

N/A 10/18

# South Dade Transfer Seniors May Face Graduation Problems

South Dade High School was awaiting today the return of parent - signed transfer slips to find out just how many of its 130 enrolled black students will actually switch to another school because of the current Confederate symbol controversy.

Meanwhile, there were indications that some seniors in the group will face graduation credit problems if they make the shift.

South district office supervisor Miss Elizabeth Gilkey pointed out the problem this morning. Most of the students who've indicated they want to

transfer have asked to attend Mays High School, which does not offer some of the courses available at South Dade.

"One senior, for example, is taking French at South Dade — and this isn't offered at Mays," Miss Gilkey said. "Three others are enrolled in South Dade's vocational office education course, and that isn't available at Mays either.

"These students have been warned of the credit difficulties they'll get into if they transfer," she added, "and urged to think very seriously before taking the step."

Ninety-one of the 130 black students at South Dade reported to Mays High Thursday aft-

er the school board voted to permit the transfers until the Rebel symbol controversy is settled.

"The day before, indications were that three wanted to transfer to Killian High, but two of those three were at Mays yesterday," Miss Gilkey said.

The students who showed up at Mays yesterday were given letters to take home for parents to sign approving their children's transfer. The signed letters were supposed to be taken to South Dade High today so that withdrawal could be arranged, books turned in and lockers cleaned out.

Since today is a teachers work day, all Dade County school students are on holiday except for seniors who are taking state-wide tests. For this reason it probably won't be known until Monday how many students actually will transfer, said Miss Gilkey.

Of the 130 black students enrolled at South Dade, only 14 attended that school Thursday — a drop of four from the day before. Miss Gilkey said she didn't know how many of the 14 are seniors. With 91 at Mays and 14 at South Dade, there remained 25 black students who stayed out of school altogether yesterday.)

The group which went to Mays yesterday included 15 seniors, she added.

All the students considering a transfer are being asked to weigh the matter very seriously, Miss Gilkey said. The school board resolution adopted Wednesday was included in the letter sent home to parents of students wishing to transfer. The resolution urges the students to "stay in their own community" — meaning South Dade High.

The school board decision doesn't include bus transportation for students wishing to transfer to Mays or Killian.

10/19

# Council to Urge 'Rebel' Dispute Ruling by Board

## Resolution Planned Monday

By **BILL BLOSS**

Homestead Bureau Chief  
Homestead councilmen are expected to take speedy action Monday on a resolution urging the Dade County School Board to rule on the stormy Confederate symbolism issue at South Dade High School.

Only 15 of the high school's Negro students are still in attendance, the others have transferred to Mays High School in Goulds. None of the black students are expected to go to Killian High School.

**HOMESTEAD** Mayor Bill Dickinson says the dispute between blacks and whites over use of the Rebel symbols should be resolved by the courts. By forcing the school board to make a decision, objectors to the decision can appeal to the courts, he believes. Dickinson says attempts to settle the issue through a bi-racial committee meeting with the school board, have failed.

The mayor contends that the school board tried to side-step the issue, refusing to accept its responsibility, and widened the breach between whites and blacks, not only in South Dade, but throughout the county.

Homestead community leaders believe the town had made great strides in breaking down racial barriers. Many are convinced that Odell Johns, spokesman for the black protest, is waging a personal vendetta because he was crowded out of the bail bond business in Homestead and Florida City.

**RECORDS** in Homestead and Florida City show that Johns still writes bonds and is licensed to do business. A resident of Goulds, Johns is a successful businessman with an insurance agency in Perrine and rental property in the Goulds-Perrine area.

Dickinson said he hopes Johns' group will also urge school board action on the issue to take it before the courts.

# School Name Dispute Action Is Demanded

## 'Rebels,' Race At Issue

By **BILL BLOSS**  
Homestead Bureau Chief

Homestead councilmen Monday called for "positive action" by the Dade County School Board to reach "a definite conclusion" on the South Dade High School Confederacy symbolism controversy.

The resolution claims "the situation has had, is having and will have, if permitted to continue, a detrimental effect upon the lives, safety and welfare of the citizens of this community and its environs." An "early decision (by the board) would prove of benefit not only to the students of South Dade High School, but to all citizens of this area," the resolution further states.

Earlier in the meeting, the council received a resolution from the Homestead Community Relations Board asking Homestead, Florida City, the Florida City Community Relations Board and the Dade County Community Relations Board to "meet and reach a definite decision" on the issue. Homestead CRB Chairman John McLean said the Everglades National Park Human Relations Committee also supports the plan and has advised the school board.

THE CRB chairman introduced Mrs. Ida Mae Robinson who said many of the people in the Negro community are concerned with the way the problem has been handled. She told the council that eight persons have signed a statement favoring immediate School Board action. She said at least 30 more persons from the black community will sign. "What is happening in our community is not the way to handle the problem," Mrs. Robinson stated.

Growing tensions between whites and blacks have caused many of the black students at South Dade High School to transfer to Mays High School. A bi-racial committee, appointed to work with the school board to settle the Rebel dispute, has failed to come up with a solution.

### CONCERNED PARENTS

Organization, made up of parents of South Dade students or pupils who attend feeder schools in the South Dade High network, adopted a resolution last week calling for a school board settlement of the problem.

CPO president Tommy Dolar said a decision of the board, if opposed, can be appealed to the courts, thus taking the burden of settling the problem off the shoulders of parents who are emotionally involved in the conflict.

N/L 10/22

By Council, CRB

# Act Now In Rebel Fuss, Board Urged

By VIRGINIA AMENDT

Homestead City Council called on the Dade school board to reach a definite conclusion on the South Dade High School Rebel symbols controversy, in a resolution adopted unanimously Monday night.

The Council also received a similar resolution from the city's Community Relations Board, adopted by the CRB Friday.

Both pointed to the detrimental effect which failure by the school board to take a firm policy

stand on the symbols dispute is having on the Greater Homestead community.

The controversy, provoked when black students at South Dade demanded the Confederate symbols be dropped as derogatory reminders of slavery, has had the community in turmoil for weeks.

Mrs. Ida Mae Robinson of 527 SW Sixth Terrace attended the Council meeting and spoke up in support of the Community Relations Board resolution, adding that she had backing of some 30 others in Homestead's Negro community in a call for action by the school board.

Mayor William Dickinson welcomed Mrs. Robinson's statements as "the first indication we've had officially" that black parents feel school board "vacillation" on the question is detrimental to the community.

The call for a firm school board policy decision is evidence of a growing feeling that this is the only way an orderly outcome to the dispute can be reached. A bi-racial parents committee failed after several meetings to reach any compromise.

Once the school board acts, its ruling can be formally protested in an orderly fashion, such as through the courts, by any group or individual objecting to the ruling, it's pointed out.

Meanwhile, there are signs that racial tension has relaxed — for the time being at least — following the transfer the end of last week of most of the black students at South Dade High, at their parents' request, to all-Negro Mays High pending a solution of the symbols dispute.

One such sign came when the City Council voted Monday night to table two proposals by City Manager Olaf Pearson, for establishing a volunteer reserve police force for the city and for purchasing \$5,000 worth of riot control equipment for the police department. Pearson left town Friday for a two-week vacation in Michigan, and the Council voted to table action on the proposals until his return.

Both recommendations were prompted in part by a potential-explosive racial situation and Pearson said when he disclosed the explosive racial situation and the proposals a week ago that he anticipated swift Council approval.

# Let Kids Solve

# School Ills, Panel Says

By SUSAN MILLER  
Herald Staff Writer

Student problems are best solved by the students themselves without outside pressures, a panel of three Dade high school principals agreed Tuesday.

Speaking at a seminar on human relations for school administrators, South Dade Principal Howard Crabtree predicted his students could have resolved the present controversy over the school's symbols if parents and others had remained out of the conflict.

"The student influence was broken by the commu-

nity pressure," Crabtree said.

HE INDICATED there can be no immediate solution now regardless of whether South Dade keeps or abandons its nickname, Rebels, and its school song, "Dixie." "Because no matter what decision is made, it's not going to be accepted by one group or the other," Crabtree added.

Miami Edison Principal William Duncan gave much of the credit to solving black students' requests last spring for more representation in school activities to his student body's willingness to cooperate.



*'The student influence was broken by community pressure'*  
Howard Crabtree  
Principal  
South Dade High School

"Kids of both races want the best for their school," he said.

Miami Northwestern Prin-

cipal Samuel O. Cohen said one of main aims is to change old patterns of Negro teachers being strict authoritarians with black students,

because "now we have a generation filled with disbelief and distrust. We are faced with them not listening to us, so we have to listen to them and let them do more."

THE PANEL took a frank look at individual school problems — past and present — in an effort to keep future problems from developing.

"The more teachers you have, who are interested in finding out what students are thinking, the better you are," Duncan advised.

He recommended school personnel hire teachers, who can be "absolutely fair" in dealing with students regardless of race or religion.

White teachers should avoid calling a Negro student "boy," Cohen said. "I can get away with it where a white

teacher can't," he added. "Learn their names fast."

WHILE SOUTH DADE and Edison have had inter-racial problems Northwestern is facing pressure from a Black Power segment of its students and parents to make the school's faculty 100 per cent black, according to Cohen. Presently, white teachers at the all-Negro school comprise about 15 per cent of the staff.

Crabtree called for teachers and principals to develop means of teaching students to think independently "without being accused by parents of brainwashing."

HERALD  
10/23

## 2 Police Forces Screen Applicants

A Florida City police recruit began training at the Dade County police academy, this week and patrolman Maurice Boley withdrew his resignation, leaving the department short one man.

In Homestead, only six of eleven applicants qualified for acceptance by the department this week. Tests were given to fill six new openings and to replace three officers resigning to take jobs with the Dade County Schools security division.

Both local departments have authorized pay increases for all ratings, but the pay scale of other departments in the county makes the Homestead and Florida City jobs less attractive.

THE NEW Florida City

trainee is Marshall D. Brooks, 27, of 648 NW First Street. He is a recently discharged Air Force veteran. Police Chief Willie Fasulo says he is still looking for a Negro officer to fill a recently created position on the department.

In the case of Homestead and Florida City, there have been more applicants than positions available, but too many men failed to qualify for various reasons. Both departments declined to comment on reasons for rejecting applicants.

The officers leaving the Homestead Department, Eugene McAllister, Vernon Jackson and Jerry Dodson, are veterans with a combined service of over 30 years on the Homestead departments.

## Florida City Raps Board 'Inaction'

By BILL BLOSS  
Homestead Bureau Chief

Florida City added its backing Tuesday to a growing South Dade drive urging immediate action by the Dade County School Board to decide the South Dade High School "Rebel" controversy.

A resolution adopted by the city commission says the school board by its inaction has caused the split between blacks and whites of the community. Like resolutions adopted by Homestead, the Concerned Parents Organization, the Homestead Community Relations Board and the Homestead-South Dade Chamber of Commerce, Florida City puts responsibility squarely on the Board's

shoulders and insists on a ruling.

In other action, Florida City adopted a lot-clearing ordinance to force clearing of overgrown and trash-laden property. Failure to clean up unsightly grounds will bring the property owner a bill from the city and eventually a lien if the owner refuses to pay.

A civil service ordinance, up for third and final reading, was tabled for the second time for further study in a commission work session.

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N/K  
10/23



PROTESTOR carries sign in mothers' march in front of News Leader this morning, staged after newspaper carried account of another black mother's appearance before

Homestead City Council. Protest marchers said the woman, Mrs. Ida Robinson, doesn't speak for black community.

