



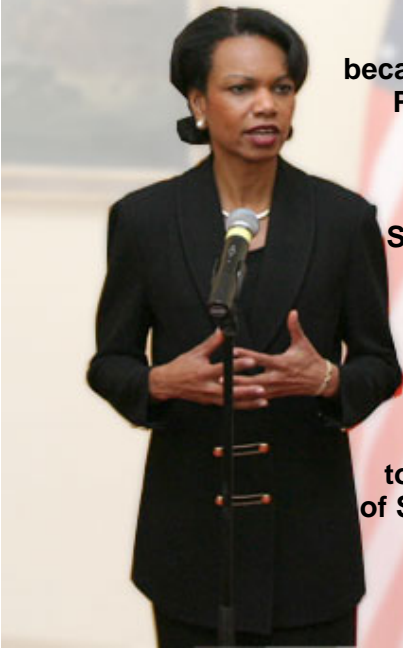
ZOOM

in on america

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WOMAN POWER!



On January 26, 2005, Dr. **Condoleezza Rice**, became the 66th Secretary of State of the United States. Prior to that she had served, among other prominent positions, as the National Security Advisor for President Bush.

Secretary Rice was the first African American to hold the position of Provost at Stanford University, the first female to hold the position of National Security Advisor and the first female African American to hold the position of Secretary of State.

Photos clockwise from top left: State Department Photo; (AP Photo/Giorgos Nissiotis); (AP Photo/ Henrik Montgomery) Pool AP/WWP

On October 4th, 2004, **Linda Buck, Ph.D.**, was named winner of the 2004 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for her groundbreaking work on odorant receptors and the organization of the system responsible for our sense of smell. To Buck, knowledge about how odors are detected or how the nervous system translates various odor molecules into perceived smells was "a monumental problem and a wonderful puzzle."



As a member of the U.S. women's soccer team **Brandi Chastain** has won three Olympic medals, two of them gold.

She also earned a degree in Television and Communications at Santa Clara University.

Chastain was on the national team that won the first FIFA Women's World Cup in China in 1991.

She also scored the last penalty kick past the Chinese goalie to win the 1999 Women's World Cup final (organized in the USA) for her team.

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month.

The **2005 Women's History Month** theme, "Women Change America," honors and recognizes the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens.

Jobs for the Future

Career Voyages

www.careervoyages.gov/
From U.S. Departments of Labor and Education

Lists hottest occupations, provides information about which industries are growing. "Career Compass" uses information about your interests to find occupations that you might like to do.

What Interests You?

www.bls.gov/k12/
From Bureau of Labor Statistics

Lets you choose your area of interests and suggests possible careers. For example if you click "Reading," you'll get a choice of 5 jobs. Each description tells you what the job is like, how you should get ready to become a professional in this field, and the future outlook for the job.

Career Quiz

http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/quiz/career_quiz1.asp
From the Princeton Review

Complete a quiz with questions about yourself. You will be given details about your interests and work style. You can also register for free to receive a list of careers that match your personality.

Engineer Girl!

www.EngineerGirl.org
From National Academy of Engineering

Not only in the United States, engineering is a profession that has been dominated historically by men. This is something this website is trying to change.

Do you know what job or course of university study you would like to choose after you graduate from high school? Do you know what jobs suit your interest or personality? Do you know what steps to take to achieve your career goals?

If you answered the above questions with a 'no,' choose one of tools on the left, available on the Internet, to help you make up your mind about your future.

Even though some of the information you'll find on the websites that we recommend might be specific to the United States, remember that, in the global village that our world is becoming, regional differences in areas such as the job market are diminishing.

Which of these statements about success and life choices do you agree with? They are opinions by the three women featured on the previous page.

... it is a dangerous thing to ask why someone else has been given more. It is humbling — and indeed healthy — to ask why you have been given so much.

Condoleeza Rice

What we talked about was the confidence we have in each other. The supreme belief that we will win no matter what. It gets rough out there but this team is not about quitting. It is about moving forward and being progressive and loving each other and doing anything to make our team successful. This is a team people should be proud of.

Brandi Chastain

It's important to do something, to study something that fascinates you. Pick a problem that you're extremely interested in. (...) You don't want to just do a problem because it's easy to solve, you want to do something that you're obsessed with, that you just have to understand, because that's where the joy comes from.

Linda Buck



(AP Photo/ University of Southern Mississippi, Steve Rouse)

In America girls get involved in politics from early on!

In the photo above, newly elected Girls State governor Courtney Caples, right, of Moss Point, Mississippi, talks with delegates Laura Langley, center, of Amory, Miss., and Lauren Pedroso of Meridian, Mississippi, on June 11, 2004, during the closing session of the 57th annual Girls State convention on The University of Southern Mississippi campus in Hattiesburg, Miss. Langley and Pedroso have been selected to represent Mississippi at the annual Girls Nation convention in Washington, D.C.

