

# End Racial Prejudice Teachers Told

HERALD  
Aug 27

## 2 Schools <sup>N/L</sup> Damaged <sup>8/26</sup> By Vandals

Vandals damaged two South Dade schools last weekend. Officers from Substation-4 have been alerted to keep an eye on all schools for the next two weeks.

Over \$145 in damage was reported at Redland Elementary and Junior High School.

The custodian told officers that 60 jalousie windows were broken in the woodshop, three in the gym and several in the main building.

Leroy Stringer, custodian at Cutler Ridge Junior High, said vandals entered five rooms, poured ink on the floor in the television room and used a can of black spray paint to write on the walls of two classrooms, the cafeteria and one of the teachers lounges.

Last week \$5,000 worth of books were destroyed by fire at Mays High School.

## Student Discipline Urged, Too

By GEORGIA MARSH  
Herald Education Writer

School Superintendent Dr. Edward L. Whigham Monday directed school administrators to establish committees on pupil discipline and take formal steps to end racial discrimination in the schools.

In a speech welcoming the county's more than 9,000 teachers, Whigham said the problems of "student behavior" and "equal opportunity for all pupils," must be faced "squarely, openly and honestly."

Whigham's talk was broadcast over the system's television circuit into the Dade's 214 schools.

Dade's teachers reported back to work Monday. The county's more than 220,000 pupils will start school Tuesday, Sept. 3.

To combat what he termed the "increased incidence of disruptive behavior by students as well as a few unprecedented and unfortunate incidents of dangerous delinquency," Whigham asked each school staff to establish a committee on pupil discipline.

The committee's job will be to prepare guidelines for development of sound behavior "and serve as a resource group of school personnel on problems and questions of pupil discipline."

Whigham said while the Dade system has made "some significant progress toward the goal of equal opportunity . . . to the members of the racial minority, those steps already taken have been painfully slow and still far short of the goals to be desired."

He said special efforts must be made in schools for those students, who have been subjected to racial discrimination and economic deprivation.

Whigham said he has directed district superintendents to see that "the principal and staff of each school give formal consideration this year to charges and problems of racial discrimination, to programs and activities for providing equal opportunity without regard to race, and to adequate opportunity for students and community groups to assist in the development of positive programs of action."

At the same time, Whigham said, "members of our staff must be protected against unfounded charges of discrimination."

He said it was up to educators "to provide strong leadership if this nation is to resolve democratically the problems related to equal opportunity for all its citizens."

In addition, each school was directed to take formal steps to involve students and parents in school planning.

Individual teachers, Whigham said, should carefully plan their instruction to make every student feel important and enthusiastic about his work.

# CRB Chairman: Man Who Believes in Being Involved

By SHARON TYLER  
Herald Writer

John McLean is a man who believes in becoming personally involved.

For the native Homesteader, being involved may range from catering to a young bride's every whim, arranging a funeral spray, or serving as the Homestead Community Relations Board Chairman.

His florist business, now located on North Krome Ave., grew out of his mother's interest in a backyard rose garden.

"We arranged in the kitchen and used the porch as a showroom," he said. "I find a great deal of satisfaction in the floral business. You're communicating a personal expression from one person to another."

**Communicating is one of McLean's specialties. As CRB chairman for the past two years he's been a sounding board for community problems.**

"Often it's just a matter of directing people to the right source."

He was appointed by Mayor William K. Dickinson two year's ago when the board was created.

"I was reluctant to accept at first because I knew of the difficult times that might be encountered."

But I felt it was a duty to the mayor and the needs of the community. It's a person's responsibility."

## Around South Dade

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The difficulties he foresaw haven't really arisen, according to McLean.

"I don't feel that there is any great problem," he said. "We've got the best recreational program for any city its size that I know of. We've got a community school, sewers in the Negro district and every street is paved."

The father of three boys, he is married to another involved person — his wife Evelyn who's a PTA and Methodist church leader.

Being involved goes way back from McLean. He served as a volunteer fireman while a student leader at Homestead High School and Homestead city councilman from 1953-57.

Before the CRB passes a recommendation on to the city council and mayor, the CRB must have a unanimous vote.

"This is unique because it's not a simple majority vote. It slows the process and makes for a lot of consideration and more give and take," said McLean.

"We've done a lot of meeting," he laughed, "and sometimes I wonder if we re-

solved anything."

During the teacher walk-out in March, McLean and the CRB urged the Homestead city council to institute a full time recreational program to keep the youngsters off the streets and petitioned the school board to lend its facilities.

"We passed our recommendations on to the Florida City Council. Community problems don't end at the city line."

# Rebel Tradition 'New,' Has No Link With Past

N/L  
8/27

Editor, The News Leader:

As a graduate of South Dade I would like to let my feelings be known on the subject of changing the school nickname of "Rebels."

I have been reading intently the articles in your paper and I have weighed both sides of the argument as fairly as I can.

LET ME make it clear that I am in favor of helping the Negro out of his present predicament. I think we can all see that they have truly been an abused minority.

But I cannot see where the term "Rebel" would evoke such hurt feelings. Certainly the Rebels fought to keep slavery but they also fought to preserve their economic system and their homeland.

All the Negro got out of the Civil War was freedom. The Confederates got their homes burned, crops ruined, carpet baggers and the wrath of the Republican radicals who saw fit to punish them further.

THE DEFEAT of the Rebels became the second and last time in the history of the English speaking people that they were defeated on their home soil, the first being the Norman invasion of England in 1066.

What more humiliation can be brought to bear on a people? Why have we named our school after them and taken their colors and songs of a defeated and humiliated nation?

It is because we chose not to remember the bad things that we associated with the Rebels. We at South Dade have taken

the dress, colors, flag and song of the Confederacy and created a new tradition and spirit at South Dade that is not at all connected with racism, slavery or the like.

THE IMPORTANT thing is that the individual or group can see in the name whatever they want to see. If a Negro tries to see racism and degradation in Rebels, he will.

By the same token a white would also see a reminder of defeat and humiliation in the name. The past is that the South Dade Rebels have created a tradition and spirit far apart from the Civil War, but if the individual tries to see bad things in the name, he will.

The Civil War is dead and forgotten to most of us. The important thing is now. Negroes and whites must learn to live together. Our federal government has seen fit to forcibly integrate our schools, not because either of us especially want it but because they think it's best.

THERE NATURALLY are going to be problems. SOUL's demand to change the name of the Rebels is not the way. A

legitimate demand, it seems to most people, black and white.

SOUL represents a very small percentage of the Negro population in Homestead and I cannot say how legitimate their claims are. I know, however, that most white South Dade Rebels students and alumni feel the demands are groundless.

A person sees in a name what he wants to. SOUL can help integration at South Dade if it wants to, which I understand its purpose is. However, so far all SOUL has done is create more problems than it has solved.

THE DAMAGE done to race relations would be more by a change of the "Rebel" name than any benefit one might feel in his "heart."

We must try to work together toward better integration at South Dade and try to realize the true "rebel" spirit that has grown up at South Dade and is ingrained in the school and every team and cheer.

We have a great tradition and spirit and it would be a shame to ruin it.

ERIC VIHLEN  
President, Class of '65

## Rebel Controversy <sup>N/L</sup>

Aug 27

### Inspires Letters

The degree of community interest in the Rebel controversy at South Dade High School has been reflected in the number of letters this newspaper has printed on the subject. The teacher walkout comes in a poor second on the number of letters to the editor it inspired.

**MOST NEWSPAPERS** prefer to keep the letters to the editors short and to the point, in the neighborhood of 300 words at the most.

But on this matter we have taken no hard and fast rule on either the number of letters or the length, though we may have to do so one day.

Many of the letters have been too long but we have printed them anyhow. We have done this not to fan an already overheated issue but just the reverse: We have hoped the letters would tend to relieve the tensions inherent in the issue; serve as an escape valve in other words.

**THE LETTERS** have ranged in tone and content from racist to rational, with some falling in the gray areas in between. It is primarily a student matter and should be handled as such, but it erupted at a time when the school was out and communication necessarily restricted.

Hopefully both sides have read the feelings of the other, and when the matter comes before the jury of students who must decide the matter we hope the exchange of ideas will enable everyone to do a little more soul searching.

## A Rich Man's War, <sup>N/L</sup> A Poor Man's Fight <sup>8/28</sup>

Editor, The News Leader:

This is in answer to the disagreement of the name "Rebels" at South Dade High School.

My father was born in 1849. The Negro slaves were brought to the U.S.A. by the northern people and sold to the South for a good sum of money.

\* \* \*

**THE POOR** class of white people were deprived of land or work and were desperate on account of slave labor which but few if any approved of.

The war was fought in the South where feed, cattle, food, arms and houses were destroyed. The Negro was at last free.

But he had no house, nothing to eat, nothing to do but turn to the white man who was in the same condition except for land.

Their stock had been taken, cattle butchered and barns and crops destroyed.

So in other words he was as

free as a rabbit in a briar patch in the winter time. Those who had good masters stayed on. Some left because of the cruelty of their masters.

They lived in the same kind of tenant house as the poor white. Eventually rural schools were formed and blacks and whites separated. But it was a struggle for all.

\* \* \*

**AND THE** Uncle Toms and the Aunt Ellens you refer to knew where their source of existence came from, and did appreciate the help.

Later they began to settle to themselves because they liked their own way of life.

The Civil War was a rich man's war and a poor man's fight.

I think SOUL should have aired its views and reasons first instead of making demands.

A READER

# Majority Rules At South Dade

N/L  
8/27

Editor, The News Leader:

I am writing this in answer to a letter to the editor entitled "Black Students Want Freedom At South Dade" which appeared in last Monday's edition of The News Leader.

There is no real controversy at South Dade, only a small group of students who demand an immediate change. In most cases there are those who will work constructively for change and still others who will merely demand change and let others work for it.

THE ISSUE today is whether our Rebel slogans should be changed. The principle is whether a small group of students enforce change without consulting the majority of students.

The issue during the Civil War was slavery; the principle was whether one group of states and the federal government should impose something on another group of states.

The Negro students should be proud just as we are of the work they did to help build a South that was an agricultural giant and the center of the cotton industry in the world at that time.

The slaves were not worthless but were treated well by their owners who placed a high investment in their labor. Of course there were some who abused their slaves, just as today most people work for a brighter future while others

cling to the past and watch the world go by.

IF THERE is any oppression at South Dade High it is the fact that some students are oppressed by their own thoughts. When the members of SOUL talk of freedom at South Dade they know that there is plenty of it if only they really wanted to take advantage of it. What they must be asking for is freedom from authority.

I would favor renaming South Dade High to H. Rap Brown High as suggested in the letter, but only if all the students at South Dade were consulted and a majority desired such a change.

It is about time the members of SOUL climb out of their rut and start getting into the swing of things and make an investment in their high school, so long as they want to continue attending South Dade.

ACTUALLY I am proud of SOUL because as they revolted against conformity they automatically became Rebels. So congratulations, Rebels, and now maybe you can start working along with us.

However, if the members of SOUL wish to continue making demands during the following school year I hope they will be a little quieter so I can concentrate on my studies.

A SOUTH DADE  
HIGH STUDENT

# Mays Grad Glad She Stayed

N/L  
8/27

Editor, The News Leader:

This letter is especially for the South Dade Rebels. For weeks now every time I read The News Leader the first word I see is SOUL.

I am a 1968 high school graduate. And I can truly say that when my alma mater was sung I could really sing it with a true and dedicated meaning behind it.

THIS IS the type school song the Negro of South Dade would like to sing.

I was proud of my school and flag and racial problems we did not have. I suppose that's because our school was not integrated.

However, if I had a choice to take a side between SOUL and the Rebels I would pick SOUL and here's why. Regardless of race, we as human beings have feelings. South Dade is mostly white and the Negro naturally feels like an outsider; and last but not least in every barrel there is a bad apple.

How would you feel in a majority Negro school and you're going to class and some kid yells "Cracker go home." I once felt that I was being deprived of something by not transferring to a white school and now I know what.

I WOULD have been depriv-

ed of being called dirty names, deprived of being treated equal, deprived of participation in school activities, deprived of freedom of speech, deprived of knowing what it's like to be a campus queen.

And you know I'm glad I was deprived of those things.

At my school I was well known as "Dear Gator" advice columnist of the Mays Gazette. My opinion was respected and people took my advice. And so to the members of SOUL, in hope that it might help you, I say this: "If you can't beat them, join them."

But I'm sure you would rather die. But my saying is, "Never stay where you aren't wanted." You are the minority at South Dade and for that reason and others you won't win.

BUT TO those Rebels at South Dade who took the name Rebel for what it meant to our ancestors, I say this:

"There is a destiny that makes blacks and white men brothers. No man goes his way alone, for all that you send out into the lives of others shall come back in the life of your own."

I am not a South Dade Rebel. I am a Ram and for that I'm proud.

GATOR-'68

# Mays' Music Makers Gone

N/L  
8/28

Mays High School, the prime school target in South Dade for burglars and vandals, was hit by thieves again Monday night or Tuesday morning and an undetermined number of musical instruments were stolen.

N. L. Bethel, principal, said the number of instruments taken has not yet been determined. He said by late this morning the school would know what was missing and the value of the stolen property.

Clifford Howard, custodian, who reported the burglary, said

the thieves entered the band room by knocking a hole in the glass pane of the front door.

Several musical instruments were smashed and were found in the room.

Also entered was the room where the band uniforms are kept. Uniforms were discovered strewn over the floor. The Home Economics room also was entered and ransacked.

It is also believed that some bowling team uniforms were removed from a closet.

## Black Dummy Hanged From 'SD Flagpole

A small, black dummy was hanged from the flagpole at South Dade High School this morning as sophomore orientation got underway.

Negro students said a white sheet, with red writing, which was hanging under the black dummy bore the inscription: "Class of '69" and "Nigger Go Home!"

The custodian managed to bring the sheet down but at presstime had been unable to get the dummy down. A snorkel lift was en route to cut it away from the flagpole.

Negro students grabbed the sheet and ripped it up when it was brought down.

The American flag and the Florida state flag were raised immediately.

Principal William Wilson said he did not think the dummy was on the pole when he arrived at the school at 7:45 a.m.

He said the pole had not been used as the ropes had not been in place.

Coach Leo Martin said he did not know who put up the dummy or sheet — whether it was students, alumni or outsiders.

N/L 8/30

## Gripes Clog The Way

Editor, The News Leader:

I am writing to comment on the letter written by a SOUL member which appeared in the Aug. 26 edition of The News Leader. My letter also represents the feelings of my friends.

First of all I, like so many others, am sick and tired of the black students griping about how unfairly they are treated. It galls me every time they cry that they are being treated unfairly.

NATURALLY differences are going to occur between the races at times and the Negro may feel he is getting a raw deal, but when they start talking in terms of the entire faculty and student body their charges have no foundation.

If these black students would make a decent effort to achieve what they want whether it be a cheerleader or what have you instead of crying "Everyone is prejudiced against us," they might be surprised by the outcome.

Also, did it ever occur to the black students that the name SOUL is disliked by the whites as much as the name "Rebel" is by the blacks.

You can't fight fire with fire, you know.

During the last few days of school this past year at least

25 black students paraded through the halls in sweat-shirts adorned with such phrases as "Black Power," "Soul Brother," "Soul Sister," and "I Got Soul."

BY DOING this they were

rebelling against school authority so technically they were rebels and could be called that. Therefore the name Rebel fits them so why do they want to do away with it?

MIKE BIONDO  
...South Dade High

## South Dade Alma Mater Should Appeal To All

Editor, The News Leader:

I would like to stress only one thing. In Tuesday's paper a Mays High graduate said the Negroes of South Dade would like to sing a school song with a true and dedicated meaning behind it.

WELL, YOU don't know what you're talking about. The South Dade Alma Mater goes like this:

All hail, beloved South Dade,  
Hail to thee we sing.

We hope that we will honor  
you now and evermore.

In every class and on the  
teams, fighting for the  
lead,

We'll try to make you proud  
of us and pledge our every  
deed.

To you our Alma Mater, deep  
in every heart,

Shall live the memories of  
our years;

At South Dade High.

I want her and everyone else who doesn't know that "Dixie" is just a fight song, not an Alma Mater! We play it at football games and pep rallies as a fight song, no more than that.

The one thing that really gripes me is that at our Pep Assemblies we always stand and sing our Alma Mater at the end. Even if the dismissal bell rings we sing it because we love our school and like to show it.

THE NEGROES should at least have the courtesy to sit quietly (if they can't stand) while we sing because we are proud to belong to South Dade. But they get up and walk out!

I'm not saying if we should or shouldn't be Rebels, but I think, while we are "Rebels" they should at least be courteous. It's their school, too.

...A SOUTH DADE STUDENT

HERALD  
8/31

HERALD 8/31



—Herald Photo by C. A. MITCHELL

**Custodian Takes Effigy from Pole**  
... incident was at South Dade High

# Flag of Prejudice Flies Over School

By SHARON TYLER  
Herald Writer

A white flag lettered "Nigger, Go Home," fluttered atop the flagpole of South Dade High School as students arrived there Friday morning.

Impaled on a spike at the top of the pole was a black doll.

Otis Wallace, 16, a senior who heads the Students' Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL) said he tried to climb the pole to haul the flag and effigy down, but found it was coated with grease.

Wallace said he notified principal William Wilson, then went back outside to lower the white flag.

"I burned it," he said later, pointing to a pile of ashes.

Wallace and a school custodian raised the American and Florida flags in an effort to hide the doll until a "cherry-picker" crane was brought to the school and the doll was removed.

