

read *Crown*
and English will never cut you down



Issue: 1

Month: 12/2008

Dear readers,
we intended to fill this blank space with an editorial.
Nevertheless, due to lack of time and clever ideas we decided to keep it like this.
We promise you that next time this part will be much longer and we'll bring
you some new entertainment stuff, too.

Michal Březík, III.A

Authors

Articles: Veronika Springinsfeldová, Jakub Mazal, Markéta Bednaříková, Markéta Štáková,
Lukáš Buřič, Michal Březík, Filip Blažek

Cooperation: Mgr. Zdeňka Mňáčková, Mgr. Michal Mikláš

The Urnes Church

This medieval timbered church situated in Norway Nera Sogenfjorden was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Its exceptionality lies in its age (it was built in about 1130 and is the oldest church of its kind on the world) and combination of the magnificent architecture of the Viking Age and the Romanesque style.

On the front portal you can notice a carved image of a four-legged animal (probably lion) fighting with a snake which symbolizes Satan. The grandiosity of this four-storey construction really appeals to me as well as the carvings and lot of statuettes.

Because the outside is so ornamented you are surprised by the austerity after you walk in. Only the artwork on the pillars supporting the second floor depicts the scenes from the Norse mythology.

Despite the crowds of tourists flowing into the area, the woody and hilly surroundings are still fabulous.

I will be always fascinated by the Vikings' skill to build such edifices which have outlasted till our times. This is definitely one of the places I must visit some day.

Veronika Springinsfeldová, III.A

Alpine log house

My uncle has a log house. He had a dream for a long time to buy or build a log house high in the virgine nature of the Italian Dolomites. His dream came true a few years ago when he looked for a renowned Italian company which builds custom log house according to the customer's wish. Six months later his house was ready for moving in. When I first saw it I realised: Oh my god. This is the most beautiful house I've ever seen. It looked awesomly. Of course it cost a lot of money but I won't talk about that. When you were standing in front of the house your eyes could see amazingly engraved oak door. The house had a lot of windows because of the need of light. Standing in the middle of your living room without daylight is depressive. So one of his specific wishes was to have lots of daylight. What means lots of windows including attic. Fist step over the door-step opened us a magnificent view onto house's interior. Kitchen linked by living room and dining room. A big fireplace was standing in between in it's magnitude. This one is specially made to heat the whole log house. If you enjoy watching as flames burn down each chunk you need ti have huge wood supplies. It's flames are very greedy.

Kitchen filled with the latest gadgets, expensive leather sofa, fire burnin' in your fireplace. What else would a man need in the wild winter nature of the mountains? Upstairs are located bedroom, toilet and bathroom. Even the attic was heated by the fire from downstairs. Fantastic. If you got your skiing equipment wet you could without any problem put it to dry in the place dedicated for it. In the bathroom.

Within dark and frosty winter night if you like to drink something what would heat you up from the inside there was a possibilty to bring from the cellar one of the most quailty whiskies of today. Other distillates and also vine were at your service. In the morning after breakfast everyone in the house has to fet rid of the snowfall during the night. Although it was work everyone enjoyed this morning excercise. We visit his house regularly ever winter and it's always one of the greatest adventures we live through that year. Those nights spent in front of the fire by chatting and telling stories are unforgettable. So this is my uncle's log house. A piece of paradise in Italian nature.



"I love to hate you" or "From love to hatred"

I don't know which of these titles is best for me, but I guess they have many meanings and I've chosen one of them...

For me, falling in love is not a very happy theme. It supposes so, but guys who I fall in love with are usually not very suitable for relationship or just for me. These guys, they are handsome, attractive, funny, cute, they look really perfect but they're also bigheaded, too self-confident, spoilt or snobbish. I hate these guys for their awful personality but at the same time I love them for their cuteness. And that is an absolute nonsense, I mean, I am intelligent, I know I should appreciate the character and not be interested in the boys' appearance. The worst thing is that I know this fact, I hate them for what they do, but at the same time I can't get them out of my head. It is unbearable, but it is that way...

The Baťa's Skyscraper (21st building)

The Baťa's Skyscraper was built by Jan Antonin Bata to serve as the central office for the worldwide Bata organization. Through the plans of Jan Antonin Bata about work on the building, a small group of workers (only about 40) was able to build one floor in 10 days and they completed the building in less than one year. Just the ferroconcrete frame was built in only 160 days. The skyscraper was finished in 1938 with one special feature: the office inside of the elevator.

It was the tallest Czechoslovak building in its time (77.5 meters) with 17 floors and was designed by the architect Vladimír Karfík. In those days it was one of the most modern buildings in Europe. The building underwent an expensive renovation a few years ago and is currently the headquarters of the Zlin Regional authorities.

