STATEMENT in the matter of: Death of Scott MILLER

Place: The Rocks Police Station

Date: 4 March 1997

Name:

Nathan Todd WHITE

Address:

Tel. No.:

Occupation: Manager

STATES: -

- This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence 1. 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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
- I am 21 years of age.
- I have lived in Sydney since March 1995. I came to Sydney to work and get away from Orange where I grew up. I am working as a manager of Liquorland at .
- 4. I have know Scott MILLER all my life since we were about six or seven years old. We are pretty good mates. We have known our other mate Shawn KELLY for about the same time. We all grew up in Orange.
- 5. Since I have lived in Sydney Scott has come down to Sydney ten to fifteen times with his football team or just to see friends where he usually stays at either Shawn's or my houses. We'd often go out to the pubs either in North Sydney, The Rocks or Kings Cross. Scott had a reasonable good knowledge of the Sydney area and knew how to get around.

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- 6. During this time I went to the Casino in Darling Harbour with Scott about four times, although I know he went a lot more than that. He would usually end up there with one of his mates at the end of the night. I don't really remember him going there by himself he would usually drag someone there with him. Scott liked to gamble and we went to the races a fair bit. If I wasn't working on Saturday we would go usually to Randwick Race Course.
- Scott had just finished his apprentice in Orange as an electrician. He had just enrolled at Western Sydney University and I think he was going to study something to do with science > or phycology. Scott had only just moved down to Sydney to start university. I think he came down last Monday the 24th February because he rang me on the Tuesday. He was staying with his ...aunty over at Bankstown. I don't think he was too happy over there because he was a bit far away from us blokes. mentioned that he was looking at staying with some blokes down from Mudgee that lived at Parramatta. I not sure how he knew them but it might have been an ad in the paper.
  - 8. I saw Scott on Tuesday 25th February, 1997. He drove over to my house and we went to the movies at Chatswood. Scott was pretty excited about moving to Sydney and he was good sprits. Scott and I arranged to go out to the Gay Mardi Gras on the Saturday night with other mates who we thought were coming down from Orange.
  - 9. On Saturday 1 March, 1997 I came home from cricket about 6pm and Scott and Shawn were already over my house. I said I was going to have a shower and I told them to go and get some grog and a bottle of something.

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- 10. They came back about 15 minutes later with a case of Boags Original bitter beer, a 700 ml bottle of Tequila and a bottle of soft drink. We started drinking about quarter to seven and it was still daylight so we drunk outside in the backyard. There was Jason ELVY, Scott, Shawn, Richard who lives with us but I can't remember his surname, Craig CHAPMAN and myself. Craig only had a few beers and left after about an hour.
- ll. We where just sitting around talking and having a few beers. After about four beers Scott mentioned to me that he felt a bit pissed. When it got dark we came inside. We all just kept drinking and when we finished on the beer we started on the spirits and Jason and I had some marijuana. Scott doesn't normally smoke it and didn't have any that night. We only had one or two smokes from a bong. I don't think it did much for either of us.
- 12. About 8.30pm that night Jason, Scott and SHAWN started playing cards while I had a shower. Richard had gone out to The Oaks hotel for the night. After I had my shower I came out and the others were playing cards. They were playing a game where you dealt the cards and you bet on red or black until you lost and them moved on to the next person until the person with the least amount of cards lost and had to scull a nip of straight tequila. I started playing with them and I think Scott lost more than the rest of us and had to drink more tequila.
- 13. We played this for about an hour and finished most of the bottle of Tequila. Around quarter to ten that night we left the house. I would say we were all pretty drunk. I know we didn't have anything to eat while we were at home. I didn't think Scott was any worse than any of us. We got a cab to Oxford Street near the corner of the Courthouse Hotel and arrived about 10pm.

