

Workshops dispel myths of hearing impaired

The lecture hall was filled with 170 persons but only three-fourths of them were hearing. The others were deaf and communicating with their hands through sign language.

These people were attending a workshop, "Providing Services to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired," at Madonna College, Livonia.

"There are many myths about deaf people that we would like to dispell," said Dr. Barry Culhane, instructor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester, New York. He and Dr. Richard Curwin, director of the Teaching Effectiveness Clinic at the institute presented the workshop and discussed myths, hazards and psycho-social aspects of deafness.

"There seems to be a common confusion between handicaps. Most people think deaf people are blind and blind people are deaf," Culhane said. In some cases this is true but in most it is not."

Some of the myths about deafness include the misconception that all hearing losses are the same, deaf persons are mute and dumb, hearing aids restore hearing and shouting helps the deaf to hear.

It is sometimes assumed that the deaf are less intelligent and can read lips well. Myths about hearing loss include the assumption that the deaf tend to read more and understand written English best.

Hearing persons tend to make a lot of false assumptions about the deaf, according to Culhane and Curwin.

"We must identify any hearing impairment as soon as possible to begin to give them the help they deserve," said Culhane. "Not only do they need speech and language training but also help in other modes of communication."

It is important for the deaf to know language and understand the concepts

as early as possible, according to them.

Along with this is the need to communicate effectively with family, peers, teachers and others in their environment. Without this, deaf persons can lead themselves to isolation and frustration. Deaf children must be able to talk to their parents.

"Students want to have their natural

curiosity fostered. They lack time for non-structured, open-ended, real life opportunities for incidental learning outside of the classroom," Culhane said.

"Most important," he added, "deaf people should value themselves."

"In EVERY other aspect they are normal. They cry, laugh, joke and feel embarrassed and have the same rights

as hearing people. It is very important for them to be in contact with other deaf persons for companionship. They need the opportunity to experience all levels of understanding from basic skills to complex theoretical issues. They need success."

Services such as mental health, religious services, athletic events, captioned film strips and job services

were some of the topics of a panel discussion covered at the workshop. Judge Joseph Perrick of the Wayne County Probate Court took part in the discussion.

"I am a child of deaf parents and my father once told me, 'I know you are a lawyer; I know you are a judge, but I always got along pretty well before you came along.'"

Farmington Observer

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Champness is considered by academy

A Farmington resident is among 15 young men who were nominated to armed services academies. Michael Champness of Farmington was nominated to fill a second vacancy in the Naval Academy by U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle. Champness was among those chosen from more than 400 applicants throughout the state.

NMU lists scholars

Several Farmington area students attending Northern Michigan University, Marquette, recently were placed on the dean's list.

Among them are Donald Cundy, 25741 Arden Park; Julie Thompson, 26506 Farmington Road; Jeanne McBeth, 28539 Kendallwood; and Maryellen Strom, 32403 Farmerville.

Others on the list are Deanna Dudek, 28020 Brandyside; Kathleen Paradis, 31225 Sturbridge; Mary Stewart, 32285 Baintree; Mary Tompkins, 33789 Hunters Pointe; Dianna Windmuller, 29724 Eleven Mile; and Patricia Vee-se, 25780 Kilreigh.

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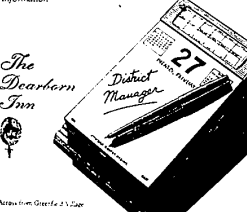
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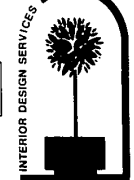
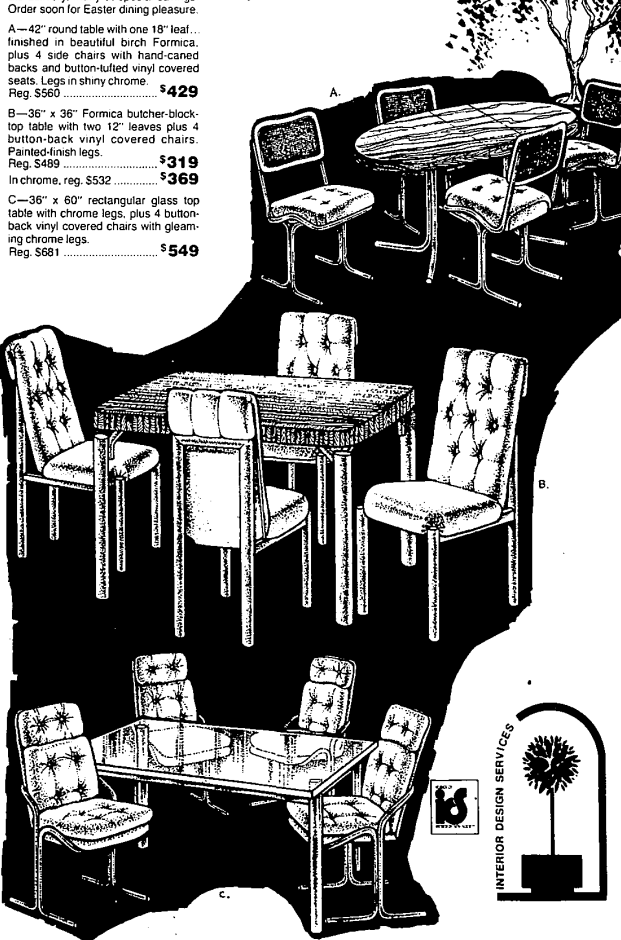
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