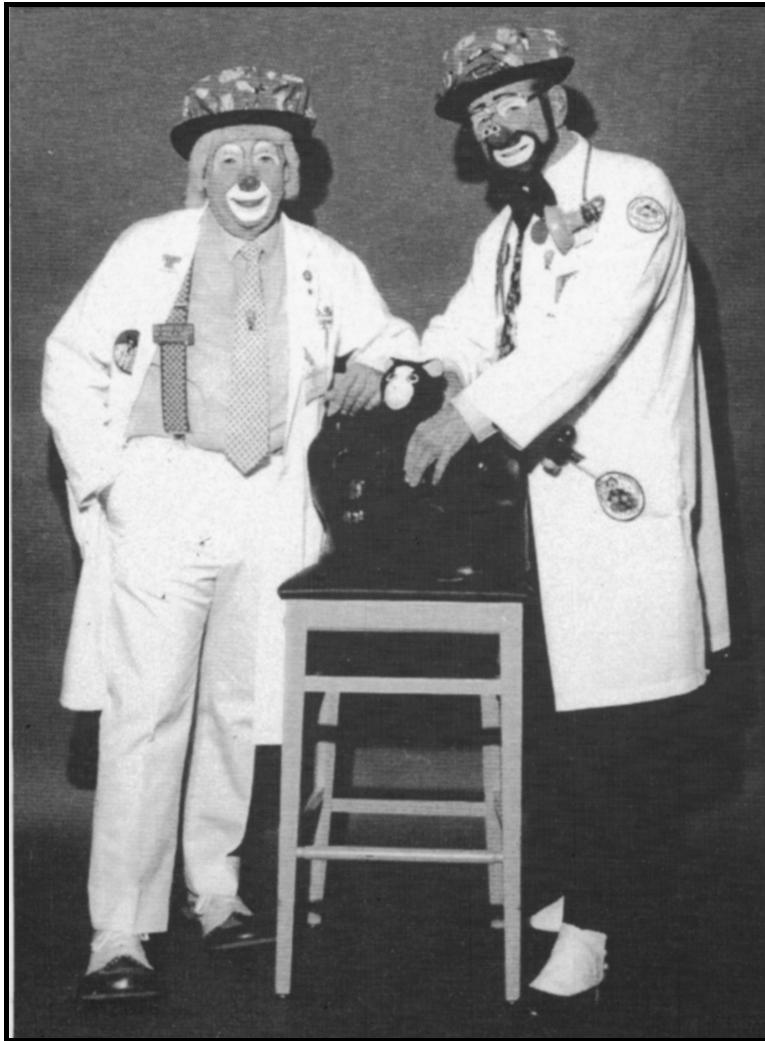


# Dr. Bucket and Dr. Bumper T. Clown



Sometimes you have to open your heart and let go of the rules. There was this child, two years old, who had spent 30 straight days in Pedi ICU. This was one of his better days. As I was blowing bubbles, the child said he wanted to see my shoes. He could not look over the side of the bed and I couldn't get my foot up high enough, so the nurse said. "Why not let him put the shoe on." I did. So much for sanitation [Editor's Note: Dr. Bucket did get permission from the child's nurse.]

There can never be too many clowns doing this. You feel guilty that you are enjoying this work so much

## Nose Jobs

We live in Pre-Op. We have a ball with everyone. If you could see a child wearing a red nose going into an operating room laughing all the way; well, you can imagine what that does for the staff on the other end, not to mention the parents.

You can offer the kids several noses. Tell them, "This is a special place, you are allowed to pick your nose here!" Then I turn to the parents "You're allowed to pick your nose here too!" and I give them a nose also. I use sponge noses. I roll a piece surgical tape with the sticky side out and put it in the slit. It will stick on any size or shape nose.

With the adults we go through the process to see how they look. I ask them "How long have you had that nose?" You would be surprised at how many people have to stop and think. "Well, it's time for a new nose. You couldn't have gone another day. I just got to you in time. Here's a new one (the red nose). How do you like it?" It's all spoofs and play.

With the Nose Transplants we always let the patient see how they look in a mirror. We went in this room of a 16 year old girl who was in a car accident. She was pretty banged up. Her face was badly hurt, but she wanted a red nose. Then she got to see her face. Oops! Nobody told us that she had not seen her face. She really cried. The mother cried. We felt terrible. And apologized profusely. The father said "Well, she was going to see her face tomorrow." Later that day the girl left a message with the staff saying that she was sorry she had upset the clowns! As it turned out it was (according to staff) the best way it could have happened as everyone had been putting this off.

## Gaposis

The seriousness of Gaposis is measured by the gap in the back of the hospital gown, where the hospital gown doesn't fit. There is Post Gaposis syndrome, and also pre-Gaposis stress.

## **-- by Dr. Bucket (Bob Bleiler)**

My whole *shtick* is that I'm spoofing doctors all the way. I'm a *Certified Bored Clownologist*, and Dr. Bumper is a *Funny boneologist*. I have it written all over me, one button says "Trust Me I'm a Doctor." We're always playing. When we get on the elevator, we are going to do Elevator 101. "Glad you're going to be in class today." And we conduct an Elevator 101 spoof. Playing off each other and spoofing all the way.

The other side of the joke, is pure joy. You share your joy. It's sharing the story that is in your heart. It's just being yourself. We don't hurry, we seize the moment. Actually we don't really have to do anything except live in the moment. You deal with a patient's wellness to the degree that they can come out and play with you.

They had a fire on one of the floors and they called the clowns up just to be with the people on the floor and have fun. We didn't do anything miraculous we just played with everyone.

We come on the floor and say to the staff, "Did you get the memo on Gaposis?" They look at us as if they should know. Interns are the best to get, if I can nail them. "You mean no one mentioned this to you at all?"

I will continue: "If you have any post Gaposis stress, let me know." I let them know I'm also an attorney. "I work for Dewey, Cheatin, & Howe (Do we cheat 'im and how). We are the only law firm specializing in airing Gaposis complaints."

### ***Bear Behind Award***

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I wear a little teddy bear stuck with double sticky tape to my backside. I point and ask "What is this?" They answer "A Teddy Bear" I point and say, "Well, you are almost right. It's my bear [bare] behind" And we all know how much fun it is to have a bare behind in the hospital. Dr. Bucket passes it on to the nurse or patient. "I don't deal with bear behinds. I'm the doctor, you have to deal with the bear behinds." We started giving out Bear Behind Awards. The patient gives it to the person (doctor or the nurse) that has an attitude problem. The patient has the little bear and puts it on the "back side" of a grumpy nurse or doctor. Everyone looks out for the Bear Behind Award and everyone has a good time.

### ***Cat Scam***

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When we do a cat scan (scam) we always have to break something usually with one of those "crash hammers." We don't do that on young children and we don't want to do a cat scam where the problem really is. So usually Doc Bumper will break something (because he is a little clumsy) and then we proceed to take a Cat Scan. We'll go through a whole process, of preparing the patient. Patient has to be still - no false positives allowed, don't breathe. I have them count backwards 4 3 2 1 SCAM. I have a beautiful stuffed cat toy (Pictured peeking out of the doctor's bag on page 1) with a pink blind fold. When I go 4 3 2 1 SCAM, I pull off the blind fold - The cat has those spring eyes that pop out. "You have just been scammed by a cat." We have so much fun.