personality and the author of several cookbooks. His respect for his raw materials is a tribute to fish and shellfish, showing off their natural goodness without artificiality. Chef Marvinnson is really a natural wonder and a particular favourite with Icelanders!

32. Tveir Fiskar
Geirsgötu 9
Seafood restaurant, although they also do land-based animals. At lunchtime you can have a three course meal for 2300, which isn't too bad, all things considered. The chef has been awarded the Medal of the Order of the White Rose by the President of Finland.

33. Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15
Means "the corner" and the place lives up to its name. This is actually the oldest Italian restaurant in town, celebrating its 25th year, which says something about the scene here before then. Excellent quality pizza, pasta and salads and yet remaining one of the more affordable ones. Try the calzone.

34. Vox
Nordica Hotel
Perhaps a typical off-lobby restaurant, bistro, bar in a four-star hotel, the Vox looks at first glance like a fancy cafeteria spiced up for an official reception. But please do not let that glance throw you off! The restaurant has a modern interior with extremely un-Icelandic décor, however the kitchen saves the situation. Run by a master chef, a recent winner of the super gastro competition "Bocuse d'Or," the Menu is tops.

35. 3 Frakkar
Baldurgata 14
This is a restaurant that cannot be ignored. A very small place with an atmosphere. Here you may enjoy the house specialties of Icelandic traditional dishes prepared in the good, old-fashioned manner, including catfish, shark, and whale steaks. And of course much more. If you're lucky, Chef Ulfar Eysteinnson, the owner, may be present regaling the clientele with wild whaling tales. Don't forget to ask Chef Ulfar for dark Icelandic pumpernickel bread with pure Icelandic butter, and don't forget to make a reservation!

36. Naustið
Vesturgata 6-8
Probably the oldest traditional restaurant in Reykjavík, Naustið has a reputation for fine food and service tailored for visiting groups. The main dining room is fashioned as the interior of a ship. Here the tables and booths are named after famous vessels. Visiting royalties have made this place a must for traditional Icelandic food, such as pickled sheep testicles and other delights.

37. Tapas
Vesturgata 3b
For those with a bit of money and time on their hands, the evening can hardly be better spent than at Tapas, where you can while away the evening having course after course of wonderful miniature dishes. Particularly recommended is the garlic-fried lobster and duck in apricot sauce. If afterwards you don't feel like getting up right away, there's also a rather large lounge to relax in, and the paintings are worth a look.

38. Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4
In this global age, it can be hard to find good smörrebröd even in Copenhagen. Never fear: out here in the colonies you can still find first rate smörrebröd at Jómfrúin. They even import their own eel directly from Denmark to make one of Scandinavia's delicacies.

39. Rossopomodoro
Laugavegur 40a
This is a new chain of eateries trying to move away from the American image of pizza joints. Originally a local Napoli venture, now a string of modestly cool restaurants striving to make it in Northern Europe. Iceland is one of the first places for Rossopomodoro outside Italy. A clever beginning in a country absolutely free from Neopolitan traditions. A most wine list with good prices

40. Tjarnarbakkinn
Vonarstræti 3
Above the lónó theatre, so it's a good place to go before shows, or during if you prefer a more quiet atmosphere. If you sit by the window you get a nice view of the pond. It's not a bad place to try one of Iceland's culinary specialties, the lamb steak, one of those rare traditional treats that does not come as a shock to the uninitiated.

FAST FOOD

41. Nonnabíti
Hafnarstræti 11
The owner is a miser who charges additionally for everything, but this is almost certainly the best junk food in the Greater Reykjavík area. The subs are great, none of that Subway commitment to healthy living, and they probably contribute significantly to the ever-increasing "size" of the nation. They also serve burgers and sandwiches, and have lunchtime offers.

42. Serranos
Hafnarstræti 20
A Mexican themed eatery, but light on the chilli. Slightly cheaper and lighter on the cholesterol than its neighbour Nonni, but somehow not quite as fulfilling, although you might feel better in the morning. You can get a large burrito and soft drink for 599, which is one of the cheaper ways to fill your belly in this far too expensive town.

43. Bernhöftsbaká
Bergstaðastæti 13
A bakery with traditions going back some 150 years, although it has changed locations. Apart from a supermarket, a bakery is still the best way to fill your belly. Try the staple of Icelandic childhood and beyond: a snúður roll with chocolate milk.

44. Baejarins bestu
Tryggvagata
They claim to have the best hot dogs in town, and for once the product lives up to the hype. Ask for one with everything, and you'll get a dog in a bun with ketchup, mustard, remulade (don't ask), fried and raw onion. The standard Icelandic hotdog, only somehow it tastes better.

45. Pizza 67
Tryggvagata 26
The local pizza chain that's trying to take on the world, and who currently operate a place in the Faeroes and China, as well as all over Iceland. The have a Summer of Love theme, which doesn't really extend beyond the names of the pizzas, a few slogans and a few posters, but the pizzas are nice. They also do deliveries. They have a lunchtime buffet for 990, for those in search of quantity for the króna.

46. Eldsmiðjan
Bragagata 38a
Oven-baked pizzas simply don't get much better than this. It is slightly more expensive than other pizzerias, but well worth it. A wide selection of toppings, including that sorely missed pizza delight, snails. You can also turn the chef loose and let him decide what goes on it - you'll rarely be disappointed. Take away, order delivery, or eat in at the cosy restaurant upstairs. The paintings are worth a peek as well.

47. Vitabar
Bergþórugata 21
Actually a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. A burger with fries for 500 is one of the best meal deals in town, but special mention must go to the Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and garlic extravaganza. The Viking beer always feels particularly cold and refreshing here.

48. First Vegetarian (Á naestu grösun)
Laugavegur 20b
Used to be called One Woman Restaurant, as there was always the same woman working there. Has new owners and a larger staff, but the theme is still vegetarian, with one vegan and one wheat-free dish always on offer. The only vegetarian restaurant licensed to carry beer and wine. Remains on the right side of the 1000 krónur bill at lunchtime, slips slightly over in the evening.

49. Pizza Pronto
Vallarstræti 4
Conveniently located by Ingólfrstorg, and serves slices until late at night. A good place to have a snack in between bars, particularly if you don't want a whole Hlöll. They also have a menu (in 9 languages, no less) of three sizes of pizzas with a good selection of toppings. Nice, but seems a bit pricey for the surroundings.

50. Reykjavík Bagel Company
Laugavegur 81
Situating a bit from the immediate centre but close to Hlemmur bus-stop. Bagels, wraps and coffee that might make you feel better in the morning than the more hardcore fast foods farther down the street.

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Dentist: 575-0505
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Pharmacies find your closest or call 118

Internet Café's
Ráðhúskaffi, City Hall, 101 Rvk. 563-2169
BSI, Vatnsmyrarvegur 10, 101 Rvk. 591-1000
Netkaffi, Kringlan mall, 103 Rvk. 533-2424
Reykjavík Travel Service, Lækjargata 2, 101 Rvk. 511-2442
Ground Zero, Vallarstræti 4, 101 Rvk. 562-7776

Useful Websites
www.icetourist.is
www.visitreykjavik.is
www.grapevine.is

Car rentals
ALP 562-6060
Avis 591-4000
Berg car rental 577-6050
Budget 567-8300
Europcar 591-4050
SBK car rental 420-6000

Other useful numbers
City bus info, 551-2700
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Central Post office, Pósthússtræti 5, 101 Rvk. 580-1000.
Post offices are easily found around Iceland

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THEY DON'T GIVE CHANGE

Reykjavík has no trams, trains or subways, only buses. These yellow things can take you pretty much anywhere in Reykjavík's suburb areas. It's a slow system and you might have to change buses a couple of times to get where you want to though usually things run smoothly, and on time. The price of a single fare is 220kr, for an adult, (60kr for children under 12). If you are in town for more than a few days then the 9 ticket package for 1500kr would be a better bet. Bus cards valid for two weeks a month or three months are also available. You have to pay as you step on board and it has to be the accurate amount, unless you want to pay more for your ride. The driver can not change your money. For those of you used to the honesty system, this system is as honest, because if you don't pay, you don't ride. You can ask the driver for a free time-limited exchange ticket, if you need two buses to complete your journey.

The bus system is closed during the night, you can catch your first bus between 6:40 and 7:00 in the morning, and last call is around 24:00. The main bus stops in Reykjavík are Hlemmur and Lækjartorg, there you'll be able to get all the information you need.



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Food and wine critic – Morgunblaðið Daily Newspaper September 7th 2003

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 Árbæjarsafn Folk Museum, Kistuhylur 4, p: 557-1111
 Ásmundarsafn, Sculpture museum, Sigtún, p: 553-2155
 Culture House, Hverfisgata 15, p: 545-1400
 Einar Jónsson, Sculpture museum, Einarsgata, p: 551-3797
 Gerðarsafn, Kóparvogur Art Gallery, Hamraborg 4, p:551-3797
 Hafnarborg Art Gallery, Strandgata 34 Hafnarfj, 555-0080
 Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art museum, Tryggvagata 17, p: 590-1200
 Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Hlemmur 5, p:590-0500
 Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum, Flókagata, p: 517-1290
 Museum of Medical History, Nestróð 170, p: 561-1016
 National Film Archive, Vesturgata 11-13 Hafnarfj, p: 565-5994
 National Gallery of Iceland, Frikirkjuvegur 7, p: 515-9600
 Nordic House, Sturlugata 5, p: 551-7030
 Numismatic Collection of the Central Bank, Einholt 4, p: 569-9964
 Reykjavík Botanical Garden, Laugardalur, p: 553-8870
 Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15, p: 563-1750
 Reykjavík Elestrivty Museum, Rafstöðvarvegur, p: 567-9009
 Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Tryggvagata 15, p: 563-1790
 Reykjavík Zoo & Family Park, Engjavegur, p: 575-7800
 Saga Museum, Perlan Óskjuhlíð, p: 511-1517
 Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum, Lauganestangi 70, p: 553-2906
 Telecommunications Museum, Sudurgata, p: 550-6410

Galleries

101 Gallery, Hverfisgata 18a
 Alliance française, Tryggvagata 8, p: 892-4108
 Art Studio Gallery, Vesturgata 12, p: 562-5757
 Gallery Kling og Bang, Laugavegi 23, p: 822-0402
 Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16, p: 551-0400
 Gallery Hnoss, Skólavörðustígur 16, p: 561-8485
 Gallery i8, Klapparstígur 33, p: 551-3666
 Gallery Meistari Jakob, Skólavörðustígur 5, p: 552-7161
 Gallery Skuggi, Hverfistaga 39, p: 511-1139
 Gallery Sævar Karl, Bankastræti 7, p: 551-3470
 Gallery Tukt, Pósthússtræti 3-5, p: 520-4600
 Handverk og Hönnun, Aðalstræti 12, p: 551-7595
 Safn, Laugavegur 37, p: 561-8777
 Teddi Workshop, Kapparstígur 2
 The Icelandic Printmakers Association, Tryggvagata 17, p: 588-7576

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ICELANDERS ON DISPLAY

by Marc Mettler



Sometimes it is difficult to imagine life outside of Reykjavík. The routines of the city take you captive, making it tricky to escape into the magnificent countryside. So if you can't get out to explore Iceland, stroll down to Austurvöllur Square, where this summer's photo collection brings Iceland to you.

