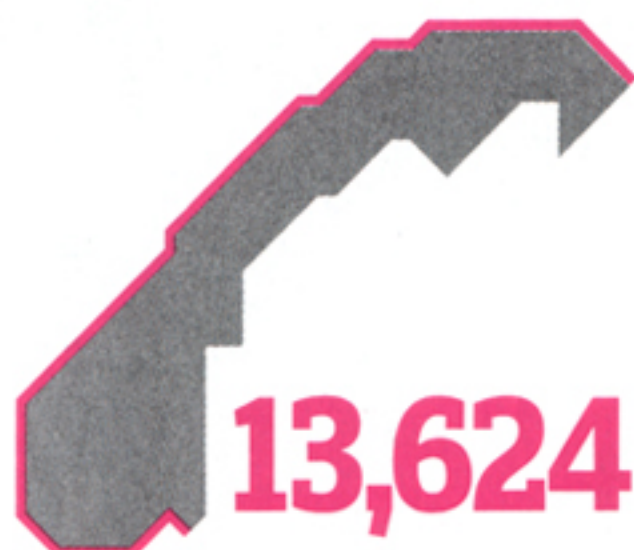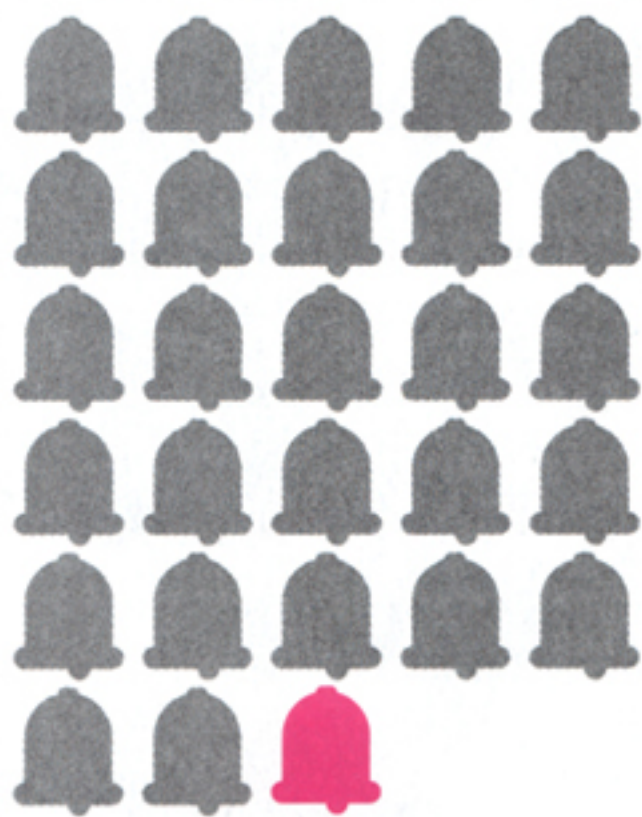# Europe by the Numbers

13,624

Miles of Norway's fjord-filled coastline, the longest in Europe. That's farther than you'd travel if you went to the center of the earth (3,963 miles) three times, and it stretches almost as long as the time you spent watching those home movies of your neighbor's kids doing "cute" things.

11,674

Number of steps in the longest stairway in Europe, on Switzerland's Niesen Mountain. (We counted so you don't have to. Would *Newsweek* do that for you? You wish.)

3,427.8

Tons of gold that Germany has, which is the largest reserve in Europe. That's more than 25 blue whales in solid gold, or 473 African elephants.

9

Number of countries that border Germany, which has the greatest number of neighbors of any nation in Europe. (In alphabetical order: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, and Switzerland.)

7,000 3 & 2

Number of homes, monasteries, and temples, respectively, that were destroyed to make room for Europe's largest building (in Bucharest, Romania) at 3.78 million square feet and 1,100 rooms. Originally called the House of the People, it's now known as the Palace of the Parliament. In the world, only the Pentagon and Chicago's Merchandise Mart are bigger.

28 TONS

Weight of the heaviest bell in Europe. The bell in question sits atop Germany's Cologne Cathedral.