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- 14. We walked straight up to the parade and stood up on some crates and we virtually got the end of the parade. After the parade had finished we started walking back down Oxford Street towards The Rocks and we bought a can of bourbon and a stubbie of beer each to drink on the way. We got to Hyde Park and bought a sausage sandwich each and started talking to two English girls. We were pretty drunk by now as I'm not really sure what we did. I think me and Scott caught a cab down to The Rocks and the other two caught a cab with the English girls and we arranged to meet at the Orient Hotel at The Rocks.
- 15. Me and Scott got out of the cab at The Orient and met up with the others outside the hotel. This was about 11.30pm or Midnight. I met up with my cricket team who were on a bucks .night outside the hotel and I spoke to them for a little while. I think Scott was with, me as Scott knew one of the guys from the cricket team Chris DENNY from back home. We didn't talk for that long and then me and Scott walked up to the Observer Hotel just up the road while the others stayed a the Orient.
- Scott and I walked into The Observer and stayed in the Hotel for a while. We had at least three spirit drinks, I think bourbon and coke and maybe gin and squash. I thought Richard might me there but we didn't see him. We did a lap of the pub to see what was around and we stayed down in the bottom bar. Scott tried to get another drink but the barman refused to serve him because he was too drunk. I then tried to speak to the barman and he said I was too drunk too. Then a doorman came over and said we should leave so Scott and I both left without any trouble.

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- 17. As we walking out Scott started speaking to two girls, I was about 5 metres ahead of him so I yelled out to him that I was going to catch up with the guys in the Orient. He said he was coming up soon.
- 18. I then walked down to the Orient and I met up with the others who were still with the english girls and I had a few more drinks. We were in the Orient for about half an hour to an hour and I didn't see Scott in the hotel. I wasn't very concerned as I thought he would be in soon.
- 19. While I was with Jason and the two girls Shawn went to get his brother Nathan from where he was working at the ANA Hotel. They came back not long after and Shawn asked us where Scott was and we said we hadn't seen him. Shawn told us that he had seen Scott outside The Orient when he went to get his brother and had a bit of a wrestle and mucked around. Shawn said he told Scott that we were inside and to go in. He said that was the last time he seen him as he wasn't outside The Orient when they came back.
- 20. The girls left and went home and myself, Jason, Shawn and his brother walked up George Street towards St Patricks Tavern. On our way up there we stopped at McDonalds and had something to eat. We then ended up at St Patricks Tavern. We drunk some more there and Jason, Shawn and I caught a cab back to my house and arrived home about 4.30am. We then went straight to bed.
- 21. Scott wasn't at home and none of us were surprised to have lost him. We thought he might have gone to the Casino or met with another mate Steve MURPHY who supposed to met us outside the Jackson on George Hotel about 2am but I didn't even bother to met him. I found out later that Steve had gone to the Casino and didn't go to Jacksons.

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- 22. I don't know how much money Scott had on him at the night but he usually goes out with about \$70 or \$80. He likes to shout drinks. I went threw about \$30 on the night as I lent \$50 to Jason. I know I didn't have any money at the end of the night.
  - 28. On the night Scott was wearing one of my white Jag Tshirts as he always borrowed one of my shirts when we went out. He was wearing jeans and I know he usually wears underpants as he would wear his undies around the house. I have never known him not to wear underpants. I don't know if he was wearing any underpants on the night as he was already dressed when I got home. I would say that Scott was very drunk when I last saw him outside The Observer. I have seen him in that state before. He was still able to walk but was light on his feet and unsteady. He was still capable of speaking and making conversation.
  - 29. Scott doesn't really know his way around The Rocks that well. He knows the main pubs in George street. As far as I remember I have never gone to any pubs outside George Street at The Rocks. We usually just go down to The Rocks and then to Kings Cross. Scott doesn't usually walk anywhere, he usually catches a cab even when he's by himself. I don't think Scott would know how to walk to the casino from The Rocks.
  - 30. Scott was in good sprits and was in a good mood on the night. He's not normally depressed when he drinks and I have never known him to talk about suicide. I know he has a girlfriend Brigette McCEARY who still lives in Orange but was going to move down to Sydney. I think their relationship was pretty stable and they were happy.

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