Taken over a period of two years, the compilation is a small sample from the book titled "Icelanders" (or Íslendingar) by photographer Sigurgeir Sigurjónsson and author Unnur Jökulsdóttir.

"The purpose of the project was to dig deep into the question "What is Iceland?" said Unnur, whose words provide insightful narratives to each bold photograph. "We wanted to show the people and the nation in all kinds of seasons."

Each enlarged photograph tells a story of the landscape, a family, a community or an individual. Many are taken in remote areas of the country, where a single or few persons have adapted their traditional way of life to the modern age.

"It was like going back in time for me," said Unnur. "The people seem to have so much control of their lives. They are so pure."

In fact, the characters are sometimes so pure that they border on the mythological. In photos like "The Thriller Writer," "The Valley Dweller," or "The Jack-of-all Trades," the contentment of each character is imminent.

Perhaps this is the most bizarre and beautiful theme of the piece, that all of the subjects appear so happy with their lives.

"All of the people were very willing to participate and invite us into their homes," said Unnur. "They are all personal friends now."

With the recent celebration of Iceland's 60th year of independence, "Icelanders" is a wonderful reminder of the way Iceland successfully continues to grow and adapt - on their own terms.

Icelanders will be displayed in Austurvöllur Square from June 17th to September 1st.

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK, WE SALUTE YOU*

Schedule :

25.6	Dj Silja
26.6	Dj Lupin
27.6	Movie Night - Class of Nuke 'em High ('86) / Mad Max ('79) 21.00
30.6	Héit Hóra Pind Haraldur (concert)
2.7	Dj Maggi
3.7	Dj Frosti
7.7	Andrúm (concert)
9.7	Ronald Reagan Memorial Soundsystem*

All concerts begin between 21-22 unless stated otherwise

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 16.00-6.00 Fridays and Saturdays
 for further information contact: 511 1180 or 663 7273

PICKS MOVIES and THEATRE

See movie listings
THE LADYKILLERS
 Perhaps a substandard Coen film, but still better than most people's best. The different tones of American English, from southern gentleman to Pennsylvanian worker to black slang are beautifully used. It may be the best picture ever featuring a Wayans brother. Which is not saying much.

See movie listings
TROY
 The battles are conducted on a scale David Lean could only have dreamt of. One of very few epics that actually has sympathies with both sides. This is perhaps the film's strongest point. That, and having a story that climaxes with a giant wooden horse not looking more silly.

See movie listings
Light Nights
 The summer season of the long running Light Nights show is opening again on the 5th of July. Presented in English by the Summer Theatre which has been entertaining foreign visitors since 1970. The leading actress will guide you through the centuries, as a narrator and a story teller.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday June 25th
 Bands Dikta and Dr. Spock

Saturday June 26th
 Bands Týr and Douglas Wilson

Thursday July 1st
 Kentár Blues band

Friday July 2nd
 Band Hjálmar

Thursday July 8th
 Bands Ísidór and Kuai

Smiðjustíg 6.
p: 551 5522

MOVIES AND THEATRE

CAN A BROKEN RELATIONSHIP BE SALVAGED?

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

by Valur Gunnarsson

Charlie Kaufman is moving up in the world. Whereas his earlier films such as *Adaptation* and *Human Nature* dealt with the problems of wanting to have relationships with women; this deals with the problems of actually having them. A certain hallmark of success. This, of course, being Kaufman, the story goes backwards. A couple meet for the first time, and it's seemingly love at first sight. The relationship deteriorates over time, and they both have their memories of it erased by a company specialising in such things.

Most of the film is set within the mind of the protagonist, played by Jim Carrey, on the night the erasing takes place. It is sort of a film length version of the scene set inside Malkovich's head in *Being John Malkovich*, in the same way that *Brave New World* was a page in Huxley's first novel, *Chrome Yellow*. It's all well and good, but it takes a long time getting there. We're used to Kaufman by now having twists at every turn, but when the payoff comes here, it is impressive. The couple get together again, not knowing that they have been together before. An anonymous tape reveals their former relationship together, and their confessions why

they cannot stand one another. The couple is then faced with the prospect of whether they are ready to go through everything again, knowing how it ended before. The ending of the film is left suitably open, a relief from standard films which usually have the happy couple overcome all difficulties and incompatibilities in character and social standing and ride off into the sunset. Perhaps we are being told too often that love conquers all. Can a relationship that's already gone to the dogs once really be salvaged? "Friends" seem to think so. But then, they were never all that applicable to the real world.



ON THE TV

Forget Paris:

America's Cold War with France, from Freedom Fries to Friends.

"Don't turn into a French bitch," says Phoebe to Rachel as the latter gets ready to start a new career in Paris. Having lived ten years in the same apartment building in New York, working first as a waitress and then moving on to a clothes designer, one can see why the stylish Rachel would be interested in taking up a better job in the high capital of fashion. Her friends disagree. They say their goodbyes as if to a friend with terminal illness, seemingly assuming they'll never get to see her again (have these people never heard of visits?), and everything must be done to prevent her from leaving. Finally, they succeed. Rachel is still stuck in New York, will probably go back to her same old job (if she has a job to go to at all), and gets back together with her old boyfriend in a relationship which, despite ten years of trying, has so far failed to work. This, then, is the happy ending to the last season of Friends.

Another popular show that has recently run its course on TV here, *Sex and the City*, has much the same theme. Carrie, who is nearing middle age and has lived in the same city all her life, decides to take up her rich



and charming boyfriends offer to move with him to Paris. There, however, she realises he is in fact a successful artist, and has to devote time to his work during the day rather than entertain her. See seemingly cannot find anything to do by herself, despite a limitless expense account, in one of the most fascinating cities in the world. Within a week, she is breaking down in coffeeshops and crying on the phone to her friends back home. Fortunately, her American ex-boyfriend comes to the rescue, attempts to beat up her older and gentlemanly current amour, and whisks her back to the safety of New York, where she will now be begging for her old job back and attempting to restart a relationship that has failed numerous times before. But at least she won't be in Paris.

MOVIES : LISTINGS : june 25 - july 8

Screenings start roughly every two hours, at 18, 20 and 22. However, with films getting ever longer starting times may vary. There are usually ads and trailers for roughly 15 minutes from announced starting time. Almost all films have a short interval in the middle.

REGNBÖGINN
Hverfisgata 54
Phone: 551-9000
www.regnboginn.is

PREMIERS:
25. june *Suddenly 30*
25. june *Godsend*
2. july *Dirty Dancing 2*

Still running:
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

LAUGARÁS BÍÓ 553 2075
Laugarás
Phone: 553-2075
www.laugarasbio.is

PREMIERS:
25. june *Godsend*

Still running:
Punisher
Win a Date with Tad Hamilton
Laws of Attraction

SAMBÍÓIN
Álfabakka 8
Phone: 587-8900
www.sambio.is

PREMIERS:
25. june *The Chronicles of Riddick*
2. july *Around the world in 80 days*

Still running:
The Ladykillers
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Troy, Eurotrip, Van Helsing

SMÁRALIND BÍÓ
Smáralind
Phone: 564-0000
www.smarabio.is

PREMIERS:
25. june *Suddenly 30*
2. july *Dirty Dancing 2*

Still running:
The Punisher
Day after Tomorrow

SAMBÍÓIN
Kringlan 4-6
Phone: 588-0800
www.sambio.is

PREMIERS:
25. june *The Chronicles of Riddick*
2. july *Around the World in 80 Days*

Still running:
Mean Girls
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Troy

HÁSKÓLABÍÓ
Hagatorg
Phone: 530-1919
www.haskolabio.is

PREMIERS:
25. june *The Chronicles of Riddick*
2. july *Around the World in 80 Days*

Still running:
The Ladykillers, Harry Potter Troy, Mors Elling (Elling 2) Van Helsing

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ARTS AND CULTURE

THE KIND OF MUSEUM YOU WANT TO LIVE IN

by Marcie Hume

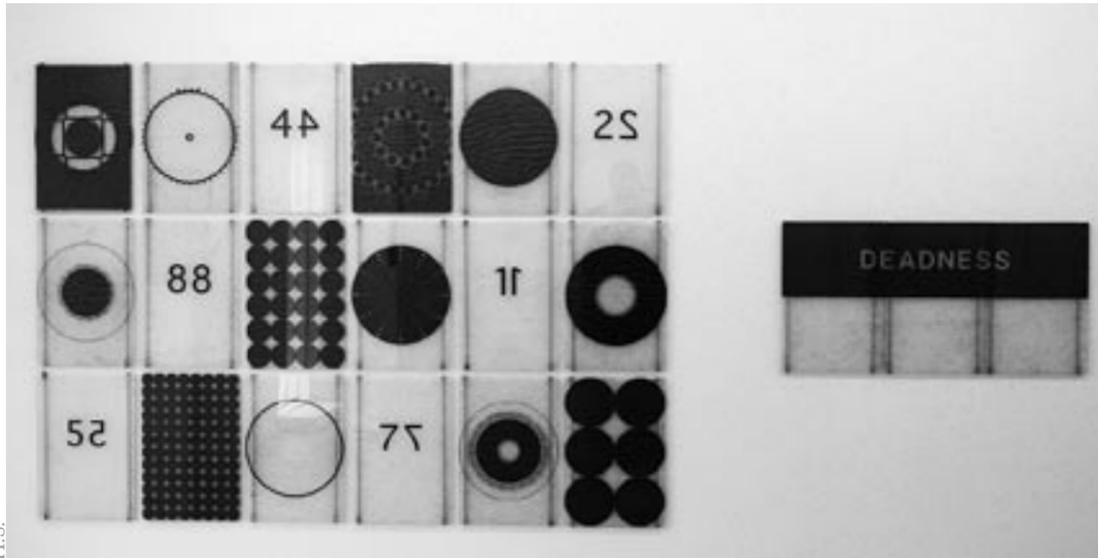
Safn is the kind of museum that you want to live in. It has that great pull of tranquility and vibrancy that makes you feel like you could stay there forever, the art imbuing your every move with significance.



The museum (called quite literally "Museum" or "Collection" in Icelandic) faces Laugavegur, but looking in the window it is difficult to discern how extensive the collection is. I recall once seeing a single suited mannequin in the window and presuming the space to be a minimalist and/or snobby men's tailor shop. Fortunately, it's much more approachable.

The gallery holds works in various mediums by artists of many nationalities, including numerous Icelanders. This makes Safn an all-in-one national and international art stop.

