

Editorial

Comment

Bulletin

The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIRST YEAR.

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Student Defense—Its Purpose

A poll of college editors by the Chicago Daily Maroon indicated quite definitely that the average male undergraduate is badly prepared for his inevitable life in the armed forces, and American educational institutions are giving no evidence that he will be any better prepared in the near future. The poll is aimed at determining how much pre-induction military training is available to college men and whether the character of this training is such that it will give these men special army qualifications, leading eventually to a commission.

Altho after Pearl Harbor practically every college and university introduced vast curriculum changes, the courses offered were not of a military nature, but were "defense courses"—counter-irritants to student demands for military instruction. Certainly, the training received in these courses has been and will continue to be of some value, but more important in our present emergency is pre-induction military education which would provide the nation with thousands of college educated soldiers ready and capable of becoming officers in the armed forces of the United States.

Male students at the University of Nebraska are fortunate because they have the opportunity to acquire some basic military training through ROTC. Many colleges and universities provide no such opportunity to their students. However, all freshmen and sophomores who must take basic ROTC do not have the opportunity to continue their military education in the advanced ROTC classes.

Those who are unable to take advanced ROTC should be given the chance to brush up on their basic training. They should be permitted to get whatever advanced training possible before induction into the army.

The Student Council in conjunction with the Student Defense committee and the university administration is at the present time formulating plans for a student program designed to further the physical fitness of Nebraska students. It is a good idea, but the emphasis should be placed on military fitness with health training coordinated in with the military program.

The advisability of emphasizing military instruction may be seen from the poll conducted by the Daily Maroon which indicated conclusively that students and student editors felt that physical conditioning was an insufficient substitute for basic military training. Further, several college editors reported that student interest is petering out in these courses, and close order drill and bayonet movements have been introduced to vitalize them.

As long as the university is undertaking a student defense program under the sponsorship of whatever agency available, it had best initiate a program in which the students will wholeheartedly participate an hour class in Yogi exercises. They want (if they want anything) an hour class in how to fight, and, yes, to kill. Any person who has ever attended a military encampment or has taken some form of military training will testify to

Letterip

Although the progress and work of the Student Defense committee has appeared regularly in the Daily Nebraskan there are evidently many students who are not aware of it.

The committee had a desk in Grant Memorial during registration at which all students were urged to register for any and all types of defense work in which they might be interested. We have a complete file of this registration and those students are notified when there is work to be done.

Our activities have been as follows:

- Knitting classes
- First aid classes
- Paper conservation campaign
- Physical fitness program
- Monthly newsletter
- Red Cross benefit show
- Defense Stamp matinee dances
- Victory book campaign

We are now considering a blood donor project and nutrition programs. The university has done some very splendid work with its course on "America in World War II," and there is now a plan under consideration for more war courses for next year.

The committee has recently re-organized, inviting any student organization to elect a member to serve on the committee if they so desire.

The committee is operated on a very democratic basis and any ideas or suggestions for its program are welcomed and will be given immediate attention.

Sincerely,
Nancy Haycock,
Chairman,
Student Defense Committee.

A War Ago

By Marsa Lee Civin.

A new feature at the university was the establishment of a telegraphic and stenographic school for coeds. Great was the demand for telegraphers and stenographers caused by the depletion in the civil ranks and the creation of 1,000 new positions by war. Government officials pointed out women were the only ones left for the new posts.

Members of the home economics department cooperating with the extension service stations in connection with the agricultural exhibit of corn, apples, and wheat displays. Sewing class members explained conservation dress problems, while students in cooking classes explained conservation recipes.

J. G. Mandalian of Nicodemia, Armenia, graduate in the history department, spoke on conditions of the Armenian people and their future after the war at the First Presbyterian Church January 11, 1918.

On Other Campuses

By Marsa Lee Civin.

The Council of Fraternity Presidents at the University of Indiana passed a revised fraternity rush program setting April 24 to 26 as official "rush week" and limiting the number of pledges to each house to twenty men. This quota was designed by the Council to maintain a co-operative balance between fraternities and to keep individual houses from pledging a large percentage of rushees.

Students at Purdue have contributed \$552.69 in cash and over \$3,000 in defense stamps and savings bonds to the Relief Fund Drive.

Although the plan for making final examinations optional in individual courses may now be legally applied at the University of California, its primary purpose is that of an emergency measure to aid the time saving purpose of the three-term plan. Under the plan a final may be abolished at the request of the department instructor or division concerned if the approval of the committee of courses is obtained.

the fact that plenty of physical exercise is provided by marching and the manual of arms.

It's time we got the frills of defense off our minds and started concentrating on the actual business of defense fighting.

Eleanor's Me

By Alan Jacobs

This column could put the finishing touches on the present UN defense set-up. If we see only Fiorello LaGuardia, just think: this column would be Eleanor and Fiorello. And all this campus needs to make its defense program a complete mess—like the national program was—is Eleanor and Fiorello.

