

**Editorial****A Killer Is Loose**

The January doldrums are upon us and this year the energy crisis will be accentuating the low mood. We all may have a tendency to coast, to slough off responsibilities, to wait listlessly for a better day.

One group of people, in particular, must shake off this mood and be extra alert. We are speaking about parents and we refer specifically to the rape-slayings that were front page news for so long.

Plagued by a paucity of good leads, police have been hampered in their investigation despite long, hard, and diligent work. There now is a tendency for the impact to be lessened among the populace.

Now, more than ever, we all must be extremely alert. Parents, teachers, all who come in contact with children must warn youngsters to be careful with strangers. The killer, (or killers, if the three slayings were not performed by the same man) is still on the loose and the possibility is strong that he will try again.

Tell your children to report any encounters with strangers, as innocent as they may seem. This may constitute an unhappy feeling of distrust but, considering the alternative, it is extremely necessary.

After each of the first two slayings, we all slacked off on our vigilance. We must not allow this to happen again. There may be a fourth slaying unless we all take extreme caution.

First of all, know the whereabouts of your children at all times. Remember that the killer seems to have frequented shopping plazas — but that does not mean that he will change his tactics. Keep your own eyes open to strangers, unusual occurrences, etc.

Second, caution your children to the point of nagging not to talk to strangers and not under any circumstances to wind up alone with anyone without the knowledge of parents or guardians.

And perhaps most important of all, keep your children alert to the dire threat. They, unfortunately, will be the ones most likely to confront this killer. To aid in his capture, they must report any and all encounters, even those that seem most common.

Any information must be passed on to police quickly.

The slayer is crafty. Needless to say his capture is imperative. It is of even greater importance that he not be allowed to strike again. A lack of vigilance will give him another opportunity.