

VOICES OF 1968

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press

Transcript of Oral History with Stuart Sharkey

Interview date: July 27, 2022, 11:30 am

Interview location: Newark, Delaware, at the home of Stuart Sharkey

Interviewee: Stuart Sharkey (SS)

Interviewer: Richard Galperin (RG)

Recorder: L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin (RJM)

Transcription: L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, with parenthetical clarifications supplied by Mr. Sharkey

Time (H/M/S)

00:00:02 RJM: Okay. This is July 27th and we are in Newark, Delaware, and the year is 2022, lest we forget. This is Rebecca Johnson Melvin. And we're about to hear an interview. And I'll let the speakers introduce themselves. This is part of the 1968, Voices of 1968 oral history project.

00:00:28 RG: Good morning. I'm Rich Galperin and I'm a 1971 graduate of the University of Delaware. And I'll be conducting an interview with Stuart Sharkey, who at the time was in the administration. And I guess a good way to start this, Stu, would be to have you tell us a little biography of what brought you to the University of Delaware, your educational background, and previous employment?

00:00:56 SS: Thank you, Rich. Yeah. It's interesting what brought me to the University of Delaware. I'd been teaching American history in relative upstate (Mahopac) New York, after graduating, undergraduate and graduate.

00:01:20 RG: And where did you graduate from?

00:01:23 SS: St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York. And I decided—because I had some experience working with the college students—that I preferred working with college students because you could at least have a conversation. And you didn't have students talking back to you and being disruptive when you're teaching in your class. So, I resigned after I wrote 25 letters, looking for a job and I ended up at a conference with an interview with someone from Delaware. I was to be a hall director and I would be the first hall director in Russell-A, 1963. And that was the year it opened. And I also was responsible for the entire complex. And Thompson and Lane. My title—actually, I had two titles: hall director and complex coordinator.

00:03:02 RG: Where did you go from there? And after that?

00:03:05 SS: Well, I'm going to be telling you some things that are not on the record. Alright. The Director of Residence was fired for incompetency. And I was, at the time, the Assistant Dean of Students. I worked in Hullahen Hall. I was in charge of fraternities, commuters, and all student organizations, which is—on an aside—was good background for becoming a vice president, but we'll save that for later. But while there, I was appointed Director of Residence.

00:04:17 RG: What year would that have been?

00:04:19 SS: 1967.

00:04:23 RG: Okay.

00:04:25 SS: Just before the date we're interested in. And I'll hold my comments for that. And I subsequently, in 1980, became Vice President of Student Services. And I retired from that position in 1994.

00:04:57 RG: Good. Okay. Let's set the stage. We're primarily going to be talking, as you well know, about 1968. And as we've discussed previously, lots of what we'll talk about is going to go beyond that year. But let's start in '68. The key year here, let's—if you could for us—list for us in the administration, the players, the president through you.

00:05:27 SS: Okay. Art Trabant was president. John Worthen was made Vice-President of Student Affairs, relieving John Hocutt, who had been the vice-president, and later was given another position. There was a Dean of Men, Don Hardy, and Dean of Women, Bessie Collins. And me.

00:06:12 RG: So you reported, in '68, at least, to who?

00:06:16 SS: John Worthen.

00:06:19 RG: Okay. And again, in the category of setting the stage, give us kind of a mile-high view of the atmosphere on the campus, as you know, in the beginning of '68 before we had the assassinations and the campus troubles, etc. And the Chicago Convention.

00:06:42 SS: Just before. Delaware was a very controlled campus. *In loco parentis* was the predominant mode of operation, from the president on down. At the time, John Perkins was president. There were rules and regulations. I could tell you some: men could come and go as they wished. Women had hours. They had—during the week, they had to be in by 10:30. On the weekend, they had

sometimes 11:00, sometimes 12:00, that they could be out. For a woman to leave the residence hall, she had to sign out on a form indicating where she was going. A number of women lied, particularly if they were going to their boyfriends' apartments. And here's what happened. If a woman was late in returning, the hall director, who was typically a 65-plus-year-old woman (and she was hired because she had had children of her own, that was the qualification).

00:09:00 RG: Right.

