

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY

ANDREW J. BARBERI
DCA 04 MM 001

INTERVIEW OF PAT FORDE

Department of Transportation Office
Staten Island Ferry
New York City, New York

Friday, November 7, 2003

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the National Transportation
Safety Board:

MORGAN J. TURRELL
Marine Accident Investigator, MS-10
Office of Marine Safety

On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard:

NICK DI STEFANO
Coast Guard Investigative Service

On behalf of the New York Police Department:

CAPTAIN ANTHONY HODY

On behalf of Mr. Forde:

JIM FARESI
Shop Steward

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1:15 p.m.

MR. TURRELL: Good afternoon. It's 1:15 on November 7th. We're in the City DOT office interviewing Mate Pat Forde, Staten Island Ferries.

I'm Morgan Turrell of the NTSB. We're conducting interviews of Staten Island Ferry employees. And to my right is?

DETECTIVE HODY: Detective Anthony Hody (ph), NYPD.

MR. DI STEFANO: Nick Di Stefano (ph), Coast Guard Investigative Service.

MR. TURRELL: And Mr. Forde, if you'd spell your name -- say and spell your name for us?

MR. FORDE: Patrick Forde, F-O-R-D-E.

MR. TURRELL: And how old are you, sir?

MR. FORDE: Twenty-eight.

MR. TURRELL: And please acknowledge this is being recorded.

MR. FORDE: This is being recorded.

MR. TURRELL: And you have a representative here today. Will you introduce him for us, please?

MR. FORDE: Jim Faresi (ph).

MR. TURRELL: Okay.

MR. FORDE: Captain.

1 MR. TURRELL: And Captain Faresi has done
2 this before, so he knows the NTSB procedures.

3 Mr. Forde, how long have you worked at the
4 Ferries?

5 MR. FORDE: Since January.

6 MR. TURRELL: And --

7 MR. FORDE: 2003.

8 MR. TURRELL: Where did you work before --
9 before you came here?

10 MR. FORDE: Circle Line, the Statue Ferry.
11 With them for nine years.

12 MR. TURRELL: How did you enter the American
13 business Circle Line and Statue Ferry --

14 MR. FORDE: Right. As a utility worker for
15 Circle Line.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And you came here in
17 January. What was your job description in January?
18 You came here as a mate or a deck hand?

19 MR. FORDE: As a mate.

20 MR. TURRELL: Is that unusual?

21 MR. FORDE: Well, it's been done in the past.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

23 MR. FORDE: People come in without being deck
24 hands.

25 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Then, do you hold a

1 Coast Guard license?

2 MR. FORDE: Yes. Third mate unlimited.

3 MR. TURRELL: If you'd just -- is that
4 unlimited any gross ton --

5 MR. FORDE: Yes.

6 MR. TURRELL: -- ocean?

7 MR. FORDE: Ocean.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So how'd you get your
9 ocean license?

10 MR. FORDE: I went to (inaudible).

11 MR. TURRELL: Oh, you did? Okay. What year
12 did you graduate?

13 MR. FORDE: 2000.

14 MR. TURRELL: 2000. Okay. And you also have
15 a degree?

16 MR. FORDE: Yes. Bachelor of science, marine
17 transportation.

18 MR. TURRELL: And do you aspire to be an
19 assistant captain or a captain with the organization?

20 MR. FORDE: Before the accident, I was a
21 captain for Circle Line.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And after the accident?

23 MR. FORDE: After the accident?

24 MR. TURRELL: Do you still aspire to be
25 assistant captain or a captain of the Ferries? Has

1 this changed your mind?

2 MR. FORDE: To a degree it has, yeah.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. How often -- when was
4 the last time you had a physical exam for your Coast
5 Guard license?

6 MR. FORDE: Before I came here in January.

7 MR. TURRELL: Was that a company -- city
8 requirement?

9 MR. FORDE: Yes.

10 MR. TURRELL: Since you've taken a Coast
11 Guard physical, in comparison to the Coast Guard
12 physical and the city physical, which was more
13 demanding of you, more in-depth?

