To the Editor: It is heartening to learn that in the land of the Tour de France, bicycling is finally catching on as a lifestyle. Last June, upon arriving in Paris, I walked over to the plaza in front of the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) and found to my amazement La Fête du Vélo -- a weekend festival to promote the use of bikes in the city. There were games for children and refreshments each day of the festival. The highlight came on that Sunday when, with about 5,000 fellow bicyclists in yellow caps, we took over the streets of Paris, and made a 20-kilometer circuit of the city, past many major monuments and landmarks. This year's event is scheduled for June 2 and 3 (Web site: www.feteduvelo.com).

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