

The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

In May, Ignacio Rivadneira visited from Chile. A member of a political commission, The Center Rightist National Renewal Party, he was here for the purpose of studying university student interest and involvement in political activity. After his visit he wrote, "My professional appointments were all very interesting. The volunteers were very nice. Dinner (at Diana Davies' house where she was joined by some student activists who are also CIVIC members) was very good and the company was fun – good conversation. My trip to Iowa City was positive. We meet very nice and interesting people."

From the time of the last publication of *CIVIC Citizen* to the time of Ignacio's visit, CIVIC has not been inactive. We have accommodated many visitors and, although we prefer to write about each visit individually, we were missing a reporter during that time so we will have to summarize. Visitors came from South Korea, Austria, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Cyprus, Germany, Sweden, Thailand, Finland, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yugoslavia, and China. They came to discuss such varied subjects as human rights, managing diversity in a multi-ethnic society, law enforcement, higher education, and mass communication. The following statement from one of them reflects the sentiments of all: "Our trip to Iowa City was very positive. All the people were so open to discuss anything we wanted to know. Professional appointments were very good. The work that your community colleges do is remarkable. All the appointments were very good. Volunteers were perfect. I cannot find another word. They were all so good to us, never left us alone. Wonderful people." Home hospitality was provided by Kenn & Jan Hubel, Newman & Kristi Abuissa, Pamela Stewart, Tricia Knox & Pete Kollasch, Marilyn & Earl Rose, and Lester & Betty Batterman. Many of the visitors expressed their intentions to stay in touch with those they met while they were here.

Quotes from two of the other visitors: "Those members of the group who went to Milwaukee (the group was split) were not as lucky as we were, for which I would like to express my gratitude"; and, "I'll never forget the button, 'He Lied', which Tom (Baldrige) wore on his pocket."

During that same time period, in a reversal, instead of our hosting international visitors, they hosted us. Twice. Participants in the Junior Faculty Development Program sponsored a pizza luncheon in the International Center lounge in appreciation for all those, including members of CIVIC, who helped them adjust to life in Iowa City. Based on attendance, it took quite a few people to accomplish that. Then, to celebrate the Orthodox New Year, they held another party, bringing their own home-made foods. After the dinner there was singing, dancing and live music – played on instruments from their home countries.