
DEBRUIN, PETER

Legend: DR: Detective Rydalch
PD: Peter Debruin
(Unintell): Unintelligible Conversation

START OF RECORDING

DR: Detective Rydalch, R-y-d-a-l-c-h, ID number's 3-7-8-7, and ah, at the 3700 block of Mission Boulevard. Ah today's date is July 25th, 1999, and the time is ah 0020 hours. And I'm interviewing, state your name for me please.

PD: Ah Peter Debruin.

DR: Okay. Peter have you got ah, identification with you today?

PD: No I don't have anything on me.

DR: Nothin' on you? Okay.

PD: I just walked from my house.

DR: All right. Wh--ah spell your last name for me.

PD: [Personal data deleted]

DR: Okay. All right well why don't you go ahead and tell me ah, what you saw (unintell).

PD: Okay. Well I was ordering a piece of pizza, and I was gonna' go walk across the street, get my laundry.

DR: Where were you ordering the pizza?

PD: From Rosario's, it's on, on this side of the street.

DR: Across the street.

PD: Yeah across the street. And, I walked across the street. I saw, I saw the helicopter out there. People were comin' out because the helicopter was just turnin' around in circles. And ah, I saw the light, the spotlight in the alley and I saw Sam, the liquor store owner. And I said, hey Sam and he said, hey look at the lights right here. It's pretty bright. (Unintell) oh yeah and, right when that happened we were just looking at it, right at the alley. I don't know the, the name of the alley but, then that black guy was wrestling with two police officers and they came . . .

DR: Now which alley we talkin' about?

1 PD: The one where he ran down right next to the liquor store.

2 DR: So we're lookin' at the liquor sign here . . .

3 PD: Yeah.

4 DR: . . . here and it's the alley . . .

5 PD: Yeah.

6 DR: . . . closest to us?

7 PD: Yeah right down on my right. And ah . . .

8 DR: Okay. And, and, now you say they ran, they ran outta' the alley onto the street?

9 PD: Yeah like toward, they were comin' towards me. 'Cause I was right, we were right

10 DR: standing in, right in the middle of the alley. And pretty much . . .

11 PD: On th--on this side of the liquor store?

12 PD: Yeah or on the, on the other side of the liquor store. Where we, where we walked out

13 DR: of. If you go down this way . . .

14 PD: Okay.

15 PD: . . . south, south of the liquor store.

16 DR: So you were standin' in the doorway, talkin' to Sam?

17 PD: No we were standin' in the alley. (Unintell) . . .

18 DR: Down the south alley?

19 PD: Yeah. And ah, we saw them running down towards us and we both kind'a just got

20 scared a little bit and I was gonna' go, I just, I just wanted to get out of their way, out

21 of the police officers' way. And I immediately ah, me and Sam started walking ah

22 north, like right in front of the liquor store, 'cause they were comin' right at us. So, I

23 ran in the liquor store and I saw them. Th--they came out and they stopped in front of

24 me, and I didn't know whether to run, keep running down the street, across the street

25 and, or to run into the liquor store because I was afraid that they were gonna' come in

26 the liquor store, the guy was gonna' follow me or, you know I was just pretty much

27 scared for myself, at that time. And they started ah wrestling with those ah, those

28 black nunchakus . . .

DR: Uh huh.

PD: . . . things and ah, I know the black guy grabbed one of 'em, and ah, that's when I, I

just took off, right when I saw that I, I took right, I just ran to the back of the liquor

store. I heard gunshots and I stayed back there, I just stayed back there for about ten

1 minutes. Sam was hiding in the liquor store too. He told me to just ga--go in the
2 back room. I just went in the back and I just, I just laid low for a while until, you
3 know, saw that everyone started comin' out and then I came out and, pretty much, I
4 just been in there ever since, for the last two hours, in the liquor store. And I, I mean,
5 that's all I really saw.

6 DR: Okay now how far down the alley were you? Were you up by the sidewalk or were
7 you . . .

8 PD: Yeah I was right on the sidewalk.

9 DR: Okay.

10 PD: On the sidewalk.

11 DR: And ah Sam, the liquor store owner, was out there talkin' to you.

12 PD: Right. He told me, he said look, look up the, look up the alley. You can see the, the
13 light from the, ah helicopter.