The Skyscraper is situated in the city centre and you can see the whole Zlin when you are at the highest place of this building. It is although a part of a big factory area called Svit. It was built in functionalistic style and used materials were: concrete, ferroconcrete, bricks, wood. Main features are glassed-in sites or, if you would like, large windows which are unique – there is more than 28 000 m² of glass. The next typical feature of this building are cylindrical columns – this is typical style of Baťa's buildings. And you can see the rails of the elevator for window-washing at the top of the building.

Inside the building, there are walls panelled with wood and floors covered by lino. The equipment is bare except Baťa's special elevator. Jan had his office built inside of the elevator so that he could move from floor to floor to manage his businesses of more than 100,000 employees. This elevator office also had a working sink, a working telephone and inbuilt air conditioning. Offices of other employees were very large, spacious and they looked quite like manufacturing halls. Last very important thing of this architecture is a paternoster lift which was one of the first in the Czech Republic and is still working, besides there are three staircases. However, people mainly use elevators.

I like this building because it made Zlin famous and it is still its icon. I usually visit the ground floor because there is a small exposition about this building, architecture and life of Family Baťa. I sometimes visit the café on the 16th floor, because I like the view of our city.

Jakub Mazal, 2.B

Jokes

What does a blonde say after her doctor tells her that she's pregnant. Is it mine?

What is difference between man and Superman? Man wears underwear under the trouser and superman wears it over the trouser.



A letter

28th October

Dear Emma,

I'm sorry I haven't written to you for so long. I was very busy in the summer, but that was nothing in comparison with nowadays. I have to study hard, you know, so I haven't got much free time. But finally, I've managed to write this letter. I hope you're doing well; did you go to Greece as you hoped? I guess your holidays were amazing! Some things have changed since I wrote to you. We've done some reconstruction in our flat, so it looks better now. But listen to this! It was really silly, this morning. Yesterday evening I was just at my best friend Lucy's place and we were talking and watching TV. I don't know why but I felt a bit numb in the morning. Actually, I was luckier than my sister, who after a little party felt sick whole morning. I think she overdid it a bit.

I have found some friends in my new class. They are really great, and I am glad my whole class is better than I expected. I am also pleased with the whole school. But I don't know anything about your new school. Please, tell me everything! Remember when we talked about my big language dilemma? I've taken up French. I am not very excited about that, my marks show it too :) but it is cool to know another language! I haven't stopped learning German, I have lessons once a week and I really enjoy it!

It is colder and colder here. I guess the winter is coming. Is it the same in Sweden? Well, it should be, but many times you've written to me about much sunnier weather than we had here.

I must finish now; I have much work to do. So, looking forward to getting your reply!

With love,

Markéta

Markéta Bednaříková, II.A

Church of Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamps

I sometimes wonder about the fantastic church in Ronchamps (France) – Notre Dame du Haut designed by Le Corbusier. This legend was finished in 1955 during the expressionist modern architectonic style and immediately became a great tourist attraction. At first sight you will be stunned by the huge wooden roof inspired by Noah's arch which is absolutely unique. Also the naturally looking facade consisting of reinforced concrete and stone with plenty of geometrical windows supports the original atmosphere. In the interior, the spaces left between the walls and the roof are filled mainly with naughty beams of colourful light contrasting with whitewashed flats and simple altar.

The oeuvre fascinatingly falls down with the sacred natural landscape around. You can spot this dominating building miles away due to its noble situating on the top of a hill in rural area without any disturbing factors.

There is nothing else so irresistible to see but still it is worth visiting because after psychical release the prayer can refine his soul trip with a peaceful walk.

I am more than convinced that the luxury of this monument rests in its unrepeatability. I personally feel the necessity of joining with such charmig aura.

