

Women and welfare

Debunking stereotypes is crucial as state and nation launch reform

by Ginny Bain, a graduate student pursuing a joint degree in law and divinity. She is currently interning as a community educator on welfare reform and Families First.

Welfare is a subject that inflames public passions. Those of differing backgrounds, ideologies, and political persuasions have been eager to condemn the current welfare system, citing increased spending, rising teen pregnancy, and greater dependency as its evils. Its reform has become a campaign rallying cry, a favorite topic of talk shows, and a necessary fix for our morally decaying society.

The primary object of this fanfare is AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). Although AFDC constitutes only one percent of the total federal budget, it is the nation's largest cash assistance program to poor families with children. AFDC currently provides 14.5 million people, 9.5 million of them needy children, with tem-

porary assistance for basic needs.

National welfare reform, recently signed into law by President Clinton, fundamentally restructures welfare by converting AFDC into block grants given to states. These grants will operate with basically fixed funding and offer states greater flexibility in administering benefit programs for low-income families. Other major changes include \$428 billion of cuts in food stamps, the virtual elimination of benefits for legal immigrants, and substantial reduction in benefits for low-income, disabled children.

Welfare reform in Tennessee

Families First, Tennessee's version of welfare reform, took the place of AFDC on September 1. The state was granted a waiver to implement its own welfare reform program, which makes several dramatic changes similar to those included in the federal act, including a lifetime five-year limit on benefits, requirements for work and education, and stipulated parental

obligations. Under Families First, the head of each AFDC family must complete a "Personal Responsibility Plan," with individualized goals designed to prepare the caretaker to support her family after 18 months.

Families First will affect 252,851 people, three-fourths of whom are children. It has the possibility of being a path of empowerment for poor families and has been endorsed by Governor Don Sundquist as an opportunity for thousands of parents on welfare to "rejoin the mainstream of working Tennesseans."

However, its restrictions and sanctions may also throw thousands of families into greater desperation and poverty. In Tennessee, a family of three on welfare can receive a maximum grant of \$185 a month for shelter, utilities, clothing and household necessities. A Tennessee family receiving AFDC and food stamps is still 50 percent below the poverty level. As

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Sylvia Molloy to deliver 1996 Margaret Cuninggim Lecture

A scholar known for her examination of Hispanic-American literary traditions will give the 1996 Margaret Cuninggim Lecture.

Dr. Sylvia Molloy, the Albert Schweitzer Professor of the Humanities at New York University, will speak Thursday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. in 126 Wilson Hall.

Molloy's most recent book was *Women's Writing in Latin America* and her wide-ranging scholarly interests include autobiography and the study

of women and gender. Her lecture is titled, "The Vicissitudes of Feeling: Impersonating Femininity at the *Fin de Siècle*." In her talk, Molloy will focus on interpretations of the *Journal* of Marie Bashkirtseff, a late 19th century Russian painter and diarist.

Molloy says she will explore "how certain texts written by women, deemed typically 'feminine' and/or 'hysterical' in their excessiveness, . . . serve the expressive powers of their fascinated male readers."

A native of Buenos Aires, Molloy was educated in Paris, earning a doctorate in comparative literature at the University of Paris. In addition to her role as Humanities professor, she serves as chair of the Spanish Department at NYU.



Sylvia Molloy

Women and welfare, from page 1

this reform begins, it is important to examine widely held stereotypes about welfare.

Beyond stereotypes

Over 94% of all AFDC families are headed by a woman. Like all women, those on welfare strive for economic security based on sound education and a good job, safe and adequate child care, health care, and affordable housing. There is one difference. They are poor. Unlike veterans, the blind, the disabled, or the elderly, welfare recipients constitute the "undeserving" poor. Negative reports about welfare have permeated the media, institutionalizing exaggerated and inaccurate stereotypes of the "welfare queen." Demythologizing images of women and welfare is a daunting but necessary task, for at the root of the stereotypes that inundate us are fundamental issues of gender and race.

MYTH: Most families on AFDC are black.

Most families on AFDC are white. While a disproportionately high percentage of black and Hispanic families do receive AFDC, poor white families significantly outnumber poor black families. The 1991 National Census revealed about 13 million whites received cash assistance, food stamps, and Medicaid, compared to 8 million blacks who received this aid.

