

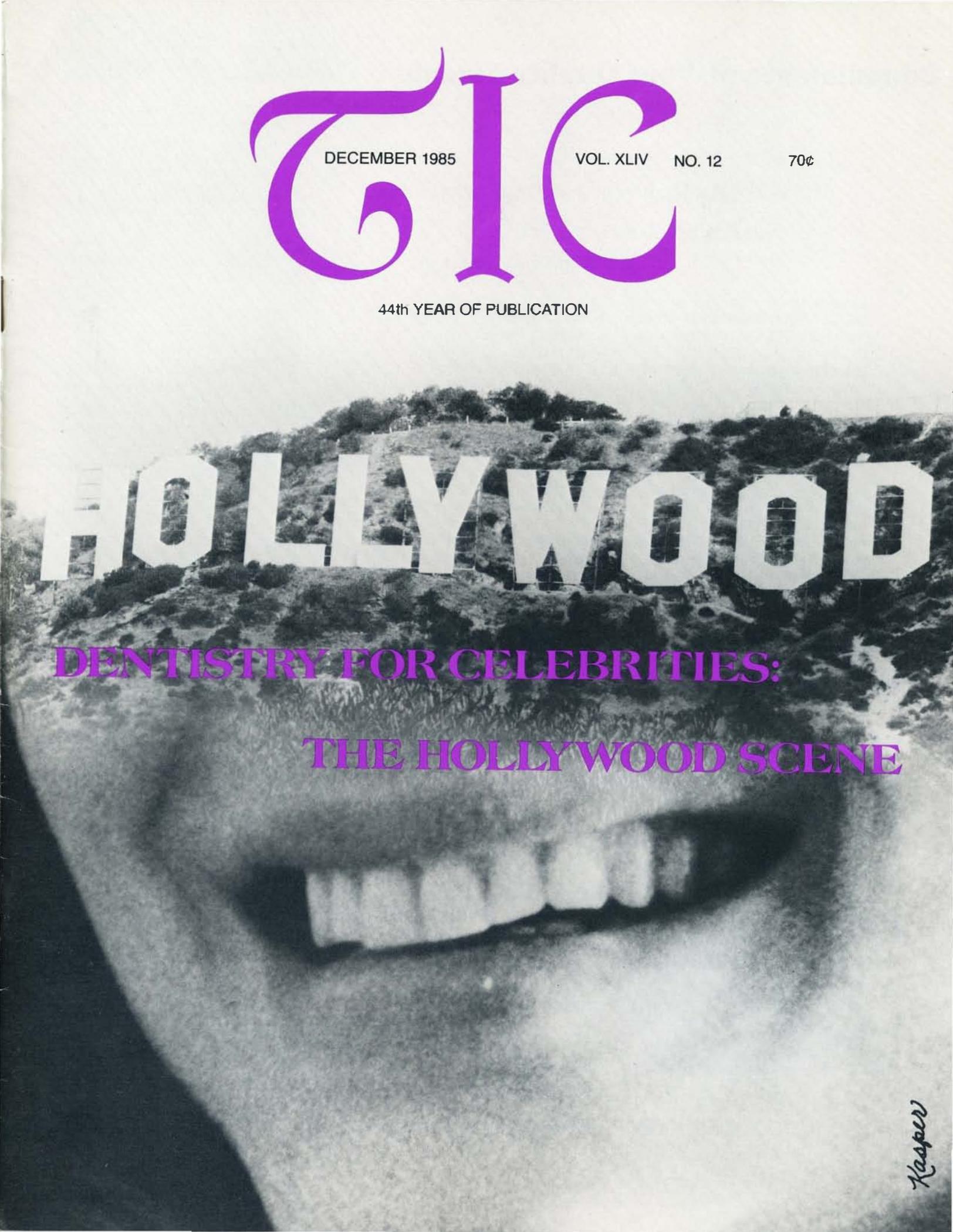
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HOLLYWOOD

DENTISTRY FOR CELEBRITIES:

THE HOLLYWOOD SCENE

Kasper

Something to Smile About

A beautiful smile became so important to one secretary he treated that she sold her car to cover the payments and rode the bus to her appointments for two years. It changed her life, and she considers the money spent to be one of the best investments she ever made.

Often, the transformations needn't be expensive and elaborate.

Applications of a chemical bleach could do wonders for some people with stains on their teeth. Goldstein says the 30-minute treatments (three to 10, depending on the severity of the stains) should set the patient back a relatively modest \$25 to \$250 a session.

BONDING: The dentist reshapes or lengthens a tooth by first etching it with a mild acid to create microscopic voids. Applications of plastic resin will then cling to those voids, and then by building up layers, the dentist may lengthen a tooth or make slightly protruding or receding teeth appear even with the others. Bonding also can be used to hide stains. The life expectancy is three to eight years. Cost estimate: \$125 to \$600 per tooth.

CROWNS: These demand even more artistry, reflected in a price range of \$350 to \$1250 a tooth. A good crown, Dr. Goldstein says, will fit perfectly over the ground-down tooth it covers and wedge snugly into the gum without an unsightly line.

COSMETIC CONTOURING: This can reduce overly prominent teeth to more pleasing proportions or even create an illusion of straightness by balancing the shape of one tooth to match the ones beside it. Dr. Goldstein says the grinding involved seldom takes more than an hour, and the fees run from \$200 to \$450.

TAKE CHECKLIST TO THE MIRROR

Dr. Ronald Goldstein has devised a checklist he calls a "Smile Analysis" to determine what might really be wrong—and to save time for patients and dentists.

It should be read in front of a mirror and conducted in two phases: with a slight smile and a full smile.

Among the items:

- In a slight smile, with teeth parted, do the lips of the front teeth show?
- Are the two upper front teeth slightly longer than the adjacent teeth?
- Are the upper and lower front teeth even in length?
- Do all the front teeth come in contact with one another?
- Are the front teeth straight (versus being crooked, over-lapped or protruding)?
- Are the teeth of one color? Do they have brown or white stains?
- In a full smile, are the back teeth free of stains and discolorations from unsightly restorations?
- In a full smile, does the top lip rise above the necks of the teeth so that the gums show?



Ronald E. Goldstein, D.D.S