

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pass-Fail System An Improvement

I would like to commend the new grading system of the grade schools in Dade County. A new pass-fail system has replaced the old method of grading. This system is advantageous because it allows the student to work at his own pace and level.

Under the new system, no grades are given, the report cards only indicate whether or not the student has

"When a student fails to do satisfactory work, he is placed in a class better suited to his ability. This prevents him from accumulating blind spots . . ."

done satisfactory work. In general, too much emphasis has been placed

on grades, and not enough on how much the student has gained. The pass-fail system has eliminated this problem.

When a student fails to do satisfactory work, he is placed in a class better suited to his ability. This prevents him from accumulating "blind spots" in his knowledge of a subject.

By the same token, the student who excels is placed in a higher level.

This new system has eliminated many of the problems of education. I think the grade schools have made much progress.

STEVE A. MERRITT

New Rating Plan Tried In Schools

By **BILL GIBSON**
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Selected schools across the state are taking part in a pilot project that attempts to base accreditation on how much children learn — not on the number of desks and chairs.

Lee Roberts, director of accreditation for the Department of Education, admits it will be difficult to set the standards for judging how much a child is learning. He estimates that it may take four or five years.

But he said the new system should give more information.

"EVEN IF IT is not perfect," Roberts said, "it is better than just counting chairs. At least we'll know where we need to work. We didn't need to work on those chairs."

The proposed accreditation standards were put in the mail last week to the 381 participating schools. Information copies of the 363-page standards also were sent to other schools.

Roberts said the project is the first large-scale attempt to include the teaching product in accreditation standards.

September 10, 1968

Talked with Moses Dean this morning in regard to time for Marjorie Camp to present American Flag to J. F. Kennedy Center - at adult advorory board meeting at 8 p.m. on Sept 19th.

Moses said that he was beginning to win the young ~~xxx~~ black people back. They were coming to him individually and in groups for advice as to what to do. Said he was giving the same words he had been using all along - They should show themselves in good light, obey school rules, do not ask for anything because they are black, see themselves as students and not others as black or white. Do not leave class unless the teacher gives permission and they have a slip to leave - and their reason is a legitimate one according to the rules of the school.

Moses said he wanted me to understand that he was with the black group of young people both the ones who do right and wrong, and especially the wrong ones as these are the ones who really need help to get them on the right track. Did I understand.-- That what he was telling these young black students was that they needed first of all to get an education. We all had to live under rules, even tho sometimes we don't like to and its hard to do so.

Saw Ruth Campbell and asked her what all of these meeting were all about. She said which ones "Bill Dickinson's" or the other meetings.

1st meeting was at Willard Lewis's home. Then this group was enlarged with more parents at another meeting. Some of the group meeting in these included Ruth Campbell, Lewis, Jack Levy, Gloria Woods,

Told of meeting with Miss Gilkey and what a nice meeting it was until Bill Dickinson showed up. She felt embarrassed over some of his remarks and attitude.

Ruth did not know what prompted Bill to make the appointment with Dr. Whigham, and have Ollie Pearson and Cheif Emmet Snider there.

Then the meeting at which Dr. Whigham ~~did not~~ declined to come. It was held at Harris Field House --about 400 attending. She seemed in complete disagreement with the way Bill Dickinson spoke etc.

~~Evidently~~ When I asked Ruth why this seemed to have been taken ~~we~~ away from the Student Council and elected leaders at S. D., she said that many of the students and parents felt that thru ~~Libbie~~ Libbie Cool and a few of Council group-- the attitude was just to present one side -- the decision had already been made to change the name. The ballot on which students were to show preference - would not count as a yes or no to name change unless a reason was given. Even one of the officers (V.P.?), was not invited to meetings held before school started.

This young group now being organized was a more representative group. Who hoped to bring the name change to a proper vote -- and then abide by the results - and get back to attending school for the purpose of study.

This last was the main concern of most of the parents becoming involved.

I asked Ruth if she did not think by Bill Dickinson going directly to Dr. Whigham that it certainly undermined the authority of Mr. Wilson, and his administrative position with students and faculty. She agreed.

on -
Herald
page

Students Rebel at 'Rebels'

By **BILL AMLONG**
Herald Staff Writer

Black students at South Dade High School are asking school officials to stop calling school athletic teams "Rebels."

"The name is a personal hurt to them in their hearts, in their convictions," Homestead Community Relations Board chairman John McLean said Saturday.

"They said it was a name that would be an affront to black people."

McLean said the students wrote a letter to Principal William R. Wilson, and have met with him to ask a name change.

"They said that if the name wasn't changed by the time school opened, they'd go to the press with it," said McClean.

McClean said school officials already planned a name change, but haven't announced it to the students yet.

"School officials themselves just don't like the name Rebels," he said.

"They've heard this complaint verbally before, but never through a committee."

McClean said the name change would take time, because it would necessitate changing band uniforms and such, too.

School officials were unavailable for comment.

Miami
Herald -
Aug 4, 1968
Sunday

Wipe Out Rebels,

Aim Of 'SOUL'

By GERRY CROSBY

South Dade Negro students determined to stop what they term "racist" policies that oppress black students have formed an organization and will present their grievances to the school board this month.

The "Student Organization for Unity and Liberty" (SOUL) comprised of approximately 100 students claims its main objective is to cleanse South Dade High of its racist policies which serve to oppress black students, deny them privileges and derogate their dignity.

The group has requested a hearing at the School Board's August 7 public meeting at which time they will list the following complaints:

1. The nickname of South Dade High School, the Rebels, is blatantly racist. The name of Rebel, the Rebel flag, uniforms, songs and ideas that serve to perpetuate the rebel tradition are oppressive to students.

2. Discriminatory treatment of black students by teachers and ad-

ministrators. SOUL claims white teachers and administrators have displayed unequal treatment toward black students, manifested by discriminatory grading, unfair disciplinary actions, unwarranted derogatory remarks, and unequal application of school rules and standards.

3. Discriminatory treatment regarding black students' participation in student organizations. Black students are underrepresented on the student council, there are no black cheerleaders or majorettes and the admission policies in general serve to deter black membership in school clubs, the group claims.

4. Discriminatory treatment of black athletes. SOUL says that unequal playing opportunities are given to black athletes, deserved recognition is denied them and their activity bus has been taken away. In addition a policy exists which is generally exploitive of black athletes.

5. The absence of black teachers,

Rebels Racist?

coaches and administrators. The absence in numbers of black teachers, coaches and administrators points to a hiring practice that is clearly racist and serves to deny the black students adult leaders who can understand their problems and with whom they can identify.

6. The absence of black history and culture from the curriculum.

7. Discrimination in the school library. There have been several instances in which black students have been denied use of the school library, SOUL claims. The reasons given were untenable and it is clear that racial prejudice prompted those denials.

To eliminate the above racist policies, the members of SOUL said they

demand the following:

1. The school's nickname of "Rebel" be eliminated and be replaced with a name that is not oppressive to black students.

2. A charge in the racial attitudes of teachers, coaches, administrators, librarians and other employees. In the absence of such change their dismissal is demanded.

3. More Black representation on the student council. The addition of black girls to the cheerleaders and majorettes squad. A revamping of club policies so as not to deter black membership.

4. Equal treatment for black athletes which must include the reinstating of an activity bus.

5. The hiring of additional coaches and black administrators.

6. The inclusion of black history and culture in the school curriculum.

Black students of South Dade High School said they are sincere in their demands which must be met immediately or action will be taken.

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N/L
Aug 5

'Save the Rebels' Is Campaign Yell At South Dade

Negro Students Object

By SHARON TYLER
Herald Writer

South Dade High School students, parents and alumni will meet at 8 p.m. today "to save the rebels."

The meeting will be held on the football field where the South Dade High School "Rebels" play ball to the strains of "Dixie Harris Field on U.S. 1 in Homestead.

"We'll get the reaction of students and see just what they want to do," said Jack Levy, a South Dade parent and former president of the Homestead Chamber of Commerce. "We'll form a delegation to go to the School Board hearing at 3 p.m. Wednesday."

The meeting was called after Negro students at the school requested a name change for the school's athletic teams.

"The name is a personal hurt to the Negro students; in their hearts, in their convictions," Homestead Community Relations Board chairman John McLean said last Saturday. Since then, McLean has found himself in the middle of the name dispute.

The Negro students petitioned the Dade School Board for a 3 p.m. Wednesday hearing.

"Our board's purpose is to listen to complaints of different groups," said McLean. "Our board has not been asked by students or the school officials to hold a meeting."

McLean said that school officials contacted him after receiving the letter from SOUL (Students Organization for Unity and Liberty.)

"What can be in the name 'rebel' that upsets this group?" asked Levy "What is in the name 'rebel' that's obnoxious? There's nothing in the meaning of this word that should be repulsive to the Negroes."

Says School Official

News Leader
8/6

Rebel Name Likely To Stay At S. Dade

NEWS LEADER
Aug 6
FRONT PAGE

By VIRGINIA AMENDT
South Dade High School's "Rebel" nickname won't be ordered summarily dumped by school officials, despite a de-

mand for a name change by a newly organized group of black students.

That was the word Monday from Marvin Griep, director of

secondary schools in the south district, after this and several other "demands" by the black student group were made public.

School officials didn't choose the Rebel name, Griep pointed out; it was chosen by vote of students and faculty when the school first opened. If it's changed, it should be changed the same way, he added.

"We recognize that this is a symbol which might be objectionable to a changing, growing student body," said Griep, "but to act out of a blue sky would not be correct procedure."

Making a name switch would involve "lots of ramifications," he added. Athletic teams bear the Rebel name, band uniform caps carry out the Confederate theme, and the school newspaper is called the Rebel Review.

The new Student Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL) presented its demand for a name change from Rebel in a list of seven complaints made public Monday. SOUL has asked a hearing before the school board's meeting Wednesday to air its complaints and ask changes in what it calls "racist policies" at the school.

Griep sat in on a meeting a week ago with a committee from the new group and South Dade Principal William R. Wilson. Wilson is on vacation and couldn't be reached by the News Leader Monday.

In response to News Leader questions on other complaints of the group, concerning alleged lack of Negroes on the staff and the absence of teaching of Negro history and culture, Griep supplied this information.

South Dade had one Negro teacher last year, another will be added to the faculty this year, and "We are working toward further integration of the faculty." The athletic coaching staff has no Negroes and will have none this fall since there are no vacancies to be filled on the staff.

The county school office is studying the question of adding more black history and culture to the school curriculum. However, it wouldn't be taught as a separate subject but would be incorporated into subjects already taught. Griep noted that some of this is included in present courses.

South Dade until very recent years had no Negro students. In the past three years Negro enrollment has increased from a mere handful to about 100 last year.

Various complaints of alleged "discrimination" were voiced by Negro students to officials at South Dade during the past school year but the list of complaints and demands represents the first action by an organized group.

'Save Rebel' Meeting Scheduled For Tonight

Students, parents and alumni of South Dade High School will meet at 8 p.m. today at Harris Fieldhouse in Homestead to "save" the school's Rebel nickname.

The meeting was organized Monday after a group of Negro students at the school called for a change in the Rebel name, which they term "racist."

Tonight's rally is expected to produce a formal stand in opposition to the Negro group's demand, with a delegation named to appear at Wednesday's county school board meeting.

The Negro group, Student Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL), will present seven complaints over alleged "racist policies" at South Dade High to the school board at 3 p.m. Wednesday at 1410 NE Second Ave., Miami.

Today

By PAUL BROOKSHIRE

WHAT'S IN a name? That which we call a Rebel

By any other name would smell the same — after football practice.

IF NOT Rebels, what? Sharks? Dragons? U-Pickers? Farmers? Plowboys? Unicorns? Skeeters?

SINCE 'SOUL' has soured on Rebels as a nickname for South Dade High School athletic teams, I have been doing some research.

My source of information has been an old "Texas Sports Guide," which contains the names of hundreds of high school athletic teams.

AFTER I finished reading it, I decided Rebels didn't sound so bad after all.

For instance how would you like to be called Black Cats (Bay City, Tex.)? or Coons (Frisco, Tex.)?

OR HOW ABOUT Cottonpickers (Robstown, Tex.) Or Porcupines (Springtown, Tex.)?

Then there's always the Poly Parrots of Fort Worth Polytechnic High, the Sundown Roughnecks, the San Saba Armadillos, the White Deer Bucks, the Tom Bean Tom Cats, the Hereford White Faces, the Trent Gorrillas, and the Hamilin Pied Pipers.

Had enough? No?

WELL, HOW about the Floydada Whirlwinds, the Happy Cowboys, the Devine Warhorses, the Cuero Gobblers, the Desdemona Porkers?

Or worse still: The Peacock Peafowls, the Quail Quail, the Turkey Turks, the Itasca Wampus Cats, the Hutto Hippos, the Knippa Rockcrushers, the Munday Moguls and Van Vandals?

INDIAN NAMES are popular out in Texas and I suppose that would be some form of racial discrimination.

For example, there's the Lamar Redskins, the Comanche Indians and a lot of Apaches.

AND REBELS? Yes, in Texas, too.

There's the Arlington State College Rebels, Robert E. Lee (Tyler) Rebels, William B. Travis (Austin) Rebels, Rylie Rebels and Tascosa (Amarillo) Rebels.

WEBSTER'S defines a rebel as one "who resists authority or law."

There are white rebels and there are black rebels.

This is the age of rebels — with and without causes.

*News Leader
Tues Aug 6th*

South Dade Should Drop Rebel Theme, Get Another

Editor, The News Leader:

At the risk of adding fuel to a budding controversy, I'd like to speak out on the question of changing the name of South Dade High School's band and athletic teams.

I feel the black students who are demanding the name be changed from "Rebel" may be making a mountain out of a molehill. To most of the youngsters out at South Dade, I'm sure, the name is just a beloved school tradition—nothing more.

But as a parent (white) of two children who attended South Dade High, I confess I always objected a little to the Rebel name, the Confederate caps worn by the band, the Stars and Bars waved at football games.

It seems to me that—at our local high school and elsewhere—this whole Confederate bit amounts to glorification of a lost cause. After 100 years, why can't we forget this unhappy conflict which once divided the north and the south?

Although there was some

right, some wrong on both sides of the Civil War, let's not forget that the war erupted primarily over the question of slavery. And if these little historic mementos are repugnant to the descendant; of these slaves—and why shouldn't they be, really?—why cannot South Dade High School come up with something more suitable for the 20th century?

CONCERNED RESIDENT

Tues Aug 6th Leader



Pitching

with ^{news}
^{Leader}
Paul ^{Aug}
^{6th}

By PAUL J. EGAN

Confederate Controversy

Over the years this columnist has always shied away or completely ignored any subject pertaining to racism in this space — firmly believing there's no room for such in sports.

But this latest move by an organization called SOUL to force South Dade High School to change its nickname seems worthy of comment.

Personally, I don't believe there's any more sterling march composed than DIXIE — and I'm as YANKEE as Boston baked beans.

In fact, until three years ago I was a complete stranger to the SOUTH and not a bit aware that the word REBEL rubbed some people the wrong way.

But now suddenly an institution that for years has built up a strong tradition, with malice towards none, is asked to change its name.



In our book its like asking Notre Dame to drop the nickname "Fighting Irish" — merely because it has implications of religion.

Needless to say there are some things we don't go for, like license plates urging "Yankee Go Home," — but in general southern hospitality is still great.

Whether SOUL is right or wrong on the other issues involved against South Dade High School, we don't know, — but asking the REBELS to be anything else is way out of bounds.

For, as I've reported in the past, SD students are a proud lot — especially when it comes to athletics.

Next thing we know there'll be other groups demanding Palmetto, Killian and Mays change nicknames merely because they have a dislike for ferocious animals.

* * *

Name Dispute Brings Protest To South Dade

By BILL BLOSS
Homestead Bureau Chief

"Keep the name Rebels," thundered 500 parents, students and alumni of South Dade High School Tuesday night.

Marvin Griep, south district supervisor of junior and senior high schools told the assemblage at the school football field his recommendation to his superiors is to consider the demand to change the school name as an "internal school problem to be handled at the local level."

The meeting was called to approve a petition and select delegates to appear before the school board this afternoon. The board will hear the demands of a group called SOUL (Student Organization for Unity and Liberty), protesting alleged discrimination at the high school and calling for removal of the name Rebel and "Dixie" as the school anthem, because they are irksome and oppressive to Negro students.

Homestead Mayor Bill Dickinson told the crowd to concern itself only with the threat of changing the name. Other complaints of discrimination or unfair treatment should be investigated and

eliminated if they are true, he said.

The mayor called for school officials to "level with us and let us know who made the request and what adults or what organizations are behind it." The names of the objectors haven't been released.

Dickinson challenged the school board's acceptance of a secret organization when students are banned from joining secret groups. Griep said he can't answer for the board, but SOUL and its backers are being investigated.

