

John Dycus

Previous adviser for The UTA Shorthorn, and later was associate director of Student Publications. Founder of the Arlington Handicapped Association (now called Helping Restore Ability).

*Interview conducted by
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Disability Studies Minor
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Biography

For 28 years John Dycus was adviser for The Shorthorn, the student newspaper at the University of Texas at Arlington and later was associate director of Student Publications. Dycus assisted in founding the Arlington Handicapped Association in 1977, now called Helping Restore Ability. He retired from UTA in 1998.

Topics discussed

- Meeting other students with disabilities
- Motorized wheelchairs
- College major
- Growing up with other students with disabilities
- The Shorthorn
- Special Education
- Handicapped Student Association
- Personal stories
- Bills, laws, and the Regents

Rose

This is Sarah Rose.

Engel

Trevor Engel.

Rose

<topic>Meeting other students with disabilities</topic>

Interviewing John Dycus for the Texas Disability History Collection on January 20, 2016 at his home in Arlington. You were saying about Sam Provence's parents?

Dycus

I don't know how much of this you know, Sam was one of the last, if not the last polio victim in Tarrant County or North Texas. He used to play in Veteran's Park when it was a landfill. Are you familiar with the landscape of Veteran's Park? That end of the park was just a dump... to show you how far that's come. Sam gets polio, the last person in the area.

They were very resilient people, people of faith, people who worked together as a team. That was the brother, two sisters, and Mr. and Mrs. Provence. I mention Mrs. Provence, she sounded like a hick, but she was devoted to Sam and tough. She can make things happen. The mothers of that era, my mother, Joe Rowe's mother, and Mildred Provence, celestial rewards. They did what their boys needed, to give them every opportunity to succeed.

Rose

That's what we've been hearing.

Dycus

There's your story. Someone should do a story on those three. Mrs. Provence, she's gone. Mrs. Rowe I want to say died of Alzheimer's. Joe Rowe has accomplished, I don't know what I'd do if I had what Joe Rowe has. Joe was unstoppable. You physically met him?

Rose

Yeah, we saw his iron long. He still has it.

Dycus

Does he sleep in it?

Rose

Yeah.

Dycus

Does he? He's had a harder time getting attendants, getting people to help him, so I just respect Joe immensely.

Rose

How did you wind up meeting him?

Dycus

We were all at school the same time.

Rose

Did you just run into each other on campus?

Dycus

Yeah. I guess. He was, I was a business major, and I don't recall. He probably was too.

Rose

He was. He really wanted to major in science or engineering and he said a panel of three deans, including Nedderman. Tell us what you know about that story!

Dycus

Turned him down. I didn't know, but I'm not surprised. I don't remember it but I don't doubt it.

Rose

They told him he was a danger in the lab, so he couldn't major in physics or engineering. He had to major in business or the liberal arts, his dad said business.

Dycus

I have an image of Joe drilling holes in the ceiling of his van, holding the drill with his feet so he could install a stereo. You ought to read his memoir.

Rose

We have it. We've been through it.

Dycus

Joe Rowe. These characters were activists, Sam especially. Joe was just busy with life. Sam wanted to change the world and I didn't have a huge interest in the Arlington Handicapped Association. I wasn't going to chain myself to a bus, but Sam would. That didn't appeal to me at all.

Rose

Joe Rowe said they were really involved with bus activism in Dallas.

Dycus

Joe, as he got older he would've done that kind of thing. There was a young woman who had come to school there from Amarillo with muscular dystrophy, named Gaye Vandever in 1968 or 1969. She had muscular dystrophy and she too was fiercely determined to live her life. She came here from Amarillo in this rattletrap van and some kind of scary ramp thing hanging off the side and an early model motorized chair. I can tell you they were poor. It was Everest and Jennings and it was gear driven or something. Here she comes, and she rented a house on Border which is now the parking lot at the activities building. She too was a business major. She had no interest in activism. It was all she could do to make it work for her. I was smitten with Gaye Vandever. I didn't want to be an activist if she didn't want to be an activist. She wasn't a joiner, she wasn't a joiner of that kind of group.

Rose

Do you know when she came to UTA?

Dycus

Probably '68.

Rose

And you guys all came in '65?

Dycus

I started in '65. She died in '70. We went to the funeral and back in one day from South Fort Worth to Amarillo. A guy named Tommy Williams who was a business major, a little bit older than we were, had a wife, a couple of kids. We were in classes together, Tommy, Gaye, and I. He called me the night before and said "Would you like to go the funeral?" I said "Oh man, I would love to go to the funeral, let's go." We left South Fort Worth.... If you know anything thing about South Fort Worth?

Rose

A little bit. I live in Fort Worth.

Dycus

You know the fiesta grande market [La Gran Plaza) this huge thing on Seminary Drive? It used to be called Seminary South. We lived on the street that connected Seminary South to Kmart on the south, which is now boarded up. Tommy picked me up at four o'clock and we got back about midnight. We went to Amarillo and back in one day for the funeral.

I was not much of a joiner, but Sam was persuasive and organized. He would lie awake at night in this iron long plotting these things to do the next day. Then he would get up and make his parents, his brother, his sister, and his

friends do them. We pretty much did. There's a woman you should speak with Joe Aldridge. Are you aware of that name?

Rose

Joe?

Dycus

Joe's been dead now for several years, but Ruthanne Aldridge, his wife is still around. I think they were church friends of Sam. Sam had an active faith, he didn't badger you with it, but that's where his strength came from and he knew that. Joe was one of those people in the group, "What do you need, Sam?" Joe helped organize. He was the main organizer of the Arlington Handicapped Association.

There's another woman named Shaver, Annette Shaver, married to Larry Shaver in the phone book, somewhere in Dallas County. Annette was also very instrumental in the early stages. I think she was the first, surely unpaid director of the Arlington Handicapped Association. Which was at that time, it began as an adult day program thing. Sam envisioned housing. Sam saw this complex of units, apartment units.

Rose

Pearl Street?

Engel

Under the Cowboy's Stadium now.

Dycus

Was it Pearl Street? Yeah, it's the parking lot. Sam wanted to be able to go on a date, go to work, someone to be there to get him up, help him get dressed, drive him to wherever he was going, he would do what he would do, and drive to bring him home. Then he would have attendants around the clock. You would have a network of attendants at least three, eight hour shifts. It was a great theory, it worked for a while, a year or two, three or four. I don't know. It wasn't Pearl, it was Peach Street, wasn't it? The Peach Street Apartments, it was the ghetto but they were the only people who would rent to us, HRA, the group, Arlington Handicapped Association.