14 DR: 'Kay.

15 PD: Yeah. And ah, we saw them running down towards us and we both kind'a just got
16 scared a little bit and I was gonna' go, I just, I just wanted to get out of their way, out
17 of the police officers' way. And I immediately ah, me and Sam started walking ah
18 north, like right in front of the liquor store, 'cause they were comin' right at us. So, I
19 ran in the liquor store and I saw them. Th--they came out and they stopped in front of
20 me, and I didn't know whether to run, keep running down the street, across the street
21 and, or to run into the liquor store because I was afraid that they were gonna' come in
22 the liquor store, the guy was gonna' follow me or, you know I was just pretty much
23 scared for myself, at that time. And they started ah wrestling with those ah, those
24 black nunchakus . . .

25 DR: Uh huh.

26 PD: . . . things and ah, I know the black guy grabbed one of 'em, and ah, that's when I, I
27 just took off, right when I saw that I, I took right, I just ran to the back of the liquor
28 store. I heard gunshots and I stayed back there, I just stayed back there for about ten
minutes. Sam was hiding in the liquor store too. He told me to just ga--go in the
back room. I just went in the back and I just, I just laid low for a while until, you
know, saw that everyone started comin' out and then I came out and, pretty much, I
just been in there ever since, for the last two hours, in the liquor store. And I, I mean,

1 that's all I really saw.

2 DR: Okay. So you didn't you go through the front door, you ran down the alley?

3 PD: No we were, I was on the sidewalk . . .

4 DR: Uh huh.

5 PD: . . . I was on the sidewalk and then I just ran into the liquor store. 'Cause I was like

6 right here . . .

7 DR: Through the front door?

8 PD: Yeah.

9 DR: Okay.

10 PD: Through the front door. Yeah there's no back door or anything to that liquor store. I

11 just ran in the back.

12 DR: Now y--y--y--you were talkin' about a black guy, have you ever seen him before?

13 PD: No.

14 DR: Can you describe him to me?

15 PD: Ah, he's big build, black guy, um he looked at me in the eyes, and he was really

16 scared when I saw him you know and then I was just, it was, maybe 'bout a half a

17 second and, you know just a tall guy, probably 'bout what, six-three, six-four, six-

18 five, you know.

19 DR: Uh huh.

20 PD: He's pretty big, he's probably bi--as big as me. Ah, big build, and ah that was pretty

21 much . . .

22 DR: When you say big, what do you mean?

23 PD: Like in the, muscular build, like a big guy, you know (unintell).

24 DR: How much do you think he weighed?

25 PD: I'd say about 220.

26 DR: Okay. And ah, what kind'a clothes was he wearing?

27 PD: He was wearing ah some old scrubby clothes. His ah, dar--I just saw a dark shirt and

28 then ah, he had these like just, scrubby pants on and then he had some ah running

 shoes on. Basically I saw that from, 'cause I saw him laying on the, on the ground

 and when I was wa--when we were standing out there, and when we were standing in

 the liquor store just looking (unintell) that's how I can describe his clothes. I just

 saw, and they're laying out there still, 'cause they cut the clothes off, when the

1 medics got here, they left clothes there.

2 DR: Did he have a beard or moustache?

3 PD: No.

4 DR: So he's clean shaven?

5 PD: Uh huh.

6 DR: And ah, what about his hair?

7 PD: Um, just, just not long or anything. Just kind'a, black hair, I didn't really see the, I

8 mean, I was kind'a, I was pretty much scared. I wasn't tryin' to look at anything.

9 The whole thing like spooked (sic) me out. I'd never seen anything like this so . . .

10 DR: Okay. Didn't really see his hair but you said it was short?

11 PD: Yeah, short, li--I mean, just an average ah, black guy's haircut.

12 DR: Okay. So it was just a natural it wasn't ah . . .

13 PD: Uh huh. No. Nothin' like you could just (unintell) . . .

14 DR: Wasn't processed or . . .

15 PD: . . . dreadlocks or (unintell) . . .

16 DR: Okay. All right.

17 PD: Or dyed it wasn't (unintell).

18 DR: And, and then you talk about ah, how old would you think this guy was, I'm sorry

19 (unintell).

