

Smith Tosses Frisly Hat in the Ring

(From February 3, 1964, *Arizona Republic* article by Ruth Montgomery)
See also *Presidential Candidacy, 1964*, interview p.5.

Senator Smith signs autographs following her announcement to run for President.

When a lady tosses her bonnet in the presidential ring, she does it gingerly—almost teasingly—as if loathe to let go of such a nice new hat. As a matter of fact, “The Perils of Pauline” had nothing on the cliff-hanging suspense with which Senator Margaret Chase Smith built up to her declared candidacy.

The long awaited announcement began with a prepared speech in which the gentlewoman from Maine firmly blocked off the middle of the road for herself, citing her own voting record and discreetly suggesting that her GOP rivals were too liberal or too conservative. It was a neat trick, since surely no male candidate would be so ungentlemanly as to jostle a lady out of mid-center.

The white-haired 66-year-old solon next listed all the arguments why she should run—and then all the reasons why she shouldn’t. Having done so, she declared: “The reasons against my running are far more compelling. I am confronted by a lack of money, a lack of organization, and a lack of time because of the requirements of my job in Washington, plus the very heavy odds against me.” So she wasn’t going to run! A murmur of surprise escaped her listeners, but Maggie Smith was not through. Smiling roguishly, she added: “So because of these very impelling reasons for not running, I have decided that I shall.”

Laughter swept the crowded room, and the newsgals gave her a standing ovation. When quiet was restored, the first feminine presidential candidate of a major party in U. S. history declared: “I shall enter the New Hampshire preferential primary and the Illinois primary, for I accept the reasons (Cont. p. 4) (Bonnet—cont. from cover)

“So because of these very impelling reasons for not running, I have decided that I shall.”

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School

Community Service Project

Gardiner Regional Middle School students enjoy a lunch break during their tour. The students worked with the Cohen Senior Citizen Center in Hallowell. They decorated lunch bags and Christmas ornaments for the Meals on Wheels program. They also assisted the Share Center in Auburn which works with Alzheimer's patients and handicapped seniors.

Vassalboro Community School students opted not to have a class Christmas party but instead collected supplies for the Kennebec Valley Humane Society in Augusta. They also made holiday cards for the residents of a nursing home. Teacher Lynn Durost wrote, "We felt very fortunate to receive \$200 (from the Library's school trip fund) with the charge of doing something important. We would like you to know that we have sent \$175 to the Vassalboro Food Station in memory of a parent of two Vassalboro students and a volunteer of the Food Station who passed away earlier this spring. The last \$25 will be used to plant rose bushes at the entrance to the school's nature trail. These will remind us of our experience visiting the Library and learning about Margaret Chase Smith."

Skowhegan Area High School Student Council members conducted a food drive at Christmastime. They also organized an awareness day for drug abuse and teen suicide. Shown in photo at left are (L-R): Sean Campbell, Student Council President; Advisor Angela Martin; and Alex Dyke, Student Council Secretary.

Second grade students (photo left) from the Norridgewock Central Grade School were inspired by a program seen on Oprah. **Hope for Africa** involved collecting school and medical supplies to send to South Africa. The boys and girls raised money by making and selling angels. They also studied African animals as indicated in photo. Norridgewock Girl Scouts (photo right) held a food drive for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. Sixth grade students (photo upper right) serve as playground and hallway monitors and assist 1st grade students as part of a program designed to increase discipline and a sense of community.

Students from the Time and Wonder Preschool from Pittsfield collected books for school and hats and mittens for the needy; were involved in a food drive; and made snacks for firemen. Teacher Nancy Hughes is the granddaughter of Albion Beverage who ran against MCS in the 1948 election.

Students from Manson Park School in Pittsfield collected \$300 to buy phone cards for servicemen and women serving in Iraq. The money earned was matched by the local Wal-Mart store.

Members of the Old Town High School Key Club assisted at a local senior citizens home; held a Thanksgiving food drive; raised \$350 for the March of Dimes and \$100 for UNICEF's hurricane relief fund.

Seniors at North Yarmouth Academy are required to perform 40 hours of community service in order to graduate. Through their Make-a-Wish Committee, they raised \$5000 toward making the wish of a three-year old come true. Their Social Service Committee held blood drives, a Thanksgiving food drive, and aided families at Christmas. The Multicultural Committee contributed to the Guatemalan Safe Passage program.

