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Letters to the Editor

Wille, Phyllis D.

▼ Author Information

Graduate Student, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois

Wendy Austin's article "Nursing Ethics in an Era of Globalization" (ANS 24:2, December 2001) stated clearly the global health issues that we should be concerned about and the effect decisions that are economically, and not ethically, based are having upon the availability of health care in our global community. I agree that nurses are now faced with making ethical decisions as never before on the allocation of scarce resources and advances in biotechnology. I am appalled by our collective complacency about the AIDS epidemic in Africa and the unavailability of recent advances in medical technology to combat this disease in African countries.

Nurses in our global community need to develop a health ethic that is applicable to all countries. Nurses in the United States need to encourage their nursing leadership to actively support WHO's vision for health. Dr Brundtland, Director General of WHO, states: "Nurses, as the key health professionals, are in a unique position to act as powerful advocates for a healthy planet."¹

I would like to thank Dr Austin for challenging the community of nurses in this country to examine our emphasis on the individual and to develop a new nursing ethic that is respectful of the diverse cultures in our increasingly entwined global community.

—Phyllis D. Wille

Graduate Student

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois

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