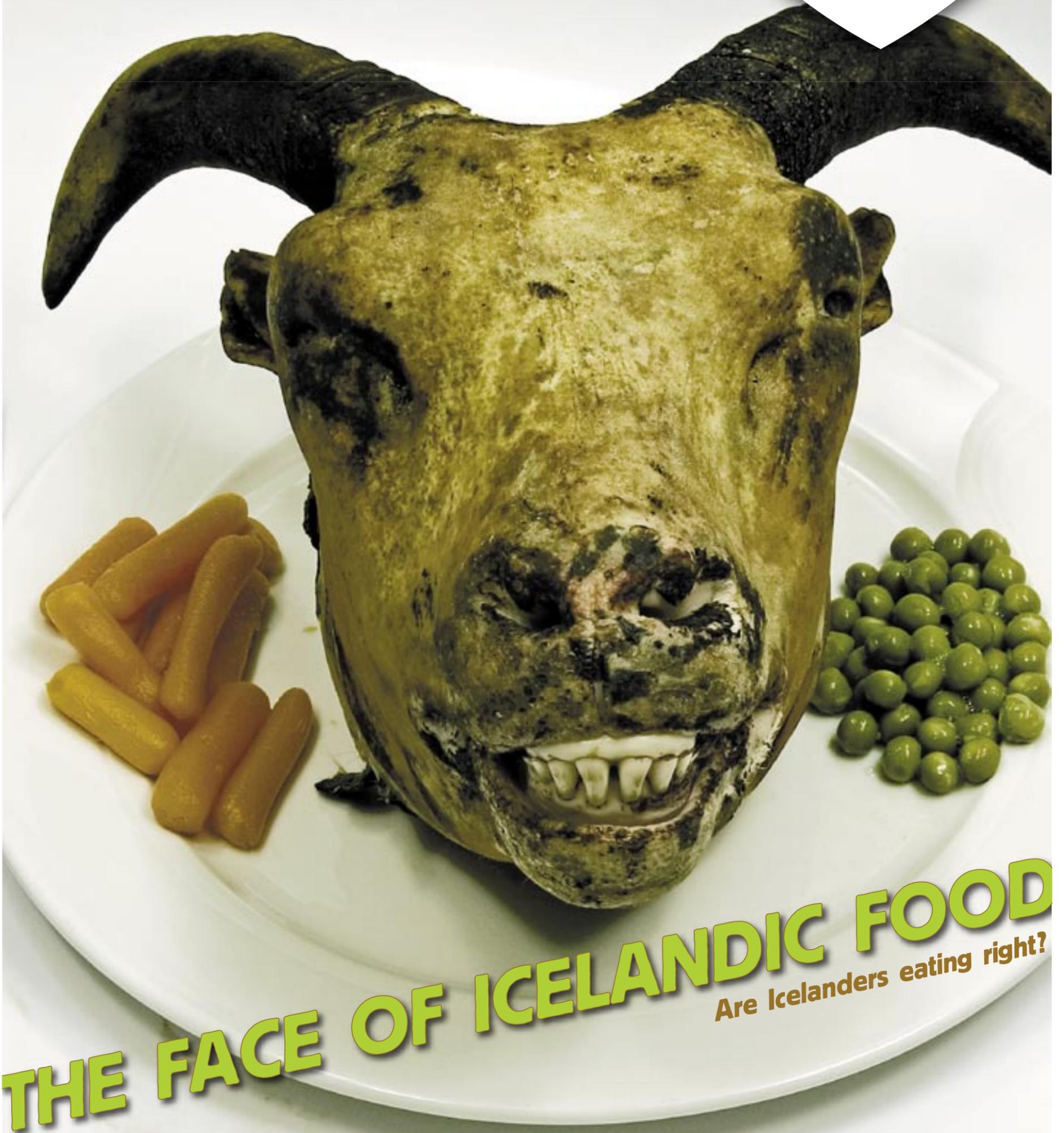


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# THE FACE OF ICELANDIC FOOD

Are Icelanders eating right?

**WE TRUST YOU...SORTA**  
*Are the immigration laws fair?*

**12-YEAR-OLD TWINS:**  
*rising stars of  
the racist folk scene*

**LIP UP, FATTY!**  
*Paddy does  
Brazilian Jiu jitsu*

**WHICH ICELANDIC  
POLITICIAN ARE YOU?**

# the REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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## LETTERS

Complaints, criticism, suggestions, praise, money in new, unmarked bills, anything at all: Contact [letters@grapevine.is](mailto:letters@grapevine.is) or send your mail to: The Reykjavik Grapevine, Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavik

Hi there  
I just wanted to thank you for sending me the paper to Fréttablaðið. It's nice to know you can be expecting it. How are things going for you?  
Regards,  
Smári

We're fine, thank you. How are you?

Hello Valur,  
My name is Darren Adam and I am a Scottish radio presenter who has become mildly obsessed (in an entirely healthy way) with Iceland over the last few years. My partner and I are just back from our sixth visit to Reykjavik, and whilst in town I picked up a copy of "Grapevine", which I thought was very impressive. I was a visitor in town last weekend, but we would very much like to live in Reykjavik at some point in the future; I thought the publication served me extremely well, both as a tourist, and the "ex-pat" I would like to be!  
All the best,  
Darren Adam

Thanks. I'd like to be an expat too. Wanna trade?

One criminal after another. The first of December there was a formal exchange of mayors in Reykjavik. The new mayor of the city, Steinunn Valdís, took over from Þórólfur Árnason, oil crook, who from now on will be doing his dirty work away from the annoying beams of the spotlight. Steinunn clearly feels that the first of December, traditionally an Icelandic holiday, is way too nationalist and bigoted to deserve to be celebrated anymore, so the first thing she did in office was to secure "new Icelanders" of Vietnamese origin and the Red Cross more of the peoples tax money in order to launch some kind of adjustment program for those young gooks. In other words, throw more money into hopeless, left-wing cultural farting. After this nonsense, the next thing she did was to go to the city zoo to open up a new section. Whether the Vietnamese youngsters will be on display while in their adjustment program or the last of the icelanders will be put there soon time will have to tell.  
Go Steinunn! We love your work!  
The Discriminator

Dear Discriminator  
Fuck you  
Ed-

Hi.  
In issue 11 of the Grapevine, page 26, someone (there is no name on the article) erroneously says that "Eitt lítið jólalag" was written for Birgitta Haukdal as a promotion for Smáralind. This song was written by Magnús Kjartansson and was (probably) first released on the album "11 jólalög" sung by Ragnhildur Gísladóttir. Today it can be found as track 4 (disc 1) on Pottþétt Jól (the

first one). Although the quality of the song can certainly be debated (personally I think the Ragga version is kind of cute) please correct the authorship and purpose of this song. thank you.  
Áslaug Högnadóttir

Consider authorship corrected. Can we please have some of the royalties now?

Dear Grapevine  
The editorial from Mr. Nikolov was very entertaining as well as pressing. But I would like to add a couple of thoughts on the subject.  
First: The "war on terrorism". Both the aggressor (in this case a bearded man living in a cave in Afghanistan which supposedly goes under the name of Osama, and very surprisingly has been able to outmanouever the entire US led coalition for the better part of 4 years) and the defender (which goes by the name of George W. Bush, and currently commands the aforementioned US coalition) claim God as their ally and protector. Now, for most of us normal folks this might strike as odd. How can the same "God" both want to "hunt down and kill" and "protect and guide" the same people? Either there must be two "Gods" or somebody made a blunder somewhere.

Maybe we are looking in the wrong direction when we claim that what is going on in this so-called war on terror is a religious struggle? For what is really driving the struggle is the feeling of supremacy by one cultural world over another. The USA government claims to be "democratizing" the Middle East but forgot to ask anybody in the region how they would feel about it.

When the war on Iraq was fought the western media did not question the cultural arrogance that the war presented and the terminology that was to follow it. They were so imbedded in the "ground war" and the dodgy evidence of WMD's that they never stopped to ask themselves: is this right? Best regards  
Thorleifur Örn Arnarsson  
Director

Ok, here you go: Is this right?

hello to the good people at the Reykjavik Grapevine, I'm desperately searching for some information, and I thought that, what with your obvious back-of-your-hand familiarity with Reykjavik, you could help me out. I'm planning on staying in Reykjavik for the month of March, and I am hoping to sublet a small apartment for that time, hopefully on the cheap. I've been scouring the internet to find a website that might help me toward this end, but there seems to be no equivalent to Craig's List for Iceland, or at least none that I can find. So I was hoping someone could tell me how I could best find an available apartment — whether that entails a website, a telephone number, or your cousin's friend's younger brother's blog. Basically, any

leads would be hugely appreciated. Thanks so much for your help.

And by the way, I greatly enjoyed your paper during my time in Iceland. I even brought home a copy with me to show off. I'm from New York City, and I like your paper better than the Village Voice. Seriously....

Best,  
Andrew Naymark  
anaymark@gmail.com

Anyone?

Dear Grapevine  
I came to Iceland in May 2003 and fell in love with the country almost before I got off the plane. The relationship has only deepened over time. I have seen the most beautiful countryside from both a 4-seater airplane and a trike, ridden a horse for the first time and learnt how to mix my drinks and still walk home safely through the snow.  
Judith Shaw

So, how do you mix your drinks and walk safely through the snow, then?

Hello,  
I have just finished reading your latest issue and wondered why no attempt was made to include Buddhism, a religion of about 400,000,000 people and one whose influence is heard and felt throughout Western popular culture, in the new physics and psychology, as well as a number of other fields. (Not to mention the huge influence on Asian culture)

Your very selection of the word "God" certainly rules out Buddhism, which also denies the existence of a permanent soul, but it also suggests that spirituality is only that which mentions God. This is definitely not true as any cursory reading of Thich Nhat Hanh's or the Dalai Lama's writings, or any of a number of other wonderful and quite well-known Buddhist authors would demonstrate. Buddhism has maintained itself as an inspiring religion lending a warm and compassionate embrace to all sentient beings for 2500 years, yet "God" does not figure into the picture, nor is it necessary to find such.

There are Buddhists in Iceland (I personally am a Jodo Shinshu priest who has spent over 30 years in Buddhism, first in Zen and then Tibetan Vajrayana and have met some of the Buddhist community here) who might have appreciated a broader examination of spirituality in Iceland (your inclusion of Ásatru stretches the "God" thing since they accept many "gods").  
Sincerely,  
Rev. José M. Tirado

We were in fact talking about God. As Buddhism does not really have one, asking a Buddhist how God would feel about the teacher's strike did not make much sense.

## WULFMORGENTHALER



by Valur Gunnarsson

## Iceland, Scandinavia, rest of world

It was a good year for Grapevine. We came back last June all guns blazing, and suddenly found ourselves in the midst of a media debate which finally found its way into the end-of-year annual comedy show áramótaskaupið.

Although the paper was originally planned as a summer venture, we all decided not to return to our previous day jobs, and keep on going on a monthly basis throughout the winter. We are happy to report that we're halfway through pulling this off, and we're now looking at what to do in the new year to keep this interesting to ourselves as well as our readers.

We wish a happy new year to everyone who has participated in the past year: our distribution manager Jóhann Páll Hreinsson, our new ad man Aðalsteinn Jörundsson, Bart Cameron, Robert Jackson, whom we wish great luck with his current writing efforts, and we belatedly welcome to the fold our new photographer Gummi Vigfússon who has been helping Hörður Sveinsson out. Also, Paul Nikolov has been appointed webmaster of the Grapevine website, and his handywork is already beginning to show ([www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)). Also, thanks a lot to and everyone else who has lent a hand.

### Iceland international

But a good year for the press usually means a bad year for mankind. The year ended with the biggest tragedy in recent memory with the earthquake in Asia. Meanwhile, man-made horrors continued in Iraq and Palestine, and with less fanfare in Darfur and West Africa, among other places. Meanwhile, AIDS continues to spread in that unfortunate continent.

Watching the RUV 2004 end-of-year news annuals program, divided into local and international news, I was surprised at how much of the international news was actually about Iceland. Icelanders in Iraq find bogus WMDs, Icelandic firemen fire at things in Afghanistan, Icelanders this and that. Iraq, Arafat and the US elections excepted, most of the rest of the international news was about the Nordic Countries. A fireworks warehouse burns down in Denmark, a bank robbery is committed in Norway...all in all, we still seem to have a pretty provincial view of the world. The always enjoyable Channel 2 annuals, which attempted to cover both Iceland AND the world in a single program, seemed to offer an equally limited view of what the world actually is.

### The good thing about tragedy

The one good thing to come out of the current Asian tragedy is that Western countries are getting more involved than they have been. Perhaps it was the scale of the tragedy that pushed people to action, or perhaps because there were so many blonde-haired and blue-eyed Swedes involved (that striking picture of a little white boy searching for his parents on the cover of Fréttablaðið certainly affected us more than yet another picture of a dark skinned child in pain would have). Even the usually aloof Icelandic government is contributing its share. Whatever the cause, hopefully this time around, people will realise that what happens in other parts of the world matters. There has even been talk of a Marshall Plan for afflicted areas. This may not materialise, but it is precisely what we need: A Marshall Plan for afflicted areas, whether they are victims of war, disease, earthquakes or colonialism. Hey, it worked for us. Only by offering big solutions can the big problems facing the world today be solved. This should be the primary concern of those of us living at this point in time. But, enough talk. In the words of Paul Fontaine Nikolov, "Let's get this bitch on the street."

## News in brief

### Impregilo Under the Microscope

Minister of Social Affairs Árni Magnússon announced that a special committee will be formed to investigate the charges which have recently been levelled against Kárahnjúkur dam contractors Impregilo by the Federation of Labour Unions (ASÍ). ASÍ has accused Impregilo of, among other things, paying its workers sub-minimum wage and cheating on its taxes.

### Must Be Nice . . .

Rumours that Foreign Minister Davíð Oddsson has been taking too many cues from Bush have now been confirmed: Oddsson has decided to give himself the month off. He intends to relax abroad. Prime Minister (and former Foreign Minister) Halldór Ásgrímsson will be taking his place in the meantime.

### Gallup Stands by Results

IMG Gallup announced after a meeting yesterday that they stand by the results of a poll they conducted in late 2004, where it was announced that 84% of the Icelandic population did not want to be a part of the coalition of nations at war with Iraq. Prime Minister Halldór Ásgrímsson, Foreign Minister Davíð Oddsson and Minister of Justice Björn Bjarnason have each responded to the poll by saying that it was vague and the questions unclear.

### Cheaper By Air

It would cost less to transport people and materials by air than by sea between Iceland and the Westmann Islands, according to a recent study conducted by six students from the Bifrost business school this past winter. The students looked at the SkyCat blimp, developed in Great Britain, and found that it would actually cost less than renewing the ship Herjólf every 16 years.

### Drunken Passenger Forces Landing

On course from Toronto to Moscow, a Russian passenger plane was forced to land in Keflavík when a drunken passenger began to behave violently. The Aeroflot flight landed safely and the passenger was escorted by police off of the flight and into custody, where he would sleep it off. The radio station Ekho Moskvy said that the man behaved like "a madman" and physically assaulted the head of the cabin crew.

### Murderer Confesses Before Court

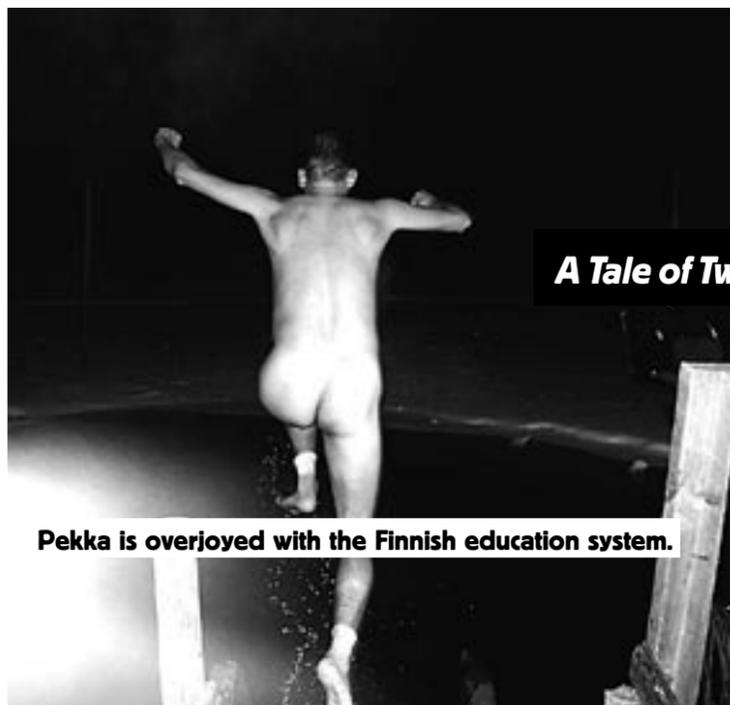
Hákon Eydal openly confessed in court to having murdered his former housemate, Sri Rhamawati, on the morning of 4 July this year. He did not object to paying about 20 million krónur in damages to her children, and is facing the longest possible sentence for murder, 16 years.

**For daily news updates, weekly rantings and much more, check out website [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is). You'll be glad you did.**

## WHY EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT:

*In 1929, the Washington Post prophesised that due to its size and resources, within a few years Brazil would become one of the leading powers of the world. In the second half of the 19th Century, Brazil's income per capita had risen higher than it did in the USA, even if coffee counted for 80% of exports. But the Washington Post prediction did not come true.*

by Valur Gunnarsson



**Pekka is overjoyed with the Finnish education system.**

### A Tale of Two Countries

### The road to hell

The Great Depression wiped out the demand for coffee, Brazil's major export. In 1930, Getulio Vargas seized power in a military coup, and democracy was only restored in 1954. In 1961, Brazil's President Goulart tried to raise the minimum wage of labourers. This led to another coup in 1964 by the military. As a result of this, Brazil seemed like a poster boy for market capitalism as the World Bank offered loans, the US increased aid and foreign investment and GNP improved rapidly. The "Brazilian miracle" aimed to get rid of poverty by increasing the national pie. However, the pie was unevenly distributed. Within three years, real wages had been reduced by 25 percent.

In the peak growth year of 1975, expenditures by the Ministry of Health were lower than in 1965 and the World Bank reported that 68% of the population had less than the minimum calorie intake necessary. At most, 5% of the population had benefited immensely from the Brazilian Miracle. 4 out of 5 people had been left outside it all together. By 1990, when the generals withdrew, Brazil had the third worst education system in the world, clocking in after Guinea-Bissau and Bangladesh. The unequal income distribution remains a major problem. As for the country, which is the world's 5th most populous, and has the world's 8th largest economy, becoming one of the leading powers of the world, we're still waiting.



**Flavio and Tristao are not as happy with the state of Brazilian education**



### The road less travelled

Compare this to Finland. It achieved independence in 1917, and three decades of Civil War, massacres of communists, culture clashes between Finnish and Swedish speakers, depression and finally a devastating war with the Soviet Union followed. At the end of the war it had to cede territory and pay reparations to the Soviet Union. It also had to be very mindful of Soviet interests in its foreign policy, but was largely left to conduct its internal affairs on its own. It chose the path of social democracy, with regulated financial markets and an all inclusive welfare system.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, one of Finland's largest trading partners with huge unpaid debts, Finland went through one of the worst recessions of any Western country. Half a million jobs disappeared, and the government cut its spending by 20%. Two sectors, however, were spared; education, and research and development. By the late 90s, unemployment had been halved, Nokia was the 2nd largest manufacturer of mobile phones, and Finland was rated 5th in the world in terms of quality of life by a UN survey. Around 83% of the workforce belongs to unions which have been strong ever since World War II, whereas the labour movement in Brazil was crushed in the mid 1960s. Finland's GDP is more than three times as high as Brazil's, and more evenly distributed.

Although we may take it for granted today that Finland is a richer country than Brazil, it might not have been quite as evident that things would turn out that way in 1929.

# WE TRUST YOU . . . SORTA What the immigration laws are really saying

Five years ago, it was easy for me to move to Iceland. All I had to do was remain in my home country while I looked for an employer in Iceland who had been advertising my potential job in the paper and then, if no Icelander applied for the job, I simply faxed over photocopies of all my documents, had these documents and a form my employer filled out sent to the Office of Immigration, who then sent these papers to the Directorate of Labour, who then sent a letter to my employer, which allowed me to come to Iceland, where I had to go to the Office of Immigration with said letter, two passport-sized photos and 500 krónur, and voila! – I became the proud owner of a Temporary Work and Residence Permit, with a whole 12 months to go before I had to do it all over again.

