

Deaf President Now Movement  
Breaks Lingual and Social Barriers for the Deaf Community

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## Deaf President Now Movement

### Breaks Lingual And Social Barriers For The Deaf Community

Our group is three ninth-graders and two eighth-graders who are passionate about equality and civil rights for all people. Our group chose the topic of the Deaf President Now protest at Gallaudet University because we think it is a good representation of how a small group really can make a difference in promoting equality and helping to end discrimination. Also, one of our members is learning sign language and wanted to share her knowledge. We chose to do a presentation because we enjoy acting, and we felt that this format was the best way to convey the emotions of the topic. We chose a “news format” to present the information because it was clearly a topic of interest in the news at the time. Our title is meant to be in the format of a headline that might have appeared in a newspaper.

We conducted our research using books, newspaper and magazine articles, internet sources, and an e-mail interview with a former student of Gallaudet who is now a football coach there. We also watched the video of the Ted Koppel interview on ABC's *Nightline*.

The Gallaudet students stood up for their civil rights, and because of them there is now an increase in tolerance for cultural diversity. The students were also striving for recognition that the deaf community is not disabled but, instead, is a culture of its own. The DPN movement helped promote the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Because of the ADA, equal opportunities in employment are guaranteed to people with disabilities. Public places may not have architectural or communication barriers. Telephone and internet companies must provide nationwide TTY services that allow individuals with hearing or speech disabilities to communicate. The ADA also requires closed captioning of federally funded public service announcements. Although the deaf do not like to be

called handicapped or disabled, the DPN was a key movement in raising awareness of the equal rights of all people who are disabled.

We were especially inspired by all the support that the students received. We learned that a local linen company donated bed sheets which were used to make banners, which is why we made some of our banners and signs from sheets. We were moved by many of the letters that the students received, and we regret that we didn't have enough time to include all of them in our presentation. One that we especially liked was from an administrator of Indian Affairs in Washington, who wrote, "...this struggle is similar to those of the Indian Community. Being self-determining is intrinsic to self-esteem. When one group tries to impose their will on another group, it can become suppression, manipulation, and even oppression!"

The DPN movement broke the lingual and social barriers surrounding the deaf community, and in a wider context it helped break the barrier of discrimination for all people with disabilities.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

“ABC’s Nightline Special Interview.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Joey Baer, 3 March 2013, [youtu.be/jxLC0\\_qTYVw](https://youtu.be/jxLC0_qTYVw).

This interview was used to help us plan the format for our presentation. We referred to it specifically in our play as a source of information for the nation about the DPN movement.

“Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.” 3 Feb. 2020.  
<https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/history/35th/1990s/ada.html>

This source provided an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as well as the actual wording of the law which was signed by President George H. W. Bush on July 26, 1990. We quoted portions of the law in our presentation.

B. Drummond Ayres Jr., Special To The New York Times. “Campus Protest by the Deaf Is Widening.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 9 Mar. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/03/09/us/campus-protest-by-the-deaf-is-widening.html?searchResultPosition=16](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/09/us/campus-protest-by-the-deaf-is-widening.html?searchResultPosition=16).

This source is a newspaper article about the DPN movement. It mentioned that there was widespread support for the students’ efforts from around the nation and the world, a fact to which we referred in our presentation.

B. Drummond Ayres Jr., Special To The New York Times. “Demonstrations by the Deaf Bring A Resignation but Not Yet a Truce.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 12 Mar. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/03/12/us/demonstrations-by-the-deaf-bring-a-resignation-but-not-yet-a-truce.html?searchResultPosition=12](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/12/us/demonstrations-by-the-deaf-bring-a-resignation-but-not-yet-a-truce.html?searchResultPosition=12).

This newspaper article provided details about the resignation of Dr. Zinser from the presidency, and how it was affecting the DPN movement in general.

B. Drummond Ayres Jr., Special To The New York Times. “Head of College For Deaf Quits After Protests.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 11 Mar. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/03/11/us/head-of-college-for-deaf-quits-after-protests.html?searchResultPosition=15](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/11/us/head-of-college-for-deaf-quits-after-protests.html?searchResultPosition=15).