Rose

Was that because you were disabled?

Dycus

Probably. Sam got to live there for a couple years on his own.

Rose

His brother said how much it meant to him when he would ride down the middle Collins.

Dycus

Late in his life, someone had the idea, you slapped your forehead thinking “Why didn’t I think of this sooner?” He couldn’t work the joystick but he could work his chin. You can put a joystick in front of his face and suddenly he was mobile. He was as mobile as he was going to be there for the last year or two or three of his life. He would sit there and he can do this, Sam had a little bit of residual motion in one leg, nothing at all in his arms, and then had used an iron lung of course.

His dad broke his leg one afternoon, he was crossing his leg, broke his leg. I can imagine... never had kids, you have kids? You’re kind of young, I’m going to assume you don’t have kids. I can imagine it must’ve killed Mr. Provence, it must’ve crushed him. I’m assuming that Sam could feel that, there is no numbness there, it’s not paralysis.

Sam would lie there and hatch these schemes and then we would go about. It created the agency, it was chartered in 1977, which is where you get the phone number for Helping Restore Ability now. 469 – 1977. That’s the reason behind that number.

Rose

<topic>Motorized wheelchairs</topic>

That’s very cool. Those are some details we don’t know. That explains why he didn’t have a power chair in the 60s when you and Joseph Rowe did.

Dycus

This chair that I’m sitting in is the second motorized wheelchair I’ve owned in my whole life. The first one was primitive. A DHS, DARs representative great guy, John Baker, he called me one day and said “You need a new chair! We think you need a new chair.” I can remember sitting in the parking lot behind this building on Eighth Avenue in Fort Worth, the building is probably torn down. Off in the distance here comes my dad pushing this chair, black upholstery, that had to be at least forty–five years ago. We have a small inventory of parts to keep it going. You may know that a digital chair does not perform, does not control like an analog.

Rose

No I don’t.

Dycus

This is an old analog chair, and it has pulling power that a digital doesn’t have. My mother can still walk behind my chair with someone helping her. She grabs the arms of my chair and I kind of pull her up a little bit and I go very slow through the house, two laps, she sits back down. You can’t go very slow in a digital chair, reliably, it jerks on you. As long as she’s alive I’m not gonna change, and probably not even then. I’ve now collected from various sources seven motors, three controllers, I have two sets of tires, wheels, and the potentiometers here can be bought off the shelf, the control stick. It only has to last me twenty more years anyway, so I think I might keep it.

Rose

What about your first chair? How did you get that?

Dycus

The very first chair? DARS, DHS, we applied for some assistance. Then John Baker, got me this chair. I'm not very focused on things that I'm telling you here, these are things you probably don't need to know.

Rose

No, that's actually really interesting. Students have already written on history of wheelchairs.

Dycus

The very first wheelchair that I sat it was a custom. It was a medical supply company I want to say, or a rental place, one or the other. Across from Ernest Parker Junior High in Fort Worth, which is now Parker Commons, which is lofts in the medical district. You ever see that building? On the west side across the street was a shopping center. We went over there one day. I started high school in '60, so this must've been '58 or '59. I sat in this horrible chair, probably an Everest and Jennings, but it was chain driven and unresponsive. It was too wide for me as I recall, I didn't get a motorized chair then for a couple years later.

Rose

In high school?

Dycus

No, I was all the way through high school. I would've been the king of high school if I had a motorized chair. But as it was, I was introverted and didn't know a lot of people, made good grades, kept to myself. I went to my 50th high school reunion during the monsoon season back in March, I only knew five people, and they were all there. It was great. Yes, that first chair it's the 70s I had a motorized chair. I don't remember exactly.

Rose

Not in college?

Dycus

Not to begin college, but to end college.

Rose

So it would be in the 60s?

Dycus

Yes. If I started college in '65, and I graduated in '70, somewhere in there, probably '68 or '69.

Rose

Joseph Rowe got his power chair through college too. Someone else had died and the family had gave him their chair. Someone from TIRR down in Houston, it was his first motorized wheelchair.

Dycus

Gaye and I, with another couple went to the state fair in our motorized chairs. She knew how to operate hers and I didn't know how to operate mine because it was too new. I recall running into her. The guy who drove the van was a business instructor there at the time. He liked us and we were in his class, he said "Back off! Hey back off! You're too close, you're making her nervous." He was right. Somewhere in there, late 60s when I got a motorized chair.

Rose

That's a neat story.

Engel

I was gonna say I've seen a lot of pictures of you in the yearbooks because we went in the archives, and I recognized the chair.

Dycus

Yeah, that's it!

Rose

You know that picture in front of the library that you thought was a student? I think it might be John. I'll send you an image. There's one picture we've been trying to identify who it was, it was someone who had a table.

Dycus

Was it inside a building?

Rose

It was actually in the library mall and it's about mid - 70s, but I'll find it.

Dycus

Doesn't sound like me if it was at a table. Was it an organization or something on the table?

Rose

It was actually, the person had a table on the power wheelchair.

Dycus

Oh. I never did that. Send that to me please.

Rose

Yeah, we might ask you to identify some other ones.

Dycus

Sure, sure, anybody we can.

Rose

How did Gaye find out about UTA?

Dycus

I don't know, there was no internet. I'm sure nobody in their right mind would've recommended she leave Amarillo to come this far away. You know what muscular dystrophy does to you, the progression. She did not out live, maybe she did a little outlive her diagnosis, but she was very weak even to come. Such a spirit, an indomitable spirit.

We went on two dates, Joyce and Maria White drove us. We were getting on 30, on the entry ramp... I'm sure when you accelerated the whole van shook. It was really a disaster, this van she had. We accelerated and we tried to get up to speed to get on 30. I looked over and her head had fallen back and she couldn't call it back up. Her neck muscles were too weak. Maria had the reach back there, his wife, and pull her forward. She was okay, it had happened to her before. She was tough.

Rose

Was the van modified? Was she actually driving it?

Dycus

No, she couldn't drive. She actually found a sweet girl. She'll tell you that God put them together, she found a student probably through financial aid. There wasn't a handicapped student office, was there back then?

Rose

No.

Dycus

Probably advertised through financial aid and found this girl who lived with her and helped her get up and get going, get to school.

Rose

An early attendant? Do you remember the name of the person?

