Visiting student journalists from 7 countries discuss summit

THE SUMMIT SEVEN

Note: For its coverage of the 1990 Economic Summit, the Thresher has gathered student journalists from throughout the United States and around the world. “The Summit Seven,” which includes perspectives from student journalists from each of the G-7 countries, will be a regular feature in the Thresher summit issues published this week.

Great Britain
Handshakes are no longer news. Back in the mid-1980s when Reagan and Gorbachev began talking, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher watched eagerly for signs of a Cold War thaw: every nuance of language was analyzed, every smile discussed. Each new handshake helped us breathe a little easier. Good news had been hard to come by. But now summitaries are old hat. Just in the last fortnight we have had the Economic Community in Dublin and NATO in London: more photo-opportunities, friendly words, bland communiqués. Gorbachev and Mandela have passed through. Peace and friendship are rather taken for granted these days.

So no offence to Houston, but 55 out of 56 million Britons are probably very indifferent to the G-7 summit. Vital discussions are taking place, behind closed doors. Handshakes in themselves are no longer news.

—Jonathan Marshall, Oxford University

Japan
Because Japan has the greatest economic power in the world, excepting perhaps the United States, the world naturally expects Japan to play her part in world economic affairs. But Japan has not yet met the expectations of the world.

Many Japanese think it is necessary to aid Eastern Europe, but for Japan, it is more necessary to support Third World countries in Africa and Asia. Only Japan represents Asia at the Economic Summit, and this is one important position for Japan to take.

On the other hand, it goes without saying that one of the important purposes of the economic summits has been to involve Japan in the activities of the United States and the European countries. There has been a wall separating Japan from the others at the economic summits. Sooner or later, Japan should make a move.

—Randy L. Udawej, Carnegie Mellon University

Rice shows its face (lift) to world

By Lorie List
Rice University

Rice University students who have spent the past few years of their lives familiarizing themselves with the intricacies of the campus would have had a hard time finding their way around now without a specially designed summit directory.

Many of the changes are obvious: new flower beds, added sidewalks, doorway plaques reading Federal Republic of Germany, posts and ropes sectioning off areas, and brightly colored flags flying everywhere. The more subtle changes, however, such as fresh coats of paint, a small white bench where there was none before, or a slightly altered entrance could make one question his or her memory as to exactly what is different.

Employees, volunteers and those simply caught in the crossfire have worked for the past several months to make sure that not even the smallest details have been overlooked in transforming Rice University into a temporary world stage.

Since January 26, when Rice was designated as the location of the summit meeting, Rice officials, student volunteers, the State Department and many other organizations have worked together to make necessary logistical changes across campus as well as aesthetic changes deemed necessary to create the appropriate atmosphere for an event bringing together the G-7 world leaders.

—Vice President of Student Affairs Ronald Stebbings called

NATO leaders set mood for Economic Summit

By Stephanie Hirsch
Swarthmore College and Amy Keener
Rice University

The two-day NATO summit in London last week helped set the stage for this week’s Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations, as both summits center around the theme of responding to the demands of a new Europe.

Of particular importance is the question of assistance to the Soviet Union. While the allied nations pledged their desire to assist Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev’s efforts at reform, they have so far avoided direct economic assistance—due in large part to objections raised by the United States and the United Kingdom.

Both President Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have raised doubts about the usefulness of grants to the U.S.S.R., citing what they feel is a need for major reforms in the Soviet economy prior to any investment of foreign capital.

The rationale employed in this portion of the NATO discussion is analogous to discussion surrounding the new Latin American aid proposal recently unveiled by President Bush. Under the new third world plan, eligible nations must enact “strong programs for reform” to receive economic assistance. Both aid to the Soviets and to Latin America are likely to be discussed further in the economic summit negotiations.

The issue of Soviet economic assistance comes out of the much larger theme of redefined relations between the U.S.S.R. and the West, which has placed NATO at a historical crossroad. The member nations of the 41-year-old organization agreed that NATO must adapt its structure to better address different military and political needs in the wake of the changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

“NATO must become an institution where Europeans, Canadians, and Americans work together not only for the common defense, but to build new partnerships with all the nations of Europe,” read the proposal recently unveiled by President Bush.

The leaders will also consider reducing trade barriers, which have been discussed in the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks. A decrease in trade regulations would allow Latin American nations to compete more effectively with Western producers.

