

Perth.

Philip Lindsay WEAVER states.

My full name is Philip Lindsay Weaver, I reside at [REDACTED] Perth.

I am self-employed as an [REDACTED] and am aged 37 born on [REDACTED]

I am making this statement to Detective Sergeant Malcolm Inglis about an incident while I was at Bayfield High School involving a teacher Mr Benson-Pope.

I left [REDACTED] at the end of 1980 and started at Bayfield High School in 1981.

I lived at home with my father and younger sister. My mother died at about the start of the 3rd form.

We were living at [REDACTED] at the time.

Detective Sergeant Inglis has shown me the school magazine and my school report to assist me remember which year the incident may have occurred in.

On looking at my report I see that our form teacher was [REDACTED] and I think that he took us for Social Studies.

So it would have been in the 4th form that Benson-Pope would have taken us for Social Studies.

I don't remember myself getting into any great trouble at school, just the normal things a boy would get up to.

I was at Bayfield from 1981 and finished sometime in 1984 in the 6th form.

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I think it was 1982 that Benson-Pope was taking us for Social Studies, that was the 4th form.

Some of the teachers I remember having were Mr [redacted] for science, I also had a Mr and Mrs [redacted] teach me at sometime I had Mr [redacted] for art work at some stage, Mrs [redacted] for music, Mr [redacted] for Geography, Mr [redacted] for science as well.

I'm not sure which years I would have had these teachers, there were also other teachers that I had, but I can't remember them all.

I'm not sure of what time of the year that the incident occurred in, but it was a social studies class. I couldn't say if it was morning or afternoon that it occurred in.

If I was to look at a map I could tell you which class it was in. It should be easy to find out as he would teach several classes from that room.

If you look in the 1982 School magazine at the photo of the school on page one, it is the building to the far right, the two storied building and the upstairs classroom on the right hand side.

It was just a normal class, with the same people who were in the social studies class. You had the spots in the class that you liked to sit in beside people that you would like to sit beside.

The desks were set up in a U shape with the teachers desk at the front and the



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middle of the classroom.

We each had our own desk, but they were up against the next desk.

I think they were flat normal desks, not the type that had opening tops.

I was sitting on the door side of the classroom looking towards the windows.

I think I was the third of four desks in.

I remember that Aaron Tasker was on one side of me and I think, but am not 100% sure that [redacted] was on the other side of me.

I am not sure how many of my form class which was Form 4G, were in that Social Studies class, but a good percentage of them would have been.

There was nothing major that I remember that lead up to the incident.

It wouldn't have been that long after the start of the class, I think that class went for about 40 minutes, they called them a period.

If I remember rightly I was talking in class, Mr Benson-Pipe used to like tennis balls. If you weren't paying attention he would throw one at you. I think he was the tennis coach at the time and had a supply of tennis balls.

He barked me with a tennis ball he had on a ~~case~~ archery arrow that he used to hit you on the head with if you were doing something in class.

I can't remember the sequence of events, but it was along the lines of me telling because it was something I did. I think it went from

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then to I'll stick the tennis ball in my mouth to show my mates as a bit of a laugh.

Everyone in the class thought it was funny. I'm not sure if it was the one off the arrow or not.

He pushed it into my mouth, it was really uncomfortable so I took out.

He then pushed it back into my mouth, my mouth was quite wide open, I remember that as it was quite painful in the jaw.

He then taped my hands to the desk, I don't remember what he told me to do, but I had this tennis ball in my mouth and he then proceeded to tape my hands to the desk. He used duct tape I think it is. It is like a block sticky tape.

My hands were at the corner of the desk and palms down.

It was so he could get the tape around my hands and the corner of the desk.

I think the tennis ball was one of the yellow ones and the arrow was silver in color.

I couldn't get the tennis ball out of my mouth it was hard enough getting it out with your hands in the first place.

I had to breathe through my nose as it had sealed my mouth up. It was very uncomfortable it's not a small object to have in your mouth.

I think it was at the end of class that Benson - Pope untaped me and I could get the ball out of my mouth.

I don't remember if anything was said to me or not.

I wasn't upset like crying at the time, but more pissed off that he had put a tennis ball in my



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month.

