
Letters to the editor

Letters received from readers in response to articles and ideas published in ANS are regularly featured, providing an opportunity for constructive critique, discussion, disagreements, and comment intended to stimulate the development of nursing science. Unless otherwise stated, we assume that letters addressed to the editor are intended for publication with your name and affiliation. As many letters as possible are published. When space is limited and we cannot publish all letters received, we select letters reflecting the range of opinions and ideas received. If a letter merits a response from an ANS author, we will obtain a reply and publish both letters.

RETHINKING ATTITUDES ABOUT MENSTRUATION

To the editor:

Patterson and Hale's article "Making Sure: Integrating Menstrual Care Practices Into Activities of Daily Living" (ANS 7:3, April 1985) left me with conflicting feelings. I was encouraged by their examination of women's experiences with menstruation and women's need to conceal menstrual blood because of negative cultural attitudes and fear of embarrassment. Yet I was disappointed in finding menstrual products referred to as "sanitary products" (pp 19&20). Advertisers of menstrual products perpetuate the belief that menstrual blood is offensive by stressing concealment and using euphemisms. "Sanitary products," "protection pads," and "sanitary napkins" are euphemisms. Let's call them what they are—menstrual products and menstrual pads.

As long as beliefs about the uncleanness and irresponsibility of menstruating women exist, women will be very concerned about making sure that their menstrual blood is concealed. For the past ten years of my nursing

career, I have been a women's health care nurse practitioner. I am aware of the negative feelings and embarrassment many women have about menstruation and the euphemisms they use. I hope there will come a time when the only concern that women will have when their clothing is stained with menstrual blood is how to remove the stains without damaging their clothing.

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VALUE OF DIALECTICAL THINKING

To the editor:

Patricia Moccia's article, "A Further Investigation of 'Dialectical Thinking as a Means of Understanding Systems-in-Development: Relevance to Rogers's Principles'" (ANS 7:4, July 1985) is thrilling. Thank you for publishing it.

To know that at long last nurses are to be permitted to think in ways other than the ordered, systematic fashion demanded for so long in nursing programs all over the country is mind expanding. It illustrates the fact that "we've come a long way, baby."

At last someone demands attention to the ordering and congruence of philosophy—assumptions and the nature of the theory expounding them. Now if we can get nurses to understand that the empirical approaches must also be matched to the theory we will be on our way. At length we have introduced the cutting edge where nursing efforts can coalesce to explicate the science of nursing. This article gives me hope.

Raphella Sobier