14 MR. FORDE: The Coast Guard.

15 MR. TURRELL: So what's the city physical
16 consist of? What was the -- did you go to a city
17 doctor?

18 MR. FORDE: Yeah. They gave me -- they
19 called me and gave me a city -- actually, it was city
20 doctor but a Coast Guard form.

21 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

22 MR. FORDE: And they gave me the address and
23 I went and made an appointment.

24 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And what are you
25 assigned duties now at the Ferries?

1 MR. FORDE: As mate.

2 MR. TURRELL: If you'd just describe just
3 what those duties include.

4 MR. FORDE: Overseeing the deck hands
5 throughout the day. Opening up everything, making sure
6 they have what they need. Making sure they're on
7 station. Hooking up the boat either in St. George or
8 in Whitehall.

9 MR. TURRELL: When you came here in January
10 of 2003, did the port captain provide standard
11 operating procedures to you?

12 MR. FORDE: Not to my knowledge.

13 MR. TURRELL: Did he provide a list of job
14 descriptions to you?

15 MR. FORDE: He didn't, no.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Were those job
17 descriptions available to you on the boat or given to
18 you in any other fashion?

19 MR. FORDE: Yes, they were given to me in a
20 different fashion.

21 MR. TURRELL: So did one of the captains give
22 them to you or show them to you?

23 MR. FORDE: No. I was -- when I came here in
24 January, I was given two weeks -- one week with one
25 mate, another week with another mate. Different boats.

1 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

2 MR. FORDE: Different person. And they
3 described what the mate has to do.

4 MR. TURRELL: So they were given verbally,
5 then?

6 MR. FORDE: Right.

7 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

8 MR. FORDE: Right. Verbally and also I was
9 shown what to do.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did they tell you as a
11 new employee that you were on probation?

12 MR. FORDE: Yes.

13 MR. TURRELL: How long a probation?

14 MR. FORDE: A year probation.

15 MR. TURRELL: And did they tell you what the
16 expectations were for evaluation for that?

17 MR. FORDE: No.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Was there a six-month
19 evaluation done for you?

20 MR. FORDE: That I don't know.

21 MR. TURRELL: You don't know.

22 MR. FORDE: I really don't know.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And have you had a
24 chance to work with Captain Richie Smith?

25 MR. FORDE: No.

1 MR. TURRELL: Or Mike Gansas?

2 MR. FORDE: Yes.

3 MR. TURRELL: Can you tell us about Mike
4 Gansas from your experience with him? Anything you can
5 tell us about Mike Gansas?

6 MR. FORDE: He was there. I mean, he was
7 doing -- he did his job. When I -- whenever I worked
8 with him, he was in the pilothouse.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

10 MR. FORDE: That I saw. I mean, I'm not --
11 whenever I was in the pilothouse, I mean, Mike was
12 there.

13 MR. TURRELL: So how long did you work with
14 Mike? Give us a time frame, maybe, this year. You've
15 been here this year, so how long --

16 MR. FORDE: How many of those days were you
17 off?

18 You know, I worked on the Barberi in the
19 fall, or rather in early spring. And any time that
20 Captain Faresi was off, Mike Gansas filled in. Not all
21 the time, but a few times.

22 MR. TURRELL: Did you -- do you have occasion
23 to go in the bridge as a mate with -- how often would
24 you say you go up to the bridge during the transit or
25 docking? Not docking --

1 MR. FORDE: No, I don't go up every -- I
2 mean, every trip. But I'd say throughout the day. At
3 the most, maybe a half dozen times.

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

5 MR. FORDE: You know, I have to go up in the
6 morning to hand out radios.

7 MR. TURRELL: So it wouldn't be unusual for
8 you to be on the bridge during transit? It would not
9 be unusual for you?

10 MR. FORDE: I'll pop my head in, you know.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

12 MR. FORDE: Make sure everything's all right.
13 Find out if -- what we're doing for the day, you know,
14 what's required.

15 MR. TURRELL: And when Captain Gansas was --
16 when you did work with him this spring and you went up
17 to the bridge southbound, he would be -- he would be up
18 there with the captain -- assistant captain?

