
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.

QUALITY OF LIFE

To the editor:

The editorial "Quality of Life: A Values Transformation" (ANS 8:1, October 1985) was excellent. The *what if* possibilities that were developed relevant to nurse scholarship in the human interest expose a root cause of the progressive weakening of the ethical stance of professional nursing. The questions posed reveal issues that we have refused to acknowledge in our time, substantive issues of human concern that once gave definition and validity to the foundations of nursing as a profession.

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PRIMITIVE PLEASURE

To the editor:

I found Catherine M. Norris' article "Primitive Pleasure as the Basic Human State" (ANS 8:1, October 1985) provocative and creative. Dr. Norris' questioning of the physiological goal of homeostasis was thoughtful and intriguing. I am excited by the dialectical synthesis issue of "... whether primitive pleasure as the basic human state is not part of the concept of physiological homeostasis or whether physiological homeostasis is not an aspect of pleasure." Her argument is not that these are opposites but that homeostasis is quantitative and particularistic whereas primitive pleasure is qualitative and holistic. Therefore, a dialectical answer, combining the two into something different than either alone, seems unlikely. Is it possible that these are complementary ideas, where the nurse practitioner's conceptual view of a situation can shift back and forth between the two ideas but cannot maintain the two views simultaneously? Nurses of course need to study the time, intensity, variation, and innovation of primitive sensory pleasure in relation to varying levels of physiological homeostasis.

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From the editor

THE REALITY OF GROUP DYNAMICS

We live in an age in which "do your own thing" is an ideal, and the reality of groups is

seemingly denied, feared, or resisted. Individuals who proudly identify with groups are mistrusted as "groupies," ie, weak and unable to think for themselves. Judging from nursing theory's heavy emphasis on the individual, and