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Profit seeking and drug companies

ROBERT KUTTNER begins his article on health care (“Face it: We’re rationing health,” op ed, June 11) by rightly criticizing the prescription drug industry for making a profit at the expense of patients. But, ironically, he advocates the destruction of the key ingredient that makes these drugs possible: freedom. In fact, it is the profit seeking of drug companies that motivates them to innovate. And it is the relative freedom of this country that allows the minds of scientists to flourish.

Kuttner’s solution to our health-care crisis is the poison pill that would destroy it: a single unified government health care system. Such a system would destroy the incentives needed to create innovative medical products.

No great mind flourishes under socialism. Kuttner rightly criticizes HMOs, but in fact HMOs are not truly private. They are the result and creation of a government that has inflated health care costs through government spending on health care. If Kuttner hates HMOs, he ought not to be advocating the herding of an entire country into one.

A good building faces demolition

KATHLEEN BURGE’s article (City & Region, June 9) on modernist 1940s-1950s Cape cottages and the historical value of modern buildings being undervalued rings a bell with another category: public schools.

In Reading, only Governor Romney’s signature remains before the structurally sound 1953 Reading Memorial High School, built to honor Reading’s veterans and the representative of the late period work of the architectural firm Adden, Parker, Clinch & Crimp, will be demolished.

Willard P. Adden and Winthrop D. Parker were Reading natives, and Howard Crimp lived in Reading from the 1960s to 1965. Several nearby public buildings represent their work, including the Reading Town Hall and the American Mutual Building on the lake in Wakefield.

KENDRA COOPER

Readings

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