19 MR. FORDE: Yeah, he would.

20 MR. TURRELL: And in the few times you've
21 been on the bridge, half a dozen times since you been
22 here, does it seem normal that both people be in the
23 pilothouse or sometimes one person -- excuse me. One
24 master, assistant captain, or both master and assistant
25 captain being there at the same time, is that normal?

1 MR. FORDE: Yeah, mm-hmm.

2 MR. TURRELL: Would it also be considered
3 normal if just one of them was up there?

4 MR. FORDE: I would think so, yeah. Yeah.

5 MR. TURRELL: Have you been up there when
6 just the assistant captain was --

7 MR. FORDE: No.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

9 MR. FORDE: No, there's always a lookout up
10 there.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And to your knowledge,
12 when does the lookout -- before the accident, when did
13 the lookout leave the bridge? Was there a time the
14 lookout would leave the bridge?

15 MR. FORDE: Right. On my particular boat, he
16 leaves when the other deck hand comes up. The KV Buoy
17 or at Governor's Island.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So the two -- the deck
19 hand and the bridge man would swap out?

20 MR. FORDE: Right.

21 MR. TURRELL: So when you're out on deck as a
22 -- as a mate and you're going from Whitehall down to
23 Staten Island, describe a typical trip for you as a
24 mate, what you do.

25 MR. FORDE: From Whitehall to Staten Island,

1 I unhook the boat at Staten Island -- or in Whitehall.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

3 MR. FORDE: Wait until it comes out of the
4 slip. Then I proceed down along the main deck, either
5 side. No particular order.

6 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

7 MR. FORDE: Walking around, make sure there's
8 no spills. If there is, get a deck hand -- continue on
9 the opposite side of the main deck, same thing. And up
10 to the saloon deck, around the saloon deck. And up to
11 the bridge.

12 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And then what? What
13 happens?

14 MR. FORDE: By that time, we're usually at
15 the KV coming in to dock. And I just usually -- what I
16 was doing on the bridge deck is I was waiting for the
17 passengers to -- you know, till we docked and then
18 follow them out, wake anybody up. I don't know, but
19 eventually make it down to Staten Island and to the
20 boat.

21 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

22 MR. FORDE: On the bridge deck.

23 MR. TURRELL: So you would sort of follow --
24 usher passengers --

25 MR. FORDE: Right.

1 MR. TURRELL: -- off the boat.

2 MR. FORDE: Right.

3 MR. TURRELL: Now, if you were assigned -- I
4 understand the mates are assigned Staten Island end or
5 New York end, and I assume you were probably assigned
6 the -- which end do you normally --

7 MR. FORDE: New York end.

8 MR. TURRELL: New York end. Does -- does
9 that entail -- so you would go on New York. On the
10 Staten Island end, you have no responsibilities except
11 to help passengers out?

12 MR. FORDE: Right. Make sure the boat's
13 clear.

14 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Now, what prompts you to
15 move and be available to usher passengers off? What --
16 you're up on the bridge deck now and you've made your
17 rounds. What is your cue, if you will, to --

18 MR. FORDE: When we're in the slip.

19 MR. TURRELL: When you're in the slip. What
20 -- what usually happens around the KV Buoy, from your
21 experience, southbound?

22 MR. FORDE: Slow down.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And when you slow down,
24 what -- what does that feel like to you? What --

25 MR. FORDE: I don't know if you feel

1 anything, but you do hear it. You hear the engine slow
2 down.

3 MR. TURRELL: And what seems to be the
4 reaction of crew members and passengers at that point?

5 MR. FORDE: Passengers get up. Crew members
6 go to where they're supposed to -- posted stations.

7 MR. TURRELL: Now, you -- you're a mate with
8 -- hold a higher license than many people, other mates
9 around you. Can you tell me typically how close the
10 ship falls to KV Buoy, how -- how close to it?
11 Assuming there's no traffic. Do they hug the starboard
12 side pretty closely?