Dycus

No, but I remember a maturity about this girl, even now. This was fifty years ago. I remember how strong and good she appeared to be. She was all the right things for the right reasons that Gaye needed. That's quite a story.

Rose

What about you? Why did you pick UTA?

Dycus

Geography probably. I was interested in Texas Tech, because my parents my parents had lived in Lubbock. My dad loved Lubbock. He said "If those people wanted something they didn't form a committee they just do it." Tech was out of the question, I considered Lamar, had a friend who was gonna go to Lamar and help me, but that didn't happen. We lived in South Fort Worth, when I started UTA we were in South Fort Worth. My mother would drive me to school every day.

Rose

That was a van?

Dycus

Initially it was a car. Once I got a motorized wheelchair it was a Ford van. The first van was an old Air Force van with the motor completely inside. It was a rattletrap as well, I don't recall my mother driving it as much, but we did get a good for Ford van.

Rose

It had a ramp on it?

Dycus

No. It had two runners that we purchased at Renters Aluminum in Dallas. It was not remotely safe, my mother would set these runners up, open the side doors, they opened out, position these runners just right, my father may have made a positioning pen or something, and I would back up. That's not dangerous unless you missed the front end. If your front wheels don't track, then your front end falls off. It never happened, but it could've. My mom would hold the chair and I would back down slowly, once I got on the ground off it went. Did Joe tell you about the time he fell out of his van?

Rose

No.

Dycus

Same size ladies, same attitude toward life, same goals, selfless. "Nothing for me, but what can I do for you, my son." I think Joe has a brother, right? I was the only child. Mrs. Rowe didn't want Joe to drive of course, my mother didn't want me to drive, but Joe drove. They were together one day and she got out and lowered open the doors and lowered the lift like she had always done, except he was driving now. They weren't thinking. He wasn't thinking either, he rolls out, bang. Just rolls right outside the lift, out the side of the van and goes to the ground. I don't think it hurt him, but it could've.

Rose

He had a ventilator early on, right?

Dycus

Did you hear the story of Dr. George Wolfskill, celebrated history teacher, famous, infamous, whose son is still at UTA? If you want some Wolfskill stories, Jeff.

Rose

Yeah, he works in financial aid?

Dycus

He works for Rusty somebody. Jeff idolizes his dad and is a lot like his dad. Dr. Wolfskill had Joe in a class, and he took a bunch of test home one night and spread them out on the kitchen table. The Wolfskill's had three or four children. He said "Alright now, one of these was written by a guy with a pencil between his toes. Find which one it is!" Of course they couldn't do it. The best George Wolfskill story.... The parking lot south of University Hall used to have a gate that would come down, I don't know if it still does.

Rose

It has a couple gates that come down.

Dycus

The westernmost gate, it was malfunctioning and it had for a while. They were all lined up there one day, Dr. Wolfskill was one of the cars in line. He got out of his car, walked over there and tore the gate off, just ripped it off and threw it aside. "Y'all come on in" and got in his car and they all went in and parked. He was quite a character.

Rose

<topic>College major</topic>

That's great. Why did you decide to go to college in the first place?

Dycus

That was my only education, my only way out. My mother graduated from Decatur Baptist College and University of North Texas. My father went to DBC, but then went into the Navy. He was at Pearl Harbor in World War II, I don't know if he ever graduated from DBC or not. I don't recall having any great discussions with him about "What are you going to do?" But it was always assumed. It was further assumed in that era that I would be a business

major. I wasn't overly apt in math for science or anything, I was good in math but I wasn't going to major in it. Excuse me, I guess I assumed, they assumed, we all assumed that's what the counselors did back then. They put you in bookkeeping.

Rose

Because you had a disability?

Dycus

Because "You can do it sitting down."

Rose

Joseph Rowe mentioned that.

Dycus

There I was, an accounting major. We didn't have all electronics spreadsheets, none of this. You've got to be pretty imaginative to recognize the primitive nature of things then compared what we have now. You've had spreadsheets, they'd be spread out all over the table, you gotta reach over here to put the numbers in. I never wanted to be an accountant, but that's what I majored in. I didn't for sure know why I was there except I was supposed to be there.

Rose

Do you remember how you found out you're supposed to be in accounting? Did they just tell you?

Dycus

Probably. I took an accounting course in high school, taught by a guy with a crew cut named Barry Sullivan. There's also an actor named Barry Sullivan you can Google him. Barry Sullivan at Paschal high school, I was good at it, but I'm sure a counselor at Paschal must've suggested "Why don't you go this direction?"

Rose

Anyone at UTA?

Dycus

There must've been but I don't know who that was.

Rose

Were you allowed to take a full course load?

Dycus

I could've.

Rose

Joe Rowe said he was not allowed. He and Sam Provence were both only told three courses at a time.

Dycus

I think they looked scary, and I didn't. Sam was in a manual chair, Joe might've been in a manual chair to begin with. Joe's laying down and Sam can't breathe, they probably overreacted with them. I never took more than nine hours, but that was because I didn't want to. It seemed like I tried to take twelve and I wasn't doing well. I took nine hours and it took me five years to graduate. UTA was always very accommodating, they would move classes, if it was on the third floor they would move it to the first.

Rose

Did you ever have any instructors that were strange about it?

Dycus

No, never.

Rose

Rowe had one, right? And was actually missing an arm too.

Engel

A math instructor that didn't want him in the class.

Rose

And was actually missing an arm too.

Dycus

Really? No the business people, the English people, sociology, a guy named Carter Borin. I can't think of anybody who ever gave me any problems.

Rose

<topic>Growing up with other students with disabilities</topic>

You, Gaye, Sammy, and Joseph. Had you known other students with disabilities in high school?

Dycus

I don't think there were any, other than Don Pigg, he was one of the five at the reunion. Don had polio like Sam, but Don wasn't as nearly as affected. Don and I were initially one grade apart and then a wise teacher in special education Fort Worth jumped me up a grade in the middle of the year. In the middle the year I went from the fifth to the sixth. I wake up in sixth grade so I could compete with Don Pigg. Danny Moon, some other ambulatory but was disability folks in that crowd. They had good minds so we could all compete together.

Rose

These were people who could walk with crutches?

Dycus

Yes, Danny Moon was a hemophiliac, but he was ambulatory. Bill somebody, Randy somebody. But they were all walking.

Rose

You were using a wheelchair at that time? How did you get around Paschal?