According to the mayor, it is a county-wide organization with approximately 100

members. "If 100 people can cause this turmoil," he stated, "then something is wrong."

Head track coach Marvin Anderson disavowed any mistreatment of Negro athletes at the South Dade school. "The track team gives three honors . . . and last year two of them went to Negroes," he said. "They earned them and deserved them and I would do it again," he added.

Last spring, Anderson said, football coaches bent a rule to let six Negro boys come out late for spring football. None of them showed up the next day.

Student Cabinet Considers Demands

South Dade High School student cabinet members met Tuesday to discuss demands of Negro students to change the "Rebel" name identifying the school.

The cabinet said the meeting was called to send representatives today to a meeting with school officials. The students were surprised at the demands by the Negro students.

Commenting on a letter of complaint sent to the school, the cabinet members said demands to place Negroes on the cheer leader squad and in the majorette corps were unreasonable because no Negro girls had tried out for either.

The students said they would attend the meetings, not to voice a protest, but to

find the facts. All indicated they oppose doing away with the name, "Rebel." "The white students are in the middle" between the school officials and the Negro students making the demands for changes.

A list of demands from the Negro group, which calls itself "SOUL" (Student Organization for Unity and Liberty), also complained about being barred from school clubs, deprived of use of the school library, failure of the school to teach history and culture of the Negro, lack of recognition of Negro athletes, unequal treatment of Negro students by the white faculty and absence of Negro teachers and coaches.

The Negro students called for immediate attention to their demands.

Miami
HERALD
WED. AUG 7
OPRR
RALLY
HARRIS
FIELD

More Than 500 Attend Protest Meeting

Parents, Students Rally

'Round Rebel Flag'

N/L
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Aug
7th

About 500 students, parents and alumni of South Dade High School rallied around the Rebel flag at Harris fieldhouse Tuesday night, protesting a demand that the school nickname and other symbols of its Rebel tradition be changed.

They reared approval of a petition to be carried before the Dade School Board today, opposing any change in the Rebel symbols as demanded by a group of Negro students calling itself SOUL. The SOUL group will bring a list of complaints to the school board this afternoon over alleged "racist" policies at South Dade High.

More than a dozen at last night's meeting volunteered to form a delegation to present the petition, which was signed by an overwhelming majority of those in attendance.

In discussion preceding adoption of petition, south district director of secondary schools

Marvin Griep was asked just who constitute membership of the newly-formed SOUL (Student Organization for Union and Liberty) and what persons are behind it.

Homestead Mayor William Dickinson, noting the school board bans student membership in secret groups, wanted to know why the board is listening to complaints from a group about which nothing is known.

Griep replied that when the complaints were first brought to school officials, it thought they came simply from a group of concerned students. The organization is now under investigation, he added.

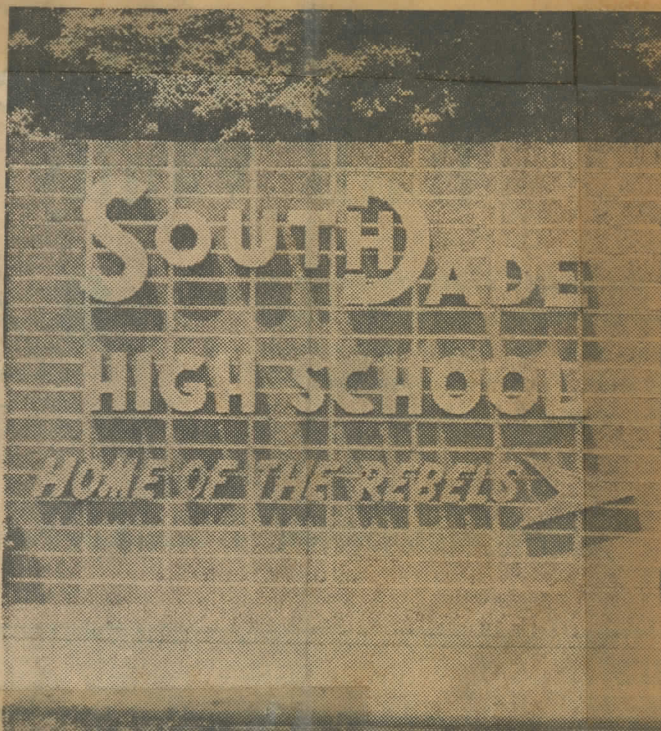
Dickinson said he believes the 100-member organization is composed of students from throughout the county, and added "If 100 students from all over Dade County can bring this kind of trouble to our high

school, we have a right to know who they are."

Griep declined to speculate on what action the school board will take today on the Negro group's complaints. But he said it was his personal recommendation that the problem be solved "at the local level" with the students, faculty and parents involved.

School coach Norman Anderson, speaking out on another charge of SOUL that Negro athletes are discriminated against at South Dade, pointed out that of three top track team awards presented last year, two went to Negroes.

He added that when football practice started in the spring, no Negroes turned out for the initial session. The coaching staff contacted a half dozen boys and bent its rule against reporting late for practice, to offer them a second chance, Anderson said.



None showed up for the second session either, the coach said, so after that they were barred from going out for the team.

"We want Negro athletes, quite frankly — but we are not going to break our fundamental rules," Coach Anderson said.

N/L - WED
Aug 7

Who Backs SOUL?

news leader 8/7

Although advised by two adult organizations, the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL), fighting what is termed racial policies at South Dade High School, has not yet received active participation from the adult black community, according to Odell Johns.

Johns, chairman of the South Dade Community Action League, said his organization has merely acted in an advisory capacity. He also said a "militant organization," whose name Johns did not feel at liberty to disclose, also advised the students.

John told The News Leader this morning that Mrs. Thomasina Hunter of Florida City and William Miles of Richmond Heights, as well as himself, had sat in on several SOUL meetings.

However, he said the South Dade High School Negro students initiated the organization, compiled the list of complaints and demands and would appear before the School Board this afternoon without the aid of parents, community leaders or clubs.

Otis Wallace, president of SOUL,

made the request to the school board for the open hearing.

Johns was of the opinion that Sammy Jones, who is in charge of SOUL publicity, would present the matter to the school board. Both boys are seniors at South Dade High.

Negro adults will be present at the board meeting this afternoon but merely to observe the students and to see what the general outlook of their request is, said Johns.

He added a meeting will be held following the board hearing and at this time the adults of the community and the two organizations, the militant group and the Community Action League, will talk with SOUL representatives.

A decision will be made at that time as to whether one or both of the groups are needed to help in additional action.

Johns said what the adults and students hope would be totally a student movement now looks impossible and the Negro students would probably request active participation from the adults of their community.

miami
Herald
aug
8th



—Herald Staff Photo by JOE SCHUPPE

Negro Students Voice Complaints to School Board
... they demand elimination of 'racial policies'

Student Panel to Hear Complaints of Negroes

By **GEORGIA MARSH**
Herald Education Writer

A student biracial committee will attempt to ease some of the racial tensions at South Dade High School.

The School Board appointed the committee Wednesday after listening to a demand from the school's Negro students that immediate steps be taken to "eliminate racial policies."

Charles Richardson and other Negro student leaders representing SOUL, the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty, reluctantly agreed to the committee proposal after telling the board they were tired of "talking, talking and more talking."

The Negro students demanded the board change the school's nickname the "Rebels," which they termed "blatantly racist," and presented a list of six other discriminatory grievances for immediate action.

South Dade's white students came to the meeting with a petition signed by 800 students and parents requesting the nickname be retained.

Richardson said the "Rebel is a symbol of the confederacy. The Rebels had no respect for me as a black man. They owned me as a piece of property."

Richardson told the board either to act upon the grievances immediately or "provide us with transportation to attend Mays High School," an all-Negro high school north of South Dade.

The Negro students demanded that the board:
ELIMINATE THE "REBEL" nickname and use of the confederate flag, song and uniform and substitute them with symbols not "oppressive to black students."

EITHER CHANGE the racial attitudes or dismiss teachers, coaches, administrators, librarians and other employes accused of being discriminatory in grading disciplinary actions and unequal application of school rules and standards.

GET MORE Negro representation on the student

council, put Negro girls on the cheerleading and majorette squads and revamp club policies so as not to deter Negro membership.

OBTAIN EQUAL treatment for Negro athletes including providing transportation home following after-school athletics.

HIRE ADDITIONAL Negro

Turn to Page 2C, Col. 1

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cont'd.

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* * *

Students to Hear Negro Complaints At High School

From Page 1C

teachers, coaches and administrators.

INCLUDE NEGRO history and culture in the school curriculum.

The board voted to send its seven student aides to serve as mediators between the school's black and white students.

Board member Jack Gordon said the aides "can get a truer picture of the situation over any that would result from a student investigation."

He said the student committee could perform a service for all Dade by providing a means to solve racial ten-

sions which "exist at other schools, not just South Dade."

Richardson said students had complained repeatedly to Principal William R. Wilson.

"He told us he didn't have the power to do anything," Richardson said.

Negro student Sam Jones complained of discriminatory practices by the school librarian.

Jones, a former member of the football team, also said white team members and coaches were quick to pat him on the back after a good play but almost never would give him a ride toward home after practice.

The three Negro members of the school athletic teams did not turn out for spring football practice this year in protest over discrimination, Richardson said.

School Superintendent Dr. Edward Whigham said, "White students are going to have to understand these black problems and get together."

Whigham also said the school system had no room in it for "principals or teachers" who "discriminate against a student black or white. It's against board policy and it's against the law of the land."

* * *

Rebels To Keep Name; Charges Will Be Probed

By JAMES MAXWELL

Both sides of the student controversy at South Dade High School won partial victories in their appearances before the Dade School Board Wednesday afternoon.

The board decided it had no power to abolish the school nickname "Rebels", nor the symbol of the Confederate flag nor the blue and grey colors of the school.

It notified the Negro student protestors that these changes have to be made by the whole student body.

However, the board ordered an investigation of alleged discrimination against Negro students, and instructed the School Superintendent Dr. Edward Whigham to re-establish an "activity bus" at South Dade to take students to their homes after athletic and other after-school events.

The investigation of discrimination is scheduled to start Tuesday when seven student-aides to the school board will arrange a meeting with Susan Thompson of Homestead, representing the white students

and Charles Richardson of Goulds, representing the black students.

Otis Wallace of Florida City presented a two-page list of complaints.

A graduate of South Dade High, who was identified as Charles Daniels of Homestead, said that he had prepared the list of complaints.

Odell Johns, a Goulds bondsman, said before the meeting, "I'm not a part of this movement, but if white pressure pushes hard on this issue, counter black-pressures will be organized."

Johns conferred with the Negro leaders during their appearance before the board and at the end of the hearing said he was "not impressed by the petitions", with 800 signatures supporting the white students.

He added that the signatures were "totally white." He concluded by saying that the races were "nowhere near agreement," and that now "black adults will become interested" in the issue.

Jack Levy, representing several South Dade groups, pre-

sented the petition which called for retention of the Rebel name until changed by the student body.

Susan Thompson, secretary of the students relations group, which is to start in the new school year, told the board she saw the need "for work on race problems".

She said that Richardson, one of the principal Negro protestors, was co-chairman of the group.

School board members, including Chairman C. P. McCrimmon, tried to get promises of inter-racial student cooperation and understanding, but his suggestions received little support from the five Negro protestors.

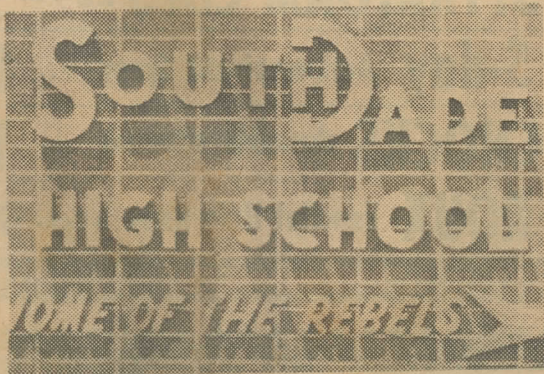
McCrimmon told the colored students, "your attitude is not right. Getting mad and walking out will not help."

Board member Holmes Braddock said that the student groups "must work together," and he told the colored students that they had "made a mistake in coming to the board and making demands, without first making an effort to work out the problems with white students."

Barry Murphy of Cutler Ridge, a South Dade graduate, asked if the organization supporting the colored's fight is legal, and whether such an organization should be permitted to operate in the school. He got no answer to his question.

The Negro organization involved, the Student Organization For Unity and Liberty, which by its initials spells SOUL.

Further action may be taken by the board after its student-aides have met with the South Dade students and have reported their findings back to the board.



N/L - Aug 8

Graduates Claim No Racism At South Dade

Editor, The News Leader:

As graduates of South Dade High School a few of us would like to state our views on a recently published piece by the News Leader about the organization "Soul" and its aim to wipe out the "Rebels."

IN THE ARTICLE SOUL stated that South Dade is racist, and gave the following reasons, the name Rebels itself, discriminatory treatment in school activities along with or toward the black athletes, absence of black teachers and black history in the curriculum, and discrimination in library privileges.

We would ask the organization of "SOUL" what proof they have of so-called discriminatory acts by South Dade High School. Many opportunities are given to both black and white students of South Dade. The name "Rebels" we are sure of was not meant to be a slur to the black people, besides it has been a name used by several teams throughout the South.

As for discriminatory acts by teachers, we again ask them to prove it. South Dade has a system where the student body votes on such things as cheerleaders and Student Council representatives, to name a few. This means anybody, any color can participate. This also goes for the organizations and clubs. Nobody stops the black students from taking part in them.

AGAIN IN SPORTS, they are not discriminated against. We have an awards assembly that recognizes every team and every boy and girl whether he be black or white.

It cannot be said that there have been NO black teachers. So, we feel that the black students have no claims to their banner "SOUL" and their cause "Racists" at South Dade High School. We're very proud of our school and the many victories the "Rebel" teams have brought to us. We don't feel there is any cause to change anything.

South Dade High School has undergone many improvements, in which to better the environment, and

afford its students with as many opportunities as possible.

WE THINK the answer to the whole situation is that the black students should take advantage of the organizations and activities offered them instead of standing on the sidelines yelling "RACISTS."

GRADUATES OF SOUTH DADE SENIOR HIGH, '68

Why Change Rebel Name?

Editor, The News Leader:

I read the article, "Wipe Out Rebels, Aim of Soul," in Monday's paper. I think it is ridiculous for such an article to appear.

It is funny how the black students can say they are sincere, and yet during the school year they do not try to be represented except in "trouble."

WHY AFTER all the years South Dade High has been open as a high school should the name "Rebels" be changed? The majority of the black students are out there not to study, but to see how much they can get away with.

If they are as much as corrected, as many of us white students are, they claim they are being discriminated against.

Black students are not the only ones who are denied the use of the library. Anyone who does not use the library to study, but to goof off instead, is denied the use of it.

AS FAR AS the cheerleaders, every girl who wishes to become a cheerleader must try out in front of the whole student body. In my three years at South Dade, no black girls have as much as tried out, and that is the only way they can become cheerleaders.

Student Council representatives are also voted on by the student body, if they choose to run.

I just don't understand the black students' aim.

SOUTH DADE GRADUATE

N/L - Aug 8th

Senseless Controversy

SOUL Won't Salute

By OTIS GOSSMAN JR.

Shaping up in South Dade these dying days of summer is a mini Civil War that easily can set back racial relations in the southern part of the county just as the Civil War set back progress in the southern part of the United States over 100 years ago.

Firing the shot heard around South Dade and almost to the fringes of Miami is a group calling itself SOUL.

The group of about 100 South Dade black students wants the Rebel flag hauled down and a rash of alleged discriminatory practices at the school halted.



GOSSMAN

WAVING THE rebel flag is a little bit of regionalism that could be curtailed with no great loss to anyone. The blacks seem to link it with unhappy times. The whites, oddly enough, cling to it for unexplained reasons in that the South did lose the war and shouldn't want to be reminded of it.

In this case it seems that the American flag could be substituted and everyone would be happy.

But that really is not the point. The point is that a group of students have seen fit to wave the rebel flag in the face of whites they should want to go to school with in harmony rather than touching off a minor conflagration.

IT WOULD SEEM that the black students are pretty hard up for a cause when they have to touch on one that will cause everyone concerned a good deal of grief.

This is unfortunate because the term probably would have died a natural death eventually when the frame of reference it embodied became ever more distant from present day realities.

The present generation of students is too far removed to still nurture any particularly strong feelings about the late unpleasant episode which spawned the rebel flag—until something like this SOUL movement pops up

Opinion

and tries to rip it down.

THE REBEL FLAG is nothing to be ashamed of, you know. The American flag, one remembers, was carried into many a battle in which a number of Indians bit the dust.

Resistance inevitably stiffens, tempers flare, and much is said that should be left unsaid when something senseless like this crops up.

Raising the issue of the rebel flag and the singing of such songs as Dixie is not an innovation of the South Dade group, however. Others elsewhere have gnawed at the term and SOUL merely is hopping on an already over-crowded wagon.

