



MELISSA ROHDE / UNIS



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

# 'I'm not witch hunting'

Parents of local Utøya victims say report of police errors not a surprise nor a cause for anger

By MARK SABBATINI  
Editor

Plenty of people are enraged at police and calling for the prime minister's resignation due to a report stating the July 22, 2011, killings in Oslo and Utøya could have been prevented.

Einar Buø, father of one of the youngest victims, isn't one of them.

The Longyearbyen resident said police "could have probably been" at the Utøya youth camp before his son, Johannes, 14, was killed by Anders Behring Breivik, but "I can't control what happened. The main task is how to learn."

"I'm not witch hunting," he said. "I just have to act productively for the future. We can't have our children back. We have to focus on our future and the police have to focus on their professional future."

The report released Monday by an independent government panel states intelligence services and police made critical errors, and the 77 people killed by Breivik in an Oslo bombing and subsequent shooting spree at Utøya could have been avoided. Norwegian Police Chief Øystein Mæland resigned following the report's release

See **RESPONSE**, page 4

**Campus setting: Beauty or beast?** As with much at The University Centre in Svalbard, the grade depends on a student's mindset. Campuses don't get much uglier than the parking lot in front of UNIS (lower picture) or more pristine than the vast outdoors where much of the learning occurs.

## UNIS: Wow, does it rank

School worthy of top and bottom in those student rating guides

By MARK SABBATINI  
Editor

Harry Gardiner expects his grades to drop, faces a three-kilometer slog to campus that will be brutal in winter and lives in a dorm with broken TVs. That suits him fine.

"The culture mix is great," he said. "It's loads of fun meeting all these people from different countries."

Gardiner, 21, a United Kingdom resident, is among the students beginning their studies

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## Doomed? Look at the bright side

Yet more studies show we're destroying the planet, but some are finding good climate news

By MARK SABBATINI  
Editor

You know the routine: Start with a sentence about climate change wreaking more unprecedented havoc on the Arctic. Summarize the dire consequences foreseen by researchers. Mention how the usual skepticism by politicians, businesses and internet fringe means it'll be blown off as more elitist junk science.

See **OPTIMISTS**, page 4



UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ

Sea anemones in Kongsfjord have declined 80 percent between 1995 and 2010 due to warming, with brown algae going from a scarce to major presence, according to a new study by University of Tromsø researchers who say there's "a convincing case for tipping points being crossed."

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

### Editor

Mark Sabbatini

### Staff writer/photographer

Karla Paz

### Copy editor

Kristan Hutchison

### Psychiatrist

Irene Gallion

### Mailing address

*Icepeople*  
Vei 210 -2- 13  
Longyearbyen, Svalbard  
9170  
Norway

### Telephone

Norway: +47 41 51 46 38  
U.S. +1 (970) 673-4472

### E-mail

marksabbatini@yahoo.com

### Web site

www.icepeople.net

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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.

## An exhibit to make you (and planners) 'Scream'



NASJONALMUSEETS

Longyearbyen will be the first city to host a Norwegian tour celebrating Edvard Munch, whose 1894 painting "Ashes" is shown above, on Dec. 12, which would have been the famous artist's 150th birthday. The exhibit, featuring the painting "Self-Portrait With Cigarette," will visit "seven or eight" cities in Norway where originals of Munch's original have not been shown, according to organizers. But the mood is less than entirely celebratory as the landmark anniversary approaches. Planning for some projects, including "history's most comprehensive presentation of Munch's work" in Oslo, is in "chaos" due to organizational troubles and sponsors being nearly non-existent, according to NRK. "It's a shame and almost incomprehensible," said Morten Zondag, an art historian and advisor on Munch's works. "Munch is our most important artist, and one would think that many are interested in contributing to a joint venture to present him in its full width. We can only hope that this falls into place."

## Icesheet

*Random bits of the week's weirdness:*

**Some lucky person in the United States won a record lottery jackpot of \$337 million (about two billion kroner) this week, but that's a trifling prize compared to what two dozen Svalbard residents reaped with their winning tickets.** Two dozen of them picked up 95 cubic meters of garbage along 85 kilometers of beaches on northern Spitsbergen during the governor's 13th annual cleanup. Competition is fierce for the right to spend three days collecting everything from fishing nets to ketchup bottles (and, sadly, more than a few animal remains snagged in those nets), even if the weather can be as lousy as it was this year. A total of 329 locals have collected 1,250 cubic meters of trash from 540 miles of shoreline since the first expedition in 2000. If the idea of favoring trash above cash sounds insane, remember the money jackpot is paid over 20 years. If the winner opts for a \$224.66 million all-at-once payment instead and pays the requisite taxes they might barely be a billionaire by Norwegian standards ... It just got hammered in a review, but **we dare locals to resist seeing the theater production of "The Fictional Chronicles of the Stupidly Famous Chester James"** if they're planning a trip to South Melbourne, Australia, in the near future. The musi-



TROND ESPEN HAUG / SYSSELMANNEN

**A lottery reward money can't buy.** Well, actually, it can since one of the 24 spots to pick up trash on northern Spitsbergen is auctioned off.

cal comedy features the fictional James, hailed as a "teenage genius" for a hit first novel at the age of 16, "in self-imposed isolation in Arctic Svalbard, still trying to write his follow-up almost a decade later ... But after eight months with no distractions bar singing, masturbating and polishing his Oscar, he's gradually descending into madness. While James yearns for his life back home, his only company is an inflatable moose (who insists it's a Svalbard reindeer) and a 'sexually ambiguous' polar bear."



