

# The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIRST YEAR

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## Our Women And The War

What should be the role of college women in time of war?

There is no simple answer to this question. The problem is more complex than that for college men. Many college women already are working hard at genuine war projects, but a considerable number are blocking the road to achievement by participating in wasteful and useless activities. The majority are willing to help and are looking for suggestions on how to serve best. We hope this brief discussion and short list of suggestions will help them get under way.

There are two general rules that are applicable to all choices of civilian war tasks: (1) Do those jobs that are definitely important to the war effort; (2) Do those things for which your own ability is greatest. To balance these two criteria against each other and to translate them into concrete actions is difficult. The emotionalism of war makes it easy to confuse inspired service with important service. And the actual war projects most favored by many college women throughout the country illustrate how difficult they find it to be sure they are using their special qualifications to best advantage.

College women might be doing some or all of the following:

- (1) Learning to drive an ambulance.
- (2) Learning to "spot" airplanes.
- (3) Knitting sox and sewing hot water bottle covers.
- (4) Promoting expensive dances in the name of defense.

Now neither we nor anyone else would say that No. 1 is unimportant, nor No. 2. But the third one is of dubious utility when we consider the greater efficiency of machines over human hands. The last project—"name band" defense dances—is a perversion of patriotism.

Our judgment is that college women should spend little time on any of these four jobs or on others of similar nature.

The first two and possibly the third task do meet the test of importance, but they do not measure up FOR COLLEGE WOMEN to the second test, that of "comparative advantage." Almost any woman in America can do such jobs. If these are the best things for college women to do, then a lot of money has been spent unwisely on their education. Anybody can do these things, and if college women are "anybodies" they should not be in college now.

Then what should college women do? Let's be specific.

(1) Your greatest contribution probably will be in your chosen vocation. Study it more, study it faster and get ready to use your technical knowledge. Meanwhile, this summer you can stimulate and give nutrition demonstrations and canning schools. Nursery schools are needed for children whose mothers are working in war industries. Has anybody thought of the plan of using country school houses during the summer months as playgrounds to relieve busy farm women from care of their children?

(2) Organize and attend classes in home nursing and epidemic control. In the Midwest the threat of epidemics is many times greater than that of bombing, and we are short of nurses as well as doctors.

(3) In every community families will be impoverished by loss of jobs or by giving up breadwinners to the army. College women

## On Other Campuses

By Marsa Lee Civin.

"Let's get in the scrap" is the slogan of the four-day drive at the University of Minnesota to salvage waste material. Sponsored by the conservation of resources committee, the campus drive is part of a city-wide campaign to collect waste materials of help to the war efforts. Material collected: tinfoil, newspapers, magazines, old rubber footwear and metals.

The Interfraternity Council at Dartmouth accepted a plan to keep rushing on a more organized basis. Demands made by the administration stated that the system would have to be modified to deemphasize the drinking associated with rushing, and also to keep all fraternities' rushing expenditures limited equally for all fraternities.

could serve well by stimulating their home communities to establish adequate relief plans.

(4) If you are at home this summer and do not have a full-time job, you could offer your services to the local Office of Civilian Defense as an office manager, a field-contact agent, or for some other post of usefulness. Your OCD doe not have funds to hire people.

(5) Write letters to the boys in service regularly and widely. Get your friends back home to write. Letting the boys know that they "still belong back home" will give a tremendous lift to their morale. Several girls on the campus have independently thought of another idea. They are going to build up a fund so that their soldier-husband or fiancee can go back to school when he returns from the army.

(6) If you have the talents, devise campaign posters, write radio scripts, write a column of facts and interpretation for your home town paper. Many of the faculty would be glad to help you prepare such columns.

(7) Right now, on the campus you can make a real contribution by offering several hours a week to the college. Many important research problems are hampered and others will be shut down for lack of personnel, shortage of funds and curtailment of NYA. Some of your time given to these projects would be a big service. Do it not as a favor to the college but as part of your personal war effort.

(8) Remember that recreation is related to morale to a much smaller extent than people kid themselves into believing. A more essential factor in morale is recognition of important work well done. If you are doing something important your conscience won't impel you to excuse your play on the grounds of "morale." Get more of your recreation by a change in work rather than by a change from work to play.

(9) It is up to you, more than almost any other group, to keep American life functioning well in those areas where war doesn't require the most drastic changes. We must keep our institutions functioning so they will be ready to carry on effectively in peace time again. We must prevent emotionalism or false "economy" from disrupting basic programs. This means study, thinking and leadership to emoting. If you learn something of how a war hits society you have it in your power to help cushion some school, church or community against the emotional rampages bred by war.

(10) We have left the most important job until last. This is the understanding of the problems created by war and their carry-over to peacetime. Learn about the backgrounds of the war—not merely by listening to an occasional lecture but by consistent study. Find out what will be the problems involved in insuring a permanent peace after the war. Help spread the knowledge we already have on how to prevent another post-war debacle. Help explain the problems of carrying on the war itself—taxation, institutional adjustments, ideas like those in this article.

This is the particular obligation of educated women. Contrary to common opinion, educated women frequently have a better understanding of most public problems than their husbands do. Make yourself a channel from the college to your family and community. See to it that knowledge on social policy is widely diffused. Again, why not join with a few others to write a column for your home town paper? Put your knowledge to work.

You can add to the list of important jobs. Since you are college women you must accept greater responsibility than you would carry if you were not in college. This is a privilege as well as a duty.

Iowa State Daily Student.

## Dr. Hunt Speaks At Iowa Program

Dr. L. T. Hunt, instructor of practice management in the dental college, will give two lectures at the Iowa State Dental association program on May 5. The titles of his two lectures are "Practice Management," and "Accumulating a Competence."

A recent check-up lists six junior college sororities in the U. S.

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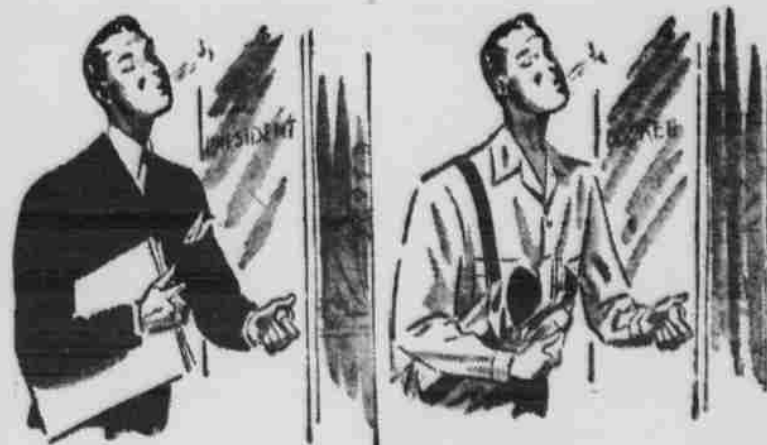
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