—Staff Photo by Ed Oberlies

### Over Council Statement

# Blacks Lodge Protest At Newspaper Office

About a dozen black mothers staged a short protest march in front of the News Leader office in Homestead this morning, in objection to statements by Mrs. Ida Mae Robinson, another black mother, made before the Homestead City Council Monday night and printed in Tuesday's News Leader.

Mrs. Robinson appeared before the Council to endorse a Community Relations Board resolution urging the Dade

school board to make a decision on the South Dade High School Rebel symbol question which has had the community stirred up for weeks. She told the Council she had spoken with many other black parents who shared her feelings that the school board should reach an early decision on the controversial issue.

The protesting mothers carried signs bearing slogans. Among them were: "Ida Rob-

inson doesn't speak for the black community." "School board decision on Nov. 6." "No Uncle Tom can speak for us, the black mothers." "We speak for ourselves. The whites cannot pick anyone for us." "We will not force the board to make a decision for us."

Odell Johns and Mrs. Thomasina Hunter, who organized the brief protest march, said it was not aimed against The News Leader. This paper, as well as the Miami Herald, carried reports the following day about Mrs. Robinson's appearance before the City Council.

The Council also adopted a resolution Monday night urging the school board to act, as the continuing dispute was detrimental to the community. Since the dispute erupted about two months ago when black students at South Dade High demanded removal of the Rebel symbols as derogatory reminders of slavery, the school board has failed to adopt any policy on whether to let the symbols remain or order them banned.

Johns said "We don't think the board should be pushed into a decision. We've made plans to appear before the board on Nov. 6."

School Superintendent Dr. Edward Whigham is scheduled to present his recommendation on the symbols matter to the board on that date. However, the board won't take any action on the recommendation until its next meeting two weeks later — in line with its rules of procedure that no policy matter is discussed until the meeting after the one at which it is presented.

N/L 10/24

## It's A Question Of 'Democracy'

Editor, The News Leader:

In regard to the issue at South Dade High, it seems to me that if a survey were taken throughout the south, hundreds of schools using Confederate symbols would not want to do away with them either. Like here in Falls Church and northern Virginia.

Many of the students are descendants of Confederate soldiers. Even Frank McIlwain's (of Homestead) father was at the Battle of Bull Run when the men stood like a "stone wall" with General Jackson. "Mr. Mac" said his father was shot three times in the face during the battle.

Around Fredericksburg, Va., where the large battles were held, as many as 15,000 men were killed. Many gravestones are inscribed with CSA signifying that the deceased was a soldier for the Confederate States of America.

These symbols are held dear

to these people! Now when someone comes forth with the idea to the effect that all that was all bad and we should do away with them, they certainly will have a fight on their hands!

At J.E.B. Stuart High here in Falls Church, the custom during a football game is to fire a huge Civil War cannon when J. E. B. Stuart makes a touchdown! Anyone who is offended at the sound of "Dixie" would probably "commit suicide" when they hear that thing go off!

If anyone asks this school to do away with their Confederate symbols (which would also be their name) the answer would surely be "over their dead body!"

If I understand it correctly, the school voted to keep these symbols with vote count running about 90 per cent yes to 10 per cent no. Therefore the subject of symbols should not be brought up again! The whole question is whether or not DEMOCRACY shall prevail at South Dade High!

Now, we live just outside Washington D. C. which is "riot country." They have had four nights of it in the last few days!

I say any group that can win an issue with a 10 per cent minority vote and a left-handed threat of riots is like the story of the poker player who won the hand because he held two fours and a .44!

If this situation was in reverse, it would behoove the whites to respect the vote count also!

**ORVAL M. IRWIN**  
Falls Church, Va.

## LIFE WITH LARRY THOMPSON



# 'Dixie' Was Fairly Won

**MY GRANDFATHER,** Robert Thompson, saw Abraham Lincoln twice and shook hands with him once. Until his death, in his 90s, the memory of those two

occasions was hallowed to him.

Born in Allegheny County, Pa., he served with the Army of the Potomac throughout the Civil War. During those years he rose to the high rank of corporal. His older brother was killed in the battle of Winchester, his parents were dead, and at the end of the war he was literally without home or family. He went to Kansas where he worked hard, married, raised a large family and argued loud and long for his opinions, of which he had many.

When he couldn't find anybody to argue with, Grandpaw would write letters to the editor. It got so he was such a frequent contributor that The Manhattan Mercury carried his letters as a regular feature. I guess he was the first columnist in our family.

I recently came across an old clipping, on browning and crisp paper. It was one of my grandfather's letters in The Mercury, and it was about Lincoln and the song "Dixie." Grandpaw would be amused, and delighted, I am sure, to know that his recollections are being quoted by his grandson in 1968.

"After Lee surrendered," he wrote, "our regiment was stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia.

"They were going to serenade Lincoln on account of the good news, and our band was going so quite a number of us took French leave and went to the serenade.

"It seemed that all the bands in and around Washington were there, and after patriotic band music for some time, the President appeared and thanked them and said that he had consulted the attorney general and he decided that 'Dixie' was ours and fairly won. He asked the band to give us a turn on it.

"The Marine band led off, the other bands joined in, and with their souls ablaze with the fire of victory, they played Dixie as it never was played before and perhaps never will be played again.

"It brought forth tears as well as cheers.

"Although it occurred 66 years ago, it was a happy moment in my life and is still fresh in my memory. 'God bent the strenuous heavens and came down and made a man to fill the mortal need and gave us Lincoln.'

"His name is revered by all lovers of liberty..."

## CPO Plans Trip To School Board

Concerned Parents Organization is chartering buses to the Nov. 6 school board meeting at which Rebel symbols and names for South Dade High School will be discussed.

That is the date on which School Supt. Dr. Edward Whigham is to present to the board a resolution spelling out Dade school policy on the use of names and symbols that could be demeaning or insulting to any student.

CPO officials today urged all members, associate members and friends to attend the meeting, which begins at 1 p.m. in the Lindsay Hopkins Building at 1410 NE Second Ave., Miami.

They anticipate that several hundred will reserve bus space at \$3.50 per person, in addition to those using their own cars for the trip.

The CPO has waged an organized campaign to keep the school's Rebel nickname, song Dixie, Confederate battle flag, Johnny - Reb - type band uniforms, Rebel Review school newspaper name, and colors blue and gray — symbols to which an organization of black students object strenuously and demand they be changed.

Deadline for reserving seats on the chartered buses is noon Saturday. Reservations are being accepted by Ellie Peeples, 247-7909; Esther Peeples, 247-4994, and M. T. Caldwell, 247-7312.

N/L 10/25

# Love Will Conquer All

Editor, The News Leader:

To the concerned people, both white and black, of South Dade:

I have read the newspaper until my eyes hurt and I have not read a true statement yet from either side about South Dade.

The whites have been calling the blacks militant, communist, etc. The blacks have been calling the whites racists. The whites say the blacks are full of hate and evil. The blacks say the same about the white.

When I sit and listen to this sort of thing I wonder what is love, I wonder where are the people who call themselves Christians (and that means to be like Christ). Believe me, Christ got more done by loving than anyone did by hating.

One portion of the Bible reads, "Come let us reason together." Why can't people learn to put ideas together and they will surely work. If you put your idea with my idea we will have two ideas, and we are a step ahead. But, if you use all of your ideas and say mine are no good you are going backward. Why can't something be taken out and something put in and everyone await the result?

I will tell you why. Because both, white and black, are talking love and are not living it. When you love someone you can so very easily work with them. I am so glad I have enough love for everyone — even my enemy.

We are not heroes of the

Bible, but the Bible is repeating itself.

If God, who needs none of us, loved us so much that he made a world, made us, put us in it, gave us dominion over it and then gave his Son as ransom for our sins after we messed it up, surely we can live together in it, in peace.

Who is to say who is the

greatest when we were all made from one Adam and one Eve? So, you see, we are hating our sisters and brothers when we hate each other.

So, let us love one another and work together instead of hating and fighting each other.

I hope you all will get the message.

W. A. B.

## Parents to Be Bused To School Board Meet

By **BILL BLOSS**

Homestead Bureau Chief

The Dade County School Board will play to a full house of South Dade Residents when it meets next week.

Chartered buses will haul members of the Concerned Parents Organization to the board meeting. The CPO, in a show of strength, will back a resolution asking the board to decide the controversial "Rebel" issue at South Dade High School.

Resolutions urging a school board decision have come from the Homestead City Council, Florida City Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and other groups. Several Negro groups have also added their voices to the appeal.

The round trip to the Lindsey Hopkins building will cost \$3.50 for each person taking the bus.

The demand for a change of the Confederate symbolism at the high school north of Homestead, was started by a group of Negro students. When school officials failed to take immediate action, parents of South Dade High School students began organizing to find a solution.

A bi-racial committee was organized to meet with the school board for a try at a compromise. The committee gave up after several meetings failed to show progress.

CPO President Tommy Dolar told his group that a school board decision would be subject to appeal in the courts. He said the CPO Executive Committee believes the controversy is one best decided in a court of law, if the board decision is not satisfactory to either side.

Only a handful of Negro students remain at South Dade High School. About 90 percent transferred to Mays High School in Goulds, when the inter-racial discussions bogged down. Leaders of the black students say those who transferred will not return to South Dade as long as the school keeps its "Rebel" image.

The school board will meet Nov. 6. Dr. Edward Whigam, superintendent of schools, is expected to present a resolution of board policy on use of names and symbols in Dade County schools.

N/L 10/28

## GUEST EDITORIALS: Two Views

# Let's Keep 'Dixie'

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Printed below is an editorial from "The Florida Alligator," student newspaper at the University of Florida, and a companion piece of dissent from its news editor on the "Dixie" controversy. Both are reprinted for those readers who might be interested.)  
Let's keep "Dixie."

The charges that this traditional fight song at southern universities is "racist" border on the absurd.

"Dixie" is, plain and simple, a song about the proud heritage of a genteel people. It is a song about stubbornness, defeat and ultimate rising up again of the South. It is a song

about a culture that died when hundreds of thousands of men were felled in a war between brothers.

There are those who argue that "Dixie" conjures up tragic memories in the history of the South, reminders of the day when the South was ruled by a wealthy, landed gentry, an aristocracy born with the blood, sweat, tears and broken bodies of black people.

True. Let none dispute that slavery — dastardly and inhumane though it was — was very much a part of the South's heritage.

True. Black men who were kidnapped from Africa and sold into bondage to the highest bid-

der built the sprawling cotton plantations of the ante-bellum South.

But slavery was only part of the South.

The South has an enduring image of gentility and chivalry. Courtesy, friendliness, hospitality, warmth — they too, were part of the South. Education, in the arts, music, letters, was of primary concern to the parents — both white and black — of the South.

Perhaps the most significant heritage of the South is her people's pride.

For all that was rotten and decadent in the old South, he had cultural attributes of which her people should well be

proud.

After the war, the people of the South, both black and white, had to begin rebuilding their society. From the broken and twisted body of the old South, a new South was slowly and painfully built by blacks and whites together.

There should be no shame or humiliation in that.

But shame, humiliation, prejudice, racism, man's hatred of other men can be found in anything if suspicious people search long and hard.

Because "Dixie" symbolizes the heritage of the South — the whole South — the Gator Band should play the song loudly. And proudly.



# Let's Dump 'Dixie'

Today the Florida Alligator is running an editorial favoring continued inclusion of the song "Dixie" as part of the UF Gator Band repertoire. The decision was duly made in an editorial board meeting with only one dissenting vote. Mine.

Part of the rationale accompanying the decision was that "Dixie" stands for much that is good in Southern tradition; that by logical extension, a ny number of songs might be similarly excluded; that, since the majority of students seem to want "Dixie," the majority should hold sway.

Some good reasons. But not good enough, I think.

It's a pity that, of all the is-

sues to which the Alligator might usefully contribute, the Alligator chose the patronage of a tradition it can ill afford to support.

It is true that there is much good in Southern tradition. Unfortunately, the good is poorly represented by a song that, for all its innocence of language, served as the rallying cry for a movement that was not only racist and divisive, but also led to the needless death of millions of Americans.

The good that was part of the Southern tradition concerned the virtues of chivalry, gentility, courage. But those virtues were woven on a loom of blind, prejudiced aristocracy.

That was Dixie.

It is true that, by extension, a great deal of purely inoffensive material might be purged from the ranks of both music and literature. But that extension works equally well in the opposite direction. We might become so callous to what is hurtful and distasteful that what we do finally appeals to only a plurality and not a complete majority. In both cases discretion and sensitivity must mark our boundaries.

It is finally true that the majority voice must be well heeded. But a respected historical interpretation of democracy calls for "the greatest good

for the greatest number." It is with considerable care that we should elect to prefer what is to us a cheerful melody, a pride of geographical location, when to others it holds four hundred years of heartbreak, a song which breeds resentment in whose to whom its cheerful spirit is obviously not meant to apply.

In the best of the Southern tradition and in a decent measure of humanity, we would do well to hold to what is good and reject what is selectively painful.

Or, Hell no, they won't forget either.

JAMES COOK  
NEWS EDITOR

HERALD

11/2/68

# U.S. Fund Halt Asked in School Symbol Hassle

By JIM BUCHANAN AND SUSAN MILLER

Herald Staff Writers

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare was asked Friday to halt all federal funds to Dade County schools until South Dade High School's controversial symbols are "permanently removed" from the school.

The request was made by Odell T. Johns, president of the Black Parents of South Dade, and four parent members in a letter sent to HEW Secretary Wilbur J. Cohen.

**JOHNS ALSO** sent a companion letter to U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark seeking "the immediate commencement of legal action" against Dade's School Board "to eliminate the denial of the equal protection of the laws."

Copies of the letters were delivered to members of the press by Johns' attorney, Robert S. Kaufman.



**Odell Johns**

*... halt funds*

The Black Parents group have led the fight to change South Dade High's nickname, band uniforms and school song charging that the symbols are discriminatory to black students enrolled in the school.

**THE TWO-MONTH-OLD** controversy has resulted in a voluntary transfer of more than 100 of South Dade's 130 Negro students to all-Negro Mays High and has split the black and white communities of the area.

In his request to stop federal funds to all Dade schools, Johns denounced South Dade High's nickname of "Rebels," its Confederate band uniforms and its school song — "the Confederate government national anthem 'Dixie'" — as symbols of "an insurrectionary force or government . . . of slavery and oppression . . . of second-class citizenship."

**JOHNS ALSO** charged that Dade's school board "has adamantly refused to take action to remove such offensive symbols, thus forcing most black students to withdraw from this high school and enroll in a black segregated high school approximately 10 miles distant without bus facilities being provided."

In calling for a federal legal action against school board members, Johns claimed that "unwillingness of the part of the school board" to resolve South Dade High's symbol dispute "has caused racial tension and mass arming of parents and others on both sides" of the issue.

**SCHOOL BOARD** Attorney George C. Bolles termed Johns' action "premature" since the problem "is under consideration by the board at this time." The school board will meet Wednesday to adopt policies considering the symbols, Bolles added.

School officials also expressed confidence that the letters would not endanger Dade's approximately \$4 million appropriation in HEW funds.

When the South Dade High controversy erupted, board members tried to let the area parents and students solve the problem by appointing a bi-racial committee to find a compromise solution.

**But Uniforms, Flags Must Go at South Dade**

# 'Rebel' Nickname Allowed to Stand

*Continued*

By **GEORGIA MARSH**  
Herald Education Writer

South Dade High School can keep its "Rebel" nickname but has to dump its confederate band uniforms and the confederate flag and stop playing "Dixie."

The compromise in the racial controversy, which has kept the school and community in a turmoil since August, was made — at least on paper — by the School Board Wednesday.

However, neither white nor black parents who packed the board room would say if they will abide by the board's decision or fight it.

**THE COMPROMISE** was recommended by School Supt. Dr. Edward L. Whigham, who sought to end the weeks of wrangling which a specially constituted bi-racial group has been unable to solve.

The recommendation, accompanied by a plea for understanding on the part of both blacks and whites, was approved by a 5-2 vote.

Ted Slack Jr. and Holmes Braddock voted against it.

Slack said he felt that part of the recommendation, specifically that which dealt with the playing of "Dixie," was too vague and indefinite to be useful.

"**WE HAVE** decided we think we know what's best and we are going to make them do it, by God," he said.

Braddock said the board was being called upon to make a "moral judgment" on "what's wrong and what's right."

lem. An overwhelmingly white majority student body voted to keep the symbols.

Black students and parents refused to accept the one-sided election and appeared before the board again.

The settlement stipulates the school is to get money for new non-confederate band uniforms to be available next September. Students and staff members are to work out the design.

The school can, if it chooses, design its own flag, but cannot use the confederate flag as a school symbol.

**THE NICKNAME** "Rebel," and use of the colors blue and gray can be retained.

The most controversial portion of Whigham's compromise arose over when the song "Dixie" can or cannot be played.

The final interpretation was that Dixie cannot be used as a pep song at rallies, athletic events or other school activities. However the band, at its own discretion, can play the piece as a march, in concert or as an incidental piece of music in programs not designed as pep meetings.

The board also approved, on first reading, a county-wide policy prohibiting any school from using symbols which reflect in a derogatory manner upon the race, reli-

met unsuccessfully several times to reach a compromise.

Two weeks ago, at their own request, 95 black students voluntarily transferred out of South Dade and enrolled at the all-Negro Mays High School.

Wednesday, after adopting the compromise, the board gave the black students leeway to transfer back to South Dade or finish out the year at Mays.

Clergymen of three different faiths appeared before the board Wednesday to urge it to take a stand and reject the symbols that were splintering the community.

**DR. JOSEPH** Narot, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the symbols had come to mean rejection and oppression to the blacks.

Father David Russell, executive director of the Human Relations Board of the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami, told the board it was its "responsibility to see that nothing is allowed to interfere with education."

"This is not a problem for the students to handle," he said.

Bishop James Duncan of the Episcopal Diocese of South Florida said the "time has come to take the decision in your own hands whether you like it or not. Those things which are offensive must be put away."

**WHITE PARENTS**, members of the Concerned Parents Organization, asked the board to keep the symbols.

Jack Levy, spokesman for the group, said the symbols were simply being used as a "front" for a "disturbing element in the school."

"Taking away the symbols won't solve the problems," he said.

Odell Johns, spokesman for the blacks, told the board, "We, the parents of South Dade unequivocally refuse to peacefully co-exist or compromise with the corrosive evils of racist symbolism."

## Riot Gear Is Checked

Homestead Police Chief Emmet Snider has looked over riot control equipment to be purchased for the local police department, City Manager Olaf Pearson said.

The City Council, earlier this week, approved a \$5,000 request for the special police tools. Pearson asked the city to buy a half-dozen recoilless automatic shotguns, armored vests, special chemicals, other automatic weapons and two-way alert radios.

The city manager said the riot control equipment should be in the police arsenal in case of civil disorder. He said several groups, recently organized in South Dade are "girding for action," and if trouble starts, the local police must be able to move swiftly to protect lives and property.

Turn to Page 2C, Col. 1

See back  
to col above

10/22/68

# Crisis Is 'Fact of Life' For Dade School Boss

By GEORGIA MARSH  
Herald Education Writer

Nine months, one teacher walkout and several student racial disputes after becoming Dade's school superintendent, Dr. Edward L. Whigham philosophically muses that crisis situations are simply a "fact of life."

But he wishes things would settle down long enough to permit the nation's seventh largest school system to get on with the main business at hand — education.

Whigham's "facts of life" include:

**THE GROWTH** of teacher militancy, sharply accented by the first statewide teachers' walkout in history which hit Florida almost before Whigham was settled in his new office. He saw his responsibility then as "keeping schools open."

He sees his responsibility now as accepting "teacher organizations as a fact of life in our society and learning how to establish a relationship with them that does not allow the educational system or its purposes to be abused, yet lets employes be heard."

**THE STRUGGLE** for "human rights" and its accompanying bumpy road toward school integration with its constant racial flare-ups, such as at Miami Edison and south Dade High Schools.

"The racial problem in schools is part of the broader problem in society, yet it's our responsibility to have our people — teachers and administrators — learn to understand why people see things as they do."

**THE NECESSITY** of combining work to handle short term problems yet finding time for long range planning.

"We are continuing a staff reorganization that was begun before I took over." Whigham succeeded former school superintendent Dr. Joe Hall last January after serving a three year apprenticeship as deputy superintendent.



*'The same problems and same resources would face any superintendent. The only flexibility I have is the design I take to use those resources to solve the problems.'*

Edward Whigham

The reorganization, both between and within departments, is designed to give more latitude in decision making to the district offices and to make the entire school administration a more effective operating team.

**THE PLANNING** for new school construction plus the headache of trying to determine how to finance an estimated \$160 million in needed

school buildings.

Added to these major "facts of life" which admittedly take a lot of time, are the hundreds of daily problems connected with "the continuing operation of a school system for 230,000 youngsters."

Dade's highest paid public servant appears to be weathering the everyday problems

Turn to Page 2B, Col. 5



N/L 11/8

## Students Guilty In Fight Due Disciplinary Action

After Thursday's altercation between white and black students on Kingman Road, the following statement was issued by Miss Betty Gilkey, South District School superintendent:

"The Dade County School administration as well as the administrations of South Dade High School, Homestead Junior High School and Mays Junior-Senior High School, wish to advise all parents of all pupils, black and white, that pupils who

are found guilty of creating a disturbance or attacking other children in going to and from school will be subject to disciplinary action of the school, as well as the possibility of criminal action of the court.

"Parents are urged to caution their children going to and from school to refrain from inflammatory remarks or aggressive acts toward other children which could result in serious disciplinary action.

"Parents may be assured that school personnel and school security personnel will investigate thoroughly the validity of all charges which pupils report to the school authority."

## Incidents Mar Parade; Throw Rocks

Several incidents marred the otherwise successful homecoming and Veterans Day parade which drew thousands to downtown Homestead Thursday night. Most occurred after the parade was over.