Read about Girls State at <http://www.legion-aux.org/programs/docs/gstate/>

Odyssey of Diversity

The pursuit of new scientific and engineering knowledge requires perspectives and insight that can only be assured by increasing diversity in these fields. Despite a growing proportion of American women choosing to pursue science and engineering careers, they continue to be significantly underrepresented, constituting only about one fifth of the workforce in this area.

Technology is not neutral. Every invention reflects the values, perspective, background, and needs of its inventor.

- Anita Borg, computer scientist, champion for women in information technology sciences

Although there is a common perception that boys outperform girls in mathematics, scores on a national test for American 4th, 8th, and 12th-graders have not shown this. However, girls were less likely to report liking math or science.

Later on, in college young women earn more than a half of both bachelor's and master's degrees. However, they earn only about one fifth of degrees in engineering and around a third of degrees in computer and information sciences.

The American government supports education initiatives that seek to provide greater opportunities for girls and women. For example, an innovative program to encourage women in technology, Girls' E-Mentoring in Science, Engineering, and Technology, provides mentoring for girls aged 13 to 18 by linking them with professional women in technical professions. Read about GEM-SET at <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/gem-set/>

Based on National Science Foundation and National Center for Education Statistics data



Image: Matthew Bowden, Stock.XCHNG

To activate your mind and possibly increase your chances of getting a good job in the future try out new activities and skills to find out what really excites you. Why not take part in one of the following competitions available for youth:

Diversity 2005

For the fifth year Motorola Polska Electronics is organizing a competition for high school students whose aim it is to develop a website on specific topics - this year "Stereotype." Categories of the competition include most interesting treatment of the topic, most interesting graphic treatment and most user-friendly website.

An important requirement is that each participating group must consist of 4-6 students of whom at least half must be girls. Each group must have a supporting teacher from their school.

Read the rules of the competition and sign up at <http://www.diversity.pl> by March 15th.

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition for students from kindergarten through college. Problems range from building mechanical devices to presenting an interpretation of literary classics. Teams from about 26 countries including Poland and the USA participate in the program. Students form teams of up to seven students and are coached by a teacher.

Read the rules of the competition in English at <http://www.odysseyofthemind.org/>. Read the Polish version at <http://www.odyseja.org/>

Door to Diplomacy

Doors to Diplomacy is an international competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. It encourages middle school and high school students around the world to produce web projects that teach others about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy.

Read the rules of the competition at <http://www.globalschoolhouse.com/doors/index.html>

Activity Page

Win a Prize!

To take part in a drawing for one of three prizes find the answer to the following question:

In what category did Linda Buck receive the Nobel Prize?

Send your answer to:
zoom@usinfo.pl

Give your name and address.
The deadline is
March 31.

Good Luck!

The winners from the previous issue will soon receive their prizes by mail.

Find answers to activities on this page at www.usinfo.pl/zoom/

■ Find Words

Go back to the texts about inspiring women and find words or phrases that have a similar meaning to the following ones:

before that -

question or problem -

to occupy the same place in time -

increase the length of -

goalkeeper -

very innovative -

treats with respect -

changing -

■ My Own Words

Fill in each blank with **one** word that fits the context. The first letter of each word is given.

I remember what it was I _____ being a teenager, wanting to f_____ in, but still feeling like maybe I never would, that I'd never find what was right for me. You want to find that place, find that niche of friendship and f_____ like you belong. So what I did was get involved in a lot of extracurricular a_____, trying to find something that I enjoyed.

I did a l_____ bit of everything. I played multiple sports, not just one sport. I played basketball, football, baseball. I also joined after-school activities just to see what I liked, and to see what t_____ of people I liked, and figure o_____ if that was something that I wanted to do.

Sometimes you find out you're lousy. Sometimes you screw up and you're a_____ people are going to laugh at you, but so what? You have to d_____ your best to not be afraid of people laughing or not agreeing w_____ what you're doing. You have to stand up and be your own person first of a_____. And second, when you find that thing you do enjoy d_____, that thing you're good at, keep at it.

And it's not like you have to figure all this out by y_____. I remember I had one really good friend w_____ was my age. He could kind of tell me the positives and negatives about things I w_____ doing. I also had relatives who could be objective and t_____ me if things I was into were good or bad. And they d_____ not judge me. They would just support me as much as they could.

Text by Marvin Lewis adapted from Electronic Journal "Growing Up Healthy" available at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0105/ijge/ijge0105.htm>

■ Glossary

convention - a formal meeting of a group of delegates

humanitarian - of an organization or activity that promotes human welfare

humbling - making you feel less important

molecule - the smallest particle of a substance that retains its physical and chemical properties

monumental - highly significant

odorant - a substance having an odor

odyssey - a long voyage; also an intellectual quest

penalty kick - a free kick in football defended only by the goalkeeper

provost - a high-ranking university administrator

sophistication - high degree of complexity or development

supreme - greatest in importance

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Zoom is online at
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www.usinfo.pl/zoom/subscribe.htm

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zoom@usinfo.pl

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