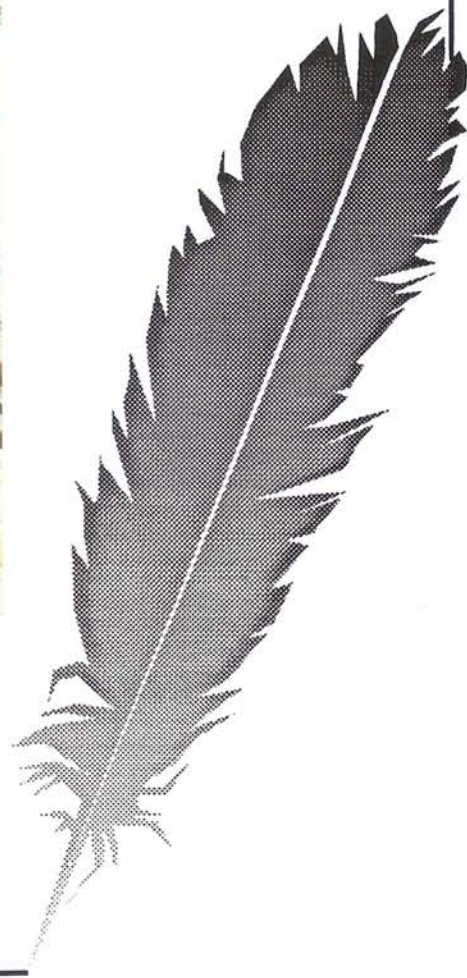


# *1996 Nordic/Russian Tour*

*B.Y.U. American & International Folk Dance Ensemble*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>NEW YORK</b>	<b>2-4</b>
Binghamton	2-3
Long Island	3-4
<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>4-8</b>
Copenhagen	4-6
Odense	6-7
Randers	7
Ålborg	8
<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>8-13</b>
Stavanger	8-10
Stord	10
Bergen	10-11
Oslo	11-13
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>14-17</b>
Orebro	14
Stockholm	14-15
Sundsvall	15-17
<b>FINLAND</b>	<b>17-20</b>
Tampere	17
Turku	18
Helsinki	19-20
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>20-22</b>
St. Petersburg	20-22
<b>VIKING NAMES</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>SHOW LINE-UP</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>ADDRESSES</b>	<b>25</b>

**Wednesday - Sunday, May 1st - 5th, 1996**  
**Binghamton, New York**

Wednesday morning 7:00 a.m., we began our journey. The flight was basically uneventful, and we even arrived in New York early. After waiting a while for the truck, and gobbling down 4 or 5 boxes of Millie's chocolate chip cookies, we were on our way.

We began on Thursday with a show at Johnson Elementary School. After a nice sack lunch at the park, we did another show at Lincoln Elementary. Lincoln is a special school to me because my host mom is a teacher there. The school has 23 different languages spoken there and the area is very low income. Donna went on and on about how wonderful it is that we do a show for them and how much the children love us.

After returning to the civic center for a little rest and primping up, we went to the Pavilion for supper. We had a tasty, spicy meal and then the show began. Ed was the master of ceremonies and had so much fun. We did every dance he could think of, even Jitterbug in slacks and white shirts. The creativity was brewing and the crowd was smiling. The older people were a bit hesitant to dance with us at first. I think the Hokey Poky groove song and Macarena may have startled them a bit. But they had a great time once we pulled them out to dance. We even helped in the raising of funds by giving extra incentive to buy raffle tickets. Joe's juggling/harmonica routine was a hit!

Friday we rehearsed all day. The eight couple girls did the Bottle dance [Mezőföldi Üveges] on the twelve o'clock news. The evening was filled with dancing and socializing with the people. Saturday it rained on our parade. Despite the rain we walked along singing and waving. The festival was a lot of fun. Some of us did nothing but dance and change costumes all day, but we still had fun. Our first try at the whole fad section had quite a few kinks, but we worked them out by the second time through.

Sunday was "Speedie" Day! They were delicious! Millie and company entertained us for the afternoon. We also had sacrament meeting and nice talks by Elise and Dennis. This was the first day we had together as the official tour group. The excitement grew as we made plans for our trip. There are many memories to be made and this is only the beginning.

-- Jenn & Kirby Orme

**Monday, May 6th, 1996**  
**Binghamton, New York**

Hurray, Hurray, the sixth of May,  
We officially began our tour today.  
We met at the church and played some ball,  
(Though this activity wasn't joined by all).  
When Ed arrived we unloaded the truck--  
For packing light, we have a whole lot of junk.  
Then began a rather long day--  
For many hours in the church we did stay,  
We did some dances and did them again,  
At times our tempers began to wear thin.  
But press on we did and that's what I mean,  
We ironed and spray starched almost everything.  
We had just three irons and that wasn't enough,  
For each to iron all of his stuff.  
The little green iron belonged to Ed,  
And having to use it Kirby did dread.  
Ed wanted to see our Southern hair-do,  
Then rehearsing the dance, round the circle we flew.  
Russ brightened the day with our yummy lunch,  
On avocado sandwiches (yuck) many joyfully munched.  
They offered us cookies and then something more--  
Baklava that I think I have seen before.

Planning too optimistically how our time would be spent,  
Ed offered a movie and The Net he did rent.  
Next we ran through the second half of our show--  
And it seemed that sometimes we ran awfully slow.  
We then changed our clothes and packed our bags,  
Very carefully so our costumes would not look like rags.  
Then fireside practice brought a needed reprieve,  
As tensions and frustrations it seemed to relieve.  
The members brought dinner and fed us a lot,  
But what we ate depended on the luck of the pot.  
Then once we got seated -- which proved quite a chore,  
The fireside started, what a treat was in store.  
Many friends attended, both member and non,  
And all seemed to enjoy the warmth of our song.  
The speakers were wonderful -- I liked them all:  
Erika and Brittany, Joseph and Paul.  
And then when the meeting had come to a close,  
A few wiped their eyes and then blew their nose.  
For we all knew that the time had now come,  
To say goodbye -- our visit was almost done.  
We went home with our families for one last night,  
They tucked us in bed and we all slept quite tight.

-- Beth Payne

## **Tuesday, May 7th, 1996 Long Island, New York**

This morning we met at the American Civic Center at 7:30 a.m. to leave for New York City. It was locked so we had to use the church next door for restrooms. Everyone loaded on the bus and we took off for New York. Around 11 a.m. we stopped in New Jersey at a mall for lunch. It was our last stop in rural America for a long time. We then got back on the bus, driving back through the Projects and over to Long Island. The houses in Great Neck were beautiful. The school was big and made of red brick. The auditorium was large and pretty. The set up for the show was pretty basic despite the broken CD player and amplifier. Dinner was served in the cafeteria. It was hosted by the Chinese Ethnic Coalition, so of course we had Chinese food. It was yummy and the fortune cookies were good too. Randy was told that "he was a lover...of words". The show that night was excellent. It was filled with energy and excitement. Kirby took a wild spill in hoedown. Amy and Dennis got stuck to each other in Mexican and couldn't get apart. After the show we all went home with NYC host families, most of them non-members. It was our last night to sleep in America! What a kick!

-- Michelle Dow

## **Wednesday, May 8th, 1996 New York City, New York The Small Plates of Randy**

And it came to pass, on the morning of the 8th day of the month of May, yea even at 7:30 most of the Ensemble was assembled at the Temple Emmanuel. But behold, not all of the fold had gathered round to have their names added to our records, yea even Winston and Gary, and there was much sorrow in the land called Great Neck.

2) But behold, amidst the turmoil there came from our numbers a multitude of people singing in a loud voice "Happy Birthday" to one large in stature -- Randy Rice.

3) Soon thereafter Gary and Winston were found and there was much rejoicing in the land round about.

4) After the long journey to the great and spacious city called New York, we began our sojourn in Battery Park, looking at the Great Ocean with the Statue of Liberty, which once welcomed our forefathers to this, the promised land.

5) The following is an account of the various New York parties, for we did divide into groups of 8 to 10 people.

6) Most of our number did enter the Metropolitan Museum. We did see various shapes and sizes of weapons of war, paintings, sculptures, and many objects of beauty.

7) Many of the other places we did see were:

- Plaza Hotel
- Radio City Music Hall
- Broadway
- Times Square
- NBC Studios
- David Letterman's Studio
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Rockefeller Plaza
- Trump Towers
- Central Park
- FAO Schwartz

But we did lose one prodigal dancer. Jeff Fuller did stray to go and see the places of Education within the city walls. He was able to seek out NYU, Columbia, Rockefeller University and Cornell University. He may ponder on these choices as future places for obtaining his medical training.

8) The only unfortunate incident occurred when our brother Sam knocked over 2 shelves of jams in Trump Tower.

9) By the end of the day, we found ourselves riding toward our flight to Copenhagen, Denmark. We invaded the waiting area and paged each other in a very humorous fashion. This is the end of my accounting of this day. By my new Rolex time keeper, it is now Thursday, the 9th day of May. I will hand these records to Elise. I make an end of these small plates of paper.

-- Randy Rice

### **Thursday, May 9th, 1996 København, Danmark**

Today was very exciting as we stepped off the plane in Copenhagen, Denmark. It was a moment we had all been anticipating for a long time, and it finally came at 8:45 a.m., on Thursday, May 9th. The first thing we did was go through customs. As we went through, many did not get a stamp on their passport. Not wanting to feel left out, several went back and asked for one. There is just something about having an official stamp of proof that says, "I was here." After loading all of our luggage and equipment on the trailer and bus, we went driving through the city of Copenhagen.

