

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE THORNTON

Q1 - - - PM. This is an electronically recorded interview between Detective Senior Constable Thornton, spelt T-H-O-R-N-T-O-N and Stephen Becker, at the Pennant Hills Police Station on Monday, the 22nd of December, 1997. Also present is Detective Senior Constable O'Reilly. For the purpose of this interview, I'll get her to introduce herself.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE O'REILLY

Detective Senior Constable O'Reilly, O'R-E-I-L-L-Y.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE THORNTON

Q2 Mr Becker, other than Detective O'Reilly myself, is there anyone else present in this room?

A Myself, yes.

Q3 There's no other police or anyone else present?

A No, no. There are two, two police people and myself.

Q4 And For the purposes of this interview, could you please state your full name.

A My name is Stephen, S-T-E-P-H-E-N David Becker, B-E-C-K-E-R.

Q5 And your current address, Mr Becker?

A ■ Boundary Road, Pennant Hills, 2120.

Q6 And your date of birth?

A ■/■/47.

Q7 Are you currently employed?

A No, I'm not.

Q8 Are you receiving any income at all?

A No, no, not at present. I'm hoping to line some work

up in the new year. I'm at that stage ..... up benefits.

Q9 And how long have you been residing at the Boundary Road address?

A Approximately 24 years.

Q10 And who do you live there with?

A My de facto spouse, Elana, E-L-A-N-A, Halne, H-A-L-N-E.

Q11 And how long have you been in this de facto relationship?

A About nine years, about nine years.

Q12 And how old would, is Elana?

A She's 49.

Q13 Mr Becker, do you agree that prior to the commencement of this interview I informed you that Detective O'Reilly and myself were making inquiries into the death of a person by the name of David Rose?

A Yes, I'm aware of that.

Q14 O.K. Do you agree that prior to the commencement of this interview I informed you that I would be asking you questions in relation to the death of Mr Rose?

A Yes, I understand that.

Q15 And my questions and any answers you may have given to those questions would be recorded by video and audio tape as the interview took place?

A Yes, I understood that.

Q16 And do you agree that I also informed you that at the conclusion of the interview you would be given an audio taped copy of the interview?



A Yes, I believe so.

Q17 O.K. And do you have any objection to the interview taking place?

A No, not at all.

Q18 Are you familiar with the person called David Rose?

A Yes, I've known Dave for the last five years, through an association at a community radio station, 2RPH, and it's radio for the print handicapped, at 252, that's 252 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, and I've worked closely with Dave on a Saturday night program for the last four and a half years on and off, that's up until July/August 1997. I've also filled in for Dave for some of his programs when he was on vacation. So that I enjoyed his trust and confidence and in a, in a professional sense through radio station 2RPH.

Q19 Is this radio job a paid employ?

A No, it's, it's a voluntary community service station and it's unpaid.

Q20 O.K. And how did you come to know Mr Rose?

A Well, in the first instance I went there as a reader. Radio, radio 2RPH is by its nature and call sign, a radio for the print handicapped, and essentially it reads magazines and newspapers live on air, on, on the radio on 1224 megahertz on the AM band. Essentially, for print handicapped people and people that may be blind or infirmed and can't hold a newspaper, unable to get out to buy a newspaper, so it was a community service. It was something I was interested in at the

time, so I went to the station as a reader and Dave Rose was the panel operator and producer if you like of the segment that I worked on with Dave. Dave was also involved in a couple of other programs or portions of programs. There was a half hour children's program called Junior Journal, that I would sit in whilst he was on vacation, or I would do the job, the production job for him and similarly there was a, on the Saturday night my reading segment was only about an hour and a half from 6.30 to 8.00. Dave would stay on at the station until 11.00 on a Saturday night panelling and playing taped segments until 11 o'clock, when the station would close to cross to the BBC for an all night service.

Q21 You said this continued up until when, this year?

A Well Dave and I worked reasonably closely at the station from, from about five years ago, so January, 1993, up until, Dave resigned from 2RPH approximately July/August 1997, after a, maybe a disagreement with management or a perception that management wasn't supporting him in particular. And Dave resigned at that stage. As I said it was a voluntary association with radio 2RPH.

Q22 And do you know what the disagreement was about?

A Essentially the station had a policy of no comments on air that we were, the radio station was to read the news and read the news from newspaper clipping and not to pass personal comments on these. Dave was rather

witty and chatty style of announcer, and very pleasant to work with, very interesting character and I guess he was a rebel in a lot of ways. He, he had been warned by the radio station to tow the radio line, not to make personal comments, and there had been several memos, or at least two or three that I'm aware of from the station manager, Tom Crozier, C-R-O-Z-I-E-R, to Dave to tow the line or, or risk facing the consequences, and following that Dave saw fit to announce on air that he could no longer work with the station management and he had resigned because station management was not backing him in particular and the volunteers in general. And until he, that's Dave Rose, had an appreciation from the management he would not return to the radio station 2RPH.

Q23 So he, just to clarify, you first met Mr Rose at the radio station?

A Yes, I did.

Q24 Yeah.

A And Dave was the producer/panellist and I was a reader on a, a part of his segment. Dave was there from 6 o'clock on a Saturday evening, until 11 o'clock, when he would cross to the BBC, so he'd be able to exit the station and lock up at 11.00. My reading segment was normally from about a quarter past 6.00 to 8 o'clock. And I'd bid Dave farewell and exchange a few greetings and come home to Pennant Hills.

Q25 What is your relationship with Mr Rose?

A Purely of a semi-professional relationship through the radio and a very limited social contact outside the radio. Dave actually came to my home for a barbecue, for the first and only time on, I think, the Sunday, the first Sunday in November. I'm certain as to the, this, this year, but I'm uncertain as to the exact date, but it was definitely on a Sunday, I know that, this year, 1997. So there was no, there was no social contact. I'd popped buy his house, buy his home unit once or twice, in fact he'd extended the invitation that I could pop by or give him a ring if I was in the area, because up until, up until six months ago I worked as a cab driver.