13 MR. FORDE: Never really took notice because
14 from the bridge deck you really can't see the KV Buoy.

15 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

16 MR. FORDE: You know, unless you're on that
17 side -- on the starboard side.

18 MR. TURRELL: Have you had a chance to
19 actually be on the bridge and maybe maneuver the --
20 these vessels at all?

21 MR. FORDE: No.

22 MR. TURRELL: Do they encourage that at all?

23 MR. FORDE: Right now it's not my -- I'm not,
24 you know, looking to steer.

25 MR. TURRELL: Sure.

1 MR. FORDE: You know. I have been up there
2 for docking but never wanted to take the wheel.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Has the City DOT
4 provided any training to you so far besides the first
5 few days?

6 MR. FORDE: No.

7 MR. TURRELL: Any type of first aid or CPR?

8 MR. FORDE: That -- that I -- I have my own.

9 MR. TURRELL: Defibrillator? You have your
10 own.

11 Since you're a working employee of DOT,
12 NTSB's interested in crew fatigue issues and -- and the
13 typical working day of mariners. How much overtime do
14 you typically work in the average, say, two-week pay
15 period?

16 MR. FORDE: Maybe a day or two. Eight-hour
17 day.

18 MR. TURRELL: An extra 16 hours every two
19 weeks?

20 MR. FORDE: I wouldn't say that, no. Maybe
21 10 to 12. Maybe. It's different from week to week.

22 MR. TURRELL: Sure. And what do those --
23 overtime is just to cover shifts --

24 MR. FORDE: Right.

25 MR. TURRELL: -- half a shift for someone?

1 MR. FORDE: Yeah.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And how about drills,
3 conducting drills?

4 MR. FORDE: Drills every week.

5 MR. TURRELL: How does that differ from, say,
6 what you did in the Empire State or -- the training --
7 the training at Empire State.

8 MR. FORDE: -- different. Not really
9 different, you know.

10 MR. TURRELL: The whole crew participates?

11 MR. FORDE: Yeah.

12 MR. TURRELL: What's the mate's duty during
13 the drills? What do you typically do, say, on a fire
14 drill?

15 MR. FORDE: Well, it depends on which mate it
16 is. There's two mates on the Barberi class. So I take
17 fire, the other one will take lifeboat, and we'll
18 conduct the drill.

19 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So if you were on a
20 lifeboat drill --

21 MR. FORDE: Right.

22 MR. TURRELL: -- you and the lifeboat mate,
23 what are your -- what does the drill entail with you?

24 MR. FORDE: Making sure the guys load the
25 boat correctly, you know. If they got the -- correctly

1 down in dock.

2 MR. TURRELL: Did someone show you how to do
3 this or did you just learn underway? Here at the
4 Ferries.

5 MR. FORDE: Here at the Ferries?

6 MR. TURRELL: Mm-hmm.

7 MR. FORDE: No, watching the others. Those
8 two weeks of training.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And what type of sleep
10 routine? When you come off the ship, what -- what time
11 do you wake up, what time do you go to bed?

12 MR. FORDE: Me, 4:00 get up.

13 MR. TURRELL: Four a.m.?

14 MR. FORDE: Four a.m.

15 MR. TURRELL: And what time do you go to bed?

16 MR. FORDE: About 10:30.

17 MR. TURRELL: Are you taking any prescription
18 medications or anything like that?

19 MR. FORDE: Nothing.

20 MR. TURRELL: Good physical condition, in
21 other words?

22 MR. FORDE: I'm fine.

23 MR. TURRELL: And glasses or contacts?

24 MR. FORDE: Nothing.

25 MR. TURRELL: Anthony?

1 DETECTIVE HODY: Which boat are you assigned
2 to now?

3 MR. FORDE: New House.

4 DETECTIVE HODY: And your shift?

5 MR. FORDE: 5:30 to 1:30.

6 DETECTIVE HODY: We understand that now DOT
7 handed out some procedures --

8 MR. FORDE: Right.

9 DETECTIVE HODY: -- you had to sign for.

10 MR. FORDE: Right.

11 DETECTIVE HODY: Wasn't that this week?

12 MR. FORDE: Yes. SOP.

13 DETECTIVE HODY: And before that?

14 MR. FORDE: Before that, the same thing was
15 handed out about a month ago now. But prior to that it
16 was all -- it was on the bid board. You know, what the
17 --