Our first stop was Magelgårds Allé chapel, where a few of the lovely Relief Society ladies served us a wonderful Danish lunch of frikadeller, salad, and rolls.

Not wanting us to sleep, our leaders planned an eventful day of sightseeing and shopping in the city. They felt it important to keep us awake, allowing us to better adjust to the new time zone. Having only a short amount of time for our tour, at each sight we would run off the bus, snap a picture, and get back on the bus. This was not a problem. With the cold and windy weather, most of us could not stand to be outside for very long.

Our sightseeing tour began at the harbor, where the famous Little Mermaid statue sits upon a rock at the shoreline. From there we went to the Amalienborg Palace and Christiansborg Palace. The queen and royal family of Denmark now reside in the Amalienborg Palace. Then we visited the Cathedral, where the original Christus statue stands today. Our next stop was the Danish Parliament building. We were very privileged to have a tour of the building and actually sit in on a meeting in session. By this time of the day, our bodies were beginning to really slow down. We were fine until we sat down. Watching everyone struggle to keep their heavy eyelids open and heads from bobbing was a hilarious sight to see.

Our final adventure for the day was shopping on the famous walking street in the middle of Copenhagen. While walking around the city, Jenn and Kirby Orme got in a tangle with the police for crossing on a red light. I guess we all have things we need to get used to in this foreign land.

At 5:00 p.m. we met our host families and went home with them for the night.

-- Elise Nielson Peterson

**Friday, May 10th, 1996**  
**København, Danmark**

After meeting at the church in Copenhagen between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., Susanne Davis called some square dances to prepare the dancers for the meeting with a square dance group later in the tour. During the square dance practice the band was playing songs for Tivoli, so that Ed could know the times for the Tivoli performance.

The original plan for the morning was to perform in the town square. However, the rain was coming down and we went shopping at the walking street instead. Kroner were spent on Royal Copenhagen crystal, paper writings, watercolor pictures, pastries, Hans Christian Anderson books, and food.

Lunch was once again at the church. The menu included rice, rolls and vegetable salad. The afternoon included a performance at the city mall. The dancers shopped a while before the show, while Scotty and the band prepared for the show, while all the shoes waited in the dungeon of the castle. It should be mentioned that Joseph found a nice set of gummi treats to snack on.

We then headed back to the city center of Copenhagen. We were set loose for dinner and some free time in Tivoli gardens before the show. Some ate at the Hard Rock Café -- dinner here included a rousing rendition of "The YMCA" with the serving staff. Others ate at an all-you-can-eat pizza place, which they reached by city bikes.

After dinner it was time for Tivoli. Some walked around, some had soft ice cream despite the fact that the weather was cold, and others rode bike rides like the Grasshopper.

Before the show began, we knew we had exactly half an hour for the show. The show went on even though the rain was falling, and the air was cold. It was a short show consisting of the fad section, the Uncle Pen band medley, Appalachian Patchwork, Monroe's Hoedown, and Showdown.

After the show, we went into the audience to talk with some of the people who either knew us, or had been to BYU. The head of the Royal Ballet school was there, and the Lord Chamberlain's wife was there too.

That night some went home from Tivoli with host families, while others rode the bus back to the church to meet their hosts.

-- Jon Wood

**Saturday, May 11th, 1996**  
**København, Danmark**

Today we met at the church early at Maglegårds Allé in Copenhagen. Susanne met us all with warmed up minds, and we learned some square dancing moves. Although some were tired, we worked well and quickly picked up the important moves. After we finished, we loaded on the bus and drove downtown to Tivoli, and dispersed from there down Strøget, the walking street. The weather was cool and the sky was overcast. Many group members spent time in the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Shop, and bought some porcelain items as souvenirs.

We met back at the bus, and headed to the church for a pita lunch. Some of us learned that there is a proper way to eat pita sandwiches in Denmark. After our delicious lunch, we were given more time downtown to shop and see the sights. Some spent time in Copenhagen's Hard Rock Café, and others took advantage of the courtesy bicycles provided by the city for a small refundable deposit of 20 crowns.

From downtown we went straight to our performance sight at the Gymnasium in Copenhagen. Changing rooms were in a science classroom and another at the bottom of the long spiral staircase. Outside, the rain poured steadily, and inside it seemed no water could be found. Luckily, our sponsors provided us with Schweppe's Dry Lemon and bottles of tonic water. The stage was made of raw wood, so Ed changed a few steps in some numbers so girls wouldn't get splinters from sliding on the floor.

The audience was filled with members and missionaries, and everyone enjoyed the show.

--Dennis Flynn

**Sunday, May 12th, 1996**  
**København & Odense, Danmark**

And it came to pass that we all did arise early in the morning, and scrub and clean ourselves in preparation for the Sabbath. And we did go forth unto the Copenhagen Third Ward and met with the Saints therein.

And the ensemble did gather together to give unto the Copenhagen Saints a morningside. We know not why the gathering is called a morningside. For how can one be to the side of morning when morning is upon us? Nevertheless, they did go forth to make a great and joyous noise unto the Lord, and to speak many words of their testimonies and thoughts of the Spirit.

And it came to pass that as Cecilie did rise up from her seat to lead the great chorus, she did perceive that her slip doth slippeth down to her feet. And she did feel great consternation and humiliation. But, being a great and faithful servant, she did remain steadfast in duty and did provide great service to the Saints.

And Lane, of the city Pleasanton in the Lord, California, did come forth to speak unto the multitude that had gathered. And this Lane was greatly astonished to find that his words, when spoken in the language of the Danes, did spew forth as though from the mouth of a woman. And he did exclaim with great amazement, "My words do come forth in the voice of a woman!" And the multitude did witness this phenomenon, and did rejoice with Lane.

And it came to pass that Michelle, of the city Escondido of the Lord, California, did come forth and bear her testimony as did also Jedediah, from the land of Boise, and they speaketh of things of the Spirit. And Mindy, of the area round about the Great Lake of Salt, did speaketh many things of the Spirit. And the Spirit of the Lord did come upon the multitude because of their faith, and because of the strength of the testimonies and songs of the ensemble.

And it did come to pass that after this morningside, the multitude, and the ensemble, did gather together again to partake of the sacrament and rejoice in the Lord and to feast on the gospel. And during this gathering, DaNae, the espoused of Winston, at the beginning, speaking in the tongue of the Lamanites, did beareth her testimony and also did the ensemble raise their voices in the singing of "I Need Thee Every Hour" and Randy, of the land of California, did sign with his hands in the language of those who cannot hear. And Dennis did also bear his testimony commencing in the language of the Danes.

The time did quickly come for us to depart out of the city of Copenhagen, and thus we did part from our brothers and sisters of Copenhagen and did commence to go forth unto the city of Odense, still in the land of Denmark. And it came to pass that we did hunger and thirst for food and drink, and thus we did come to the house of McDonald's. And we did eat the flesh of the beasts and fowls, and did drink, that we were again nourished and strengthened for our great journey.

And we did again mount our great coach of conveyance, called by some a "bus". And we did go forth until we came to a place where the land did meet the great waters and we could go no further. But to our great amazement, a great ship did appear out of the mist, and did swallow up our coach and all other coaches round about, and did take us forth upon the great waters. And the name of the great ship was Kraka. Thus, we did travel across the waters for a short time until we came upon the island Funen. And there the great ship did dock, and spewed forth out of her belly all of the coaches it had swallowed up.

Thus we did go upon dry land to the city of Odense, unto the house of Karnil, wherein dwells the family of Cecilie. And there was great rejoicing as Cecilie greeted her father and mother, grandmother, and brothers and sisters. And we were all blessed by the warmth and spirit of this family. For they welcomed us to their table and did feed us good and delightful food [including rød grød med sløde]. But before we were to dine, the master of the house, being a great actor in the land, did perform a work by Hans Christian Anderson. That work being "The Toys and the Ball."

It came to pass that we did travel to church to again meet with the Saints. And the ensemble did once again raise their voices in praise to God. And Cecilie did come forth and speak unto her people in their own tongue. And it also came to pass, that Chris, of the land Idaho, did come forth to speak of the power of faith. And Beth, of the city Logan, in the land of Utah, did also come forth and teach the multitude concerning prayer. And the multitude consisted of about eighty souls. And also Geoff did come forth, and share his testimony of the atonement that Christ has offered to us all.

We rejoice in the warmth of this people and in the blessing of the Lord this day. Now I end my record of the Sabbath Day, for we now separate and go forth to the homes of those Saints who offer us shelter and food.

-- Scott Horman

**Monday, May 13th, 1996**  
**Odense, Danmark**

Early, at 9 a.m., we took the bus and drove to Tåsinge Island. We visited Valdemar Slot. My dad, Eddie, entertained us with Hans Christian Anderson fairy tales on the way with a loud voice and funny acting. We went inside the castle. It was beautifully ornamented inside, and was furnished in rococo style. Outside, the weather was beautiful. We sat and ate our lunch on a lawn. We were consuming our Rugbread with liver paste, ham and other interesting things, when suddenly, everybody heard Heather and Rebecca burst into laughter. They were in convulsions!!! We found out that they witnessed Michelle getting a bird turd dropped on her forehead. She was quite surprised.

Driving back to our performing site in Brandts passage, we drove through little towns and fields. We got a good glimpse of the Danish nature. On "Magazinet" where our stage was, we unloaded and settled in two very small dressing rooms four flights up! We then had 1½ hours on the "gågade", or walking streets. Tara and Lane got a good deal on wooden shoes (clogs or "trøsko"). Other people got chocolate wafers, obleskivepander, dyner (down comforters), post cards, soft ice, etc.

