

FEATURES

TO OUR READERS page 6

THE MARGARET CHASE SMITH ESSAY

This issue's Margaret Chase Smith Essay features not one but three remarkable essays submitted by Maine high school students to the Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest, which is sponsored annually by the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan. This year's contest asked students to write on the topic of leadership in public life. In the order they are featured, the essays were awarded first, second, and third place. All of this year's prize winners are seniors heading to college in the upcoming year; all contributed essays that not only heed the lessons of the past but also draw upon historical examples of outstanding leadership.

FIRST PLACE ESSAY

What Qualities Will Leaders Need to Possess in Order to be Effective in the Twenty-first Century?
Emily Parker page 8

SECOND PLACE ESSAY

*Shaping the Earth:
Leaders of the Future*
Rachel Culley page 10

THIRD PLACE ESSAY

Leadership—Conviction and Action
Miles Kirby page 12

FORUMS

Old Wine in New Bottles? An Overview of Two Centuries of Free Trade Between the United States and Canada

Throughout history, free trade between Canada and the United States has experienced periods of expansion and retraction. In the first of two complementary articles, See presents a whirlwind overview of this history from the Revolutionary War era up to passage of the Free Trade Agreement in 1989. He argues that, even today, sharply divided opinions exist on both sides of the border about the wisdom of forging a closer trade relationship between the two countries.

Scott W. See 14

Trade and Border Security as Political Issues in Canada

In the second of our two-part series on free trade, Cody begins with passage of the Free Trade Agreement and brings readers up to the present day, where trade and border security concerns have become inextricably combined. Cody argues that Canadians will not persuade Americans to distinguish between the two concerns, and that this has long-term implications for Canada's national sovereignty.

Howard Cody 22

The Top 10 Health Issues Faced by Maine People

Many of the chronic health issues facing Mainers today would be greatly alleviated if we ate less and better, exercised more, and didn't smoke. Here, Mills presents the top 10 health issues facing Mainers today, which range from environmental concerns to lifestyle choices to emergent concerns about infectious diseases to access and cost issues. She argues for proactive policy development at the local, state, and national levels to address each.

Dora Anne Mills 30

The Challenge of Preserving and Expanding Affordable Health Care in Maine

Left unchecked, the escalating cost of health care in Maine has dire implications for all Mainers, but particularly for the uninsured and for those who are likely to become uninsured if costs continue to rise. In turn, Wolf looks at each of the drivers of cost and calls for a comprehensive approach to solving the state's crisis. She argues that only when all of the players agree to work together—and, more importantly, to make changes—will we be able to control costs and expand access for all of the state's citizens.

Wendy J. Wolf 56

Rising Prescription Drug Costs: What Is Involved and What Can Be Done

The rapid rise of prescription drug costs in the United States has triggered heated debate at the federal and state levels about how to control costs and expand access for those in need. Carroll argues that inaction by the federal government has left each state in the difficult position of trying to leverage lower costs and expanded access for its citizens. Carroll provides an overview and analysis of these attempts, including the Maine Rx program and the more recent legislation passed by Maine's 121st legislature.

James Carroll 70

Patterns of Drug-Related Mortality in Maine, 1997-2002

Since 1997, the annual number of drug deaths in Maine has more than quadrupled, and accidental drug-related fatalities have risen sixfold. Sorg and Greenwald summarize the results of a recent statewide study to determine the characteristics of those in Maine who have died from drug-related causes over the past five years. They find that Maine's substance abuse problem continues to be largely an alcohol abuse problem. Further, they find that drug deaths and, by implication, drug abuse problems are found in all areas of the state and among people from all walks of life.

Marcella H. Sorg and Margaret Greenwald 84