While preparing our story on Columbia veterans and the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II (page 27), we went through several files of evocative photographs of campus life during the 1940s. Among the pictures of recruitment events and parading midshipmen was this publicity shot of, we assume, four student air-raid wardens on the roof of Butler Library.

Civilian defense was a major component of the war as fought on the home front, but we have to smile at this particular take on disaster preparedness — especially since the wardens seem to be looking every direction but north, toward the plane high above Low Library.