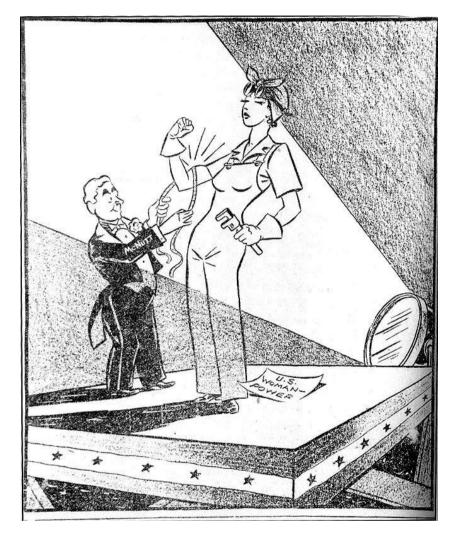
Women in WWII

The Editorial Cartoon

Editorial cartoons that appear in newspapers and magazines are meant as entertainment, but they also reflect a political or moral stance, or present a critique on a current event or on society as a whole. Study this 1943 cartoon from the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and answer the questions below.



This cartoon shows *War Manpower Commissioner* Paul McNutt judging a woman in a pageant, not for her beauty, but for her strength.

- 1. What was the artist's purpose in drawing this cartoon?
- 2. What characteristics describe the woman?
- 3. Who was the artist's audience (for whom was this cartoon meant?)
- 4. Does the artist make the reader feel patriotic, optimistic, and strong? How?
- 5. How does this cartoon make you feel? Why?

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Now compare the first cartoon to this one from the *Des Moines Register*, also printed in 1943. Answer the questions below.



- 1. What do you think the creator of this cartoon was trying to say?
- 2. Which characteristics describe the woman? Which describe the man?
- 3. Is the man in favor of or against women working outside the home?
- 4. Do you think others shared his opinion? Who?
- 5. How does this cartoon make you feel? Why?
- 6. Which cartoon do you like better and why?