The seven leaders assembled for this week’s economic summit will debate aid packages for Eastern bloc countries in response to democratic pressures by means of a “joint-declaration” in which we solemnly state that we are no longer adversaries.”

7 nations may open purses to change world

By Stephanie Hirsch
Swarthmore College and Amy Keener
Rice University

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Summit coverage has been anything but hot

With the horde of media personnel the summit has drawn, one might think reporters would be unearthing some captivating and important stories. Nope. All the media wants is a pretty — or shocking — picture.

Yesterday's Houston Chronicle splashed a picture of police in riot gear confronting irate citizens during yesterday's KKK march, and photos of another conflict and a flag burning were plastered onto an inside page. Yet what really happened was different: "Most city protesters peaceful," said one headline.

But that error is trivial compared to how the local dailies treated important pre-summit stories. Anything not favorable to the Bayou City was brushed over or ignored. Invisible are Houston's sizable black and Hispanic communities. There has been nothing noting that the local economic recovery has stranded many minorities and uneducated people.

Some may claim there was no alternative, that in a meeting between government leaders, governments will control the media because they dictate the agenda. That contains some truth, but not much.

The U.S. government has focused news coverage by its actions and inactions. It has dictated the minutest details for this event in an attempt to ensure that everything is magnificent for world leaders.

Its demands included that Rice drastically renovate the most gorgeous parts of buildings on campus. Naturally, this was done was newsworthy. But where was the healthy skepticism that should have accompanied that?

Furthermore, where is the summit does happen, how is news distributed? In controlled briefings where the press is spoon-fed the day's pablum of rhetoric.

But a real journalist, as we are told, shouldn't accept what one source, especially an official one, tells him. He should examine all sides of the issue.

The media has failed in its responsibility to the public, to learn and relay the absolute and unvarnished truth. It has allowed itself to be manipulated by one of the many who try to do so, in this case the Houston government and the headed by its favorite adopted son.

Exceptions exist, though. The Houston Press has been the only major outlet that's mused whether Houston's overdoing the hype, reported on The Other Economic Summit or examined any of the non-positive aspects of Houston.

Why? Other outlets don't want to report the true facts. They just want to give picturesque images to sell themselves.

CONSERVATIVUS BRITANNUS
CHARACTERISTICS: POLITAX, STUBBORNNESS
DOES NOT ADAPT WELL TO UNIFIED HABITAT

CONSERVATIVUS AMERICANUS
CHARACTERISTICS: DEFENSE SPENDING, SLEEPING, LACK OF SPONTANEOUS THOUGHT

CALL IT IN THE AIR.....
HEADS, YOU GOTTA RAISE TAXES.... TAILS, YOU GOTTA RAISE TAXES...

Public misunderstands German change

by Boris Maurer
Rice University

What we want is sensation. No matter if it is a bomb thrown in Beirut, the success of our local sports team, a great bank robbery (as long as there are hostages) or a revolution taking place somewhere. These are the events we get from our daily news horror show and if we are honest, we have to admit that these are the things we want to see. Sitting there, we know that all this is really happening. We are not involved but simply watching with red eyes and goose bumps. And now there are unbelievable and breathtaking things going on in Eastern Europe. Only five years have passed since Gorbachev took over the government in the Soviet Union and now all that seemed so stable and eternal to us breaks down. So everybody’s attention has turned to German reunification, what’s happening after monetary union, how Germans feel about all this and what will probably happen next.

It really frightens me how things are dealt with in the public. Newsweek comes out with a headline “The Almighty Deutsche Mark”, people begin to speak again about the resurrection of the Reich and I see KKK people running around with a Nazi flag. Everybody is monitoring Germany again. This is not always a good sign and I am not the only one worried.

There are many misunderstandings when things happen as fast as they have in the Eastern European countries. And there are not just misunderstandings in the ‘overseas countries’, like the USA, but in Europe too. Events are taking place with such speed that nobody is seriously able to follow, to understand or to analyze situations thoroughly. One of the problems related to this is understanding what the attitudes on unification in Western German society are. Since I arrived in the United States everybody has asked me what my opinion is on unification thinking I could give them the “the” German perspective. But there is no common German perspective. Instead the country is divided along several lines, even among those who agree on the idea of unification.

