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Dental News and Views

Dentistry and the Economy

Today there is much talk about the economy. We would like to discuss how you, as a patient, can confront this. The following are some suggestions per the past experience of Dr. Ames:



By all means, keep and maintain your check-up appointments. Many of you already do this. It is very important, always, to do this but especially in difficult times, it is even truer. It is neglect, and always has been, that makes dentistry expensive. Prevention and early detection of dental problems keep your dental expenses under control.



If you have dental insurance, maximize it by all means. Joi can help you with this greatly. Please talk with her about it if you have a concern. She is very knowledgeable in this area and if she doesn't know the answer to any questions you may have, she does know where to find your answers. This applies to all phases of dental treatment, but especially the preventative and restorative phases.



Should you need or desire major or extensive work, our office does have knowledge of some payment or budget plans that might apply to your personal situation. Depending on the particular situation, some of these plans are at no interest or low interest, making it possible to have that more extensive work accomplished with more ease.



The remaining portion of this newsletter concerns two young ladies that have become significant stories in the professional life of Dr. Ames.

The first young lady was featured in the Fall issue of 2007 of this newsletter. Her name is Sarah and she is such a special story-really a modern day Cinderella story.

Approximately 4 1/2 - 5 years ago, Sarah and her Mother presented themselves to our office while Sarah was a young student at Ball State University. Sarah's mouth was badly debilitated and they were both frustrated that they had not been able to get any significant help. They were referred to our office by the The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry of which Dr. Ames is an award-winning member.

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After about 1 1/2 years of maxillary orthopedics to correct a badly collapsed upper jaw, orthodontic treatment (full upper and lower braces) was instituted. 3 1/2 years after starting Sarah's work, it was completed with some nice cosmetic dentistry. During that treatment period of 3 1/2 years, Sarah graduated from Ball State and went on to the IUPUI Medical Center in Indianapolis where she became a specialist in occupational hand therapy.

Sarah's personality blossomed and opened up like a flower. Initially, she would hardly even smile for pictures. Her personality is so special and outgoing now.

Along the way, Sarah met her Prince Charming - a super young man by the name of Nick. They moved to Ft. Meyer, Florida for they both found employment there and loved the Ft. Meyer area.



They decided to marry and they had a lovely informal wedding last October just off the beach at Ft. Meyer, Florida.

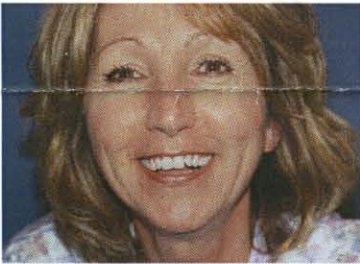
As Paul Harvey often says - "Now, for the rest of the story" -

Sarah's mother was a single parent who, under great odds was determined to help her daughter. Her sacrifice, determination, cooperation, patience and persistence made this accomplishment possible. Her deep love for her daughter transcended everything and she is the unsung hero in all of this.

To complete the story, Sarah asked Dr. Ames if he would walk her down the aisle at her wedding. He was knocked off his feet by her request which he gladly accepted. Although he has a son, Dr. Ames does not have a daughter. He does now, and it was a real thrilling experience for him.



The second story is about his valued assistant, Jackie.



Jackie has been such a special employee and right arm for Dr. Ames for many years now. She originally was referred to Dr. Ames as a patient for a TMJ disorder - (Tempromandibular joint disorder)

She was also looking for a little part-time work at the time. Dr. Ames needed a little help in his laboratory in his Merrillville office at that time, so she thought she would give it a try.

Now, those of you who know Jackie know that she is a "people person" and although she did work well in the laboratory, she longed to be in the operatory where the "real action" was going on. To make a long story short, she really liked it and Dr. Ames says that Jackie is the best "all-around" assistant that he has ever had. Jackie has assisted Dr. Ames with many complicated cases of all types, including Sarah's Cinderella story. She often said that she would like to have her smile improved and although Dr. Ames was more than willing, Jackie just couldn't make the decision to proceed.

Finally after several years, she decided to move ahead with it. Jackie has had a lot of extensive work and now finally finished it off with some beautiful porcelain crowns and veneers. Her "Before and After" pictures are shown here. We all think she is so pretty and Jackie is so very happy with her results. Her husband also likes the results.

Jackie, like Sarah, is also such a special person in the professional life of Dr. Ames.

