



# China dish busted

*Norway rejects proposed space research satellite in Svalbard, says it has 'other' potential uses*

**By MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

It's innocent astronomy when Norway does it. But when China wants to do the same? Apparently not so much.

Norway has rejected China's request to build to a large radar antenna at the EISCAT facility near Mine 7, supplementing two similar antennas already in use. The existing antennas are used primary for observing the interaction between the Earth and sun, with the proposed project offering extended capabilities for such measurements.

"The purpose of the facility is to conduct research in space," said Anne Kristin Hjukse, communications director for Norway's Ministry of Education and Research, in an interview with NRK. "But the technology has other applications. After a comprehensive evaluation, we want no such antenna at Svalbard."

The suspicion of Chinese motives reflects an increasing tension between the two countries over numerous political and economic issues, including China's aggressive effort to expand its Arctic presence. Norway also claims its separate

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Liv Mari Schei, above, sings while playing a Rhodes piano during a concert Saturday night at Kulturhuset that will be used as the foundation for her new album "Vind." At right, Schei, guitarist Staffan Johansson and drummer Finn Sletten perform at the back of the stage rather than the front to keep sound from the speakers from leaking into the recording. Photos by Mark Sabbatini / Icepeople.



# Feeling Schei

*Tears, fears and cheers from audience and artist alike during recording of concert for album*

**By MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

It may have been a quiet performance that distanced itself from the audience, but Liv Mari

Schei ensured it captured a resounding emotional statement for those on stage and off.

The Longyearbyen singer and songwriter performed 11 mostly new songs, a few of them twice after abrupt halts, during the recording of a concert Saturday night at Kulturhuset that will be the foundation of her upcoming album

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# Recycling trash hut a waste?

*Artist's hopes of extending life of temporary beachside cabin touches off incendiary debate*

**By MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

If art is meant to provoke, then Solveig Egeland's beachside hut made of garbage is a raging success.

But that may merely ensure the junking of the shack as scheduled at the end of the month, as numerous residents are trashing her effort to

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**MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE**

A beachside hut made of garbage, seen here at its August debut, will meet its fate when artist Solveig Egeland returns to Svalbard on Sept. 29.

## Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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## Corrections policy

When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

## Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

## Witness the ultimate cheap, clueless tourist



FILMKAMERATENE

A girl who decided to snag a free trip to Svalbard by stowing away on a rescue helicopter with a couple of her friends gets her comeuppance as a polar bear attacks the abandoned cabin where they're hiding. The youngsters' "yeah, this could totally happen in real life" misadventures will be revealed to the world in the movie "Operasjon Arktis," premiering Oct. 17. The 26.5-million-kroner film is based on the 1971 novel of the same name by Leif Hamre, although technical gadgets used in the inevitable rescue attempt are updated and the book's lead character has been replaced with a girl. The bear also has mystical transformative abilities, as sometimes it resembles a wild Svalbard animal and sometimes it's a dead ringer for trained bear in Canada named "Aggie."

## Icesheet

### Random bits of the week's weirdness:

The new dorms at UNIS are finally open to much fanfare (a.k.a. a press release at their website) and, while they're certainly an upgrade from the aging student housing in Nybyen, we can't help noticing a sibling resemblance to a far more famous bit of institutional housing in Norway. **Compare the photos at the right and guess which is one of the new dorm rooms and which is a prison cell similar to the one formerly occupied by Anders Behring Breivik.** OK, we made it easy by resisting the temptation to Photoshop out the student in the top picture, but we're guessing there's plenty of folks who would say the cell offers preferable digs aside from the risk of getting beat up on a regular basis. Also note we said Breivik was formerly housed in such a cell: he's since been moved to an even plusher facility after complaining about his "inhumane" initial confines. Still, the new UNIS dorms are a decent place for those subjecting themselves to Elitist Socialist Indoctrination agendas such as climate change, with 64 of the 88 rooms offering private bathrooms (skip those shared showers) and huge common kitchens where up to 30 students can eat ramen noodles at once. They cost a bit more than the Nybyen dorms still in use, but we're guessing it'll be more than



EVA THERESE JENSSEN / UNIS



KRIMINALOMSORGEN

**"indoctrination" vs. "incarceration" room:** Guess which occupant has to pay for their own bedding, TV and food. Of course, the other better really like spending lots of time in their digs.

worth it when hungover students can merely walk across the street instead of three kilometers through a blizzard on exam days ... If a certain person is feeling penal envy after seeing those pictures, they may get a chance to live the locked-up life as **The Governor of Svalbard is looking for the culprit who stole a tusk from a narwhale skeleton on a beach in Rechercherfjorden.** The skeleton was intact in late July 2, but missing the tusk when officials returned Sept. 6 to bring the bones to Svalbard Museum. Removing such remains is illegal in the archipelago, so if you didn't know that now's probably a good time to 'fess up.