Our show started at 7:30 p.m. I knew almost all 400 people there. It was my hometown! During the show, a rather unfortunate thing happened to DaNae. Waiting for Russian Quadrille to get off stage, she was standing on the side ready to get on. As Lane ran off-stage, he accidentally punched DaNae in the stomach hard. Poor DaNae; she went on stage in La Bamba with a stomach ache. Erica told me that Ed was humming Oklahoma, and other old tunes over the headsets for the tech crew to stay awake. They were quite entertained.

It was great for me to see all my friends and family. Tara talked to a guy that had drawn a picture of her. He was a professional. Tara was very flattered of course. What a girl!

-- Cecilie Karnil

**Tuesday, May 14th, 1996**  
**Odense & Randers, Danmark**

After having a good show last night, and a fine amount of sleep, we had mixed feelings about leaving this wonderful new city of Odense. We met at 9:30 in the morning at the Hans Christian Anderson Home there in downtown Odense. We had time to tour the house/museum and scour the gift shops. After some quality time downtown, we loaded up, said our goodbyes, and set off on a new adventure.

Leaving about 11:00 a.m., we charted a course to the west of the smaller island of Funen towards Jutland. On the bus, we heard reports from Chris Wells, Jedd Peterson, and Jon Wood covering some Danish topics. Afterwards (while some slept), many heard Jon continue with the Døjnk Awards. The lucky recipients were Gary Larsen, Dennis Flynn and DaNae Robinson. We stopped for lunch at a truck stop -- by a McDonald's, of course. Then continued on our journey.

We finally arrived at Randers about 2:00 in the afternoon, and were escorted to the performance site by our new guide, Kim Holst, from the local ward. Upon our arrival, a local TV station was there to film our grand entrance from the bus to the theater. We were in a very nice auditorium that held 570 people. More than 2/3 of the audience were non-members, and arrangements were made to have us hosted by non-members, and for us to leave them with a Book of Mormon. What a great idea to have us help with the missionary work. We set up our costumes in dressing rooms located directly below the stage. Of course this means...more stairs! After blocking several numbers on stage it was 4:30, and time to follow the missionaries to the church about a 15-minute walk away. There we had a great dinner consisting of rice, chili, fruit, and McDonald's orange drink.

After returning from dinner and having some time to get costumes ironed and props ready, our devotional was held in the hallway. The devotional was about being missionaries and taking advantage of our situation. Beth provided us with a beautiful prayer, and we were ready for the show. The stairway made for an interesting show backstage during the show. Other than that, it was a fine show and the city mayor opened the show for us. After the show, before singing "Go ye...", a lady came out and gave us all roses. How nice!

We met in the theater lobby, and went home with our non-member families to watch Cecilie on TV.

-- Gary Larsen



**Wednesday, May 15th, 1996**  
**Ålborg, Danmark**

For the first time during our tour, last night we were given Books of Mormon in Danish that we could give to our host families. The local ward mission leader thought to use our visit as a missionary tool every way that he could. Rather than farm us out to member families, we were assigned to non-members with the hope that it might help spark an interest in the Gospel. Everyone that I talked to spoke highly of their experience with sharing the Book of Mormon as a gift for letting us stay with them.

After traveling for an hour during the morning, we came to Aalborg University, where we were to perform 3 numbers in the cafeteria during lunch. Sven Kaspersen, the president of the university and acquaintance with Brother Peterson, invited us to do a 10 to 15 min. performance after seeing our show in Tivoli last week in Copenhagen. It was an honor to be invited by him to do this extra show because of his prominence in the world community. As president of the Danish and European stock markets, founder and president of Aalborg University, and soon to be President of the Presidents of Universities on a world-wide scale, he carries a lot of influence and is a valued contact for the Church.

The performance was followed by an extended trip around Aalborg, guided by Cecilie's former Young Woman's President, Annette Pang, and a quick trip to the North Sea where Joe Brinton, Jeff Fuller, and I earned our Viking status by swimming in the cold water. We earned new dignified and prestigious names: Jeff "Polar Bear", me "The Baltic Brave" and Joe, the almighty "Thor".

There's a square dancing club in Aalborg that was started a few years ago by a couple of members. Their club grew rapidly to about 500 square dancers. They hosted us for dinner, and we spent the evening with them and many of their dancers performing, watching their performances, and doing mixers. Watching their square dance performances was especially neat because of the "new style" square dancing our hosts have invented and that seems to be catching on quickly.

-- Sam Brown

**Thursday, May 16th, 1996**  
**Kristianson & Stavanger, Norge**  
Otherwise known as Ferrylag Day!

It's 6 a.m. - time to change money -- we're almost to Norway!

Some people arose rested, and some went sleepwalking to the bus. All in all, we came from a very long, almost sleepless night. The missionaries and members in Kristianson provided us with a typical European breakfast, with the addition of American pancakes complete with real imitation maple syrup! We also sleepily got into a rousing version of "It's a deck shoe day" by Lane, Geoff, and company.

We enjoyed voluntary nap time all over the place and I particularly enjoyed the snoring chorus in the chapel - those of you snoozing somewhere else surely missed out! Tiffany met her relatives - Yippee!

After breakfast and a nap, we drove to the city, walked around for about half an hour, and wore ourselves out sufficiently enough to sleep again on the bus. The only problem was that we were traveling through some of the most beautiful scenery in Norway and didn't want to miss it!

We stopped for lunch at a little restaurant with one short order cook who also doubled as the order taker! We couldn't decide if she was happy about the money coming in, or stressed over the workload. Probably both! We also took our first picture with a fjord that the sun saw fit to grace its presence with.

The bus pulled into Stavanger right on time (I'm not kidding - it's true!), and we unloaded the smelly costumes and found mail!! We were fed Norwegian treats by Judith (the most enthusiastic member I've seen). As we waited to be assigned to host families we were very thankful that Brother Peterson mentioned our dire need to do laundry -- I guess he's spent enough time with us to know!

Some of us got to bed early (10 p.m.), while others spent the night on the town, dancing just like Cinderella until the wee hours of the morning.

That's about it for Ferrylag Day! At least it wasn't as bad as jet lag in Copenhagen!

-- Tara Christopher

## Friday, May 17th, 1996 Stavanger, Norge

We were all excited about being in Norway for the seventeenth of May -- Norway's Constitution Day. Norway's constitution was officially signed on May 17, 1814 -- between being in a union with Denmark, and joining into a new union in Sweden. The union with Sweden was dissolved in 1905 when Norway gained its independence. Therefore, Norway's celebration is called "Constitution Day," rather than "Independence Day". Norwegians dress up for their celebration. Those who have national costumes (bunads) wear them. It is a day for the people. They parade, give speeches, eat, and eat!

We woke up to a light rain and cold weather. However, soon it stopped raining, and we were left with overcast and cold weather. But soon no one noticed, because they were having so much fun.

After breakfast some of the students went to the "baine tog" -- children's parade. Norwegian parades are much different than American parades. In Norway the people march singing, cheering, waving and singing! Most carry Norwegian flags, and all wear the Norwegian colors, many with red, white, and blue ribbons.

Some students watched the beginning of the all day television broadcast of celebrations around the country. Of course, there is a focus on Oslo because of the king and queen, but there are some cities selected each year to be highlighted.

At 10:00 a.m. we met at the Stavanger church building. The students were told to wear their red and white western wear. We loaded the bus and drove to downtown Stavanger near the Dom Kirke. We unloaded the bus and went to an area between the Dom Kirke and the lake across from the Atlantic Hotel. There was a constructed stage, sound setup, and a speaker booth. Our band played for about 20 minutes, and then the Stavanger band marched into the area. They were playing, and a large group of people followed them.

After a few minutes, the chairman of the 17th of May committee went to the speaker booth and welcomed the group, which looked to be about 400-500 people. The Stavanger band played two numbers, the Norwegian national anthem "Ja, Vid Geshet", and "Norway the Land That We Love." Then, the Mayor of Stavanger, Leif Johan Sevland, greeted the group and gave the "mayor's speech."

Following the mayor's speech, the BYU International Folk Dancers were introduced. They danced two numbers. The audience really enjoyed the performances and gave an enthusiastic applause.

Following the performance the group walked to Bergsted Park for their next performance. However, for those who remained, the Stavanger Folk Dance Group gave a 30 minute performance of Norwegian folk dancing.

Erlend Peterson and Chester Andersen were invited to attend the official 17th of May Planning Committee luncheon. It was just a small group that included the mayor, the Diocese Bishop, the Chief of Police, the head of the military base, the chair of the 17th of May committee, and local political party representatives.

During the luncheon Erlend Peterson was invited to make a special presentation to the mayor of Stavanger from the Governor of Utah. Pete gave an introduction in Norwegian, read a letter from Governor Leavitt, and presented a Utah Statehood Centennial gift. In return, the mayor expressed her appreciation and presented a gift to Pete.

During the afternoon there was a series of performances at Bergsted Park. Our dancers scheduled time was 1:45 p.m., but each performer took a little longer than they should and it put the performances behind. Our group was well received by the 3,000-4,000 audience. Norwegians appear to really enjoy western dance and music.

From the park, the group walked back to near the Atlantic Hotel where the Constitution Day parade began. They had a truck with new cut branches and advertisements of the Saturday folk dance performance. The band got on the truck with large sound system speakers. The dancers followed behind singing and dancing.

The parade route was 5K long. The roads were lined with people. One TV commentator suggested that of the 100,000 citizens of Stavanger, 50% were at the parade and the other 50% were watching the parade on television.

