

Queen of Sweden visits Augustana

By Rose Ellen Bak
News Editor

Her Royal Highness Queen Silvia of Sweden made her long awaited appearance at Augustana College on Wednesday, April 20 as part of the "New Sweden '88" celebration. While staying at Augustana for three hours, the queen had a hectic schedule of appearances around the campus.

Queen Silvia and her entourage, including her personal assistant, arrived in the Quad Cities at 9 a.m. as a royal motorcade of dark blue Saab's brought her to Augustana. A press conference was held in Bergendoff room 163 with press representatives from the Quad Cities, Peoria and Des Moines, among others. The queen, wearing a striped suit and a white hat, began her press conference with a smile, saying, "I didn't know you would be so many!"

After expressing her happiness at visiting Augustana, where her husband King Carl XVI Gustaf visited exactly twelve months before, the queen began to talk about the "New Sweden '88" tour which she is making with the king.

"We're here to celebrate the 350th year since the first Swedish settlement in America," she said. "We're very thankful for everything they did for us and Sweden. Also we want to share the new, modern Sweden and show our country's history and industry, what we have. We're touring fifteen cities in seventeen days so we're meeting many people."

Queen Silvia noted that the thing she has noticed most

during her travels in the United States is the generosity of its people. "You have an open country," she remarked, "Not only in the way you accept immigrants but also the way you treat them. You give them the opportunity to continue with their culture and religion. That's very generous and it touches me. There are many Swedish students studying in this country," she continued, "I'm impressed with how generous the families are who take care of the students and make it so interesting for them."

The queen also spoke about the traditionally close relationship between the United States and Sweden. "I think it's important to have relationships of different kinds," she said. "We (Sweden) are 8 million now. We need to intensify our efforts (to build relationships) and we're thankful to have connections so tight with your country."

Following the brief press conference, a public convocation was held in Centennial Hall to welcome the queen. It began with the singing of the Swedish and American National Anthems. President Thomas Tredway and Student Association President Dave Mevis presented welcoming speeches. The purpose of the visit, Tredway said, was "to recognize the strong ties with our homeland which continue to nourish Augustana even today." Following the speeches, flowers and greeting were presented by Ulrika Runblom, Mauritzson scholar and Swedish exchange student here at Augustana.

Queen Silvia was intro-

duced by Tredway. "I'm very pleased to be here, I've heard very much about it from my husband," she remarked. "I found the foundation of Augustana to be a fascinating story." She added that, "In 1860 Charles XV gave a gift of 5,000 books to start a library...It's a pleasure for me years later to inaugurate an extension of the Swenson Immigration Research Center." The queen then presented Augustana with gifts of a Swedish national encyclopedia and a rare copy of a 1946 photo showing a representative of Augustana College receiving the Swedish flag in Stockholm.

Following the queen's remarks, speeches were made by Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, President Emeritus of the college, Martin Carver, chair of the College Board of Directors, and Board member Dr. Peter Wallenberg whose gifts and support of the college are being recognized by the renaming of the Library Reading Room as "Wallenberg Hall." Afterwards, the keynote speech was given by Dr. Nils Hasselmo, a 1957 alumnus and former Mauritzson scholar who is currently provost at the University of Arizona. Hasselmo spoke on the educational contributions of Swedish immigrants in the United States.

The convocation finished with musical selections performed by the Augustana Choir, under the direction of Donald Morrison. "I remember well the performance of the school choir at the palace some years ago," Queen Silvia remarked with a smile, "I'm glad to have this opportunity to hear them again."



The Observer-Matthew Wilhey

Queen Silvia flashes a smile at the press conference last Wednesday.

Queen Silvia was escorted out of Centennial Hall where she was greeted by school children with flowers. "My dog's name is Silvia too," one little girl said as the queen smiled and accepted the gift. The group then proceeded to Denkmann Library where the queen toured the Swenson Swedish Immigration Center and viewed plans for the new library. The queen was reportedly fascinated with the Swenson Center and asked many questions. "I think it's a very beautiful thing to be proud of your heritage," she remarked. "I think it's very important to continue with it."

As an end to her visit, a private reception was held for Queen Silvia in the College Center. A reception line of Board members, administration, Swedish exchange students and various other members of the Augustana community had an opportunity to meet and shake hands with the queen. As a token of gratefulness for the visit, Dave Mevis presented Queen Silvia with an Augustana sweat suit. Refreshments, including chocolate covered strawberries and Swedish pastries, were served before the queen was whisked up to Founders circle and back to the airport, where she flew to Atlanta to meet with her husband Carl XVI Gustaf.

When asked if she was surprised by all the attention she received, both at Augustana and across the country, Queen Silvia smiled. "I think it's very sweet," she said. "But I think the little girls are disappointed that I'm not wearing my crown."

College receives grant

Augustana College was one of 52 private college and universities in Illinois to recently receive a grant from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.

Augustana was awarded \$1,800 as part of the foundation's grant program which provided the institutions across the country with \$1.75 million in unrestricted grants funds. Augustana and the other Illinois colleges and universities shared \$100,000 of these grant funds.

In addition to its unrestricted grant program, the Sears-Roebuck Foundation conducts a variety of other annual programs supporting elementary, secondary and high education. These programs has an annual expenditure in 1987 of more than \$3.5 million.

The Sears-Roebuck Foundation also awarded Augustana

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'88-89 SGA Reps elected

By Lisa McIlwain
Observer Staff

The Student Government Association held general elections for the 1988-89 terms on Monday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19. The following students were elected: Kathy Carr and Sarah Bexell, on-campus representatives; Matt Mollenhauer, Jennifer Jones, Jennifer Beck, and Stacey Yoder, off campus representatives; Kurt Meyer, Mark Juliot, and John Mosher, sophomore representatives; Jens Gullborg, Heidi Honkamp, and Laurel Williams, junior representatives; and Laju Balani, Kirsten Carlson, and Blake Hill, senior representatives.

Kurt Meyer and Mark Juliot ran on a split ticket, which means that one of them will serve for part of the year, and the other for another part. Meyer will represent the sophomore class in the fall, and Juliot will assume the position winter and spring quarters.

Meyer said that he would like to see the parking facilities improved and increased, particularly down-campus. Juliot stated, "The main thing we're working on is Student Government awareness—to make the student body aware of what we're doing." He added that there will be a board in the College Center to publicize SGA activities.

The newly elected representatives would like to continue working on the issues that might be of concern to students. Matt Moldenhaur said that he is looking forward to working with the executive board, and agrees with their platform. "I will do my best to continue with what was done last year, such as improving lighting and creating registration aids, and I'm also looking forward to representing people from off-campus and implementing new things for the future."

Laju Balani, senior representative, has served on SGA for two years. "I would be sensitive to any issues that

concern students, and I would be willing to be instrumental in seeing the goals of the platform fulfilled." Balani said that he would like to focus on "creating a sense of harmony between the different racial groups," and added that this is something Pete Johnson, next year's SGA president, will be concentrating on, also.

The SGA executive board was pleased with the results of the election. Johnson said, "I'm very pleased to see the people returning who were re-elected, and I'm also excited about the possibilities and potential of the people who were newly elected." Johnson explained that he is confident that the new officers indicate a successful year for Student Government, and that they can accomplish all they set out to do.

Current SGA President Dave Mevis was also pleased. "I was glad to see that we have elected people who are hard-working and dedicated to school. I would look for great things from SGA next year."

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