Some South Dade Negro students in recent weeks have complained about the nickname of the school's athletic teams — "Rebels." But no one was saying whether that had anything to do with the effigy.

Principal Wilson, School Board security man John Tyler and three members of SOUL met later in Wilson's office.

"These same students (SOUL members) have been protesting all summer," Wilson said. "Our talk hinged on their problems."

Wilson said he had not seen the effigy on the pole.

N/L  
9/3

# Today's Black Youth Has A Voice Of Its Own

Editor, The News Leader:

I have seen the issue concerning blacks and whites often discussed in this paper, but until I read the article signed "A Senior Citizen" I was reluctant to express my views.

We have been represented by our elders for so long that the public had failed to realize that the black youth has a voice of its own. And I might add a very powerful one.

**MAYBE THE** only issue of the Civil War was not slavery, just as the only issue with SOUL is not to change the name of Rebels. But the fact is slavery did exist and the slave holders fought under the name "Rebels."

We are proud of our heritage but, tell me, would you be proud of the fact that you have the name of a former master? Could you accept someone else's language and culture without feeling hatred?

No, you could not, because you have said that you do not want us (the black people) "crammed down your throat." Well, just remember, the Southern whites crammed themselves down our throats and we have just begun to cough them and their culture back up in an effort to attain our own.

As for the blacks being treated like spoiled children, can you blame them for feeling like you owe them something. Af-

ter all if you just had to pay our ancestors for their years of work without pay there wouldn't be any white America.

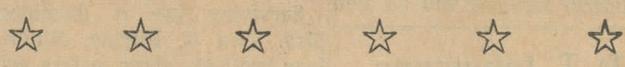
\* \* \*

Concerning violence, the black youth has realized that this world was built on violence. Maybe they feel that the

only way to survive in a world of violence is to "do on to others as they do on to you."

Yes, long live our country. And as long as it lives blacks will fight for honor and respect, justice and liberty, all that which is long overdue.

'67—SOUTH DADE



## Rebel Tag Hurts, Needs Changing

Editor, The News Leader:

As a black South Dade student, a member of the human race, and a United States citizen, I would like to voice my opinion on the racial controversy at South Dade High.

I have tried to look at both sides of the story with an open mind and have concluded that the whites value tradition over personal feelings.

\* \* \*

**BLACKS ARE** usually looked upon as a rioting, wild group of people. Everyone fails to notice that wherever there is a riot there is a cause. I think that SOUL should be commended on its proper way of handling the situation by organizing.

Every day I read in the newspapers of someone asking SOUL to wait. I think that the trouble with the black society today is that we have already waited too long.

People come from Germany, Russia, Cuba and everywhere else and have more freedom in the United States than the black man. The only thing the whites can possibly have against the black man is his color, and yet whites lie in the sun five hours a day trying to get that color.

I don't see how the whites can say all they care about is tradition and not how this name hurts others. You are asking us to go to this school and be offended and hurt only because of a tradition.

A society that lives off the past is a sick society. The Civil War was a lost cause for the Rebels. Why can't these present day Rebels hang it up.

\* \* \*

**THE WHITE** students say they don't have slavery and the Confederacy on their minds when they sing "Dixie" and wave the Confederate flag. After saying this they contradict themselves by saying changing the name won't change the minds of the whites.

I don't see why it is so hard for South Dade to get a name that's not discriminatory to either whites or blacks. As long as the Rebel name stays at South Dade it will serve as a racial dividing line.

Why does South Dade have to be so different? Other schools have good cheering names that all the students are proud of.

In order for South Dade to be anything we must all respect each other's feelings.

MAE BELLE WALLACE

## Time Wasted On Rebel Controversy

Editor, The News Leader:

I disagree with SOUL and its reasons for wanting to change the name of the South Dade "Rebels." I can understand why they feel this way but why in this day and age do we have to disagree on the name of a school.

\* \* \*

WHY DO we spend time on something like this when we could be helping people who are handicapped or doing volunteer work?

SOUL, how do you think the many people in this country felt (who belong to the Jewish religion) when the surfer emblem was a popular fad a year ago and is now coming back in medallion form?

The symbol I speak of is the swastika, an emblem which for not only the Jews but many others is linked with the anguish caused by the Nazis.

The Jews were not slaves but machines in concentration camps. They were killed, not given food and shelter.

\* \* \*

PLEASE DON'T change the name "Rebels" just because it offends you personally. Try to help yourself out at South Dade next year instead of hindering yourself by feeling sorry for yourselves.

I do wish you four Negro boys had taken more interest in our football team (the ones the coaches were willing to give a third chance to). Last year you proved we needed you. This year our team will not be the same without you.

SENIOR '71

## She's Seen Lots Of Poor Days

Editor, The News Leader:

I was born Oct. 26, 1896, in the state of Tennessee on the Lambs Ferry Road.

I have seen plenty of poverty and I didn't finish the fifth grade.

MRS. LURA T. NORWOOD  
A Rebel

## Black Students Treated Unfairly

Editor, The News Leader:

I read Mr. Brookshire's article, "If I Were Black..." Well, you're not black and you don't understand the black's life.

\* \* \*

YOU KNOW the white people of South Dade couldn't care less about the black students. When the black student goes out for a sport, he can be as great as John Unitas but do you think he'll make first string?

Of the four major sports, I noticed that Randy McMichael made first team on at least three of them over Negroes who played outstandingly well. Why didn't South Dade have a black quarterback? Because the color bothers the coaches?

I guess Calvin Jones played first team because of his height. How did McMichaels make honorable mention for all county basketball over Jones? Oh, I forgot, the color.

I know the statistics were on Jones' side.

If the black isn't given a chance how can he prove himself and feel a part of the school?

During pep rallies they always use songs to make the whites feel good, regardless of how the Negro feels. The Negro students at pep rallies are used to hearing "Do it or get out" from teachers.

\* \* \*

THE REBELS really were against Negroes. The whites at South Dade are out there to push the blacks around.

The whites at South Dade, both students and faculty, are against the blacks and won't give them a chance. The teachers, students and coaches at South Dade don't want the black at the top.

BRAY HARRIS

N/L 9/3

## In One Day, Stupidity And Heroism

Race relations at South Dade Dade High School, please take two steps to the rear of the class.

**ALL BECAUSE** of an act of blatant stupidity Friday when a black dummy was hoisted to the top of a flagpole with "Nigger Go Home" written below it.

Hopefully, the black students will keep the incident in its proper perspective. The persons who pulled the malicious stunt should be pitied for the amount of hate and ignorance that is gnawing away inside them.

Only inches away from that story in Friday's News Leader was another story involving eight black persons and a lone white policeman.

The officer only a few hours before the hoodlums were hoisting the dummy at South Dade had his hands full in West Perrine pulling the eight from almost certain death in a burning house.

**HE PROBABLY** saved the lives of all eight. But just a few hours later and not too many miles distant the hoodlums were busy making the lives of the students at South Dade High immeasurably more complicated.

## S. Dade Tackles Problem

By JEANNETTE ROBINS

South Dade High School's 1,346 students had the sticky problem of solving racial tensions dropped in their laps officially today.

At a school-wide assembly called this morning by the Student Council, students were briefed about black students' objection to the Confederacy-linked school song, flag and nickname, and were brought up to date on preliminary meetings at which representatives of the white and black students have begun to explore each other's feelings.

Black students have objected strenuously to the historical implications of the school song, "Dixie," the nickname Rebels and the wide use of the Confederate flag at school functions and athletic contests.

Along with complaints about discriminatory treatment by white students and faculty, the black students had taken their objections to the School Board. It ruled that the nickname, song and emblem were chosen by the school's first student body and any changes should be made by present students at the school.

At this morning's assembly, student government members and spokesmen for the black students first aired the problem and then polled the student body.

Students were asked to write their opinions and suggestions for possible solutions to the many-pronged situation.

Feeling is high among some members of both races.

The blacks charge that the use of Confederate symbols is demeaning to them and reminiscent of slavery.

N/L  
9/4/68

Feeling among white students runs the gamut from a few openly racist students to others who evince broad understanding of the blacks' viewpoint and are in sympathy with their complaints.

White students who object strongly to any change of school nickname, song and emblem charge that such a change would strip South Dade of much of its tradition.

They say that, to them, the name Rebels, the Confederate flag and the song Dixie connote school spirit and in no way hark back to the blacks' pre-Civil War subservience.

A number of whites are frankly resentful of the upset caused by an organized minority (black students are represented by an organization called Student Organization for Unity and Liberty —S.O.U.L.).

Many of the whites in this category have spoken out in objection to Principal William Wilson's directive that the school fight song, Dixie, would not be played or sung Friday during sophomore orientation.

Wilson said the decision was his own, that county school security men concurred, and that he had also asked the cheerleaders not to use any Rebel cheers.

His instructions applied only to the sophomore orientation, and should not be construed to apply to any future school-related activity, Wilson told The News Leader today.

At South Dade

## Youth Group Plans Events

A dance Sept. 27, after South Dade High School's second home football game, will be the first major event of the new season for South Dade Youth Association.

The dance will serve as a money-raiser for the new drill team being sponsored at the school this year by the Youth Association. It will also constitute a membership drive. For one price students will be admitted to the dance and also be enrolled as members of the association.

Members will be able to attend Thanksgiving and New Year's dances sponsored by the association at reduced prices.

The board of directors, meeting recently with advisors Mrs. Ruth Campbell, Mrs. W. C. Carmichael and Mrs. Jack Barnes, made plans for the coming year. It was agreed that the popular post-prom prom will be sponsored again by the association next spring.

Letters have been sent to three men's civic clubs requesting each to appoint a member as advisor to the group.

The association board consists this year of Susan Thompson, president; Bob Scisco, vice president; Mary Lambert, secretary; Peter Coats, treasurer; Ed Glenn, corresponding secretary; Libby Cool, Brian Guinand Charles Murray, Robert Barnes and Paul Pearson.



**MAPPING PLANS** for year's activities are board members of South Dade Youth Association. From left to right are Cookie Tyre, Bob Barnes, James Bernecker, SDYA pres-

ident Susan Thompson, vice president Bob Scisco and treasurer Peter Coats.

—Staff Photo by Ed Oberlies

M/L  
9/4

N/L 9/5

# Rebel Symbols Racist, Hurt Negroes' Feelings

Editor, The News Leader:

As a black student I have been following closely the letters which have been printed concerning the nickname "Rebels" at South Dade High School.

The letter that struck me as being the most naive was written by Mr. Vihlen, president of the class of '65. He states that he could not see how the term "Rebel" could hurt the feelings of Negroes.

\* \* \*

**THIS IS** very understandable in that Mr. Vihlen isn't black. His problem is that he is white, and just as all white Americans, he has had different experiences than the Negro.

No white man could really understand the feelings of a black man because he has a totally different concept of life and history. To Mr. Vihlen, the Confederate flag and "Johnny Reb" uniforms obviously are nostalgic relics of the

past when the South was gloriously protecting its "white" system of human enslavement.

But to myself and other black Americans they are reminders of a past where our race was cruelly oppressed by a racist people who used religion as justification of their sins against their fellow man.

\* \* \*

**MR. VIHLEN** states that all the Negroes got out of the Civil War was freedom. Does he actually consider that a man's house being burned is worse than a man losing his freedom?

I think he would have to admit that the blacks' attainment of freedom (false freedom because we are still not free) was much more important than the Confederate losses which were gained on the backs of the black man anyway.

True, I must admit that the 20 years of Reconstruction

were unfair to the Southerners but could those Reconstruction years compare to the evils committed upon the black race for 200 years by the white man in America? Certainly not.

\* \* \*

**IS IT REALLY** so bad that the English speaking people were defeated on their home soil because of their inhuman treatment of their fellow man on his home soil? In my opinion, if a people are morally wrong they should pay the price no matter what the cost.

The use of Confederate dress, colors, flags and songs is definitely connected with racism in that these objects were symbols of the effort of a racist society to preserve its "gentle" system. This is the "Rebel" tradition.

Mr. Vihlen stated that SOUL represents a very small percentage of the black population of Homestead. How could he validly say this? Did he conduct a door-to-door survey in the southwest section? I'm sure he did not.

\* \* \*

**I THINK THAT** the flying of a foreign flag over U. S. soil is treason (except over foreign embassies). Since the Confederate States of America was a foreign country, then the South Dade "Rebels" are technically committing treason.

Why not use the nickname "Americans" in place of "Rebels"? Is South Dade fighting the Civil War? I sincerely hope not.

... **ERNEST E. LEE**  
... Student, Prairie View  
... A & M College, Texas

## Rebel Name Is What The Students Make It

Editor, The News Leader:

In answer to the Mays graduate, Gator '68, she said she said she would have been deprived of knowing what it was like being a campus queen and deprived of freedom of speech and participation in school activities.

\* \* \*

**SHE ALSO** said she would not have been treated equally and would not have been respected (being called dirty names). My point is how does she know all of this if she went to Mays and not South Dade.

I don't know of anyone at South Dade who doesn't get treated equally or doesn't get to speak his piece, no matter what their race.

She doesn't know what happens at South Dade if she went to Mays. She can say she heard all about it but that doesn't mean a thing.

I have heard a lot of things but I don't know if they are true or not. I don't doubt that there is name calling but it goes on with both races and we must do away with this and talk together and make some sense.

In my opinion the name "Rebel" should remain the same; it is a tradition and should never be changed. I agree completely with Eric Vihlen's letter to your newspaper.

\* \* \*

**THE CIVIL** War is forgotten to most of us and the Negroes and whites must learn to live together. The name "Rebel" is what we make of it and we should make the most of it that we can.

The Rebel name is what we see in it and I see good in it and so should everyone else, no matter what race they are.

**RONNIE POWELL**  
Senior, South Dade High

Hikes Racial Tension—Mayor

# Lax Discipline Cited At South Dade High

## Citizens Committee Proposed

By **GEORGIA MARSH**  
Herald Staff Writer

Homestead Mayor William Dickinson Thursday accused school officials of encouraging racial tensions at South Dade High School by failing to crack down on discipline problems.

School officials denied that South Dade has had more than a normal share of behavior problems.

Dickinson, Homestead City Manager Olaf Pearson and Police Chief Emmett Snyder discussed the school's problems with School Superintendent Dr. Edward Whigham Wednesday afternoon. The Homestead officials had requested the meeting.

Dickinson said the school's students are being "used as a vehicle to create community problems." He accused "outside influences of generating the school problem to motivate a community problem," and said school officials failed to exercise their authority to keep things under control.

Dickinson proposed establishing a multi-ethnic committee of South Dade citizens who would observe the school first-hand and "see if discipline is adhered to."

He said the committee's findings could relieve fears of both the black and white populace that all students aren't being treated equally.

**Dr. Whigham said the committee proposal would be looked into.**

Last month, Negro students complained to the School Board of discriminatory practices at South Dade and asked the school's nickname "Rebel," be changed.

Dickinson said, "The school's problems aren't racial in nature. There is an attempt to make them racial, but it's a breakdown in discipline. Kids are getting away with close to murder."

Thursday night, after Mayor Dickinson told parents of the day's developments, some parents decided to hold a clear-the-air meeting tonight. Jack Levy said the session, at a site not yet determined, would be used to air complaints that school board policies are not enforced equally among Negro and white students.

MIAMI  
HERALD  
9/6/68

# On South Dade High Problem

## Whigham Won't

## Attend Meeting

### Three Discuss Current Issue With Officials

Dade County School Superintendente Dr. Edward Whigham declined Thursday either to visit Homestead and personally talk to a group of concerned South Dade High parents, or attend a community meeting in reference to growing racial unrest at the school.

Mayor William Dickinson, Homestead Police Chief Emmett Snider and City Manager Olaf Pearson met with Whigham and John Tyler, director of Dade County school security, at the superintendent's office in Miami and requested a Homestead meeting.

The three Homestead officials went to the meeting primarily to discuss the SOUL (Negro student organization) demands that the school Rebel flag, nickname, song and symbols be changed.

Dickinson said when he asked Whigham who would assume the responsibility of the decisions as to what would be done if the students were unable to make a decision, Whigham answered that it was not yet known and would depend on what happened at the time the matter came to a head.

The Homestead mayor told Tyler and Whigham it was his belief that the SOUL demands and the resulting unrest was being used by outside influence to cause racial strife in the Homestead area.

The Homestead delegation told The News Leader Thursday that they were most surprised by Whigham's remark that the South Dade High School situation was not a school problem but a community problem that should be solved by the black and white students and parents.

This allegedly startled the South Dade men, who claim school security has taken over the matter, in fact even from the police, and that the school board had previously said the school itself should settle the controversy "at the local level."

Dickinson said "The school administration under Whigham is attempting to relieve the school and school board from being involved, but is allowing staff members to participate and in fact generate the problem."

He requested that a crack-down on discipline problems be instigated immediately, whether the students be black or white.

N/L  
9/6

# 'Demands' Bring Resentments

Editor, The News Leader:

As a parent and interested citizen I have been reading the letters of the past few weeks regarding the name of the South Dade Rebels with some amusement and with some anger.

First of all, nothing has or ever will be accomplished to anyone's satisfaction by the word "demand." Webster's New World Dictionary defines the word demand: to ask for as a right or as a need.

SO IT WOULD seem that the members of SOUL feel that they have the need or right to ask that the word "Rebel" be changed. So the question that comes to mind is: If the name is changed, what really will have been accomplished?

Will it really change anything? Remember now this was done by demand. Will you as members of SOUL be filled with pride because you forced an issue and won? Will you see respect in your fellow students' eyes or will you see what the word demand can do?