20 PD: Mmm, I'd say he's in his late maybe twenties, if I had to take a guess.

21 DR: Okay. And you'd never seen him before?

22 PD: No.

23 DR: Any, anything else distinctive about him?

24 PD: Um, no just that he was, ah, tall and big build.

25 DR: Okay.

26 PD: (Unintell).

27 DR: And you mentioned some officers. Ah, how many officers?

28 PD: Two.

DR: 'Kay.

PD: Two.

DR: Ah, anything help you distinguish between the two officers you saw?

PD: I saw one of 'em out there ah doin' a walk-through. He was a, kind'a of a, he had a,

1 like your color hair, but kind'a buzz, and he's wearin' shorts and, not, pretty skinny
2 guy (unintell) not like real fat or anything. Probably 'bout five-ten, six feet tall
3 maybe. That's the only, I mean that's the only officer I saw.

4 DR: Okay.

5 PD: I mean that I pretty remember because as I said, I just took off. I ran in the back of
6 the liquor store and I was just hopin' that he wasn't gonna' come in, they weren't
7 gonna' come into the liquor store too, it, you know, kind'a the thoughts went through
8 my head, you know, well what if this guy comes in the liquor store (unintell).

9 DR: Okay.

10 PD: You know.

11 DR: So they, so they ran down this alley and I guess we'll call that east until they got to
12 the sidewalk and then they started running south on the sidewalk?

13 PD: No they started running ah, they came ah north, towards the liquor store. So it was
14 south, right behind the liquor store, right, they were comin' down that alley and then,
15 me and Sam started running north, right past the liquor store and then right in front of
16 the liquor store that's when they started, the police officers started to get, they were
17 wrestling with the guy and like hitting him and then the guy grabbed one of those
18 things and was tryin' to fight back and then that's all I saw and then I just, I was just,
19 you know, because I didn't know if they were gonna' go in the liquor store, or like if I
20 should keep running or, just, I was just tryin' to get outta' the way and then you know
21 I was just kind'a like, put my arms up and then, I ran into the back of the liquor store.
22 And so did Sam, Sam ran in and then that's all I saw. I, and then I just heard
23 gunshots.

24 DR: Okay so they were in the same alley you guys were.

25 PD: Yeah we weren't really in an alley we were just like st--like standing on the sidewalk
26 like this.

27 DR: Okay.

28 PD: You know I wasn't in the alley. I was, I was, I came across the street and I just saw
Sam, I said hi. And then I was gonna' go get my laundry.

DR: Okay you see that phone, the phone down there. Were you standin' by the phone?

PD: Um, the phone. Ye--yeah, a little, yeah, around yeah, yeah right there.

DR: Okay.

1 PD: Yeah, right around there.

2 DR: And, and where did they come from? I'm so--I'm, I still got 'em comin' down this
3 alley closest to us here.

4 PD: No. They're, they're comin' down the alley next to the phone.

5 DR: Okay.

6 PD: Right down . . .

7 DR: All right. So they, so they were runnin' ah, we'll, we'll call it what east I guess?

8 PD: Yeah.

9 DR: Okay.

10 PD: It's east. Yeah they were comin' east and then I saw them runnin' towards me and
11 then, I took off, I was gonna' wa--I was, gettin' outta' the way, comin' back right
12 across, right in front of the liquor store. I was like goin' north in front of the liquor
13 store.

14 DR: Okay.

15 PD: And then they all caught up to me and I just saw 'em wrestle a little bit, and then I ran
16 into the liquor. And that's pretty much.

17 DR: And so they, did they actually run by you then?

18 PD: Like kind'a right in front of me. Like they ran right in front of me and then, 'cause he
19 got, he got shot right, right in the doorway, right . . .

20 DR: Okay.

21 PD: . . . in front. And then that's when I, I just took off. And I know they were wrestlin'
22 right around in front and then, I do--I wasn't gonna' stay and just um, you know,
23 watch or anything. I, I wanted to get outta' there. (Unintell) just take off.

24 DR: Now when you say they started fighting, ah, can you describe it all what happened?

25 PD: Ah the, the police officers were tryin' to just, I guess detain him, get him down and, I
26 mean arrest him. And, you know they were tryin' to, just wrestle with him, and ah,
27 they hit him with the, that thing, what, whatever it's called. And ah . . .