My favorite room is on the second floor. As I came up the steps I thought I heard bells, or maybe chimes, ringing without a pattern; just haphazard sound. I figured it was some kid messing around with an exhibit, so I followed the noise, ready to give a dry, critical stare to chill even the most defiant teenager. But the room, like every other in the museum, had no one in it. Instead, there was a blue kiddie pool with bowls and wine glasses floating on a mechanically-produced current, ringing as they touched or crashed into one another. The display seemed almost like a petting zoo, one of those exhibits which makes you wonder if you're allowed to touch it, if you're supposed to touch it, or if maybe someone is watching to see if you're going to.



Many of us in the Western world are raised with the sentiment that our singular influence is always meaningful; that each of our movements has a consequence, and this is what initiates development. So of course I reached into the little ceramic petting zoo and freed the smaller bowls, looking over my shoulder to see if someone was going to jump out and give me a dry, critical stare.

As I walked through the rest of the

museum, I listened for the higher tones in the ringing, keeping an ear on the bowls. There were many pieces that held an experience as intricate and pleasurable. There is a room with one exhibit entitled "Litir" ("Colours") which requires that you close the door behind you; there is a video piece which shows a child tucked into bed, a miniature helicopter wildly buzzing overhead, darting down like a man-eating dragonfly; and on the first floor is

an Andreas Serrano print entitled "Clansman" which, though not the artist's notorious bodily-fluids-and-religious-symbols fare, holds attention as though it were.

The fairly extensive library upstairs, filled with art books in several languages, is a little hideaway up above Laugavegur and one more noteworthy aspect of a surprisingly vast gallery. Plan some time for this place. You may want to move in.

The Art of Silk

by Eydís Björnsdóttir



What does silk have to do with Icelandic culture? Precious little, you would think. But if you happen to stumble upon Shanko silk, which is a discreet little gallery on Skólavörðustígur 22c, you might see otherwise. Passing by, you could easily miss it, but you needn't be afraid to sneak inside for a closer look at silk products such as those on display in the window. They are hand-crafted by Sigrún Lára Shanko, who has worked with silk since 1995, even though her gallery has only been there for a year or so. She shapes works of art on the delicate fabric by dyeing it with batik methods. The imagery comes mainly from Viking, Celtic and Pictish cultures. She is the only one in Iceland to blend silk together with our cultural heritage, so it should be fairly safe to say that her work is one of a kind. Items in stock are pillows and scarves while grand tapestries decorate the walls. And



from the souvenir point of view, it is definitely a nice break from all the puffin products and Viking helmets.

PICKS ARTS and CULTURE

Gallery Meistari Jakob

CONTEMPORARY STOP

Paintings, drawings and more by Hulda Vilhjálmstöðir and Karen Ósk Sigurðardóttir. A few paintings by the latter are particularly out of the ordinary. This is a contemporary stop on the way up towards the more craft-and-ceramic prone Skólavörðustígur.

ASI Art Museum

KJARVAL

There are many Kjarval works on the first floor, but entering the top floor is like walking into a surrealist painting. You can see Hallgrímskirkja through the window, but the sound of a heartbeat and figures of babies looking down from shelves are a sharp contrast to the real-world view.

101 Gallery

HULDA HÁKON'S WORK

Owner Hulda Hákon's work is displayed at this new one-room gallery. If you don't happen to speak Icelandic, you'll want someone with you who can, since many of the works either make use of the language's versatility with new conglomerations invented by the artist or feature images of famous Icelandic figures.

Reykjavík Art Museum

I DIDN'T DO IT

A highlight of Þorvaldur Þorsteinsson's exhibit "I Didn't Do It" is the room marked "Arrivals Hall" where your entrance is acknowledge with a hearty "Welcome to Iceland." This portion of the exhibit uses what we could affectionately call calendar art, along with Icelandic promotional materials, to show a somewhat consumerist world-view of Iceland, probing the tourism industry's ability to shape or reshape the nation's identity.

Gallery Skuggi

ART PARODY

The small space looks like the set for a sarcastic art parody. It's a place for those who want to apply some art history classisms and who don't feel ashamed talking very seriously about white canvases with amoebic black blobs at the center.

Sigurjón Ólafsson museum, July 6th, 20:30

CONCERT

Concert at Sigurjón Ólafsson museum by Laufey Sigurðardóttir, violin and Páll Eyjólfsson, guitar. Sonata in A-major op. 2 no. 2 by Vivaldi, two Sonatas by Paganini, Waltz op. 34 no. 2 by Chopin-Sarasate, Nocturna by Chopin-Milstein, NADN by Blak and Tango by Zenamon.

The Nordic House

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

7-A View from the North is an exhibition of artworks by seven artists from Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, organized in Iceland. The artists in this group have exhibited extensively and received awards and recognition for their work on an international level.



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"Is this paper clip art?"

by Marcie Hume

The public toilet was just steps away. I had consumed a latte or two before heading out to explore some local galleries, and if you're either elderly or me after coffee, the clean and free WCs on the way up the hill on Vesturgata are a lovely stop indeed. Also for the elderly is the Art Studio Gallery. It had seemed from the title that I couldn't go wrong. The combination of the three words suggests something classy and creative but, in actuality, this is a place for those looking to pick up a little something for grandma's living room.

Upon entering the shop I was surrounded by chunks of lava that you could pick up on your way to the airport. There were abstract landscape paintings that were perfect for someone who is searching for art work to match the colors of their décor. And did I mention that they sell stamps? The prevalence of artists in this country is something inhabitants are proud of, and rightly so. Placing great significance in expression can only be a sign of a commitment to the most essential, substantial aspects of human existence, and beyond that is a mark of a great, free society. And it can also be something that people do to look desperately cool, the adult equivalent of the teenagers who wear meshy trucker hats and big pilot

sunglasses. These undeniable factors guide many Icelanders to create. This magnificent regard for artists also paves the way for galleries of a type which, though some people's cup of tea, may strike some patrons as questionable. This is the kind of art work that has prompted many a relative to pipe up at the dinner table, "Yeah but, I mean, who says what's art? What, is this paper clip art?" Though there is certainly a consumer for every canvas, one has to be careful in this town. Haphazardly walking into galleries can at times bring you disorientation, feelings of great cynical snobbery or a plastic bag filled with little lava candleholders. This is not to discourage anyone



HLS

from visiting the whole gamut of galleries in Reykjavík. On the contrary, you never know when you're going to find something that strikes you as a revelation of contemporary design or which completely captures your reverence. And, in the worst case scenario, you can pick up some stamps.



ARTS and CULTURE LISTINGS : june 25 - july 8

Want to be seen in the listings? Send us a mail to listings@grapevine.is and your event will be announced in the next issue, and the best thing is that being in the listings is free!

ONGOING

ASÍ Museum
Tue-Sun 14:00-18:00
Ásmundarhall: Guðrún Vera Hjartardóttir, Helga Óskarsdóttir, Ingibjörg Magnúsdóttir "A star is born". In other hall Rósa Sigrún Jónsdóttir from Fremstafelli: Installation; video and sculpture. Ends July 4th.

Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum
10:00-17:00 every day
Private exhibition of Thorvaldur Thorsteinsson and the summer exhibition at the Reykjavík Art Museum-Hafnarhus. Also part of the Erró Collection on show.

Gallery of the Icelandic printmakers association
Tue-Sun 14:00-18:00
Festival of the sea, international photoexhibition. Ends June 27th.

Klink og bank artist workplace
workplace for artist, open when something special is going on.

Culture House
11:00-17:00 every day
A summer exhibition entitled The Poetic Edda. The exhibition is intended to provide visitors with some insights into these ancient poems. Many of Iceland's national treasures are on display. Featured exhibitions Medieval Manuscripts - Eddas and Sagas. Exhibition Home Rule 1904.

Hafnarborg Art Gallery
Wed-Sun 11:00-17:00
Photoexhibition by Marisu Navarro Arason and Magnús Björnsson. Jaana Partanen exhibits her videoworks. Textile exhibition by Anna Þóra Karlsdóttir and Guðrún Tryggvadóttir.

Alliance française
13.30-18.00 every day
Exhibition Memories from Iceland. Ends June 30th

Gallery Skuggi
Thu-Sun 13:00-17:00
Gallery Skuggi is a new exhibition gallery for contemporary art, located in central Reykjavík.

Kling og Bang Gallery
exhibition by world famous american artists Paul McCarthy and Jason Rhoades

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum
Tue-Fri 10:00-17:00, Sat&Sun 10:00-18:00
Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum is Reykjavík City's folk museum and the largest open air museum in Iceland. It is composed of around 30 buildings from different periods.

Austurvöllur out door exhibition
Icelanders: Photography Exhibition in Austurvöllur, A Meeting with the Icelanders over a period of two years.

Ásmundarsafn, Sculpture museum
10:00-16:00 every day
The Man and Material. A retrospective exhibition of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson.

Telecommunications Museum
Tue, Thu & Sun 11:00-17:00
Pictures and items related to the history of telecommunications.

Reykjavík Zoo and Family Park
10:00-18:00 every day
Icelandic horse and sheep, along with local varieties other animals in the zoo. Right beside it is the Park, which has various activities for the whole family.

Reykjavík Botanical Garden
10:00-22:00 every day
All kinds of plants and flowers on display.

Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum
10:00-17:00 every day
Roni Horn: Her, her, her and her: Photographs

taken in the Reykjavík Swimming Hall. Francesco Clemente: New Works. Exhibition of new works by the famous Italian artist. Works from the Kjarval Collection.

Einar Jónsson Sculpture Museum
Tue-Sun 14:00-17:00
Works of Einar Jónsson, Iceland's first sculptor.

National Gallery of Iceland
11:00-17:00 every day
Close-up. American Contemporary Art. Includes the Jacko porcelain statue. Ends June 27th.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum
Tue-Sun 14:00-17:00
Sigurjón Ólafsson's Works in public Space: Poster exhibition and sculptures related to Ólafsson's monuments and public sculptures.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Mon-Fri 12:00-19:00, Sat&Sun 13:00-17:00.
A collection of Finnish contemporary photographs.

Museum of Medical History
Sun, Tue, Thu, Sat 13:00-17:00
Artefacts, tools, instruments and pictures on the subject.

Numismatic Collection of the Central Bank
Mon-Fri 9:00-17:00, Closed 12:00-13:00.
Icelandic coins and banknotes.

Icelandic Institute of Natural History
Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun 13:00-17:00
Geological, botanical and zoological exhibits, displaying the nature of Iceland.

Saga Museum
10:00-16:00 every day.
The Saga museum intimately recreates key moments in Icelandic history and gives a compelling view into how Icelanders have lived and thought for more than a millennium through the use of life size likenesses

Reykjavík City Library
Mon-Fri 10:00-16:00
Books and periodicals in Icelandic as well as English, Scandinavian and other languages. Also has a childrens and a comic book section.

Hafnarborg Art Gallery
Wed-Sun 11:00-17:00
Video installations by Jaana Partanen., "Crystal City" and "Once again". Also Traversing the boundaries: Exhibition by To To.