59

Height (in feet) of the world's largest troll. It's in Norway. Apparently, an idle mind is a Norwegian's workshop.

59

Number of characters in the longest Welsh town name:

Llanfairpwllggynwyllgo-gerrychwyrndrobwllllan-tysiliogogogoch

Literally translated, it means "the church of St. Mary in a hollow of the white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool and to St. Tysilio's church near to a red cave." Sort of makes you appreciate Normal, Illinois, doesn't it? (Zip code 61761. Look it up.)

More than 43 million

Books in the Moscow library, the largest in Europe. If current Stanford University students (14,600) read one book a week, it would take almost 57 years to complete all the volumes. (Actually, if every student at a major university really did read one book a week, it would be a major miracle. But we digress.)

0.27

Square miles in Vatican City, the smallest country in the world. It's the Mini-Me of Europe.

Ever wonder what makes Europe so ... European? We've taken all the guesswork out of it for you. (You can thank us later.) By Lisa Sonne
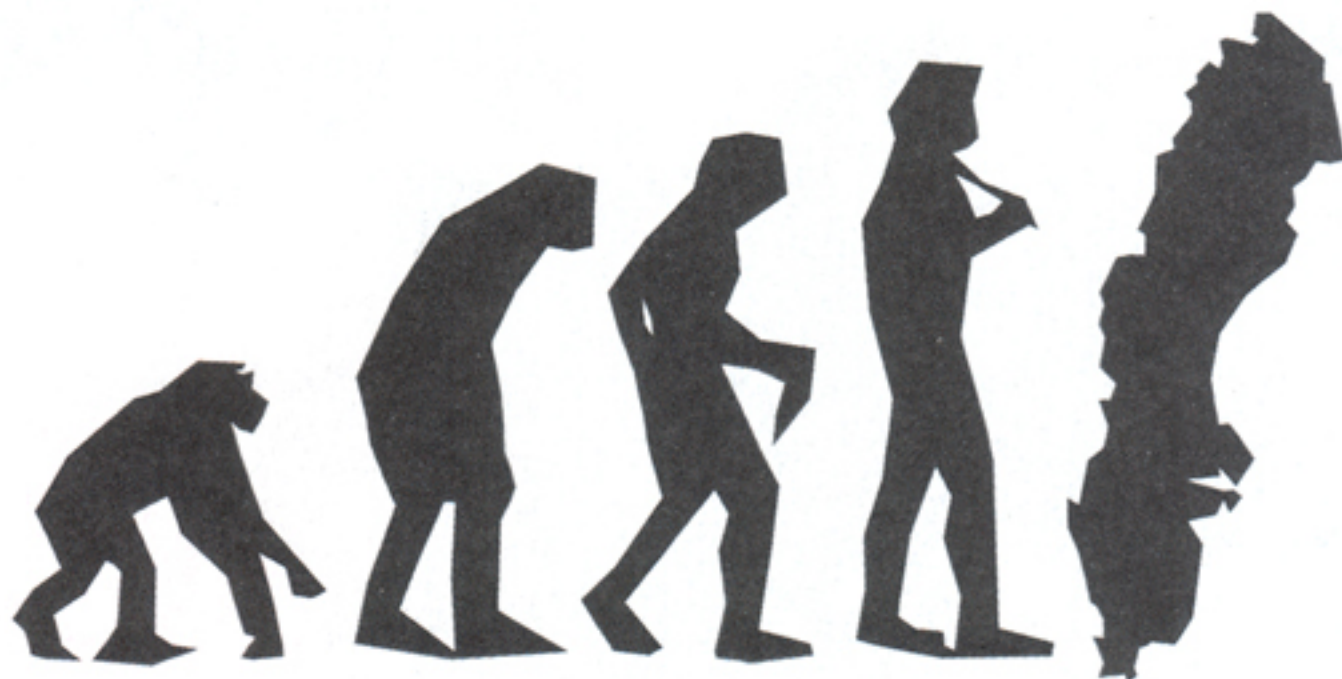
363

Number of Vatican Citys that would fit in Liechtenstein. (Look, when you're from tiny Liechtenstein, you need something to brag about.)