Markéta Štáková, III.A

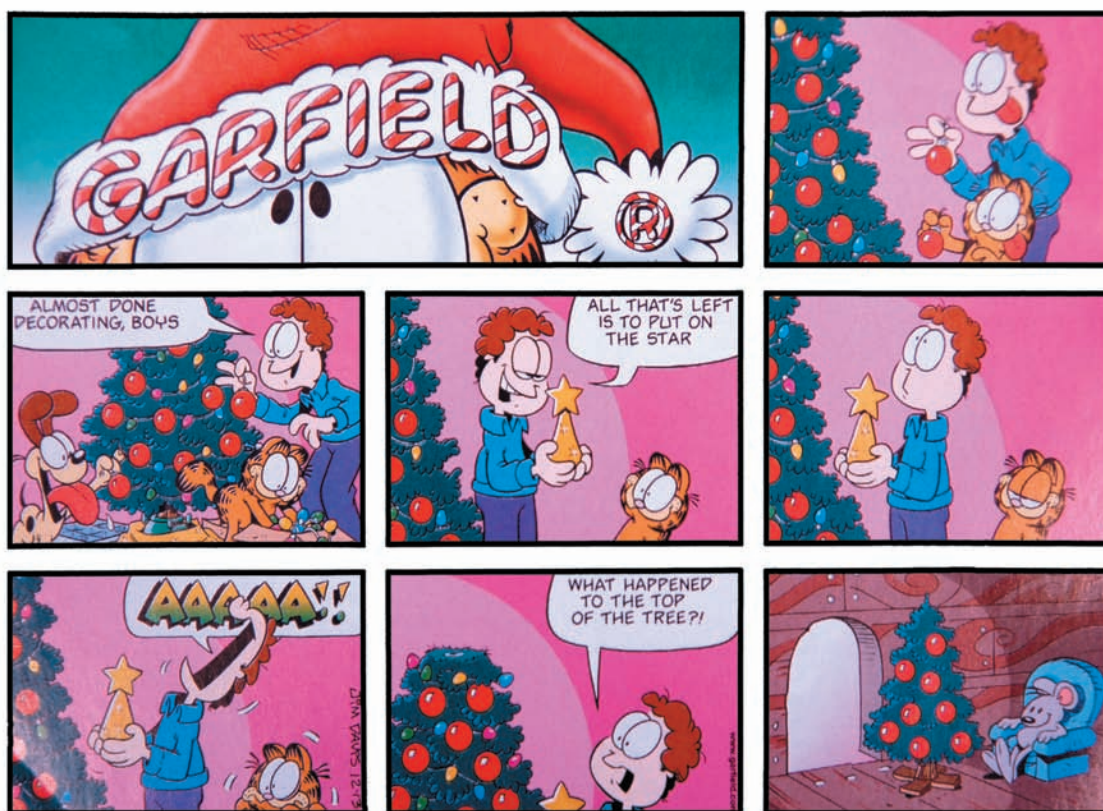
A Weird Encounter

As soon as they met, John knew that they would become good friends. Ginny's eyes were glittering like diamonds in the shine of the silver lune. The scarf she had dignifiedly tied around her neck was gracefully waving in the evening breeze as she was standing on the roof of her master's house. „So you' ve come...finaly. I've been watching you since you started to look after the cattle. It must be a tough job dealing with such big animals.“ she whispered with a mild smile on her lips. John felt the whiskers on his cheeks bristled up with embarrassment. „Oh, not at all. They're quite tame. You don't have to be mean to make them go where you want.“ I replied a little shamefully. „I see.“ I heard her saying quietly. „by the way – I'm Ginger.“ Ginger...a name just as beautiful as she is...John though. „It is a pleasure to meet you. My name is ...“ „John. I know. The other cats have told me. Well, let's say you have quite an interesting reputation amongst them. Dear me! She must know about my little secret! „Is that so? I mean – is it a good one?“ fell out of him. His nervousness was growing rapidly – and there was a reason. „John!“ she shouted suddenly. „You don't have to be afraid. Come to the city tomorrow at seven in the afternoon. We'll be waiting for you.“ Then she jumped down and disappeared in the darkness.

The next day the feared thief John the Quick Paw went on a mission with the Nighthawk Cats for the first time. And what adventures did they experience together? Well, that's a long long story to tell...

Lukáš Buřič, formered student

Witty story for you



My favourite course

Royal Golf Club Mariánské Lázně administering Mariánské Lázně golf course was established in 1905 as a symbol of Czech prosperity in the presence of His Majesty King Edward VII. It is the oldest club in the Czech Republic gathering golf players. The whole area situated only 5 km away from the centre of the town covers approximately 120 ha and includes the historical clubhouse, the legendary eighteen-hole course and a driving range.

This Czech equivalent of Scottish St Andrews is appreciated by both the golfers and non-golfers. The passion for tradition is evident and especially the carefully renewed restaurant creates the atmosphere of the 1930s. If you do not play golf, you can pay a fee and explore the fairways and the greens in the company of a club member.

In fact, the course is a natural part of the landscape surrounding Mariánské Lázně. There is a wide variety of activities you can do in the region but you should definitely visit the well-known spa.

As a player I love the hilly character of the terrain. In addition, there is a number of water hazards, hedges and sand traps which pose a great challenge for me.

Michal Březík, III.A

Unusual birthday

Simon woke suddenly. What was the noise he had just heard? He looked at the clock and saw it was 11 p.m. Trembling, he covered under his cotton quilt. Nevertheless, he was aware of behaving like a quitter and consequently, he decided to challenge his courage and get up to look into the weird mystery.

As he opened the door, he stayed to stare at the picture which had been bought by his father. „So tasteless“, he whispered. When he entered his parents' room, he noticed it was empty. After that, he tried to switch on but the lights were out of order.

„What's up? It must be a nightmare!“, he whimpered. He went downstairs and all of a sudden, the electricity came back to life. With tears in his sparkling eyes, he remarked a cheering crowd of people holding presents in their hands and tens of colourful balloons flying in the air.

Having been surprised, he realised it was his birthday. „It has been both the most horrible and hilarious celebration since my childhood“, Tom stated and burst out laughing.

Filip Blažek, formered student