This newspaper article also provided details about the resignation of Dr. Zinser, which inspired our scene about that event.

B. Drummond Ayres Jr., Special To The New York Times. "Many in Faculty Back Protest by Deaf." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 10 Mar. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/03/10/us/many-in-faculty-back-protest-by-deaf.html?searchResultPosition=11](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/10/us/many-in-faculty-back-protest-by-deaf.html?searchResultPosition=11).

This newspaper article provided information that many of the faculty members also supported the DPN protest, a fact that was verified by our email interview with Shannon Simon, who was a student at Gallaudet at the time.

B. Drummond Ayres Jr., Special To The New York Times. "SCHOOL FOR DEAF PICKS DEAF CHIEF." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 14 Mar. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/03/14/us/school-for-deaf-picks-deaf-chief.html?searchResultPosition=5](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/14/us/school-for-deaf-picks-deaf-chief.html?searchResultPosition=5).

This newspaper article provided details about the selection of I. King Jordan as the new president of Gallaudet University. The selection of a non-hearing president was the central theme of the DPN movement, and the students were gratified that their wishes had been heeded and their efforts had made a difference.

CBS News. "Deaf School's Leader Ousted Amid Protests." *CBS News*, CBS Interactive, 30 Oct. 2006, [www.cbsnews.com/news/deaf-schools-leader-ousted-amid-protests/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/deaf-schools-leader-ousted-amid-protests/).

This news site details the protests of the students and the subsequent resignation of Elizabeth Zinser as president of Gallaudet.

"CBS NightWatch Interview with Greg Hlibok and Elizabeth Zinser." *YouTube*, Uploaded by Joey Baer, 9 March 2013 *YouTube*, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx1jtMffnco](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx1jtMffnco).

This source is a video of an interview of Greg Hlibok, a student body leader, and Elizabeth Zinser. It shows that there was no animosity between them, only a desire to promote the need for the students to "have a voice at the table" in the selection of a president for the university. In our presentation, we tried to accurately portray the desire of Dr. Zinser to support the students in their quest for their civil rights and their desire for representation.

"Deaf Mosaic." *YouTube*, Uploaded by Described and Captioned Media, 23 February 2012, <https://youtu.be/OtsYVeRuBuw>.

This video helped us better understand that the deaf community considers themselves a "minority group" with their own culture and language, rather than a group of disabled people.

"Deaf President Now: A news footage perspective." *YouTube*, Uploaded by Joey Baer, 9 March 2013, [youtu.be/OtsYVeRuBuw](https://youtu.be/OtsYVeRuBuw).

This video helped us review the news coverage of the DPN movement and how it helped pave the way for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Deaf Students Shut College, Demanding Deaf President.” *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 8 Mar. 1988, [www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1988-03-08-mn-605-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1988-03-08-mn-605-story.html).

This article shows that the DPN movement was making headlines nationwide, not only in Washington DC.

“First Televised DPN Interview.” *YouTube*, Uploaded by Joey Baer, 8 March 2013, [youtu.be/YQPI4OGckGM](https://youtu.be/YQPI4OGckGM).

This interview was in sign language. The comments from others were particularly useful because they supported the position of the students while also showing respect for Elizabeth Zinser.

“Gallaudet University Installs Deaf President.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 23 Oct. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/10/23/us/gallaudet-university-installs-deaf-president.html?searchResultPosition=8](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/10/23/us/gallaudet-university-installs-deaf-president.html?searchResultPosition=8).

This newspaper article provided details of the DPN movement that led up to the selection of Dr. I. King Jordan as the first hearing-impaired president of Gallaudet University.

“Notable Quotes.” – *Gallaudet University*, [www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/notable-quotes](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/notable-quotes).

This source provided several quotes that were used in our presentation.

“Through Deaf Eyes.” *YouTube*, uploaded by ASL IVC, 3 April 2015, [youtu.be/tJeAG8tZyf4](https://youtu.be/tJeAG8tZyf4).

This shows the importance of ASL (American sign language) to the deaf community. They regard it as a language, similar to any other world language. It is the third most common language in the U.S.

Simon, Shannon. Interview. 13 Feb. 2020.

