

John Dycus

Co-founder of UT Arlington's Handicapped Students Association and Arlington Handicapped Association, former advisor for the UT Arlington Shorthorn

*Interview conducted by
Dr. Sarah Rose and Trevor Engel
in 2016 in Arlington, Texas*

Disability Studies Minor
Special Collections and Archives
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Biography

John Dycus was born in 1949 and grew up in Arlington and Fort Worth, Texas. He obtained his K-12 education in Fort Worth, attending Paschal High School, class of 1965. Between kindergarten through eighth grade, Dycus attended special education classes, which were not offered when he reached high school at Paschal High. After graduating high school he attended the University of Texas at Arlington and graduated in 1970.

While in college, he met the charismatic Sam Provence and Jim Hayes and advocated with them for independent living and other disability rights in the Arlington area. He was one of the founders of Helping Restore Ability (HRA, originally the Arlington Handicapped Association). He served as president of the board in the 1980s. In 1997, HRA named him their Man of the Year. In the 1970s, Dycus served on the Texas Developmental Disabilities Council, which is a governor-appointed committee that advises the state legislature on policies related to disability and people with disabilities. In 1974, he was given a Governor's Citation for his work on the council.

Apart from his activism, he worked for thirty-five years as student advisor for the UTA student newspaper, *The Shorthorn*, and a copy-editor for the Fort Worth Star - Telegram.

Most recently, in 2010, Dycus received the prestigious Howard S. Dubin Outstanding Professional Member Award journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists; Dycus also served two consecutive terms as president for the organization's Fort Worth chapter.

Topics discussed

- Activism at UT Arlington

- Interacting with other people with disabilities
 - Protesting for accommodations
 - Traveling with a disability
 - Other disability rights activists
 - Disability and college admission
 - Sam Province and the Baptist Student Union
 - Architectural barriers
-

Rose

Sarah Rose.

Engel

And Trevor Engel.

Rose

<topic>Activism at UT Arlington</topic>

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

Dycus

Let me sign this here.

Rose

Okay.

Dycus

Put it right down here. Sam...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 or some demographic framework. And he used to play when Veteran's Park was a landfill. If you go out to the...are you familiar with the wildscape in Veteran's Park?

Engel

I am. I really like it.

Dycus

Well that end of the park was just a dump. And, shows you how far that's come. And Sam, so he gets polio. Last person in the area. And they were very resilient people...people of faith, people who work together as a team. That was the brother. They were two sisters and Mr. and Mrs. Provence. And I mentioned Mrs. Province. She sounded like a hick, but she was devoted to Sam and tough. She can make things happen. The women, the mothers of that era, my mother, Joe Rowe's mother, and Mildred Province...all in some pantheon. So last year's rewards, they did what their boys needed to give them every opportunity to succeed.

Rose

That's what we've been hearing.

Dycus

You know...aw it was...there's your story. Someone should do a story on those three. Of course, Mrs. Province is 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. But Joe's just...he was unstoppable. And you physically met him, so you are with him?

Rose

Yeah, we saw his iron lung.

Dycus

Yes, well...

Rose

He still has it.

Dycus

Does he still sleep in it?

Rose

Yeah!

Dycus

He's had a harder time 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 at the same time.

Rose

Did you just run into each other on campus?

Dycus

Yeah I guess. Well 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 set a panel of three deans, including Nedderman.

Dycus

...

Rose

Yeah, can you tell us what you know about that story?

Dycus

I did not know that, but I'm not surprised. If I can remember, I don't remember that.

Rose

They told him he was a danger in the lab.

Dycus

Really?

Rose

And said they wouldn't let him major in physics or engineering, so 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 can install a stereo. You ought to read his memoir.

Rose

We have it. Yeah, we've been through it.

Dycus

Yeah, so. These characters were activists. Well 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 the bus. Sam would. But that didn't appeal to me at all.

Rose

I think Joe Rowe said that they were really involved with most activism in Dallas.

Dycus

Joe, I mean Joe...I guess he would have done that kind of thing. So, and there was a young woman who had come to school there from Amarillo with muscular dystrophy and **Gail Vanderveer. Gail Vanderveer** in 1968 or nine. And there from Amarillo. And she had muscular dystrophy. She too was fiercely determined to live her life. And she came here from Amarillo, has a rattle trap van and some kind of ramp, scary ramp thing hanging off the side. And an early model of a motorized chair. I can tell you they were poor.

Rose

Early model of a what chair?

Dycus

Motorized chair. And it was a Jennings and I'm pretty sure that...goodness knows. Gear driven or something. But here she comes and she rented a house on the border, which is now the parking lot of the activities building. And she too was a business major. And she had no interest in activism exactly. She was just...it was all so she could do to make it work for her. And I was smitten with Gail Vanderveer. And so I didn't want to be an activist. 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

'68, probably.

Rose

And you all came in '65? Ours started in '65. And she died in '70. And we went to the funeral and back that day from South Fort Worth to Amarillo. We left at 4. Got in Tommy Williams, who was a business major. Older than we were. A little bit. Had a wife. Couple kids. But we were in classes together. Tommy and Gail and I. And he called me the night before. He said, "Would you like to go to the funeral?"

"Oh man, I'd love to go to the funeral. Let's go!"

Well, that's South Fort Worth. You know the thing about South Fort Worth?

Rose

A little bit. I live in Fort Worth.

Dycus

You know the Fiesta Grande market? This huge thing on Seminary Drive? They used to be called Seminary South. And we lived on the street that connected to Seminary South, the K-mart, on the south, which is now boarded up. Probably. I said, "Tommy, pick me up at four o'clock."

And we got back about midnight. We went to Amarillo and back. And we were there for the funeral.

Rose

Wow!

Dycus

So, I was not much of a joiner. But Sam was persuasive and organized. And he would lie awake at night in this iron lung plotting these things to do the next day. And then he would get up and make his parents and his brothers and his sisters and his friends. And we pretty much did. There's a woman you should speak with. **Jo Aldridge**. Do you remember that name?

Rose

Yeah. You said 'Joan'?

Dycus

Jo.

Rose

'Jo'. Okay.

Dycus

Jo's been dead now several years. But Ruth Ann Aldridge is still around. His wife. And I think they were church friends. Sam had an active faith. He didn't budge you with it. That's where his strength came from and he knew that. So Joe said, "What do you need, Sam?"

And Joe helped organize. He was a big organizer, lead organizer of the Arlington Handicapped Association. And there's another woman named Chaver, Annette Chaver. Married to Larry Chaver in the phonebook. The problem is Larry Chaver is somewhere in Dallas County. And 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 kind of began like an adult day program thing. But Sam envisioned housing. Sam saw this complex of units...apartment units...

Rose

Is this the Pearl?

Dycus

They...was it Pearl Street? What was its name?

Rose

Yeah, Pearl Street. I think Pearl Street. Was it Pearl Street?

Engel

Under the Cowboy's Stadium.

