

Editorial Opinion Rally for Keddie

TOMORROW'S OLD MAIN rally in support of Wells Keddie is a very significant gathering and one University President Oswald can not ignore.

The significance of tomorrow's rally comes in its impressive list of speakers. Wells Keddie will be there himself. Of course, the University has heard Keddie speak before. In fact, that Keddie bothered to speak out before is the reason students will have to assemble on Old Main Lawn. Keddie made some noise and somebody heard him.

Debbie Garrett, head of Students for Keddie, also will be there. Although not a "legitimate" chartered organization, Students for Keddie has been one of the most active groups all Winter Term, traveling to residence halls and apartment complexes in the search for signatures for Keddie petitions. Unnamed representatives from

the University faculty and student government will also speak.

FIVE STUDENT organizations have sent letters supporting Students for Keddie to be delivered to Oswald. Among the groups are the Academic Assembly, Organization of Town Independent Students, Association of Residence Halls Students, Interfraternity Council and Association of Women Students.

But the most important speakers of the day will not utter a word at the rally, and certainly most will not assemble against Happy Valley's winter weather. They are the nearly 10,000 students who have challenged the unexplained denial of tenure for an educator with an outstanding teaching record.

Nearly one-third of the student body has signed petitions calling for a reversal of the tenure decision. Thousands of students have signed the petitions never having ex-

perienced Keddie in the classroom. THEIR REASON is obvious: after stating last Spring Term that student opinions should be considered in all decisions involving promotion or tenure of faculty, Oswald has allowed student opinions to be completely ignored.

Oswald will accept the Keddie petitions in his office tomorrow. Along with the petitions, Oswald should accept the responsibility he assigned himself last year when he directed student opinions to be weighed by tenure committees. Time is running out. Students for Keddie is asking for an April 7 deadline so that Keddie may know his fate and shape his future.

OSWALD IS LAYING his credibility on the line with the Keddie decision. If Keddie goes, the trust and the image Oswald established in his first year at the University may well leave campus the same day.

Women's studies sensitizing, rewarding to University coed

By ANGELA ZITO
Collegian Staff Writer

During Fall Term my friend Kathy advised me to take the course on Women's Studies, Liberal Arts 198. Being a young and liberated American woman, I innocently picked up the course during winter registration. After all, I had been interested in the women's equality movement for quite a while and had read Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique."

Wasn't I well prepared for the course? I was not so well prepared for finding out so many of the ways women are manipulated. It was a sensitizing experience that was alternately horrifying and rewarding: horrifying and saddening to see beloved myths about traditional feminine roles for what they really are: so much societal conditioning. Yet the class was rewarding because of the many women who shared my enlightenment.

Through the presentations of the term on various topics from women in history, literature and the arts, to the socialization of women, men and women became personal friends. The atmosphere was one of open discussion and always warmly human. This can hardly be said of my other courses at the university which have been structured on the "Me professor — you student" policy.

I have discovered new facets of the movement that I had felt I was so well informed on, mostly through older married women in the class who discussed their problems within their families and themselves sincerely, sharing many insights with younger classmates.

During the term it dawned on me that I was becoming

radicalized in strange ways. I had become so sensitized it became difficult to watch television: the commercials are aimed at selling products to women to relieve their chronic inferiority feelings about their kitchen sinks, cooking, toilet bowls and hair. This inferiority was created by the media that first told us we had stained sinks, lousy cooking, less than sterile toilet bowls, and ugly hair, and then offered solutions. Paging through women's magazines became a painful experience since the articles on child-care, peanut butter diets, and methods of floor cleaning are usually found sandwiched between more ads-using sister's bodies to sell more pseudo-solutions to more sister's media induced neuroses. When it dawns on the ad world that women have more important things to worry about than polished floors, the western world will rock.

Even more upsetting than these well-known thorns-in-the-sides were my reactions to the people around me, especially other women. Many times in conversations I am "accused" of being a (sniff) Women's Libber. People are so surprised when I admit to this grave fault.

There is little use in explaining that the movement is an internal phenomenon in spite of the male mass media hoopla of bra burning. Let's face it: one woman burning her bra is infinitely more interesting than the hundreds working through political channels and for legislative reform. What's duller than a committee meeting?

There is a sad tendency among young women to hastily deny any feeling or sympathy with the movement, their movement. They don't realize that commitment to one's role as a woman means commitment to the community of women as a whole. There is something in this for all of us, surely among college women at least, we can get past the man-hater image.

Yet women look adoringly at male friends and say "Who me?" This is plain apple polishing with the opposite sex and is promptly rewarded by fond glances and verbal pats on the head by their men. Why should men worry about manipulating their women when the women are so thoroughly indoctrinated they are eager to do it themselves?

The Women's Studies course had prompted me to ask that women, especially young supposedly flexible women, become informed about their movement. Don't throw away something you know so little about. Don't believe all that the media would have you believe about this problem of equality. It's not new, women have been asking for the right to full humaneness for centuries. This is not a conflict begun by a nut named Betty Friedan to sell a book; it is something we must examine carefully, beyond the bra burning.

