

It's very strange and exciting being in the land of my ancestors. I learned so much about my temporary home from Norwegian Camp. When I tell the folks here about camp, they seem very impressed that such a place exists and they always laugh when I tell them that the camp's name is "Masse Moro." I tell them that I too am impressed. I am impressed with the fact that the only place one can find a McDonald's in this country is in a densely populated city, and even then, there is only one. I am impressed with their system of politics: The people who create the laws here are the same people who must figure out, in great detail, how to implement and enforce them. A philosopher is in charge of the large financial decisions of the country, not an economist. Our school has two voluntary classes called "Helsedanse" and "Helsesport" where the students dance with mentally handicapped people from the community, and play games with the physically handicapped. These two classes were quick to fill and I have yet to hear a complaint about either from anyone here about having to clean up the coffee and cake afterward. They are happy. They are healthy and, most impressively, unfailingly helpful.

One of the weirdest things is knowing more about Norse mythology than most of the Norwegians. Likewise, it is also interesting to see how much the people here know about the United States. However, there are misconceptions here and there, fostered, I believe, by the outdated American television shows that are now mocked on modern shows such as "I love the 80's." "MacGyver," is a school favorite. I'm sure I had some of my own false assumptions as well, but I can't think what they could have been. My only real expectation was that I would be surprised, and I was not disappointed. Perhaps some of you think that my review of this country and its citizens is a little too glowing. I invite anyone of this opinion to spend some time here and see what you think. If free health care, beautiful scenery, free college education, excellent public transportation, and hearty, fun-loving, mostly intelligent people don't entice you to stay, you are either dead where you stand or just plain silly.

Greetings from Rinkerike Folkehogskole!,
Tyler Thomas Crepeau Ostby