

Editorial Opinion

# It Can Happen Again

A coed was abducted about 9:15 p.m. Sunday while she was walking along College Ave. She blacked out when taken into a car and found herself sitting on the library steps half an hour later.

Three incidents of men trying to lure coeds into cars were reported over the weekend. Over the years there have been many incidents of men attempting to abduct or attack coeds. Most have not been made public. Undoubtedly a good number have not been reported even to the police.

A 17-year-old freshman named Rachel Hutchinson Taylor returned by bus from the spring recess on March 28, 1940, and began walking from the bus stop to Atherton Hall.

Her mutilated body was found the next morning in the driveway of the College Township School, Lemont. The murder remains unsolved.

There is no reason to believe that a coed walking alone at night is less subject to murder, rape or kidnaping today than 18 years ago.

Perhaps if more of the incidents of attempt were reported to the public, coeds would be more aware of the very real danger they face. Perhaps if the campus were better lighted, they would be safer.

But Penn State at night can be a desolate place. It is an elementary measure of self-protection for coeds not to walk about campus or town alone at night.

# Sound Versus Seats

Eleanor Roosevelt will come to campus on Jan. 7, and she'll speak in Schwab Auditorium. That's been settled, but not without some controversy.

There are a number of people who thing Mrs. Roosevelt, the first speaker in the new Lecture Series, should give her talk in Recreation Building.

Mrs. Roosevelt is a world-famous figure, and the Rec Building partisans reason that more students than can be seated in Schwab should be given a chance to hear her.

But then others say that the acoustics in Rec Building aren't good enough for a successful lecture. Also, there has been some talk that Rec Building is not an appropriate setting for Mrs. Roosevelt's talk.

There's been another argument advanced in favor of holding the talk in Schwab—a rather far-fetched one. This is that there should be a good showing for this, the first in the series, and that it would be better to have to turn students away from Schwab than have Rec Building not completely filled.

This is poor logic, although the members of the Lecture Series can make only an educated guess at the number of persons who will show up at the lecture.

The lecture happens to be scheduled for a week which also includes two intercollegiate athletic showings and the visit of the Finnish gymnasts.

But the decision has been made, and the acoustics and setting have been chosen over the increased capacity.

Tickets can be picked up beginning Jan. 5, the Monday after the end of the Christmas vacation. Interested students should make sure they're there early in the morning if they plan to get seats.

Letters

# Reader Attacks Karn's Letter

TO THE EDITOR: On Saturday last, I happened to read in the columns of your paper a letter to you written by a student, Mr. William Karn. I was somewhat surprised by the vituperative language, the trenchant expressions and the voice of anger against a whole race.

Mr. Karn probably has some reasons to be angry but I wonder whether a student with that calibre which he has for graduate studies can make generalizations without going into further consideration of the subject.

It seems to me that his thesis is: Women are inferior to men.

I agree with Mr. Karn that we must admit differences where they exist, but I do not agree that the genius of the woman is inferior to that of man. When we are making generalizations, I think we should not take exceptions among one sex as Shakespeare, Leonardo de Vinci and Beethoven, and feel that each one of us is therefore superior to all women.

If there have been some geniuses among men, we must remember that nature has compensated it with innumerable instances of idiocy, madness and stupidity.

Otto Jespersen, after careful research comes to this conclusion: Genius is more common among men by virtue of the same general tendency by which idiocy is more common among men.

I feel that intelligence is not the prerogative of any particular sex. It is a gift which improves with opportunity, and given the same opportunity women can be, and have shown to be, often superior to most men.

While teaching in India (I taught for several years at different levels in the University), I had noticed that invariably women showed a capacity for more earnest and industrious work in intellectual fields and were often better in intellectual feats than their male counterparts. But what mattered in furthering their studies was a lack of opportunity—due to such factors as marriage and others.

I agree with Mr. Karn that we must be less materialistic and have less of the acquisitive instinct.

Men may not acquire things for themselves but I have a secret feeling that they acquire them to turn them over to women so that they may keep them ready for them (men) when they need those acquisitions again!

