

Riots in France cause concern

Some students postpone travels, though all are fine

Grace Mattie
Staff Reporter

As the riots in France continue, Truman students studying abroad there are staying positive.

Nineteen days have passed since the riots started in Clichy-sous-Bois, France. Rioting since has spread to hundreds of the cities and towns surrounding Paris, but Truman students studying abroad in France this semester say they are OK.

"The international press is dramatizing it a lot," said junior Devon Bireta, who is studying in Aix-en-Provence, France. "They're making it seem like Paris is burning down."

The death of two teenage minorities sparked rioting mainly based on the discrimination in France, according to CNN.com. Patrick Lecaque, director of the Center for International Education and professor of French, said the failure to integrate minorities in France has been a problem for a long time.

"They have been dodging the bullet," Lecaque said. "President Chirac named it a social fracture."

Teenagers comprise the majority of the rioters, according to CNN.com. Lecaque said none of the violence is directed at the people, but rather the main form of protest in France is blowing up cars.

"It's a common form of protest in France," Lecaque said. "The French blow up cars on a weekly basis. On average, I would say 100 cars are blown up per weekend."

The closest Bireta came to experiencing any rioting was on her way back to France after staying in Italy for nine days.

"I saw smoke coming from the mountainside in Nice while I was on the train," Bireta said. "I'm not quite sure if that was a burning car or not, but that's all I've seen."

Bireta said having to postpone her trip to Paris is the only way the riots have af-

ected her. She said she made plans with junior Katy Klein to go in November, but now they are going in December.

As for the safety of Truman students, Lecaque said the University is not worried. He said most of the rioting is occurring a significant distance away from where any student is staying.

"We have a situation where no one is in danger," Lecaque said. "We communicate with the program directors in France almost every day to make sure our students are safe."

Lecaque said students are studying in Angers, Anancy, Chambéry and Aix-en-Provence. Most of the protesting is taking place in the suburbs of Paris.

Bireta said Truman sent out an e-mail to all the students in France that included precautions for them to take. Precautions include speaking quietly and avoiding being in a rioting area with a large group of Americans.

"Basically it told us to keep to ourselves and to try not to stick out as an American," Bireta said. "The French can tell you aren't French after hearing three words out of your mouth."

Lecaque said avoiding the suburbs of Paris is not a recommendation based entirely on the riots.

"Like in the U.S., there are places where you wouldn't go on a daily basis," Lecaque said.

He said no parents or friends of the students have submitted complaints thus far. He said that if an incident with a student were to occur, the University would handle it as if they were in the U.S.

"If a student got hurt here, he would get it taken care of and be on his way," Lecaque said. "I had an instance with one student who broke her leg while skiing, and she simply got a cast and stayed in France."

Lecaque said he does not think students will refrain from going to France next semester or in subsequent years. He said for the French, protests are part of everyday life.

The French faculty will have a panel presentation on the riots on Dec. 1.



Richard Weerts, professor of music, speaks at his retirement reception Friday in the Student Union Building.

Kelsey Vaughn/Index

Faculty laud ex-professor

Fine arts throws a party for former clarinetist professor, gives gift of a rocking chair

Lauren Jackson
for the Index

After working at Truman since 1961, Richard Weerts, professor of clarinet retired in July. Last Friday, the Division of Fine Arts honored Weerts' 44 years of service by giving him a retirement reception in the Student Union Building.

Robert Jones, dean of fine arts, said this was the first time the division could gather people to honor Weerts. The faculty gave him a rocking chair with the Truman seal laser-etched in the back of it as a retirement gift.

"We gave him that to sit in front of the fireplace and take it easy for the next 40 years or so," Jones said.

Throughout his many years at Truman, Weerts was not only involved with music on campus but also across the country. Randy Smith, professor of saxophone, said Weerts was the convener in the faculty meetings for the music department.

Weerts also taught Introduction to Research in Music, a graduate-level course, every semester for about 15 years, Smith said.

Weerts was an active recruiter for Truman's music department. Dan Peterson, director of bands, said Weerts helped him recruit high school students to Truman's band program.

Peterson said Weerts acted as the secretary for the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, a quarterly journal. Smith said he thinks Weerts was the secretary for about 40 years.