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

UNIS students (from left) Riley Eusden, Nick Mills, Allen Wywrot and Harry Gardiner play cards in the kitchen of their dorm in Nybyen. They said they're generally happy with the university's housing, in particular the kitchen facilities, despite the long distance to campus and broken TVs.

## Guides might find UNIS befuddling

### GRADES, from page 1

at The University Centre in Svalbard, which received a record 628 applicants for the fall semester. Like most, his priorities are often different than what many students seek when perusing the various guides ranking colleges on everything from academics to parties.

UNIS would likely rate near the very top or bottom of many popular categories, if the opinions of new students arriving this week are any indication. Even an average grade might mask extremes, such as how potential enrollees might view the mandatory six days of Arctic survival and safety training.

The following is a highly subjective guess at the grades the university might receive in some of those guides' categories:

### Academic quality/challenge (B+)

Assuming you're not here to study law or business management, a roster of international and acclaimed instructors, plus new up-to-date classroom and lab facilities, makes it a top pick for science-dominated fields. Not to mention the vast outdoor "classroom" consisting of all of Svalbard. UNIS doesn't have all the funds, faculty and facilities of the absolute best polar-region colleges, but it's not too far off.

"I think the workload is less than what I'm normally taking, but the fieldwork is way better," said Riley Eusden, 20, a geology student from the United States.

### Social/cultural experience (B)

One of the most internationally diverse

student populations, along with the small campus/town setting, ensures newcomers will get a walloping dose of culture shock if they're moving far from home for the first time. Of course, they'll be mixing with a science crowd where there won't be a lot of dissent about issues like climate change. Also, Ingrid Olsen, 25, a geology student from Tromsø, said "you don't get to know (students in) other courses" as well because housing is assigned based on field of study.

### Campus housing/food (C)

None of those new-fangled gourmet food courts, but also no mandatory meal plan involving the still frequently awful cafeterias. Dorms can be slightly on the rustic side, but the kitchens are a big plus. A potential killer for urbanites, however, is that long commute, with the uphill trip home described as grueling even with a bike. On the other hand, how many colleges let you ski to class?

### Party school (D)

Fun? Unquestionably, but not in a trashed-at-the-frat-party kind of way. That might be a deal-breaker for some in what's by far the most popular category in those guides. UNIS hosts Friday socials, there's a few pubs in town and, yes, booze is cheap. But incoming students said the scene isn't all that lively and, even if it was, they're not inclined to spend their limited weekends in the Arctic hungover.

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

## HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

### Lunckefjell gets new leader; management trouble denied

A new manager has taken over Store Norske's Lunckefjell project, but the company denies it's due to concerns from employees that inept management is a threat to the firm's future. Roy Hanssen resigned as head of the coal mine being developed and was replaced last Monday by Harry Higruff, the company's technical and production director until he retired two years ago. "There is no drama in this," said Per Andersson, Store Norske's administrative director. "Roy did not want to continue in his role ... I consider that a private matter between him and the company." Hanssen remains at the company in a subordinate role. Accusations the company's management lacks adequate technical and financial expertise were made in a letter sent in June by Bjørn Fjukstad, an operating engineer, to Norway's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

### Pair attempting trip with poor gear warned, but still at sea

A search for two Germans trying to reach Pyramiden in a rubber boat was conducted by the governor's office Sunday after concerns about their equipment was voiced by a tour operator and family members. The father and son team, advised by officials not to use the rented boat for such a trip, also didn't have survival suits, an emergency beacon or satellite phone. Rescuers set out after being contacted by the tour operator Saturday and relatives Sunday, finding the pair camping with a Russian at Sassenelva. The Germans said they intended to continue their trip. While officials will "have a chat" with the tourists afterward, it not known yet if they will be fined.

