

The New McCarthyism?

Keynote Speaker Dr. Christina Sommers

As part of the MCSL's fourth annual Maine Town Meeting, more than thirty individuals from across the state gathered at the Library for a moderated round table discussion on the topic Political Correctness in American Society: Cultural Diversity or the New McCarthyism? Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers, Professor of Philosophy at Clark University, delivered the keynote address with the message that in an attempt to eliminate bias or hurtful language, political correctness has been carried too far in America, particularly on the nation's college and university campuses. In her opinion, the effort has resulted in dangerous limitations to free speech. Professor Sommers described the atmosphere of fear reminiscent of the McCarthy era which has descended upon colleges in which students and faculty often hesitate to contradict PC doctrine in order to avoid being labeled racist, sexist or prejudicial.

A philosopher who has written extensively about ethics and

contemporary moral theory, Professor Sommers is a nationally recognized expert on PC. She holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Brandeis University and has written articles for such publications as The New Republic, U.S. News and World Report, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Time and The Washington Post. She has lectured extensively at colleges and universities across the nation and has appeared on CNN's Crier and Co., The McGlaughlin Group, and The Phil Donahue Show to discuss such issues as the future of feminism, moral education in America, and debates over curriculum reform and academic freedom.

Following the keynote lecture, Don Carrigan of U.S. Senator William S. Cohen's office moderated an engaging discussion of the issue. Representatives of the legal profession, law enforcement, educators, journalists, students, service organizations, and religious groups debated the extent to which incidents involving hate speech have limited First Amendment freedoms and other aspects of the PC controversy.

Fellowship Program Completes Third Year

For the third consecutive year, the Northwood University Margaret Chase Smith Fellowship Program has provided a unique educational experience for select NU students. This year four individuals were chosen to represent the three campuses. Juniors Angela Dotty and Sarah Dils from Midland; Senior Scott Mazur from Florida; and Jerri Hanosh, a junior representing the Texas campus, spent ten weeks researching aspects of Senator Smith career and studying important contemporary public policy issues. This marked the first time all three campuses were represented.

The Fellowship program is designed to expose the students to primary source research in the Library archives and to connect historical events to current topics. Among the projects completed this term by the Fellows were studies of Maine and national oil policy; Senator Smith's presidential campaign; Maine's textile industry; and the interaction between government and the press. The program included field trips to Maine companies, museums and other libraries and archives as well as a required reading list and weekly round table discussions. The Fellows also participated in the Main Town Meeting on political correctness. Shortly after arriving in Skowhegan, they were treated to one of the larger storms of recent years which capped a year of record snowfall.

Left: NU Fellowship students Angela Dotty, Scott Mazur and Jerri Hanosh with MCS, (missing from photo is Sarah Dils).

Marines Honor MCS

February 13 marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve of World War II, and to observe the anniversary the marines recognized Margaret Chase Smith for her efforts in admitting women in the regular Marine Corps and the other Armed Forces.

Sen. Smith's public stand and persistence served as a key factor in getting bill. S.1641, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, passed through Congress, and signed by President Truman on June 12, 1948 as Public Law 625.

On behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Marines, Recruiting Station Eastern New England Commanding Officer, Maj. S.R. Foley, III presented MCS with a plaque to express the appreciation of the U.S. Marines for her historic efforts.

L to R: Cpl. J. Trombley, Maj. S.R.Foley III, MCS, S.SGT J.A. Sumabat, S.SGT J.L. Friese, L.P. Valdespiro, Jr.

We Need Your Help:

To commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the end of World War II the Library is planning an exhibit utilizing "Homefront" memorabilia from the war. If you are willing to loan any items or can share a story we might use please contact the Library by July 1994 for preparation for a Spring 1995 exhibit.

