



Loma Linda Associate Professor Pioneers Smoking Cessation Aid

by Jocelyn Anthony

Dr. Linda H. Ferry, chief of preventive medicine at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, California, was the original investigator to study and develop a promising new aid to smoking cessation—bupropion (Zyban), a non-addictive, non-nicotine treatment. More than one million prescriptions for Zyban have been filled in its first eight months on the market. Early sales figures indicate that in 1998 alone, Zyban may be used by as many as three million people who are trying to stop smoking. Ferry became interested in helping people stop smoking as a graduate student at the Loma Linda School of Public Health. There, she learned that smoking is the single worst “modifiable cause of premature death” among Americans. Ferry’s research interest was stimulated by her work at the VA Medical Center. In July of 1996, researchers estimated “30 to 40 percent of veterans who come to VA Medical Centers are nicotine dependent, and more than 60 percent have smoked at some point in their lifetime. . . .” Many veterans, Ferry says, “do not know how to live life without nicotine.” Helping them to stop smoking “is the most important and cost effective preventive strategy that can be instituted in VA facilities.”

Ferry immediately went to work investigating current smoking cessation aids. Nicorette gum was considered the only effective agent when

Ferry started her research, but she was not satisfied to rely on a nicotine-based remedy. After reading an article that linked smoking and depression—a finding she would later confirm in her own research—Ferry turned her attention to nicotine’s effect on moods and emotions.

“People who smoke,” Ferry learned, “are more likely to be depressed,” and nicotine acts as an antidepressant, releasing chemical messengers dopamine and norepinephrine into the brain. What she looked for, then, was a drug that mimicked the positive and reinforcing effects of nicotine. She selected bupropion (a common antidepressant marketed under the trade name Wellbutrin) as a potential agent to reduce nicotine withdrawal symptoms.

In 1991, Ferry—working together with psychiatrist Al Masterson—recruited her mother, preventive medicine resident physicians, and a medical student as research assistants. Funding her work with her own money and a small grant from the Loma Linda University faculty research fund, Ferry conducted a study of 45 veterans. The results were startling: While not one of those who received placebos was able to quit, 55 percent of those who received bupropion stopped smoking after 12 weeks of treatment. Between 1992 and 1994, Ferry conducted longer-term studies with another 190 subjects, again with favorable results.

Meanwhile, Glaxo Wellcome, the

Loma Linda develops a drug for smoking cessation, Adventists send a U.S. ambassador to Malta, and Walla Walla wrestles with attacks on its school of theology.

company that manufactures bupropion, became interested in Ferry's research, conducted trials of its own, and provided Ferry with additional funding. In May of 1997, bupropion, repackaged under the label Zyban, became the first FDA-approved non-nicotine-based prescription drug shown to be effective in smoking cessation. It went on the market in July of 1997.

Some of the latest studies con-

ducted by Glaxo Wellcome show long-term success rates for Zyban of between 36 and 44 percent, and one large study reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests that Zyban is more effective than treatments using the nicotine patch.

Jocelyn Anthony, a junior English major at Columbia Union College, is currently a White House intern.

Adventist Businesswoman Named Ambassador to Malta

by Doris Vincent

Kathryn Proffitt-Haycock, an active Seventh-day Adventist church member from Phoenix, Arizona, was recently appointed by President Bill Clinton as ambassador to Malta, an island rich in history situated in the Mediterranean Sea.

Proffitt-Haycock's nomination came on September 29, 1997, followed by a November 6 confirmation and finally an official swearing that took place on December 17. As an experienced business woman, she has held many posts, including president of Call America, a long-distance telephone company she founded in 1982. She has also served as director of ICG Communications, and as vice chair of the Competitive Telecommunications Association, an organization that represents telecommunications providers with annual revenues totaling just under \$5 billion.

Selected as a result of her strong business background and experience, Proffitt-Haycock, a onetime dental hygienist, also cofounded the East Valley Dental Hygiene Society in Phoenix, and served as its president. Proffitt-Haycock will be expected to articulate the complex interests—economic included—of the United States to the Maltese

government.

Prior to her appointment, Proffitt-Haycock worked closely with the U.S. government. As a representa-

tive of the telecommunications field, she attended a 1994 meeting of telecommunications executives gathered to discuss telephone regulations with Vice President Al Gore present. In May of 1996 she was a United States representative at the Information Society and Development Conference in South Africa. She was also a U.S. delegate at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Conference in Paris.

Proffitt-Haycock is heavily involved in the Phoenix Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church. A mother of four, she volunteers her time to youth ministries and to her church's finance committee. She has also held memberships on several committees of the Arizona Conference.

Doris Vincent is a junior communication major at Columbia Union College.

Walla Walla College Board Accepts Commission's Report

In a specially called meeting in Portland, Ore., on December 16, 1997, the Walla Walla College Board of Trustees received and voted to accept the final report and recommendations from the Walla Walla College Commission studying concerns raised by constituents regarding the School of Theology and the spiritual training of students on the Walla Walla College campus.

During the meeting, the board unanimously approved the following motion:

"To accept the Final Report of the Commission on the Walla Walla College School of Theology as a working document; to refer it to the Walla Walla College administration for response as the first step in the process of its implementation, and to request the college administration to present its response to the Walla Walla Col-

lege Board on March 2, 1998."