Gallery Fold
Mon-Fri 10:00-18:00 Sat 11:00-17:00 Sun 14:00-17:00

One of the largest Galleries in Iceland, works by many know artists.

Handverk og Hönnun
Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00
Craft and design. Craftspeople transfer - in modern and dynamic ways - nature's shapes, colours and materials to their work.

Gallery Hnoss
Mon-Fri 11:00-18:00 Sat 11:00-16:00
Auður Eysteinsdóttir works with aquarelle, pastels and stained glass. Hildur Margrétardóttir works with oil on canvas and aquarelle.

Gallery Meistari Jakob
Mon-Fri 11:00-18:00, Sat 11:00-14:00
The gallery is run by eleven artists who work in ceramics, textiles, printmaking and paintings and you will always find one of them at the gallery.

Gallery Sævar Karl
Mon-Fri 10:00-17:00
Ari Svavarsson installation inside the clothes store.

Gallery Tukt
Mon-Thu 13:00-18:00, Fri 13:00 - 17:00
Various artists.

Safn
Wed-Fri 14:00-18:00, Sat&Sun 14:00-17:00
The works were the artists' most current works at the time of the museums purchase. The artists in Safn include: Donald Judd, On Kawara, Karin Sander, Lawrence Weiner, Dan Flavin, and Dieter Roth.

Teddi - Workshop
10:00-18:00 every day
Open workshop of tree sculptures of Teddi

Art Studio Gallery
Mon-Fri 10:00-16:00
Ceramic by Svetlana Matusa and oilpaintings by Helgi Hálfánarson

FRIDAY

JUNE 25
Around the downtown 101 Reykjavík
Funny Friday: Reykjavík's Culture and Information Center employs creative young people who display their work for two hours on Funny Friday.

SATURDAY
JUNE 26
Nordic House
The Nordic House summerexhibition 7 - A View from the North opens.

Hallgrímskirkja Church
Lunch Time Concert - Erling With Aasgárd, orgel
Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum
14:00; Belly button dancers, look out for them.
Sirkus
Flea Market in the back yard of Bar Sirkus, all should be able to find something they like or pass on something they've grown tired of.

SUNDAY

JUNE 27
Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum
Family Day. Children's games and activities. Hula-hoop contest. Children's horse rides.
Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum
12:00; Belly button dancers, look out for them.

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum
Family day in folk museum: The program of the family day includes traditional dances, plays based on old literature, horse-carriage rides, hula hoop contests, a concert. Concert begins at 16:00

Hallgrímskirkja Church
Evening Concerts Sundays - Erling With Aasgárd Molde, Noregi / Norway

TUESDAY

JUNE 29
Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum
The Swedish ensemble Musica Humana; Renaissance Music performed on original instruments.

THURSDAY

JULY 1
Gerðarsafn, Kópavogur Art Gallery
Opening in all rooms the summer exhibition.
Nordic House
The Nordic House summerexhibition 7 - A View from the North opens.

Hallgrímskirkja Church
Lunch Time Concert - Hjörleifur Valsson, violin and Jónas Þórir, organ

FRIDAY

JULY 2
Kling og Bang Gallery

Karnival in Klink&Bank. All kinds of art
Klink og bank artist workplace
Media burn 2004: Art repeats itself
Around the downtown 101 Reykjavík
Funny Friday: Reykjavík's Culture and Information Center employs creative young people who display their work for two hours on Funny Friday.

SATURDAY

JULY 3
Hallgrímskirkja Church
Lunch Time Concert - Thierry Mechler, organ
Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum
14:00; Belly button dancers, look out for them.

Sirkus
Flea Market in the back yard of Bar Sirkus.

SUNDAY

JULY 4
Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum
Display of vintage cars.
Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum
12:00; Belly button dancers, look out for them.
Hallgrímskirkja Church
Evening Concerts Sundays - Thierry Mechler Lyon, Frakklandi / France

TUESDAY

JULY 6
Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum
Concerts by Laufey Sigurðardóttir, violin and Páll Eyjólfsson, guitar. See more at picks.

THURSDAY

JULY 8
Kling og Bang Gallery
Tími: some sort of a gig, interesting is all that is promised

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum
Traditional Icelandic wrestling and other sports. Chess tournament at 1 pm. Church service at 2 pm.

Hallgrímskirkja Church
Lunch Time Concert - Jörg Sondermann, organ



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MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE



A PUNK ROCK GUITARIST GROWS UP

by Bart Cameron

The week after another great American punk guitarist, journeyman and soloist, Robert Quine, dies of heroin, I am told that Iceland's great punk guitarist is in town. Michael Pollock's vague reputation as... as a man who's done a lot of drugs preceded him. In fact, Icelanders warned me that he may not be able to form coherent sentences.

They would have been surprised that I found Michael Pollock, guitarist for Utangarðsmenn and returning solo artist, at the city library. We talked briefly and agreed to conduct an interview at the Dubliner over a beer. One beer.

Punk rock pro's don't drink

"It's great to speak in English. Icelandic really isn't my native tongue," Pollock tells me as soon as I sit down. He doesn't have the Ozzy Osbourne stutter I was expecting. He doesn't smell of booze, or lack attention span. He is clean cut to a degree only a fifty year old man can get away with - hair impossibly short and gelled at the same time. He speaks

English with a slight suburban California grate to his accent. I can't help myself. I ask him how comfortable he is with the bar, with an afternoon beer. You expect a fifty year old punk rocker to drink a lot or be 12-step. "I drink a glass of wine a day. My profession doesn't allow heavy drinking." But a good punk rocker has to have a history, right? I haven't even heard stories about this man, people just shake their heads. I ask him how he got his reputation. "One of Icelanders' favorite hobbies is gossiping. If they can't find anything, they'll make it up." He gives a brief laugh. "I did go out when I was younger. But you grow

up." Pollock stands to take a break from the interview. He goes to the bar, orders a pack of cigarettes and asks to borrow the 700 krónur from me.

The greatest troubadour in Iceland

Pollock has a tendency to launch into exhaustive speeches instead of straightforward responses. He does not throw up at the table, shout obscenities, disappear to the john and return with dilated pupils. He is the great anomaly, a punk rock guitarist who has grown up. We talk briefly about Megas, "the greatest troubadour in Iceland," Pollock states. Pollock hopes to introduce Megas' works to the rest of the world in English translations. Then we get to the duty of the interview, to talk about his new CD's. "I always enjoyed just being an accompanist, never a solo artist. But

last year I was turning fifty. A friend started pushing me... and I decided to make a CD that touched base with every kind of music that has influenced me as I've gone through life."

He goes on. Not to describe chords or influences, but to describe life in the way healthy fifty year old men tend to do in Irish pubs. "There are only two kinds of music: good and bad," he states. I nod. "Good music is honest as it is straight from the heart, passionate." Fifteen minutes later he's still talking about honest music. He by now has mentioned that art "got divorced from the tribal community." He looks down at my notebook over his cigarette to make sure I jot this down correctly.

"Anybody can be clever."

Another speech follows about great music and the Garden of Eden.

More about being real and being honest. An attack on the publishing industry. An attack on the music industry. A slight to Britney Spears. "Nothing is to be taken for granted. I could go in a minute. Heart attack on the table," he says. No, that is not possible. Michael Pollock won't be going in a minute. He has been speaking for an hour, and he is every bit as full of energy as he was the second I came in. He could go on for hours. He gives his manifesto: "Too many writers are too clever. Anybody can be clever, very few people dare to be real." Whatever complaints might be made against Pollock, he lives by this credo. Every word he speaks he believes. In his music and in his live performances, unguarded honesty can make up for a lot. For more, check out website www.tappingmyownphone.com.

PEACHES: Somewhere between attitude and Tourette's

by Bart Cameron

The terms "Canadian" and "school-teacher" don't usually go with "porno-sexy hip-hop rocker." Then again, one usually doesn't associate "banking conglomerate" with "independent art." All these terms will come together when Peaches puts on a show Tuesday June 29 at Klink & Bank. Peaches' hit "Fuck the Pain Away," with the lines "Suckin' on my titties like you wanted me/ callin' me all the time like Blondie," either impressed you with its ultra-ironic neo-feminist vibe, or it kinda made you horny, but no matter what, if you were even remotely hip, you probably danced to it last summer.



This summer she's back and more popular, and she has an album titled Fatherfucker. Last year, Kitty-Yo, her record label, claimed "Peaches wants to rock you as she fucks music in the ass." This year, she did a duet with Iggy Pop, and she recorded a track with Pink. (She turned down an offer to write for Britney Spears.) In other words, Peaches is making it. Her music may also be on the verge of going from subversive to just plain boring.



The message of the refrain from "Shake Your Dix," one of 12 tracks from her new album, demonstrates how fine the line is between clever and stupid, or between attitude and Tourette's. "Are you motherfuckers ready for the fatherfuckers," sounds one degree removed from a foul-mouthed Fatman Scoop. To fans turned on to her earlier album, it disappoints. To Britney, Christina and Pink, it's life-altering in its brilliance.



PICKS MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

NASA, June 25th, 23:00

JAGÚAR



Jagúar was formed back in '98 by six guys with a mutual interest in groove-oriented music, be it funk, Latin, soul or rock. The band has released two albums, toured Europe, worked and played with numerous Icelandic artists and their energetic live performances seemed to have helped their front man's weight problem, as he has never looked this slim. Get the funk out, feel free to dance.

Grand Rokk, June 26th, 23:00

TÝR



Since the Metallica gig here in Reykjavik on the 4th of July is sold out, why not go see a lesser known heavy metal band from the Faeroe Islands instead? They may not have managed to close down Napster, nor do they have a drummer from Denmark, but their guitarist is Icelandic and they're named after Týr, the pagan God of War. How metal is that?

Bar 11, July 1st, 22:00

HÖLT HÓRA



A punk rock band from the south coast that sadly doesn't play too often in Reykjavik. But now they're here and on the set list is both their own material, some of which has done well on Icelandic radio, and covers, mostly Icelandic punk songs from the early 80s. Ladies look out for that handsome vocalist, beware of that rhythm guitarist. No Admission Fee!

Various places around the countryside

1ST WEEKEND IN JULY



It has long been a tradition among Icelanders to go out into the countryside during the summer, put up a tent (if not yet drunk upon arrival), grill some hamburgers, and then get roaringly drunk. The first weekend of July is just a warm-up for a much heavier drinking weekend, the first weekend of August, but a good one anyway. A new angle on Icelandic nature for those tired of the standard tourist thing.

Jómfrúin, June 3rd, 16:00

SUMMERTIME JAZZ



The Jól Pálsson Trio includes drummer Helgi Helgason, keyboard player Davíð Þór and of course sax player Jól Pálsson. The gig is outside restaurant Jómfrúin and is free of admission. If you want a table, show up early!

