

*I/V Beverly Bunn By Det. Willingham #C36

On 10/15/09, at approximately 0905 hours, I called and left a message for Beverly Bunn asking her to return my call.

At approximately 1045 hours, Beverly returned my call. She said she is very anxious to talk to me because after the conference call she feels she may be one of the few participants that remembered what happened. I arranged to speak with her again at 1500 hours.

At approximately 1500 hours, I spoke with Beverly Bunn by telephone. I audio recorded the interview using my digital recorder and the following is a summary. For the verbatim version please see the recording.

I asked how Beverly was doing and she said she is very frustrated because after the conference call all the other participants are not talking, or saying they do not remember. Beverly said during the conference call they were directed to only talk to people within the organization. Beverly said they had a person on the call that had no credentials but volunteered as a grief counselor. Beverly indicated that it was all very distressing.

Beverly told me her position in the lodge was she was next to Kirby. Beverly explained that she was conscious throughout the entire event. She said they were told they would experience an altered state, but that never occurred. Beverly said she concentrated on breathing properly so she could get through it.

Beverly said she did not know anything about sweat lodges. No one asked health questions or obtained any health information from anyone participating. The only medical supplies they had on hand was a box with ace bandages and gauzes. She told me she noted one overweight person and another with high blood pressure who she thought it would be dangerous for her, but Beverly said she did not feel like it was her place to tell people what to do in this situation.

Beverly explained that James Ray told them this would be the most amazing experience. He explained he has done this many times and even if they have been in a sweat lodge before they have never been in one like his. He told them that with all the Native Americans he has studied with, his is the most intense.

Beverly told me that throughout this entire event it had been quite intense because they had just come from being in the desert for 36 hours with no food or water. The morning of the sweat lodge she ate breakfast. They were not given much time when they were told to go get ready for the sweat lodge. They were told to bring their pouches, journals and rock and be prepared to give up the things in life they wanted to turn over. They were told to come in swim suits or light clothing that they did not mind getting dirty. Once at the lodge they were told they could only enter through the small door, enter clockwise, once the outer circle was full the rest would enter and make the inner circle. They were to sit with their knees bent and the ones in the back were to also and they

could lean on one another if needed. Beverly said she was part of the inner circle, but only a couple of people down from Kirby. Beverly explained she had roomed with Kirby and they had become friends. Beverly told me they did 8 rounds, the first round was very long she estimated about 25 minutes and James Ray had 12 rocks brought in during the first round. James Ray closed the door and led them in a chant. James Ray told them certain Gods were at the different gates and watching over them. She said he spoke in a different language she did not understand.

Beverly told me in round two James Ray had 12 more rocks brought in. She said it got even hotter and she was having a hard time breathing. Her feet were very close to the fire when she lay down. Beverly said they were very packed in there. She said one man left and it scared her because he was kind of staggering, stumbling and he and his wife got out right away. Beverly told me she lay down onto the ground because he had told them if they were overcome they could lay down because it would be cooler. Beverly said she was a little frustrated because she was having such a hard time. Beverly said James Ray was telling them if your bodies are feeling pain you're stronger than that, you can overcome this.

Beverly told me in the third round it was getting even harder for her to breath. James Ray had 8 more rocks brought it. She said that when the door was open you could leave and anyone who had left was encouraged to return. It was during this time people started saying they could not take it and struggle a little bit. She said she attempted to sit up and got very light headed and laid back down. It was then that everyone was starting to lie down and it got very crowded. She said when it ended more people started to leave and James Ray would tell them to "stay, they are stronger than that."

When round 4 started she became very scared and became afraid she was not going to get out, it had become so difficult to breathe. It was then that Beverly said she got to her hands and knees and moved east crawling toward the door intending to leave. James Ray told her, "Beverly you are stronger than that, stay". Beverly then went past the door to the west and there was more room there. Six rocks were brought in during this round. By moving to the west when the door opened she felt air, but when she was on the east side she could not feel any air when the door would open. Beverly described that a five gallon bucket of water was dumped onto the new rock at each round creating steam. Beverly said because the water was thrown from the south the steam would go to the north and the north and east never got any fresh air.

Beverly thought it was round 5 that someone panicked and she heard someone say they can not take it. She believes it was Richard who lifted up the back of the tent and rolled out. James Ray said, "Why is there light there should be no light, close the tent". Beverly said James Ray stated, "That is sacrilegious what he did, you must go out clockwise". Beverly said she was near Greg and Jeanne and she asked if they were okay. She said Greg said he was starting to struggle and she encouraged him to breath. Beverly said 8 rocks were brought in for each of the remaining rounds. Beverly said she stopped chanting because it was so hard to breath.