Will you see the recognition you so desire and feel the pride of having done a good job because you earned that right, as every student must, or will you see contempt and bitterness because you demanded it?

This is something to be thought about very deeply and earnestly. For no one has the right to ask of others what they themselves cannot give. Surely there is nothing so rewarding to any person regardless of race, creed or religion than to know the momentous feeling of self accomplishment of standing on your own merit.

CERTAINLY IN these times the word (rebel) is appropriate. Our world affairs, our country and, yes, all our people are living in a rebellious period where changes are being made and

for you the past few years marvellous strides have been made.

But strides that have been performed through wisdom and foresight, not with demands.

Rebel is surely a word that has harsh meanings, all the more reason to keep it and make a new meaning, one of pride and achievement, of school spirit and determination to make South Dade Rebels the best school in the South.

We need this and so do you. So let's walk forward, not backward, as South Dade Rebels.

MRS CARL IVEY

## Nothing Won Without Try

Editor, The News Leader:

Let's end this apparently never-ending debate in your paper over Souls and non-Souls by one simple statement.

No one ever won anything by non-participation.

SOUL says they are discriminated against, not listened to, and as a result will not participate in any sports, band or extra-curricular activity at South Dade as an apparent protest movement.

If they really believe in what they say the only way to prove it is through participation. Non-participation is nothing but pre-admission of defeat and the lack of foresight on how to gain recognition.

They don't need demonstrations, violence, or rioting, but simply willingness to participate.

....GENE BURNETT

## Group Plans Meeting To Air Situation

A meeting has been called tonight to organize parents — black and white — to demand equal treatment for all students at South Dade High School and to force the school administration to adhere to and enforce school rules.

The meeting will be held at Harries Field, Homestead, at 7:30 p.m. today. It is open to any interested person, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

"Parents are going to be surprised — and shocked — at what has been going on at South Dade," said Jack Levy.

Levy is one of a group of about 30 parents who have been meeting informally to seek a solution to problems that have fostered racial dissension at the high school.

They have been conferring with school officials at the school, district and county level, and will report the results at tonight's meeting.

Homestead Mayor William Dickinson, who met yesterday with School Superintendent Edward Whigham, said he believes the school board is aware of racial tension at South Dade and is ducking its responsibility and "trying to make the community a fall guy when it erupts."

He charged that administrators are "hiding under a desk and expecting the problem to go away," and that faculty and county school security people "are lying to you when they deny that incidents are happening — incidents that we have seen — that have taken place within a few feet of the principal's office."

Dickinson said trouble between the races is only a symptom — the basic problem is the school system's failure to enforce its own rules.

The original group of parents met last night and called to

(Continued on Page 3)

cont

N/L 9/6

N/L 9/6

# Rebel Banner Need Not Divide Whites, Blacks

Editor, The News Leader:

I am a member of the student body attending South Dade this year. I believe there is much to be proud of, but much work to be done on the part of all students. I am the Eastern District Luther League President, a body which represents the youth throughout the Eastern U.S. and part of Canada. The organization represents all young people in the American Lutheran Church.

\* \* \*

**ONE THING** left out in this community problem, I believe, is faith. I think we need a combined faith in each other as Americans, instead of races.

I find the youth throughout the American Lutheran Church, both white and black, are concerned about today's social problems. Through the church they realize there is hope, not distrust; workable solutions, not fear; and faith, not revolt.

To the white youth I present this question: Have we really begun to care about our black American, or have we pushed the issue off by saying, yes, we care, but just don't want to get involved.

\* \* \*

**TO THE BLACK** youth I ask: Is it fitting to create organizations to solve problems if those organizations are created in races?

Problems must be worked out together, not as white or black, but as fellow men, fellow workers. We must not forget, we are created together in one image. I implore each of us to search, and to find a door to a relationship with ourselves, as a group of youths, related in a cause, and that cause being peace. I present this question to those uncommitted persons who have said nothing concerning this issue. Are we gaining anything by your silence? I think not.

**I BELIEVE** that we need faith, the kind that Jesus Christ had. The kind that brought men of all vocations, and all walks of life together for Him. Where is that sense of unity today? Have we left unity out and forced childish aims to cause our divorce with a oneness which can be shared together?

I am proud to be a young person living in this time and era. I am proud of the honesty of the youth through this nation. But I am concerned for our future. I am concerned for our faith in each other. Where is our united power?

We can not stand in a world or nation like this as groups or races, but rather as members of a united oneness. We must talk, and walk, and openly discuss and create a society fitting for our lives and hopes, and a world able to stand in Christ Jesus.

Where is our Faith in God? Where is our trust in His guiding hand? Let's get together and let the world know we as

youth are not divided as races, but united through One who carried a cross for us.

\* \* \*

**SOUTH DADE** has an issue. But in the world they need us even greater. Where is our unity so that we may put away childish dreams, and join in the fight for freedom and democracy for all? Let us put away such small dreams and forget that the word Rebel is offensive. I believe it is a fitting memorial for those who have died for, and are presently living for, a nation as great and strong, as our nation is.

I believe we as a unity group could be proud of the name South Dade Rebels just for the plain fact that we stand up for causes and things which seem so right for us.

Yes, Rebels for peace and the right to do as we see fit as a nation. Jesus Christ was very much a Rebel in His time,

so can we Rebel for the great power and freedom of Democracy. But, first we must join forces. It is time for regrouping, a regrouping as not in races but, rather throughout races.

The first step is communication. We must be willing to communicate with each other. Can we manage to love each other, rather than hate? Can we find peace with our likeness, rather than war with our colors? I think the Almighty God, who has created us in His image, is trying to tell us something, but are we listening?

Let us as youth and adult, as laborer and as people in the grace of God learn to face issues by the word love. Have we learned how to love?

**MIKE JACKSON**  
President, Eastern District  
Luther League

# South Dade High Parents Seeking Racial Harmony

Around  
**South Dade**

Phone Nos.: Circulation 235-0141 News 247-9333

## Dickinson Hits School Officials

By **BILL BLOSS**  
Homestead Bureau Chief

Black and white parents of South Dade High School students will seek answers to racial problems plaguing the school.

Only a handful of Negroes showed up for a meeting Friday night at Harris Fieldhouse in Homestead, to protest school officials' alleged lack of enforcement of policy. It was the mother of two South Dade Negro students, Mr. Thomassina Hunter, who broke the ice and volunteered help from Negro parents to end racial tension at the school.

About 300 parents and students heard Homestead Mayor Bill Dickinson level the blame for student problems on parents and school officials. "The real problem is the total collapse of the administrative structure of the county school system," he stated.

"We must restructure our school administration and insist that all students be safe in school. Let them come for education not a confrontation," Dickinson demanded.

He charged that children are carrying the banners of hate and racial discord as pawns and innocent victims of adults. "If we have feelings for our children and the coming generations, we must solidify, black and white, Jew and gentile, men and women, boys and girls," Dickinson said.

He protested the contents of a letter written by Fred Fuchs to Gov. Claude Kirk as inflammatory and singling out individual students for censure. "I think you're making a tragic mistake by sending this letter," Dickinson continued. "The responsibility is not for the kids, black or white, it's the school administration's."

HERALD  
9/7/68

*At South Dade High School*

N/L  
9/9

# School Vote Date

## Not Set

### *Students Will Hold Election On Nickname*

South Dade High students still have no definite date for voting on their school's Rebel nickname, Confederate flag and school song, Dixie.

Principal William Wilson told The News Leader that classroom visitations to give students a chance to ask questions and air their views probably will wind up this afternoon.

Spokesmen for SOUL, an organization of black students who want to abolish the name, flag and song, and Student Council president Libby Cool are conducting the room-by-room visits because students did not get a chance to ask questions at an assembly on the subject last Wednesday.

Wilson said another assembly may be scheduled, depending on student reaction during room visitations. He said Miss Cool is to discuss this with him later today.

Wilson was asked whether student resentment at not having a chance to hear a presentation opposing the changes would determine whether another assembly is necessary. He said this would certainly be a major factor in the decision.

If there is another assembly, Wilson stated, "there will be no more presentations by those who spoke at the first assembly; they have had their opportunity."

No election will be held until the visitations — and another assembly if it is deemed necessary — are completed he said.

The election date likely will be announced at least two days in advance of the vote, since interested parents have offered to arrange for use of three vo-

ting machines if they have 48 hours' notice.

Wilson said he is inclined to accept the offer even though a machine vote would necessitate the moving of large numbers of students to the voting area, while balloting in home rooms would be faster and easier.

Reason for the decision, he indicated, is parents' thinly veiled feeling that a vote by ballot might be rigged.

N/L  
9/9



### *They've Got The Yells*

LEADING CHEERS for South Dade High's athletic teams this season will be a sparkling corps which includes (front row, left to right) Judy Konsky, Marsha Wood, Libby Cool

and Cookie Tyre; (second row) Terry Jones, Lorrie Butler and Cindi Toraya; (third row) co-captain Bunny Peeples and Alice Kaye Gray, and (rear) captain Linda Marshall.

—Staff Photo by Ed Oberlies

## Letters To The Editor

# Nothing On Flag But '69

Editor, The News Leader:

Reference your editorial, "In One Day, Stupidity and Heroism." Race relations at South Dade have indeed taken two steps to the rear, but not because of what was written on the Class of '69 flag.

The flag was approximately 3 by 1½ feet and lettered with orange and green spray paint. The only things written on it were the numerals "69."

\* \* \*

**COMMON SENSE** should indicate that this was about the most that you could write on a piece of sheet that size with a can of spray paint. Try it.

The black, footless GI Joe doll was a symbol of the black problem facing us in our senior year. Now that we know—and the word is spreading fast—that their charges are based on untruths, what we were hesitant about as, maybe a little unfair, now seems like a suitable symbol.

This was done in a fit of anger about the loss of flags, hats, song which was already decreed by the school administration even though they promised us the privilege of making our own decisions about these things.

\* \* \*

**IT'S NOT EASY** to graciously accept something being shoved down your throat against your will.

The class of '68 and '67 also ran up their flags at the beginning of the school year. In fact, this has been done so many times by senior classes in the past that this, too, has become South Dade tradition.

Doesn't it seem strange to you that the flag was destroyed before anybody official had a chance to look at what was actually written on it? Don't you know that if we had written "Nigger Go Home" on our senior class flag that Sam Jones and Otis Wallace would have milked the propaganda value of the act with coast-to-coast pictures of themselves displaying it?

\* \* \*

**WE REALIZE** that in view of the official trend toward appeasement of the minority group it would be foolhardy of us to sign this letter. We also

realize that our side of the story doesn't have the same news value as the other side.

Truth is not always as interesting as a good solid lie, any-

way, so our side of the story will probably be thrown out. Do what you want with it. We'll be watching (and judging) you.

**MEMBERS, CLASS OF '69**

N/L  
9/9

HERALD

9/10/68

## Around South Dade

Phone Nos.: Circulation 235-0141 News 247-9333

# Students to Vote On School's Name

By **BILL BLOSS**  
Homestead Bureau Chief

South Dade High School students were told Monday night the school board won't change the name Rebels and the board will recognize a vote of the student body majority.

Some 200 students met at Harris Field in Homestead, despite a steady downpour of rain to elect new officers to represent all of the students of the school. A 12-member board of directors was elected after the students named John Campbell chairman and Jim Bernecker vice chairman of the new group.

Bernecker told the assemblage that he had met Sunday with school board member Holmes Braddock and was promised that the board of public instruction would recognize a majority vote of the students. Bernecker said he had been told that county voting machines will be used when students vote on retaining or scrapping the nickname Rebels. The BPI favors use of the machines, he said.

Campbell said the new organization, to be named later by the directors, is being formed to see that democratic principles are adhered to at the school. Members of a Negro group called SOUL were welcomed to join, along with other students. No one is to be barred from the organization because of the race, color or religion, he told the students.

Several members of SOUL sat through most of the meeting, but left before election of directors had been completed. Adults who came to the meeting were asked to move to the rear of the auditorium and not attempt to participate in the meeting.

Campbell pointed out that the meeting was for students presently enrolled at South Dade High School, and students only would be allowed to participate.

A flyer listing four points for democratic administration of school policy and regulations was supported by the students. Campbell said the flyer was shown to Marvin Griep of the south district of the school system. "Griep said he was for all points," Campbell told the students.

School officials have de-

clined to say when the election to determine the school name will be held. The SOUL group has protested use of the name as offensive to Negro students and demanded it be discarded. They also demand elimination of Dixie as a school song and use of the confederate flag.

A suggestion that "Concerned Students Association" be considered for the name, was turned down by the new officers. They said the initials CSA might be misused because they are the same as the Confederate States of America.

Campbell said the meeting was not called to discuss issues. The purpose was to guarantee democratic process in school actions and to give fair and equal treatment

# South Dade Students Form New Organization

By JEANNETTE ROBINS

About 200 South Dade High students who described themselves as "concerned," met last night to organize an association dedicated to impartial enforcement of school policies and rules, and to majority rule in actions affecting the student body.

The student group, still unnamed, is open to any duly enrolled pupil of South Dade High School, without regard to race, creed or color.

Meeting last night at Harris Field, the group elected John Campbell chairman and Jim Bernecker, vice-chairman.

Although Campbell admitted that he is personally opposed to changing the school's Rebel nickname, he said the organization is "not fighting the name change . . . we're fighting the unfair things that have been going on at school."

He referred to incidents in

which students who have violated school rules or flouted school policies have gone unpunished. Cheers greeted Bernecker's announcement that he has received the assurance of School Board member Homes Braddock that the board will support the decision of a majority of students.

A student vote on the name change demanded by black students in an organization called S. O. U. L. is upcoming and will be carried out by voting machine, Bernecker said.

SOUL, Student Organization for Unity and Liberty, has demanded the elimination of the name Rebels, and school song Dixie, and the Rebel battle flag, all of which it complains are demeaning and insulting to black students.

The association of concerned students formed last night "is not opposed to SOJL,"

Campbell told the students, who had braved a heavy downpour to attend the Harris Field meeting.

"In fact, members of SOUL are welcome to join the same as any other student is," he said. "We're not fighting the name change."

But it was apparent that a number of students in the audience are ardently pro-Rebel; several waved small Rebel flags during the meeting and one student proposed an association name using the word Rebel.

Among key students organizing the association were Campbell, Bernecker, Neeley Lewis and Richard Fuchs.

Four directors were elected from each class, and the vice chairman was given a vote so that the board consists of 13 voting members plus the non-

(Continued on Page 3)

## South Dade

voting chairman.

Senior board members elected are David Magee, Mike Gilbert, Neeley Lewis and Sharon Cash.

Junior directors are Richard Fuchs, Marty Neal, Leonard Cash and Lynn Graham. Sophomore directors are Brian Guinand, David Rose, Diane Stewart and Gail Collins.

The board will decide policies of the organization. It will accept suggestions governing policy from any student member, Campbell said, and will serve as liaison between the members and the school administration.

The same four principles for which the organization stands are listed on petitions asking that the administration uphold them. Students had several hundred signatures last night and expected to get more today. All four have the agreement of Marvin D. Griep, director of secondary schools for South District, Campbell and Bernecker said.

The students want:

All school policy executed without regard to race, color or creed.

All school rules enforced without regard to race, color or creed.

Any and all actions by the student body to be determined through democratic process.

The will of the majority (50 per cent plus one) to be recognized in all actions affecting the student body.

The student organization closely follows that formed by some 500 parents — white with a sprinkling of blacks — at a public meeting Friday night at Harris Field.

N/L 9/10

# The Up-Tight Generation



By OTIS GOSSMAN JR.

Today's high school generation is brighter, better fed, better clothed, better looking and better about everything else, but I don't envy them and I think probably in the long run they will have had things much worse than say, the high school generation of the '40's.

While our generation may have had its money worries, it had few of the others that seemed to have turned students now into such an up-tight bunch.

**THIS GENERATION** takes things more seriously than we did, I believe, and when it comes right down to the nitty-gritty they don't have much of a choice.

Social problems that we knew nothing of confront them daily. Integration is without a doubt the biggest of these, and even then will probably take another generation or so before all the kinks get ironed out.

Mostly because both sides went into the matter cold turkey. No one was ever really oriented to getting along with another race on intimate terms after who knows how many hundred years of not getting along on intimate terms.

We didn't have problems with the blacks and the blacks didn't have any problems with us. We lived in separate if not exactly equal worlds and came together only in the summer in the fields.

**ALL THAT IS** changed now and both the black and white students find themselves locking at each other from the closest vantage points in history.

The mental conditioning of each apparently still has a long way to go, as evidenced by some of the problems South Dade seems to be having.

Students today—and even tomorrow—are meeting or will meet a whole set of problems in their teens that we didn't have to meet until many years later.

Aside from the athletic bouts between Redland and Homestead, I

think we were pretty much of a hang loose and the devil take the hindmost generation.

**BEATING HOMESTEAD**—in anything, was the nearest to getting up tight that most of us knew. Everyone knew perfectly well that Redland and Homestead never would be able to get along under one roof when the first talk of consolidation started.

High school was mostly a fun time; the subjects were generally no great strain on the intelligence and I think most students knew where they stood in relation to each other, the community and life in general.

College got a little more hairy, mostly because of a happening in Korea. Everyone knew precisely what happened when the grades slipped below a certain level, and cowards that we were we managed to keep the grades necessary to keep us off the firing line.

Ironically, we were shook up by an earlier day McCarthy in much the same way the present college generation is shook up, in an opposite way, over a latter day McCarthy. To us Joe McCarthy was a signal of the end of the Republic; today's generation sees Gene McCarthy—or did—as its salvation.