00:09:00 SS: Anyway, they first checked the dorm for the first hour. If she wasn't in, they called campus police. At that time, it was called campus security. If she was not found on campus, they gave that two hours. They sent out a five-state alarm for this young lady. And after that, they placed a telephone call—*collect*—to the parents, and collect because it was out-of-state. So, the parents had to pay for that. In all my years here, before everything was changed, every woman who was late or didn't come back 'til the next day, they all were with men/boys who had flat tires. That was their excuse.

00:10:32 RG: A plague.

00:10:34 SS: That was the environment on the campus during that time.

00:10:46 RG: The *in loco parentis* which we are going to be talking about, clearly controlled the issue of women's comings and goings from the dorms. Were there other aspects of student life that covered, as well?

- 00:11:00 SS: Well, yeah. If you find pictures of students going to football games, you'd see the women dressed in skirts, wearing proper shoes, as well, though it's not anything like that today.
- 00:11:35 RG: Was it written? Was there a written dress code?
- 00:11:39 SS: There was a written dress code for women, not for men. There was an understood dress code in Hullahen Hall, where the administration was, that you are not permitted to meet with a student who was wearing shorts. Not permitted. When I was the assistant dean, I did that once and I was told by the Vice-President, "Don't do that ever again!"
- 00:12:01 RG: With regard to the issues of national politics, the war in Vietnam, etc., again in the early part of the year, I think we need to distinguish a little bit. Do you have a recollection of the level of student involvement in the concept of protests and political awareness?
- 00:12:36 SS: We want to talk about political awareness. I'll first make a statement that the students at the University of Delaware were not very aware. However, a new organization was started, SDS, Students for Democratic Society. One of the leaders, Ray Ceci, was a very strong leader. They were very in-tune with the Vietnam War. And were very concerned about national governmental action. But they were a minority on the campus. However, they were very outspoken on the campus. It's, as we now know, a very vocal minority. And that's really the setting.
- 00:14:08 RG: On that, again, on the subject of Delaware's culture compared to other places, how about on the issue of the racial issue, the Black students issue? It, the percentage was very, very low at Delaware in those years, right? Really.

00:14:25 SS: It was very low. In part, because at that time, the Board of Trustees was dominated by the du Pont family and DuPont executives who advised the president. Uh, let me say it another way: who were not too enthusiastic about African Americans coming to the University of Delaware. And the president at the time took the cue from the Board. So what you need to note for this: it was in 1952 when Collins Seitz was the judge who desegregated the University of Delaware. So, this was an institution that was anti-race and did not change until there was a court decision. Interesting enough, that court decision played a part in the 1964 (*sic*) Supreme Court (decision).

00:16:25 RG: '54.

00:16:27 SS: '54. Yeah, I jumped too far.

00:16:30 RG: You did. Let's talk about one of the major national issues that was going on and talk about its application to Delaware, which was the war in Vietnam. And let's go to the issue of ROTC, which was very close to you. Tell me what was going on.

00:16:50 SS: It was interesting that for male students, the first two years, you were required to be in ROTC. Well, on a lot of campuses, things were changing. It was slow to change here. And, a few things happened. One, as I recall, with SDS was what? The ROTC walk-on, which occurred on the marching field. Every week there was formation and march. How do I know that so well? Because I did it (at St. Lawrence University). I was part of the formation. And they (at the University of Delaware), a group of SDS students, walked on right in the middle of the ROTC people, disrupted it. They dismissed everybody. And after that, there never was formation marching again. (Sound of dog panting.)

00:18:18 RG: There was controversy caused by the position of two professors in '68. I think it began actually in '67, but professors Myers and Bressler.

00:18:29 SS: Bressler and Myers.

00:18:30 RG: Okay.

00:18:31 SS: The reason I say this to you because that's the way it was.

00:18:38 RG: Okay, what position were they taking and how did the administration, to your recollection, react to that?

00:18:45 SS: Well, Bressler and Myers were terminated. And there's SDS, in particular, was really upset. And when I say SDS, these are a bunch (a group) of students. And they held demonstrations, albeit they weren't as large as those in the Midwest. But we had our own issue, Bressler and Myers. And, did the University change its policy? Change things for Bressler and Myers? The answer to that is no.

00:19:46 RG: But within a year or two, ROTC was no longer mandatory, in my memory.

00:19:52 SS: That is correct. Yeah.

00:19:55 RG: Professor Myers tried to get back in, right? They never did.

00:20:00 SS: No.

