EPIC Letter Continued:

only true if violence was not used. I might mention here that almost all cases of violence to southern demonstrations have been caused by 'white supremacists' attacking Negro demonstrators. The president also said, however, and former President Truman agrees) that constitutionally a storekeeper does have the right to serve whom he wants. This does not mean, however, that those who are refused service do not have the right to boycott or picket that store.

6. a. To the racist group, I can really say very little, because as I have mentioned, your position is incomprehensible to me. I would simply suggest that while you are in Tech, where you will not be castigated for your associates, you get to know as many Negroes and foreign students as you can. I am sure that by doing this you will learn to your amazement that they are not animals, and are decent human beings as you claim to be.

b. To the unconcerned group I say, at the risk of appearing trite, that democracy is something very precious, and that if we do not fight for it in our own country, we will have wasted the countless lives of soldiers who died defending it against dictators who tried to enslave the world.

c. Finally, to the last group of those who really care and are searching for actions they can take, I suggest the following:

(1) Keep up with the action in Congress on civil rights and write your Senators and Representatives asking them to support this legislation. As you know, a large number of northern Republicans have teamed up with southern Democrats to water down the already meager Administration plan to get more Negroes the right to vote. Some of these men are "on the fence" and might be swayed by a large letter writing campaign.

(2) Write to the President and ask why in the six years since the desegregation decision he has refused to say specifically that he favors integration. Ask why, when he was so outspoken and active on the pressing need for labor reform, he has given nothing but vague platitudes and has even failed to speak out for his own administration's civil rights bills.

(3) Most important, keep informed on what is going on in this field by reading the newspapers. Try to orient your ball actions toward these issues, and maybe you can come up with some new ideas. And don't be afraid to speak out! The "Letters to the Editor" section in the Tech or in your hometown newspapers are an excellent place to voice your views.

If you finally do decide to take some action, take it with a clear conscience. I am sure that by doing this you will learn to your amazement that you can. I am sure that by doing this you will learn to your amazement that they are not animals, and are decent human beings as you claim to be.

Sincerely,
Martin Klein, '62

The response of the supposedly apathetic MIT student body to the question of EPIC is indeed gratifying. Mr. Klein is from Boston House. Mr. Sisson is from Delta Upsilon, and Mr. Funkenhauser is an apartment-dweller. Whatever one's personal feeling on the question of integration and of EPIC, it is clear that EPIC has had at least one salutary effect, and that is to start MIT thinking about something outside the campus. The Tech would welcome further relevant comments, if it adds to the above.

Ed.