18 DETECTIVE HODY: (Inaudible)

19 MR. FORDE: Yeah.

20 MR. TURRELL: Can we just -- do you have that
21 document with you, by chance? Christine has it.

22 Go ahead.

23 DETECTIVE HODY: He's talking about job
24 description or he's talking about the SOP.

25 MR. FORDE: SOP.

1 MR. TURRELL: Oh, okay.

2 (Pause)

3 MR. TURRELL: So was this posted on the bid
4 board or was something --

5 MR. FORDE: No.

6 MR. TURRELL: -- similar to it?

7 MR. FORDE: Something similar to it.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

9 MR. FORDE: But not -- not in detail.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay. If you look at just the
11 mate's description here, which is --

12 MR. FORDE: -- class.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Basic material that you
14 see here, is this something you've seen somewhere
15 before in some other format or even verbally given to
16 you? Is it consistent with what your training --

17 MR. FORDE: Verbally, yeah.

18 MR. TURRELL: Verbally, okay. So -- so
19 someone somewhere along the line had this, I assume. I
20 mean, if someone --

21 MR. FORDE: Well --

22 MR. TURRELL: You don't know, okay.

23 MR. FORDE: I don't know.

24 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So the DOT never
25 provided you with a written document. You -- you were

1 just based on training and what you may have seen
2 posted on the board?

3 MR. FORDE: Right.

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And then this week --
5 this week, November 3rd or so, you -- they made you
6 sign for this particular document?

7 MR. FORDE: (Inaudible)

8 MR. TURRELL: So to be clear, you -- it's
9 your understanding that the captain and assistant
10 captain may not be on the bridge at the same time. It
11 wasn't necessarily something that was abnormal?

12 MR. FORDE: Correct.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And, Anthony, any more
14 questions?

15 DETECTIVE HODY: No.

16 MR. TURRELL: Nick?

17 MR. DI STEFANO: Oh. The job descriptions
18 that are posted on the bid board, is that for every --
19 is that for every position posted up there?

20 MR. FORDE: No.

21 MR. DI STEFANO: Or just --

22 MR. FORDE: I could show you.

23 MR. DI STEFANO: Is it just the deck hands
24 and the mates?

25 MR. FORDE: Yeah, basically, because they

1 know -- they've got to know what deck they're working
2 on, what --

3 MR. DI STEFANO: And is that -- is that
4 posted just once a year when -- when they bid for their
5 --

6 MR. FORDE: No, it's on the bid board. I'll
7 show it to you.

8 MR. DI STEFANO: It's there all the time.
9 And that's the only written -- written duties and
10 responsibilities that you've -- since you were hired
11 that you --

12 MR. FORDE: To my knowledge, yeah.

13 MR. DI STEFANO: -- that you've ever been --
14 that you've seen? And that wasn't really something
15 that was issued to you personally, that was just --
16 that you had signed for?

17 MR. FORDE: Right. It was never -- I never
18 had to sign for it.

19 MR. DI STEFANO: Okay. And during the two
20 weeks training as OJT where you received -- actual on-
21 the-job training and verbal instruction --

22 MR. FORDE: Right.

23 MR. DI STEFANO: -- was that buddying up with
24 another mate --

25 MR. FORDE: Yeah.

1 MR. DI STEFANO: -- where like --

2 MR. FORDE: With another mate.

3 MR. DI STEFANO: You were a third person if
4 there were two mates on the vessel --

5 MR. FORDE: Right.

6 MR. DI STEFANO: -- second person.

7 MR. FORDE: Right.

8 MR. DI STEFANO: And then that was -- after
9 that you were on --

10 MR. FORDE: On my own.

11 MR. DI STEFANO: -- on your own.

12 Okay. You had mentioned that you were -- in
13 your experience, when you worked with Captain Gansas,
14 when he was your captain, and you had gone up to the
15 bridge that he was -- he was -- he was -- you always
16 found him up there with the assistant captain.