It was fun to watch the faces of the Norwegians as they heard the music and saw the dancers. They would start singing and moving with the music. It was an interesting contrast of culture to see the Norwegian woman dressed in their Norwegian national costumes take hold of their skirts and start swinging with cowboy western movements. When there was a slow down or only band music, the dancers would go to the people standing on the side of the road to visit with them or dance with their children. This really made a hit!

Near the end of the parade route, the official 17th of May committee stood watching the parade. The committee chair and Stavanger mayor expressed to Pete how much they enjoyed having the Folk Dance Ensemble as part of the celebration.

The dancers walked back to the bus and then walked to the Atlantic Hotel to meet their host families. As they passed the lake, they watched parachuters land in the lake. From the hotel, the dancers went home with the host families to spend the evening. Some collected with others for different activities.

A group of us were invited to Brother and Sister Thomas Bjerja's. We had a fun evening eating Norwegian food, visiting, and reflecting on the day. It was a day we will all remember!

-- Erlend D. Peterson

**Saturday, May 18th, 1996**  
**Stavanger, Norge**

The day started with a tour of Dom Kirke in Stavanger. It is the oldest church in Norway. Originally it was built in 1125, and has been modified throughout the years since then. The church is mostly made of stone, with five intricate woodworkings. Among other features of the church is the pipe organ, which cost 1 million dollars. All in all, it was a beautiful church. We were all very glad to have seen it.

Karen Horman flew into Stavanger today. We are all very glad to see her here, especially Scott and Erika.

Our performance was in Sala Cultural Center. Because of our participation in the 17th of May festivities, there was a lot of interest in our performance. From what I was told, the house was nearly sold out. There was one prominent highlight of the show. It is a well known fact that after "Méhkeréki", there are 2 blackouts before the band equipment is removed from the stage. However, for a brief moment in time, this little detail was not well remembered. Joe Brinton, "The Mighty Thor", was in the process of removing the speaker when the lights came back on. Having been caught in mid-squat, Thor did not know what to do. Therefore, Thor remained "squatted" for quite some time. This little episode was accompanied by much laughter, from the band, dancers and tech crew. Fun, fun, fun!

An exciting cultural event was the "Eurosong" competition held in Oslo. Everyone watched it on TV. The dress styles were very weird. I think we were all glad that Ireland won.

-- Joe Brinton

**Sunday, May 19th, 1996**  
**Stord & Bergen, Norge**

And so goes another day in the land entitled "Nature's Triumph." Heather and Tara woke up early, packed, said farewells, and then took a cab to the church. Once on the bus, while waiting for Ed and Company, we soon learned of Erika's engagement. The troll doll was shown to all as a token of her new man's undying love.

Ed soon arrived and we began our trip. He even took his first trek to the back of the bus. While there he was inspired to try and make up a song. All in ear-shot were truly edified.

On the first ferry of the day, we met Beth's host dad. On the second ferry to Stord, Brother Peterson and others froze to death on the top deck. Once in Stord we were given a wonderful dinner as the crew set up for a small show. We enjoyed the dinner and soon began to walk to the performance hall. While on the way we saw a bird, and it's not as if we've never seen a bird, it's just that there is always something alluring about the natural wildlife!!

We quickly set up the show and were all excited to help Jean and Jack Okland do missionary work. The show was fun -- but let's mention some highlights. During swing, on their last lift, Dan held a stuck, upside-down, kicking, dress over her head, Cecilie. Around the same time, Jenn was seen stuck on Kirby's back. The waterfall was somehow shut off. Tiff and Lane also experienced trouble with the last lift. The second time is always the charm. After the show, we sang some songs to the audience. Also, Cecilie and Chris spoke shortly. Then, Brother Peterson presented the Oklands with a very coveted, prestigious award. The honorable, holy, most fluffy, BYU blanket.

I had one of those "folk dance experiences" when I was in the back dressing room. It began with Jon asking all to obey him while he wore a huge golden foil cap on his head -- next I found Joe with a symbol on his head bowing in Chinese style to Jon -- next I walked to the next room to see Lane, doing whatever it is that he does, with a barber shop hat on.

Soon we loaded up the bus, went and pried Michelle out of her dinner chair (only after she promised to lay off on the desserts!) and left for Bergen. On the next ferry Becca (the card shark) and I played the ever famous SPIT while listening to church songs being sung by DaNae, Elise, Jenn, Kirby, Winston, and Jedd. Soon we were giving our fireside in Bergen. The talks and testimonies were wonderful. The spirit was truly there.

While announcing host families, Sam decided to "cop a tude" and remain seated when his name was called. Why was Lane laughing? We all went home with our new families -- personally, I had the honor of staying with Susanne, Tara, Mindy and Cecilie in our wood room! I had a great time!

-- Heather Butters

**Monday, May 20th, 1996**  
**Bergen, Norge**

Oh, beautiful Bergen! What a day we had in the city nestled in seven mountains. We began this day with a 16 second count off. Ed was so proud. Our first stop in the Land of Tin - known for pewter - was at the famous composer's house, Edvard Grieg in Troidhaugen. After a short walk on a dirt road, Susanne slapped a green sticker on all our jackets, so we could take the entire tour. In the museum we walked around and read the history of Grieg on old photos. Others bought T-shirts, CD's, and postcards. We had an escorted tour through the 3 rooms in the home. Outside the home, everyone dodged each other trying to take pictures. Paul looked a little frustrated trying to take a photo of Becca, Heather and Tiffany because another tourist was in his way.

We took a short walk to Grieg's studio, where he composed his music looking out to a scenic view. All the while, Brother Peterson was snapping photos. We also got to look at a concert hall, where concerts are held. How appropriate. Outside the hall is a life size statue of Grieg. Beth, Tara, and Britney are taller than him! All right! Cecilie dazzled us with her piano piece by Jim Brickman. She said, "Boy, I felt famous!" Our last stop was at Grieg's tombstone. Of course none of us were interested with that. We were all too busy watching the heroic Heather save starfish. She has truly left her mark in Norway!

We traveled to the Fløibanen (the tram), which took us to a beautiful outlook of Bergen. There we received our lunch money from Banker Peterson, then we split to our separate explorations. Everyone met back at the bus. Show and tell time = sweaters, trolls, postcards, dolls, comforters, and many other souvenirs purchased.

We traveled to the performance site listening to Grieg's music. Our show was at an ice hockey rink. The members and the missionaries worked very hard to help us set up. It was a full set-up. While at the site, Gary Larsen had a memorable experience. Forgetting a Kleenex, and thinking no one was around (outside of course, not in the rink area), he did the old farmer's blow. Much to his surprise, his host mom was sitting in her car watching him. I'm sure she was much disgusted, as I am writing about it. Poor Gary! Now, how do you explain that to your host family?

The show was quite a success. Thanks to the members' wonderful advertising, we had around 800 or so watching. Susanne thought it was even more than that. Despite a very slippery, slippery, slippery stage, there were no major falls. Everyone did an excellent job. Congratulations Monroe's on keeping the rhythm after the announcer accidentally unplugged the band!

Everything was quickly torn down and we were off into the rainy, cold night of Bergen. I know I was warm inside because of the wonderful day we had!

-- DaNae Robinson Elton

**Tuesday, May 21st, 1996**  
**Oslo, Norge**  
**Travel Day**

We set out at 8:30 from the Bergen chapel for Oslo. The pass over the mountains had reopened so we were able to take the scenic route.

How uneventful can one day be? I actually talked to my wife @...and she to me. One tunnel was too long for Lane and Joe to hold their breath. They survived, however, much to our chagrin. We watched "Löven Konge" [The Lion King] in Norwegian and then "I Love Trouble". The scenery was beautiful for about four hours, but the tops of the mountains were a wasteland.

At one rest stop several men and women decided to sacrifice their well being and jump into an ice cold lake. The brave ones were: Joe Brinton, Lane Hunter, Sam Brown, Winston Elton, Rich Marstella, Chris Wells, and Jeff Fuller. The lesser, but no less serviceable luminaries were: Heather Butters, Tara Christopher, Cecilie Karnil, Erika Horman, and Beth Payne.

We arrived in Oslo at 7:00 p.m. We were tired, but happy to be there. It was a good day.

--Rebecca & Paul McAlister

**Wednesday, May 22nd, 1996  
Oslo, Norge**

**I. Gathering**

- A. Met between 8 and 8:30 at the church
- B. Stood outside freezing
- C. Brother Peterson set off the alarm while letting us in

**II. Sightseeing**

**A. Vigeland park**

- i. He made a deal with Oslo: if they gave him space and supplies, he would donate his works to the city
- ii. The Monolith
  - a. This column was inspired by a rolled up photography of a relief
  - b. It has been said that the BYU Folk Dancers have successfully created a live version of the Monolith
  - c. Pictures
    - 1) The large fountain was replicated by the 10 Cheremosh participants
    - 2) We found the famous statue of Lane and Joe when they were playing at the Family Fun Center

**B. Holmenkollen**

- i. The famous ski jump from the 1952 Olympics
- ii. Chris explained the ins and outs of ski jumping, since he had participated in said activity
- iii. We could have sworn we saw Wesley rolling down the hill yelling, "As you wish..."