Dycus

Yes. I had to learn to ask the person sitting next to me. If it was a girl that was bad, because I couldn't do that. I had to learn to ask this guy sitting next to me "Will you push me to the next class?" I had to do the same thing at UTA for the first two years, three years. I learned how to do that. It was a very important socialization exercise. I had a sociology class in the Science Hall down there were that grove of trees, the canopy where the trees overlap. I'm in the Science Hall on the south side, if you step in there now I want to say room 121. It was an amphitheater room, big steep slope, goes all the way to the bottom. Somehow I wind up on the front row down there, twice a week, three times a week. The guy's name was Dan Milum, I had to ask him. I learned years later that my mother would stand behind the door up there on the ground level and look through there during class change time to see if I could get out.

Rose

She wanted to let you do it?

Dycus

She wanted to make sure I could get to my next class, but she didn't want me to know she was there.

Rose

Interesting.

Dycus

I had to learn how to ask people. One can argue that if you provide everything for a kid now, note takers, pushers, and this, and that, what would I've lost if I hadn't had to learn how to find somebody to push me around? I think that would've been a....

Rose

We've also heard, I don't know if it was Allan Saxe or Jim Provence, said that Sammy asked the smartest kids in the class to be his note takers and the people with the biggest biceps to be his pushers.

Dycus

I haven't heard that, but that sounds like Sam.

Rose

Because they had to drag him up step sometimes.

Dycus

Me too, we had to go up steps. It's now Wolf Hall, but it was the business building then. It was called the engineering building, but the entire college of business was on the third floor. I had a class there one day and the old lady was out. My father had driven me that day. It would've been so easy to just go up there and tell the professor "Can he take the test?...." My father was the type who said "My sons going to compete." He pulled me up three flights of stairs, six flights is you count the landing in the middle. You go up, you stop and take a breath, you go up another.

Rose

Wow. We also heard there was one tour with administrators. We've heard there were actually two tours. The one that Wayne Duke was the only person that who showed up for, and then there's the later one that's the more famous one. We also heard at one point, and I don't know if this is the first tour or what, that Sam Provence told his pushers who were pushing the administrators around, to jostle them as much as possible. Go through as many bumps as possible, let them feel what it's like to go down the curbs. Do you remember anything?

Dycus

I haven't heard that, but I don't doubt it. There is a famous picture of Dr. Nedderman, have you seen that picture?

Rose

Yeah, 1974.

Dycus

<topic>The Shorthorn</topic>

He's sitting in front of the urinals? That's a great, the student newspaper at UTA, that was our heyday in the 80s, actually, mid 70s to, early 90s. The middle of it we went on that tour. We took pictures and we did a story or two, but there is this famous picture of Dr. Nedderman sitting there. Have you met him?

Rose

We haven't met him yet, there's been one interview with him done by his granddaughter. We're gonna go back.... I think that interview started in the early 70s rather than the 60s. Nedderman was the one of the three Dean's that refused Joe.

Dycus

Nedderman was a fabulous president, the student newspaper embarrassed him more than once. I'm sure angered him more than once, but he never pulled rank on us. He never said stop, just stop. He didn't do it, he let us work things out. He and Dorothy Estes and Emery Estes, his wife Betty, who died within the last year. I think that really took him down. Living in Dallas now, assisted living I assume?

Rose

He lives in Frisco with his son and daughter-in-law. We're going up on Monday.

Dycus

He liked to tell stories. He was a considerate man. I did something for him once that he liked. I wrote him a letter thanking him for something, maybe for not hitting us with a hammer. We angered a legislator once, called him a "hopeless liar" in print, which he probably was. We had some difficulty with that, and this is before the internet, Trevor! Dr. Nedderman was getting called at six that the morning, I don't know how anybody knew, but that took us a while to work through that. That was probably the worst thing we ever did to him, but even then he didn't pull the plug. Give him a chance to talk, I think you'll enjoy that very much. Wonderful voice, make sure you record him, he has a deep voice.

Rose

We're really eager for it. Speaking of angering people, Rowe said you wrote a couple of Shorthorn articles in the late 60s that almost got you, Provence and him expelled. It was about handicap access.

Dycus

Don't remember, it doesn't mean I didn't do it. What did I say? Was it good? I bet it was!

Rose

He remembers it very vividly.

Dycus

Probably. The thing I did for the Shorthorn was edit. I didn't do any stories, I didn't go out, the Shorthorn offices were in the basement of the student center where the activities area is now. Where the Shorthorn is now was a warehouse. It was the bookstore warehouse. In the 60s the counseling office or financial aid or something, the whole operation was down there, along with all of these books, which is now the Shorthorn office. If you've ever been in the Shorthorn, to orient yourself you should, going down there, tell them you are, and say "I'm here to see the back door that leads to student activities." Walk over there and look at that door. That door was there in the 60s. That door, you opened it and it led to the Shorthorn. You open it now and it leads to student activities.

You'd have to have been there to picture in your mind. In order for me to get to the Shorthorn I had to come through the bookstore and the elevator, which is still there, back there at the back dock. They wouldn't let me have a key to that door and that door was always locked. It's a good thing probably because if anything were stolen they would've blamed me somehow. The ladies, Mrs. Thomas, Clara Thomas, and Mrs. Harris, the two bookstore ladies who had the key. Somebody would push me over there after class and one of them would go with me, we would go down the elevator, wind through the stacks of books all the way to the ceiling, go past the one room financial aid office right in there, go through that door, and there was the Shorthorn.

I couldn't leave and go upstairs and interview people, and I wasn't fast enough at taking notes, so that's how I became an editor. My peers would go upstairs and write the stories, they would come down there and give them to me to edit.

Rose

I wonder if Provence wrote the office or something and because you were associated with the Shorthorn that's how you got pulled in?

Dycus

I probably messed with it some. I cleaned up a lot of stories, because I was good at it. There was a famous editorial on the front page of the Shorthorn written by my dear friend, Donna Darovich, who was my first boss. She was editor in the late 60s. She wrote this piece about how she was for the rebel theme, but she had seen the light. For the sake of mankind, we need to let this thing go. She writes it, and it wasn't very good. I took it home and I worked on that thing on my upright, ancient IBM electric typewriter. I made that thing work. I brought it back the next day, that's what we ran. President Harrison, who was a medical doctor, little bitty guy, scared of me. He'd occasionally have to deal with black guys in afros marching in his office, he must've been terrified. They called Darovich out of class to bring her over to thank her for her wisdom, if I remember the story correctly. That story had really been jacked with. I'm the one who did it! I did things like that, Sam could've written something, who knows.

Rose

We're gonna find the pieces.

