

AROUND THE COURTS

Cruise ship link in drugs case

By Stacey Smith

A man accused of supplying cocaine to an on duty nursery school teacher told Police he got the drugs from someone off a cruise ship, the Supreme Court heard on Friday.

Willston Ezekial Davis revealed the source of the drug during a recorded conversation with Police following his arrest, it was claimed.

The June 8, 2003, conversation was read to jurors on Friday by Detective Constable (D.C.) Bryan Paul.

According to D.C. Paul, Davis claimed the cocaine was "like rock, about nine pieces in clear plastic sandwich bags".

Davis reportedly said someone off a cruise ship gave him the cocaine in white sneakers at about 11 p.m. when he was in Dockyard near the Frog and Onion.

Davis, 43, of Somerset Road, Sandys, is accused of supplying cocaine to Cindy Augustus on June 5, 2003.

At the outset of the trial the court heard from Customs Officer, Kelly Trott, who said that she and another Customs officer along with four Police detectives staked out Vernon Temple Childcare Centre in Southampton where Augustus worked as a nursery school teacher.

Ms Trott said she saw a man on a bike

come into the nursery school grounds with a Smiths shopping bag between his legs. Augustus came out and greeted him and he gave her the Smiths bag.

After a conversation, the rider went to a nearby eatery and when he returned Augustus came back out. They kissed. The rider put his helmet back on and rode away.

Ms Trott followed the rider and obtained his licence plate number AR269. She said she tried to continue but soon lost sight of him and returned to her post on Hawthorn Lane.

On Friday – the third day of the trial – the court heard that on June 5, 2003 a black and yellow Connections Boutique bag was found in Vernon Temple Childcare Centre. This was inside a white Smiths bag.

Inside the Connections bag were six small transparent plastic bags along with an empty blue Motorola cell phone box.

According to D.C. Paul, Davis said: "I took the bag and hid it in the bush in a back road in Somerset" around 12 or 11.30 that evening. Davis reportedly said he didn't tell anyone about it and went home to sleep.

"The man told me to hold it, he said he would see me again but I never did," Davis allegedly said.

Asked why he gave the plastic bags to his "girl friend" Cindy Augustus he is said to have replied: "I just give it to her to hold – she don't know what's in it."

He added: "I told her to hold it until I knocked off and I pick it up."

Davis said he didn't leave it in the bush because somebody may have been watching him.

Asked what he intended to do with the rock-like coke in the shoes, Davis reportedly said: "I tried to keep it until the guy told me what to do with it."

The court heard Davis was apprehended and arrested in the US customs area at the Bermuda National Airport on June 6 2003.

According to the Police statement, when asked if the trip he was about to take was not pre-planned Davis said: "I planned it about two weeks ago."

He said he was going to New Jersey to visit his sick uncle. Asked about his uncle's contact number Davis said: "Me don't remember, I lost my wallet."

In the recorded statements, Davis said he was Jamaican and "they call me Buck".

He also reportedly said his bike was a "creamish coloured scoopy".

Defence lawyer Victoria Pearman suggested to D.C. Paul that that the statement he used to refresh his memory for

evidence in court on Friday was not recorded until over a month later (July 16th 2003) than the incident. D.C. Paul replied: "That is correct."

The court heard that Davis was questioned by Police on June 6, 2003.

Detective Constable Christopher Binns said he asked questions and wrote down responses, while Detective Constable Jamiko Tucker said he was the witness during the interview.

In the interview, Davis reportedly said he gave a bag containing coke to his girlfriend Augustus.

Davis is said to have claimed he found the coke in a bush.

Ms Pearman asked D.C. Tucker whether he looked at his statement on Friday morning to refresh his memory and memorise the conversation with Davis.

D.C. Tucker replied: "I guess I did."

D.C. Binns agreed to Ms Pearman's suggestion that he did not remember exactly what happened and had refreshed his memory from the recorded statement, D.C. Binns agreed.

Ms Pearman suggested to Mr. Binns that Davis never admitted passing anyone cocaine.

That was incorrect, D.C. Binns said.

The trial continues.