Dycus

Yeah we are! It's a parking lot. But Sam wanted to be able to go on a date, go to work, someone to be there when to get him up, help him get dressed, driving to where ever he was going...he wanted to do what he would do and drive him and bring him home. And he would have attendants around the clock. And you'd have a network of attendants, at least three eight-hour shifts. And then you have these people. It was great theory and it sort of worked for a while. I guess a year or two. Two or three. Three or four. I don't remember. And...it wasn't Pearl. It was Peach Street.

Rose

Yeah, well would be Peach Street.

Dycus

The Peach Street Apartments. It was a ghetto, but it was the only place that would rent to us HRA or...the group. The Arlington Handicapped Association.

Rose

Was that because you were disabled?

Dycus

Probably. So...and Sam lived there. Sam got to live there a couple of years on his own.

Rose

His brother said how much it meant to him when he'd ride down **the brook** on Collins...

Dycus

Late in his life, someone had the idea...and you slap your forehead why they didn't think of this sooner...he couldn't work the joystick. But he could work his chin. He'd have the joystick in front of his face and suddenly he was mobile. And so 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 could do this.

Sam would have a little bit of residual motion in his one leg, nothing at all in his arms and had to use an iron lung of course. His dad broke his leg one afternoon. He was crossing his legs.

"Dad could you cross my legs?"

Broke his legs. And I could imagine, never had kids. Do you have kids?

Rose

[inaudible]

Dycus

Okay. I can imagine. I'm going to assume that you are kind of young and don't have kids anyway. It must have killed Mr. Province. Must have crushed him. And I'm assuming that Sam could feel that. There was no numbness there. This was not paralysis. And that's Sam himself.

But anyway, Sam in a chair. And Sam would lie there and has his schemes and we would go about. And it created the agency. It was chartered in I want to say 1977, which is where you get the phone number for Handicapped Restore Ability NOW: 469-1977.

Rose

Oh really? That's cool!

Dycus

That's the reason behind that number.

Rose

That's very cool.

Dycus

And so yeah. There you are.

Rose

Well, wow! This is some details we don't know. So that explains then why he didn't have a power chair in the sixties and you and Joseph Rowe did...in part.

Dycus

Well, when did I get my first chair? This chair I'm sitting in is the second wheelchair I've owned in my whole...motor chair...my whole life. And the first one was primitive. And our DHS representative DARS...great guy, John Baker...he called me one day and said, "You need a new chair. We think you need a new chair."

And I can remember sitting in the parking lot behind this building on 8th Avenue, Fort Worth. The building is probably torn down...Fort Worth Brakes Company. And out of the distance, here comes my dad pushing this chair. It's black, specified black upholstery. And that had to be at

least 45 years ago. And we have small, inventory parts to keep it going. You may know that a digital chair does not perform, does not control analogue.

Rose

No, we don't.

Dycus

This was an old, analogue chair. And it has pulling power that a digital doesn't have. And my mother can still walk behind my chair with someone helping her. So she stands and grabs the arms of my chair. I kind of pull her up a little bit. And then we moved very slow through the house and she sits back down. He can't go slow in a different chair...reliably. It jerks on you. So as long as she's alive, I'm not going to change and probably not even then. 'Cause I now collected from various sources: seven motors, three controllers, I have two sets of tires...wheels...and ten potentiometer I got off the shelf. So I got a...

Rose

What was that term?

Dycus

Ten potentiometer. The control stick. So it only lasts between four years anyway. I think I just, I may 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. And then John Baker got me this chair. I'm not very focused on things you want to hear so I need to know.

Rose

No, it's actually really interesting. 'Cause people seemed to already written on the history of wheelchairs.

Dycus

The very first wheelchair I sat in was a **custom**. It was in a medical supply company I want say, or a rental place of one or the other...across from Ernest Parker Junior High in Fort Worth, which is now Parker Collins, which is lofts in the medical room. Kind of medical district. You can see that building on the west side across the street with the shopping center. And we went over there one day. And so if you...I started high school in '60, so this must have been '58 or '59. So I sat in this horrible chair, probably an Emmerson James. But it was chain-driven and unresponsive. And it was too wide for me as I recall. And it was a bad...So I didn't get a motorized chair for then a couple of years later. Two or three.

Rose

So in high school?

Dycus

No, I was all the way through high school. I would have been the king of high school if I had a motorized chair. But as it was, I was introverted, didn't know a lot of people, made good grades, kept them to myself. Went to my high school reunion...my 50th high school reunion during the monsoon season back in March. I only knew five people. And they were all there. So it was great. But yes, that first chair. But by the seventies, I had a motorized chair. I don't remember exactly.

Rose

So not in college?

Dycus

Not to begin college, but to end college. If I started UTA...

Rose

So it would be in the sixties?

Dycus

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

Rose

Okay, so Joseph Rowe got his chair at his college too, I think. Someone else had died in the family and gave them their chair.

Dycus

Yeah, you're right.

Rose

Someone from TIRR down in Houston. It was his first motorized chair.

Dycus

Then that's because...Gail and I, with another couple, went to the State Fair in our motorized chairs. And she knew how to operate hers and I didn't know how to operate because it was too new. And I recall running into her. I kept banging into her and the guy who drove the van said, "This destruction there, it's time."

He liked that we were in his class. And he said, "Back off! Hey back off! Too close! You're making her nervous. You're going to run into her."

He was right. So I ran in here and I ran in there in the late sixties when I got my motorized chair.

Rose

That was a good story.

Engel

I was going to say I've seen a lot of pictures of you in like the yearbooks in the archive. And I recognized that you in your chair.

Dycus

Yeah! That was it man.

Rose

You know that picture in front of the library that you thought was a student?

Dycus

Yeah, that makes sense.

Rose

I think it might be John. Well, I'll send you an image.

Dycus

Do that!

Rose

Because there's one picture, we've been trying to identify who it was. And one of them had a table. I guess that's right.

Engel

I think so.

Dycus

Was it inside a building?

Rose

It was actually in the Library Mall. And it's about mid-seventies. But I'll find it.

Dycus

Doesn't sound like me if it were at a table. Were there organizers or something at a table?

Rose

No, actually. The person had to have a table on their powered wheelchair.

Dycus

Wow! I never did that. Send it to me though, please. Please

Rose

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

Dycus

Sure! Anybody we can.

Rose

So how did Gay find out about UTA?

Dycus

I don't know. There was no internet. And I'm sure nobody...nobody in their right mind would see me and roll back home so far away. Because you know what muscular dystrophy does to you. You know the progression. She did not outlive her diagnosis. Maybe she did a little outlive her diagnosis. But she was very weak, even to come. But such a spirit! Indomitable spirit. We were on two dates. The other date, Boyd and Maria Wright drove us. And we were getting on [I-30] on the entry ramp, and I'm sure when you accelerate, I'm sure the whole van shook. It was really a disaster, this van she had. And it accelerated and we tried to get up to speed to get on 30 to get up to speed. And I looked over and then her head had fallen back and she couldn't pull it back up. Her neck muscles were too weak. So Maria had to reach back there...his wife...pull her forward. And she was okay. It had happened to her before. But she was tough. She was tough.