Yeah, those were simpler times. Today's immigration laws have been worked over a tad. In addition to the bureaucratic waltz described above, there have been a few changes made, as Minister of Justice Björn Bjarnason explained to Grapevine, "to comply with the regulations of the European Economic Community," and "to prevent persons from obtaining residence permits through illegal or criminal behaviour."

Some of these measures have inspired questions and even outrage among both Icelanders and immigrants alike. Two laws in particular – known colloquially as the "age 24 law" and the "age 67 law" – have been criticised by some as being inordinately unfair towards foreigners. Both of these laws are actually changes made to existing laws and, at the time of writing, are only available in Icelandic.

## The "age 24 law": Are forced marriages a big problem in Iceland?

What the "age 24 law" says is that a foreigner's marriage to an Icelander does not change their legal status

until they are older than 24 years of age. The "age 67 law" says that the parents of a foreigner cannot immigrate to Iceland as family

members until they've reached the age of 67. I asked Minister of Justice Björn Bjarnason if false and fake marriages are a big problem in Iceland, and he replied:



"As I said in parliament, there have been several instances of suspected forced or false marriages in Iceland – somewhere between 50 and 80 cases

case was treated individually, so I can't really go into the grounds for suspicion of each individual case." When posing the same question to Ms. Margrét Steinarsdóttir, a lawyer who works for the Intercultural centre, the reaction was slightly different:

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't know of any false marriages, but they're rare.

have been dealt with by the police, which they didn't really have the authority to investigate until now [so why were they doing it? –ed.]. Each

As for forced marriages, I don't really know of any. I suppose the figure of 50 to 80 cases could be accurate, but even if it was, does that mean we have to discriminate against everyone who comes here?"

## Doing like the Danes

The "age 24 law" is strikingly similar to an immigration law passed in Denmark. I asked Mr. Bjarnason if he thought the law was doing well in Denmark:

"Yes, I think it is. Now the Dutch are intending to use the age of 21. We could have used 26, or 21. We chose 24, like the Danes."

Margrét Steinarsdóttir disagrees with the notion that the age 24 law is working well in Denmark:

"I feel that this law will change because of the recent visit to Denmark by Alvaro Gil-Robles, who is the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. He recommended that the Danish review the exact same rule as it could be in violation of Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights."

Article 8 states:

*"Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."*

Ms. Steinarsdóttir adds:

"Already lawsuits have begun in Denmark, filed by both NGOs and "mixed marriage" couples. These

that they're written in such a way that if the Immigration authorities wanted to, they could effectively close the country."

## How old is old! The "age 67" law:

"Mr. Bjarnason explained: This rule applies to close relatives who wish to apply for a residence permit as a family member – that is, not on the basis of a working permit. Persons younger than 67 years are not entitled to such a permit. I think this clause in the law has been greatly misinterpreted."

And if one parent is older than 67 but the other one isn't? I asked.

"Then only the older parent would be able to come here on the basis of such a permit," he replied.

Ms. Steinarsdóttir feels differently, stating:

"What some people might not know about this law is that in addition to the parent having to be at least 67 years old, you also have to show proof that you've been supporting him/her financially. The law does not say how much money you need to have sent them or for how long, but the minimum support of an individual in this country is 77,083 krónur a month, and the period of support would probably have to be at least one or two years. No justification that I know of has been given for this age limit, but the age of 67 in Iceland, is the legal age for pension for example."

Mr. Bjarnason concludes:

"The issue is not about marriage but about the right to apply for a residence permit as a family member in Iceland. Marriage does not automatically give a foreigner, younger than 24 years old, the right to such a permit. There are different



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cases could go all the way up to the European Court of Human Rights and, if they will, I have a very strong feeling they would rule in favour of those who filed the suit."

Mr. Bjarnason dismissed this claim, stating:

"The Danish Minister of Immigration said that the European Commissioner for Human Rights had issued a political declaration which did not have any legal effect. The Danish law on "mixed marriage" is not the same as the Icelandic. The Icelandic law is not an exact copy of the Danish law although we use the same age limit, 24 years."

But when asked why Iceland chose the age of 24 for this particular law, Mr. Bjarnason replied:

"Traditionally, Iceland has taken notice of legal trends in Denmark and, after this rule became law there, we copied this law as our own."

Ms. Steinarsdóttir says:

"One feels that many stipulations of the Law on foreigners are basically vague and open to interpretation,

aspects concerning forced marriages. They do not create the right to a permit to stay, but in these cases the authorities have to prove that the marriage is not based on the free will of both spouses. Of course it is necessary to send out the message that it is unacceptable to live in a forced marriage and I believe that by this law, we have sent a clear message."

Ms. Steinarsdóttir:

"I'd say the age 24 law has caused major problems to spouses who are not yet 25 years old. Instead of passing a law which discriminates against everyone, forced marriages should be addressed with a community outreach program which educates young women that they don't have to stay in a marriage that they were forced into, that they can get a divorce, and that the government will protect them."

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## THE CONTROVERSIAL MARRIAGE BETWEEN ANKARA AND BRUSSELS

*In October 2005 negotiations will start on Turkey's accession to the European club. Given its size, its relative poverty and its Muslim population, taking on Turkey will be the most challenging enlargement project in the EU's history.*

*Turkey has obvious strategic and economic potential, but in a period marked by discourses about the place of Islam in Europe and the dangers of a "clash of cultures", there is also growing scepticism. The EU has swallowed one major expansion, and is considering another even more ambitious. How will different member states and citizens react to this controversial future marriage?*

The European Council has already decided Turkey's fate. On December 17th 2004, 25 governments agreed that negotiations would start, although with no guarantee of accession, if Turkey respected the Copenhagen Criterion set in 1993.

### Three Anti-Turkish Factors

So what are the obstacles for the opening of negotiations if the 'big countries' of the EU do not seem to block Turkey's entrance? Firstly, there is the problem of the European public opinion which opposes Turkey's entry.

Secondly, there is the so-called 'Avalanche Effect'. Until now, few voices have said 'No' openly. But some new factors could provide fuel for a fire in Brussels against Ankara's ambitions.

The final problem is the recent failed move by Turkey's government to re-introduce the penalization of adultery in a project which was supposed to bring the Turkish

penal code in line with European standards, not with the Islamic law. To weigh up the advantages of the EU's project for Turkey's possible entry is a very difficult task. How would Europe change with Turkey's entry? Could it acquire a real strategic power, necessary for facing up to its future challenges? The solution for the Turkish dilemma could also be found in answering this question.

### Three Pro-Turkish factors

Contrary to the arguments expressed before, some voices in Europe say that everyone wins if Turkey joins the EU. Therefore, the advantages of Turkey's membership, both for Turkey itself and for the Union, need to be analysed clearly and concisely.

### 1. A geopolitical mutation

Europe is first and foremost a human project. Currently, debates concentrate on what Turkey actually is: whether it is part of Europe or not, its population, its Muslim heritage and its level of economic

development. But geopolitical stakes are also important. Turkey occupies a pivotal position between Europe and Asia. Turkey joined NATO in 1952. Now that the EU has enlarged to the East, why not accept Turkey which would give the Union a foothold in Asia and the Middle East? Substantial hydrocarbon and oil reserves recently discovered in the Caspian region will only increase Turkey's strategic importance.

### 2. A closer union between different peoples

Demography will also be a significant factor. Turkey has a young and dynamic population in contrast to the other European countries. Turkish membership will positively change the demography of Europe and reinforce the spirit of enterprise and the market economy, contributing to prosperity.

### 3. The clash of civilizations: Just say no

The EU's founding fathers wanted to bring peace to the continent through an ever closer union between peoples. At a time when some discuss a 'clash of civilisations' and a new religious war, allowing Turkey, a Muslim country, to join the Union would refute once and for all such dangerous theories. The EU has an historic opportunity to substitute the 'clash of civilisations' with an attitude of rapprochement between peoples. Firstly, by offering a positive model to the 11 million Muslim Europeans on living together, proving the ability of a modern and peaceful Islam to act against divisions caused by terrorism or regional conflict. Secondly, by demonstrating that the EU could be a model for the whole world, a structure which can integrate Nation States and peoples with very diverse histories and cultures. Thirdly, by allowing the Union to play a much more important role than it does today in finding peaceful resolutions to the world's conflicts, thus contributing to global stability and the development of democracy, human rights and greater economic equality.

### Against Membership by Force

Turkey's entry is not primarily a question of acceptance into a strategic diplomatic union, or some kind of commercial pact, but one of sharing a common destiny. Turkey's candidacy is different simply because our fellow citizens feel it is, and this must be taken into account. The automatic opening of negotiations amounts to saying to European citizens that their concerns don't matter. Turkey is a very different kind of candidate and one should not overlook European public opinion. In my view, the question of holding referenda on this issue cannot be automatically eliminated by our governments. Europeans need to be properly informed and consulted.

by Elvira Mendez

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## ICELANDERS IN RUSSIA: Bringing more than beer



Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Icelandic MÍR or Menningarsamband Íslands og Rússlands (the Russo-Icelandic Cultural Association) didn't have any contact organization in Russia. There were only individuals willing to help in the cultural cooperation of these two countries. That is, until the meeting of the Icelandic club in Moscow was held a few days before Christmas inviting people interested in Icelandic culture and can be described as a Russian parallel to MÍR. The purpose of this organization is cultural exchange and cooperation between Russia and Iceland. For the "initiated," Iceland is first of all the land of the Sagas and Halldór Laxness, since many of his novels – as well as the Sagas – have been translated into Russian. But for an average Russian the toponym "Iceland" doesn't seem to ring any bells. This brings us to the other purpose of Iceland Club, namely informing Russians about Iceland and Icelandic culture. It also aims at making travel between Iceland and Russia more accessible. Iceland Club has a webpage ([www.icelandclub.ru](http://www.icelandclub.ru)) which is in Russian and contains information about Iceland and announcements of coming events in the club.

by Olga Markelova

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# THE FACE OF ICELANDIC FOOD:

## Are Icelanders eating right?

By Valur Gunnarsson



An American book from 1965 called *The Art of Scandinavian Cooking* (a contradiction in terms, you may be thinking) states: “The cold climate of the North demands that more fats be eaten. But all the opulent sauces and clouds of whipped cream do not seem to affect the Scandinavian figure much; this does seem most unfair to the visitor limited to the low-calorie lettuce leaf.”

Ah, happy days. When I was a child in the late 70s, hot dogs from your local kiosk were still the only fast food to be had in Reykjavík. When the burger joint *Tommaborgarar* opened in 1981, it was the first fast food joint in the city. By the early 90s, however, you could order a pizza at any time of day. The first McDonald’s opened in 1993, and faced stiff competition from local sandwich bars such as *Hlöllli* (opened in 1986) and *Nonni* (opened in 1993). Coupled with the introduction of beer in 1989 (*brennivín* might not do much for the mind but it is, after all, better for the figure), Icelanders, who in the 80’s claimed to be the most beautiful and healthy people in the world as they regularly won strong man and beauty pageants, were suddenly no longer immune to the obesity epidemic. It used to be that a round belly was associated with affluence, but these days, food that’s bad for you is usually cheaper than food that’s good for you, it is only the affluent who can enrol in the gym and do health-conscious shopping; it is only the rich who can afford to take care of their bodies.

### Everything is allowed

We may still be more beautiful than the British, thank God, but obesity has hit the Nordic countries particularly hard in the past years. In his book *Fast-Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser states that countries that have more established food cultures are less susceptible to obesity. A Frenchman, Italian or Spaniard used to two-hour meals with wine during lunchtime is less impressed with an order-and-eat-in-less-than-15-minutes fast food joint. Conversely, Northern Europeans, who have more of an eat-to-live than live-to-eat mentality, which formerly guaranteed their good figures, are now overtaking the Latins in terms of overeating. The Scandinavians are a meat-and-potatoes kind of people. For them, going to a restaurant is not something you do for lunch every day, but something special to do when celebrating. And then everything is allowed.

It used to be that you had certain blowouts, such as Christmas, Easter or “*Sprengidagur*.” *Sprengidagur* is on the 7th Tuesday before Easter, this year landing on the 8th of February, and translates literally as “exploding day,” or “bursting day,” the idea being that you are supposed to eat until you burst. This is done in preparation for the 40 days until Easter where meat is neither to be eaten nor even mentioned. In fact, people would refer to meat as “cloven salmon” during Lent to avoid mentioning it by name.

But these days, it seems every day is bursting day. Whereas a couple of decades ago you would pig out at *Tommaborgarar* once a month, now Icelanders eat out at some snack bar, no holds barred, several times a week. And it goes to show you can tell. So what is Icelandic food culture that has been so lacking in resilience when faced with external threats?

### A Brief History of Icelandic Overeating

In most famous of the Sagas, *Njála*, the hero’s wife is accused of stealing cheese from his enemies. Much feuding and bloodshed results. A dead whale drifting ashore could also result in a minor civil war, as our forefathers killed each other over rights to the rotting meat.

When the settlers first came to Iceland, they found little in the way of game or indeed any animals at all here. The sheep they brought along became the mainstay of the diet. There not being much else available, every part of the sheep was eaten, the blood made into pudding, the liver into sausages, eyes, testicles and everything was devoured. The less tender parts of the sheep are still eaten once a year in homage to our impoverished ancestors, although not before copious amounts of *brennivín* are consumed as anaesthetic.

Cows were expensive to keep, and dairy became much prized among islanders. In *Halldór Laxness’ Independent People*, the protagonist *Bjartur* meagrely subsists with his sheep on a barren plot of land, but his wife maintains that everything will be alright as long as they have the cow. Now that Icelanders can eat more or less whatever they want, milk products are everywhere; cheese, *súrmjólk* (soured milk), yogurt and *skyr*; clabbered milk which is standard lunch fare but tourists have somehow been tricked into believing makes for a nice desert. “*Mjólk er góð*” (Milk is good), we are constantly reminded, and

milk is commonly thought to cure every ill, even though it is not only fattening but destroys your immune system as well.

### Eating like a pig, Danish style

During the Danish period, pork, the mainstay of Danish cuisine, became popular among the upper classes, which is still reflected in our Christmas dinners. Whereas the poor were forced to eat bird such as *ptarmigan*, the wealthy would feast on Danish pork. Today, however, it is the other way around. *Ptarmigan* has become rare in the highlands and, thanks to a three year hunting ban, is now expensive and hard to get a hold of. Pork, on the other hand, is everywhere.

When Icelanders went forth to colonise the New World, they brought their culinary traditions with them. *Framfari*, the New Iceland immigrants magazine in Canada, said in 1878: “I would also advise emigrants to take with them sufficient Icelandic food, for experience has shown the food people eat along the way to disagree with them... This food ought to consist especially of hardfish, butter or good mutton, tallow *kæfa*... and a little good aquavit made from grain (*brennivín*).”

It’s only in the past few decades that Icelanders have gone from fish, mutton and potatoes to being able to eat whatever we want. Small wonder, then, that we have gone a bit overboard. It will take a while to adjust. Until then, we are at the mercy of advertisers who pray on our genetic need to build up as much fat as possible for the lean years.

In a society that has always had notoriously strict alcohol laws, and has recently been introducing ever stricter tobacco laws, perhaps a spot of food legislation is in order.

Shouldn’t we at least be allowed to know what we eat? We have to go to a special store for our alcohol needs. When we get a hangover the day after, at least we can’t say it was entirely unexpected. The British, who are currently suffering the most because of the obesity epidemic, are introducing a labelling system, wherein food that’s bad for you is labelled red, food that’s good for you is labelled green and in between is labelled yellow. Perhaps that’s just what we need over here. That way, is you start piling them on, at least you shouldn’t be surprised.

# GRAPEVINE HEALTH TIPS:



Angela before and after

## ICELANDERS EAT HOTDOGS. BUT SHOULD THEY? By Angela Stokes

Traditional cuisine in Iceland is not exactly renowned for being very vegan or even vegetarian-friendly. In fact the average Icelander is unlikely to know what vegan means (someone who consumes no animal products whatsoever). Amidst the sheep's heads, rams' testicles and cods' cheeks, you're unlikely to tempt the average Icelander with a good salad. This is the land after all where adverts remind us that 'Icelanders eat hotdogs' – apparently a matter of national pride. Yet it was in this very land that my eating habits and indeed, my entire life, underwent extraordinary transformation. It was in a tiny Icelandic countryside village in May 2002 that I was first introduced by a friend to the concept of a 'raw food' lifestyle.

### Finding food salvation in the land of meat and potatoes

Eating 'raw' simply involves eating as much fresh, raw, living food as possible, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, seeds, seaweeds and oils, whilst cutting out all other foods such as meat, fish, dairy, wheat/baked goods, processed foods, sugar and so on. When I first arrived in Iceland in August 2001, I was 23 years old and weighed approximately 120kg, having already managed to lose 13kg from my all time high of 133kg aged 21. After learning about eating raw however, I decided to swap junk foods for a high percentage raw diet and went on to lose about 54kg

## LIP UP, FATTY: Brazilian Jiu Jitsu with Pdraig Mara

Yup, the holidays are over. And you're probably thinking as you tearfully attempt to buckle your pants "Maybe I shoulda went easier on the gravy". But what are you gonna do? You hate walking, you never learned to swim, you're way too glutinous to diet and aerobics is for sissys. Well, lip up fatty, cuz I have the exercise regimen for you.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is now being taught in Iceland. A blended martial art, BJJ was developed in Brazil in the early part of the 20th century, incorporating the most effective aspects of Judo, traditional wrestling, and classic Japanese Jiu Jitsu. I talked with the instructor Jón Gunnar about the obvious merits of a fighting style that is able to adapt and grow with new ideas and changing situations. I asked if training in this fashion would be a good alternative for someone wishing simply to get fit and drop some weight. He said he thought so, but I should judge for myself. There was no backing out.

### "I ain't tapping unless it feels like my arm's coming off."

I was paired up with a sparring partner and they ran through some basic moves with me. We began with some open handed boxing, one would take shots at the other who would in turn cover up and attempt to move into optimum position for the takedown with a hip throw, always moving, always bobbing and weaving. As I hit the mat, over and over, I realized how efficient this technique was. The next move was an arm lock. As Jón Gunnar was describing this move to me he emphasized that in his classes safety and respect is paramount, as soon as a technique is used and the student "experiences" it, he or she is to slap the mat, or "tap out" immediately and the hold is released. I nodded my head, and said yup while thinking "I ain't tapping unless it feels like my arm's coming off."

We practiced the movement with my opponent in a position of decided weakness, my full weight pressing down on his chest with my arms extended to choke him. BJJ is geared towards groundfighting to a large degree and is designed to enable practitioners to turn a bad situation to their advantage. Still, I thought, no fucking way he's getting outta this. In an instant, I was flat on my back, my arm bent at a horribly awkward angle. I thought my arm was coming off. I tapped faster than you can blink

### This is what dying must feel like

We sparred for a bit longer, and then came the final move of the day, a leg lock called "The Triangle." This didn't sound all that frightening to me. Before Jón demonstrated the move he again emphasized the safety code of his classes: "We're very careful with this move, we never hold it for longer than a second or two." As he maneuvered the lock on to me I asked why that

over 18 months and now weigh a happy and healthy 66kg. From my initial decision to go raw, my life transformed on a daily basis – the fat just burnt off me, my skin and hair showed new radiance and I had so much more energy and enthusiasm. Men started to be interested in me and I could wear whatever clothes I wanted, not just those which fitted.

### The raw food world

In a time when overweight and obesity have been declared world epidemics by the World Health Organisation, this lifestyle offers a chance for people to make a real and lasting difference to their health. A great source of support for me here has been the Icelandic raw food group that meets roughly once a month. The number of attendees at the meetings has rapidly grown from a few friends support to a current average attendance of 20-30 people. Indeed, when a leading figure from the raw food world, Victoria Boutenko, came from America to give a lecture series at the University of Iceland in June last year, the interest and attendance was phenomenal, leading to her book '12 steps to Raw Foods' to be published in Icelandic for the growing market here.

For more information, contact: [rawreform@hotmail.com](mailto:rawreform@hotmail.com)

## Three basic tips for raw beginners:

\* Most often raw foodists consume no gluten products – i.e. anything containing wheat, oats, barley and rye among others. Gluten clogs up the digestive tract and is as such best avoided. Gluten-free alternatives include buckwheat, corn/maize, rice, tapioca, soya and millet. Yes, this does mean no bread, pasta, pizza, cakes, biscuits and so on, be patient with transitioning.