00:20:02 RG: Is it your recollection that the student involvement, lack of apathy. Let me rephrase that: students, not just SDS, but a broader base of students, became politicized by that business with the professors.

00:20:23 SS: Moderately.

00:20:26 RG: Really. Okay. Okay.

00:20:37 SS: I just have to interject a bit of humor into this. (Clattering sound of coaster dropping to the floor.)

00:20:46 RG: Go ahead.

00:20:48 SS: Yes, you did, into this very serious problem. You asked was there a lot of ... I think there was more student involvement when we had Go Naked Week. And I had to deal with that as Director of Residence at the time. Alright. Enough said.

00:21:17 RG: No, I understand what you're saying and I have not an unsimilar view, although I do recall there was an increase; I remember there being more people at rallies over those two professors than I'd ever seen, that SDS's attempt to get people together

00:21:36 SS: Oh yeah, 150 to 200 students, but that was a small percentage of the enrollment.

00:21:45 RG: As the year wore on, again, I'm going to stick pretty much with national issues before we get to the local campus issues. The King assassination was in April of '68. Do you remember any reaction on our campus to that?

00:22:09 SS: There was barely a peep.

00:22:16 RG: Now the Kennedy assassination was in June and the students were probably let off, but what he was doing the—I wrote it down—June 4th? Students were probably in exams. And any recollection of that?

00:22:33 SS: Oh, yes. In every lounge in the residence halls, many students were glued to the TV watching the funeral of JFK (*sic*, RFK).

00:22:51 RG: A time came and it may have been after '68, in the very end, when there was an increasing number of protests over the American involvement in Vietnam. And of course, on some campuses, there was tremendous violence. What can you remember of this? I'm not restricting you at this point, of course, timewise. But as to what was going on here?

00:23:21 SS: Credit is due to President Trabant. And I'm going to tell you a little story on the side that is printed nowhere. President Trabant, wisely—this was Vietnam and after Kent State—he and his wife came out for a candlelight parade. And he invited students and they came to the, *then* the Mall—we call it the Green now—in front of Memorial Hall. And the President spoke. And the students saw the top administrator *leading* the group. They couldn't be angry. They couldn't be disruptive about this. There was the president.

00:24:28 RG: And you, too.

00:24:30 SS: And me, too, in the background. Now I'll tell you what you won't find printed: the Board of Trustees were angered by what President Trabant did and they were planning to fire him. And there was a secret board meeting in Wilmington and they invited the president. And it happened to be one trustee

who spoke out and said, "Why don't we give this young man a second chance?" And it was Sam Lerner, who later became chairman of the board. I won't talk about Sam. He was a tough bird, he really was. But, he did that. He had that one moment which you just won't find anywhere.

00:25:49 RG: Do you remember in discussions with administrators at the time of Kent State, or really at any time, where there was a real concern about violence on Delaware's campus?

00:26:03 SS: We had no violence.

00:26:06 RG: How about worrying about it?

00:26:17 SS: We read about it on other campuses, but not Delaware.

00:26:31 RG: And so you're recalling that there wasn't a sense of fear, or little panic. What's going to happen if it comes here and meetings and plans?

00:26:55 SS: No. I mean, the most disruptive thing that I can recall, was a sit-in in Hullihen Hall and the students were very pleasant about it and eventually left. Was there damage? No.

00:27:17 RG: Joan Didion wrote an article in her essay, "The White Album." She was out at San Francisco State at this time, and she said—I wrote this down, "During a takeover of one of the halls, everyone seemed joined in a rather festive camaraderie." Is that what you're talking about?

00:27:17 SS: Yeah, yeah.

00:27:23 RG: Okay. After the King assassination, the City of Wilmington had this turnout of National Guard which said stayed there forever, for nine months. Any recollection? Just you, kinda as a Delaware citizen? Not so much, in this question, about you being an administrator, but as to how you felt about that, your involvement in that, your knowledge of it?

00:27:50 SS: Well, I remember I was Director of Residence and I had two secretaries. One was a woman who had come up from the South. She had her views. The second secretary ...

00:28:10 RG: She was white?

00:28:14 SS: Yeah, she was white. ... (The second secretary) was African American. At the time of the assassination, I called her in. And I told her how saddened I was about this and we talked. And she subsequently thanked me for being the only person who spoke to her about the King assassination.

00:28:51 RG: Was she a Wilmington city resident? Do you remember?