**HIGH SCHOOL** for our generation seemed to have had a much stronger power structure. The principal was the be all and end all in power and I can't recall any serious breaches of discipline. The rules, as I recall, seemed to have been clearly spelled out. You knew ahead of time what would happen if you did something, you knew what would happen if you didn't.

But the problems this generation faces come at them from all sides and they must spend much of their school lives reacting to stimuli over which they have little control—from getting along with the student of a different color sitting in the next chair to getting along without a teacher because of a walkout.

N/L 9/10

# Today

By PAUL BROOKSHIRE

**MUCH** (maybe too much) has been written, said and printed on the controversy at South Dade High School.

It appears, at this point, that the problem never will be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone.  
\* \* \*

**AS THE** fuming and fussing goes on, however, one thing seems to be emerging rather clearly — this newspaper is getting its share of blame for a lot of the trouble.

If printing what we have been able to learn about the controversy makes us the scapegoat, then we accept the nomination.  
\* \* \*

**EVERYTHING** we have printed certainly is not the gospel truth. We are not infallible. Some of the people writing and calling us apparently are.

Many believe we have sinned not by acts of commission but by omission.

Perhaps so.

It is difficult to separate fact from fiction in such a dispute and many people in authority are not inclined to cooperate to the fullest.  
\* \* \*

**CERTAINLY THERE** has been some hanky-panky (I use this phrase for lack of a better word) at South Dade which we have not been advised of.

Reports of serious breaches of discipline and student taunts and attacks have been reported to us sometimes second or third hand.

But school security has tightened and school officials, fearing more unfavorable publicity will only serve to fan the flames of dissension, have remained silent.

We do not blame them too much, really.  
\* \* \*

**DOZENS OF LETTERS** expressing divergent viewpoints on the controversy have been hand-carried to us and many others have arrived through the mail.

We have printed virtually all, with little editing, in the hope that they would be of therapeutic value to everyone involved.

We have used our Editorial Pages as a sort of "Town Hall" on the subject where everyone could have his say.  
\* \* \*

**STILL SOME** white readers accuse us of supporting the minority, while on the other hand the minority blames us of not presenting its side to the fullest advantage.

So we are caught in the crossfire. It's not a particularly pleasant place to be but not an uncommon one for a newspaper.

And we will continue to print the news as we see it in regard to this controversy and any other that may develop.

Controversial community issues are not resolved by news blackout and muzzling of the press.

# Blacks Treated Unfairly, SOUL Member Claims

Editor, The News Leader:

I'm a South Dade senior and I'm writing to comment on the display by the white students given at the sophomore orientation. Whoever the fools were to make up the sign "Nigger Go Home" and the lovely, black and beautiful doll will be the first to leave South Dade because only black and white students go to school at South Dade. The only niggers there are the ones who don't have the guts and the common sense to come out in the open and say what he or she has to say.

\* \* \*

**I'M GETTING** fed up with all the talk about Rebel tradition from the white students who say that it has no link with the past. The recent display really shows the prejudice feelings that exist against the black students.

It has been said that the Civil War is over and the Rebels lost, and that all of this is forgotten but not by the black. If all the feelings have disappeared why can't all these traditions and symbols disappear with them.

The black students have worked to be an important part of the school and some of us made it, but this was only on a part-time basis. When the black student had finished a task we were put back on the shelf like a kitchen utensil without any award or sign of appreciation.

\* \* \*

**THE BLACK** students at South Dade don't plan on being used anymore until the Rebel traditions and symbols are thrown out for good. We've been treated unfairly throughout 1967-68 and we're tired of being pushed around by the white students and faculty.

It has been said many times

that the whites dislike SOUL and the blacks dislike Rebel. Well, it is like this: SOUL and Rebel have nothing to do with each other. Black students at South Dade have seen thousands of times the whites trying to have Soul: dances, slangs, hand shakes and claps, but never a black trying to become a Rebel.

Another thing. The South Dade student who wrote a let-

ter to the editor about the black students not respecting the Alma Mater and walking out of pep rallies failed to mention that more white students walk out and don't attend pep rallies than blacks.

These traditions and symbols should be abolished so that everyone would like to take part in something that everyone of the student body could enjoy.

...SOUL MEMBER

## Should Name Be Dropped To Satisfy A Minority?

Editor, The News Leader:

I not only disagree with the members of the group called SOUL (which is an outlaw organization) but do not see what they are complaining about.

It seems as if all of these people are trying to hinder, and not help. We are taught many things in life, but today all SOUL wants to do is to start some type of trouble. This could have started over the way you part your hair; it would have made just as much sense.

\* \* \*

**IF THE** members of SOUL are so proud of their heritage, why do they not try and help instead of hollering about the name Rebels. To me, it seems as if they are the Rebels in this controversy.

The Band of South Dade (Rebels) was not allowed to play Dixie, as it might offend the group that has become the Rebels, but they claim they do not want to be called by this

awful name.

This is what makes the people all over the country wonder what these people want. They have no consistency in their line of thought.

As far as is known, no one asked these people to attend South Dade; they were the ones who wanted to attend the school. They knew the name of the school before. Should we destroy something for such a few? If tradition means so much to this group, why do they not follow their own tradition?

\* \* \*

**THE COMPLAINT** about color on the football team goes back to an old saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Why not work for a position and then play.

As far as the coaches picking the Quarterback at South Dade, it seems as if their selection was excellent, as they had one of their best seasons.

NAME WITHHELD

## Rebel Editorial Sound Thinking

Editor, The News Leader:

Thanks for your fine editorial, "Community Damaged by Rebel Controversy."

If your sound, sane attitude was taken by students, and adults, it would be a great help.

I've been saddened by the miss-use of an honorable symbol for which devoted men died — but which is history, as you point out.

I do hope that many who read your writings will consider them.

REV. JAMES R. ROY

## Do Away With Rebel Name

Editor, The News Leader:

Regarding the controversy presently raging around the South Dade Rebels, the dictionary definition of "rebel" is: "a person who openly resists authority or opposes any control; to resist authority, government etc. openly and by force; to wage war."

I should think this is a good enough reason to change the name, regardless of the other issues involved. In this day and age it is hardly a name to cheer, or to be proud of.

AN AMERICAN-'68

N/L  
9/10

9/11 M/L

By OTIS GOSSMAN JR.

FOR WEEKS and weeks now I have dreaded coming to the office in the morning and meeting the usual pile of letters to the editor on my desk, 99 per cent and maybe a little higher all having to do with the ramifications of the Rebel flag in one way or another.

The controversy has sent me to the library in search of books on the Civil War and books on whatever progress the black man and the white man have made since that happening.

—But never in these literary travels have I crossed paths with any levity on the subject, and the matter has not been unlike acting as a pall-bearer to someone you were weary of anyhow.

\* \* \*

WE KEEP thinking, however, that maybe the writers have written their souls out on this Rebel matter and both sides will sit down together in exhaustion and let the whole thing die a decent death. After that, hopefully, all concerned might take up the matter of studying history rather than rehashing it.

This morning's mail, however, did trick. I knew there had to be one out there who could put this, other matters, into lighter perspective. Obviously the writer has been slouching and stewing in silence this time when he should have been writing letters. However . . .

\* \* \*

DEAR MR. EDITOR of the Paper:

How dare you print letters from people who ain't the Right type, sir? Any school near South Dixie Highway should bear a name befitting that Great Road.

When I see the Rebels' team teeming onto the field, and that Dixie Flag waving in the smoke from Turkey Point and hear the song of that Old Gray Army, I ain't goin' to change to no name but WASPS (White, Anglo - Saxon, Protestant, Sciolist.)

Name Withheld as a matter of life and death.

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Editor of the Paper:

What an election year!

Hilarious Humphrey, Noxious Nixon, or Wierd Wallace.

The Sorrowful SOULS or the Rabid Rebels.

Let's take our voting time off from work, tune in on furious football and drink a deserved draught. Now there is a challenging choice—roll call or relax, transportation or tranquility, test or rest.

May the worst man win; he usually does.

Name Withheld to avoid being canned.

NOW SEE, everything isn't so bad, is it?

Tomorrow may even be better.

# Parents Agree To Investigate SD Complaints

Almost sixty parents of South Dade High students have volunteered to serve on a board to investigate the complaints of any student, teacher or parent who feels he has been unfairly treated in a school situation.

The white volunteers, plus parent volunteers from the Negro communities served by South Dade, will represent a group of over 500 parents who organized Friday in a move to demand strict enforcement of school rules and policies without regard to race.

Nucleus of the large parent organization is a group of about 20 parents who first banded together Aug. 12 to oppose the demand of a group of black students that the name Rebels, the Rebel flag and the song Dixie be abolished.

The thinking of many of the original group apparently has changed — now their main concern seems to be finding a way to resolve the widening split between black and white students so that the school can get down to the full-time business of education.

This was evident at a public meeting called by the group Friday for all interested people of the community — black and white.

More than 500 people responded, and discussion centered around what many criticized as the underlying reason for continuing racial bitterness at the high school — administrative hesitancy to adhere strictly to school rules and policies and to punish violators uniformly and without regard to race or community standing.

The audience at Friday's meeting agreed to organize un-

der the name Concerned Parents Association, a bi-racial group that aims to:

- Insist on strict and impartial enforcement of school rules and policies.

- See that a student vote on the name, song and flag question is fairly conducted and that the students' decision is honored by the school administration and school board.

- Seek school board recognition for CPA so that its investigative committee's findings will be heard and heeded.

- Urge all parents — black and white — to teach their children acceptance of other races.

- Push for an early student vote and a quick end to disruptions caused by the controversy, so that students can concentrate full-time on their studies.

One of the few Negroes attending the meeting was Mrs. Thomasina Hunter, who has two children attending South Dade.

"We all have to solidify and work together," she told the assembled parents. "Give us a chance to get concerned Negro parents together to join you — we don't want our children harassed either."

"That's exactly what we want to hear," commented Fred Fuchs, one of the original group of parents.

After the meeting, almost 60 people volunteered to serve on the investigative committee and Mrs. Hunter said she will contact other Negro parents to join and to serve on the committee.

Temporary chairman of the organization, Jack Levy, said today the committee likely will not be set up and ready to operate until after the student vote.

# On Rebels, Jews, Blacks, Whites, Kosher Pickles

N/L 9/11/68

Editor, The News Leader:

Let me be of some assistance to you in keeping alive the blacks vs. white issue as well as fill up the editorial page to prevent you subjecting your readers to TWO instead of just one of Brookshire's scintillations.

The Afro - Americans claim the word "Rebels" is oppressive to them, that the song "Dixie" is degrading, and the Confederate flag is used to remind them that their distant ancestors were slaves; therefore, all of these things must cease and desist at ONCE or ELSE.

\* \* \*

IT DOESN'T seem to matter that the white students insist that these symbols do not mean slavery to them, nor is it their intent to imply it when using these things — it still makes the Afro - American think this way so it HAS to go.

Julian Bond of Georgia, at a recent tea party of the Great Society, frequently referred to his group as "Rebels." But then everyone knows he is a white man using a very good sun lamp — because all Afro - Americans everywhere naturally think of slavery when the term "Rebels" is used.

And Bond, if he is for real, would be the first to want the Civil War and all things pertaining thereto or results therefrom erased from memory or reference for all time.

Please inform your public of the following: The word SOUL has only one connotation to me and my group — and that is religious. I don't care what the Afro - Americans say it means to them, it means religion to me and I demand they stop using it at ONCE or ELSE.

\* \* \*

IT IS oppressive to me to have it used for the purpose they are using it, and I think they are doing it only to remind me that some people don't have any religion and don't believe in my religion — and this is very oppressive.

Then I belong to another group that really are oppressed by a certain situation. The ancestors of the Jews didn't just make a slave of Christ, they crucified Him. Therefore, I think all the Stars of David, all Jewish names and all Jewish jokes on TV should be removed.

All these Jewish signs, symbols, songs, names, etc. do NOT mean what THEY say it does, it only means what I think it does. I am oppressed and degraded by it and I want ALL of it to cease NOW.

\* \* \*

AND MOST of all, I want all Kosher pickles removed from the supermarkets immediately as they are a tremendous reminder of you know what.

As a Southerner I demand that the New York Yankees change their name yesterday, if not sooner. They're using that name on purpose as a constant reminder to me that my ancestors lost the Civil War. Again, I feel deeply oppressed and degraded.

Could I please put in a word for my Indian friends? The Indians tell me that now both the black and the white man knows what a poor Red man has been going through all these years.

I quote: "White man wave flag of Old Glory and sing 'My Country 'Tis of Thee,' when he know it not his country but Red man's country. White man do it just to make Indian oppressed and degraded. Must stop or Indian go on war path."

IN ADDITION the Indians say the name "Dallas Cowboys" is offensive, and the

biggest blow is when the white man names a ball team "Washington Indians", because they are always losing, too.

So please, no more American flag and no more references to America's history as it is just too painful a reminder of guess who lost that one.

Lest Brookshire still has room for one more essay on the celestial joys of bachelorhood (ugh) or he disenters one more fascinating relative, have him play like a reporter and go down to the EOPI and ask questions about the Californian (not Afro - American) who advised those young people to not listen to explanations or reasons but to stand firm in their demands.

\* \* \*

HE HAS been successful in causing a total rift between blacks and whites at South Dade High when a few rude and crude black and whites tried all last year to do it but failed.

HARRIS JONES

N/L 9/11/68

## Changing Rebel Name Would Hurt Whites, Too

Editor, The News Leader:

As a white student at South Dade High, I feel the black students are completely unreasonable in their demanding the change of the name, "Rebs."

**THE BLACK** students have many arguments to support their cause and the whole students also have their arguments.

In his speech in assembly Wednesday morning, a SOUL member said that only ignorant people held on to tradition and the past.

To me he and SOUL are contradicting themselves because they are holding on to the past in this business of the Civil War and the Confederacy.

Did the blacks ever think of the money involved in changing the name. The annual, uniforms, flags, etc. all have the Rebel symbol, the Confed-

erate flag.

Yet the blacks say if we were really sincere in our point of view we would think of how it hurts them to go to school under this name.

**DON'T THEY** think that if the name's changed we, the whites, will be hurt? The blacks all feel that we're being selfish in wanting to keep our school name and tradition, yet aren't they being so to demand the name be changed?

These signatures support my letter: Linda Myers, Linda Kummel, Don Callahan, Don Kimball, Dianne Griffith, Don Cogswell, Ray Lumpkin, Debbie Duncan, Linda Bayce, Kathy Fredrick, Debbie Warren, Jackie Smith, Marsha Pinkston, Juanita Lilly, Cathy Bracknell, Becky Butler, Janis Sneed, Sharon Baggett, Diane Stewart.

**MARILYN THOMPSON**

## Consider White Students, SOUL Members Urged

Editor, The News Leader:

I am not writing this letter in answer to any particular letter written to The News Leader, but simply to express my feelings concerning the present situation at South Dade High.

**I HAVE** had the opportunity to listen to two of SOUL's representatives and have talked to one personally. They argue that it is foolish if we want to keep the name "Rebel" for reasons of tradition.

They tell us that tradition is living in the past and that we shouldn't. My question to SOUL is this: If we shouldn't live in the past by holding on to tradition why should you be oppressed by something that took place over 100 years ago? To my knowledge the 100 years has passed.

William Shakespeare wrote in Romeo and Juliet, "What's in a name? That which we

call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet . . ."

The black students feel they are being mistreated at South Dade. This is debatable, but do they feel they will be treated differently if the Rebel name is changed?

The same students, administration and rules will be present. They will have no more rights than they, or any other student at South Dade has now.

**NO ONE** is capable of being the judge of this situation because no one can say who is right and who is wrong. If SOUL, however, thinks we are wrong for wanting to keep the name "Rebel," I wish they would step back and take a long look at themselves.

Please SOUL, try to understand our side as you have asked us to understand yours.

**KAREN JOHNSON**  
Senior, South Dade

## Forget The Civil War

Editor, The News Leader:

In school we have discovered the motives for not changing the name "Rebel." The Negroes say that tradition is no reason to keep the name "Rebel."

**THEY SAY** we should discontinue using and remembering the past and look forward to the future.

I believe this is an exceedingly good idea but that they are applying it incorrectly. They should apply it to their reason for wanting to change the name.

They say that it reminds them of the Civil War and what the war stood for. Why can't they forget the past and live in the future?

At football games I stood up and shouted "Go Rebs." When I shouted these two little words I thought of our football team and school. I never was thinking of the Civil War.

**WHEN** I hear or read the name "Rebels" I immediately think of South Dade High, not the Civil War.

Why can't SOUL and its members forget about the Civil War and think of the future of South Dade High.

**WAYNE PRESSNALL**  
Junior, South Dade

## Record In S. District

# Schools Pack'em In

South district schools enrolled a record 30,462 students in the first week of operation — a 2,205 increase over last year — the Dade County Schools office disclosed today.

The percentage of increase (7.80) was the second highest for any district in the county school system. It was exceeded only by the southwest district, which added 2,937 students for an 8 per cent increase.

Countywide, a record 227,826 children were enrolled in the first week, an increase of nearly 12,000 over last year. Of this figure, 5,949 are kindergarten children, most of whom enrolled this year for the first

time as Dade launched its first free countywide kindergarten program.

