

# Song, Symbol, Sacrifice?

"Dixie" — a song, a symbol, a sacrifice?

Finally, the issue has come to the University of Arkansas. It was thrust upon us last night at the Texas Tech pep rally. At least, that's the way many of the students see a look at the disruption of the rally. They think that just all of a sudden the Blacks on the campus got upset with the playing of "Dixie." They think.

The Blacks have a different idea. They number in years the attempts to have "Dixie" banned as a fight song for the University. The Blacks who marched upon the stage of the Greek Theatre last week believed that every avenue of appeal had been exhausted. A spokesman for the group indicated that they had decided to take their grievances directly to the students, in specific those at the pep rally, since the Blacks believed that these students were the people that should make the decision on "Dixie."

Since the disruption of the pep rally and the subsequent presentation of grievances to the president of the University, people have moved swiftly to solve the problems at hand. Their actions have obviously been an attempt to "diffuse" reaction or demonstration on the "Dixie" issue before THE game.

The knowledge that the President of the

United States and indeed millions across the nation will be watching has lured numerous groups to plan demonstrations, attempting a unified protest against racism. The threat of a televised demonstration on anything from the University of Arkansas has sent dozens of people scurrying in an attempt to stop such an action.

Possibly a majority of the people on this campus would ask today that "Dixie" be maintained as a fight song here. These same people will argue that there are no racial overtones intended by the song, that it is a fight song, and merely that.

On the other hand, the Blacks, a minority, find "Dixie" to be offensive. To them, "Dixie" is more than a song. It is a symbol . . . a "manifestation of racism on this campus."

The University Student Senate voted last night by an impressive margin of 28-6 for the "immediate discontinuance" of the playing of "Dixie." Their motion, taken by roll call vote, has outraged some, surprised many and left others dumbfounded. An analysis of their action indicates that perhaps it was a sacrifice. The degree of sacrifice will possibly be determined when and if the question is brought before the campus in a student referendum.

This article was re-typed so it would be easier to read.

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