



# ELMER C. BARTELS LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION AWARD

## NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee John Dycus

Address 3607 Shady Park Drive

City Arlington State Texas Zip Code 76013

Date of Birth 9/16/48 Position Associate Director, Student Publications

Occupation The University of Texas at Arlington

Day Phone ( 817 ) 273-2027 Evening Phone ( 817 ) 277-2138

Length of experience in disability field A lifetime

Length of employment in disability field All work done as a volunteer

Years as a person with a disability 47

Nature of disability Cerebral Palsy

### EDUCATION

School Name	Degree	Date(s)
Arlington Elementary		
Fort Worth High School	(Regular Class)	
The University of Texas at Arlington	BBA	1970

Name of nominator Rosalie Wells  
Organization Handicapped Resource Association  
Position Executive Director  
Address 1635A W. Division  
City Arlington State Texas Zip Code 76012  
Day Phone ( 817 ) 469-1977 Evening Phone (        )         
Signature Rosalie Wells

### DIRECTIONS

Answer each of the following questions. Quotations, honors and awards may be included on this form. Do not attach clippings, articles, resumes or other substantive materials others than those requested as they will not be submitted to the judges. Please prepare this form and the requested information carefully, as this is the only information upon which the judges will base their decision. In order for the nominee to have the best opportunity, the judges require clear, concise answers.

1. Describe applicant's work history, which may or may not be related to the Award Criteria.

John Dycus has worked with Student Publications since 1970; responsibility for helping 30 student writers and photographers, per semester, present their material. Build and continue to monitor department's Macintosh network; The UTA newspaper regularly finishes among the top three in national collegiate competitions and is a charter member of the nationwide Associated Collegiate Press Hall of Fame.

Copy edits, proofreads, does page format, 1993-present, THE DRYDEN PRESS.

Conducts seminars for everyone from high school students to public school teachers to United Methodist Church public relations people.

**2. Describe the nominee's significant personal achievements.**

Co-instructor, The Daily Texan Writing lab;  
Board Member, Volunteers for Medical Engineering of Texas, Inc.;  
Advisory Board Member, Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled;  
Former Board Member, Society of Professional Journalist, Ft. Worth Chapter;  
Member, Arlington Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities;  
Member, Arlington Community Transportation Study Review Committee;  
State of Texas Handicapped Employee of the Year;  
Member, Governor's Advisory Counsel for Developmental Disabilities;  
The University of Texas at Arlington Outstanding Employee Award;  
Women in Communications, Fort Worth Chapter, Teacher of the Year Award;  
Board, United Cerebral Palsy Association of Tarrant County;  
Board, Handicapped Resource Association, Inc. (These are all his family and colleagues could identify; he is a humble man who saw no need to be involved in this process.)

**3. Provide a description of the nominee's significant accomplishments to his/her city, state, or the nation in the field of disability.**

John Dycus' personal achievements and his accomplishments in the field of disability cannot be separated. John epitomizes the role model for adults in a wheelchair and symbolizes independent living. John was mainstreaming before it was a buzz-word. Throughout his education he insisted on doing what the ambulatory did, both academically and socially. John led the struggle to make Arlington, Texas a mecca for adults with disabilities. The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) currently has over 800 students with disability; the City of Arlington has an advanced system of low cost transportation for handicapped which John shared in developing; curb cuts and public park swimming pool lifts, adapted housing and programming for the disabled all have the Dycus influence.

**4. Describe the significance of the impact that the nominee has on the disability community in a leadership role.**

John Dycus' influence on the disability community has been two-fold. First, as a mentor and example he molded the behaviors everyone with or without a disability could aspire to. Energetic, fully employed, caring, humorous, generous with his time and resources, creative and wise, John inspires all who are exposed to him, without exception. For example: the Chairman of the Handicapped Resource Association Board, with a spinal cord injury, attributes his willingness to take on Board leadership to John's model. As the Chair of a Rotary fund-raiser his wisdom and leadership have forged an effective team. Second, as an advocate for independence and access, John has served tirelessly on committees, boards, commissions and advisory groups in behalf of the needs of the disabled. The committees listed above only scratch the surface. When a voice of reason and tireless effort are needed, John is called on.

**5. In 200 words or less, on an attached page 8 1/2"x11", please indicate why you believe the nominee is deserving of this Leadership Recognition Award.**

**6. Please provide supporting letters from at least two, but no more than three, individuals with disabilities who have benefitted from the leadership development efforts of the nominee.**

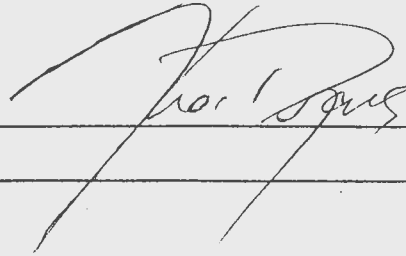
**7. Provide a list of the nominee's publications, if any, on a separate 8 1/2"x11" page.**

FOR NOMINEE

I attest to the validity of all facts contained herein and give permission for such facts to be used for publication. I understand that in order to receive the NSCIA Award the awardee is required to be present at an awards banquet and that the awardee agrees to submit a list of associates to be invited to attend. The awardee will be notified of his/her selection no later than July 11, 1995. I will keep the selection of the awardee confidential until NSCIA makes the formal announcement of the awardee.

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



6-30-95

*June 30* Please include a nomination fee of \$20 payable to NSCIA. All nominations must be postmarked by *May 26*, 1995. Please include two black and white publicity photographs either 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" with this form. For further information, call 617/441-8500.