00:28:57 SS: Oh, yeah. (No.) She lived on Choate Street in Newark.

00:29:00 RG: But she wasn't a Wilmington resident where the lockdown was, from the National Guard?

00:29:05 SS: It took back then (the National Guard was not removed) until Russ Peterson became governor.

00:29:14 RG: And that kinda segues into '68, of course, was an election year, a presidential election year. I know from reviewing some of *The Review*

newspaper articles, there was a bit of campus activity involved in the election. Any recollection on your part as to how the student body, or, for that matter, the administration was feeling around the election of '68?

00:29:44 SS: It was quiet on the campus. Most of the administration were Republicans. Certainly, the Board of Trustees was. So, if you were a Democrat, you kept quiet. (Laughing.)

00:30:16 RG: And there were students, I saw there were politicians who came and spoke, but you're saying that went very smoothly without consequences.

00:30:26 SS: Very orderly.

00:30:29 RG: Let's shift, then, to something that was much more of your involvement, which is the campus. With the—I guess we can call generally—the visitation issue, student dorm visitation. You talked at the very beginning of this interview about the draconian rules that the women had. Let's talk about your recollections and involvement in '67, beginning of '67 into '68, when this issue became one of change?

00:31:06 SS: Yes. Apparently, I was very involved. (Sharkey is holding the Tracy report.) *He* writes about it.

00:31:19 RG: Why don't you talk about what you have in your hands so it'll be on the record?

00:31:25 SS: Edwin Tracy, as a graduate student in '71, did a report of policymaking at the University of Delaware, a descriptive case study of the making and implementation of a residence hall visitation policy, 1966-1970. I showed Rich

(Galperin) this and he (Tracy) gives me credit in the acknowledgements. He talks about the environment, which I've talked about under Perkins. And the visitation policy. At the time of the visitation proposal was President Trabant's first year. The proposal for visitation went along with the policy for student rights. Because there was none. Because prior to that, the students did not have any rights. After all, the administration acted *in loco parentis*. Well, your kids, they don't have a rights as a parent. (Sound of cell phone buzzing.)

00:33:51 RG: When did that first set of proposals start? As part of the student rights or whatever.

00:34:02 SS: '67. Okay. I'll just read this sentence: "A visitation proposal initiated by members of the Men's Residence Hall Association," or MRHA, and they wanted to liberalize because up until that time, they were only, by the way, talking about having a few hours on a few days of men or women being permitted upstairs in the men's hall, or men being permitted in the women's hall, upstairs. Up until that time, that was not allowed. "There's an MRHA open dorm committee was formed and its members met"—it says here—"many times with Stuart Sharkey."

00:35:17 RG: That was when Mike Sherman was president of MRHA, or before that. Do you remember?

00:35:20 SS: Before that.

00:35:22 RG: Okay.

00:35:35 SS: (Reading from Tracy's paper): "So by March of that year, the committee had, with Mr. Sharkey's consultation, developed a resolution that men's halls

be allowed to vote on and implement visitation, defined as entertainment in men's residence halls of female guests in students' rooms ..." And here's the key: "... *during prescribed hours*. The resolution was sent to the Director of Residence Halls, Mr. Sharkey, and then forwarded to the Office of Student Services."

00:36:32 RG: And who was that person at that point? Do you remember?

00:36:36 SS: Probably John Worthen.

00:36:45 RG: Okay.

00:36:49 SS: So, this is very helpful to recall what happened. (Continues reading): "And the attitude ..." this is just a little backwards. "The attitude toward students was essentially the same in these early years as during the Perkins administration and the same people were making decisions. Specific concerns ..."—this is interesting—"... included anticipated negative reaction from parents, state legislators, and the general public. Anticipated violation of traditional morality by students and the legal responsibility of the University for the conduct of students, most of whom were minors." And there's a quote here from the Dean of Men, Dean Hardy, "For security reasons as well as legal liability, we could not go to open dorms." Of course, he was the product of Perkins.

00:38:37 RG: Let me directly ask you, then, to tell me about these early days, how much you were up against this solid wall, how much dents you were making in it?

00:38:55 SS: Well, initially, I had to be very quiet. And I have said through the years that the things that I did and stood for, if John Perkins had been president still, I would have been fired. Without question. I was able to take stands because I

had the support of President Trabant. If I hadn't had his support, I couldn't have said *nothing* (anything). That's the way it was. And then ...

