

Box 101
Montevallo, AL. 35115
January 10, 1978

Dr. Wendell H. Nedderman, President
University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, Texas 76019

Dear President Nedderman,

I am writing to college presidents throughout the United States to acquaint them with a few of the difficulties that hearing impaired have in attending college.

Films may be shown in classrooms that the hard of hearing may not be able to understand because of the music and background noise which accompanies the narration. Most hearing impaired have great difficulty understanding the human voice, and most hearing aids are no help because they normally emphasize the background noise. I have written to all major movie producers in this country about this. Could you see to it that films purchased by your institution in the future have little or no background noise or music to interfere with the narration? Or have booklets, with the narration, available to those who need them?

Auditoriums present a second hardship for the hearing impaired. Acoustically, they may be excellent for the person with normal hearing. But few of us who have a hearing loss can understand what is going on. Could you see to it that a few seats are equipped with facilities that can be used by the hearing impaired?

Recent regulations of the HEW on the handicapped in institutions receiving federal funds probably make these changes mandatory. And many if not most state laws demand that the handicapped be afforded equal opportunities for learning. But even if the laws did not require these measures, I assume college presidents would be willing to make such changes once the problem was brought to their attention.

Sincerely,

Roy Lechtreck

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