The Hollywood Strangler

Laurie Anderson

I was living out in West Hollywood when a Hollywood strangler w as strangling women. Every night there was a panel discussion o n TV about the strangler, speculations about his habits, his mo tives, his methods. One thing was clear about him: he only stra ngled women when they were alone, or with other women. And the panel members would always end the show by saying:
Now for all you women, listen: don't go outside without a man. Don't walk out to your car, don't even take the garbage out by yourself; always go with a man.

Then, one of the eyewitnesses identified a policeman as one of the suspects. The next night, the chief of the police was on th e panel, and he said:

Now for all you women, whatever happens, do not stop for a poli ce officer, stay in your car. If a police officer tries to stop you, do not stop, keep driving and under no circumstances shou ld you get out of your car.

For a few weeks, half the traffic in LA was doing twice the spe ed limits.

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