28 DR: What does it look like?

29 PD: That black nunchakus . . .

30 DR: Okay.

31 PD: . . . thing, the, they're laying out in front right there.

32 DR: Now when you say they, who . . .

1 PD: There's two of 'em.

2 DR: . . . both of 'em had their nunchakus out or just one of 'em hit him?

3 PD: Yeah, yeah. They both had ah, they both had the, a weapon out.

4 DR: Now when you saw weapon . . .

5 PD: (Unintell) the nunchakus.

6 DR: . . . you're talkin' 'bout the nunchakus?

7 PD: Yeah.

8 DR: Okay.

9 PD: And then, ah ri--and I, right when I saw 'em start wrestling with it, I took off. I just, I
10 ran away.

11 DR: Okay. So, so in terms of, of a struggle, what's the first thing you saw?

12 PD: Um, that, the black was just tryin' to get away and they were tryin' to detain him and
13 . . .

14 DR: So . . .

15 PD: . . . ah he wa--he was wrestlin' back too you know, he was ah . . .

16 DR: Yeah.

17 PD: . . . wrestlin' back with them (unintell), and ah, (unintell).

18 DR: When did you first see the officers get a hold of him?

19 PD: Right when they caught up to me. Right, right, right in the, right out in front where,
20 where he got shot.

21 DR: Okay.

22 PD: Right there, that's where they're wrestlin' around and they caught up to him. And
23 then ah, like I said, I just started see 'em wrestle and then I ran in the back of the
24 liquor store. I was tryin', I wanted to get outta' the way of everything. And I was
25 scared for myself too.

26 DR: Did, did you hear 'em say anything to the guy?

27 PD: Um, no. I didn't hear 'em say anything.

28 DR: 'Kay. Which officer made contact with this guy first?

PD: I don't, I couldn't, I couldn't tell you. I just know they were both wrestlin'. 'Cause I
was lookin' away and then like . . .

DR: Okay.

PD: . . . you know, you know what I mean? Just, I wasn't like just watching the whole

1 time.

2 DR: Uh huh.

3 PD: You know I was kind of, I gotta' get outta' here, you know. And so as I was, you
4 know, lookin' where I was gonna' go, I was also like kind'a lookin' back where
5 they're goin', tryin' to see where they were gonna' go 'cause I, I wanted to go, I, you
6 know, I wanted to go where they're not.

7 DR: But you saw both officers holding on to this guy?

8 PD: Yeah, wrestle, like just wrestlin' with him and then he was throwin' off, because he's
9 a big guy.

10 DR: Uh huh.

11 PD: That guy was big. And he was thro--pushin' the officers away and then they were
12 tryin' to grab him. And then that's pretty much (unintell) yeah, it was, couple
13 seconds, you know and then ah, I took off.

14 DR: And where were they grabbin' him?

15 PD: Um, on the shoulders (unintell).

16 DR: Both on the same side, different side?

17 PD: Ah, no they (unintell), on separate sides. So there's one like on the south side and
18 one on the north side. You know and then they were just like, I just know they're,
19 you know they're just wrestlin' around, you know so.

20 DR: Okay. Ah did you notice when the officers ah pulled out their nunchakus?

21 PD: Mm-mm. No not at all.

22 DR: And when, when did you first become aware that they had 'em in their hand?

23 PD: Ah, when I saw 'em hit one, hit the guy. I just saw that and then, and then I, I took
24 off.

25 DR: And ah, could you tell which officer hit him first or . . .

26 PD: No I, I couldn't.

27 DR: . . . how many times they hit him?

28 PD: A couple ti--I saw like two or three times.

DR: From one officer?

PD: Yeah from one 'em.

DR: What about the other one?

PD: I just, it just was like so fast you know. And I couldn't, I mean, I couldn't tell you. I

1 would just be . . .

2 DR: Okay.

3 PD: . . . makin' it up (unintell) you know (unintell).

4 DR: All right. And then you said ah, well lemme' ask you, ah after they hit him with the

5 nunchakus, what happened then?

6 PD: Ah that's when I, I to--oh well I saw a, he grabbed one, like he wrestled one of the

7 nunchakus away from 'em somehow because, when I looked back he had one of 'em

8 in his hand. I know he had one in his hand. He had one of those weapons in his

9 hands, his nunchaku.

