

I still don't know why anyone would want to stick her hands in my mouth

I get to spend the next few weeks in and out of the dentist's office, so you all get to go with me. First, I need to set the stage for you. My dentist is a petite blonde named Dr. Molly (I'm not making this up). I haven't time to go into the hygienist yet, but we'll get there. God is so good. Seriously though, the staff is pleasant and professional and, for my money, if you're going to spend time horizontal, doing so with a Molly beats a Richard any day of the week. I realize this could heat up the argument over preferences, so let me nip this right now. After nearly gagging on something as small as that little drool sucker they leave in

your mouth during a procedure, there is no way I personally could argue in favor of staring up at a dentist named Dick. Let's move on.

Marvin G. Baker
Guest Columnist



First the x-rays. Bitewings are the easiest to deal with. It doesn't take much to keep the saliva in your mouth during this set. You sound like a snake with

a lisp trying not to drown, but it's better than lying about the "7-Up stains" on your shirt later. When the tech finished with those and started a more uncomfortable series I asked her what sort of wings these were. She responded by holding up the front sight of a forty-millimeter anti-aircraft gun. *Have you seen this thing?* You're supposed to hold it under your tongue between your teeth while they aim the emitter through it.

As much fun as that is, I figured out how to get rid of it right away. Just yawn suddenly, like your Oreos are coming out to say hi, and that little torture device becomes sculpture on the nearest desk, real quick. Thanks to my U.S. military resistance training, the only thing that little X-ray of sunshine got out of me was blood type and next of kin. My victory was short-lived, however, as the Dentist herself soon arrived.

Now that we're on the subject of first impressions, here's a little advice. "Sup puddin'" is not the best way to gain favor with the woman who's about to go poking around your teeth with a steel

pick. Neither is laughing at the Poindexter eyewear she needs to better see inside your yap. I couldn't help myself, one second she was smiling at my wit and the next she had morphed into a demonic jeweler in Team Black & Decker coveralls. After surviving the x-ray tech, I wasn't about to give them the satisfaction of covering in the chair, so I laughed to reaffirm my bravado. Little did I know that Dr. Molly had a sense of humor of her own to go with her surgical stainless.

Faster than you can say "not on the first date," I was flat on my back with a mouthful of latex....

To be continued next issue

Chrysalis continues to help writers develop, get published

REBECCA CODAY
Contributing Writer

According to the dictionary, chrysalis refers to a butterfly still in its cocoon stage; Chrysalis as a women writers group hopes to encourage "writers to grow and unfold their talents."

"We want to help people further their writing goals," said Pat Lichen, the current leader of Chrysalis.

"In some cases that might be getting published, in others that might be confidence to put words on paper."

Lichen explained that Kate Gray, an English instructor, founded the group about ten years ago with about two or three members. Lichen gradually took over as heir during the last two years. "Now we have a strong dozen," she said.

Currently, there are no men participating, but the group

is not limited to women only. "Guys can be in it and have been in the past," said Lichen.

Members meet throughout the term each Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. Pat starts

out by asking who has something prepared to read and then determines the order taken and the time allotted, according to how many responses

she receives.

Each writer hands out copies of her work then reads it aloud. The group praises as well as critiques and may make written comments on their copies before handing them back to the writer.

"The group is very useful," said member Ginny Weber, retired from Clackamas Community College as chairman of the Biology Department. "You receive feedback as to how people receive your

work."

Weber, who began attending about two and a half years ago, notes there is a wide age range in the group, from retired to high school age. She is writing a novel about the effects of war on families.

The setting she chose for her novel is Chicago in 1967-68, when she was living there and raising her family. "It was a very bitter time," she says, describing Martin Luther King's assassination and riots and tanks on the streets as she went to work.

Lichen has a background as a naturalist, holding a degree in marine biology. "I came here from Ohio to work for Greenpeace, met my husband at Mount St. Helens. He's a Portland boy, and that's how

I got in the area.

"I was an interpretive naturalist for six years with Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, leading walks and talks through the area."

All of this background led to her writing and publishing a natural history series of the Northwest referred to as "An Uncommon Field Guide."

There are three Uncommon Field Guides in all: "Passionate Slugs and Hollywood Frogs," "River-Walking Songbirds and Singing Coyotes" and

"Brittle Stars and Mudbugs." They can be found at local bookstores such as Powell's.

As far as the group goes, "Some members of Chrysalis have published various articles, short stories and poems for magazines or newspapers. Some are not interested in being published at all. Some are there to write their memoirs, while others are there to build up their courage and/or learn how to approach publication," Lichen said.

Connections, the Clackamas Community College chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, helps to establish and monitor groups like Chrysalis. Carol Evans is the campus coordinator; she can be reached at 503-657-6958 ext. 2444.

The winter sessions for Chrysalis are scheduled to be held Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m., January 9-March 20 in Clairmont 133.



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