News on nursing in the media
Are nurses getting the respect they need to save lives?
November 28, 2021

Headlines

1. Malawian nurses urge media to provide more balanced coverage of nursing

2. Reports show Covid is overwhelming school nurses

3. Items from Portugal and the U.S. show nurses can succeed with collective action

4. Physician's *Los Angeles Times* op-ed decries narrow "doctor culture"

5. [Join the effort to bring nurses more respect!](#)

6. [Book an online or in-person engagement now!](#)

7. Sign all our petitions: *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Ratched*, *Cardi B*, *The Good Doctor*, *Amy Schumer*, *Family Feud*

Please help us bring nurses respect with a $5/month donation!

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News Summaries
**Serving and saving lives**

Malawian nurses urge media to provide more balanced coverage of the profession

In late October 2021, the *Nyasa Times* reported that the National Organization of Nurses and Midwives of Malawi had hosted a media workshop to improve relations with the press. The group’s leader Harriet Chiomba urged journalists to change their focus on a small number of problematic nurses and do more to highlight the positive contributions of the profession.

**Bottomless wells**

Reports show Covid is overwhelming school nurses nationwide

As students are back at schools across the U.S., school nurses are confronting real challenges. Most obviously, they face a huge expansion of their excessive workloads, as explained in a September 2021 piece in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. But as the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* reported on the same day, some school nurses - like the one in Cheyenne who resigned over lax quarantine rules – also face bad Covid policies.

**We belong together**

Recent items show nurses can succeed through collective action

News reports by Reuters and others have described strong public protests during early 2019 by Portuguese nurses seeking better pay and working conditions. One union leader even staged a short hunger strike!
union leader even staged a short hunger strike! And in April the New York Times reported that three major New York hospital systems had avoided a strike only by agreeing to minimum nurse staffing ratios, a result that may have wider effects.

Cancel that culture

Physician's Los Angeles Times op-ed decries narrow "doctor culture"

Robert Pearl's May 2021 piece argues that physicians undermine health by focusing on lucrative short-term interventions rather than primary and preventive care. But the piece itself reflects a culture that ignores the role of nurses, who have long had the same holistic practice focus Pearl favors.

Speaking engagements

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!
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 Anatomy 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.

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: "Thank God for stupid nurses"
Family Feud uses naughty nurses and battleaxes as a mainstay of its "jokes."

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 organization. Thank you for your support!

Learn more about Saving Lives!

Think about the future

New international text Nurses and Nursing leads off with chapter by Truth
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 Pádraig Ó Luainagh, 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. Luainagh 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.
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 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!

Can you please donate $5 or $10 per month to support our work? Thank you!
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!

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