

# UMT—Yes or No?

The importance of the Universal Military Training issue, now before Congress, has attracted widespread interest on campus. To air both sides of the proposal, the Daily Collegian has asked staff-members Peter Warker and Wilbert Roth to delve into the pros and cons and present them side by side in the editorial column.

### Yes!

Many arguments, most of them in some respects sound, have been presented by those persons who feel that Universal Military Training is objectionable. If any individual personally were to set himself to it, he could probably think of many at this moment.

Cost, the implications of militarism, the undesirability of taking a few months out of a young man's life—there are lots of objections of one sort or another.

### UMT Necessary

But they all weaken and break down before the undeniable fact that UMT is necessary. It is necessary to support our foreign policy of containment of Communism and support of democracy. It is necessary for our own defense, and if war were to come perhaps our very survival.

Only those deluded few who picture world events through rose-colored glasses can positively state that no war is possible for a term of years. Some of the nation's top military and civilian leaders agree war may come at any time.

And let no one deceive himself, the regular Army, Navy, and Air Force are going to be shorthanded, unable to accomplish their mission without UMT.

Without UMT the Nation cannot hope that its National Guard will be able to create rapidly a trained force for quick mobilization.

### Atom Bomb Worthless

Without UMT to furnish the trained manpower, airplanes and rockets and all other gadgets of a technological civilization, including the Atom Bomb, will be worthless.

UMT will strengthen our Regular Forces, build up the National Guard, provide manpower for the complex weapons of modern war, and give realism to our foreign policy.

These positive and compelling reasons for UMT obliterate every argument and reduce to a meaningless shadow all the objections to UMT you have ever heard.

—Wilbert Roth

### No!

From an ideological point of view, Universal Military Training in any nation is the strongest argument possible for that nation's playing the gruesome game of international power politics. But devoid of all ideological implications, the use of Universal Military Training today evaluated on a purely practical basis is not only inefficient and wasteful, but also seems to be militarily unsound.

What Air Corps officials, Navy authorities, and scientists insist we need is a comparatively small, highly trained, superiorly equipped, and swiftly maneuvered machine to supply the most efficient execution of battles. If have them we must.

The large-sized army that UMT would provide is worthless for a war in which a single bomb of the atomic or bacteriological variety can fragmentize and decimate cities.

### Constant Jeopardy

Not only will large concentrations of forces be in constant jeopardy of total annihilation, but the industrial centers that are needed to supply sizeable forces will have to be kept functioning at their peak capacity throughout a conflict. Nagasaki was once an industrial center.

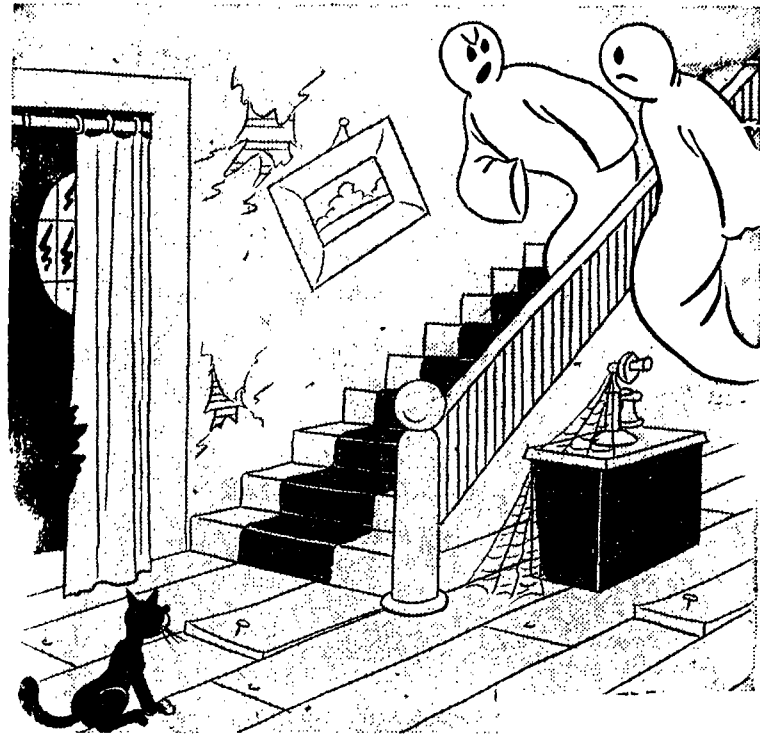
But if we win we will need a large trained force for occupation, it is said. For occupation of what, one asks? Of blasted rubble, endless plains, dying clusters of betrayed humans? And who will pay for an occupation force?

