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September 23, 1970

Mr. Eldon Janzen, Band Director  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Mr. Janzen:

I read the article in this morning's Arkansas Gazette in regard to the continued cessation of the playing of "Dixie" at the major athletic events at the University.

First, let me commend you and your band very highly on your half time performances at the Stanford and Oklahoma State games. It was excellent. I was also proud that Mr. Raymond Brandon wrote a letter of disagreement to a local newspaper for its negative writing concerning the band.

Today's Gazette article stated that the reaction to the ban on this song is minimal. This is possibly so; however, I heard much criticism in the stands for the lack of enthusiasm shown by the students and down on the field, due to their thinking that "Dixie" was not being used at present.

Personally, I feel that tax payers of Arkansas, who finance the institution and buy the football tickets, should be considered in this matter, and I am sure that the majority are for keeping this long time tradition.

It could be coincidental, but it is very interesting that since the discontinuance of this pep song, the University has won only one game, and we might well say that the Oklahoma game was contributed to them; also that the University team has dropped from second to twelfth in the national ranking.

The fact that "Dixie" was not played at the Texas game did not stop demonstrations. The off-campus dissidents are going to demonstrate whether it is "Dixie" or the President of the United States.

As to the song itself, the Gazette article refers to it as a Confederate war song. It was not written as such and no wording in it refers to war in any way, form or fashion. It was used by the Confederates during this trying period, due to the catchy tune and the emotional enthusiasm which this melody produces. It is a shame for a small minority to reverse the traditions of the majority, especially when you will have to admit the Whites have adopted the African jungle beat as the most played radio and television music on the air. Why should not we be able to retain such a small tradition as "Dixie".