I HAD HOPED that the black students here would have been big enough to pass over such a picayune issue and concentrate on matters of more substance.

The latter would include letting the past die (and this includes the whites too) and concentrating instead on the future. The future is sandwiched between the covers of books—algebra books, history books, all manner of books.

And getting the rebel term dropped is not likely to advance the cause of black students one whit.

It smacks very much of being an attention getting move designed merely for that sake alone. That is not an intelligent course in this day when minor sparks readily develop into major flames.

THE COURSE, insofar as the rebel business is concerned, is one that fertilizes racism. This act of nonsense in itself will move more borderline whites into the Wallace camp than the man could accomplish in six months of campaigning.

SOUL should be hearing from George Wallace any day now. It will be in the form of a thank you note.

N/L. Aug 8th

Instead Of Griping, They Should 'Try Out'

Editor, The News Leader:

I would like to voice my opinion about an article in Monday's edition of The News Leader about colored discrimination at South Dade High School.

I think it is absolutely unfair for this organization calling itself "SOUL" to accuse South Dade of all those things.

* * *

FIRST OF ALL in the spring of each year the cheerleaders have try-outs and anyone interested is allowed to tryout. If the colored students were really interested why didn't they attend the meetings and tryout?

Also in the spring, the majorettes have a meeting and whoever is interested in becoming a majorette for the following year can come to the meeting.

In the summer all girls interested come to majorette practice from 8 to 10 a.m. every other morning for six weeks in order to learn the fundamentals of becoming a good majorette.

* * *

IF THE COLORED girls were really interested why didn't they come to the meetings and practices? It takes a lot of hard practice and time to become a majorette and cheerleader and it just isn't fair to put a girl on the squad just so no one will be offended.

South Dade has been known as

"The Home of the Rebels" as long as it has been a high school and it just isn't fair for these students calling themselves "SOUL" who have been a part of South Dade a few years to come in and change everything.

For the most part the students at South Dade are very proud of being known as the "Rebels." You can see evidence of this when you see the students stand up and clap every time "Dixie" is played.

If you want to get technical about it, I am from the North but whenever I hear "Dixie" I stand up and clap and yell just as loud as anyone else.

* * *

THE WAY TO get represented on the Student Council is to run for office. No colored students have run for office. There are colored students on the athletic teams and the way to get on the teams is to go out for them.

We also have colored teachers at our school. There is a so-called activities bus but it is a chartered, air-conditioned bus and the way to get on it is to buy a ticket before the game.

Instead of griping, the colored students at South Dade should be pleased to be part of such a school as this. They should be proud to be a part of South Dade High School, "Home of the Rebels."

RHONDA BALLARD
South Dade Student

South Dade President

N/L
Aug
8

'Tells It Like It Is'

Editor, The News Leader:

Several months ago another student and I constructed a petition of rebuttal toward an unfavorable letter to the editor written by a concerned parent. The petition contained over 500 signatures and its purpose was to clarify the false accusations made toward South Dade High School.

At that moment I felt that there would never be a time when I would offer a written protest toward a group of South Dade students. However that time has come.

WHEN I FIRST read the "SOUL" article in Monday's News Leader I cringed at the thought of The News Leader even printing such an article but now I feel that I have deeper conviction as to why it was printed.

I am going to "tell it like it is:"

1. The nickname "Rebel" has never inferred "oppression" toward anyone at South Dade High School. As a nickname only, individuals who want to be oppressed have taken upon themselves to find a symbol to use to nurture hatred. South Dade High School has graduated thousands of "Rebels" and not one of these have been oppressed. Therefore, why should the school give up all of these traditions and activities which are based upon the name "Rebel." Are school authorities so jelly-spined as to give in with fear to such demand from a purposeless attitude?

2. I WILL go along with the claim that the school administrators have displayed unequal treatment toward black students — they have every benefit of every doubt. In general this "SOUL" group does not meet the standards set up by the school. Not because they can't, but because they would rather get attention. These rules have been applied to all but apparently have not been respected by all. This is their "oppression."

They want their "freedom" from society and in my opinion they should get it by way of expulsion. I have never heard a derogatory remark from a teacher to a "SOUL brother" I guarantee you that I have heard plenty of degradation from members of this group thrown at the teachers — even in front of classes.

3. THE STUDENT government at

South Dade is on a bicameral basis; it has elected representatives and a cabinet appointed by the Student Council President. Not one Negro student showed a desire to be elected to the Student Council and finally for the coming year a special cabinet position will be initiated with a Negro as its head ASKED BY the Student Council President to be its head.

The cheerleaders at South Dade High School are elected by the student body. Not one Negro tried out. If a person has no initiative why should they be given a position? The majorettes have to try out after several weeks of practice. Why should a person be given a position for which they have not practiced?

4. THE COACHES at South Dade have one primary goal: to win, using the fundamentals of good sportsmanship and teamwork. In order to win they are going to use the players who will "do the job" no matter what color they are. I was a member of the state ranked South Dade football team and have played beside many dedicated Negro athletes, ones who were willing to pay the price, to work. Many of our top basketball players were Negroes. Our track team is predominantly Negro, which incidentally, did very well this year. Every position on every team at South Dade is open to whoever will pay the price regardless of color. These dedicated Negroes mentioned are "Rebels" and are proud of it.

5. THE ABSENCE of black teachers, coaches, and administrators does not point to the racism being practiced, it points to the fact that here is such a shortage of teachers as evidenced in the teachers walk out. A student faculty board, which I was a member of, has been set up for many years for students to discuss their problem no matter what their race.

6. THE ABSENCE of black history and culture from our curriculum is quite irrelevant. In our high school about the cultures of all people, not history text books we have studied particular racial groups. Outstanding accomplishments by men of every race have furnished the background of our study of history of the people of the earth. Is it that important to know whether or not a Negro first sighted land on Columbus' ship? (A

" TELLS IT LIKE IT IS "
con'd.

N/L
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recent claim.)

* * *
7. ABOUT DISCRIMINATION in the school libraries — I have observed at first hand many times our "SOUL brothers" at study, never seated, talking in loud voices, and cracking jokes, all of this done in groups of not less than four. If racial prejudice prompted those actions taken, then I would say that the school librarians are prejudiced against white students who have acted accordingly.

On the last day of school as I walked down the halls to take my last two final exams, I witnessed at least 40 Negro students decked out in shorts with sweatshirts or tee shirts with either "SOUL BROTHER" or "BLACK POWER" written on them.

They were complete with a portable record player and "soul music" to help them cram for finals. The rest of the students were expected to attend their classes in regular school attire and in a studious frame of mind.

* * *
I AM NOW a graduate with a con-

cerned love for "my school." However, three years of my life have been spent in efforts to improve South Dade High School. Now I'm not going to let my efforts be cast aside without at least voicing my opinion on the matter.

I have seen the situation through the eyes of a WORKING student. Before school was out I got wind of trouble like this brewing during the summer. These "SOUL" students are not intelligent enough to come up with these stereotyped demands. There is higher authority involved. It is up to the citizens of this community, both Negro and white alike to combat this problem together.

* * *
THE NEGRO citizen knows what "BLACK POWER" truly means. It is the power of a Negro to reason logically in his own mind and TO WORK for the betterment of their own community in this United States.

As a graduate, I am and always will be a South Dade Rebel, IN ALL THINGS PREPARED.

GARY MEREDITH
President of the Class of '68

N/L
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Vote Of Student Body

How They Picked 'Rebels'

By PAUL EGAN

Why and how did South Dade High School acquire the nickname "Rebels" for its high school athletic teams?

This is the question asked of a former graduate who was a member of the student body that selected the name back in the 1953-54 school term.

Joe Lowe, who now assists several Homestead dentists as a dental technician, vaguely recalls the day the nickname was selected and the reason why it was chosen.

He says if memory serves him right the choice was made by members of the student body during a meeting sponsored by the student council.

"I remember it was an open

meeting and held in the school cafeteria. Several nicknames had already been submitted and we participated in the voting," Lowe recalls.

He said at the time E. B. Blackburn was serving as school principal and that there was a lot of spirit among the student body to select a unique name that would best describe a scrapping athletic team.

Lowe feels the nickname "Rebels" was chosen because it best depicted the feeling of the athletes of those days that competed the previous years at Redland and Homestead High School.

He said the rivalry between these two institutions was highly competitive and when

they consolidated to form South Dade — the word "Rebels" best suited their brand of play.

Lowe recalls Redland High School's nickname was the "Rattlers" but added that they were also referred to by some as "The Diamondbacks."

Homestead High School in those days played under the banner of "The Growers" and according to Wayne Lawrence, prominent oil distributor, the competition between the two schools was usually quite keen and fierce.

This is believed to be the manner in which SD acquired a school nickname — one that has served most adequately for 15 years.

News Reader

Front page

Aug 9th Friday

Today

SOUL Meets The Press

By OTIS GOSSMAN JR.

A GROUP of SOUL members from South Dade High walked into the office late yesterday afternoon and we talked of this business of rebel flags and racism and what have you for more than an hour.

It turned out to be an hour well spent. When it ended one thing had been accomplished: a chain of communication between the blacks and the white press had been established.

For instance now I know where Otis Wallace, the president of SOUL, lives, and I have his phone number. I know Charles Daniels and Charles Richardson and Sammy Jones.

Conversation is what separates us from the bear in the woods, and when two factions fail to use it grief usually results.

* * *

THE SESSION began on a strong note of friction and the smiles were forced and brittle and quickly disappeared from the faces. Almost at once there came an outpouring of grievances sandwiched in between accusations.

But we chipped away little by little at this and when the session ended at least some of the smiles seemed to come from the inside.

A strain of negativism characterized a good part of their thinking—too many reasons why something can't be done, too few why it can. Part of this was tied to the stereotypes whites and blacks fall prey to, part of it to the paucity of communication between each other, part of it to the especially thin skins of the present generation of blacks.

* * *

BUT IT WAS a good session of give and take. No one stood on formality. But we chipped away little by little and they "let it all hang out," so to speak.

They disagreed when I said I thought the business over the rebel flag was a tempest in a teapot not worthy of splitting the community over.

Some of the logic in the argument was a little strained, like their comparison of the South Dade issue with a group of Jewish students attending a school where the swastika was the school flag.

The encouraging part of the whole matter is that I think the students at South Dade can handle this matter with no help from the adults. The letters to the editor that have appeared in this newspaper from the students indicates that reason is not a missing quality among them, and the talk with the black students here yesterday indicated the same thing.

* * *

THIS OTIS WALLACE impressed me as being a sharp fellow and perfectly willing to talk with anyone. He said that SOUL is eager to have all the white members it can get.

Much of the friction that exists between the races these strained times stems from the term "demand." Another is an apparent unwillingness among some of the younger generation to take the bad with the good.

The blacks and whites at South Dade will get along a lot better once

Balance lost in
type setting.

Letters To The Editor

'Racist' Charge Denied

By Former Student

N/L
Aug
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Editor, The News Leader:
I am neither an intergrationist or a segregationist. I am a constitutionist, meaning I am a strict interpreter of the constitution.

I would like to remark on SOUL's wanting to change the name of Rebels.

* * *

AS AN American and a southerner I am proud of my heritage. Those men and women who called themselves rebels a little over 100 years ago were good Americans, both whites and blacks, who fought for what they believed in.

I was a South Dade Rebel but neither my classmates nor I can be labeled racists. How could we? We didn't advocate violence or hatred.

In the South there were Negro slaves, but the war between

the states wasn't fought over slavery but for states' rights. In the north there were indenture servants, both black and white. But no one calls the American flag a symbol of racism.

* * *

BOTH WHITE and black Americans should be proud of their southern heritage.

SOUL stated it is not represented on the Student Council. I thought one had to be nominated and elected. Need I say more?

If black athletes can't meet the qualifications, why should they be put on teams if someone else could do better?

About the absence of black teachers. We all know there are not enough qualified black teachers. If these students are really concerned and not just rebelling why don't they go to

college, after graduating, and become teachers to eliminate this problem.

* * *

ABOUT BLACK culture and history. When I went to school I studied world and American history. We all know black, white and yellow men participated in developing history but no one needed to tell us. I never had anyone teach me Irish culture or Irish history either.

I am happy and proud of our American history.

But if SOUL wants black history, here is their first lesson: Many Negroes fought as rebels in the Civil War and were proud to do so. Look that up in the history books.

Eliminate the name "Rebels," — Never. As long as there is injustice in the world there will be rebels.

They want black cheerleaders and majorettes. If a black girl is good and can fulfill the qualifications, fine, make her a cheerleader or majorete. But don't ever put a white girl out and replace her with a black girl because a minority wants it that way.

* * *

IT'S AS IF being a white girl is a handicap.

What I am trying to say is this: Black students have no grounds for their demands. What they want must be earned and not given.

In the August 5 issue of The News Leader, SOUL stated: "...black students of South Dade High demands which must be made immediately or action will be taken."

Who are they, a handfull, to make such outrageous demands?

There is an air of racism at South Dade and it is led by the organization called SOUL.

SP 5 BARRY D. MURPHY

Students 'Shocked' At Racism Charge

Editor, The News Leader:

After reading the article in Monday's News Leader about racism at South Dade High School we were shocked. We have attended South Dade for two years and we know such conditions are not as stated in the article.

The students and the faculty are not prejudiced and are fair to all.

* * *

SOUL IS protesting something that happened over a century ago, something we had no part in. We have a rebel flag but may we remind our SOUL brothers that flying high over our school flag is the American flag which stands for peace and justice for all. Is that racism?

In reply to the charge that there is no Negro representation in cheerleading or majorettes, may we point out that there's been no participation. They have to try out first just like other girls. We just can't "give" it to them.

No one has special privileges at South Dade.

Also Student Council representatives are elected according to grades and ability to cooperate with others in setting up standards, relating them to the student body and the like.

* * *

AS FAR AS the hiring of coaches and administrators is concerned, the School Board does this, and it does so on the basis of education, training, ability and the need for personnel.

Concerning the absence of black history and culture, the students at South Dade don't write the textbooks so they (SOUL) should protest against the Dade County Board of Public Instruction.

Finally, we would like to say that we see no need for a change in the name "Rebels." It is a name which shows a great deal of spirit and enthusiasm, but which does not mean that we are against Negroes as were the rebels of over a 100 years ago.

EVERYTHING that we have which has to do with spirit concerning football games and such is related to the theme of "Rebels." For example, cheers, theme songs, band uniforms, flags, class rings, yearbooks, newspaper, colors, themes for halftime shows, and many more.

If our name is changed all this has to be thrown out with it, including one of the most important of all, school spirit. We feel that this spirit has nothing to do with prejudice or racism.

We feel that this change would be confusing and completely unnecessary. We hope all who are concerned will agree with us and support us in our efforts to keep the name of South Dade Rebels.

3 SOUTH DADE STUDENTS

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Around South Dade

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BILL BLOSS, Bureau Chief

HERALD
Aug 10

At South Dade High School

Students, Board Join To Hear Race Dispute

By BRUCE GILES

Herald Writer

A South Dade High School student controversy over alleged discrimination against Negro students will be aired early next week — possibly Tuesday — with students acting as mediators.

The fledgling South Dade Student and Community Relations Committee, formed at the end of the school year, will discuss the discrimination charges with seven student aides to the Dade School Board.

The seven aides, five white students and two Negro students from throughout the county, Monday will set up a meeting date with South Dade students to discuss the problem.

Betty Gilkey, South District Superintendent, said it is hoped that the students themselves will be able to open up communication and solve inner-school problems.

Adult assistance will be given, but only if it is sought by the students, she said.

The controversy was thrown back into the laps of the students by the school board after it heard charges from Negro students representing SOUL, the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty, on Wednesday.

The group of South Dade Negro students asked for the elimination of the "Rebel" nickname and use of the confederate flag, song and uniform and for the substitution of symbols not "oppressive to black students."

South Dade's white students and their parents came to the meeting with a petition signed by 800 people, asking that the school's nickname not be changed unless it were done by a vote of the entire student body.

The school board agreed, and said it has no jurisdiction over the name change.

SOUL representatives asked that more Negroes be hired on the faculty and that racial attitudes by teachers and administrators be changed, or they be fired. They also sought a greater part in extra-curricular activities of the school.

The Dade School Board ordered the investigation of the alleged discrimination starting with next week's meeting between the student aides and the South Dade students.

Board members made it clear that Negro and white students should first attempt to work out their problems by themselves before coming to the board.



—Herald Photo by C. A. MITCHELL

Rebel Image Part of Controversy
... Negroes object to name, uniforms

In Rebel Controversy

N/L 8/12
Monday

Student Group Plans Meeting This Week

N/L
Aug
12

The Student Aid Group assigned to work out the racial differences at South Dade High School met this morning at a seminar in the School Board of fices in Miami and were expected to set a date for a meeting with South Dade High students.

