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1100 N. W. 61st St.  
Miami, Fla. 33127  
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To the Editors of the Miami Herald and the Miami News.

A BITTER TASTE OF IRONY

To Alabama band's playing of "Dixie" during the game Saturday the University of Miami responded with a quickie version of its own, bringing forth a loud, general cheer along with Confederate flags waving from the stands. Following this by five minutes was an equally vibrant and supposedly sincere rendering of "What The World Needs Now is Love, Sweet, Love."

The U. of Ala. was visiting. Therefore we cannot ask, only hope that the image of maturity and humanity formerly demonstrated by the U. of M. will be absorbed by students of the U. of Ala. as they have opportunities to leave Alabama and gain wider exposure to more broadening experiences.

However, as a former U. of M. student (black), a housewife and mother of four, a family which has purchased U. of M. season tickets for several years, I would like to ask the students, especially those members of the band, "What does 'Dixie' mean to the present youth? If you feel the world needs Love, than who is to make the first effort and who decides those to be "included" by this Love? Where does the hope and responsibility lie? If not with today's young people from our top centers of education and development, then where?

The picture I saw as the crowd roared approval and flags flamed the fire, was painful and disturbing. The U. of M's apparent need to show alliance with the U. of Ala. on this number, without regard for the black people present, including their own band members, cheerleaders and students, not to mention regular supporters, all of whom were obviously affected and disappointed by the display, did much to



increase racial polarization, nurturing the already growing distrust and hatred which foments revolt on the part of those who are forced to sit helplessly by and pay to be humiliated by those you feel an allegiance to. Hopefully, the spontaneous playing of Dixie was not conducted nor condoned by the U. of M. Band Director. (Another story if this be the case.)

The incident helped to kill the existing pride in the U. of M. and the great strides it has made in this area. Also it damaged greatly the hope for a "new" citizen of the future exemplifying Love rather than "another" citizen joining the older, limited citizenry who brought us to the world of "select" citizens we now are facing. Which shall it be, Love or Dixie? One kills the other, if everyone is to be Loved.

Mrs. Marie Brown

cc: U. of M. President  
U. of M. Band Director