"NACWPI is technically an association on the national level, where everyone in the United States is invited, but you have to be a wind

or percussion instrument teacher," Smith said. "People then submit articles for publication, and [Weerts] puts the journal together, and it comes out every three months."

Weerts put Truman on the map through his position with the journal, Smith said.

"When I go to national conferences and say that I teach at Truman State, people will say, 'Oh, NACWPI, Dick Weerts.'" Smith said. "He has a national reputation through the journal."

When he came to Truman, Weerts began as the director of the clarinet choir. He also taught a woodwind methods class, Smith said. The woodwind methods class taught students who wanted to be band directors to learn to play all the instruments and know how to teach them. Smith said Weerts taught the class flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and saxophone.

"He's a great guy, very professional, always a gentleman and always looking out for his students," he said. "He was really a friend to the students."

Jones also has fond memories of working with Weerts.

"I'll miss his collegiality," Jones said. "He never said 'No.' Anytime I asked him to do something, to serve on a committee or help in some fashion, he was always willing to do his part."

Weerts also made a big impression on his students throughout the years. He tutored junior Aaron Stewart for two years.

"I thought he was a great guy and a great teacher and knew pretty much everything there is to know about the clarinet and music in general," Stewart said.

At his retirement party, Weerts spent time visiting with colleagues and students and remembering his time at Truman.

"It was a rewarding experience ... a very rewarding experience," he said.

Program moves degree planning online

Carl Walz
for the Index

Truman's degree worksheets soon will join the registration tunnel as relics of the University's not so tech savvy history.

The new online degree audit program, entitled Curriculum, Advising and Program Planning, moves the degree worksheets and the degree audit process online.

Registrar A. Kay Anderson said requests from the students and faculty for better technology use in part prompted the University to get CAPP. She said CAPP came with the Banner system, which Truman purchased five years ago.

"It was also one of the components we needed to implement last because everything else we did in the system built up to this point," she said.

The program works by attaching information to courses. When a student registers, the program places the course in the proper section, making certain that the course fulfills the requirement. Also, students can run a "what if analysis" to ensure their planned classes fulfill a requirement.

Only students entering Truman after fall 2004 can access the program because courses before then did not have the necessary information attached by the program's designers.

Anderson said CAPP still has some things that need adjusting but believes the program is running smoothly.

"This is set up to work perfectly for 95 percent of the students that go through the curriculum and take the classes that are in the catalog," Anderson said. "So occasionally when we have a student who might have numerous substitutions or might be a

transfer that had some unique situations, there may be something that we need to go back in and reprogram just for them."

As for the paper worksheets, Anderson said the registrar's office still would provide them but not for long.

"We will continue making paper worksheets available until we get the class that started in fall of 2003 to graduation," Anderson said. "At that point, there will be no point in the Registrar's office providing worksheets anymore."

Jason White, head academic adviser for Dobson Hall, said despite the rollout of the new program, he still uses the paper versions.

"I use both with students," White said. "I would recommend they use both because there are always exceptions."

White said he thinks the degree

audit program is great for keeping students with a declared major on track. But for those students who are not sure, White said he finds the paper worksheets work best.

"For first-year students [CAPP] is overwhelming I think," White said. "... So looking at the degree audit, trying to flip back and forth, it isn't as user-friendly."

White said he might create his own worksheets after the current ones are eliminated.

Senior Megan McKenna said she had her share of problems filing for graduation. She said she thinks the online program would have helped her during the process.

"It's similar to when we went online for registration," McKenna said. "Clearly it made it a lot easier. You don't have to be within the constraints of the office hours of the registrar."

NEWS | In Brief

Funds Allotment Council announces spring slate for organizational funding

Campus organizations requested \$71,450 in funds from the Funds Allotment Council for the spring semester. FAC approved 18 of the 22 requests from campus organizations. Those campus organizations received \$37,635 from FAC.

Nine campus organizations did not receive funding. Reasons for denial include applications being turned in late, the group being disorganized, incomplete information, no specifics and events not affecting Truman students.

