

# Is There Anything Good On The Tube?

A lot has been said about the state of American television. While critics berate it, there must be plenty of people out there applauding it, because the same types of shows turn up over and over again.

What do Charlotte's viewers think of television? Do they watch much of it? What about the new fall line-up of shows?

Post opinion reporter Audrey Lodato asked a small sampling of area residents what they think of TV today. Here are their replies.

● **ELIZABETH STREATER** of Spring Terrace Lane is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Ranson Junior High. Streater said she watches a lot of TV. Her favorites include "Gimme A Break" and "The Cosby Show." What does she think of the new shows? "There aren't really any good ones. I'm used to the old ones. They have a lot to do with teenagers." When does she view the tube? "Just at night. I have to do my homework when I come from school."



Elizabeth Streater  
.....Cosby is favorite



Robert Taylor  
.....Watches after school

● **ROBERT TAYLOR**, 11, lives on Autumn Ridge Dr. and is in the sixth grade at Statesville Elementary. "Mostly after school I watch about three hours. Then I go out. When I come back in, I watch til about nine. I do my homework mostly at night." His favorite shows are "The Cosby Show" and "Weird Science," which he calls "one of the best new shows." Taylor also likes the new "Knight Rider." "Most of the new shows are good," he said.



Laurna Stephens  
.....Likes Disney channel



Audrey Wall  
.....Loved "North and South"

● **LAURNA STEPHENS** is a horticulture instructor at Nevins Center on Nevins Road. Does she watch a lot of TV? "Yes, every night. My favorite channel is the Disney channel. It's clean, decent entertainment. I haven't seen the new shows. I did see a touch of 'North and South' and wished I had known it was on. I watch cable channels more. My favorite program on a network channel is 'Who's The Boss?' It's a family comedy. A distant relative is the co-producer."

actors. I also watch 'Dynasty' and a lot of the art channel on cable 29. It has operas, musicians, and good plays. I also watch the Disney channel. I like things like that."

● **DEANIE MAXWELL** of Old Providence has an advertising specialty business. She admitted to watching a lot of TV. "I watch it every night. I'm a sports enthusiast, so I watch a lot of sports, about two-three hours a night. I did see one of the new shows, and I fell asleep on it. It was the flop of the season. I do watch Cosby and 'Dynasty,' but 'Dynasty' is losing its appeal for me because it's too slow-moving, so I've been watching less of it."



Deanie Maxwell  
.....Sports enthusiast

● **AUDREY WALL**, a Cancer Society volunteer, replied that she also watches a lot of television, depending on how late she goes to sleep. "I read a lot and watch television. I loved 'North and South,' every one of the episodes. I'm looking forward to 'North and South II.' I'm anxious to see what happens to the main char-

## At Mercy Hospital Osseointegration Debuts

Special To The Post

Two Charlotte dentists now provide a medical procedure that is revolutionizing dental care in the United States ... it's called osseointegration. It means a new lease on life for the 40-50 million people in this country who struggle with dentures or false teeth.

Mercy Hospital is the only hospital in North Carolina where this procedure is done, according to Dr. John O'Malley, a maxiofacial surgeon; and Dr. Alan Gordon, a prosthodontist. Mercy has spent \$25,000 on equipment needed to perform osseointegration.

Doctors O'Malley and Gordon perform osseointegration through a combination of outpatient surgical procedures and office visits.

Osseointegration is on the cutting edge of technology, according to Dr. O'Malley, because it is a successful method for surgically implanting false teeth into the jawbone. The procedure carries an 89 percent success rate in the upper jaw and has proven 100 percent successful in the lower jaw over a 20-year period. Other types of dental implants are only 50 percent successful over five-year periods. As a result, the procedure is the only type of dental implant approved by the American Dental Association.

Osseointegration can also be credited with improving the quality of life for its patients.

"Many people can't function well with their own dentures," says Dr. O'Malley. "They can't chew well and they end up eating a lot of soft foods that are nutritionally deficient. It affects their self-image because the dentures often don't support their face properly; they slip, they move - people don't look as well as they like, they don't speak as well as they like."

Unlike other types of dental implants, osseointegration was refined through extensive research and testing before its introduction in the U.S. in 1980.

The success of osseointegration is

credited to Dr. Per-Ingvar Branemark. Dr. Branemark, a Swedish orthopaedic and oral surgeon, began studying the problem of patients needing false teeth in 1952. He found that titanium fixtures could be surgically implanted into the jawbone to permanently attach dentures. Titanium is recognized by the body as a natural substance and therefore bonds with the bone.

Osseointegration is completed in three stages. The first and second stages must occur in the sterile environment of an operating room where the titanium fixtures can be surgically implanted.

The dentures are fitted and attached (stage 3) in the office of the prosthodontist, Dr. Gordon. The teeth are held in place by tint screws that fit into the titanium implants. Once in place, the teeth need only be removed once or twice a year for cleaning.

Osseointegration is effective for patients age 16-80. And the procedure can be used to replace a single tooth or complete dentures.

Doctors O'Malley and Gordon attended a certification course conducted by the Branemark group to learn the process of osseointegration. All materials needed to complete the procedure are manufactured in Sweden and are not sold to or used by anyone before they complete the training program. In addition, all fixtures carry computerized serial numbers in order to follow the progress of osseointegration patients.

Osseointegration is more expensive than traditional denture work, but is covered by most insurances as an orthopedic implant.

In the future, it also seems likely, according to Branemark, that osseointegration will be applied throughout the human body. Titanium implants may become commonly used to anchor hearing aids and facial prostheses, and in reconstructive and replacement surgery of long bones, joints, hands, and feet.

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