

# Nordic Picks



## NORWEGIAN FURNITURE DESIGN

**N DK** Norwegian design has taken a step into the international design market through the group Norway Says. The group's couch Break was declared "Best in Show" at the Stockholm Furniture Fair, northern Europe's biggest furniture event. Norway Says was also awarded the Bruno Mathsson prize for 2004.

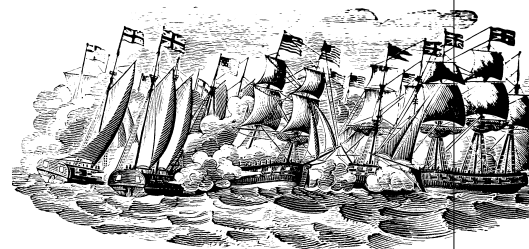
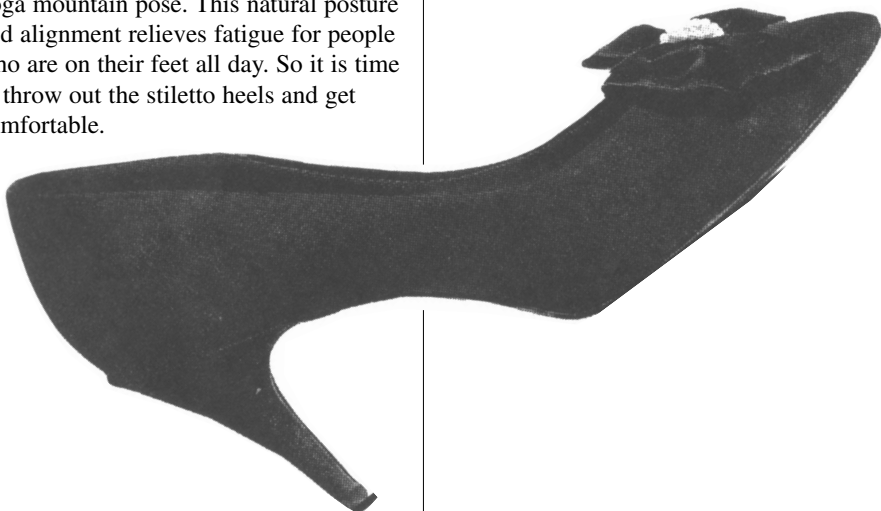
Now Norway Says' couch series UGO (*above*) has been chosen as the best sofa by the *Wallpaper* magazine.



Another Scandinavian piece of furniture making waves is the Imprint chair (*above*) created by the Danish designers Peter Hiort-Lorenzen and Johannes Foersom. Their chair is made with a new material called cellupress. The curves of the chair follow the shape of the back of the human body. Imprint was acclaimed as the biggest news at the NeoCon furniture fair in Chicago. In Copenhagen, the two designers have also been awarded the Finn Juhl prize.

## No More High Heels!

**DK** They are back! Earth Shoes that were a veritable staple in the 70s are very trendy right now. Celebrities like Gwyneth Paltrow, Taye Diggs and Pierce Brosnan are going for the comfort of the shoes originally developed after years of research by the celebrated Danish yoga teacher, Anne Kalso. She discovered that positioning the heels below the toes naturally aligns the body, just like the yoga mountain pose. This natural posture and alignment relieves fatigue for people who are on their feet all day. So it is time to throw out the stiletto heels and get comfortable.



## Ship Ahoy!

**IS DK** The French had their sights set on Iceland in the 18th century. Their interest reached a climax between 1760 and 1770 because the region was considered to be perfect for a naval base to counter the British. According to a document preserved at the French Ministry of Defence in Paris France was quite prepared to give Louisiana in the USA to Denmark in exchange for Iceland.