\* A great tip for beginners is to eat just fruit before lunchtime – perhaps 3 different acid fruits for breakfast – e.g. pineapple, grapes, plums or nectarines, then snack on something with slow-release sugars like an apple or banana mid-morning to see you through to lunch.

\* Don't be put off going raw by thinking of the big changes – take things slowly, be kind to yourself and don't punish yourself for "mistakes." The first thing to consider is simply introducing more raw foods into your current diet.

## Sample meal plan

Below is a sample meal plan for a week of 100% raw vegan, energized food. Snacks and drinks are not listed – normally snacks would consist of dried fruit, nuts, seeds, etc and drinks, aside from water, would be fresh juices, smoothies and homemade nut/seed milks.

### Monday

**Breakfast:** Fresh fruit salad.

**Lunch:** Big salad with fresh guacamole on flax seed crackers, all homemade.

**Dinner:** Raw 'pizza' (dehydrated base with fresh tomato sauce and vegetables), served with salad.

### Tuesday

**Breakfast:** Banana and almond milk smoothie.

**Lunch:** Almond-Avocado patties made with leftover almond meal from making almond milk, with salad.

**Dinner:** Raw nori wraps – filled with fresh vegetables, served with salad.

### Wednesday

**Breakfast:** Fresh fruit salad.

**Lunch:** Sprouted chickpea houmous with a large salad.

**Dinner:** Soaked and marinated wild rice with salad.

### Thursday

**Breakfast:** Fruit smoothie.

**Lunch:** Sunflower-seed pate on homemade flax crackers with salad.

**Dinner:** Lettuce Wraps – like tortilla wraps, but use big lettuce leaves to wrap filling of choice.

### Friday

**Breakfast:** Fresh fruit salad

**Lunch:** Large salad with hand-reared sprout mixture, avocado and dehydrated vegetable 'crisps'.

**Dinner:** 'Garden burgers' – handmade raw 'burgers' with salad.

### Saturday

**Breakfast:** Fruit smoothie with hemp-seed milk.

**Lunch:** Hemp patties made from ground hemp leftover from making milk, with salad.

**Dinner:** Courgette spaghetti (courgetti) with fresh tomato and basil sauce, salad.

### Sunday

**Breakfast:** Fresh fruit salad

**Lunch:** Herb salad with fresh herbs, home-raised sunflower greens and other sprouts, served with marinated mushrooms.

**Dinner:** Fresh tomatoes stuffed with sprouted rice and vegetables, served with salad. Raw cake for dessert, made with nuts, carob, almond butter and fresh pear.

might...choke... I didn't finish the sentence.

This effective technique utilizes your legs to pinion your opponent's neck to their shoulder, cutting off blood supply to the brain. Being caught in this gives you the distinct impression that your head just may pop like a pimple on prom night. As I was released I thought to myself that's what dying must feel like. I left the class, sweaty, exhausted and humiliated. What more could you ask for in a workout?

## A list of distinctly Reykjavik-type situations where you will be very glad you know Brazilian Jiu Jitsu:



Now, you may well ask, what use is the knowledge of this undeniably cool shit? We're not going brawling, we're not gonna compete in the UFC, when will all this come in handy?

### 1. Long arm the law

Let's say your having a friendly get together at your home and your neighbor appears red-faced at your door spluttering nonsense about noise and common decency and the long arm of the law. Calmly offer them these two choices as you deftly catch them in an armlock:

A) Encourage them to either learn to enjoy Europe's "The Final Countdown" at amplifier number 11 or:

B) You will never ever let go.

They will almost certainly leave your shindig to go it's course. Leave the lock on a bit longer and they may be persuaded to sing along to the synthesizer parts.

### 2. Beat up a beat poet

You been standing in line in front of Sirkús for a half an hour in the rain, then along comes Johnny Hipster who nonchalantly cuts in way at the front. Attempting diplomatic venues, you walk up and inform Johnny that there are no cutseys, no cutseys at all. But Johnny, he just won't listen to reason. In that case, hip throw Johnny Hipster's ass right to the pavement. If you'd like to add insult to injury, you could yell after him how Johnny's last short film/book/album/art installation/spoken word happening/interpretive dance thing really sucked as he skids down the block.

And finally...

### 3. Pardon my French

You walk into your neighborhood clothes retailer to find the last pair of mittens with skulls on them being fondled by a tourist, the very mittens you been saving for for weeks. The tourist looks like he really likes those fucking mittens too, "Excuse moi" he says, "how many crowns por la Mittens de Morte?" What are you gonna do? It'll take weeks to knit a new pair. Leap up and seize that foreign invader in an enthusiastic triangle lock. Your hand's been too cold for too long, goddammit.

# THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN?



*Icelanders like having children. In fact, they like it so much that the country accounts for one of the highest birth rates in Europe. At 15 births per 1000 people, Icelandic children far outnumber their continental cousins in Italy, who seem to be giving birth to a mere 9 children per 1000 people.*

So, why are Icelanders so enthusiastic about having babies? Well, primarily, in a country with such a high standard of living, the state ensures that individuals

who choose to have children are well provided for and protected. The state certified leave between a couple with a newborn baby totals 9 months – higher than any other

neighbouring country. In Iceland, the mother gets 3 months, the father another 3 months and the couple can decide how they wish to share the remaining 3 months.

#### The Lioness' Share

Sociologists believe this leads to increased equality between the sexes, regarding the nurture of their offspring. Both parents and children tend to view the housework and child rearing as not just assigned

to one gender (namely the female) but to both. Though the lioness' share is still done by the woman, shared responsibility for who burps the baby, who wakes up to feed the toddler in the morning, who drops the kids off at school, etc. might tend to be more equal in a country like Iceland, than other European nations.

Another factor likely to boost (if not directly contribute) is the enormous number of facilities available to the parent. Almost every restaurant featured in this newspaper claims to have a baby seat. Many have diaper changing facilities. And few even distribute little (non-toxic) crayons and colouring sheets with pictures of dragons and rabbits to keep the kids entertained while parents have a meal. This isn't the case even in a teeming metropolis like London, where my husband and I lived for a number of years.

three years, had her son in Reykjavik only 8 months ago. She says, "I like not having to worry whether I can take my son out somewhere in the city. No one here looks at me strangely if he screams or cries... no one feels insulted or disturbed by him."

"I didn't have to ever tell my kids, 'Be careful with strangers... Don't take food from anyone or go with anyone you don't know...' because I knew it wouldn't happen..." says Chandrika, a mother of two living in Reykjavik.

Crime in Iceland is low – its one of the lowest in the world. This creates a perfectly safe haven to breed kids. If you see numerous young boys and girls cycling along the many busy city streets or wandering through the tiny woods along the salmon river running through Reykjavik, it's because their parents know that they are safe.

by Perna Desai

#### Crying in peace

Carolina Pagli, who is from Italy and has been living here since the last

## How not to anger your host



*The infrequent emails alternate between: "This place is awesome!" and "Spent all day at the tax office, they've taken all my money, I want to come home." Suddenly your friend is begging to visit Iceland, tempting you with cheap airfares, non-stop nightlife and, occasionally, sex.*

However, one thing bothers you. Does your friend/acquaintance really want you for company, conversation and/or sex – or for your capacity as a mule? Not a mule for drugs, of course, but a mule for ... well, any comforts from your shared homeland that cannot be bought in Iceland. Your desperate friend wants you to bring Marmite, French wine from obscure appellations, Olbas Pastilles, sloppy-textured homestyle chutneys, cheese that takes the skin off the roof of your mouth (pasteurised, of course - bringing unpasteurised cheese into Iceland is like saying, "Here, rip my luggage apart!" to the customs officials at the airport), PG Tips tea, malt vinegar. The extensive list of demands has you worrying about your baggage limit.

However, all this is not enough. The only way to guarantee an enjoyable visit is to come to Iceland accompanied by your full duty-free allowance. Remember – you are visiting a country where a litre of Bombay Sapphire gin costs nearly as much your flight ticket. So do not be surprised if your host leaves you at the airport when you say: "There wasn't much choice in duty-free so I bought some chocolates instead."

You think your friend is above all of this? They are not. Be suspicious if they say: "Oh, don't bother bringing anything, it'll just be lovely just to see you." They do not mean it. What they meant was: "The social conventions of our homeland make me feel embarrassed about asking you to spend money on me, but if you don't come with your case stuffed with products unique to our country of origin, I will be most displeased."

A displeased host will help you experience the Icelandic ritual of "buying a round of drinks" and let you discover that you could feed a family for a week for the price of a couple of beers, a glass of wine and a "Gin og Tonic."

by Lizzy B

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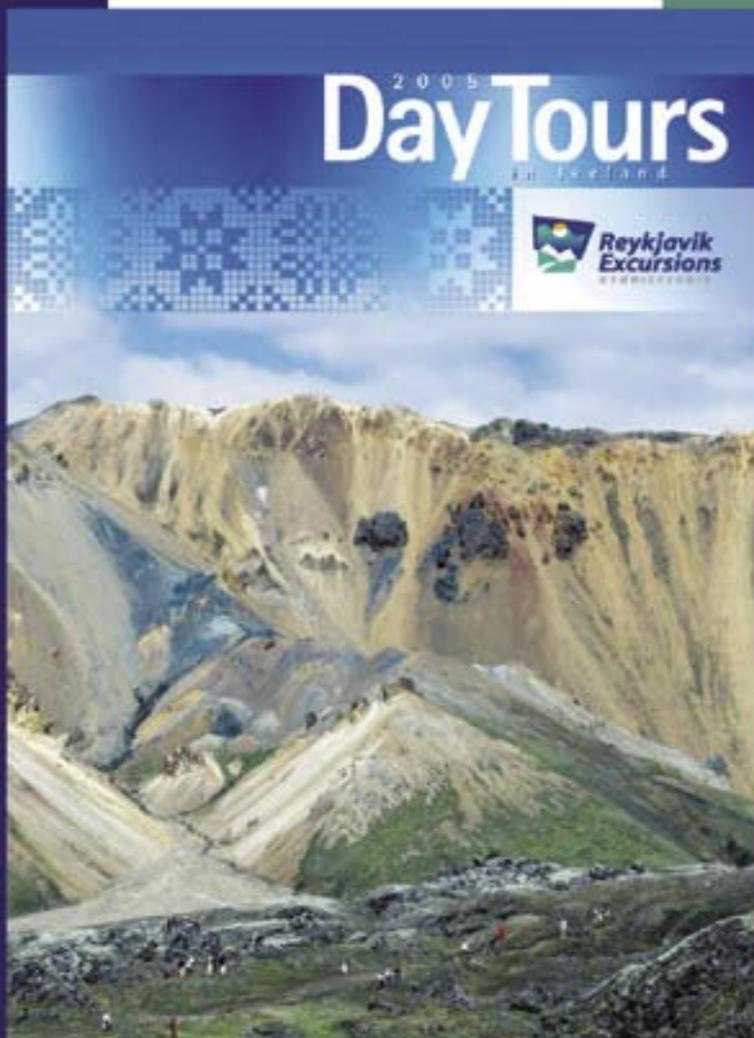
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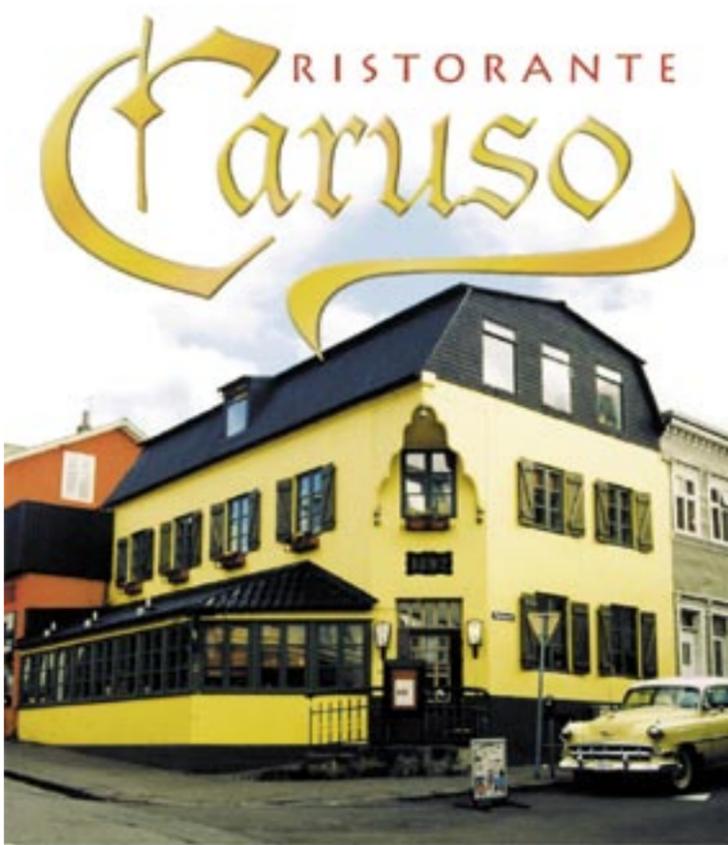
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## WONDERINGS

### A GRAPEVINE QUIZ:

# Which type of Icelandic politician are you?

■ by Paul F Nikolov ■

*Politics is pretty boring stuff, isn't it? I mean, who can keep track of the different political parties and their issues, or follow the endlessly circular speeches made in parliament? Does anyone under the age of 75 even watch the parliamentary sessions on television? Take this simple quiz to see which of the four types of Icelandic politician you are. Turn off your cerebral cortex and get ready for minutes of fast food for thought:*

**1) YOU GOT YOUR CURRENT JOB BY:**

- a) Hard work, long hours, and dedication.
- b) Switching jobs with your closest ally.
- c) I have a job?
- d) No comment.

**2) THE LAST TIME YOU CRIED WAS WHEN:**

- a) Someone ate the last kleina in the break room.
- b) You saw pictures of starving children on television.
- c) Tears are for the weak.
- d) Call my secretary and book an appointment.

**3) WHEN YOU SEE IMAGES OF ICELAND'S WILDERNESS, YOU:**

- a) This is off the record, right?
- b) Think to yourself, "What a waste of real estate."
- c) Are filled with pride to live in such an unspoiled country.
- d) Change the channel.

**4) SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE:**

- a) None of my business.
- b) None of your business.
- c) Greedy, whining parasites.
- d) Master builders of our nation's future.

**5) WHEN I'M NOT WORKING, I LIKE TO:**

- a) I'm always working when it comes to serving the public.
- b) Drive to Keflavik and gaze enviously at the NATO base.
- c) Next question.
- d) Go to champagne-filled gala events.

**6) ICELAND'S IMMIGRATION POLICY SHOULD:**

- a) Wait, they can't vote, can they?
- b) Make foreigners feel welcome and accepted the way they are.
- c) Never upset my constituents.
- d) Keep the buggers in fish factories or language classes.

**7) THE WAR IN IRAQ IS:**

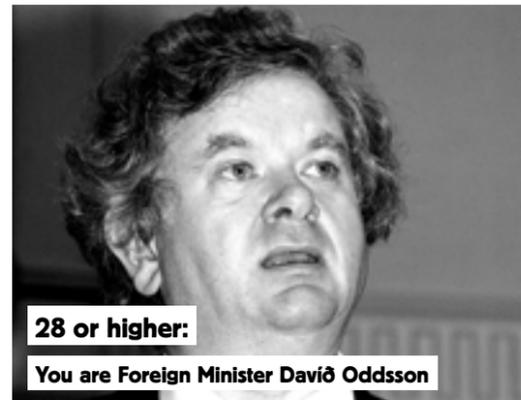
- a) A horrible mistake based on lies.
- b) Sorry, I'm late for an appointment.
- c) Another chance to try out our soldiers - I mean, fire fighters.
- d) I prefer to watch Innlit/Útlit.

**8) ICELAND'S ROLE IN THE WORLD IS:**

- a) "I'm not in the office right now. Please leave a message. Beep!"
- b) To serve as an example of a strong, socially-conscious nation.
- c) To do whatever will keep America happy.
- d) You mean there's a rest of the world?

### SCORING

- 1: a=1, b=4, c=2, d=3
- 2: a=2, b=1, c=4, d=3
- 3: a=3, b=4, c=1, d=2
- 4: a=2, b=3, c=4, d=1
- 5: a=1, b=4, c=3, d=2
- 6: a=3, b=1, c=2, d=4
- 7: a=1, b=3, c=4, d=2
- 8: a=3, b=1, c=4, d=2



**28 or higher:**

**You are Foreign Minister Davíð Oddsson**

Congratulations! You're never afraid to let a little thing like popular opinion stand in your way by pushing through even wildly unpopular ideas. Your composure in the face of your opponents only makes them angrier, which might partially explain why no matter how many people disagree with you, you manage to stay on top of your game.



**21 - 27:**

**You are Prime Minister Halldór Ásgrímsson**

When the people ask you the tough questions, you know exactly how to respond: don't respond at all. If you're ever put in a position where you're forced to say something, you manage to say a lot without actually answering the question. For this reason, no one knows where you really stand and you can therefore appeal to just about anyone.



**14 - 20:**

**You are Minister of Education Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir**

What good is a position of authority if you can't enjoy the perks, right? If there might be work put on your desk, it can always wait - that's why they invented delegation! But when those invitations to social events show up, you very diligently don your best attire and be sure to situate yourself near the photographers. Say cheese!



**8 - 13:**

**You are Chairman of the Left-Green Party Steingrímur Sigfússon**

You take civil service very seriously. Your voice carries loud and steady in the halls of parliament, and even those who don't understand what you're talking about get the impression that whatever it is, you feel VERY strongly about it. Whatever the issue may be, you consistently stick up for the underdog. Which is not a good way to get ahead in politics.

# GRAPEVINE **IN** your pocket



## His dad's pigs

Brain Griffin has photographed the biggest in politics, fashion and the music industry; Baroness Margaret Thatcher and Sir Paul McCartney, to name but two. But that's not what makes him big.

"Influences" is the name of his new show at the Reykjavík Art Museum.

In his list of influences on his homepage, he mentions his childhood in Black County, the Cold War,

by *Kremlina Nikolova*

Expressionism, Surrealism, the paintings of Casper David Friedrich, the books of Franz Kafka (The Trial, in particular), the films of Jaques Tati, the social realism of communism and fascism, the religious paintings of earlier centuries, and Iceland. (Griffin happens to be married to an Icelandic woman, the artist Brynja Sværissdóttir, and is considering settling here in the future). The current exhibition is his first retrospective collection ever, covering works since the very beginning of his career in 1970. Some of those are specifically dedicated to this personal bond with Iceland- "Iceland inspires me, it's not in just what I see when I'm here, but how it makes me feel", he said to Grapevine. ...continued on page 18.

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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. 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.

### 5. Mokka

Skálavörðustígur 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. Feng Shui

Laugavegur 42b, by Frakkastígur

Inside the Feng Shui house is a café called "Teahouse of the August moon". The café just recently opened and they serve organic cakes, biscuits and the largest selection of tea in town. Try the waffle biscuits and have a Kashmir tea latte.

### 7. Svartakaffi

Laugavegur 54

Read the newspaper, have a cup of coffee, have a philosophical conversation with your cigarette and enjoy the specialty of the house, soup in a bread. Aim high, it's not on the ground floor.

### 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. Kaffitár

Bankastræti 8

The café has a different colour on every wall. It's small but has good coffee and tasty side dishes. It's one of these places that make you want to sit down and watch daily life go by on one of downtown's busiest streets, or simply just to read the newspaper.

### 10. Te og Kaffi

Laugavegur 24

Te og Kaffi actually manufacture the coffee for quite a few of the cafés in Reykjavik apart from running their own cafés. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of the place is its staff. Most of them have actually served on the Icelandic coffee-making team. Njáll came in 4th in the

international championship in Trieste this year. Jónína made freestyle champion, with her "Cup of Culture" mix, which includes orange and white chocolate among other things. Have one.

## BARS & BISTRO

### 11. Sólon

Bankastræti 7a

Named after (in his own opinion, at least), Iceland's greatest man, Sólon is a pretty crowded nightclub on Friday and Saturday nights. It seems to have more lives than one, however, since in the day it's a fairly artsy coffeehouse and in the evening (weeknights) they have a decent menu. You can get a three course fish of the day meal for under 2000 krónur, or try the delicious fish and meat mixed sticks.

