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First Paper

"But You Can Do Better Than Being Just a Nurse!"

My decision a few years ago to pursue a career in nursing has produced a wide range of comments from my friends and family. By explaining the reactions of those people close to me, I hope to develop in writing the reasons I have decided to enter the nursing profession.

Probably the most outspoken critic of my career choice has been my father. With his ultra-conservative and very traditional outlook towards society, he views my decision as settling for second best. His sons should shoot for the top. We should become physicians if we want to work in the medical field. Nursing would be good enough for his daughters, however. In an effort to dissuade me from nursing into medicine, he contacted several aged family physicians who agreed to "drop my name" at various medical schools. After he realized that I did not want a career in medicine, he next suggested that I become an optometrist, or dentist or pharm^cist - anything but a nurse. His hierarchial reasoning is extremely evident.

What my father, and a large segment of society in general, fails to understand is that nursing is truly a career choice. They fail to realize that nursing is a profession. I do not plan to explain in the next few paragraphs why this view of nursing exists and more importantly, why this view persists. What I will do is contrast my father's view with that of my wife, Marge Jozsa.

Through working as a medical social worker for two years, Marge realizes

that to be a good nurse is to be constantly confronted with new challenges. The nurse who complains of boredom, does not know what it means to be a nurse. Nursing offers more than job security. It offers, an ever-expanding range of educational advancements, a myriad of clinical settings and, most important, an infinite array of unique patients. My comments may have the tone of a basketball coach's pep talk before the big game of the season, however, idealism is one of my most prominent qualities.

Receiving my bachelor's degree in nursing at Rush University is not the means to an end. To the contrary, my degree will allow me to open the next door of my life. Which door I will open is unclear to me now, but I am certain that as long as I look for doors, I will find them in nursing.

Your attitude will be necessary many times. So nice to have a support person. I wouldn't be surprised if 10 years from now your father will be proud of you. Probably he will never verbalize it, pride is important. But quietly you can be satisfied with your own life.

Nice expression of thought.