

French youths say 'oui' to U.S. after Bristol stay

BRISTOL — A group of high school students from France have said “au revoir” to the United States after what they described as a “beautiful” and fun-filled 11 days being hosted by students and faculty from Bristol Central High School.

Though the students have each studied English for five years now, their trip to the United States, which ended last week, was their first.

Having traveled in Connecticut and a few other locales on the East Coast, most of the students agreed that New York City was their favorite American place and wished they had more time to spend there.

Henri Sejournet, however, said New York was “too crazy” and that he enjoyed the much cleaner, less hectic Boston the best.

The students said they were eager to return to the U.S., but would like to visit places such as Washington, D.C., and California if they could choose.

Chloe Jego would even like to study in the U.S. in hopes of perfecting her English, she said. While the students found Americans to be extremely receptive to them and an overall “friendly” people, certain differences between the two cultures were obvious, they said.

For one thing, French students attend school from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., which leaves no room for after-school sports.

Sejournet joked that he now understands why Americans dominate the Olympics.

Dining was another area of difference. The students found that they had much more time for lunch in France, and added that one of the few things they disliked about the United States was food that was also “too sugary” for them.

Sejournet also noted the teen-agers are allowed to drive two years earlier here. In France the legal age is 18.

Despite the differences, however, the students said they found America to be a “beautiful place.”

By KAITIE SHEA, PRESS STAFF, *The Bristol Press*, Tuesday, Apr 22, 2008

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