Other teachers would have sent you out of the class and given you lines or something similar.

Everyone who was in that class must have witnessed what happened to me. It was a full class. The desk would have been a standard desk I think, about a metre wide and not as deep as wide. It was the normal height for getting a chair under it, about 800 or 900cm high.

I think I would have tried to free my hands if I could have, but that tape is quite strong. I couldn't protest or say anything as the ball was in my mouth. I don't remember if anything was said after the first time he put it in my mouth. I removed the tennis ball myself once my hands had been untaped.

I don't remember anything being said or happening between Benson-Pope and myself. I just went onto my next class.

What I remember about Benson-Pope at the time was he was very firm at the time, he seemed to like to get on with the girls and be hard on the boys.

I don't remember if Benson-Pope censored me or not.

I got censored a few times at school. 3 or 4 times. I remember once in the third form on about the first day myself and some other boys got caught in the bike sheds by Benson-Pope and we weren't meant to be there, so we got censored for that.

Once the science teacher censored me because I wrote on a chair with chalk and when

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Someone sat on it they got the chalk writing on their pants.

It had been done to me and I was doing it back and got caught doing it.

I don't remember what the others were for.

Some teachers liked caning and others didn't, they would give you lines or something.

Benjamin Pope wasn't my favorite teacher, but there was nothing unusual about it. I don't think I was his favorite pupil.

There was no real animosity that I remember between us.

There was other discipline that I would get from him, it could be a detention or something if he caught you doing something around the grounds.

On one school camp we wouldn't go to sleep so he made us stand outside in our undies. I can't remember how long it was for, but it was cold. He was hard when it came to discipline and was known to put off a bit.

He made a [REDACTED] student ride in his undies for a time at the school camp down south.

He used to throw things at pupils and do other types of things, but I don't know of him taking anyone to the deck like me.

I wasn't getting around in a group of trouble makers I had a group of good friends that used to get around together with. We used to play together and do kids things together, but we weren't trouble makers. We would go around to each other's house to play and things. It would be like most kids at school.

I can't remember that the incident was ever brought up again.



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There were no other major incidents that occurred with me and Mr Benson-Pope. I don't remember any other incidents with other teachers. Lots of kids got hit over the head by Benson-Pope's desk.

As I said I left school midway through the 6<sup>th</sup> form. I stopped taking social studies in the 5<sup>th</sup> form so I don't think I had Mr Benson-Pope in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> form.

The reason that this came out was I got a phone call from Rodney Hird about three weeks ago. I had no idea who Rodney Hird was to start with. I think he may have been in contact with Aaron before he called me and that is who he got my number from.

He started off by saying I was furious over here, it's all over the news and papers, I had no idea what he was going on about. It was then that he went on to explain that Benson-Pope was a Minister of the government, I didn't even know that he was in parliament.

He told me he was involved with the education area and this had come out about what had happened to me. He also said about [redacted] and it had come out about him.

He asked me like going on record or something like that, to say that it was true.

He said that he had accused Benson-Pope of these things and Benson-Pope had denied them saying they were all lies and that.

I said if I can help as I know that

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These things are true I would help, I didn't know that it would come to this!

It would have been a couple of hours later that I got a call from T.V. 3, it was all a bit over ~~understanding~~ to think that a T.V. crew was going to fly over to interview me.

The phone call from Hyde, our time was about 5. + 5.30 pm the T.V. crew phoned about 7 pm. I then got another call at about 9 pm on that night ~~and~~ got another call from the T.V. people saying they were flying over the next day and could they see us on Sunday. I agreed to that.

It was the 14<sup>th</sup> of May they came over and they interviewed me on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>. I just wanted to tell the truth.

I don't know now Rodney Hill got the information about the incident involving me. I don't remember him telling me.

It must have been someone who really knows me.

I have no axe to ~~grind~~ <sup>grind</sup> against Benson-Pope I wouldn't have brought this matter up if the media and Rodney Hill hadn't gotten into it. I'm now in a bit of a hard situation, as I'm not a liar and don't like being called one.

I just want Benson-Pope to admit he did wrong, I didn't know that the Police would become involved.

