

Letters To The Editor

SSOC Asks Band's Aid

Dear Editor:

The following is a copy of a letter SSOC recently sent to Dr. Worthington, Marching Razorbacks director, concerning the playing of Dixie at pep rallies and ball games.

Barbara Wink, Corresponding Sec. Southern Student Organizing Committee

Dr. R. A. Worthington
Director, Marching Razorbacks
Band Building

Dear Dr. Worthington:

The University of Arkansas chapter of Southern Student Organizing Committee is deeply concerned about improving race relations on this campus. We wish to solicit your help in this matter.

Last spring Negro students at the University drew up a list of grievances concerning human relations on campus. Among the grievances was that the band plays "Dixie" at almost all the pep rallies and sports events.

This grievance was also brought up at a human relations forum made up of students and faculty members Oct. 17, 1968.

It seems it is not the words in "Dixie" which are deplorable to black students (and to those of us among whites who want a new South—one in which "old times there" are indeed forgotten) so much as the response the song draws forth.

We feel that the band is responsible for its role in fostering the feeling of unity of purpose and spirit—the purpose, that of returning to the "old South," the spirit, that of racism—which grows each time the song is played and sung.

We have all seen Confederate flags waved during the playing of "Dixie." But how many of us have considered the position of the black student who also connects this song with the Confederacy and therefore with the slavery of his ancestors.

How can he keep from wondering if the song is played and sung with such vigor because people still believe in what the old South—Dixie in 1859—stood for: segregation, aristocracy and slavery?

We have heard this complaint from black students far too often not to take some action in the

matter. At this time we strongly urge you to present this issue to the band members for consideration.

We feel certain that this element of racial tension at the University of Arkansas is unintentional, and we hope for a prompt and simple resolution of the problem.

For peace and freedom in a new South,

Barbara Wink, Corresponding Secretary, Southern Student Organizing Committee

Protest Appeal Made

Dear Editor:

As you know as well as everybody else, there exists an air of discrimination on this campus. The action of the Student Senate is purely an unworthy discriminatory act.

We, the Black Students come to this University to learn and study social, moral and scientific principles.

We the Blacks would like to establish some form of recognized coalition or organization to serve as a medium for educating all people on this campus concerning the Blacks as well as serving as a mediator for more racial harmony on this campus.

But how can we do this with a Student Senate, apparently headed by a racist of some sort, delaying action on our platform-constitution.

I appeal to all the student body to protest such action because the only thing that can come out of such action is more hostility between the Black students and the white students on this campus.

Harold Betton

Reader Echoes Opinion

Dear Editor,

I want to compliment you on your editorial dealing with the recent discontinuation of the University Housing List. I agree wholeheartedly with you that it is the University's responsibility to provide such a listing for its students, and further that if the University shies away from involvement with issues involving race relations, the entire movement toward a more equitable society will be denied an important means of achieving the end so long delayed.

Pete Ray

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

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Arkansas Traveler, Vol. 63, No. 33
October 30, 1968

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