



A sad therapy analysis

Longyearbyen residents must now get psychological help on mainland due to lack of funds

Psychological counseling will no longer be available in Longyearbyen, with the city saying it can no longer afford to bring a specialist up from the mainland on a regular basis.

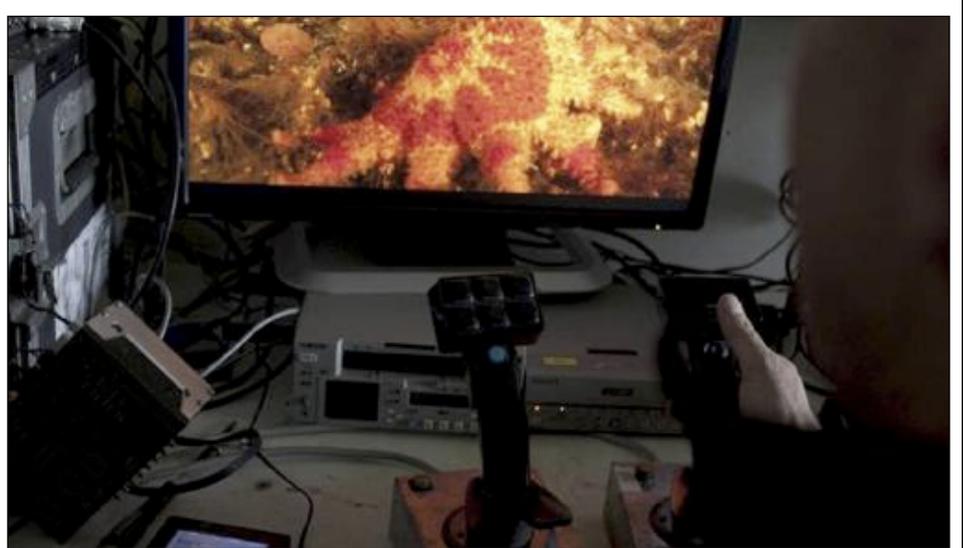
A psychologist from Tromsø has been in Longyearbyen two days a week since 2007, with 70 patients recently receiving treatment, NRK reported this week. But Per Lofnes, the specialist seeing those patients, said it is regrettable they will now have to travel to the mainland for help.

"Longyearbyen is a small and very transparent community, and there is reason to believe that mental health problems here are more taboo and concealed than what is usually the case on the mainland," he wrote in a report, according to NRK.

The decision was also criticized by Marianne Røiseland, general secretary for Norway's Council for Mental Health, who said raising the threshold for treatment is bad socially and economically.

"When people are mentally ill there are two things that are important," she told NRK. "It is early treatment and treatment in familiar surroundings. When these two factors are in place

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Galvin Newman, above, operates the remote controls for an underwater camera capturing images hundreds of meters below the surface of waters in Svalbard. At right, plants up to 200 meters below the surface are among the species Newman says possess surprisingly vibrancy and color. The recordings are part of a three-month expedition by Greenpeace aboard the research vessel *Esperanza* to study the Arctic maritime ecosystem. Photos provided by Greenpeace.



A cause to sea colors

Greenpeace hopes images boost efforts to ban industrial activity

Greenpeace is pursuing another implausible cause, but this time they're certainly working hard to charm the public with their efforts.

Colorful images of deep-sea life in the waters of Svalbard were seen all over the world during the past week after being cap-

tured by remote-controlled cameras during the group's three-month research mission aboard the *Esperanza*. A statement by the group notes "In areas that are covered with sea ice throughout autumn, winter and spring, slow

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Going to this summer school is cool

Students get immersion of science during three-week IPY course

At the very least, the cold and perils mean there's little chance of falling asleep in class.

Walking on glaciers, riding zodiacs on rough seas, dissecting seals and simulating Arctic weather decades from now are among the assignments chronicled by 25 students participating in this year's IPY Polar Field School at The University Centre in Svalbard. The three-week course, which ends Friday, offers participants an overview of environmental change in the Arctic based on past, present and future research.

"Not only have we sat through fascinating

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Students in the IPY Polar Field School study geological and biological history at Kapp Linné, described by one participant as "a geological mine field with exposed bedrock strata spanning 1.2 billion years." Photo by Marcus Zanacchi.

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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.



A researcher, above left, deploys buoys March 15 on drifting sea ice east of Kong Karls Land. At right, a map shows the locations of the six buoys in April. The dark blue track is from the buoy making it all the way to Longyearbyen. Photo and illustration by Aleksey Marchenko.

