

so-called “pounding” of gold, “beating” pulps to death or any of the “talked about” outcomes from using gold foil of the past are still heard today in the backrooms of dental schools and at meetings. It only serves to reveal the ignorance of the speaker.

If you were a dental student struggling through your dental education and paying rather large sums in tuition, wouldn't you feel cheated if you knew that you were being denied training in the most durable and longest used of dental materials? Wouldn't you feel cheated if you did not get the opportunity to learn all the clinical skills that equip you with being a better clinician across the full spectrum of dental materials? Wouldn't you feel cheated if you did not have a complete set of tools in your dental repertoire to provide your patients with a full spectrum of choices in their restorative care?

I suspect we all know the answer.

We know that, when push comes to shove, we, as dentists, would choose the finest of all dental materials—gold, either direct or cast.

Why not allow our patients the same choice?

Dr Robert C Keene

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## Notation:

Last year, we announced that we would be changing the reference format in *Operative Dentistry* to a more traditional numbering system both to save space and make submissions more convenient to authors. You will notice in this issue that references in some of the papers are in our original style, while others are in our

new format. The two formats may continue for the next issue as well, and it merely reflects the transition we are undergoing. Please accept our apologies for the inconsistency during this changeover.

Michael A Cochran, Editor