Students from the Learning Power Group from Athens Elementary School have become involved in various job related fields as a part of their education. The boys and girls pictured to the left were part of the Banking Group supervised by Marlene Frith and the Multi-Media Group supervised by Lisa Pierpont. Other LP groups are Office/Post Office; Store; Cooking; and Consumer Testing. Originally funded through a grant, the program currently operates through fund-raising events such as the annual Car Show. "It's nice to see such great care given to her house and the library," said the group following their visit to the Library,

LITTLE BIT OF FUN AT THE

MCS CORRAL... Western wear was the theme of the day on March 26. A previous visit by the Red Hat Ladies prompted members of the Library staff to don hats of their own—only this time it was cowboy hats and boots. No age requirement to become a member of the MCSL Westerners! Shown are Special Projects Assistant Crystal Perkins, Administrator Lynnette King and Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Coordinator Byron Pooler. Apparently staff members not shown lost the gunfight at the OK Corral!

1949 Letter Might Fare Well in 2004

(Letter from Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. on September 19, 1949)

Dear Margaret Chase Smith,

For an old FDBC-Liberal-Democrat such as myself to approve of your suggestion for a woman on any 1952 ticket, is going some—And yet, I cannot see where a woman would make a worse mess of things than we men already have! I think a woman is urgently needed today - when so many men see 'no way out' save through arms and military power.

I am just recently back from my second post-World War II trip to Europe. Mrs. Vanderbilt and I spent 4 months there last spring and summer - metered 11,000 miles through 6 countries. We found those countries overwhelmingly for peace-at-any price. We also found them dead against USA meddling in their internal affairs. If another war in our generation is forced on them, I would bet my last buck they will lay down our arms and become 'non-combatant rather than fight that war for us. If we force a war in China, as it appears to me we are about to do, we will solidify the opposition—not destroy it.

My dear Mother has always said the women-of-the world should get together to prevent war. I join her - after having fought myself in both World Wars, in the same belief.

We men - most of us - have made a mess of things. It's high time you lovely ladies took over — I raise my 10 gallon sombrero to you! Luck!

Yours respectfully,
Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.

MCS Essay Contest Winners Announced

“Our birthright and duty to vote is the most important right and obligation we possess as citizens of a free society,” said Margaret Chase Smith in 1970. Such was the theme of the 2004 Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest in which high school seniors were asked to propose ways to encourage young people to become more involved in the political process. Of the more than fifty submissions, eight essays were selected. The first place prize of \$500 went to Becca Leathe of Marshwood High School; second place of \$250 went to Deanna Sawtelle, a home school student from Albion; and third prize of \$125 went to David Sansoucy of Biddeford High School. Honorable Mention awards of \$25 each went to high school students Emily Baker of Gray-New Gloucester ; Erin Bilodeau of Lake Region; Jordan Davis of Katahdin; Sarah Dietsch of Marshwood; and Andrea Gammon of Portland.

Becca Leathe's favorite subjects in school are French, English, and history. She also likes to write. Her extracurricular activities have included National Honor Society, piano and violin, and mentoring. She enjoys soccer, lacrosse, and skiing. This fall, she plans a tour to Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia where she will become involved in community service projects. She has been accepted at Middlebury College in Vermont for the winter term and hopes to major in languages or international relations.

Deanna Sawtelle has applied for distance learning courses at Patrick Henry College in Virginia.

Deanna plays and teaches piano and has performed on stage in the “King and I” and four productions with SMASH—the Southern Maine Association of Shakespearean Home Schools. She won 2nd place in the American Legion Oratorical Contest and made it to the state level in the Voice of Democracy contest. She has volunteered and played piano at the Muskie Center for four years and currently serves as a pharmacy technician at Elm City Pharmacy in Waterville.