17 MR. FORDE: Right.

18 MR. DI STEFANO: Do you remember who the
19 assistant captain was on those occasions?

20 MR. FORDE: No.

21 MR. DI STEFANO: That he was up there with?

22 MR. FORDE: No.

23 MR. DI STEFANO: Was it different -- would it
24 be different assistant captains or would it have been
25 the same one?

1 MR. FORDE: It would have been different
2 depending on what boat I was on. When I was on the
3 Barberi, it would have been Phil Carroll (ph).

4 MR. TURRELL: Did you want to say -- oh.

5 PARTICIPANT: Can I say something?

6 MR. TURRELL: Sure.

7 PARTICIPANT: He got that training because he
8 came from outside like I did. You know, I didn't
9 really get training. They just put you to familiarize.
10 That's why he got it. Normally the mates go -- you
11 get your license.

12 MR. TURRELL: You work your way up.

13 PARTICIPANT: But you weren't given any --
14 any written duties. It was verbal --

15 PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible)

16 PARTICIPANT: -- it was all verbal.

17 PARTICIPANT: Yeah. I'd have to, truthfully,
18 have to dig out the paperwork because I've got -- I
19 keep everything.

20 PARTICIPANT: Do you?

21 PARTICIPANT: Pretty much. Everything --
22 most of the stuff I have ever gotten certified I kept.

23 PARTICIPANT: Would you do that --

24 (Participants speaking over one another.)

25 PARTICIPANT: -- recent employee, what he was

1 given.

2 PARTICIPANT: Not guaranteed to have
3 everything, but I mean.

4 MR. TURRELL: If you could provide any
5 written documentation you've received from DOT -- to
6 your hiring here, that would be very helpful.

7 MR. FORDE: Especially related to duties and
8 responsibilities on the --

9 MR. TURRELL: Absolutely.

10 MR. FORDE: -- the Ferry.

11 MR. TURRELL: Nothing personal. We're not
12 looking for any personal --

13 PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible)

14 MR. TURRELL: I'll give you my name and
15 number and you can provide that to us.

16 Anything else, Nick?

17 MR. DI STEFANO: No, no. Thanks.

18 MR. TURRELL: How many other Force --
19 graduates do you know of that work at Ferries as an
20 operating employee?

21 MR. FORDE: This particular ferry?

22 MR. TURRELL: Any -- how many (inaudible)
23 grads do you know of?

24 MR. FORDE: A lot.

25 MR. TURRELL: Oh yeah?

1 MR. FORDE: Yeah.

2 MR. TURRELL: The Ferries have quite a few of
3 them?

4 MR. FORDE: Sure.

5 MR. TURRELL: How many? Do you know --

6 MR. FORDE: There's not that many ocean-going
7 jobs anymore.

8 MR. TURRELL: Sure. No -- to your knowledge,
9 how many (inaudible) Academy grads work at the Ferries?

10 PARTICIPANT: (Names.) Who else?

11 MR. FORDE: At this particular job, me and my
12 partner on the New House are both --

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

14 MR. FORDE: Bob Rush. Winston Clark. Randy
15 Peterson.

16 PARTICIPANT: Earl's a (name) graduate.

17 MR. FORDE: Yeah, Earl is.

18 MR. TURRELL: We won't -- we won't --

19 (Laughter)

20 MR. TURRELL: So these other employees that
21 you know of that are (inaudible) graduates since -- the
22 reason I point them out is that they would be fairly
23 unusual for the Ferry since they didn't come up as a
24 deck hand-to-mate routine.

25 MR. FORDE: Right.

1 MR. TURRELL: And do you know -- okay. The
2 other gentleman you said was a recent graduate and a
3 classmate of yours?

4 MR. FORDE: Winston Clark.

5 MR. TURRELL: Winston Clark. And did he get
6 hired roughly the same time as you?

7 MR. FORDE: I'll tell you, he was before me,
8 shortly.

9 MR. FARESI: They both came from the outside.
10 They didn't work as a deck hand first.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. All right. Pat, is
12 there anything you'd like to tell the Safety Board
13 about? I mean, you're a recent graduate here and a
14 recent employee here and been working the Circle Lines
15 and a company outside. Is there anything you'd like to
16 tell the Safety Board about improvements you'd like to
17 see made?

