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Secure jail interview w Kevin Pease
Sat. 4/3/04, 1:30 pm
Spring Creek Correctional Cntr.

Entering the secure visitors booth at Spring Creek CC I found Pease already seated and waiting for me. He seemed relaxed, both arms resting on the counter in front of him. He had a darker complexion than I had expected and a light stubble on his chin. His black hair was cut close to the scalp. His features were more Mexican than native. He had a muscular build. Big arms. Jailhouse tats. He looked more intimidating than Marvin Roberts.

He picked up the phone as soon as I entered. He looked me directly in the eyes as he would throughout the interview. I put my hand on the glass and introduced myself. He knew who I was because I had written him a letter 2 weeks earlier requesting to be put on his visitation list. He acknowledged my hand shake with a light "hood Brother" fist tap.

I explained to him that I was working on the timeline of where everyone was the night of Hartman's murder and I wanted to go over his alibi with him again. I said even though he's repeated it several times, we've found that often people will remember more each time they tell a story. He said "or they just lie more each time they tell it". I asked him who he was talking about and he just said "Arlo"

I told him I was primarily interested in his whereabouts from the time he left Kevin Bradley's party.

He said everybody was very drunk except Joey Shank, who was driving Kevin Bradley's mom's car. In the car were Pease, Shank, Eugene Vent, Shara David, Dena Andon, Shawna Goebles, Allen Sisto, Nathan Carroll and Eddie Kootuk. They went to the Eagles Hall where Dena went in looking for Conan Goebles. Nathan and Shawna also went in. Pease said he stayed at the car. After a bit Joey took him and Dena (and someone else) to Conan's house. The rest stayed at the Eagles.

After a short time drinking and smoking weed at Conans, Pease said he left Conan's house alone and walked to Foodland to get something to eat.(Conan's house was over by E.J.Stephen's) Pease says he entered Foodland through the main entrance, "that was the only door open" and walked back to the deli section to get a sandwich. When he returned to the front of the store, nobody was around, so he put the sandwich in the pocket of his coat and walked out the way he'd entered.

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Pease says he has no idea what time it was but the liquor store was closed and he saw no customers or store employees as he left the store. He also said there were no cars in the parking lot , which he then crossed as he walked over to Shannon Charley's apartment next to the little park on Noble. He pounded on the door and windows for several minutes trying to wake her up. When she didn't answer he gave up and left. Pease says that Shannon told him later that she did awaken but that by the time she opened the door he had left and she could see him walking away. Pease doesn't know what time this was but says that it couldn't have been any earlier than 2:45 am because he walked directly from there to his house and woke up his mom who called the police at 3:05 am.

Conan called him the next day to tell him that the cops had picked up Gene and George and were looking for him (Pease) and Allen (Sisto). Conan asked him if he had beat up a guy the night before and stuck a bottle up his ass.

Pease told me he never knew Chris Stone before this case, but he did say that he and Stone had both been through the same juvenile offender program (at different times) and that Stone had the same counselor as Pease. Pease thinks that's an odd coincidence. He says he never met Ira Poe("you mean the gravedigger?") before Poe got to Spring Creek. He says he doesn't know Mike Grimes but that his brother went out with Grimes's younger sister Adrienne, Pease's brother now hangs out with Grimes' father. When I asked Pease what he knew about Mike Grimes he said "The only thing I know about him is he's being a homo down in Arizona"

Pease never knew John Hartman but used to play with Hartman's older brother when they were both kids. He said the brother now hates him because he thinks he did the crime.

When asked if he's heard any stories about the Hartman murder in jail, Pease claims that several stories have circulated such as "some black guys from the south side" "a drunk native guy" and "some guy named Nairobi Chandler". Pease claims that he hasn't heard any stories about Dale Depue's involvement. Pease said that everytime he heard a story he would tell Lori Bodwell about it so Bolles could check it out.

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Pease claims that when Shawn Aldridge was at Spring Creek, he tried to get some information from him about Depue because Bodwell had suggested to Pease that he (Depue) might be involved with the Hartman murder. Pease says that Aldridge and Depue were no longer friends because they had testified against each other. Pease said that he's convinced that Aldridge didn't know if Depue was involved. I told him that he had to know one way or the other because we know that Shawn and Dale were together that night. I asked Pease if he thinks Depue might have done it. Pease just said "If Depue did it, he's kept it real close to his chest for a long time." Pease also said that he'd hate to accuse Depue without more evidence because he knows what it's like to be falsely accused. I told him that Marvin told us the same thing but that we thought that Marvin was a little scared of Depue. Pease reacted incredulously....

"Shit, Marvin afraid of him? No way. Depue ain't nothin' in here. He's been punked a few times. No way is Marvin afraid of *him*."

I asked about Pease's weird encounter with Depue. He said he was in his cell at Fairbanks CC after finding out that his indictment had just been reinstated when Dale Depue walked into his cell and stuck out his hand to Pease. He said "I'm Dale Depue and I want to say that I'm sorry" Pease said that he was in a bad mood about the indictment and told Depue to get the fuck out of his cell or he'd kick his ass. He said they have avoided each other ever since but have had contact on the basketball court.

Other things that Pease told me in response to questions...

- He's never been in Marvin's car in his life. (he said he only knew Marvin from school and never would have hung out with him. " Marvin was too straight for me to kick with"
- There was never a time when all four of them were together that night and in fact, he never did see George Frese that night.
- He was with Eugene all night up until the time he left the Eagles with Joey Shank. He said Eugene just hung out with him because he (Pease) was tight with Eugene's brother (Corwin).

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- When asked if he was selling weed in those days, Pease said he never could have been a smoke peddler because he smoked too much of it himself. When asked about Conan, he said that Conan did sell a little bit of weed, but that wasn't why everyone was always trying to get ahold of him. Pease said people would just go to Conan's place because that was the place to go to hang out.

Pease is scheduled to be on the next full plane headed to Arizona. He said he has 1 more hearing scheduled for May 31st but that his lawyer told him he doesn't have to actually be there in person so they probably wouldn't hold him over for a later flight for that.

He said he doesn't do much in jail. He hit the weights for awhile but that got old, plays playstation occasionally but that gets old. He says he doesn't have any close friends and not many acquaintances in jail "I try to stay low key in here; you have to be careful of rats." He has no visitors and only 1 friend on the outside that he calls (occasionally) He says he doesn't play basketball anymore "that floor just kills me you know" (I'm not sure what he mean't by that... If he mean't, literally, that the floor was hard on his legs, or if it just gets too physical) He did say (proudly) that he coaches a team that won the institutes championship.

I asked him if he'll testify when he gets his new trial. He thought for several seconds before saying "I don't think it would be a good idea" He said his attorney has advised against it. He said (a little sadly) "I make a really bad witness because I get mad and sarcastic and my juvenile record is really bad. if I testify, the jury will get to hear all of that and they'd want to see me hang."

Our interview lasted the full hour. The CO had to tell him 3 times that time was up. Pease was up and down in his chair a few times, but he never ranted and raved. I got the impression that he knows that, even without the Hartman case, he would probably be in jail right now. But his frustration at being there for this crime seemed very sincere. Maybe Pease was just playing me, (I'd never had a con pitch his innocence to me before) but I left thinking that he's not guilty of Hartman's murder, and I haven't gotten that feeling from the others so far.