Duncan Decries Pessimism, Sets Tone For Discussions

By TOM SCHUNIOR

“Can a crowd be anything but lonely? And what is so evil about the fact that it is?” These were some questions that Dr. Hugh Duncan posed in conversation about the first Book-of-the-Semester discussion this Thursday in Fondren Lecture Lounge at 4:30.

ADDED DR. Duncan, “All this moaning and wailing about the passing of our old human values may just be irrelevant. Our modern large-scale operations and great mobility are given conditions; our problem is to make the best of them.”

Setting the tone for this semester’s discussions, he maintained, “I hope we’ll arouse some real controversy and debate. You just can’t consider these social conditions in a total vacuum void of any personal commitment.”

DR. DUNCAN, who will preface the first discussion with some general remarks about Riesman’s Lonely Crowd, comes to Rice’s sociology department this year after spending the past several years writing. Dr. Konstantin Kolenda, moderator of the discussions, has extended a special invitation for all old Agora devotees to come participate in the discussions. The group will decide on a permanent meeting time this Thursday.