The other generation strongly suffered from the division of their country, which resulted in an individually felt division from their families and friends for many of them. It should be obvious to anybody that these people will just grip the chance and want unity as fast as possible.

They were happy when the Wall was falling like nobody in both Germanies and everybody was happy when the transition to a market economy was successful.

Many of the younger generation feel a strong reservation towards an uncontrollable, nationally dominated process to unity, or even to the liberation of the other Eastern European countries. Instead we learned to pay attention to a certain international solidarity former generations failed to learn. So we are stressing a process leading to unity which is more imbued into the process of European unification and the CSCE-process which has been brought back to life.

But this is mainly theory. Things are moving so fast because East Germany fears the threat of their recent history and wants to have close ties with a world that will prevent them from falling back into their “dark ages”. This does not make the problem easier to solve, but needs to be understood. And that is it going so fast is not at all a sign that the “old bad Germans” are on the run again.

There are two main problems remaining to be solved: The first problem is a more emotional and atmospheric one. How can we find a way, that enables our neighbors to welcome unification? This might be done by strengthened efforts towards European integration. The second relates to the position of Gorbachev and the Soviet Union. It is not, and this is the most important thing to state clearly, the Soviet Union who loses the Cold War. We all have to thank Gorbachev for allowing a development we all have the chance to gain from.

The two bloc system is vanishing. We need new collective aid and security structures in Europe including the Soviet Union and America too. In such a system will be a good place reserved for a unified Germany in a friendlier world.
KPK march provokes questions about first amendment rights

by Kelley Tuthill
University of Notre Dame

"Express what you've got baby, ready or not. Express yourself."

Hundreds of people in Houston took Madonna's words seriously Saturday and hit the streets to plug their particular cause.

While a group called Human R.A.C.E. demonstrated at City Hall to promote racial equality and Women Against Violence Everywhere (WAVE) marched down to Hermann Park, it was obvious that the day's big attraction was the Ku Klux Klan.

Love and hate, tolerance and intolerance, and hope and despair were all among the forms that freedom of expression took this weekend.

Economic summits have some substance beneath show, local hype

by Eric Jozsef
University of Paris

Are Economic Summits only show business? At first glance, such meetings seem to be more a huge party than a real opportunity to solve the world problems. An Economic Summit looks like an annual Olympic games with parades, cocktails and other media events. In this way, the 1989 French example, mixing meetings seem to be more a huge free speech event.

My first experience with the KKK came after months of national test of the limits of the First Amendment. All the debates about free speech came together after being bombarded by such passion.

Almost all of the visiting student journalists attended the KKK rally. We just had to see what the notorious beacon of white supremacy was all about.

What was once a distant vision from television was suddenly right in front of my eyes. From a distance the confederate flag came into view; then closer up the word "Nigger" hunged up from a Klansman's poster causing me to lose control of my emotions.

As the KKK marched past me, I was told for "white power worldwide" and the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power retaliated, telling the KKK to go away, a sex of hatred speech is alive and well in Houston.

Freedom of expression is not already written, and the journalists have heard about it. Only a few come shifts remain to be made. A change would be surprising and probably more attractive to the press.

Consequently, we can say that these annual meetings are obscene as the poorest countries often say? Unfortunately they are too extravagant, but they are not utterly pointless.

Since 1975, Economic Summits have allowed better and gradual cooperation between the members. During the economic crisis which started after the oil price increases and affected countries at different times over the following ten years and also after the stock market crash in 1987, negotiations were essential to avoid a political catastrophe as happened in Europe in the thirties.

Moreover, nowadays the USA needs more cooperation with the six other and also with the EEC because even if it is still remains to the strongest country in the world, the total supremacy of the post-war years is over.

Also, summits allow so-called shadow countries like Italy, France or Germany to take part in international economic decisions and boost EEC participation in world affairs.

Even if economic summits are not a model of democracy (actually, the Seven are likely to be making decisions concerning the Third World and Eastern European countries), they have a psychological importance. If they avoid, for instance, the UNO's disorganization. That is why, the show must go on.

The perfect host to this three-day historical occasion in the midst of the world's attention. There is a great opportunity to show abroad how the most industrialized, will not be able to tackle all the problems in the world. In fact that is not the real purpose of the summit are known before its beginning. The final communiqué is already written, and the journalists have heard about it. Only a few comma shifts remain to be made. A change would be surprising and probably more attractive to the press.

