# suburban life

## 'See What I Say'

# Film tells story of concert interpreted for the deaf

"See What I Say," a film about a con-cert that was interpreted for the deaf, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8 in Room 308, J Building, on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland

Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

The showing will be followed by a lecture-discussion led by Linda Chapman, one of three Michigan teachers who produced the film on a tight budget and has since gathered a string of awards for the effort.

In 1881 "See What I Say" won awards from the American Film Festival, the Athers International Festival and the Sinking Creek Film Celebration.

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"All that was topped when it was 
nominated for best documentary short 
by the Academy of Motion Picture Aris 
and Sciences early this year," Chapman said.

The film stars Holly Near, a leader 
in feminist music and Susan 
Freundlich, a sign-language interpreter. The two combine sign language, 
cance and miner to bring the music 
alive for the bearing impatric concert 
scenes are interviews with four women 
who talk about the isolation of the deal.

IT WAS A LONG road for Chapman and her co-producers, Pam LoBane and Fredi Stevens, from the time the three saw their first 'signed' concert to learn-ing that their film had been nominated for an Oscar.

Almost as soon as the film got under-way, they hit the first bump in that road.

Foad.

"We were very immediately aware that we had taken sides in a running dispute between educators and medical professionals that has gone on for

years," Chapman said.

One faction advocates teaching lip reading and the spoken language to better integrate the deaf into society and not isolate the deaf only with the deaf.

The other faction encourages sign language because 40 percent of all sounds are not 'visible' as most people do not enunciate clearly. If one whose hearing is impaired can't master oral communication, sign language is the only alternative.

When the three filmmakers took lessons in sign language to "get a better feel for the movie," Chapman said, "We were amazed to find it had its own grammar, it sown syntax, even a dialect." We attaunch advocate of sign language, was the sign language, after a deaf or hard of hearing persons in America and that sign language is the third most used language, after English and Spanish."

All of the women interviewed in the film tell of the time when the deaf were forced to use only lip-reading and the frustrations they felt with the enforcement.

"SEE WHAT I Say" was funded in

"SEE WHAT I Say" was funded in part by Michigan Council for the Arts and Polaroid Foundation, but it took three years of fund-raising for the pre-

rouation roundation, but it took three years of fund-raising for the producers to get the necessary \$24,000 when the first funds ran out.

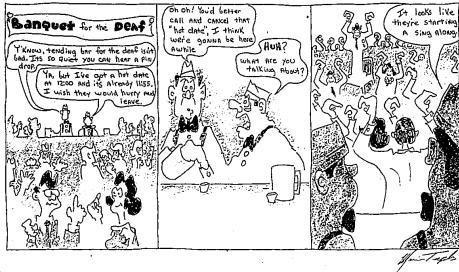
"I figure we sold \$4,000 worth of light bulbs alone to get this film produced," Chapman said.
Chapman's students in Wayne Memorial High School helped in the light bulb sales. So did LeBanc's students in Woodhaven High School.
When Stevens left Michigan to take a job in Wisconsin, her students joined in the sale, selling light bulbs to the resi-

dents of Kenosha.

The central theme of the film is that deaf people have a right to access and ideas.

"Being deaf is an invisible handicap.

Admission to the film and lecture is \$3 at the door.







### Elves deck the halls for lunch with Santa

Santa's elves spent the week running in and out of Farmington Community Center decking the hails and getting things ready for "Luncheons with Santa" Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3-5. Elves who will be serving the 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. lunches each day, help the photographer get pictures of the young guests with Santa and help with the entertainment are Renec Thibodeau (at left in forefront) with Christine Donlon, and (above) Caryn Whitehouse, Friday luncheons ser reserved for school groups only. Advanced registrations for all three days are 3.50 each, taken in the center at 24705 Farmington Road. Special entertainment this season will come from Superman.



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#### "Detroit Edison helped me."

They set up a special payment



### "Detroit Edison helped me."

"When I was in the hospital, their Double Notice Protection Plan helped me keep my account paid up. They sent a special notice to my sister so she could tell me when a bill was due."



plan to make it easy for me to catch up on my overdue electric bills."

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