MYTH: AFDC is the primary cause of teenage pregnancy, nonmarital birth, and single motherhood.

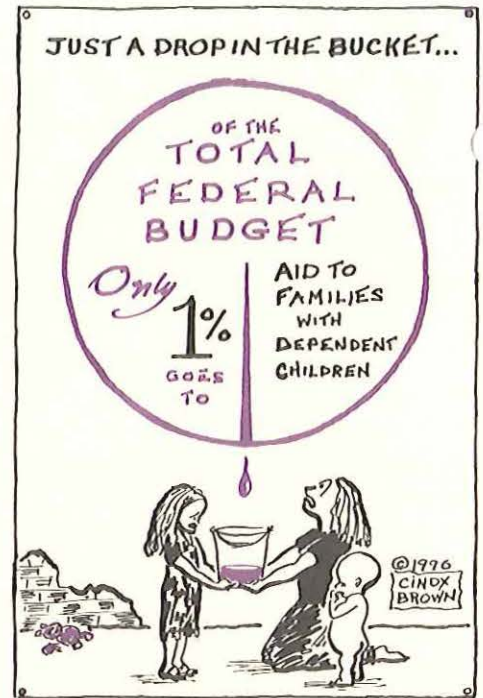
The average AFDC family is headed by a 32-year-old woman. Less than one percent of AFDC parents in Tennessee are under 18 and less than 11

percent are under 21. Although welfare is often cited as contributing to nonmarital births, no causal relationship between welfare and nonmarital birth has been proven. Most AFDC parents, are, or have been, married. The increase in the number of single-parent families is primarily among the non-poor and is attributable to changing economic and social patterns, not to AFDC.

MYTH: Women on AFDC are lazy, immoral, and poor mothers.

Women on welfare are the victims of unrelenting character assassinations based on their "failure" to comply with the work ethic. Over 90 percent of AFDC caretakers in Tennessee have a work history, 56.6 percent of recipients have been employed in the last year, and 20 percent are currently employed.

Women on welfare do not choose to be poor. In 1992, thousands of AFDC mothers in Tennessee were rejected for JOBSWORKS, a program that provides education and training for persons receiving AFDC. Although 14,000 women volunteered, there was only enough money for 6,000 participants. Women on welfare face the same barriers that hinder other women in finding work such as lack of affordable health care and child care (especially at night and on weekends when low-wage work is often available). In addition, only one in seven receives child support. The prevailing view is that if you work, you won't be poor. The reality is that a mother with two children, working 40 hours a week at a minimum wage of \$5 an hour for a year, will still not lift her family above the poverty level.



A Tennessee family of three receiving the maximum grant of \$185 a month, plus food stamps, is still 50% below the poverty level.

MYTH: Women on AFDC have many children so they can stay on welfare their whole lives.

In fact, 78 percent of all AFDC families have only one or two children. The average AFDC family is composed of a mother, age 32, and two children between the ages of four and nine. Many states, including Tennessee, no longer offer additional money for a new baby.

The belief that welfare is a "way of life" for most welfare families is false. It is most often used as temporary income supplement between jobs.

Most families stay on AFDC for less than three and one-half years. In Tennessee, only three in 10 AFDC children are second-generation recipients and one in 14 are third-generation recipients.

As these examples show, the realities of welfare often differ from the public perception. As citizens and as women, we must be steadfast in our commitment to the disadvantaged. Only when all women have the tools and support for economic self-sufficiency will we have succeeded in "reforming" welfare. ■



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Following dreams still paramount despite devastating HIV diagnosis

By Kristin Lazure (A&S '99)
Staff Writer

When Deidre Williams speaks at Vanderbilt this month, she will discuss an issue many students here can relate to. She will talk about achieving goals and having high aspirations. She will examine the role of education and spirituality in reaching future goals.

Williams will show that there is nothing powerful enough to prevent a courageous person from following her dreams. Not even testing HIV-positive.

Williams, an HIV/AIDS educator, will speak Wednesday, October 23, at 5 p.m. at the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center. "AIDS and Still Positive: The Deidre Williams Story," is co-sponsored by the Women's Center and the Black Cultural Center.

