

The PONY EXPRESS

AMERICA'S FIRST COLLEGE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

A Nation Rouses

"... I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks; ... I see her as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam."

John Milton, *Areopagitica* *

Thus stood America on December 8, 1941. ... Thus acted America through her Congress in approving a declaration of war against a deceitful, treacherous power who had attacked her without warning or provocation.

First Threat at Home

Fifty unidentified planes circled California's coast, headed toward San Francisco and the Central Valleys. ... U.S. Army Air Patrols warned ground crews which called for blackouts in Bay cities, neighboring communities, Sacramento ... And so came California's first wartime blackout. America was at war.

Typical was a score of Sacramento youngsters who had heard their parents speak of the emergency, the blackout, its significance. Some of them weren't even school-age. They knew that all true patriots would cooperate, turn off all electric lights. So they made it their business to see that all homes and stores in their neighborhood dimmed lights.

And then they saw one light which kept on burning. It was a reflecting light on a Freeport Boulevard billboard. For a moment the indignant youngsters looked at it, wondered why it was still burning. For only a minute they were stumped. They chose one of their group to climb up monkey-fashion and turn off the bulb in the reflector ... another minute ... and they felt as though they'd shot down an enemy bomber. ...

All over the nation, as on the Sacramento Junior College campus was evident the spirit which moved those youngsters to climb a giant advertising sign to complete the blackout picture of a city. It was apparent in the workman's song, in the rumble of great machines, in the new lights of the PG&E buses—this spirit of a nation for the first time attacked by the Axis. On the campus, as in every home on the Pacific coast and on through the Rockies ... the people remember, re-

* Milton's great plea for freedom of thought and spiritual integrity of the individual; one of the basic declarations in Anglo-Saxon tradition of liberty.



VINCIT AMOR PATRIAE

"The spirit ... the will ... the might"

solve, and push forth individual "how I can help" plans.

Bitter Memories

The French Maginot-line fallacy of thinking has not been allowed to spread among Americans. They realize that former attitudes of isolation are attitudes of fallen men. They know that U.S.A. was marked for an attack from the beginning of present European hostilities. Isolation has no place in a struggle of powers, regardless of geographic locations, time, or militia.

These rights America holds today: the right to live unmolested; the right to believe in the joy of living; the right of choosing which side of the street to walk on. Because America has been forced to choose the side of the street leading to Nippon's "setting sun" ... she walks with the might of a people unified.

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And yesterday, she walked with even firmer step when two others, Germany and Italy, joined the brigand's band.

America was in the war—all the way—as she had already partly been since the fall of France.

They Push Plans

SJC as a college unit in the nation's war program heard President Richard E. Rutledge give his five-point proposal for participating in America's war effort. In the nation factories run full swing, men and women hum at their work, college students are ready and willing to do their share in the great task ahead, are anxious to assist wherever possible, are reflecting on Dr. Rutledge's five-point action program:

"The present emergency has not caught the SJC entirely unprepared. For more than a year we have been training defense workers at the rate of 200 per month.

"What should the student do immediately?

"1. If qualified for special service and without dependents enlist! Credit will be granted in the amount of one unit per week for each week of the semester elapsed at time of enlistment without examinations.

"For qualified January graduates the Army Flying Corps will conduct examinations in the men's gym Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

"2. If not enlisting, remain in school and train for special service. Engineers, chemists, metal workers, airplane repairmen, typists and mimeographers are badly needed.

"3. Civilian defense tasks will be assigned to volunteers here from time to time. Home nursing, ambulance driving, nutrition courses, and clerical work are most appropriate for women.

"4. For men, the evening Junior College will offer high school graduates a 3 months 4 evenings per week course for entrance to the air corps. This course opens Jan. 5th.

"5. For immediate employment in mechanical work at air depots or shipyards, register at the State Employment Service, 13th and J St., for assignment to our all night defense training classes.

"We must all be prepared to serve. Until given a definite task, keep up our regular work and look for a chance to use our training in the greatest service of our country."

AMERICA AT WAR

America at War

"For National Defense" found itself in an entirely different category when President Roosevelt delivered his message to congress this week. National defense is now a past issue with the necessity of offensive action coming in its wake.

The logical title for this department perforce must be "America at War."

An Honor Plaque

Aeronautics men heard news of the death of alumnus Hans Christiansen, killed in action in Honolulu Sunday, Dec. 7. They acted quickly, bought an honor plaque on which names of all SJC aero alumni killed in action during the present war are to be engraved. Christiansen's name will lead the rest. . . . A special letter was sent by the men to Hans' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Christiansen, 101 Court Street, Woodland, telling of their action. Working on the plaque plans are student president Sanford Gum, Hilton F. Lusk, Glenn Mercer, and Ruth McMillan.