This interview was done via email with a member of the deaf community. He was a student at Gallaudet during the DPN protests in 1988, and he is now a football coach at Gallaudet University. The most important information we gathered from him was that the protest was respectful and non-violent. When asked if he believes that it made a difference in promoting an understanding of the deaf culture, he said yes. He also believes that the DPN movement led to increased awareness of the need for Federal legislation to protect the rights of all disabled persons, ultimately resulting in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Williams, Lena. "College for Deaf Is Shut by Protest Over President." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 8 Mar. 1988, [www.nytimes.com/1988/03/08/us/college-for-deaf-is-shut-by-protest-over-president.html?searchResultPosition=6](http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/08/us/college-for-deaf-is-shut-by-protest-over-president.html?searchResultPosition=6).

This is a newspaper article detailing the DPN protest. We used the picture to inspire some of the signs in our presentation. We also learned that the students considered the selection of another hearing president to be as "unacceptable" and "paternalistic" as having a white person appointed to be president at a black university would be.

## Secondary Sources

"American Sign Language." 3 Feb. 2020. <https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/>

This website of the National Association of the Deaf gave us background information about the deaf community and deaf culture. It was the source of the quote that children who are exposed to sign language at an early age are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

"I. King Jordan." – *Gallaudet University*, [www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/i-king-jordan](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/i-king-jordan).

This source is on the Gallaudet University website. It details the importance of the DPN protests to the legacy of the university, and it provides insight into I. King Jordan's views of the capabilities of the deaf community.

"I. King Jordan." – *Gallaudet University*, [www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/i-king-jordan](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/i-king-jordan).

This source provided us with biographical information about Dr. Irving King Jordan, the first non-hearing president of Gallaudet University. It gave us a detailed account of his experiences and his acceptance speech, some of which we quoted in our presentation.

"Impact." – *Gallaudet University*, [www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/impact](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/impact).

This source provided insight into the future impact of the DPN movement, not only for the university, but for the deaf community in general and for all disabled people.

"In Their Own Words." – *Gallaudet University*, [www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/in-their-own-words](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/in-their-own-words).

This article was written by Dr. I. King Jordan, detailing the DPN movement and how it affected his selection as University President. This provided us with the quote that “the deaf really can do anything except hear.” His point was that deaf individuals shouldn’t be constrained by limitations put on them by others.

Gannon, Jack R, et al. *The Week the World Heard Gallaudet*. Gallaudet University Press, 2013.

This book provided the dates for our timeline of the DPN protest as well as many pictures of protest signs and quotes that were used in our presentation. We learned about the involvement and support of Congressmen Bonior and Gunderson as well as many other prominent political figures of the day. It also included the speech made by Dr. I. King Jordan upon his selection as the first non-hearing president. We learned that he could speak as well as sign because he had lost his hearing as a result of an accident at the age of 21.

Miller, Ryan W. “Gallaudet Eyes More Progress for Deaf Community 30 Years after 'Deaf President Now' Protest.” *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 5 Apr. 2018, [www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/04/03/gallaudet-deaf-president-now-30-anniversary/464611002/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/04/03/gallaudet-deaf-president-now-30-anniversary/464611002/).

This article shows the future impact of the DPN movement. It states that although the DPN movement helped the world recognize that the deaf are capable of leading a normal life, there is still a long way to go in providing equal opportunity in employment and leadership positions.

“Notable Quotes.” – *Gallaudet University*, [www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/notable-quotes](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/profiles-and-viewpoints/notable-quotes).

This was the source of several quotes for our presentation.

Perry, David M. “How 'Deaf President Now' Changed America.” *Pacific Standard*, 11 Apr. 2018, [psmag.com/education/how-deaf-president-now-changed-america](http://psmag.com/education/how-deaf-president-now-changed-america).

This article helped provide insight into how the DPN movement helped pave the way for the Americans with Disabilities Act and how that act has reshaped our society and educational systems.

Sacks, Oliver W. *Seeing Voices: a Journey into the World of Deaf*. Harper Collins, 1990.

This book helped us understand the challenges faced by the deaf community and why there is a continuing need to provide enhanced educational and employment opportunities for deaf individuals.