**C. Nobel Institute**

- i. The headquarters of the Nobel peace Prize Committee
- ii. The Chairman, Francis Sejersted, spoke to us
  - a. Committee members serve in 4 year terms
  - b. The committee is a gerentocracy, meaning the longest serving member is the chair
  - c. Possible recipients are nominated and then reviewed by the committee
  - d. Vigeland designed the Peace Prize Medallion
  - e. The committee meeting room displays the photographs of all past recipients, as well as a painting of Nobel by Hiorth
  - f. We saw the room where they announce the decision -- (the Award Ceremony is held in the Town Hall)
  - g. We saw the Nobel china set
  - h. DaNae gave our host a Navajo sand painting that he thinks she made just for him

**D. Parliament**

- i. Lunch
  - a. Open-faced sandwiches
  - b. 2 members of Parliament, Svein Ludvigset (Sorting) and Dag Weberg (Lagting) spoke to us
    - 1) Svein did a stand-up routine and told us about his relationship to Brother Peterson and BYU
    - 2) Dag told us about the Norwegian government
    - 3) Svein embarrassed Joe, so has promised Joe dinner in Provo
- ii. The Tour
  - a. World War II Memorial large metal plates
  - b. A copy of their constitution
  - c. The Historical Hall
  - d. The Sorting Chamber
  - e. The Lagting Chamber

- iii. Dinner
  - a. Fortunately, the members had chicken and rice for us at the church
  - b. Unfortunately, we didn't know about it
  - c. Fortunately, Ed took us to Burger King
  - d. Geoff used his Norwegian to his advantage: he asked for and got a free fiskeburger!

### III. The Theater

- A. We immediately noticed that someone had spilled many different flavors of Kool-Aid on the theater chairs
- B. Unfortunately, someone had thrust the stage forward and removed all the side stage space
- C. Fortunately, there were glow-in-the-dark arrows to follow
- D. Unfortunately, there was also a spiral staircase we had to use
- E. Fortunately, the show went well

-- Tiffany Smith

## Thursday, May 23rd, 1996 Oslo & Drammen, Norge

Most of us are still having a hard time adjusting to the extended hours of day light. Physically we are exhausted, and yet visually it is still light, so our bodies get confused (as if they aren't confused enough as it is). Then morning comes, and most of us have to get ready extremely early so that our hosts can get to work. As Butters so beautifully put it, "It's against the law of America" (what she is talking about we have no idea).

We hopped on board our "bussen" and began our daily voyage. Our first stop today was at a Viking ship museum. As the Norwegians say, "We visited the Wiking museum." Inside we found three ships that were found buried in mounds (mounds of what we know not). They were burial ships for important people.

The second leg of our journey took us to the Kon-Tiki museum. Here we saw the Ra II and the Kon-Tiki rafts. It was so interesting because it was a proof of our history from the Book of Mormon. Brother Peterson told a story of a religion professor who met Thor Heyersdahl at some sort of convention and asked him if he had ever heard of the Book of Mormon. He answered that he had received hundreds of Books of Mormon from members around the world. He said "I don't know why you people keep sending them when I am the one that proved in some sorts that your book is true." The religion professor asked if he ever read it. Thor replied, "only the underlined parts." The professor responded, "So, if I underlined the whole book, would you read it?" We never heard his response.

The last leg of our journey took us to the Radisson SAS Hotel. We secured the building and entered the Oslo sweater ship and the invasion began. The shop soon looked like a shark feeding frenzy -- sweaters flying left and right. All the girls went into their shopping modes and no one was content until the right size, color, and style of buttons or clasps were found. Then the shopping continued as the Folk Dance Invasion of Oslo converged on the center of town. At 14:00 we reported to our rendezvous point and the invasion came to a close.

In the bus, the ritual began of opening bags and showing others your "loot." The ritual is filled with shouts of admiration and joy, and ends in a deafening silence as everyone falls exhausted into their seats, tired by the pillaging of stores and shops.

Our performance was at another sports center. A game of soccer (indoor) soon started and the Norwegians chuckled as the Americans tried their "foot" at soccer. The games ended quickly as one of the leaders, who will remain nameless, requested that we get ready (he took the ball away). Ed didn't want us making a mess.

Dinner was incredible. We had roast beef, potatoes and gravy, and vegetables. It was a very welcome change, since none of it was "open-faced" or pickled. Cake was for dessert and we all left full and happy.

When we first got to the performance sight, Ed told us to sleep. It was a welcome recommendation for most of us, but not for one. Britney cried out in protest, "We could have shopped longer!!" Alas, her cries fell on deaf ears.

The show was great. There seemed to be more interaction and connection with the audience. The stage was actually risers, and after hoedown we realized they had not been connected to each other. As we started Polka Quadrille, gaps appeared between each riser, and as we danced gaps soon became spaces! After each dance we had to push the risers back together. It made for an interesting show, and yet made it that much more fun. Costume changes were made without too many problems, and the show went well.

Ed was somewhat of a troublemaker, and was running round yanking the guys shirts up out of their pants. He also continued his return to his youth by pulling open Bunjevačko vests right before or right when we had to be on stage. Mindy decided that Rich needed to start taking off his French Canadian knickers before the dance was finished, so she undid his buttons and one side of the flap came open. Joseph went on strike and refused to wear his bow tie.

All in all it was a good day.

-- Rich Marstella

**Friday, May 24th, 1996**  
**Orebro, Sverige**

As we got on our bus to leave Oslo, we were ready for a long day of traveling. We needed to travel to Orebro, Sweden, and it was going to take quite a few hours to do so. But as it turns out, we had several distractions to help the day pass quickly.

First, we got to stop at a factory where they make the Norwegian Christmas Elf. Brother Peterson explained that to the kids in Norway, this little elf is Santa Claus. Many people took advantage of the half-price sale and walked away with another souvenir to pack away in their suitcase. Personally, I couldn't get over the fact that when they were being made they looked like plucked chickens.

Next, we had to stop at the border. Many of us needed to change our Norwegian money into Swedish money, and almost everyone needed to collect the refund on the tax-free souvenirs they had bought. After a very long wait in line, I think our little group of 40 people totally cleaned them out of Swedish money.

When we got back on the bus, we found out we were now two hours behind schedule. But since there was nothing we could do about it at the moment, we sat back and relaxed as we watched "While You Were Sleeping."

When we finally arrived at our site, our host gave us 38 seconds to eat dinner. It actually turned out to be about 15 minutes, and then we were off to prepare for the show. We performed at an outdoor stage in the middle of a park. It was a really nice facility except for the graffiti written all across the back of the stage. But with some strategically placed shrubbery, we were able to cover most of it up.

The show itself went pretty well. We managed to attract quite a few people during the first half of the show, but it started to rain during the second half. In order to make the show shorter, we cut Makedonsko, Što, and El Zapateado. But we still lost quite a few people during intermission and the second half. In a way that was good because we slaughtered the ending song in Swedish. Our two hours of practicing didn't quite do the trick, so most of us ended up just mumbling through until we got to the chorus. I know what we will be practicing tomorrow.

-- Dan Prestwich

**Saturday, May 25th, 1996**  
**Stockholm, Sverige**

Our saga continues as the heroic folk dance group motors through Sweden. As we leave the town of Orebro, on the three hour trek to Stockholm there was a short detour. The magnificent seven were honored with an extra half hour of sleep as they stayed 40 kms out of town. The small village of 300 never even knew what hit them. Of course, only 3 families even knew they were there.

Winston was attacked twice in the morning. 1st one leg was held ransom as he stepped out of the van, putting on a great show for the front of the bus. Then ten minutes into the drive he was ambushed from both sides by Scotty and Ed. His courageous struggle was no match for the vicious attack from the two directors. Rich valiantly rushed to his rescue from the back of the bus counter-attacking Ed. Scotty and Winston stopped and watched as Rich and Ed grappled. On observing the event DaNae declared, "I'll never understand men."

Brother Peterson sadly announced that he was leaving the group on Sunday. With his wife so sick, he feels like he should be by her side. He was very emotional. He told us that in 30 years of traveling with tour groups, that he has never been with a better group, and that he has never felt so close to a group.

When we arrived at the church in Stockholm, there was a pasta salad lunch waiting for us, which was greatly appreciated by all those weary of bread and cheese. The members had constructed a plywood extension of the stage in the stake center. The size was good but it could be deafening during clogging and Mexican.

After lunch we went into Stockholm for a short tour. We hopped off the bus in front of Stockholm Castle, and Randy decided to storm the castle single handedly. He didn't see the guard and sprinted up one side of the stairs. When he reached the top of the stairs the guard turned with a start. Randy saw the guard at the same time, and sprinted even faster down the other side. Luckily for us there wasn't any shooting. Michelle is the super cyber shopper of the day. She bought an iron candle holder for \$6 and a doll for \$9. After a brief tour of the city and a ½ hour shopping frenzy, we went back to prepare for the 7:30 show that really started at 7:00.

At the pre-show devotional the spirit was very strong. Brother Peterson had not yet left us, but we were missing

him already. Jon Wood gave a moving thought and scripture, we sang "Go Ye Now In Peace" and "God Be With You" (in Norge) in Brother Peterson's honor. There wasn't a dry eye in the place. We all gave him hugs as he thanked us and shortly after the show he was gone.

Dennis had 3 Swedish women at the show to watch him. One is his third cousin, and the other two he met while on his mission in Iceland.

After packing and housing assignments, many dancers stayed for a stake dance that was held afterwards. A Swedish style stake dance to virtually unknown American music.

-- Winston Elton

**Sunday, May 26th, 1996**  
**Stockholm, Sverige**  
**Sunday in Stockholm - An Ode**

Okay, I tried to make this a creative piece of tour history mastery, but it just ain't gonna happen! (Besides, I'm presently caught in the crossfire of the "Lane Lane Lane" song shooting across the aisles of the bus, and it's too hard not to get distracted by the blasting blues!) Well, believe it or not, we had a day apart from each other - our first on tour! People spent the day in diverse amusements, but for most of us, the greatest gift of the day was SLEEP! (My church started at two p.m. -- hallelujah!) Some made it into town -- Stockholm is a grand old city, and it's a crying shame we couldn't spend more time there. The Venice of the North offers numerous delights, from palaces to pleasure boats to pubs, and Britney, Jenn, Kirby, and myself even made it to the Vasa Museum, which is like stepping onto the Spielberg set for the pirate ship scene in "Goonies." Amazing! It wasn't a "wiking" ship, but Kirby thought it was kind of cool anyway.