### Not in Military Camps

But, the military says, UMT will be good for young men. It will give them educational opportunities and a chance to develop themselves in character and physique. Nonsense! It is preposterous to assume that the best place for the education and character development of the youth of any country is in military camps under military discipline.

Rather let the millions of dollars that would be poured into militarism and regimentation be efficiently used in providing more free education at the college level for the youth of the United States, so that future generations will be trained not for killing, but for representative government and the intelligent, rather than the forceful, solution of world problems.

—Peter Warker



"Haunt Pollock Circle? I wouldn't be seen dead there!"

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 25  
WRA Bowling Club, WH, 6:30 p.m.  
THETA Sigma Phi, 412 OM, 6:20 p.m.  
CHESS Club, 7 Sparks, 7 p.m.  
FIRST Aid, 1 Sparks, 7 p.m.  
PHYS Ed Student Council, 415 M, 7:15 p.m.  
WINDCREST Wives, Community Hall, 8 p.m.

### At the Movies

CATHAUM—Road to Rio.  
STATE—Night Song.  
NITTANY—Each Dawn I Die.

### College Hospital

Admitted Monday: George Pringle.  
Discharged Monday: Betty Williams, Beverly Kantor, Elizabeth Smith.  
Admitted Tuesday: David Fitzgerald.  
Discharged Tuesday: George Pringle, Robert Austin, Joseph Glick.

### College Placement

Chance Vought Aircraft, Mar. 4 and 5, eighth semester men from Aero Eng, ME.  
Chance Vought Aircraft, Mar. 4 and 5, eighth semester men from Aero Eng and ME.  
Bell System, March 1-4, eighth semester men from IE, EE, ME.  
Stanley G. Flagg and Co., Feb. 26, eighth semester men from ME.

Editorials and features in The Daily Collegian reflect the opinions of the writer. They make no claim to represent student or College opinion. All unsigned editorials are by the editor.

## Letters —

### AVC Thanks IRC

TO THE EDITOR: The American Veterans Committee would like to thank the International Relations Club for allowing us the opportunity to express our views on Universal Military Training.

—Melvin Lurie,  
Corresponding Secretary,  
Centre County Chapter, AVC.

## THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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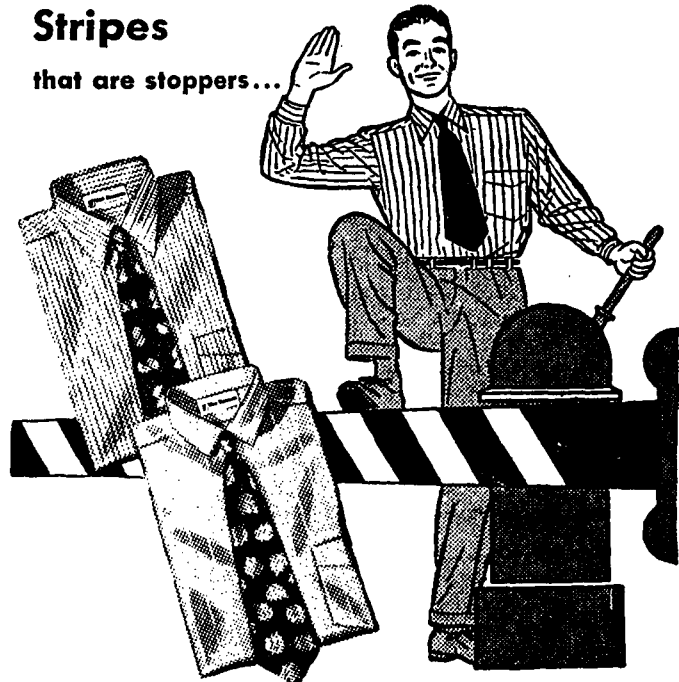
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