

A visit with the Burger of Austria

by Beth Seagle
Clarion Reporter

Mountains are all around you. Mozart's home town, concentration camps and salt mines are places you might visit. Where are you? You're in Austria.

On August 26, seven Brevard College students and Peter Burger, associate professor of history, left for Vienna, Austria. According to Burger, who returned just before fall break was over, the students have seen some interesting sights.

A typical day in their lives is having a morning class from 9:30 to 11:30. "I taught the students American Government in the morning and Ms. Zednik will be teaching Ethics now," said Burger.

Faculty member Maggie Zednik is the coordinator of the study abroad program.

After lunch they would do their shopping, then spend the afternoon studying German. The students take 10 hours of German a week.

In the evening the students have free time. Burger said, "They'd study, do their laundry, go out or visit with friends they had made."

"I would just sit around and read. I also listened to a short-wave radion to find out what was happening in the States."

Class schedules varied when the students would go on field trips.

"Classes were real informal," said Burger. "We'd sit around the kitchen

table, drinking coffee, and have class."

Holding up a stack of papers, Burger said, "The students keep journals and Mr. Zednik sends them to me."

The students visited Salzburg, the hometown of Mozart. Burger said some of the scenes from the movie "The Sound of Music" were filmed there.

"They also went to Hallstatt to a salt mine. Burger said the salt mine had wooden slides, and they slid down them. That was some fun," he said.

Burger described the visit to Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen as "depressing but interesting."

"The biggest problem was the language difference. The Austrians speak German, but each region has a different dialect," said Burger.

"When I went to the meat counter at the grocery store, I had to write down earlier what I wanted and show the piece of paper to the clerk," said Burger.

"Some of the students went to buy groceries. They went to the meat counter to get a chicken, but when they got home they found out they'd gotten a duck."

"At the local grocery store there were two girls. One was the produce clerk, and the other was the dairy clerk. I didn't realize they were twins. I'd walk in and speak to the one working in the produce, whom I called the 'Vegetable Girl,'" said Burger. "Then I'd go and get some milk



Sitting on top of the world—of the Austrian Alps, that is, student abroad Holly Andrews, surveys the view. She's one of seven BC students spending the fall semester studying in Austria. (Photo for the Clarion by Peter Burger)

and there she was again. I thought that girl really worked hard. I finally realized they were twins. The students joked with me about my vegetable girl."

According to Burger the Austrian people are in general more "laid back" than Americans. On Saturday the stores close at noon. They speak softer than Americans.

The Austrians like to get out and exercise. They are more physically conscious. Burger said, "People you would think could hardly move are out there exercising."

"I missed things we take for granted. They had peanut butter but not JIF."

The television shows are run by the government. Burger said, "The Austrians

really like Miami Vice."

"Items readily available here are scarce or not in existence there. They have lettuce but not good old U.S. lettuce."

The Austrians admire what they perceive the United States to be. Burger said, "Most were interested in getting to know our students. The Austrians liked to practice their English."

"The mayor of the town we were in and the head of the visitors bureau had a reception for us when we arrived," said Burger.

"The town was small, so our being there was noticed and felt. A town the size of Hendersonville was just two miles away."

"I enjoyed teaching and being with the students," said Burger. "They are a good group of students."

NEWS BRIEFS

Intramural Billiard Tournament

An intramural billiard tournament will be held on Wed., Nov. 30 and Thurs., Dec. 1 in the Student Union Gameroom. To enter the single elimination tournament, sign up in the SU gameroom or Room 105 in McLarty-Goodson by Tuesday, Nov. 29. Tournament winner will receive an intramural championship t-shirt.

Concert Band to perform

The Brevard College Concert Band will perform their annual fall concert on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 8:15 p.m.

Assistant Professor Steven Kelly and guest conductor Dr. John Locke of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro will share the podium in directing the band.

Intramural Basketball Officials Needed

Anyone wanting to officiate intramural basketball next semester should sign up now. Officials will be paid \$3.50 per game. Sign up in Room 105 in McLarty-Goodson or call extension 236.

PTK announces M.O.M for November

Phi Theta Kappa has elected Susan Wright as their member of the month for November. Wright is the corresponding secretary for the honor society, and has been involved in the PTK can drive for Thanksgiving. She also used her culinary skills at the PTK party on Nov. 13.

Clarion Corrections

The Clarion inadvertently identified Nathan Fearrington from North Surry High School. Fearrington is from Chapel Hill High School and averaged 17.0 points a game and 7.4 rebounds a game.

The Clarion left out Anna McCormick in the jazz band. McCormick plays the flute and is also in the percussion section.

The Clarion regrets the errors.

Compiled from staff reports

SU plans moving slowly

by Kenny Monteith
Editor

Final plans for the new Student Union are in the finishing stages, but the date of completion is still up in the air.

According to President Billy Greer, the coming months are the worst time for construction. "We're just not sure with the rain or snow," said Greer, "I hope for clear weather in January." Greer added that "we'll be very, very lucky if we're in it next fall."

Greer expects the bids for construction to go out to contractors around Thanksgiving. After six weeks, the contractors will gather at Brevard College where BC officials will open the bids.

Greer said that things could be turned in to a tailspin if the bids come in higher than expected. "Then we'll have to go back to the drawing boards," said Greer. The finalized plans must then be sent to Raleigh, and be checked for safety, sufficient spaces for the handicapped and other required specifications.

Dean of Student Affairs Norm Witek said that a growing need for a centralized building is the reason behind the construction. "This facility (the existing SU) isn't as well designed to deal with particular student activities," Witek said. "We can't really utilize the building."

Pending the final product of the new Student Union, the Coltrane Art Building will

move into what is now Sims Student Center.

And they couldn't be happier.

Art Instructor Bill Byers believes that the switch "will enhance our program and the new space will enhance our ability to put on exhibitions of quality work."

"It will bring a greater variety of work," Byers said, "and will be more inviting to the general public."

Byers added that the art department has a very good permanent collection, but it is scattered across campus in places such as the cafeteria and the library. "It will secure our collection as a whole," said Byers, "rather than a fragmented body of work that's here and there."

With the finalization of the plans and with the bids being sent out soon, the new Student Union will become a reality, but not in this fiscal year.

Poets Corner

The dolphin swimming,
Almost without dread of death,
Flies love — wet and free.

Brian L. Howell
Sophomore