Q26 Prior to this interview were you aware of the death of Mr Rose?

A I was, actually I was very shocked. I had, I had spoken to David on Saturday morning, that's two days ago, so the 20th of November, at approximately a quarter past 11.00. I had, I had phoned him. I'd been, I had, the phone had rung a few times but had not been answered but I persisted and Dave actually picked up the phone and spoken to me. He said that he wasn't, his exact words were, "I'm very tired and I really can't talk now". And I said, "That's fine, Dave, I'll give you a ring tomorrow, but please leave your answering machine on". And "goodbye". That was the limit and the extent of our conversation on Saturday morning. I was aware where Dave lived and I had in



fact been organising some Christmas cards, and a CD, his present. And I was visiting some other friends on the, well actually at Hurstville, so it wasn't, it, it wasn't too far out of my way to, to travel from Hurstville to the eastern suburbs, to, on the way back to Pennant Hills to drop the, the Christmas card and present off. So I, I had tried to phone Dave. I, I took my mobile phone. I wasn't able to reach Dave on the Saturday night. The phone was engaged. I attended his unit at approximately a quarter to 9.00 on Saturday evening. I had knocked, knocked on the door, and rung his doorbell.

Q27 What time was this mate?

A About 8.45pm on Saturday evening.

Q28 M'mm.

A I'd knocked on the door and pushed the doorbell. I wasn't able to make contact. I slipped a Christmas greeting card underneath his door and I left a CD wrapped in Christmas wrapping between the front door and the screen door. I, I could open the screen door, but the, the front door was locked. And I thought I would try to ring him the next day. When I approached the home unit in Addison Street, I'd observed that there was no light on in the unit on the top floor at the back. And on exiting I, I would have stayed on the landing maybe five or 10 minutes and alternately knocking on the door and ringing the bell, ....., without success. And at that stage I



thought well, if he is sleeping he needs his rest and I would try to ring him in the morning, and so at that stage I would have left his unit at approximately 8.55pm on Saturday and driven home. On the Sunday, the 21st of December, I tried to ring Dave at various times in the morning, but the phone was off the hook, and I got the engaged signal. On Sunday morning the 21st, I contacted the Prince of Wales Hospital, perhaps about 10.00 in the morning, and made inquiries whether Dave Rose had been admitted as a patient. I was told, "No, that there's no admissions under that name". I tried at various times on Sunday evening to telephone Dave from my home, without success. I had fears that Dave may possibly have taken some drastic action, but in all the, in the five years that I've known Dave Rose he was a very happy, well-adjusted person. And I have never known Dave, in, in, in our five years association, I have never known Dave to be despondent, morose, depressed. On the, on this morning, the Monday morning, the 22nd of November, December, the 22nd of December, 1997, I attempted to telephone Dave at his home between 7.15 and 8 o'clock, hoping to catch him before he would normally go to work, but there was no reply to the phone. There was just the engaged tone. I phoned the Prince of Wales Hospital at approximately 9 o'clock this morning, Monday the 22nd of December, and asked if there'd been any patient admissions under the name Dave Rose. The receptionist checked casualty

and main admissions and advised me, "No, there was no admission in the name of Dave Rose". I phoned his work phone number, at Westpac at approximately 20 minutes to 10.00, that's 9.40 this morning, and I received a, the answering machine message. In fact I, when I was having trouble reaching Dave on Saturday morning I phoned him at his work number and left a message on his answering machine at work. I'm unsure of the number for the moment. I've got the number at home and I can advise that. And I said that, this morning when I tried to phone I didn't leave a message, but I got a taped recording that, that I heard on Saturday morning, that, "Hi, this is Dave Rose, I'm off sick and if you need to contact me", et cetera, et cetera, to leave a message. As I said, I left a message on his work answering machine on Saturday morning at approximately 11 o'clock when, before I was able to speak to Dave. When I had no success raising Dave at work, I decided then to contact his parents that I knew lived at Mosman. And I, I understand the parents have changed address in the last 12 months or so, but, and I thought, I remembered Dave telling me that they lived in Ulmarra(?). I found two listings under Rose in Ulmarra. The first one, Professor A Rose, and drew a blank there. I spoke to the fellow. He said, no, he wasn't the father of Dave Rose. The second one. I rang, the second listing under Rose at Ulmarra was M and B Rose. And I rang that number and at

approximately 10 o'clock, or maybe five minutes to 10.00 this morning, Monday the 22nd, I left a message on the answering machine, and I was uncertain at that stage whether it was in fact the home of Dave's parents, and I said, "Hi, I'm Steve Becker and my phone number [REDACTED] I'm a friend of Dave Rose, I'm trying to contact his parents. I'm very concerned about Dave's well-being, and perhaps they could contact me on my home phone number". In fact the phone, my home phone went a minute later. It was Mrs Rose to say that she was just stepping out of the unit, and I told her of my phone conversation with Dave, and my attempt to contact him on Saturday night and my various attempted phone connections, unsuccessful connections with Dave in the course of Sunday and Monday morning, and Mrs Rose introduced herself as Mrs Beth, or Bess Rose, and said that she had also spoken to David on Saturday morning, and was very concerned, and had notified the police and I said, "Look, I don't know anything more than that", but perhaps she could come back to me later in the day with any news. I'd been out from about midday today, until 9 o'clock this evening. I phoned Dave's parents' phone number at Mosman. I spoke to Dave's father who confirmed the worst. .... was about 9.15 I spoke to Dave's father, who confirmed the worst that Dave had indeed passed away. And that's the extent of my knowledge of this incident. It's just that I have been trying to contact him over the



