

10-4-1962

## Elizabeth Timberman to Mr. James H. Meredith (4 October 1962)

Elizabeth Timberman

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December 11, 1962

Miss Elizabeth Timberman  
333 West 52nd Street  
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Miss Timberman:

Thank you for your concern and warm thoughts.

However, at present time does not permit me to go into details with reference to a flow of correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Timberman

PHOTOGRAPHS

October 4, 1962

Mr. James H. Meredith  
Baxter Hall  
University Of Mississippi  
Oxford,, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Meredith:

May I introduce myself? I am a poet and photographer living and working in New York City. I have done a considerable amount of work for Life Magazine, The New York Times Magazine, Saturday Evening Post, etc. but am now trying to assemble a book of my own poems and photographs. I'm also working with a writer-collaborator on a picture and text book about New York City.

During this period I have sought other work for a living and was fortunate in securing a job as a part-time secretary. I am interested in art, literature, Civil Rights, folk music, and dancing- all kinds, including the Mashed Potatoes!

When I heard of your plan to enter the University, I became, as it were, personally involved in your struggle, long before troops and guns and rioting. Your "case" if I may call it that, has become for the time being the most important thing in my life.

Let me get to the point.

I should like to correspond with you.

If you have the time and will for such an exchange, I think it might prove fruitful to us both. I will try to tell you why I think this.

But first, let me ~~talk~~ make it very clear what I am not. I do not want to exploit you. I do not want to pull a stunt. I do not want to harm you or endanger you in any way. And if, for any reason, you feel that such a correspondence would be inadvisable, I shall not pester you.

The reasons I think the exchange could be healthy and good are these:

1. You are a brave man and such courage can stand as an example for others.
2. You are a symbol, and when you say "It is more for America than it is for me," you demonstrate clearly your awareness and understanding of the position into which you have been thrown.

- 2.
3. An exchange in the form of an ordinary, "easy" correspondence between two humansbeings whose goals are similar can be stimulating and helpful to one another. Here I am being selfish; I think you can help me far more than I can you.
4. Such an exchange, if it is on a reasonable, adult level could be enlightening ~~to~~ to others, if both correspondents after a period of time deemed it worthy of passing along to them.

There are a great many "ifs" here! And I'm sure you will think of others.

It must be hard enough just trying to be yourself and living the life of a serious college student.

*note* { If the idea interests you, Mr. Meredith, my suggestion is that we write each other perhaps every 10 days or 2 weeks, so as not to impose on either of our work schedules.

I eagerly await your reply.

Yours respectfully,

Elizabeth Timberman

ET/e