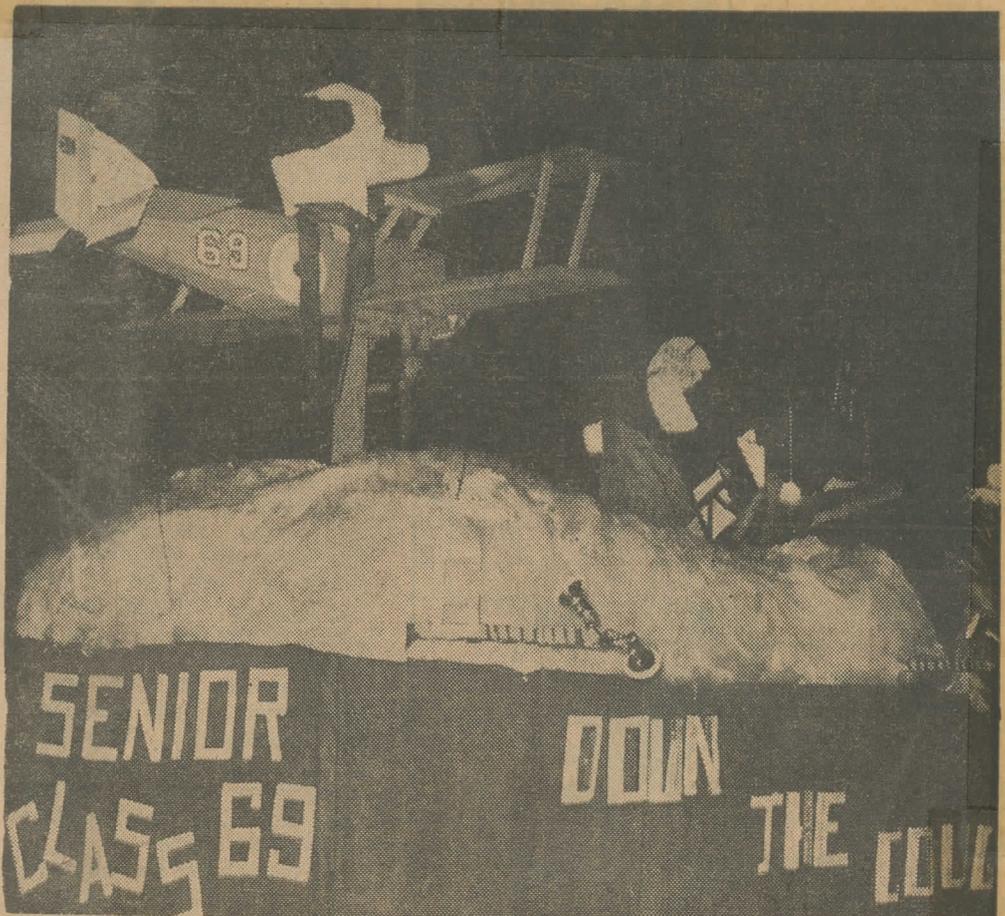
Two white youths, Donald E. Williams, 16, and Greg Mitchell, 15, were hit on the face by rocks as they stood with South Dade High Rebel band members in back of the Firestone Store on Washington Avenue after the parade broke up. They said their assailants were Negro youths.

Williams had to have a stitch taken on the side of his face which was cut by a rock.

One of the high school queen candidates also was reported to have been hit by a rock.

Homestead Junior High band members reported they were "harassed" by black youths during part of the march, in a dimly lit area at the lower end of Washington Ave — despite the fact that there were Negro students in the band. The "harassment" reportedly consisted of black youths moving in and out among the marching band members, and some pushing and shoving. A Negro police officer dispersed the trouble makers.

Vandals threw rocks through the windows of two business establishments, one on S. Krome Avenue and one on SW Fourth Street, during the hour following the parade, and a third window on Krome Avenue, was broken by vandals hitting it with a stick.



LARGER-THAN-LIFE Snoopy peers smugly through whirling propeller of his Sopwith Camel as the Red Baron, representing Killian Cougars, tries to rise from wreckage

of his plane. The float was first-prize-winning entry of Senior Class in South Dade Homecoming section of last night's parade in Homestead.

—Photo by Ed Oberlies

N/L  
11/8

## Float Winners Named

# Thousands See Parade Honoring Vets, SDHS

Twenty floats, four bands, a flock of beauty queens and uniformed marching units from the armed services, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts drew repeated applause from several thousand spectators who lined the streets of downtown Homestead last night to see the seventh annual Veterans Day-Homecoming parade.

First prizes in float competition went to Princeton Christian School in the main parade division and to the Senior Class in the South Dade High Homecoming division.

Princeton Christian's entry was a three-segment float with the first stage carrying a missile and three young astronauts, the second showing men of all services, and the third presenting a family at home. Its message: "Support our servicemen around the world with a prayer at home."

Seniors, with a light-hearted approach, entered a giant Snoopy aboard his Sopwith Camel plane, looking down at the ruins of another plane, from which the Red Baron (representing the Killian Cougars) peered in dismay.

Tied for second place in general parade competition were the Officers Wives Club float, "The Women Behind the Men," featuring five banks of flags denoting all the countries where U.S. forces are stationed, and Jaycees' float showing a Vietnam battle scene complete with burp gun emitting bursts of smoke, and a miniature Pueblo tagging along behind.

Second prize in high school

competition went to Future Secretaries' float, showing costumes of lands where servicemen are stationed, with two Army men on a pedestal, surveying and guarding the entire scene.

Third place in general competition was another tie — USO's long float with a windmill at one end, a pagoda at the other, and a red, white and blue rainbow featuring a revolving world arching over uniformed men all branches of service; and Redondo Elementary School's float advising "buy bonds, write letters, send packages, be informed, vote regularly."

Third and fourth place winner in Homecoming competition were the Spanish Club's green, white and silver float—a Navy jet surrounded by uniformed men and people of foreign lands, and Pep Club's "Cage the Cougars," with jungle compound, growling wildcats, white hunter, and a monkey munching a banana.

## Mays High Takes Band From Parade

Mays High School pulled out of the combination Veterans Day-Homecoming parade in Homestead last night because of the "social relations climate in South Dade."

The withdrawal, just hours before parade time, was ordered by Nelson Bethel, Mays principal, who made this statement to The News Leader explaining the cancellation:

"This decision was made only after I had talked with my advisory council and concerned parents.

"My first responsibility is to the parents of students at Mays and I hope my fears are unwarranted, but it is my hope that this problem will speedily be solved."

Bethel said though he realized the cancellation might cause disappointment to band members, students, parents and the community, "the climate of social relations in South Dade is such that the possibility of a disturbance may occur."

The announcement came several hours after a group of Mays students confronted white students from South Dade High and Homestead Junior High at two adjacent bus stops.



\* \* \*  
ODELL JOHNS, spokesman for black parents and students who contested the Confederacy-linked symbols and name at South Dade, hailed the School Board's 5-2 approval of a compromise solution as "the first serious step in real desegregation at South Dade High."  
\* \* \*

# Board Wins Praise For Racial Stand

11/8

By **GEORGE KENNEDY**  
Herald Staff Writer

The Community Relations Board Thursday decided to praise the School Board for courage in tackling the South Dade High School racial crisis, although several members doubted "courage" was quite the word.

Bishop James Duncan suggested the praise for the board's Wednesday decision banning use of the Confederate flag as a school symbol but retaining the nickname Rebel and the school colors of blue and gray.

"They're a little late in meeting their responsibilities, aren't they?" complained A. D. Moore.

"SHOULDN'T WE write praising them and encouraging them not to abdicate their responsibilities," proposed a somewhat more diplomatic but still doubtful Mrs. Audrey Finkelstein.

Finally, the board turned the matter over to the most diplomatic member of all, Chairman Harry Cain, who promised a tactful combination of praise and encouragement.

Some CRB members questioned the advisability of taking any position that might prove offensive to either the whites or blacks in the Homestead dispute.

But Georgia Lee Jones said, "The people in South Dade are condemning the CRB for not doing more."

**CAIN SAID** the board had been deliberately avoiding the spotlight, working behind the scenes with the Homestead Community Relations Board and school officials.

In other business, the board voted to sponsor two seminars in December.

The first, Dec. 6, will be an all-day police-community relations session co-sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In a reversal of past form, this seminar will focus on the role of the community rather than that of the police.

The second seminar, Dec. 12, will be a cooperative effort with the Urban League to explain to housing officials and real estate dealers the implications of the open housing law which becomes effective Jan. 1.

## MEANWHILE, a school

official said the School Board's decision created somewhat of a stir among students Thursday.

"But they've settled down now," said Betty Gilkey, South District superintendent later in the day.

Earlier Thursday about 15 to 20 white students and 20 to 30 black students got into a fistfight at a school bus stop at Kingman Rd. and Biscayne Dr.

The incident occurred as a Metropolitan Transit Authority bus, carrying black students to Mays, stopped at the intersection where white

students were waiting to catch school buses for South Dade and Homestead Junior High.

"THE STORY was that there were some rocks thrown at the bus," said Miss Gilkey.

She said school security personnel were investigating the incident, which resulted in no arrests and only minor injuries to those involved.

The students fought only briefly, and only five whites were still there when three sheriff's department cars arrived five minutes after the fight started.

HERALD  
EDITORIAL

11/8

## An Overdue Decision

Two months late, the School Board reached something less than a Solomon-like decision in the South Dade controversy over school symbols.

If the board had had the courage in August to do at least part of what it did in November, much racial recrimination might have been averted. The latest action, to ban the playing of "Dixie" by a school band on certain occasions, and substitution of differently-designed uniforms, probably won't please either the white or Negro parents in the Homestead area.

Dr. Edward Whigham recommended a compromise, upon direction of the board. But the board

itself should have established a policy rather than force the superintendent into a somewhat untenable, if not embarrassing, position.

Board member Holmes Braddock, who voted against the compromise which allows the nickname "Rebels" and school colors to remain unchanged, suggested the board was called upon to render a moral judgment on what's wrong and what's right, and he was opposed.

This leads us to wonder what else is the board's business if it is not to render judgment and express policy in behalf of all students and not just a few.

N/L 11/12

Tuesday, November 12, 1968

# Live Wire

## CPO Delays Meeting

The executive board of Concerned Parents Organization (CPO) decided Monday night to postpone, probably for a week, a general meeting that had tentatively been planned for sometime this week.

The board is doing preliminary exploration into several possible avenues of action that may be open to CPO if it wishes to combat the recent school board 'compromise' order curtailing use of some Confederate symbols at South Dade High School.

**FORMER SOUTH Dade** High School principal William Wilson is recovering but still not able to return to work.

Wilson, taken ill early in the school term, will be placed in some capacity elsewhere in the school system when he has doctors' approval to resume working, South District superintendent Betty Gilkey says.

**AT THE EXACT** moment some 30 Mays High students were roughing up small groups of white students at two Kingman Road bus stops the other day, Odell Johns was talking on the phone with a News Leader reporter. He called the school board ban of some Confederate symbols at South Dade High "the first serious attempt at desegregation there" and said the Negro community "doesn't mind

waiting on the fact when there is evidence such major steps are being taken."

\* \* \*

**ON THE** other side of the same controversy, Tommy Dolar, president of the Concerned Parents Association, got an ultimatum from Florida Power and Light Co. — either resign the CPO office or leave FP & L. Dolar angered, promptly quit. He's reportedly going into his family's farming enterprise.

\* \* \*

HEARD  
Editorial

11/11

# 'Dixie' Looks Away

## Board Mails School Rules

By **ROD GIBSON**  
Herald Staff Writer

The official school board instructions concerning the playing of "Dixie" and other Confederate symbols should be in effect by the end of the week, Dr. E. L. Whigham, Dade County school superintendent, said Sunday.

Whigham said that a letter of transmittal will be sent out by his office early this week to South Dade High School, where the playing of "Dixie," Confederate uniforms being worn by the band, and the school's nickname of "Rebels" have developed into a three-month racial controversy.

"The playing of 'Dixie' has not been banned," Whigham said Sunday. "The board has ordered that it should not be used as a pep song or played regularly or be used in any way as an official school song."

"THIS WOULD not preclude the occasional playing of 'Dixie' at halftime in football games if the song fitted in with some theme."

The board action also called for "more appropriate" band uniforms and a ban against the Confederate flag being displayed at school functions. The board action would not control students carrying individual flags, Whigham said, "although we would hope that they would go along with school policy."

