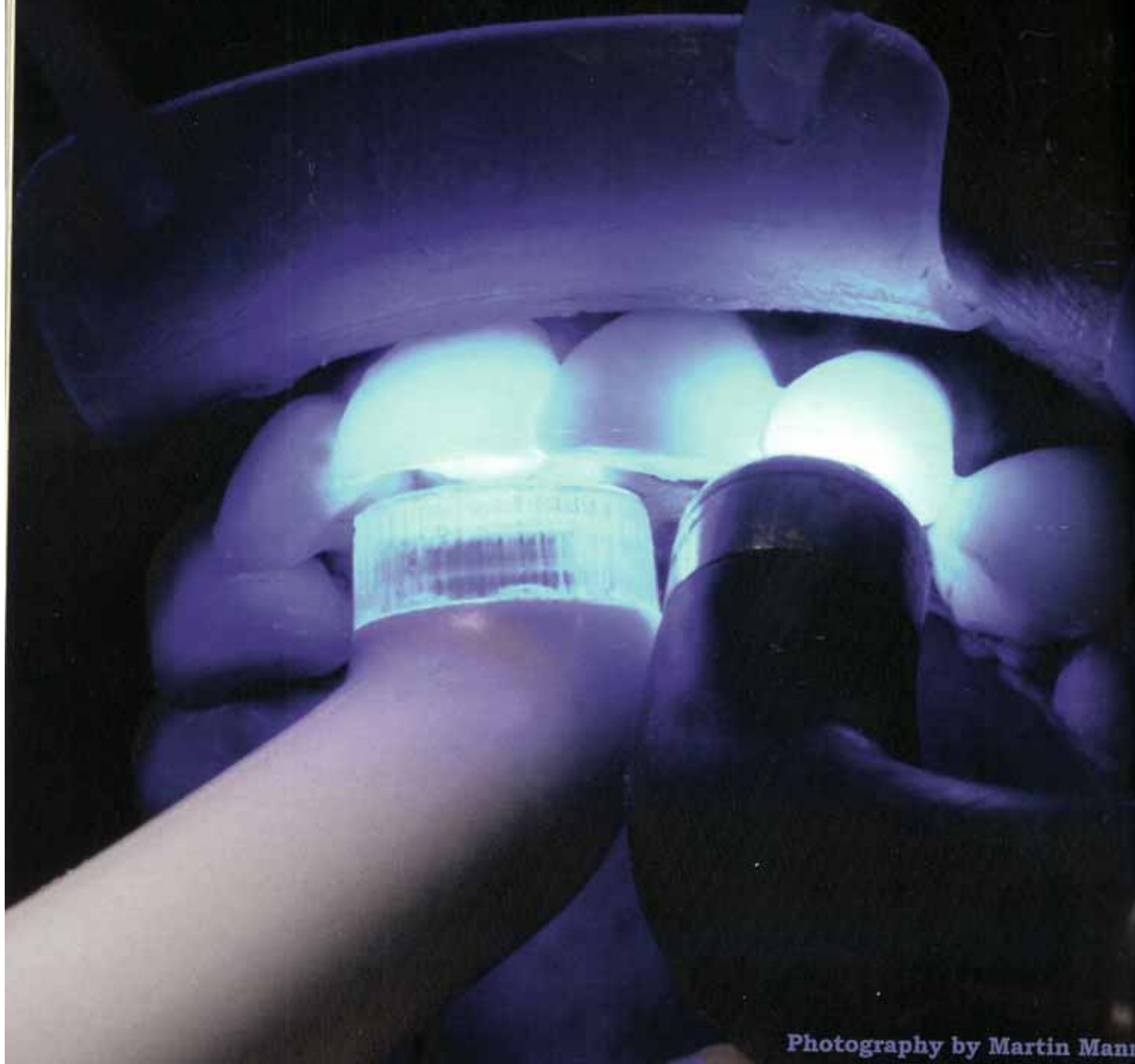


Sedation Dentistry

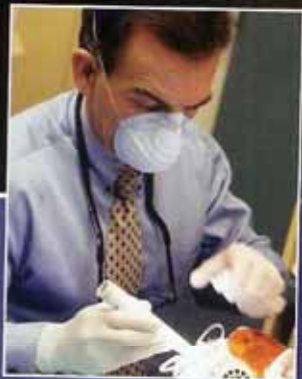
By Vicki Eddy



Photography by Martin Mann

Introducing Sedation Dentistry

...with a little pill...



Simply stated, it's a little blue pill that peels away the anxiety and transports you to a safe and gentle sleep while your dentist restores or maintains your dental health. What's more...patients are still fully in control, and the drug clears quickly, with no residual sluggishness, so you'll be back in action in no time. Think of it as conscious sedation, that sublimely melts away your jitters. Of course, you'll need to arrange for transportation to and from. (You could get creative and hire a limo...but a friend or family member will certainly do.)

It's called triazolam, and it is the medication in the forefront of the practice of this new art of snoozing and losing dental anxiety. Your dentist will prescribe that you take the pill about an hour before your dental visit. Aside from being wonderfully relaxed, another benefit is that your dentist will be able to use less anesthesia, which means less of that awful numb fat lip feeling. And because your brain is not anticipating pain during the procedure, there is an enhanced level of comfort during and even after treatments—even extensive ones.



He went to sleep...