David Sansoucy loves anything related to bio-technology, science

fiction, Star Wars, and rocketry models. His favorite subjects are social science, global studies, psychology, chemistry and physics. He has been accepted at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and hopes to major in bio-medical engineering. In 2003, David won the Maine division of the American Legion Oratorical Contest and competed nationally in Indianapolis. Essays must be his forte as he also won the VFW essay contest. His oceanic science team at Biddeford High School won the NE Regionals and participated nationally in San Diego. He plays alto sax in the high school marching band.

advanced against my running as a challenge—a challenge which I met in 1948 when I first ran for the Senate, and was told that the Senate was no place for a woman.”

Mrs. Smith handled the question period so deftly that Winston Churchill could have said of her, “This was her finest hour.” Not a reporter in the room believed that the senator actually has her sights set higher than the vice-presidency, but when asked if she would “accept second place” she replied dead-pan: “I will be a candidate for president, and I have no further comment.”

Asked whom she would like for her vice presidential running mate, she grinned: “None of the announced candidates have indicated any desire...” Queried as to which candidate she favors for president if she can’t land the nomination herself, she said suavely, “I’m a candidate for president, and I’m not supporting anyone else.” A newswoman playfully asked if she was willing to debate “Rocky, Barry, and Harold.” Senator Smith said she would, provided all declared candidates shared the same platform and debated each other. Since Goldwater refuses to debate Rockefeller, her answer took her neatly off the hook.

Senator Smith admits to the novelty of her upcoming campaign. She says she won’t have a campaign headquarters, or a paid staff; she has no campaign funds, and she’ll woo votes only when the senate is not in session. Having achieved the senate’s all-time attendance record by answering 1590 consecutive rollcalls, she is not about to change her ways.

The lady from Maine made a pretty good case for her candidacy by appealing to both sides of the political aisle. She said liberals called her a traitor when she voted for the late Robert A. Taft rather than Henry Cabot Lodge for Senate Republican leader in 1949, and conservatives called her a traitor because of her “Declaration of Conscience” against the late Senator Joseph McCarthy.

She reminded that she has held public office longer than any of her GOP presidential rivals—declared or undeclared.

With a brave toss of her silvery locks, she added that she would like to destroy the political bigotry against women, just as President Kennedy “broke the political barrier on religion.”

Come to think of it, the widowed Mrs. Smith left only one political poser unanswered. Voters traditionally prefer a married presidential candidate who can offer them a first lady. Would it seem like the White House without a husband around the house?

Franklin Pierce College student, Meredith Moore, spent time researching Senator Smith’s influence on politics, her view of women in politics and her conflict with Joseph McCarthy as well as her bid for the presidency in 1964.

Sarah Hogan of the Plummer-Motz School in Falmouth portrayed MCS for a 4th grade “White House Tea.” Each student had to select a famous person who had made a difference in the world.

Amanda Huggins and Jennifer Butler, students at the University of Maine at Farmington, reviewed Library field trip procedures. These future teachers gathered historical background material for possible use in a classroom with an eye to possible lesson plans and future field trips for their students.

Maranacook Community School student pulls from the shelves one of the more than 500 scrapbooks as part of a concentrated class research project on the Cold War.

Dr. Jack Bauman, Visiting Research Professor at the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, visited in May with his wife, Barbara, in preparation for a paper to be delivered at an urban history conference at the University of Wisconsin. His focus was on post WWII housing and urban development in Portland, Maine.

Danielle Tourigny (center) and Mom (r) pose with Special Projects Assistant Crystal Perkins following a tour of Senator Smith’s home. Danielle visited in preparation for a “Night of the Notables” press conference in which she answered questions as MCS and served a snack related to Senator Smith.

Smith Led the Way 40 Years Ago— Why Haven't Women Followed? Presidential Candidacy— 1964

(Interview in Anecdotes Collection, MCS Library—Interviewer unknown)

What inspired you to run? For more than a year prior to my announcement, I had received a steady flow of mail from all fifty states urging me to run and to give the Republican voters a third choice between Conservative Goldwater and Liberal Rockefeller. I decided to do so for that reason and to break the ice for women running for the highest office in the land. **Goldwater sewed up the nomination, why did you still go on?** I never had any intention of giving up until the final vote was cast. When I announced my candidacy I was in to stay all the way.

To do otherwise would have let my supporters down.