In its 37-page report, the commission called not only for a timely resolution of issues and concerns, but also for active efforts to restore trust through direct and persistent dialogue. It also stated clearly that its report was intended to "define the issues that have impacted the campus and the field, and provide recommendations to the board that will both alleviate the present tensions and secure a strong future for the School of Theology in serving the needs of the student body as part of the larger constituency of the Northwest."

The commission's report contained the following recommendations and counsel:

1. That the Walla Walla College Board should recognize that the stated task of higher education is

indistinct in the minds of the constituency, and that the college has grown beyond its original charter to the point that its purpose is indistinct. It is clear that the majority of graduates do not work in the employment of the church.

2. That deliberate efforts be made to clarify and update the school charter and bring all operations into harmony with it.

3. That a refined and updated mission and purpose of Walla Walla College be clearly communicated to the constituency.

4. That the theology curriculum as expressed in the bulletin be reviewed and updated to contain more detailed information regarding class content and objectives to allow students to have a better understanding of what to expect from each class.

5. That a process be developed that ensures that students are happy with their choice of classes and that they are appropriately matched with the content and objectives of the class they plan to attend.

6. That the mentoring system that is in place be encouraged and further developed. This should include dialogue between religion faculty and non-religion faculty advisors who will be assisting non-theology majors in their selection of religion course requirements.

7. That the Walla Walla College Board oversee clarification and re-statement of its expectations of the religion department in relation to:

a. The purpose for its existence in relation to the needs and expectations of the North Pacific Union Conference constituency, particularly with respect to those who will enter the teaching and gospel ministries of the church;

b. The authority and instructional treatment of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy;

c. The curriculum, and how it should intentionally facilitate the instruction and affirmation of the

fundamental beliefs and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

FACILITATION: That the faculty and administrators both nurture a process whereby progress toward the accomplishment of items 7. a-c can be evaluated. One idea discussed by the commission was for the board to set up a representative task force under the guidance of the board chair and college president, perhaps consisting of one representative from the religion department, with the other members coming from the board members; two lay persons; a church pastor; and three administrators, one representing the college, one from the union conference, and the other a local conference. The chairperson shall be one of the seven-member task force who shall be named by the college president and board chair.

8. That the "liberal" image of the Walla Walla College religion department be adjusted to better reflect the liberal-conservative continuum.

a. That the religion faculty engage in a self-study to determine why this image has been earned;

b. That the religion faculty critique their mission statement with a view to aligning themselves very positively as defenders of the faith and mission of Adventism, and proposing how this will be undertaken in the future;

c. That the department chair be rotated on a biennial basis.

9. The board oversee a deliberate adjustment to the balance of the department to reflect better the ideological spectrum of the constituency. Within an appropriate period of time, the department should be at a point where the liberal-conservative continuum is better reflected. The changes needed may include adjustments in curriculum, in focus, and potentially, in personnel.

FACILITATION: That when filling any future vacancies in the department, deliberate care be exercised to achieve a balance in Ad-

ventist theological perspectives. An expanded search committee will need to be formed to implement this objective. The members of this committee will be appointed jointly by the college president and the board chair, to include the chair of the college personnel committee, serving as chair; the vice president for academic administration; the chair of the theology department; a pastor and a lay person who both are members of the board; a conference president; union administrator; and union ministerial association secretary.

10. That there be a joint effort between Walla Walla College and church administration toward using the resources in the theology department in a more widespread fashion to educate the constituency at large with a view toward eliminating inconsistencies in the way we support our beliefs. And that the whole Adventist educational structure be encouraged to participate in a progressive building-block education enterprise that develops a clear understanding of Seventh-day Adventist history and doctrine.

11. That administrators intentionally help mitigate the dichotomy that now exists between the Adventist Theological Society and the Adventist Society for Religious Studies to ameliorate growing tensions between the two entities.

12. That a procedure be formalized to allow a mutual review of significant concerns and/or corrective actions to provide an understanding of the progress made and to enhance communications.

COUNSEL: The commission urges those embroiled in this controversy in the strongest possible terms to set aside feelings of animosity, temptations to pass on unsubstantiated stories, and abuse of influence, to engage in persistent humble dialog in pursuit of resolution.

That those individuals involved in propagating erroneous reports be admonished to take action toward making amends.

That administrators at all levels encourage the principles of Matthew 18 to be fully utilized, i.e., common commitment to believe nothing until parties involved dialogue with each other.

The commission, made up of nine board members, was appointed during the May 5, 1997, Walla Walla College board meeting on the request of Jere Patzer, chair of the board, and W. G. Nelson, president of Walla Walla

College. The group met 10 times during its evaluation, from June through December of 1997. Commission members interviewed faculty and staff of the college, reviewed letters of concern and commendation and heard comments from church members in their efforts to properly identify the central issues.

Commission members were Ron Anderson, Alf Birch, Wilfred Geschke, Jon Kattenhorn, Stephen McPherson, Esther Littlejohn, Bryce Pascoe, Carlyle Raymond, and Dave Thomas. Bryce Pascoe served as facilitator to handle logistical and organizational concerns, while

David Thomas acted as the commission's secretary. Chairmanship was shared by various commission members.

A complete text of the commission's Final Report, may also be requested in writing from either the Office of College Relations, Walla Walla College, 204 South College Avenue, College Place, WA 99324 or North Pacific Union Conference Communication Department, P.O. Box 16670, Portland, OR 97292.

Adapted from the summary release posted on the Walla Walla College Web page at (<http://www.wwc.edu>). Text of the full report is also available there.