

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Murder of John HUGHES.

Place: Regional Crime Squad
South, Homicide.

Date; 17 May, 1989.

Name: S C O B I E Gavin
 Address: [REDACTED] Guildford. Phn No. [REDACTED]
 Occupation: Unemployed. STATES:-

1. This statement, made by me, accurately sets out the evidence I would be prepared, if necessary, to give at Court as a witness.

2. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

3. My date of birth is the [REDACTED].

4. I am Gavin SCOBIE, I am a single man and I reside at the above address. I am unemployed and I am presently in receipt of benefits for this. I knew the person John HUGHES for over 15 years prior to his death, and have in the past shared premises with him. I was aware that John lived at [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point, and I have visited him at that address a between four and six times, since he moved there over a month ago. From my personal knowledge of John he was a homosexual and at the time of his death he had the person Aaron Lee HILL staying with him. I am not sure of the relationship between Aaron HILL and John HUGHES, although I am aware that Aaron is a bisexual. I am

Witness: [Signature] Signed: [Signature]

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also aware that on past occasion from my personal knowledge, Aaron and John were lovers. I have known Aaron Lee HILL for the past 10 years, and socialize with him regularly. Although over the past few months I have only seen him with John.

5. To my knowledge, John was a heroin user, although at the time of his death he was on a methydomine programme. He was picking up methydomine every day from a Chemist shop in Taylor Square, Darlinghurst. He would occasionally still use an amount of heroin whilst on this programme, which he commenced about a year ago. I am also aware John has sold heroin on occasions, and I have been present on occasions when John has sold this drug. To my knowledge however John has not sold any heroin over the last three months. I do not know why he stopped selling heroin, although he is up for sentence with regard to the supply of heroin shortly at the District Court and this may have influenced him.

6. I have known Aaron to use heroin, although at the time of Johns' death I am unaware if he was still using this drug. Aaron has recently been released from gaol, and the reason John allowed him to stay was that Aaron had no where to live. I know that John was aware of Aarons' girlfriend, Michelle NICHOLAS.

7. The last time I saw the person John HUGHES alive was on Wednesday the 3 May, 1989. I was at Johns' place at Greenknowe Street, from about 7pm to

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1.15am the following morning. This was a social visit. During the course of this visit, John had another visitor, a male known to me as 'Bruce'. He is a freind of Johns from years ago, but I do not know him well myself. Whilst Bruce and I were at Johns place Aaron came in around midnight, with his girlfriend, Michelle NICHOLAS. It was at this time that John invited me to dine with him on Friday night, the 5 May, 1989. I was to come to his house around 7pm that night and John and I were to have a meal at his flat.

8. Just prior to me leaving Johns flat on the night of the 3 May, 1989, a male known to me a Greg WEST also turned up at the flat. John did not mention any problems to any us present that night, and did not appeared troubled by anything.

9. On Friday the 5 May, 1989, I arrived at Johns block of units as we had arranged for dinner. It was about 7.15pm. I 'buzzed' Johns flat, which is in a security block with an intercom/buzzer arrangement at the front doors. These doors do not open without a key or without someone in a flat in the block pressing a release button, situated in the flat. On this occasion I got no reply to my 'buzzing'. I then went for a short walk, thinking John was out, and on my return to the flats at 7.30pm, 'Bruce', the male I had met on Wednesday night was also there, at the front doors to the block, trying the buzzer.

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10. Again there was no answer from Johns' flat, so I told 'Bruce' to stay at the doors in case John came back and went and looked in the Rex Hotel, which is situated across the lane from Johns' block. On my return to the block of flats, 'Bruce' was talking to the caretaker of the building, who appeared drunk. 'Bruce' later told me that the caretaker had informed him that he was in the process of trying to evict John from the block. Both 'Bruce' and I then decided go and have a cup of coffee and try Johns' flat later. We then went to the 'Pinochio Coffee Lounge' in Darlinghurst Road.

11. About 8.50pm, that night we returned to the flat and again tried the buzzer without success. At this time a lady from the block let us in and we went to Johns flat and knocked on the door. There was again no answer, and I could not hear noise whatsoever coming from the flat. This was odd as John had a habit of always leaving his television on, no matter what. Both 'Bruce' and I then decided that we would not be seeing John that night so I went back to the Rex Hotel and 'Bruce' went his own way.

12. About 10pm that night, the 5 May, 1989, whilst I was at the Rex Hotel, Aaron came into the bar, in company with his girlfriend. Aaron told me that he had just see 'Bruce' and had been John was not around. Aaron told me he had been trying to get into the flat since 5.30pm, to my knowledge Aaron had his own keys to the flat, however at this time he said that he had left them in the unit.

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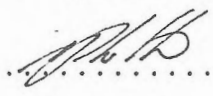
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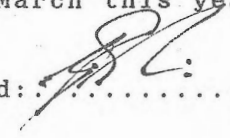
13. Aaron told me that John was seen with a guy with a beard at 12.30pm that day, I think the person was Greg WEST. Aaron seem to emphasis this point about John being seen with this bearded person, and continually asked, "Whose this cunt with the beard." Aaron was still at the hotel with his girlfriend after I left 11.30pm.

14. About 5.30pm, the next day, the 6 May, 1989, I received a phone call from Allan, a friend of mine whose surname I do not know. He told me that Aaron had found John murdered.

15. Since Johns death, I have heard that a person named Mark LOCKE had killed John. This I have heard only by way of rumour from a homosexual I know named 'Adam', I do not know his surname or where he lives. I have also heard that apparently this Mark LOCKE had on one occasion, previous to Johns death put a knife to Johns throat and demanded money from Johns' bank account to be tansfered to his account. I am not sure when this happened, although it was about six to eight weeks ago. I heard John did not give LOCKE anything as someone had disturbed him threatening John. I heard this rumour from a person known to me as Mark LICHFIELD, who lives at Paddington. This is however only one of several incidents involving Mark LOCKE, in which I have been told Mark LOCKE was trying to extort money from John.

16. The person Mark LOCKE, I know only by sight, I am aware that he is wanted by the Police at the moment. I have not seen him since March this year,

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when I saw him at Johns flat. I am aware that John was scared of Mark. I am unaware if Aaron knows Mark.

17. To my knowledge, John was a smoker of Dunhill cigarettes, while Aaron smoked Windfield Red, I believe. I do know that John had money in a bank account, John showed an account book to me, a building society book/or bank book, I cannot recall which, it was possibly the Advance Bank, although I am also aware John used the Westpac also. When John showed me this book there was a couple of thousand dollars in it. I recall seeing this book in late March, early April. I know John had a westpac keycard. I recall John saying the money in his account was for his solicitor, although I do not know who this is, but it was apparently for his drug charges.

18. In March this year, John had a male named Ian JONES living with him. JONES moved in to protect John from Mark LOCKE, and only stayed there infrequently. It was'nt a sexual relationship. When JONES left he stole Johns' clothes, and some money I think. I heard this since John was killed from Greg PARTRIDGE, a mutal friend who lives on the north shore at Cremorne I believe. I am unaware if JONES knows LOCKE, but he does know Aaron HILL. John had a wallet, which he kept on his person, usually in his trouser pocket. I think it was red vynal, with a velcro fastener. He also had a leather wallet as well.

Witness: 

M. PLOTECKI
 Detective Constable 1c
 R.C.S. South - Homicide.
 17 May, 1989.

Signed: 

G. SCOBIE