### 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 01:30.

### 13. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

Kaffibarinn is Cool Reykjavik, itself on having more artists per world, and the crowd here seen musicians, actors and writers r famous. Blur's Damon Albarn ing it was cheaper than buying the director of the film 101 Re in the film.

### 14. Sirkus

Klappartígur 30

"Welcome to the Jungle! We g With tropical palm trees on the welcome to the party that never ending any time soon. Usually or want to be students of the 1 musicians and other members floor, for whatever reason, look

### 15. Nelly's

Dinghallsstígur 2

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

### 16. Vegamót

Vegamátastígur 4

Wants to be the in-spot to be se 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. Kaffibrengsla

Pósthústræti 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. Rósenberg

Lækjargötu 2

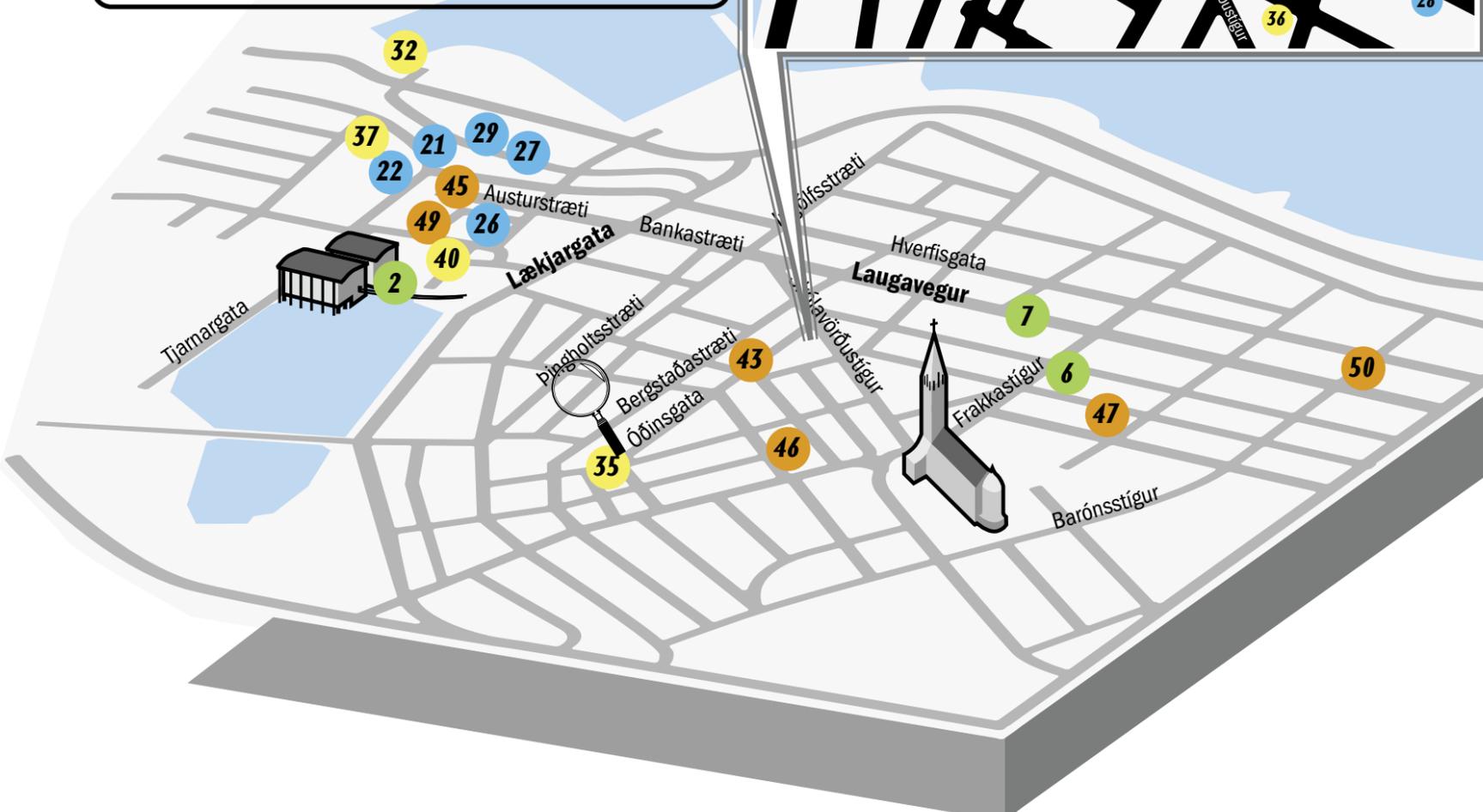
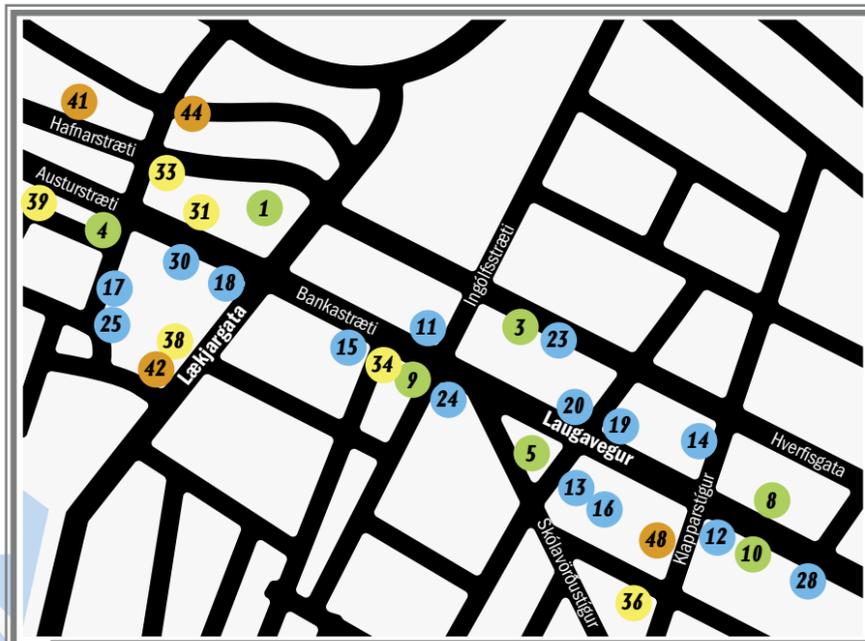
It has a history as both a dance reopened with a Jazz theme an to see up and coming Jazz band Dixieland Dwarfs as well as m



**SPOT THIS**

**Björk**

Not named after illustrious songstress, as it has carried this name since 1985, two years before the first Sugarcubes album. Björk is actually a tobacco shop, was originally called Bristol, and has been there since 1927. It has a large selection of tobacco, pipes and tobacco related merchandise, and even does home delivery. But as it is now against the law to speak of tobacco unless you are speaking against it, we must warn you that smoking is not very good for you.



tveir fiskar

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**19. Grand Rokk**

*Smíðjustigur 6*

A place true to the spirit of Rock 'n' Roll and bands that don't do covers. Better and lesser known Icelandic bands play there, usually no less than three bands a night, four nights a week. Whether they charge admission or not is up to the bands, but if they do, all proceeds 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. Many of Iceland's rock bands 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. Café Victor**

*Hafnarstræti 1-3*

Spelt with a c rather than with the more traditional k in order to be more cosmopolitan. This play seems to be working, as the bar has become something of a hangout for foreigners. The Viking ship sitting on top of the house might also add to the appeal. The crowd is very mixed, both in origin and age, and so is the music.

**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. Kaffi Kúltur**

*Hverfisgötu 18*

For those who grow tired of seeing nothing but palefaces about town, Kaffi Kúltur might be a pleasant diversion. During the day it's 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.

**24. Prikið**

*Bankastræti 12*

Used to be a traditional coffee house which has been around longer than any but, after a change of clientele, they now cater to a younger crowd. A diner during the day and a nightclub on weekends. You can also borrow games there, such as backgammon or chess.

**25. Póstbarinn**

*Pósthústræti 13*

Situated by Austurvöllur, Póstbarinn is a bistro prized restaurant, a rare treat. It is also one of few restaurants in Reykjavík with decent outdoor service. Live Jazz once a week and check out the reasonably priced fish menu they have, only 1490ISK. Try the plaice.

**26. Thorvaldsen**

*Austurstræti 8*

Posh as the fifth circle of hell. That said, they make a mean Mojito. DJ's on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Arrive before 12 if you want to avoid the queue. Theme nights during the week, wine and cheese on Wednesdays, Finlandia nights on Fridays and Sunday roast on, well, Sundays. Civilian attire is looked down upon.

**27. Gaukur á Stöng**

*Tryggvagata 22*

Iceland's oldest bar is now in its early twenties. During the day it's a pool pub and on weekday evenings there are live rock concerts by a mix of mainstream and underground bands. On weekends there is usually a lot of action with cover bands playing everything from Britney to the Beatles. Admission is sometimes between 500-1000 weekends, but usually it's free.

**28. Dillon**

*Laugavegur 30*

This far up Laugavegur, Dillon is definitely the place to be. With reinforcements from bass brute Próstur (Johnny for short) from the Rock band Minus, now doing his time on the other side of the bar tending it, an air of something about to go down permeates. The DJ is the grandmother of Icelandic rock Andrea Gylfadóttir, in residence on Saturdays. It used to be a nice, horse themed place for a quiet drink, but no more.

**29. Glauubar**

*Tryggvagötu 20*

One of the few proper sport bars in Reykjavík, so you can go and watch whatever game happens to be on the TV screens. The establishment is basically based around the bar, so you won't have to go a long way for a drink. Open until five, and has a reputation for late night partying

**30. Nasa**

*by Austurvöllur*

Used to be a theatre, but is now a club. Great sound system and occasional live bands. The town's biggest club, but the high prices do limit the crowd somewhat. Admission 1000 krónur.

**RESTAURANTS**

**31. La Primavera**

*Austurstræti 9*

Everybody laughed when we discovered a contemporary restaurant that has its most notable influences from Northern Italian cooking but using local Icelandic produce. The unique menu that results from this combination features homemade pastas, risotto, gnocchi, polenta and a wide variety of the freshest vegetables, fish, poultry, meat and game. The menu, the atmosphere and a comprehensive, exclusively Italian wine list has made La Primavera a favorite among the locals. They laugh no more!!

**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. Caruso**

*Dingbollsstræti 1*

Pizza and pasta are the specialties, although they also have a fish of the day. The seafood pasta has exceptionally fresh fish, as is to be expected. The decor is nice for the mid-level price range, and they have a retro smoking lounge upstairs.

**35. 3 Frakkar**

*Baldurstræti 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 Úlfar Eysteinnsson, the owner, may be present regaling the clientele with wild whaling tales. Don't forget to ask Chef Úlfar for dark Icelandic pumpernickel bread with pure Icelandic butter, and don't forget to make a reservation!

**36. Pasta Basta**

*Klapparstíg 38*

An affordable Italian place, the pasta is in generous portions and the salad with grilled chicken is a good light option. The garden is nice, with a glass ceiling protecting punters from the wind and the rain at all times of year. Upstairs, the Blue Bar offers a more bar type atmosphere.

**37. Tapas**

*Vesturgata 3b*

For those with a bit of money and time on their hands, the evening is well spent at Tapas, where you can vile away the evening having course after course of wonderful miniature dishes served. Recommended is the garlic fried lobster and lamb in apricot sauce. If you don't feel like getting up right away afterwards, there's also a lounge to lounge in, and the paintings there are worth a look.

**38. Jónfrúin**

*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 Jónfrúin. They even import their own eel directly from Denmark to make one of Scandinavia's delicacies.

**39. Shalimar**

*Austurstræti 4*

Prides itself on being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world. How this affects the food, we don't know as there are no comparisons in town. The daily special, comprised of two dishes on your plate, goes for roughly 1000kr. But we recommend the Chicken Tikka Masala, known to be highly addictive. And if the curry gets to you, they have a self service ice cone machine.

**40. Við Tjörnina**

*Templarasundi 3*

One of the best known fish restaurants in Iceland. The cook is Stúkkat member and Megas sidekick Gunní. It's known for innovative fish dishes made from a variety of rare fish and shellfish and related raw materials. Their respect for the raw materials is a tribute to fish and shellfish, showing off their natural goodness without artificiality.

**FAST FOOD**

**41. Nonnabiti**

*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. Mama Taco's**

*Lækjargata 8*

One of those places that seem to be always open, and hence you find yourself going to late on Saturday nights as consolation when it seems inevitable you'll be going home alone. And as consolations go, it's not bad. Rather reasonable by local standards, and they have all the tortillaish Mexican standards.

**43. Bernhöftsbakari**

*Bergstaðstræti 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. Hlöllli**

*By Ingólfstorg*

Where Nonni used to work before he went solo, due to creative differences no doubt. They have a somewhat larger selection of subs than Nonni, and they also have smaller sizes for kids and weight watchers. Brave souls might want to try the Gúmmi-Bátur (rubber boat), which might seem like an oversized relative of the ever-present pulsa.

**46. Eldsmíðjan**

*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**

*Bergþórgata 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 Ingólfstorg, 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 Hlöllli. They also have a menu (in 9 languages, no less) of three sizes of pizzas with a good selection of toppings.

**50. Reykjavík Bagel Company**

*Laugavegur 81*

Situated 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.

**USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

**Useful for Emergencies**

Emergency phone: 112 (fire, police, ambulance)  
Emergency Ward: 525-1000 (City Hospital 24hrs.)  
Doctor: 1770  
Dentist: 575-0505  
Directory information: 118  
Police: 444-1000  
Pharmacies: To find your closest call 118

**Internet Cafés**

BSI, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10, 101 Rvk. 591-1000  
Ráðhúskaffi, City Hall, 101 Rvk. 563-2169  
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.this.is/iceland  
www.grapevine.is

**Car Rentals**

ALP/Budget 562-6060  
Avis 591-4000  
Berg car rental 577-6050  
Europacar 565-3800  
SBK car rental 420-6000

**Other Useful Numbers**

City bus info, 551-2700  
BSÍ bus info, 591-1000

**Post Offices**

Central Post office, Pósthússtræti 5, 101 Rvk. 580-1000.  
Post offices are easily found around Iceland

**Laundry Services**

Emla laundry, Barónsstígur 3, 101 Rvk. 552-7499  
A Smith laundry, Bergstaðastræti 52, 101 Rvk. 551-7140

**Taxi Services**

Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir 588-5522  
Borgarbilastöðin 552-2440  
BSR 561-0000

**Rent a Bike**

Borgarhjól, Hverfisgata 50, 101 Rvk. 551-5653  
Reykjavík travel service, Lækjargata 2, 101 Rvk. 511-2442  
Reykjavík Youth Hostel, Sundlaugarvegur 34, 105. Rvk. 533-8110

**Selected Swimming Pools**

Laugardalslaug, Sundlaugarvegur 105 Rvk.  
Sundhöllin, Barónsstígur, 101 Rvk.  
Vesturbæjarlaug, Hofsvallagata, 101 Rvk.

**Tourist Information**

Kleif Touris Info, Bankastræti 2, 510-5700  
Reykjavík Travel Service, Lækjargötu 2, 511-2442  
This is Iceland, Laugavegur 20, 561-6010  
Tourist Information Center, Aðalstræti 2, 590-1550

**Useless Phone Numbers**

Bæjarins bestu (for reservations), p: 894-4515  
Krónan, Lágholtsvegi 20, p: 585-7330

**DOMUS GUESTHOUSE**



*Hverfisgata 45*  
*101 Reykjavík*  
*phone: 561-1200*  
*domus@simnet.is*

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THE ICELANDIC OPERA

**YOU PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW THEY DON'T GIVE CHANGE**



Reykjavík has no trams, trains or subways, only buses. These yellow things can take you pretty much anywhere in the Reykjavík area. 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, the nine ticket package for 1500kr would be a better deal. 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 exact amount, unless you want to pay more for your ride. The driver cannot give you change. You can ask the driver for a free, time-limited transfer ticket if you need two buses to complete your journey.

The bus system is closed at 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, where you'll be able to get all the information you need.

**Open all days and nights Bar, Pool and Grill**

**GAUKURINN**

At weekends Live music on 1st floor, entrance 500-1000 kr. And a dj on 2nd floor no entrance open until 06:00 am.

Various concerts on weekdays see on www.gaukurinn.is

Gaukur á Stöng - Tryggvagata 22 - t: 551-1556 - www.gaukurinn.is

Opnunartími:  
MÁN - ÞOST 10:30 - 18:00  
LAUG - SUN 12:00 - 18:00

Open:  
MON - FRI 10:30 - 18:00  
SAT - SUN 12:00 - 18:00

TODAY'S SPECIAL  
550.- 690.-

**INTERNET CAFÉ**

**Museums**

ASÍ Art Museum, Freyjugata 41, 511-5353  
 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, Kópavogur 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, Neströð 170, p: 561-1016  
 National Gallery of Iceland, Frikirkjuvegur 7, p: 515-9600  
 Nordic House, Sturlugata 5, p: 551-7030  
 Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15, p: 563-1750  
 Reykjavík Electricity 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

**Galleries**

101 Gallery, Hverfisgata 18a  
 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, Klappartígur 33, p: 551-3666  
 Gallery Meistarar Jakob, Skólavörðustígur 5, p: 552-7161  
 Gallery Skuggi, Hverfistaga 39, p: 511-1139  
 Gallery Smíðar og skart, Skólavörðustígur 16a, p: 561-4090  
 Gallery Tukt, Pósthússtræti 3-5, p: 520-4600  
 Handverk og Hönnun, Aðalstræti 12, p: 551-7595  
 Kirsuþerjatréð, Vesturgötu 4, p: 562-8990  
 Safn, Laugavegur 37, p: 561-8777  
 The Icelandic Printmakers Association, Tryggvagata 17, p: 588-7576

**Other**

Klink og Bank, Brautarholt, p: 822-0402  
 Salurinn Concert Hall, Hamraborg 6, p: 570-0400  
 Tónlistarþróunarmiðstöð (TPM), Hólmahlöð 2, p: 824-3002

**Theaters**

Icelandic Dance Company, Listabraut 4, p: 588-0900  
 National Theatre of Iceland, Hverfisgata 19, p: 551-1200  
 Reykjavík City Theatre, Listabraut 3, p: 568-5500  
 The Icelandic Opera, Ingólfsstræti, p: 511-6400  
 Loftkastalinn, Seljavegi 2, p: 552-3000  
 Iðnó, Vonarstræti 3, p: 562-9700  
 Möguleikhúsið, Laugavegur 105, p: 562-2669

**Restaurants**

3 Frakkar, Baldursgata 14, p: 552-3939  
 Café Opera, Lækjargata 2, p: 552-9499  
 Hornið, Hafnarstræti 15, p: 551-3340  
 Jómfrúin, Lækjargata 4, p: 551-0100  
 Maru, Aðalstræti 12, p: 511-4440  
 Pasta Basta, Klappartígur 38, p: 511-2238  
 Sjávarkjallarinn, Aðalstræti 2, p: 511-1212  
 Tapas, Vesturgata 3b, p: 551-2344  
 Tjarnarbakkinn, Vonarstræti 2, p: 562-9700  
 Tveir Fiskar, Geirsgata 9, p: 511-3474  
 Við Tjörnina, Templararund 3, p: 551-8666  
 Vox Nordica Hotel, Suðurlandsbraut 2, p: 444-5050

**Cafés**  
 Bleika Dúfan, Laugavegur 21, p: 517-1980  
 Café Paris, Austurstræti 14, p: 551-1020  
 Café Roma, Laugavegi 118, p: 562-0020  
 Feng Shui, Laugavegur 42b, p: 551-8686  
 Grái Kötturinn, Hverfisgata 16a, p: 551-1544  
 Kaffivagninn, Grandagarður 10, p: 551-5932  
 Kaffitár, Bankastræti 8, p: 588-0440  
 Mokka, Skólavörðustígur 3a, p: 552-1174  
 Ráðhúskaffi, City Hall, p: 563-2169  
 Segafredo by Lækjartorg main square.  
 Te og Kaffi, Laugavegur 27, p: 533-6262

**Café, Bar and Bistro**

Ari í Ögri, Ingólfsstræti 3, p: 551-9660  
 Bar 11, Laugavegur 11, p: 511-1180  
 Café 22, Laugavegur 22, p: 511-5522  
 Café List, Laugavegur 20a, p: 511-1420  
 Café Victor, Hafnarstræti 1-3, p: 561-9555  
 Dillon, Laugavegur 30, p: 511-2400  
 Dubliner, Hafnarstræti 4, p: 511-3233  
 Gaukur á Stöng, Tryggvagata 22, p: 551-1556  
 Glaumbar, Tryggvagata 20, p: 552-6868  
 Grand Rokk, Smiðjustígur 6, p: 551-5522  
 Hressingarskálinn, Austurstræti 20, p: 561-2240  
 Hverfisbar, Hverfisgata 20, p: 511-6700  
 Jón Forseti, Aðalstræti 10, p: 551-0962  
 Kaffi Kúltur, Hverfisgötu 18, p: 530-9314  
 Kaffibarinn, Bergstaðastræti 1, p: 551-1588  
 Kaffibrennslan, Pósthússtræti 9, p: 561-3600  
 Leikhúskjallarinn, Hverfisgata 19, p: 551-6010  
 Nasa, by Austurvöllur, p: 511-1313  
 Nelly's, Þinghóltsstræti 2, p: 551-2477  
 Mojito, Austurstræti 16, p: 575-7905  
 Prikkið, Bankastræti 12, p: 551-3366  
 Póstarinn, Pósthússtræti 13, 562-7830  
 Rösenberg, Lækjargötu 2, p: 551-8008  
 Sirkus, Klappartígur 30  
 Sólon, Bankastræti 7a, p: 562-3232  
 Thorvaldsen bar, Austurstræti 8, p: 511-1413  
 Vegamót, Vegamótastígur 4, p: 511-3040

**Fastfood**

Bæjarins bestu, Tryggvagata, p: 894-4515  
 Bernhöftsbakari, Bergstaðastæti 13, p: 551-3083  
 Eldsmíðjan, Bragagata 38a, p: 562-3838  
 First Vegetarian (Á næstu grösum), Laugavegur 20b, p: 552-8410  
 Hlöll, Ingólfsorgi, p: 511-3500  
 Mama Taco's, Lækjargata 8, 551-5513  
 Nonnabiti, Hafnarstræti 11, p: 551-2312  
 Pizza 67, Tryggvagata 26, p: 561-9900  
 Pizza Pronto, Vallarstræti 4, p: 517-5445  
 Reykjavík Bagel Company, Laugavegur 81, p: 511-4500  
 Vitabar, Bergþórugata 21, p: 551-7200

...continued from pg. 15

**Between truth and fiction**

The webpage itself is in modest grey colour, decorated by black silhouettes of birds in motion, trees and grass. His black and white photography often combines strange unrelated images like shoes and cabbage or blood and jewellery, standing on the edge of reality and fiction, while his colour shots are clean, bold and retro chic. In his advertisement work, the figures on the foreground are often lit by a sharp ray from the side or blurred, with the background appearing deliberately alien. When it comes to portraits, the approach is quite down-to-earth and warmly human. In the series Workers, the men kiss their tools in a personal, dignified way – the knights of everyday life.