Message in a buoy for UNIS prof

One of six units set afloat in March to track speed of sea ice drift returns to Longyearbyen

It won't save any desert island castaways, but the message may be a lifesaver for oil companies at a time when they're facing great uncertainty at sea.

One of six ice-tracking buoys deployed about 20 kilometers southeast of Kong Karls Land by Aleksey Marchenko, a professor in ice mechanics at The University Centre in Svalbard, was recently retrieved at Vindodden by UNIS crew. The aim of the deployment was to monitor the drift speed of sea ice.

"The main goal of the project was to estimate the inflow of multiyear sea ice in the

Barents Sea through the strait between Svalbard and Franz Josef Land," Marchenko said in a statement issued by UNIS.

"The presence of multiyear sea ice and ice bergs in the Barents Sea is dangerous for offshore structures since multiyear ice is much stronger than first-year ice."

Comparing the speed of ice drift over time due to climate change may further aid offshore development planners, Marchenko added.

Five buoys were deployed on the sea ice, and one on an iceberg east of Heleysundet in the Olga Strait. Their mean drift speed was 8.4 nautical miles per day, similar to data collected dating back to 1914.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Briefly

Two kayakers trying to be first around Svalbard

Two 22-year-old Norwegians are attempting to become the first people to kayak around Svalbard, an expedition expected to last two to three months.

Sebastian Plur Nilsen and Ludvig Fjeld began their journey Monday, hoping to circumnavigate the archipelago's four major islands – Spitsbergen, Nordaustlandet, Edgeøya and Barents Island. Two expeditions have circled Spitsbergen, but nobody has paddled around Nordaustlandet.

Drift ice will play a major role in the 2,000-kilometer trip, particularly in northern Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet. The average summer temperature is five degrees Celsius, but weather is highly variable and unpredictable. Several kayak expeditions have also been halted by polar bear or walrus attacks.

The pair plan to be self-sufficient, with their kayaks weighing 300 kilograms at launch. They also plan to hunt and fish along the way.

All safe after *Polar Star* grounds in Hornsund

The *Polar Star* ran aground in Hornsund last week, forcing the 67 passengers and 46 crew to transfer to another vessel to return to Longyearbyen, according to the Svalbard governor's office.

The incident occurred last Wednesday,

with no injuries reported. Passengers were transferred to the *Fram* and the *Polar Star* resumed service Saturday.

Russia tries to set Arctic borders during voyage

Russia is embarking on a three-month expedition this month to determine the borders of its continental shelf.

The country was the first of five to file requests to extend its shelf border beyond the standard 200-mile limit. The United Nations denied the request, citing a lack of evidence to support the claim.

The *Akademik Fedorov* research vessel will depart Arkhangelsk on July 15. Russia has conducted two other Arctic expeditions – to the Mendeleev underwater chain in 2005 and to the Lomonosov Ridge in 2007 – to substantiate its territorial claims in the region.

Man on Svalbard flight dies of heart ailment

An elderly man who went into cardiac arrest during a chartered passenger flight from Germany to Svalbard died Saturday at Longyearbyen Hospital.

The flight was over the Barents Sea when the man passed out, according to *The Aviation Herald*. The crew accelerated the approach and landed about 40 minutes later, but the man died shortly after arriving at the hospital.



A participant aims a rifle, above left, at the shooting range in Longyearbyen during survival training at the beginning of the IPY Polar Field School at The University Centre in Svalbard. Above right, students relax after a geological and botany expedition to Nordenskiöld with a polar swim. At right, the class wears survival suits in preparation for a dingy voyage across choppy waters to study flora and whale fossils at Kapp Linné. Rifle photo by Nils Arne Walberg, other photos by Marcus Zanacchi.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM
SVALBARDPOSTEN
VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Homeowners won't pay for grinders until problems fixed

Homeowners in Longyearbyen will not pay for food waste grinders until they are certain the units function properly, according to housing officials. The first 365 homes receiving grinders experienced problems with leaks, disconnecting hoses, clogging and food waste coming up again in sinks. Experts elsewhere are critical of the units, saying their design is likely to be problematic. Acon Klimavent is charging 1,100 kroner per installation, but Håvar Fjerdingøy, general manager of Store Norske Boliger, said her company will withhold their estimated 400,000 kroner payment until "we are confident the grinders work under contract." Longyearbyen has mandated grinders be installed in all homes, but other housing officials said they are withholding installation and/or payment until the problems are resolved.

Select few spend their summer studying

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lectures and been guided through the Longyearbyen surroundings, but the cultural education one garners when 13 nationalities are brought together is staggering," wrote Hannah Katzensteiner of Austria and Hilary Dugan of Canada in a June 23-24 entry on the field school's blog.