Church was held in two different buildings, but we met in the one next door to the Temple for the evening's fireside. What a beautiful setting! Butters (or should I say Smør), Joe, Kirby (we called it!) and I spoke, and Chris read the scripture. We later found out that some big Church names were present also - Elder Fowler, and the like. What an honor! And, we finally had the Swedish words to "God Be With You" down pat! It took us a while, but we got them!

After the fireside we were blessed -- we got to go to the Temple and talk to the Temple president and his counselors about the work they do there. It was a very special, sacred evening, and I feel lucky to have been part of it. The blessings of tour, and of doing this work, are definitely there!

-- Mindy Hunter Larsen

**Monday, May 27th, 1996**  
**Sundsvall, Sverige**  
**Memorial Day**

Today's episode of "As the Starfish Drives" began as another fun-filled adventure for the Dancing Vikings. The crew started the day by meeting at the parking lot outside the Stockholm Temple. They said their goodbyes to the dear friends they had become so close to, and began to board their ship. The mood of the crew was a bit mild and melancholy and the "Big Fish", or "Starfish", began departure for Sundsvall. Captain Terje ignited the engine and drove away to begin the journey. To alter the mood, Joe Brinton, or should I say Thor, had a bright idea that might help to liven and awaken the attitude of the crew. Before anyone knew what was happening, the sweet sounds of ABBA (appropriately a Swedish group) began filling the air. The power was overwhelming as the music began to move the crew out into the aisles and everyone began dancing and singing to "Take a Chance On Me". It was an event never to forget. The dancing spectacular featured Joe as he demonstrated some of the fine dance techniques that he must have perfected while attending junior high school. He's quite a mover and a shaker.

The day continued with a beautiful devotional given by Gary, "The Early Bird Nerd", honoring Memorial Day by having the crew observe the silence. It was nice to have a little piece of home aboard the "Starfish". Following the devotional 6 people gave cultural reports on varying topics of Scandinavia. For some strange reason, this seemed to put almost everyone asleep for the usual morning nap.

Finally, we arrived at a diner for lunch where some had a rice dish and others enjoyed a typical American



hamburger and fries. The exception to all of this was Joseph, "The White Tooth", whose lunch consisted of a raspberry dessert, a piece of cake and 3 chocolate bars. (All of that sugar and he's still not very hyper.)

After lunch, the crew boarded the ship once more to continue the voyage to Sundsvall. The movie of the day was "Sleepless in Seattle". Around 20 minutes after the completion of the movie, the ship docked in Sundsvall but unfortunately, the boat was about an hour early. After waiting and waiting, the crew was allowed to go ashore where the luggage was unloaded along with only a few costumes. One of the leaders (first mate Davis) required that everyone "freshen up" before heading to dinner in the mess hall with the natives. The meal was some strange ethnic food that was quite popular with the indigenous people. It was pizza! And it was great. Everyone was given a whole pizza, but it was a lot of food and some of the dancing Vikings were not able to prove their bravery. One particular crew member was Dennis who was shown up by a 14-year old who finished his entire pizza, while Dennis struggled with 2/3!!

Following the great meal and the great conversation, the group put on a small fireside and then quickly changed into their costumes for the evening. The events of the evening included dancing from 5 different Swedish groups. The Dancing Vikings ended the evening with a quick performance of Appalachian Patchwork, Monroe's, and Showdown. This would have been an easy task for the crew, but unfortunately, someone must have swabbed the deck with grease or oil because it was very slippery!! Everyone slid all over the place. Highlights from this included Rich playing bowling ball and using Lane as the pin during the entrance of Appalachian. It was not on purpose, but needless to say Rich earned a strike!! Another mishap took place at the end of the dance when the circle opened into a line. Britney grabbed Kirby with two arms around the waist and held on as she skied into place. It was a sight to behold, much like ice skating, only not as graceful. The evening was finished off as Elder Greg Tucker put on his clog shoes and joined in on the showdown. It was fun to see a missionary clogging in his suit!

Finally, after all of the activities and dancing, the night ended as Susanne Davis, the first mate, presented the other groups with gifts from BYU. However, she forgot to take the pencil with the big green eraser from behind her ear. Due to this lovely decoration of authority, some of the crew members lovingly bestowed upon her the name of "Pencilhead".

It was a journey that ended with the dispersing of the crew amongst the natives for a good night's rest before embarking on yet another day of adventure. Be sure to tune in tomorrow as the Dancing Vikings prepare for a day of studying native symbolism, meeting important leaders of the foreign people, and setting up for a performance -- all on "As the Starfish Drives."

-- Britney Evenson Wood

## **Tuesday, May 28th, 1996 Sundsvall, Sverige**

We started today with a wonderful serenade from ABBA's "Take a Chance on Me". This song then continued for the rest of the day, as a select group tried to get it to perfection. Our first stop was Södra Berget, which is the largest of two mountains surrounding Sundsvall. Once there, we took pictures while trying not to fall down the slalom, and not freezing.

Afterwards, we went to the Björn Stiget, or in other words, the Bear Trail. It is a huge rope course trail. Many of us tested our fears and strengths there. We had lunch in a huge teepee. Lunch was a food from Lapp country. While waiting at the bus, a few of the guys gave us an exciting game of baseball. This included breaking the bat (stick).

We then went to Tonhallen. Once there, some went to town, some slept, and the people (including Winston) from Monroe's performed for the press. The performance went very well. Around 3:00 we drove to their "Y". On the way, Ed informed us that he missed wrestling his boys. So, many of the guys gave him a reminder of what it's like. It was great. Once at the "Y", all of us took pictures and then received a T-shirt from the mayor. We gave him a shirt, hat, and book. It was fun. Then we went to the site for dinner. Which, of course, was Swedish meatballs.

Back at the theater, we prepared for the show. Elder Tucker told us a little about the church, and told us that he knew that we were going to be a great help to them. We had a wonderful performance. We also had a lot of stage light (that's a new concept on this tour). What a great day.

-- Erika and Karen Horman

**Wednesday, May 29th, 1996**  
**Sundsvall & Umeå, Sverige**

We woke up a little later...take a chance...than usual this...take a chika chance chance...morning. In order to save some time, I decided to...take a chance...shower the night before. However, ...take a chance chance...because that's not my usual...chicka chance...routine, I forgot to put on some deodorant...chika chika chance chance. Oops! I...take a chance...thought this was my...chika chance...culture journal, not...take a chance chance...the tour history.

If you change your mind...then our hosts took us to a museum...I'm the first in line...where I was the first in line. There was a small...honey, I'm still free...exhibit on...chika chance...Vikings. My favorite part was a glass...take a chance on me...case that had the outline of a man...if you need me...with the articles found...let me know I'll be around...exactly how they were in his grave. We could tell how tall...if you're all alone...he was by his cuff links...and the pretty birds have flown...and that he was right handed...honey, I'm still free...by the placement of his sword...take a chance on me.

After this we got to...take a chance...go shopping, but that was rather boring, so I was hoping that someone would...take a chance on me.

Traveling some distance out...take a chika chance chance...to the country side to...take a chance...an old farm that was passed from...chika chance...generation to generation in one family. It was called Gudmundstjärn. That's all I ask of you, darling. It was one of the last farms...oh, we could go dancing...where the family was solely responsible...we could go walking...for themselves. Everything from farming to...we could go walking...weaving to lumber milling...as long as we're together.

As usual, there was a...listen to some music...line at the potties...maybe just talking...and so the boys were banished to the woods for relief. 'Cause you know I got, so much that I wanna do...and on the way back into the bus, Winston...when I dream I'm alone with you...slipped on some wet grass and...it's magic...slid on his back side for about 15 feet into some gravel. He was safe.

Do you want me to leave you there?...Once on the bus, we watched the news clip and our last show on the TV before we arrived at the ferry. We boarded the boat, and Geoff Groberg was...afraid of a love affair...my roommate. But I think you know...Sam and Joe spent the night with toilet paper...that I can't let go...being sucked down the pressurized toilets. Some...take a chance...went to the tax free shops to buy chocolates...take a chance on me...and others went dancing. Take a chika chance chance... and yet another group...take a chance on me...went to the Karaoke bar...take a chance...and sang...take a chance... "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and...take a chance on me...some other song...take a chance on me...which I...take a chance on me...can't...take a chance on me...remember.

-- Lane Hunter

**Thursday, May 30th, 1996**  
**Vaasa & Tampere, Suomi**  
**Finland, here we come!**

The day began with many of us awake, welcoming the new day after having a wonderful buffet dinner. At 1:00 a.m. we were strolling on the deck of the Vaasa Queen Ferry heading toward Finland. The reflection of the light on the water gave a peaceful and calm feeling. An hour later, we docked in Vaasa, Finland at 2:00 a.m., but stayed in our cabins to sleep until 7:00 a.m. We were to meet for a buffet breakfast on the ferry, but at 8:00 a.m. found the Vaasa Ward already had breakfast prepared instead, so off we hurried. What an abrupt start.

Having arrived in Finland, we moved our watches ahead one hour, but then due to our morning change of schedule arrived late in Tampere. As we were traveling along the dense, forest roads, a phone call came for Ed, who was sound asleep. Terje, our bus driver, awoke him to answer the call, which was a "live radio" interview from Tampere. Ed said to the man, "I can't hear you, could you please speak louder?" Ed repeated his question again. Terje then realized he was trying to hear through the back side of the phone and said "Turn the phone around." That made all the difference! We hoped they didn't hear the fits of laughter from the front of the bus.

When we entered Tampere, we were all on our own for lunch and downtown. After a short hour we were off to the performance site to set up. At 5:00 p.m. we went to the Tampere Ward and had our own dinner provided by the Relief Society. Our contact from the church in Tampere was Erro Palomki, who had our itinerary set. Helena Tiits was our guide for the next three days.

The theater we were performing in was known as the best in all of Northern Europe. The Tampere Workers Theater seated 922, and about 650 were in attendance for our show. The stage was HUGE with many rooms for changing and stage scenes. The concert was well received, even with the sudden appearance of the house lights on during the jitterbug piece. The hall was computerized and it was the tech crew's consensus that a "TROLL" did it!

The night would not be complete without relating that Dennis Flynn and Joe Brinton went swimming, and dove from a diving board into a cold Finnish lake, right at midnight. What an ending to an eventful day!

-- Susanne Davis

**Friday, May 31st, 1996**  
**Turku, Suomi**

Another 9:00 morning -  
a few of us were late,  
We loaded the bus and packed the bags,  
we hurried up to wait.

We picked up Ed and Vickie -  
Cecilie came along,  
As soon as the bus got moving,  
we practiced our Finnish song.

Some Viking names awarded -  
Jedd and Elise turned red,  
And doink award was given,  
to the BIGGEST doink named Ed!

We all took Jolly Ranchers,  
being as honest as we could be,  
And then a chant was started,  
"a movie we want to see."

So "Star Gate" was the winner,  
we watched it as we slept,  
And traveling to Turku,  
there was a silence kept.

And once we got to Turku,  
our Sammy shed a smile,  
A beautiful blonde was picked up,  
to guide us for a while.

First a picnic at the chapel -  
the sunshine felt so nice,  
Then we heard our plans for the day,  
and heard them at least twice.

We loaded up for sightseeing,  
a tour around the town,  
But it's so hard to see it all,  
when your eyelids go up and down.

"This is the Turku castle.  
Take a picture from the bus."  
We never bother to unload -  
it causes such a fuss.

Fifteen minutes at a cathedral -  
it took our breath away,  
It isn't often beauty still exists,  
from an earlier day.

Then off to the square to change some money,  
we had so much to do,  
But only twenty-five minutes to spare -  
we had to load by two.

Miss Britney, well she spoke her mind,  
and caused a little mess,  
And soon the girls all took a vote,  
to see how we should dress.

We unloaded at the theater,  
but didn't stay too long,  
We had an hour to shop or sleep!  
Soon everyone was gone.

Next, another 4:30 dinner,  
on tour, so early we eat,  
Our favorite mid-semester dish,  
lasagna we'd happily greet.

We took off for the theater,  
to get ready for the show,  
At seven devotional started,  
but half of us didn't know.

The show went pretty good I think -  
it all goes by so fast,  
The time we enjoy between each number,  
is something of the past.

The break down and the loading -  
our usual routine,  
And couples steal a kiss goodbye,  
without trying to be seen.

Tiff and Jedd call out our names,  
we wave to our family,  
Instructions are given, we say goodbye,  
and walk out sleepily.

At home we eat a little snack -  
some jam on top of cheese,  
And soon our eyes get droopy -  
"May we be excused please?"

We brush our teeth, wash off our face,  
then crawl into our bed,  
A prayer of thanks we give to Him,  
who is our Living Head.

And even though there's light outside,  
we quickly go to sleep,  
To wake again tomorrow,  
all these memories we will keep.

-- Amy K. Alba Marstella

**Saturday, June 1st, 1996**  
**Helsinki, Suomi**  
May sure raced by. Welcome to HELsinki.

For those of you in a hurry, I'll give a thumb-nail sketch of the day's events:

1. We woke up
2. We traveled
3. We shopped
4. We set up for the show
5. We did a show
6. We went home with host families

Now for all of you over-achievers, here's a more detailed version:

1. We woke up...in Turku and as "a matter of maturity" we arrived and departed on time (5:30). We said goodbye to Saria, our tour guide, but Chris was sad because he didn't get her phone number.

2. We traveled...to Helsinki, which took us about 2 hours. We saw at least ten of the 300,000 lakes here in Finland (Suomi) on the way. Many slept, and others watched the last half of "Stargate." Maybe "tried to watch" would be a better description because of the many dark scenes. The Swedish subtitles of the ancient Egyptian language didn't help much either.

3. We shopped...in Helsinki from 10:45 until 1:30. Some people saw the big cathedral. Others saw a Balalaika performance, which they said is a type of Russian folk music. One group saw bungee cord jumping and almost did it, but it was too expensive. Popular souvenirs were Finnish woodwork and crystal -- a lot of doll collectors had a hard time finding dolls.

4. We set up for the show...at Espoon Kolttuorikeskus Tapiola which was a beautiful concert hall. During the setup/wait time, we were told to get our souvenirs off the bus and to make sure that everything could fit in our bags. For dinner we had sandwiches and fruit. Dan and Jeff played a SPIT game for over an hour and nobody won. Rebecca, the SPIT queen, was impressed, though.

5. We did a show...at 7:30. It was a good crowd. For those of us who were hungry during hoedown or Polka Quadrille, there was a grab bag of Cecilie's licorice on the front of the stage. Joe broke a guitar string too, but most of the show was pretty uneventful, which is good, but makes for a boring tour history. The crowd gave us a standing ovation.

6. We went home with host families...at about 10:30. These were our last host families for this tour. Most people went right to bed.

-- Jeff Fuller

**Sunday, June 2nd, 1996**  
**Helsinki, Suomi**

The first half of the day started with church in the different wards of Helsinki with our host families. It was Fast Sunday, and this was an opportunity for us all to hear the testimonies of the members there in Helsinki. In the ward downstairs from the mission office they had headsets for translation. This helped a lot to be able to enjoy the spirit of the meeting. Many people expressed their appreciation of our performance and how it was spiritually inspiring for them. (We held Sunday School in English, taught by a beautiful Finnish, recently returned sister missionary.)

This church was also our gathering place before we headed off to the embassy. We were to leave for the American embassy a little before 15:00. Church was over about 13:00 for most people. Some of us went up to the mission office, watched Church videos and sacked out on the couches. Others looked around the city before being dropped off at the church.

At 15:00 we walked a few blocks to the embassy where we were welcomed by the American Ambassador to Finland, Derek Shearer, a name we learned from culture class. We went through the house to a beautiful garden patio area where they had chocolate chip cookies, strawberry cake, and lemonade for us. One of the foreign service guys said that it looked like we hadn't eaten for days the way we scarfed down the cookies and cake. If he only knew we had actually been fasting since after the show the night before. We were able to look around the main floor of the ambassador's home. His

wife, two sons, daughter, and even parents were all there to visit with.

We took the public transportation from the embassy out to the Haaga church for the fireside. We took a street car to the main train station, and then took the E train at 17:10 from track 12. This is where Scotty ran back to where we first got on the streetcar to find the missing bag. He had set his bag down which contained all of our tour money and his passport. He made it back only to see that it was not longer there. We notified the embassy and the police. The rest of us were at the church preparing for the fireside. We said a special prayer to help recover the bag.

The fireside went very well and the chapel was full. Susanne introduced us and bore her testimony. Jon, Amy, Dan, Beth, and Randy all took part in the program and spoke excellent Finnish. We all went home with our host families afterwards for the evening.

Back to the missing bag. It was found. Two teenage boys found the bag and the huge wad of money. It scared them so much they ran all the way to the police station with it, and returned everything. They notified the embassy and the ambassador then notified us. There is a finder's fee in Finland of 10%. It was definitely a small price to pay to get everything back so quickly, and we know that the Lord was watching over us.

-- Chris Wells

### **Monday, June 3rd, 1996** **САНКТ ПЕТЕРБУРГ, РОССИЯ**

At 6:45 this morning we left Helsinki for St. Petersburg, Russia. Although the tour was nearly over, I think we were all looking forward to a visit to Russia because we knew it would be different from everywhere else we had been.

The Finnish/Russian border was an interesting place. We all tried to wait patiently through customs. The forms we filled out were in French, but Gary translated for us. Eventually we made it through. I think things were sped up thanks to Terje's bribing the guards with chocolate, cigarettes, and photos of our group. Just as we were about to pull out of customs, a grim looking Russian guard stepped onto our bus. We all wondered what would happen now. He slowly made his way down the first few rows of seats and stopped in front of DaNae and gave her a flower. We laughed as he got back off.

Now we were really in Russia. Eventually Elder and Sister Halverson joined us along with another missionary. They answered all of our questions about Russia. We were warned about how to act, what precautions to take, etc. I felt much safer after learning that in Russia, if a driver hits and kills someone, he/she must pay a fine of approximately two dollars.

The fireside we had planned to do that evening was canceled so we went to a Russian ballet instead. It was really good. Of course, I don't know anything about ballet, but everyone except Joe Brinton seemed to enjoy. Joe spent most of the time calculating how long of a rope it would take to swing from one balcony of the theater across to the other. And I don't think he figured it out. Oh well, maybe at the next ballet he goes to.

After eating a very authentic Russian meal at a fast food hamburger place, we went to our dorms. The dorms were pretty nice. We were prepared for the fact that there would be no hot water, and we also brought our own bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, etc. The wood floor there was carefully designed to make lots of noise so none of us could sneak out. We all went to bed, thus ending our first day in St. Petersburg.