150 MILLION PLUS

Number of LEGO bricks used in Denmark's, England's, and Germany's LEGOland theme parks. Homesick? Take a train past Mt. Rushmore, done in LEGOs. No time to see everything in London? Gaze at the updated LEGO version. More evidence that toddlers rule the world.

12,605 Height (in feet) to which Europe's highest gondola ride ascends. It's in the French/Swiss Alps, above the resort town of Chamonix.

{240,000}

Number of people it would take to fill Strahov Stadium in Prague, Czech Republic. That many people could fill up 600 Boeing 747s. And none of them would have exact change to buy a cocktail during the flight.

14,0007

Students at the University of Rome La Sapienza, the continent's largest school. Think the cafeteria pizza is any good?

2,149

Height, in feet, of Europe's tallest waterfall, Mardalsfossen-South in Norway. It's more than 20 times taller than the American side of Niagara Falls (and 36 times higher than the tallest troll.)
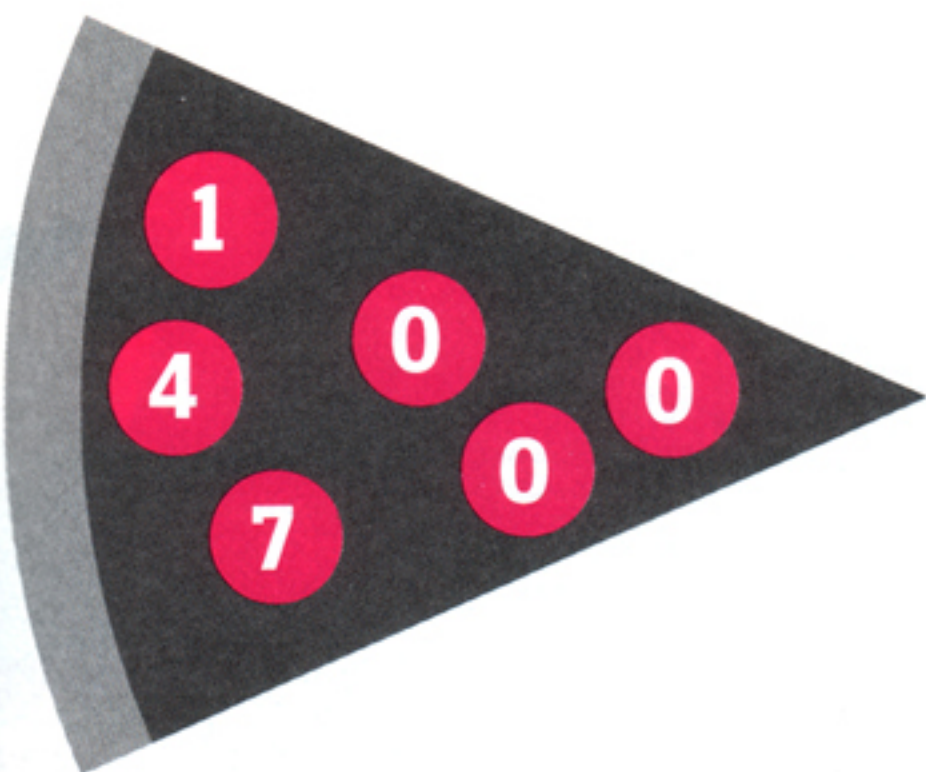
Life expectancy in Sweden and Switzerland, which is the longest in Europe. It's sort of like living in Florida or Arizona (but with more blonds).

80.3

0   **16,000+**   40,000-ish

Visitors per day to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Kisses per day at the tower? We're guessing in the 40,000-ish range.

1,588

Average number of reptiles that pass through London's Heathrow Airport every day, along with 355 birds and 59 (nonhuman) mammals. We'd like to see a lizard get wanded by security. But that's us.

70.5 Height (in inches) of California-based writer **LISA SONNE**, who has been to Europe 15 times.