At a meeting last Wednesday

of the School Board a delegation of South Dade High black students protested the use of the school nickname, "Rebels" and charged that black students were discriminated against by both faculty and white students.

The School Board instructed

SAG to visit the school if possible on Tuesday and confer with both white and black students.

This morning the information division of the school superintendent's office said that no meeting had been set for Tuesday but that a Wednesday meeting would be proposed at the SAG seminar today.

SAG consists of seven students chosen by the School Board.

As employees of the school administration, they are paid \$400 for an eight-week term of office.

It is an integrated group, consisting of two black girls and five boys, one Cuban and four white.

The SAG attends seminars set up by the school system's administrator. At these meetings the students are briefed on various functions of the school system and educational problems.

In these seminars the students may ask questions and discuss the subject and give the student viewpoint on it.

SAG has not been asked to attempt to settle racial differences in the past.

But in the discussion of the South Dade High matter, the School Board thought SAG might be effective in setting up a workable cooperation between the South Dade racial groups. Therefore they were asked to meet with the South Dade students as an experimental effort to establish cooperative understanding.

The present membership of SAG will finish its employment Aug. 23 and a new group will be selected for the opening of school on Sept. 3.

SAG operates under the direction of Mrs. Marcie Ersoff, who as a representative of the school administrative staff sets up the seminars and assists the student members in their undertakings.

'Rebel' Name Not Racist, South Dade Student Says

N/Y
Aug
12

Editor, The News Leader:
I have in my hand a copy of The News Leader of August 5. The headlines say that black students are being oppressed. I would like to inform you that I have never seen any Negroes being treated any different from the whites at South Dade High School.

* * *
THE NICKNAME, "Rebels," is not racist. The school, being in the South chose a very appropriate name. The school athletic teams are in a sense rebelling against other for that number one spot. So I see no reason that the name, uniforms, song etc. should bother Negro students.

Our cheers, songs, etc. are not "run of the mill" and this among other ideas attribute to South Dade being outstanding. If a name change is wanted, it should be put before the

whole student body to vote upon. Teachers treat all students alike. You know we have to work and study hard to earn our grades, so why do Negroes or whites expect A's for work that is not done properly. The school rules and standards are clear. If you don't care to live up to them that should be your own business, and you should be ready to settle for the disciplinary actions that will follow.

Now, if Negroes want to join cubs, cheerleaders, majorettes, or whatever, why don't they come to the meetings? The clubs are open to all students. If you care to join you come to the meetings. Cheerleaders and majorettes require long hours of hard practice.

I myself tried out for cheerleader with the other girls practicing the long, hot afternoons before the voting is put before the entire student body. Student offices are open to all. You have to campaign hard for the offices. There's no harm in trying if you will try! Is there?

SOME OF our best athletes are Negroes. I've never seen one discriminated against. There's one goal in sports and that's to win, not who is out there playing. Our coaches wouldn't put someone out on the field if they couldn't do anything.

There are black teachers in South Dade. The teachers at South Dade are always willing to help a student in need if they will only ask.

I'll admit that there is an absence of black history and culture in South Dade's curriculum, and that a course should be offered in that field.

A student has never been turned away from the library because his skin tone is black, red, yellow, blue, or whatever. There have been times when the library has been closed to students, but that's all students. I see no reason why a student should be allowed into the library, when it's closed to everyone, because he wants a book.

* * *
I FEEL THAT if a student is really dissatisfied with the school that he is attending that there are many more schools in Dade County and maybe one of them would suit him better.

South Dade stands tall among others and there is no cause to bring down its standards for the petty wants of a few, black or white, who are dissatisfied.

PAMELA JEAN ZINKEL
A Junior at South Dade High

Rebel Symbols Stand For Backwardness

Editor, The News Leader:

The current controversy over the name "rebel" at South Dade High School has prompted me to write this letter. We moved here from Pennsylvania in 1961.

TWO OF my children graduated from South Dade High. They had not been brought up to think of themselves as Yankees but as Americans.

The Confederate symbols were offensive to them and because of them they were never able to develop the desirable school spirit.

It was never really "their school."

These symbols are still offensive to me. Every time I see a Confederate flag it saddens me to realize that some people are still working toward divisiveness in America.

In the last few days I have been told by several residents of the Homestead that the Civil War is not over, but is just beginning and that the only true Americans are those southerners who feel themselves a part of the Confederacy.

WE DO NOT expect these people to change their views because they are so emotionally involved in them, but certainly those in positions of authority, particularly school officials, should be making an effort to coun-

Name Offends Negro Student

Editor, The News Leader:

This is in reference to a column written by Paul Brookshire and Paul Egan Aug. 6 concerning the nickname Rebel.

I am a Negro who has attended South Dade and will be there again this Fall. It is not the name that bothers us as Negroes, it's the meaning established in the Civil War. I feel that Webster can't define this word, because he died before the Civil War. We the living are the ones who can truly define this word.

Going to the Bible we find that Moses was forbidden to go to the Promised Land, because he called some of the Israelites Rebels. So we can see from Biblical times to be called a Rebel there was punishment.

I know that all Negroes feel the same way I do. We aren't concerned the least bit about what other schools do, because we don't attend them.

A. ROSALYN MOSS
Florida City

teract this backward mindedness so that all American young people can grow up and raise their children in an America where they can move freely to where their jobs call them without having to be subjected to the humiliating concept of a civil cold war.

MRS. LUCRETIA TICE

'A Sad State Of Affairs'

Editor, The News Leader:

It is a sad state of affairs in this country when minority groups can have enough power to even change a name of a school such as South Dade High "Rebels" because they don't like it.

THE SCHOOL has had that name for over 15 years without anyone complaining about it. If the students are unhappy with the name let them transfer to another school.

I hope the people of South Dade will stand up to this challenge and bombard the school board with petitions and phone calls and also the so-called Community Relations Board for only representing one side, the minority side, of the issue.

DON HOUSTON

They Helped A Lady In Distress

Mrs. T. K. Young, whose automobile engine caught fire Monday afternoon at the corner of Avocado Drive and Krome Avenue, wishes to thank the many helpful individuals who stopped by to assist.

Some are known by name, some not, but the response was reassuring to a "damselle in distress."

She wishes particularly to thank Chuch Brandt who assisted her from the beginning until the fire equipment arrived. Mr. and Mrs. Amos J. C. Baldwin who gave her moral support and a ride home, the Homestead Fire Department who answered a call out of their district and quenched the smoldering remains of the engine and the man, whose name is unknown, who pulled grass and sod on the north side of Avocado Drive to quench the fire.

These helpers worked at some risk. The gas tank, fortunately, did not explode. Their kind assistance is appreciated and let it not be said that Homestead people lack in their courtesy and assistance to one in trouble.

MRS. T. K. YOUNG

N/R
Aug
12

Look To The Future, Not Past, Black Student Says

News Leader
Aug 13

Editor, The News Leader:
As a black student who attended South Dade High School, I think that South Dade must face reality and also realize that integration is here to stay.

* * *
BLACK AND white must try to understand each other and work to try and solve the problems we are facing now. All must realize that we can't live by tradition but reality.

We must search our hearts for prejudice and hate and try with all sincerity to abolish it. I personally feel that the Student Organization of Unity and Liberty (SOUL) is not fighting for a lost cause.

If the black student is oppressed by the name rebel it should be chang-

Students Show Great Maturity

Editor, The News Leader:

It's encouraging to note that the students at South Dade High School are displaying greater maturity and understanding of race relations than we, their parents.

* * *
SUSAN THOMPSON is so very right when she recognizes the need for continuing student effort in this area.

My suggestion to the adults (and particularly to politicians who would pander to mob prejudice) is "Cool it. The youngsters will solve their own problems here, if we leave them alone."

Otis Gossman has put the matter in perspective. To his words I add the comment that those so called grown ups who display the most hysteria can never be located when there is genuine community need to explore educational programs intelligently.

* * *
WHERE ARE these adults when support is sought for tax funds for education, for parent-teacher discussions, and other constructive school projects?

You're doing fine, students. Keep your race relations problems in your schools, and there's still hope.

IRVING PESKOE

ed. There is no need in trying to keep a name alive which should have died 100 years ago.

* * *
WE MUST pull together and unite as one and try to stamp out discrimination, hate, prejudice, and stop oppressing races and look to the future and not to the past.

CHARLES DANIELS

Racism Exists At S. Dade

YES! Racism DOES exist at South Dade High School. I have since graduated, but I saw this racism last year. And who ever would lead you to believe it does not exist is either grossly misinformed, or simply does not care enough to present the situation in its truest light.

* * *
I HAVE seen this racism. Indeed, I have experienced it personally. I have heard "them" talking in the restrooms. I have noticed how "their" conversations faded when I approached and felt "their" stares as I passed.

I'm talking about students. I never heard any teacher or any administrator ever refer to anyone in a manner derogatory to his race, creed, or color. True, "they" usually got the benefit of the doubt, but I guess you just expect that.

I never wanted to hate any of "them." There are some of my own race that I don't particularly like, and I don't exactly care for some of "them," but I had a few real friends of the other race. They accepted me and we got along as equals.

* * *
BUT THE RACISM is there. Of course, I don't really blame "them." "They" were brought up in a society that teaches "them" that our kind are evil and base. I often tried to understand and to act so that "they" would accept me, and all others of my race.

I figured this was the only way we could overcome this racism and then we could all work together. But face it, "they" just don't want us.

So, you see, the racism does exist. And never was it more clearly evidenced than on the last day of school. "They" really showed it then. I know what discrimination really is because I am (or rather was) a WHITE student, and, I am proud to say a REBEL!

A '68" GRADUATE

N/L Aug 13

Actions Of South Dade Black Students Criticized

Editor, The News Leader:

It has been my unfortunate experience to witness the actions of the group of colored students at South Dade High who go by the name of SOUL.

The "members" of SOUL are a group of nobodys who care nothing of adding anything to the honor of South Dade and who expect to be catered to.

* * *

1—STUDENTS who are colored at South Dade tend to congregate at the same table. On many occasions they loudly chanted SOUL, SOUL, SOUL. They make repulsive noises and are extremely loud and rude in the classrooms, library, class, auditorium. If they were smart they'd start acting like they wanted to get along like the rest and stop acting like primitive savages.

* * *

2—DEFACING of school property has been quite prevalent on at least one hall bulletin board and on numerous desks in classrooms. SOUL brothers, I Love Soul and other slogans adorn the bulletin board on a wall in a hall in the front of the building. In at least one classroom I have seen the matching of SOUL BROTHERS matched up with names of SOUL GALS. This is vandalism since

it is carved into the wood of desks.

* * *

3—NEEDLESS to say there was the mugging on the last day of school which received little or no publicity. It is a well-known fact that the members who did this act are buddy-buddy with the SOUL people. And they want to be treated on the same basis as whites!

I can find no reason for the accusation that there is discrimination at South Dade towards the colored — they discriminate against themselves!

I prefer to have my name withheld because I fear personal attack may result on my physical being. Indeed, I need not say that when they have to resort to this method of arbitration, it's going too far. These people are violent. If they don't like the way things are at South Dade, they should make constructive suggestions or leave. We certainly don't need their kind.

I do not intend to be a racist — I simply want to put across the other side of a story. I have been out of town and unable to reply to the challenge put forth by these colored people until today.

To use an old phrase — they should zip up or ship out!

NAME WITHHELD

Rap In Town Before Riots?

Editor, The News Leader:

How come the FBI and our local police authorities knew all along that Rap Brown and his Communist stooges were in Greater Miami for over a week before those riots started, agitating trouble with hate and fire "Burn, Baby, Burn," and at the height of these demonstrations Brown slipped out and is now over in the Bahamas.

And by the way, wasn't he recently arrested in Maryland and Louisiana for agitating and burning?

All the authorities tell you is that they are "investigating."

Students Seek End

Aug-14-

MIAMI NEWS

To Race Problems

Miami News Aug 14

By LOUISE BLANCHARD
Miami News Reporter

Eight South Dade High students made a start toward solving the school's racial problems in a 2½-hour meeting, with six student School Board aides sitting in.

Now the South Dade young people think they can talk out their problems alone. The student aides think so too.

Before school starts, a biracial committee will prepare a plan to present to the student body as a whole early in September. Co-chair-

men are Susan Thompson and Charles Richardson.

Richardson appeared before the Dade School Board last week as spokesman for the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty — SOUL. He said students, faculty and administration at South Dade High discriminated against black students in various ways.

Miss Thompson told the board at the same meeting that the biracial committee was already in existence but that members hadn't realized it needed to start meeting before the opening of school.

Libby Cool, president of the Student Council, and Sammy Jones, one of the representatives of SOUL who appeared before the board, were designated as initial spokesmen for the committee.

"But from now on," Miss Cool said, "we want it to be regarded as a school committee — not two groups but one, primarily concerned with South Dade High."

Barbara Wooden, the School Board aide who first suggested that the aides could help, said:

"I think the meeting went

very well — probably better than any of us expected. Discussion was very open and free. The kids have started to communicate; they're working together and I think they'll come up with something."

An under-30 school system spokesman who sat in on the young people's meeting yesterday said the student aides had decided in advance not to participate very much, and that they didn't.

"They decided their purpose was not to make any decisions or even express too

Biracial Committee

MIA. HERALD

Meets at School

Aug 14

A committee on student and community relations at South Dade High School met Tuesday to consider problems caused by a dispute over the school's nickname, "the Rebels."

Negro students have complained about the name and asked that it be changed.

The committee came up with no definite proposals, but promised a vote of the student body on any action.

The bi-racial committee is headed by Susan Thompson, a white student, and Charles Richardson, a Negro.

Four members of the Negro student group SOUL — Student Organization for Unity and Liberty — met Tuesday with four white members of the school's student council.

Libby Cool, South Dade student council president, said Tuesday's meeting "was very successful — it ended with an air of good feeling."

Barbara Wooden, who acted as one of the mediators, said no decisions were

made "but there was every indication progress would be made. Students on both sides had a more open attitude."

many opinions. They would attend the meeting as a kind of mediating factor, but they wanted the South Dade students to talk it out by themselves with as little outside interference as possible," the spokesman said.

Among other complaints, the SOUL representatives asked the School Board to change South Dade High's nickname, "Rebels." They said the word and use of Civil War uniforms and the Confederate flag signified oppression and slavery to black students.

Miss Wooden, who will be a senior at Miami Edison High this year, said that while she's optimistic about South Dade High she wouldn't necessarily suggest the same solution at other high schools with problems of racial conflict.

"It varies from school to school," she said.

Hypothetical Musings

N/R 8/14

'If I Were Black . . .'

By PAUL BROOKSHIRE

IF I WERE a black student at South Dade High School I would do a lot of things.

To begin with, I would keep my cool.

When school opens in September, I would wear my best clothes and my best manners.

I would be friendly to all students — black or white — and respectful of all teachers and administrators — black or white.

I would try to be a model student.

* * *

IF I WERE a black student at South Dade High School I would abide by all the regulations and if I believed them to be wrong I would work to change them in an orderly fashion.

If I saw evidence of racial discrimination toward myself or any black students I would make a note of the time, place, incident and get the name of the discriminator.

Facts, not accusations, are what count.

* * *

IF I WERE a black student at South Dade High School I would enter into all school activities that interested me or were open to me.

If I were an athlete, I would go out for sports.

If I were a musician, I would go out for band.

If I were a drama student, I would go out for drama.

If I felt like cheering, I would go out for cheerleading.

If I felt like strutting, I would go out for majorette.

And I would encourage my fellow black students to do likewise.

I WOULDN'T let the name "Rebel" bug me. But I would try to disassociate it from its Confederate image.

I would try to be reasonable about the name, "Rebel." Giving every white student the benefit of a doubt, I would accept their explanations that the name isn't "racist" by their interpretation of it.

* * *

IF I WERE a black student at South Dade High School I think I **WOULD** object to a Confederate flag waving in my face constantly and to an over-excess of "Dixie" playing by the band.

"Dixie," after all, was a Confederate war song and the Confederate flag was a symbol of the states that broke away from the Union in an effort to keep the black people in slavery.

Some white students drive around with signs on their cars, "Hell, No, I Ain't Forgettin!"

How then, can I forget?

* * *

IF I WERE a black student at South Dade High School I would try to reason with the white students over the Confederate symbols at the school.

The Confederate flag was the symbol of a divided nation and, eventually, it was the symbol of a "loser." Why then should it be paraded at athletic events where unity and winning are the primary objectives?

If I were a black student at South Dade High School I would try to get the white students to view these facts in an objective light.

* * *

IF I WERE a black student at South Dade High School I would try to remember, above all that my first business there is learning.

English, history, mathematics come first. Books are No. 1 — not symbols.

I will try to remember that always.

I hope that all students — black or white — will try to remember it, too.

