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Office Politics

Oh, come on, I bet you know about this! If you have worked anywhere since graduating from nursing school, you know what I am talking about. I have my own special term for it. I call it "Camp Building". It happens because we want to feel good about ourselves and what we do, so we look for personal relationships to help bolster us among our workforce. And we look to where we fit in the big picture of a nursing office or group. As a new nurse, I observed the relationships of my new co-workers and found two groups. One group seemed to develop friendships outside of the workplace and went about their lives with little interaction with co-workers outside the workday. The other group seemed to form some bonds with those they worked with and often participated in outside activities together.

There seems to be good and bad in each path. Some great friendships were born, thrived, and survived in the work place. For others, relationships were destroyed or forever altered by internal gossip and backbiting among co-workers in "Camp Building" efforts to divide and conquer relationships. For the most part, I have found caring, committed nurses among my co-workers. Nurses come in all shapes and sizes, personalities, and backgrounds, just like the patients or clients we serve. If we put the good of the workgroup at the forefront of our "Camp Building" decisions, it seems we generally serve others and our community better.