00:39:49 RG: I'm sorry to keep interrupting, but who were the leading voices on the other side? The ones that were talking about the fears of parents and legislators. Who in the administration was voicing that opposition strongest? Can you remember that?

00:40:05 SS: Initially, Hocutt. He was still in charge and the Dean of Men Don Hardy. Bessie Collins agreed with that stance. But she was a sweet and gentle person, and she didn't speak out very much. Let me just read this. Mr. Hocutt ... (long pause)

00:41:08 SS: "Other sources characterize Dean Collins as she being skeptical of the proposal, and Mr. Hocutt being strongly opposed to it from both professional and personal points of view. In contrast, the Director of Residence Halls Mr. Sharkey probably felt the greatest affinity for the proposal since he tended to favor the visitation concept and because he had put much effort into advising the students who wrote it." Now, I'm not saying this. This is this person (Tracy) saying this.

00:42:03 RG: Well, I was there and I knew that was true, too.

00:42:09 SS: (Laughs.) And now here's the definitive point: "Mr. Sharkey probably enjoyed the least influence in the final decision." At that point in time, the president was Acting President Shirley, John Shirley. I knew John well. You know, when you're acting for a year, you don't change anything. So the Perkins carried on.

00:42:56 RG: Right, because Trabant didn't become president until the Fall of '68. And this, you're talking about end of '67, early '68. Okay. When did the first limited hours of visitation ultimately go into effect?

00:43:19 SS: Well, not until Trabant became president.

00:43:23 RG: Right.

00:43:25 SS: For sure. I want to read a statement about how the University of Delaware operated: "The Trustees retained their traditional role in decision-making so as to leave the president with little independence. The Trustees at that time were much more involved in day-to-day operation of the University."

00:44:26 RG: Sorry. Want to stop for a minute? (Recording pauses.)

00:44:29 LRJM: There you go. (Recording resumes.)

00:44:31 SS: (Continues reading): "The visitation policy would have conferred upon students a degree of responsibility that the Student Personnel Administration ..."—it wasn't me, but the Dean of Men, the Dean of Women, the Vice-President at Delaware—"were unaccustomed to." As I said, "student rights." The official attitude towards Student Personnel Administration remained tied to traditional moral values upheld by strict control.

00:45:33 RG: And when it first went into effect, how do you recall things going, how the administration accepted the process?

00:45:52 SS: Administration, plural, had no choice but to accept the position that the President had. And this was a new president, President Trabant, and things

were different. And, for example, the Dean of Men, within the year, left the University.

00:46:36 RG: Do you remember parent reaction, if any? Will you?

00:46:45 SS: Yes, I do. I'm not going to produce this, but I have a book filled with letters that I received and President Trabant received. I will quote one because I memorized it, way back then. "If this policy goes into effect, your institution, your dormitories will be a Sodom and Gomorrah institution and no employer will, in his, *his*, right mind, hire that student." Can you ...?

00:47:38 RG: That's good.

00:47:40 SS: I had to write right drafts of responses for President Trabant. That was one of my chores. Let me just say, in 1968, a student who attended a meeting with the president noted one of the first things Dr. Trabant said was that three things were needed by Christmas here, going into '68: a new SGA constitution, a statement on student rights and responsibilities, and a new judicial system. Why a new judicial system? Because up until then, the judicial system was divided. One for male, and one for female. And people like me said, "This should only be one judicial system, for everybody." It helps me to see it in writing. (Sound of dog snort in the room.) You know, back in ...

00:49:15 RG: That would have been in December of '68?

00:49:19 SS: Correct.

00:49:20 RG: Right. So he wanted those things in place before he was going to approve the visitation?

00:49:29 SS: That's right.

00:49:30 RG: Yeah. Okay. I follow that now. (Sound of dog panting.)

00:49:37 SS: President Trabant had a retreat at Split Rock.

00:49:45 RG: Oh, my gosh.

00:49:49 SS: And I will read, "The conference demonstrated a difference of opinion between the new president and some of his senior staff regarding the philosophy and administration of student affairs."

00:50:14 RG: Were there students at that Split Rock Conference?

00:50:17 SS: Yeah. Yeah. Dick Jolly was one of the students.

00:50:22 RG: He was SGA president, I think.