**Santa Claus under the railway bridge**

Griffin got many awards for Claustrofoamia, his first short film: a story of a man's search in a post-apocalyptic world for Santa Claus' hiding place under the local railway bridge. The Curl is a symbolic tale about the sexual frustrations which a simple curl of hair on the forehead is able to provoke. Stanley Kubrick plays a role in another story about a gardener and his plot to kill a bunch of gentlemen with the help of a lady and a potato. Looking at the mass of interesting work displayed, one naturally wonders if there is any self-portrait to be found, but there was none. The works don't even have titles and are divided by category. Brian shares personal facts such as his father's death from environmental pollution and the suicide of his friend Barney Bubbles. Genuinely big people don't need to act big, do they?

**INFLUENCES**

photography exhibition by Brain Griffin at the Reykjavík Art Museum

15. Jan. – 27. Feb. 2005 <http://www.listasafnreykjavikur.is/index.en.shtml>  
<http://www.briangriffin.co.uk/>

**MOVIES : LISTINGS : january 13 - february 11**

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 intermission. The still running films may not precise, the premiers are usually correct.

**REGNBOGINN**

Hverfisgata 54  
 Phone: 551-9000  
[www.regnboginn.is](http://www.regnboginn.is)

**PREMIERS:**

14 jan. Finding Neverland  
 17 jan. Sideways  
 27 jan. Elektra  
 03 feb. Assault on Precinct 13, The Sea Inside  
 10 feb. Closer, In Good Company  
**Still running:**  
 Taxi, Í Takt við Tímann, Paparazzi.

**LAUGARÁS BÍÓ**

Laugarás  
 Phone: 553-2075  
[www.laugarasbio.is](http://www.laugarasbio.is)

**PREMIERS:**

14 jan. Lemony Snicket's  
 21 jan. Birth  
 27 jan. The Aviator  
 04 feb. Meet the Fockers  
**Still running:**  
 Old boy, Blade: Trinity, Í takt við tímann, Búi and Simon (dubbed)

**SAMBÍÓIN**

Álfabakka 8  
 Phone: 587-8900  
[www.sambio.is](http://www.sambio.is)

**PREMIERS:**

14 jan. Lemony Snicket's  
 21 jan. Alexander  
 28 jan. Team America: World Police, White Noise  
 04 feb. Meet the Fockers, Million Dollar Baby  
 11 feb. Phantom of the Opera, Pooh's Heffalump Movie  
**Still running:**  
 National Treasure, Alfie, Incredibles, Ocean's 12, Cinderella Story

**SAMBÍÓIN**

Kringlan 4-6  
 Phone: 588-0800  
[www.sambio.is](http://www.sambio.is)

**PREMIERS:**

14 jan. Lemony Snicket's  
 21 jan. Alexander  
 28 jan. Team America: World Police, White Noise  
 04 feb. Meet the Fockers, Million Dollar Baby  
 11 feb. Phantom of the Opera, Pooh's Heffalump Movie  
**Still running:**  
 Lemony Snicket's, National Treasure, The Incredibles

**HÁSKÓLABÍÓ**

Hagatorg  
 Phone: 530-1919  
[www.haskolabio.is](http://www.haskolabio.is)

**PREMIERS:**

14 jan. Un long dimanche de fiançailles  
 21 jan. Alexander  
 28 jan. The Aviator  
 04 feb. Meet the Fockers  
 Million Dollar Baby  
 11 feb. Phantom of the Opera  
**Still running:**  
 National Treasure, Alfie, Incredibles  
 Ocean's Twelve, Bridget Jones 2

**SMÁRABÍÓ**

Smáralind  
 Phone: 564-0000  
[www.smarabio.is](http://www.smarabio.is)

**PREMIERS:**

14 jan. Finding Neverland  
 21 jan. Sideways  
 27 jan. Elektra  
 03 feb. Assault on Precinct 13, The Sea Inside  
 10 feb. Closer, In Good Company  
**Still running:**  
 Taxi, Í Takt við Tímann, Paparazzi



Do not let my fragile appearance deceive you

**Bjargey Ólafsdóttir**

Influences

**Brian Griffin**

Urban Nature

**Þórður Ben Sveinsson**

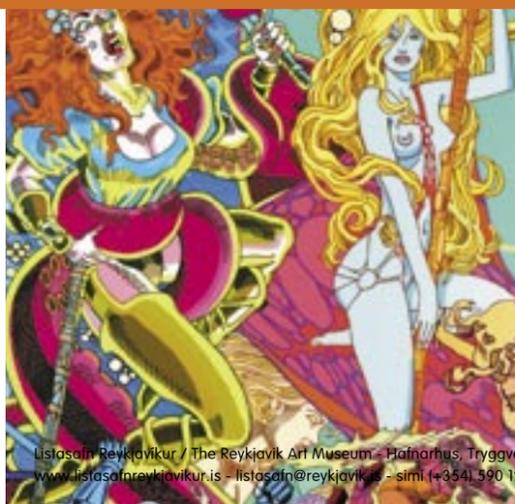
Scapes

**Erró**

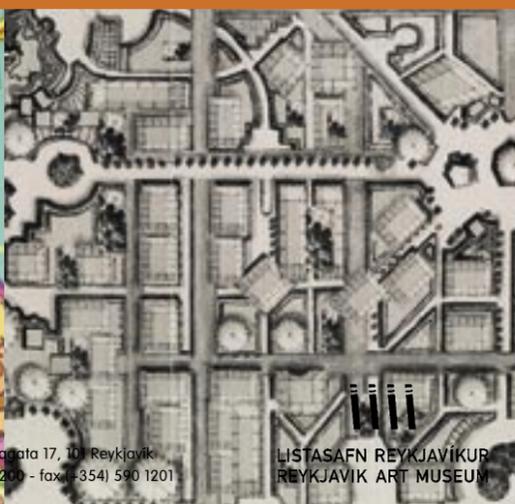
Reykjavík Art Museum  
 Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17

15.01.05 - 27.02.05

Open daily 10 - 17  
 Free entrance on Mondays



Listasafn Reykjavíkur / The Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús, Tryggvagata 17, 101 Reykjavík  
[www.listasafnreykjavikur.is](http://www.listasafnreykjavikur.is) - [listasafn@reykjavikur.is](mailto:listasafn@reykjavikur.is) - sími (+354) 590 1200 - fax (+354) 590 1201



LISTASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR  
 REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM

# I AM NOT GAY



I don't believe in telling jokes that ultimately have no meaning. My favourite stand-up comedians are folks like Chris Rock and George Carlin, who are very funny, but always toss in political and social barbs into the mix. It creates an almost bitter aura around the comedy, and that's really where my work comes from, too. Lately, my influences have been Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. They consistently touched on major social issues, such as Hitler, poverty, and racism. *What is the Walt Disney World College program? Are you to playwrighting what Justin, Britney and Christina are to pop?* No, actually, I'm more like the guy who pretends to be sweet and innocent so he can get naked pictures of Christina's ass at the Christmas party. Not that those are hard to get these days...

**Mitsubishi Repo Man**

*I heard Mitsubishi Motors was trying to repossess your car? Have they? Will a bit in Iceland solve the problem?*

No, I borrowed money from my brother and have since paid him back. A hit in Iceland would certainly not hurt my wallet, but I doubt it will have a long-term impact on it. Now, if I have several hits in Iceland, well then, that's a little different...

*What do you know about Iceland? Are you coming over for the premiere?*

I had a fairy godmother named Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir agree to translate the play. She was a huge fan of my work from our college days since she was an exchange student here in the US. I have seen Þórdís' photos, and have met several of her friends when they came to visit. I would love to show up for the premiere but money is still an issue. Plus, I am directing another one of my plays for the Riant Theatre's Strawberry One-Act Festival in New York City. If Ég er ekki hommi! continues to run through the end of February, I have promised Þórdís that I will fly up there and see it.

by Valur Gunnarsson

February sees the European premiere of Daniel Guyton's play *I Am Not Gay* at Loftkastalinn theatre. We asked the erstwhile playwright some questions.

*So you're not gay, then?*

No, I am not. It's pretty funny - people have gotten upset with me, saying I have no business writing about the gay lifestyle. But really, I wasn't trying to. I was writing, more than anything, about homophobia. Trying to understand it. Explain it. Rationalize it in my head. And the toughest part has been making the main character (who is homophobic), a sympathetic, likable (or at least, not wholly detestable) person. His feelings come not from hatred, but from insecurity, fear, and a terror of the unknown. His feelings towards homosexuality are not universally shared, but the place they come from sort of is.

**I'm Not Gay, the Movie**

*Why have you chosen to express yourself by writing plays rather than, say, screenplays? What can the stage contribute that other media can not?* What I love about the theatre

is the immediacy of the audience. When it works, the response is palpable, fresh, in-your-face, un-ignorable. Plus, they're a whole lot cheaper to produce! A screenplay takes LOTS of resources, people, and money in most cases. But I am working on a movie adaptation of *I'm Not Gay*.

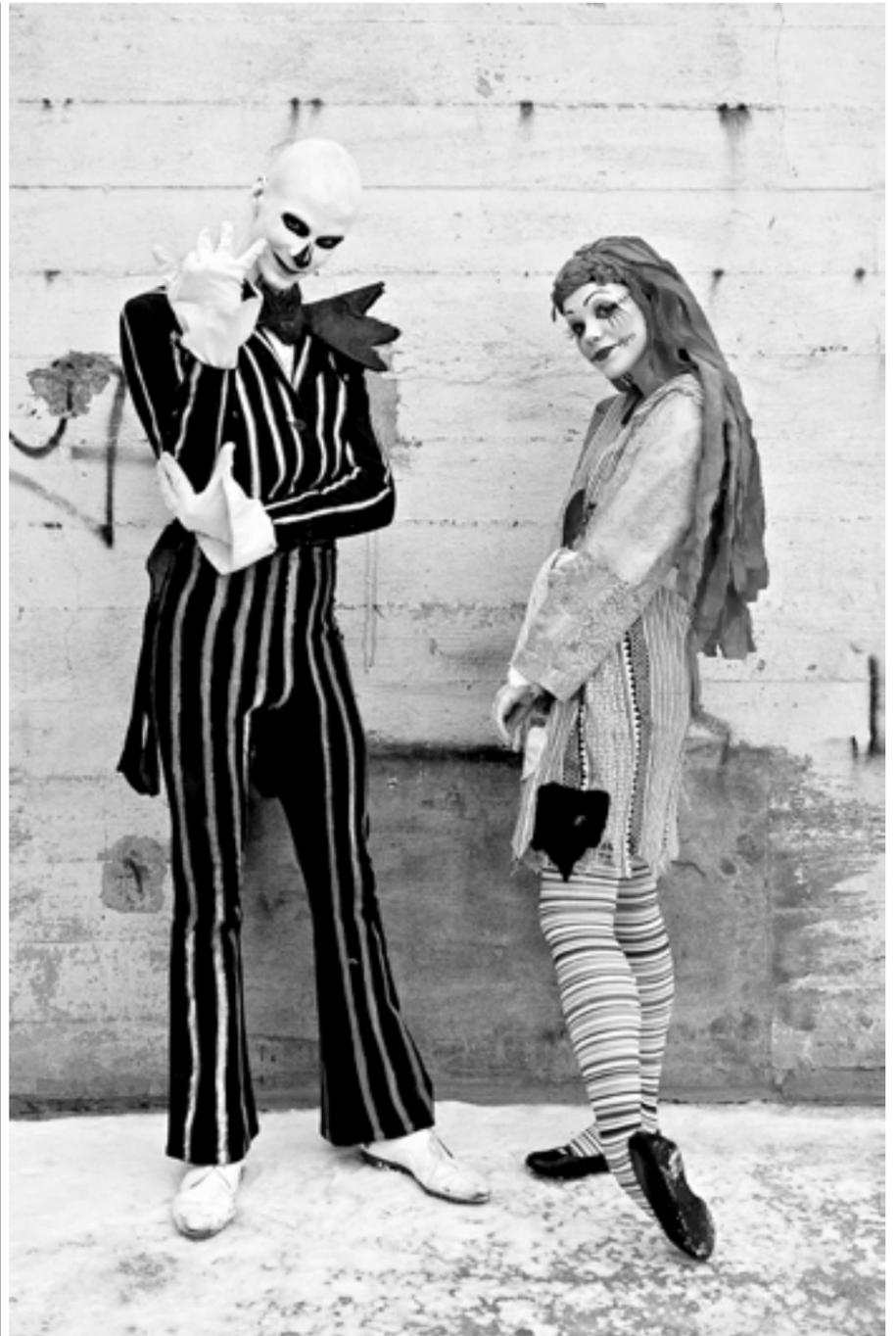
*You have an MFA in playwrighting. Can you learn to write in school?*

What you can learn is how to write under pressure, how to meet deadlines, but really, the only way to learn writing is through trial-and-error, practise your craft.

**Chris Rock and Charlie Chaplin**

*You have stated that you use humour to make people laugh at things they don't want to laugh at, such as racism or teenage murder. Do you use humour mostly for its own sake or do you use it as a form of social commentary?*

A little of both. The trouble is, comedy for comedy's sake grows old pretty quickly.



## Masters of the Macabre

To their credit, Menntaskólinn í Hamrahlíð have put on a stage production of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (Martröð á jólanótt) that takes deep bows to that modern master of the macabre, Tim Burton. The stage and costuming are literally translated from Burton's full-length animated feature and are for the most part well done, though some set pieces seemed rickety to the point of being dangerous. Attempting to recreate on stage the darkness of Halloween town while lighting the actors well enough to be

seen poses a problem the lighting tech didn't quite seem to master. Only the occasional use of the theater's disco ball saved the day (or night!). Danny Elfman's inspired musical score was well-sung by the players despite guffed sound cues and oddly inconsistent mike levels. A promising beginning and action-filled ending were bookmarks for scene-ettes that could very well have played out in half the time.

by Maria Alva Roff

## Showtime



**The Nightmare before Christmas**

16. January  
23. January  
29. January (Final show)  
Loftkastalinn theatre

**I am Not Gay** will open on January 22nd at Loftkastalinn theatre



# SMOKED

opening hours : 8 - 18

Sægreifinn

Verbúð 8 / Geirsgötu / 101 Reykjavík

salmon  
eel  
red fish



## Will the real MARLENE DIETRICH please stand up?

*Soldiers and contemporary dance. Weapon-wielding military men and purveyors of the finer arts. Maybe not a mix that springs lightly to mind, for the most of us at least. But what has Marlene Dietrich got to do with anything? And why are we all her, or she all of us?*

Dancer/choreographer/director/singer and general creative lady Erna Ómarsdóttir of Íslenski Dansflokkurinn has never been afraid to take on something new. Together with the equally multi-faceted Slovenian Emil Hrvatin, who amongst other things is head of the production and publishing company Maska, and edits a magazine of the same title, she is currently developing "We Are All Marlene Dietrich FOR," a work of contemporary dance to be performed on five dates between the 4th and 11th of February at the Borgarleikhús on Listabraut. The music is by Belgian group PONI.

### Global military awareness

Erna and Emil have taken the position of the wartime icon as a starting point to explore the relationship between art and war, artist and soldier. Marlene performed to American troops, but was equally loved by the German

army, though she refused to perform to them, and regarded her art, the entertainment of the forces, as a political instrument. "Being an artist means being an entertainer, it is something we cannot forget, it is like being Icelandic, or Slovenian; though we may not like it, it is integral to who we are," states Emil with a contagious enthusiasm.

### Soldiers get in for free

So with that in mind, and with the backdrop of a current global military awareness, they set out to create a work aimed towards an audience that is not their usual one, an audience that generally favours entertainment over artistic interest, an audience of peace keeping soldiers, and to that framework add the political questions and angles appropriate to the situation. Army staff and their families gain free entry. For tickets visit [www.id.is](http://www.id.is).

by Anik Todd

We are all Marlene Dietrich FOR is produced with the support of the Cultural 2000 Programme of the European Commission



Iceland Dance Company and Maska productions present:

## We are all Marlene Dietrich FOR

A new creation by Erna Ómarsdóttir and Emil Hrvatin  
At the Reykjavík City Theatre

Premiere February 4th

Other performance dates:  
February 6 th, 9 th, 10 th and 11 th



**For tickets** contact Reykjavik City Theatre's ticket office tel: 568 8000, [midasala@borgarleikhus.is](mailto:midasala@borgarleikhus.is). Buy your ticket online at [www.id.is](http://www.id.is). Iceland Dance Company, Reykjavik City Theatre, Listabraut 3, 103 Reykjavik, tel: 588 0900, [olof@id.is](mailto:olof@id.is), [www.id.is](http://www.id.is)



## IN MY OPINION THE VERY BEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT IN THE WORLD

Henry D. Weissmüller JR.

OK, Mr. Clinton did not eat at our place when he came to Iceland, but for his health he sure should have. Many famous actors and rock stars like *Mick Jagger* and *Forest Whitaker* have been among our regular customers. *Where the stars eat you are safe!*



Á NÆSTU GRÖSUM (FIRST VEGETARIAN)

Laugavegur 20b \* Mon. – Sat. 11:30 – 22

Sun. 17 – 22 \* Tel: (+354) 552 8410 \* [www.anaestugrosum.is](http://www.anaestugrosum.is)

# LISTINGS

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

### Ásmundarsafn, Sculpture museum

13:00-16:00 every day

The Man and Material. A retrospective exhibition of works by Asmundur Sveinsson.

### Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Mon-Fri 12:00-19:00, Sat&Sun 13:00-17:00.

Exhibition "Before and after" by Roland Barthes. The photos generally show progress from bad to good, sometimes from good to even better – but the comparison is never negative. Ends February 6.

### Gallery Bananas

On Laugavegur 80, walk in from Baronstígur. Recently opened gallery in the Garden.