Laugardalshöll, July 7th

PLACEBO & MAUS



Placebo are well known across the world, Maus should be. Placebo have both gay and bisexual members, Maus do not. Maus is the best alternative Icelandic pop band to emerge in later years and their past three releases have received great reviews. Placebo are an international hit and together those two bands will no doubt put on a good show. Admission 4500ISK (tickets available in OgVodafone stores and on www.farfuglinn.is)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekends: Upstairs:
Troubadour

Weekends: Downstairs:
Live band playing covers

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Giving Away Great Art

by Bart Cameron

It's two o'clock on a rainy, cold Saturday in Reykjavík. The dozens of people who told me they were musicians, film-makers, writers and artists last night are sleeping off hangovers.



5ta herdeildin is playing their second gig of the day.

A talented four-piece, lo-fi, folk-influenced, genre-defying band, 5ta play in front of the globe in the pit of City Hall, then walk with me to the Alþingi in the hope that they might be arrested for playing. They are disappointed that the Alþingi is out of session, and that the building itself is under construction. As it happens, the construction workers take a break to listen to 5ta, applauding along with a few drivers who pulled over when they heard the music, trying to get involved in a conversation

and compliment the band.

It's curious. Nobody has been warned of the tour. Few people seem to know about the album, but everybody reacts well to the music and wants to hear more. Gísli, who has given me the off-putting stage name Gímalðin, (a vast opening or void), is phrasing his vocals beautifully, and he and the rest of the band have a natural charisma. Loftur Loftson on double bass is solid and smiling like a maniac, Hermann Stefánsson is playing arguably excessively catchy treble banjo hooks, and Gestur Guðnason throws out Robbie Robertson-style

guitar riffs. It's a band that immediately attracts fans.

As soon as they finish two or three numbers, though, the light seems to go out, and the band just wanders away. No sales pitch. No reminder about who they are or where one can see them.

After the second gig, an American couple who caught an earlier show chases Gísli down as we're walking and asks, one more time, for a spelling of the band so they can go buy a CD. He makes 5ta sound like the most foreign concoction of words I've ever heard.

At 3:30, we're at Café Hressó. The place is full, and everyone again is immediately into the music. I wonder if this will be the show where the band really cuts loose, where they will play for a couple of hours, as bluegrass bands in the United States do. They play four songs to strong applause and pack up.

5ta are making some of the best music in Iceland, and they are an extremely rewarding live act. They are also shy, almost to a fault. In a town where everyone seems to be selling themselves, 5ta is humbly giving away great art.

Their album, *Áður óútgefin lög*, however, is for sale at 12 Tónar.



MUSIC and NIGHTLIFE LISTINGS : june 25 - july 8

Music and nightlife events usually start around 21:00, unless otherwise stated. Pubs close at 01:00 on weekdays and much, much later on weekends. For those just wanting to party, the pubs and clubs don't get crowded until after midnight on weekends, although Thursday is a semi-official night out.

FRIDAY JUNE 25

Dubliners: 22:00 Troubadour Loki
01:00 Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

Grand Rokk: Bands Dikta & Dr. Spock

Dillon: DJ Andrea Jónsdóttir

Hverfisbar: DJ Andri

Sirkus: DJ Kári

Kaffibarinn: DJ KGB

Felix: DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

Bar 11: DJ Silja

Glaubar: DJ Þór Bæring

Café Sólón: DJ Þróstur 3000

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ's Daddi Diskó & Hlynur Mastermix

Mojito Club: DJ's Gullfoss & Geysir

Pravda Club: Women Night sponsored by radio-station Létt 967

Nasa: Funk Band Jagúar, see picks for details.

Hressó: DJ Atli Partycop

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Café Victor: DJ Heiðar Austmann

Café 22: DJ Matti from radio station X

Amsterdam: DJ Steini

De Palace: DJ's Devious & Extreme

Ari í Ögri: Troubadour duet Acoustics, ask them to perform "Tragedy" by BeeGees!

Celtic Cross: Troubadour upstairs and a Live band downstairs

SATURDAY JUNE 26

Dubliners: 22:00 Troubadour Loki
01:00 Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

Grand Rokk: Band Týr, see picks for details. And Douglas Wilson

Gaukur á Stöng: Coverband "Íslenski Fáninn" play mostly Icelandic classics

Dillon: DJ Andrea Jónsdóttir

Felix: DJ Andri

Glaubar: DJ Bjarki Batman

Sirkus: DJ KGB

Hverfisbar: DJ Kiddi Bigfoot(d)

Bar 11: DJ LuPen

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ's Daddi Diskó & Hlynur Mastermix

Mojito Club: DJ's Gullfoss & Geysir

Kaffibarinn: DJ's 'n' Fun

Jómfrúin: Jazz vocalist Ragnheiður Gröndal and

band, good jazz.

Nelly's: Porn Night, just hope for the best?

Amsterdam: Coverband Buff play...err... Covers and some of their own stuff, incl. Smash hit song: "who put broken glass in my vaseline"?

Café 22: DJ Andri from radiostation X

Hressó: DJ Atli Partycop

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Café Victor: DJ Heiðar Austmann

De Palace: DJ's Devious & Extreme

Nasa: Folk song coverband Pappar play trad. from Iceland & Ireland

Ari í Ögri: Troubadour duet Acoustics, ask them to perform "Tragedy" by BeeGees!

SUNDAY JUNE 27

Dubliners: Troubadour Ingvar Valgeirs

Bar 11: 21:00 Movie Night: Class of Nuke 'em High ('88) & Mad Max ('79)

Hressó: Jazz vocalist Ragnheiður Gröndal and band, good way to spend a Sunday.

MONDAY JUNE 28

Dubliners: Troubadour Stebbi Ingvars

TUESDAY JUNE 29

Klink og bank artist workplace: Punk queen Peaches performs live! See article to your left for more info.

Dubliners: Troubadour Stebbi Ingvars

WEDNESDAY JUNE 30

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

Café 22: Rock and Roll documentary film

THURSDAY JULY 1

Bar 11: 22:00 Band Hólt Hóra, see picks for details. Also Band PIND.

Grand Rokk: Band Kentár plays the blues

Café Sólón: DJ's Andrés & Tommi White (-led not a racist)

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

Hverfisbar: Troubadour duet "Bítlarnir" do the human jukebox thing.

FRIDAY JULY 2

Dubliners: 22:00 Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva
01:00 Band Atómsstöðin

Nasa: Coverband "Íslenski Fáninn" or The Icelandic flag play Icelandic oldies

Dillon: DJ Andrea Jónsdóttir

Hverfisbar: DJ Benni

Felix: DJ Doktorinn

Bar 11: DJ Rock 'n Roll

Café Sólón: DJ Svalli

Grand Rokk: Hjálmar, Icelands only reggae band

Mojito Club: Retro Music

Gaukur á Stöng: Solo artist Love Guru: Love Guru is...well...was...a joke that became serious and sad. Icelands Scooter.

12 Tónar Music Store: 17:00 Gig in the Garden behind the store. When Grapevine went to press it didn't know whom will be performing but is sure it's going to be something worth seeing. Go there!

Hressó: DJ Atli Partycop

Café Victor: DJ Gunni TuttiFrutti

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

De Palace: DJ Ívar Örn

Amsterdam: DJ Steini

Ari í Ögri: Troubadour duet Acoustics, ask them to perform "Staying Alive" by BeeGees!

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ's Daddi Diskó & Hlynur Mastermix

Kaffibarinn: DJ's 'n' Fun

Celtic Cross: Troubadour upstairs and a Live band downstairs

SATURDAY JULY 3

Dubliners: 22:00 Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva
01:00 Band Atómsstöðin

Nasa: Coverband "Í Svörtum Fötum" or "Men in Black Tights" sadly play some of their own material along with covers

Dillon: DJ Andrea Jónsdóttir

Felix: DJ Andri

Hverfisbar: DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

Mojito Club: Retro Music

Jómfrúin: Trio Jóel Pálsson, see picks for details.

Amsterdam: Coverband Oxford

Hressó: DJ Atli Partycop

Café Victor: DJ Gunni TuttiFrutti

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Ari í Ögri: Troubadour duet Acoustics, ask them to perform "Staying Alive" by BeeGees!

SUNDAY JULY 4

Dubliners: Troubadour Andy Garcia

MONDAY JULY 5

Dubliners: Troubadour Stebbi Stef

TUESDAY JULY 6

Dubliners: Troubadour Stebbi Stef

WEDNESDAY JULY 7

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

THURSDAY JULY 8

Grand Rokk: Band Ísidor, who are about to release an album, and band Kuai

Café Sólón: DJ's Andrés & Tommi White (-led not a racist)

Gaukur á Stöng: Hard Rock band Dark Harvest and Solid IV. Solid IV are close to Black Sabbath, Dark Harvest are more the lost link between music and sports. Loads of fun if guitarheros are your cup of tea.

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

Hverfisbar: Troubadour duet "Bítlarnir" do the human jukebox thing.

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This was the only ad space left in issue 3 of The Reykjavík Grapevine.

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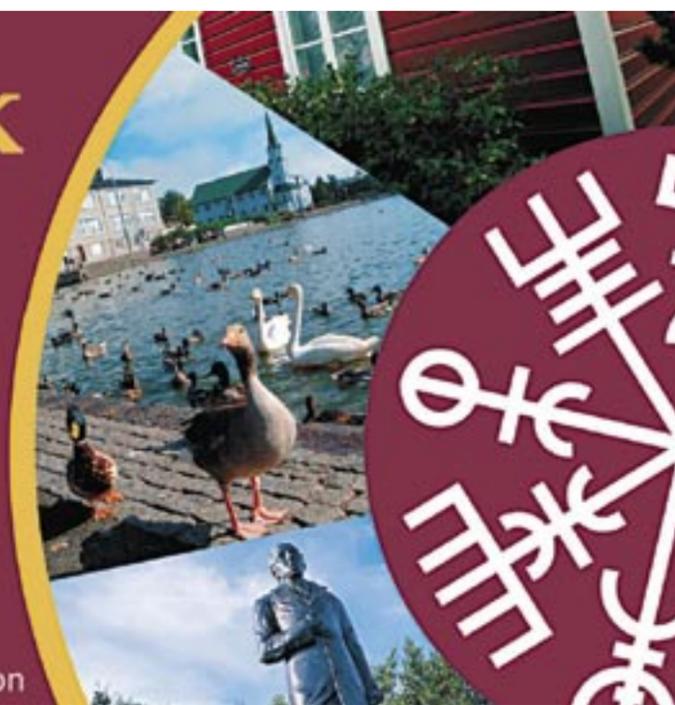
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“ICELANDERS HAD THE GUTS TO LEAD THE WAY.”

by Robert Jackson

Vigdís: The World's first female President

In this edition of Grapevine, when we look at the nature of the Presidency, it is only natural that we would interview the person behind the name that has become internationally synonymous with the title President of Iceland.

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir became the first woman to be elected a constitutional head of state when she took office in 1980, a position that she then held for a further sixteen years. During those years, she built a reputation as a champion of women's rights and a promoter of racial equality. The length of her presidency gave her the opportunity, denied to so many other international figures whose terms of office are dictated by more rigorous domestic elections, to become a consistent voice in the international community - an opportunity that she has used to the full in promoting the country to the world at large, and contributing to the debates with a weight that far exceeded the scale of the country that put her at the table.