I'm not sure what I want to see happen next I've been caught up in this, but I am not a liar, I have no reason to make any of this up. I didn't bring it



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up in the first place.

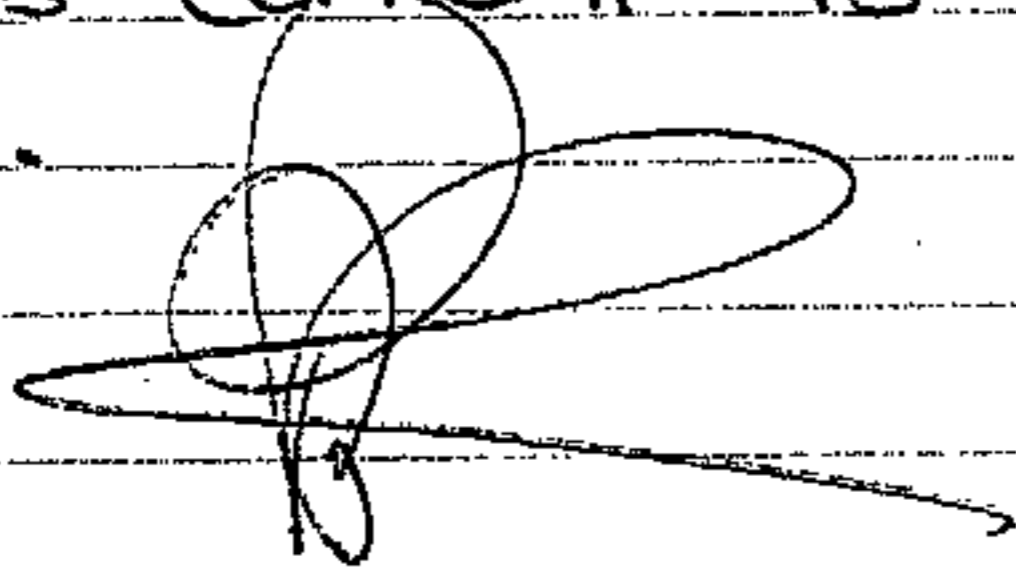
I would not think that this matter needs to go to Court, but if it does I would have to look at that. The media knows that you are here and they will keep checking me.

I feel strange about it, but I need to think about my family and work, if I needed to go to Court I would look at that.

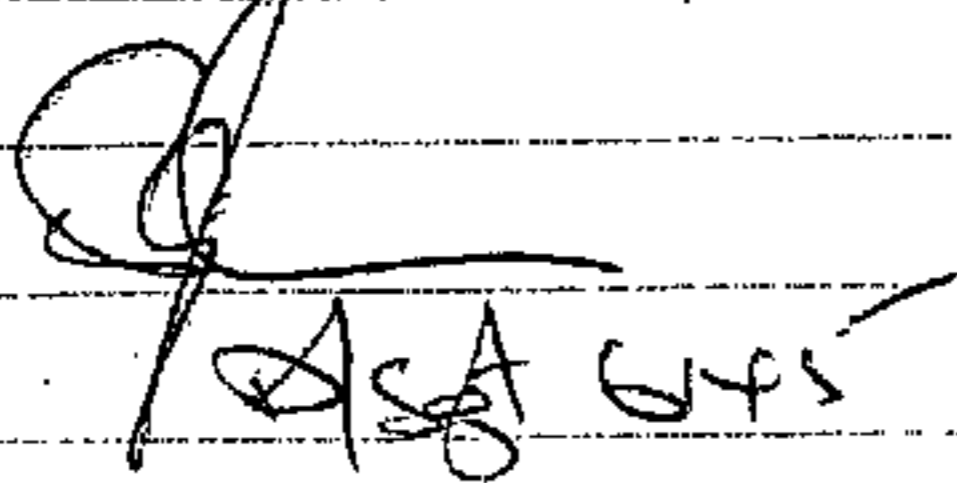
I haven't seen Benson-Rope since I left school. I have lived in Perth for around 9 years. My school friend Aaron also lives in Perth.

I can't think of anything else to add.