Rose

So was the van modified? Was she actually driving it?

Dycus

No. She couldn't drive. Somebody has to drive. She found a sweet girl and I'm sure she'd tell you that God put them together. Some woman, student, probably through financial aid. Probably got...there wasn't a handicapped students office, was there back then? I don't think.

Rose

No.

Dycus

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

Rose

So an early attendant basically?

Dycus

Early attendant.

Rose

Do you remember the name of the person?

Dycus

No, no. But I remember she was...I remember about the maturity about this girl. Even now, this was 50 years ago, I remember how strong and good she appeared to be. She was all the right things for the right reasons that Gay needed. That's quite a story.

Rose

What about you? Why did you pick UTA?

Dycus

Oh, geography. Probably. I was interested in Texas Tech because my parents lived in Lubbock. My dad loved Lubbock. He said if those people don't suffer, they don't form a committee. They just do it! But Tech was out of the question. I said Lamar. I had a friend who was going to go Lamar and help me. But that didn't happen. So we lived in South Fort Worth. When I started UTA, I was in South Fort Worth. My mother my mother would drive me to school every day.

Rose

And that was a van, right?

Dycus

Initially, it was a car. Because I didn't...once I got a motorized chair, it was a Ford van. No. The first van was an old Air Force van. With the motor was completely inside. And it was a rattle trap as well. But I don't recall my mother driving it very much, but we did get a good Ford van.

Rose

That had a ramp on it?

Dycus

No, no. It had two runners that we purchased at Rentals Aluminum in Dallas. My mother would sit there. It wasn't remotely safe. My mother would set these runners up, open the doors...side doors. They opened out. Positioned these runners just right. Probably may have made a positioning pin or something. And I would back up. And that's not dangerous unless you miss the front end. If your front wheels won't your back wheels, then your front end falls off, which never happened. But it could have. And my mother, she would hold the chair and I would back

down slowly. And then once I got on the ground, off of it...Did Joe tell about the time when he fell out of his van?

Rose

Yeah.

Dycus

Joe's mother and my mother...once again, same sized ladies, same attitude towards life. Same goals. Selfless. Something for me, what can I do for you?"

And me and my son...I think Joe had a sibling too, right?

Rose

Yeah, Joe...yeah we did talk about Joe and him. But I didn't. I was the only child. So yeah, Mrs. Rowe didn't want Joe to drive of course. My mother didn't want me to drive. But Joe drove and they were together one day and she got out and lowered, opened the doors and lowered the lift. Just like always. Like she had always done. Except he was driving now. And they weren't thinking, so he wasn't thinking either. And he rolls out and *bang!* Just rolled outside of the lift. Outside of the van, goes to the ground. But I don't think it hurt him, but it could have.

Rose

Well he needed a ventilator, even very early one, right?

Dycus

Yeah. Did you hear the story of Dr. George Wolfskill, celebrated history teacher? Famous. Infamous. Whose son is at UTA. If you want some Wolfskill stories...Jeff!

Rose

Yeah, he's in Financial Aid?

Dycus

He worked for Rusty Somebody. Let's say "Canned Rusty". He worked for Rusty.

Rose

Sorted out.

Dycus

Yes, idolized his dad. He's a lot like his dad. But Dr. Wolfskill had Joe in a class. And he took a bunch of tests home one night and spread them out on a kitchen table. And the Wolfskills had three or four children. And he said, "Alright, now one of these was written by a guy with a pencil between his toes. Find which one it is."

And 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

Yeah. It has a couple of gates that come down.

Dycus

But the gates...I want to say on the western-most gate. Well it was malfunctioning and it had for a while.

Engel

Still does.

Dycus

Well they were all lined up that day. Dr. Wolfskill was one of the cars in line. And he got out of his car to open, but then he tore the gate up. He ripped it off, threw it aside.

"Ya'll come on in."

He got into his car and they all went in a parked. He was quite a character.

Rose

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

Dycus

That was my only education. It was my only way out. And my parents were...my mother graduated from...Decatur Baptist College, the University of North Texas. And my father went to DBC but then went into the Army...Navy. Navy. He was in Pearl Harbor in World War II. So he didn't...I don't know if he ever graduated from DBC or not. I can't...But I don't recall having any discussions with him about, "What are you going to do?"

But it was always assumed. And it was further assumed in that era that I would be a Business Major. I wasn't overly aped in math or science. I was good at math, but I wasn't going to major in it. Excuse me, I guess I assumed, they assumed, we all assumed. That was kind of what the counselors did back then. [Clock chimes] They put you in book keeping.

Rose

Because you had a disability?

Dycus

Because "you can do it sitting down".

Rose

Joseph Rowe mentioned that.

Dycus

And so there I was, an Accounting Major. And of course, we didn't have all the electronic spreadsheets. None of this. You might be...you've got to be pretty imaginative to recognize the primitive nature of things then compared to what we have now. You'd have spreadsheets that would be spread out all over the table, you'd have to reach over here to work then, to put the numbers in. I never wanted to be an accountant, but that's what I majored in. But I didn't know why. Didn't for sure know why I was supposed to be there.

Rose

And did you remember that how you found out you're supposed to be in accounting? Why? Did they just tell you?

Dycus

Oh, probably. I took an accounting course in high school taught by a guy who was a crewcut named Barry Sullivan. There was also an actor named Barry Sullivan if you google him. Barry Sullivan at Pascal High School. And I was good at it. So I'm sure a counselor at Pascal suggested, "Why don't you go that direction?"

Rose

And then the one at UTA?

Dycus

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

Rose

What about...? Were you allowed to take a full-course load?

Dycus

I could have.

Rose

Okay. So Joe Rowe said he was not allowed. Both he and Sam Province were both told only three courses at a time.

Dycus

I think they looked scary and I didn't. I was in a course, they were...Sam was in a manual chair. Joe might have been in a manual to begin with. I don't know.

Rose

Yeah, manual.

Dycus

But Joe is laying down and Sam can't breathe. So they probably overreacted with them. But I never took more than nine hours. But that was because I didn't want to. Seemed like I tried to make twelve. I know I didn't do well. I took nine hours. It took me five years to graduate. But UTA was always very accommodating. They would go to classes. If it was on the third floor, they would move to the first.

Rose

Did you remember have any instructors that were strange of that?

Dycus

No, no. Never.

Rose

I think Rowe had one. Right?

Engel

He has one instructor that didn't want them 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 Boran**...Goodness. I can't think of anybody whoever gave me any problems.

Rose

<topic>Interacting with other people with disabilities</topic>

What about...? So when UTA and Sammy and Joseph, have you known other students with disabilities in high school?

