

Our hope and pride,
A school we'll always stand beside.
Through passing years,
Through changes, challenges, pleasures,
and tears

As one and all
A mighty spirit standing tall,
We will cherish, honor and be true
to South Miami High.



Writing alma mater was view of Cobra spirit, says Adams

GARY FERMAN
Sports Editor

Although most SMSH students don't know him, a part of him is around the school all of the time.

He graduated from SMSH in 1974, a member of the first class to complete three years at South Miami.

He is now 21 years old and a music major at Louisiana State University where he plans to graduate next year.

He is Danny Adams, the author of SMSH's alma mater.

Early in his junior year, teachers were spreading the word that they wanted a student to try to write the alma mater.

Adams, who was, and still is, a great music lover, decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

"I didn't want to write a normal, everyday alma mater," said Adams. "I wanted South Miami's to be different...I wanted to get away from the usual nursery rhyme-type song and be original."

The melody to the song was composed by the late Dr. Clifton A. Williams, who was a music professor at the University of Miami at the time.

Adams had to analyze the music, come up with an idea and finally write the verses to fit the music. It was a job that took a lot of time, but

In September, 1972, Danny Adams (above left) created South Miami High's alma mater. Today his work appears on the south wall of the school gymnasium, a permanent symbol of the unique spirit of Cobra Country.

surprisingly, Adams kept it a secret from most people, including his family.

"The only thing I remember is hearing Danny play the bells in his room one night," recalls his mother, Mrs. Joseph Adams. "He kept it a secret and we didn't even find out about it until one of his friends told us and that was after it had already been chosen!"

Adams feels that his song expresses his idea of what an alma mater should be like.

"I was trying to express what I believed the school could be like once it was established," said Adams. "When I graduated it was too early to tell if my beliefs would come true."

What is an alma mater?

According to Webster's Dictionary, it is a school's official song.

Why then, some may wonder, is it played during pep rallies and football game halftime shows.

"For most students it's a ritual," Adams said. "It is a way for students to get together and show school spirit."

After graduating from LSU next year, Adams would like to begin writing scores for movies and television. He would also like to teach music at the university level.

However, despite the bright future that appears to be ahead of him, he looks back on his high school years with great satisfaction.

"It's very self satisfying," he concluded. "I can go through life knowing that I left something at my high school that will always be there."