What did you think during the nominating speech? I thought how fortunate I was...my mind flashed back through the years on the many steps that had been taken that led up to that particular moment—of my upset victory for the Senate in 1948—of how Governor Dewey and General Eisenhower had blocked my

being nominated for Vice President in 1952 when the Democrats nominated two women for Vice President—of the reports that I was on the Eisenhower list in 1956 as acceptable to replace Dick Nixon—and many other things.

Reaction to losing for the first time? I didn't win the nomination—but I don't think I lost—instead I think that I made a gain for women for the future even though I didn't win personally.

Total Expenditures? My total expenditure in the primaries prior to the convention was \$335—of which \$250 was spent on gasoline and travel in New Hampshire and from Washington—and \$85 on the travel in the Illinois campaign. On overall expenditures by everyone, including the convention expense, I would say it was about \$7,000.

Amusing Incidents? There were many but the one that I think of most was when a Goldwater supporter at the convention sneered at a Smith supporter and said, "You're wasting your time?"—to which the Smith supporter replied, "You're only running, I'm making history!"

Most Interesting Occurrence? That was when Denison Kitchel, Campaign Manager

for Goldwater, came to my office and asked for my permission to have Clare Boothe Luce make a seconding speech for Senator Goldwater. I was flabbergasted and said that there was certainly no need to get my permission.

Woman President? Oh, yes, some day there will be a woman President—either by being elected President or by having been elected Vice President and the President having passed away.

Women Voters? To the contrary, I think that statistics show that a greater number of women vote than men. Women vote for candidates on the basis of their qualifications rather than on whether they are women or not.

Support Goldwater ticket? Oh, yes, at the convention I announced that I would support whomever the convention chose. I have no intention of going back on that pledge merely because I didn't win or because I disagree with Senator Goldwater on some issues.

Campaigning for the National Ticket? I have not been asked to campaign for the ticket and I am sure that the Goldwater forces prefer that I concentrate on Maine just as they prefer that Governor Rockefeller concentrate on New York.

Campaign Issues? I think the principal issue on the surface will be foreign policy with emphasis on the conduct of the Vietnam effort. I think the principal issue under the surface will be civil rights—however much President Johnson and Senator Goldwater try to keep it from becoming an issue.

Run for reelection two years from now? I shall run for reelection. I do not make a formal announcement but instead have told my constituents that I will be running for reelection until the time that I announce that I am not running for reelection. In other words, for them to always assume that I am running for reelection in the absence of an announcement from me to the contrary.

1968 Presidential intentions? I have none.

Sheri Shares—Abe and George Need Help

When visiting the Library, you may have seen the portraits of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington that hang in the Library's meeting room. These paintings are reverse oil paintings on glass, an art form very popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It requires painting the design on one side of glass that is viewed from the other side. So, the details in the painting that appear closest to the viewer have to be painted first. The paintings show signs of flaking paint and paint "cleavage," which refers to the paint lifting off the surface. It was recommended by the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) consultant that the Lincoln portrait receive high priority, that a trained paintings conservator analyze the condition and make treatment recommendations for the paintings.

Since conservation work can be costly, it was decided to seek a Preservation Assistance Grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to fund a paintings conservator to write a treatment plan for the Lincoln Portrait and other Library paintings.

There are 42 paintings in the collection, the majority of which are watercolors and oils. Valuable information such as artist, if known, medium, materials, subject matter, and measurements have been recorded.

There is little information in regard to the Lincoln and Washington portraits. Senator Smith had hung the Lincoln portrait in her Senate Office. Wrote Senator Smith in 1988, "They belonged to my husband, Clyde H. Smith, who came to Skowhegan from Hartland in the early 1900s. I do not know the artist and do not know how they came into his possession." Please contact Sheri Leahan at sleahan@mcslibrary.org if you have any information about these paintings.

“Why are More People Cheating to Get Ahead?”

David Callahan explores our Cheating Culture at Annual Maine Town Meeting

The keynote speaker at the annual Maine Town Meeting was Dr. David Callahan who has written extensively about history, business and public policy. He is the author of *Cheating Culture: Why Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*. In his remarks, Dr. Callahan discussed such recent scandals as Enron, World Com and Adelphia and asked why this is happening in today’s culture. Values, says Callahan, are different today. Things were different in previous generations—those raised in the Depression and who fought in WWII weren’t greedy and didn’t feel entitled, said Callahan. They “believed that wealth was created patiently over time.”