Dycus

I love it, send it to me please.

Engel

Donna, you mentioned she's your friends and everything. She became editor for the UTA magazine and as soon as that happened.... I was looking at all UTA magazines, 70s to present, as soon as she became editor there started being all this coverage on the FreeWheelers, Movin' Mavs, accessibility around campus and everything like that, for the duration that she was editor. Whenever she quit it stopped again.

Dycus

Donna was a woman of the people, still is. She saw that as something important, common thing. Donna's sister, Susan, worked with me in the Shorthorn. Susan was production so I've had a long history with the Darovich family.

Rose

Did you guys have a lot of talks about disability? Jim Hayes?

Dycus

I don't recall. Hayes was such a golden boy, everybody wanted to be around Hayes, admired Hayes for the right good reasons. Hayes told me one time, you know the Hayes story? He dived in the shallow water, the day before he was supposed to join the Marines or something.

He said, "Man if I'd done that I really could've been screwed up." His recovery, his rehabilitation into in society was so swift and so smooth. He goes to Tarrant County College, South campus, which was the only campus, and he's student body president. He's just this chugging on on wheels. He told me one time, "I was faking that for ten years. I wasn't everything they thought I was." Now, in later years he was everything they thought he was and more. But in the beginning, society gave him an image and he lived up to it. Then he had to grow into his own image and did a bang up job of that. You should talk to someone who was there at his funeral. He laid in state, in the PE building.

Rose

We've heard the story from his sister.

Dycus

His last girlfriend, who I think was in the disability coaching business. I think she coached a team, she was not disabled, but she put together this remarkable tribute with all of his plaques and ribbons and newspaper clippings on this table. There he was over there, got the wheelchair, his wheelchair was at the casket...

[Interruption] we've got no secrets here, my sweet little mother.

Rose

[]

Dycus

We knew it was going to happen, we'd been tipped off, so we were there. We were there.

Rose

The Shorthorn?

Dycus

The Shorthorn was there. He came out of the student center, the whole front end of the student center didn't exist then, so you had about four steps in the front. Here he comes. He's got on a ski mask if I recall, everyone seemed to know it was gonna happen. He took a running leap off the steps and he ran and he got, I don't know how far he went. I think that was Dr. Nedderman's kid. I think that was his son. You might ask Dr. Nedderman. We've got this picture of this guy, this was the 70s.

Dorothy Estes sent Marianne Kruger, one of the head photographers to the bookstore, which is now in the area where the post office area is in the student center, "Give me some press type." She came back over there and I can still hear...we were in Preston Hall, and Dorothy's office was down in the far western edge end of the building. The newsroom was in the middle of the building. I can still hear her laughing when she realized that they were able to pull this off. I think they put "streaker" in press type right across the front of this character. That's how we were able to run the picture, because Marianne took the picture over to the bookstore ladies. She said "I need something..." "Oh, you're going to run that?" "Give me something to put on top of him here." Try and find that picture. It ran, but it didn't run near as big as it should've. For all I know it could've run on page two. I know we did run it.

Rose

Whose kid do think it was?

Dycus

Dr. Nedderman's son. I'm pretty sure, I don't know if it was Howard or if it was John. It might not have been, but ask him that at some point. Near the end of the interview when he can throw you out if he's tired, but I'm pretty sure. The Nedderman sons were contemporaries of Dorothy and Emery's son and daughter. Eddie Estes played football, I don't know if the Nedderman boys played football, but they all lived close to each other so they were very close.

Dorothy's mind is as sharp as a tack, and if she would consent to something like this. What you ought to do, I don't know if anybody's ever done an oral history with Dorothy...

Rose

She said she would, the student that was gonna do it didn't follow up. Then she's had some health things.

Dycus

Oh, she never took care of herself, she was too busy taking care of other people. But you need to talk to her.

Rose

That's what we're thinking.

Dycus

What might sweeten the deal, I would be happy to sit with her. We ought to get together and then we could feed off each other. She would be much more amenable to that idea. Tell her "John Dycus will come if you want to do it." Ideally, how hard you want to work for this story? Pick her up and bring her over here. Her back is bad, it's like "it hurts me to sit, but it hurts me to walk. Do I want to sit or do I want to walk because they're both gonna hurt."

Someday when you've got a couple hours, you go pick her up in a regular car, bring her over here, and I'll help set that up. It's not disability related necessarily, but it's a "cease the moment" deal. If you know how to do these interviews, and you want to do this, and you got these two old people before they get crazy, then you're doing something for the world. You just go ahead and tape it.

Rose

I've got to say, the interview we did with the Provence's was four people and they really fed off each other. We barely had to talk the first two hours.

Dycus

I bet. One of those two sisters, she and her husband had a big motorhome before.

Rose

They talked about that. I think they were in Maine when their mom died, and she made them promise that they'd finished their vacation, and their mom was traveling with the two girls before it.

Dycus

Yeah, Sarah and Louise. Louise was the one with the motorhome.

Rose

Louise is the oldest. You talked a little bit about the other students with disabilities at Paschal?

Dycus

<topic>Special education</topic>

Don Pigg, Don Pigg was it, that's the only one I remember. Don Pigg graduated from Paschal and went to TCU.

Rose

He was ambulatory?

Dycus

No, no leg muscles at all from polio. Don Pigg was the extrovert and I was the introvert. When we got to college the roles changed. It took me a long time but I opened up a little. I think Don just played bridge, which he still does.

Rose

Is he still alive?

Dycus

Oh yeah, he was one of those five people at my reunion. Don wasn't exactly an activist either, but Don ran for student body president at Paschal, didn't win, but came real close. Everybody knew him and liked him, good guy. Don and I, I want to say we were the only two people there. There may have been some folks in crutches but I don't remember anybody else in a wheelchair. There were no handicapped, this is important, there was no special education in high school. It stopped in junior high.

Rose

Oh really?

Dycus

You bet. Therefore I had to begin learning in high school, my homeroom was in Miriam Todd's. She was the speech teacher, not speech, drama. She was quite dramatic. The fraternity boys, she would make fun of the fraternity boys, she didn't care for fraternities. They would sit there in the front row and she would say "You think you're a damned Greek God, but all you are is just a goddamn Greek." Then she died in the nursing home years later. There again, I had to learn, I had to tap Alan Johnson. That's how I met Alan Johnson, he sat next to me in the front row of Ms. Todd's class. I didn't know how to do it. "Can you push me to Mrs. Vanderpool's biology class?" They would, I don't ever recall being turned down, probably was, but I don't recall it.

