



Mail bag

RN reminded of long-lost colleague

Re: Dolorosa (Jan/Feb 2002) It was a delightful surprise to turn the page and see the poem in honour of Genevieve Bromley whom I first knew as a dynamic, compassionate, bright, energetic emergency room nurse. In later years, we lived in the same neighbourhood. The introduction mentions that she hung onto her 'nurse identity' in the midst of Alzheimer's disease. It is mysterious and surely connected to the deep conviction, passion, and energy that she demonstrated as a nurse and throughout her life. I thank Elizabeth Bromley and the *Registered Nurse Journal* for this beautiful and graceful gift, and look forward to reading the entire poem.

Mary Anne G. Burns, RN
Toronto

College applauds efforts to champion healthy workplaces

Re: The results are in: Healthy workplaces boost patient care (Jan/Feb 2002) On behalf of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) allow me to congratulate the RNAO on its "Healthy Workplaces in Action" conference. Your coverage in the recent journal did an excellent job in explaining how quality work environments support nurses in providing quality care. It builds directly on CNO's Quality Practice Setting Attribute's Model[®].

CNO's Practice Setting Consultation Program[™] (PSCP) is another example of a potential tool that employers and nurses can use to examine and improve systems within their work environments, which support professional practice. One presenter is quoted as saying that "innovative solutions" result when health-care professionals work together to "build an environment of joint respect and partnership." Another presenter says, "more needs to be done to help inspire nurs-

es to improve their environments." These two quotes encapsulate the approach and goals of the PSCP, a nurse-driven, six-step process that can be undertaken by nurses and their employers in any health-care setting.

Over 95 facilities have participated in the program since its inception in 1998. We expect this number will continue to grow as positive word-of-mouth spreads throughout the province. CNO's commitment to increasing confidence in self-regulation and working with nurses, nursing leaders, and employers to Build Quality Practice Settings Together[™] is one strategy to achieve this goal.

Eric Doucette

Manager, Practice Setting
Consultation & Employer Support
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RNs respond to hospital's support of nurses facing charges

Re: Criminal charges rattle RNs (March/April 2002) I assisted the family with nursing analysis at the coroner's inquest held in 2000 to investigate their 10-year-old child's death at The Hospital for Sick Children. It was this death which led to criminal charges being laid against two of the hospital's nurses.

The thrust of Dr. Rush's article is that these charges caused shock, disbelief, fear, and concern among nurses across Ontario and the entire country, that it was outrageous that such a thing could have happened, and how important it was for the nursing community to support these two nurses in every way possible.

... I wonder whether Dr. Rush has familiarized herself with the nursing details of this case, or if her comments are simply a knee-jerk response to having two of her hospital's nurses charged with a serious criminal offence.

... Dr. Rush writes that the prevailing sentiment among Sick Kids' nurses is "This could happen to any of us." If Sick Kids' nurses truly believe that they could easily have provided the same level of nursing care to their own patients, then those patients would be far safer if they stayed away from the hospital. The nurses that I know are proud of their nursing skills, their dedication to the profession and their patients, and they would never find this type of nursing acceptable.

When this case comes to trial, nurses will have to make a choice: quality nursing or solidarity at any cost. It appears that Dr. Rush has already made her choice.

Sharon Deutsh, RN
Thornhill

Re: Criminal charges rattle RNs (March/April 2002) I received my first copy of *Registered Nurse Journal* last week. After reading the article by Janet Rush [chief nursing officer, The Hospital for Sick Children] I breathed a sigh of relief. How nice to finally read an article about the inquest without actually thinking about "the inquest."

The article focused on the bigger picture and provided a different view of the situation: the impact of the jury's decision on individual nurses, ward staff, hospital staff, and the entire nursing community. In the end, nurses supported one another and together we were able to navigate through a crisis. The hospital administration and the nursing executive played an integral role in summoning the supports that the nursing community within the hospital required.

As time goes on, I feel confident that the nursing community at The Hospital for Sick Children can look to our infrastructure for continued support and assistance.

Angela Arra, RN BN
Toronto