weekend, and I thought it would be premature prior to Monday to go to, to contact his mother to alarm her needlessly. As I said I have never known Dave to be despondent, depressed, down, in all the five years I knew Dave he was very vibrant, happy, positive and I have never seen this side of David, not, not the, the quiet side. There was one incident on Friday, the 5th of December, at a Christmas function organised for radio station 2RPH, on the premises, at 252, 252 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, and Dave arrived at approximately 7.45. The station manager had contacted Dave and advised him not to attend the Christmas party as he would not be welcome. And there was a perception from the station manager that when Dave Rose resigned on air stating a lack of help and appreciation from the management of the radio station 2RPH, the station manager, Tom Crozier, had formed a view that he, the station manager, Tom Crozier, had been defamed on air by Dave's comments. In fact that was not the case. Dave Rose had simply said that station management had not been appreciative of the efforts of the volunteers on the station, and Tom Crozier in particular had been particularly deaf and blind to the needs of volunteers. Perhaps not in those words. The station, on, on the night of the 2RPH Christmas party, Friday, the 5th of December, I had been in attendance. I'd contacted Dave the day before, and he said yes, he would be going there, after work at Westpac and he'd go home and get

changed and come to the radio station, so he wouldn't be there until approximately 7.30. He, Dave would have arrived at approximately 7.45. The station manager had contacted him earlier that day, Friday, the 5th of December, and advised Dave that he would not be welcome to attend the Christmas party. I was not aware of that until I had arrived at the station at approximately 6 o'clock. On Dave's arrival, the, the assistant manager or program manager, Ms Carol Tomkin, T-O-M-K-I-N, left the main area of the radio station and met Dave in the foyer reception area of the radio station and said, "Dave, the station manager doesn't want you to attend the Christmas party", and I'm not sure if the exact reasons were stated at that time, but they became known later, when another volunteer, Mr Ty, it's T-Y, short for Tyrone Sommers(?), attempted a reconciliation between Dave and the station management. I spoke to Dave at the tail end of the day. Dave, Dave, throughout the, from the time that Dave arrived, Dave stayed in the foyer/reception area and spoke to various volunteers that he had not seen for some time. Because of it's nature, it's a volunteer radio station basically. You only met with the people from on shifts or your own segment and it, it was difficult to keep in touch with a wide range of people on other shifts, so I could you know, understand Dave was interested in trying to see as many people as he could on other shifts, and so Dave was perhaps a little bit quiet,



quieter than normal but by no means depressed or down. I spoke to Dave. I said, I, I told the program manager, Carol Tomkin, when she said the station manager didn't want Dave to attend the Christmas function, I said, "Carol, it's Christmas time. It's season of goodwill, it's peace on earth to all men and goodwill", and sort of Carol, Carol's a middle-aged lady, and she was perhaps moved, or certainly more in tune to accommodating Dave's attendance, certainly in the foyer, but the station manager would not come out to discuss the grievance or the perceived grievance with Dave. I made a point of, of seeing Dave and asking him was there anything he wanted from inside. He said, "No", he was happy. I asked him if there was anything I could do if, if he was upset by the station's management and attitude and he said, "No, no", he was all right, he expected it and he could handle it, there was no problem, and I left the radio station at approximately, from memory, maybe 10 o'clock to drive some people home to Glenhaven, their car had been locked in at the carpark next, next to the radio station and I was happy to drive the two people, Hugh Griffiths and a lady I know as, I've forgotten her name, but a friend of Hugh Griffiths' home to the lady's home in Glenhaven. I rang Dave the next day, that would be Saturday, the 6th of December, and spoke to him at home. Just made sure he was O.K, that he wasn't upset by the events of the 2RPH Christmas party,

on Friday, the 5th of December and he said, "No", he's fine and expected it and we, we would have had a short conversation exchanging pleasantries, 'cause Dave was a vibrant, chatty sort of person and I enjoyed talking to Dave, and I said I would get in touch with him before Christmas and that's what prompted my phone calls on Saturday, the 20th of December. And that's all I can say. But, but Dave did have an association with another radio station, radio station 2SER, situated in the offices of UTS, that's the University of Technology, Sydney, but I did not have an association with that radio station and I don't know of any events that may have transpired at 2SER, except to say that Dave had nominated and was expecting to broadcast at 2SER on at least two shifts on Christmas Day. I understand those shifts were perhaps from 9.00 in the morning from midday or 1.00, and again from late afternoon, perhaps 5.00 until maybe 10.00 or 11.00, and Dave has done broadcasts on Christmas Day on 2SER previously or in past years, and broadcast comedy tracks and, and, but I don't know of any events that may have transpired between Dave and the management of radio station 2SER, and I'm similarly unaware of anything that may have happened between Dave and Westpac, as I'm not an employ of Westpac. My association with Dave was limited largely to radio station 2RPH at Marrickville, and that's all I can think of regarding the late Dave Rose.

Q29 Mr Becker, you, you said you contacted Mr Rose by phone on Saturday, the 20th of December - - -

A That's correct.

Q29 - - - at about 11.00, 11.15am.

A Yes, I, I actually did speak to Dave.

Q30 O.K. And you said that he was a bit tired to .....?

A Yeah, Dave's voice was a bit down. It, at all previous times when I'd spoken to Dave, Dave was very vibrant, very alert, very chatty, with a quick staccato voice.

Q31 Did he say if he was feeling ill at all?

A No, he did not. When I spoke to Dave on Saturday morning, the 20th, Dave's voice sounded tired and weary, and wasn't the normal voice that I would have expected from Dave. He sounded very tired, and he, he told me, his words were, "I am very tired. I really can't talk now". I said, "Dave, that's fine, I understand. I'll ring you tomorrow, but please put your answering machine on". I said, "goodbye". Unfortunately the answering machine was not turned on and the phone was left off the hook. Possibly, I'm not sure what time Dave's, I'd spoke to Dave's mother this morning, at approximately 10 o'clock, AM, this morning. She told me she too had spoken to Dave on Saturday morning but I'm, I'm not aware of the time.