Although Williams does stress that AIDS has no regard for color, age, sex, education, religion or personal goals, it is not her intention to lecture on HIV/AIDS prevention. It is assumed that college students know how the virus is transmitted and how its transmission can be prevented. Williams will instead discuss the inner strength that makes it possible for her to continue dreaming of her future as she lives



Deidre Williams

with a terminal illness.

Williams' personal story is fascinating. She was drug-free, pregnancy-free, STD-free, heterosexual, happy and eager to begin her life.

After graduating from a Mississippi high school with honors in 1988, Williams moved to Nashville to attend Tennessee State University. She was prepared to make a lasting impression on the world with her charm and intelligence. However, in 1991 when she tested HIV-positive, fear and shame overtook her. The one time that she claims she was "less than perfect" changed her life forever.

Deidre Williams proves that will and courage are all any person needs to become a "somebody." At 25, she is completing her degree in Management and Human Relations at Trevecca Nazarene College, is the co-founder and director of Women on Maintaining Education and Nutrition, and has been honored with several awards.

Skiing to the South Pole: one woman's view

A member of the first women's expedition to ski to the South Pole will describe her experiences in an appearance at the Student Recreation Center Wednesday, Oct. 30.

Sue Giller was one of four women on the American Women's Expedition (AWE) team that skied more than 600 miles from the edge of Antarctica to reach the South Pole in January, 1993. She served as navigator and equipment specialist for the trip.

Her 4:30 p.m. talk at the Rec Center will focus on the teamwork and mental discipline that were crucial on the 67-day expedition. Pulling 200-pound sleds with all their supplies, team members skied into headwinds of up

to 50 miles per hour and battled Antarctic "summer" temperatures ranging from -5 to to -30 degrees centigrade. Giller encourages others, especially women, to seek personal growth through risk taking.

A computer programmer from Boulder, Colo., Giller is an accomplished mountain climber and a long-time ski and climbing instructor. She has participated in seven Himalayan expeditions and led a highly successful American Women's Expedition to the Himalayan peak Ama Dablam in 1982.

Her appearance is part of the Wellness Bash that highlights health opportunities available on campus.

NEWS

QUOTES

... a compilation of news from the national press on issues of special interest to women ...

Female college freshmen are more likely than their male counterparts to be concerned about financing their education, according to a study cited by the *Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac*, Sept. 2, 1996.

Freshmen women also tend to be somewhat more liberal than men on social issues, especially those related to race and affirmative action, and less cynical about effecting change.

Among almost a quarter million incoming freshmen surveyed in 1995, 22% of the women said they had "major" concerns about financing college, compared to 15% of the men. Thirty-four percent of the male students said they had no concern for where their tuition money was coming from, while only 23% of the women shared that opinion.

Women worried more than men about fulfilling their academic responsibilities, with 32% of women and 17% of the men saying they "felt overwhelmed by all [they] had to do."

Attitudes on sex also differed for male and female freshmen. Students were given a statement which read, "If two people really like each other, it's all right for them to have sex even if they've known each other for only a very short time." Of the men surveyed, 56% agreed, while only 31% of the women did.

Eating Disorders

An eating disorders group meets weekly at the Women's Center. For information, contact Gabrielle Prisco at 421-6197.

Artist Sharon Charney pursues meaning in "The Purse"

A collection of paintings by artist Sharon Charney, to be exhibited at the Women's Center, depicts the purse as an important object and an interesting metaphor for women.

"Purse Pursuits" opens Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 6. The artist will be honored at a reception Oct. 17 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Women's Center.



Photo by Nancy Blackwelder

Sharon Charney

Charney says purses first started appearing in her paintings in small ways, carried by the flying figures she often paints. In the seven acrylic paintings included in the exhibit, the purse becomes the focus of the piece.

"In taking on the purse as an object of exploration, I have discovered questions and thought about answers and implications that I had never before taken time to consider," Charney says. "Is a purse a female metaphor by virtue of its form and function? Is a purse an object of security? Do its contents serve to nurture through the day?"

Although Charney uses two of her own favorite purses as "models" for the paintings, the contents are purely imaginary — one has a frog in it.

Charney's paintings have been exhibited at many local



Charney's acrylic, "Blue Sky and Golden Lining," is among her pieces that will be on exhibit.

galleries, and she won a Best of Show award at the 1994 WDCN Action Auction. A native of Pennsylvania, she received a B.F.A. from Carnegie-Mellon University and an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin.

