

2-23-2012

Interview with Darcy Knight

Melissa Straus

Darcy Knight

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.kenyon.edu/ps_interviews

Recommended Citation

Straus, Melissa and Knight, Darcy, "Interview with Darcy Knight" (2012). *Interviews*. 39.
https://digital.kenyon.edu/ps_interviews/39

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Spaces at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Interviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

PS-MS-TR-STRAUS-022312(2)

Melissa Straus

Interview with Darcy Knight

Ralston Art Memorial, Howard

Co-Workers present: None

Melissa: Alright, so this is Melissa Straus and I'm interviewing Darcy Knight—um, am I saying your name correctly?

Darcy: Uh huh.

Melissa: Okay, and it is Februray 23rd I believe and it's 2012. Um, it's about 4:30 pm. And, we are the Ralston Art Memorial?

Darcy: Ralston Art Memorial (laughs).

Melissa: Ralston Art Memorial, okay, and the purpose of this interview is to discuss public places in Knox County. Okay, so, um, do you live in Knox County?

Darcy: Yeah, I live right up the street. Actually behind the school's softball fields.

Melissa: Okay, how long have you live in Danville for?

Darcy: This is Howard.

Melissa: Oh, sorry (laughs).

Darcy: That's okay (laughs)!

Melissa: I was just in Danville.

Darcy: Uh huh, my entire life.

Melissa: Oh okay. Um, so did you go to the high school here—

Darcy: Mhmm, I graduated from East Knox, yeah.

Melissa: Oh okay, um, and, how long have you been—are—so you're head of the booster club?

Darcy: I'm the treasurer.

Melissa: Treasurer, okay.

Darcy: Mhmm.

Melissa: And how long have you been in the booster club?

Darcy: Oh gosh, um, probably... thirteen, fourteen years?

Melissa: Okay, and do you—why—why did you join it?

Darcy: Um, because my kids are involved in sports, and so I wanted to help them to raise money to help support the sporting programs.

Melissa: Okay, did you—do you still have children in the school right now?

Darcy: Yeah, I have a son that's a freshman.

Melissa: Okay, um, and uh, does he play any sports?

Darcy: Yeah. Football, basketball, and possibly track (laughs).

Melissa: Oh okay.

Darcy: So, yeah.

Melissa: And um, have you—have you gone to—did you go to the football games before your son joined the team?

Darcy: Mhmm, yeah. All of them.

Melissa: Okay. Um, how long have you been going to them for?

Darcy: Since I was probably in junior high school, so (laughs), oh my, probably about thirty years now.

Melissa: Wow. Um, were you involved in any part of the—like, were you on the—any—like in the band, or...

Darcy: Yeah, I was in the marching band when I was in high school, so...

Melissa: Oh okay, um, and so, did you—so were you in the stands?

Darcy: Yeah, yeah (laughs).

Melissa: Okay, um, what was your schedule like for the games themselves?

Darcy: With the—when I was in the band?

Melissa: Yeah.

Darcy: Um, we would go—well if it was at home games we would do like a pregame thing and march on the field and the team would run through the tunnel, and then we would sit in the stands and play different things ‘til the game and then you would perform at half time. And then, you know, afterwards if they would win or something.

Melissa: Okay, um, and, uh—and, sorry, how long were you on the marching band for?

Darcy: For four years, mhmm.

Melissa: Okay, and what—what peaked your interested in joining that?

Darcy: Um, I liked the musical instrument then and all my friends did it, you know, so it was a lot of fun. You got to go to the games, the away games—I mean we had as much fun riding the bus and—you know, being at the games in a group and all, so...

Melissa: Okay. Um, were any—were either of your parents on the marching band or on the football team?

Darcy: Um, no, my dad has always run the chains on the sidelines, the down marker for probably—he’s probably done that for forty years maybe, and uh, my mom would help in the boosters and she now—like, I run the concession stand during the football games, and well, basketball, but—she—she’ll work in the concession stand during the football games popping the popcorn and that sort of stuff.

Melissa: Okay.

Darcy: So...

Melissa: Um, so I actually haven’t gotten the chance to go to a Friday night football game since I started this project after the season—

Darcy: Mhmm.

Melissa: --um, but I was wondering if you could like, describe the atmosphere of just any old game.