10 DR: And when you say he, we're talkin' about the black guy?

11 PD: Yeah the black guy.

12 DR: Okay.

13 PD: He had one in his hand. I know that for sure. 'Cause I saw that and that's like when I

14 got really scared and I was just, that's when I just started runnin', you know. I ran to

15 the back.

16 DR: You didn't see who he took 'em away from?

17 PD: Oh I have no idea. (Unintell) no idea.

18 DR: So you just saw 'em in his hands?

19 PD: Yeah.

20 DR: And ah, that's when you ran to the back of the store?

21 PD: Yeah, uh huh.

22 DR: Did you see anything after that?

23 PD: No. I just heard gunshots. That's all.

24 DR: Okay. How many gunshots did you hear?

25 PD: Um, seven to twelve, ten (unintell).

26 DR: And how soon after you went into the store did you hear these gunshots?

27 PD: Seconds later. Like, maybe one second. Like right when I was goin' in, into the

28 store, that's when I heard it (unintell) I just kept runnin'.

DR: And did you hear or see anything after you heard the gunshots?

PD: No. I stayed in the, in the back.

DR: Did you notice when you were out front, did you notice anybody else outside, beside

 the officer and the black male you described to me?

1 PD: Um, just Sam. I was talkin' to Sam and then, just some other, I mean, it wasn't
2 really, there wasn't really a lot', lotta' of people out there but, you know. There was
3 a couple people just walkin' around.

4 DR: Do you know any of them?

5 PD: No. (Unintell).

6 DR: How many would you say were out there when this, when you saw this happen?

7 PD: (Unintell) probably 'bout seven, ten people.

8 DR: Out in front of the liquor store?

9 PD: No, no, no, no, no, um I thought, are you talkin' 'bout just . . .

10 DR: Yeah just in . . .

11 PD: . . . my peripheral vision and everything?

12 DR: Uh huh. Uh huh.

13 PD: Yeah I'd say probably 'bout seven, seven or eight people.

14 DR: And where were they standing?

15 PD: Just around, I know there were some people ah south, you know down the street.
16 'Cause there's a bar down there and, I know there's some people over here because I
17 was, I was lookin' up, up the street, 'cause I was gonna' go to the liquor sto--I mean
18 to the laundry mat.

19 DR: Some people by, by what, this steak place, or up further?

20 PD: Yeah aro--yeah right around there.

21 DR: Okay.

22 PD: 'Cause the laundry mat's right there, the wash, you see that laundry mat? It's right
23 next door to the liquor store.

24 DR: Okay. And the first time you'd seen this black male was when he was runnin'
25 towards you in the alley?

26 PD: Yeah.

27 DR: You hadn't seen him earlier in the, in the day?

28 PD: Never seen the guy ever before in my life.

DR: Okay. And then you said that ah the officers shot him right out in front of the door
um . . .

PD: Uh huh.

DR: . . . is that information you picked up what after you came out of the store?

1 PD: Yeah well I mean, when I heard the shots, I mean I knew they shot the guy and I
2 knew it was like where they were wrestlin' right, right in front.

3 DR: Okay. So shots sound like they were comin' from right out front of the store?

4 PD: Yeah. Right.

5 DR: And then you saw him on the ground afterwards?

6 PD: Yeah. Somethin' like that.

7 DR: All right. Well just lemme' make sure I've got this right and then ah, I think we've
8 got it here.

9 PD: All right.

10 DR: You went over to Rosario's to get some pizza.

11 PD: Yeah. And I never got . . .

12 DR: Did you actually get any pizza?

13 PD: No.

14 DR: Okay.

15 PD: I'm so hungry right now.

16 DR: Ah you walked across the street to ah, do some laundry, get some laundry out.

17 PD: Yeah to take it out.

18 DR: Okay. And ah, started talkin' to ah Sam, the liquor store owner . . .

19 PD: Uh huh.

20 DR: . . . um over there by that phone booth.

21 PD: That's correct.

22 DR: Okay. 'Bout that time, how long had you been talkin' to Sam then?

23 PD: Ah, maybe three or four seconds. All, this is our conversation. He goes hey, check
24 out the lights, the lights from the helicopter. And I looked down the alley, where he
25 pointed down the alley, and then that's it. That's all, that's all, that was our whole
26 conversation.

27 DR: Okay. 'Bout what time do you think that happened?

28 PD: Nine-thirty.

DR: Nine-thirty.