"In all of this, school officials will have to use their own judgment," Whigham said.

The school board voted that the high school be allowed to keep the nickname "Rebels."

11/9

# Band Is Defiant, But South Dade Blanked by Killian

By **FRED MYERS**  
Herald Correspondent

South Dade High School's marching band defied school board directives by playing "Dixie" at half-time Friday night but its football team could defy no one.

Killian ran past South Dade with graceful ease, rolling up 407 total offense yards and a 25-0 football victory at Harris Field.

No other incidents occurred.

Willie Miller and Rufus Ferguson combined for 298 yards rushing and scored two touchdowns and the Cougars scored their sixth victory against a pair of losses. The victory keeps alive thin hopes of a District 8AA title should Coral Gables and Jackson both lose.

The victory also avenged a tie with South Dade last year, one of four Killian standoffs.

The Cougars marched through the Rebels for scoring drives of 70, 79, 42 and 80 yards.

N/L 11/14

## Rebel Flag Ban Effective On Monday

South Dade High School will mothball its Rebel battle flags this weekend in compliance with a School Board-ordered ban of some Civil War-connected symbols used by the school.

Student leaders were given word yesterday in a meeting with Principal Howard Crabtree. The student body was informed via the school public address system this morning.

Crabtree said that, beginning Monday, no Confederate flags or flag emblems may be displayed on school property or at school functions. The Rebel nickname and school colors were retained.

Phasing out of South Dade's Johnny Reb-type' band uniforms must be completed by the beginning of the next school year, in September, 1969.

Funds for new band uniforms of a non-controversial design will be provided by the school system, Crabtree said. The new design must be completed and approved by mid-January in order for uniforms to be ready by next September.

Sometime next week, Bandmaster Alan Fetterman is expected to announce details of the method by which the new uniform design will be chosen.

The board's ban on use of 'Dixie' as a pep or fight song also was explained by the principal. The ban does not include two other 'southern' pep songs popular with Rebel fans-- "South" and "Are You From Dixie". Both can still be used as pep or rally tunes, he said. "Dixie" may be played under certain conditions.

Administrators and student leaders are considering the possibility of holding contest for a new pep song to replace "Dixie", and for designing a new school flag.

And there is some thought that, if a new song and flag carry out a new theme, the student body may also decide to choose a new nickname in keeping with the new theme, although the present Rebel nickname was not included in the school board ban.

Following Crabtree's talk with students this morning, discussions and question-and-answer sessions were to be held in each home room.

The Monday effective date for the school board rule-out of Confederate flags means that the Rebel-Key West game, in Key West Friday night, will be the last at which such flags will be permitted.

The school has one more football contest after the ban begins -- its traditional Thanksgiving morning contest with the Palmetto Panthers.

# School Chairman Blasts Gerstein

By **GEORGIA MARSH**  
Herald Education Writer

School Board Chairman C. T. McCrimmon said Wednesday State Attorney Richard Gerstein led the Spring Grand Jury "down the primrose path because he was mad at the School Board."

Gerstein called the charge unfounded.

The Grand Jury's report, issued Tuesday, criticized the board for not immediately taking a strong position to solve the South Dade High School racial controversy, waiting until it was forced to "negotiate out of fear."

**THE JURY** also criticized the school system for selecting top administrators from among "educators, their friends and relatives."

McCrimmon said Gerstein was miffed at the board because early in his campaign for re-election as state attorney he sought permission to implement a drug investigation in schools by talking to students during school hours without first conferring with their parents.

**THE BOARD** refused to give Gerstein permission to conduct the investigation in that manner.

Said Gerstein: "I don't know what he's talking about. I found the School Board very cooperative on the drug investigation. They felt students shouldn't be taken out of class to be questioned and I agreed with them."

Gerstein said he had nothing to do with the Grand Jury's school findings. "The jury handled that independently."

**HE SAID** "the language of the report is the jury's. It is not mine."

"McCrimmon would be better advised to make a constructive criticism rather than a political one," the state attorney said.

Jury foreman Mrs. Leonard



McCrimmon

Gerstein led the grand jury 'down the primrose path because he was mad at the school board.'

--Board Chairman C. T. McCrimmon

'McCrimmon would be better advised to make a constructive criticism rather than a political one.'

--State Attorney Richard Gerstein



Gerstein

Abess said the report was based on findings of the jury's school committee led by Mrs. Asa Gross.

"AS FAR as I know, Mr. Gerstein held no hard feelings toward the School Board," said Mrs. Abess. "The report speaks for itself."

Mrs. Gross was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

The jury's criticism that top administrators are select-

ed from among "educators, their friends and relatives," was disputed Wednesday by School Supt. Dr. Edward L. Whigham.

"To my knowledge our top administrators are not related," he said. "As for friends, I hope I have many of them among school personnel."

Whigham said husbands, wives and friends are working for the system but have been there a long time and have achieved their jobs on

their own right.

**THE JURY** recommended top administrators be screened by the School Board, superintendent and an outside consultant rather than by an "educationally-oriented department of school personnel."

Whigham said all administrators from the rank of assistant superintendent on up are screened and hired directly by a committee of board members and himself.

11/4/68  
HERALD

## AFTER CRITICISM

# 5 On School Board: 'Jury Bypassed Us'

By LOUISE BLANCHARD  
Miami News Reporter

The Grand Jury conducted its investigation of the Dade school system without interviewing five of the seven School Board members, including the chairman and the vice chairman, it was discovered today.

The 1968 Spring Term Grand Jury was just disbanded after issuing a report which included sharp criticism of some aspects of the school operation.

Chairman C. T. McCrimmon said today he did not talk to the Grand Jury. Helene Vosloh, vice chairman

of the board, said she was not interviewed. The Grand Jury also bypassed Members Anna Brenner Meyers, Holmes Braddock and Bill Lehman, all three said.

Ted Slack, the board's only Republican member, said today he was interviewed by the Grand Jury.

Member Jack Gordon said he was interviewed by the Grand Jury's five-member schools committee but not by the full Grand Jury.

The schools committee

Continued On 4A, Col. 1

4-A THE MIAMI NEWS Thurs., Nov. 14, 1968

# Jury Bypassed Us, Say 5 Of 7 On School Board

Continued From Page 3A

also interviewed Superintendent Edward Whigham and Andrew J. Ferendino, architect to the board, both said today.

State's Attorney Richard Gerstein said today he does not have authority to release information on how many people the Grand Jury interviewed about schools or who they were.

"I did not participate in that investigation," Gerstein said, "but the committee talked to many witnesses and spent a considerable amount of time on the public schools. Several members were extremely interested in the school problems passed on by the previous Grand Jury.

Gerstein added, "Anyone who differs with the Grand Jury's opinion or who thinks it was not conducted in sufficient depth has the privilege of making whatever comment he wants to make."

Chairman McCrimmon was quoted in *The Miami Herald* as saying Gerstein had "led the Grand Jury down the primrose path because he was mad at the School Board."

The board chairman said today, however, that the comment was a speculation made in conversation and was not meant for publication. "The Herald just picked it up," McCrimmon said.

He was quoted as saying Gerstein was angry because the board did not give him permission to talk to students during school hours without first conferring with their parents in an investigation of drug use among teenagers last spring.

Gerstein said, however, "I have no grievance against the School Board. I found them very cooperative."

Board Member Braddock, who lives in South Dade, said he understood the Grand Jury had talked at length with Slack about the racial crisis at South Dade High. The report was sharply critical of board's handling of the crisis.

"Officially and unofficially," Braddock said, "I didn't even know they were investigating the school system. I probably spent more time on the South Dade High situation than any other board member, and probably knew more about it. McCrimmon probably was second."

The grand jury report said the board dealt with the South Dade High problem "out of fear rather than acting as a strong spokesman for the whole system. We regret this action." In the same section, dealing with school policy, the Grand Jury said:

"The Board must sit tall in the saddle, act as a pillar—and voice of strength."

N/2  
11/15

\* \* \*  
SOME WHITE students at South Dade demonstrated their dislike for recent School Board decisions by wearing white gloves to school Wednesday. These students were attempting to show Negro students their version of "White Power" said an informant.

\* \* \*  
THE REBEL emblem on helmets worn by members of the South Dade High School football team will be removed as part of the de-emphasis of Confederate symbols, announced Athletic Director Leo Martin today.

Martin said the decal-type emblem, depicting the Confederate flag, will remain for the Key West contest this Friday night, but will probably be removed previous to the finale Thanksgiving Day against Palmetto.

\* \* \*  
THAT REPORT that the South Dade High band played "Dixie" repeatedly at the Homecoming game last Friday--'tain't true, says Bandmaster Alan Fetterman. "Dixie was played twice--once to bring the team onto the field just before the game, and again to get the band off the field at the end of the halftime show," he said. Apparently what some people THOUGHT was "Dixie" was really "Are You From Dixie?"--a peppy march that originated as a Broadway show tune around 1916.

# Some Students Plan Walkout

Flyers being circulated at South Dade High School this week urge all white students to boycott the school on Wednesday, Nov. 20 to protest the school board's ban against use of Confederacy-linked songs and symbols to represent the school.

Bearing at least three different messages, mimeographed on plain white paper, the flyers are being distributed, apparently by a group of students.

One is a replica of the Confederate battle flag which the school board has ordered banned beginning Monday. It reads: "Go Rebs. Be a winner. We urge all 'white students'. (The quotes are theirs.) Take action. Boycott in protest of

school board's actions against the school song, symbol, uniform, etc."

The same flyer carries an SOS--Save Our Symbols--and asks, "Do you like the name Rebels, the song Dixie, and flag? Yes. Then we must protest. How? Don't come to school November 20, 1968."

Another type queries: "Can you think of a better flag? Song?" and urges, "Walk out Nov. 20, 1968."

Still a third, headed "The Undemocratic School," announces: "White Students' at South Dade High to boycott school Nov. 20, 1968 in protest of school board's actions against..."

Principal Howard Crabtree is aware of the flyers and the boycott plans, and has let students know it.

Several times in the past two days he has discussed it via the school public address system. He has told students that he hopes nobody will force him into a position where he will have to take action as directed by county school policies.

The principal said he believes that a large majority of students will refuse to go along with the boycott.

"I know there are a lot of students who are working to keep it from happening," Crabtree continued.

Queried about how he would handle participating students if the boycott does occur, he would say only that it is his custom to "meet situations as they occur."

There is a possibility that Concerned Parents Organization, a group of some 500 parents also fighting the ban, may agree to order their children not to boycott, but to 'let us handle it.' Plans for a boycott last month fell through when (CPO) parents took a similar stand.

A group of students said they believe most of the student body will take part. Exceptions, they said, might be "seniors, especially those in line for scholarships, football players and other athletes."

One boy said the boycotters may announce their intention to stay out of school until the school board rescinds its ban of Confederate symbols and emblems.

N/L  
11/19

# Council Vetoes Police Dogs

By VIRGINIA AMENDT

Homestead City Council voted down, 4-2, a proposal Monday night to buy two German shepherd dogs for the police department.

But Mayor William Dickinson asked City Manager Olaf Pearson to analyze the suggestion, and come back with a recommendation later.

Councilman Fred Rhodes offered the motion to buy the two trained police dogs, and if necessary hire two policemen trained in handling them. He proposed the dogs be used at parades, fairs, rodeos and the like.

"The last parade we had was a disgrace to the city of Homestead and the police department," said Rhodes — referring to the South Dade High School homecoming parade of two weeks ago, which was marred by racial incidents and vandalism.