Letters to the Editor of the Collegian

Ewing signals Crossed

TO THE EDITOR: It came as a complete surprise for the residents of Ewing Hall to discover they were living in a co-ed dorm. If your paper hadn't enlightened us, we would still be unaware of our co-ed dorm status.

To my mind there is no evidence to suggest Cross-Ewing is co-ed. The only reason to assume Cross-Ewing is co-ed would be the physical proximity of the two dorms. But the door between the two buildings is locked after five in the afternoon, somewhat limiting the co-ed status.

As a resident of Ewing I would appreciate it if in the future Ewing is not labeled co-ed. I hope soon more dorms on campus will really be co-ed.

Don Morin
(2nd-liberal arts-Penn Hills)

Sharing the blame

TO THE EDITOR: It amazes me to see the level that your paper will sink to! I am specifically referring to the article by Rod Nordland in the March 6, 1972 issue — "Theft Scare Conning Students on Visitation." Surely there must be other material that can waste space as effectively as this did. Since when is Mr. Nordland such an expert on security problems in the dormitories? He doesn't live in one and probably hasn't set foot in one since September, 1968. It seems rather obvious that he is not the right person to inform the campus about existing security problems.

Currently thefts are, indeed, a realistic problem. This isn't merely administrative rhetoric — a fantasy conjured up in the minds of the people in Old Main. Whether you realize it or not, Mr. Nordland, the Administration is in a position to be of some help here. Most of the students on this campus are content to sit on their tails and wallow in their apathy. The problem of theft is one that should be met by the residents themselves. Only most of them don't give a damn! Trying to find people to sit in the dorm lobbies in the evenings is all but impossible. The majority of people just don't seem to care about it until

they themselves are victimized. Then it's a bit too late.

By publicizing theft statistics, the Administration is giving the students the proverbial "one last chance." An alternative has been given to the students, i.e., to handle the problem themselves within each individual residence hall, or to do nothing and practically force administrative intervention. It rests with them. The decision is theirs.

So, in closing, Mr. Nordland, don't place all the blame on the Administration. We are all aware that they sometimes do handle things poorly. However, while you're handing out condemnations, don't forget to include the apathetic, wishy-washy residents of Penn State's numerous residence halls.

Emma M. Forsythe
(11th-rehabilitation-Pittsburgh)

Enslaving others

TO THE EDITOR: The anti-abortion writer of the letter that appeared in Wednesday's Daily Collegian is obviously sincerely concerned with human rights. I have only one question to ask him: aren't women people?

If abortion laws were repealed, he says, "some women would be saved from embarrassment, and in some cases even from hardship." The fact is that no woman of childbearing age is free from the fear of unwanted pregnancy. Contraceptives do fail. Women are raped. Children are molested. Then there is the menopausal baby, the result of incest, the unwed pregnancy, the pregnancy doomed to result in a grossly deformed child — any one of these can wreck a woman's life, disrupt her education, destroy her economically, psychologically, emotionally. Countless women, denied safe, legal abortions, have been cruelly mangled, even killed, by back street butchers — because there was nothing they feared more than having that baby.

Abortion laws do not prevent abortions, except for lower income women who, lacking information or availability of contraceptives, are most victimized by unwanted pregnancy. The laws only force women to go underground, risking life and health to gain the rights promised her by the Constitution —

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. How can the right to control one's own body be separated from these?

Even if the state took care of unwanted children, even if decent homes could be provided for every unwanted child that is born, thus eliminating the statistics on battered and neglected children and those on the futures of unwanted babies, the state still could, not rightfully, force a woman to carry a pregnancy to full term against her will. When a woman must, at the very least, give up nine months of her life because of a pregnancy she did not intend nor want, no one can claim that her life is her own. And who has the greater right to life — the woman, or the fetus that is wholly dependent upon her?

No person would be allowed to enslave another for nine months, even if his life depended upon it. Why should the fetus have that right?

Kathleen M. Domenig
Abortion Action Committee

Praise for Lady Lions

TO THE EDITOR: Into this season of NIT dreams and pride over a winning basketball season, may I interject this note of praise for another successful Penn State cager outfit.

The PSU "Lady Lions" basketball team has also just completed a winning season, and, as I'm sure any member of either cager team will affirm, a winning season comes not by luck, but by diligent practice and hard play. In spite of the girls' hard work however, the team still had the misfortune to face the usual meager home-crowd that trickles in to view the "curious" and less heralded sporting events on this campus. Nevertheless, those who did attend the Lady Lion games this year, whether just one game or all of them, are grateful to a winning team who has helped to continue the Penn State tradition of excellence in athletics.

My congratulations to the team and their coach for a job well done.

Tom Joseph
(8th-Sec Ed-Pittsburgh)

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