18 Our -- our job here is to find the probable
19 cause of what happened and, more importantly,
20 contributing factors which may have led up to the
21 accident so we can make recommendations to the DOT, the
22 Coast Guard. We're -- we're here listening, and if you
23 could provide anything to us that'd be helpful.

24 MR. FORDE: I would say maybe -- maybe --

25 MR. TURRELL: Any -- any equipment or

1 training or anything you'd like to see improved?

2 MR. FORDE: Training?

3 MR. TURRELL: Mm-hmm.

4 MR. FORDE: I -- I have FTCW, which is a
5 safety training class. And that was given to me
6 through (inaudible).

7 MR. TURRELL: Right.

8 MR. FORDE: Maybe something to that -- on
9 that -- along that line.

10 MR. TURRELL: And what do you think if -- if,
11 say, a recommendation came in that the crew went
12 through a FTCW? As a mate, what -- what does that
13 provide to you? Why do you suggest that they should
14 have that?

15 MR. FORDE: Because it -- I mean, it's all --
16 it deals with everything that goes on on a boat.

17 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

18 MR. FORDE: Between dealing with the opposite
19 sex, safety training. They teach you how to put on a
20 jacket, a life jacket, jump into the water. How to
21 board a life raft.

22 MR. TURRELL: Right.

23 MR. FORDE: They also deal with radar.

24 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

25 MR. FORDE: So that I am also radar-qualified

1 where some deck hands aren't and they wouldn't need
2 that training.

3 MR. TURRELL: Right. But there -- as a
4 lookout, when they perform lookout duties, you think
5 that maybe some rudimentary training in radar for the
6 deck hands might be useful?

7 MR. FORDE: Might be useful but not --
8 because who knows what button they're going to push.
9 And if they're not trained properly --

10 MR. TURRELL: Would you like to see the mates
11 perhaps be more involved in navigation of the vessel,
12 though?

13 MR. FORDE: It wouldn't hurt, you know. I
14 mean, I have an observer -- rated observer license, and
15 it's not being used, you know. If we have it, use it.

16 MR. TURRELL: Are you -- do you have
17 pilotage?

18 MR. FORDE: No.

19 MR. TURRELL: Are you working on pilotage?

20 MR. FORDE: Not yet, no.

21 MR. TURRELL: How -- how long a process do
22 you think that would take for you to get your pilotage
23 and maybe moving up the ladder?

24 MR. FORDE: Quite a while.

25 MR. TURRELL: What type of -- how do the

1 Ferries make it available to you to -- to log trips to
2 get the pilotage? I mean, that's one thing you'd have
3 to do to become an assistant captain, is to be -- get
4 the pilotage. And how do they make that trip -- trip
5 logging available to you?

6 MR. FORDE: Not sure, you know. I mean, I
7 sign in every morning. That may be one way. But to my
8 knowledge, I really don't know.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Any equipment you'd like
10 to see improved? I know they just put radios in the --
11 on the bridge, but -- on the -- on the -- on the ship
12 for all deck hands, captains --

13 MR. FORDE: Well, there's -- there's always
14 been a radio on the bridge. For each deck hand.

15 MR. TURRELL: But for each deck hand.

16 MR. FORDE: But not for each.

17 MR. TURRELL: Any other type of equipment
18 improvements you'd like to see?

19 MR. FORDE: PA.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay. You can't hear it? Or
21 what's the problem with the PA?

22 MR. FORDE: The PAs work. The problem is, is
23 on the main deck.

24 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

25 MR. FORDE: But you're on a vessel.

1 MR. TURRELL: Right. Can you think of any
2 other type of improvements or safety hazards or
3 problems you see -- you'd like to see improved?

4 MR. FORDE: Maybe with the life raft.

5 MR. TURRELL: Okay. What -- tell us --

6 MR. FORDE: How to inflate them, how to, you
7 know, open them up, use them, get into them, what's in
8 them.

9 MR. TURRELL: So in the life -- life boat
10 drills that you conduct, the fire and life boat drills,
11 no one ever talks about life rafts?