Send nominations to:

National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
545 Concord Avenue, Suite 29  
Cambridge, MA 02138

5.

I represent many, many who would support this nomination in writing if more than three letters were allowed.

John Dycus is deserving of recognition because he is a fine man whose contribution to his community excels-without reference to his disability. He is role model to everyone who meets him...to the disabled, "He does it, and so can I." To the able-bodied, well, we say the same thing.

The impact that John has is that of an achiever who gets the job done, whether it is patiently molding would-be journalists and folks with disability (who later support disability issues from prestigious positions) or in organizing a multi-faceted car show held at the stadium where the Ranger Baseball Team plays.

John Dycus is an achiever, and incidentally, is confined to a wheel chair due to cerebral palsy. He led the effort to bring curb-cuts, adapted housing, transportation and educational access, a Mayor's Committee on Disability and respect and self-respect to the disabled of Arlington, Tx. We are proud of him and want you to recognize his excellence also.



*Handicapped Resource Association*

June 27, 1995

Bartels Award Nominating Committee  
National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
545 Concord Avenue, Suite 29  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Nominating Committee,

I would like to strongly recommend John Dycus for the Bartels Leadership Recognition Award. I cannot imagine a person more deserving of a leadership award than John. He is a leader in every sense of the word.

Having a severe disability myself, I understand how difficult it is to reach the level of accomplishment John has obtained in the Arlington community. John became President of the Handicapped Resource Association (HRA) at a very difficult time. Without his selfless efforts, I do not think the agency would have survived and continued its worthwhile services for the disabled community.

As the editor of the newspaper at the University of Texas, John was inspirational to me during my studies there, and greatly influenced the school to the forefront of accessibility for the disabled.

He encouraged (and inspired) me to join HRA's board which is made up of over 51% of people with disabilities. I believe anyone on the HRA board would say that John was a key reason they volunteered their support.

John is currently directing HRA's major fund raising effort. He has a very challenging job and yet continues his never ending efforts for disability awareness in our community. He is a role model and leader for me and many others in the community. Please accept my whole hearted nomination of John Dycus for the Bartels Leadership Recognition Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Gentry'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David Gentry  
Board President  
Handicapped Resource Association



June 30, 1995

Bartels Award Nominating Committee  
National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
545 Concord Avenue, Suite 29  
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

Dear Nominating Committee:

I would like to recommend John Dycus for the Bartels Leadership Recognition Award. Leadership is a true meaning that most appropriately describes John in the many roles he fulfills.

I have been an acquaintance of John's for more than thirteen years since my employment with Handicapped Resource Association. I have always admired John for his dedication and achievements he has made throughout his life.

Living with a disability is a challenge in itself, yet, John manages to override these obstacles everyday by working hard and nevertheless, he continues to find time in volunteering wholeheartedly for the causes he believes in.

I have never known John to relinquish any task brought forward to him, large or small. He is an articulate, resourceful individual that is not easily daunted by ignorance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olivia M. Acosta".

Olivia M. Acosta  
Administrative Assistant  
Handicapped Resource Association

RECEIVED

JUN 26 1995

5701 Calumet Dr.  
Arlington, Tx 76017-4454  
June 22, 1995

Ms. Rosalie Wells  
Handicapped Resources Association  
1635 A West Division  
Arlington, Tx 76012

Dear Ms. Wells,

It was with great pleasure that I learned of your intent to honor John W. Dycus. Please allow me to add my enthusiastic concurrence in the appropriateness of this honor, and to share with you my long term knowledge and appreciation of John.

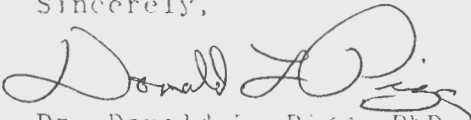
I have known John Dycus for 11 years, having been his classmate from the first grade through high school, and having maintained a consistent friendship since. While John is an articulate fellow, he suffers from a linguistic deficiency, in that his vocabulary does not contain the phrase "I can't." John went to grade school at a time when disabled youngsters were not "mainstreamed," and when those with disabilities as severe as John's were not really expected to attend high school. Not only did John attend R.L. Paschal High School, but he participated on an even keel with ambulatory youngsters both academically and in several extracurricular activities, he graduated with honors, and he was chosen by the faculty for the prized designation as "Royal Purple." John attended the University of Texas at Arlington, again at a time before government intervention had mandated accessibility for state owned institutions of higher learning. John not only obtained his B.A., but he chose first as an avocation and later as a career to tutor and counsel students without disabilities in mastering the fundamentals of journalism.

John decided that he needed the increased mobility of learning to drive. At a time when adaptive driving equipment was still an oddity, and was certainly restricted to those who at least had strong upper body function, John was told in no uncertain terms that the equipment he would need to make driving possible simply did not exist. Lacking this "I can't" phrase to which I alluded, and with the help of his father, John found engineers who would help him design and build, literally from the ground up, a van he could drive. His success, and his constant encouragement of others to (in his words) "open up your life," has been the catalyst which prompted several other disabled persons, including myself, to attain this mobility.



We are a "model oriented" society, and it seems to me that the typical model presented to disabled people today is one of a famous or economically privileged person to whom befalls some tragedy, and who is able to marshal economic or technological resources to overcome his disability. While I would not belittle the efficacy of that achievement, in my opinion, examples of quiet determination and accomplishment such as John's provide more realistic inspiration, and a better model. I most heartily commend you on your proposed action.

Sincerely,



Dr. Donald L. Figg, PhD