"I think the city would do well to hire two dogs from the Miami police for the Thanksgiving game and any other activity we have prior to that," Rhodes added.

The presence of dogs would

have deterred the hoodlumism which broke out during the parade and the football game the following night, Rhodes maintained.

"Everybody's afraid of a dog — I am myself," he said.

Councilman Charles Locke questioned a dog's ability to know which person to go after, if let loose in an unruly crowd.

Mayor Dickinson said that while 'psychologically, the appearance of a dog may have a good effect,' it was better to let the police department determine whether the animals would be of value in controlling rowdyism in crowds. Councilman Carl Anderson supported Dickinson's view.

City Manager Pearson said he wouldn't recommend using dogs for crowd control.

"It's my opinion that their use instigates more trouble than it stops," Pearson observed. Pointing out that it's hard for a dog to tell whom to go after if he's let loose in a crowd, Pearson warned that "you could be placing yourself in a peculiar legal position if somebody got bitten."

Police Chief Emmett Snider

said dogs have proved useful in narcotics detection, in locating "peeping Toms" or in tracking crime suspects — 'but not for riot control.'

On a roll call vote, only Rhodes and Councilman Stanley Wittkop voted for the motion to buy the dogs.

Replying to Rhodes' criticism of police actions when harassment, rock-throwing and general rowdyism broke out during the homecoming parade and football game, Mayor Dickinson commented "You don't wade into a bunch of 12 and 13-year-old kids with dogs and billy clubs!"

"If you strip the events of the other night of the emotionalism," said Pearson, "you find the physical damage was exceedingly small."

Several persons were hit by rocks (none was seriously hurt), a number of windows were smashed, and there was general harassment at some points along the parade route. The night of the ball game, one man — a Negro from Miami — was arrested when he allegedly provoked a fight in the Harris Field parking lot.

PLAYING OF "Dixie" as a school song already is being tested in the Federal courts. The NAACP has filed a suit in Jonesboro, Ark. Black students there walked out of school when the song was played at a pep rally.

NEGRO COMMUNITY spokesman Odell Johns was heard to wonder aloud this morning whether the proposed boycott by students at South Dade High School is "part of an international communist conspiracy, provoked by professional communist agitators."

# Five Rebels 'Jailed' Loved Every Minute Of It

By EARL DEHART

Five South Dade High students who spent the night in a police station after Friday's game with Key West, learned that some officers are nicer than others.

Donald Cogswell and his passengers, Helen Masters, Lynne Renegar, Diane Stewart and Dorian Dehart, left the game early to miss the traffic. A flat tire stopped them a few miles outside Key West. Don put on the spare. A few miles further another flat stopped them again. Both tires were beyond repair.

One hour they waited before the three buses carrying the defeated Rebel team back to Homestead passed by with a police escort. Sometime later one of the patrol cars returned, stopped, and offered assistance.

Piling into the patrol car, the students and officer went in search of a gasoline station. They found one but it was closed. The officer woke up the attendant who said he didn't have the right size tire. Meanwhile, another officer showed up to relieve the first one who went off on another police call.

He told the students the best thing to do was return with him to the Marathon station and telephone their parents.

Since there wasn't anything anyone could do until morning the officer invited the students to remain overnight and fix the car the next day. The parents agreed.

After the students returned to Homestead what did they and their parents think about the little ordeal?

"The officers were fabulous," said Helen Masters.

Parents thought so, too.

Mrs. Renegar is sending a thank-you card to the Marathon police.

\* \* \*

**LIGNUMVITAE** Key has one of the most unique concentrations of plant life in North America, says Dr. Edward Wilson of Harvard, and Dr. Thomas Eisner of Cornell.

Visitors to the island are able to see what the Keys were like before the coming of man, they say. The doctors praised the present owners for the way the island has been preserved.

How long will it last?

\* \* \*

WALTER WINCHELL reported

11/2  
11/19

this incident happened the other day in a New York Criminal Court, with the same judge.

A 70-year-old white man was charged with being a bookie and held in \$500 bail. Four black men with criminal records were allowed a delay and released. No bail.

Think it over.

\* \* \*

**ANOTHER COLUMNIST** says that people who say "What's so bad about Dixie?" have no understanding of what it means to be oppressed. The statement was used in context with his praise of Dr. Henry King Stanford, President of the University of Miami, who had spent a year in Hitler's Germany in the 1930's. What the doctor saw there left a strong imprint upon him and that even today the doctor is an outstanding spokesman for freedom of thought and expression, the writer said.

Well, all I can say is that Hitler did a pretty good job of burning books, especially the Bible. At least we know that "Dixie" is in good company.

Let's not light any bonfires.

\* \* \*

**ONE OF** the most learned articles I have ever read on school integration appeared in a recent issue of a Miami paper.

James J. Kilpatrick said the "impending departure of Harold Howe II offers an opportunity for reflection upon the hard row that reformers have to hoe."

Howe was disappointed after three "frustrating" years he spent as U. S. Commissioner of Education.

How far had he gone in his desire to eliminate segregation from schools?

"Minimal," and to a degree, "unsuccessful" was his answer.

Kilpatrick believes that the integration law faces the same fate as the Prohibition Amendment. Laws were passed that couldn't be enforced.

He believes integration will come, when it comes, by natural process.

People will not be coerced.

Readers on both sides of the segregation - integration fence and those who straddle it could benefit by reading Kilpatrick's opinions. It is recommended reading.

## Students Attend Classes

# Boycott At South Dade Unsuccessful; 200 Absent

Less than 100 of South Dade High School's 1,300 students stayed home today, apparently honoring a boycott called to protest a School Board ban of Confederacy-linked symbols.

The absentee rate at the school averages around 106 on a typical day. Absences today totaled about 200, with somewhat less than half attributable to the boycott.

Most students wanting to protest the ban, which went into effect Monday, settled for signing a petition addressed to the board, outlining student grievances. It is to be presented to the board this afternoon.

Only a few heeded signs posted yesterday, urging "Boycott tomorrow! Report across street — Don't stay home!!!"

Assistant Principal Charles Harris, on duty in the school parking lot, estimated that "maybe a dozen" students elected to leave instead of reporting to classes when the bell rang.

Students who are absent without valid reasons will be subject to school disciplinary action, Principal Howard Crabtree said.

It was Crabtree who predicted, last week when plans for the boycott were revealed, that "only the few hard-core dissenters" were likely to carry it out.

The fizzle of what its organizers had predicted would be an almost schoolwide boy-

cott came less than 12 hours after students and parents had been urged by Attorney Ralph Jordan to "follow the course of law and order" so as not to prejudice the action he plans to take to forestall the board order.

Jordan refused to state what action he is planning on behalf of the Concerned Parents Organization, but he indicated that it would involve the element of surprise.

"If it fails, then we'll bring suit," he told about 400 parents and 125 students attending a CPO meeting at the Homestead Armory last night.

Students all set to boycott complained to parents that "you won't back us," and were told that the parent group cannot back actions that are contrary to law.

To raise money for legal costs, which may reach \$6 to \$8 thousand, CPO members may be assessed \$5 per person or \$10 a family.

And a "Pixie Dixie" dance is planned to add to what CPO director Jack Levy referred to as "the war chest."

Although students cannot carry the banned Confederate flags on school property or at school functions, "there's nothing to stop parents," Levy said. "And I think they ought to turn out full force, carrying flags, at the Thanksgiving Day game."

CPO President Tommy Dolar forestalled CPO action to endorse the planned boycott, and urged parents to decide for themselves how to advise their student sons and daughters.

N/L

11/20

# Principal Tries to Head Off School Boycott

## Leaflets Protest South Dade Symbol Ban

By **GEORGIA MARSH**  
Herald Education Writer

Students at South Dade High School were urged Monday to ignore a proposed boycott of the school Wednesday.

The boycott — to protest a School Board ban on use of confederate symbols at the school — was urged in leaflets left in the school cafeteria last week.

**PRINCIPAL** Howard Crabtree issued the appeal to students to ignore the boy-

cott. He said it would further harm the school's reputation.

Jack Levy, spokesman for the Concerned Parents Organization, which is planning a suit seeking to enjoin the board from enforcing the policy, said he hopes the impending court action will stop the boycott.

However, Levy said if the students still feel they must stage a protest he hopes they will just "stay home, not come to school and walk out."

"**THEY CAN** be sick at

heart and take sick leave over this thing," Levy said.

The leaflets urging the boycott were headlined "Undemocratic School." Some were hand written, some printed in ink and some were carbon copies, Crabtree said. They were unsigned.

The boycott is being urged for Wednesday because that

is when the Dade School Board is to take a final vote on a new policy banning any schools from using symbols which could be interpreted as offensive to Negroes or other groups.

**THE BOARD** approved a resolution two weeks ago barring use of the confederate symbols specifically at

South Dade High. The resolution took effect last Friday.

South Dade has been the center of racial controversy since August when its black students first appeared before the board and complained the use of the confederate flag, song, band uniform and school nickname "Rebel," was offensive.

Two weeks ago, the board banned the confederate song and band uniform, curtailed playing "Dixie" as a pep song, but permitted the school to keep the "Rebel" nickname.

**LEVY SAID** the Concerned Parents Organization will file suit seeking to enjoin the board from enforcing the

policy.

Levy also said the parents will meet tonight to vote on a \$5 assessment to cover costs of the suit.

**CRABTREE** has been seeking to avert the boycott by appealing to students over the public address system not to do anything that would harm South Dade's reputation.

"The proposed court action is the best way to handle it," Crabtree said.

"I've told the students that these things should be done

in an orderly manner and that if they don't come to school I would have to follow school board policy concerning unexcused absences."

**CRABTREE** said he felt many students "Feel the boycott might not be the right way of doing things."

South Dade has about 1,300 students including 35 Negroes. Another 90 Negroes who were attending South Dade transferred to Mays during the controversy and have elected not to move

# Parents Dodge Boycott Stand

## Around South Dade

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

BILL BLOSS, Bureau Chief

### Individual Choices Are Urged

By BILL BLOSS

Students supporting a South Dade High School boycott today failed to get a blanket endorsement Tuesday from the Concerned Parents Organization meeting in the Homestead Armory.

CPO President Tommy Dolar told the students and parents that individual parents should instruct their children on staying out of school and discouraged a CPO vote on the boycott.

Attorney Ralph Jordan will take "an action" to forestall the Dade School Board order eliminating Confederate symbols at the school. He urged the students to stay in school and follow the course of law and order.

UNDEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS !!!  
BOYCOTT TOMMORROW

REPORT ACROSS STREET  
DONT STAY HOME!!!

LET'S SKOW EM HOW  
MANY CARE!!!

REMEMBER MEETING AT ARMORY  
TONIGHT!!!

—Herald Photo by C. A. MITCHELL

Sign Urges Students to Boycott South Dade School

... 'concerned parents' organization discussed issue

con't.

# School People Were Called In Jury Quiz

By LOUISE BLANCHARD  
and MORTON LUCOFF  
Miami News Reporters

The chairman of the Spring Grand Jury's school subcommittee said today the subcommittee interviewed dozens of witnesses connected with the school system, many of them under oath.

The chairman, Una Groves, made the statement after a Miami News check of witnesses who testified before the Grand Jury as a whole indicated only two were officials of the school system.

Shortly before it was disbanded early this month, the Grand Jury issued a report sharply critical of some phases of the operation of the public school system. Five of the seven School Board members, including the chairman and the vice chairman, said they had not been interviewed by the Grand Jury or by the subcommittee on schools.