South district schools posting pupil gains, with last year's enrollment at the same time listed in parentheses, are as follows:

Elementary — Avocado, 644 (611); Colonial Drive, 961 (816); Neva King Cooper, 505 (446); Coral Reef, 982 (756); Cutler Ridge, 1,354 (882); Florida City, 397 (300); Goulds, 311 (294); Howard Drive, 1,018 (894); Leisure City, 744 (733); Miami Heights, 994 (802); Naranja, 449 (412); Palmetto, 967 (930); Perrine, 530 (453); Pinecrest, 823 (765); Redland, 649

(572); Redondo, 388 (378); Richmond, 580 (579); South Miami Heights, 1,046 (1003); West Homestead, 614 (545).

Secondary — Palmetto High, 3,139 (2,866); Palmetto Junior High, 1,964 (1,865); Redland Junior High, 846 (793); South Dade High, 1,352 (1,309); Homestead Junior High, 1,389 (1,068); Cutler Ridge Junior High, 2,048 (1,875).

South district schools which dropped in enrollment included these:

Elementary — Air Base, 1,189 (1,196); Gulfstream, 597 (619); R. R. Moton, 567 (634); Pine Villa, 1,053 (1,064); Whispering Pines, 618 (740); A. L. Lewis, 582 (635).

Secondary — Mays Junior High 647 (660); West Homestead Junior High, none, compared with 258 last year, (junior high grades at this school have been dropped, effective this year.)

Enrollment at southwest district schools located in the South Dade area, compared with last year's at this time, is as follows:

Kenwood Elementary, 1,078 (918); Richmond Heights Junior High, sixth grade, 226 (208); Vineland Elementary, 866 (810); Killian High ninth grade 578 (342); Killian High, grades 10-12, 2,236 (1,876); Richmond Heights Junior High, grades 7-9, 1,245 (1,112).

8/11/68  
N/L

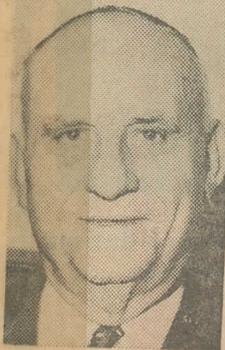
## For Students

# MDJC OKs Strict Code Of Conduct

By **GEORGIA MARSH**  
Herald Education Writer

Miami-Dade Junior College trustees Wednesday adopted a code of student conduct and discipline aimed at letting students know what they can and cannot do.

A number of the regulations clearly are aimed at giving the college authority to move in case of student demonstrations.



**J. N. McArthur**  
*... let's them know*

Trustee J. Neville McArthur said the college probably will be attacked for it, but "students are always telling us we didn't let them know in advance what they can or cannot do."

The code says students are subject to disciplinary action for obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other college activities, including its public service functions, or of other authorized activities on college premises."

Even broader is a regulation that prohibits "conduct which adversely affects the student's suitability as a member of the academic community."

The code spells out disciplinary measures for such offenses as dishonesty by knowingly furnishing false information to the college; forging or misusing college documents; stealing or damaging college property; physically abusing any person on college-owned or controlled property or at college sponsored or supervised activities; and using or entering college facilities without proper authorization.

Modeled after regulations at the University of California, the code gives college officials authority to impose censure, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion for violation of college regulations.

Dr. Peter Masiko said the failure of a number of important colleges and universities in the country to handle trouble on their campuses, points up the need to give college officials a specific basis on which to operate.

He said a second document spelling out students' rights also is being prepared.

## Vote Set On School Nickname

South Dade High School students will vote Monday on changing the school's nickname, the Rebels.

Temporary South Dade Principal Howard Crabtree authorized two assemblies to be held at 9 a.m. today. Three white and three Negro students, in each assembly, will be allowed seven minutes to explain their reasons for or against the name change. Following their talks, the floor will be open to general discussion, giving individual students the opportunity to express their views. Crabtree said the hour-long assemblies will be extended an extra half-hour if necessary.

A 60-student committee met Wednesday and recommended the assemblies and the election, using voting machines, on Monday. Their proposals were approved by an evenly divided, 38-member student-faculty board.

Mrs. Betty Gilkey, south district school superintendent, said the voting will be conducted along lines prescribed for county elections. Students will have to register and sign a voting receipt when they cast their ballots. Voting will be conducted during morning class hours, so the results can be announced before the end of the school day.

South Dade Principal William Wilson is on sick leave, under doctors orders. Crabtree is acting principal on a "temporary day-to-day assignment," Mrs. Gilkey said.

Crabtree reportedly acted swiftly in applying stern discipline for rules infractions Wednesday. According to a reliable report, several students were given five-day suspensions from school when a fight broke out in a school parking lot.

One of the chief complaints of students and parents, has been the charge that rule enforcement was lax under Wilson's administration. Wilson was ill and under the care of a doctor before school opened.

HERALD  
9/12/68

N/L  
9/12

# Black Students Wave

## U.S. Flags At South Dade

About 50 black students, many of them waving small American flags, demonstrated at South Dade High School this morning.

The students clustered in front of the school building waving the U. S. flag and yelling.

As the otherwise peaceful demonstration grew noisier, temporary principal Howard Crabtree warned the students that they would either have to go to class, take a school bus

back home or demonstrate peacefully.

The demonstrators missed first period classes but later returned to the school building to attend second period assembly.

In the meantime, many of the parents of the black students came to the school to quiet them.

The parents collected the flags.

Crabtree said he could not permit any symbols that might

serve to incite any students.

Charles Harris, assistant principal, told students over a public address system inside the school, if Rebel flags and other markings were on students' cars in the parking lot they had permission to go out and remove them, fearing possible damage to the vehicles.

South Dade High School has been embroiled in a controversy over the student body's use of the Rebel name, flag and other trappings. Negro stu-

dents contend the Rebel symbols are offensive to them as reminders of the Civil War in which Negro slavery was an issue.

South Dade students are scheduled to vote Monday on whether to retain the nickname "Rebels."

Phrasing of the question is being worked out by a committee of students, with adult supervision, according to Miss Elizabeth Gilkey, supervisor of the south district.

Crabtree, filling in for South Dade Principal William Wilson who is on sick leave under doctor's care, authorized two assemblies to be held today. Three white and three Negro students were to be allowed at each assembly seven minutes to give their reasons against or for a name change.

Crabtree, whose regular position is principal at Redland Junior High School, called an assembly Tuesday and told students that all rules and policies of the school will be en-

forced without exception.

Earlier in the day fighting is said to have broken out in the parking lot and it was reliably reported that several students drew suspensions as a result.

A chief complaint of parents and students has been a charge that discipline had become lax under Wilson's administration since the opening of school this fall.

The South Dade principal was ill and under a doctor's care before school opened.

# S. Dade 11 Stays Calm

By BILL SHELDON  
Herald Sports Writer

They are the South Dade Rebels, and they will still be Rebels when they open their season next Thursday night at North Miami High.

That's what Coach Leo Martin thinks. That is also what players Gary Mills, Robin Rhodes, Randy McMi-

chael and Jim DiBenedetto believe.

Even the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL), which has sought to banish the name "Rebels," knows that the name will remain.

The South Dade student body assembled Thursday morning to hear opposing views in the dispute. The mood seemed tense and a near-fight finally brought the meeting to an end. Later six students were suspended 10 days for fighting.

But not one of the 65 members of the Rebel football team has been involved in the trouble.

The issue will come to a vote Monday morning. But SOUL President Otis Wallace has threatened a black student boycott of the voting and hinted that SOUL may try other means to outlaw the nickname he finds "a symbol of oppression to my people," including a "bloody battle."

"We're staying clear of everything, and not taking a chance on getting thrown out of school," said quarterback McMichael. "I guess everybody knows how the football team feels, but as far as getting up and saying anything, everybody's keeping quiet."

"My brother went to South Dade, and all the time I was growing up I never thought about this thing — slavery and the Confederacy and all that, and I can speak for the whole school on this."

Linebacker Mills said, "I did see their way for a while about the nickname, but when they started threatening today I didn't like that. I think we would have changed the name if we could have."

"I feel a lot closer to these kids than I have to any group before and maybe it's because of this thing," Martin said.

"Sure, they're going to play Dixie next Thursday. Sure, they're going to wave the Rebel flag. Why shouldn't they? It's their nickname, isn't it?"

HERALD 9/13

# 6 Suspended In Row Over School 'Name'

By BILL BLOSS  
And ARNOLD MARKOWITZ  
Herald Staff Writers

Tempers flared and racial tension mounted Thursday at South Dade High School, with six students drawing 10-day suspensions for fighting and Negroes threatening to boycott an election.

The controversy, born late last spring, is over the nickname "Rebels" used by the

school's athletic teams and the school song, "Dixie." Negro students want the nickname and song changed.

The Student Council had scheduled a vote on the matter for Monday, but a spokesman for Negro students said they would not vote.

Thursday's trouble began early, when about 25 Negroes marched in front of the school, carrying small American flags. Acting Principal Howard Crabtree reminded them of his rule against carrying flags on school grounds, an order given Wednesday when white students carried Confederate flags.

Crabtree told the students they could not enter the school with the flags. They soon handed them over to Mrs. Merian Smith, assistant director of the John F. Kennedy Center of the Economic Opportunity Program Inc.

Mrs. Smith and EOPI field workers were on the scene to act as peacemakers. Later a number of Dade County sheriff's deputies and School Board security men joined the effort.

They were the ones who stopped the fights that broke out as students were going to lunch.

Three fights were reported, each between a white boy and a Negro boy. Crabtree suspended the participants after a hearing, ordering them not to appear on the campus for 10 days.

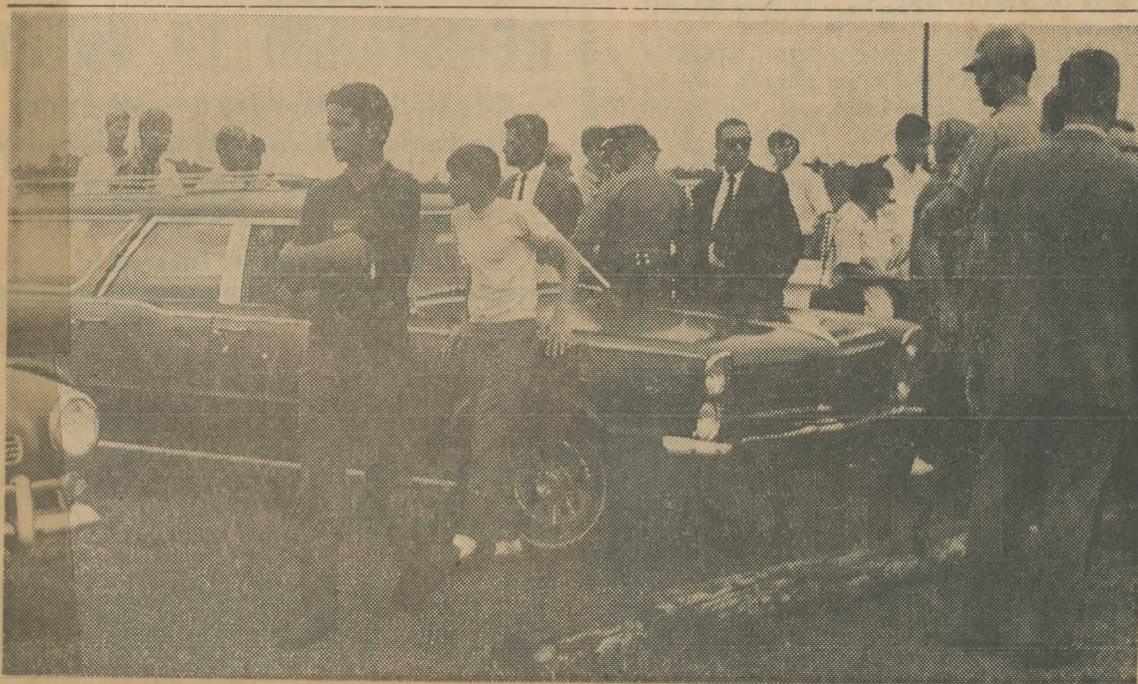
During the morning hours, two special assemblies were staged to give opposing factions in the dispute a chance to air their complaints. Sophomores and seniors attended one, juniors and the other.

The sophomore-senior assembly was ended by Leonard L. Teaster, faculty advisor to the Student Council, when it threatened to get out of hand.

N/W  
9/13

*At South Dade High School*

# White Students



SOUTH DADE students mill around in parking lot after staging walkout at the school this morning.

N/L 9/13

# Stage Walkout

## Return To Air Gripes

By JEANNETTE ROBINS

Between 70 to 100 white South Dade High School students walked out this morning saying they were tired of being threatened by black students and tired of being unable to walk through corridors because of gatherings of blacks.

They also complained of the school's suspension of white students earlier who had tried to defend themselves in confrontations which, they said, were initiated by blacks.

More than two dozen students have been suspended in the past week, with black students slightly in the majority, school officials said.

The students asked school authorities if they would be accepted back into school again, as black students were after a flag raising demonstration yesterday.

Marvin Griep, director of high schools for the South District told the students that "Nobody has been suspended yet for this walkout."

Students accepted his suggestion to return to the school building and sit down for a group conference to air their gripes.

After a two-hour conference, most elected to return to classes. A few chose to leave the school grounds, thus facing possible suspension.

A number of parents, apparently there to pick up students who had planned to walk

out, were also invited into the conference.

Students had been told this morning that the school intends to hold an extremely firm line in enforcing all school rules and policies. The students were instructed not to leave the school during lunch periods and were told that no one was supposed to be out of their classrooms without an official pass.

Some of the walkers voiced resentment that the situation has warranted such drastic measures.

Griep, and acting principal Howard Crabtree, met with students and parents to iron out difficulties this morning.

Some students said they had come to school this morning only to register for a student vote Monday on whether to keep the Rebel name, flag, song and colors.

Several parents said they endorsed their children's walkout because the students have complained they have been repeatedly threatened.

School authorities had apparently been tipped about walkout plans.

There were a number of school security personnel on hand as well as officials of the city of Homestead and mem-

bers of the Community Relations Board.

Several plain clothesmen were at the school as well as several uniformed officers.

On the scene were Capt. Richard McFarland and Lt. Joe Willis.

Most students were not disorderly but a number expressed resentment at a recent school directive prohibiting the display of Rebel emblems or any emblem that tends to incite student feelings.

One youth engaged in a scuffle and was arrested for striking a police officer.

Unrest was not confined to the high school. "Incidents" were reported at Homestead Junior High School as well, and local police were called over to the school Thursday afternoon as classes dismissed for the day.

Administrators at the school were in conference this morning and could not be reached for comment. A spokesman in the office, however, said that things were "under control."

A number of parents kept their children home from school today. Actual attendance figures at the junior high school were not available at mid-morning, but a spokesman said the absentee rate was not "unusual."

N/L 9/13

# School Walkout Fizzles; A Few Leave in Homestead

## Parents Organize

By **ARNOLD MARKOWITZ**  
And **BILL BLOSS**  
Herald Staff Writers

A South Dade High School student was arrested Friday for slugging a plainclothes police officer, shortly before a planned student walkout fizzled for lack of wide support.

But another walkout did take place at Homestead Junior High, where an estimated 30-50 pupils left school.

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School officials blamed the junior high school walkout on agitators from the high school student body. The younger pupils were stopped by Homestead police before they got three blocks from school and were turned over to their parents.

An estimated 400 parents of South Dade High School students, including some 40 from the black community, officially organized last night Concerned Parents Organization (CPO).

The parents elected Jack Levy temporary chairman and Fred Fuchs, co-chairman.

They agreed that the organization's main concern would be to quell racial bitterness at the school and to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning.

The group voted to accept as

members parents of students attending South Dade and any of its feeder schools.

Ministers are also to be accepted as voting members because of their concern for student members of their congregations.

Other concerned — relatives, alumni and those with civic interests — will be accepted as associate members without vote.

Levy and Fuchs were directed to name a bi-racial committee which will select a bi-racial slate of permanent officers.

Holmes Braddock, school board member, addressed the group after the organizational proceedings.

"Your real problem," Braddock told the parents, "is what's going to happen after the students vote Monday."

"Somehow we have to get the message across that nothing can be gained by altercations. We have football games and a number of other school activities coming up. If some dumb individual runs around the field waving a Rebel flag incites problems in the stands — though he may have a perfect right to, nothing can be gained by such action.

"These are your children that will be on the field and in the stands," he said.

"If there's any chance at all that any action you were going to take might hurt, for God's sake, don't do it," Braddock urged parents and students.

Students are to vote Monday on six questions — 1. Rebel name. 2. Song "Dixie". 3. Rebel flag. 4. Confederate type band uniform. 5. Colors Blue and Grey. 6. School paper name "Rebel Review."

With an enrollment of 1,400, of whom about 180 are black students, results of the elections are "pretty predictable," Negro parents charge.

A walkout at South Dade High was planned Thursday night, when about 50 white students decided to leave after the start of the school day. They claimed they had been threatened by Negro students.

The student body has been split by a controversy over the school song, "Dixie" and use of the nickname "Rebels" by athletic teams. Negro students have been protesting that the song and nickname are degrading.

On Thursday, several fights broke out between Negro and white students, and the fighters were suspended for 10 days by Acting Principal Howard Crabtree.

Deputies at Metro's South Dade substation identified the arrested boy as James Edward Johns, 18, of 707 NW Eighth Ave., Homestead. Deputy Joe Vail, in plain clothes, stopped Johns as he was leaving a meeting of

Crabtree and the protesting students.

"He fought hard," the deputy said.

Johns, who said he did not realize Vail was a policeman, was charged with assault and battery and resisting arrest with violence. He was released on \$750 bond.

Police said Vail stopped the student to question him as he left the meeting, apparently on the way to a first period class.

