

Leadership With a Twist

A More Personal Approach

Trying to accommodate the various problems in a school with 1,700 students is no easy task. Yet Principal Bob Pence and assistant Principals Frank Barnhill, Debra King Moody, Steve Carter, and Helen Bodison remained to their jobs.

Instead of ruling with an iron fist, Mr. Pence instead chose a more personal approach by getting to know the students and establishing rapport. He made himself available, walking the halls and mingling with the masses, instead of remaining behind his desk.

Mr. Pence also helped establish many activities to reward students for their work. He passed out tickets to students who dumped their lunch trays, then later held a drawing and a dance that required those tickets for admission. "I want," he stated, "to see all of the students come into my office, not just the ones who have committed infractions."

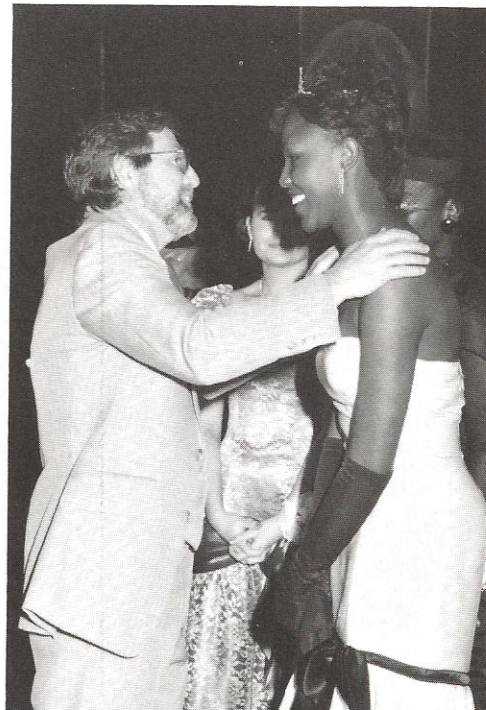
Bumper stickers were awarded to students who participated in music and

sports. Good citizenship and perfect attendance were also recognized. Burger King and McDonald's were sponsors of the project.

Even the faculty was shown appreciation. Teachers attaining perfect attendance recognition were granted a complimentary meal. Ms. Crawford put forth an extra effort to attend school, and at the end each nine-week period, she received a free meal at Southland Restaurant. "I enjoyed the hour away from school," she remarked, "and the meal was really nice."

Mrs. Moody, who graced the halls with her vivacious personality, realized that school is an important job. "But," she began, "I hope that the students can also understand that school is also fun and exciting. I hope that they can see that in me and in their school, because everything we do is for them."

by Katrina Avant



After being crowned prom queen, Genette Fields receives a congratulatory hug from Assistant Principal Steve Carter.

While chaperoning the Homecoming dance in the commons area, Mrs. Helen Bodison interrupts her conversation with her daughter, Cantelle, for a quick smile.



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