

Announcer: A Smile for Life College Days presented by the American Dental Association.

Narrator: Sometimes at football practice in college, I thought about things. Like the face guard on my helmet. Had a Doctor Brandt described it, protection of my smile for life. One day thinking of that, I knew I'd better tell the coach something. "I wanted to see my dentist." "You got a toothache?", he asked. "No, not a toothache." "Then why the dentist?" I told him I felt something was wrong around my mouth. That anything wrong there should be checked by my dentist. So before you know it, I was in Doctor Brandt's office being x-rayed. What the doctor suspected, the x-ray proved my jaw bone had a hairline fracture. "When did it happen?" "I didn't know. I'd felt something funny for about a week." "A week?" Of all people, I should have realized that any mouth trouble could be a symptom of something serious that you should see the dentist right away. Not wait a week, or for a six month checkup. "A dentist is concerned with plenty more than cavities," he said. "Everything from fractures to oral cancer." He took me over to the hospital where he and another doctor fixed my jaw. Wiring it up in a system that made the T-formation looks simple. They told me I was lucky I hadn't aggravated the fracture, letting it go uncared for. As we left the hospital, I figured I was lucky to have a Doctor Brandt around and I smiled as best I could.