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A Friend

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October 9, 1962

Dear Mr. Meredith,

I am a white college junior. I hope you won't think I'm being silly writing to someone I don't know but there are some things I would like to tell you.

First, I want you to know how very much I admire you for your courage and apparent serenity. I can easily imagine what you are going through and how low your spirits must drop at times but you need only to pause and think of the great good you are accomplishing.

It is hard to believe that there are people in our world so filled with hate and prejudice that they are blind to what is right. I feel that these feelings must stem from ignorance, and I can pity these people. I am sorry that another human being must be the target of this hatred. You must

possess amazing courage and
self control to stand up to
this. Even though my convictions
are strong I know I could
never do what you are doing.

I know for every insulting
shout or bitter letter you
receive each day that there
are two people who are
silently applauding you.

I send my deepest
admiration to you as a
fellow human being and
my best wishes to you
as a student. Thank you
for taking time to read
this letter.

Sincerely,
A Friend

You see, I don't have the
courage to sign my name
but I think you understand.



Mr. James H. Meredith
University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi