News on nursing in the media
Are nurses getting any respect on Halloween?
October 31, 2021

Headlines

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2. MSNBC publishes Truth’s op-ed on naughty nurse Halloween costumes
3. Martha Stewart resurrects bloody nurse image for Halloween
4. Slaying: "Paris Hilton Is a Naughty Nurse"
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7. Book an online or in-person engagement now!

Empower the nursing profession--please help us help you with a $5/month donation. Thank you!
A very cheeky display

Megan Thee Stallion does the naughty-axe vigilante

In June 2021 Megan posted photos of herself in a naughty nurse outfit on Instagram to promote a new song that was about “shakin’ ass.” That imagery, which has been reproduced in many prominent places, is damaging to nursing in a fairly standard way. But in the video Megan also – for a short time wearing the same naughty nurse outfit - sexually terrorizes and physically disfigures a misogynist U.S. Senator, in a revenge fantasy that fans are meant to admire. And others, we assume, to fear.

Unidirectional sexual healing

MSNBC publishes Truth leaders’ op-ed on naughty nurse Halloween costumes

A few days before Halloween 2021, MSNBC posted an op-ed by Truth About Nursing executive director Sandy Summers and senior advisor Harry Summers explaining why the naughty nurse was a bad costume choice for Halloween. Citing recent examples from pop music, the authors noted that the image “reduces a life-saving modern health profession to a tired joke about female sexuality.”

The Artist Currently Known as Martha

Martha Stewart resurrects bloody nurse Read more...
Martha Stewart resurrects bloody nurse image for Halloween

In October 2021, Martha Stewart Living magazine reprinted an image of a Halloween costume Stewart had created in 2016. She wore an old-timey nurse outfit and was covered in blood, as a tribute to Richard Prince’s nurse paintings. This image isn’t very naughty, with limited cleavage, nor very battle-axey, as Stewart looks more terrified than terrifying. Still, after a while, and without the cultural backstory of the paintings, continuing this antiquated imagery isn’t great for a modern profession.

Slaying: “Paris Hilton Is a Naughty Nurse”

Meanwhile, Katherine Schwarzenegger honors essential workers and upcycling

Two roads diverged in the woods of Halloween 2020, and celebrity mogul Paris Hilton took the one too much traveled, with a tired naughty nurse outfit that undermined real nurses’ efforts to get resources during the pandemic. Meanwhile, Katherine Schwarzenegger kneeled in scrubs with her rescue dog and homemade box structures that honored essential workers, in an effort to at least make things a little better.

Sex candy

Yahoo report on naughty nurse Halloween costumes relies on Truth director and
In October 2021, Yahoo Life posted a good piece by Kaitlyn Reilly about real nurses' objections to naughty nurse Halloween costumes, with quotes from Truth director Sandy Summers and advisor Tyler Kuhk. We argued that such “sex candy” imagery contributes to the sexual abuse that real nurses suffer because it suggests, at least to some, that sexual services are part of nurses’ jobs. We explained: “Men who stereotype nurses want to control nurses, because they fear being in a hospital bed being controlled by nurses, who are the caregivers who are the most hands-on.”

Speaking engagements

Truth founder Sandy Summers spoke to Florida NPs in August 2021

On August 27, 2021, Truth About Nursing founder and director Sandy Summers was the keynote speaker at a Florida Nurse Practitioner Network (FNPN) conference. The conference had been scheduled to occur in Orlando but was held online because of the Covid outbreak. The FNPN's theme for this, its 17th conference, was "2021: The Year NP's Inspire, Innovate & Motivate," all of which leads to a world full of more nurses in the media!
Planning in-person events again? The Truth About Nursing's founder and executive director gives keynotes!

Let Sandy Summers, RN, MSN, MPH, empower your nurses and help them fully embrace their autonomy!