"For more than five and a half months, we met three times a week," Mrs. Groves said. "Sometimes we talked to one person for two and a half or three hours. Maybe we talked to two people at one meeting."

She said she did not know how many the subcommittee interviewed. Her statement indicates it could be as many as 130.

"Many of them were lower echelon school personnel, afraid for their jobs, concerned about the school system," Mrs. Groves said. "They didn't know where to turn."

Although The Miami News got a list of witnesses sworn to testify before the full Grand Jury it was unable to get a list of those who testified under oath before the school committee.

The list was checked against a list of school system administrators and teachers in the 1967-68 school year. The 1968-69 directory has not yet been issued. Additional names for the current year would reflect only those who have been with the school system a very brief time.

**The check showed the full Grand Jury heard these people**

who could be expected to know something about the operation of the school system:

School Board Member Ted Slack, the board's only Republican, who took office in February 1967. He has served

a shorter time than any other board member.

John Tyler, security assistant to the superintendent. The operation of his office included keeping a check on the racial crisis at South Dade High. (The Grand Jury report included sharp criticism of the School Board's handling of that crisis.)

James Bassage, former budget director for the school system. He quit nearly two years ago after serving in that capacity from Nov. 1, 1964, to Jan. 31, 1967. (The report also criticized the school system's "management philosophy.")

Two other school system employes, both assigned to an individual school, gave testimony under oath to the full Grand Jury. They said their testimony did not deal with the school system.

Superintendent Edward Whigham, School Board member Jack Gordon, and school architect Andrew J. Ferendino all appeared before the school subcommittee.

The Grand Jury report praised Dr. Whigham highly. It criticized the school building program.

In his charge to the new Fall Grand Jury constituted on Nov. 12, Circuit Judge James Lawrence King warned the 23-member jury that it "cannot legally function with less than the number required by law to constitute a quorum, namely, 15 members present, and no testimony can legally be heard by any smaller group or committee, nor acted upon by less than a vote of 12 of those present, as the law provides."

Circuit Judge Harold B. Spaet, presiding judge for the Spring Grand Jury, said he believed the operation of the school subcommittee was legal.

"The jury's action is ultimately joint action," Judge Spaet said. "It becomes illegal when a committee acts for the Grand Jury."

He said it was usual for a Grand Jury "to have some people look into some matter and then report back to the full Grand Jury."

Judge Spaet made a distinction on the basis of "common sense" between a Grand Jury report generally critical of some operation important to the community and a report in which a person is indicted.

"I don't think due process applies," he said, "where the Grand Jury is looking into the propriety of a general operation." If a person was to be indicted, especially on a capital offense, he said, he believed the full grand jury should hear every witness under oath.

Mrs. Groves said the Spring Grand Jury investigated so many matters "we felt we were asking a great deal of the full jury to hear each individual witness" who testified about the public schools.

She declined to give the names of other Grand Jury members who served on the school subcommittee. Reportedly, there were five.

"We tried to get an honest appraisal of what we thought was going on in the schools," Mrs. Groves said.

N/L 11/21

## Over Rebel Issue

# CPO Files Appeal With State Board

The Concerned Parents Organization today is filing an appeal before the State Board of Education asking it to override the Dade School Board's ban of confederacy-linked symbols at South Dade High School.  
Homestead Attorney Ralph

Jordan, with the law firm of Mitchell and Mitchell of Tallahassee as co-counsel, is acting on behalf of the CPO, an organization of some 500 parents of students at South Dade High School and the lower schools that feed into it.  
Jordan is asking the state

board to "rescind and revoke the action taken by the Dade County School Board" on all counts of the ban.

These include the Confederate flag as a school symbol, the Civil War-type band uniforms and the song "Dixie" used as a pep and rally tune.

The county board's ban was enacted by resolution two weeks ago and went into effect Monday.

Yesterday, students and the CPO lost an appeal for permission to use "Dixie" as a fight song at the final Rebel football game of the season — the traditional clash with Palmetto High Panthers on Thanksgiving morning.

CPO spokesman Jack Levy appeared before the board with the plea, which the board unanimously denied.

But it had official praise for South Dade High students for turning their backs on a proposed boycott yesterday, and instead "taking the orderly course" and objecting by petition.

Levy presented to the board a scroll petition bearing an estimated 1,100 student signatures. Simply worded, it declared an objection to the board's action banning the symbols.

At the same board meeting, a policy regarding symbols was adopted on final reading, by a 4-3 vote.

MIAMI NEWS 11/20

## SOUTH DADE HIGH

# Pupils Shunning Boycott

Absenteeism at South Dade High today was two or three per cent higher than normal for a chilly day, and Principal Howard Crabtree said a changed school bus route may account for all of that difference.

He said he was proud of his students for "deciding

things should be done in an orderly manner."

Leaflets circulated in the school in the past week urged white pupils to boycott classes today in protest against a Dade School Board decision to remove some of the school's Confederate symbols. A comparison with figures for normal days indicates no more than 40 of the 1,300 pupils could be absent for that reason.

"A bus run got shifted and some students didn't get to the right bus stop," Crabtree said. "They've been dribbling in late. I don't know how many that affected, but our buses carry 70-80 students each."

In calculating normal absenteeism, Crabtree didn't count the first month of school, when there was "a

lot of turmoil. The second month was fairly calm, and we averaged 9 per cent absenteeism."

This morning's cold weather would make it normal for another two or three per cent to be absent, he said — perhaps 12 per cent. Actual absenteeism today was 213, about 16 per cent, and that figure was reached before the latecomers began arriving.

"These youngsters kept level heads, and they're to be congratulated," Crabtree said. "They didn't take advantage of the situation to create a problem. I'm going to express my opinion to them at the earliest opportunity."

He said he understands parents of some white pupils "do definitely intend to file" a lawsuit, seeking to retain the Confederate symbols against which the school's Negro students protested.

Crabtree said yesterday he hoped the problem could be settled in the courts rather than in the school.

One student was very late, but with an interesting excuse, Crabtree said:

"His horse got loose. He was afraid it would be lost or hurt, so he caught the horse before he came to school. At his age, I suspect I'd have done the same thing."

11/20/68

**JORDAN PLEADED** with the students not to "allow those people with no regard for law and order to lead us into breaking the law. I think you should stay in school."

The attorney refused to say what action he will take, but promised an "answer in 60 days." He added, "the minute I say what action we plan, the other side will take action to counter it."

In an effort to satisfy some objections to his refusal to divulge the action, Jordan said: "I'll tell you what I'm going to do, I'm going to try and surprise them. If it fails, we will bring suit."

**TO RAISE** money for legal costs which CPO director Jack Levy predicts will range from \$5,000 to \$8,000 several fund raising efforts were suggested. "We will have a Pixie Dixie Dance to raise money for our war chest," Levy told the crowd of over 400 adults and 100 students.

Dollar said the CPO and students owe South Dade Principal Howard Crabtree respect and again asked parents to instruct their children accordingly. He said that the CPO is backing the students in trying to retain the school's symbols.

**LEVY SAID** that students will not be allowed to carry Confederate flags to the Thanksgiving Day football game. "But there's nothing to stop the parents. I think the parents should turn out and carry our flags."

Levy added that he will make a tape-recording of "Dixie" to play at the game if he can find a record of the song.

The boycott remained up in the air but some students are expected to stay from school. Many parents insist that their students will attend classes today. Those who remain out of school without proper reasons will be subject to disciplinary action.

# They Took Their Stand HERALD 11/21 But Dixie Still Banned

By **GEORGIA MARSH**  
Herald Education Writer

South Dade High School students lost a last ditch effort Wednesday to win permission for the song "Dixie" to be played at their final football game of the season.

The plea for one more chance came from Jack Levy, spokesman for the white, Concerned Parents Organization.

Levy said his group now will go to court seeking an injunction, prohibiting the School Board from enforcing a policy which bans any school from using a symbol "reflecting in a derogatory manner upon the race, religion or national origin of members of the student body . . ."

**THE POLICY** was passed by the board Wednesday on a 4-3 vote. Against it were Board Chairman C. T. McCrimmon, Ted Slack and Holmes Braddock. Both McCrimmon and Braddock said the policy would be hard to live with and difficult to enforce.

Voting for the policy were Mrs. Anna Brenner Meyers, Mrs. Helene Vosloh, Jack Gordon and William Lehman.

The policy affects all Dade schools.

**TWO WEEKS** ago, by resolution, the board specifically banned the use of confederate symbols at South Dade High, scene of a months long racial controversy.

Levy asked that the ban against "Dixie" be lifted one more time, for the final football game next week.

The board unanimously turned him down.

Presenting a solid front, the board, in Braddock's words, "finally took a stand. I don't see how we can back down for one game. This would open up the entire



**Jack Levy**  
... 'ridiculous' ban

thing again and we would never get it closed."

**TO SUPPORT** his request, Levy pointed out that his group had talked South Dade students out of a proposed school boycott Wednesday.

Absenteeism at the school was 205 out of 1,300 students, or 16 per cent.

School officials said the normal absenteeism is about 9 per cent but blamed the

higher rate on the cold weather and on a bus mix-up which involved about 80 students.

**LEVY PRESENTED** a petition signed by about 1,200 students objecting to the board's action banning the confederate symbols.

The board accepted the petition and voted to commend students for ignoring the boycott.

Levy said South Dade's ban is "ridiculous." He said it affected the ordering of class rings which traditionally have a small confederate flag on the seal and also affected cars parked on school grounds bearing confederate flag decals or license plates.

Countered McCrimmon, "The big problem down there is with the community, not the students. We recommend you take this to the courts."

Levy said his group is assessing itself \$5 a person, or \$10 a family to cover costs of the impending suit.

# THE MIAMI NEWS

- Pulitzer Prize For Editorial Cartoons In 1966
- Pulitzer Prize For International Reporting In 1963
- Pulitzer Prize For National Reporting In 1959
- Pulitzer Prize For Public Service In 1939

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10-A

Friday, Nov. 22, 1968

73rd Year, No. 162

## SYMBOLS BANNED

# Adults Mainly At Fault In School Dispute

We reach the disturbing conclusion today that adults, rather than children, are the aggravators of the South Dade High School symbol controversy.

A declaration of policy by the School Board, as recent as Wednesday, is hardly to the liking of Homestead parents, mainly white, and they indicate they will go into the courts because the school band is forbidden from playing "Dixie" at football games.

The white parents, who formed an organization during the summer to counter an activist Negro student group have been adamant in refusal to compromise on any issue. Instead of setting a pattern of human relations for their children, the parents are displaying the worst sort of bigotry before the young people. And to top it all, the parents condoned a boycott of the school which, fortunately, never quite came to pass.

No less upsetting is the action by Homestead city councilman Fred Rhodes, who wanted the city to buy police dogs to have on hand

if crowds became disorderly at parades or football games at Homestead.

Acting like a red neck politician from a small Alabama town, instead of an urban community, Rhodes says "everybody's afraid of a dog. They would have stopped the hoodlumism after the football game the other night," referring to an incident of several weeks ago.

This was too much even for the militant mayor, William Dickinson, who said "you don't wade into a bunch of 12 and 13-year-old kids with dogs and billy clubs." City manager Olaf Pearson was even more rational: "A dog will instigate trouble, not prevent it . . . We ought to strip these events of emotionalism."

And Mr. Pearson is right. Emotionalism does hold sway because the parents have insisted they know what's best for junior. The trouble is that they don't know what's best for themselves or for a community which has a lot of "growing up" to do.