Q32 After that phone conversation did you try ringing again that day, Saturday?

A Yes, at approximately at 8.45pm, when I tried to attend his unit and give him a Christmas gift of a CD wrapped

in Christmas wrapping. I had knocked on his front door to no reply. I had pushed his doorbell to no reply. I had taken my mobile telephone with me and from the landing outside his door I had tried to phone him, but there was no reply, and then, I received, I, I had, my telephone received the engaged tone which indicated to me the phone was off the hook. But I assume Dave wanted to get some rest, and I respected him, because as I said, I've never seen him, I had never known him to be anything but happy, jovial, vibrant and jolly.

Q33 Did you hear any noise inside the unit when you attended?

A No, I did not. There was silence inside the unit. I, on my way up into the unit I'd observed that there were no lights on in Dave's unit. No, there was no noise coming from his unit. The unit directly underneath Dave, I think, could have been playing some music or had the TV on, but no, there was no other noise at all, I could hear from Dave's unit.

Q34 Do you recall when you actually last saw Mr Rose?

A Yes, it would have been at the 2RPH Christmas party, on Friday, the 5th of December and the last, that, I left, I left there at approximately 10.00pm, on Friday, the 5th of December. So that, that would be the last time that I saw Dave.

Q35 And the problems that you've outlined in the interview this evening at that Christmas party, I assume that you became aware of these from speaking with Mr Rose. Is



that right?

A Yes, and the fact that I was there in the studio when Dave read his resignation out on air. I'm not sure of the exact date of that. I understand - - -

Q36 Well, look, I'm making reference in relation to that. You've explained what happened that night.

A Yeah.

Q37 You became aware of that as, as a result of speaking to Mr Rose about it, at the party that night or -?

A Well, what Dave's resignation?

Q38 No, no, no. The troubles that - - -

A The, the - - -

Q38 - - - you outlined tonight?

A The station manager - - -

Q39 Him not being welcome at the party?

A Well that's so. Yes, I was aware of that upon my arrival at the radio station Christmas party at approximately 6.00pm, on Friday, the 5th of December.

Q40 O.K.

A And the station manager, Mr Tom Crozier, could indicate the exact extent of any exchanged that went on. I understand the station management contacted Dave Rose by phone and told him he was not welcome to attend the station's Christmas party.

Q41 O.K. You explained earlier in the interview that after you've attempted to contact Mr Rose, right through - -  
-

A The weekend.



Q41 - - - the weekend and today, you assumed that he, he may have taken some drastic action?

A I did, but I have never, I have never known Dave to be anything other than happy, vibrant, jolly and chatty. And if Dave told me he was tired and needed some rest, Dave had indicated to me that there was a possibility of an illness. Some, I've known Dave five years. In the first year of our association at the radio, Dave indicated to me that he had expressed a desire to undergo a sex change from male to female and had taken hormone therapy under, under medical supervision. That he had been forced to, or he had been advised to quit the hormone treatment because of a possibility of, possibility of acquiring Yacob Croutzov(?) Disease, CJD, Croitzov Yacob Disease, and Dave had expressed, only in passing, a fear that he may have trouble  
..... (TIME SIGNAL)

Q42 I'll just pause you there. What that noise means is that the audio tapes are about to run out.

A M'mm.

Q43 What I intend to do now is suspend the interview, for the purposes of putting in three new audio tapes. Do you understand that?

A Yes, I do.

Q44 O.K. The time is now 11.08pm. This interview is suspended.

INTERVIEW SUSPENDED

INTERVIEW RESUMED

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE THORNTON

Q45 - - - 10.00pm. This interview between Thornton and Becker is resumed. Mr Becker, do you agree that we just changed the audio tapes and placed three new ones in the machine?

A Yes, I do.

Q46 O.K. Prior to the suspension of the interview we were talking about Mr Rose's desire for a sex change. Before we go into that, I'd just like to ask you, is there anything that led you to believe that Mr Rose would take some drastic action?

A No, not at all. In the five years I have know Dave, I have only ever known him to be happy, extroverted and chatty. I have never seen anything else, anything other than the happy extroverted side of Dave Rose.

Q47 Can you explain to me any reason why you would think that, why you would suggest to me that some drastic action - - -

A Only - - -

Q47 - - - he would have taken?

A Only because it was very unlike Dave not to have his answering machine on. Dave Rose was a social animal. He enjoyed conversations. He enjoyed keeping in touch with people, and I think, I'm sure he had a genuine believe and, and desire and, and just, just conversations with people. Dave was a good-natured fellow and enjoyed a chat, and I enjoyed you know, chatting to Dave and lately on the phone but you know

from time to time at the radio station, but I had never known Dave to switch his answering machine off. I have never in, in the five years that I've had, in associations with the radio station with Dave, I've never known him to switch his answering machine off. I had grave fears when the phone was off the hook, and I was unable to contact Dave, either in person or through his answering machine, but I thought it would probably be premature to alarm his parents, but I would, you know, I accepted Dave at face value when he said he was tired, and "I really can't talk now". I accepted that at face value, you know, I had never seen a down side to Dave Rose. I would not have expected that of him. I. I accepted the fact that he was tired, he needed to rest, and I did try to ring him on the Sunday.

Q48

M'mm.

A

And as I said, I tried to contact him on the Saturday, at 8.45.

Q49

On, in relation to your phone call on the Saturday, in the morning - - -

A

M'mm.

Q49

- - - did you make it aware to him that you were doing to drop by that evening?

A

No, I didn't because I was planning to visit some friends. I'd been invited over to a barbecue but the, the barbecue had been changed and I had some free time and I thought well, it's probably you know, now that I

can drop the card off and you know, see Dave and have a chat for a while. No, I, I didn't notify Dave that I was coming over because at that stage, in the morning I wasn't, I had no other plans. It, it was only when the barbecue fell through that I thought well, you know, it's time that I visited other people including Dave, and I actually got to Dave's home unit at approximately 8.45.

