

JE: The whole development of the disability movement right now, needs a lot of people to come on, many people are called but few get up and do things, now is the time when just a few more could really help and get things moving

The other thing is that a lot of people come here and they live in Berkeley and they are nice and comfortable and safe and they never go back to their own community with the knowledge that they have gained. Then a lot of people do go back and I think that is one thing that could happen, coming here and being real comfortable and safe and having things real accessible and then not going back to your own communities, helping to establish something there. Every day I am here I think, do I ever want to go back to Boston. Cambridge has a certain level of accessibility, but all in all it is real bad, the East Coast buildings are very old, expensive to modify

JE: That is the same in Europe

One more thing I just wanted to mention about is, a factor I think is going to be really important, which has been real important in my life and will be real important to the success of the disabled movement in the future, is those parents right now, today, that have disabled children and have disabled adults in their home, that they can make a big difference in people's lives. I had a very strong mother, she advocated for me when I was too young to say anything, she fought to get me into schools, get me into places where she thought I should be, and if it was not for her being so strong, I think I would be less so myself now. She was inspirational to me, my father was strong, real good too. Parents make a big difference in people's lives, if they are feeling guilty, if they are depressed about their child, if they are smothering their child, that kid is going to have less opportunity to learn self reliance and to self confidence, so we need to really stop and work with our parents

JE: I'm still trying to normalise mine

My mother is motherly, she still has her twinges of Oh God how can you go 1000 miles away from me, but on the other hand she is very supportive and she knows that I can do it, and she worked real hard to get me to be physically independent and not dependent on her for things, to go to the bathroom to get dressed, when I was first in a chair I was much more dependent on her. She wanted me to go to college so she pushed me into learning how to take care of myself and that has made a big difference. And for those people that don't have parents who do that, that is when an advocate or counsellor really can be important, that a lot of what I did when I was counselling was working with parents, helping them to adjust, helping them to at least leave their kids alone for five minutes, to be supportive

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