00:50:27 SS: He was very active. The former Acting President John Shirley was given a six-months leave of absence. And this is, again, my opinion: in six months it enabled the new president to enact his view of administration, which on some level affected the Provost's operation. So with John Shirley not there, he could make all of these decisions. And also, Mr. Hocutt left campus in February on a four-month tour of 44 campuses. And *that* Vice-President was gone.

00:51:43 RG: Would I be overgeneralizing, Stu, if I said that what was happening was a true change of the guard?

00:51:52 SS: One hundred percent. I'll read this: "Thus two high-level administrators with views on student affairs contrary to Dr. Trabant's were absent from much of the new president's first year." There you go.

00:52:19 RG: How old was Ed (*sic*, Art) Trabant?

00:52:23 SS: Oh, in his 40s, late. He had been provost at Georgia Tech.

00:52:33 RG: And how old were you in '68?

00:52:36 SS: I was a child. (Laughs.)

00:52:42 RG: Well, you were in your 30s?

00:52:45 SS: Yeah. I mean, when I came I was in my 20s. I used to have to dress up so they wouldn't take me for a student.

00:52:58 RG: I raised that because I'm seeing, I mean, we talked in those days about the generation gap. And as I hear you talk, I'm getting a sense that part of the ability of you and President Trabant to get things done and changed because you—yourself and he—were of a younger generation.

53:17 SS: Well, that's true. If you want to say that's important in why changes occurred. Alright, I'll accept that. I will accept that. Now, you mentioned briefly about the assassination of Martin King which leads me to comment on something. The Black Student Union had become more active. The lead, one of the leaders was Mary Ruth Warner. She was very outspoken, was forever at the mic, forever fermenting things on the campus, was very strident in her approach. I got to know her. And I was Director of Residents. One day I called

her in and I said, "Mary, I'd like you to be a hall director." She almost fell off a chair. I mean, she knew I knew all about her and her views. I said, "There are a couple of conditions. Once you become part of the administration, you can't demonstrate against us. You're part of us. Others will have to demonstrate if there's going to be a demonstration. Can you accept that?" She looked at me and she said, "Yes." I got a strong negative response from Mr. Hocutt and from Don Hardy, basically saying, "How in the world could you appoint her after all the things she has said?" Well, let me tell you about her as a hall director. That year, she was the number one best hall director I had.

00:56:36 RG: Bringing up the race issue, were there Black administrators, at all, in '68?.

00:56:42 SS: No.

00:56:44 RG: Zero.

00:56:45 SS: Zero.

00:56:47 RG: How about hall directors, other than her?

00:56:49 SS: Other than her, and how about faculty?

00:56:52 RG: Yeah.

00:56:54 SS: I mean Dick Wilson was the only Black person they would see, and he had numerous positions in the administration and worked with the Black students.

00:57:20 RG: So whatever transitions were going on in '68, in Delaware, racial acceptance wasn't one of them.

00:57:26 SS: No. Correct.

00:57:30 RG: Now again, a few more questions on that. The Black Student Union. What is your recollection? Again, in '68 when on many campuses, Black militancy, not only on campuses everywhere, it was a ... Black Power was a growing concept. The days of Huey Newton and Stokely Carmichael, **not for sure**. What ... do you have any recollection of any militancy? You mention this woman, for example.

00:57:56 SS: The level of militancy *at* Delaware related *to* Delaware. We need Black faculty. We need more Black students. We need to have a voice if you're Black in the administration. That's what.

00:58:30 RG: There was some of that fomenting in '68 although it doesn't seem to have done anything at that time.

00:58:38 SS: Right.

00:58:41 RG: Just a few other things and then we can wrap this up. In other interviews that I have read in this project, certain names come up, student names. I wondered if you could react to something you mentioned yourself: Ray Ceci as a major activist. Did you know him? What were your thoughts?

00:59:00 SS: I did not know him well, no.

00:59:06 RG: And Rebecca, you may help me out because I'm drawing some ...

00:59:09 RJM: George Wolkind.

00:59:10 RG: George Wolkind, how about that?

00:59:11 SS: I mean, I know these names, but I was not in a position to interact with that.

00:59:21 RG: Alright. Billingsley.

00:59:26 SS: Mike Billingsley. I did interact with him. He came to see me. I was Director of Residence. I can't remember what issue. But I found another side of Mike. He was with SDS, but he had a very pleasant side. And he was not well understood by his family. His father was a legislator who lived in Newark, by the way. But I liked Mike. And Mike and I got along very well.

