

INTERVIEW, TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 1993, AT DRIPSTONE HIGH SCHOOL,
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.

COMMENCED: 10.10am

PRESENT: Vicki Stokes
Greg Knight
Brian Chase (arrived 10.12am)
John Dove Acting Superintendent Secondary

VICKI: Wish to use the tape recorder to support
written record of interview.

GREG: OK.

VICKI: Do you wish to have a colleague present for
the interview?

GREG: Not necessary.

JOHN: In role of Superintendent, called in, in
response to information from Vicki.

GREG: Able to shortcut this, I've made a very bad
mistake, I acknowledge that. Basically only
want to work out what the bottom line is, I
take it that the upshot of all this is that
I'm looking for another job out of the
Department.

JOHN: Difficult for me to say. Would like you to
read statements made by the kids, obvious
variations in some of the details, let us
know what you think of the accusations.

BRIAN: Would you like coffee?

GREG: No.

JOHN: Having read those, what are your thoughts?

GREG: Accurate enough to make quite clear I've been
a very stupid person.

JOHN: Basically you agree with the details?

GREG: There are some variations that are different
from my recollections, not different enough
in the basic facts.

JOHN: Allegations are very serious, Department will
have no option other than to act.

Vil. BSGC
26/10/93

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GREG: I'd like to pre-empt that by resigning.

JOHN: I'll take that to the Department, can't guarantee acceptance.

VICKI: Handed over resignation form, Greg completed it.

JOHN: Options Department has are to accept resignation, or to suspend and investigate, hard to say what further action, depends on the families and whether they go to the police, out of the Department's hands. Need to see how things go, would like you to make a written statement today.

GREG: Don't think that's necessary. We started being stupid, running around, just got out of hand, and then at the end a couple of things that are mentioned here, at that point just egging each other on and being silly. Innocent in that sense, just stupidity. I'm not proud of this, I've got a daughter at this school, I have therefore to reinforce in my own mind what must be true, that this doesn't need to be made public around the school for her sake. I'll just slip out of the way quietly, don't want to ruin her life. I've a wife who works for the Department, don't need to ruin her life either at this stage. This is going to ruin lives, oh God. There's no point in making a formal statement, it's on this tape here that I've agreed to this stuff. While it varies in some of the detail it's clear that the kids figure they are in a situation where they want to minimise damage to themselves, so they've written it that way. I can understand why, it doesn't detract from the basic truth of this, that I was very very stupid person.

JOHN: Can't tell you what's going to happen from here, I'll talk to the powers-that-be in the Department, who'll get in touch. What you are saying is correct, for you to disappear from the school as soon as possible. As far as information about this is concerned, not sure what control the school's going to have over that. Assume will do everything possible to keep it quiet, kids won't say much about it through embarrassment. Guess won't be much going around about it, but outside, beyond here don't know try to sort it out quickly and quietly here.

U.S. Stokes
26/10/93

K. J. Chen
26/10/93

J. [Signature]
26/10/93

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GREG: Next two lessons off should be adequate time to collect my belongings from Department's, school's, and hopefully by lunchtime go home. Need lessons after lunch covered. What do you want done for continuity of programs? Could come back this afternoon if not finished by lunchtime.

BRIAN: I could pick it up from home.

VICKI: Would be best for Brian to pick it up from home.

JOHN: Suggest you don't make contact with students and families, just complicates things.

GREG: I wouldn't have anyway.

BRIAN: Would you rather me collect it from home?

GREG: It doesn't really matter, I made a bad mistake on a particular occasion, if I come back here at 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock when there's no-one here it's not as if I'm about to make the same mistake again.

BRIAN: Have you any Band practices after school?

GREG: No, Band supposed to be playing for the Solar Car, make contact with Kevin to see if he can arrange to cover the situation - practice after school followed by performance on the landing. Was to be a follow up at Pizza Hut, just tell kids it's not on. Not aware of any other jobs that Band has on. The Graduates of course have commitments but now largely out of the school anyway. But whether I'm still in town in a position to continue with them is still a question for when the sun gets up tomorrow. Gee, you throw it all away, don't you?

VICKI: How do we get in contact with the Graduates?

GREG: Largely the Graduates are no longer students here, so I don't intend not speaking to those people again. I mean they are people that I know so after I've decided what I'll do I'll let them know. Whether we'll try and tough it out here or whether we'll up and go down south, try to find jobs and start again. I mean everything's just happened.

JOHN: Do you want Brian to go with you to your office?

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GREG: Should be OK, he wouldn't know what's mine and what's not, anyway. In terms of being helpful, or checking that I'm not stealing anything. This doesn't involve stealing, never stolen from the school and not going to start now.

JOHN: Thanks.

GREG: Please convey to parents and children my apologies, I recognise I got right out of hand.

VICKI: We will be arranging counselling for the kids.

MEETING CLOSED: 10.30am

SIGNED: DATE:
GREG KNIGHT

Vicki B Stokes
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VICKI STOKES

26 October 1993
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Brian Chase
.....
BRIAN CHASE

26/10/93

John Dove
.....
JOHN DOVE

26/10/93
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Greg Knight has read this statement, and declined to sign it pending legal advice.

Vicki B Stokes 26 October 1993

*Witnessed
B Chase 26/10/93*