Friday, January 20 at 9:12 a.m. Ryan Haygood posted the following:

“I just made the one millionth post.”

One stroke of sheer simplicity to mark a historic occasion. In six years we have achieved another milestone in our stratospheric growth as the number one interactive community in dentistry. This milestone comes—just months after we hit the 500,000 post mark. The impact this community has had on dentistry is difficult for some to understand. We have erased geographic borders and the restrictions of time with a community that is alive 24/7/365. Dentistry was a solitary profession for many of our colleagues prior to May of 1999; now we can proudly say: “No dentist will practice solo again.”
Profile of 1,000,000 Poster

Name: Ryan Haygood  
Townie name: HAYGOOD  
Name of dental school and year of graduation: LSU School of Dentistry, 2000  
Office location(s) and position: Owner of two general dentistry offices—Shreveport, LA and Bossier City, LA. I recently sold a practice in Wake Forest, NC and moved back to my hometown in Louisiana.

I started two scratch offices in December. My staff and I divide our time between both, and we are becoming extremely busy. We are in the process of hiring another front office staff, so we have front office staff at both offices full time. We are currently seeing 100 new patients/month, and we are having fairly productive days. I have plans to hire an associate by the end of the summer so that both offices are full time.

Number of hours practicing per week: 36-40 hours/week  
Personal interests or hobbies: CE junkie, self-improvement (books/tapes), ran Chicago marathon with Team in Training to raise money for Lymphoma/Leukemia society, travel.

DT: How did you first discover Dentaltown.com?  
RH: I first checked out the Web site when the magazine began arriving a couple of years ago. I was hooked. I loved being able to check out what my peers are doing and how to do new procedures. I’ve actually gone to the Web site to get information while patients are in the chair.

DT: What is the most memorable tip from the message boards?  
RH: The most memorable clinical tip was Sameer Puri and Tarun Agarwal’s post about the shrink-wrap technique for temporary veneers. What an awesome technique for doing veneer temps. I recently attended their Over the Shoulder course in Charlotte. It was one of the most practical CE courses ever.

The most memorable practice management technique were posts about Heartland Dental Care, specifically the post about the Jan ’05 meeting in Vegas. I went to the meeting and signed up as a client. Heartland has literally helped transform my dental practice. I think most dental offices are inefficient by nature. Heartland knows what works and has proven it 150 times in different dental offices. That success leaves clues.

DT: How has this Web site changed your approach to dentistry?  
RH: It has made me a better dentist. It has raised the clinical bar for me. I love being able to see what other dentists are doing. I love learning how others are becoming successful.

DT: What is your favorite feature of the Web site?  
RH: It is awesome having access to great clinicians for advice. It is great being able to pick the brains of dental legends. I love being able to access people like John Kanca for advice on bonding.

DT: What would you like to say to the companies that generously donated prizes for this event?  
RH: Wow, what a great bunch of prizes. I am very thankful that these companies support DT in the way that they do. It was fun trying to get the millionth post. (My staff thought I was nuts.) The server became so slow because everyone was trying to get these great prizes.

DT: What would you like to see on our Web site in the future?  
RH: OK...It would be great if the community continues to grow. I would like to see more prominent dentists posts cases of their successes and failures. Successes are obvious, but it is also great to see their failures in order to avoid the same mistakes. It is how we all learn together.

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To celebrate this special milestone, we have selected some recent posts that capture the essence of this online community.

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I believe it’s been over five years and now one million posts. Don’t you think it’s safe to say that DT [Dentaltown] is on the map? Howard, whatever gave you this crazy idea that this thing would fly? Just want to thank you, your wife, and family from the bottom of my heart. And thank you to all DT participants who go out of their way each and every day to make their fellow dentists lives easier and fuller. You folks are the greatest!

**Howard Farran, DDS, MBA, MAGD | Publisher, Dentaltown Magazine** | Total Posts: 2,932 | Member Since: 4/14/2000 | Location: Phoenix, AZ | Posted: 1/20/2006 8:47:37 AM | Post 5 of 17
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Thank you so much, Don, for the very kind words. Dentaltown is a success because of the 20,000 plus Townies who come back every single month. We lit the match and you guys created a bonfire. I would love to thank everyone for all that they have done for dentistry and Dentaltown.

I am speechless the Townies will post their 1,000,000 post today. This speaks volumes about the quality of sharing and helping.

**DOC.TOR n.** from Latin Docere, to teach, to cause to accept.
A person trained in the healing arts.

Dentaltown is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems. The only requirement for membership is a desire to help other dental professionals. There are no dues or fees for membership; we are self-supporting from our generous advertisers. Dentaltown is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to provide a format for dental professionals to help each other through the daily battles of providing dental services. Over 60,000 men and women have heard or read about the unique fellowship called Dentaltown since its founding in 1999, many of which now call themselves Townies. Dentists who once practiced all alone and felt isolated, now live a new way of life where no dentist will ever have to practice solo again.

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Look at all the good that has been accomplished because Howard saw fit to try to get a group of individual thinkers together and share their knowledge. And the true recipients of this wealth of information are our patients. Thanks, Howard.

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Dentaltown, make friends and talk shop, without ever leaving the office.

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I am blessed truly to have found Dentaltown during my senior year of dental school. This is my first year as a practicing dentist and without Dentaltown things would be very scary. But b/c I have found DT I am moved to push my career to bigger and better places. I compare techniques, learn from others mistakes and just enjoy in general what I do.

This thread is about how much better production has been since joining DT. But another question is how much more fun is dentistry? Not to mention, how many times your significant other has asked “R U still on that computer?”