Patients deserve better protection. Let Sandy help your nurses and students fully embrace their autonomy to strengthen nursing care, reduce errors, and improve care! Sandy speaks widely to a variety of international nursing groups. (She's vaccinated.) Click here to see details and book her today!

Book Sandy Summers for your event!

Sign all of our petitions. Demand respect for nursing!

Netflix and Ryan Murphy plan two-season TV origin story for Nurse Ratched, one of the most damaging anti-nurse stereotypes in history, just released.

After 348 tries, Grey's Anatomy portrayed a nurse doing the nursing work of educating a patient. Encourage Grey's to continue and bring on more nurse characters to do the nursing instead of the surgeons who almost always do it.
Cardi B needs education as to why the naughty nurse damages the nursing profession

Family Feud uses naughty nurses and battleaxes as a mainstay of its "jokes"

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: "Thank God for stupid nurses"

Inside Amy Schumer used vicious anti-nurse stereotypes

The Good Doctor strongly reinforces the stereotype that nurses are low-skilled physician lackeys who are barely involved in hospital care.
Don't let this be a search result for "Nightingale. "New Google / Ascension project has already breached nursing’s data security.

We can turn $5/month into a more empowered nursing profession. Join us?

Books

Imagine a world where nurses were fully empowered to protect patients

Get an author-signed copy of Saving Lives for you or a friend

Saving Lives is the transformative book acclaimed by nurses, nursing leaders, scholars, and the media. It can help your friends, colleagues, and students be the strong nurses our profession needs to protect patients from errors, injuries, and disease. See praise for Saving Lives: Why the Media’s Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk by leaders in nursing and the media as well as the awards it has earned, including three Book of the Year awards from the American Journal of Nursing and an award from Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing. The updated second edition from Oxford University Press is now available! All donations and royalties go directly to support The Truth About Nursing, a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
Think about the future

New international text *Nurses and Nursing* leads off with chapter by Truth leaders

The exciting new textbook *Nurses and Nursing: The Person and the Profession* includes a chapter on nursing’s image by Truth leaders Sandy Summers and Harry Jacobs Summers. Edited by Padraig O Luanaigh, RN, EdD, the thought-provoking new textbook from Routledge "draws on international contributors with a range of backgrounds to explore, engage with and challenge readers in understanding the many aspects and elements that inform and influence contemporary nursing practice." Our chapter is "Nursing’s public image: Toward a professional future." We thank Dr. Luanaigh for the opportunity to be a part of this important new project. Please consider this book for your classes in professionalism, nursing and society, and nursing leadership. Click here to request a free copy for review now! See more about the book here...

Learn more about "Nurses and Nursing"...
Planning your curriculum?

We have ideas

Many nursing professors rely on the extensive and varied materials on the Truth's website to help their students engage with critical issues nurses will face in the future, from their public image to key aspects of nursing education, practice, and advocacy. Since 2001, we have explored and analyzed how the global media and society in general has seen the nursing profession. Join your colleagues and use this material to help plan your curriculum! Please consider some of these ideas...

See our curriculum ideas...

Presentations

How can nurses become fierce advocates?

Sandy Summers delivered an empowering message to new graduates in a 2019 speech at Widener University's Nightingale ceremony.

In a short, compelling address, Sandy Summers welcomes new graduates to the field of nursing and inspires them to become fierce patient advocates—to put patients' interests first. Sandy explains her holistic vision of nursing advocacy and shares strategies to help nurses find their...
and shares strategies to help nurses find their voices. She highlights areas in need of our advocacy and offers perspectives on how to overcome the resistance we meet when we challenge the world to do better. Nursing advocacy saves lives, and our patients need us to do it. So please join Sandy and let’s get started!

See the speech!

Change the world with us!

Your support is what makes it possible for us to improve public understanding of nursing -- one media image at a time. Please make a generous donation today. Thank you!

Join the effort to bring nurses more respect!

Join our action teams for:

- Nurses and students
- Professors and researchers