

DIALOGUE ON RACE

OCTOBER 18, 1997
Rice University Campus
9:00 a.m.-12:00m.

di' a logue or **di' a log n.** Abbr. **dial.**: A conversation between two or more people; An exchange of ideas or opinions.

Welcome to a dialogue on race, sponsored by the Harris County Democrats (HCD), an organization dedicated to fostering dialogue on important issues and ideas. Founded as a multi-cultural, multiracial organization at the nadir of McCarthyism in the 1950s—a time when people who believed in racial integration were branded as "communists"—HCD has a proud tradition of tackling tough issues head-on.

We are meeting today as one of many groups around the country responding to President Clinton's call for a national dialogue on race. Our purpose is to encourage talk at the grass-roots among people of different races, ethnicities, and political and religious creeds. There is no "politically correct" line, no official position on the issues raised here today. People are encouraged to speak their mind without fear of being shouted down, whatever they have to say. Disagreement is encouraged, so long as it is offered in a way that is respectful of others' views.

I.

Welcome to the campus by Daryl Shorter, student body president of Rice University.

II.

Introduction by Chandler Davidson, chair of the Department of Sociology, Rice University, and moderator.

III.

Ten short "takes" on race and ethnicity in America by people from different walks of life offering different perspectives: Tom Burns, Judy Le, Odette Cormier, Al Vera, Sayad Zafar, Bill Wallauer, Andrea Mendez, Emery Fu, Elisheva McQuown, Madge Bush.

IV.

A thirty-minute dialogue within small groups.

V.

A report back to the assembled audience by a representative of each small group.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS PROGRAM.
THE NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM IS IMPORTANT!**

Dialogue on Race. . . .

agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Report of where we are and what we want to do .**
 1. **Where we started.**
 2. **The President's Plan.**
 3. **Dr. Chandler Davidson.**
 4. **October 18, 1997 at Rice from 9:15 - 11:30 AM.**
- **Discussion type of program.**
 1. **Dr. Davidson the moderator with three minute speeches from 8 to 12 people from the rank and file. We would use 4 people one from each group. We want people from the community who are not candidates nor office holders.**
 2. **Then we would have open mikes for people in the audience to make timed remarks.**
 3. **We would have people sign up for follow up small workshops in the future.**
 4. **We would also have people sign up for work sessions going on in Harris County.**
- **Hold a meeting in February for a follow up report.**
- **How can you help?**
 1. **Get us speakers you know?**
 2. **Help us find work we can do?**
 3. **Lead a small discussion group?**
 4. **What else?**
- **Announcements**
- **Adjourn**