Bad breath
Poor dental hygiene is putting a dampener on romance, according to Dentyl pH, the mouthwash experts. Their Kiss and Tell study, found that more than a third of respondents said they would avoid someone of the opposite sex with bad breath, while over a quarter would think such a person was generally unclean or unhygienic and one in 10 thought bad breath might be a sign of illness.

More than a quarter had avoided a potential partner because of that person’s bad breath and nearly three quarters said they wouldn’t let a person with bad breath kiss them. While nearly a quarter would think a person with bad breath, while over a quarter would think such a person was generally unclean or unhygienic and one in 10 thought bad breath might be a sign of illness.

Sally resigns
Sally Irvine has resigned from the General Dental Council’s Appointments Committee. This was to avoid any potential conflict of interest with her new role as a member of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. Ms Irvine was a lay member of the General Dental Council (GDC) from 1999 until the end of 2008. She chaired the GDC Standards Committee, and has been a member and chair of the GDC Investigating Committee. The process for appointing an interim chair for the Appointments Committee has begun and the process for appointing a replacement chair will begin shortly.

Free treatment
Children from Chernobyl have been breathing in the fresh air of Scotland and receiving free dental treatment at a dental surgery in Ayrshire. Ayr’s Per Anderson practice gave free treatment to the children, who are here on a four-week visit. The group, Chernobyl Children Life Line, offer Ukrainian and Belarusian youngsters clear air to breathe — which can add two years to their life expectancy. The Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in 1986 is considered to be the worst nuclear power plant disaster in history.

Private dentistry booms on
Annual profits in the private dental sector have risen by £70,000, while profits for NHS practices have dropped, according to new figures.

The figures from the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants (NASDA), show that during 2007/08, annual profits for NHS practices fell from £149,000 to £148,000, while profits rose in the private sector from £151,000 to £157,000.

Costs have gone up and on average a private practice is now spending £250,000 on materials, laboratory bills, wages, direct costs, and overheads while NHS practices spend around £220,000.

Tory talk
Fed up with UDAs, want more preventative dentistry, plus a new contract to boot? Is time to vote for the Tories says Mike Penning MP.

Endodontics report
Are dentists really taking out teeth instead of opting for endodontics because it’s not worth it? Dental Tribune unearths the rumours.

Bonding times
In this financially testing market it’s worth knowing why you need to bond with your patients if you want more business.

‘Appalling wait’ for Zach
A boy who is terrified of dentists, is being forced to wait 14 months, to have specialist dental treatment under sedation under the NHS.

The parents of eight-year-old Zach from Plymouth, said they are ‘disgusted’. Father, Leroy Lander said: ‘I can’t believe they are prepared to leave children to wait that long to have dental treatment that’s needed. It’s appalling.’

Zach was referred for specialist dental treatment under sedation in September last year because he is terrified of dentists.

After hearing nothing for months, Mr Lander called the specialist and was told there was a 14-month waiting list for the treatment.

He said his son has a condition which means his teeth have thinner enamel than they should, which has contributed to him having seven cavities.

Zach is so terrified, he won’t open his mouth properly to let the dentist put his instruments in.

Patients with dental phobias are referred by their general dentist for some treatments, such as fillings or extractions, under sedation, commonly using nitrous oxide.

Alan Yardley, senior paediatric dentist and clinical director for NHS Plymouth dental services, has admitted that the waiting time for treatment under sedation is currently ‘much longer than we would want’ due to health and safety restrictions.

The nitrous oxide used for dental sedation can pose a hazard to clinical staff over an extended period of time, so staff exposure time needs to be limited. This means only three patients can be treated under sedation a day.

In 2008, an eight-year-old girl developed such a phobia of dentists that after having her teeth out under sedation, she refused to eat or drink and starved to death.

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