12 MR. FORDE: (Inaudible)

13 MR. TURRELL: So basically, there's equipment
14 on board but you may not be trained on how to use it?

15 MR. FORDE: Right.

16 MR. TURRELL: What -- what are the life --
17 the deck hands' duties in relation to the life rafts,
18 to your knowledge?

19 MR. FORDE: To my knowledge, the life rafts
20 on the boat now float free. So if the boat was to
21 capsize or to sink, they would float free and open up
22 themselves.

23 MR. TURRELL: The only way those life rafts
24 are going to be inflated is for the ship to sink and --

25 MR. FORDE: That's one way. Another way is

1 you physically let the -- throw it overboard.

2 MR. TURRELL: Right. And we know that, but

3 --

4 MR. FORDE: Right.

5 MR. TURRELL: -- do the deck hands know that
6 formally to your knowledge?

7 MR. FORDE: To my knowledge, no.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And what about passenger
9 safety? Is there anything that you see in the
10 passenger safety department you'd like to see improved?

11 MR. FORDE: Not really. I mean, there is --
12 you could teach a person how to put on a life jacket,
13 but to get their attention in the morning, no. There's
14 no way.

15 MR. TURRELL: I understand new boats may have
16 a video or something.

17 MR. FORDE: You can put a video on, you can
18 put neon lights, they're not going to read it. They're
19 not going to see it. I've worked at the Statue, and
20 tourism -- they don't -- they can't read. I mean, they
21 may be able to read; they can't -- you know.

22 (Laughter)

23 MR. FORDE: They're not going to see the
24 signs, you know. We have a "no smoking" sign. They
25 can't read.

1 MR. TURRELL: So people are smoking on the
2 ship?

3 MR. FORDE: I've stopped a few.

4 MR. TURRELL: That's not a common problem,
5 that's just a periodic thing?

6 MR. FORDE: Yeah. Just a -- you know, maybe
7 a tourist.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So -- but the rules that
9 are posted, you think they're adequately posted for the
10 rules that are enforced or would you like signs
11 improved?

12 MR. FORDE: Signs, yeah. I mean, it's been
13 improved.

14 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

15 MR. FORDE: But you know, you can -- like I
16 said, you can put it in bold print. They're not going
17 to read it.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Anything else,
19 gentlemen? Nick?

20 MR. DI STEFANO: I just -- you don't have to
21 leave the recorder on. I just wanted to ask about
22 bullhorns, what he thought about bullhorns for the
23 mates and all the deck hands.

24 MR. FORDE: Well, I -- I mentioned it the
25 other day.

1 MR. DI STEFANO: -- get people's attention.

2 MR. FORDE: I mentioned it the other day
3 because if, God forbid, something was to happen to the
4 PA system, you can't get their attention. I mean, the
5 radios the deck hands have aren't loud enough. And PA
6 -- maybe on either deck or bull horns for the mates.
7 It may help.

8 PARTICIPANT: When you really want people to
9 get moving.

10 MR. FORDE: Yeah. But it -- again, it may
11 not, you know, because if people want to move, they
12 will move, you know, and they're not going to listen.

13 MR. TURRELL: When you do these drills, do
14 they ring the general alarm --

15 MR. FORDE: Yes.

16 MR. TURRELL: -- and blow the whistles?

17 MR. FORDE: Yeah.

18 MR. TURRELL: And same for the fire drill?
19 What, 10 seconds --

20 MR. FORDE: Yeah. Appropriate bells and
21 whistles are sounded.

22 MR. TURRELL: And the -- the deck hands -- so
23 the deck hands are trained for the bells and whistles?

24 MR. FORDE: Oh, yeah, yeah. It's all in the
25 station --

1 MR. TURRELL: I have nothing further.
2 Jim, do you want to add anything at all?

3 MR. FARESI: No.

4 MR. TURRELL: All right. Just acknowledge
5 once more that this has been recorded, and we'll
6 conclude the interview.

7 MR. FORDE: This is -- has been recorded.
8 That concludes the interview.

9 MR. TURRELL: All right.

10 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded.)

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