Rose

Rowe and then also Provence's sibling said that they'd both been in homebound programs in high school. It was really exciting for them to be around other students with disabilities in college. Did you have that?

Dycus

No, because I went to elementary school was special education in Fort Worth, junior high special education.

Rose

Which schools did you go to?

Dycus

Carroll Peak Elementary, West Van Zandt junior high. West Van Zandt is now the parking lot for the Modern Museum in Fort Worth. It's on the corner. It's catty corner from Farrington Field. It's a rise area, it's been short up, that was West Van Zandt.

Rose

That was your middle school?

Dycus

Yeah. Then Ernest Park junior high, then Paschal high school. We had a bus service that would take us to junior high, but then that stopped. All that stopped at high school.

Rose

That was enclosed special ed? Did you have any interaction with students?

Dycus

That's a good question. I don't recall a whole lot of that. I don't think there was.

Rose

That special ed, was it anyone with a disability, or only kids with physical impairments?

Dycus

We had a young people who weren't gonna make it, mentally, but they were given a chance. I don't want to, I don't know how that worked back then, but I know it was not as nearly as inclusive as it is now.

Rose

That sounds not as specialized if it was sort of everyone.

Dycus

Yeah. At Parker, our classroom was on the ground floor of what had been the shower area for the PE kids. If you didn't lock your chair, you rolled to the back of the room because it sloped where the showers were. But we had all manner of disabilities. Don and I were thinkers, Patsy Patrick, Pamela Johnson, Teresa Vincent, both of them had polio but were on crutches. Danny Moon, Bill Wall, all of these were good thinkers. We also had Billy Barton whose parents spent every dime they had to help him, he had cerebral palsy. He had some exotic surgery that made him worse. We had folks in there, it was a pretty broad range. Mrs. Gilmore, our teacher, she knew some of us were gonna make it and some of us weren't.

Rose

Were there people who were blind or had hearing loss is too?

Dycus

Probably. It was a less sophisticated era but we have to admire those teachers who worked so hard with this range of folks trying to meet needs. Don and I had needs that were vastly different from this kid over here, the kid over here. She somehow made it all work for all of us.

Rose

<topic>Handicapped Student Association</topic>

I'm gonna ask a little bit more about the Handicapped Students Association. Rowe said that you, he and Provence founded it. He was thinking in 1966, his sophomore year.

Dycus

I don't know what that year '77 is, I would've thought '77. Whatever year Sam was at UTA.

Rose

Y'all arrive in '65, and all graduated in '70.

Dycus

Right, but Sam stayed on to get his masters.

Rose

That was later. He left for a little while and then came back. We know that there's Handicapped Students Association by clearly 1969 but probably earlier. This is an article from 1970 and it's about UTA putting in concrete ramps to replace the wooden ones that Alpha Phi Omega put in. I was wondering if you remembered anything about the early part of the Handicapped Students Association?

Dycus

Not really. I remember the fact that UTA was always, now in contrast to them keeping Joe Rowe from majoring in science, the physical plant always worked with us. Alpha Phi Omega, yes, there was no mall, it was all curbs, those were streets. They put all these wooden ramps up there and then the maintenance truck would drive over them, crush them accidentally. We had a police chief then named, Rufus Taylor. He was very good to us at getting handicap parking close in. That's how we didn't have to park far out, we got as close to the building as we could.

Rose

Kent Gardner wasn't sure, he was thinking the handicapped parking was not put in until the 70s. But I'm thinking one of your other interviews you mentioned it in the 60s.

Dycus

When my mother would drive me to school from '65-'70 we drove up...it's gonna be hard for you to see this. Do you know where Nedderman Hall is? And you know the engineering building to the east of there? Picture that Nedderman Hall is not there, and the other buildings not there either. That was a street. You drove up and the building on your left, that's Wolf Hall, there used to be some pine trees right there that we planted, big pines. That's where the street stopped, they blocked it off. My mother and I, Joe Rowe and his mother would drive up right in the street and let us out onto a curb right there on the right. Then they would go home. Come to think of it, I'm not sure where the handicapped parking was, we just drove up, got out and they went off.

Engel

It wasn't necessarily needed, at least for you.

Dycus

At least for me. Gardner would've know where the handicapped parking was.

Rose

Do you remember any of the people involved in the Handicapped Students Association early on?

Dycus

Not really.

Rose

David Brock and Rena Williamson?

Dycus

David Brock, he had a fused back. I don't know if he could sit, I don't know. I never saw him sit. He drove, some weird panel truck, standing up, somehow. He's been dead for quite a while, probably was not in real good health, but another one of those survivor, overcoming types.

Rose

He was president of HSA in early 70s I think. Rena Williamson was also present in '73-'74.

Dycus

I remember the name a little but not much.

Rose

We have a few other names, these are more 80s, Linda Havren.

Dycus

I remember the name.

Rose

Mark Hammond.

Dycus

Mark Hammond was a tennis player, wasn't he?

Rose

We don't know.

Dycus

I believe Mark Hammond is dead, but he was a great wheelchair tennis player.

Rose

So he was associated with the adaptive sports program? What about a Glenn Williamson or Danny Williams?

Dycus

No.

Rose

Donnie Rogers? Roy Phelps? David Gentry?

Dycus

David Gentry was a story. David was married. Injured in a skiing accident, already married, they stayed together for quite a while, her name was Donna. Eventually split up. David was brilliant and could operate a wheelchair, motorized chair, I don't know if he could with his hands or one of the ones with the chin operators. David passed away not that long ago, but he fought hard. The sad story about David is that he invested every dime he had, before GoFundMe, but the same kind of type friends to go to some other country, Peru, or Mexico, something where this guy had a treatment.

Rose

Spinal cord treatment.

Dycus

Yeah, David as smart as he was, he let himself think "Maybe, this would work for me." It didn't. Bedsores were a huge problem for him, and I think that's one of the things that got him.

Rose

I think we might've seen an article about him but not connected the name.

Dycus

I don't think he's been gone too long.

Rose

We're trying to nail down some timing. We've heard from a few people that Sam Provence occupied Cooper Street at one point.

Dycus

What I should've done earlier, I never could any response, I want to hire a Shorthorn kid for twenty bucks to do some research for me. I'm sure we must've done a story on this, but Sam Provence...He either led a march across the street or he participated in a march. Another character in this play was Ulrich Herrmann, Dr. Herrmann was a physics teacher.

Rose

Was he the one that led his classes?

