**VIEWPOINT LETTERS**

understand that not all colleges may be as innovative, but the majority of our students certainly do not sit in class with ‘pens poised’ ready to be fed information. On the whole, they are well-motivated and willing to adapt to the ever-changing situations they encounter within nursing.

Please, Sheila Macdonald-Scott, give nurse education some credit and don’t assume all health professionals make university lecturers give ‘an exasperated sigh’.

Viv Semmens
Senior lecturer/nurse teacher
Mid Glamorgan College of Nursing and Midwifery

**Lecturers can be wrong too**

Sheila Macdonald-Scott has highlighted some of the issues facing nurses in higher education (Yes, or maybe no, Viewpoint, March 8). But it is not only nurses who have to un-learn the ‘hierarchy of control’.

Many lecturers find it difficult to accept that a student can have another point of view. The response from lecturers to the video mentioned in the article does not match with the description of university lecturers eager to facilitate students and explore knowledge.

Admittedly, the changes in higher education have put added pressure on teaching staff, not least the drive to ‘bring in the punter’. And there are concerns that this is leading to a dilution of excellence. At risk is a philosophy that education is about challenging the boundaries of current knowledge, and developing in the student/evinuer a capacity for critical thinking.

Ms Macdonald-Scott alerts us to a communication gap between what nurses want and what higher education expects. There is a bigger gap between the values of education and those of the market place.

Colleen Wedderburn Tate
London

**Thanks to a very special nurse**

I have recently lost my husband after a long illness. During the last four months of his life he needed daily nursing care which he was given by our practice nurses, all of whom showed great kindness and understanding to both my husband and myself. I can’t begin to thank them enough.

I am writing to you, however, to tell of one nurse in particular — Sister Anne Nott — who looked after my husband constantly during this time.

Her help and understanding went far beyond the call of duty.

Not only was she totally dedicated in the nursing of my husband, she also found the time to give to me when I so desperately needed someone.

No-one will ever know the stress, confusion and turmoil that you go through when you know you are losing a loved one unless you have been through the ordeal yourself.

I know I could not have got through those last months without all the help and support Sister Nott gave me. She was not only a district nurse, she became my Macmillan nurse, confidant and friend. She was outstanding.

I would like my letter published to give some encouragement to nurses who, at times, must feel really despondent.

Mrs J Butcher
Newport
Isle of Wight

**Victim of weight losing advice**

Well spoken, Angela Kennedy (Fair deal! Fat chance, Viewpoint, February 15). Advice from the healthcare professional is one thing, a dictatorial intrusion is quite another.

Those of my friends who are overweight avoid their GPs if at all possible. One not-so-lucky individual, well past the statutory three score years and ten, fell victim to weight-losing advice. No doubt the adviser is delighted with the three stone-lighter individual who attends for the obligatory check-up.

Unfortunately, back at home, alone, it is a different picture. Meal times which used to be a joyful

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**Information exchange**

Helping you to help each other

- In our anaesthetic department, we would like new ideas to work the off-duty rota because at present we are finding there are ‘wasted’ hours and on some occasions the theatres overrun. Patients arrive in the anaesthetic room from 8.15 am and, depending on the type of cases, allocated time is given to each case. But this is where the problem of overrunning comes in. Any ideas would be welcome to improve the present rota system which comprises four shifts, three of which are 9 hours 45 minutes, and one 8 hours 15 minutes.

Elizabeth Griffiths
Main Theatre Department
Morrison Hospital
Morrison
Swansea
SA6 6NL

- Within my trust hospital, we are looking to develop a role for a liaison nurse working within orthopaedics. Any literature regarding such roles would be of great interest.

Nadine Hood
Flat 2R
643 Pollokshaws Road
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- As a Macmillan team co-ordinator, I am about to compile a marketing strategy folder for professional use within our community healthcare service. If anybody has experience in compiling a similar folder within a specialty, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Michael Rogers
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- I am a ward sister in the paediatric neurology ward at Guy’s Hospital and am interested in establishing a special interest group for

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