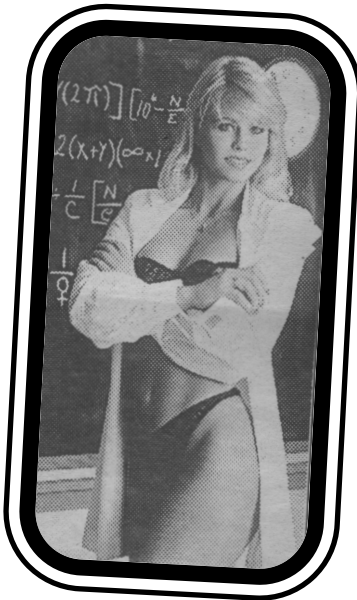


## No More Cold Cure

**FIN** A Finnish and an Australian researcher have gone through the last 65 years of studies on the subject of Vitamin C and have concluded that it is not a cure for cold, neither does it help to prevent the snuffles.

## Svorska

**N S** The Norwegian paper *Aftenposten* is worried about the widespread use of “Svorska” - a mixture of Swedish and Norwegian. The paper complains that Norwegian radio journalists, in particular, are too influenced by Swedish. There is dismay at the use of Swedish expressions like “hamna på efterkälken” when there is the perfectly adequate “havne i bakevja”. Or, the paper laments, why don’t journalists use the Norwegian “ta piffen fra” instead of the Swedish “suga musten ur”.



## True Artists

**N** Employees of Norwegian striptease clubs are delighted. Their performances are now classified as artistic activity by the state.

The background is a court case in which the striptease club Blue Angel in Oslo contested the sales tax charged on entrance fees. The tax authority wanted a whopping million kroner from the club. But the club owner demanded an exemption of sales tax because the dancing that took place in his club was “practising a form of art”. According to the club the “dancers sometimes performed as teachers, nurses, policewomen and even flamenco dancers, something that definitely required artistic talent”. And the Court, after a certain amount of mulling, had to agree.

## Faroe Hares

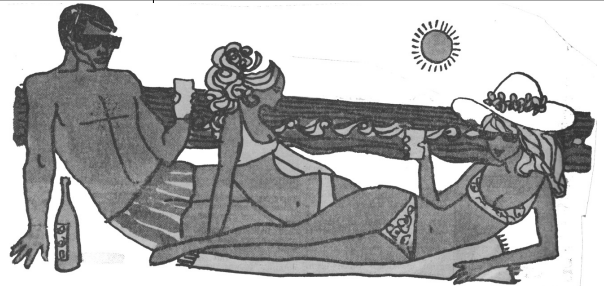
**N DK** The first hares to be brought to the Faeroes were white snow hares from Kragerø in the Oslo fjord. This is a borderline area with snow hares high up on the cliffs and blue hares lower down. Today there is no trace of the original white snow hares on the Faeroe Islands. There are, however, plenty of blue hares around.

The four snow hares that came in 1855 remained completely white during the first winter. The first greyish winter hares, the so-called blue hares, made an appearance in the early 1860s and their numbers increased rapidly as they gradually supplanted the white snow hares. The last completely white snow hare was shot in the winter of 1916-17.

Breeding tests with snow hares and blue hares have determined that genetically the white winter coat is always dominant.

The snow hares with the white winter coat were, however, wiped out from the Faeroes because the coastal climate without much snow did not provide much protection from hunters. While the mild Atlantic winters suited the blue hares perfectly. This is a textbook example of natural selection and adaptation to the environment.

Snow hares with a white winter coat are predominant in Norway except in the southern parts of the country where there are the blue hares with a greyish white winter coat. These are also the most common hares in Sweden. In Greenland they have the original Canadian polar hare that turns completely white in the winter while Iceland has no hares at all.



## COPENCABANA

**S DK** Stockholm is to get a beach in the middle of the city called Playa Royal, wrote the Swedish paper *Dagens Nyheter* on April 1.

Yes, it was an April Fools joke.

But now there is news that Copenhagen is actually going to get a city beach called CopenCabana. It is going to be created much in the same way as the city of Paris built a beach along the Seine right in the middle of the French capital. The beach in Copenhagen is going to have an area of 2 500 square meters and is going to be located close to the well-known shopping center, Fisketorget.