Dycus

I don't think there were...well, other than Don Pigg. P-I-G-G, Don Pigg who...He was one of the five at the reunion. Don had polio like Sam. But Don wasn't nearly as effective. And Don and I were initially one grade apart. And then a wise Special Education teacher down in Fort Worth jumped me up a grade. And the middle of this year, I went from fifth to sixth [grade]. Just, I wake up and I'm in sixth grade. So I could compete with Don Pigg and some other. Danny Moon's mother was ambulatory, but with disability folks in that crowd. They had good minds, so we could all compete together.

Rose

So there were people who could walk?

Dycus

Yeah, some were just...Danny Moon was a hemophiliac, so he had a problem. But he was ambulatory. Bill Somebody, Randy Somebody...but they were all walking.

Rose

And you were using a wheelchair at that time?

Dycus

Yes.

Rose

So how did you get around Pascal?

Dycus

I had to learn...I had to learn to ask the person sitting next to me. And if it was a girl, that was bad. I couldn't do that. So I had to learn to ask these guys sitting next to me, "Can you push me to the next class?"

And I had to do that same thing at UTA the first two years, three years. And I learned how to do that. It was a very important socialization exercise. I had a Sociology class in the Science Hall down there with that grove of trees. The canopy where the trees overlap? I mean the old...not the Geoscience Building. I meant the Science Hall on the south side. And if you step in

there now, I want to say it was room 121. But it was an amphitheater room. Big, steep slope. It goes all the way to the bottom. And somehow, I wind up on the front row down there. And twice a week, three times a week. And the guy's name was Dan Milonver. And Dan Milonver, I had to ask him...I learned years later that my mother would stand behind the door up there on ground level and looked in there...that class changed time to see if I could get out.

Rose

But she really wanted to let you do it?

Dycus

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

Rose

Interesting.

Dycus

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

Rose

Well we also heard, I don't know if it's Allan Saxe or Joe Province. So that's Sammy that asked who assigned the smartest kids in the class to be note takers. And the people with the biggest biceps to be his pushers.

Dycus

I think that was Joe?

Rose

Yeah.

Dycus

I haven't heard that. That sounds like Sam.

Rose

And...Because they also drag him up steps sometimes.

Dycus

Yeah, me too. Me too. We had to go up steps. I was in, what's now Woolf Hall, but it was a business building then. I think it was called the Business Building. No, it was called the Engineering Building, but the entire College of Business was on the third floor. And I had a class there one day and the elevator was out. And my father had driven me that day. And it would

have been so easy to just go up there and tell the prof. that I had a test. But my father was the type to prove, "My son is going to compete."

So he pulled me up three flights of stairs, six flights if you count the landing in the middle. If you go up, then you stop. Take a breath.

Rose

<topic>Protesting for accommodations </topic>

Wow! I guess that I heard that there was one tour with the administrators. We heard that there were actually two tours. There was one with Wayne Duke who was the only person that showed up for. And then there's a later one that's the most famous one. But we also heard at one point, this is the first tour that Sam Province told his pusher, who were pushing an administrator or two around, jostled them as much as possible, go through as many bumps as possible, let them feel what it's like to get out on the curbs. Do you remember that?

Dycus

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

Rose

Yeah, in 1974 I think.

Dycus

He's sitting in front of the urinals?

Rose

Uh-mm.

Dycus

It's a great...the student newspaper at UTA that was our heyday in the '80s. Well, actually mid-'70s, early '90s. And right there in the middle of it, we went on that tour. Of course we took pictures and we did a story or two. But there is this famous picture of Dr. Nedderman sitting there. And I think he will give you...Have you met him, Dr. Nedderman?

Rose

We haven't met him yet. There's been one interview of him done by his granddaughter. And then we're going to go back. And I think that interview started in the early '70s right after the '60s. 'Cause Nedderman was one of the three deans...

Dycus

That refused Joe?

Rose

That refused Joe.

Dycus

Yeah, Nedderman was a fabulous president. The student newspaper embarrassed him more than once and 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. Now he and Dorothy Estes and Amy Estes worked, and his wife Betty who died last...

Rose

Last year.

Dycus

Last year, I think that really took him down. Living in Dallas County, I assume.

Rose

He lives in Frisco with his son and daughter in law. So we're going to look at it on Monday.

Dycus

Well, I used to have plenty of time. I think he will...he likes to tell stories. And he was a considerate man. He had something for him once that he liked. I wrote him a letter thanking him for something. Maybe if we're not hitting this with a hammer. We angered a legislator once and called him a hopeless liar. And...which he probably was. We had some difficulty with that.

And this was before the internet, Trevor. But, Dr. Nedderman was getting called, "Fix-that-boy." I don't know how anybody knew. But that took us a while to work through that. That was probably the worst thing we did to him. But even then, he didn't. He didn't pull the plug. So give him a chance to talk. I think you'll enjoy that very much.

Rose

Definitely.

Dycus

Wonderful voice! Make sure you record him. He has a deep, deep wonderful voice.

Rose

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

Dycus

Don't remember. Doesn't mean I didn't do it. But I don't. What did I say? Was it good? Like what?

Rose

He remembers it very vividly.

Dycus

Probably. I was...the thing I did for *The Shorthorn* was edit. I didn't do any stories. I didn't go out because The Shorthorn...ours was 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. And in the '60s, the counseling office for financial aid or something. The whole operation was down there along with all of these books! And which is now *The Shorthorn* office. And if you've ever been in *The Shorthorn*, well you should worry yourself. You should go on down there, tell them who you are, say "I'm here to see the backdoor that leads to Student Activities."

Well walk over there and look at that door. That door was there in the '60s. And that door, you opened it and it led to *The Shorthorn*. You open it now, and it leads to Student Activities. So you'd have to have been there to picture it in your mind. But in order for me to get to The Shorthorn, I had to come to the bookstore and the elevator, it's still there. Back at the back dock. And they wouldn't let me have a key to that door. That door was always locked. And it's a good thing probably 'cause there are a few things they still want to blame me somehow. But the ladies, Mrs. Thomas...Clara Thomas and Mrs. Harris, the two bookstore ladies who had the key. And somebody would push me over there after class. And one of them would go with me. We would go down the elevator, wind through these 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 that was *The Shorthorn*.

And so I couldn't leave, 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

You know, I wonder if Province wrote the **Odd Bits** or something.

Dycus

He could have.

Rose

And maybe because you were associated with *The Shorthorn*. That's how he got pulled in.

Dycus

I probably messed with him some. I cleaned up a lot of stories 'cause I was good at it. And there was a famous editorial on the front page of *The Shorthorn* written by Donna Dieterich, my dear friend Donna Dieterich who was my boss. She was an editor in the '60s, the late '60s. She wrote this piece about how it was. She was for the rebel-theme, but she had seen the light and for the sake of mankind, we need to let this thing go. So she writes it (whispers) it wasn't very good. So I took it home, and this...I don't care if it's on tape. I took it home and I worked on that thing on my upright, ancient, IBM electric typewriter and I made that thing work. And we brought it back the next day. And that's what we ran. And President Harrison, who was a medical doctor. Little, bitty guy. Scared of...he occasionally had to deal with black guys in Afros marching on his office. He must have been terrified. They called and they reached out a class to bring her over, to thank her for her wisdom...if I remember this story correctly. And that story had really been jacked with. I'm the one who did it. But...so I did things like that. Sam could have written something. Who knows?