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Another Perspective

Last Friday, we watched a demonstration of the KKK. We saw seventy-five people ready to meddle in people's business. Are they dangerous? Probably they are not. However, in France and in other European countries, the police would have fought with them because such demonstrations would have been forbidden. In France, racism is not an opinion. It is a crime.

Of course racist people still exist even in France, but the promotion of segregation is banned.

Italian culture plays key role in Europe's change

by Isabel Lhuillier
University of Luigi Boocini

Being one of the seven most industrialized countries in the world, Italy is proud to be part of such a capital event as the Economic Summit. Italians feel that the KKK puts them at the same level of importance as the superpowers like the United States and Japan. But many of them may happily ignore the fact that although Italy is industrialized, like France, its partners still consider Italy to be a kind of second rate country.

In spite of the economic problems it is facing (the huge budget deficit and the public debt), Italy is proving to be very dynamic, and some Italian companies have taken a leading role both in Europe and in the Third World.

Italy is playing a key role in the European political and economical changes, which will give it a position of primary importance among those countries now called to make decisions on the global situation.

Nevertheless, communication and social relationships have proved to be more important than economic relations in the past few years.

We can say, for instance, that one of the main reasons for the fall of the Berlin Wall last year and other radical changes now taking place in Eastern Europe, is the significant increase in communication power. Such communication, boosted by technological achievement such as satellites, puts an end to the cold war which had attempted to keep such countries isolated from the rest of the world.

This powerful weapon, culturally transferred from one country to the other, turns out to be more efficient than guns and money. Italy's culture has always been Italy's ambassador throughout the world and is, by no mistake, one of the strongest resources Italy has been able to use when carrying on international relations.

Yet the American media, apart from some newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Herald Tribune, seems to assume that there is no country beyond the American borders and are barely concerned about what's happening abroad.

Every American has a precise feeling of what Italians have said so and so successfully been exporting—maybe it is pasta, leather goods, a historic background worthy of notice or smiling people and sunny landscapes. Even if these are stereotypes, Italy has been able to maintain some kind of acquaintance between our countries.

Without communicating information, young journalists should be aware of the responsibility they have to their readers, their colleagues and their profession. Understanding and cooperation is surely going to be achieved if cultures have the opportunity to become closer and the media, having made the moral commitment, is given the opportunity to convey this process.
A broccoli summit?

By Noelle Vance

University of Houston

The experience of being in the midst of summit activities is one that many people would not find pleasant. A broccoli summit? For one, it was not enjoyable for most of the students who attended. The vegetable for Houston’s hungry.

Broccoli Summit

By Rebecca Deaton

University of Houston

In a city that has weathered al-

Eager Houstonians spruce up city despite heat, time, cost of project

Both sides rally on abortion issue

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Jackson cancel out, but 'Populist Leaders Summit' goes on

by John Weimer
Rice University

The first Populist Leaders Summit was held without its most popular leader. Reverend Jesse Jackson canceled the trip the night before the first day of the two-day summit because of an undisclosed family emergency. Former presidential candidate and alternatives to communism than the recent usual suspects. The summit was held in Houston, the largest city in Texas and the fourth largest city in the United States. The summit was organized by the Populist Party and aimed to bring together leaders from around the world to discuss issues related to economic development, social justice, and alternative models of governance.

The summit took place in a city that had witnessed significant changes in recent years. Houston had experienced a boom in the energy industry, leading to significant economic growth and job creation. However, the city also faced challenges, including poverty and inequality. The summit was an opportunity to discuss how to address these issues and find solutions that would benefit everyone.

In addition to the summit, there were protests and demonstrations in the city. The marchers were members of the Justice Department who were monitors for walking on grass as they approached the city. The organizers of Cure AIDS pressed for the possibility of losing this historic landmark, calling instead for renovation of the area. The most of these houses are in need of repair; the exterior paint is peeling off and many of the windows are boarded up. The neighborhood is dotted with overgrown, trash-filled lots where original steps of former residents remain. The most of these houses are in need of repair; the exterior paint is peeling off and many of the windows are boarded up. The neighborhood is dotted with overgrown, trash-filled lots where original steps of former residents remain. The most of these houses are in need of repair; the exterior paint is peeling off and many of the windows are boarded up. The neighborhood is dotted with overgrown, trash-filled lots where original steps of former residents remain.