Biographer to discuss life of Sojourner Truth

Nell Irvin Painter, biographer of abolitionist and women's rights leader Sojourner Truth, will speak at Vanderbilt Friday, Oct. 25.

Painter's lecture at 4 p.m. in Wilson 103 is sponsored by the English Department and cosponsored by the Women's Center.

Painter is Edwards Professor of American History at Princeton University, where she teaches history of the South. Her new biography, *Sojourner Truth, a Life, A Symbol*, was recently published by Norton.

Born a slave in 1797, Truth went on to become a prominent religious leader, lecturer for abolition, and an early supporter of women's right.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABLE WOMEN

- October
- 3 1893 Psychoanalyst Clara Thompson, who argued that cultural pressures, not "penis envy," affected women.
 - 6 1905 Tennis player Helen Wills, eight-time winner of the Wimbledon singles title.
 - 19 1868 Bertha Landes, the first woman mayor of a sizable American City, Seattle.
 - 27 1932 Sylvia Plath, poet, author and novelist, best known for her autobiographical work, *The Bell Jar*.

Unsung Heroines When astronomer Antony Hewish received the Nobel Prize in 1974 for first identifying pulsars, no mention was made of his graduate assistant, Jocelyn Bell, who actually made the discovery. The Nobel Foundation ignored the "well-documented fact" that Bell had first found the source of the pulsating radio signals that hold clues about the beginnings of the universe.

—Adapted from *Mothers of Invention*, by Ethlie Ann Vare and Greg Ptacek

OCTOBER

Calendar of Events

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center



Please save and post. Individual flyers for these programs may not be sent.

OCTOBER 1 / TUESDAY

Creative Life Planning Group. Continues discussion of women and depression. Noon to 1 p.m. *Meets every Tuesday. See special program listing for Oct. 15.*

OCTOBER 3 / THURSDAY

ABCs of Car Maintenance, Pat Claybaker, co-owner of The Workshop, offers tips on how to be a wise consumer of car maintenance. Light refreshments at 5:30, program 6-7:30 p.m., Sarratt 205.

OCTOBER 10 / THURSDAY

1996 Margaret Cuninggim Lecture. "The Vicissitudes of Feeling: Impersonating Femininity at the Fin de Siècle" by Dr. Sylvia Molloy, Schweitzer Professor of Humanities, New York University. Also, presentation of the 1996 Mary Jane Werthan Award. 7:30 p.m., Wilson 126. Reception to follow. *See article, page 1.*

OCTOBER 14 / MONDAY

Book Group meets to discuss *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. 5:15-6:15 p.m.

OCTOBER 15 / TUESDAY

"Purse Pursuits," an exhibit of oil and acrylic paintings by Sharon Charney, opens at the women's center and runs through December 6. A reception for the artist will be held Oct. 17. *See article, page 4.*

OCTOBER 15 / TUESDAY

Creative Life Planning Group. Topic is "Women and Breast Cancer." Gloria Sir discusses her experience with breast cancer. Noon to 1 p.m. New members welcome. Call Judy Helfer at 322-6518 for more information.

OCTOBER 16 / WEDNESDAY

Common Sense Stress Management for Women. Workshop led by Nancy A. Ransom, director of Cuninggim Center, discusses the connection between gender and stress. Practice stress reduction techniques and learn coping and planning strategies for life-long stress management. Refreshments 4:30; workshop 5-7 p.m., Furman 209.

OCTOBER 17 / THURSDAY

Artist Reception for Sharon Charney. 5-6 p.m.

OCTOBER 22 / TUESDAY

Freelance Writers Group, a group of women writers who meet monthly to share information. Beth Grantham facilitates. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. New members welcome.

OCTOBER 23 / WEDNESDAY

AIDS and Still Positive: The Deidre Williams Story. Reception to meet and talk with Deidre Williams at the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center co-sponsored by the Women's Center and the Black Cultural Center. 5 p.m. Reservations requested by Oct. 21 to Juanita Nathan at 322-2524 or e-mail to nathanj@ctrvax.Vanderbilt.edu.