September 15, 1968

# 'Old South' Symbols Keep S. Dade Edgy

By JUANITA GREENE  
Herald Urban Affairs Writer

Should the Confederate flag fly as the high school banner over a mostly white student body with a growing number of Negroes, when some of the Negroes object?



Should the band wear Confederate uniforms and play "Dixie"? Is "Rebel" the proper nickname for an integrated school?

These questions have split not only South Dade High but the whole South Dade community into unequal, angry parts —

the largest almost all white, the other almost all black.

After more than a month of growing controversy, community leaders are working desperately behind the scenes to settle the situation into a "cooling off" period. Then it is their hope to get the two groups talking again in calm voices.

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**DESPITE** its southern rural background and proportionately high Negro population, the South Dade area has made it through the integration era of the past 10 years in a relatively peaceful manner, points out Homestead Mayor William Dickinson. Its white leaders certainly don't want trouble now, he said.

Though the issue at the school has spilled over into the whole community, the key to a peaceful settlement appears to lie within the school — in the name, the flag, the uniforms, the song.

Dickinson, like many of the whites, does not think a change at this time would help matters at all. But he is hopeful something might be worked out later by "level heads" on both sides.

"Under the circumstances," he said, "things have been pushed to the point where a change would cause as many or more problems than we have now, not because there shouldn't be a change, but because feelings on both sides are running so high."

MIAMI  
HERALD

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The emotional temperature reached its peak Thursday, when a student assembly called to discuss the proposed changes broke up in fist fights. The presence of plain clothed Dade sheriff's deputies, school security men, a new and tougher acting principal and a large group of Negro mothers kept the fury from spreading.

But, points out student body president Libby Cool, the question of the name and the other changes had dominated school life since this year's opening, and only once in the nine days did the situation get temporarily out of hand.

Much of the discussion had been generated by the Student Council, which prior to the opening of school had met with representatives of the black students and school officials and come up with a plan. It was to give the black student leaders an opportunity to present their views to the whole student body, then to determine whether there was any possibility the majority would favor the changes.

★ ★ ★

"WHEN SCHOOL started I had a lot of hope that things could be worked out," said Miss Cool, an attractive white student from a comfortable, middle class family. "I was hoping both the blacks and the whites would give a little, would find some compromise. What I really wanted was better communication between the blacks and the whites."

The blacks got their first opportunity at the first assembly, the second day of school, but it ended before sufficient time for questions and answers. Unsigned questionnaires collected at the end of the assembly indicated a large majority wanted no changes. Then for three days the blacks were allowed to visit each English class to answer questions, accompanied by a Student Council member who acted as moderator.

Cont'  
GREENE

HERALD  
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# 'Rebel' Symbols

From Page 1B

By this time, some white students and their parents had begun to complain that only the black viewpoint was being told. An organization of white students and another of white parents were formed at mass meetings in Homestead. The parents group, headed by Jack Levy, sent a delegation to meet with William Wilson, the veteran, ailing and harassed principal, who later went on indefinite sick leave because of ulcers.

Another assembly was called to give both sides a chance to speak. Three white students, two black students and a moderator were on the stage when the fighting started Thursday.

The whole South Dade community was as taut and tuned in as a spiderweb to the events taking place at the school, which sits all alone in the middle of the vast vegetable fields north of Homestead. Established in 1953 by combining Homestead High with its big rival Redlands High, it is Dade's southernmost high school, serving about 1,300 white and about 200 Negro students with a somewhat integrated faculty.

The unofficial communications network had been operating for several days. A white student would dial a number on the school phone and the bell would ring in the Homestead office of Levy, a parent, photographer and civic, church and youth leader. A black student would go to a phone and the message would travel 10 miles up the road to the Perrine office of Odell Johns, a bail bondsman and political and civic leader in the South Dade Negro community.



**S. Dade High Band in Recent Parade**  
*... Confederate uniforms an insult to blacks?*

Cont'  
GREENE

HERALD 9/15

Levy and Johns would then send out the word, which in a community like South Dade spreads very rapidly.

This communications system explains why, on Thursday, many black mothers but few white mothers went to the school. Johns said he summoned the blacks, and Levy said he sent out word to the whites to stay away.

While he dwells at length on what he considers the shortcomings of the South Dade white community in its relations with the blacks, Johns, too, brought up the possibility of a peaceful settlement of the controversy.

"I would like to see a meeting between the white power structure, whoever they are, and parents of the black students," said Johns. "Then we would see if they can have negotiations — where there is respect on each side, not conversations

in which the white man tells the Negro what he wants done."

Though he declared the blacks "will not back down one inch," Johns later indicated that on some points there might be a possibility for negotiation. Many persons searching for ground on which to plant a compromise point out that the name "rebel" in itself does not apply specifically to the Civil War. The "rebels" at South Dade High today, in fact, are the black students, by one of the dictionary terms.

Johns raised no particular objection to the word "rebel," concentrating his objection on the Confederate flag.

The meaning of the school symbols, of course, is very much at issue. Many whites, including Levy, do not believe the blacks are sincere in their objections, but are using them as an excuse to raise controversy at the urging of outside influences.

The blacks, on the other hand, say the whites either do not understand how deeply they feel about the symbols, or dislike Negroes to the degree that it makes no difference how the Negroes feel.

In the school office Thursday morning, when deputies were bringing in the combatants, placing the blacks on one side of the room and the whites on the other, the atmosphere was tense. A pretty white girl entered to complain to the principal about some of the things being said to her in the hall. While waiting, she approached Otis Wallace, president of the black student group SOUL (Student Organization for Unity and Liberty), who was there urging the black brothers to cool it.

She was visibly trying to curb her anger, and in an almost pleading manner asked:

"Why? Why does the name mean that much to you? Why do you want to change it?"

Wallace, a neatly dressed, good looking young man, answered in a soft voice with the arguments that he had stated many times before.

He entered South Dade in 1965 as a sophomore, coming from Homestead Junior High, where he had learned the trombone and acquired the ambition to become a musician. He joined the high school band. They gave him a Confederate uniform to wear, and taught him to play Dixie.

"I couldn't see myself, a black man, with this Confederate uniform, and playing Dixie to show my school spirit. It was too much of a barrier."

He said he talked to the band director, since departed, and was informed he had to wear the uniform and play the song if he wanted to pass. Otis says he complied, but grudgingly, because he needed the points.

"There I was, wearing the same uniform of the man who fought to the death to keep my ancestors in slavery," said Wallace. "That I looked ridiculous is not important. It actually hurt. It really does mean a lot to me."

★ ★ ★

SAM JONES, who played on the football team last year but, like all the blacks, refuses to play this year, said he presented many of the same arguments to his coaches.

"They told us to sacrifice," said Jones, "Not to let this thing stop us from playing. But we said our feelings were not something we wanted to sacrifice."

Wallace denied that the decision to organize SOUL this Summer came from the outside. He said the black students at the school had been trying actively since the middle of last school year to get the symbols changed.

This Summer they had conferences with the principal, sent letters to other school officials, and went to the School Board as a last

resort. The School Board decided it was an internal matter to be handled by the school, and that is when the Student Council started meeting with SOUL. It had been aware of the black grievances, said Libby Cool, at the end of the last school term.

Miss Cool put some of the blame for the failure of the blacks to win support on the "negative" attitude of Otis Wallace and Sam Jones at the last assembly. By that time, she said, they had stopped answering questions calmly or completely.

One of Levy's complaints is that the school officials paid too much heed to the desires of the black minority and not enough to those of the white majority.

Wallace complained that every time it appeared that the blacks were making some progress with the white students "Levy would call another mass meeting of white parents."

Mayor Dickinson said he believed Levy's group — called Concerned Parents (which now includes a few blacks) has done some good, mainly by getting more discipline in the school. But he is not a member, though he has a daughter at the school. He complained "there are not enough involved colored parents in the organization."

The whites who are fighting hardest against change stress the school tradition behind the symbols and minimize them as relics of the Civil War.

"To me the Confederate flag stands for the South Dade football team," said Levy, an alumnus of old Redlands High. He was on the booster team that was organized when South Dade High was created and the area got its first football team. It was then that the symbols were chosen. They were not carryovers from either Homestead High, which had the nickname "Growers," or Redlands High, which has "Rattlers."

Jones argues that Negro students are having to give up many of their traditions

# Keep School on Edge

as their all-Negro schools are phased out and they are sent to formerly all-white schools. Many Negroes in the area are forced to attend South Dade High because the School Board will no longer provide them with transportation to all-Negro Mays High School in Goulds. The policy now includes many exceptions, but when it is tightened up the Negro enrollment at South Dade will increase considerably.

Of the estimated 45,000 persons living south of Coconut Palm Drive (248th St.), 23 per cent are Negro, compared with a countywide Negro population of only 15 per cent.

In Florida City about 60 per cent of the population is Negro and in Homestead 35 per cent. The political significance of the heavy Negro population also is pointed up by the fact that one voting precinct in South Dade is predominantly Negro. It is next to a precinct that always votes conservative and this year probably will go for George Wallace.

Some whites claim that all the black students really want to attend Mays and are simply kicking up the symbol fuss for revenge. The whites also complain that the Negroes have "demanded" instead of "requested" the change.

Otis Wallace replies that the demand came only after more than a year of making requests. He denied he was interested in attending Mays.

There is, however, a segment of the Negro population which wants to keep Mays predominantly Negro. It is an old school, heavy with tradition, that the School Board has been trying to phase out. Some Negroes claim the school gives Negro youth the dignity and identity that would be lost as a black minority in an integrated school.

Wallace predicted Mays eventually will be phased out with all the Negro students attending integrated schools. That, he said, is one reason

he and the other blacks at South Dade are fighting the battle of the symbols.

"I can look at the white side, and I know they will be mad," he said. "But their feelings are upset only for this year. The whites that come along in the future years won't be upset if the changes are made this year. But every black student coming here every year will be upset by that flag and that song and that name."

The trouble at South Dade lapped over to Homestead Elementary Friday after carloads of white students drove around the school waving Confederate flags. Negro junior high students then assembled en masse after school and marched together to the Negro area, blocking the street on the way.

At South Dade High acting principal Howard Crabtree, brought over from Redlands Junior High and widely hailed by the whites as a good disciplinarian, banned all flags from the high school in an attempt to keep tempers down. This put him in the position of taking American flags away from about 50 Negro students who appeared with them Thursday, the day of the big blow up.

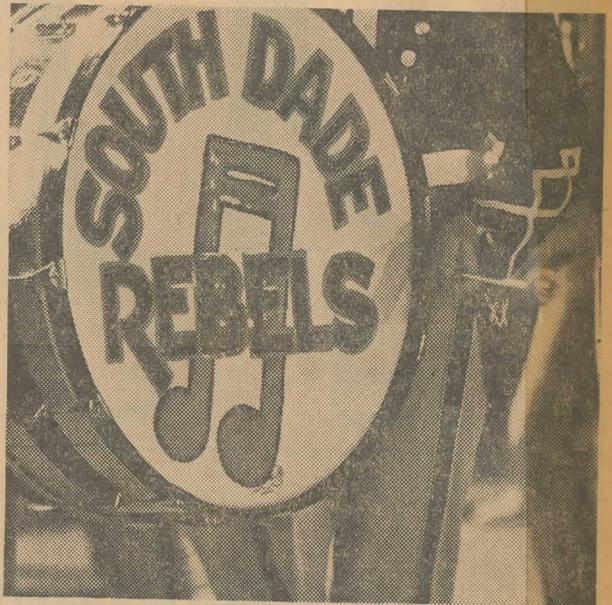
The next big event in the controversy will come Monday, when students are scheduled to cast votes on each of the questions of whether to change the name, color, flag, band uniform, and name of the school newspaper, Rebel Review.

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**THE BLACKS**, said Wallace will not participate. He and everyone else was predicting that even with the blacks voting the results would be overwhelmingly against any change.

"The election is ridiculous as far as the black students are concerned," said Otis. "It will serve no purpose. They will be voting on a moral wrong, and the results won't change it."

The event that worries everybody most is the football game scheduled for Thursday night at a field which is inside the city lim-



## Nickname 'Rebels' Is Sore Point

... blacks say it's a degrading symbol

its. It is expected that the game will be postponed or some adjustment will be made in the arrangements — like allowing students only to attend, or playing it somewhere else.

The first school dance, scheduled for last Friday, was canceled.

Some talk among both blacks and whites is becoming increasingly militant. As usually happens in racial controversies, the moderates have become almost invisible. They are not talking, perhaps out of fear.

It is the voice of raw hatred and racism that is most often heard. And it is this talk that spurs the thoughtful leaders on in their search for a solution.

To hear some conversations, an outsider would think the people are about to fight the Civil War all over again.

Blacks talk seriously of an economic boycott if all else fails. Whites long past high

school age speed around town in cars flying the Confederate flag. Large groups of each race have secret meetings and mass rallies.

But the churches are trying to do something. The ministers, too, are meeting secretly. So are some moderates, both black and white.

"My own thinking," says Mayor Dickinson, "is that we should enlist the sincere whites and blacks. Then each could handle the radicals in their groups. The biggest problem is to restrain those people who inflame the situation."

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Cont' - A.B.C  
GREENE

# Black Parents, Youths Say: 'Let's Stand Together in This'

By THIRLEE SMITH  
Herald Staff Writer

About 150 black adults and youths met Saturday to plan action against South Miami-Dade Senior High's Confederate name, Confederate song and Confederate dress.

Odell Jones, spokesman for the black parents and students, presided at the meeting at United Faith Church Hall in Goulds.

"We are here . . . to fight South Dade's racism. This is a solidarity meeting for all black folks of this community," Jones said.

"I don't want any cries of 'outside agitation.' We all live in South Dade and things here just aren't right.

"We are not alone. The Black Brothers For Progress are here tonight and we are sure glad to see them."

Cheers and amens broke from the crowd.

Bill Miles, associate director of the Florida Council on Human Relations, said "The

use of the Rebel name alone is illegal to us because our forefathers came up under the rebel in slavery and no black child today is going to go to school under it."

"I'll be damned if they can't phase out the song Dixie, the Confederate flag, the Rebel name and the Rebel uniform," he said.

"Display of the confederate flag to any Negro stands for discrimination and bigotry," Miles said.

Mrs. Doris Icin, a parent, said, "That same old Rebel flag cost me my education."

The parents and students came from six areas in South Dade: Florida City, Home-

stead, Naranja, Goulds, Perrine, and Richmond Heights.

Present was the newly organized student group, Student Organization For Unity and Liberty (SOUL), represented by Otis Wallace, president, Sammy Jones, vice president, Charles Richardson, business manager, and William Moses, public relations officer. All are students at South Dade High.

A student, Sammy Jones, said he was suspended for 10 days for walking the halls without a pass.

"But on the second day of school they had me Uncle Tom-ing around for the principal to beg the white students to get together and change the name from the Rebels to something else, but when SOUL gave the principal five days to solve the problem, I couldn't walk the halls."

Melissa Horne said that school officials never informed the parents that they



—Herald Staff Photo by CURTIS SOLOMON

Group of Students Applaud With Glee  
... some 150 parents and pupils met

Turn to Page 2B, Col. 1

## South Dade Negroes Meet

Continued From Page 1B

walked out, but several of the white parents were informed when both black and white students left school in protest.

"My daughter cannot attend one of her classes because she wouldn't say Sir to one of her white teachers . . . I don't teach my children to say Yessir and Nos-sir. Our kids need the par-

"I haven't worked in two days. I quit because I heard

my white boss lady say over the telephone, 'We got to go down to South Dade and teach those niggers how to act.'"

Two resolutions were adopted by the group — that there should be no voting on the question of whether to drop the Rebel name and other Confederate symbols on Monday or any other time; and that a representative from each of the areas in South Dade be elected to form a governing board that will set the group's strategy for the coming weeks.

Mrs. Thomasina Hunt, a Homestead parent, said the problems were not only at South Dade High but also at

Homestead Junior High. "Our children have been threatened by whites driving around the school waving Confederate flags. I got one little old Chevy. If we have to band ourselves together and find another area to shop in, we are ready to do that now."

Harold Long, president of the United Black Students, said that his group was supporting SOUL. He said, "These brothers are in good shape. They've got the whole community behind them."

Eugene Wilson, spokesman for Black Brothers for Progress, said: "We will come over from Liberty City at any time to help our black brothers."

HERALD  
9/16

As Clergymen Seek 'Cooling-Off'

# Negroes to Boycott South Dade Stores

By **THIRLEE SMITH**  
Herald Staff Writer

A limited boycott of stores owned by whites in the South Dade area was announced Sunday by a newly organized advisory committee of black adults and students.

At the same time, clergymen — both black and white — issued a two-page statement calling for a "cooling-off period" by all sides.

The actions resulted from two Sunday meetings, outgrowths of the controversy surrounding the use of the nickname "Rebels" at South Dade Senior High School.

**Odell Johns, a bail bondsman and spokesman for the new advisory committee would not say when the proposed boycott would begin.**

He said, "specific stores will be singled out and car pools will be organized in each community so that shopping could be done with black brothers in other parts of the county." The group made its plans for the boycott and for settling the problems at the high school at a meeting in St. Paul AME Church.

The advisory committee is composed of the executive committee of the Student Organization for Unity and Liberty (SOUL) and parents of South Dade High School students. It originated at a meeting called Saturday night by Jones at United Faith Church in Goulds.

Members represent six areas in South Dade: Florida City, Homestead, Naranja, Goulds, Perrine, and Richmond Heights.

Ten black parents were selected to observe the voting by the white students at the school today on whether the use of confederate symbols and names would continue. Black students said they would not take part in the voting.