Rose

We are going to find the pieces.

Dycus

I love it! Love it. Send it to me please.

Rose

Yeah, 'cause do you want us to meet with **Dietrich**?

Engel

Yeah, I mean you mentioned her as one of your friends and everything. Shun, as I mentioned, she was an editor of UTA magazine. And as soon as that happened, 'cause I was looking over all of the UTA magazines.

Rose

Seventies to the nineties. Seventies to the present.

Engel

Seventies to the present. And as soon as she became editor, there was starting to be all this coverage on free will and the Movin' Mavs, accessibility rights and everything else. For the duration she was editor. And then whenever she quit, it kind of stopped.

Dycus

It kind of stopped, did it?

Engel

Yeah.

Dycus

Donna was a woman of the people. Still is! And she saw that as something important kind of thing. No way we exclude Donna's sisters who worked with me in The Shorthorn. Susan was production, so I had long history with **the Dietrich** family.

Rose

Did Donna...did you have a lot of talks about disability? Or did she and Jim Hays?

Dycus

I don't recall. But now Hays was such a golden boy. Everybody wanted to be around Hays. Everybody admired Hays for the right reasons. But Hays told me one time, I was...You know the Hays story. He dived into shallow water the day he was supposed to join the Marines or something. And he said, "Man, if I hadn't done that, I really could have screwed up."

He said. But his recovery, his rehabilitation into society was so swift and so smooth, he goes to Tarrant County College South Campus, which was the only campus...Any student body president. And he's just this juggernaut on wheels. He tells me this one time and I was faking it for ten years. I was faking that for a long time. I just...I wasn't everything that I thought I was.

Now, in later years, he was everything I thought he was and more. But in the beginning, he came...society gave him an image and he lived up to it. But in the end, 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 an estate in the PE building.

Rose

Yeah, we heard the story from his sister.

Dycus

And his last girlfriend, 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 for all of his plaques and ribbons and newspaper clippings on this table. And then...and there he was! Over there. Got the wheelchair, and his wheelchair was at the casket.

[inaudible]

Sarah and Trevor! We've got no secrets. My mother, my sweet little mother.

And we knew it was going to happen. He's been tipped off. So we were there. We were *there*.

Rose

The Shorthorn?

Dycus

The Shorthorn was there. And 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, four steps in the front. And here he comes. He's got on this ski mask, as I recall. And he takes up running. Everybody seemed to know it was going to happen. Taking a running leap off these steps and ran and got into...I don't know how far he went. But I think that was Dr. Nedderman's kid. I think that was his son. You might as Dr. Nedderman.

So we've got this picture. Got a picture of this guy. What else is in this picture? This was the seventies? So we sent Dorothy Estes, sent Maryann Kruger...one of the head photographers...to the bookstore, which is now in the area where the post office is in the student center, get me some press type. So I came back over there and I can still hear...we were in Preston Hall. And we're taping this, right?

Rose

Oh yeah!

Dycus

We were in Preston Hall and Dorothy's office is down on the far western end of the building and the news room is in the middle of the building. And I can still hear her laughing when she realized they were able to pull this off. I think they put 'streaker' in press type, right across the front of this character. And that's how we are able to run the picture. And because Maryann took the picture over to the bookstore lady said, "I need something to *oh!* You're going to run that? Give me some type. Give me something to put on top of him here."

So that's just...try to find that picture.

Rose

Yeah, that would be...

Engel

That would be really funny.

Dycus

But he ran. It didn't run near as big as it should have. All I know is that it could run on page two. But I know we did run it.

Rose

And is that...who was this kid?

Dycus

I think it was Dr. Nedderman's son. Dr. Nedderman's son. I'm pretty sure. I'm pretty sure. I don't know if it was Howard or if it was John. And it might not have been...as 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 Neddermans' sons were contemporary. So Dorothy's and Henry's son and daughter and Eddie's play football. And I don't know if the Nedderman Boys played football. And they lived close to each other. They were very close.

But Dorothy, Dorothy's mind was as sharp as a tack. And then she would consent to something like this. I'm sorry, what you ought to do. I don't know if anyone has done an oral history with Dorothy.

Rose

She said she would. Just the student was going to do it and follow up. And then she has had some health things come up.

Dycus

Oh, she never took care of herself. She was always busy taking care of other people. So...but you need to talk to her.

Rose

That's what we were thinking. What...

Dycus

So what might sweeten the deal [phone rings] is that...don't worry about that. That's my computer phone. I would be happy to sit with her. We ought to get together and we can feed off each other. And she would be much more ___to that idea. Tell her that John Dycus wants to come, if she wants to do it. Ideally, how hard do you want to work for this story? Pick her up and bring her over here.

Rose

Yeah! I can do that.

Dycus

He back is bad. She got...I don't know. It's kind of like. It hurts me to see it, but it hurts me to walk. So do I want to sit? Do I want to walk? 'Cause they both can hurt. But someday when you've got a couple of hours, you go pick her up in a regular car and bring her over here and I'll help set that up.

Rose

Okay. Great!

Dycus

It would be...now it's not disability-related necessarily. But it's kind of a "seize-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 are doing something for the world if you just go ahead and tape it.

Rose

Well I have to say, the interview we did with the Provinces, it was four people. And they really fed off of each other. We barely had to talk during the first two hours.

Dycus

Oh I bet...one of those sisters used to...She and her husband had a big motor home back before...

Engel

They mentioned that. They talked all about it and how they were unnamed when their mom died.

Dycus

Very possible.

Rose

And she made them promise that they would finish their vacation. And their mom was traveling with the two girls.

Dycus

...Sarah and...

Rose

Louise.

Dycus

Louise! Louise was the one with the motor home.

Rose

Yeah, Louise is the oldest. So you talked a little bit about the other students with disabilities at Pascal.

Dycus

There was Don Pigg. Don Pigg was it. That's the only one that I could remember. Don Pigg graduated from Pascal, went to TCU...

Rose

Oh really? He was ambulatory?

Dycus

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

Rose

Is he still alive?

Dycus

Oh yeah. Traveled all over. He was one of those five people at my reunion. But Don...and Don wasn't exactly an activist either. But Don ran for student body president at Pascal. Didn't win, but came real close. And everybody knew him and liked him. Good guy, but not so in a manual chair too of course.

But Don and I...I wouldn't say we were the only two people there. There may have been some people with crutches, but I don't remember anyone else in a wheelchair. And there were no handicapped...and this is important. There was no Special Education in high school. It stopped at junior high.

Rose

Oh really?

Dycus

You bet. And that's there for...I had to begin learning in high school. My homeroom was in Miriam Todd's. She was the speech teacher. Drama...not speech. Drama. And she was quite dramatic. And the fraternity boys, she would make fun of the fraternity boys in the cafeteria. And they would sit there on the front row and she said, "You think you damn, Greek god, but all you are is a goddamn Greek."