OCTOBER 25 / FRIDAY

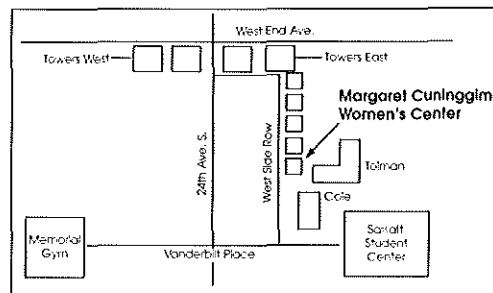
Lecture by Nell Irvin Painter, Edwards Professor of American History at Princeton University, 4 p.m. Wilson 103. *See article, page 4.*

OCTOBER 30 / WEDNESDAY

American Women's Expedition to Antarctica. Sue Giller discusses the first all-women's team to ski to the South Pole. 4:30 p.m., Student Recreation Center. *See article, page 3.*

Unless otherwise stated, all programs are held at the Cuninggim Center, Franklin Building, 316 West Side Row. For more information, please call 322-4843.

How To Find Us



In the library...

Black professional women persevered through Jim Crow era

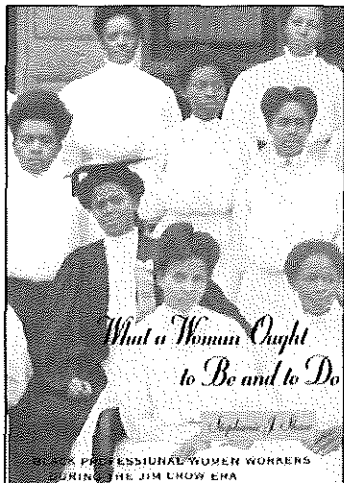
**Barbara Clarke,
Women's Center
librarian**



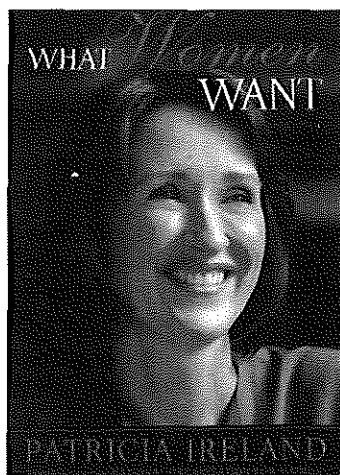
What a Woman Ought To Be and To Do: Black Professional Women Workers During the Jim Crow Era (University of Chicago Press, 1996) is a new volume on women, race, and class by Stephanie J. Shaw, associate professor of history and women's studies at Ohio State University.

She bases her study on records of the lives of about 80 black women, most of whom worked in traditional female professions: they were teachers, nurses, librarians and social workers. Some of the women, such as Mary Church Terrell, Sarah Louise Delany and Angelina Grimké, are well-known today.

The women hoped to uplift their race by their professional achievements. They worked hard and displayed a great deal of self-discipline and self-control in an era when society as a whole had little respect for African-American women. Most of the women had domestic, as well as professional, responsibilities, and they believed that they should help the black community as much as possible. Many became role models for their communities. Shaw discusses the family life, education and careers of these women; some were from middle-class backgrounds, while others came from impoverished families or were born to former slaves.



What Women Want (Dutton, 1996) is the autobiography of Patricia Ireland, who has been the president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) since December 1991. She describes her childhood in Indianapolis, her years as a stewardess and her growing awareness of injustice and sex discrimination, especially after she entered law school in 1972. After Ire-



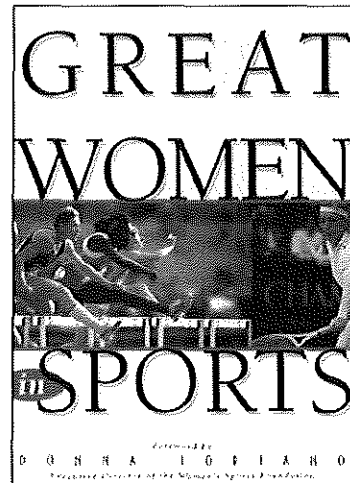
land began practicing law she became more involved in women's rights, especially the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights, and NOW. Included in the volume is a discussion of "what women want" — and a practical bill of rights for women.