School, Clara LaytonDavis High. “Women in History: 'Gallaudet Four' Member Had Role in ADA Passage.” *Yakima Herald-Republic*, 25 Mar. 2017, [www.yakimaherald.com/unleashed/women-in-history-gallaudet-four-member-had-role-in-ada/article\\_36f5c26c-11a5-11e7-aa6f-27181d852217.html](http://www.yakimaherald.com/unleashed/women-in-history-gallaudet-four-member-had-role-in-ada/article_36f5c26c-11a5-11e7-aa6f-27181d852217.html).

This article detailed the work of Bridgetta Bourne, one of the student leaders of the DPN movement at Gallaudet. She later received the National Association of the Deaf's "Flying Fingers" award for her work with the Americans with Disabilities Act. She is currently community education coordinator at the California School for the Deaf.

"The Week of DPN." – *Gallaudet University*,  
[www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/the-issues/the-week-of-dpn](http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/the-issues/the-week-of-dpn).

This book provided details of the week of DPN and many pictures of protest signs as well as the timeline of events that was used in our presentation.

West, Paul. "SAY IT WITH SIGNS." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 8 Oct. 1989,  
[www.nytimes.com/1989/10/08/books/say-it-with-signs.html?searchResultPosition=7](http://www.nytimes.com/1989/10/08/books/say-it-with-signs.html?searchResultPosition=7).

Paul West had a deaf daughter, and this article showed his understanding of the need for communication between the hearing and non-hearing worlds.

Zinza, Jason E., et al. *Master ASL!: Level One*. Sign Media, Inc., 2006.

This book helped us learn some sign language which we were able to use in our presentation. One of our members is learning sign language in a class, and she was instrumental in helping all of us learn to do a little sign.

## People/Characters:

Elisabeth Zinser (Elected President Causing Protest - Resigned): Kinsey Peterson

Greg Hlibok (Student Leader) \*Sign\*: Zack Middleton

Brigetta Bourne (Student Leader) \*Sign\*: Kinsey Peterson

Jerry Covell (Student Leader) \*Sign\*: Tara Jumping Eagle

Interpreter: Bridgette Holter

News Reporter Scott Stone: Andre Henderson

Moe Biller (President of the American Postal Workers' Union) \*Speak\*: Zack Middleton

Steve Gunderson (Congressional Trustee): Tara Jumping Eagle

Irving King Jordan - Zack (sign & speak at same time)

Narrator at end: Kinsey

**Stage Props:** Large banner "We Still Have a Dream!" across the stage on the floor, use boxes behind it to stand it up, posters on wooden sticks for students to use for different scenes, large "Deaf President Now!" painted on a sheet will be carried in by 2 students at the beginning and then remain standing as a backdrop behind the "dream" banner.

## Actual Script:

Poster Sign: Sunday, March 6th, 1988, Day 1 (hold the signs indicating each day at the side of the staging area or walk across the area to indicate each new day)

(Students Signing (Deaf Prez Now) And holding/wearing posters. Silence)

**News Reporter:** (holding a microphone): This is Scott Stone for ABC News. I am here at Gallaudet University in Washington DC. where the students are protesting the selection of a new president for the University. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed Gallaudet's

charter, creating this University as a beacon in the world for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. For 124 years, the university has been governed by a hearing president, and now the students are protesting the selection of *another* hearing president. I'm joined by Lisa, an interpreter for the deaf students. Can you tell us more about what's happening, Lisa?

**Interpreter:** Well, the Board Of Trustees has chosen a hearing person, Elisabeth Zinser, as the new president. The students feel that the fact that there has never been a deaf president is degrading to the Deaf culture, so they are protesting to promote their civil rights, their identity, and their culture. The students are making four demands: (the four demands are on a poster board worn by a student, interpreter will point/gesture, list demands). 1. Elisabeth Zinser must resign and a deaf person must be selected president; 2. Jane Spilman must step down; 3. Deaf people must constitute a 51% majority on the Board; and 4. No reprisals against any student or employee involved in the protest. Here with me is student, **Jerry Covell**.