And she died at the nursing home years later. But I learned...there again, I had to learn. I had to tap **Allen Johnson**. That's how I met **Allen Johnson**. He sat next to me on the front row in Mrs. Todd's class in there. And I didn't want to do it. But, "Can you please push me to Mrs. Vaanderpol's biology class?"

And they would. I don't recall ever being turned down. I probably was, but I don't recall.

Rose

What about...?...and also Province's siblings said that it just was they've both been in homebound programs in high school. And so it was really exciting for them to be around other students with disabilities and college. Did you have that?

Dycus

Yep. Because I went to elementary school, went to Special Education in Fort Worth, junior high...special education.

Rose

Which schools did you go to?

Dycus

Carol Peak Elementary. West Van Zant. As you...West Van Zant is now the parking lot for the modern museum in Fort Worth. It's on the corner. It's cattycornered through Fairington Field. Picture that? It's kind of a rise area. It's been like it's been shored up. And that was West Van Zant.

Rose

And was that your middle school?

Dycus

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And then Ernest Parker Junior High and then Pascal 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

And that was including Special Ed. Any interaction with other students?

Dycus

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

Rose

And was this Special Ed, was it anyone with a disability or was it only kids with physical impairments?

Dycus

We had young people who couldn't...who weren't going to make it mentally. But they were given a chance. But I don't know the criteria or how any of that...I don't have that work back then. But I know it was not nearly as inclusive as it is now.

Rose

It also sounded not as specialized. It was sort of everyone.

Dycus

Yeah. Yeah because you've got a class. And at Parker, we met in the...our classroom was on the ground floor of what had been the shower area for the P.E. kids. And so if you didn't lock your chair, you rolled to the back of the room because it sloped to where the showers were. But we had all manner of disabilities. Don and I were thinkers. We could end Patsy Packard and Pamela Johnson and Teresa Vincen...both of whom had polio, but they were on crutches. All of these and Danny Moon, Bill Wall...I was trying to think if that were all of these real good thinkers. But we also had Billy Barten, whose parents spent every dime they had to help him. He had cerebral palsy and then had some exotic surgery that made him worse.

So we had folks in there. Pretty broad range. And Mrs. Gilmore, our teacher, she knew some of us were going to make it and some who weren't.

Rose

And were there people who were blind or had hearing losses too?

Dycus

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

Rose

Wow! So that's a little like the Handicapped Student Association. So Rowe said that you, he and Province founded it. He was thinking 1966, 19...Like maybe his sophomore year?

Dycus

Well, I don't know that year '77 is.

Rose

'77?

Dycus

I would have thought '76, '77. Whatever year Sam was at UTA.

Rose

They all arrived in '65. They all graduated in '70.

Dycus

Right.

Rose

But Sam stayed only to get his Master's.

Rose

That was later. Actually, he left for a little while and then came back. So it was 19...So we know that the Handicapped Students Association by, at least clearly by 1969. But probably earlier. This is an article from 1970. And it's about UTA putting in concrete ramps to replace the wooden ones at Alpha Phi Omega. So yeah, I was just wondering if you remember any of it thinking about the early part of the Handicapped Student Association.

Dycus

Not really. Remember the fact that UTA was always amenable. Now in contrast to keeping Joe Rowe from majoring in science, the physical plan always worked with us. And in Alpha Phi Omega, yes they put these...because there were no malls. It was all curbs and streets. And they put all of these wooden ramps up there. And the maintenance instructor would drive over them, crush them accidentally. So then we had a police chief named Rufus Taylor. Rufus Taylor. Yes, police chief named Rufus Taylor. And he was very good to us. He was good at getting handicapped parking close. Then that's how we didn't have to park far out. We got as close to the building as we possibly could.

Rose

'Cause **Kat Younger** wasn't sure. I was thinking the handicapped parking wasn't put in until the seventies. But I think in one of your other interviews, you mentioned it in the sixties?

Dycus

When my mother would drive me to school from '65 to '70, we grew up...I know it's going to be hard for you to see this. You know where the Nedderman Hall is and you know the engineering building, I don't know the name of it, to the east of there. Okay, well picture that. Nedderman Hall is not there. And the other building is not there either. And that was the street. And so you drove up and approximately...the building on your left. Now as you're driving up that's Woolf Hall. You see that? There used to be some pine trees right there. Big...we planted them there. Big pines. That's where the street stopped. They blocked it off. And so my mother and I and Joe Rowe and his mother would drive up right in that street and let us out onto a curb right there on the right. And then they would go home. Come to think of it, I'm not sure where the handicapped parking was. We just drove up and got out and they went off.

Engel

So that wasn't necessarily, or at least for you...

Dycus

At least for me. Whatever **Dorothy** known. **Dorothy** would have known where the handicapped parking was.

Rose

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

Dycus

Not really.

Rose

We have David Brock and Reno Williamson.

Dycus

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

Rose

He was president of the HAS in the seventies.

Dycus

Yes, yes.

Rose

And then Reno Williamson was also president in '73, '74.

Dycus

I can remember the name a little bit.

Rose

We had a few other names. These are the eighties. Linda Havran?

Dycus

I can't 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? What about a Glenn Williamson?

Dycus

Can't remember the name.

Rose

Or Danny Williams?

Dycus

No.

Rose

Ah, let's see. Donny Rogers?

Dycus

No.

Rose

Roy Phelps and **David Dendre?**

Dycus

Now David Dendre was a story. David was married, injured in a skiing accident, already married. They stayed together for quite a while. Her name was Donna. But eventually split up. David was brilliant and could operate a wheelchair, a motorized chair. I don't even know if he could with his hands. It was one of these chin operations. And David passed away not that long ago. But he fought hard. And his...the sad story about David. He invested every dime he had. This was before go fund me, but it was the same kind to tap his friends to go to some other country...Peru or Mexico or something which this guy had a treatment.

Rose

Spinal cord treatment?

Dycus

Yeah. And David, as smart as he was, he let himself think, "Maybe this would work for me."

And it didn't. And the bed sores were a huge problem for him and I think that's one of the things that got him.

Rose

I think we may have seen an article of him not connected to the...

Dycus

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

Rose

What if we tried to make an announcement timing? We've heard from a few places Sam Province occupied Cooper Street at one point.

Dycus

You know I meant to...what I should have done earlier. I wonder if I could get a response. I wonder how our *Shorthorn* would get for twenty bucks to get some research for me. I'm sure we must have done this. We must have done a story on this. But Sam Province, he either led a march across the street or he participated in a march. Now another character in this play was a man named Ulrich Hermon. Dr. Hermon was a physics teacher.

Rose

Oh wait, was he the one that led his classes?

Dycus

Yes.

Rose

Okay, 'cause that's very late. Like it's the eighties and I think after Sam Province died. But we found the coverage of that.

Dycus

Okay.

Rose

But we're trying to...we were wondering if Sam Province...

Dycus

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

Rose

He didn't know...he knew a little bit about it. But he was...I think he was in college during some of this.

