

*DEVIANCE AND EDUCATION FOR LEADERSHIP:
A RESPONSE*

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I can identify with the author's argument that teachers in faculties of nursing can and should prepare their students to face a work situation different from the ideal they have been taught. She adds, "New graduates will through self-integration have developed some armor to protect themselves in the role of deviance". It is difficult to discern how teachers are to help their students or how the self-integration process is to go on.

The author has interesting and important things to say, but stops developing them before full understanding on the reader's part is possible. Perhaps she left some provocative statements undeveloped so a debate could be started.

I accept the definition of deviance as interpreted in the article but found it necessary to remind myself of it repeatedly as I read. I found it difficult, as well to equate deviance and creativity. While the author sees deviance as a special type of non-conformity, the distinction between the two is not completely clear to me.

I was disappointed that the theme of leadership which figures heavily in the title was not further developed, and would have liked to think further about how the nurse who exhibits deviance from the norm can lead others effectively.

The influence of a faculty member as a role model has considerable impact on student behaviour — she is copied if the students find her behaviour relevant or rejected if she does not seem to "practice what she preaches". What happens when a teacher talks deviant behaviour but herself conforms to the established pattern? How does this contribute to developing the so-necessary armor?

Some writers whose works shed light on this subject are Marlene Kramer (*Reality Shock*), John Gardner (*Leadership*) and Erich Fromm (*Escape From Freedom*). I believe their viewpoints could have clarified this discussion.

I wonder what most of us are doing right now. Are we sending a double message to our students — "Talk and theorize about being different, a change agent, but in my class learn to follow my rules"? How many of us have the courage to let our students, while they are students, really upset the system?