The third was Deloyd Parker, a member of the Ida Delaney Justice League/Houston Non-Violence League who was shot and killed by officials of Cure AIDS. The police eventually ticketed three participants from the event, arrested three participants from the event, and then acquired a cocaine charge.
G-7 nations receive dismal environmental report card

By Allen Lue
UC Berkeley

The United States ranked fourth and West Germany placed first out of the G-7 nations in an environmental scorecard issued yesterday by a coalition of the world’s leading environmental groups.

Overall, the coalition characterized the summit nations’ performance as dismal.

"This scorecard is bad news for the environment," said George Frampton, president of the Wilderness Society, a 300,000 member U.S. organization. "If this were a report card, then all of the nations except Germany wouldn’t be here next semester—not even on probation." France, the United Kingdom, and then Canada placed behind Germany, while Japan and Italy lagged in the bottom of the rankings.

The scorecard highlighted the activities of the first Envirosummit, an effort of more than 150 international environmental groups to attract some of the spotlight cast on the economic summit. The coalition judged countries on their political response to six key issues including global warming and energy, ocean pollution, population, biodiversity protection, environment, and aid to the Third World.

Environmentalists feel that the summit nations have reneged on promises made at last year’s summit. During the 1989 economic summit in Paris, the G-7 nations dedicated a large portion of their final communiqué to addressing environmental issues and policies. President Bush the Paris summit laid the groundwork “for specific steps when we meet again next year in the U.S.” But, "There’s a huge gap between rhetoric and reality," Frampton said. "The G-7 nations are doing virtually nothing to deliver on the promises from Paris."

The project began in February, and since then environmentalists have analyzed reams of data from G-7 governments and plugged it into a complex formulas to determine the rankings.

"There’s a psychological response to being graded and compared to other countries," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists. "That’s the power of the project.

The United States has for the most part been dragging their feet on environmental issues, said James Tripp, general counsel of the Environmental Defense Fund.

"The U.S. should be a leader on energy policy, not a global hinderer and a laggard," Tripp said. "The U.S. isn’t like a so-called rich countries.

The government has shown leadership in efforts to reform World Bank lending policies to protect the tropical rain forests, and it has offered environmental aid to Eastern Europe, he said.

Yet the United States received the lowest ranking out of all the nations. Japan, the so-called "model" nation with the highest population densities, was ranked fourth. France, the United Kingdom, and then Canada placed behind Germany, while Japan and Italy lagged in the bottom of the rankings.

The proposal represents the first effort by the international environmentalist community to lobby their individual countries on the same forum with other countries.

"The G-7 nations provide assistance to encourage the worldwide trend toward democracy, leaders must decide whether to aid and how to create a new global to meet the increasing needs," said Secretary of State James A. Baker III recently outlined some American priorities with respect to global population growth.

The nations divide on the issue of aid to the Soviet Union to finance reforms. Bush has indicated that the U.S. will not support the Soviet Union without trade spending reductions, yet the administration will not attempt to prevent other countries from doing so.

With more money channeled into newly opened Eastern bloc countries through banks that finance loans to developing countries, Latin America may be forced to compete for government assistance and private investment.

GATT negotiations will impact Latin America’s potential to export agricultural products. With reduced trade restriction, Latin America will be able to export greater quantities of agricultural product.

The only way that Latin America can recover from the long run is through its ability to export agricultural products," said Robert Dix, professor of political science at Rice. "Loans and aid are only temporary fixes.

Bush unveiled a plan to open trade among American countries in an attempt to stimulate trade and provide economic relief in an address on June 27.
KKK parades past Rice gates hailing ‘white power,’ racial separation

by Brian R. Hecht
Harvard University

Wearing traditional hooded white robes and carrying confederate flags, a group of approximately 300 Ku Klux Klansmen marched down Main Street in Houston. Some 80 members of the Ku Klux Klan marched down Main Street in Houston. They’re just doing it for a thrill.

The Ku Klux Klan has been a controversial organization throughout its history. Despite its racist beliefs and actions, the Klan has managed to attract a following in various parts of the United States. The group is known for its white supremacist views and has been involved in many incidents of violence and discrimination.