'Loud-Mouths' Listened To

n/p
8/14

New Media Blamed In 'Rebel' Controversy

Editor, The News Leader:

While visiting recently with Homestead friends, I listened in on a lively discussion of your paper's handling of the recent "tempest in a teapot" concerning the seeking of special privileges at South Dade High School by a pampered few.

The consensus seemed to be that your Mr. Gossman's column, "SO'JL Meets the Press," was a striking example of the unhappy contributions of the news media to the topsy-turvy standards of today, which give quick and cheap notoriety to lazy loud-mouths and ignore those who are earning their places in life.

Surely, there are quiet, respectable and respectful Negro students at South Dade High who appreciate their advantages which are paid for by community taxes. It might have been interesting to Mr. Gossman's readers to hear the feelings of these responsible young people.

They are the ones who are making a contribution to socie-

ty — not those boastful braggarts who have the amazing effrontery to DEMAND black "rights" bought with white dollars.

It seemed to us that your front page covertly fanned racial ill will. One story featured a white robbery victim threatening to shoot the next Negro thug; a canned UPI "breastbeater" waved the bloody shirt of "police brutality," and a third quoted a "respected Negro leader" as say-

ing "If I had a shotgun . . . I probably would have joined the shooting . . ."

Decent Americans, both white and black, are sick of riots and of those pious pundits who incite to riot. The black and the Red anarchists could never have made it without unstinted publicity given them by the news media, and the outraged American public is beginning to awaken to that fact.

SUSAN DOYLE

Free Tuition Eyed For M-DJC's Needy

By GEORGIA MARSH
Herald Education Writer

Miami-Dade Junior College officials are studying a proposal to waive tuition fees for students from low income families.

The waiver would mean that some \$200,000 used to grant tuition scholarships to students would be freed for other use, college President Peter Masiko said.

Miami-Dade cannot now meet the requests it gets for financial aid he said.

Masiko said about \$200,000, now used for tuition

scholarship could be freed for use as loans, additional scholarships or to expand work-study programs.

He estimated at least 2,000 students would qualify for the tuition waiver using the income limits for eligibility set by the federal government.

"By releasing resources currently used to pay tuition fees," Masiko said, "We will be able to provide financial aid to a larger number of students . . ."

Tuition is \$100 per semester.

Masiko said the waiver tuition would have to be part of a "general assistance package," to include additional loans, grants or jobs.

William Pawley, college trustee, commenting that he worked his way through college by washing dishes, said, "I'm not opposing the idea but the federal government is handing out tremendous amount of money. Some of the programs duplicate each other. Maybe we're making it too easy for some of these students."

Pawley suggested the plan be studied further.

Masiko said about half the college's more than 21,000 students are on scholarships, loans or work-study programs.

miami
HERALD
Aug 14

Blacks Can't Forget What 'Rebel' Stood For

Editor, The News Leader:

I write this letter to you with the greatest feeling of frustration and despair — frustrated and despaired because the articles in your paper and the letters to the editor which have been submitted in response to the issues raised by the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty reveal a complete misunderstanding of the situation. This lack of understanding itself points up the legitimacy of SOUL's claims.

THE MOST obvious manifestation of this inability on the part of the white community to come to grips with the problem is the failure to see how the nickname, "the Rebel," and related Confederate insignia, are oppressive to blacks.

The question is, "How can it NOT be oppressive?" White people might have forgotten what the Confederate insignia stood for, but the black man has not. It is very easy, indeed, for the unoppressed to forget oppression.

To the black man, slavery, which the Confederacy fought to preserve, conjures up not a form of a 19th century black welfare state, with happy blacks picking cotton, but rather it conjures up black men being sold as pieces of property, the tearing apart of families, the resulting inversion of male and female roles, and the continual and subtle deprecation of blacks as individuals.

IMPLICATIONS of these social effects are still visible in the black community, and, accordingly, the black man cannot forget the way of life which spawned these perversions. Thus, for the same reasons that Jews can be expected to cringe at the sign of the swastika, so can the blacks be expected to revolt against the Confederate flag and Dixie.

The fact that a complaint was made about the Confederate symbolism of South Dade must indicate the validity of the claim that the symbolism is oppressive. It should be noted that black students of South Dade expressed discontent with the nickname first, and then formed SOUL to do something about it. In other words, SOUL was a spontaneous, completely student motiva-

ted and organized, response to the problem. The students' sincerity cannot be questioned.

FOR THE WHITE community to look upon the Rebel name as just a name, or the Confederate flag as just a flag, or the Confederate uniform as just a uniform, and thereby ask how this could all be oppressive is absurd. It is presumptuous for the white man to tell the black man these things can't possibly oppress him. It's like telling a man with a broke leg that it can't hurt.

This all adds up to the inability of the white man to empathize with the black, the inability of the unoppressed majority to understand an oppressed minority. So you see, it's no answer to say that whites

don't think of the slavery issue when they sing "Dixie" or shout "go Rebs go." The point is that this is all oppressive to blacks, and that in itself is reason enough for change.

It is not a question of the minority dictating what has to be done. It is a minority simply asking that something oppressive to THEM be eliminated. So the white person who claims that he never thinks of slavery when he cheers on the Rebels may not be an out-and-out bigot, but he, nevertheless, remains insensitive to the problems and the psyche of the black man, and herein lies a problem more insoluble than bigotry.

TO THOSE ADULTS and students who say the Rebel name and tradition has been at South Dade for many years, it must be asked, "What is this sacredness regarding tradition?" In this case I feel tradition merely serves to provide security for an otherwise insecure people.

This need for security can be understood when displayed by older people (what I can't understand is what concern this STUDENT issue is to adults, who should have been home last Tuesday night watching the Republican Convention rather than tainting this student problem with their emotionalism.)

However, I can't see the need in young people to preserve tradition. Young people

should be creative and excited by the potentialities of the future, and forward thinking people do not need the crutch like security of tradition. This is not to say that all traditions are retrogressive per se and therefore should be desecrated. Of course not.

Some tradition serves to provide a spirit that spurs one on to greater deeds. But here where tradition serves to oppress a substantial number of people, this inspirational spirit which might justify some traditions is lacking.

AND HERE whatever goodness that might be found in the Rebel tradition must be weighed against the evils. Whatever good feeling the tradition might give some, it cannot outweigh the oppression that it bears on others. Again, this is not a case of measuring the numbers who get a good feeling as compared to those who are repulsed by it.

The satisfaction felt by 100 sadists cannot justify torturing one human. There is nothing beautiful about the Rebel tradition, and its ugliness dictates its death.

Finally, to those that point to the fact that the name was voted upon by a student majority many years ago, and thereby imply that what was good in the past is good now, they should remember one thing. When the Rebel name was established, South Dade High School was segregated.

Blacks did not attend South Dade, and therefore blacks had no say in the establishment of this name. The name was es-

tablished at a time when whites told blacks they were not good enough to go to a white school.

AS TO THE other claims of discrimination voiced by SOUL, a few words should be said. Whether or not individual teachers or administrators displayed racial prejudice toward blacks in particular instances will have to be investigated, as the school board suggested. But in addition to this individual type of discrimination there exists what can be called institutionalized discrimination.

That is, the white orientation of school policies serving to discriminate against blacks.

Again, this does not mean that there exists evil individuals who are out to oppress blacks, for in a greater number of cases it is a question of whites being unaware of their anti-black prejudice of the policies. For example, since blacks are in a minority at South Dade it is folly to expect them to enthusiastically seek membership in clubs and organizations wherein selection depends on a student or student-faculty vote.

Being aware of the phenomenon that whites will usually vote for whites, a black student is discouraged from entering what appears to be a losing cause from the start. This is not to say that no black students could ever win admission, but for him it's continually an uphill fight, and to the extent that this discourages blacks from seeking admission, this system is prejudiced against them.

How many of you aspiring whites would seek membership when you knew that every time you sought such, the odds were against you and the barriers were insurmountable? The black man has been struggling for years, and you still demand that he struggle for everything due him.

IF ANOTHER person brings up the fact that there are no black cheerleaders or majorettes because none have ever tried out — thereby implying that they are lazy and want things handed to them — I'll scream. Of course no black girl has ever tried out. Aside from the fact that she has to be voted on by a white student body (and don't flatter yourself by saying all would be color blind in their voting) what black girl wants to get out and yell Rebel cheers?

The black girls at South Dade seek representation on squads, but don't forget that this desire comes only after the Rebel name and tradition have been eliminated.

South Dade, as an educational institution, has a responsibility to be in the vanguard of social change. Society is in the process of repudiating the discriminatory racial policies that exist, and South Dade must respond to this societal obligation and thereby renounce its provincial interests and fulfill Principal Wilson's promise that it become the finest institution in the land.

A LAW STUDENT

MIAMI HERALD
Aug 15

Counsel on Race Proposed in Schools

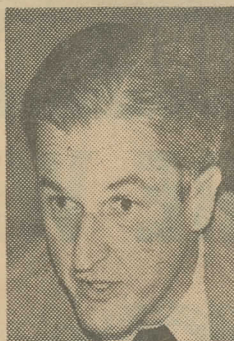
By **GEORGIA MARSH**
Herald Education Writer

A proposal to require school personnel to take "sensitivity training" in race relations was made Wednesday by School Board member Jack Gordon.

Gordon said the training should particularly be provided in "schools that have racial tensions."

"Unless we face up to the problem of changing and opening attitudes, we are going to have serious trouble making this school system work," Gordon warned.

School Supt. Dr. Edward L. Whigham admitted "schools have not lived up to their responsibility."



Jack Gordon
... face problem

"We need a training program at all integrated schools that gets people to see how others feel and to

see the problems they face."

He said top school officials had been discussing such a program.

"The problem is these are attitudes of all citizens, not just school people."

He also said it would be up to the board to decide if the training program should be mandatory or voluntary.

"You get better results if it is taken voluntarily but you may not get the staffs to participate on that basis."

Gordon proposed all principals be required to take the training to become "sensitive to the way these black students look at schools and school personnel.

"We need to change the attitudes of some personnel if we are going to change the students' attitudes. If we don't, long term implications are frightening."

Last week Negro students at South Dade Senior High School complained of racial discrimination at the school. Similar complaints were registered earlier this year by Miami Edison Senior High students.

School Programs Face Cut

Dade school officials will cut back five school programs rather than hunt up a half million dollars from the local budget to offset an anticipated reduction in federal spending.

All of the programs are for culturally disadvantaged children.

The School Board approved the cutbacks Wednesday after School Superintendent Dr. Edward L. Whigham said if the program were implemented in full "and the cut comes, we will have to push and shove to make up the difference out of our local budget."

Howard McMillan, superintendent of special programs, said "every indication is that the Title I allotment for Dade will be reduced from \$3,419,439 to \$2,906,508" for the coming year.

McMillan said he anticipated further fund cuts next year.

So the board decided to:

REDUCE the number of Project Language Arts Teachers from 124 to 114 to save \$114,750. It is a language development program for elementary school children.

ELIMINATE the coordinator job for the Initial Teaching Alphabet program and assigning his duties to the Project Language Arts director to save \$10,625. ITA is a new alphabet with 44 characters.

PROVIDE eight less special education teachers.

ELIMINATE positions of 10 teachers who have been working in the mobile reading clinics.

REDUCE the funds allocated to three school districts for individual school projects from \$120,000 each to \$72,000 each.

"I fought these federal programs knowing this would happen and the local taxpayers would have to pick up the tab. That's the danger in these types of programs," said board chairman C. T. McCrimmon.

Board member Jack Gordon said "These are the things the local taxpayer should be doing."

MIAMI HERALD
Aug 15

\$102 Million Needed

New Schools: List Burgeons

By **GEORGIA MARSH**
Herald Staff Writer

The Dade school system's newest construction priority list totals more than \$102 million and "is far from complete," School Supt. Dr. Edward L. Whigham said Wednesday.

The list, reviewed Wednesday by School Board members, includes 31 items covered by a \$29.1 million bond issue and an additional \$12 million in state and local funds included in the new school budget.

This \$41.1 million will finance construction of nine elementary, three junior and three senior highs plus site acquisitions and additions to other schools.

Already committed is \$5.7 million for Miami Lanès-Hialeah Senior High and a similar amount for the new North Miami Beach High School; for relief elementary schools

for Norland, North Carol City, Miami Lakes, Comstock, Little River and Village Green; for Olinda Elementary, Primary School A and a 15-classroom addition to James H. Bright Elementary.

High enough on the list to be included in the available \$41 million is a \$5 million allocation to build 200 kindergarten classrooms.

Whigham said the county must have an additional 223 kindergarten rooms by 1973 if it is to comply with state law which requires a complete kindergarten program be implemented by then.

The countywide kindergarten program opens this fall with 324 half-day classes of 25 children each and an additional 151 full-day classes of 29 children each for culturally deprived five-year-olds.

The school system is renting 100 rooms, primarily in churches, to house some of the classes.

Even so, some eligible children won't be able to attend kindergarten in public school because of the space shortage.

Whigham said the 223 classrooms are needed in addition "to the available rented facilities."

Teacher Race Views Are Seen In Need Of Change

By LOUISE BLANCHARD
Miami News Reporter

Dade schools are going to be in serious trouble if they don't "face up to the problem of changing the attitudes of school staffs" in racial matters, School Board member Jack Gordon says.

"I spent all day Saturday with some city and county commissioners talking with young people in Liberty City," Gordon told his fellow board members at a conference yesterday.

"It is very frightening to see the way the kids look at the schools, their teachers, their principals," he said. "Unless some attitudes change in the school system, it will be impossible to get

changes in the attitudes of the young people."

Dade County's first racial violence broke out in Liberty City, in northwestern Miami, late in the afternoon of Aug. 7. At about the same hour, Negro students from South Dade High appeared before the School Board to protest what they termed discrimination at that school. The South Dade young people agreed to discuss the problem in biracial student meetings.

Gordon suggested yesterday the school system should provide "sensitivity training," at least for principals and administrators, giving priority to schools with inte-

grated staffs and student bodies.

"It doesn't matter what you call it," Superintendent Edward Whigham said. "We do need a training program that helps our people see how others see the problem.

"We need to do it in the integrated schools," Dr. Whigham said, "but the undesirable attitudes aren't just in those schools. Something needs to be done in all schools, and I don't really think it would be expensive."

He asked the board to give school administrators "a little more time for planning."

One problem, Dr. Whigham said, is whether the

board or the administration should "issue a directive that this must be done" or whether it should be left on a voluntary basis.

"I have a feeling we'll get better results if we move to institute training in human relations voluntarily," Dr. Whigham said.

"But some schools are not facing up to this responsibility," he said. "It may come to the point where we have to say to the staff: You MUST do this."

Gordon also suggested the school system put much more emphasis on a program, available in high schools and some junior highs, which enables pupils to study half a

school day and work for pay the other half, getting academic credit for the work.

"We ought to set a quota — 1,000 or whatever is reasonable — and get that many more kids into part-time jobs," Gordon said. In expanding the work-study program, he said, school officials should put emphasis on Dade's low-income areas.

In addition, the board yesterday considered a new priority list for school construction. It can spend \$29 million in newly issued state bonds and has authorized the sale of another \$13 or \$14 million to be backed by auto license tag revenue.

State funds cannot be used for school construction except what is on a priority list approved by the State Board of Education. The possible availability of an additional \$40 million to \$45 million makes it necessary to revise the priority list.

Dr. Whigham gave board members a proposed priority list of 80 construction projects adding up to \$102.7 million, more than twice the money available.

And he said the list is far short of including all school system construction needs.

next five years.

Three School Board candidates in the November election attended the conference — Dr. Ben Sheppard and Crutcher Field Harrison, Democrats, and Jerry Chambers, a Republican.

"These are just the things we need immediately," he said.

He has said the school system needs to spend \$200 million on new construction and renovation within the

Miami
News
Aug 15

Understanding Is Key To Problem At S. Dade

Editor, The News Leader:

A preacher and his son were once traveling through the country and they stopped at a small church along the road. He was a traveling preacher and gave his message to those churches which had no preacher of their own. As they walked into the church, the preacher noticed an offering basket in the isle. It was empty.

The preacher reached into his back pocket, took out his wallet, extracted the only dollar bill he had, and placed it in the basket. That Sunday he preached his sermon and later, he and his son ate their dinner at one of the nearby homes of a member of the congregation at which they were staying.

LATER, AS he and his son were packing to leave, the head of the household came up to the preacher and gave him the dollar bill from the basket. He explained that this was the preacher's payment which was collected through donations. The preacher's son said, "Father, that was your dollar bill which the man gave you. Do you think that that is enough?"

The preacher turned to his son and said, "Son, you only get something from that which you put something into."

PRIDE IS a trait of all humans, whether they be black or white. Most people would rather work for that which they want in order to feel that they deserve it. If one puts forward no effort and no concern for the outcome of a problem, it is very likely that the problem will not be solved or the answer will prove to be unsatisfactory.

In other words, if one puts nothing in he will get nothing out. I would be ashamed to accept something handed to me — whether it be a good grade, or a position on the cheerleading squad.