In *Balancing Act: Motherhood, Marriage, and Employment Among American Women* (Russell Sage Foundation, 1996) Daphne Spain and Suzanne M. Bianchi present much recent statistical data and a detailed analysis of how women balance family life and employment and how their lives have changed over the years, particularly in the past decade or so.

The writers emphasize that "most women now perform a variety of paid and unpaid tasks each day, rather than specializing in motherhood at one stage of life and possibly employment at another."

In the last ten years significant changes have occurred in the lives of women. More females than males are currently enrolled in colleges and universities, more mothers are working, the earnings gap between men and women has decreased, women are marrying and having children later in life, and more single women are becoming mothers.

Most women want and need to play a variety of roles. The authors believe women will become more successful at juggling when society feels that the bal-



ancing act is a family issue rather than a concern of women. Until then women will pay a higher price than men for combining family life and work.

Anne Janette Johnson's *Great Women in Sports* (Visible Ink, 1996) is a biographical dictionary of women who have excelled in athletics. It covers sports of all types — from dogsled racing to archery. The writer has included both living and deceased athletes and she devotes two to five pages to each. While the sportswomen are predominantly American, a number are from other countries. Not all the entries are for individuals; a few portray teams, such as the Colorado Silver Bullets, the All-American Girls Baseball League, and the all-female team of the America's Cup yacht, America3.

The foreword is by Donna Lopiano, a former softball player and athletic director who is now the executive director of the American Sports Foundation. ■

Phen Fen

The truth about the latest miracle diet pill

by Erin Hebert, RN, MSN

While flipping through your monthly copy of *Cosmopolitan*, you are bombarded by pictures of a scantily clad waif, reminding you that you need to lose weight. You've tried appetite suppressants, pre-packaged meals, subliminal tapes, and just about every weight loss product available with poor results. But before you give up hope, you recall a friend talking about a new diet pill with a weird name, Phen Fen. She said a doctor must prescribe it and it worked so well her cousin lost 35 pounds in two months. Another friend says she heard on television that Phen Fen causes serious side effects. In this article, I'll examine what has been clinically established about Phen Fen and its potential as a miracle weight loss pill.

As a women's health nurse practitioner, I have routinely been asked how to lose weight quickly and safely. In recent months, I have noticed that approximately three out of five nonpregnant patients I see for routine gyn examinations are obese. The majority of these women are actively attempting to lose their excess pounds. Unfortunately, few women are educated in what makes us gain weight, how we can lose it, and how to keep it off.

Because of laws established after amphetamines were found to be addictive, practitioners in Tennessee cannot legally prescribe Phen Fen. In Kentucky, however, these laws do not exist. A doctor I recently worked with in Kentucky has prescribed Phen Fen for the past year and has seen overwhelming changes in his patients, both physically and emotionally. In addition to losing up to 16% of their body weight after eight months of treatment, patients taking Phen Fen have lowered their cholesterol and blood pressure, and improved their glycemic control.

Such results cannot be accomplished by simply handing out prescriptions and saying "Here, take each pill once a day and come back next month." The first step is to educate the patient about both weight gain and loss. Part of this teaching includes learning to eat correctly and to exercise with aerobics and resistance training. At the office where I worked, all patients on Phen Fen were required to begin an exercise program and meet with a dietician to decrease their caloric intake.

Without changing diet and exercising regularly, the patient either will not lose weight while on Phen Fen, or

more often, will regain *all* of her lost weight after discontinuing the pills. Many women think they can take the pills and ignore the long-term behavioral changes. We did not continue giving these patients prescriptions for Phen Fen. Despite the success of the diet pills themselves, it is the behavior modification which is the key to losing weight and keeping it off.

Brain chemistry is believed to cause obesity in many people. Those who are overweight have too little serotonin, which causes them to feel hungry. As a result, researchers began using two drugs already approved by the FDA, Fenfluramine and Phentermine, as obesity drugs. Fenfluramine prevents the absorption of serotonin, helping to increase satiety and decrease food cravings. Its side effects include diarrhea, dry mouth, fatigue, and decreased motivation. Phentermine affects dopamine levels in the body and acts as a stimulant while decreasing hunger. Side effects for Phentermine are sleeplessness and anxiety. Taking Fenfluramine or Phentermine alone as a weight loss drug was never accepted by providers because the side effects were so incapacitating. By taking the two drugs together, however, the side effects cancel each other and the result is a nonaddictive weight loss drug.