She was elected after a closely fought contest against three male candidates; an election that she won by promoting her pro-nationhood, apolitical, pro-culture, feminist platform to a country who, until then, had only had male presidents.

The reluctant candidate

“Icelanders saw that it was time for a woman candidate. I was approached, was reluctant at first, but as support grew and it became such a challenge, I decided to jump into it. I threw myself wholeheartedly into the campaign. It was so exciting. I travelled the country staying in supporters' houses, being passed like a baton from one town to the next. I never slept in a hotel, I never ate in a restaurant, I slept in the children's room every place I went. I talked about the country, the history of the country. I talked about the people, men and women alike.

When you were elected did you have a clear idea of what it is you wanted to achieve as President?

“Icelandic identity was what my campaign was about, and then it came naturally to me to use our identity and culture to promote our strengths as an independent republic to the world. I had a cosmopolitan background; I spoke French and

most Scandinavian languages as well. I had a saying: ‘the culture sells the cod, better than the cod sells the culture’.

“I can never erase that I was the first woman to be elected to a Presidency in the world and I think that it is outstanding that Icelanders had the guts to do this and lead the way. That was the message I was also able to take with me on my travels.”

A woman alone

You also were a single mother; you were a woman alone in the role without a spouse or partner. On June the 17th it was you, a woman alone, who was leading the procession of dignitaries.

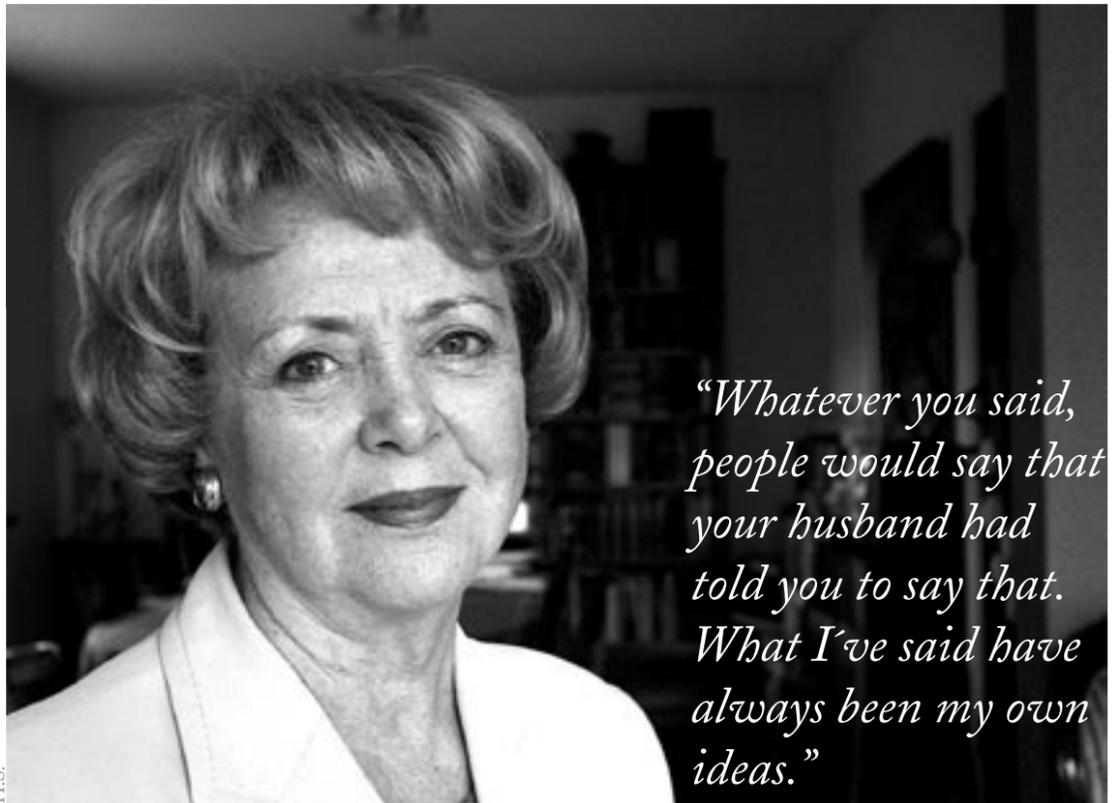
“That was very deliberate. I never wanted to involve my family, and I wanted to protect my daughter. I protected her childhood and I believe that she is grateful for that. I often encountered questions such as, ‘Who are you going to sit opposite you?’ and I used to say, ‘Well, let us have a round table.’ And there was a man who said once, ‘I am so grateful Vigdís that you are not married because if you were, whatever you said people would say that your husband had told you to say that.’ Whatever I have said have always been my own ideas.”

You are known internationally for your stance on the equality of women. 25 years later, has the battle you set out to fight now been won in Iceland?

“No, it hasn't. We have made huge progress on equal rights but we still have a long way to go on equal pay. Women are still underpaid and men still get the better jobs. But everything is relative; we are far ahead of many other countries and we can be proud of many things that have happened here. There are many work places where we have secured equal pay.”

Can the pendulum ever swing too far in the other direction? Can you see a time when men's rights need supporting?

“No, the pendulum never goes too far. You see, women do not want to lead without men's support, but men



“Whatever you said, people would say that your husband had told you to say that. What I've said have always been my own ideas.”

have, to this day, considered themselves capable of leading without women's support. Women would always take men into consideration - that is the difference. Society works best when men and women co-operate and, when it works, it is a fine moment. It is like two beams of a house holding up a house. It is the responsibility of both sexes to make that co-operation work.”

Unifier and peacemaker

How would you define the role of the President and his relationship with Parliament?

“A unifier, a peacemaker and you unite the nation by the things that the nation has in common; its culture and the country. During my time it was always a relationship of mutual respect, mutual information and the Prime Ministers came regularly to me informing me of what happened in politics. Being completely neutral, I had friends in all parties; one of my strengths has been to be completely neutral in Icelandic politics. I worked to promote the country; it was not my job to be involved in politics.”

Vigdís had agreed to the interview on the basis that I would not write about her position on Ólafur Ragnar's refusal to sign the media bill. She was willing though to talk about the time that she wavered over signing a bill put before her in 1985.

“I never intended to refuse signing that bill, it would have been

completely absurd. No. I was asked to sign a bill on the 10th anniversary of International Women's day. As the bill involved striking stewardesses at Icelandair, I thought that it was inappropriate and unfair that I should have been asked to sign it on such an important day for our women, and I asked to see the Prime Minister before signing it. By the time the Prime Minister was able to see me to discuss the matter it was after mid-day, and the news went out to the country that I had not signed the bill - and that is what counted.”

“Every generation should revise the constitution”

Can you see the need for the changes in the constitution, particularly the presidency?

“I would rather not comment on the latter, but what I will say is that the constitution should be revised regularly and this revision, with the exception of a small amendment, has not happened. Every generation should revise the constitution to find out how it is best adapted to the society and community that the generation is living in.”

So does she have concerns for the country?

“It seems sad to say it but it seems that people are becoming more self-centred than they were. There are many Nordic politicians who feel that the young no longer care about playing their part in a democratic society; they feel cut off from it. This is a shame because it is not in our natures to be self-centred. We were a nation of survivors living in remote communities; we had to help each other out. And this comes at a time when there is a fissure appearing in our society. The rich are becoming richer and there are now, in this welfare society, increasing instances of poverty and the problems that go with it.

I admire so many things in our young but I have to say that Icelanders are not particularly self-disciplined. We have to be more aware of our neighbours, have more consideration. We still think too much for the day; we have not been that good in planning far ahead. We seem to

want it to want it to happen today, with very little thought about the future. We have huge courage, but not enough forethought.”

Icelanders should go to the rest of the world for inspiration

“We can continue to offer the world a great deal. We are among the leaders in the world when it comes to fishing, in knowledge about desertification that the world will want to hear so much about in the future, because of climate changes and the associated soil erosion. And we have much to offer when it comes to safeguarding a language. The Institute of Foreign Languages, which carries my name at the University of Iceland, has just received an acknowledgement from UNESCO which is of the greatest value internationally. Many people will be able to come to Iceland and increase their learning and we, as a country, can fully participate in these three important fields.

“But Icelanders also regularly have to go out to the rest of the world to collect new inspirations, otherwise we will stagnate. What we can offer in the future is a tremendous creativity, and I believe this creativity benefits from a full-blooded contact with the rest of the world; we should not live in a shell.”

Vigdís may not be a politician but she is a diplomat to the core. The former President was at pains not to be drawn on personalities and individuals. She is not alone in this. It is the nature of public life in Iceland that, while it is a nation that literally crackles with gossip and rumour, most are wary of going on the record.

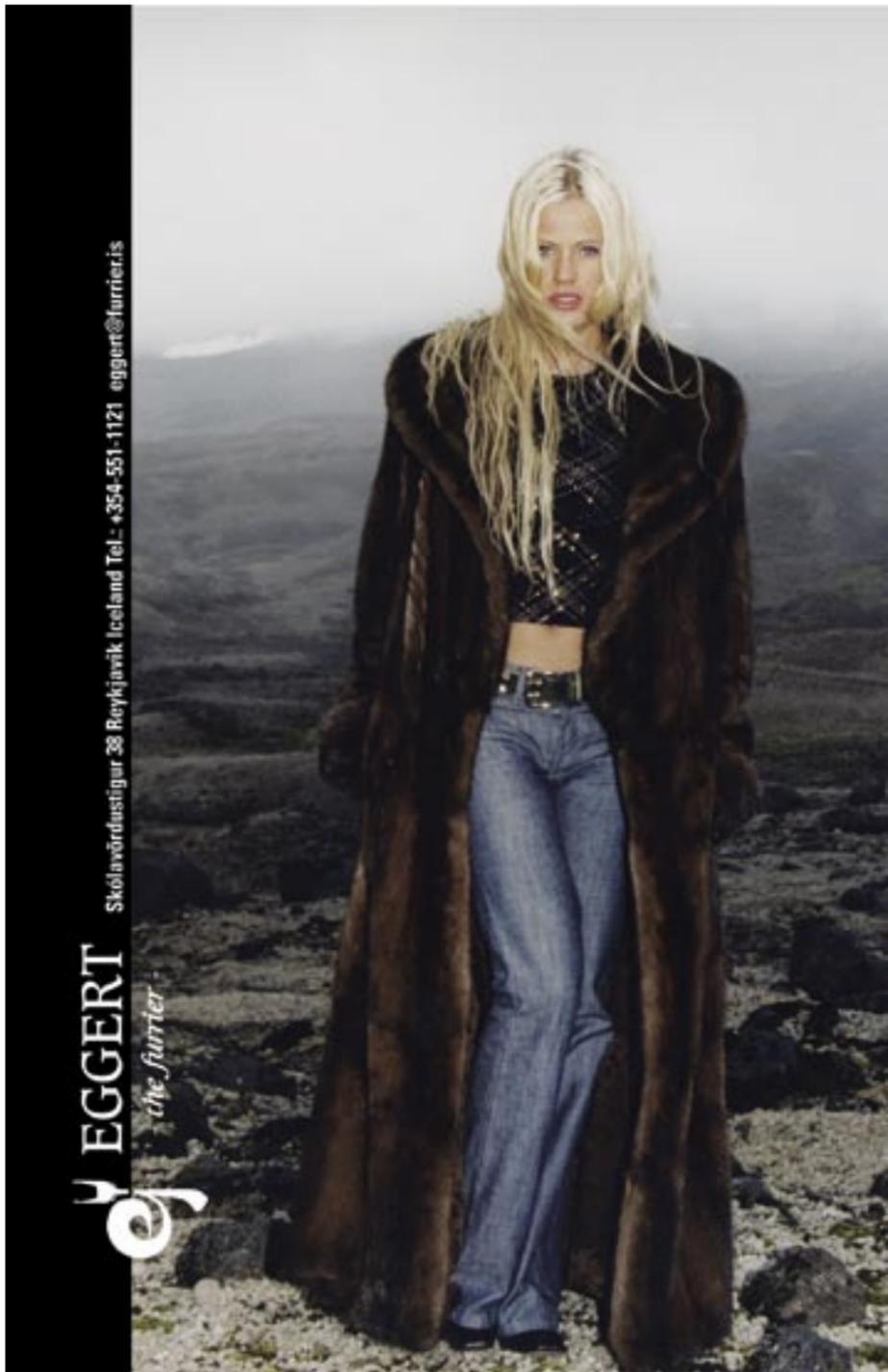
In many ways I wished that I could have interviewed Vigdís when she was on the campaign trail 25 years ago, with everything still to fight for. But that said, here is without doubt a woman who is able to offer wisdom and experience to a country that is going through growing pains and turbulent times. In addition, she has done much to help build Iceland's international profile and helped to give it a voice on issues that affect us all.