Q50 Where was the barbecue supposed to be at?

A A, a friend's house at [REDACTED] Grosvenor, Grove, or Grosvenor Street, South Hurstville. It's a school friend's ex-wife. I've stayed friendly with my school friend, Ben Top, his former wife, Elaine Top, and their two children, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. Originally I'd been invited over to a barbecue on Saturday evening and I had intended leaving some Christmas presents for the girls. I'd phoned my school friend, Bill Top, and said I was visiting his former wife's house, I'd been invited to a barbecue and I expected that I would see him. When he advised me that he had not been invited and his voice was very sad and depressed, I rang his former wife, Elaine, and advised her that Bill, her former husband had been upset and very down and she, Elaine said, "Look, it's probably best if you don't come around", but I realised I, I would be able to have some free time and contact Dave. In the final upshot I did visit Elaine Top and leave the presents, between 6.15 and 8.00pm, when I left



South Hurstville and travelled towards the eastern suburbs, to visit Dave at approximately 8.45.

Q51 Prior, have you been to Mr Rose's premises before?

A Yes, I have, once or twice before. In the course of our radio liaison at 1224 2RPH, I took over from Dave when Dave took vacations. Dave used to take fairly long overseas annual, ..... bi-annual vacations. Dave would save up his holidays and long service, David would take holidays every two years, travel overseas for example, and I would need audio equipment and the station key so that I could lock up at the radio station when I left at 11 o'clock at night on, on those Saturday evenings when I filled in for Dave when he was on vacation. So, yeah, I think from time to time I would drop, certainly the last time Dave took vacation, which may have been March, '96, March through till April or May. I'm only guessing. I don't know the exact dates. His mother would be better informed, so that yes, I needed to pick up audio equipment and the station key and I guess I've taken presents around from time to time, yep. The odd present I would have dropped off at his home. But I, I think all in all I would have only been to Dave's, I would have only been inside Dave's apartment maybe two or three times over those five years, and mainly in association with picking up equipment and dropping equipment off, relative to radio station 2RPH, at Marrickville.

Q52 So prior to Saturday the 20th - - -



- A Mm.
- Q52 - - - can you recall the last time that you were there?
- A I'm only guessing.
- Q53 I'll just get you to watch the microphone .....
- A I'm sorry, I didn't press it.
- Q54 That's O.K.
- A ..... I, I would think approximately March, 1996, when I picked up radio equipment and the key.
- Q55 That was the last time you were there prior to Saturday?
- A I believe, I believe so. I can't, I'm not a 100 per cent certain. I did not have a close association at his unit. The association was mainly on the telephone, meeting at other people's houses, a 50th birthday party for Mr Dave Geoffrey at Strathfield, in approximately mid-September, 1997, and again at the Sydney Harbour Casino approximately mid-November, 1997, and a barbecue I had at my house at Pennant Hills. I think the first Sunday in November, 1997. So, no, I seldom got to visit Dave at his home unit, but I was aware of, of his unit. I, I'm pretty certain the last time would have been March, 1997, to pick up equipment, sorry March 1996, to pick up equipment for the radio station.
- Q56 Are you - - -
- A To relieve him when he was overseas.
- Q57 Right. Are you aware if Mr Rose was in a relationship with anyone?
- A Not that I'm aware of, no. Dave, Dave and I would joke

about this from time to time and he would say, you know, his love life was non-existent or his relationships were non-existent, so that Dave, at no stage indicated to me that he was in a relationship. Personally, I was not interested in, in that side of Dave Rose. I respected him as a person, and our contact was limited to social contact, and contact at the radio station. I was not aware of any relationship Dave Rose was in. I can't comment, you know, I'm not sure if he, if he you know, expressed any of that to either family or people at Westpac, his employer or at radio station 2SER, at UTS, Sydney. No, I'm unaware of any relationship Dave was in.

Q58 Are you aware if Mr Rose was homosexual at all?

A I, I knew Dave was, yeah, Dave did see himself as a woman. He sent me a Christmas card. On the envelope of the Christmas card he signed it, "Ms D Rose" was on, on the back of the envelope. I didn't, I, I though Dave may have been A-sexual or possibly homosexual, but I didn't see that side of Dave. I, basically the, it was a professional association at the radio. I read and Dave panelled and produced, and I enjoyed the social interaction. As far, the repartee, as far as talking on the radio with Dave, Dave was a witty fellow, charming, spontaneous and basically I, I read for Dave on and off on Saturday nights over a period of four and a half years, from five years ago till approximately July or August this year.

Q59 Did Mr Rose, or was Mr Rose ever dressed up as a woman in your presence?

A Dave, I've, I've got photos at home. Dave dressed in somewhat androgynous clothes. At the radio Dave, although Dave saw himself as a woman, Dave would use the female toilet at radio 2RPH. Dave wore a padded bra and blouse or T-shirt. At the radio station Dave would often wear black bicycle shorts, with a yellow-..... band, band width of maybe a centimetre repeated every 10 centimetres perhaps. Once, when I'd left the radio station and, and came back to pick something up, a little after 8.00, I think Dave may have put a dress on. But I didn't see that side of Dave. I've met Dave in town, and I've met him once in town for lunch in the last two years, perhaps. In, in the course of my driving taxis, I saw Dave walking past a taxi rank I was on, one Friday evening at approximately 6.00 or 6.30. I'm not sure of the date, but Dave was on his way from work at Westpac in Phillip Street, City, to Circular Quay to catch a ferry, to spend Friday evening with his parents. I understand that Dave was Jewish by faith, and that Friday night is a serious, it's, Friday night is the start of the Saturday, a holy day of people of the Jewish faith, and Dave was on his way that Friday to spend Friday evening with his family. I'm not sure if this was a regular occurrence, but Dave did say that on that Friday that I saw him, yes, he was on his way. That day that I saw

him, Dave was dressed in maybe a, a fairly usual dress for Dave. It was a straw hat or bonnet, a, a blouse, perhaps with some floral design on it, and a, a pair of jeans that perhaps had been cut a little bit sort, to below knee, or knee-length, and maybe some red socks. Dave did tell me that he made his own clothes on a sewing machine, so Dave had his own dress style and dress sense, but no, I believe in live and let live and I, I accepted Dave for the person he was. He was an associate of the radio station and I didn't see the, the gay side of Dave. I, I'm not gay myself, I'm, I live with Elana, and I don't mix in those circles. I, I don't know that side of Dave. I'm unable to help you with anything on that - - -

Q60 O.K.

