

Tooth Talk: Can I string you along – what did the judge promise the hygienist?

By Mary Ellen Volansky, RDH, MS

Do dentists have a sense of humor? Wouldn't anyone who goes into the dental professions need a sense of humor?

Whether you believe we have a sense of humor or not, here are some examples of dental "cartoons." You tell me if it proves or disproves that the dental profession has a sense of humor.

Because of costs and space limitations cartoons, which normally are graphic depictions of humor, will be provided here in story form. Words for pictures – you decide whether the examples are funny or not. I'll start slow: Did you hear about the gingerbread man with gingervitis?¹

OK, maybe you don't want to picture that one although the play on words isn't all that bad. Dental offices use this and other cartoons on their web pages.

A few offices have video footage of top comedians. These attempts at humor are meant to draw patients into their offices. They are meant to entice you into wanting to have your dental work done by people with humor – or the lack of it, depending on how you see things.

OK, did you hear about the meeting between the tooth fairy and the dentist – probably held in some very small dark room? The tooth fairy finishes the sordid discussion with a compelling, "I'm just saying, the more teeth you pull, the more money we both make!"

And you thought the tooth fairy was just a well-dressed or weirdly dressed person with wings and a fondness for making children happy.

How many of you have complained about your job? Have you thought you had the worst job in the world? Well, take a look at a conversation between a toothbrush and his incredulous friend.

As this loud and whiny toothbrush begins to complain about having the worst job in the world, he is abruptly cut off by his disbelieving listener – toilet paper! Don't take this imagery too far.

Have you ever had a dream where you have had a tooth problem? For me such dreams are extra real, so much so that when I wake up I have to check to make sure the tooth is still in my mouth and not loose. These are very uncomfortable dreams.

It seems I am not alone in experiencing this type of oral health dream. Are you familiar with *Pickles*, about two grandparents and their grandchildren? *Pickles*, appears daily in *The Oregonian's* comics section. This installment takes place between Grandpa and another man his age.

One night Grandpa had a terrible dream so he told his friend. His sympathetic friend responded, "Too bad. What was it about?" Grandpa said, "It was a dream I keep having about losing all my

teeth." As he scratched his dog's head he added, "What a relief to wake up and realize they were right there in a glass of water on the nightstand."²

Back to the judge. There is a hygienist standing chair-side with her hand on a Bible. The judge is holding the Bible and asks, "Do you swear to clean the tooth – the whole tooth – and nothing but the tooth?"³

Are you a computer nerd? There's a dental comic for you as well.

What did the dentist say to the computer specialist? "I also do Bluetooth if you're interested."⁴ Did you know there is a temporary filling material that is very blue, though I doubt the dentist was referring to this filling material.

There's even one for those of us who have AFLAC insurance coverage.

A duck is standing in the reception area of a dental office with its mouth open. The receptionist is nearly running away. Suddenly she turns and comments, "Hey, wait a second, Eileen – I don't think he's selling insurance after all! This little guy needs to make an appointment." The duck, "Have plaque! Have plaque!"⁵

You must have heard TV commercials quoting research studies were four out of five dentists recommend a product for you to use. Have you ever wondered what the fifth dentist recommended? The fifth dentist said to his patient, "You've been

flossing too much and you are not getting enough refined sugar."⁶

Is there a math whiz in your family, an accountant or maybe an investment broker? This one is for you.

The mathematically inclined daughter, after finding her tooth fairy money under her pillow, walks up to her mother and hands the money back to her. The mother's reply, "No, the tooth fairy is not running a Ponzi Scheme."⁷ Ever wonder what the tooth fairy does with all those teeth?

And back to the judge – here's my take on the same situation. There the hygienist stood holding the ritual Bible. There the judge sat in the dental chair with his hand on that Bible. The hygienist asks the judge, "Do you really floss daily?" The judge proudly replied, "I told the tooth – the whole tooth – and nothing but the tooth."

If you have a favorite dental cartoon, share it on your next visit to the dental clinic. I'll post them for others to enjoy. Happy smiles!

1 ascentdental.com

2 *Pickles*, *The Oregonian*, Jan. 20, 2012

3 Finkstrom on Google Images

4 andertoons.com, by Mark Anderson

5 cartoonstock.com, In a dental office by Scott Hilburn

6 you-can-be-funny.com, Bizarro/Dan Piraro

7 glasbergen.com, Randy Glasbergen

Tribal Council E-mail Addresses

• Tribal Chairman: Delores Pigsley	dpigsley@msn.com
• Vice Chairman: Alfred "Bud" Lane III	budl@ctsi.nsn.us
• Treasurer: Jessie Davis	jl_davis41@msn.com
• Secretary: Tina Retasket	retasket@hotmail.com
• Lillie Butler	lebutler2@hotmail.com
• Loraine Butler	loraineb@ctsi.nsn.us
• Reggie Butler Sr.	lebutler2@hotmail.com
• Sharon Edenfield	sharone@ctsi.nsn.us
• Robert Kentta	rkentta@ctsi.nsn.us

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Imprints Print Shop

Manager: Tammy Viles
1520 NE Highway 101
Lincoln City, OR 97367
Office: 541-996-5550
Fax: 541-996-5551
E-mail: imprintslc@charter.net
imprintsprintshop.com

Important information , deadlines for the college-bound Tribal senior

March

- Check for three Tribal scholarships at ctsi.nsn.us.
- Complete scholarships.
- Start working on Tribal higher education or adult vocational training grant application. This can be found on the Tribe's website and is due June 30.
- Review the Student Aid Report (SAR).
- You should start receiving admission responses.

April

- Send thank you notes to people who have helped you.
- Make final decision about which college or university you will attend.
- If you decide to decline enrollment to a college or university to which you have been accepted, send notice indicating this to the college's admissions office.

May

- This is the deadline for final decisions for universities.
- Send letter of intent to registrar.
- Line up a summer job.
- Attend your Senior Awards Night.
- Review any award letters and be sure you understand the terms and conditions that accompany each type of aid.
- If necessary, arrange for housing and a meal plan (at school).
- Send thank you notes to any person/committee from which you received a scholarship.

June

- Tribal higher education and adult vocational training applications are due June 30!
- Attend graduation – congratulations!
- Make arrangements for your final grades to be sent to colleges and universities.
- Good luck!

Applying for Tribal education funds?

Some requirements and deadlines to keep in mind

1. The once-a-year annual deadline for funding is June 30 of each year (for funding for the upcoming fall semester or academic year).
2. Students must apply for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.ed.gov between Jan. 1-31 each year. Your application for Tribal funding will not be accepted if you do not meet this deadline.