

•MAY 27 1972

The Bomb Throwers

To the Editor:

Having just completed two semesters at a large Eastern university, I vouch for the fact that it is simply not true that Weatherpeople policies are "totally discredited by the overwhelming mass of the student generation," as you state in your May 20 editorial on the Pentagon bombing. It is the reluctance of movement people, rather, to hazard these young people's freedom or even lives which has so far made protest violence the exception. The candidates for such actions are there.

The "return to the mindless display of violence" is of course the Government's; everything else is reaction, not action. Similarly, I—and I hope most readers—think of Nixon and his generals when they read the words "bomb throwers." They are the vandals, and cowardly vandals to boot, who rain death on a country that has virtually no air force. The young people who risk all to smuggle a bomb into the Pentagon are idealists, if desperate ones.

There have been two years of quiet, partly because of the famous, or rather infamous, backlash argument. The Administration has shown, in Vietnam as on the busing issue, that it interprets quiet as weakness or concurrence.

Lastly, the media, and among them The Times, bear a heavy responsibility for any new protest violence. You have totally failed in the task of proper and objective reporting of the many peaceful protest actions against the dirty war.

HANS KONING

Boston, May 20, 1972