Cheating to get ahead was not invented yesterday and those who cheat consider themselves law-abiding citizens. Tax evasion, academic dishonesty, sports steroid use, and workplace theft is a \$600 billion problem in the United States. More people cheat because it is more rational now to do so and in many cases, more acceptable. We live in an age of vast income gaps. “Everybody wants to be on the winning side of the growing income divide,” says Callahan. To deal with the pressures of fulfilling

their dreams, people cheat. If given a choice of holding on to finances or personal integrity, many will choose finances. Today’s culture indulges it; people do not believe they are controlling their destinies. People must want to follow the rules. When people help make the rules, they are more likely to follow them. Ordinary people have to have a say. Callahan suggests that we should: make it easier to register to vote, educate young people about basic human values, allow airtime for all political candidates, and hold forums such as Maine Town Meetings. The key to creating a new society, says Callahan, is to assure that anyone who plays by the rules can have a social contract and those who break the rules, whether rich or poor, should be treated the same way.

Author David Callahan addresses Maine Town Meeting participants.

In photo left, Facilitator Kathy Hunt introduces panelists Kathryn Olmstead, Sarah Standiford, and Thomas Largay. Olmstead assured the audience that most journalists and most students do not cheat. Publicity gives the appearance of prevalent cheating. Profit motive has replaced public service motive, says Olmstead. Standiford assured the audience that volunteerism is up and apathy is down. Her involvement in the Girls Day program leads her to believe that the solution is simple: increased access to civic education; increased connection with young people; and bolstering our democracy by volunteerism conversations. Dr. Largay discussed the legal requirements for fraud to exist and promised the audience that for \$1 he would guarantee a Red Sox World Series win! In business, said Largay, hire honest people, create an open-door policy, develop a company Code of Ethics and enforce it.

A Dear, Dear Friend Has Left Us

During the span of Willie Turcotte’s service to Senator Smith and the Library, nothing has equaled the devotion and attention that Willie gave to those of us who were privileged to know him. From grounds maintenance, to cleaning, to flower tending, Willie always prided himself on the appearance of the Library. Willie grew up on Norridgewock Avenue, just 300 yards from the current Library site. His family pastured cows on the property that was to become the future home of Margaret Chase Smith. He first met MCS when he was about 15 years old and soon after began doing a few odd jobs such as mowing lawns and raking leaves until he was drafted during the Korean War. After the war, Willie worked for 19 years in a local shoe shop, then for 21 years for the Redington Fairview Hospital in Skowhegan, retiring in 1991. During this time, he worked part-time for Senator Smith. In 1980, he became the first official Northwood University employee in Skowhegan when he was hired as the caretaker of the property—a position he took very seriously until his retirement in 2001. Rest assured that Willie would have been conscientiously supervising the walkway project pictured right.

William F. Turcotte passed away on June 11 at the age of 77. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Willie and wife, Diane, are shown in this June 21, 2001, photo at the time of Willie’s retirement from the Library.

Front Walkway is Refurbished In photos below, the Library’s front entrance has had a facelift. Old slate which has heaved from ice and frost has been replaced by attractive “pavers” by Somerset Stone Center, Inc.

Students from Mt. Merici in Waterville sent three boxes of toys to Iraqi children; collected school supplies for Nicaraguan students as part of Building New Hope; and helped out at the local soup kitchen and Muskie Senior Center.

The National Honor Society students from Madison Area High School were invited to the Library to tell about their Thanksgiving project that served dinners to 200 members of the community. The group also hosted a Halloween party and did yardwork for senior citizens. All NHS members are required to perform ten hours of community service. Many have become tutors and organized blood drives. Shown with NHS representative Kristy Rich are advisors Maureen Davis and Margaret Freeze.

Members of the Viking Science Club at Veazie Community School won the Innovative Design Award at the Lego League "Mission to Mars" competition at the University of Maine at Orono in February. Students built and programmed a Lego robot to perform ten space related missions. "We were all impressed with the MCS Library's mission. The extra knowledge we gained from your presentation made us feel good about the goals and mission of our club, and it was inspiring."

