



IS DIGITAL BETTER ? IS NEW BETTER?

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Neil McLeod, BDS, LDS, RCS, DDS

The other day, while driving to my office, dodging the major part of Sunset Boulevard to avoid just seeing the images on the billboards - they can be so sinful - while coming up Hollaway, I saw these graffiti angels. What an interesting juxtaposition. There, ahead of me was the site of Tower Records being given a retro facelift with the old original colors back in their former glory because this throwback is popular, liked, even better than the new look. To my side, I flashed on the angels, also flashing selfies or staring in isolation at the all monopolizing cell phones. No longer paying attention to one another. It hit me that all that is new is not necessarily better.

Oh you might say, Dr. McLeod, that is because you are just stuck on gold onlays and are not willing to surrender to the modern changes. That is not entirely true. I do lots of porcelain. It is that I see us all being rushed into digital impressions and budget dentistry, with corporate managers wooing the market so that they can get their share of the cream of the profits on the backs of us clinicians. We will be relieved of our managerial nightmares at the cost of clinical freedom.



I ask myself, "Is digital really better?" The answer is, of course, when used correctly with good clinical judgement, we can incorporate modern treatment modalities and continue to offer our patients the highest standards of care. This, in an increasingly competitive market is, of course, the only way to succeed. We must all take responsibility to continually evaluate the new and support one another with meaningful dialogue as each change comes along. When you consider Wilfred Fish's treatise on dentures and how the surfaces are designed, it is hard to conceive that a light impression can facilitate the model-less carving of a denture base from a solid block of acrylic.

That said, I must welcome our new president, Dr. M. Navid Mapara, DMD, as he assumes the leadership role of the Los Angeles Dental Society. We go from strength to strength by continually striving to provide the support our members need to cope with the ever changing world of modern dentistry. We don't want to lose our focus on the bigger picture by being totally self absorbed like those angels. ■