Johns said it may seem unfair to boycott the merchants but added, "it is unfair also for black students to participate in school activities in which confederate symbols and names are used."

At the simultaneous meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Homestead, the clergymen discussed the situation at the school and issued a two-page statement calling upon the student body and members of the community to get together and solve their problems in a meaningful way.

They recommended "a cooling-off period, during which a more creative solution may be sought by the students. We commend the school and their move to establish a bi-racial committee. And we ask that this group seek council and assistance of experts in human affairs."

The statement also calls for avoiding acts or words that may provoke others: forgiveness on both sides; support of the South Dade high principal; and for business, political and church leaders to "work for immediate changes."



—Herald Staff Photo by CURTIS SOLOMON

**Odell Johns Addresses Meeting**  
... boycott planned by participants

As Clergymen Seek 'Cooling-Off'

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—Herald Staff Photo by CURTIS SOLOMON

**Odell Johns Addresses Meeting  
... boycott planned by participants**

# Black Students Boycott School Name Vote

By LOUISE BLANCHARD  
Miami News Reporter

White students were voting today at South Dade High School on whether to discontinue the use of "Rebels" as the school nickname. Black students — who have bitterly protested the nickname and use of the Confederate flag — boycotted the balloting.

Voting machines were located in three areas of the school. Teachers took class groups to one of the machines at intervals. The voting was orderly. Results will be tabulated at the end of the day.

Several persons who are not connected with the school watched the voting. At least one was apparently a plainclothes officer. Asked his identity, he said he was an "employee of the Dade Public Safety Department."

One uniformed officer stood outside the school, and a handful of adults, apparently parents, watched from the edge of the parking lot.

The school has some 1,500

pupils, about 200 of them black.

The voting came against a background of attempts to cool tempers by a group of ministers, both black and white.

The clergymen after meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead yesterday, asked the community to recognize that the school nickname vote will not solve the "basic problems." They

said it would indicate the extent of the work which needs to be done to increase community understanding.

"We acknowledge our own involvement in the sin of racial misunderstanding; we pledge ourselves to seek to change our own attitudes and to seek meaningful dialogues so that we may learn wherein we offend one another," the clergymen said.

At the same time a com-

mittee of Negro adults and students announced a "limited boycott" of stores owned by white people in South Dade.

Odell Johns, spokesman for the committee, said specific stores will be singled out for the boycott and that car pools will be organized so that Negro residents can shop "with black brothers in other parts of the county."

"It may seem unfair to

boycott the merchants," Johns said. "But it is also unfair for black students to participate in school activities in which confederate symbols and names are used."

South Dade High was established in 1953 in a combination — strongly opposed in the community — of Homestead High and Redland High. Both former senior high schools became junior highs.

Since this semester began, 25 students have been suspended at South Dade High. However, school officials said only 16 were in connection with fist fights and other trouble related to the nickname controversy.

## South Dade's Symbol Clash

IT WOULD BE a great pity if the people of South Dade let so unessential a question as a school nickname and flag split the community and build lasting hatreds.

These are but symbols, and should not be allowed to take their place among the many real problems. Jobs, education and opportunity are not at stake.

Neither should this question be allowed to graduate from the high school level to the point where it offends the dignity of either black or white adult.

The Confederacy is part of our history, but it is natural that black students do not see it as an attractive part.

Can not men of goodwill accept these two facts and find a way for school children to live with them?

The schools have the responsibility of making a contribution toward meeting this nation's problems, not aggravating them.

## Student Charged With Attack On Metro Officer At School

An 18 - year - old Homestead youth was arrested Friday at South Dade High School and charged with assault and battery of a police officer and resisting arrest with violence. James Edward Johns, 707 NW Eighth Ave., Homestead, was booked in Substation-4 by

Officer Joe Vail and bond was set at \$250.

According to Vail, approximately 60 to 70 white students who walked out of classes Friday, were assembled by Capt. Richard McFarland, commander of Substation-4 and invited into the auditorium to discuss

the school racial problem.

Vail said Johns walked out before the meeting ended and the officer followed him from the building. Vail stated that when he began questioning the youth, the boy struck him with his left elbow, followed by a jab to the body.

Officer Robert Spencer observing the trouble went to Vail's assistance.

It was established that Johns is a senior at the high school. Charges will be filed in Justice of Peace Court-4.

N/L 9/16

# Blacks Plan Boycott; Meet Again Tonight

By GERRY CROSBY

Refusal of black students to participate in today's election on the school nickname and symbols at South Dade High School and the boycotting of certain Homestead stores was the plan of action agreed upon by members of South Dade black communities Saturday night.

Approximately 150 people met in Goulds to discuss the school's nickname, the Confederate - oriented song and flag and Johnny Reb band uniforms.

Odell Johns, unanimously elected spokesman for the group of Negro students and parents, decried the statement made by white Homestead residents who claim the entire problem stems from outside agitation.

Johns told the large audience, "We all live in South Dade and things here just aren't right.

He introduced members of the Black Brothers For Progress, from Liberty City; United Black Students from the University of Miami and the Florida Council on Human Relations, and noted that South Dade blacks were not alone in this current high school tension.

Teenagers and adults cheered loudly and it took several minutes to quiet the crowd at the United Faith Church Hall.

William Miles, associate director, Florida Council on Human Relations, said, "The use of the Rebel name alone is illegal to us because our forefathers came up under the rebel in slavery and no black child today is going to go to school under it."

"Display of the Confederate flag to any Negro stands for discrimination and bigotry," he said.

Sammy Jones, an officer of SOUL, told parents and teenagers from Florida City, Homestead, Naranja, Goulds, Perrine and Richmond Heights, that he was expelled for 10 days because he was found in the school hall without a permit.

He went on to explain that the reason he was in the hall was that School Security officers had called him in for a meeting between them, parents and Miles.

Johns continuously maintained that the South Dade High School problem was not a school - oriented thing, but stemmed from the racism that existed in the Homestead community. He said it would

therefore be the suggestion of his group that Homestead stores patronized by mostly blacks should be boycotted.

He said there would be no boycott of the school unless there was a total black boycott of all Dade County schools. It was his opinion that the students should remain in school.

One parent complained that she lost two days work as a result of having to quit a job after hearing the white woman she worked for tell a friend that "the whites were going to teach those niggers how to act."

Mrs. Thomasina Hunt, of Florida City claimed that racial problems also existed at Homestead Junior High School where Negro students were intimidated by white people driving around the school grounds waving Confederate flags.

Johns emphasized that his group planned to go about solving the South Dade High situation as peacefully as possible - thus the boycotting of stores.

The newly - formed organization consisting of representatives from all of the South Dade black communities will meet tonight at St. Paul's Church in Homestead to make further concrete plans of action.

## States' Rights The Issue

Editor, The News Leader:

I have tried to restrain myself from entering into the Rebel debates, but the letter to the editor in a recent issue cannot go unanswered.

TO THE SOUL member and person who defined "Rebel" I say "Nuts." They are both lucky that there were Rebels around to put down the English.

In these letters it has been stated and accepted that the slave issue was the reason for the original Rebels. This is not what my high school history books taught, and I believe that the other reasons were the cause over which the war was fought.

As for any hurt feelings, they will come from displaying the Stars and Stripes and listening to the national anthem, as SOUL will find that the whole nation had slavery at one time.

If its unreasonable demands are met they will be after Old Glory next. The Rebels of South Dade should feel no shame over even the original Rebels, as their cause was states' rights.

FURTHERMORE, myself and others are sick of being stopped in the halls, being bumped into on the way to classes, and starved at by the few that are there just to fight and cause trouble, not for an education.

We feel this should be brought to a halt immediately. If the members of the faculty or administration are afraid to stop this, then what can we, the student body, do?  
We can't take on everyone

rights.  
\* \* \*  
THE ISSUE is before the nation again today, and there are many Rebels in all 50 states signing petitions to regain their constitutional right of local government by the majority.  
JOEL MULLIS JR.

## Education, Of A Few

don't want violence. But this is what is going to happen. We're going to get so much crammed at us we aren't going to be able to take any more and so something is going to give. Don't take me wrong: This is no threat. It's just a fact.

I see no right in the black students coming to our school and demanding the name, color flag, fight song, etc. be changed. They knew when they came these things were ours. They also have no authority to come to us and tell us what Rebel means to us.

BUT ILL tell you this much; it means South Dade could be a place where students (both black and white) would be proud to go if these few students (trouble-makers) would be dealt with immediately.

I say long live the South Dade Rebels.

SHARON CASH  
...Senior '69

(Editor's Note: Miss Cash's letter was accompanied by 33

N/L 9/16

# Ministers Urge 'Cooling' Period

An inter-racial group of some 35 clergy and laymen met Sunday at First Presbyterian Church and urged a "cooling-off" period in the dispute at South Dade High School over the Rebel name, flag and band uniforms which has

sparked a black-white controversy at the school.

Sitting in at the meeting was Episcopal suffragan Bishop

James L. Duncan, who was in town to conduct morning services at St. John's Episcopal Church.

The clergy and laymen issued a statement in which they pledged themselves and called on all families in their churches to "support the principal of South Dade High School in the maintenance of discipline in the school, and urge parents to allow the young people to solve the problem in the school free of parental prejudice."

They urged a cooling-off period "during which a more creative solution may be sought." The statement also called on "the business, political and church community to work for immediate changes which will create a more just and progressive community."

The actions of the student body of South Dade will not "deal with the basic problems," the statement said.

"The outcome of the (student) vote will probably indicate the extent of the work that needs to be done," it added. "We urge both black and white students and parents to make every effort during the coming weeks to make certain that no acts or words may provoke either side."

The opening words of the statement were that "We, the Christian leadership of South Dade, both black and white, recognize that the present issues are but a manifestation of the problems facing all American Society. The real issue is the demands for social justice, equality and acceptance of each individual as a person."

"We acknowledge our own involvement in the sin of racial misunderstanding. We pledge ourselves to seek to change our own attitudes and to seek meaningful dialogue so that we may learn wherein we offend one another."

## Students Vote Today

Today is election day at South Dade High -- an election that will determine whether the school will keep or discard its Confederacy-linked nickname and symbols.

Voting began in the first class period and will continue into the last period of the day, with results to be tallied and announced at or near dismissal time, Principal Howard Crabtree said.

Students are voting in English and history classes, using electronic voting machines provided by the county.

Parents authorized as observers are stationed at each of the three precincts established by the school, but the parents are in a poll-watching position only -- students are serving as election clerks and assistants, Crabtree said.

Security at the racially-tense school is discreet but strict. Determined to put an end to white-black scuffles and the ganging-up of students to block hallways, the school has posted teachers and security men in every hall and at the entrances.

Until today, parents and the press had been allowed free access to the school.

During the election, however, Crabtree said he "must insist" that only parents on official business be permitted within the school.

Most have returned and are in class today.

Disturbances at the high school spilled over at Homestead Junior High School, which had its share of discipline troubles Thursday and Friday.

Three students, two Negro and one white, were suspended Friday for fighting and one white and one Negro student were suspended for the same reason Thursday, Principal Charles Overholser reported.

A group of some two dozen white students staged a walk-out Friday morning and ended up at the Homestead police station where they aired gripes about alleged "harassment" by Negro students. Parents were called to the station, and an over and talked to the young-official from the school came sters, police said.

Overholser said there were indications that some students from South Dade had come over to the junior high school and sparked the walkout there.

The principal said teachers had been directed to stand in doorways during changing of classes, and that two school security people and three personnel from the district office were on hand to keep an eye on things. (This statement was made in response to a complaint by a parent Friday who said that his daughter had been subjected to a bit of rowdyism and asked what the school was doing to prevent such incidents.)

Overholser said all incidents reported to the office were being "sifted through" to get the facts.

The press is being barred from interviewing students on campus, or from taking cameras into the school area, the principal decreed, "because unfortunately, a camera lens or a reporter seems to trigger some people to go into their act."

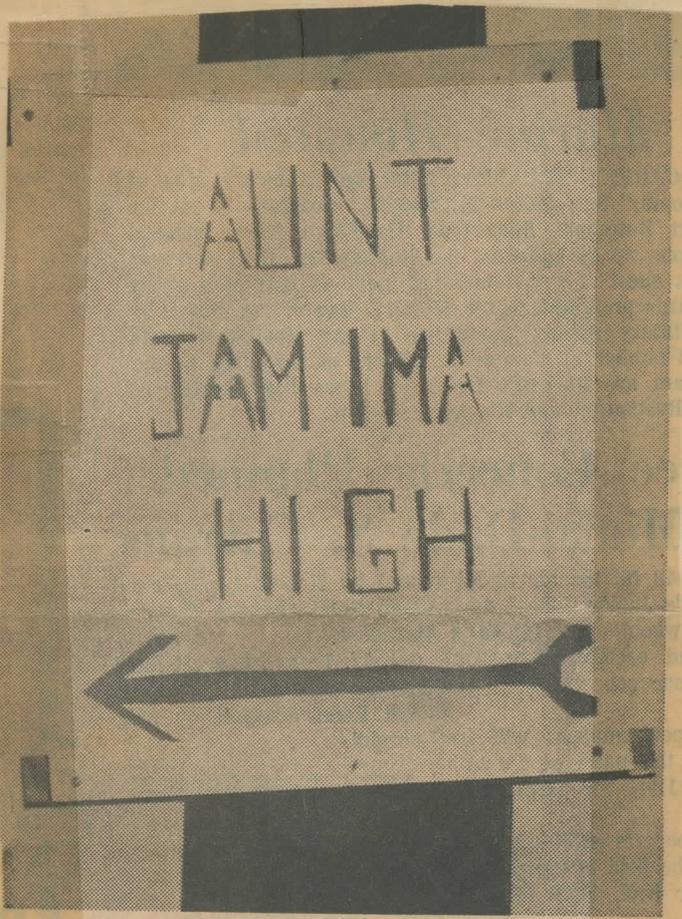
Crabtree said he is determined that nothing preventable will mar the election day.

Unless black students have a

change of heart, only white students will be voting today. At a meeting of a newly organized advisory committee of black students and adults Sunday, the students said they will boycott the voting.

Black adults under the leadership of bail bondsman Odell Johns announced a boycott of white-owned stores in South Dade. Purposes of the boycott are to indicate sympathy with black students' objection to confederate names and symbols at the high school, and to protest racist feelings in the adult community.

Black students were advised not to skip school. As feelings of both races mounted to a near-explosive level last week, a number of students of both races either stayed home from school, left school during the day, or were taken from the school by parents.



### *Point Of View*

THIS SIGN, one of a batch that dotted main routes to racially-upset South Dade High yesterday, is obviously the product of a homemade stencil. If the signmaker is a student, he'd better spend some time brushing up on his spelling — it's not 'Jamima'; it's 'Jemima'.

—Photo by Ed Oberlies

9/17 N/L



**VOTE TOTALS** on one of three machines used in six-question election at South Dade High yesterday are checked by Student Council president Libby Cool. Black students, about one-tenth of the school population, boycotted the voting; white students voted about 10-to-1 to retain the school's confederacy-linked nickname and symbols.  
—Photo by Ed Oberlies

## In Student Vote

# 'Rebels' Win In Landslide

South Dade High School students, as expected, voted overwhelmingly to retain the school's Confederacy-linked symbols in Tuesday's election.

To Keep School Colors: For 1,010, Against 47.  
To Keep Name 'Rebel Review' For Newspaper: For 976, Against 75.

More than 1,000 students out of an enrollment of about 1,350 participated in the voting on machines.

Crabtree released the following statement after the vote, which was turned over to the Dade School Board:

The approximately 130 or so Negro students at the school, most of whom have voiced opposition to the symbols, apparently did not vote.

"We have gone through trying times. Someone is going to win; someone will lose.

Acting principal Howard Crabtree said he hoped that no students would do "anything to chide or embarrass another student as a result of the election returns."

"Many times it is harder to be a victor than to be a loser. I am hoping that no one will do anything to chide or embarrass another student as a result of election returns.

The students actually voted on six questions and the vote was nearly identical on each.

"School is for education. The sincere student comes to school to learn. He has that right. No one has the right to interfere with another's right to an education.

The results are as follows:

- To Keep The Rebel Name: For 985, Against 74.
- To Keep Song 'Dixie': For 979, Against 72.
- To Keep Rebel Flag: For 952, Against 99.
- To Keep Rebel Band Uniforms: For 963, Against 88.

"If I have to make a choice between the student who is sincere in seeking an education and the student who is not sincere, I must make my choice in favor of the sincere student.

"I feel and hope it will not be necessary tomorrow to make such a choice."

## Rebel Affair Like Blister

Editor, The News Leader:

This is in regard to the mess at South Dade High. To start with, the newspapers have not been printing all of the incidents at the school.

For instance how certain students go from class to class trying to disrupt the minds of the students; how certain students can get away with things no other student could (walking in and out of classes as they please, fights, etc.)

Other things are the threats that have been made if he Rebel flag, name, symbols are not changed and how a Rebel flag was burned by certain students.

There was never a flag that said, "Niggers Go Home" — that was a false rumor.

Most of all there is the feeling of no security as you walk down the halls, never knowing what may happen next. All of these things are happening and nothing is being done about them.

Every day the voting is put off on this mess the worse it becomes. Like a blister, it rubs and rubs until one day it becomes so bad it pops.

# South Dade High Is 'Quiet' After Vote For Rebel Tag

By LOUISE BLANCHARD  
Miami News Reporter

South Dade High started "normal, peaceful and quiet" operation today, acting Principal Howard Crabtree said.

"I won't say there isn't any tension — there's bound to be some after something like this," he said.