A - - - .....

Q61 Do you know if anyone used to live with Mr Rose?

A As far as I know, Dave lived on his own. I think Dave liked his privacy. I was not aware of any time that Dave shared his flat. On the time, the, the one or two times I visited Dave in his unit, Dave was into electronics and he had electronic equipment spread from room to room and the house was somewhat, his unit was somewhat cluttered with electronic equipment and stereo components and so on, so I, I don't know how many bedrooms in his flat. I've got no idea. The few times I was there I just walked straight through to the lounge.



Q62 Do you know if he had any regular friendships with people? Were you aware of any regular friendships?

A I'm, well, no, only, only that Dave mixed with people, certainly at radio station 2RPH and I've got a list of names and phone numbers at home. I've started phoning some of them with the news, and similarly Dave would have contact at 2SER, at UTS, possibly at Westpac. I'd say that Dave's associates were mainly people at the radio station, 2RPH, present and former.

Q63 I think you told me earlier that he didn't really socialise?

A Well, not, not, not, from time to time and keeping in touch with people on the phone and you know, having the odd social event, I, I don't think, I don't think Dave had, Dave's main contact would have been by phone and perhaps visiting people. I, you know, I, I think Dave had social contact, but I, I don't know how strong or how close they were. I can only go by my own experience with Dave.

Q64 Are you aware of what Mr Rose did in his private time at all?

A Dave seemed to spend a lot of his time at the radio, at, at, when I met Dave, Dave had already been a volunteer at radio station 2RPH. Since either the inception of the radio station or very soon afterwards. As I said, I've known Dave for about the last five years, and I think Dave had worked at RPH, certainly panelling and producing on Saturday nights, from say a

quarter past 6.00 till 11.00. He produced a taped segment called Junior Journal, that was a kiddies' program, that aired on 2RPH from 5.45 to 6.15 on regular, on Saturday nights.

Q65 But, but sort of out, outside of work, do you know who he socialised at all?

A Outside of the radio station?

Q66 Yeah.

A Or Westpac?

Q67 Or either?

A No, I don't. I'm sorry. I'm not aware. I can advise of social contacts at 2RPH. I've got a list of some of those, but -

Q68 But you wouldn't know, outside of work you wouldn't know what his social behaviour was or .....?

A I don't. No, I don't.

Q69 Do you know if Mr Rose had any enemies at all?

A No, I don't. Obviously we all, in, in the course of day to day lives I guess we all, you know, sort of live and let live and get on with some people and don't get on with others. I don't think Dave had any enemies to speak of. I, I don't think anybody would, you know, I don't think anybody would see that side of Dave.

Q70 Do you, are you aware if Mr Rose would bring people back to his unit?

A I'm not aware. As I said, the one or two times, well the couple of times I visited, there was electronic equipment stretched, you know, in the lounge and sort

of, that was all I saw from the, from the front door, through the, down the hallway to the lounge, and it, it seemed to be a fairly cramped lounge filled with electronic components, and maybe not conducive to bringing people home. I don't know. That was, that was when I saw it. That was my impression.

Q71 Are you aware if Mr Rose drank alcohol?

A No. In fact on each social occasion that I met Dave, he said that he would drink soft drink. And I, I assumed it was 'cause Dave drove his motor car. He drove a red, think it's a red Nissan Pulsar. At one stage he had personalised plates and [REDACTED]. I, I don't think his latest car had personalised plates, I can't be certain. But no, as far as I know Dave, Dave did not drink alcohol.

Q72 Are you aware if he smoked cigarettes at all?

A No, Dave, Dave wasn't a smoker.

Q73 Right. Are you aware if he was, if he took any drugs?

A I didn't see that side of Dave. I think Dave enjoyed life too much to be into that side of things. As I said, Dave is a very vibrant, witty, chatty person. I didn't see, you know, I've never known Dave to drink, never known him to smoke, and, or to take drugs.

Q74 Are you aware if he's suffering from any medical condition?

A Well, only that Dave told me when I started at the radio station, that he had taken hormones pursuant to his desire to have a sex change, from male to female,

and that he had, on medical advise he had ceased the hormone treatment because of the possibility of an infection of CJD, Croitzov Jacob Disease. That is my only knowledge of any medical condition Dave might have had.

Q75 Mr Becker, what I might do now is just pause the interview. I'm aware that these videos run for approximately around 70 minutes.

A M'mm.

Q76 And we're pretty much near that time.

A Mm.

Q77 What I propose to do is suspend the interview and put in a new video tape.

A O.K.

Q78 We haven't got far to go.

A Well, I'm surprised that it's gone this far.

Q79 So, what I'll do is I'll just pause it, the time now is 11.34pm. This interview is suspended.

INTERVIEW SUSPENDED

INTERVIEW RESUMED

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE THORNTON

Q80 The time is 11.34pm. The interview between Thornton and Becker is resumed. Mr Becker, do you agree that I've just paused the interview and replaced the video tape with a new blank video tape?

A Yes, I do, and yes, I've seen that.

Q81 Detective O'Reilly, have you got anything to ask at this stage?



DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE O'REILLY

Q82 Mr Becker, how often would you say that you would call Mr Rose on the telephone?

A Before Dave's resignation from radio station 2RPH probably not too often, because we were both, we were both attending 2RPH radio station on Saturday evening so it was a chance to see Dave, catch up with him and see how he was getting on and having a bit of a chat. But since Dave quit the station in I think, July 1997, I'd probably ring him up at various times maybe, an average of fortnightly, once per fortnight, either at work or at home, and Dave would always, if, if I wasn't able to get Dave at work then I'd leave a message on his answering machine and he would ring me fairly promptly, and yeah, basically it was just to have a chat and to let him know what was happening about various things and you know, for social events and occasions. There was a 50th birthday party in September. There was my barbecue, originally scheduled for mid-October, but postponed until early November. There was a, a gathering at the Sydney Harbour Casino for the smorgasbord and there would have been maybe about 20 of us, one Saturday evening perhaps late in November, and the, the radio station Christmas party early December. So, I would have spoken to Dave on and off, plus a lady that read on the station with us was encountering, was suffering some difficulties concerning a move from Sydney to the Gold Coast, and I'd

undertaken to help her complete her move to the Gold Coast with, and, and basically just letting Dave know what was happening with ..... who had also been a reader on his shift, on Saturday nights. Perhaps, perhaps once a fortnight.

Q83 I think that you've already stated that you had limited social contact with - - -

A Mm.

Q83 - - - Mr Rose. Is that correct?

A That's correct. It was basically limited to an association at the radio station, 2RPH.

Q84 All right. You've mentioned that you called Mr Rose, I think on Saturday, the 20th of December, at about 11.15am?

A That's correct.

Q85 And you said that you requested that he leave his answering machine on - - -

A That's correct.

Q85 - - - the next day when you would call him again.

A That's correct, yeah.

Q86 Was there any particular reason that you were insistent that he leave his answering machine on?

A Well, basically so I could get a message to him if need be, 'cause Dave was always pretty prompt in returning calls. Dave was very gregarious and sociable and would, would always return calls. He was good like that.

Q87 And then I believe that it was that evening that you

actually went around to Dave's house, to deliver a gift.

A That's correct. And I slipped a greeting card under the door and left a CD wrapped in Christmas wrapping outside his front door, between the front door and the screen door.

Q88 M'mm.

A Thinking well Dave will see the card and perhaps stick his head out of the door and grab the CD or something similar.

Q89 I believe that you've already told us that when Dave failed to answer the knock at the door, you tried to call him with your mobile phone.

A That's correct. On the Saturday evening at approximately 8.45. I would have been there for about 10 minutes, from 8.45 till about 8.55.

Q90 So it's correct that you tried to contact him while you were there, for about 10 minutes?

A That's correct. Yes.

Q91 Why were you so persistent in trying to contact, make contact with Dave on that particular evening?

A Only because I was dropping Christmas presents off to people and because the regular contact I had with Dave at the radio station was, you know, wasn't there any more, and basically I just wanted to drop the present off and Saturday night was as good as any to knock on his door and leave a gift and a card.

Q92 Did you think it was unusual that he wasn't home on

that occasion?

A I didn't know what to think, I, as I said, I didn't visit Dave that often. I didn't form the view that it, it was unusual for Dave to be out, no.

Q93 Did you tell any other person that you were going to Mr Rose's house to deliver a gift to him that evening?

A Only, only my de facto spouse, Elana Halne, who was working at a restaurant at Hornsby, at the Northern Lights Restaurant at the Pacific Highway, Hornsby.

Q94 When did you tell her that you were going to Mr Rose's house?

A Probably Saturday afternoon.

Q95 Where were you when you told her that information?

A At, at my house at Pennant Hills.

Q96 M'mm. And that was following the conversation that you'd had with Mrs .....?

A I'm not sure, to be honest. Somewhere in the course of Saturday afternoon's conversations, yes.

Q97 What were your movements from the time you woke up on Saturday morning up until the time that you visited Mr Rose? Do you recall?

A Well yeah, I would have woken up perhaps 6.00, 6.00am. I, I think I tried to contact Dave to arrange you know, that I should come over and just give him his, his Christmas present, to find out what he was likely to be doing. I understood he was, he had arranged with radio station 2SER at UTS Sydney, that he, that Dave would be a presenter on Christmas Day, on radio station 2SER.



Basically it was just to exchange pleasantries, 'cause I hadn't spoken to Dave since the, the day after the 2RPH Christmas party on, on say Saturday, the 6th of December.

Q98 What time was that call that you made to Mr Rose?

A Which one? On Saturday, the 20th?

Q99 Yes.

A That's approximately 11.15am on Saturday, the 20th of December. Basically it was just to get in touch to have a chat before Christmas.

Q100 What did you do between the time that you got up, I think you said at 6.00am and 11.15, when you spoke with Mr Rose.

A Probably just pottered around the house, eating breakfast and doing the normal household type of things. Nothing, nothing much, not a great deal.

Q101 Was anyone home with you at the time?

A Yes, my de facto spouse, Elana Halne.

Q102 Does your de facto work?

A At the Northern Lights Restaurant, at Pacific Highway, Hornsby.

Q103 What are her hours of work?

A She's a kitchen hand/washer upper. She would work approximately, her hours vary according to the needs of the evening, from on average 7 o'clock till 11 o'clock or so. She's working tonight and I'm hoping to pick her up round about midnight.

Q104 All right. And what did you do following the call at

11.15am, that you had with Mr Rose?

A Following the call?

Q105 Mm.