(reporter tries to hand off the microphone, obvious rejection by Jerry because he is signing)

**Interpreter:** (a little snotty) Well, uh, he can't sign with a microphone in his hands, and obviously he has no use for it anyway! (reporter looks embarrassed) **Jerry** is saying, "We are protesting the appointment of Dr. Zinser because she has 'normal hearing' and does not know sign language. There will be *no classes* while we protest this decision. We will show our unity! We feel like it is a slap in all our faces." As you can tell, Scott, the students are extremely upset by the board's decision.

**Reporter:** Thank you, Lisa and students. According to Dr. Lawrence Newman, President of the National Association Of The Deaf, this university is a hub of history, achievement, services, and inspiration for the signing community. He says, "There's only one place for deaf

people to get higher education and to move up in the world, and that's Gallaudet." This is Scott Stone reporting for ABC news from Gallaudet University in Washington DC, signing (wink) off, back to you Ted.

(Student leaders hold protest signs: Deaf President Now! Tomorrow We March To The Capital. Another sign reads "Honk If You Support DPN!...." sound effects: honking, and students sign "thank you")

### Poster Sign: March 7th Day 2

**Reporter:** Reporting once again at Gallaudet University. It's the second day of the protest that is now being called deaf president now or DPN. I am joined by student body leaders **Greg Hlibok** and **Brigetta Bourne**.

**Interpreter:** They're saying "during the gathering this afternoon there was a fire alarm. Board Chairman, Jean Spillman, stated that "we aren't going to hear you...It is very difficult to be heard over the noise of the fire alarm." The students signed back, "what noise? If you could sign, we could hear you."

**Reporter:** Thank you...This is Scott Stone signing off from Gallaudet University for ABC news.

### Poster Sign: March 8th Day 3

**Moe Biller :** ( holds \$5,000 check ) Good afternoon. My name is Moe Biller. As President of the American Postal Workers' Union, I would like to present this check to the DPN Fund at Gallaudet. Not only is this a protest against the school leadership system, but more

importantly, it is a protest for the civil rights of the deaf and an end to discrimination. The Postal Workers Union is happy to support this quest for civil rights. From all of us hearing people around the world, you have our support! (he should sign this last phrase)

**Brigetta:** **\*\*signs\*** Thank you. Thank you. Your support means a lot. Thank you. **\*** (takes check)

**Greg Hlibok-** **\*signs\*** thank you.

Poster Sign: March 9th Day 4

(student's in back holding protest signs)

**Reporter (Scott Stone):** I'm here at Gallaudet University on day 4 of the DPN protest. With me is Greg Hlibok who met earlier today with Congressmen David Bonior of Michigan and Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin, both members of the University's Board of Trustees. The congressmen later met with Dr. Zinser, and I understand they may have urged her to resign the position. What are your thoughts on the events, Greg?

**Interpreter (Greg \*signs\*):** Greg is saying, "the deaf are a culture....a minority group....And every minority group that has experienced discrimination eventually digs in its heels and says, 'you can't treat us like this anymore'. We continue to make our four demands, which the board continues to ignore. We are tired of being treated like there's something wrong with us."

**Reporter:** Thank you, Greg. Be sure to watch Nightline with Ted Koppel at 8 PM for more on the DPN protest. Ted will interview Greg Hlibok, Elisabeth Zinser, and deaf actress Marlee Matlin.

**(Bridgetta- wearing the sign of the four demands ) \*signs\* Thank you!**

**Poster Sign: March 10th Day 5**

**Elisabeth Zinser:** (others are students wearing deaf pride sashes) "I hereby announce my resignation from the presidency. I am honored to have been chosen. However, I have come to understand how deeply Deaf Pride is reflected in this university. I have concluded that the best way to restore order and return to the business of education is for the board to select a president who is hearing impaired. This job is much more than an office! I believe this is a monumental event in the history of the deaf culture. (tries to sign, but messes up "I love you sign"... students correct it, she copies them.)

**Poster Sign: March 11th Day 6**

**Reporter:** Good evening....this is Day 6 of the DPN protest at Gallaudet University. In a shocking speech last night, Dr. Zinser announced her resignation. The students and their supporters are ecstatic! They feel that the barrier surrounding the deaf community has finally been broken. Today I have with me Congressman Steven Gunderson from Wisconsin, a member of the Board of Trustees.