The students at South Dade High School are no different than students of other high schools. There are students who have prejudices, who take a person at his face value and are not concerned with the true worth of a person, students who do not think with an open mind.

On the other hand there are the leaders — students who care, students who are concerned for other students and with the workings of the school. These students are the heart of South Dade.

THE TEACHERS and administrators are typical of other schools. There are teachers who are also prejudiced — whether it be a person's skin color or religion. In spite of these things, there is one thing that must be considered. There are more students, teachers, and administrators who care, who have unbiased opinions. These people do not have a desire to cut other persons down in order to make themselves

look better — a "something for nothing" attitude.

There is still another aspect of South Dade. There are clubs, athletic teams, a majorette squad, a cheerleading squad, and many honor societies. The clubs are formed primarily for the purpose of doing services for the school and community. Each club is formed and consists of students attending South Dade. Anyone is allowed to join.

THE DOORS are not closed to a student simply because he is a Jew or his skin coloring is black. A person's will, determination, and his willingness to work — these are the only requirements for joining.

Before the beginning of each school year, tryouts are held for the athletic teams, the majorette squad and the cheerleading squads. Meetings are held a month before the actual tryouts and any student wishing to try out may attend these compulsory meetings. The majorettes practice months before they go before a panel and are voted on for their worth and excellence as a result of their efforts.

The cheerleading candidates go before the entire student body and are also voted on because of their excellence, not because of their names, skin color, or religion for names are not given and the students are choosing a squad which will do justice to our school.

THERE ARE various honor societies at South Dade. Membership is based on grades, character, leadership, and abilities. A point system is used. A 3.6 grade average is the standard for the National Honor Society and 3.5 for the other societies. The societies offer the same activities as those of the clubs. The members are not voted on.

In order to achieve and maintain these grades, a student must have a certain amount of discipline, willingness to work, and the grace to accept defeat as well as victory. Success is "1 per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration." Good grades are not always the product of a fine brain. There is no rule which says a white student is allowed to study longer than a black student.

It has been pointed out that these clubs and organizations are open to anyone who wants to join, and yet the question arises — Why haven't the black students taken the initiative to join? Have they been suppressed? These are hard questions to answer. There is no way to see into a person's mind.

THE BLACK STUDENT may feel that at South Dade he is not welcome. He may feel that by stepping forward to join a club he will be unfairly treated,

hurt, and even rejected. The black person is not giving South Dade a chance. Of all the clubs which I belong to I do not know of one which would not welcome an extra hand to help build that homecoming float or to help with that bake sale. It makes no difference whether that hand is black or white. The questions stand unanswered.

The year is 1968. As was mentioned before, South Dade is like other schools with their prejudices, hatreds, and leaders. We call ourselves "Rebels." Our colors are blue and gray. Our band uniforms are fashioned after those worn by the Confederate soldiers. This is our tradition. Every student at South Dade loves his school in some small way, whether it be because of its tradition or its curriculum. Every student is proud of his school.

THE TRADITION is part of the school, just as the walls and desks. Without it, South Dade would be a hollow shell, full of people making noises like teachers and students. The name "Rebels" and the Confederate flag were not adopted by persons unknown who hated black people and set out to remind them everyday of the untrue and cruel statement that whites are better than blacks. This is not only foolish but is historically inaccurate. When a student shouts "I am a 'Rebel'," he is proud because, through his school years at South Dade, he is becoming a mature person, an intelligent person, a sensible person, a moral person — an adult. He is proud that he is an American and can even go to school. He is proud that he has a mind of his own. He is proud that he has the freedom to worship as he chooses and is able to tell those with which goes to school his beliefs.

WE NOW HAVE unrest and distrust at South Dade. Ours is not to reason why but to try and find a solution. A solution brought about by understanding and peace rather than hurt and destruction. The problem is not one-sided. It deals with emotions rather than something that is materialistic and on the surface. If we do not answer our questions and search for a solution peacefully and work together, our school and even our town will be torn apart by needless riots and possibly killings.

A SITUATION such as this can result in painful experiences, even death, if parties resort to violence. By now everyone should know with what I'm concerned. This is not the time to be apathetic, whether you may be black or white. It is your future and the future generations at stake. Understand and help

LIBBY COOL
President of the 1968-69
Student Council

Minority Group Tries To Dictate To Majority

News
Leader
Aug
16th

Editor, The News Leader:
The main gripe of Negro students is that they are not placed on a parallel level to, or treated the same as, the white students.

In other words they want to be equal. Yet they magnify the fact that they're not by forming an organization called SOUL.

ANY NUMBER of words could be used in place of Student Organization for Unity and Liberty and still come across with the same idea.

Yet the very fact they picked SOUL shows that even they consider themselves different. (It's common knowledge that it was a black movement that started this SOUL bit.)

This organization consists of

only a hundred members, a very small minority of South Dade students, yet it not only requests but demands changes in school policies and tradition that will not only affect the present but all future students at South Dade, and this due to accusations and issues that have not been fully investigated by either party (especially those doing the accusing).

* * *

THE COMPLAINTS which have been looked into have proved false and unjustified. If this organization was made up of whites, I doubt seriously if it would have been publicized in the first place.

This action alone shows that they not only consider themselves equal but superior.

This country is supposed to be run on a democratic basis, as is South Dade, with the majority ruling. Even in this sense (which only could be considered prejudiced) SOUL is anything but a majority. Yet they think because they're Negro they can be handed privileges and positions anyone else — be they white, Puerto Rican, Cuban or whatever — would have to work for.

* * *

I AM NOT a South Dade student but a student concerned nonetheless. For I feel that if a minority group such as this (that doesn't even know what it's rebelling against) can cause such an upheaval in its school and immediate community, that it is not only possible but probably to have a similar effect on other schools.

This may be a sarcastic remark, but if their rebellious actions and attitudes aren't considered as those of "rebel," what is? If anything, this name is more than accurate.

SHIRLEY BERGER
Palmetto Senior High

Rebel, Spirit Mean The Same

Editor, The News Leader:
I am writing to comment on the letter written by the woman from Pennsylvania who said she had two children who graduated from South Dade.

She said the Confederate symbols were offensive to them, and because of these symbols her two children could not develop their desirable school spirit.

* * *

I FEEL their lack of school spirit was due to their lack of school participation.

My sister is a Yankee, but she is very proud to go to South Dade and to honor the "Rebels" and the Confederate flag.

I myself am a "Rebel," and I am glad I am. I stand up and cheer along with the rest of the students of South Dade High when the "Rebel" flag is put on the field during our games.

But we also love and honor our American flag and we always stand up for it. I do not see how these two students could not seem to get a surge of school spirit.

* * *

THIS WILL be my first year at South Dade High, but even when I went to Homestead Junior High the "Rebel" spirit was always with me, and all my fellow classmates. And it will always be with me.

Maybe if these two graduates of South Dade would have made a little more effort to go to our games, pep rallies and participate in our athletic activities, they would get the desirable school spirit.

I have often witnessed the singing of the South Dade alma mater. I have seen a few students who are so devoted to the "Rebels" that it brings tears to their eyes everytime this alma mater is sung.

And SOUL wants to take such a beloved and honored name from the students of South Dade?

* * *

Maybe if these SOUL members would come and witness this singing of the alma mater for themselves it would change their desire to wipe out the rebels.

In closing I would like to urge these two graduates and their parents and everyone in the South Dade area to come to our games and see this spirit that is in each and everyone of the students of South Dade.

And maybe after this you too will join in to support the students of South Dade and help us keep the much loved and honored name, "Rebels," in our school forever.

DOUG WYCOFF

South Dade Negroes Air Their Grievances

HERALD - Aug 16

Police and School Officials Listen

By BRUCE GILES
Herald Writer

Negro residents of South Dade paraded before county school and police officials Thursday night airing their complaints.

The officials listened carefully and promised action.

The meeting at the Perrine office of the EOPI was the first in a series across the county to bring residents face-to-face with these officials. It was sponsored by the Dade County Community Relations Board.

Problems ranged from lack of representation in government, schools and the police force, to employment and housing.

South Dade Negro leader Odell Johns criticized the Metro Commission for not having a commissioner who is truly a representative of the Negro community.

"Earl Carroll had to be elected by a majority of white votes," Johns said. "So he is not really a spokesman for the Negro community."

He also criticized the lack of Negroes in responsible positions in law enforcement.

"We need some Negroes in Metro with some stripes," he said.

"We need Negroes in the sheriff's department who can participate in policy-making decisions."

He also criticized unequal housing code enforcement. He charged that there are few follow-ups on violations by white owners, but that the code "is enforced rigidly on the Negro property owner who even has a broken window pane."

Johns also attacked the executive committee of the EOPI. He said they are "a highly sophisticated clique" who border on conflict of interest. He said the poverty program is not meeting the needs of the people for whom it was designed.

Another resident, Louise Byrd, charged that employment opportunities are few.

One reason, she said, is because transportation in South Dade is completely inadequate to other parts of the county.

The meeting stretched into the night as many of the nearly 100 residents confronted the officials with complaints.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

News

Leader

SOUL Formed To Air Grievances, She Says

M/A
Aug
16

Editor, The News Leader:

I'm a senior at South Dade High School and a member of the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty, S.O.U.L. I would like to clear up the real meaning and purpose of S.O.U.L. This organization was designed for students of all schools who have discriminatory grievances, to bring together the opposing sides and try to work out some sort of agreement which will satisfy all concerned.

S.O.U.L., to these students and myself, means exactly the following: S — students and only students of the school body associated with certain problems; O — organization, the arranging of some related parts into a whole; U — unity, a definition within itself, the state of One; and L — liberty, the privileges enjoyed by all, by a grant.

WHAT THE Caucasians fail to see or realize are the two great differences between this word SOUL used on two entirely different situations.

The name Rebel to the black students — myself and others — gives us the complete understanding of the background of Rebels, from its history to the present. What makes us reject this name so strongly is that from the Civil War until now, portions of the Caucasian race still would 'love' to see the black race return to slavery. It also brings back the horrible and hateful life my people had to go through.

IT HAS BEEN said that the shortage of teachers was caused by the teachers' walk-out. I sincerely don't believe that the person in charge of hiring teachers can't find qualified black teachers to fulfill the basic positions within the school. We, the black students, need these teachers because they are of our black race and only the teachers can really understand the dis-

crimination we receive and help us more within the school.

It was brought up that the absence of black history and culture is quite irrelevant. Well, from other black students and myself, while studying in school, we have been deprived of an enormous amount of learning about the black race's accomplishments, background and failures.

YOU MAY SAY that isn't important, but to us as black students it means knowing everything in the world and it pertains to our entire life on this earth.

As far as discrimination is concerned, it has been put upon every black student at South Dade. The Soul Brothers and Sisters or Black Power that was worn on the last day of school are not in any kind of manner similar to each other.

The S. O. U. L. that was exhibited in June was a new tradition between black students which showed that they sincerely believed and loved the customs handed down to us from one generation to another.

This discrimination was only caused by the white students, teachers and administrative board. The black students at South Dade High School have been told by teachers to leave pep rallies if we participated in our own fashion in an orderly way, or if we didn't stand to the playing of Dixie or the presentation of the Rebel flag.

WE HAVE been told even before we could reach the main desk within the library that we were improperly dressed to enter, or that we came in in a so-called wrong manner, etc., and we were called to the office and sent home.

But on the other hand, a white boy or girl could enter in similar dress or in the same manner, and would not be spoken to in the main office or sent home.

Black students have also

been ordered back to the cafeteria by the assistant principal if we left with an item or a cup of water. But a group of white boys and girls could walk past or even stop in the hall for a little conversation with a Burger King bag or drink, apple beer, potato chips, etc., in their hands and not once be spoken to. What made the discriminatory action so bad is that Principal Wilson said no one was to leave the school campus for lunch.

WHITE STUDENTS have objected to sitting beside a black student at school and on buses; they have moved to the side with a sneer to make it absolutely clear to the black student that they feel we are not even fit to walk on the same earth with them.

Black students at South Dade have been called Niggers, —, —, (dirty names not fit to print in your newspaper), if we did not let white students pass first in pep rallies, the cafeteria, halls and elsewhere.

As for trying out for cheerleaders or majorettes, other girls and I wanted to try out and we knew we could have made the squad. As for myself, I have wanted to go out for different offices, clubs and teams, and I know — as others associated with me know — that I work hard and do my best in everything I truly want. But the black students know that to go out for such a position would be the biggest mistake we have made — knowing that we are the minority at South Dade, that we are not welcome, and that white students have grievances against us.

IT HAS BEEN said that the name 'Rebels' was never meant to oppress anyone, black or white. But the true rebels are those whose actions against the black students I have listed, and I sincerely mean never to identify myself as a Rebel.

MILDRED D. SEYMOUR
Secretary of S.O.U.L.

South Dade

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BILL BLOSS, Bureau Chief



—Herald Photo by C. A. MITCHELL

Student Can Learn to Sew at School
... Barbara Adams, left, and Edith Jernigan

Migrant School Place Where Nobody Fails

A migrant worker, his white stubble-bearded face glowing with pride, counted his weather-worn fingers: "One . . . two . . . three . . ."

Only nine weeks ago it was "uno . . . dos . . . tres . . ."

A middle-aged Negro woman sat at a typewriter, her fingers bouncing over the keyboard to the tune of 48 words a minute.

These and 130 others are the "graduates" of the Adult Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Program being held at South Dade High School.

"We have no students who fail," emphasized Johnny Brown, director of the program. "Each student has made great progress during the nine weeks of the program."

The federally-funded program offers migrant and seasonal farm workers the opportunity to learn skills which will help them to function better in society, Brown said.

Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. with the basic skills — reading, writing, arithmetic and citizenship.

Afternoons are filled with vocational skills of the participant's choice. These include such varied interests as carpentry, auto mechanics, homemaking, cooking, office machines, typing, arts and crafts and music.

Citizenship is one of the required courses for the workers. Migrants are taught about politics and government and instructed on how to use a voting machine.

In fact, that part of the lesson was so well learned that 85 of the 130 students requested to become registered voters.

Writing is one skill which a number of the students, many of whom have had little and sometimes no formal education, had not acquired.

"We got a number of report forms from the students signed with just an x the first week," Brown said. "But after the third week every one of the students had learned to write and recognize his own name."

Willingness to learn is no problem for the teachers of the program.

"One woman skipped her lunch and spent the time working arithmetic problems on the blackboard," Brown said.

Although the formal part of the program has ended with a display of newly-acquired skills and knowledge at Mays High School in Homestead, the education will not.

"Education is no longer a dead-end street for many of these people," Brown said. "Many of the students will continue their education in other specialized training programs."

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HERALD Aug 16

White Meet Black to Find Harmony's Ills

By **GEORGE KENNEDY**
Herald Staff Writer

The Greater Miami Coalition decided Thursday to work with a broadly-based group of Negro leaders to identify, and begin working to solve, the most pressing problems of the black community.

An all-black committee is now drafting a "blueprint" of what needs to be done. This will be presented within two or three weeks to the coalition, a predominantly white organization of many of the most powerful business and government executives in

Dade County.

The black group was organized by Garth Reeves, editor of the Miami Times, a Negro newspaper, and a member of the coalition.

Its membership includes businessmen from all parts of the county, politicians, professional organizers and heads of social agencies.

Neal Adams, Brownsville grocer and civic leader, is a member. So are Bernard Dyer of the Liberty City Community Council, Archie Hardwick of the James E.

Scott Community Center, Odell Johns, South Dade politician, and Best West, secretary of the new Black Brothers for Progress

There are a dozen members in all. The blueprint they come up with will be submitted to a group of 200 or more ghetto residents for approval before going to the coalition.

Reeves said the program will be one drawn by blacks for blacks and will be intended to represent a consensus of the community.

Ray Goode, executive vice

president of the coalition, said it will refine the proposals to include cost estimate and then throw the considerable weight of coalition members behind some or all of the priorities.

Improvements will be sought, Reeves said, in such areas as transportation, jobs, education, housing and police-community relations.

"We want to let the community know something is happening," Reeves said.

Both men said last week's violence in Liberty City spurred the coalition's action.

Before the disturbance, Goode said, the coalition had hoped to organize committees and plan carefully before undertaking any projects.

"I think they realize they must do something at this point," Reeves said.

Something else they decided to do Thursday was to work with the University of Miami to provide technical assistance to blacks seeking to start or expand business in the ghetto.

The provision of technical and financial aid to black

businessmen, or entrepreneurs, is now generally recognized as the most hopeful way of developing a solid economic base upon which other improvements can be built.

One proposal, though, stirred some dissent among coalition members and was not acted on.

The proposal, though, stirred some dissent among coalition members and was not acted on.

The proposal was that the coalition sponsor a fact-finding

committee, a "little Kerner Commission," to examine causes, conduct and effects of the violence.

Several members argued that the coalition should not spend time looking backward, while others thought that would be the best way to begin looking ahead.