Dycus

Yes.

Rose

That's very late, I think in the 80s. It was after Sam Provence died, we found the coverage of that. We're wondering whether Sam Provence...

Dycus

You need to call Joe back, Sam's brother.

Rose

He knew a little bit about it, but I think he was in college for some of this.

Dycus

<topic>Personal stories</topic>

Cooper Street, you must remember was not always semi-depressed, which is what it is now. They talked about "We're gonna depress it." I envision a tunnel you walk straight across. No, you got this big bridge over it, they couldn't take it any lower because of utility lines or something.

Sam did go to Washington, was it?

Rose

We haven't been able to get really the story on that.

Dycus

His sisters ought to be able to tell you about that.

Rose

They weren't sure about the details, whether it was Austin or Washington.

Dycus

The elements that I've been told, the problem, neither one of you can fully understand this because you're not old enough, but all these stories, they mix around in there and I sure hope I'm telling you the correct stuff!

Rose

We're double checking with people!

Dycus

That's a good thing. It was my understanding that Sam went somewhere on the plane, I want to say it was Washington to testify or something. He couldn't breathe without his iron lung, so he was frog breathing. He didn't tell American Airlines that he couldn't breathe, but somehow, the story is almost too good to be true. It's almost like, "Okay I'll give you that he was indomitable, but if he can't breathe, he can't breathe without an iron lung." That's what they say happened. I don't remember, I was off to the side when it happened, but that may be an urban myth. That's what we think happened.

Rose

He could breathe during the day, right?

Dycus

He had a Numa belt. That may have been how he pulled it off.

Rose

A turtle like thing, compressed. Do you happen to remember how Alpha Phi Omega found out about the need for ramps, or who the contact was?

Dycus

They were a service fraternity, they were not a social fraternity. They existed to do things for you. Surely, one of them knew somebody in a wheelchair, had a relative in a wheelchair, saw the need and said "Hey guys, let's build some ramps."

Rose

That makes sense.

Dycus

You could go back into their history, I'm sure they'd be happy to talk to you.

Rose

<topic>Bills, laws, and the Regents</topic>

Kent Gardner gave us the name of someone.

What we're really interested in is Texas passes an Architectural Barrier Act in 1969, and we've been through a number of the Regions minutes, not all of them because they're voluminous and very boring. Texas is very late to pass a law, it's one of the past last four states. It's a federal law 1968. Basically the Regents, right after a legislative session, they would say "Okay here are the new rules that we need to follow." They don't mention anything that we can see in 1969, 1970, I don't know if we did '71.

Around 1975, suddenly when you look at some of the construction records, the physical plant records didn't really make it to the archives...There's suddenly a form saying "If you're renovating a building or building a new building it has to be accessible." It's both the UT Regents and the Higher Education coordinating Council. There's that and what we're wondering is they don't seem too interested when the law first passes. What's really interesting is Hayes and Provence in 1973 asked to meet with the Regents. We don't know if they did. We're wondering if, Trevor came up with this idea, but if they actually help educate the Regents about the law.

Dycus

I don't think there's any question that they did. Again, Hayes was this stripped pony. Everybody wants to ride the stripped pony. He knew how to work the media, that's not a bad thing. He knew, I'm sure he lobbied. He was at his physical peak then, felt good, and he liked the spotlight. He believed in the cause. His motives were pure. I can see.

Rose

We're gonna see if they actually met with the Regents, we don't know, but there's this interesting timeline about five or six years it seems between the law passing and when the state starts enforcing the law.

Dycus

Duke didn't want to talk? What's the deal with Duke, have you tried to talk to him?

Rose

We talked to him, he said "I don't remember it." He believes it.

Dycus

I don't remember Hayes and Provence talking to the Regents, but I bet they did.

Rose

Hayes's fifty page proposal for a model campus and a barrier free campus. There is no date on it. We're wondering if it came out in part from this "Hey what is UTA going to do? What do you actually need?"

Dycus

I don't know who could tell you that. I'm trying to think of some old guy who's still around. If you talked to Duke and you talked to Gardner...

Rose

Dudley Wetsel has dementia.

Dycus

Does he?

Rose

Baker, we're waiting on Gardner to get us in touch with.

Dycus

Dr. WA Baker.

Rose

Yeah, Baker might be useful. Everett Strahan is dead.

Dycus

Hilde Williams. Her husband's name is Parkes Williams. Hilde might still be alive.

Rose

What's her role?

Dycus

She was the secretary to Duke and Gardner. She loved Hayes, she just loved Hayes. If she's still alive and sharp, then she might could tell you something. If not, she's just such sweet little old woman, you tell her "Hello" for me. Try Hilde Williams. Darovich, Donna was a decorated newswoman, Texas Press Woman of the Year a couple of times.

Rose

Was she on campus all through the 70s?

Dycus

She graduated somewhere around me.

Rose

'71.

Dycus

I graduated in '70, I'm surprised she graduated after I did, but okay. So late 60s, she probably was. She had a newswoman's instinct, she was curious, she was a good newspaper editor, student, a good writer.

Rose

She left campus after she graduated?

Dycus

Well, to get a job.

Rose

But Dorothy Estes would've been there the whole 70s right?

Dycus

Yes, Dorothy was hired in the summer of 1970.

Rose

She knew Hayes from TCC?

Dycus

She knew Hayes from TCC. She knew that Hayes was a little bit of a conn initially, and I think she greatly respected Jim. He was just too slick and he was like "Well, how can you recover so quickly?" He hadn't. He was playing a role, playing a role of what he thought he should be. Until he grew into the role and then he really had something, then he really was something then.

Rose

One other thing that Gardner mentioned, is that Hayes, Gardner, and Duke went all over Texas, I think I mentioned this in the email, and Southwest states, they went in the 70s and started publicizing what UTA was doing. We're also going to check into whether there are any papers from that.

Dycus

That's a great story, and yes I think I remember that happening.

Rose

He said it's really clear that UTA was the pioneer in this area.

Dycus

Yes, and I think so, straight up because of Jim and Sam. My name was on the articles of incorporation of the Arlington Handicapped Association, but I was not the pioneer, nor the activist that Sam was. Sam needed names to get his 501C(3). He had to incorporate, I wouldn't be surprised if his parents, brother and sisters are on there. This Joe Aldridge I told you about, he's on there, Ruthanne might be. Ruthanne's a nice lady. She and Joe were very close, and the things that Joe did, Ruthanne was there with him. She has a little bit of a disability, I want to say extreme arthritis and always limited her mobility, her walking. If you could find her.