Winslow High School Service Club members held a Thanksgiving Food Drive; supported a mission to Honduras; provided presents for a family at Christmas; donated to the Coats for Kids project; collected supplies for troops and paid for the postage for freshman class letters to soldiers. Service Club members also helped with high school events; baked cookies for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter; held a Bowl-a-Thon; mentored for Big Brothers/Big Sisters; held a blood drive; and saved soda tabs for Shriners.

Teen Volunteers for Hospice students from Hall-Dale High School are being trained by Hospice Volunteers of Kennebec County. Some will work directly with patients; some will record videos and make scrapbooks of patient's life stories for families; some will help out patients by doing household work; and some will do administrative work for Hospice Volunteers.

Dexter High School Key Club members raised over \$300 for a UNICEF Halloween collection; over \$800 for the Thirty-Hour Famine project; and over \$1200 for the March of Dimes. They also held a party for the Exeter Head Start; conducted a Cereal Drive; and made Christmas Cards and sang carols at a local boarding home.

As part of Focus Day, the Waterville High School sophomore class spruced up the Mid Maine Homeless Shelter; created a path along Messalonskee Stream with the Recreation Department, and weeded public gardens in downtown Waterville.

In an effort to teach young people about philanthropy, the Unitel Telephone Company has created UniCare kids. Each "kid" is a child or grandchild of a Unitel employee. The company provided \$2000 for the children to distribute for such worthy causes as the Waldo County preschool playground equipment project; the Waldo County YMCA mentor training program; the Unity Barnraisers puppet shows; and the Clifford Foundation dance programs. The group also raised money through car washes, bake sales, bottle drives and dress-down days. The money was used to buy gifts for 15 children at Christmastime. Each "kid" was responsible for giving \$50 for a favorite cause, such as the Albion Public Library, Pine Tree Camp, and the Maine Home for Little Wanderers.

Schools from March to June (top to bottom)

Mt. Blue Middle, Williams Elementary
Benton Elementary, MCS School-Skowhegan,
Clinton Elementary, MCS School-Sanford,
Brownville/LaGrange, Bloomfield Elementary,
Smithfield Elementary.

“Trivia” Answer from April Newsletter—The answer is in the credits box on page 8. Margaret Chase Smith cast 2,941 consecutive roll call votes while in the Senate. Congratulations to Phillis Russakoff and Miles Phillips for being the first to respond with the correct answer. The June trivia question is: The 1964 Republican National Convention was held in San Francisco at what Palace? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to respond with the correct answer **and** where you found it in the newsletter. You might win a prize!

World Trip Exhibit Opens in Fall of 2004

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Senator Smith’s World Trip. Meeting with such prominent postwar leaders as Churchill, Franco, Molotov, Nasser, Nehru, and Chiang Kai-Shek. She inquired about their views on the spread of Communism and the international leadership of the United States. An exhibit on Senator Smith’s World Tour is scheduled to open in October. If you recall hearing a personal account of the 1954-1955 trip from the Senator and/or hearing about any gifts or souvenirs acquired on the trip, please call or e-mail Sheri Leahan at sleahan@mcslibrary.org.

Comments:

From Swetha Doraiswamy from California who received information about MCS for a class report: *“All the information you sent me was so useful in my paper. I’m glad I had the opportunity to research the life of Margaret Chase Smith. She seemed to be an intelligent woman, a great Senator, and an outstanding role model. P.S. I got an ‘A’ on my paper.”*

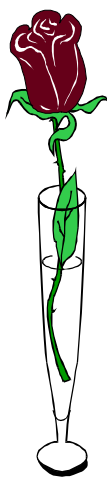
From Kasondra at the MCS School in Sanford: *“Thank you for inviting us to the wonderful library. I just wanted you guys to know that I know that you are very sad. I am sad to but some day she could come back just to say hi. You never know, but I hope you take care of your selves and always remember that she will remember you in her lovable heart.”*

Senator Smith, who proposed legislation to adopt the rose as the national flower, found roses blooming in February when she visited Thailand during her visit to inspect foreign aid activities in the Far East. She is shown with Princess Weepa Chakrabandhu, head of the English Department of the Kasetsart Agricultural University in Bangkok and her assistant.

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