

Gentle alternatives to bungee jumping

Joan Dunham, who was seeking fresh ideas to increase the range of organised activities for the physically frail clients on her unit (Is bungee jumping over the top?, Letters, August 11) may wish to consider the National Trust’s programme of open air events.

These musical evenings vary from jazz to orchestral performances, and often have a firework display as a finale.

The atmosphere is redolent of the last night of the Proms. Dressing up for the event – from full evening to fancy dress – is optional in the extreme.

The event turns into a mass picnic. A happy time is had by all.

Marion Gross

Acrimony over acronym anachronism

Why do employers still insist on advertising for RGNs, when I see on my recently-updated registration that I am an RN (Level 1), and that my previous Enrolled Nurse qualification is Registered Nurse (Level 7)?

On the wards, I see nurses refusing to acknowledge their status as Registered Nurse. If nurses cannot adapt to any kind of change, how will we ever get recognition as having professional status?

The Registered Nurse registration helps reduce the prejudice against enrolled nurses who continue happily in their roles, with no intention of converting to level one. Perhaps employers could help initiate this changeover in their situations vacant advertisements.

David Matheson RN (Level 1 and 7)
London SW8

Disability is a political handicap

At the risk of being labelled reactionary, out of touch and protectionist, I feel I must add my thoughts to the controversy surrounding the use of the term ‘mental handicap’ and the initials RNMH.

I have listened to all the arguments and remain more than a little sceptical. I can think of many mentally handicapped people whose learning disability is the least of their problems. I wonder if the use of the term ‘learning disability’ might not be politically-motivated and perhaps divisive.

If the existence of handicaps is denied, then there is no need to provide services for the clients.

Any services grudgingly provided might appropriately be the responsibility of the education authorities.

I would also make no apology for defending the title ‘nurse’.

The Oxford dictionary defines the verb ‘to nurse’ as: ‘To have charge of, to foster, tend, promote the development of.’

I am comfortable with that.

It describes precisely the work of the Registered Nurse Mental Health.

I am a nurse and proud of being one.

Davie Matthews RNMH, RCNT, CMHN, RNT
Preston

Information exchange

Helping you to help each other

- As part of an in-depth study for my conversion course, I am looking at alternative therapies.

   I would be interested in hearing from anyone who is involved in introducing these therapies in nursing.

   I am particularly interested in learning how policies and protocols have been set up, and the law and ethics of allowing alternative therapies to become part of the extended role of the nurse.

   All information would be gratefully received.

   Debbie Salmon
   Ward D6 Medical Unit
   Southampton General Hospital
   Tremona Road
   Southampton
   Hants S09 4XY

- I am undertaking a study on skill mix within school nursing.

   If your area of work has implemented a skill mix study, or if you have any information on skill mix, I would very much like to hear from you.

   Julia Murray
   School Nurse
   Forde Road Clinic
   Folkestone
   Kent CT20 1HH

- We are undertaking a project to improve the health education facilities in our Accident and Emergency Department.

   We would like to use our television and video in the waiting area, and perhaps make our own health education video.

   We would also like any health education information which may help us in this initiative.

   Staff Nurse Lilley
   Accident and Emergency Department
   The Ipswich Hospital
   Heath Road Wing
   Ipswich IP4 5PD

- My work as a qualified nurse involves supervising homes for ageing people in my region.

   I would very much like to correspond with a professional nurse in the same situation, so that we could share knowledge on the common experiences we have on various issues to do with ageing.

   Mrs Santie van der Westhuizen Department of Health and Welfare
   PO Box 554
   Bethlehem 9700
   Republic of South Africa

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And let us know if your request leads you to information that would be useful to the wider world of nursing.