Darcy: (Laughs) um, there’s always just a lot of excitement, um, the kids will come early because they’re, you know, just excited and usually the weather’s really nice, you know, ‘cause it’s fall and just being outside—I mean, whether the team is winning or losing we just—a lot of people from town come, um, older people, and it’s just—well, first of all, there’s not a lot to do around here and it’s something to do on Friday nights. But, it’s just—you know, everybody’s there, you know a lot of people and people stand around and talk, and they’ll talk about old games and just excitement and cheering and that sort of thing.

Melissa: Okay, um, and does it change when the stakes are higher and like, the—maybe, maybe if you're playing against Danville—

Darcy: Oh yeah.

Melissa: --you see more of a turnout.

Darcy: Oh yeah, yeah. When we play Danville, whether both teams are winning all season or losing all season, there's still a huge crowd and people will put blankets out early on the bleachers to get their seats, and sometimes you'll stand way back. Yeah, it's a big game, and actually they moved—like, the Danville game used to always be on Friday nights but they moved it to Saturday nights so more area teams would come watch the game then. So,

Melissa: Oh, okay then. Um, and what is the age range of attendees?

Darcy: Oh, anywhere from, you know, babies if the weather's nice to people in their seventies or eighties probably.

Melissa: Oh okay. And, why—like what do you think is a major draw for people to come to—I mean, you mentioned that there isn't too much to do around here...

Darcy: Right, um, social and just because the people are here, I mean, like football. You know, it's a big football community and so, everybody's, you know, always anticipates football season and going to watch the games.

Melissa: Okay, um and do you—do you think that people feel like they all have a role of being at the games?

Darcy: I think it's just a sense of belonging, you know, everybody wears their school colors and, you know, goes and cheers for their team, so.

Melissa: Okay, um, how many people would you guess attend, um, a typical game?

Darcy: Oh gosh. I would bet, I bet there's four to five hundred maybe, on a good night. Yeah, I mean, there could be some pretty good crowds.

Melissa: Okay. Are there—are there any, like, regulars that go or any characters that you see at every game?

Darcy: Um, there's like some older guys, a lot of them will just attend every game, like just because, just because they went to high school here and when they graduate everybody just comes back and will come to all the games.

Melissa: Okay. Um, and so, since you were in the marching band you might have a good idea of, um, do you think that everyone playing an equal role in providing the

atmosphere. Like, you know, the marching band and the cheerleaders and the football team?

Darcy: Oh yeah, yeah. Try to get everybody involved, yeah.

Melissa: Okay, um, and so, how—what was one of your favorite parts about being on the marching band?

Darcy: Um, you know, we would go and cheer for the team and just being with your friends and goofing around, I mean, you know it was innocent fun but it was, you know, fun belonging and um, the band was a lot bigger when I was in school than it is now, but you know, a lot of kids did it and it was just, we just had a lot of fun doing it. I mean, you have a lot of good memories from that.

Melissa: Yeah, um, and, how do you think the program—either just the atmosphere or—I guess mainly the atmosphere, how do you think that's changed since you've been attending the games?

Darcy: Um it's, it's down a little, you know, I mean kids have more, well, there's more—with their computers and videogames and things like that, you know, I guess there's a little more to do and stuff, but, there's still that, you know, people want to go just because its fun. I mean even if some people don't like football they still go just because, you know, just to be around other people and stuff.

Melissa: Yeah, um, do—are, are the games advertised or broadcasted at all, or...

Darcy: Um, sometimes like the Mount Vernon news always has a schedule in and they'll pick a game of the week. So, it can vary from different schools, and then, um, the radio station will do all of Mount Vernon's games on the radio but then when East Knox and Danville play they always broadcast that.

Melissa: Okay. Have you ever gone to any games that aren't—that East Knox is not playing in, or just games that are in the county that...

Darcy: Yeah, I have. Mhmm.

Melissa: Okay, are there any other teams that, so if you're not at an East Knox game is there like another, um, team that East Knox doesn't play or kind of supports? I'm not sure...

Darcy: Um, not really, but you know, if there wouldn't be a game, like—every once in a while you won't have a game on Friday night because you'll be playing away in the school, it'll differ and so they'll play on a Saturday night so, you know, if somebody—you'll go to a different game just to go to a game.