In the only long-term study available about Phen Fen, patients were followed for more than five years. Side effects reported included dry mouth, upset stomach, sleep disturbances, short-term memory loss, and palpitations. After six weeks, the only side effect that persisted for most subjects was dry mouth. A very rare side effect of Phen Fen is primary pulmonary hypertension, a serious condition that can be irreversible if not treated. From 190 weeks to 210 weeks, the subjects stopped taking Phen Fen but continued their behavior modification. On average, the patients regained 3.2% of their weight, which was better than those who had not taken Phen Fen, but not perfect.

The study reminds us that while the answer to obesity doesn't lie in a magic pill, Phen Fen can be used as an adjunct to the traditional weight loss therapy of behavior modification and exercise. Choosing a low-fat, low-calorie diet and exercising at moderate intensity for long periods of time is still the best way to lose weight and keep it off. ■

Erin Hebert is an August 1996 graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing women's health nurse practitioner program. She is currently working as a women's health nurse in San Diego.



A Woman's Wellness

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Vanderbilt Cancer Center and Breast Center are sponsoring a series of brown bag luncheons in October on women's health topics. Bring your lunch to Light Hall each Friday from noon to 1 p.m. for practical information on women's health. Drinks provided.

Announcements

Events

Susan Douglas, author of *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*, will speak Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Wilson 126. Douglas' popular book examined the "fairy-tale princesses, beach bunnies, witches, flying nuns, bionic women and beauty queens" that represented women in recent pop culture. Douglas concludes that contradictory messages about women in the media have helped to fuel ambivalence about women's roles and about feminism. Her appearance is sponsored by the Women's Studies Department.

As part of **Revisiting the Holocaust**, the 19th annual Holocaust lecture series at Vanderbilt, the Women's Center is cosponsoring a showing of *Diary of Anne Frank*, Monday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Sarratt Cinema. This 1959 film, based on the Broadway play, is drawn from Anne's diaries of her family's harrowing ordeal in Nazi-occupied Holland. Admission is \$3.

The Nashville Race for the Cure is Sunday, Oct. 13 at Centennial Park. Registration is \$15 per individual and \$12 for members of teams of 10 or more. Proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the largest private funder of breast cancer

research in the U.S. A 5K run/walk for men starts at 1 p.m. and a 5K for women at 1:45 p.m.

The Jagged Edge of Safety, a safety fair sponsored by Medical Center Traffic and Parking, will feature a variety of demonstrations including: CPR, how to change a tire, how to save a life with a seatbelt, how to protect yourself in case of fire, and how paramedics use the Jaws of Life to rescue crash victims. The fair will be held on Vandy Plaza (near Light Hall) Thursday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 11 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Voter Registration

The Tennessee Women's Vote Project has established a voter registration site at the Women's Center. Anyone at least 18 years old who has not registered to vote or who wishes to change information on their registration can do so until Oct. 4 and be eligible to vote in the November election. The Women's Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The voter project is aimed at increasing the electoral participation of Tennessee women, who had the second worst turnout in the nation in the last three national elections, with only 53% of eligible women casting a ballot.

Volunteers Needed

Planned Parenthood Federation of America will hold its annual conference in Nashville Nov. 14-17 at the Stouffer Hotel/Convention Center. Volunteers are needed before and during the conference to help stuff kits and staff booths and meetings. The conference features several noted speakers and is expected to attract more than 1,500 health care decision-makers. Volunteers are welcome to attend non-ticketed events and to purchase tickets for meals or ticketed programs. Volunteers must complete an application by Oct. 8 and attend one orientation session: Oct. 8 (7 p.m.); Oct. 10 (6 p.m.); or Oct. 29 (5 p.m.). Application forms and information are available at the Women's Center.

Memberships

The American Association of University Women, whose local branch meets monthly, is open for membership to graduates of accredited universities and to student affiliates. The AAUW works to promote opportunities for women, to take action on social issues affecting women and to foster personal and professional growth for its members. Prospective members are welcome at AAUW meetings. For information, contact Vicki Agee, local membership vice president, at 221-4318.



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Women's VU

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