### Group fight throughout town results in police search

A fight starting at Huset and continuing into the center of Longyearbyen early Saturday morning led to a half-hour search by police, who were unable to find the culprits. The argument started between two people at Huset and escalated to about eight people fighting outside Classic Pizza around 4 p.m., said Arild Lyssand, police chief for the governor's office. No major injuries were reported.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy. W winds to 15 km/h. High 8C (5C wind chill), low 4C (0C wind chill).	Cloudy. Variable winds to 7 km/h. High 9C (7C wind chill), low 7C (5C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. Variable winds to 7 km/h. High 7C (5C wind chill), low 4C (1C wind chill).	Cloudy. S winds to 15 km/h. High 6C (4C wind chill), low 4C (0C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, cloudy, 6C (3C), 5C (2C), light 24:00h; Monday, cloudy, 6C (2C), 2C (-2C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, sunny, 2C (-2C), 1C (-4C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 3C (-1C), 1C (-3C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by storm.no			

## Brace of birthday bashes for bureaucracy



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Longyearbyen residents gather today at Svalbard Church for songs and stories celebrating the 87th birthday of the enactment of the Svalbard Treaty, giving Norway sovereignty of the area while imposing demilitarization and open participation in commercial activities. Forty countries have signed the treaty, originally approved Feb. 9, 1920, and effective as of Aug. 14, 1925. Longyearbyen will celebrate its own birthday of sorts at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21 with the debut of an exhibit at Svalbard Museum commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the formation of its municipal government.

## Victims' parents focus on future

### RESPONSE, from page 1

and Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg is facing demands to step down, including a front-page editorial in the newspaper *VG*.

The new report, for instance, states authorities became aware of suspicious activities by Breivik, such as buying items that could make bombs, months before the attacks, but didn't put him on a watch list.

Also, in what the BBC calls "among the most damaging" conclusions, the panel contradicts an earlier police report concluding officers didn't hesitate to respond after the initial bombing. Instead, a two-man local police team near Utøya waited for better-trained colleagues to arrive rather than finding a boat and crossing a lake to the island.

Breivik's 10-week trial ended in June and the five-judge panel is expected to deliver its verdict Aug. 24. He has confessed to the killings and almost certainly faces indefinite confinement in prison or a mental institution.

Buø said the new report's findings aren't a surprise and the police "have been very kind and they have told us everything all the time." Another local victim's parent who said she's not surprised is Christin Kristoffersen, and that anticipating or stopping Breivik's actions that day seems more a theoretical possibility than realistic expectation.

"I think it's so insanely optimistic," said Kristoffersen, whose son, Viljar Hanssen, 18, suffered life-threatening gunshot wounds. "If they had limited (main road access) he could have come another way."

Like Buø, she agrees "our job for the future is to how prevent" such tragedies. She said that means being more aware of threats, but not living with undue fear and security.

"In many ways it affects the way you look at society and security, but hopefully it hasn't changed your values," she said.

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

## Good climate change news exists – really

### OPTIMISTS, from page 1

So, sure, one new study says the Arctic ice cover will reach another record low this year and another reports Svalbard's seafloor communities are being devastated. But look at all the good news being reported beyond the "we can drill in more places" focus of oil titans:

- "Polar Ice Rapture Misses Its Deadline" is the headline of a *Forbes* article noting predictions of a vanishing polar ice sheet, perhaps before the year 2000, haven't come true yet.

- With large ice chunks increasingly breaking free, there's a greater prospect of "captur-

ing" them and towing them to water-starved areas, reports *Utilities Middle East*.

- "Polar bears have successfully adapted to severe climate change many times in the past and will likely adapt to future climate change," is the summary of a presentation by Susan Crockford, a peer-reviewed Canadian zoologist and evolutionary biologist, according to a press lease by the Frontier Centre for Public Policy.

- Intrade is offering \$10 returns on \$7 bets if September's Arctic ice cover hits a new low.

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

## What's up

### Aug. 15

Deadline for comments on draft of master plan for Longyearbyen's water supply from 2012-2022. Details at [www.lokalstyre.no/delplaner-paa-hoering.253159.no.html](http://www.lokalstyre.no/delplaner-paa-hoering.253159.no.html).

### Aug. 19

8 p.m.: Movie: "The Dark Knight Rises," U.S./British action, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 21

7:30 p.m.: Opening of exhibit marking the 10th anniversary of Longyearbyen's local government. Jørn Holme, the city's cultural heritage advisor, and Christin Kristoffersen, head of the municipal council, will preside. Svalbard Museum. A series of events is also planned Oct. 29.

### Aug. 26

6 p.m.: Movie: "Madagascar 3," U.S. animated/family film dubbed in Norwegian, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Kon-Tiki," Norwegian dram, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 28

6-8 p.m.: Activity fair. Demonstrations and signups for Longyearbyen's recreational clubs. Svalbardhallen. More information at [svalbardturn.no](http://svalbardturn.no).

### Aug. 29

6 p.m.: Movie: "Ice Age: Continental Drift" (3D), U.S. animated/comedy, all ages. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 31

6 p.m.: Movie: "Til Ungdommen," Norwegian documentary about youth activism in the summer of 2011, premier screening, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 2

6 p.m.: Movie: "Til Ungdommen," Norwegian documentary about youth activism in the summer of 2011, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

## 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:

- *Norway oil execs: Safety rules too costly*
- *A rare winter Antarctic medical rescue*
- *The five most dangerous climate myths*
- *Giant pythons invade warmer Florida*