To Buy or to Boycott

To the Editor:

Paul Krugman's March 25 column, "Channels of Influence," about a boycott of the Dixie Chicks after the group's lead singer criticized President Bush, has finally inspired me to heed Mr. Bush's post-9/11 advice to support our country's ideals through consumer spending.

I now have two items on my shopping list: the new Dixie Chicks album and a bottle of Beaujolais.

ANN ALEXANDER
Oak Park, Ill., March 25, 2003

To the Editor:

I share Paul Krugman's outrage at the radio-driven campaign against the Dixie Chicks, who had the temerity to criticize President Bush ("Channels of Influence," column, March 25). But I'm equally outraged by Mr. Krugman's suggestion that this campaign is reminiscent of Nazi book burnings in the 1930's.

The leaders of the campaign against the Dixie Chicks are not agents of the state. They cannot prevent Mr. Krugman or me from buying and enjoying the music that we choose. But the Nazi attacks upon so-called "Jewish" books were organized by the state, which made it illegal for Germans to own the texts.

JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN
New York, March 25, 2003

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