Dycus

Cooper Street, you must remember, was not always semi-depressed, which is what it is now. They never did...they were talking like they were going to depress it. I envisioned a tunnel you walk straight across. Now you got this big bridge over it, but they couldn't take it any lower because utility lines are something. It could have been.

Sam did go to Washington, was it?

Engel

Um-hm.

Rose

Okay, so we haven't been able to get really the story on that.

Dycus

Then again, his sisters ought to be able to tell you.

Rose

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

Dycus

There were elements that I've been told. The problem: neither one of you can fully understand this because you're not old enough. But all of these stories, they kind of mix around in there. And I sure hope I'm telling you the correct stuff. But I may have placed a story here.

Rose

We are double-checking with people.

Dycus

<topic>Traveling with a disability</topic>

That's a good thing. But it was my understanding that Sam went somewhere on the plane. And I want to say it was Washington to testify something. And he couldn't breathe without his iron lung, so he frog...you know what frog-breathing is? So he didn't tell American Airlines he couldn't breathe. But somehow, this was almost...This story is almost too good to be true. It's almost like, "Okay, I get it that he was indomitable. But if he can't breathe, he can't breathe outside an iron lung."

But that's what they say happened. I don't remember. I mean I was off to the side when it happened, but I don't...that may be an urban myth. But that's what we think happened.

Rose

He could breathe during the day, right?

Engel

I mean, he had to have had some way of breathing.

Dycus

He had Newman belt.

Rose

Yeah, that's right. So he had a...

Dycus

Yeah, that may have been how he pulled it off.

Rose

Yeah, and it was a turtle-like thing.

Dycus

Yeah.

Rose

Do you ever remember how Alpha Phi Omega found out the need for ramps or who contacted...?

Dycus

They were service attorney. They were not a social attorney. They existed to do things for you. And surely, the 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

Okay, that makes sense.

Dycus

When you go back into their history, I'm sure they would be happy to talk to you.

Rose

Ken Gardner gave us the name of someone you might know. What about...so there's one of the things we were interested in is Texas passes an Architectural Barriers Act in 1969. And we've been through a number of region's minutes. Not all of them. Just voluminous and very boring. We are going to ask Nedderman about this.

Dycus

Are you still offering, right?

Rose

Yeah, we are still on.

Dycus

You're still on?

Rose

Yeah. So there's this...Texas is very late to pass a law. It was one of the last four states. So it's a federal law in 1968. And basically the regions...right after a legislative session, they would say, "Okay, here for 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. But around 1975, suddenly when you look at some of the construction records. Physical plan

records didn't really make it to the archives. There's suddenly a form saying, "If you're meeting in a building or building a new building, it has to be accessible."

And it's both the UT regions and the higher coordinating council. So we said, and wondering is, they didn't seem too interested in when the law first passes. And then what's really interesting is when Sam Province in 1973 asked to meet with [microphone shuffles] They did, but we're wondering if, and Trevor came up with this idea, if they helped educate the region specialists.

Dycus

Oh, I don't think of any questions they did. But again, Hayes was this strike opponent everyone wants to...everyone wants to strike opponent. And he knew how to work the media, and that's not a bad thing. But he knew how to...I'm sure he lobbied because he was definitely was at his physical peak then. Felt good and he liked the spotlight and he believed in the cause. His motives were pure, so I can see.

Rose

Okay. So we are going to see if he actually met with the regions. We don't know, but there's this interesting timeline out five or six years it seems between the law passing and when the state starts enforcing the law.

Dycus

Then again, there could be an error. Duke didn't want to talk? What's the deal with Duke? Could we try to talk to him?

Rose

We talked to him.

Dycus

Did you?

Rose

He said, "I don't remember."

He believes it, but...

Dycus

I don't remember how Hayes and Province talked to the regions, but I'm sure they did.

Rose

What we're wondering too is there's Hayes's fifty-page proposal for a model campus and a barrier-free campus. And there's no date on it. And we're wondering if it came out in part from this, "Hey, what's UTA going to do? Would it actually meet...?"

Dycus

Luke can tell you that. I don't know. I can't tell you that.

Rose

[inaudible]

Dycus

<topic>Other disability rights activists</topic>

I don't know. I'm trying to think of some old guy who's still around. Now if you talk to Duke and you talk to Garner...

Rose

And **Dudley Wetzel** has dementia.

Dycus

Does he?

Rose

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

Dycus

Back with W.A. Baker.

Rose

Yeah, Baker might be useful. And Emeret Stronghold is dead.

Dycus

Strahan.

Rose

Strahan is dead.

Dycus

Hilde Williams. H-I-L-D-E Williams. And her last name was Parks.

Rose

Parks-Williams?

Dycus

Parks-Williams. And Hilde might still be alive.

Rose

And what was her role?

Dycus

She was the secretary of Duke and Garner. And she loved Hayes. She just loved Hayes. And she might...If she's still alive and she's sharp, then she might could tell you something. If not, she's just a sweet, little, old woman.

Rose

[laughter]

Dycus

You tell her 'hello' from me. Now try Hilde Williams and...you know Dietrich. Donna was a decorated newswoman. Texas Press 'Woman of the Year' like two or three...couple of times.

Rose

Was she on campus all through the seventies?

Dycus

Well she graduated somewhere around '71?

Rose

'71.

Dycus

Okay, so I graduated in '70. I'm surprised that she graduated after I did. So late sixties, she probably was. And she had a newswoman's instinct, she was curious, she was a good newspaper editor, good writer.

Rose

But she left campus after she graduated?

Dycus

Well, to get a job.

Rose

Yeah. But then Dorothy Estes would have been there the whole seventies, right?

Dycus

Yes, Dorothy was hired in the summer of 1970.

Rose

And she knew Hayes from TCC, right?

Dycus

She knew Hayes from TCC. And she knew that Hayes was a little bit of a con, initially. I think she greatly respected Jim. But he was just too slick and he was just...it was like, "Wow! How can you recover so quickly?"

And he hadn't. He was playing a role. Playing a role of what he thought he should be. Until he really grew into the role, and then he really had something. Then he really was something then.

Rose

Do you have...one of the things Garner mentioned is that Hayes, Garner and Duke went all over Texas. And then, I think I mentioned this in the e-mail, and there's sort of an incentive in southwest states. But they went in the seventies and started publicizing what UTA's been doing. So we're also going to check into whether there were any papers or not.

Dycus

That's a great story and I think I'd remember that.

Rose

Yeah, 'cause he said that it's really clear that UTA was the pioneer in the area.

Dycus

Yeah, well I think so and straight up because of Jim and Sam. Now my name was on the article of the articles of the corporation of the Arlington Handicapped Association. But I was not the pioneer nor the activist that Sam was. Sam needed names to get his 501C3. He had to incorporate. And I wouldn't be surprised if his parents and his brothers and sisters were in on...I don't know. This is all that I told you about. Ruth Ann was there to do with him. She has a little bit of a disability. I want to say extreme arthritis. And always kind of limited her mobility, her walking. But if you could find her...