The Klan march prompts angry demonstrations

by Shelley N. Fuld
Rice University

Protesters outnumbered Ku Klux Klansmen in Saturday’s Klan march down Main Street by more than four to one, with over 350 protesters to only 75 Klansmen.

Before the march even began, different groups of protesters engaged in shouting matches. Melissa Valdez, a Rice freshman was crying and arguing with activists about the role of the police.

Valdez said the police were protecting everyone, not just the Klansmen. The cops are acting as if they are trying to protect us. We wouldn’t be safe. They can control the Klan. It’s safety—that’s all it is, she said.

The activists argued with Valdez that those in the Klan are only kids (the police) to protect them.

Valdez said the Constitution protects everyone, including the Klan. If it weren’t for the Constitution I wouldn’t be here. Don’t you see the freedom in the United States? I don’t believe in anything the Klan is doing. We need to get rid of them.

About 100 of the demonstrators were gay rights activists who followed the Klan procession behind police lines while taunting, screaming and shouting at them.

Richard Prawitz, a member of the radical gay rights organization ACT-UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, screamed at marchers, “Even the Klan has AIDS.” Prawitz said, “Wearing gay is the way to get AIDS just like everyone else—that’s our message.”

Brian Bradley of Houston, an ACTUP member said, “I believe the citizens of Houston are self-respect ing and believe the police are misanthropic people. I don’t care if I pass them off. I’m on my way to the funeral home. I carry the HIV virus.”

Bradley said the skinheads shares the Klan’s beliefs but do not have enough experience to have a real understanding. “What type of world do they expect to create from this?” he asked. “We are going to get them for a thrill. They are under the influence of ignorance. I want to know where their parents are.”

Johny Amos, a black man in the crowd was wearing a black hood and calling himself the “Grand Dragon.” He and his wife and children were telling the crowd that the hood cost only 56 cents and shouting, “Anyone can wear a hood.”

Amos’s children were pointing at the Klansmen and shouting, “That’s my daddy. And he hasn’t paid his child support for a month.”

“They [the Klansmen] need to get their children out of there. Amos said of one of the young boys marching with the Klan. His daughter, Angela Amos, who is thirteen years old said, “Their parents really force them to do it.”

Sonsi述, a Hispanic woman who asked that her last name be used, was taking her son and daughter, a boy and a girl, nine to the zoo in Hermann Park.

She did not know the march was taking place and said, “I’m glad they saw this so that they can grow up and know this is not of God. One day the Klan is going to have to face God.” She said her children were very afraid and could not understand the parade and her best friends are white. They can’t understand why these people are different.

Not everyone in the crowd was anti-Klan, however. About 15 youths calling themselves skinheads supported the Klan and provoked shouting matches early on, even before the Klan arrived.

A female skinhead said her parents support her activities one hundred percent. “There’s no place for us. I have two black children and white race is going down the drain.”

The number of protesters almost matched the number of Klansmen on hand to keep the two groups separate. One of the Houston Police officers said between 300 and 600 police men were working the march. An officer who refused to be identified said of protesting the Klan, “Sure it makes me mad, but they’re [the Houston Police Department] forcing me to be out here.”

Houston City Councilman Jim Greenwood, a Rice alumnus, said the extension of a Ku Klux Klan “is an logical result of the past peaceful Klan marches in Houston that were well secured by the police, as well as violence that had erupted during Ku Klans marches in other cities in the early 1980’s.”

The police persuaded the Klan to get together to a remote area ride into Houston, and be protected for two reasons. One, we could be sure that the police were protecting everyone, not just the Klansmen. The police are supposed to protect us.

The marchers conveyed their racism message not just by their words, but also through their appearance. In the sea of white robes, two marchers were wearing all black. “I’m a nigger,” said Rick Ferguson, a Klansman from Texas.

“Everyone has got to have a nigger. That’s me,” he said. “I’m a nigger,” he explained. “I’m the nigger for this town.”

“All these people have something wrong with them,” Ferguson said, gesturing towards the protesting crowds.

Another man, dressed in army fatigue refused to acknowledge the “folks” in the crowd at whom he was shouting. “I don’t see no folks,” the Klansman said. “Those ain’t no folks. Those is animals,” he said.

“These people are blind,” another marcher said of the crowds. “Blind to their own race.”