### Reykjavík Municipal Archives

Mon. to Fri. 10-16  
Documents from institutions and municipal companies in Reykjavík are stored in the Municipal Archives and make out the main part of the archives.

### Gallery Hnoss

Mon-Fri 12:00-18:00 Sat 11:00-16:00

Works by artists Auður Eysteinsdóttir and Hildur Margrétardóttir.

### Gallery 18

Wed-Fri 11:00-17:00, 13:00-17:00 Sat.

Exhibition by Finnur Arnar.

### Hafnarborg Art Gallery

Wed-Sun 11:00-17:00

Exhibitions Black on White, Sigrún Guðmundsdóttir and Electricity in Hafnarfjörður for 100 years are what Hafnarborg brings to us all. Ends January 31.

### Gerðarsafn, Kópavogur Art Gallery

Tue-Sun 11:00-17:00.

East room: Touching, Paintings by Birgir Snæbjörn Birgisson. West room: Oil lights, Figurative

Soundexhibition by Jóhann Jóhannsson and photoexhibition by Stephan Stephensen (alias President Bongo).

### Nýlistasafnið, The Living Art Museum

Two exhibition: Carnal Knowledge is a group exhibit of women artists from the Nordic countries and Peru. Curator, Dána Stórásen, describes the group as artists that express themselves in a poetical fairytale feminism fashion that empazises the strength within women.

Second exhibition, Hlynur Helgason - Walk down Klapparstíg.

### Nordic House

Mon-Fri 8:00-17:00, Sat&Sun 12:00-17:00

Tonje Strøm. Exhibition hall and lobby.

### Culture House

11:00-17:00 every day

Few exhibitions: "Medieval Manuscripts Eddas and Sagas", many of Iceland's national treasures are on display in the Culture House's featured exhibition Medieval Manuscripts – Eddas and Sagas.

"The National Museum - as it was" The exhibition celebrates the National Museum's 140th anniversary in 2003. Exhibition "Home Rule 1904". The Culture House has launched two new theme exhibits: The artists of the month and Icelandic Musical Heritage.

The Artist of the Month is a collaborative project of the Culture House and a private company running the educational website skólavefurinn.is. The first artist of the month is Bragi Ásgeirsson.

### Gerðuberg Cultural Center

Mon-Fri 11:00-19:00, Sat-Sun 13:00-17:00.

Exhibition by Rosemarie Trockel, she is one of the most important figures in the contemporary art movement in Germany. She challenges established theories about sexuality, culture, and artistic production.

Exhibition Art from Human Hair by Sigríður from Vigur island starts 21 jan. Works of art made from human hair are a rarity, and only a handful of Icelanders have learned this old craft.

### National Gallery of Iceland

11:00-17:00 every day

Exhibition Archive – endangered waters by RÚRI. It holds 52 large photos of falls in Iceland.

Exhibition of Icelandic artworks from 1930-1945, overview from this time.

### National Film Archive of Iceland

11. and 15. jan. La Notte Michelangelo Antonioni

18. and 22. jan. Nazarín Luis Buñuel

25. and 29. jan. Andrei Rublyov Andrei Tarkovsky

1. and 5. feb. Name of the rose Jean-Jacques Annaud

8. and 12. feb. The silent movies from Iceland.



101 Gallery, until February 12th

## MR. PIANO & MRS. PILE

Egill is a young artist who recently took part in the group exhibition "New Icelandic Art" at the National Gallery of Iceland. Perhaps best know for masturbating at Kjarvalsstaðir, his contribution there was a video work, and he still does them here. They certainly are memorable: wildmen singing carelessly in the night-sky while bombs are falling in the background, being passively watched by the human-faced moon. Apart from the screen-show, there was a small stage with microphones, piano and silhouettes of bubbly bush-like black creatures with moving cartoon-like eyes and lips. Now he is coming to Gallery 101 with a similarly simplified vocabulary, but I am still undecided whether I like it or not. I guess the only safe way to talk about the meaning of life, without being tiresome, is to make it all sound like a joke, and turn it into a song and dance routine. Well, a fun time is guaranteed.

### 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.

### 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.

### Numismatic Collection of the Central Bank

Mon-Fri 9:00-17:00, Closed 12:00-13:00.

Icelandic coins and banknotes.

### Gallery Sævar Karl

Mon-Fri 10:00-17:00

Exhibition by Hulda Vilhjálmsdóttir.

### Gallery Kolbrún S. Kjarval

Uniquely designed, hand-made ceramics.

### Gallery smíðar og skart

Sun-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat: 10:00-16:00

Selection of fine art, both functional and sculptural. Ceramics, paintings and graphics.

### Klink og bank artist workplace

Workplace for artist, open when something special is going on.

### 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.

### Teddi - Workshop

10:00-18:00 every day

Open workshop of tree sculptures of Teddi.

### Kirsuberjatréó

A gallery with Icelandic design run by ten female artists.

### 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. ends May 15

### Bad Taste Gallery

Bad Taste records record store and gallery.

### All around Iceland

Every winter at the end of January, Icelanders celebrate the old feast of Thorrablot.

### Around Reykjavík

The Dark Music Days starts (30 jan. - 2 feb.) is the most impressive Icelandic festival for contemporary music and has a splendid reputation both in Iceland as well as abroad.

### Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun 13:00-17:00

Geological, botanical and zoological exhibits, displaying the nature of Iceland.

### 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.

### Einar Jónsson Sculpture Museum

Sat-Sun 14:00-17:00

Works of Einar Jónsson, Iceland's first sculptor.

### Saga Museum

12:00-17:00 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 millenium through the use of life size likenesses.

### Reykjavík Electricity Museum

Sun 13:00-17:00

A historical survey of the uses of electricity in the city of Reykjavík, from the time of the first hydroelectric station at Elliðaár, in operation from 1921 onwards.

### Gallery Tukt

Mon-Thu 13:00-18:00, Fri 13:00 - 17:00

Various artists.

## SATURDAY

JANUARY 15

### ASÍ museum

Exhibition by Valgerður Guðlaugsdóttir opens.

### Gerðarsafn, Kópavogur Art Gallery

Opening of two exhibitons, Touching and Oil lights.

### Borgarleikhúsið, City Theatre

Family Performance by Iceland Dance Company. Three fun dance performances made to charm the whole family.

## SUNDAY

JANUARY 16

### Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum

Artist Talk: Conversation with photographer Brian Griffin. Moderator Anne Braybon, lecturer on photography and Art Director of Management Today. In English.

## THURSDAY

JANUARY 20

### Háskólabíó

Concert by The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra

## SATURDAY

JANUARY 29

### National Gallery of Iceland

Two exhibition starts, see more details in ongoing listings.

### Safn

Two new exhibition opens. See details in ongoing events.

## SUNDAY

JANUARY 30

### Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum

Artist Talk: Conversation with artist Bjargey Ólafsdóttir. Moderator Ágústa Kristófersdóttir curator. Screening of three short films by Bjargey: False teeth, Jean and Do Not Let My Fragile Appearance Deceive You.

## THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 3

### Háskólabíó

Concert by The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra

## FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 4

### Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum

Opening if two exhibition. See details in ongoing exhibition.

### Icelandic opera

We are all Marlene Dietrich: A new creation by Erna Ómarsdóttir and Emil Hvatín. This piece is a part of the Trans danse Europe 2003-2006 project.

## SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 5

### Nordic House

Nordic and international compositions - panel discussions. Dark Music Days.

### Nordic House

Geir Draugsvoll plays the harmonica.

## SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 6

### Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum

Conference: The City – A Monument of Culture A conference exploring the city as a cultural phenomenon. In collaboration with the Reykjavík Academy.

### National Gallery of Iceland

15:00-16:00. Guided tour through the museum.

## WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 9

### National Gallery of Iceland

Lecture by Guðni Tómasson about artist argue 1942.



The Living Art Museum, until January 30th

## THE CARNAL KNOWLEDGE GROUP AND HLYNUR HELGASON

Yes, Carnal means sexual, but don't get tricked by the title, there's nothing really sexual here. By the entrance one can get a 4-page detailed explanations in Icelandic about what these 8 female artists had in mind when they chose this concept. Key-words include: a movie by the same title from 1971, a CD by Van Halen, Fatal Attraction, female vs. male perception, the Bible, MTV, consumer culture, and so on. My personal favourite would be Helena Blomquist: her black-and-white photographic work brings nostalgia for the time when there was no digital-image technology, but she definitely knows how to make it technically and aesthetically convincing. Hlynur Helgason shares the same space with a concept of his own: a photographic and video portrait of the well-known nearby street Klapparstígur. So well-known, perhaps, that it was hard to grasp any new perspective on it.

and abstract paintings by Elías B. Halldórsson. Ends February 6.

### Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum

Sat and Sun 14:00-17:00

Ólafsson Museum: Closed in December and January.

### Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum

10:00-17:00 every day

Permanent exhibition: Works from the Kjarval Collection. On February 4 starts exhibitons Aim XI, a joint project by the artists Helgi Hjaltalin Eyjólfsson and Pétur Örn Fríðriksson. And exhibition by Hörður Ágústsson - Retrospective, Hörður Ágústsson is born 1922, is one of Iceland's most respected and versatile artists, a "renaissance man" in the true sense of the word.

### Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum

Mon-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat 10:00-16:00

Erró – Scapes: An exhibition of works from private collections and from the Erró Collection. Influences: Exhibition by Brian Griffin photographer. This is the first retrospective exhibition of the works of Brian Griffin.

Urban Nature: The artist Þóróður Ben Sveinsson was one of the original members of the so-called SJM group in Iceland in the 1960's. At an exhibition in Reykjavík in 1982 he introduced for the first time his vision of a new kind of urban environment and architecture in Iceland. In this exhibition Sveinsson will reveal the latest developments of his urban visions inspired by nature. A solo exhibition "Do Not Let My Fragile Appearance Deceive You" works of the artist Bjargey Ólafsdóttir.

### Safn

Wed-Fri 14:00-18:00. Sat&Sun 14:00-17:00

Birgir Andrésson – introduction to the works of the artist. Two new exhibition open 29 jan:

### The National Museum of Iceland

New permanent exhibitions, giving a comprehensive picture of Iceland's cultural history through the ages to the present day. The exhibitions will cover 2000 m2 and be an exciting journey through time.

### Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum

Winter: Guided tours scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 13:00. Guided tours for groups by arrangement.

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum is Reykjavík City's folk museum and the largest open air museum in Iceland. Outside the summer season, guided tours of the museum are scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 13:00. Guided tours for groups by arrangement.

### Telecommunications Museum

Tue,Thu&Sun 11:00-17:00

Pictures and items related to the history of telecommunications.

### Reykjavík Botanical Garden

10:00-22:00 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.

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### Numismatic Collection of the Central Bank

Mon-Fri 9:00-17:00, Closed 12:00-13:00.

Icelandic coins and banknotes.

### ASÍ museum

Tue-Sun 14:00-18:00

VALGERÐUR GUÐLAUGSDÓTTIR - In the exhibition Valgerður plays with the image of the female body in modern society. Ends February 6.

### Reykjavík City Library

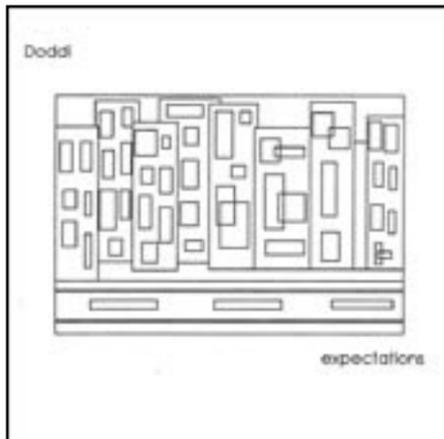
MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

# Don't mention Nick Drake

*Nick Drake...there, I've said it. I'll try not to mention his name again throughout this review as I'm sure Doddi, like so many like-minded artists, will attract endless comparisons to the late maestro if he continues developing the best ideas on show here. For two thirds of this homemade cd-r though, he focuses on subtle instrumental pieces that easily pass Brian Eno's definition of ambient music and how it should be as ignorable as it is interesting, which pretty much sums up the whole album.*

It's opener, 'Introduction' is a perfect example; a soft and sweet guitar/cello melody in the vein of Halifax Pier or Sackville, although I'm not sure if Doddi is familiar with either of them. The same formula is applied on 'Forest' but the song itself is slightly more upbeat with Doddi's hushed vocals coming into the fray. Of the three vocal tracks it is probably the weakest one while 'In One Way' and 'Autumn Song' are obvious highpoints. The instrumental 'Sound of the Cities' reminds me of when I listened to a Sigur Rós lp on 45 rpm (don't ask) while 'Marco Polo' is slightly reminiscent of múm, with a harmonica playing the key-role and some minimal electronics making a one-off appearance. In many ways, the album can be divided into three sections, with the aforementioned 'In One Way' and 'Autumn Song' beautifully wrapping up parts one and three, respectively. In between, Doddi has a bit of a dip in form and 'This Place, that Morning' sounds particularly out-dated due to the almost obligatory post-rock sampling of a preacher.

## Doddi: Expectations



Another sample is featured on 'Love Liza', this time from a movie of the same name (starring Phillip Seymour Hoffman and music written by Jim O'Rourke). The song is easily the album's poppiest moment with plenty of instruments (presumably played by Doddi himself) but unfortunately some sloppy overdubs prevent the song from ever reaching its full potential. The stripped-back piano melody of the album's penultimate track, titled 'Windowsill', is far more convincing and hopefully an indication of what to expect from the young artist, also a member of a rock group called Heróglymur. If you count a cd-r made exclusively for family & friends a couple of years ago, Doddi has now got 2 albums under his belt and is steadily learning his trade. Though his music could hardly be described as groundbreaking it's certainly has enough enthralling moments to justify a closer inspection.

by Árni Viðar

## Heard thru the Grapevine

The reggae band **Hjálmar** popped out of nowhere (or Keflavík) to become, along with Múgison, the most talked about act of last autumn. They released their debut album just in time for last Christmas and are rumoured to be already back in the studio recording a follow up album due for release this spring. They are also set to release a live concert DVD, which should be out sometime next month. Hjálmar's album, *Hljóðlegra að stað*, is being released in Japan. Who'd have thought Icelandic reggae would prove export friendly?

Hard rock masters **Minus** have decided not to move to LA to record their new album this January, as they had previously announced. This may jeopardise their hard won Sony recording contract. Meanwhile, drummer **Bjóssi** can be seen behind the bar at Bar 11, following in the footsteps of bassist **Pröstur** who is working at Dillon.

Skátar's album is set to be released by the label **Moshi Moshi** in the UK. The label currently distributes albums by among other Icelandic artist **KGB/Bob Justman** and local favourites **Hot Chip**.

Jan Mayen will be playing the **ByLarm** festival in Stavanger, Norway, which runs from the 10th to the 12th of February. From there, they will go directly to Britain on tour opening up for various local acts in among other places London, York and Cardiff. Local fans can expect to hear the band play upon these shores again in March.

# albums

JANUARY

## THE ALBUM

### SKÁTAR

#### HEIMSFRIÐUR Í CHILE

### Screw the elves, fuck the system

Despite a low-key release on Grandmother Records in the midst of this year's annual Christmas madness, Skátar's debut album managed to snatch a place on a few critic's top 10 lists and for a good reason too. Whether it's a short album or a long ep. is debatable but the quality of the record itself is not; so fans of Icelandic underground music, please take note. Having said that, there's actually very little here that falls in frame with the outsider's view of Icelandic music and this eccentric quintet most certainly does not sound or look anything like elves (no disrespect to the Elfin branch of Iceland's music industry). In fact, the only notable comparison I could come up with is to the the legendary *feyr*...had they been an American lo-fi rock-group in the 1990's.

Of course, they weren't but alternative acts such as Trumans Water, Polvo, Halo Benders, Sebadoh and Pavement all spring to mind, as well as various post-punk bands, Captain Beefheart and, to some extent, The Fall. Put this in the blender, sprinkle on some general weirdness and you'll end up with what's been labeled as noise-skronk-rock even though that probably doesn't say an awful lot.

Even though the music itself sounds somewhat "American" the lyrics are still in Icelandic but you would have problems telling at times because they are barely audible as opposed to the screechy guitar riffs. Then again, actions speak louder than words and Skátar is certainly a band of actions as proven over the course of the 6 featured songs.

The first one, titled 'Karnival', kicks off with a recording of singing kids before a guitar comes screaming to rally the five-piece. Half-way through the song they take a break for a bit of tomfoolery to creep in, as it does every now and then throughout the album, making sure things never get too serious. The second song, 'Halldór Ásgrímsson', is in "honour" of our prime-minister (previously in charge of Iceland's foreign affairs) and his own war-games during the war in Iraq.

The *feyr*-factor I mentioned earlier is at its peak on the verses of 'Power and Gold' while the album's fourth track, 'Gunnar Huseby' starts off as a mesmerising nod to slow-core pioneers Codeine before reaching its climax with a good ol' fashioned kraut-rock pounding. 'Bedid eftir Benna' and 'Know Your Banana' are slightly half-baked and somewhat redundant but these underground scouts already had me convinced, ensuring the overall experience of listening to their debut is a very interesting one indeed.



Árni Viðar

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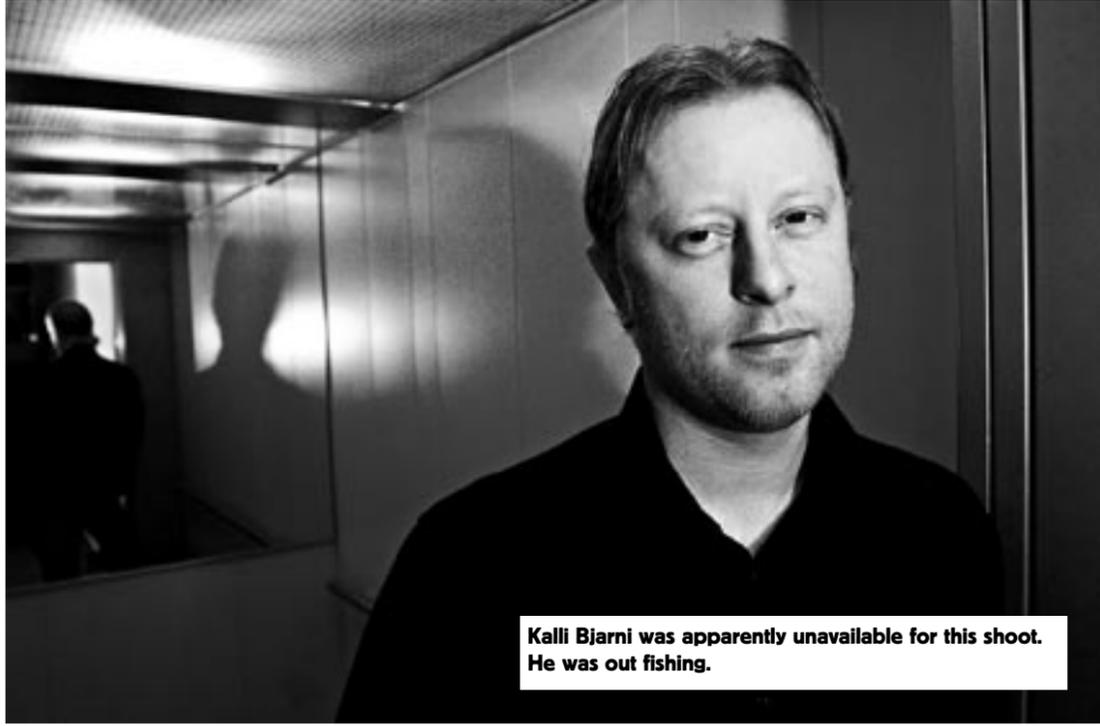
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Take away

Take away

## PALLI and KALLI: Do they care?

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past few months, you will have heard of Idol. Kinda makes you wish you were living under a rock, doesn't it? Iceland's very first Idol, Kalli Bjarni, is in many ways the perfect choice; a good-looking sailor from a small harbour town, a family man and an overall nice guy that swept "the nation" off its feet. It's also very hard to fault him for the predictable shortcomings of his debut because even if someone else had won the "prestigious award," I'm positive his or her album would have sounded pretty much the same. The producers stick to a given formula and Kalli Bjarni gladly obliges because he is, after all, living the dream of being a pop-star.



Kalli Bjarni was apparently unavailable for this shoot. He was out fishing.

