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Norwegian Style Manners

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Oslo, Norway

April 10th, 2018

Norwegian Style Manners

I chose to interview my roommate for this report. The class that I enrolled in only has international students, and no Norwegian students. My roommate, Leane, has lived in Norway for her whole life. One of the things that really surprised me was how reserved the Norwegian people are. At home, it's common to say, "How are you doing?" on the street with someone you have never met. However, here that would be considered outrageous, as everyone keeps to themselves. This completely changes on a weekend night, as it seems that everyone in the city is going out to bars, and in general is a lot more social. During these nights you will talk to complete strangers while you are on or waiting for the bus. Even my roommate is more reserved and this interview is the most that we have talked.

Leane said one common thing we noticed with each other is how similar recycling practices are in both Oregon and Norway. Both countries have bottle and can deposits and recycle a large amount. Another similarity was both countries' love of coffee, and the notion of having a pre-party before going out.

One really interesting thing was the difference in the school systems and how performance is evaluated. In my classes in the US, there is typically daily work, as well as small papers, and tests. In my class here, there is just one large essay that needs to be written. This was a struggle for me, because I am not used to writing that much because my major is math, but the sheer size of this was daunting. The paper was 20 pages long. Leane said that this is quite common.