

REPORT OF INTERVIEW

With Russell Bonnano, on November 15, 1991, at 11:00 a.m., at the Law Office of Shirley M. Tierney, 26 Seventh Street, New Bedford, Ma. by Special Agent John S. Paolillo and Special Agent Henry J. Moniz Jr., Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Mr Bonnano states as follows:

Mr. Bonnano said that he works for the College Sotheastern Mass. University in Dartmouth, Ma. as a counselor. As a counselor he lives on the campus so that he can respond to any crisis situation involving a student.

Mr. Bonnano stated that the first time he met Tom Shay the last week in August, 1991. Mr. Bonnano's friend Scott Stanley brought Shay to a peer support meeting on campus that meets on a weekly basis. After the meeting was over Bonnano was introduced to Shay by Shane Cassidy. Bonnano said that he was told Shay was homeless and he couldn't live with his family because he was a homosexual. Bonnano decided to let Shay stay in his spare guestroom for a while. He further stated that Shay was given rules to abide by if he wanted to stay with Bonnano. Rules, according to Bonnano, such as No Smoking, No Drinking, and No Stealing. Shay told Bonnano that he would abide by the rules and accepted the invitation to stay.

During his stay, Shay told Bonnano that he was thrown out of his house two years earlier because his family was offended that he was gay. Shay said that one of his friends was killed in Boston by "Gay Bashing" and because of this incident he would stand up for gay rights by going on National Television Shows to discuss gay bashing. Shay also commented that while he was growing up his father abused him both physically and sexually. He was distraught by this and didn't know how to handle it emotionally. Bonnano tried to help Shay out any way that he could but found it difficult because of Shay's attitude. According to Bonnano, Shay claimed he has traveled the country taking odd jobs and staying with different people, whom Shay never identified. Shay also claimed that he was an EMT for the City of Boston and wore a gold EMT badge around his neck to show people. Bonnano states he knows what an EMT badge looks like because at one time he was an EMT and he questioned Shay why there wasn't a number on the badge that he was carrying around. Shay said that not all badge's have numbers on them, but Bonnano knows that there is and challenged Shay on this at one of the peer support meetings. Shay tried to change the subject quickly so he wouldn't get caught in a lie.

Bonnano said that Shay also claimed to be a student at Boston University on a scholarship for basketball. Bonnano could see that Shay was under emotional stress so he never tried to confirm any of Shay's stories and allegations. At one time during the first week of Shay's stay at Bonnano's apartment, Shay called a friend named "Randy" and invited him over the apartment. Randy came over for a while to see Shay and then left. Bonnano describes Randy as being a white male, 5'10", 230 lbs. with dark hair. Randy didn't say much about himself and just seemed interested in seeing Shay.

During the second week of Shay's stay at Bonnano's apartment both talked more about Shay's claim of being an EMT for Brewster Ambulance. Bonnano could see that Shay needed a job so he offered to get him one. However, whenever Bonnano suggested a possible job, Shay said he wasn't interested in that type of work. One day Shay asked Bonnano to drive him to Quincy because he had to appear in court for his father. The court case was related to an incident when his father was an automechanic and was renting out space at a garage. The two landlords of this garage raised the rental rate and Shay's father brought a civil suit against the two landlords. Bonnano agreed to drive Shay to Quincy and dropped him off at Shay's mothers apartment. Shay was gone for a few days but then showed back up at Bonnano's apartment.

On 9/22/91 Shay brought two kittens to Bonnano's apartment but Bonnano told him that he couldn't have any pets in his apartment. As a result of this Bonnano threw shay out of the apartment but Shay had no transportation to leave. Bonnano agreed to give Shay ride back to Quincy and drop him off at his Shay's mothers apartment. When the two arrived at Shay's mothers apartment there was a note on the door telling someone to call the Quincy Police Department and that it was an emergency. Shay called the PD and got information that Shay's sister Paula had emergency sicerian surgery. Shay called around to different people to track down his mother. When he finally reached her he told her what happened and that he would stop by and pick her up on the way to the hospital. Bonnano then drove Shay to pick up his mom and sister at another apartment located in Quincy. Shay's mom and sister followed Shay and Bonnano to the hospital. When they arrived at the hospital, Bonnano dropped Shay off and left to go home. He didn't hear from Shay at all until a week later.

On 9/28/91 Bonnano saw Shay in Quincy at a BAGLY (Boston Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Youths) meeting. Shay came back to Bonnano's apartment to talk more about Shay's problems. That night, 9/28, Bonnano had a friend over named Dave Henburry. Bonnano's friend Dave began playing a guitar and Shay got extremely upset and stormed out of the room to call Glen. Bonnano asked Shay to come upstairs so that the two could talk. When Shay came upstairs he asked Bonnano for a blanket and pillow because he was going to go to bed with Dave. Bonnano got upset and asked Shay to leave his apartment immediately. Shay then got upset and started tearing down papers in the apartment. Bonnano finally calmed Shay down and drove him and Dave to Quincy. On the ride up to Quincy Shay apologized for his actions and offered to give Bonnano his EMT badge but Bonnano wouldn't accept it. Shay and Dave were dropped off at Shay's mothers apartment.

On 10/14/91 Bonnano checked himself in at St. Lukes hospital for mononucleosis. During his stay at the hospital, Bonnano was aware that Shay was trying to get a hold of him. Then one day, Shay appeared in Bonnano's hospital room feeling depressed and lonely. Bonnano said that he was in no condition to deal with Shay so he asked him to leave. Bonnano was released from the hospital on 10/27 and returned back to the college.

On 10/28 Bonnano returned to work and on 10/29 he recieved a phone call from Shay. Shay told Bonnano that the bomb that went off in Roslindale occured at his father's house. Shay sounded scared and asked Bonnano if he could come down to the college and talk. Bonnano agreed to let Shay come down and talk. When Shay arrived he told Bonnano about how his father noticed the device under his car and moved it into the garage. Also, how Shay's dad went to the police station to get help. Shay was visibly upset and said that he couldn't communicate with his father because all the phone lines were tapped.

On 10/29 Shay decided to tape the news on Bonnano's T.V. because of the bombing. On 10/30 Bonnano went to work and left Shay in the apartment. When Bonnano arrived home Shay was taping newspaper clippings about the incident on a wall in Bonnano's living room. Shay used black electrical tape for the clippings (Bonnano gave us a roll of black electrical tape that he had in his apartment).

On 10/30 Shay called Bonnano at work to tell him he was going home and also that the Federal Police were looking for him and he didn't know why. When Bonnano returned from work that evening he drove Shay to the New Bedford Bus Station so he could take a bus home to Boston.

On 10/31 Bonnano recieved a phone call from Shay at 2:00 a.m. Shay was calling from Area E Police Station in Boston to say he was arrested on an outstanding warrant. Bonnano talked to Shay a little but then hung up the phone. Since that phone call, Bonnano has not heard from Shay at all.

Bonnano stated that Shay never spoke about anyone named Trenkler, and he never mentioned that he knew who the bomb was intended for and who actually placed it underneath his father's car. Bonnano said that he was bi-sexual and he has been celibant for ten years. Also, he said Shay made sexual advances towards him but he was not receptive to them. Bonnano stated that the last two individuals in the photographic lineup looked familiar to him but he could not recall from where he knew them.