Heading a national defense committee which has suddenly become confused and has seen its organization attacked by state civilian defense leaders is Nancy Haycock, UN's Eleanor, who has been working so hard to get everything straightened out, only to find a new group entering and complicating the defense picture every day.

No Actor; No Dancer.

She hasn't appointed any Melvyn Douglass or artistic dancers; in fact, she had made attempts to cooperate with the Student Council which likes to stick its nose into everything that is messed up, and thereupon further messes it up. She has attempted to delegate authority to various organizations, but all she has heard is complaints of undemocratic organization.

With the Student Council, the defense committee and just about every other campus organization seeking credit for everything that is done, Burton Thiel has entered the picture as Nebraska's Fiorello. He doesn't go to fires, and he doesn't smoke cigars, but Burton wants the council to be in the spotlight in every kind of student activity. But now, even Burton doesn't know what is going on.

If things get much worse, we'll have to get the real Fiorello and the real Eleanor to straighten things out.

Contest . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

ones who will be given a chance to express their views and writing ability, for according to Miss Peters of the home economics department the National Livestock and Meats Board have announced that they will sponsor a contest for the girls.

The topic for this contest is "Meat and Victory." This theme should create a great deal of interest, especially because the conservation and use of meat becomes more and more important as the war continues.

There are a great number of handsome prizes that will be given to the winners of this contest. First prize is \$200, second prize, \$150, third prize \$100, and on down for the first 20 places. Perhaps these prizes aren't fortunes to some people but at the same time they are certainly worth spending a bit of time in writing a good essay.

All girls who are interested are invited to obtain an entry blank from Miss Peters as soon as possible. The contest closes April 15 so there is no time like the present to begin on your theme, girls.

There will be a meeting of the University Dairy club Wednesday March 11 in room 208 Dairy Industry. The purpose of the meeting is for nomination and election of new members. All members of the club should be present for this meeting.

Nationally . . .

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Many students, especially those giving democracy as the reason for fighting often qualified their answers with an uncertain "I guess." or "I suppose that's it." As one student at Louisiana State University answered, "Oh, we're fighting to preserve democracy, I guess."

Note that 4 per cent of those interviewed believe that we are fighting England's war. Their attitude is similar to that of those who answered, "We are fighting because of the Pearl Harbor attack; we were forced into it."

Reasons given the interviewees were varied. One girl at Stephens college in Missouri and frankly, "To save our own necks; that's why." A boy at another school said, "We are fighting to finish what should have been done in the last war."

Many gave "economic gains" as the reason for the war, pointing out Japan's need for the raw materials in the Dutch East Indies and the United States' determination to preserve them for this country.

One interviewee at Monmouth College in Illinois was very uncertain as to the reason we are fighting. As he admitted, "I don't know I'm all mixed up after my 'eco' class."

Facts and traditions in the history of their own college have been furnished to Hollins college students of creative writing as material for advanced composition work.

Congdon Attends Teachers Meeting

Prof. A. R. Congdon of Teachers college was elected to the board of directors at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in San Francisco Feb. 20 and 21. He discussed "Training in Mathematics Essential for Life" before one session and led a discussion at another on "Desirable Outcomes from High School Mathematics." He also made a report as chairman of the committee on reorganization.

Dr. Henzlik Leads Conference Talks

Dr. F. E. Henzlik, teachers college dean, was the principal speaker at two dinners during a conference of high school superintendents and teachers at the University of North Dakota held recently. Dr. Henzlik also led discussion groups on "Teacher Personnel Problems" and "Administration and Labor Shortage" during the two day conference.

UN Students . . .

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views are: Rolland Finley, sophomore in bizad, "Certainly it isn't to save democracy because democracy as it is now will never reoccur in the United States. However, I feel there is a true feeling to crush dictatorship and exterminate anti-racial prejudices, and give the more helpless nations a place on the globe."

Martha Ann Reed, junior, arts and science: "I don't think it was to make the world for democracy. It was rather to squelch the totalitarian nations and give the people of these nations a chance to live as they please."

Dorothy Filley, junior, teachers college, "I think the reason is to save the world for democracy. After all the war was forced upon us, and now we have to fight for our cause, which is democracy."

Carroll Orr, sophomore, engineer: "It was forced upon us by the axis powers and we had to either fight or become a second rate nation."

Chuck Mills, engineer sophomore: "We definitely did not enter the war to save democracy, but for more money and more power. I believe our administration felt that by winning the war we would have the greater wealth and most natural resources. By the time this war is over many of the countries will be bankrupt and because we, at present have the most natural resources, will gain the balance of power."

Maxine Hoffman, junior bizad: "When we entered the war, conditions did not look favorable for the democracies, and we entered to shift the balance of power in favor of us."

Jean Gruenig, freshman ag: "I really don't know. When you are a freshman down here, I think one has enough worries passing tests and making an average without having to worry about a war."