

Media article - The Sydney Express 13/12/2001

Product Type: TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note

Date of Note: 10 Dec 2001

Brief Description: Attached to this product is a media article published by the The Sydney Express at Page 3 of 13/12/2001

SX SYDNEY EXPRESS NEWS P3 13/12/2001

NOW

Mystery at Tamarra

The investigation of the mysterious death of at least one man near Tamarra took an unusual turn this week.

A number of onlookers gathered on Sunday morning near Marks Park as police dropped a weighted dummy from a coastal cliff to determine whether one of the victims fell or was pushed to his death.

The exercise was part of Operation Taradale, an ongoing investigation into the disappearance of 25-year-old Ross Warren and the suspicious death of 31-year-old John Russell in 1989.

Warren, a news presenter from Wollongong, was last seen by friends on 22 July 1989. His car was later found near Marks Park while his car keys were found on a rock shelf below the Tamarra reserve.

The body of Russell was discovered on 24 November 1989 below a cliff at Marks Park. The previous night he had spent at a hotel with friends celebrating news of a large inheritance.

"It's been more than a decade since Mr Warren's disappearance and the suspicious death of Mr Russell, but police are still trying to piece together information which may solve these crimes," said Detective Inspector Terry Dalton of Rose Bay Police. He noted that Operation Taradale was established not only to investigate these cases but a series of other serious assaults near Marks Park in the late 1980's.

"Changes to policing and technology in the last 10 years are assisting Operation Taradale's investigation. DNA testing is currently being conducted on a number of exhibits relating to

John Russell's death. Hair samples found on Mr Russell's hand may belong to an offender," Dalton said.

NSW Police Gay and Lesbian Client Group Consultant, Sue Thompson, added that investigators had also received information indicating that Warren and Russell may have been targeted by their attacker because they were members of the gay community.

"We suspect there may have been other attacks against members of the gay community near Marks Park that weren't reported by the victims due to fears of sexual prejudice or ostracism," Thompson stated.

Accordingly, police have appealed to the public to assist them with any information that could lead to solving the case.

Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

global

GAY SEX LAW CHALLENGED

New Delhi, India The gay AIDS group Naz Foundation has filed suit in the Delhi High Court against India's ban on gay sex. Penal Code Section 377. The organisation says the law violates constitutional rights to life, liberty and equal protection under the law and impedes AIDS prevention work. "The social effects [of the statute] drive gay men underground with a devastating impact upon the AIDS prevention effort," the group said. "Once underground, they become extremely vulnerable to AIDS because it becomes difficult for them to negotiate safe sexual behaviours. It also becomes difficult to identify and target this population for AIDS prevention efforts through education and medical services." Section 377 punishes "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal" with up to life prison.

EGYPT DENOUNCES EUROPE ON GAYS

Cairo, Egypt Egypt's speaker of the Parliament, Ahmed Fahih Surur, denounced the European Parliament for its criticism of Egypt's treatment of gays. On 29 November the EP approved the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement but added language committing Egypt to respect human rights, gay rights and democracy. "The Egyptian Constitution stipulates respect for the fundamental rights of citizens and the Egyptian government respects their rights in practice," Surur said. "Only the Egyptian parliament has the right to monitor the respect of the government for human rights."