A I phoned my friend, Elaine Top, and advised her that I had some Christmas presents that I had to bring over for the children. Sorry, first, no. Sorry, that, that's not quite so. I had arranged that previously. I phoned my friend, Bill Top, to advise him that I'd been invited over to Elaine's house at South Hurstville, to attend a barbecue, in the course of dropping some presents off. My friend, Bill, sounded a bit upset and I said, "Look, if I see you there, I see you there". You know, perhaps he could contacted his former wife. He sounded somewhat despondent. I phoned Elaine Top at that stage and said, "Look, I've just contacted Bill. He seems a bit down and despondent". Elaine indicated to me that perhaps I shouldn't come over in, in case there was some difficulty with her husband. I, I rang Elaine back later in the afternoon and said, "Look, I will bring the things over, but won't stay, you know I would rather that the children had the Christmas presents in time for Christmas", and I stayed visiting Elaine between 6.15 and 8.00pm, when I left Hurstville.

Q106 What time did you leave Hurstville to go to Mrs Top's house.

A At approximately a quarter past 5.00.

Q107 And had you been out of your house between the time

that you woke up at 6.00am and between the time that you left your house that afternoon at 5.15?

A I, I don't think so. If, if I did it was perhaps only to organise some shopping, but , I don't, I don't think so. I think I attempted to stay home.

Q108 Do you drive a car Mr Becker?

A Yes, I do.

Q109 What type of car is it?

A It's a mini-moke, registration [REDACTED]

Q110 What colour is that car?

A It's painted blue.

Q111 Does your de facto drive a car?

A No. No, she doesn't hold a licence. She doesn't drive.

Q112 Was Mr Rose well liked by his colleagues at the radio station?

A As far as I knew Dave was very well liked, much loved in a, in a social sense. Dave had a lot of people who felt strongly about him. I, I admired Dave for the person that he was, that he, that he didn't let obstacles, such as his appearance stand in his way. Dave was a survivor. He, he coped. He was a very uplifting-type person. He was very, very happy, witty, gregarious person. He was, he had a lot of friends. I guess because of his nature, of his sexuality, or his, his overt appearance, he would have upset some people. I, I don't know exactly who, I, I didn't talk

to people about Dave Rose.

Q113 Mr Becker, you've mentioned a colleague of Mr Rose's, a Tyrone Sommers?

A That's correct. He's a, he's another volunteer at radio station 2RPH. Ty Sommers. He's listed in the phone book I think, from memory. His address is [REDACTED]. Ty Sommers is a school teacher, who records a regular segment at 2RPH radio station. Ty, yeah Ty's a friendly, gregarious fellow, chatty, and as far as, as far as I know he is another friend, social contact through the radio, friend of Dave Rose's. And Ty Sommers tried to effect a reconciliation at the 2RPH Christmas part on Friday, the 5th of December.

Q114 When you say he "tried to effect a reconciliation", what do you mean by that?

A Management, in particular Mr Tom Crozier, had stated, told Dave, I understand in a phone call on Friday afternoon, that Dave Rose would not be welcome to attend the 2RPH Christmas party, and Dave did turn up. Dave did attend the Christmas party, but was headed off in the foyer/reception area by Carol Tomkin, the, the production manager, or Tom Crozier's second-in-charge, and Carol Tomkin had expressed that Dave was not welcome at the radio station, that the radio station manager, Mr Tom Crozier, had believed that Dave had defamed him and Dave's resignation ..... July/August 1997, but I, I don't think that's the case. I was present when Dave read his resignation speech, and



essentially it was to the effect that the station manager didn't support the volunteers in spirit and I, I didn't construct that, I didn't construe that to be a defamation, and I didn't think the station manager was thin-skinned to take it as defamation. However, Tom Crozier had expressed to Carol Tomkin and Dave Rose, and to Ty Sommers that Dave had defamed him in the resignation speech, and Dave was not welcome to attend the Christmas party on Friday, the 5th of December. Ty had sat next to Dave in the reception area, and tried to talk to Dave. And I think Dave was a little bit miffed. Not, not upset. Dave, when I spoke to Dave, Dave told me he was definitely not upset. He had expected, he, he had been informed by Tom Crozier by phone earlier that afternoon that he was not welcome to attend the RPH Christmas party. Yeah, Ty Sommers was just trying to, you know, trying to see if there was any common ground that he could effect a reconciliation between Dave Rose and Tom Crozier .....

(TIME SIGNAL)

Q115 How many of your casual friends have you given Christmas presents to?

A This year?

Q116 Yeah.

A Dear, well, I don't know. Probably Dave's one that I was closest to at the radio.

Q117 Mm.

A So Dave from the radio and, and my friend Bill and his

wife's two children, just, just the children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] my de facto, Elana's school friend's son, [REDACTED]. I have given a box of toys to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. And there's toys for Elana's grandchildren, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively, a box of toys each. No, the, the only reason I, I, I liked Dave, I had a fairly close association with Dave that was limited to the radio station.

Q118 Mr Becker, did you have keys to Mr Rose's unit?

A No, I did not.

Q119 Did you know any person, other than Mr Rose, who had keys to his unit?

A No, I do not.

Q120 Nothing further.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE THORNTON

Q121 Do you know if Mr Rose owned a mobile phone?

A Dave, I think Dave was supplied with a mobile phone by his employer, Westpac, either a mobile phone or a paging system from Westpac, but Dave, Dave was on call from time to time through Westpac and, and any mobile phone would have been supplied by Westpac.

Q122 O.K. It's, about this interview, is there anything else you'd like to say before we conclude the interview?

A No, I'm surprised that, that you know, the interview stretched this far. As I said my, my association with Dave was limited to the radio. It was on a, a semi,

well a professional as far as volunteer radio stations can get. It didn't extend to our social life. Well, a social occasion only as far as the radio went, and it was limited to meeting Dave on, with other station volunteers on station outings or semi, you know, semi-social outings organised by various people at the radio station.

Q123 O.K. Do you have any complaints to make about the conduct of the interview?

A No, not at all, except that the surroundings are very hot and the air conditioning doesn't exist.

Q124 .....

INTERVIEW CONCLUDED