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Landsmót



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-at Hella from June 28th to July 4th

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A magnificent location
Hella, about 90-minute drive from Reykjavík, is located near many of Iceland's most spectacular places, like Gullfoss (The Golden Waterfall), Geysir and the volcano Hekla.

Tickets are sold at the entrance.



www.landsmot.is/english

GET YER KICKS ON ROUTE ONE

by Jónas Moody

The innate need for Icelanders to conquer the world around them has decreased dramatically over the past 1000 years, but the tendency does still surface from time to time. While looting and pillaging are at an all time low, this wanderlust is now sated by taking to the open road and venturing out into Iceland's stunning wilderness – along with every electric doodad meant to bring all the comforts of the indoors to the outdoors: multi-roomed, vaulted-ceilinged tents; six-burner gas grills and mobile entertainment centers. Camping has become keeping up with the Jónssons, a veritable world fair of gadgetry specifically designed to eradicate any and all traces of being out in nature. However, there is a subtle charm to camping on a shoestring budget that is not lost on all campers here. A lot of tourists and young people have the right idea. Some even brave the elements and spread out their sleeping bags on Iceland's posturepedic-like moss.

Camping has become keeping up with the Jónssons

Still more daring are those who choose to rough it in the hinterlands of suburban Reykjavík. The camping ground in Laugardalur nestled between Laugardalshöll Arena and the Reykjavík Hostel can be an excellent alternative to hotels in the area as long as the weather agrees. The price is right at kr. 750 per person, replete with amenities: newly landscaped grounds, nice bathrooms, showers, kitchens, and a grill area. Plus there is Katrín in the tourist office, who can outcharm any concierge in the city. She is ready and willing to book tours, answer any questions, and sell you lighter fluid. While touring the facilities, I ran into one local who had a bit of a gripe when asked what he thought of the site. "This is all very pleasant here, but it's a landscaped park full of trees. We might as well be in Germany. But this is Iceland. Chop them down!"

"It's a landscaped park full of trees. We might as well be in Germany. But this is Iceland. Chop them down!"

Let's not fool ourselves; it just isn't very representative of what it's like to camp in the rest of the country. This is not sveitarómantík (the romantic countryside). He's referring to the Icelandic notion of pastoral beauty and the Icelandic aversion to trees once they breach waist-level. While the grounds are very nice, it is admittedly odd to be surrounded by a sports arena, skating rink, busy residential streets, and cranes loom-

ing in the distance. It simply doesn't spell "outdoor adventure" very clearly. Those looking for budget accommodation in big, bad, blow-your-life-savings Reykjavík can do little better than the camping ground outside of pitching a tent on the median of Miklabraut, but those in search of a more essentially Icelandic experience should push past the suburbs of Reykjavík and explore the vast and remarkable beauty of the countryside. July is doubtlessly the prime month to do just this.

Icelandic farmers are rarely the misanthropes people take them for

The time for action in Iceland is inevitably at the beginning of the month. Everyone has been paid and like the best of consumers, they are all eager to spend as quickly and as recklessly as possible. However, the beginning of June is still a touch too nippy for enjoyable camping. The first week in August is a huge na-

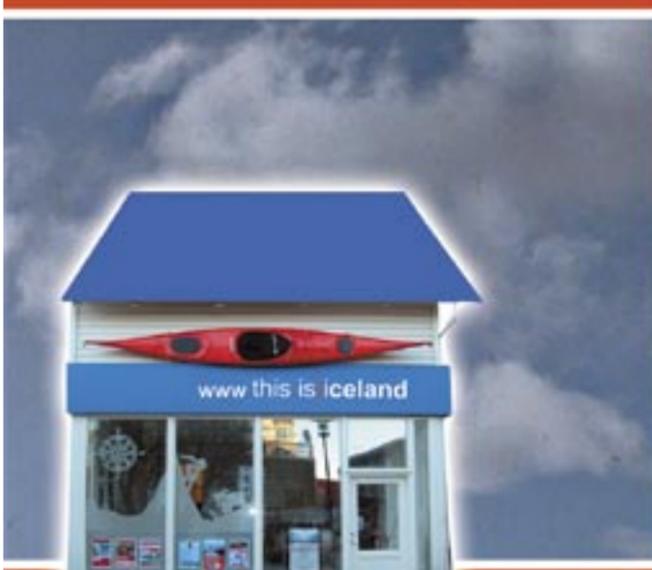
tional holiday in which the country descends upon the Vestmannaeyjar for a weekend of utter debauchery. This leaves the first weekend in July, which has become the traditional time for city mice to pack up, file out of Reykjavík, and run for the hills. In the past few years, Þórsmörk and Þingvellir have been among the most frequented destinations, but other places like Flúðir or Laugarvatn offer all the necessary amenities



(including showers, internet, and a café if you've had your fill of lamb dogs) and are not as peopled as the more popular sites. However, for the quintessential camping experience, I highly recommend taking off in any direction (by bus, by car, or, my favorite, by thumb). Keep your eyes peeled for any place that strikes your fancy and stake out your own site,

but remember that someone has most likely staked it out long before you and he's called a farmer. So find the local farmer and politely ask for permission to set up camp. And if the spirit moves you, invite him back for a lamb dog and chew the fat of the land with him; Icelandic farmers are rarely the misanthropes people take them for. If you get to

stinking, don't fret. Most villages have a municipal pool where you can shower for next to nothing. If you can stand your own stench, force down one more lamb dog, and manage to actually sink a stake into the ground, then you may yet find a little sveitarómantík for yourself.



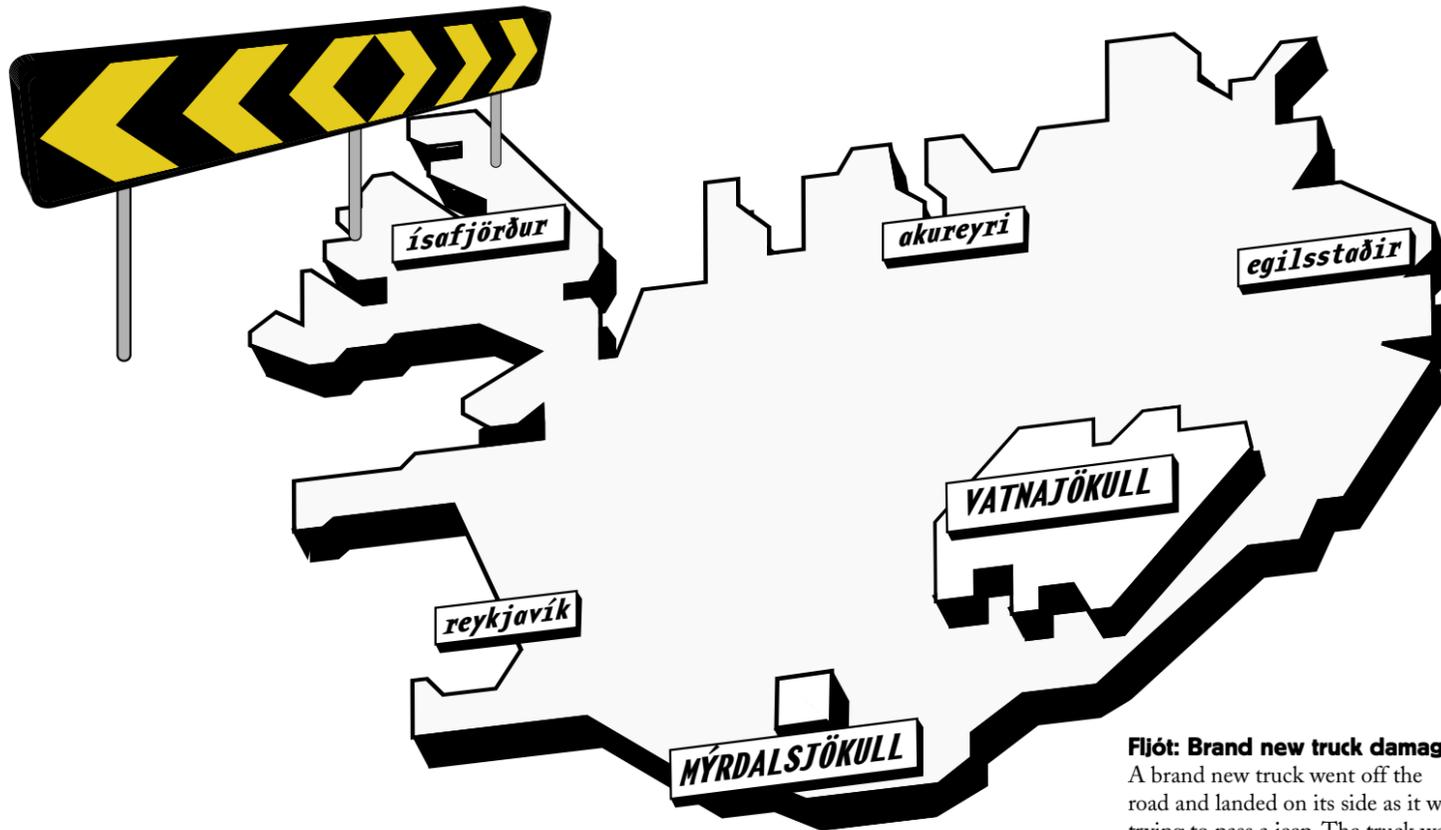
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Island Life

Skálholt: Old Church in the Ground

In the Skálholt church, seat of the bishop for most of Iceland's history, the annual music festival kicks off on the weekend of the 25-26th of June, and runs for the next five weekends after. In its 30th year now, the festival emphasises Icelandic music as well Baroque. A new piece by Jón Nordal called "Old Church in the Ground" will be premiered. Entrance is free.

