

**SOCIETY**

*Half the Freshmen  
Now Are Women*

"First-Time College Enrollment of Women Leaps Dramatically" by Anne C. Roark, in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Feb. 7, 1977), 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

The number of women entering college and graduate and professional schools has grown so sharply since 1970 that women now constitute about half the first-year enrollment in most of these institutions.

Discussing a newly released 1975 U.S. Census survey, Roark, a *Chronicle* staff-writer, also notes that women are much more likely than their male peers to drop out of school before obtaining their degrees.

Some 1970-75 changes: Total full- and part-time undergraduate enrollment for women went up 45 percent (versus 21 percent for men) to 4.4 million, due in large measure to a 100 percent enrollment increase for women aged 25 to 34. Enrollment of women in graduate and professional schools rose 75 percent; despite dropouts, the number of doctorates earned by women rose 59 percent to 7,300 (versus 26,800 for men). The number of "first professional degrees" (e.g., in law, medicine, dentistry) awarded to women rose even more sharply—184 percent (to 7,000). But Roark cites recent studies by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, pointing out that 87.5 percent of such advanced degrees in 1975 went to men, with no end in sight to this disparity.

*'Flawed Analyses'  
of Black Rioters*

"The New Urban Blacks" by Abraham Miller, with Louis H. Bolce and Mark R. Halligan, in *Ethnicity* (Dec. 1976), 111 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003.

Social scientists, analyzing the ghetto riots of the 1960s in Watts, Detroit, and elsewhere, have produced two sharply contrasting portraits of the black rioters. Both, writes Miller, a University of Cincinnati political scientist, are highly flawed.

The first profile is based on the "riff-raff" hypothesis: the rioters were "thugs, hoodlums, the unemployed"; many were newly arrived Southerners. They were more loot-inspired—some academics claim—than politically motivated. The opposing view is that the rioters were "the cream of urban Negro youth," politically conscious protesters who were often joined in violence by their frustrated elders.

Miller, re-examining the massive post-riot surveys with the aid of Bolce and Halligan, found that ideology had apparently flavored earlier interpretations. The data, he contends, show that the typical rioter was young (16 to 29), poorly educated, and near the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder—but not "riff-raff"; his upbringing, whether in the North or South, seemed to matter little. The typical politically conscious urban black, on the other hand, was a nonviolent militant, not