

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?