

FEATURES

SERPENT'S TALE/5

Handbook and homeroom procedures changed for '82-83 school year

By FRANCISCO J. CALDERON

Homeroom procedures and the student handbook for the 1982-83 school year have been changed. The new, larger format now includes a calendar.

Why this new format? In the past, many handbooks were found in the garbage, an indication that most students were uninterested in the handbook. "If you don't want it, it's not going to do you any good," says Dr. Burchell, explaining why the change came about.

The change was decided upon by Ms. Truitt, during the early spring of the last school

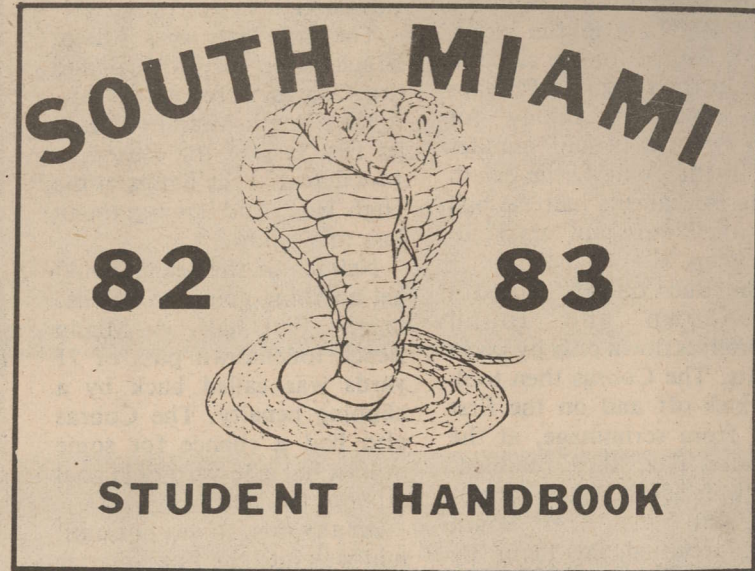
year. Says Dr. Burchell, "This change (of format) to calendar form was made in hope that the students would be interested in it." Apparently, the students like this new format. The demand for handbooks is so high, that the school has almost run out of them.

The best thing about the handbook, most students say, is the calendar. The calendar, which runs from August 1982 to June 1983, includes space for messages. If garbage cans are an indicator of a handbook's popularity, then their emptiness (at least as far as handbooks are concerned)

show that a majority of the students like the new format.

One thing barely mentioned in the handbook is the new homeroom procedures. It has been changed because it is "not necessary" stated Ms. Benach, assistant principal. The students previously went to first period and then to homeroom in another classroom. This year, homeroom is with the first period teacher.

This now represents 10 additional minutes in lunch. Most students and teachers agree that the new homeroom procedures are better and more convenient.



SMSH students and faculty look at first 10 years

By ANGEL FERNANDEZ

The ninth of November 1971, South Miami Senior High opened its doors. Inside those doors and for ten years now under evaluation by administrators, teachers, and students, there has always been honor, glory, and a great deal of love and friendship, the same love and friendship that every Cobra student is proud of.

Beyond all teachers and school staff, there is someone who really deserves a reserved spot, Dr. Warren G. Burchell. Much of the South Miami Senior High success is based

M. Odom, however, South Miami people have stayed basically the same through the years. She thinks that the students she taught some time ago had, mainly, the same abilities and attitudes as the ones she teaches now.

Ms. Odom believes, as does English teacher Mrs. Vicky Durham, that the relationship between teachers and students is becoming more open every day. Both of them agreed that, somehow, the students at South Miami are more mature now than were the students of some years ago.

"Now, it is much easier to

Association of Colleges and Schools as is each Dade County School. But what is that association for? Well, first of all, many colleges and universities do not accept any student who has not attended a high school accredited by the Southern Association. For a school to be accredited it is necessary that it keeps the Association's standards.

Assessment of the level of quality is the central purpose of evaluation and accreditation.

Once each five years, the school shall be required to conduct an interim evaluation and submit to the State Com-

then, they will describe our weak and strong points, making the proper recommendations."

Dr. Rogers commented, "The evaluation is very positive and constructive, because it stimulates the school to improve."

Ten years, a whole decade

united by one principal: Dr. Burchell. "The biggest satisfaction I have ever had while being your principal, is every time that one of those Cobra students comes back to the school and say: "They, Dr. Burchell!! How are you? How is South Miami doing? Do you remember that time when. . . ."

Class of '85 arrives

"Everyone's so friendly," stated sophomore Doris Zulueta at the beginning of South Miami's second decade. "The atmosphere of South Miami High is different than that in junior high because it seems that you are beginning school again."

Most students were able to reach their classes the first few days though the alleged fourth floor swimming pool or basement were nowhere in sight.

After the first few days, it was apparent that most students

an even more comfortable and fulfilling school, Dr. Burchell is one of those personalities you will always remember.

Our school is ten years old, but what was it like when it started? What have been its changes through all these years?

Well, there is an obvious difference between the number of students who attended the first year, "72", and last year, "82"; that first year, 1400 students came to South Miami but at this time, we form a very large school with 2,212 students.

According to Dr. Burchell, "In the very first years of the school, there were a lot of troubles; most of these problems were racial or ethnic problems. The people at the school were strongly divided in groups; black people, white people, and those whose native language was Spanish. It was really hard to teach in such conditions since fights and harsh arguments became too usual. Now, we have some of those arguments, right, but they are just among individuals, not among those groups, since they do not exist any more."

"Of course many things are not the same they were ten years ago; nor are the teachers the same, because they have had to change as the times did. There is something that cheers me up to keep myself working more and more, and that is that I realize how students are coming back to the so-called "wanting to learn" syndrome. Dr. Burchell commented.

For math teacher Ms. Mary

years ago," concludes Mrs. Durham. "Our students have become serious and aware of what they are looking for."

"It has been ten years and at this point, you have to stop for a moment and look at yourself to determine whether what you are doing is right or wrong, and to seek for a way to improve those areas that are needing to be improved", declared Dr. ~~V. P.~~ P. Rogers the man who is directing the evaluation.

South Miami Senior High is a member of the Southern

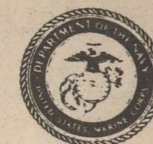
in accordance with the Commission on Secondary Schools.

"Some time in March of 1983 the whole evaluation will be over," stated Dr. Rogers. "But first, we must prepare our self-study for January, when the Visiting Committee comes to make their reevaluation over our self-study report. The Visiting Committee is composed by a group of high level educators representing the State Committee, who will report to the Southern Association on our school;

teachers and become involved in the school activities and spirit. Overall, "The opening of school went well," believed many teachers and students.

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