ARLID LYSSAND / SYSSELMANNEN

**Tusk, tusk:** Whoever's got the missing ivory of this skeleton faces a whale-sized heap of trouble.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Sound engineer Kyrre Fledsberg, left, explains the rules for the audience during the recording of Liv Mari Schei's concert Saturday night at Kulturhuset. At right, Sigri Sandberg, who composed the lyrics for the new songs performed, explains how the recording will be used for Schei's new album "Vind."

## Lots of love for Liv's live lyrics

**VIND, from page 1**

"Vind." While she – and listeners – generally agreed nearly all of the performance was stellar, there was also acknowledgement of some heightened tension.

"I think I was bit nervous because of the recording," she said. She also said her voice was a bit tired, resulting in some of the moments that required retakes.

"I think maybe we practiced too much," she said, noting she, guitarist Staffan Johansson and drummer Finn Sletten rehearsed for three straight days including the day of the concert.

But the extra tension wasn't necessary to move Ida Marie Eilertsen, 25, a Longyearbyen resident for the past three years, to tears.

"I had a broken heart, so I was crying a bit," she said. "It's really touching, the lyrics."

While some listeners said the new songs share similarities to the soothing ballads dominating most of Schei's three previous albums, several said her work is acquiring a denser and edgier presence.

"I think her music is evolving," said Øyvind Snibsoer, another three-year resident of Longyearbyen. "I think it is more rhythmic, I think she is singing slightly lower, not in her usual soprano. She's been more mature."

Numerous precautions were taken to ensure a quality set of songs was preserved, including recording the rehearsal sessions. Kyrre Fledsberg, the sound engineer for the concert, said the stage setup was notably different than a standard performance.

"We put them as far back on stage as possible to get them as far as possible from speakers," he said of the performers. The musicians were also kept separated, some microphone placements altered and the overall volume kept lower in order to minimize individual sounds leaking into others.

The audience also received a pre-show warning about etiquette, including withholding applause until the final notes of songs completely played out, which Eilertsen said added to the sentimental aspect of concert.

"You have to sit quietly until something is over and that's very emotional," she said.

There was humor to go with the tension, as Schei reassured the audience it was OK to applaud when she first took the stage. And during one of the more notable halts during a climatic passage near the end of the show, a sheepish and laughing apology from Schei earned another round of "untimely" applause.

Schei said she believes most of the concert, rather than the rehearsal recordings, will be used for the album, "but we have to mix the balance between the instruments so that people can hear the lyrics." The album will feature three studio-recorded songs in addition to the 11 performed at the concert, with some of the live songs supplemented in studio by a string quartet.

Although the release date of "Vind" is uncertain, "many people are saying to me I have to have it finished by December," Schei said.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

### HEADLINES STOLEN FROM **SVALBARDPOSTEN** VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

#### **New law to force many to pay higher income tax rate**

A stricter tax law effective Jan. 1 is likely to drastically affect Svalbard's workforce, as many people working shifts of 14 days on and 14 days off will no longer qualify for the archipelago lower 16.2 percent income tax rate. Such shifts are standard for many mining, construction, and search and rescue employees, and top officials at companies involved in those industries say they are fearing a large-scale exodus of employees. The new law mandates employees are subject to Norway's standard tax rate of 28 percent until they have been in Svalbard for 30 days, meaning workers who go to the mainland during their weeks off will lose eligibility. Næsh Hendriksen, administrative director of Lufttransport, said the company is likely to request changes or an exemption to the rule for search and rescue workers, arguing the new law conflicts with a mandate such employees meet qualification and readiness standards.

#### **Power plant still in violation of pollution laws, but less so**

Longyearbyen's power plant remains in violation of multiple air and water pollution regulations, although the violations are less serious than seen in 2010, according to the Norwegian Environment Agency. An inspection this August found the coal-fired plant is not adequately monitoring air, water and noise pollution; slag water is being improperly discharged; and procedures are needed to prevent the release of excessive residual oil into the sea. Marianne Aasen, head of the city's infrastructure agency, said the violations are essentially remedies that were "forgotten" while major improvements were being made.

#### **Nine hikers rescued after storm thwarts river crossing**

Nine Belgian hikers were rescued by helicopter Saturday after getting trapped by a storm-swollen river during a multiday trip that originated at Isfjord Radio. The hikers were in Ytterdalen, about 40 kilometers from the station, when two of them fell into the river and lost some equipment while crossing. Separated, the group decided there was no practical alternative to calling the governor's office for help.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain/snow. SW winds to 49 km/h. High 6C (2C wind chill), low -2C (-9C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. W winds to 62 km/h. High -1C (-10C wind chill), low -2C (-11C wind chill).	Snow. W winds to 62 km/h. High -2C (-10C wind chill), low -3C (-9C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. NE winds to 32 km/h. High -3C (-8C wind chill), low -5C (-11C wind chill).
Sunrise 5:56a; sunset 7:47p	Sunrise 6:03a; sunset 7:39p	Sunrise 6:10a; sunset 7:31p	Sunrise 6:17a; sunset 7:23p
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, cloudy, -2C (-7C), -6C (-10C), light 12:50h; Monday, clear, -2C (-6C), -5C (-9C), light 12:35h; Tuesday, clear, -5C (10C), -7C (-12C), light 12:20h; Wednesday, p. cloudy, -3C (-8C), -7C (-12C), light 12:05h			

Data provided by storm.no



EGOSCRIBO / FLICKR

The two existing antennas at the EISCAT radar facility at the Kjell Henriksen Observatory, seen here in June of 2011, will not be joined by a third larger antenna designed to upgrade solar observations.