In a less controversial area, the coalition unanimously endorsed the Model-City program now getting under way in the Liberty City area. Coalition programs in that area will be channeled through the federally funded Model City effort.



Garth Reeves
... organizer

Community, Action Fund Gets New Offices, New Director

The migrant-serving Community Action Fund in South Dade has new offices and a new director.

Settling in last week in a converted residential dwelling at 560 SW Sixth St., Homestead, were director Stafford J. Sweeting and his staff of some 15 office and field workers.

The new director is an ordained priest of the African Orthodox Church and has pastored Christ the King A.O.C. Church near Carol City for a number of years.

He replaces Roscoe Webb, who was CAF director for more than two years, in the agency's former location in Perrine. Webb was transferred to CAF headquarters in Fort Lauderdale.

Asked why the shift to southwest Homestead, Rev. Fr. Sweeting said higher-ups in the federally funded agency decided the "sophisticate suite of offices" on southbound US 1 in Perrine wasn't the best place from which to serve migrant and resident farm workers in South Dade.

Homestead and Florida City are where most of the farm workers are located, he said,

and provide the best "target area" for the agency's work.

Emphasis of the program is on upward mobility and job development for those who do seasonal farm work. Sweeting points to recent successes in placing young former field workers in year-round (and higher-paying) jobs, such as supermarket employment. Last month 15 such placements were made through efforts of the CAF.

Neighborhood clubs are the framework for developing interest in "upward mobility" for farm laborers, Sweeting said.

Educational programs for migrants and seasonal farm workers, and nursery care for youngsters in labor camps while their parents work, are among other projects of the CAF.

Rev. Fr. Sweeting is a native of Coconut Grove, graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and served two years in the Army. He graduated from St. Augustine College in Raleigh, N. C., did graduate work at the Inter-denominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta and at Union Theological Seminary in New

York City.

He is a former history teacher at Miami Northwest High

School and has worked with the Miami Urban League and in urban renewal planning.

Help Migrants, Farmers Urged

Farmers were urged today by the Department of Labor to help boys and girls under 16 to finish their education. At the same time, the farmers will be obeying the law.

The child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act prohibit youngsters under 16 from working on a farm during school hours while school is in session.

The law applies equally to local and migrant youth.

"Farmers can still hire teenagers under 16 to work after school on the weekends in non-hazardous jobs. This will help needy boys and girls earn the money necessary to stay in school," the Labor Department's Wage-Hour field office in Miami observed.

"The farmer who encourages these youngsters to finish school while they work part-time for him will never have to feel that he knowingly did not help someone out of the vicious cycle of poverty."

Labor Department studies show how violations of this law cost the boys and girls involved — almost half of the young farm workers were in grades well below the norm for their ages; and at the age of 15, 7 out of 10 local farm youth, and 9 out of 10 migrant farm youth, had not reached the grade normal for their age.

"It is particularly important that this law is understood at this time as schools across the country are reopening for the new school year. Unknowingly, farmers may permit boys and girls under 16 to continue working full time. This is, of course, against the law," Denicé pointed out.

"If there is a difference between State and Federal child labor standards, the higher standards apply.

"I want to personally urge

News
Leader
Aug 14

Blacks Fighting For Freedom At S. Dade

Editor, The News Leader:
I, a black student at South Dade High School, would like to express my opinions concerning the racial upset at South Dade.

In Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address he stated that "all men are created equal." Apparently Lincoln's speech had no meaning at all.

BEFORE AND during his time our black ancestors were bought, sold and beaten as if they were worthless property or stray animals. Even after centuries of slavery and finally getting their so-called freedom they were still looked upon as trash.

The main issue of the Civil War was slavery. The South (Rebels) thought it was their right to have other human beings, the black man, as slaves. The Confederate flag (on class rings), the Rebel soldiers uni-

forms (resembles band uniforms) and South Dade's victory song, Dixie, all played a major part in helping keep slavery.

Every time I hear Dixie I think of what it meant to my ancestors. I think of the Rebel soldiers waving the Confederate flag as they fought to keep my black ancestors slaves.

I think also of the Rebel's fighting with the tune of Dixie at their lips. I realize that "The Home of the Rebel's" has been the name of South Dade for a long time but things change everyday and we must all learn to live with these changes.

Would you, as a white parent, agree to let your children attend a school with a name like Rap Brown High or Stokely Carmichael Academy with "Wipe Out the Whites" as the theme song?

Some of you have the impression that the color of our skin works as a shield for our hearts. This isn't true, we have feelings also.

We are fighting for a type of freedom at South Dade. Black boys are going to Vietnam sharing in the pains, sharing in the deaths, sharing in the killings and we are home sharing in the griefs.

Our men are fighting for freedom and peace for the people of South Vietnam and we don't have complete freedom and peace here at home.

I don't think anyone besides us can really know how we feel. Only a black man can know how it feels to be looked upon as the underdog, to be turned away, to feel inferior.

I am black, I am proud of my heritage, and I love my race.

**A SOUTH DADE STUDENT
AND DEDICATED
SOUL MEMBER**

Negro Should Forgive, Accept School Symbols

Editor, The News Leader:

I will be a Senior at South Dade this fall and I must say what I feel about this recent controversy. My brother graduated from South Dade High where he was proud to be a member of the Rebel football team.

HIS WIFE was a cheerleader with typical Rebel pride and spirit. I read a letter in the August 12 issue of The News Leader in which the following was said: "Moses was forbidden to go to the Promised Land, because he called some of the Israelites Rebels." If one will read Numbers 20, verses 7-12, the entire story can be found. Moses disobeyed God and was punished accordingly.

We are so often asked to "give in" to the minority for the sake of appeasement. These symbols used for athletic competition carry no ideals of civil strife or of dividing our nation.

I am as patriotic as the next person, and indeed the Civil War and its ideals are dead in my mind.

Why can't the Negro be willing to "give in" just a little. These ideals would be totally forgotten if the Negro would be willing to forgive and accept these school symbols in the same light as others do.

WE FOUGHT a war for independence. I'm proud of this independence and the war it took to win it. Now I'm proud that we can look on England as a friend.

I am a Christian and I pray that God will give me knowledge for any situation that may arise. If others would follow this guide, I know a lot of misunderstandings could be cleared up and a great deal of trouble avoided. To repeat some well known words: I'm a Rebel born, I'm a Rebel bred and when I die I'm a Rebel dead."

RON GOODING

NEWS
LEADER
MON
Aug 19

Miami News
Aug 20

A Simple Grievance, But Vexing

By RALPH MCGILL

During the Republican convention at Miami Beach, black and white students at South Dade High School in South Miami met together to hear and try to resolve grievances of the black pupils.

The meeting was an experiment, announced well in advance. Student aides, two Negroes, three whites, had been busy for days trying to discover and identify grievances.

There was one that is so revealing of much more important grievances that it offers a simple illustration of a very complex problem. There was no Miami at the time of the Civil War. Indeed, as late as 1876 much of the area of Dade County was wilderness. Miami was incorporated as a city with less than 2,000 population, in 1896.

Yet, South Dade High School's athletic teams are called "Rebels (Confederate) and the band parades in Confederate uniforms and carries Confederate flags.

Young black students, becoming increasingly aware of their own history, asked that the name be changed and the flags not used as a symbol of the school. The use of the flag, uniforms and name of Confederate Rebels in an area that had not even the most remote historical connection with the Civil War does make such practices preposterous. There is no tradition at stake. Even if there were traditions, the usage of uniforms, flags and a name does constitute a grievance.



MCGILL

Here is a simple presentation of a grievance. It becomes complex because many of the white students and their parents will quite honestly not understand it. This is a part of the greater complexity in which the Negro, struggling toward identify and dignity, confronts a white population conditioned from birth to acceptance of "little things" that are offensive.

The Confederate flags and uniforms worn at a school in its public parades that remind the Negro student of slavery and of a war fought by the Confederacy to retain slavery — a Confederacy that made slavery the "keystone of its arch of government and its constitution," cannot do otherwise than make the Negro student uncomfortable. Certainly there is an undeniable, blatant racism in such public celebrations. It is also immature and out of harmony with a nation whose pledge to the flag and whose constitution declares something else.

One of the white students was quoted as saying, "If we take this protest to the student body they are not going to condemn a tradition — an old dream trying to be re-dreamed."

One must ask of a school in an area which had no Civil War tradition, what tradition they are talking about. Also, one must ask if it isn't preposterous to speak of an old dream trying to be re-dreamed. What dream? One of a slave nation, trying to re-dream slavery?

There were other grievances — all familiar, yet all that most white persons, conditioned from birth to acceptance of things as they are, could consider trivial. There were discriminations in black student representation in student organizations, in treatment of black athletes, in the absence of Negro teachers, coaches and administrators, in the lack of Negro history and cultural backgrounds in the classroom or the school library.

Meanwhile, in Miami's ghetto area there was a relatively small outbreak of violence. The grievances there were familiar . . . downtown beer was 28 cents a can . . . in Liberty City it was 30 cents . . . prices in all the stores were higher . . . there were no jobs . . . there were 39 liquor stores in the area and no Negro had been allowed to own even one . . . the rents were high . . . the slum houses crowded . . .

Is the answer merely "put 'em in jail," "shoot 'em down" — as the new vocabulary of "law-and-order" voices say?

Boycott Planned

N/L Aug 22

Whites Reject SOUL's Offer

By PAUL J. EGAN

White students at South Dade High School apparently rejected an offer to meet with members of the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL) and discuss the problems that exist between the two groups, it was learned today.

According to a member of SOUL, an invitation was offered to members of the student body, football team and majorettes for them to meet with the Negro group at the JFK EOPI Center Tuesday but none of them showed up.

The meeting was reportedly designed to solve the one main issue — the school's nickname "Rebels".

When no whites showed for the meeting the 15 members in attendance from SOUL discussed ways of keeping the issue alive and in front of the public.

According to this spokesman, leaflets demanding that the nickname be dropped at the school will be distributed and an invitation once more will be issued to white members of the student body to discuss the problem on television.

SOUL members of the SD student body, according to the spokesman, do not intend participating in any school activities until the name is changed.

When asked if this meant boycotting football games, pep rallies and other school activities, the informant replied "yes."

"It is safe to say none of the active 38 members belonging to SOUL will play an active role at the school until the name is changed," the informant added.

According to the spokesman, SOUL desires to meet with the white members of the student body and explain its dislike for the nickname.

"All we are asking," the informant said, "is for the white student to put himself in our place and to understand how offensive the word "Rebels" is."

At present no black athletes at the school have reported for football this coming school year.

Wallace For President Stickers Anger Blacks

Editor, The News Leader:

Must I be denied because I'm black — the food, the clothing, the needs I lack?

Must I always live in poverty, slums, be called foolish, ignorant and dumb?

Must I always live at the dark end of the street suffering, trying to make al ends meet?

Yes, these are the things that the people of Liberty City area thought about when they saw the Wallace for President sticker on the car.

And so for certain reasons it would be hopeless for Wallace to even think that he would be president. So to people who think that Wallace would put the Negro back where they came from I say this:

Because I'm black I will not hide because of one thing I'm

not denied. I've the privilege to be free. I thank God for our liberty.

..BARBARA FOUNTAIN
..A Mays High Graduate

Negroes Say SOUL Didn't Meet

HERA 8/23

By SHARON TYLER
Herald Writer

A racially colored controversy over South Dade High School's "Rebel" nickname flared Thursday over what Negro students say was a meeting that never happened.

A South Dade newspaper said white students rejected a Negro student's offer to discuss their demands the name be changed. The meeting occurred Tuesday, the article said, at the JFK EOPI Center.

The report quoted an unnamed spokesman for the all-Negro Students Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL).

But "we didn't know anything about the meeting," retorted Otis Wallace, SOUL chieftain. "And we're the spokesmen," he said, gesturing toward three other SOUL members at a Community Relations Board session Thursday night in Florida City.

"I want to know what SOUL member talked to the press," Wallace said. "If he is a SOUL member, he is not a spokesman and is taking an individual action."

EOPI Center Director Willie Brown also denied the meeting took place. "We had a Tenant League meeting that same night in the center," he said.

Even if the news source were a SOUL spokesman, Wallace said, he was inaccurate in declaring SOUL members would go to television to discuss why they feel the name "Rebel" insults them.

Wallace also denied a report SOUL would boycott school activities until the name is changed — but indicated there may be substance to the report.

A decision to take that action, he said, "is not definite."

N/L Aug 23

In Rebel Controversy

Students Want To Solve Problems At South Dade

By CAROL DEAN

Members of SOUL (Student Organization for Unity and Liberty) and a representative of students from South Dade High School told members of the Community Relations Board at Florida City Thursday night that the students wanted to solve their own problems.

The meeting was called, according to Mrs. Laura Saunders, chairman of the board, to acquaint the board members with the problem Negro students are having at South Dade.

The four representatives of SOUL, Otis Wallace, Sammy Jones, William Moses and Charles Richardson, all seniors

at South Dade explained why they wanted the school's name to be changed and why they wanted Negro teachers and counselors.

Wallace said that white teachers discriminated against them and that they were never allowed to see a white counselor.

He said that if these problems cannot be solved by the students themselves they would take them to a higher authority but that they will not react by rioting.

The question and explanation session turned briefly into a lecture when Irving Peskoe, a member of the board told the

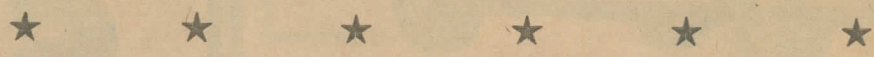
boys that they were wanting things to change too fast.

"When you confront people with demands they raise their backs and get angry. Things are not going to change overnight," Peskoe said.

Wallace said that he knew that but he did not want to wait 20 years for progress.

The Negroes' main objection was to the oppression, which they say, the Rebels name, song and colors represent.

"Rebel tradition is connected with slavery and that means oppression. How would you like it," Wallace said, (pointing to Peskoe). "Would you (Continued on Page 3)



Is There Discord In SOUL?

A member of the Negro Students Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL) charged this morning some statements made by Otis Wallace, head of the all-Negro organization, made Thursday night at a meeting of the Community Board session in Florida City were untrue.

According to the informant, Wallace was wrong when denying that a meeting was held Tuesday night among SOUL members at the JFK EOPI Center in Homestead to discuss

ways of swaying the South Dade High School student body to change its nickname "Rebels."

In fact, the spokesman said, Wallace was at the meeting, and like others among the 15 present, agreed on various methods to approach the problem.

One of these, the informant said, was the distribution of literature, the other, appearing on Channel-2 television and discussing the problem openly with white students from the

school. Wallace said last night that no such meeting of SOUL took place Tuesday night at the Center.

He added, that whoever spoke to the press saying SOUL would go on television to discuss the problem also was inaccurate.

Wallace also denied that SOUL intends to boycott school activities until the name is changed — but did indicate there may be substance to the report.

go running around the football field, dancing and playing if the song was "Wipe Out the Whites."

Susan Thompson, the white student representative from South Dade said, "I never thought about the Rebel name oppressing anyone, but I'm not black."

She went on to say that the students of SD did not want to oppress anyone, but changing the name of the Rebels is not going to change anyone's mind or emotions.

Opportunity Is There; Now It's Up To The Blacks

N/L 8/23

Editor, The News Leader:

In recent comments in your paper and in those from Miami a request has been made to hear from senior citizens. Here is a response to those requests.

The letter from "Dedicated Souj Member" caused me to decide to break my silence.

Abraham Lincoln was a great, good man, but his statement that "all men are created equal" is such a fallacy that it may easily be recognized as such by the most illiterate.

IN FACT, no two men are created equal. All men are born with different mental and physical capabilities. Furthermore, men are born in different environments and with different opportunities which further complicate the situation.

Something may be done about this last difference, but nothing can be done about the first except by the Almighty!

Much has been done and is being done to better the environment and opportunities of all men, but the process is something that cannot be fully accomplished over night, and the greedy attitudes of those whom we are trying to help have complicated matters a lot and will make the task much more difficult.

ALL MEN are equal in the sight of God, but even Christ gave us the parable of the talents. Thereby hangs a tale! If some of these people were as interested in accomplishing something worthwhile in life as they are in finding something to gripe about — something to take exception to — the final goals would not only be much more profitable, but they would be much more pleasant.

The main issue of the Civil War was NOT slavery with many of the best people of the South. Robert E. Lee himself was opposed to slavery and felt that it was not a humane practice. The war would have come even if there had been no slaves. The North was trying to crush the South and bend us to her will.

This did not end with the war either. The discriminations that we of the South suffered were many. One of these was ended only a short time ago — the differences in freight rates which tended to keep us as a colonial state.

DO NOT misunderstand me. I regret that the war ever happened, but since it did — it is best that we lost. This is the greatest country in the world and we should all try to keep it that way. All people like Alcindor who say that this is not their country should be given an opportunity to retract the statement.