Eyjafjörður: Harvest all done

Many farmers in Eyjafjörður have already finished their harvesting now at solstice, which has apparently never happened before, as it is usually starting around this time. The quality of the hay is thought to be as good as it can get.

Stykkishólmur: 34 years of restoration complete.

The oldest house in the town, called the Norwegian House, was built in 1882. It was bought by local authorities in 1970 for the purpose of housing the area museum. It has been restored in stages and restoration has finally been completed. It is open daily in the summer.

Fljót: Brand new truck damaged

A brand new truck went off the road and landed on its side as it was trying to pass a jeep. The truck was a brand new Scania, and had only been driven 900km. The truck looked as if it had sustained a fair amount of damage, but is hopefully not beyond repair. The two passengers are unharmed.

The West Meets Ice

Horseback Riding for Beginners

by Marc Mettler

The first time I mounted an Icelandic horse, I noticed something was missing. The saddle lacked the horn familiar to my experience riding horses as a child on my grandfather's farm in northern Minnesota. The horn is originally designed for roping calves in true cowboy fashion, but I would use it to stay on the horse.



Had I been given a broken saddle? Or worse, had a previous rider torn the horn off while being thrown from the horse? I looked to our Swedish tour guide for comfort and an explanation. "That is for Western riding. This is Icelandic," she stated simply, with a hint of superiority in her voice. I made every attempt to look like an experienced rider, but without the Western saddle I was petrified.

Perhaps this is because a rider in our group was thrown from his horse within ten minutes of our three-hour tour, grandly titled, "Meadows and Mountains." We had just started to practice the tölt (the four-beat gait unique to Icelandic horses), when his saddle slipped, spooking the horse and tossing him on the ground.

Guide: (into walkie-talkie) "Hey. A guy out here fell off his horse. His ass really hurts." This led to a dialogue in which the word ass, a word not normally used by native English speakers in formal conversation, came up a lot. It was decided that the man would "walk it off" while his girlfriend split from the group for a shorter ride. The final three - the tour guide, my friend and I - would press onward.

Guide: "Tell him I hope his ass feels better."



Despite the continuous use of the word ass, I felt unable to laugh. I was beginning to understand the risk of riding Icelandic horses, even if the fall wasn't very high.

Our rump party now had to face a challenge to brave the mountains on horseback. We forged small rivers and climbed narrow paths, the horses leaping over large stones.

I felt as if we were a part of Icelandic history, explorers galloping fearlessly through the lush, green countryside. It was a game of chance; would the rest of us return with our asses unscathed?

We tölted back through the gates of the Eldhestar farm, my ass sore but my flair for the dramatic unscathed. Secretly, I was relieved and proud to have returned without harm.

After my adventure, I understood why Icelanders feel superior about their horses. Sure-footed and easy-tempered, Icelandic horses make dependable and useful travel companions. They have played a major role in Icelandic society from the early settlers to Nordic gods - the gods' horses even having four extra legs.

It is no surprise, then, that the Icelandic Horse Festival, or Landsmót, has been a tradition since 1950. The festival offers a variety of races and show events in celebration of the Icelandic horse, whose genetic purity breeds beauty and strength.

This year's festival will be held at Hella in the Rangárvellir region of South Iceland, June 28th - July 4th.



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TOP
8**MOVIES****by Práinn Bertelsson**

Práinn Bertelsson has done as much as anyone in helping Icelandic filmmaking come of age. His comedies from the 80's all retain the status of Icelandic classics, particularly the Lif trilogy. His last film to date was Einkalíf in 1996. His biography, Some Kind of Me, came out before last Christmas and was a best seller. It's coming out in English this summer. His son Krummi currently distributes a reputable local paper.

Sadly, my thought processes are not accurate enough that I can measure exactly if I think one film is slightly better than another. On the other hand, when I look over my shoulder and think about Icelandic films that I've seen, it's easy to remember 8 good films and its fun to fast forward through them in your mind. They are, in alphabetical order:

It's easy to think of five good Icelandic films. When I look over this list I see that the films on it are incredibly varied regarding content and subject matter. The only problem facing Icelandic filmmaking is that Icelanders are only 280.000 rather than 280 million. But that will hopefully get better.

If I had to pick one film from this list and put it in the DVD player tonight, I would choose Land and Sons, stroll comfortably down memory lane, and recollect the premiere of the film in Austurbæjarbíó a quarter-century ago. One came out of the film in ecstatic bliss, exhilarated just as when you came out of the 3 o' clock matinee in the old days inspired by Tarzan, Roy Rogers and Bugs Bunny. Magic. Finally, there was an Icelandic film that looked exactly like a real film. Finally, Icelanders had made the silver screen in sensual, razor-sharp Kodak Eastman colours. That is to say, regular people and not trolls and dwarves, witches and elves, or a local version of the Three Stooges as in the first primitive Icelandic films.

Finally, finally.

And now, 25 years later I put the film into the machine with trembling hands. Will the magic still work?

TSp

1. Benjamin the Dove (Benjamín dúfa) by Gísli Snær. A beautiful and well made children's film which did not get the international attention it deserved, perhaps because it deals with tragedy. Too strong for children at the time. That was before the time of Voldemort.
2. Angels of the Universe (Englar alheimsins) by Friðrik Þór. Iceland's answer to One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, except the ending is hopeless.
3. When The Raven Flies (Í skugga hrafsins) by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson. An Icelandic "Northern," echoes of Sergio Leone and Kurosawa. Horses, violence and beautiful scenery. A strong mixture.
4. 101 Reykjavík by Baltasar Kormákur. The grim humour of Hallgrímur Helgason survives the transition to the big screen. It was Hallgrímur who discovered that Reykjavík is cool. Baltasar is born cool. Even I felt a little cool when I saw this film.
5. Land and Sons (Land og synir) by Ágúst Guðmundsson. The first Icelandic film that looked like a real film. I always get an attack of nostalgia when I think about this film.
6. The Icelandic Dream (Íslenski draumurinn) by Robert Douglas. Þórhallur pulls a star turn in the leading role. I want to see more of him. Where is he today?
7. Rust (Ryð) by Lárus Ýmir Óskarsson. I had never considered that mechanics could be really unhappy until I saw this film. Along with Egill Eðvarðsson Lárus, Lárus has the nicest style of Icelandic directors.
8. Honour of the House (Ungfrúin góða og húsið). Good period. Good actresses. Good Egill Ólafsson

TOP
8**ALBUMS****by Jakob Frimann Magnússon**

Jakob Frimann is a keyboard player and member of the band Stuðmenn, perhaps the most popular band in Iceland in the last 30 years, as well as releasing numerous solo albums. He was Iceland's cultural attaché to Great Britain in the years 1991-95 and has produced various documentaries for television.

As a 10-year-old in Iceland, I mostly listened to the Beatles and the Stones, the Icelandic answer to whom were Hljómar from Keflavík. They made some pretty impressive records before joining their main rivals, Flowers, to form the first Icelandic supergroup, Trúbrot. Trúbrot's legendary album Lifun has to be on my list as well as the first solo outing by Hljómar/Trúbrot songwriter Gunnar Þórðarson, a record he made overseas and included Manitoba, a beautifully crafted song about Iceland's first emigrants, written in the spirit of Brian Wilson with slight Bacharach innuendos.

In my teenage years my parents' collection of jazz records became my main fodder before turning on to the likes of Pink Floyd, Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Leon Russell, Steely Dan and the fabulous Weather Report. Unfortunately, not many Icelandic counterparts

could be referred to here except perhaps Mezzoforte, Iceland's first international hit makers (Garden Party in 1982), the current local funk heroes Jaguar and, funnily enough, Sigur Rós, who can certainly be put in the Floyd bag. My number one choice, Gaia, might

surprise a few people. It is originally a soundtrack for a multimedia Viking exhibition, but done with a host of some of the world's foremost musicians and stands up remarkably well. This is partly due to the classy touch of producer Eyþór Gunnarsson who managed

to generate a great musical environment for Valgeir Guðjónsson's infectious melodies. This record was released by New Age label Windham Hill in the States and is probably the only 'world music' record that regularly makes it to my CD player.

TSp

1. Gaia
2. Sigurrós: Ágætis byrjun
3. Bubbi: Von (The Cuban Album)
4. KK & Ellen: Gleðifólkið
5. Gunnar Þórðarson: Debut solo album
6. Trúbrot: Lifun
7. Jagúar: Get the funk out
8. Quarashi: Debut album

TOP
8**BOOKS****by Kristján B. Jónasson**

Kristján B. is currently head of R&D at Edda publishing, having previously been editorial director of Forlagið. He studied literature at the University of Iceland, as well as the University of Tuebingen in Germany and Siena in Italy. He just came home from a vacation in France and is currently back at his dayjob holding the future of Icelandic literature in his grasp. He found himself unable to stick to 8 books.

In my opinion the past 25 years have been some of the best in Icelandic literature. I have my favorites from all periods of Icelandic literary history, reaching from the Eddas to the autobiographical masters of the 20th Century. In the past two and a half decades an incredible amount of great books have appeared and all the books on the list are from this period.

The problem with lists is that I don't want to choose between these works because they are so different and they fascinate me for different reasons. The list, in fact, means nothing. Torments in the Chamber of Mind is at the top of my list because it is one of the few Icelandic books about love. Most of the books on the list are in fact about some

sort of emotional struggle, so perhaps Icelanders are more obsessed with their feelings than sometimes thought. The book in 9th place, The Killians by Einar Kárason, is considerably different from the book in 1st place, but it is also about struggle; insanity, broken families and disorder. Einar's books are, however, so funny that I keep going

back to them. Anyone who wants to know how the Icelandic public really speaks should read his books; he has an infallible grasp of the way everyday language sounds.

TSp

1. Torments in the Chamber of Mind by Guðbergur Bergsson.
2. Night in the Lighthouse by Gyrðir Eliasson
3. 101 Reykjavík by Hallgrímur Helgason
4. Love of Fishes by Steinunn Sigurðardóttir
5. Angels of the Universe by Einar Már Guðmundsson
6. The Fall of the Moorangels by Sigfús Bjartmarsson
7. Fiction by Linda Vilhjálmsdóttir
8. Hótel California by Stefán Máni
9. The Killians by Einar Kárason

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