



## FORESTS VULNERABLE TO STORMS

There are fears that Swedish forests won't be able to weather too many storms that come their way this winter. There are also fears that the warm weather that everybody has been so happy about may be the early signs of a devastating change in climate.

Last January the storm named Gudrun wreaked havoc in the southern parts of Sweden. There is much concern among experts that the forests damaged in this storm will not survive a repeat performance as many of the root systems have been substantially weakened.

Until now, however, the fall in Sweden has been remarkable for its record high temperatures. Temperatures around the country have been around five degrees above average for November. In Stockholm the average daily temperature has been 8.8 degrees compared to the usual 4.1 degrees. In Gothenburg the temperature reached 14.2 on the night before All Saints Day. In Norrköping the daytime temperature reached 14.6. And the locals of Östersund enjoyed 11.7 degrees one day. Since the average temperature in Sweden has been hovering around 10 degrees, this is officially called summer weather.

The unseasonal temperatures have given rise to renewed concerns about the impact of the greenhouse effect on Sweden. According to a UN climate committee report, in just 70 years time, rainfall in Sweden will become more severe, sea levels will rise and parts of the country could disappear altogether. Sea levels are expected to rise ninety centimeters over the next century which could mean that the coast of southern Sweden could simply drown. According to SMHI climate researcher Gunn Persson "illness could spread because fauna will be affected. Vermin such as rats and Colorado beetles could take over our forests and ticks and mosquitoes will increase in numbers."

*The King is shown the devastation after Gudrun. (Above) A "street" of felled trees*

## SVENSKA SKOLOR SATSAR FÖR MYCKET PÅ REKLAM

**S** Skolminister Ibrahim Baylan är bekvämd över att gymnasieskolor lägger så mycket pengar på marknadsföring. Det fria skolvalet har lett till att skolorna försöker locka elever genom att beskriva sina fördelar i hemsidor, broschyrer och annonser.



*Ibrahim Baylan*

"Vi vill också att eleverna ska utvecklas så att de kan bli aktiva deltagare i samhällslivet, utnyttja sina rättigheter och bidra till att utveckla demokratin i Sverige, Europa och världen," skriver till exempel Alviksskolan. Angeredsgymnasiet lockar med "passioner på schemat". Man kan ha "stiltpassioner" och som elev på handels-, natur- och samhällsprogrammet kombinera kärnämnen med kurser i fitness, mode och design. Bland "blandade passioner" finns "gamer", kurser i spelprogrammering. Hund eller hästprofil är ännu vanligare för att inte tala om alla sporter: fotboll, hockey, innebandy, aerobics, golf m m.

Den allra vanligaste frestelsen är utlandsresor. Folkuniversitetets gymnasium i Trollhättan kör samhällsprogrammet med internationell inriktning. Där utlovas en kulturresa till en europeisk storstad samt en veckas språkresa i tysk-fransk- eller spansk-talande land.

Göteborgs-Posten har granskat hälften av regionens gymnasier och funnit att de sammanlagt lägger 5,5 miljoner kronor på att synas. Det betyder att de 60 skolorna i regionen antagligen lägger ner 10 miljoner på att slåss om de 12 000 niorna som ska göra sitt val. Det är drygt 800 kronor per elev, att sättas i relation med en skolpeng på i snitt 70 000 kronor per elev, vart och ett av de tre gymnasieåren.

## FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS OVER PRISONS

From next year there will be a ban on flights over five of Sweden's highest security prisons. The government has agreed to meet the Swedish Prison and Probation Service's demands halfway.

There will be special flight restrictions over Kumla, Hall, Tidaholm, Norrtälje and Sandvik jails. The idea is to prevent escape attempts by helicopter as well as the smuggling of weapons and drugs from the air.

Aircraft will be banned from flying at an altitude lower than 600 meters over the institutions as well as from circling at a radius of less than two kilometers. Police helicopters, air ambulances and coastguard planes are exempt from the ban.



*Police investigating still another robbery of a Securitas van transporting cash*

## ROBBERIES ON THE RISE

Securitas AB sees no short term financial impact from the increased number of violent robberies against its Swedish operations this year.

The robberies have included both highway hold-ups and attacks on the company's depots.

Securitas' drivers went on strike earlier this month as they demanded better protection following an attack in which two masked men armed with machine guns blew out the side of a van near a Statoil petrol station on the E6 highway between Stenungsund and Kungälv in Bohuslän, seriously injuring a female guard in the process. It is not known how much money they got away with. After this incident, drivers demanded police escorts.

The drivers' strike prompted fears of a cash shortage in the main cities as well as an increased risk of robberies as cash accumulated in major stores.

Criminals in Sweden seem to have declared open season on Securitas' facilities. It is believed that it is a group of around 50 individuals that is behind the well-planned robberies.