

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: TOUCHING THE DEATH OF
SAMANTHA RAYE Place: BONDI POLICE STATION
 Date: 8 MAY 1989

Name: William John WILCHER
 (Surname in capitals)
 Address: C/O Bondi Police Station Tel. No. [REDACTED]
 Occupation: Constable of Police STATES:—

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief 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.

2. My date of birth is [REDACTED]

3. At 10.25am on Monday 20 March 1989 and in the company of Constable DUNCOMBE, I attended the Hornby Lighthouse at South Head in relation to a deceased person found on the rocks there. At that location, I spoke to an officer from the National Parks service, who showed me where the body lay. Upon looking down from the cliff near the lighthouse, I could see some human feet protruding from underneath a rock cave. The body lay above sea level and approximately 50 metres south of the Hornby lighthouse, but approximately 15 metres below the lighthouse.

4. We then followed a track around the front of south head and went to where the body lay. I then noticed that the body was lying in its back with its right leg over its left leg. At this stage, I was unable to determine the sex of the body. The body was dressed in brown pants with a black

Witness: _____

C. Fountain
 C. FOUNTAIN

Signature: _____

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 Name: William John WILCHER

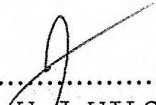
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Spray jacket, with white shoes and a brown belt. The deceased. The deceased had brown hair with dyed tips, either blonde or red colouring. The body had 5 earrings in the left ear, 4 neck chains around the neck, 2 finger rings on her left hand and 7 bracelets on the left wrist. I then made a search of the area around the body and located a plastic bottle, similar to a film case, next to the body. This plastic bottle contained a white substance. A large syringe and needle was found underneath a rock shelf approximately 1.5 metres away from the deceased persons head. An empty syringe packet and an empty lance packet were found approximately 1.5 metres away from the deceased persons feet, lying in some water filled rock pools. A further search located an empty box of a drug called "Mixtard" which is a schedule 3 insulin. This box was found approximately 5 metres south of the body. I then noticed that a message was written above where the body lay. This message was written on the rock face above the body in crayon or charcoal or similar. The words written said, "Syanti love Jaja" with the signature, Jaja underneath and "Swanny Forever" written beside the other message.

5. I then spoke to Daniel WILLIS, who was sitting nearby. Daniel WILLIS told me that he came to the place where the body lay about 9.30am on that date. He works as a minister of religion and went to the bottom of the lighthouse to mark some schoolwork. Upon seeing the body lying there and not seeing movement, he went to the body and felt for vital signs, and finding none, contacted a National Parks and wildlife officer, who called Police.

Witness: 
 C. FOUNTAIN
 CONSTABLE



Signature: 
 W. J WILCHER
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6. At 11.30pm on that date, Constable 1/c STEWARDSON and Constable VINCENT from the crime scene unit attended the scene and took photographs of the deceased and surrounding area. Rescue squad personnell also attended to assist. We then made a search of the body and found that the deceased was carrying a small folding knife and a whistle in the pocket of her jacket, on the right hand side. We then undid the deceased persons black spray jacket and found that the deceased was wearing a black shirt, which was unbuttoned, exposing the deceased persons female like breasts. When the deceased persons jacket was removed, I noticed that it was wearing a mans Lorus brand digital wrist watch on the right wrist and a long chain was wrapped around the right wrist. We then turned the body over and found that the deceased had a package containing 4 valium tablets, each of 5 mg each. The package containing the velium tablets was designed to hold six tablets, but only contained 4 valium tablets with the other 2 positions for tablets vacant. The body was then taken to the top of the cliff face via the track around the front of south head.

7. At 12.25pm on the same date, Police were at the top of the cliff with the deceased in a body bag, awaiting the government contractors when they were approached by Wayne HURRELL. HURRELL stated that he was looking for a friend who was missing and that she had left a note saying that she was going to the lighthouse. HURRELL described the deceased person to Police and then identified the deceased person as being his friend of 3 years, Samantha RAYE, 30 old, of [REDACTED]

Witness: *C Fountain* Signature: *W J Wilcher*
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Mc Cleay street, Potts Point. HURRELL further stated that Samantha RAYE was a trans sexual. The body was then taken to the St Vincents hospital by the government contractors where life was pronounced extinct by Dr CLIMIE.

8. HURRELL then took Police to the place where the deceased person lived. The following drugs and medicine were taken from the deceased persons flat; serepax 30mg, vibra-tabs 50, Primogyn, Tryptanol 25mg, panadeine forte, panamax 500mg, codalgin. I also saw a note which was left on the mantle piece saying, "at lighthouse, will be back?????" A number of letters from male people which were written in response to adverts in a sydney gay magazine, Campaign, were also taken from the deceased persons flat as well as a book containing sad poems written by the deceased. A number of syringes were also located in the unit, with one being identical to the syringe found near the deceased body at Hornby lighthouse. No Insulin was found in the deceased persons flat.

9. HURRELL then attended the Kings Cross Police station where he made a statement about the matter. HURRELL stated that he had known the deceased for 3 years as a friend. HURRELL stated that Samantha RAYE was a Hermaphrodite who underwent a sex change operation in october 1988 to change her genetals to female. HURRELL stated that RAYE was not with the mainstream of transvestites or trans sexuals and that she kept to herself and did not work as a prostitute. He also stated that RAYE suffered from ashma and diabetes and that she had to inject insulin.