Rose

Yeah, we will...we are going to check into these people. What about...do you remember Sam going to Dallas to protests about the 504 regulations in 1977? We found a *Dallas Morning News* article.

Dycus

Really?

Rose

The Dallas sit-in was nothing like the San Francisco one that went on for twenty-eight days. But his parents were pretty sure...oh, I'm sorry. Siblings were pretty sure that they remembered that he's going to Dallas and he would have just told his mom, "I'm going to Dallas."

And told her why.

Dycus

Yeah...I spoke at Texas Tech, was it? Or was it Lubbock? Or was it Amarillo? Back when I had a van, and I told my parents I wanted to go do this, they said, "Well you need to take somebody with you. How about Paul Long?"

He was a student, older guy.

"I don't need him."

So we just let it drop. That morning, I went to the airport, I got on a plane, went to Lubbock, did the speech, came back, got in the car...came home. And a back-to-normal sequence timeframe. And my dad...I said, "Dad, how was your day Dad?"

"It's alright. What did you do?"

"I went to Lubbock."

"What?! What?!"

But he was so proud of me.

Rose

When was that?

Dycus

I don't know. In the seventies.

Rose

Do you remember what you were speaking about?

Dycus

Disability, something or other.

Rose

That's really cool!

Dycus

No, it wasn't. It might have been writing. It might have been an editing seminar. That's even better.

Rose

<topic>Disability and college admission</topic>

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

[talking in the background]

Dycus

Poor guy. Getting rejected by...

Rose

He was rejected outright by Baylor because of his disability.

Dycus

Well that's crazy.

Rose

And then St. Mary's would have taken him, but they were like, "We can't accommodate you."

And then Rowe said he sent out 150 resumes. And somehow wind up disclosing his disability. Nothing. And then he finally got through a family connection, a job at EES. You've heard of that story?

Dycus

Vaguely. Vaguely...

Rose

One final thing, do you have any sense of Province's or Hayes's connections with other disability rights activists? Like outside North Texas?

Dycus

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

Rose

So we're just going to just go into the seventies and there is a lot going on elsewhere in the country. But this seems [to] really have grown. So, I just want to hear something about that. [background mumbling] Could you say that again?

Dycus

Sam should have been, like I said, was a history teacher. A substitute history teacher when he died. But I think he would have been great a basketball...We used to watch basketball on Texas Tech Hall, which was the greatest, oddest place to watch basketball in the United States. And the wheelchairs, Sam and I sat on the eastside. We sat on the stage part. The apron. And you had bleachers on the westside. And it was intimate and it was quite an experience. But Sam knew the game and he could motivate you. And he would have been a remarkable basketball coach. He would have been able to control those boys back then.

Now I know it looks different now. And society's different athletes are...there's a cynicism to us. I don't know if Sam could have pulled it off now, but back then I think he could have for a while. I'm sorry he never had a chance to do that. That would have been quite a story.

Rose

<topic>Sam Province and the Baptist Student Union</topic>

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

Dycus

I think so.

Engel

I mean his picture. He's in is in all, for a number of years, of all the pictures of the Baptist Student Union in the yearbook.

Dycus

Randy Gallaway. G-A-L-L-A-W-A-Y...

Rose

Yeah, he's a columnist for the Fort Worth?

Dycus

No, no, no, no. Same pronunciation. G-A-L-L-A-W-A-Y. Randy and Sam were contemporaries, I believe. Randy is full-time Christian service, is a clichéd term. He works for Partners in Development Worldwide, I believe. Google that. PIDW. But now Randy's story was that he was essentially electrocuted. He was on the roof of a metal building and the wires got into it. Yeah, I want to say it blew one of his arms off and damaged the other one. He was in horrible shape. But Randy came back and the Randy story, similar to the Woolfskill story, he did these detailed, intricate drawing with a metal hook on one hand and kind of a primitive prosthesis of some sort on the other. And his teacher Grover Grubb...Grover Grubb, industrial engineering teacher. Hung one of Randy's homework papers on the wall behind his desk to show people, "Quit complaining."

Rose

So he went to school around the same time as you?

Dycus

Yeah. And if you wanted more information on Sam and the BSU, I bet you could find Randy that way. Send him an e-mail. I'll can send you his e-mail. Sam, Randy would be delighted to talk to you about Sam and I'm pretty sure they were contemporaries. That would give you some. Now Randy's a story. Goodness gracious. He overcame so much...so much. And you have to remember, these really were trailblazers, these characters. Because you had very little recognition of the problem on a corporate scale.

<topic>Architectural barriers</topic>

And very similar to the Civil Rights Movement in that nobody really gave it much thought. And then these guys had to create the interest and create the awareness and go on tours and speaking. [clock chimes] And then you would have visionary administrators come along. Even if they got religion late, they still got it. Him and Nedderman and Duke, Garner. People like that. So, but they really stuck their neck out and made a difference. I have said before that every curb cut in Arlington, Texas should have Sam Province's name on it because of those first curb cuts because of those first curb cuts. Because of the first awareness and that just steamrolled from there. And now it's a common thing. Although, we have all of these regulations. But if you want to get around them, and I don't think architects necessarily want to get around them, they're just lazy. And code enforcement is...my foot doctor built him a new building. Do you know where...? As you're going down Matlock...

Engel

Yeah, it is a walk to Matlock.

Dycus

Well as you are going down Matlock...Right, it's that castle. It looks like a castle. There's a big pond there. Whatever that street is. Turn left. Turn left right there going east. And then when you get to the next street, which I think is Center, on your left is a brand new building. Well that's...brand new building. It opened three months ago. Can't get into the front door. Can't get into any of the offices. Can't get into the bathroom. All of them have a button to push the door, but it's too high. And the bathroom door was spring loaded of course. Matches code probably, but you can't use it. And I took the man who manages the building, the foot doctors, he was shocked. Now he's not going to do anything about it and the architect wasn't either because the city signed off on it and can point to the rags and say, "We did everything right. And the city says it's okay. So you want us to pay to do it over?"

They're not going to do it. An architect I met through the...I think the Arlington Conservation Council...He was a visionary character. And his company bought Greek 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 the...he was determined to make whatever they put there accessible. So he came out to me one day at UTA and we walked around the student center. And we talked about things you don't read in the rigs. And I remember asking, we were standing there at the elevator...now this is the elevator that is there now. At the top of the stairs, where you walked down the stairs to the student activities, there's an elevator right there. So this was going on, I was standing there. I said, "Why is that button to where I can't get it...Why can't I get to it? Does it not meet specs? But it does meet specs."

And do you know why it's that high? Because the regulations say it can be between here and here. And they're all up here "because that's where the architects are."

So essentially he's saying, "They're lazy. And they've never thought it through."

Rose

The have never lived in a chair.

Dycus

It would be so easy to put those buttons down. So I've given many speeches and things like that to architects for years, but nothing ever really changes. So, glad this been fun.