White students voted 985-74 yesterday to keep "Rebels" as the school nickname. Black students boycotted the election. They have protested use of the name and of Confederate symbols. Of the school's enrollment of more than 1,300, only about 200 are Negroes.

Crabtree said he believed absenteeism would be "a little above normal" today but that fewer students would be away from school than yesterday. Normally, he said, the absentee rate ranges from 3-5 per cent. "If 70 students are out, it would be about normal."

Of the results of yesterday's quiet and orderly balloting, Crabtree said:

"This is the status, and I think the students are going to accept it."

South District Superinten-

dent Betty Gilkey said she did not want to comment on what the black students are going to do. "I have talked to

any since the vote," she said.

"Always in a democratic

society," Miss Gilkey added, "we have recognized that anybody has the right to reintroduce a subject." She added that high school students "have demonstrated a

pretty mature approach to some of their own problems."

After the results of yesterday's election were known, about 150 Negro parents and students decided at a special meeting last night to ask the

School Board tomorrow to eliminate South Dade High's use of Confederate symbols.

Odell Johns, who for several years has been a spokesman for South Dade Negro citizens, conducted the meeting.

There were indications during the discussion that some Negroes favor a boycott of white merchants in South Dade. Johns had said earlier that such a boycott was under consideration.

Crabtree said, "I certainly hope we can get back to normal operation now. I'd like to have a cooling-off period and get the youngsters to studying."

About 16 were suspended after several fist fights broke out at the school last Thursday in relation to the dispute.

In the voting yesterday, the white students also voted 979-72 to keep "Dixie" as the school song; 952-99 to keep the Confederate flag as the school emblem; 963-88 to let the school band continue to wear Confederate uniforms; 1,010-47 to keep blue and gray as the school colors; 976-75 to continue calling the student newspaper the Rebel Review.

School officials rescheduled South Dade's first football game of the year — to be played in Homestead against North Miami High — for 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

It was originally scheduled for Thursday night. Officials said the change was made "for security reasons."

# Racial Uneasiness Brings Switch in South Dade Game

South Dade High's football team will play North Miami Thursday at Harris Field as scheduled, but the game time has been changed from 8 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The move became necessary because of a controversy between Negro and white students concerning the school's nickname, "Rebels."

Yesterday students voted to keep that nickname. But acting principal Howard Crabtree, meeting with North Miami principal Dale Boggy, decided it would be safer to play the game during daylight hours.

"We figured with the situation the way it is, that it

would be better to avoid any possible trouble," said Crabtree. "We want to keep school in session."

Crabtree hopes the vote yesterday has settled the issue, so that the school's students can concentrate on their studies. "I'm hoping there is a moratorium declared so we can get the school operating," he said.

★ ★ ★

MIAMI  
NEWS  
9/17

# Let's Cheer For 'Dixie'?

To The Editor:

In a letter titled "Hardly The Time To Play 'Dixie,'" a writer publicly combines expression of new-found affection for the Miami Dolphins with his personal offense at the marching on of the Nation's Colors to the tune of 'Dixie.' Perhaps he is new to the South, or perhaps he objects specifically to being obliged to stand for Dixie as well as the Nation. I don't know. In any case, his remarks on diehard southerners, capped with his brilliant statement on similarly offending "even the most liberal among us," is undoubtedly one of the shortest, most concise pieces of ridicule ever to appear in your paper.

At the very least, the playing of "Dixie" for the presentation of the colors is more genuinely expressive of the American union than if the chosen march had been the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," or any other such tune of a predominantly Northern usage. Indeed, in light of the fact that the South was forcibly brought back into union with the United States, it would seem unlikely that we would even want "Dixie" played for such a ceremony. But, it is

## LETTERS From Our Readers



Presenting The Colors

more than appropriate for the occasion.

We of Southeast Florida claim to be among the leaders of the "New South." I can think of no more concrete example of this new spirit than the symbolic union upon a football field of the reunion of the Nation. Perhaps fewer Southerners would harbor secessionist feeling if there

were less bigotry (if I may use the word on the part of others.

GEORGE A. HUGHAN, Hialeah

★ ★ ★

To The Editor:

The letter by Capt. Peter McPharlane was in poor taste, to say the least.

I am a southerner and proud of it. A few seasons ago I sat in a northern football stadium and watched two fine pro football teams in action, one northern and one southern. At halftime, a band marched to the colors and to the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy." I did not hear the tune "Dixie" played that day. Well, I might have gotten my dander up at that time, as Capt. McPharlane seems to have done here, and fired off a protest letter to the local newspaper editor saying that the playing of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" at that time was in poor taste, to say the least, since it is the rallying cry of the Northern Dam-Yankee Liberals. However, I did not. If I had, the statement would have been just as asinine, ludicrous, and inaccurate, but no more so, than was the good Capt. McPharlane's statement that the song "Dixie" is still the rallying cry of Die-Hard Southerners who still may be in favor of secession from the Union.

Seems that, according to the Captain's point of view, it depends on what part of the country you're from as to whether a song is in good taste or bad.

ROBERT COLLIER

Captain, AUS (Ret.), Miami

## Trouble, Not Education, Is The Aim Of A Few

Editor, The News Leader:

I, a senior, at South Dade, am very concerned over the issue at this school.

First, I'd like to say I have no prejudice against the black students because they're black. What I do have against them is that the ones that don't know how to act have to start all kinds of trouble, whether over a name (Rebels) or over thinking we're against them because of their color, and make it bad for the others.

\* \*  
**FURTHERMORE**, myself and others are sick of being stopped in the halls, being bumped into on the way to classes, and stared at by the few that are there just to fight and cause trouble, not for an education.

We feel this should be brought to a halt immediately. If the members of the faculty or administration are afraid to stop this, then what can we, the student body, do?

We can't take on everyone at once, and besides that we

don't want violence. But this is what is going to happen. We're going to get so much crammed at us we aren't going to be able to take any more and so something is going to give.

Don't take me wrong: This is no threat. It's just a fact.

I see no right in the black students coming to our school and demanding the name, color flag, fight song, etc. be changed. They knew when they came these things were ours. They also have no authority to come to us and tell us what Rebel means to us.

\* \*  
**BUT I'LL** tell you this much; it means South Dade could be a place where students (both black and white) would be proud to go if these few students (trouble-makers) would be dealt with immediately.

I say long live the South Dade Rebels.

**SHARON CASH**

...Senior '69

(Editor's Note: Miss Cash's letter was accompanied by 33 signatures.)

## Confederate Symbols Should Be Phased Out

Robert E. Lee threw the towel in as far as the Confederacy was concerned more than 100 years ago and we suggest that South Dade do the same thing today.

This business of waving the Confederate or Rebel battle flag is and has been an exercise in divisiveness that has no place in a modern and sophisticated era.

**THE FLAG** is inextricably and undeniably linked with an earlier and unhappier time in our history, and all the tons of conversation currently rampant will not undo the fact.

The flag and related symbols are unhappy reminders to an awakening black population of a long and generally painful period of servitude. Whites can pooh-pooh this all they like without altering the basic fabric by as much as a thread. The vote by the white students to retain the symbols was a victory that inevitably will lead to a defeat of harmonious race relations. The argument that the will of the majority should prevail is not applicable in a situation so fraught with moral overtones.

While the feelings of the whites may be hurt for awhile, the condition will ease to the point where it eventually becomes forgotten. But as more and more blacks become students at the school feeling against the symbols will increase proportionately.

**MISSING IN** this tragedy of errors has been the voice of moderation in the community. Instead sides have been taken and little thought given to compromise. The most encouraging aspect of the whole matter has been the establishment of a bi-racial committee.

It is a sad commentary on the community that it has been largely incapable of recognizing the issue for what it really is. Rather than trying to place the blame on outside agitators, that time could have been more effectively spent in a rational and level-headed examination of the symbols and their relationship to today's society.

We have suggested earlier that the symbols should be phased out and other non-abrasive ones substituted. A logical compromise, it seems to us, would be to phase out the Confederate flag this year and the other symbols in successive years.

In a three-year span the sources of irritation could be dispatched and a new era spirited in with symbols that would nourish and encourage respectable race relations at the school, in addition to another little item called education.

**IT IS** difficult to see how much in the way of the latter is being accomplished in the present atmosphere of dissension. Education and the type of dissension currently under way at South Dade are not compatible.

It's time students at South Dade stopped being SOULS and Rebels and started being students again.

By RALPH RENICK

**UNWITTINGLY**, a church-sponsored kindergarten in an affluent South Dade neighborhood has put its finger squarely on the tumultuous problem of ghetto living.

Parents of youngsters attending the school were summoned to a meeting.

The kindergarten director faced the all-white audience of upper middle-class mothers and fathers and proceeded to tell them of the importance of parent-child relationships.

**THE CHILD** guidance session ended with the parents being given a paper on which was printed the following:

### Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity, he learns to be sorry for himself.

If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition, he learns to have a goal.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns what justice is.

If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself.

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

**CONSIDERING** the squalid surroundings, the broken families, the crowded dwelling units, and the jungle-like environment of human habitation is it any wonder that disadvantaged children grow up with maladjustments and believes that the world really isn't such a nice place in which to live.

This points up in a different way that we really have two worlds existing within this country. Those living in the sub-culture world have their frustrations heightened by full cognizance of the luxuries and privileges of the world which supports privately-operated kindergartens.

**THERE IS** no definite solution to the problem, but a good place to start would be for the affluent world to attempt to individually get to know its poor counterpart. For example; apply the credo of child guidance principles to the underprivileged neighborhoods to discover how children there "learn what THEY live."

M/L  
9/17

HERALD  
9/17



—Herald Staff Photo by JIM BIRMINGHAM

**Negro Leader Makes a Point at Meeting in Homestead**  
... Bill Miles of the Florida Council of Human Relations

## Negroes to Ask Board To Ditch Name 'Rebels'

About 150 Negro parents and students agreed at a special meeting Monday night to ask the Dade School Board to eliminate South Dade High School's Confederate symbols.

At a meeting in a Homestead Negro church called to map united action protesting South Dade's Old South trappings, the Negroes agreed to send a delegation Wednesday to meet with the Board.

If the Board fails to find a solution, they indicated they may boycott South Dade stores and the students may skip their South Dade classes.

The meeting was prompted by a student vote — boycotted by Negroes — approving retention of Confederate symbols at the school. More than 1,000 students approved keeping the name "Rebels" and other symbols by roughly a 10 to 1 margin.

Most participants at the church meeting favored a confrontation with the School Board in an effort to eliminate the symbols of Confederacy; some called for a boycott of white-owned stores in the school area.

"Let's give them (the School Board) more time,"

Mrs. Corrine Mays suggested. "Then if we can't get it solved, then if I have to die for my rights let me die. It doesn't make any difference."

Her statement drew loud applause and appeared to echo a widespread sentiment.

A generation gap threatened the meeting at one point when the Rev. Theodore Gibson of Coconut Grove, past president of the Miami NAACP chapter, arose to emphasize the importance of local Negro unity.

He turned during his talk to face a group of Black Brothers for Progress — who had come down from the Liberty City area — and said he would not tolerate interruptions.

Later, however, Gibson and Wille Sims, a Black Brothers leader, rose to say any misunderstanding between them had been eliminated.

Other Negro leaders at the meeting included Mrs. James H. Parris, local president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Poor People's Campaign; Bill Miles of the Florida Council of Human Relations; and officials of EOPI, the local poverty program.

Conducting the meeting was Odell Johns, South Dade bail bondsman and political leader.

On a proposed boycott, Johns had said it "may seem unfair. But it is also unfair," he said, "for black students to participate in school activities in which Confederate symbols and names are used."

Those "symbols and names" approved by students Monday included the Rebel nickname, keeping "Dixie" the school song and the Confederate flag the school emblem, to dress the band in Confederate uniforms, to retain the blue-and-grey school colors, and to continue call-

ing the school newspaper the Rebel Review.

School officials said apparently none of the 130 Negro students — about 10 per cent of the newly-integrated school's student body — participated in the election. Ten Negro mothers served as poll watchers.

Acting Principal Howard Crabtree announced Monday the school's football game with North Miami had been rescheduled to 3:30 p.m. Thursday for security reasons.

On the election, he said it is "many times harder to be a winner than a loser. I hope the winners won't chide the losers."

# Blacks To Take Case Back To School Board

Parents of black students at racially-torn South Dade High School called Monday night for "taking this hot potato from our children and throwing it right back to the school board, where it came from."

At a meeting in St. Paul Baptist Church, Homestead, students and parents were joined by leaders of Negro organizations throughout Dade County.

Included were representatives of the Black Brothers for Progress from Liberty City; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Poor People's Campaign; the Florida Council of Human Relations; Economic Opportunity Program; United Black Students from

University of Miami, and several officers of the Dade organization of Black Muslims.

Odell Johns, bail bondsman and black political leader in South Dade, moderated the meeting.

Some of the 150 people attending urged a boycott of local merchants to "fight the white racists in their pocketbook, where it hurts."

Others favored the calling of a school boycott by black students countywide, as a means of forcing action to eliminate the Rebel name and confederacy-linked symbols used by South Dade High School.

Johns called the large meeting "too unwieldy" and asked for an executive committee

session of Negro leaders of communities from Florida City to Richmond Heights.

The session, which met behind locked doors while the large group disbanded, resulted in a three-step course of action:

- Early appearance to urge the school board to void results of a student vote, and order the name and symbols changed.

- Simultaneously, a setting-up of machinery to boycott stores, with those in the general Homestead area to be picketed first.

- Coordination with county-wide Negro organizations to plan for a total, countywide

## Time Of Game May Be Switched

By PAUL J. EGAN  
Sports Editor

Howard Crabtree, acting principal at South Dade High School, said this morning the upcoming football opener against North Miami scheduled for Thursday night undoubtedly will be played during the daylight hours.

Crabtree said he would meet with district school officials and representatives of the Florida Gold Coast Conference to discuss and finalize plans for the opener.

"It's pretty safe to say the game will not be played at night but as to what day, and where, we are still undecided.

Crabtree said all these pertinent facts will be announced following this afternoon's meeting.

Coach Ed Sullivan of the North Miami High School football team said this morning he has not been informed of any changes in plans for Thursday's game with South Dade at Harris Field in Homestead.

Sullivan said the first time he was aware of such a report was in Sunday's edition of the Miami Herald.

"Until informed otherwise we are going ahead with preparations for the opener against the Rebels," Sullivan said.

"We also intend to bring our band and encourage our adult supporters to make the trip," he added.

Sullivan said four members of his team are Negroes and that many more black students play in the band.

## Black...

(Continued from Page 1)

boycott of schools by all black students.

Johns told The News Leader his group wants to exhaust all administrative remedies first, and is going to the school board in the hope that the problem can be resolved in a peaceful basis.

If it cannot, then the boycott machinery will be activated, and arrangements for a school boycott will be firmed up, he said.

"If it gets bogged down, we'll escalate it into other communities, because this isn't just a student problem, nor even just a community problem — it's of concern to everyone," he stated.

"I hope the entire community — black and white — uses wisely the time (while the black group seeks school board action) to resolve this situation, because once these remedies have been exhausted, the point of no return has been reached," Johns told this newspaper.

"Then other black groups will come in and lend whatever support we need to settle this thing by other means... no right-thinking person wants that."

Johns obviously referred to militant feelings expressed by representatives of Miami-based black organizations at the meeting last night.

In referring to 'outsiders', Johns said the South Dade community "hasn't even seen how many outsiders are interested and want to come in and settle this.

"I'm trying to tell the white man that we've got a chance to solve this thing before bad trouble happens.

"If the school board can phase out black schools, they can phase out a nickname."

Johns said he is reasonably certain that the request for school board action will be ignored and that "the board is gonna tell you that the voice of the majority has spoken."

He described the majority voice as "a prejudiced voice — a racist voice," and urged blacks to "fight white racists in their pocketbooks" and to "get off your knees and stop begging."

N/L  
9/17/68

For Thursday Afternoon

# Rebel Opener Rescheduled

The South Dade High School and North Miami football opener has been rescheduled for play at 3:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon it was announced this morning by acting Principal Howard Crabtree.

The announcement came following a meeting Monday afternoon of school officials and district school personnel.

Following is the official statement issued by Crabtree concerning the switch in starting time.

"The game between South Dade and North Miami Senior Highs, scheduled for Thurs-

day night at Harris Field has been rescheduled for 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

**We have had many suggestions that the game be postponed, however we are rescheduling the game for 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 as planned.**

I have full confidence in the student body and the community of South Dade. I do not feel it necessary to postpone the game and feel sure they will enter this event with esprit de corps."

The game has been rescheduled due to the recent racial problems that have plagued

South Dade since the opening of school.

In a meeting Thursday the SD student body voted to retain its nickname "Rebels" and its symbols, the Confederate flag and Rebel styled band uniforms.

**This will be the first contest of the season for both North Miami and South Dade.**

The Rebels, coached by Leo Martin, posted a 7-1-2 record in 1967 and will be slight favorites to win the opener.

North Miami, coached by Ed Sullivan, has not defeated SD

for the last two seasons; losing 14-13 in 1967 and 13-0 in 1966. The Pioneers and Rebels fought to a 13-13 tie in 1965.

Martin is expected to start an offensive backfield combination of Randy McMichael at quarterback with Terry Graham, Brian Houston and Maurice Graff.

North Miami, 4-6, in 1967, has lettermen back including first string fullback Bob Seales. Other key Pioneer personnel are: Defensive backs Dave Maxam, and John Thomas, Middle uard Mike Sharfor and Halfback John Lane.