Melissa: Okay, um, and do you have to, like who can you expect to see when you go to one of the games?

Darcy: Um, I always know, like, we had a coach that used to coach here and he doesn't coach anymore but, you know, he always comes to the games and, you know, there's just be, you know, the regular town people there.

Melissa: Okay, um, and so how do you see the football games, um, providing like, a sense of identity for the, for East Knox?

Darcy: Um, well it helps if they're winning...

Melissa: (Laughs)

Darcy: ...because, you know—and then, you know, it's in the state or newspaper and then they do more articles about the team or, things like that.

Melissa: Okay, um, and is there like a big generational component to it? Like, I know that when I was at Danville the coach was telling me that they were having like their hundredth football team and it had been passed down from grandfather to—

Darcy: Mhmm, right.

Melissa: --fathers to sons.

Darcy: Right. Well, my, my dad played—before this was East Knox it was Howard, but my father-in-law, they both played. My husband played football, now my son's playing so, you know, it's, it is—a lot of people have lived around here all their lives and their kids do and it's—(bumps into mic) oh, I'm sorry—it just keeps continuing so that's kind of neat.

Melissa: Yeah, okay. And so, I mean, I know you're treasurer on the booster club but—

Darcy: Mhmm.

Melissa: --do you actively participate in anything to get the crowd—to get more members of the community out into the crowd, or how does the booster club work in terms of...

Darcy: We just, we're not—we have like a hog roast before the football season starts and try to get people involved and, you know, that way, and uh, just, we try to support the teams then and all of through the whole year then with team meals and, you know, if we have to help with equipment and things like that.

Melissa: Okay, um, are there any other big traditions? I know you mentioned the hog roast and, um, running through the banner.

Darcy: Well, with the Danville game they always have a bonfire, um, like the night before. Both schools do that, and uh, you know, the homecoming. Sometimes they'll

honor a certain class, um, a few years ago we had a class that had gone ten and o so they brought a lot of those players back to the game on homecoming night and stuff.

Melissa: Oh okay, that's really interesting. Um, and so, I guess, um, hmm, I'm trying to get at like what would be the main—what you think would make the game most unique in Knox County. I mean, like I went to a high school where we didn't even have football.

Darcy: Oh okay (laughs).

Melissa: So, it just sounds like it's really, um, really generational...

Darcy: Mhmm.

Melissa: ...really embedded in the community, um, I guess a good way to ask would be how—how do you see the town prepare for football season or football games?

Darcy: Um, sometimes, like, they'll decorate in front of the school, you know, put streamers on the fence, and they'll—sometimes they're will be signs throughout town, and you know, it's just, just big like that and the t-shirt shop, you know, people will get t-shirts and they change that every year, and the football team will have a certain saying and they'll wear their team shirts then on like Thursdays and then they'll wear their jerseys on Fridays, and they'll have pep rallies before the games, and that sort of stuff.

Melissa: Okay, and um, how do people who, might go to the games but not have—who don't have children on the team, or aren't involved in the school—how can they keep up with what's going on?

Darcy: Um, I think there's—it's just small enough around here, you kind of know, you know, and from week to week people talk, and, and the Mount—like I said the Mount Vernon news has things in it to, you know, let people know who—where school's playing and they'll send out, um, like, the school sends out a newsletter so there's always a rooster or a schedule for all the games, volleyball, and everything like that so people know when they are, and, like that.

Melissa: Okay, um, and do you think that during the off season football is less mentioned then during, like, during the fall, or?

Darcy: Um, it is somewhat, but it's always there, you know, 'cause like the boys now are in weight lifting so they'll talk about that, and, whose gone and whose coming up, so yeah, it's always—

Melissa: Okay.

Darcy: I think it's always there.

Melissa: Okay, um, and do you see like other members of the community being actively involved even if they don't—I mean, um...

Darcy: Right.

Melissa: Like talking to the coach, or...

Darcy: Oh yeah, yeah. Yeah, and certain—like, my dad has done the chains and, you know, he had two daughters but he's always just done the chains and my grandfather did it before him, and it was—it was always like the same group of guys that do it each week and yeah. And there's a couple guys now that don't have any kids in school now but they still will come, you know, for those five Fridays to do the chain gang, so.