Backseat Out

SJC Women Students are not in the backseat during the National Emergency any more than at other times. They just seem to be more modest about what they do. For instance—Some coeds belong to an ambulance corps. They take first aid, military discipline, training, motor mechanics. Once a week they devote an evening to drill and prepare themselves to be called at any time. The regulation uniform is composed of khaki shirts, jackets, skirts, and overseas cap. They also delve into the issues of home nursing for training and practice among various other duties.

Naval Strength

Sacramento Junior College can make welders out of eager Americans in 360 hours of concentrated training. At present there are between 60 and 70 learning the trade. Shops keep going day and night, 24 hours a day. Ships of all kinds, ships without limit are imperatively needed to win the battles of the Atlantic and Pacific. Shipbuilding requires many welders.

Mr. U. N. O'Dell, who teaches all positions of arc welding himself, announces that almost 100% employment could be found for the students in the shops before the war declaration.

Camera in the Air

The candid-camera addict of the past few years goes out when war comes.

Photography will take its place in the army and navy. Aerial photography will be especially important in locating enemy gun emplacements, and picturing terrain.

SJC photographers may find themselves behind the awkward bulk of the aerial camera instead of the usual miniature.

The Test of a Patriot . . .

All over the nation . . . declarations of war policies in relation to racial groups

are being issued. Typical of the American college is SJC, whose Japanese-Americans are high in the ranks of scholars in art, music, the dance, botany, chemistry. As other educators in other cities, Charles C. Hughes (see Pony Express, Dec. 5, page one) issued a proclamation.

Said Hughes in part: "This is not a racial war. Among our most loyal citizens are some of Japanese racial extraction. The test of American patriotism from this day on, is one of loyalty and citizenship—not race or color. Let no violation of this principle work injury or humiliation on Japanese-American or Japanese children who without voice or vote find themselves legally and technically our enemies. We must remember that all Japanese born in this country are citizens by birth."

" . . . Let no violation of this principle . . . work injury or humiliation . . ." On page one in today's issue is an article dealing with a group of American youngsters and their efforts to "help with blackout." Children are easily influenced by what they hear discussed. The term "Japanese" has one meaning to them: the Japanese-American girl or boy who sits in Row three back of Agnes Smith. If parents do not carefully point out that these Japanese-Americans are not the enemies, but that the enemy is across the ocean . . . if parents do not teach these principles in the home . . . children can be cruel.

Symbolic of the steadfast loyalty of many collegiate Japanese Americans is the Junior College Coed group at SJC. More than fifty Oriental-American coeds in this club are now offering their ser-

vices to the Sacramento branch, American Red Cross. They are also carrying on a Christmas drive for the benefit of needy children. Says Jean Nagata, leader of the group, "The spirit of friendship for which America stands . . . the spirit of democracy . . . is the spirit of Christmas."

Small and poised, 17-year-old Fumiko Yabe appeared before Sacramento music audiences Sunday in the annual concert of the college symphony orchestra (see The Arts). She sang The Star Spangled Banner. In that song was her heart and the hearts of those like her. As one of the leading Japanese-Americans in the music department, Fumiko has a great future. Her early training, her hopes for a career . . . her whole life . . . were made in and for America.

Commenting strongly on these principles of American democracy, The Sacramento Bee carried a vivid editorial on the subject, as did most of the nation's papers.

Said the Bee:

An impressive scene took place at the Sacramento Junior College yesterday afternoon.

It was the occasion of the annual concert given by the college symphony orchestra. It is scarcely necessary to say what was in the mind of everyone as the audience gathered. People who had been listening to the serious news over the radio were not exactly thinking of music.

The orchestra opened the concert by playing the Star Spangled Banner, effectively sung by a Japanese school girl. And no one who heard it but felt she meant every word of it personally.

Caught In a Situation

These second generation Japanese, and their fathers and mothers, too, for that matter, now find themselves caught in a situation, not of their making, but which at best is going to cause them trouble and grief aplenty.

So it is well to remember that whatever our feelings toward the ruthless bloody aggressors of Japan, the methods of dealing with them should be left with our government in Washington.

Also, to the FBI and other officials entrusted with that duty should be left the question of what to do with those Japanese suspected or guilty of offending against American hospitality by engaging in espionage or sabotage.

An Outraged People

Vigilante action or persecution by private individuals or individual groups would be an offense against the spirit of tolerance and justice to all which is the essence of true Americanism, in war as well as in peace.

And neighborliness is not the least essential virtue for real 100 per cent Americans in times like these. It is the complete absence of all these qualities in the totalitarian countries which has outraged us as a people.



FUMIKO YABE
 . . . her heart in a song