Of course it isn't all hard work. In addition to pizza and beer, leisure pastimes include polar swims, sightseeing cruises and "speed dating" Norwegian politicians.

This is the second straight year UNIS has hosted the field school as a collaboration with the University of the Arctic, IPY Norway and the Association of Early Career Polar Scientists. About 150 people applied for the 40 hours of lectures, 30 hours of seminars and several days of field excursions – for a mere 250 Euro including housing costs.

Friday's final exam is – shudder – an oral presentation with a poster presentation.

Students, of course, did plenty of other challenging coursework in circumstances far more daunting than the library. Blog entries at the UNIS site (www.unis.no/20_RESEARCH/2070_IPY/Field_school_blog_2010.htm) and elsewhere detail their observations, as well as what passes for recess in the far north.

Initiation consisted of hearing about "this huge, scary bear walking outside our barracks just a week before," wrote Nils Arne Walberg and Anja Lyng Bækken, both of Norway, in a June 21 UNIS entry. Next was learning to shoot a rifle to fend bears off, followed by a swim in the icy water wearing enormous survival suits in case of accidents at sea.

Maybe the only thing typical?

"The day ended with pizza at UNIS," they wrote.

While some lectures took place in classrooms, even during the first few days students got an immersion of all things science during nearby field excursions.

"Sitting atop a ridge yesterday, it was commented that one could teach a full course on glaciology, geomorphology, permafrost science, cold-regions hydrology, meteorology, arctic biology, and geology without moving one's feet," Katzensteiner and Dugan wrote.

Only two breaks were scheduled during the course but, like work time, those consisted of a mixture of leisure and learning.

"When a student, Nils Arne, invited us to participate in the marine excursion to the Russian abandoned settlement Pyramiden and our mentor professor Olafur Ingolfsson told us how we would proceed through 400 million years of geological history, most of us supported this idea," wrote William Eucker of the United States and Pavel Aleksandrovich Sultanov of Russia in a June 26 UNIS entry.

Among the field study projects was a June 27 excursion to Endalen, where international tundra research led by Ingibjörg Jonsdottir is being conducted.

"This project focuses on climate change and how it might affect the individual responses of plants," wrote Sarah Lee of England and Kristin Heggland of Norway.

"The experiments consisted of open top hexagonal chambers which imitate climate change by increasing the temperature by 1-3 degrees within the chambers."

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Memorial for mystery man at Longyearbyen cemetery

Who was Viktor Kornilov and who mounted a memorial plaque to him on a stone at the cemetery in Longyearbyen? "We learned about the plaque in the winter, and do not know the person who has put up the plaque," said Per Kyrre Reymert, cultural advisor for the Svalbard governor's office. A picture of the man shows a hat and clothes which don't seem typically Russian, and the writing is Latin rather than Cyrillic. It is illegal to put up memorials for unknown persons without permission.

Store Norske case likely to go to mainland this week

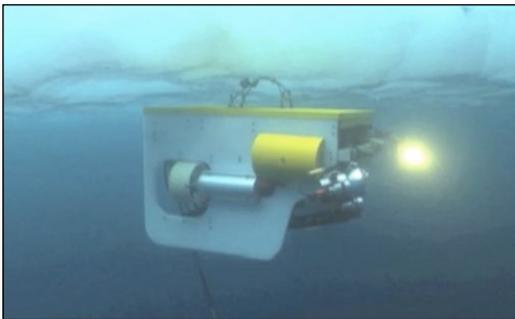
An investigation into years of questionable contracts by Store Norske is expected to be forwarded by Svalbard officials to Troms-Finnmark prosecutors this week. "We do not have not the capacity to handle the case," said Deputy Gov. Lars Fause. "This is a large, complex case." The review does not name specific persons or businesses, but former Store Norske Director Robert Hermansen is accused in audits of numerous irregularities during his tenure from 1999 to 2008.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sun and clouds, a late shower. E winds at 11 km/h. High 4C (1C wind chill), low 4C (1C wind chill).	Cloudy with a few showers. SE winds at 8 km/h. High 6C (4C wind chill), low 4C (2C wind chill).	Low clouds. E winds at 5 km/h. High 7C (6C wind chill), low 4C (3C wind chill).	Cloudy. E winds at 3 km/h. High 6C (6C wind chill), low 4C (4C wind chill).