Melissa: Okay, um, and are there any—I know that, I think it was, uh, Derick Busenberg that was telling me about the kids playing behind the bleachers at the games...

Darcy: (Laughs) yeah.

Melissa: Are there any other, um, like—how's, like, the energy around the field and on the bleachers?

Darcy: Oh there's, I mean, there's just kids everywhere. You know, people and little kids with—they'll wear their jerseys that play the cult football, the little ones, and they play touch football behind the bleachers, and they're running up and down and on the hill, and, I mean it's just—they don't even know, maybe, a football game's going on, but they're there and they're seeing their friends and playing and so, it's... it's noisy and crazy, and yeah (laughs).

Melissa: Okay. And um, so what instrument did you play?

Darcy: The trumpet.

Melissa: Okay, um, and how did—how does the marching band get the crowd, um, more excited?

Darcy: Um, I think they'll play certain songs, you know, they have like pep songs that they'll play and then the cheerleaders and it kind of ties in with the crowd, and...

Melissa: Okay. And is it an easy crowd to get motivated?

Darcy: Oh yeah (laughs). Yeah.

Melissa: (Laughs) yeah we don't have that easy of a crowd down at Kenyon.

Darcy: (Laughs).

Melissa: But, um, okay, well—hmm, well, are there any traditions that you had in the marching band, it—that you would do to prepare for a game? I know that the football team has the bonfire, but were you guys there too?

Darcy: Oh yeah, yeah. Um, they don't do the same now. When I was in school we would have—and they would march through the streets, and the band would be out front and they would put the football team on, like, a hay wagon. Now, they're not, you know, 'cause all the liability and all that, but they'll, um, kind of the band marches up and plays songs and the cheerleaders will do cheers and then they have the bonfire and then they have the captains of the teams talk, and, things like that.

Melissa: Okay, um, are there any, like, football legends or stories that the, um, teammates or even just people in town will hear about?

Darcy: Um... there's always that certain player they'll bring back, like, um, we had Casey Beckett, he was a really good runner, and, um, there's a couple—well, the principal, Ryan Gallwitz over here, and his brother teaches over here, Kevin Gallwitz, they both played football and, I mean they'll talk about games that they played certain people and, you know, oh, they'll remember the score and what happened and it's funny to listen to them talk about it.

Melissa: Okay. Um, and do people who weren't even on the team end up participating in those discussions?

Darcy: Oh yeah (laughs). “Oh yeah, I remember that game,” and yeah.

Melissa: Um, and so—what like—how, how big are the class sizes here?

Darcy: Um, they're probably close to ninety to a hundred in a class now.

Melissa: Okay.

Darcy: When I graduated I graduated with sixty-three.

Melissa: Oh okay.

Darcy: So they've grown.

Melissa: And it is evenly split between boys and girls?

Darcy: Um, pretty much, yeah.

Melissa: Okay, so how many—what percentage of the boys in each grade would you say are on the football team, or how big is the football team?

Darcy: Well, this year they only had about thirty-two players, but we started, the school had to do the pay-to-play, because they hadn't passed the levy so, I think that kind of hurt a little. Some didn't go out because of the fee, um, usually there's more—they usually have more around forty.

Melissa: Okay, um, and how about for the band? How big is the band?

Darcy: I would say they probably have around twenty-five or thirty in it.

Melissa: Okay, and when you were on it how many people were in it?

Darcy: Oh, there was probably more, forty to fifty.

Melissa: Okay. And how about cheerleaders?

Darcy: This year we have a ton of cheerleaders. Usually they have like six JV and six varsity, but I bet they had about eight or so on each squad—they had a lot more this year.

Melissa: Okay. Do you think that uh, I know that one of the teachers was telling me that, um, before games, so like on Friday during school the kids are a lot more rowdy—do you see that too, as a parent?

Darcy: Oh yeah, yeah. Yeah, just, you know, well they know it's the weekend, that the game's at night, and, just more excited and stuff.

Melissa: Are people in town like that too, even if they aren't playing? Just...

Darcy: Um, I think sometimes that yeah, 'cause if, especially when it's a certain team, or, you know, "Have you heard about this team," or, "What kind of team," you know, "What's their record," and asking questions like that.