HERALD  
11/23

At South Dade High

# State Asked To Reinstate Rebel Symbols

By **BILL BLOSS**  
Homestead Bureau Chief

The State Board of Education was petitioned Friday to set aside the Dade County School Board order removing Confederate symbols from South Dade High School.

Ralph Jordan, attorney for the Concerned Parents Organization, said the petition was filed by the Tallahassee law firm of Mitchell and Mitchell. The Homestead attorney said the law firm is in the state capitol and will

handle the appeal.

The petition asks reversal of the Dade Board's directive on all points, according to Jordan. The local board ordered the removal of Confederate flags as school symbols, banned the Confederate infantry styled band uniforms and prohibited the playing of "Dixie" as a school song.

"THE LOCAL decision is in force until changed by the state board," Jordan said. He advised students to "adhere to the local board directive. This is the law, at this point, and they (students) should abide by it," he said.

The Dade school board authority extends only to students, Jordan said, and parents can not be prohibited from taking Confederate flags to the Thanksgiving Day football game. CPO leaders have asked parents to "carry our flags" Thursday when South Dade plays Palmetto High School at Harris Field in Homestead.

The CPO attorney said he is hopeful that the state board will rule in favor of legal action won't be needed. the CPO and that further "I believe they have the authority to override the Dade County school board," Jordan said.

N/L 11/22

## Documents Sent

### Rebel Battle Goes To State

Supporting documents in the Concerned Parents Organization's state-level fight to keep South Dade High's confederate symbols are being submitted today to the Florida School Board.

Homestead attorney Ralph Jordan, legal counsel for CPO, expects to fly to Tallahassee this afternoon to have the documents in State School Superintendent Floyd Christian's office before it closes for the weekend.

Meanwhile, CPO has established a post office box to which contributions toward the legal expenses of its fight may be mailed.

Checks or money orders should be made out to Concerned Parents Organization and mailed to Box 203, Princeton, Fla., 33171, CPO representative Connie Campbell said.

Jordan, based in Homestead, has engaged the Tallahassee law firm of Mitchell and Mitchell as co-counsel.

Together, they are seeking an immediate appearance before the state school board.

The five-member board is made up of the Florida Cabinet — Gov. Claude Kirk, Secretary of State Tom Adams, Attorney General Earl Faircloth, State Treasurer Broward Williams and State Superintendent Christian.

Jordan told The News Leader today that among the documents he is submitting will be the recent Grand Jury report which sharply rapped the Dade School Board for (1) tossing the racially - connected symbols controversy back to the school level; (2) assuring students that their vote would be honored and then failing to honor it; and (3) "negotiating out of fear rather than acting as a strong spokesman for the whole system."

N/L 11/25

## Poor Timing By School Board

There have been a lot of mistakes made by all those involved in the symbol controversy at South Dade High School.

The Dade County School Board has made its share.

In our viewpoint it made another by making its policy ruling effective Nov. 20, thereby refusing to allow the playing of "Dixie" at the final football game of the season against Palmetto High School Thanksgiving Day.

It would have been more appropriate for the School Board to have made its policy decision in regard to the symbols at the school effective sometime at a more distant date.

Would it not have been more wise to have made the policy effective at mid-year or at the beginning of the 1969-70 school term?

Some people contend delaying the decision would not have made it less painful but nevertheless the issue has dragged along all this Fall and has been extremely disruptive to school administration, students, classroom work, athletics and other school functions.

This does not mean we disagree with the compromise decision arrived at by the School Board on the symbols issue. We believe it to be an honest effort to be fair to both sides.

We simply feel the best time for policy decisions to be made effective is at a more appropriate time. The beginning of a new semester or a new school year would have been more satisfactory to all concerned and less disruptive.

# School Board Has Mandate

To The Editor:

The three new members of the Dade County School Board who begin office in January (a fourth was re-elected) represent the people's choice, and the first time they have had a say since the teachers' strike last Spring.

Throughout the campaign the candidates were bombarded at public gatherings and meetings where they appeared with the questions, "Do you favor a union for teachers, striking as a method of settling differences, etc." The public showed its deep concern over what had happened and what could happen in the future. The people do not want what has happened in New York to happen in Dade County! It is not that people are anti-teacher at all, but that they do not want the education of their young people used as the pawn with which to settle differences.

They have voiced this by giving a mandate to those candidates who oppose this. Yet, the present School Board, heedless of the people's wishes, is rushing before the new board starts, to make the CTA the sole bargaining agent for teachers and to sign an agreement.

You may be interested to know that in Pinellas County where its school board was united on a hard line during the strike, they have been deluged with applications, some 6,000 according to an article from The Clearwater Sun several months ago, of teachers wanting to come there!

I urge the present School Board

## LETTERS From Our Readers

members, who are answerable to the public, to listen to the voice of the people for a change, and at least table this action on the CTA agreement until the new Board begins in January. It is the only thing to do.

ELISE S. KNISKERN, Miami

★ ★ ★

To The Editor:

Reading about the South Dade School controversy for the last three months, I'm provoked to take time from my studies, and question the present concepts of high school education. The dominance of the extra-curricular program (including football) seems way out of balance. Instead of pride and good sportsmanship among the student body, the activities at South Dade have stirred rancor and hatred. Certainly the good name of the school has suffered. Students and parents alike should consider that there is the possibility, that if this fuss continues too long, they may lose their activities as well as their symbols at South Dade.

As a mother, a voter, and a taxpayer, I see nothing unfair in our elected school board setting policy. School administrators have both the authority and responsibility for the administration of policy. This business of running to the courts for solution of trivial social problems is a mere waiving of responsibility. We shove our own responsibilities on our court system; when rulings are fully reached, the animosities are still unrelieved and our honored judicial system becomes the public "scapegoat."

I hope that three months from now

the news from South Dade High School will reflect constructive and creative activities and abilities. I'm sure the student body can achieve commendation rather than controversy if they try.

JEAN BIBLO, Miami

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To The Editor:

That the school board's belated action on South Dade High School's racist policies was too little, and probably too late, does not matter as much as what had to happen before it acted at all.



**BRADDOCK** One of the hang-ups was apparently voiced by board member G. Holmes Braddock, who objected to the board deciding on "moral issues." If inaction perpetrates an immoral situation, what is the alternative? Where are we teachers, our students, and their parents, to turn for redress of grievance in the schools? Would Mr. Braddock hesitate to vote against the schools being used for gambling houses or bars because these are matters of morality? I submit that he would not.

It is time for the school board to abandon its hypocritical, mealy-mouthed buck-passing, and come up with a clear mandate to every school in this county. Official symbols which are abrasive, humiliating, and degrading to any ethnic or racial group should be considered equally offensive to the Board of Public Instruction, and should, under no circumstances, be tolerated.

JULIE FORSTER, Miami

Miami News  
11/27



### “Touchdown”

HAPPINESS IS a winning touchdown, and these Rebel rooters show it by throwing restraint — and confetti — to the winds as their team surges ahead of Palmetto High in the Thanksgiving Day classic. Gleeful lad with Confederate

flag almost his own size was one of many who waved the banned banners all through the game. (Palmetto had its own celebration, which peaked at half-time. Panther Homecoming picture on Page 3.)

—Photo by Ed Oberlies

## Rebel Flags Wave Over South Dade

True to the nickname they've been allowed to retain by school board decree, Rebel fans figuratively thumbed their noses at authority Thursday during the annual South Dade-Palmetto gridiron contest.

It was a peaceful rebellion. . . . police said there wasn't a single incident, either in the stadium or in the parking lot.

But it was a rebellion, nonetheless.

Confederate flags, now

banned by the Dade School Board as a South Dade symbol, fluttered in force on the Rebels' side of Harris field.

And Dixie, banned as a school spirit song, blared from a loud speaker operated by a South Dade parent — until its strains were drowned out by a roar of response from the overflowing bleachers.

The Rebel band, forbidden to play Dixie except as part of

a concert or half-time show with a Southern theme, substituted Are You From Dixie and the spirited march, South.

Fans—students, alumni and adults—adopted the substitutions immediately, standing to clap and stomp in time to the music, as they have traditionally done with Dixie in the past.

In defiance of the board's Confederate flag ruling, a large Stars and Bars waved boldly from the top of the big Harris Field sign, and at least 10 more giant banners fluttered at the top of the Rebel stands.

Parents, alumni and sympathizers had apparently heeded the urging of Concerned Parents Organization vice president Jack Levy, who told CPO's 500-plus members last

week that “students can't carry Rebel flags, but that shouldn't stop the rest of us.”

In some sections of the South Dade bleachers, spectators were almost hidden by a blur of red and blue as smaller Confederate flags—cloth or plastic—were waved frantically in response to big Rebel gains.

Most of the flags may have been carried to the field by non-students, but many materialized in students' hands during the game's exciting moments.

School personnel and police working at the game apparently had not been instructed to confiscate the flags—an indication that dissenting board members were correct in their observation that such a ban would be too difficult to enforce at functions off school property.

N/L 11/29

# Today

By PAUL J. EGAN

South Dade High School supporters for the second consecutive year found "Panther meat" a palate-pleasing Thanksgiving Day appetizer.

\* \* \*

And this time it came in the form of a surprising 21-6 victory over neighborly-rival Palmetto Thursday before an estimated 7,500 spectators at sun-drenched Harris Field.

\* \* \*

This come-from-behind win reduced the Panthers margin to 5-4-1 in the 10-year history of this annual grid relationship which yearly climaxes the prep campaigns for both schools.

\* \* \*

SD, under Coach Leo Martin, accomplished the victory by scoring three second half TDs and overcoming a 6-0 halftime deficit.

\* \* \*

Highlights of this "holiday natural" were Palmetto's Homecoming ceremonies and the presentation of the first annual Bill Burdick Memorial trophy to the South Dade player who excels in this one particular game.

\* \* \*

Lovely Cindy Walters was chosen queen and honored by Palmetto principal Robert Mahoney while Harold Arve and Mike Gilbert were dual recipients of the Burdick award.

\* \* \*

Rebel supporters still showed their loyalty and love for Confederate insignias and symbols, as flags of all sizes were noticed, despite a recent School Board ruling.

\* \* \*

One small group of SD supporters kept the spirit of the South alive by playing "Dixie" on a tape recorder before and during the game.

\* \* \*

## Concerned Parents Plan Meeting Next Thursday

The Concerned Parents Organization of South Dade High School will meet at 8 p.m. next Thursday at the Homestead Armory, to discuss plans for its Dixie Dance and hear a progress report on legal proceedings aimed at restoring Confederate symbols to the high school.

The executive board and dance committee will meet at 7 p.m. before the general meeting.

The dance will be held Dec. 14 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at

the Armory. Proceeds will help pay for the legal action. Admission will be \$3 a person or \$6 a couple and attire will be semi-formal.

Attendance will be limited to adults only. Students plan their own Dixie benefit dance for a different date.

The CPO is also assessing its membership \$5 a person or \$10 a family for the legal fund. Checks may be mailed to Box 203, Princeton, Fla. 33171. They should be made out to CPO Dixie Fund.

## Concerned Parents Not Really Concerned Enough

Editor, News Leader:

Concerned Parents Organization is a good name for the local group According to the Random House dictionary, "concern" means to "disquiet or trouble."

Another meaning is "to be connected with." But many of them are not concerned enough to go to the American Education Week Open House at South Dade.

Nor do they seem to be concerned with how some one born different from them might feel. Whether we like it or not, we are not all lucky enough to be white.

Why can't we get concerned about things like these: whether our community's youth have

enough places and leadership for play, places to study quietly, part time jobs for those who must, etc.

A CONCERNED PARENT  
MRS. JAMES R. ROY