**At the bottom with Páll Rósinkrans**  
With the hunt for a new Idol already underway, it won't be long until Kalli Bjarni is merely yesterday's news. Sure, it's a shame for him, but the record industry is a cruel business and far from as glamorous as it may appear to unsuspecting contenders of the Idol-crown. One would still expect the behind-the-scene

virtuosos to dish out some instant pop-hits, ensuring Kalli Bjarni a proper lift-off as he reaches for the stars, but they appear to be not in the mood. At the bottom of the resulting pile of mess is Kalli Bjarni's duet with Páll Rósinkrans; not only because of the song itself but the fact that the same exact version appears on the latter's

newly released cd. Of course, both apply the same back-room staff and to me, this factory-like stunt shows how little everyone involved actually cares about the music itself or any potential listeners. Still, the fact they had the sheer audacity to go through with it meant that I could at least have some laughs while listening to these two otherwise forgettable

albums.

### Neither Fish Nor Flesh

Our protagonists' sad face on the cover says it all really because the majority of the 10 tracks are neither one thing nor the other. A few of them are decent enough for what they are; mindless yet reasonably catchy and certainly tolerable when compared to over-zealous power-ballads such as 'Hvert eitt sólarlag'. At times though, Kalli Bjarni himself sounds like he's got limited faith in what he's doing, or should I say what he's being told to do. The title of the album's feel-good finale, 'Adeins einu sinni' ('Only once'), says it all, since it's already looking increasingly doubtful that Kalli Bjarni will get an extension of his 15 minutes of fame. Sales have reportedly been disappointing and as previously suggested, the Idol momentum simply doesn't seem to carry on beyond the TV screen.

### The system is crap but it works

An undeniably gifted singer (perhaps in need of money?) enters a studio, sings a handful of carefully selected and unchallenging songs before releasing an album he's guaranteed to sell shitloads of. Aah, the system works. It's a crappy system, I know, but does Páll Rósinkrans really care? Does he even care about his own reputation as a serious musician? As stated earlier, Páll is a talented if unambitious singer who originally made a name for himself with the highly promising rock-outfit Jet Black Joe in the early nineties. Fed up with the rock 'n' roll lifestyle, he found religion and released a gospel album to somewhat surprising

commercial success he's been milking ever since, playing it safe and making carbon copies of already well-known songs, thus insuring that nothing, and I mean nothing, could possibly upset the listeners or, god forbid, take them by surprise.

### In Pro-Tools We Trust

This time around though, all the material is in Icelandic and, in most cases, written especially for the occasion. That may count as an effort to improve but it's a half-hearted one as most of the songs fail to make a notable impact. As with his contrived "karaoke-albums," the recordings are top notch (In Pro-Tools we trust), which is hardly surprising given the fact that every position is filled by an industry professional, so the album ends up sounding like the musical equivalent of a Jerry Bruckheimer film. It's obviously hard to fault the opener, written in memory of the recently passed Pétur W. Kristjánsson and the song that follows, 'Ad lifa lengi', is mildly catchy if nothing else. More dramatic are 'Nóttin er blind', 'Mín eina von' and 'Eins og gengur' (a duet with Idol-star Kalli Bjarni) which do have some effect but surely not the intended as I got shivers down my spine rather than goosebumps. Thankfully, the rest of the album seems to float harmlessly away but even Páll's vocals aren't as strong as often before, whether it's down to an off-day or simply lack of general interest. So why does the bandwagon keep on rolling? Is it all really a matter of taste?

by Árni Viðar

# Viking Village

in Hafnarfjordur

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MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE



## WHITE LIGHT – WHITE HEAT

*Prussian Blue is a folk group comprised of Lamb and Lynx Gaede, two 12-year-old girls who sing and play guitar and violin. In an interview with Vice magazine, they explained the reason for their name*

“Part of our heritage is Prussian German. Also our eyes are blue, and Prussian Blue is just a really pretty color. There is also the discussion of the lack of “Prussian Blue” coloring (Zyklon B residue) in the so-called gas chambers in the concentration camps. We think it might make people question some of the inaccuracies of the “Holocaust” myth.”

Part of their heritage is also Icelandic, as their grandmother was from here. What do some of the youngest members of the white nationalist movement have to say about immigration? Lamb and Lynx speak their

minds with Grapevine:

*On your website I saw that you took part in an anti-immigration demonstration. What, in your opinion, is the biggest reason why the borders should be closed?*

**Lamb:** The US cannot take everyone in the world who wants to live here. If we have to feed and clothe them all we will end up being a really poor country, too.

**Lynx:** The immigration is changing our schools because the Mexicans’ behavior is rubbing off on the White kids. Like spray painting and laziness and bad grammar. I see so

much of the teachers’ time spent on trying to get the Mexican kids to behave themselves or so much money spent on trying to teach them English that it takes away from the rest of us.

*Would you consider yourselves white supremacist or separatist, and why?*

**Lamb:** White Nationalist or Separatist since a supremacist means that we would want to rule other races and to be honest, we just don’t want them around.

**Lynx:** We do think our race is different than other races in a lot of positive ways and that we have invented more things and done more for civilization. We don’t want to harm other races but we don’t want to have to take care of them or be around them either.

*Have you ever visited the country (or*

## 12-year-old twin girls sing folk songs – about white pride

*countries) of your heritage, and have you ever considered moving there one day?*

**Lamb:** No, we haven’t. I would move to any country that would allow Whites to have their own living space. Or any country that would allow it to be politically correct to be a separatist.

**Lynx:** No, I haven’t been to any of the countries of my heritage. I might like to move to a European country like Iceland or Ireland or Germany but only if they haven’t ruined it by allowing too many immigrants from non-white countries like the US did. *If the border were closed, would this include the exclusion of white Europeans?*

**Lamb:** No, I know a lot of people from Europe and they are here legally.

**Lynx:** No, because from what I have seen White Europeans benefit our country and our society.

*Should immigrants already living in the US be deported, segregated or assimilated?*

**Lamb:** Give the nonwhites an area to stay if they were born here and if they haven’t done anything wrong. If they are here illegally or if they moved here then send them back.

**Lynx:** I think we should allow the races to separate that are here. If the government doesn’t make people live near each other they probably won’t want to and they won’t mix.

*Which country, in your opinion, comes closest to the type of immigration policy you’d like to see in the US?*

**Lamb:** I’m 12 years old. I don’t

know enough about the laws in other countries; only what I see happening in my state and country.

**Lynx:** None that we know of. *With all your rock and hardcore influences, what made you decide to pursue folk music?*

**Lynx:** Since this first CD is aimed more at White children we thought that it would be better to do folk music. Also there are lots of racial rock musicians but not that many with a folk sound.

**Lamb:** We think that our music styles will probably change as we get older, too.

*Any plans for an international tour?*

**Lynx:** We would like to travel and play but we don’t have anything planned yet.

**Lamb:** I would like to go any place that would like to hear our music. I doubt that would include Africa. But duh - we would never go to Israel.

### The Prussian Blue Songbook

- The Road to Valhalla
- Lo (from the motion picture “13th Warrior”)
- Our Vinland
- I will Bleed for You
- Gone with the Breeze
- Aryan Man Awake
- The Snow Fell
- Victory
- Victory Day
- Weiss Weiss Weiss
- Sacrifice
- The Lamb near the Lane

by Paul F Nikolov

Dillon, Laugavegi 30, p: 511-2400



**Friday January 14th**

DJ God Free

**Saturday January 15th**

DJ Andrea Jóns

**Friday January 21st**

DJ God Free

**Saturday January 22nd**

22:00 Moody Company + Guests  
500kr. cover charge, one beer included  
DJ Andrea Jóns (after midnight)

**Friday January 28th**

DJ Krummi

**Saturday January 29th**

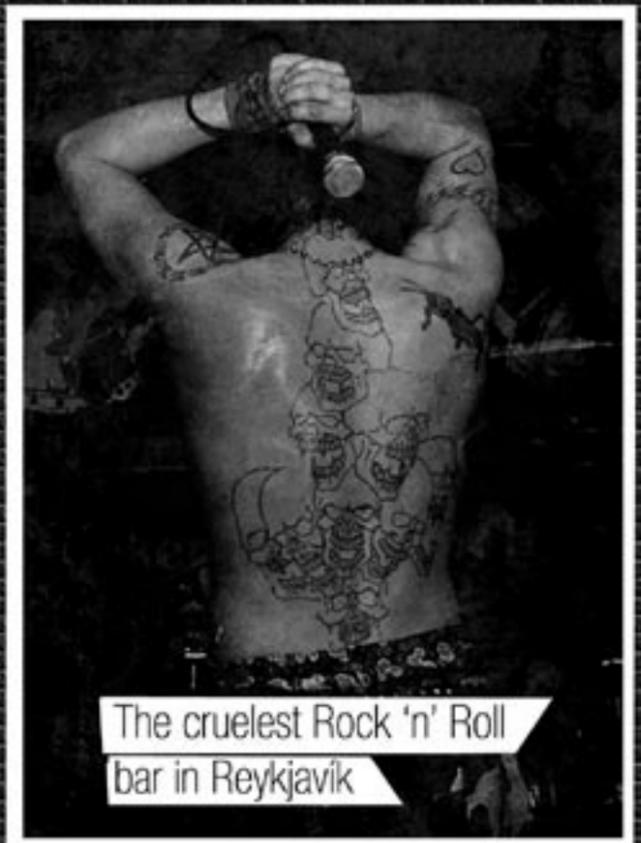
22:00 Brain Police + Guests  
500kr. cover charge, one beer included  
DJ Andrea Jóns (after midnight)

**Friday February 4th**

DJ Andrea Jóns

**Saturday February 5th**

22:00 Lights on the Highway  
500kr. cover charge, one beer included  
DJ Andrea Jóns (after midnight)



The cruelest Rock 'n' Roll bar in Reykjavík

**Don't miss:**

**Moody Company  
Brain Police  
Lights on the Highway**

# LISTINGS

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

**JANUARY 14**

**Grand Rokk:** Bands: Hot Damn, Shadow Parade & Darkhammer

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Benni

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Brynjar Már

**Vegamót:** DJ Dóri

**De Palace:** DJ Extreme

**Sirkus:** DJ Gísli Galdur

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Bar 11:** DJ Hædi

**Amsterdam:** DJ Ingvi

**Sólón:** DJ Þróstur 3000

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Prikió:** DJ's Erna & Ellen

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Café 22:** DJ's Pink & Floyd

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's

**Glaubar:** Idol/Tuborg night; DJ Stjáni

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Live band & DJ Maggi

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Acoustics

**Café Rósenberg:** Troubadour Helgi Valur

**Hressó:** Troubadour Þór Óskar & DJ Heiðar Austman

## SATURDAY

**JANUARY 15**

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Band Atómsstöðin & DJ Maggi

**Grand Rokk:** Bands: Drep, Changer & Denver

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Áni Sveins

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Brynjar Már

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Sirkus:** DJ Kári

**Café 22:** DJ Palli Maus

**Glaubar:** DJ Stjáni

**Sólón:** DJ Þróstur 3000

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**De Palace:** DJ's from village Akranes

**Vegamót:** DJ's Gullfoss & Geysir

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Bar 11:** DJ's Sýlvía & Sigga

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's

**Póstbarinn:** Jazz duet Sessi & Sjonni play tonight

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Acoustics

**Café Rósenberg:** Troubadour Helgi Valur

**Hressó:** Troubadour Þór Óskar & DJ Heiðar Austman

## SUNDAY

**JANUARY 16**

**Amsterdam:** Coverband SMACK

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Rósa

## MONDAY

**JANUARY 17**

**Café Cultura:** Tango Night

## WEDNESDAY

**JANUARY 19**

**Sirkus:** DJ Áni Sveins

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Don Balli Funk

**Thorvaldsen:** DJ's Daddi Disco & Hlynur Mastermix

**Prikió:** Funk night; DJ Gísli Galdur

**Sólón:** Heineken night; DJ's Tommi

White&Andrés and Troubadours Magni&Sævar

**Hressó:** Troubadour

**Café Victor:** Troubadours Basic Souls

**Hverfisbar:** Troubadours Sjonni & Gunni Óla

## FRIDAY

**JANUARY 21**

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Band Runólfur & DJ Maggi

**Hressó:** Band VAX & DJ Le Chief

**Grand Rokk:** Bands: Frogspanet, Ceres 4 & Norton

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Áni Sveins

**De Palace:** DJ Devious

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

**Sirkus:** DJ Maggi Legó

**Bar 11:** DJ Matti

**Sólón:** DJ Svalli

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Café 22:** DJ's Pink & Floyd

**Café Rósenberg:** Funny band Hraun

**Prikió:** Girls Night; DJ's Ellen & Erna

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's



*Grand Rokk, January 22nd*

## MEGASUKK

I have no idea what Súkkat sound like, but Megas – the other half of Megasukk – is, all hyperbole aside, a genius. So seeing Megasukk must at least be worth it if only to be bask in the glow of the sheer brilliance that is Megas.

**Glaubar:** Idol/Tuborg Night; DJ Þór Bæring

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Halli&Kalli

## SATURDAY

**JANUARY 22**

**Grand Rokk:** Band Megasukk

**Amsterdam:** Coverband SVISS

**De Palace:** DJ Cesar

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Sirkus:** DJ KGB

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

**Café 22:** DJ Matti

**Sólón:** DJ Svalli



*Rósenberg, January 20th*

## AMPOP

I heard this band for the first time when I went to pick up my wife at work and her boss was playing them. I usually block out whatever music is playing at someone's workplace, but Ampop's infectious grooves took hold of me and I swear to God I went to sleep with their songs still careening inside me. This is music that got into my brain and trust me, that's saying a lot

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Rósa

## THURSDAY

**JANUARY 20**

**Café Rósenberg:** Band AMPOP they have mostly been performing in the UK recently, but honor us with a live performance tonight

**Grand Rokk:** Bands: Sign & Noise

**Glaubar:** Corona Night; DJ Maggs

**Glaubar:** DJ Þór Bæring

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ's Gullfoss & Geysir

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Bar 11:** DJ's Pink & Floyd

**Café Rósenberg:** Funny band Hraun

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Live Band & DJ Maggi

**Nasa:** Stuðmenn, Icelanders favorite pop band for 30 years plays their originals tonight.



*Grand Rokk, January 27th*

## TENDERFOOT

OK admit it – as cool and world-weary as you think you are, even you get a little choked up when you wake up alone at four in the morning in the middle of a dream about kissing your first girlfriend for the first time, and realise that no kiss since then has been as sweet as that one. Don't front. You know you do. And if you like that bittersweet feeling, you'll love Tenderfoot.

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Halli&Kalli

**Hressó:** Troubadour Þór Óskar & DJ Le Chief

## SUNDAY

**JANUARY 23**

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ's Adda & Edda

## WEDNESDAY

**JANUARY 26**

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Kári

**Café Cultura:** Tango Night

## THURSDAY

**JANUARY 27**

**Grand Rokk:** Bands: Tenderfoot, Sviðin Jörð & Lára

**Glaubar:** Corona night; DJ Maggs

**Sirkus:** DJ Chuck

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Gísli Galdur

**Thorvaldsen:** DJ's Daddi Disco & Hlynur Mastermix

**Prikió:** Funk Night; DJ Gísli Galdur

**Sólón:** Heineken night; DJ's Tommi

White&Andrés and Troubadours Magni&Sævar

**Hressó:** Troubadour Daddi & Aron

**Café Victor:** Troubadours Basic Souls

**Hverfisbar:** Troubadours Sjonni & Gunni Óla

## FRIDAY

**JANUARY 28**

**Grand Rokk:** Band Douglas Wilson

**Bar 11:** DJ Adda & Edda

**Sirkus:** DJ Áni Sveins

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Brynjar Már

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Café 22:** DJ Matti

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Palli

**De Palace:** DJ Thor and a Brazilian DJ

**Sólón:** DJ Þróstur 3000

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's

**Glaubar:** Idol/Tuborg night; DJ Stáni

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Live Rock: bands Hoffman, Dimma & Dead Sea Apple

**Prikió:** Michael Jackson night; DJ's Erna & Ellen

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Acoustics

**Hressó:** Troubadours Böddi & Danni

## SATURDAY

**JANUARY 29**

**Grand Rokk:** Band Dandalion

**Nasa:** Band GUS GUS plays, don't miss that you mother\*\*\*er!

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Coverband BUFF

**Amsterdam:** Coverband OXFORD

**Sirkus:** DJ Andir

**Café 22:** DJ Benni

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Brynjar Már

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**Bar 11:** DJ Haffi

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Prikió:** DJ Jói with drummer Addi

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Kári

**Glaubar:** DJ Stjáni

**Sólón:** DJ Þróstur 3000

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's

**Hressó:** Live band & DJ Valdi

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Acoustics

## WEDNESDAY

**FEBRUARY 2**

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Benni

**Café Cultura:** Tango Night



*Gaukur á Stöng, February 3rd,*  
**VÍNYL**

Hey, buddy, how do you like your pop? Sensitive and heartfelt? Then by all means, avoid this show. Vinyl are unapologetically bombastic and full of themselves, every member of the band playing their respective instruments with the cool arrogance that no self-respecting rock star would do without. Be sneered at with utter contempt – and love it.

## THURSDAY

**FEBRUARY 3**

**Glaubar:** Corona night; DJ Maggs

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Don Balli Funk

**Thorvaldsen:** DJ's Daddi Disco & Hlynur Mastermix

**Sólón:** Heineken night; DJ's Tommi

White&Andrés and Troubadours Magni&Sævar

**Hressó:** Troubadour Night

**Café Victor:** Troubadours Basic Souls

**Hverfisbar:** Troubadours Sjonni & Gunni Óla

## FRIDAY

**FEBRUARY 4**

**Grand Rokk:** Bands: Plat, Pornopop, Skum,

Skurken & Prins Vallum

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ Kári

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

**Bar 11:** DJ Pink without Floyd

**Sólón:** DJ Svalli

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

**Café Cultura:** House DJ's

**Stúdentakjallarinn:** Iceland's only Reggaeband

HJÁLMAR play live tonight. High times.

**Glaubar:** Idol/Tuborg night; DJ Þór Bæring

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Live band & DJ Maggi

**Ari í Ögri:** Troubadour duet Halli&Kalli

**Hressó:** Troubadours Daddi and Aron & DJ Valdi

## SATURDAY

**FEBRUARY 5**

**Grand Rokk:** Band Hjálmar

**Gaukur á Stöng:** Coverband Á MÓTI SÓL & DJ Maggi

**Café Victor:** DJ Gunni

**De Boomkikker:** DJ Heavy Metal

**Kaffibarinn:** DJ KGB

**Hverfisbar:** DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

**Sólón:** DJ Svalli

**Glaubar:** DJ Þór Bæring

**Pravda Club:** DJ's Áki Pain & Atli Partycop

**Bar 11:** DJ's Einar Sonic & Henrik from band

Singapore Sling

**Nelly's:** DJ's Nonni 900 & Gummi Gonzalez

## Drowned fish: A night at THORVALDSEN



Many things have changed since comedy legend Laddi sang his ode to Austurstræti more than twenty years ago. The Austurstræti of today is almost an emblem of the schizophrenia and extremes of Iceland at the dawn of the 21st century. The most unfortunate members of society (ever-increasing in number) attempt to drown their sorrows in Kaffi Austurstræti, while the new breed of nouveau rich stock brokers scheme in the KB bank across the street, fuelled by greed and Peruvian marching powder. Cultural colonisation is represented by a Subway outlet and further down the street is a state alcohol store and a strip club, an ATM machine located conveniently between them for the benefit of those who would prefer not to leave a record of their debaucheries on their bank statement.

### Beware the jocks and yuppies

None of these Austurstræti landmarks was the destination of Grapevines' correspondents, as we headed towards the restaurant/bar Thorvaldsen on a chilly evening in late December back in '04. Outside, we ran into the guitarist of the Icelandic punk band Tony Blair, who warned us of the jocks and yuppies that he claimed frequented the place. But they were nowhere to be seen when we entered the small and pleasant dining area and were seated by the window, with a view over Austurvöllur and the Althing. The atmosphere was relaxed and the lighting cosy - so cosy that if it hadn't been for the lights from the Norwegian Christmas tree on Austurvöllur, we probably wouldn't have been able to read the menu at all. The menu itself is short and to-the-point, as Thorvaldsen is as much a café and bar as it is a fully fledged restaurant. This is also reflected in the prices, which are relatively reasonable.