The Friends of the Library Newsletter

is published four times per year by the Margaret Chase Smith Library

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The Margaret Chase Smith Library is a non-profit research center and museum of 20th Century political artifacts committed to bringing the ideals of Senator Margaret Chase Smith's career in public service to the people of Maine and the nation.

Volunteers in Action

The Library began a formal volunteer program last October and since then four people have volunteered over 200 hours in activities including receptionist help, photocopying for researchers, filing, proofreading, cutting and pasting for the cartoon book and hanging artwork for the new exhibit.

Top: Our first official volunteer, Maililani Bailey working on the cartoon project.

Left: Busy Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteer Ted Godshall divides his time between the Library and Skowhegan's Redington-Fairview Hospital.

Never Underestimate...

MCS and special guests, including the son of 1950's *Portland Telegram* cartoonist Sid Maxell and the daughter of *Baltimore Sun* cartoonist Richard Q.

President of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (1965-66), John Stampone of *The Army Times* said: "I want to thank you on behalf of the editorial cartoonists. You've done our profession a real 'plus'!"

The political cartoon exhibit opened officially on March 14 but the reception was delayed another three weeks due to the "Storm of the Century". One hundred of the best editorial cartoons featuring Margaret Chase Smith are currently on exhibit through June 30. The exhibit which transfigures the Library into an art gallery has been featured in the Bangor Daily News, The Lewiston Sun, The Central Maine Morning Sentinel and Ch. 8 News.

"You've done our profession a real 'plus'!" - Cartoonist John Stampone

Yardley, autographed books at the reception. Even past State Republican Chairman Cyril M. Joly, Jr., the subject of a 1970 *Morning Sentinel* cartoon by Ken Berry, autographed books for other guests and staff.

If you haven't already, make plans to come to the Library this Spring. It's worth the trip! To obtain your copy of "Never Underestimate..." please complete and return the form below.

The project also resulted in the publication of a companion book *Never Underestimate... The Life and Career of Margaret Chase Smith Through the Eyes of the Political Cartoonist* by Assistant Director Margaret Viens. The book includes a short biography of MCS and over two hundred editorial cartoons with historical annotations.

Many of the over 150 cartoonists, both current and retired, included in the complete collection, sent their best wishes and appreciation for the project. Past

MCS with Bruce Whelple and Susan Yardley Whelple, daughter and son-in-law of Baltimore Sun cartoonist Richard Q. Yardley

Book Order Form

Never Underestimate...The Life and Career of Margaret Chase Smith Through the Eyes of the Political Cartoonist
(183 pp. with 205 political cartoons, paperback) **\$12.50 each**

A Woman For All Seasons, a photographic chronicle of Margaret Chase Smith's Career
(34 pp. 32 photographs, paperback limited edition of 1000, autographed by MCS) - **\$7.50 each**

Declaration of Conscience, by Margaret Chase Smith, Doubleday, 1972
(512 pp. hardback) **\$15.00 each**

Ship to:

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Send Check or Money Order made payable to: Margaret Chase Smith Library, P.O. Box 366, Skowhegan, ME 04976
For Office Use Only:

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Staff: _____

Sub-Total _____
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TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

"Dear Margaret"

Margaret Chase Smith receives mail from all over the country from people of all ages. A letter from one of her youngest correspondents, Ricky, from Keyes, California is reproduced below:

Calendar

Through May 20 - Northwood University
Fellowship Program

Through June 30 -- Political Cartoon
Exhibit

June 9-10 - Advisory Committee

July 13-16 - Northwood External Degree
Program

August 1 SCAG Margaret Chase Smith
Day

August 25 - Maine Society of
Entrepreneuers

Snowed In

We had an old-fashioned Maine Winter in Skowhegan this year. For awhile in March it was difficult to see out the windows and it seemed as though we'd be snowed under forever. But hope springs anew and the daffodils are blooming in the courtyard already.

Friends of the Library
Newsletter
Margaret Chase Smith
Library
Norridgewock Avenue
Skowhegan ME 04976

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