If they refuse to do so, they should be deprived of all rights of citizenship! People who make threatening remarks against our country or our leaders should be treated as the treasonous enemies of our country that they are! I will not mention the names of the dirty scum. The papers and TV have blown their importance out of proportion already.

When the Civil War ended some of the slaves of our grandparents stayed on with us. They continued to remain in our employ through the fourth generation — in fact, until all the members of our family moved elsewhere. Not a one of us remains at the old home.

EVEN BACK in the early nineteen hundreds the word "Nigger" was a bad word in our home. It was punishable by a severe whipping. The people who worked with us were given courtesy and respect. That is why they chose to remain with us.

Should we give up the song "Dixie" at the demand of a minority group which is just looking for something to gripe about? There is nothing in the song that could offend anyone. The Soul Member speaks of his heritage. Should we give up our heritage at the demand of ones who would have very little heritage had it not been for the fact that they were transported into an atmosphere that had a heritage and encouraged its development in others!

If these people had been left entirely alone in their country, I doubt that they would have accomplished anything except the most primitive things.

THESE PEOPLE keep demanding books on their accomplishments. There have been some truly great Negroes. There are more living today than ever before! Few men have reached the heights attained by Booker T. Washington and Dr. Carver. It seems to me that colored people have much to be proud of, BUT — they should be more interested in the present which offers so much to the Negro and to the future which offers much more if they do not — in their great greed destroy or hamper their opportunities.

Civil rights? YES! Civil liberties — civil disobedience? NO! If you demonstrate and in any way interfere with me or my business, you are violating my rights! If you try to take or destroy that which I have worked to accumulate, you are a criminal and should be treated as one. We have treated you as one of our own spoiled children far too long. You have intelligence enough

to know right from wrong, and if you choose to do wrong you should be dealt with accordingly.

ROCKS AND bottles are lethal weapons. The police have been patient and long-suffering. It is now time for them to start taking measures that will make people of any age think carefully before throwing lethal weapons at anyone — especially the police.

Those who burn or threaten to burn should be put where everything is fireproof and should be kept there.

There has never been a time in history when the black man had so many people willing and ready to help him and his descendants in every way. His greed — his destructive nature — his eagerness to find fault — these things are cutting down the number of his supporters daily.

If these students at South Dade would take a functional part of the eagerness that they are using in finding fault — and would use in trying to learn something — in trying to participate in all the worthwhile activities of the school — an adjustment would be made much sooner and everyone would profit by their action, but the people involved would profit most.

THIS IS the deep South. The war is over! Long live and prosper our great country! Let those who want honor and respect work for these things and earn them! The only accepted royalty in this country is that of accomplishment. No one should be given something just because he is black — or white for that matter.

People who do not represent our country when given an opportunity and give as a reason that they do not feel that much patriotism should never be given a second opportunity to represent us.

Most of us rejoice in the progress of the Negro, but we do not want him nor anyone else crammed down our throats. We should be allowed to sell what we please to whom we please.

THE NEGRO race has many superior individuals among it but the race as a group has a long way to go. If they truly want to improve, that desire must be shown by them. We are giving them every opportunity. The next move is up to them. It seems that many of them are intent upon destroying this wonderful country. As these are singled out they should be — and soon must be — dealt with.

..A SENIOR CITIZEN

THE REBELS

MIAMI
NEWS
Aug 25

What's In A Name? Dissension

By CHARLIE NOBLES
Miami News Sports Writer

South Dade High is known as the Home of The Rebels. "That's not my home," says Sam Jones, a South Dade senior.

"Right now," says Rebel football coach Leo Martin, "as far as I'm concerned, we're still the home of the Rebels."

Both sides are not budging, either. Jones and six other Negro football players have decided not to participate on South Dade's team unless the school's nickname is changed from Rebels to "a neutral name."

They — along with some 150 other Negroes at the school — appealed to the School Board to get the nickname changed. In turn, the School Board ruled

that it was an internal problem and should be decided by the students themselves.

And until it is put to a student vote — early in September — Jones and the others say they will not even think about playing football for South Dade.

"This name shows racism because the school uses Confederate symbols," says Jones, a reserve defensive back on last year's Rebel team.

"Think of how a white person would feel visiting a Black Muslim meeting, and you know how we feel playing under the Confederate flag.

"I know the name Rebel oppresses me. The black students like to feel we're a part of South Dade, but that name brings ideas into our head. Negroes in the Civil War were uneducated, and even though they fought, they were following their masters.

"How do you think we feel saying we are Black Rebels?"

Jones, who calls himself the public relations director for a Negro group called SOUL — Student Organization for Unity and Liberty — says there has been wide-spread acceptance to their move.

"Other blacks that don't even go to South Dade feel this is a great thing we're doing. And if we fail, we hope the next group (of Negroes) will try to get it changed."

Two of the Negroes who quit the team were being counted on by Martin as potential first-stringers — Charlie Richardson, a defensive back and Hen-

ry Williams, a halfback. Williams has already transferred to Mays, moving in with his sister.

It's too late anyway for them to play for the Rebels, says Martin. They ended their chances when they didn't show up for spring practice.

Martin has had a rule since he became South Dade's head coach five years ago that any boy who doesn't practice in the spring doesn't play in the fall.

"Everybody at school knows it," says Leo. "Spring practice to me is a situation where there's no glory involved. It's something where you pay the price so that you can have a winning team in the fall.

"When I was an assistant, we had a lot of problems getting kids to come out in the spring. That's why I made the rule. I don't care if a kid is white, green or pink, I'm certainly not going to break up things I've established."



Rebel Coach Leo Martin

Martin says five days after spring practice began, the Negroes asked to be let back on the team. He took a poll of his coaches and it was decided to give them another chance. "But they never showed up," he says.

Now things are different. "I've got my pride and unless I'm forced to take them back, I won't."

Jones says he would come out for football if the nickname is changed. "Yes, I would participate in football because I love the game, not because I thought I had a chance to get a scholarship . . . I'm too small for that."

If not football, Sam would like to try track, where he is a 10.2 runner in the 100. "But if they don't change the name, they'll be showing they don't want us in the school."

Jones is trying to relay the Negroes' sincerity on this matter to white students. "I feel we have intelligent students at our school. I hope they'll vote with an open mind and realize how strongly we feel the name should be changed."

Randy McMichael, South Dade's starting quarterback, is against changing the nickname, but not opposed to taking the Negroes back on the team.

Susan Thompson, a member of the school's student community relations board, says the decision is "an individual matter."

"All I'm concerned about is for the students to know the truth," she said. "I want them to know both sides . . . and I pray they'll do the right thing."

Community Damaged By Rebel Controversy

The demands of the black students at South Dade High to end the use of Rebel symbols has damaged white-black relations and resulted in an unhealthy stiffening of feelings that should have been avoided.

The same objective might have been obtained, albeit over a longer course, in other more sophisticated ways and the price in ruptured feelings would not have been nearly so high.

THE END OF whatever racism that exists at South Dade is not likely to be hastened by the lowering of the Rebel flag. Ideally, a sophisticated white student body in this day and age would have anticipated the divisive tendencies inherent in Civil War symbols and helped them on their way back into the museums and history books as quietly and quickly as possible.

However, this is imparting qualities of vision and statesmanship rarely evident even in their elders.

On the other side of the coin there is the feeling that the black students could have made do with the situation for awhile longer in the interests of nurturing healthier community relations.

Unfortunately youth has never been overendowed with qualities of patience.

LIKE IT or not the matter has been brought to the fore and the tempers and feelings of the community have been damaged. What is important now is that the damage not be allowed to spread any further.

It is doubtful whether the feelings of the black students at seeing the Rebel flag were hurt in proportion to the hurt done white-black relations as a result of their demands.

Demands invariably stiffen resistance, which is one of the shortcomings of our times. A demand is not an intelligent method of gaining something if it can possibly be gained via some other method.

It is difficult to put much stock in the widely touted theme that the whites find endearing a war that rocked this country right to its foundation. What apparently is angering the whites is the risk of losing something, however meaningless or removed from this day and age, because of a "demand."

M/h
Aug 26

ONE OF THE sadder aspects of this matter is the reluctance of the students at South Dade to meet and talk this business out.

Historically, more problems have reached a happy conclusion over the conference table, with emotions contained, than via other routes.

The white students and the black students are going to have to live with each other and get along with each other for the rest of their lives. Now seems as good a time as any to sit down, talk the things out and let the chips fall where they may.

A concession on the part of the white students at South Dade would be an undeniable indication that whatever racism that exists has run its course and that realism, intelligence and a spirit of give and take will dictate the course of future events.

THE SYMBOLS should be phased out over a period of time and returned to their appropriate places in history.

The lowering of the Rebel flag would be one of the finest acts the white students could perform, not as appeasement to a minority but as a concession to history.

It would indicate a recognition that divisive symbols act as a double edged blade that can split factions now as much as the late unpleasantness split the north and the south.

At the same time it will behoove the black students to realize that trying to put an end to all Rebel names would be an exercise in futility. The South may not rise again but neither is it likely that all the symbols of another day will come crashing to the ground.

Can't Cut Wood To Suit, She Says

Editor, The News Leader:

Having recently moved from one section of Homestead to another, I find I am still saddled with the inept and inadequate services of a private trash removal system.

In the not too distant past the system's contract services were renewed by Metro with stipulations that we the people accept the trash removal services.

Indeed, Four foot lengths containers, blue ribbon packages, etc.

And then it isn't even picked up. Perhaps the wheels that rule us can cut doors, trees, brush into four-foot pieces but the average homeowner or renter cannot.

Yet these remain lying on the streets of our neighborhoods. If it is imperative for an individual to haul trash himself, there is no nearby area available.

It is apparent that this is a contributing or primary factor in the mess of our country roads are exhibiting.

We're in the county but adjacent to Homestead. I believe Metro had best dissolve and let the county take care of us. Perhaps then adequate services of all types could be performed.

NAME WITHHELD

Count Blessings, Hard Knocks Graduate Says

Editor, The News Leader:

To the Mays High Grad from a drop-out, cheer up. Things aren't so bad. You are not denied because you are black. Food, clothing and medicine are things we all lack. If everyone were smart, we would all be rich.

Liberty City is hardly a slum, the Communist "Worker" planted this little plum. "These are the things that the people of Liberty City thought about when they saw the Wallace for President sticker on the car."

Please check your facts, for it was Lincoln, not Wallace,

who would put the Negroes back where they came from.

You are black. I am white. We are both poor . . . but we can only live one day at a time, no more!

Yes, we do have liberty and freedom, but if this nonsense doesn't stop the slave chains of Russia on US will be dropped.

The privilege of thanking God for our blessings will then be denied to all Americans still living.

MERRIE HILL

A Yankee Doodle, Dixiecrat, Flag-Waving American, graduated from the school of hard knocks.

SOUL Member Says Rebel Name Hurts

N/L
449
26

Editor, The News Leader:

I am writing to comment on the letter written by Shirley Berger of Palmetto High.

I would like for her to know that she is wrong when she says "The Negro students want to be equal yet they magnify the fact that they are not by forming an organization called S.O.U.L." The forming of S.O.U.L. does not make the Negro any different from the white and I cannot see how she can say it does.

THE WORD S.O.U.L. is only the initials of an organization. The name of the organization is "Student Organization for Unity and Liberty," the name is not S.O.U.L. SOUL is only the initials.

Soul means exactly the following: S - students associated with certain problems; O - organization, the arranging of some related parts into a whole; U - unity, to be as one; and L - liberty, the privileges enjoyed by all, by a grant. Soul means no more than this.

Miss Berger stated that we considered ourselves different. Yes we do, if only because our skins are of different colors. Once more we're not the ones that consider us different, but you are the ones. You think that we aren't human, but we're just as human as you are. And we expect to be treated that way.

SURE, SOUL was a black movement as Miss Berger stated. But don't forget that SOUL is opened to black and white and we also have a couple of whites helping out just a little. Now do you think that the whites would have stepped forward to see that SOUL gets what it's asking for? No, you don't. So now you see why it was a black movement. Besides, we the blacks must move for ourselves sometimes. We can not sit back and let the whites take every move for us that must be taken.

It's alright to say something about the situation that's going on, but about the things that are happening within South Dade High you should have nothing to say because you don't know what's really happening there, because you are at Palmetto. So cool it on South Dade's affairs.

The complaints which have been looked into have not been proven false and unjustified, so don't say that they have.

MISS BERGER said, "If this organization was made up of whites, I doubt seriously if it would have been publicized in the first place." This is not true. - Because everything the whites has had to do with the situation has been publicized. Furthermore the whites were down our throats because we hadn't publicized the situation sooner than we did. Before I go on I just want Shirley to know that she didn't know what she was talking about.

She also said we not only

consider ourselves equal but superior. I'm not sorry to say that we do not consider ourselves superior, but we very much consider ourselves equal, and expect to be treated as equal.

I do not agree with you when you say the majority rules. What you Caucasians fail to realize is that slavery was stopped many years ago. We, the black people of America, are going to see that it stays that way. You know and I know that the Caucasians will always outnumber the Negroes, so you cannot say the majority rules for that will be bringing back slavery. In this democratic country as you put it everyone has a say so. We Negroes are people, not animals, so expect to hear us sometimes.

WE SOUL MEMBERS do not expect anyone to hand us anything. We are willing to work for what we want and that is what we're doing now.

No one can say that we don't know what we're rebelling against because we do know. We are fighting for our rights at South Dade, equality and the wiping out of the Rebels. And also Shirley Berger our acts are not considered those of a rebel.

I am proud to be a student at South Dade. But I am not proud of being discriminated, being around prejudiced people and called a Rebel. I am not proud of being called a Rebel and never will be proud of being called Rebel because I am not a Rebel.

I need not explain what a Rebel is for you should know, it has been explained many times before. Sure there were black Rebels and only because they were made a Rebel. They didn't become a Rebel on their own.

DOWN WITH THE REBEL NAME'

A SOUTH DADE STUDENT AND A SOUL MEMBER

HEW's Figures Called Meaningless

14 Years Later: The Story Of Segregated Schools

N/L
8/27

By HENRY P. LEIFERMANN
ATLANTA (UPI)—For 14 years, since the 1954 Supreme Court ruling outlawing public school segregation, the federal government has largely failed in forcing schools in the South to integrate.

Statistically, it is almost impossible to determine precisely how much segregation remains.

It does remain in wide areas of the Deep South and in other areas the federal pressure has resulted in only token desegregation of classrooms.

There is a widespread feeling among veteran observers of Deep South school desegregation that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has played such a numbers game with the statistics they are meaningless.

HEW, for example, defined a

desegregated school last year as one "attended by minority group children in which at least 50 per cent of the students are white."

Under that definition, apparently, a school with 90 per cent white enrollment and 10 per cent black could be called desegregated.

The year before, the 1966-67 school term, HEW defined a desegregated school system as one with "as much as 5 per cent of the student enrollment white."

Since the two definitions are not the same, HEW spokesmen say, no comparison of progress or the lack of it can be made from the 1966-67 year to the 1967-68 year.

"Most Negro children have not been touched by the (1964 Civil Rights) Act. We are just scratching the surface, just beginning to get the job done,"

Rilling said.

The 1964 law allows HEW to cut off federal school funds to districts that discriminate. It has been regarded by HEW as its most potent enforcer.

"We have put our standards on the line," an HEW official said of the coming two school years, 1968-69 and 1969-70.

"Next year (69-70) is going to make or break the federal approach to desegregation with the Civil Rights Act. There must either be a substantial change, or the policy is going to fail."

Southern school segregation in the days of "massive resistance"—symbolized by opposition in such cities as Little Rock and Clinton, Tenn.—was in the spotlight of the nation's civil rights movement.

For the past three years the issue has had little public notice.

None of the major civil rights organizations, with one exception, has had a major program of school desegregation in the South for three years.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, with limited help from the Department of Justice, has been the principal driving force in attempts to bring complete desegregation to the South's schools.

HEW's own figures portray the continued division by color. The percentage of Negroes in desegregated schools last year:

Louisiana	6.7 per cent
Mississippi	3.9 per cent
Alabama	5.4 per cent
Georgia	9.5 per cent
South Carolina	6.4 per cent

The picture in the rest of the 11 states of the Old Confederacy: Texas 26 per cent, Arkansas 16.8 per cent, Tennessee 18.4 per cent, North Carolina 16 per

cent, Virginia 20.4 per cent, Florida 18 per cent.

The failure to desegregate schools has become an issue as big as the war in Vietnam and black power for many young, militant Negroes in the South.

Their insistence for immediate change, and their pressures upon traditional Southern Negro leadership have changed the face of black-white school negotiations for most of the South.

HEW wants all Southern school districts to submit this year a plan to achieve complete desegregation for the 1969-70 school year.

But a change in administrations in Washington, for example, and less insistent Justice Department and HEW demands, could shelve the plan, according to private fears of some attorneys for the NAACP legal Defense and Education Fund.