Credit those who band together

To the editor:

As a Black African student at MIT, I feel that Mr. Simon L. Garfinkel's article of March 22, 1985, should not pass without comment. It has become common knowledge that he has turned the opinion columns of The Tech into a forum for the propagation of sentiments some may consider racist. Many will agree with me that his articles of late, by and large, have been shot of skewed objectivity and are fundamentally destitute of rationality.

Garfinkel states explicitly that the on-going tragedy in certain parts of Africa dwindles to insignificance in the face of the present peril of nuclear annihilation and should be treated as such. He feels that the threat of a nuclear strike on the United States by the Soviets necessitates that wealthy Americans turn a cold ear to the yells for rescue from the abyss of hunger and death by the "poor starving blacks in Africa"

and begin to "think about issues like arms control and civil defense." While I agree that these issues are of cardinal importance, it seems perfectly clear that Mr. Garfinkel does not have a shred of paranoia and has allowed himself to drift into a helium-filled balloon in static air.

"What difference does it make if ten thousand or ten million Africans die of starvation in 1985 if our planet is destroyed by nuclear holocaust in 1990?" Before we can help the children, we must save the world. Garfinkel is probably ignorant of an ancient saying: charity begins at home. How does he expect to save the world when he cannot save even the children? If Garfinkel made any attempt at rational thinking before he put pen to paper, he must say he failed hopelessly.

In a world as cacophonous as the one Garfinkel and I happen to live in, it becomes a singular achievement when any two bodies agree on any issue at all. let alone people assembling themselves under one roof to incite their talents and deliberately fight for a decent moral cause. This is precisely what the popular musicians in the United Kingdom and the United States did when they produced songs to raise funds to ease human suffering in Ethiopia, and if Garfinkel does not see it to go them a pat on the shoulder, he should not vent his spleen on them. While I am in no position to make an assessment of individual motives, I think they have made a giant leap toward saving humans from ultimate disaster and have thus dabbled a brilliant victory when powerful governments have faltered. It is Garfinkel's opinion that by so doing, these artists have obscured from Americans what he calls more pressing issues -- arms reduction talks in Geneva. What is an ever present product of a human mind?

To Mr. Garfinkel, I must point out that the people who are "poor starting blacks in Africa" and "another case of the Whiteness's Burden" are human beings with feelings identical to his own. They have the same capacity to yell out when in pain, and to giggle when affectionately tickled. A disaster is a disaster, he it Adolf Hitler smashing Jews, the Japa-

nese slaughtering Americans at Pearl Harbor, or Americans dropping bombs on Japan, it is invariably drawn concerns from all.

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Comission will investigate increasing military funding

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sented a petition signed by 283 students who strongly supported the formation of this commission, and called for student members to serve on the commission. An active discussion followed. Associate Professor Emma Roth
dal (STS) commented that the Commission would need to generate new data since many important statistics relating to the influenza of the military have not been collected since the Vietnam War. For example, it is not known what percentage of engineers and scientists in various fields are employed in military industries.

She also requested that the commission document the amount of on-campus research funding that comes from military sources by department. Professor James Kinlen, Jr. (EE) suggested that the commission include "a few cord carrying members of the military-industrial complex." No one spoke in opposition to the proposal.

Professor Art Smith, the Chairman of the Faculty, agreed to form the commission without a vote, and asked for faculty volunteers and recommendations of members to serve on the commission. Nominations for graduate and undergraduate participants will be accepted by the GSC and UA. The number of students will be determined after the faculty are chosen.

Erik Deveroux '85
Robin Wagner G
Adrian Nye

TECH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Thursday Liturgy, April 4, 8:00pm
Good Friday Service, April 5, 3:00pm
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 6, 6:30pm
Easter Sunday Masses, April 7, 9:00am & 12 noon

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