Beverly said during the 6th round was when things became really bad. At this time I could hear Beverly begin to cry. During this round she heard people saying so and so is not breathing and so and so won't move or respond. Beverly told me it was then a woman was drug out and appeared to be unconscious. No one else was taken out, but a few left on their own. They closed the flap starting the 7th round. It was then someone said, "she's not breathing; I can't get her to move". James Ray said, "doors down; we will deal with it later". Someone said, "I can't take it, I am hurting". James Ray then told them to quiet down he said, "I'm the one talking now". Everyone seemed to quiet and Beverly said she was concentrating on getting through. The door came open and James Ray invited everyone who had left to come back in for the last round.

Beverly said a lot of people crowded back in for the last round. Then it ended, James Ray told them everyone in the outer circle can leave first, he then said, "no, everyone in the inner circle can leave first". Beverly said she had to go from the west to the north to the east then the south to get out. Beverly said people were starting to leave and she was waiting her turn and she was crawling, the woman in front of her was completely unconscious. Two men were dragging and lifting the woman. They told her to push. Beverly said she had nothing left and could not push. People started pushing trying to get out and she nearly fell into the fire/rocks. She laid down on her left and said she asked them to wait because they needed to get the lady out first. Once she got to the north she saw Kirby and she was passed out, making a snoring noise. She also saw James next to Kirby and Sydney next to James and they were passed out. She said there was a terrible noise coming from Kirby and Beverly wanted to pull her, but she had no strength. She made it to the door and two people grabbed her under the arms and put her on the tarp. They splashed cold water on her telling her she did so great, she is such a survivor. Beverly thought it was Tess who was the unconscious woman who came out before her.

Beverly said she was on the tarp and Jeanne was brought out and laid next to her then Sydney was laid near by. She said she was starting to get her breath back and sat up. When she sat up she saw Laura come out of the tent and she was staggering around and walking toward the fire. Beverly said she yelled for someone to help Laura, but that was when everything started happening. Someone finally helped Laura. I then spoke with Jeanne and asked how she was doing, she said she was doing pretty well. Beverly said she tried to get up and was told to sit back down. That was when she looked at Sydney who was still unconscious. Beverly said Sydney's eyes were rolled back in her head and she had drainage coming from her mouth and nose and was barely breathing. Beverly said she told Jeanne they need medical help here. Beverly said she and Jeanne were putting cold water on Sydney, trying to get her temperature down.

Beverly said next she heard someone yell, "we need medical over here". She looked and saw someone doing CPR on a male. Beverly told me she is a dentist and that was when Jeanne told her she is a medical doctor. Beverly stayed with Sydney while Jeanne went to where CPR was being performed. Beverly said she continued to look around and saw a woman lying on the ground and her arm was starting to turn blue and it did not look like she had circulation or was breathing. Beverly said she kept looking around and was calling for Kirby as she looked through the tent and saw Kirby on the ground. People

were doing CPR on her. Beverly said she thought, oh my God, and she started paring people up to watch over one another. Then she noticed Stephen at her feet and he was barely breathing and had drainage coming from his mouth and nose. Beverly said she looked into his eyes and all the blood vessels were burst. Beverly said she was asking for blankets and water to help care for those that were sick. She had another person stay with Stephen and tell them to breath with him.

Beverly said by now she knew they had been out of the lodge 15 or 20 minutes and she realized Barbara and Jennifer, who were doing CPR on James and Kirby, were getting tired. Beverly said she spoke with Aaron and asked him if this is normal, people are dying. Beverly said Aaron told her this is not normal. Beverly said she saw James Ray standing over Kirby and noticed the people were getting tired. Beverly said she tried to go over and help because she knows CPR, but Christine (Jobe) told her she could not go over there. Beverly said Dennis told her he had a heart attack.

Beverly then remembers she forgot to tell me during either round 5 or 6, Lou became disorientated and started crawling out, but crawled right into the fire pit. He was screaming when he was drug out. Beverly said once outside she saw him with his arm in the air and it was horribly burnt. The ambulances started to arrive and one of the participants, Kristine was on the ground thrashing around and screaming "James Ray why did you do this to me." Beverly said she then told a paramedic they needed help with Sydney because she was unconscious and barely breathing. The paramedic asked what happened and Beverly said she told them they were all in the sweat lodge for about two hours. The paramedic responding "how fucking ridiculous" and began caring for Sydney. The paramedic told Beverly pair people up until they can come look at them. Beverly and Julie started walking back to their cabin, like the staff told them, and she heard the helicopters coming in. As they were walking, someone drove toward them in a golf cart with Kristine, who was still not speaking or functioning right. Beverly said she stopped the person and told them, "look at her, Kristine needs medical help", and sent her back to where the ambulances were.

