

# Science Students Win Awards at County Fair

**BY: ANGEL FERNANDEZ**

These days the South Miami Science Department is enjoying the good taste of success. At the Dade County Science Contest, which was held at the Youth Fair, our science team scored a great triumph: out of ten projects presented, eight were winners.

Mrs. Ducharme, science teacher, has been deeply involved in the environment around our winners at the contest. She feels that more motivation of the students, great help from the administration when it came to supply materials and more encouragement of teachers to work harder, have been the clues to the excellent results achieved.

South Miami has another reason to be proud of its students. This time, these are the winners:

ed the classification of superior with her project "Do the Minerals in Ground Water Help the Growth of the Red Kidney Bean Plant?" Erena wanted to "thank the teachers in the Science Department for their help. I hope that the school administration acknowledges the importance of a good science course that is able to keep the student's best interest in mind. It is the administration's power to provide South Miami with one of the best science programs in the county, and I hope it will be done."

"Enzyme action of different juices on a protein" was the title of Dao Lee's work. The judges rated it "excellent." Dao explains the purpose of her project as "an investigation to determine what factors influence the enzymatic action of different juices on a protein

digest proteins faster."

If there was a winner among the winners, that was Dao's brother, Vu. Vu Lee, with his project "Albumin Ultramicrospheres: Drug Delivery System for Breast Cancer," won, among others, the first place for the American Cancer Society, first place for the U.S. Navy along with an invitation to the National Science Fair, and the pride of seeing his project in the state contest. "I was proud of being a Cobra student when listening to South Miami High at the awards assembly. Showing the rest of the county the caliber of the science students and faculty in our school was great," said Vu.

Maria Acosta was another of our promising sophomore winners. Her project "Does the Play of Video Games Af-

honorable mention. Maria commented, "I took the pressure of the people before they played the video games, and then, after. Then, I compared the two."

The Tropical Audubon Society Honorable Mention and the Sierra Club Excellent were won by Santiago Villazon by his job: "Alcohol as a Fuel: Solving Today's Environmental Problems."

To the judges at the Youth Fair, Fei Shih's project was excellent. "Sine and Cosine Waves" was its title and it took her about one hundred and fifty hours to complete it. Fei, who plans to major in mathematics and biochemistry, made a "computer program that allows the user to write his own sine or cosine equation. The computer asks and corrects any wrong answers and then, it

Another of our "excellent" projects, was Marlene Fernandez's. Marlene entered the contest because it "seemed very interesting, but I didn't really think I was going to win. I felt very happy when I did."

"The Adaptation of Fish" was the title of Tammy MacGibbon's winner job. "After two months of hard work, I still was surprised when I realized I had won," said Tammy.

Mrs. Ducharme hopes that this achievement will stimulate students, will make their interest in research grow, and will encourage them to continue working in high level classes.

As another reason for our students' success, Mrs. Ducharme stated not only their hard work and studies, but also the spirit and teamwork they developed. "They