### Like a duel between Cat Stevens and Slash...

First we tasted the coconut curry seafood soup with vegetables and mixed seafood. The generous serving of assorted fish, shrimp and shell fish looked fresh and delicious, but the taste was overpowered by the excessively robust curry flavour, which was delicious in itself but completely drowned out the delicate flavour of the seafood. It was like witnessing a guitar duel between Cat Stevens and Slash; although you can see Cat, he

doesn't have a chance of being heard over the powerful and almighty Slash. However, the Spanish goat cheese with Jamon Serrano, salad and honey melon sauce was a deceptively simple but stunningly delicious dish.

### The yuppies arrive

For main courses we tried the monkfish on a spit with mango chili sauce, salad and baked potato and the lamb fillet on a spit with mango chili sauce, pan-fried vegetables and baked potato. Monkfish is a particular favourite of ours and this one was fine, if a little overcooked. The accompanying salad had obviously lost most of its crunch by the time it reached us, but the potatoes, filled with sour cream, were excellent. Despite our minor culinary misgivings this was all in all a solid meal in an agreeable environment. As the clock edged past ten and we were sipping our coffees, the place was suddenly filled by the kinds of people the Tony Blair guitarist probably had in mind. The cosy restaurant/café ambience was gone and the place had suddenly turned into a noisy and trendy bar. As we edged past a former Mr. Iceland and the legendarily well-endowed drummer in one of the country's biggest pop groups, we agreed that for a relaxed lunch or a casual dinner, you could do far worse than to visit Thorvaldsen. Just make sure you'll be out of there by 10 o'clock.

by Ölvir Gíslason and Kjartan Guðmundsson

## PÓSTBARINN and the great post office rush

Póstbarinn is Icelandic for "The Mail Bar." This is not, however, as one might expect a dive for off duty mailmen, decked out like Norm in Cheers, in full regalia drinking their pints.



The bars' name is actually derived from the street it stands on, Pósthússtræti (Post Office Street). The first post office in Iceland is rumoured to have stood on this lot, although this was more likely located next door, where Hótel Borg now stands. The first "postmaster" of Reykjavik was appointed in 1872, and a post office was opened on this street. Mail was not delivered at the time, so when news of a new batch of letters arrived, people would crowd at the office. This even encouraged curious spectators to come in, which resulted in even more overcrowding, and injuries would sometimes result. By 1898 the overcrowding had become intolerable, and the Post Office was moved to available space at the Pósthússtræti elementary school.

The plot of land next to the post office was given a blacksmith in 1799 who built a grassroof farm known as Smidshús (the Smith's House). It has since changed hands a few times and has also been known as the Skómakarahúsid (The Shoe-

makerhouse), when owned by a shoemaker, and "Hansenhús," when owned by the merchant brothers Hansen, who tore down the farm in 1820 and built a wooden house there instead. Pósthússtræti 13, where Póstbarinn now stands, used to be part of the same plot of land, but a separate wooden house was built there in 1890.

The bar doubles as a restaurant which specialises in seafood dishes. Particularly nice is the salt fish starter. It is also an art gallery, and has live music, usually of the jazz or blues variety, most weekends. Tom Waits coverband Misery Loves Company has been known to attend.

The bar caters mostly to the over 30 group, and is known as a place where you can actually have a conversation in the evening without having to scream into your partners ear. It is open until 3 at weekends.

by Valur Gunnarsson

How do you  
like  
Iceland  
?

check us out  
and then  
let us know



# Where to go for a good time

with no admission fee...



kaffi

Kaffi Sólun "All in One" from romantic café/bistro to mad club house at night's in weekend's

# SÓLUN

### Schedule

#### Thursday

groundfloor dj tommy white and andres with heineken greenroom session  
Heineken on special offer, 5 in buket (isl kr 1,500) or 1 in hend (isl kr 390)  
Upstairs : Icelandic true party session, live music, with icelandic most popular rock stars.

#### Friday:

Red & White wine on some special offer, in glass or bottle  
Dj's tuning there trick's and track's until late morning

#### Saturday;

Long saturday at Sólun - open from 11 - 06.00  
Coffee - Cakes - small courses - dinner  
Dj's tuning there track's until red morning

### Special rooms for groups

All day's - special offer of wine - health menu - tourist menu - fresh fish



Just drop by, you never know when you get lucky!!!



## Thorvaldsen Bar

Thorvaldsen Bar

Thursday's - dj / disco / finlandia cocktail's

Friday and Saturday night's - From 23 to 04

Thorvaldsen goes clubing, this is the night's you can't miss in Iceland (and the reason you came to Iceland)

Sunday - Lamb "Old Style"

Special rooms for groups

Coffee - Food - Drink's - Cocktail's - Dance

Find out what's going on at [www.thorvaldsen.is](http://www.thorvaldsen.is)



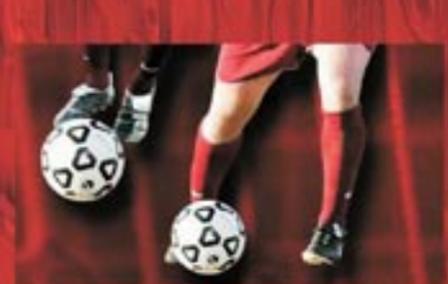
In the daytime Victor is a restaurant & cafe in the charming old Falcon House. But when the night comes it turns into a lively nightclub.

Choose between light lunches, such as soups, pastas, sandwiches and salads or the wide range of grilled food in large portions not to mention the variety of exciting fish dishes

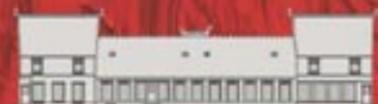
Thursday evenings Victor has beer by the buckets. 5 Kronenbourg's in a bucket for as little as 1.664,-

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**Grapevine consumer service note:**  
Do not consume alcoholic beverages at least 24 hours prior to visiting the Jewish museum.

## HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF NO HOPE

### Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin

*The Slovene philosopher Slavoj Žižek wrote that in the German Democratic Republic, aka. socialism, East-Germans had everything, psychologically speaking: they did not have to worry about food and shelter, access to education or even time, of which they also had plenty as they constantly had to wait for everything (trains, buses, bureaucrats etc.).*

They also had the idea that somehow there might be something worthy about their efforts in constructing a society, and to top the luxury they had the utopian vision of a free, fast and exciting West, a West they could get a glimpse of but never reach, a fantasy-place to long for and hope for, while blaming the government for not actually being there. It was a fulfilling libidinal economy, as Žižek phrases it, his point being that after the fall of socialism, unemployment there is a plenty, poverty, stupidity and nihilism and what's worse: nowhere in sight is this magical 'other' part of the world that you can dream of one day reaching. You live in a system that's much too fast for you, so it is not 'they' but you who are always late, and if you're not happy still living in that humongous grey Stalinist apartment building, you have only yourself to blame. Capitalist misery has conquered East-Germany as well as the rest of post-traumatic post-socialist East-Europe.

All of it? Not quite ... in the North-East of Central Berlin one trendy little neighbourhood still seems to resist the conquerors, in its own perverse way. Prenzlauer Berg, it's called.

#### Killing what you love, professionally

The story: When the wall came down, Prenzlauer Berg was full of talented and educated East-German adults who dreamed of nothing so much as becoming part of the 'normal' Western middle-class. In a miraculously short time, they evacuated Prenzlauer Berg, leaving the neighbourhood a paradise for punks and radicals who squatted in every other house, while others paid a monthly rent equalling 15-70 Euros. Cultural migration (not to mention cheap rent) creates excitement and soon after the punks and radicals, the students and artists arrived on the scene and were mostly welcomed by the pioneers. But when the students and artists settle in, the designers and architects are lurking around the corner. And after the designers and architects, you start getting people with real money, first yuppies of the cultural sector, then any old yuppie, craving for the sense of reality offered them by the proximity to punks and hipness.

And of course the yuppies kill the thing they love – it's their job, after all. They repair the houses, fill up the World War II bullet holes that the GDR had seen no reason to hide, bring in central heating, hot water and

high-speed internet which increases the value of the houses, the high prices then driving away the punks, then the artists and the students...

#### Surplus value: Otherwise known as cool

The depressed designers, filmmakers and architects aimlessly roam between cafés designing furniture, logos and websites for each other, thus securing the funds for coffee, late breakfast and cigarettes. As in the late GDR, they produce little of intrinsic value, but seem to be able to squeeze the minimal surplus value out of their talents (the surplus value is otherwise known as cool and has at least as much to do with location as talent). They know there is somehow a reason they live life like they do, there is even something virtuous about it, yet they hate it and blame either the government or the general decay of the universe.

At any given moment they can be expected to sarcastically blurt out: "This is just ridiculous! This city produces nothing! What are you all doing!? How can you all just sit around like that!? Why are you all wearing the same trendy second hand clothes!? How can you call yourself an artist!?" And what's more, they have a vision about what life should really be like – indeed, what life really is like – it's only four U-Bahn stations away, in the former West-Berlin neighbourhood of David Bowie, Einstuerzende Neubauten and U2, the biggest Turkish community outside Turkey, a place where real people seem to have real struggles, working hard, moving actual things around and not vector-drawings, pixels and sound-tracks, people who wake up in the morning, and drive a car to work, whose teenage offspring play loud hiphop in those same cars come evening. It's called Kreuzberg and it's the fantastical other scene.

#### The utopian distance of four U-Bahn stations

So the natural and foreseeable work of capital has left the inhabitants of Prenzlauer Berg with the same libidinal structures as their socialist forerunners. Which is the perversity of what on the surface seems like a defence against capitalist nihilism – it is itself the epitome of the surplus society. As the thirtyish individuals sit around with their Latte Macchiatos – lacking neither laptop nor jeans, whatever the status of their bank-account – they speak of the wonders of reality, aka. Kreuzberg. Some actually get duped by themselves and move over.

As, once upon a time, some were duped to actually bring in the West. But as an Icelandic poet wrote in an immortal line: "your dream is your fall." Prenzlauer Berg expats in Kreuzberg realize they made a mistake. Utopia materialised offers nothing but boredom, life takes place in the tension zone. The expat wants to get back to Prenzlauer Berg, curse the yuppies and the hippies alike and praise the immigrants from the utopian distance of four U-Bahn stations.



by Haukur Már Helgason

# BERLIN Picks

Compiled by Haukur Már Helgason

## MÖBEL-OLFE

– for those in Kreuzberg who would like to get back to Prenzl. The question of hope is irrelevant to local Kreuzbergers, they seem to have actual community, and even if this looks and in a way feels like a café in Prenzlauer Berg, it lacks the sense of lack inherent to the concept. Used to be a furniture store, kept the name. Sweet people, sweet and gay.

## LASS UNS FREUNDE BLEIBEN

or: Let's just be friends.

On the corner of Zionskirchestrasse and some street, Prenzlauer Berg.

For those who keep a sense of hope but see it as completely irrelevant.

Aesthetically utmost satisfying, exclaiming "yes!" to the reality of Prenzlauer Berg. The physical distance between guests expresses an abyss as empty and grey as the streets in winter.

## CAFÉ MORGENROT

Kastanienallee, Prenzlauer Berg.

Situated in front of two ex-squats, where the queer vegan punk inhabitants have in recent years started paying minimal rent. They are still there, mostly not vegan but freegan, which means they consume eggs and milk-products if they are found in dumpsters. A last glimpse at life at the other side of the monetary economy, the remains of the original settlers.

## CAFÉ SCHWARZ-SAUER

a bit higher on Kastanienallee, Prenzl

For people in their early thirties, who have lost all hope but still sort of enjoy things.

## ROSES

Oranienstrasse, Kreuzberg.

Decadence materialized, brothel-concept gay, again: the question of hope is sadly absent, you will find actual life and a complex-free expression of libido here, which makes it, in the long run, unbearable for leftist souls.

## Sólheimar in Grímsnes: Ecovillages, the next big thing?



Situated at the bottom of a narrow gorge amidst hot springs, Sólheimar is home and workplace for 70 villagers, whereof half have special needs. The ideology which the place is based on is rooted in the theories of Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian scientist who developed the Gestalt ideology of anthroposophism (*I'm glad we cleared that up –ed*). The founder of Sólheimar, Sesselja Sigmundsdóttir, was a follower of Rudolf Steiner and attended his institute in Dornach, Switzerland in the late 1920's. A visionary, she began the arduous task of building Sólheimar in the summer of 1930.

Bringing the Gestalt methods into rural Iceland in 1930 was a courageous act. According to Steiner's ideas one should sow the fields in the afternoon when the earth was "breathing in" rather than in the morning when the earth was "exhaling". His anthroposophist ideas also manifested themselves in the furniture and interior design, no sharp corners or angles but gently sloping balustrades and soft edges were the way to go. For Sesselja's neighbours, who grabbed every grain of fertiliser and funkis with the same enthusiasm as a hungry infant a mother's breast, this was sometimes a little difficult to comprehend. They watched in awe and wonder as Sesselja refused any fertiliser other than fresh cow dung and fermented horse manure.

### No cell phones in heaven?

Upon arrival I freaked out when I got no cell phone connection. The next shock was the deli with nothing but macrobiotic food. And the third shock was when I read extensive literature on that same food and realised my innards are currently as clean as a London sewer. Before I went to bed that night I swore that I would never drink another drop of milk nor eat meat again. That is, until I read another book about eating according to one's blood type, wherein it said that people of my blood should specifically binge on milk

and meat. Which I did the very next day.

That afternoon as I was cursing the lack of cell phone connection while trying to find a kiosk with candy, I thought about hitchhiking my way to Selfoss into civilisation again before I realized that the words civilisation and Selfoss don't mix. That's when I discovered the bar. And the organically produced beer. Does it have alcohol? Yes. Well, gimme one.

### From the ridiculous to the sublime

And it all got better from there. As I observed the inhabitants at work, the borders between ordinary and special slowly blurred. There is a theatre group which is brimming with activity. Everyone does their part in accordance with their ability and functionality. And no matter your talents, creative energy is free to flow. After five days my cellphone, which occasionally worked if you ran to the top of a hill, finally ran out of batteries and I didn't care. After seven days my stay was over, and I was relaxed and ready to stress myself out again in what passes for civilisation. As I sat on the bus that took me back to Reykjavik I thought about where to go for a vacation next summer. And I had the perfect place in mind. In Russia, in a forest, is a village founded by a bunch of hippies. An ecovillage, they call it.

by Björn M.

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# HOW CARELESSNESS CAN BECOME CENSORSHIP

*For a person born in Russia or one who has lived in that country long enough it's easy to see that many events are often misrepresented or misinterpreted in the Western media. This misinterpretation of Russian events can be supposed to be a hangover from the Cold War, but there may be other reasons.*

Haukur Hauksson is an Icelandic journalist fluent in Russian who has been living in Moscow for 15 years and graduated from the journalist faculty of the Moscow State University (MGU). I asked Haukur to explain the situation in the Icelandic media, and he told me about his experience in journalism in the autumn of 1993.

## Yeltsin and Stalin

When Yeltsin dissolved the government in September 1993, it caused disturbances, such as street fights, in the center of the Russian capital. At the time Haukur was in Moscow delivering news reports for the TV channels RÚV and Stöd 2 as well as for the radio. As he had a journalist card it gave him the possibility to get into the Moscow White House when the main events were taking place.

- "I remember walking home once during the curfew that had been imposed in Moscow. I was nearly shot down by one of the sharpshooters who sat on house roofs in those days," he says. Haukur stresses that the Western media in general, and the Icelandic in particular, always tend to oversimplify when speaking about events from abroad.

"All the acting parties are simply divided into good guys and bad guys. It is easier to build up a black-and-white picture of the event instead of getting to its real meaning. The same thing happened in the autumn of 1993. Those Icelanders

who kept up with the news from Russia, including journalists, divided themselves into supporters of Yeltsin and supporters of his opponents. Many of them would regard the things Yeltsin did as a Stalinist action: people kept interpreting current events in the light of some old pattern. There were several Icelandic journalists reporting about the events in Moscow, but many of them took their information from some foreign information bureaus. I always had my phone with me and was in direct connection with Ríkisútvarpið, so I was the first one to deliver them news," says Haukur.

## Settlers and terrorists

These pieces of reporting were eyewitness accounts, accepted by the Icelandic audience. But they did not fit in the black-and-white picture that some parties in the West would like. "On the 3rd and 4th of October, when the White House was on fire, - I was dismissed from the television, although I still remained working at the radio," Haukur adds. "A man named Jón Ólafsson took my place, an experienced journalist that also happened to be in Moscow at that time and a representative of the older generation."

Are you saying that RÚV willingly replaced you for political reasons? "Journalists are not instructed at their meetings about the terms that are under prohibition. They may well be instructed about the correct usage of the Icelandic

language, for example, that one has to say not "mér langar", but "mig langar", but nothing else. Many texts are even not written by the Icelandic journalists, but translated from some foreign sources. As a rule, nothing is ever changed in such pieces of reporting, mainly because the translators simply have no time to reinterpret the news text that is supposed to appear in the tomorrow's paper. As a consequence, opinions of some British and American journalists filter into the Icelandic press. Recently there has been a lot written about conflicts between the Israelites and the Palestinians. As the first ones were called "settlers" and the second ones "terrorists" in the original American text, they became respectively "landnemar" and "hrydjuverkamenn" in the Icelandic papers. Just think how the word "landnemi" (settler) can influence the Icelandic audience, for it has some very patriotic connotations, being linked to the first settlers in Iceland! Such a choice of words programs the attitude to the both parties from the very beginning. But these words do not reflect the Icelandic, but the American point of view on the conflicts. It's not so much a conscious censorship as carelessness". As the extreme of such carelessness one can name measuring distances in miles in Icelandic news texts where one would expect to see kilometers. The time pressure turns to be a gentle and effective way of control. Ríkisútvarpið does not apply tyrannical methods of controlling people's way of thinking, but uses some other methods that are not so striking. But still they seem to work perfectly well.

by Olga Markelova



## Where do they go from here?

### DAVÍÐ ODDSSON



Having spent almost a decade as top dog in the city, and then another decade as top dog in the country, people wondered what he would do when he left office. Before he entered politics he was a promising actor, and his performances in Áramótaskaupið and the annual RÚV news first of April spoof prove that he's still got it. However, a man of his age and build would probably mostly get Edward G. Robinson or Oliver Hardy parts, which may not be appealing to someone used to being a leading man. He has also released two volumes of short stories, but the one book everyone will be waiting for is his biography, mostly to see whether he will slag off the current President. To everyone's surprise, he decided to stay on the cabinet as Foreign Minister. And people were even more surprised when his first high profile decision went against the American alliance by offering Bobby Fischer a residence permit. The unpredictable Oddsson may not have strayed too far from his roots in absurdist theatre after all.

### JENNIFER ANISTON

For a decade she was America's sweetheart. Eclipsing both her co-leading ladies in Friends, she was the most desirable woman in television. Then she married the most desirable man in the world. Aniston was probably the most envied woman on the face of the earth. With films such as Bruce Almighty and Along Came Polly, she has so far been the most successful Friend in cinema but has yet to prove that her charm can make the transition from the small to the big screen. And then came the bombshell, Brad Pitt dumped her. Whom do you sleep with after the most beautiful man in the world? A genius? Who cares. Aniston is still a star post-hubby. But she is no longer the most envied woman in the world. That title will probably go to whomever Pitt dates next.



### BILL CLINTON

For eight years he was the most powerful man in the world. He was President of the United States in an interregnum between Republican incumbents when the US was generally admired and respected. When he toured Eastern Europe shortly after the collapse of communism, he was hailed as liberator. When his term was up in January 2001, he had a hell of a resume, but hasn't been able to hold a steady job since. But what do you do after having been the most powerful man in the world? With his autobiography generally considered a bore, and his talk show not seeming likely to materialise, his brightest career prospect might be as the United States first First Husband, Mr. Hillary Clinton.



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*Stuffed with stuff*

**"I might want to move to a European country like Iceland but only if they haven't ruined it by allowing too many immigrants from non-white countries."**

Lynx Gaede, white separatist, [PAGE 24](#)

**"I believe that by this law, we have sent a clear message."**

Björn Bjarnason, Minister of Justice, [PAGE 6](#)

**"Being caught in this gives you the distinct impression that your head might pop like a pimple on prom night."**

Padraig Mara, amateur martial artist, [PAGE 13](#)

**"We may still be more beautiful than the British, thank God, but obesity has hit the Nordic countries hard."**

Valur Gunnarsson, overweight editor, [PAGE 12](#)

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