Feelings of disabled reflected in play

Debbie Zeigler
University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice

Part of the Disability and Equity in Education Commons, Higher Education Commons, and the United States History Commons

Repository Citation
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/390

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
Feelings of disabled reflected in play

by Debbie Zeigler

"Don't call me deaf and dumb. I'm not dumb. I can do anything I want to; I just can't hear," he said.

"My mom said to never be ashamed of it. It's something I've got to live with." "I want to have a party. I'll have a party. What's going to stop me? It won't be this wheelchair." "They want to work; they want to have families; they have rights too.

These are some of the feelings of the six disabled persons in a play called "As Others See Us," a drama in which the characters slage their thoughts and experiences about being disabled. The play was performed at the Hilltop Conference Center October 17.

"I'm not dumb, I just can't hear."

Written by Burton Albo and Beth Hartman, the script was written from interviews with each of the disabled people. Albo and Hartman conducted taped conversations with the handicapped persons about their lives and disabilities, and the persons interviewed are the same who act in the play.

Patricia Brown, a 19-year-old member of the cast, is deaf. She lost her hearing at three when she suffered from viral pneumonia. "Being deaf never bothered me. A lot of people avoid deaf people. We're not going to bite," she said.

She said it's easy to communicate with a deaf person. There are gestures and one can always use writing, she said.

"But then," she said, "some deaf people will avoid hearing people." "They want to work; they want to have families; they have rights too.

These are some of the feelings of the six disabled persons in a play called "As Others See Us," a drama in which the characters slage their thoughts and experiences about being disabled. The play was performed at the Hilltop Conference Center October 17.

"I'm not dumb, I just can't hear."

Written by Burton Albo and Beth Hartman, the script was written from interviews with each of the disabled people. Albo and Hartman conducted taped conversations with the handicapped persons about their lives and disabilities, and the persons interviewed are the same who act in the play.

Patricia Brown, a 19-year-old member of the cast, is deaf. She lost her hearing at three when she suffered from viral pneumonia. "Being deaf never bothered me. A lot of people avoid deaf people. We're not going to bite," she said.

She said it's easy to communicate with a deaf person. There are gestures and one can always use writing, she said.

"But then," she said, "some deaf people will avoid hearing people." "They want to work; they want to have families; they have rights too.

These are some of the feelings of the six disabled persons in a play called "As Others See Us," a drama in which the characters slage their thoughts and experiences about being disabled. The play was performed at the Hilltop Conference Center October 17.

"I'm not dumb, I just can't hear."

Written by Burton Albo and Beth Hartman, the script was written from interviews with each of the disabled people. Albo and Hartman conducted taped conversations with the handicapped persons about their lives and disabilities, and the persons interviewed are the same who act in the play.

Patricia Brown, a 19-year-old member of the cast, is deaf. She lost her hearing at three when she suffered from viral pneumonia. "Being deaf never bothered me. A lot of people avoid deaf people. We're not going to bite," she said.

She said it's easy to communicate with a deaf person. There are gestures and one can always use writing, she said.

"But then," she said, "some deaf people will avoid hearing people." "They want to work; they want to have families; they have rights too.

These are some of the feelings of the six disabled persons in a play called "As Others See Us," a drama in which the characters slage their thoughts and experiences about being disabled. The play was performed at the Hilltop Conference Center October 17.

"I'm not dumb, I just can't hear."

Written by Burton Albo and Beth Hartman, the script was written from interviews with each of the disabled people. Albo and Hartman conducted taped conversations with the handicapped persons about their lives and disabilities, and the persons interviewed are the same who act in the play.

Patricia Brown, a 19-year-old member of the cast, is deaf. She lost her hearing at three when she suffered from viral pneumonia. "Being deaf never bothered me. A lot of people avoid deaf people. We're not going to bite," she said.

She said it's easy to communicate with a deaf person. There are gestures and one can always use writing, she said.

"But then," she said, "some deaf people will avoid hearing people." "They want to work; they want to have families; they have rights too.

These are some of the feelings of the six disabled persons in a play called "As Others See Us," a drama in which the characters slage their thoughts and experiences about being disabled. The play was performed at the Hilltop Conference Center October 17.

"I'm not dumb, I just can't hear."

Written by Burton Albo and Beth Hartman, the script was written from interviews with each of the disabled people. Albo and Hartman conducted taped conversations with the handicapped persons about their lives and disabilities, and the persons interviewed are the same who act in the play.

Patricia Brown, a 19-year-old member of the cast, is deaf. She lost her hearing at three when she suffered from viral pneumonia. "Being deaf never bothered me. A lot of people avoid deaf people. We're not going to bite," she said.

She said it's easy to communicate with a deaf person. There are gestures and one can always use writing, she said.

"But then," she said, "some deaf people will avoid hearing people." "They want to work; they want to have families; they have rights too.

These are some of the feelings of the six disabled persons in a play called "As Others See Us," a drama in which the characters slage their thoughts and experiences about being disabled. The play was performed at the Hilltop Conference Center October 17.
Play depicts handicapped in society

[continued from page 3]

me."

Someday he said he would like to have his own pizza and sub shop, he said.

Another character in the play is June Hartford. Her handicap, a damaged cerebellum, is not a noticeable as the others' disabilities.

"But I can make it," she said. "I always believe there are things you can overcome."

Melissa Jones is blind, has diabetes and is arthritic. She will not be able to start the tour as she is in the hospital recovering from a heart attack.

In her place, Betty Glanville will perform. She said it's not hard to play a blind person. She has a relative who is legally blind, and she has worked with mentally retarded and handicapped people before, she said.

Burton Alho and Beth Hartman, in addition to writing the play, are also directors of the production. They decided to produce this type of drama after they did a play last year about elderly people with their problems in society.

For the play involving disabled persons, they interviewd over 100 people, they said. They wanted a variety of ages and different types of handicaps. The age span goes from 19 to 54.

After the selection process ended, the more intense interviews began in June in the English-Math Building. For six weeks, Alho and Hartman used readings and music to stimulate reaction from the disabled persons about their disabilities.

"We tried to write the script so that it presents the person first, then the handicap," Hartman said during August.

"We would like to change how the public views the disabled," Hartman said. "It's an unconventional means to change public policy. We want public policy makers to get involved emotionally."

Funding for the project came from a grant by the Maine Council for the Humanities and Public Police and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Funds were also provided by the Penobscot Consortium of Training and Employment.

The grant, entitled "The Disabled: An Economic and Human Resource," was written by Joanne Fritsche, director of the Equal Educational and Employment Office in Aubert Hall. She said the project received $18,886 from the Maine Council and $56,000 from CETA to support the salaries for nine people for duration of the tur.

The next performance will be Nov. 9 at the Oronoka restaurant, Orono, at 7 p.m.

The performance will be followed by discussion periods, and there is free admission.