

Room 56-423

Ext. 4707

May 7, 1970

To the Editor
The Boston Globe
135 William T. Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02127

Dear sir:

The newspapers and other media frequently report statements by politicians and private citizens decrying the violence "of students' and black people's protests." When one looks into the serious violence one often finds that the actual violent acts are carried out by those people who, by reason of their mission in society, should be responsible for preventing violence not only in others but in themselves.

Thus, National Guardsmen shoot into an unarmed crowd of students at Kent State University.

Thus, Cambridge policemen on May 5 savagely beat up two MIT doctoral students inside a police station.

While deploring these acts of brutal violence on the part of individual guardsmen and policemen, we must look for the responsibility and where it truly belongs.

When elected officers such as Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew use violent words and scurrilous epithets in referring to our concerned youth -- and the President of the United States finds nothing else to say after the Kent State murders except blaming the murders on the murdered people -- it is surprising that these seeds of anger and hatred do not cause more wounds and more deaths.

Let those in power beware lest their irresponsible words and actions destroy all sense of responsibility in this nation.

Sincerely yours,

sel/na

S. E. Luria
Sedgwick Professor of Biology