A complete slate is available online at www.trumanindex.com

Police investigation leads to apprehension of two Kirksville residents on drug charges

The Kirksville Police Department arrested Kirksville residents Belinda S. Jones, 26, for narcotics violations, and Tonya K. Harris, 19, for fraud-related charges according to a press release issued by the Police Department.

Police searched 17 Devlin Place in Kirksville and found in this search and previous investigations several types of narcotics, possibly a small amount of crack cocaine, a prohibited weapon and evidence related to a prior case, according to the press release.

The investigation is continuing, with the possibility of additional charges or arrests, according to the press release.

U.S. Senate resolution designates 2006 as the year for students to study abroad

The Senate unanimously passed a resolution Nov. 10 asking secondary schools, higher education institutions, businesses and government programs to promote and expand study abroad opportunities.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill. and Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn, sponsored the resolution.

Philosophy and religion majors will give oral defense of their graduation theses

Philosophy and religion majors are required to give an oral defense of a thesis composed under the guidance of a committee of faculty readers.

The public oral defense will occur in the presence of an external examiner and will be open to the public.

Sessions will occur at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 28 and 30. Another set of sessions will be 9 to 9:50 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:20 Nov. 29 and Dec. 1 in Baldwin Hall 100.

For more information, contact Ding-hwa Hsieh, associate professor of philosophy and religion, at 785-4655 or Patricia Burton, professor of philosophy and religion, at 785-7247.

Committee presents two checks to charity

The Homecoming Committee presented a check of \$4,374.08 to the Kirksville and Truman chapters of Habitat for Humanity to construct its sixth house. The money was collected during Homecoming Week in October.

The committee also presented a check of \$501 for money raised via Truman's chapter of Habitat, the SERVE Center and the Student Activities Board for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Junior Josh Kappel and freshmen Tracey Blagingame and Mark Enselman were absent from the meeting.
- Mark Gambaiana, vice president of advancement, talked to Senate about the University's capital campaign drive.
- Senate passed the Funds Allotment Council's slate for organizational program funding for the spring semester by a 13-0-10 vote.
- Sophomore Mindy Maness, external affairs chairwoman announced a forum focusing on off campus housing will be Nov. 29 in the Spanish Room in the Student Union Building
- Junior Justin Fager, student affairs chairman said the student conduct code forum will be Nov. 29 in the Ryle Hall Main Lounge.
- Senate passed a resolution calling on the Missouri General Assembly to increase funding for Missouri's public universities.

DPS | Reports

- 11/14 Report of bicycle theft from Dobson Hall.
- 11/14 Subject reported property damage/vandalism to a vehicle south of the Student Union Building.
- 11/13 Report of bicycle theft from Dobson Hall.
- 11/11 Subject reported theft from Grim Hall.
- 11/10 Report of assault at Ryle Hall.

Too Tall's Two: The Inferno

Happy Hour Every Day 4 to 6 p.m.
Daily Specials:

Monday Texas Hold 'Em: Winner takes ALL!
Sign up 6 to 7 p.m. Starts at 7 p.m.

Margarita Special and Miller Lite Longnecks

Tuesday Trivia Contest Coming Soon!
22 oz. Draw special 2 for \$2

Wednesday Karaoke Coming Soon!
Long Island Ice Tea 22 oz. Draw Specials

Thursday Comedy Club: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month 8 p.m.
Open Mic Night: Best joke wins!
Ladies Night: Well drink and pitcher specials

Friday Inferno Party! Drink Specials at night
Happy Hour: 4 to 6 p.m. and 12 to 1 a.m.

Saturday Happy Hour! 1 to 4 p.m. and 12 to 1 a.m.
Inferno Party! Drink Specials at night
Dart Tournaments coming soon!

Entertainment 6 to 9 p.m.

Open Kitchen Every Night! Sports Bar

KOHLBERG LYCEUM SERIES

Presents



NEBRASKA THEATRE CARAVAN:
"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:30 p.m.
BALDWIN AUDITORIUM

Free tickets for Truman students, faculty & staff will be available on Nov. 29 with a Truman ID, in the Student Activities Board Office & the Center for Student Involvement, SUB. General admission tickets may be purchased at the Edna Campbell Bookstore and the Truman State University Cashiers window. For more information call 785-4016 or visit our Web site at <http://lyceum.truman.edu>.