PD: (Unintell).

DR: All right. Ah, that's when you saw ah the black male and two officers running down
the alley.

1 PD: Uh huh.

2 DR: Ah, the black male was in front of the officers I take it?

3 PD: Uh huh.

4 DR: Okay. Ah, you, when you saw them, you ran ah north in front of the liquor store?

5 PD: Yeah.

6 DR: And ah, they came down the alley and started wrestling in front of you.

7 PD: (Unintell) uh huh.

8 DR: Ah the officers ah were ah, trying to get a hold of this guy around the shoulders...

9 PD: Uh huh.

10 DR: . . . one on each side.

11 PD: Uh huh.

12 DR: He kept pushin' 'em off.

13 PD: Yeah.

14 DR: At one point ah you became aware of them ah, both having nunchakus in their hands.

15 PD: Uh huh.

16 DR: Ah you saw the officers ah strike the black male . . .

17 PD: Uh huh.

18 DR: . . . two to three times.

19 PD: Uh huh.

20 DR: May have been the same officer but you think . . .

21 PD: Yeah. May (unintell) . . .

22 DR: . . . the officers may have hit him as well.

23 PD: Uh huh.

24 DR: But you're not sure about that.

25 PD: Yeah, right. That's correct.

26 DR: Okay. Um, you were kind'a lookin' back and forth ah . . .

27 PD: Yeah.

28 DR: . . . between the, the wrestling match and where you thought might run.

PD: Right.

DR: Ah at one point, you saw the black male with ah nunchakus in his hand.

PD: Uh huh.

DR: And that's when you ran inside the liquor store.

1 PD: Right. Right.

2 DR: Ah, just seconds after you went inside the liquor store you heard ah between seven
3 and twelve gunshots.

4 PD: That's right.

5 DR: And ah you didn't hear or see anything after that.

6 PD: Uh huh.

7 DR: Ah the gunshots sounded like they were comin' from in front of the store where you
8 saw the officers strugglin' ah with this guy.

9 PD: Uh huh.

10 DR: 'Kay. Ah let's see you described his clothes for me but, think we have all that. He
11 was a tall ah black male, late twenties, six-three to six-five. How tall are you by the
12 way?

13 PD: [Personal data deleted].

14 DR: But you think he was about your size?

15 PD: [Personal data deleted]

16 DR: Okay. Ah muscular, 220 pounds, you said he had scrubby, scrubby clothes . . .

17 PD: Uh huh.

18 DR: . . . a dark shirt, ah scrubby pants and running shoes.

19 PD: Right.

20 DR: And you saw most of that after you saw him on the street after all this was over.

21 PD: Right.

22 DR: Okay. Ah you saw one of the officers afterwards um, and you couldn't really figure
23 out, or distinguish the other officer (unintell) . . .

24 PD: Yeah and there's no way with all these police officers walkin' around.

25 DR: Okay.

26 PD: (Unintell) no way.

27 DR: Were they both male officers?

28 PD: Yeah they're both male.

DR: Okay. Ah both white male officers?

PD: Both male and white.

DR: Okay. Did both, both of 'em wear shorts?

PD: Ah, yeah. Yeah they were shorts.

1 DR: Okay.
2 PD: (Unintell) shorts.
3 DR: But they were both in uniform?
4 PD: Yeah.
5 DR: Any other police officers in the area at the time?
6 PD: Mmm, no.
7 DR: Okay. So those're the only two officers that you saw.
8 PD: Yeah those're the only ones I saw.
9 DR: And you saw maybe ah, seven people standing outside ah . . .
10 PD: Yeah like just around . . .
11 DR: Okay.
12 PD: . . . within like a block radius.
13 DR: But they weren't anybody you recognized.
14 PD: Nope.
15 DR: And nobody you know for sure if they saw anything or not.
16 PD: No.
17 DR: Okay. And this is all information where I can reach you.
18 PD: Yep.
19 DR: Ah what're you days off over at the [Personal data deleted]?
20 PD: Ah actually I work, [Personal data deleted].
21 DR: Okay. Very good. Lemme' get in the back (unintell) get you a card Peter, ah I
22 appreciate you talkin' to me.
23 PD: All right.
24 (END OF TRANSCRIPTION)
25
26
27
28