—K. S. Narayana

# Gazette

- TODAY  
 Association of Independent Men, 7 p.m., 203 HUB  
 American Rocket Society, 7 p.m., 105 ME  
 ASAE, 7 p.m., 206 Ag. Eng.  
 Camera Club, 7:30 p.m., 212 HUB  
 Chess Club, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks  
 Delta Phi Alpha, Christmas meeting, 8 p.m., 419 W. Maple Ave.  
 DOC Student Council, 8 p.m., 218 HUB  
 DOC elections, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. HUB Cardroom  
 Leadership Training, 7 p.m., 119 Osmond  
 Nittany Grotto, 7 p.m., 121 M.I.  
 Psychology Club, 7 p.m., 111 Boucke  
 Student Government Reorganization Committee, 5 p.m., 203 HUB  
 Women's Chorus, 8 p.m., Assembly Hall

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
 Joanna Applah, Kenneth Colbank, Frederick Deak, James Dean, Judith Douglas, Barbara Greenwald, Jeffrey Hardy, Andrew Jordan, Donald Kamenetsky, Althea Leslie, Terrence Madden, Anthony S. Mortimer, Judith Muskat, Terry Ritter, Carolyn Shustick, Walter Smithson, Barbara Spratt, Fred Waltman, Nancy Israel, Arnold Machles.

# Coed Abducted--

(Continued from page one) was back in class yesterday.

The borough police have been investigating the occurrence as well as similar incidents which have occurred recently in the HUB parking lot. The first, reported on Friday, involved a girl whom a man tried to lure into his car. Two other such incidents followed over the weekend.

Since there are no actual identifications, however, the police have almost nothing to help them in the search.

# Little Man on Campus

by Dick Bible



"Well, this college is known for its very friendly, helpful faculty."

# Words to Spare

# Want Improved TV? Turn Off the Set

By Dick Drayne

A few years ago one of the country's big television networks had as its director one of the most intelligent and imaginative men the medium has seen in its short history. This director had a very sensible theory about television: that it had an obligation to present intelligent entertainment, professional in production and worthwhile in content.

For a few years he raised the standards of the network higher than it had ever been before, or has been since. His leadership fostered good drama, TV adaptations of Broadway shows, stimulating news and public events programs.

He was gradually shaping his network—and by virtue of competition also other networks—to the standards of taste he thought it should observe.

And so, for his efforts, he was fired.

The ambitious ideas of this top-flight director, it seemed, required too much money. Sponsors weren't willing to foot the cost of his shows, and so he lost his job. He was a victim of the "vicious triangle" that has all but killed any artistic values in television.

The triangle? Networks, sponsors and the public. No one is willing to take any responsibility for making television worthwhile, and so it sinks downward, season after season, dragging the tastes of a discouraging portion of the nation with it.

The networks have the facilities to raise the standards, but they say they haven't the

money. The sponsors have the money, but they have no impetus. The public could provide the impetus, but it would rather take what it's getting and learn to like it.

What's needed, apparently, is a little cooperation. But this doesn't seem likely either.

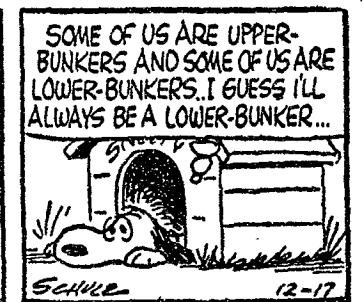
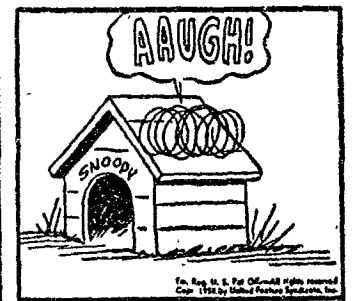
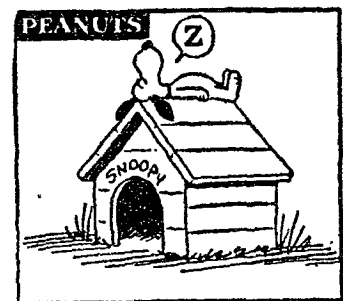
The networks don't want to recognize their obligations to provide something worthwhile for viewers. And the sponsors don't want to realize that the quality of the programs reflect on the quality of the sponsors.

But if the public refused to follow the parade of complacency, TV's sad story would soon brighten.

If people would begin to turn off their TV sets when they realized they weren't being entertained—or that they were being insulted—the ratings would drop and things would happen fast.

Sponsors and networks can take the critics raps as long as the ratings are high; but when the viewing public starts to ignore a program, the men behind the scenes start doing some fast thinking. Flip the set off often enough and programs will improve in a hurry.

And who knows, people might even discover they like their living rooms with the lights on.



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Successor to The Free Lance, est 1887

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