## Norway breaks China's dish hopes

### EISCAT, from page 1

Svalbard Satellite Station was subject to at least four hacking incidents consistent with Chinese military techniques during 2007 and 2008.

But the denial and explanation also opens Norway to accusations of hypocrisy since the country has been accused of violating the Svalbard Treaty by using and allowing other countries to use satellite facilities in the archipelago for military purposes. Norwegian officials assert military units are merely using publicly available meteorological data.

Thor Bjørn Arlov, a senior advisor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, told NRK he believes there are both technical and political reasons why Norway rejected the EISCAT antenna.

"It is obvious that it is the difficult political

climate between Norway and China that makes Norwegian authorities reluctant to accept such installations," he said.

China – a participant in the EISCAT project, along with Finland, Japan, Norway, the U.K., Sweden, and Germany – was proposing building and funding a third antenna 50 meters in diameter to supplement the two smaller existing antennas. It would have allowed improved monitoring of the upper polar atmosphere, aurora activity and interactions of the solar wind.

There are additional EISCAT facilities in Tromsø; Sodankylä, Finland; and Kiruna, Sweden. There are also existing plans to construct radar capable of 3D monitoring of the atmosphere and ionosphere beginning in 2015.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## Rubbish hut: Art, atrocity – or both?

### TRASH, from page 1

keep the project intact if city officials are willing and someone is willing to accept responsibility for the structure near the Svalbard Sailing Club.

"October is approaching and the future of the Ocean Hope cabin must be determined," she wrote Monday in a post on a Facebook page featuring praise, criticism and information about local issues ([tinyurl.com/mdd7wv4](http://tinyurl.com/mdd7wv4)). "Anybody have opinions, desires, ideas?"

The initial response noted the hut, built at the beginning of August using garbage from The Governor of Svalbard's annual coastal cleanup cruise, was approved only as a temporary project with no mention of extending its life. But the discussion quickly veered into a war of words about the merit of the project.

"Garbage!!" Right to the waste site," wrote Urban Forsberg, a local guide, while Kjell-Harry Johansen agreed "get it in the trash."

Anne Nyheim, a literature artist, responding with a "wow" at the hostility of some comments, suggested the controversy shows why the hut is worth preserving.

"It's great that it creates interest and discussion among both adults and children, so it can be focused on what it REALLY is all about: Our massive pollution of the sea, and what ocean

garbage does to nature, ecosystems and humans," she wrote.

John W. Olsen, a longtime past manager of Galleri Svalbard, flatly declared "this is not art."

"I consider this only as a regurgitation of someone who perceives themselves as an artist and want to do something in Svalbard," he wrote. "Poor imagination, I would say that this is ... in some people's eyes, this is art, but in most people's eyes, this is what it is: garbage!!"

Some of the rancor is due to the hut receiving a grant of 350,000 kroner from the Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund, which some locals argued should have been spent on a more practical project.

"I think it is a foolish use of money," Anne Lise Klungseth, a longtime local resident and community activist, told *Svalbardposten*. "I would like to see proof that someone has gained something out of it."

But, after observing the online debate, Klungseth softened her stance somewhat.

"A big art expert I'm not, but I'm able to see that the cabin inspires and engages, and is that all a bit of art's purpose?" she wrote on the Facebook site.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## What's up

### Sept. 16

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### Sept. 17

7:30 p.m.: Concert: "Schubert & Haydn at 78 Degrees North," by musicians from the Northern Norwegian Opera and Symphony Orchestra. Kulturhuset.

### Sept 20

1 p.m.: Relay race to raise funds for annual NRK charity auction. Five-member, mixed-sex teams start at Svalbardbutikken. Registration and race details at [post@svalbardturn.no](mailto:post@svalbardturn.no).

### Sept. 21

11 a.m.: Family Mass w/ music by Polargospel. Svalbard Church.

5 p.m.: Movie: "Planes 2: Fire & Rescue," U.S. animated children's film, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Let's Be Cops," U.S. action/comedy, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 22

8 p.m.: Trivia quiz. Barentz Pub.

### Sept. 23

7 p.m.: Gregorian evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### Sept. 24

6 p.m.: Movie: "The Maze Runner," U.S. sci-fi/thriller, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 28

11 a.m.: Mass with presentation of candidates for Confirmation. Svalbard Church.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Two Days, One Night," Belgian drama, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 29

8 p.m.: Trivia quiz. Barentz Pub.

### Sept. 30

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

## What's online

**Icepeople.net** provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *Antarctic glacier loss 'unprecedented'*
- *Russia's first Arctic rig defies sanctions*
- *Climate change leads to end of pasta?*
- *Warming could turn all sea turtles female*