The Klan marchers were predominantly male, but the few women marchers said they were not made to feel inferior to the Klansmen. “We women hold the same beliefs as men do,” said one woman who was also dressed in the traditional hooded white robe.

“It’s not an issue of gender,” said Linda, who came to the march from Chicago. Many of the marchers said they were not from Texas, but had been asked to come to Houston for the summit demonstration. One marcher, who said he was active in his local Klan organization in North Carolina, added that many of the marchers had come from other states.

Houston police officers arrested two photographers for breaking their barricade. “Why am I being put in jail,” shouted Andrew Soderlund of KTRC television in Austin as he was being arrested. “What have I done wrong?”

Marchers bring WAVE to Houston

by Noelle Vance
University of Michigan

The silence was broken for at least 100 women Saturday as they walked through the streets of Houston condemning "rapist ethics" and violence. But for many women, domestic violence is still a subject one doesn’t shout about.

Wearing green and purple ribbons, two hundred members of the local organization, Women Against Violence Everywhere, took to the streets from the First Unitarian Church to Hermann Park, where speakers told of their experiences with brutality and encouraged participants to vote for people who are sensitive to the problems of violence and crime in the world.

The silence has persisted too long,” said Jacamin Shah, WAVE organizer and spokesperson. "Rapes happen not only in the dark alleys, but in the safest places...our homes,” she said.

Though many organizations in the past five years have spoken against rape and domestic abuse, such violence remains largely unheard of or unreported in the counties represented at the 1990 Economic Summit.

"I'm sure it does happen," said Nicoletta Pisano, a journalist with the II Domani, about domestic violence. "But it doesn't happen as often as it happens in the United States," said Pisano. The locals said the number of cases reported might be due to the Italian family structure or to fear of embarrassment if a case is reported.

Contributors: Sam Hawkins, Brian Hecht, Myra Rocker, Noelle Vance.
Good food and company create fun MediaFest

BY ANN ZITTERKOPF
RICE UNIVERSITY

It’s always refreshing to walk into an ethnic restaurant and hear an authentic accent. This was very much the case when two friends and I visited Bangkok Taste (1226 Westheimer, 528-6167), an excellent Thai restaurant. The service throughout the meal was incredible. Our waiter was attentive, but not overbearing. When we arrived, he put the intricately folded napkins in our laps and hurried to get us tea.

The iced tea ($1.75) was much lighter than the standard instant Lipton. It had a crispier, more appealing taste. We also tried the Thai Iced Tea ($1.25). This tea was similar to an iced coffee. The layered drink itself was very aesthetically pleasing and tasted so sweet it could have been dessert. The top half of the drink was opaque white (coconut milk) and the bottom half looked like normal tea but tasted almost like a light, creamy coffee. (In addition, this tea was great for soothing taste buds whenever one of us would chew a chili pepper.)

Each of the items on the menu had a spiciness rating from zero (mild) to two asterisks (very hot). When trying the food, however, we did not find this system consistent. The waiter said, though, that any item can be prepared specifically for the customer’s palate.

When we began to order appetizers, our waiter politely recommended the Satay ($3.50) and said it was the best appetizer on the menu. We followed his advice and were quite pleased. The Satay consisted of skewered barbecued pork with a fresh, delicious peanut sauce. Also accompanying the pork was an onion and cucumber salad in a vinegar marinade. This too was incredibly flavorful. The Satay had a single asterisk by it but was not spicy, just well seasoned.

We also ordered the Pahd Kana Tod ($2.50), spring rolls, just to sample their entrees, Nuea Pahd Kana and Guy Phad Med Ma Muang. The Nuea Pahd Kana ($6.95) was my favorite. This entree included slices of beef and delicious mushrooms in a red wine sauce on rice. This dish had no asterisks beside it, but was definitely the spiciest.

I also liked the Guy Phad Med Ma Muang ($6.95), in this chicken pieces were cooked with cashews and sliced scallions and served on rice. This dish had one asterisk beside it, but was the mildest of all the entrees.

The portions of the entrees were not huge, but substantial and filling. They all had extremely lean meat and very sticky rice. The menu also had noodle, curry and vegetarian selections that I want to go back and sample. There is also a limited lunch menu on weekdays on which every entree (except seafood selections) is $3.99.

Restaurant offers great food