Witness:

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C. FOUNTAIN
CONSTABLE

Signature:

W.J Wilcher
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HURRELL further stated that RAYE had attempted suicide in June 1988 by taking some other drug other than her insulin and that Police from Kings Cross Police station had to kick the door in and take her to hospital. There is NO record at St Vincents, Sydney of Prince of Wales Hospitals re any attempted suicide attempt by RAYE nor are there any filed records kept at the Kings Cross Police Station re this incident. Likewise there are no medical records suggesting that RAYE was an insulin dependant diabetic. I have spoken to a number of doctors that treated RAYE and they do not have any knowledge of RAYE being a diabetic or ever prescribing insulin for RAYE. I have also seen every chemist in Darlinghurst road, Victoria road and surrounding streets around the deceased persons home address with No chemist supplying insulin (Particurly Mixtard) to RAYE. All the chemists bar 2, knew RAYE from photographs shown to them.

HURRELL stated that RAYE became very depressed about her housing situation. He stated that her neighbour was harassing her. I later interviewed this neighbour, Mr D'ANASTASI re the allegations, and he denied everything put to him concerning RAYE.

10. After sifting through the deceased persons papers, I located an address in Palmerston north, New Zealand. A telex message was sent to New Zealand and it was ascertained that the deceased was born Frederick Roy LETHBRIDGE. His father, Frederic LETHBRIDGE Senior, was informed of the death. A further telex sent to New Zealand ascertained that the deceased'd father does not seek an inquest into the death of RAYE. Wayne HURRELL also states that he does not seek an inquest into the death.

Witness:
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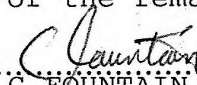
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11. On 5 April 1989, I attended P.J's cafe in Premier lane at Darlinghurst. This cafe is known as a haunt for members of the trans sexual and transvestite community. I spoke to Bruce DAY there, who works as a volunteer worker with the church that runs the cafe. He stated that he has known RAYE for 9 years. He stated that RAYE had used to come into the cafe in an irregular basis and would associate with the people who were from the church but didn't associate with the people from the trans sexual community. DAY said that RAYE became depressed sometime after her operation in late 1988. She would sit in a booth of the coffee shop and just drink coffee, smoke and stare at the opposite wall for up to three hours at a time. DAY thought that Samantha RAYE was dying, as she was so depressed.

12. I have also spoken to 3 of Samantha RAYES doctors. Doctor BORMAN was her Consultant Psychiatrist and Doctors STEINHEUER and GRIEVE were General Practitioners. All 3 doctors stated that Samantha RAYE was capable of taking her own life. Samantha also spoke of suicide to Doctor BORMAN about her housing commision problems by saying, "I'll suicide if things don't get better." No doctors knew of any diabetes problems with RAYE with Dr GRIEVE conducting blood tests on RAYE, showing no blood sugar problems. All Doctors say that Samantha had severe mental problems who continually fantisised about her life and made up stories of intrigue and scandal with her being the central figure. The doctors prescribed the drugs which were found in her unit, the syringes were possibly used for injection of the female hormone, "Primogyn"

Witness:


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Signature:


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13. On Saturday 29 April 1989, Wayne HURRELL attended the Bondi Police Station where we spoke about the matter further. HURRELL stated that at one stage, RAYE had stated that she would commit suicide using Valium, as it was a painless death. Valium tablets were found underneath the body of RAYE.

14. In Summary, It would seem that Samantha RAYE lived a very mixed up life. She was born a male person in New Zealand, a country not known for its social tolerances to people with Problems such as Samantha had. Apparently Samantha was born with a small inoperative male penis, hence being classed as a Hermaphrodite. Upon coming to Sydney, she still could not seem to make friends easily, as she used to become very aggressive upon having her advances rejected. According to the medical evidence I have recorded, Samantha was mentally unstable, a person who constantly lived in a world of intrigue and scandal. Samantha RAYE was a loner, who would not fit into the bizarre world of the genuine trans sexual or trans vestite, and could not fit in with main stream society due to the way she was born. I have spoken to transvestite prostitutes at Darlinghurst, all of which knew Samantha RAYE by sight but all stated that she did not associate with the rest of the community. These Trans vestites and trans sexuals did not know of anyone named Syanti or Jaja or Swanny, so it would seem that the writing above the place where the body was found is unrelated.

How
I can not draw conclusion about Samantha RAYE met her death, although suicide is the most likely verdict. The only thing out of character with Samantha RAYE committing suicide is that she

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Signature: W. J WILCHER Constable



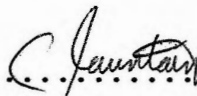
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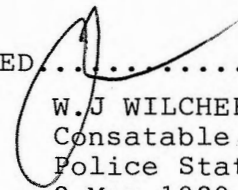
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did not leave a more descriptive suicide note or that she did not get the maximum effect from the event, as was consistent with her personality. I can find no motive for anyone wishing harm to Samantha RAYE.

WITNESS..... .....
C. FOUNTAIN
Constable

SIGNED..... .....
W. J WILCHER
Constable
Police Station, Bondi
8 May 1989