Rose

We're going check into these people. Do you remember Sam going to Dallas for protests about the 504 regulations in 1977? We found a Dallas Morning News article. The Dallas sit-in is nothing like the San Francisco one that went on for twenty-eight days, but his siblings were pretty sure that they remembered him going to Dallas. He would've just told his mom "I'm going to Dallas" and not told her why.

Dycus

I spoke at Texas Tech was it, or was it Lubbock? Or was Amarillo? Back when I had a van. I told my parents I wanted to go do this, they said, "You need to take somebody with you. How about Paul Long?" He was a student, an older guy. "I don't need him." So we just let it drop. I left that morning and I went to the airport, I got on a plane, went to Lubbock, did the speech, came back, got in the car, came home, in about the normal sequence of timeframe. My dad he said "How was your day?" "It was all right." "Would you do?" "Well, I went to Lubbock." "What?" He was so proud of me.

Rose

When was that?

Dycus

I don't know, 70s.

Rose

Do you remember what you were speaking about?

Dycus

Disability something or another. It wasn't, it might've been writing, an editing seminar, even better.

Rose

Wow. Just a couple last questions. Did Provence talk with you about the fact that he wanted to go to law school but was rejected by Baylor? St. Mary's wanted to accept him but couldn't take him.

Dycus

No. Poor guy, being rejected.

Rose

He was rejected outright by Baylor because of his disability.

Dycus

That's crazy.

Rose

St. Mary's would've taken him but they were like "We can't accommodate you." Rowe said that he sent out about 150 resumes, somehow he wound up disclosing his disability, nothing. He finally got through a family connection, a job at EDS. You remember that story?

Dycus

Vaguely.

Rose

One final thing. Do you have any sense of Provence's or Hayes's connections with other disability rights activists outside North Texas?

Dycus

I know Jim was very well connected with the basketball programs, all of those coaches. I told you his last girlfriend who died about two years after he did, and was ambulatory, she was in South somewhere wheelchair basketball.

Rose

We're wondering because in the 70s there's a lot going on elsewhere in the country, this seems really homegrown. We just wanted to get your sense about it.

Dycus

Sam should have been, he was a substitute history teacher when he died. I think he would've been a great basketball coach. We used to watch basketball in Texas Hall, which was the greatest, oddest place to watch basketball in the United States. The wheelchairs that Sam and I sat on the East side, we sat on the stage part, the apron. Then you had bleachers on the west side. It was intimate, it was quite an experience. Sam knew the game, and he could motivate you. He would've been a remarkable basketball coach, he would've been able to control those boys. Back then, I know it's different now. Society is different now, athletes are different, there's a cynicism to us. I don't know if Sam

would've pulled it off now, but back then I think he could've for a while. I'm sorry he never had a chance to do that. That would've been quite a story.

Rose

He was really involved in the Baptist Student Union, right?

Dycus

I think so.

Engel

He's in for a number years, and all the pictures of the Baptist Student in the yearbook

Dycus

Randy Galloway.

Rose

He's a columnist for the Fort Worth?

Dycus

No, same pronunciation. Galloway. Randy and Sam were contemporaries I believe. Randy is full time Christian service, is the clichéd term. He works for Partners in Development Worldwide. Google that-PIDW. Randy's story was that he was essentially electrocuted. He was on the roof of a metal building and the wires got into it. I want to say it blew one of one of his arms off and damaged the other one. He was in horrible shape. Randy came back, and the Randy story is similar to the Wolfskill story. He did these detailed intricate drawings with a metal hook on one hand and a primitive prosthesis of some sort on the other. His teacher Grover Grubb, industrial engineering teacher, hung one of Randy's drawings, homework papers on the wall behind his desk and he would show people. "Quit complaining!"

Rose

He went to school around the same time as you at UTA?

Dycus

Yeah. If you wanted more information on Sam and the BSU, I bet you could find Randy that way. Send me an email, I can send you his email. Randy would be delighted to talk to you about Sam. I pretty sure they were contemporaries.

Rose

Wow, thank you!

Dycus

Randy is a story, goodness gracious. He overcame so much. You have to remember these really were trailblazers, these characters, you had very little recognition of the problem on a corporate scale. Very similar to the civil rights movement in that nobody gave it much thought, these guys had to create the interest and create the awareness and go on tours and speak on them. Then you would have visionary administrators come along, even if they got religion late, they still got it. Nedderman, Duke, Gardner, people like that. They really stuck their neck out and made a difference.

I have said before that every curb cut in Arlington, Texas should have Sam Provence's name on it because of those first curb cuts, the first ramp. That just steam rolled from there. Now it's a common thing. Although we have all these regulations, but if you want to get around them... I don't think our architects necessarily want to get around them, they're just lazy. Code enforcement isn't....

My foot doctor built him a new building, do you know where, as you're going down Matlock on your right is that Castle, it looks like a castle and you got it a big pond there. Whenever the street is, turn left right there, going east, then when you get to the next street which I think is Center, on your left is a brand-new building. It opened three months ago, can't get in the front door, can't get in any of the offices, can't get the bathroom. All of them have a button to push the door, but it's too high. The bathroom door is spring-loaded of course, matches code, probably, but you can't use it. The man who manages the building for the foot doctors, he was shocked. He's not going to do anything about it, and the architect isn't either, because the city signed off on it. The architect can point to the regs and say "We did everything right! The city says it's okay!" Oh you want us to do it over, they're not gonna do it.

An architect I met through the Arlington Conservation Council, he was a visionary character and his company bought Green Oaks Inn in West Fort Worth, celebrated multi-acre full of trees. Elvis slept there, and a bunch of other people. They bought it and they recycled a bunch of it. He was determined to make whatever they put there accessible.

He came out to me one day at UTA and we walked around the student center and we talked about things that you don't read in the regs. I remember asking him, we were sitting there at the elevator that is there now, at the top of the stairs, you walk down the stairs there is student activities, there's an elevator right there. This guy and I were standing there, I said "Why is that button to where I can't get to it? Why is it so high I can't get to it? Does it not meet specs?" He said "It does meet specs, and you know why it's that high? Because the regulations say it can be between here and here. They're all up here because that's where the architects are." Essentially he's saying they're lazy, and they never thought it through.

Rose

They never lived in a chair.

Dycus

No. It would be so easy to put those buttons down. I've given many speeches to architects and like that for years, but nothing ever really changes. Hasn't this been fun?