01:00:31 RG: Rebecca, remember we were talking about Sami. I already forgot the last name.

01:00:36 RJM: Bendak (simultaneously with RG and SS).

01:00:38 SS: Oh, I knew him very well.

01:00:40 RG: Because he was a character.

01:00:41 SS: He was a character. Sami was more interested in creating events and bringing the things in. But Sami was more talk than action. That's what I have to say about Sami.

01:01:14 RJM: Two of the people that spoke with us were Shaun Mullen who was the editor of *The Review* at the time, and Richard Codor, who did the editorial cartoons at the paper. Do you remember the paper being active or articulate that year?

01:01:29 SS: The next editor ...

01:01:33 RG: Stern.

01:01:35 SS: Andy Stern and I became close friends. I brought Andy back to campus to speak. He's very active in Texas politics and head of a big company. Actually, I visited there. And so what I learned about *The Review* was mostly through Andy.

01:02:17 RG: Was there any significant censorship? Do you have any recollection of that by the administration over the paper, or not, in those years?

01:02:26 SS: Well, we start with '67 through '68. The students were conservative. I'm not talking about politics, but conservative in their living. The women initially did not object to hours. They took it for granted. You know, men students behaved. I mean, you would never, in those early years have Go Naked Week, which I had to deal with.

01:03:29 RG: Well, let's hear about that. You want to talk about that, I can tell.
(Laughing.)

01:03:35 SS: (Laughing.) I will tell you my story about Go Naked Week.

01:03:39 RG: Please. This would be a good place to end, too.

01:03:42 SS: This was a period of time where there were no university police. There were university security. And most of them were "up in years" and literally were not armed. But I don't think they ever made an arrest. Well, they were security, and

they were not recognized as a police operation. Okay. So, I get a phone call, "Mr. Sharkey, come right away. There are men who are naked." Well, I wasn't the police. So, they were in front of Kent dining hall, which has a slightly raised plaza (sound of a dog snort) and they were all naked. I drove in behind, by Smythe in the driveway. And I approached this student who was then all naked. And the thought went through my head as I was walking, "How do you get the attention of a naked male student? Do you shout? Do you touch him on the shoulder? On the head?" Well, I shouted, I decided. I decided and I stood in front of them and I said, "Get your clothes on and leave immediately!" in my deepest voice. Remember how I described the students. You can guess, therefore, what happened? They put on their clothes and they left. And where were the security? Well, if you looked at that tree over there, he was hiding behind the tree. That was security at the time.

01:06:20 RJM: What year was that?

01:06:23 RG: I was there.

01:06:25 RJM: Okay, so this wasn't ...

01:06:26 RG: I didn't say that. Clearly.

01:06:27 RJM: ... this predates streaking in the Seventies.

01:06:30 RG: This would've been '70 or '71, I would've said. Yeah. Alright. We've been going for almost an hour and ten minutes or so. Obviously, if you have any other questions (speaking to Rebecca). You asked me to do this, but here, it's your game.

- 01:06:47 RJM: Well, for many of the students, they spoke about 1968 being a really important year for them. Does that stand out as a year ...
- 01:06:57 SS: Because, that's the year of President Trabant. And that's the year that the Split Rock Conference was where he explained his philosophy. That was the year when the top administrator said, "There needs to be a student rights and responsibility, that students are important. It's not that students are to be regulated." He abolished, without using the words—these are my words—*in loco parentis*. We are no longer *in loco parentis*. Now, on an aside, it really encouraged me as an administrator and it so happened, I had been employed several years before President Trabant came. And I was still there. You know, it could have been, you know, President Trabant arrives and they hire a new Director of Residence. But I had the position, and so now I could go forward with the changes I agreed to. I would not have survived if I had the viewpoint of Hocutt and Hardy. It was just coincidental that Hocutt hired me in 1963 and I pretty much kept my mouth shut for a few years. (Laughs.)
- 01:09:16 RJM: So, I think you've really shared interesting information about President Trabant, and it seems very fitting that the Trabant Student Center is named in his honor.
- 01:09:27 RG: Oh, yeah.
- 01:09:28 SS: Yeah.
- 01:09:30 RJM: Alright. Thank you. Thank you very much.
- 01:09:32 RG: Oh yeah. It was excellent.