Extended forecast: Sunday, mostly cloudy and rainy, 5C (3C), 2C (0C); Monday, cloudy with a possible shower, 4C (4C), 2C (0C); Tuesday, low clouds with a couple showers, 3C (0C), 2C (1C); Wednesday, partly cloudy and warmer, 6C (5C), 1C (0C).

Data provided by AccuWeather.com



A thriving fish and plant population on the floor of the seas off Svalbard, above, is part of Greenpeace's effort to halt industrial activities including bottom trawling in Arctic waters. The images are being captured by a remote-controlled camera, at left, during a three-month research expedition. International officials concluded last month more scientific research is needed to understand how climate change is affecting fish stocks in the Arctic. Photos provided by Greenpeace.

Group hopes images help campaign

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growing sea anemones, tunicates and soft corals thrive in spite of the harsh conditions."

Then comes the pitch: Climate change is threatening what you see.

"Increased temperatures, changes in ocean currents and ocean acidification are all affecting this pristine ecosystem," the statement declares. "At the same time, receding polar ice allows industrial fishing trawlers to push into previously unexploited territories. To protect life on the ocean floor that has in the past been protected by sea ice, Greenpeace is calling for an international moratorium on all industrial activities, including bottom trawling in the Arctic Ocean."

The images are being captured by Gavin Newman, a longtime underwater photographer who is recording footage from one camera up to 600 meters deep. A separate camera attached to a remote operated vehicle is recording the

Counselor appeals halt to Svalbard visits

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it increases the chances that people recover more quickly."

Per Lofnes, in his report, is appealing for the visiting arrangement to continue. Ivar Undheim, Longyearbyen's administrative manager, said a request for a more financially favorable agreement will be sought from Helse Nord and local officials will consider the situation this fall.

"We have a wide range of emergency services, but there is an insufficient supply of mental health care," he told NRK. "There has been an escalation in this field in all municipalities on the mainland, but we can find no trace of this on Svalbard."

high-quality images at depths up to 200 meters.

"We came here very much prepared to survey vast areas of flat sand and mud, but we have found an amazing amount of under water biodiversity," Newman told CNN in a broadcast this week. "It is one of the most colorful places I've dived apart from tropical coral reefs. It really was very unexpected."

The *Esperanza*, scheduled to depart Svalbard this month with scientists who spent several weeks conducting ocean acidification research in Ny-Ålesund, made its headlines here last year by taking over Svea for a day in a demand coal mining there and elsewhere cease.

Fisheries and other government officials said Greenpeace's latest demands are either irrelevant or need additional study to determine if restrictions – outright bans are unlikely – on activity are necessary.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Longyearbyen's residents tend to be short-term, making it difficult to establish social networks and friendships, according to Lofnes. He stated the absence of family may also increase vulnerability in relation to mental strain.

Recent studies of Arctic communities show depression-related problems like alcoholism and domestic abuse increase the farther north a town is located. But medical workers and many Longyearbyen residents say unique circumstances such as above-average wealth, abundant recreation opportunities and the elective nature of residency separate it from most extreme latitude settlements.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

What's up

July 8

7 p.m.: Exhibit opening: "EXPEDITION into another dimension," by Polish photographer Alina Jackiewicz-Kaczmarek. On display until Aug. 31. Galleri Svalbard.

July 11

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
8 p.m.: Movie: "Polanski's Shadow," U.S./German action/drama, ages 11 and up. Huset.

July 18

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
8 p.m.: Movie: "Prince of Persia," U.S. action/fantasy, ages 11 and up. Huset.

July 25

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
8 p.m.: Movie: "Sex and the City 2," U.S. comedy, ages 11 and up. Huset.

Aug. 1

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
8 p.m.: Movie: "The A Team," U.S. action/adventure, ages 15 and up. Huset.

Aug. 8

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
8 p.m.: Movie: "Cash," Swedish action/drama, ages 15 and up. Huset.

Aug. 14

Svalbard's National Day celebration. Details to be published at www.svalbardkirke.no.

Aug. 15

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
8 p.m.: Movie: "The Twilight Saga - Eclipse," U.S. fantasy/romance/thriller, ages 11 and up. Huset.

Aug. 22

11 a.m.: Liturgy. Svalbard Church.
6 p.m.: Movie: "Operasjon Froskeegg," Norwegian family film, all ages. Huset.
8 p.m.: Movie: "She's Out Of My League," U.S. comedy/romance, all ages. Huset.

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:

- *Oceans' poor health 'near irreversible'*
- *Russia to clean up its Arctic territory*
- *Chinese increasingly cruising Svalbard*
- *Arctic swimsuit issue 'reveals the melt'*