



Ms. Kelly Ripa  
"Live with Regis & Kelly"  
7 Lincoln Square  
New York, NY 10023

March 14, 2007

Dear Ms. Ripa:

As President of the New York State Nurses Association and a practicing critical care nurse, I was outraged at your insulting portrayal of nurses this week on your program. Your comments about a "sponge bath nurse" and "little nurse costume" was only made worse by the artwork in the *New York Post* the next day.

Nurses have struggled for decades to dispel demeaning stereotypes, especially those of a sexual nature. Insensitive statements such as yours continue to set us back.

The average registered nurse is a woman in her 40s, a working parent who – despite exhausting mandatory overtime, inadequate staffing, short supplies, and little support from corporate health care – makes miracles happen every day.

The nurses caring for Mr. Philbin are highly skilled and educated professionals who probably have additional training in cardiac care. They will be assessing his condition around the clock, watching for complications and advising other members of the healthcare team on his progress and treatment.

I invite you to find out what we really do. I'm sure that one or more registered nurses would be willing to come on your program and talk about cardiac care, before and after bypass surgery. It might even be educational for your audience as well.

If you're interested, contact NYSNA at 518-782-9400, ext. 275. At the very least, I and the 2 million RNs across the country deserve an apology.

Sincerely,

Verlia M. Brown, MA, RN, C  
President

Constituent of United American Nurses  
Constituent of the American Nurses Association