**Gunderson:** I am proud to be here with all of you, the dedicated students of Gallaudet. You have sensitized our nation and the world to the hopes and needs of, not only the hearing impaired, but of all handicapped people.

**Interpreter:** Excuse me, sir.....But, they say, they're not handicapped!

**Gunderson:** Oh, yes...I'm sorry....Uh...(he's slightly embarrassed to have called them handicapped...tries to change subject, turns to Dr. Zinser) And, Dr. Zinser, I truly appreciate your understanding of the students' needs, and I thank you for honoring and respecting the worldwide deaf culture. (shakes her hand)

(clapping, students signing)

### Poster Sign: March 12th Day 7

(students are sitting in the floor with a box marked DPN mail....reading letters and signing to each other)

**Reporter:** The DPN movement, now on day 7, is gaining momentum. I'm told that letters have been pouring into the campus from all over the world lending support to the students as they struggle to defend their civil rights. Can you read an example for us, Lisa?

**Interpreter:** . (Student picks out one and hands it to her to read)This one is from Dr. Alan Reich, president of the National Organization on Disabilities: "For over a century, Gallaudet has stood for the principle that persons who are deaf can aspire to positions of leadership.... When we strengthen this ideal, all of America gains. Selecting a hearing-impaired president is vital to this process."

(students sign, and act happy to be reading letters...pointing at them, etc.)

**Interpreter:** The students say they are overwhelmed by the support shown for their cause. They anxiously await the announcement of who will replace Dr. Zinser.

**Reporter:** Thank you, Lisa and students, for helping the world understand this important civil rights struggle.

Students \*sign\*: You're welcome! Thank you! (etc)

### Poster Sign: March 13th Day 8

**Reporter:** I'm here outside the meeting of the Gallaudet Board of Trustees. In case you missed it: The Deaf President Now movement has reached its eighth day. Most of the students' four demands have been granted. The final triumph will come if a deaf president is announced here tonight. The students, and indeed the whole world, are watching to see if their civil rights will be honored!.....and Here comes Dr. Zinser to address the crowd.....

**Dr. Zinser:** Good evening. On behalf of the board of trustees of Gallaudet University, I am honored to announce that the new president of your university will be a hearing-impaired person of great integrity and ability.....Dr. Irving King Jordan.

(students clap, dance around, happy)

**I King Jordan: (Zack)** I am thrilled to accept the invitation to become your president. This is a historic moment for deaf people around the world. Together we have overcome our own reluctance to stand up for our rights and our full representation. The world has watched. I am so proud of your persistence in asserting the civil rights guaranteed to each of you by the Constitution of the United States. During these past eight days, you have broken both lingual and social barriers in your quest to find equality for the deaf community. Your efforts have been a model and an inspiration for all groups who feel marginalized in their pursuit of equal rights. You have been instrumental in changing the world's view of deaf people and

their culture;. You have truly proved that the deaf can do anything except hear, and I am proud to be your new university president.

(a student hands a “deaf pride” sash to him, Dr. Zinser, and the reporter. They put them on and sign “thank you” to the student)

**Reporter:** This is Scott Stone, signing off for the last time from DPN at Gallaudet University, with great respect for Deaf Pride.

**Narrator (Kinsey):** The DPN movement was much more than just an effort to gain a deaf president for Gallaudet University. It was about equality, self-determination, and “having a voice.” It helped lead to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, despite the fact that deaf people do not consider themselves to be disabled. Because of the ADA, discrimination based on disability or condition is unlawful: public places may not have architectural or communication barriers, TTY must be available to people with hearing or speech difficulties, and public schools are required to provide a free, appropriate education to all children regardless of disability. According to the National Association of the Deaf, American Sign Language is now the third most commonly used language in the United States. Studies have shown that deaf and hard of hearing children who are exposed to ASL at an early age have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The students at Gallaudet were instrumental in raising awareness of the need to break the barriers surrounding the deaf community and all people with disabilities. They helped the world recognize that the deaf share a culture with its own language, and they are just as “able” as any person who uses a spoken language. The deaf really can do anything except hear!

(All come out....\*sign\* "thank you"....and bow)