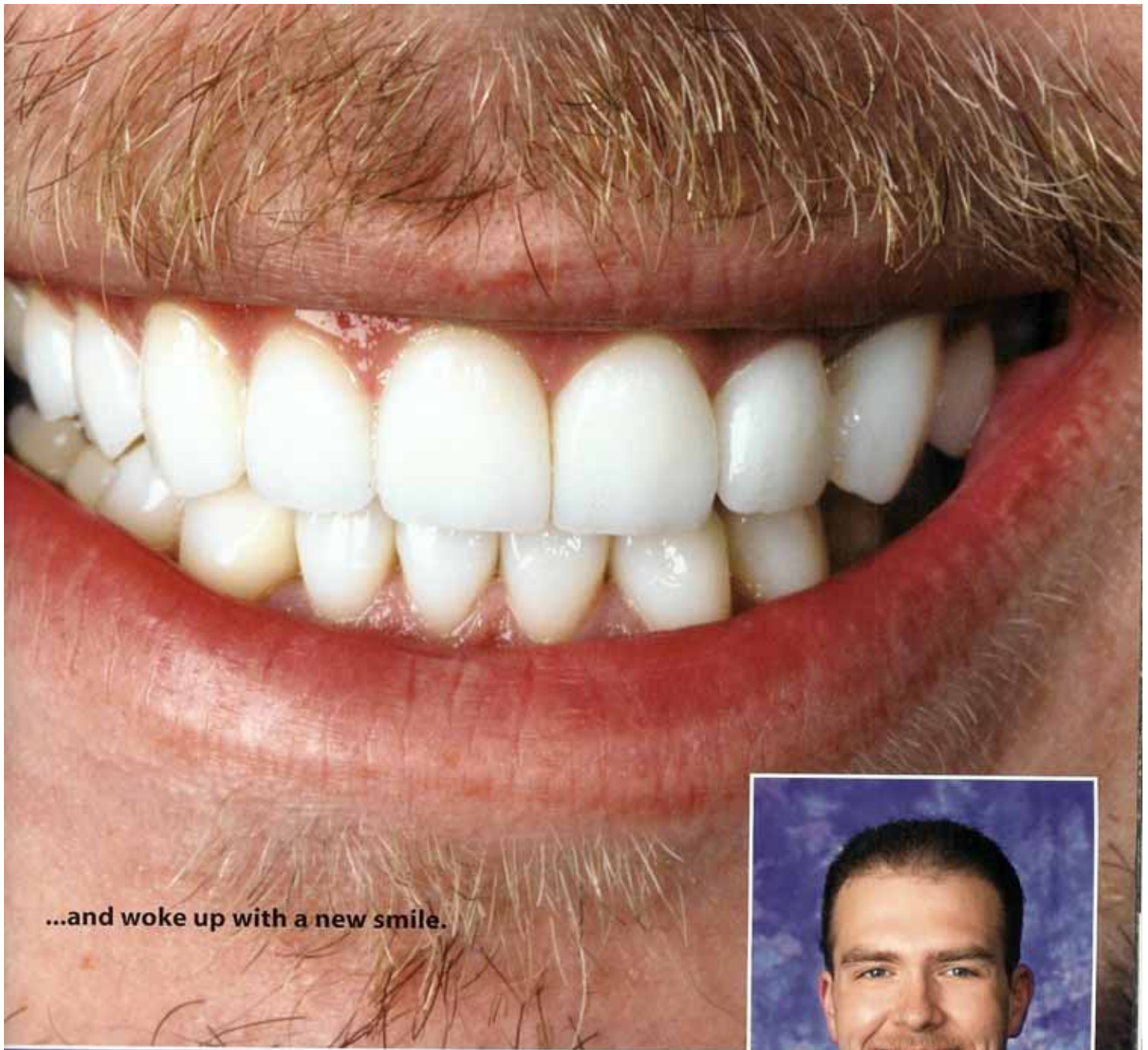


While browsing through a favorite bookstore recently, I came across a laugh-out-loud, tongue-in-cheek book that featured a pop-up pictorial of common phobias. The illustrations were big, bright and hilarious. All kinds of distorted dimensional paper objects popped right out at me, page after page. One spread featured the dreaded ophiophobia, or fear of snakes; another acrophobia, fear of heights. There was the white-knuckle flyer suffering from aviophobia; even one for coulrophobia—the fear of clowns. Among them was a particularly creative spread for dentophobia. What a bum rap, when all our dentist wants for us is good health, good looks and a pleasant way to communicate through an essential global expression—the smile. Not to mention teeth to chew with...their original purpose and very fundamental

to our overall health.

Still, popping right out of the book was a wacky wildly constructed dental office, 3-D chair, cuspidor (the little round sink) and of course...the drill, a likely culprit of dentophobia rather than the devoted health care professional who holds it.

Great news for the dentophobic, the dento-semi anxious—make that anyone who wants a pleasant, restful break from the hectic world while you're taking care of yourself and your teeth.



...and woke up with a new smile.



There is also a mild amnesia effect...so most patients "don't remember a thing about the treatment." And rest assured, you are never left alone; you are constantly monitored.

Among the experts that I interviewed about Sedation Dentistry are Dr. Jeff Gray and Dr. Kenny Williams—their practice is profiled in this issue.

"We constantly monitor each patient with a computerized pulse oximeter, which measures heart rate, blood pressure and oxygen saturation. We also have a reversal agent on hand that reverses the effect of the medicine in less than 30

seconds. We have treated over 1,000 patients safely and comfortably. We are caring for

patients everyday using this safe comfortable and relaxing method. It's a blessing for our patients."

So if you've been putting off a dental visit for weeks, months, years, or even if you only experience mild jitters (most patients feel at least some anxiety) then have no fear—Sedation Dentistry is here.

By the way, aren't clowns way scarier anyway?