

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF DISTRICT #3 IS BOYCOTTING THE
OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE PRODUCTION, "CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD"

BECAUSE:

- 1) We believe that any public performance of this play using hearing actors cast in the roles of deaf characters does a great deal of damage to the deaf community by communicating the erroneous message to the general public that it is acceptable and appropriate procedure.
- 2) We believe that the casting of hearing actors as deaf characters in any public performance (professional, amature, or academic) denies deaf individuals a rare opportunity for advancement and perpetuates the cycle of oppression.
- 3) We believe that this type of casting is an insult to the deaf community nullifying the sacredness of this play and rendering it's message ineffective.
- 4) We believe the distribution of free tickets for this play to the deaf community is offensive, granting us a position of passive acceptance of second class citizenship through patronizing a production with hearing actors "speaking for us" on stage.
- 5) We believe the public should be made aware of our concerns so as to counteract the damage this type of casting does to our community.

"Well, I want to be joined to other people, but for all my life, other people have spoken for me. She says; she means; she wants. As if there were no I. As if there were no one in here who could understand. Until you let me be an individual, an I, just as you are, you will never truly be able to come inside my silence and know me. And until you can do that, I will never let myself know you. Until that time we cannot be joined. We cannot share a relationship."

.....the above excerpt from Medoff's
"Children of a Lesser God" very eloquently sums up our feelings.