Beverly described the cabins as two together with three people in each cabin and porch bedrooms for two more people. She said as they all showered they kept talking to each other. They were notified that they could all come up to the dinning hall, but Ami was too sick to go up because she was throwing up. Once they got to the dinning hall the paramedics came and asked if there was anyone else who was feeling sick. They told them about Ami and Beverly believes 5 more people were then transported.

I asked what Beverly thought caused what happened. She said a combination of heat and lack of air. She said she felt the structure being made with plastic tarps would not allow air in. She said that no matter what problem a person was having they could only leave when James Ray opened the door to bring in more rocks. She said the door would only be open about 5 minutes and that did not allow enough air in. She said that so many people were passed out and not being taken out. Beverly again became very emotional as she said she knows Kirby was struggling to breathe as Beverly was crawling out of the lodge to leave at the end, because of the horrible sound Kirby was making.

I asked what safety instructions were given to participants. Beverly told me what she had said earlier. Go in clockwise, leave clockwise, only when the door is open. It was strongly encouraged to remain inside by being told you are stronger than you body. He told them you are stronger than any pain in your body, you can control that. No medical histories were taken. Beverly talked about staff being told that people were having problems, but by the time they allowed them a chance to get out that person may have been unconscious and not able to get out.

Beverly learned about James Ray from the book "The Secret". Beverly has only attended to one other seminary, Harmonic Wealth beside this week long event. She said that weekend was an overview of the other over priced seminars James Ray puts on. Beverly said a woman got up and spoke and James Ray told her she needed to go to Spiritual Warrior that it would change their life. Beverly said she had no idea, from the information, what to expect from the Vision Quest or the Sweat Lodge.

Beverly said she thought the sweat lodge was to be like a sauna. She said what scared her the most was that she knew you should not expose you body to temperatures that high for longer than 30 minutes and James Ray told them they would be inside for two to three hours. I asked Beverly if she heard anyone say "you think you are going to die, but you won't die." Beverly said yes James Ray said that. Beverly then mentioned the conference call and said all she could hear was people having sympathy for James Ray. Beverly said she felt people had been brain washed.

Beverly said she watched James Ray as James Shore and Kirby Brown were being worked on and he just stood there. He then said he was going to his cabin to shower and left. Beverly said she either heard or read there was someone who was a nurse, but is no longer a nurse.

Beverly said she really wants everyone to know that all the participants who attended were really good people who were searching for something they thought they could find with James Ray. She said many people there had things inside them they were trying to let go of. She said what she felt saved her was moving from the east to the west because she could feel the air when the door was open. Beverly believed, because this had been done before, supposedly with no problems pushing you to think and feel different.

Beverly explained that a lot of what was discussed during the days leading up to the sweat lodge was about not fearing death. Beverly described a game they played called the Samuri game where they were warriors and James Ray was God. Beverly said the game lasted for about 6 hours. They could eat dinner, but could not speak to one another. The game was played against other teams. Part of it was challenges such as who could stare the longest, stand on one foot or hold books. If one of the participants died they had to fall down right where they were and could not move. If they did move another team member died. At the end of the game everyone left joined into one team and God granted them an honorable death and the women had to pretend to plunge a knife into their necks and fall to the ground. The men were to plunge a pretend sward into their stomach, twist and fall to the ground. Beverly explained they were encouraged to play full out, to not

sleep and to push themselves full out. Forty one people shaved their heads to show they are willing to play full out. It was determined many participants were sleep deprived, their diets were messed with by eating a vegetarian diets, they were drinking a lot of water, and given sea salt to take a teaspoon each day. Beverly described several rounds of meditation that involved what she called breath work James Ray showed them. She felt what he showed them was hyperventilating to the point of causing visions. Beverly added that this went on for two hours with very loud music playing. Beverly said James Ray talked often about an altered state of mind. He explained that by depriving their bodies it would give them the best experience. Beverly said she had never been in such a scene where so many people were in such trouble.

I then concluded the interview.

Detective Shonna Willingham

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