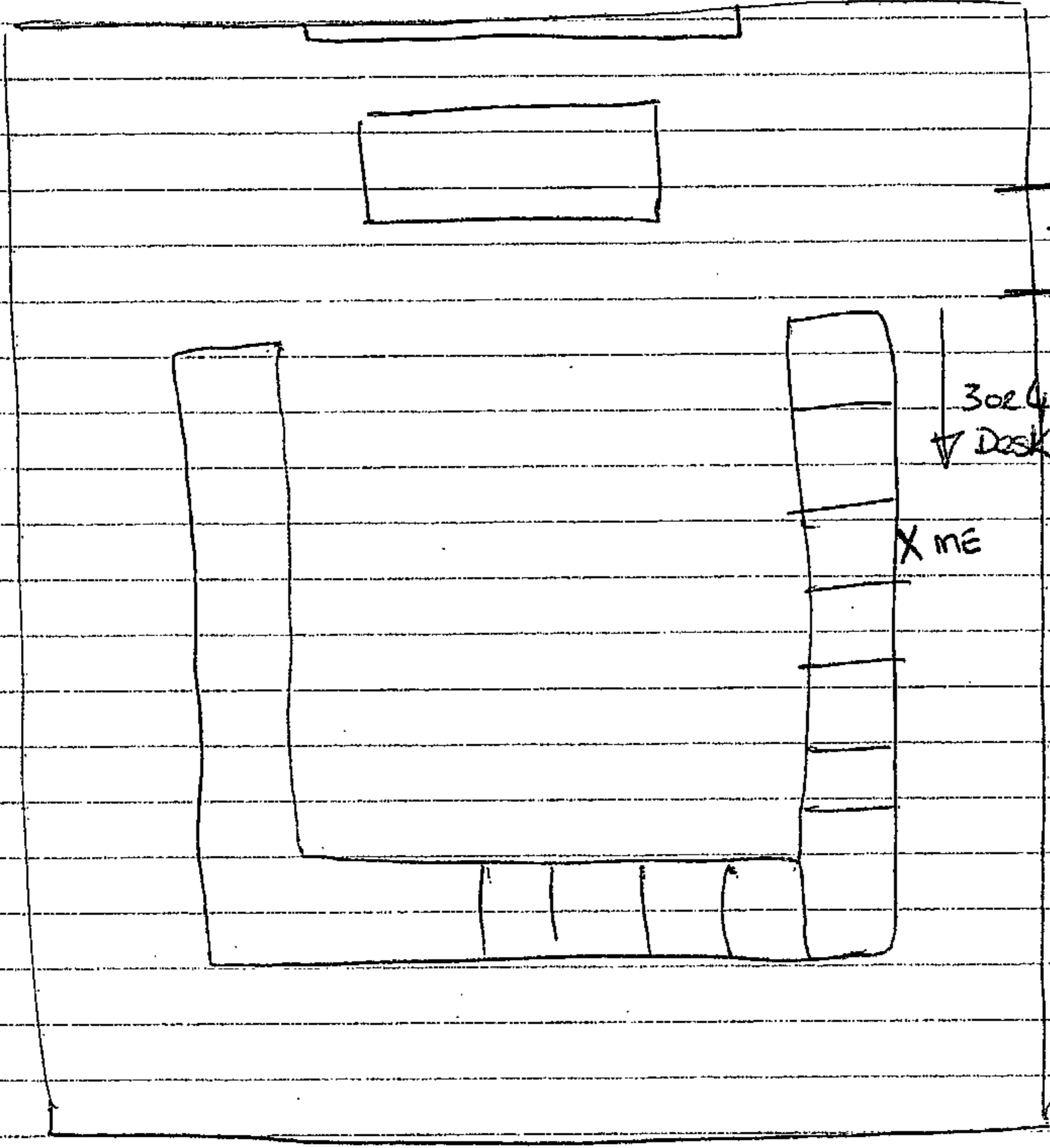
I Philip Lindsay Weaver Have Read this statement and its content is true & correct, to the best of my memory.



Statement taken by & witnessed



ASA 645



Door

3026  
↓ Desks in?

X ME

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'G', written in black ink.

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