-- Geoff Groberg

### **Tuesday, June 4th, 1996** **САНКТ ПЕТЕРБУРГ, РОССИЯ**

Our day began very early, after a short night with only two hours of semi-darkness. Several men who spent the night in the bus with Terje (to protect against possible vandalism or thievery) reported that there were no unusual occurrences. Some of us hoping to take showers again this morning were rudely shocked to learn that the "hot" H<sub>2</sub>O of the previous morning had gone on summer vacation. In its place was a rare form of liquid ice brought in from the nether regions of the Arctic. We were still in shock as we left the dorms and loaded our luggage back onto the bus, fearful that it could fall into dishonest hands if left unguarded for even a second, though in retrospect it seems we were overly cautious.

Next we proceeded to go on a tour of the city, with President Rogers acting as our tour guide. We passed by the

Hermitage (4 huge buildings) but did not enter. Instead, we went to a large park nearby where two Apostles have dedicated Russia for the preaching of the Gospel. The heavens cried over us as President Rogers related an apocryphal tale of the significance of several statues in the park. We continued on our tour and drove by several other historical sites in the heart of the city, but time was limited and we did not stop. However, our busy schedule did allow for a scenic one hour drive through the outer regions of the city. Just as it seemed mutiny would break out, we arrived at a large, World War II Memorial dedicated to the 900 day siege of (then) Leningrad. Although the site was very interesting, we only had time for a photo shoot and quick tour. Later we passed several large government and intelligence buildings. Don't even bother writing to them, for they don't have addresses.

As the majority of the group despaired of ever being able to shop, we were promised by Ed that we would get at least one hour to satisfy our souvenir lust. First, however, we ate a nice buffet lunch at a nearby hotel restaurant. To pay for it, our leaders first gave us fifty thousand roubles, which made us feel quite wealthy, and then asked for most of it back, which made us feel poor until we realized that we had only been given about ten dollars in the first place. When we finally got to the Merchant's Market, many were amazed that it could fit into such a small area - a Mall it was not. However, many quality goods were soon purchased, either with hard American currency, or by trading unwanted tour clothes to the vendors. We are grateful that those who did trade tour outfits had extra clothing with them and did not bring shame to our group by traipsing through the streets of St. Petersburg half-naked.

It should be noted that the coolest-looking church in the world is located next to the Merchant's Market. Due to remodeling we could not enter the colorful edifice, but many exterior photographs were taken.

After glutting ourselves on the manual labor of the Russian people, we proceeded to the performance site, simply named Music Hall. It was old and dusty, but it had a lot of class, and a handy gambling casino just downstairs. That casino, by the way, is the closest we ever came to the Russian Mafia during our time in Russia, despite the many tales of horror which we had heard. The managers of the theater were impressed that we didn't smoke or drink, meaning there would be less of a mess for them to clean up afterward. They were even more impressed by our rolls of black stage tape, and overjoyed that we would retape their entire stage, as well as leaving them the excess tape.

Despite having to manually bring most everything up several flights of stairs, we had a few hours to rest and prepare for the show. Many were thankful that our leaders had the foresight to purchase large quantities of toilet paper in Finland, for there was none to be had in all the land round about. During this setup time, several people were delighted to find a Russian modern/jazz/ballet dance group practicing at a studio one floor down. The same Russian dancers later watched us perform, and were quite impressed. One girl was especially impressed when Chris gave her a rose. In return, she gave him her address -- way to go Chris!

Dinner was begging to be served, but a missionary begged harder and was blessed with the sounds of ABBA as the Y Singers sang their rendition of "Take A Chance On Me". I'm sure the music inspired him to baptize a lot of people.

Our show went quite well. We had plenty of stage space and dressing areas (defined by the piles of clothes), and two options for the run-behind (according to the dancers -- Ed only recognized one run-behind as valid). The house was packed and included almost 100 missionaries (the St. Petersburg Mission), 600 members, and 400 non-members. All of our dance and music numbers were well received, but in particular Russian Quadrille and Hopak. In fact, only two beats of Hopak had gone by and the audience was already clapping enthusiastically (except for Dan and Joseph's solo, which few ever seem to appreciate). After the show the audience continued to express their excitement by breaking into folk songs. Signatures and addresses were also exchanged.

After the show we packed up and identified our new prop luggage. Several Elders then took the majority of us on a subway ride. The subway is much deeper than New York's, about six stories underground. Apparently it doubles as a bomb shelter. Pictures of the subway, bridges, government buildings, anyone in uniform, or anything not touristy is liable to get one thrown out of Russia. As we only had a few hours left anyway, several of our group rebelled and took some forbidden pictures of the subway. Thank goodness for repentance.

Back at the dorms we had a huge pizza and juice meal as the leadership spouted instructions concerning our trip home and subsequent costume cleaning and turn-in. We also kept at least four Elders up way past their bedtime. I still think they'll get more sleep than our 4 hours, though.

-- Joseph Kroupa

**Wednesday, June 5th, 1996**  
**Санкт Петербург, Россия to Salt Lake City, Utah**

It is hard to know where to start today -- because it is hard to say when today started! Most of us had a little sleep during the night, but some did not sleep at all. The excitement of packing and going home kept many awake. And for those who did shut their eyes, wake-up call was very early. We were packing the bus by 5 a.m. after enjoying sponge baths with freezing water. (At least I hope everyone bathed today!)

Leaving St. Petersburg went very smoothly. Delta was easy to work with and on time. (What a difference from seven years ago when we left Moscow on Aeroflot.) On our flight home we landed first in Warsaw, Poland, and then Frankfurt, Germany. The trip from Frankfurt to New York went quickly.

When we landed in Kennedy airport we were told that all of our luggage would remain in the pod and be transferred directly to our next flight without having to go through customs. We were "flying high" (out of the airplane, of course) for about five minutes until we started to see some of our luggage coming through the claim area. We soon found out that because other people's luggage had been mixed into the same pod with ours, we indeed, would have to unload and reload all of the equipment. But everyone was great when it came to being flexible (once again). We immediately began our task with smiles on our faces and the custom officials still waived everything through without looking at one thing, making it as easy for us as possible.

After one more flight, we arrived home in Salt Lake City at about 8:35 p.m., ending a wonderful 5 week experience we will never forget.

This was a particularly enjoyable folk dance tour. The countries were beautiful and the people we met continually touched our hearts. It was a wonderful blend of performing, cultural enrichment, learning, sightseeing, and yes, even shopping. The group really was used well in each country to strengthen the branches, wards, and stakes in an effort to impact missionary work.

And our own friendships among members of the group grew even stronger as we worked together to serve people and share the gospel. And -- isn't that what it's all about?

We love this group!

-- Ed & Vickie Austin

## **“VIKINGS IN SCANDINAVIA”**

### **Starring (in alphabetical order)**

AMY ALBA MARSTELLA “Big Lungs”  
JOE BRINTON “The Wild Hair”, “Thor” (stripped), “Thor” (re-instated)  
SAM BROWN “The Baltic Brave”  
HEATHER BUTTERS “Jag heter smør” (My Name Is Butter)  
TARA CHRISTOPHER “The Tiny Bladder”  
MICHELLE DOW “Goldie Locks”  
WINSTON ELTON “The Insulated”  
BRITNEY EVENSON WOOD “The Wanna-be Microphone Master”  
DENNIS FLYNN “The Tailor”  
JEFF FULLER “The Polar Bear”  
GEOFFREY GROBERG “The Fiskeburger Beggar”  
ERIKA HORMAN “The Engaged”  
LANE HUNTER “The Asset” (without gel)  
MINDY HUNTER LARSEN “The Welcro Ripper”  
CECILIE KARNIL “Den locta Dasker/Danser” (The Smelly Dane/Dancer)  
JOSEPH KROUPA “The White Tooth”  
GARY LARSEN “The Early Bird/Nerd”  
RICH MARSTELLA “Chilly Knickers”  
PAUL MCALISTER “Whoopie Cushion”  
REBECCA MCALISTER “Spit”  
ELISE NIELSON PETERSON “Will He Ever Ask?”  
JENNIFER ORME “The White Night”  
KIRBY ORME “Deep Throat”  
BETH PAYNE “The Bishop’s Helper To Help Joe Feel Loved”  
JEDD PETERSON “The How Much Does A Ring Cost?”  
DAN PRESTWICH “Tears On My Pillow”  
RANDY RICE --make a fist, pound chest twice--  
DANAE ROBINSON ELTON “The Mooner”  
TIFFANY SMITH “Abs Of Pewter”  
CHRIS WELLS “The Wertical Wiking”  
JONATHAN WOOD “The Wiking Wanna-be”

and

TERJE “The Turn Master”

### **Directed by**

ED AUSTIN “Bad Connection”  
VICKIE AUSTIN “The Wiking Woman”  
SUSANNE DAVIS “Freshen Up”  
KAREN HORMAN “The Tech Troll’s Wife”  
SCOTT HORMAN “The Tech Troll”  
ERLEND D. PETERSON “Odin”



## 1996 NORDIC/RUSSIAN TOUR SHOW LINE-UP

### 1st Half

Frontier Hoedown  
American Medley of Music  
Polka Quadrille

Gospel Medley  
Waltz Round  
Galop

America Taps

Charleston

Trickle, Trickle

Western Swing USA

Steppin'

Medley of Appalachian Music  
Appalachian Patchwork

Monroe's Hornpipe  
Clog Showdown

### 2nd Half

Makedonsko Devojče  
Što Mi E Milo I Drago  
Bunjevačko Momačko Kolo

Chu Diao

Danse Québécoise

Russian Quadrille

La Bamba  
El Zapateado

Claddagh Ring

Méhkeréki Tapsos

Halyna Shawl  
Hopak

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