Melissa: Okay, and so, I guess, I was just wondering if there was anything else that you think that I've missed just on how football affects community and how it really plays and important role—or if you think it does play an important role in community life around here?

Darcy: Oh, I think it plays a really important role because it brings people together and it gets people involved in different ways and, and, you know, some kids play and their parents don't come, but you know that there's always somebody there just cheering you on, and you know, jut that support and—it's just a closeness I guess, you know.

Melissa: Okay, and do you think that, um, is there anything else that's comparable to it?

Darcy: Mmm... not sports-wise. I mean, basketball... people will come to it, but it's just not—there's a lot of those games, you know, football there's only ten, you know, for the

whole season and so, you know, you anticipate and those ten weeks go by so fast that, that people just, you know, are anxious for that time and stuff.

Melissa: Okay, and why do you think that, um, I mean, I—I'm not sure if your cheerleaders cheer at other sports too, but...

Darcy: Mhmm.

Melissa: ...having the cheerleaders and the marching band at the football games, why do you think it's football that's become such a big deal?

Darcy: Oh, I think it just gets more people involved, you know, and more of the school and different groups, whether, you know, you have the stereotypes—the nerds, and, you know, the smart kids—but it, you know, they can all be in the band—they can be in the band, or they can be a cheerleader—it just brings everybody together, you know, of all different types, you know, and they're all cheering for one, one thing.

Melissa: Oh, okay. And do you have an easier time—actually, what—what do you do in the booster club?

Darcy: (Laughs) My role is pretty big. I, well I, I handle the money, but um, like, I supply the concession stand, and then I prepare all the food before the games, and do the cleanup and I do all the purchasing and all the ordering, and—actually this last year I, uh, another lady and I fed the football team before the games.

Melissa: Oh wow (laughs).

Darcy: So I cooked all the meals for that (laughs), so I have a pretty wide role.

Melissa: Okay, and do you get more revenue from the football games than others?

Darcy: Um, yeah, we do make a little more on the concessions 'cause we have the concessions for the Friday night games and then the Saturday JV games and then the junior high plays on Thursday nights and so we have like, four to five of those games at home too, so...

Melissa: Okay, so um, do see football supporting other sports around here?

Darcy: Oh yeah, definitely. Um, because, you bring in more that way, and that's the same way with the tickets, the gate—they bring in so much more at those games that they help offset the costs of all, you know, the sports then. I think basketball kind of breaks even but football kinds of helps pay—you know, baseball you don't have a gate, so you don't make any money off of that so you don't—with track, or with golf, so yeah, football helps to carry the weight of it then.

Melissa: Okay, um, and do people—so people pay to attend the football games.

Darcy: Mhmm.

Melissa: I know that you can get a season pass...

Darcy: Right.

Melissa: Has it—have you always had to pay to go to the football games?

Darcy: Yeah.

Melissa: Okay.

Darcy: Mhmm. Yeah, you always paid to get in.

Melissa: Okay. And has it increased recently?

Darcy: Yeah. Um... I think the past few years it used to be like three for students and five for adults and it went up to four and six, but, the league—the MBC that we belong to set the price—the ticket prices. The school has nothing to—they can't choose to...

Melissa: Um, and does that—have you seen that affect the amount of people who, like, go to the games?

Darcy: I don't think so, no. You know, and the economy's been down, but I mean, the stuff I sell at the concession stand, everybody always has money you would think, they eat a lot, so...

Melissa: Yeah. Um, so I know that the Mid Buckeye Conference is coming to an end after next school year...

Darcy: Right.

Melissa: How do you think that's going to affect the feel of the community that's developed around it?

Darcy: Um, I think they'll still follow the team, but it's going to be different because you're going to have to—I think we'll travel more, and to farther places, and right now everybody is close, you know, well Danville, Fredericktown, Centerburg is not that far, Loudenville is pretty close—I guess Johnstown would be the farthest, 'cause it's about forty-five minutes, so, you know, it's just—everybody's just going to travel a little more.

Melissa: Do you think that everyone will be willing to still go to every game if they have to travel farther?

Darcy: Um, I think so. If they really—you know, just because they want to see the game.

Melissa: Okay.

Darcy: Yeah.

Melissa: All right, well, that's very helpful, thank you very much.

Darcy: (Laughs) you're welcome. (Sounds of unclipping mic).