

*Scene I/Vs Martin, Reis & Rondan by Det. Edgerton C33

Original un-recorded IVs of Melinda Martin, Marta Reis, and Lisa Rondan.

Synopsis:

Melinda- Said she is on the James Ray staff as the Event Coordinator, and other staff members in attendance at the Spiritual Warrior event where James Ray himself, Megan Fredrickson (Director of Operations), Josh Fredrickson (Creative Director, Megan's husband), and Taylor Butler. (She left out Greg Hartle.) Said there were 48 participants in the sweat lodge, as well as James Ray, Taylor Butler, Michael Barber (Technical Vendor for James Ray), Megan and Josh Fredrickson, and "Dream Team" volunteers Aaron Bennett, Liz Neuman, and Mark Rock.

Dennis Mehrava was panicking and came out early. Kristina Bivins was also panicking, "in a state", when dragged out of the lodge and remained agitated and never calmed down. James, Kirby, and Shawn Ronin were the three pulled out the back of the lodge. James Ray has a Publicity Waiver and a Release form, but no specific medical warnings or limitations for incapacities or medications. There was nobody contracted or assigned specifically to handle medical issues at the sweat lodge.

Marta - Said she is the Multi-media vendor for James Ray, not on his staff. She does sound, video, power points, etc at his events and has attended many of the James Ray events over the last five years and has attended four Spiritual Warrior events. The only difference she could see compared to prior sweat lodges was prior to last year, you could mostly stand up in the lodge, but it has been shallower this year and last. She said there were more people in the lodge last year, but people left in large numbers last year as opposed to the one's and two's of this year. Last year there were two people who were incoherent, and it took awhile for them to come around (about two hours). She said one of these was Barbara Waters. James stopped this sweat lodge after seven rounds, but in the past he has gone as many as ten or eleven rounds. Liz was dragged out the front, Sydney Spencer was dragged out early, very incoherent, and was the worst reaction she had ever seen from a person in the sweat lodge. Spiritual Warrior event is normally attended after the others, but recently James Ray changed the prerequisite conditions making every event open to everyone in any order.

Melinda Martiin, Marta Reis I/V at Flagstaff Medical Center, 10/9/09

Interview was not recorded due to technical difficulties.

The following is a summary of the interview with Melinda and Marta. It is unclear from my notes, at times, which of the women made specific statements.

Melinda told me she is on the James Ray staff as the Event Coordinator. She said the other staff members in attendance at the Spiritual Warrior event were James Ray himself, Megan Fredrickson (Director of Operations), Josh Fredrickson (Creative Director, Megan's husband), and Taylor Butler.

Marta told me she is the Multi-media vendor for James Ray, not on his staff. She does sound, video, power points, etc at his events. She said she has attended many of the James Ray events over the last five years and started out as a student of his. She said she has attended four Spiritual Warrior events.

Marta told me the Spiritual Warrior event is always held in the Sedona area due to the red rocks and vortexes, and each of the events has been situated at Angel Valley. Marta told me there were 50 participants who showed up on October 3 for the event, but they lost two on Tuesday Oct. 6. She confirmed these were the two Marsvan sisters. When asked how many people were actually in the sweat lodge, Marta said there were 48 participants as well as James Ray, Taylor butler, Michael Barber (Technical Vendor for James Ray), Megan and Josh Fredrickson, and "Dream Team" volunteers Aaron Bennett, Liz Neuman, and Mark Rock. (It was later determined that JR Staff member Greg Hartle was also present inside the sweat lodge., and one participant did not go into the sweat lodge at all.) If this is an accurate description of the sweat lodge attendees, there were 56 people inside the sweat lodge at the start.

I asked Marta what was different about this year as compared to any of James Ray's other sweat lodges. She said the sweat lodge was constructed differently than normal, there was a smaller dome, shallower than normal, but it was the same as last year's sweat lodge. She said prior to last year, you could mostly stand up in the lodge, but not last or this year; she also said there were more people in the lodge last year than this year, but when they would leave, they would go out in bigger groups; this year only one and two people at a time left the lodge. She said the tarps on the ground were new this year, for places to lay people down and spray them off when they came out of the lodge. Marta said last year there were two people who were incoherent, and it took awhile for them to come around (about two hours). She said one of these was Barbara Waters, who attended this year also, as a member of the Dream Team; she suggested we speak with her. Marta told me the rocks were glowing red when pulled out of the fire, but after being brushed off and taken into the lodge, they were no longer glowing.

Melinda told me Liz Neuman was a Dream Team member and a "coach" and stayed in the lodge the entire time. She said Lisa Rondan was also a "coach", for Tess Wong. Melinda told me all the Dream Team members inside the lodge stayed in the entire time, but Josh Fredrickson (staff) did not. She said Aaron Bennett was positioned next to the door, opposite of James Ray. She thought Liz was positioned near the back (north) side, and James Shore and Kirby Brown were pulled out from the northeast corner. Melinda said Dennis Mehrava was panicking and came out early. Kristina Bivins was also panicking, "in a state", when dragged out of the lodge; she remained agitated and never calmed down.

Marta told me James stopped this sweat lodge after seven rounds, but in the past he has gone as many as ten or eleven rounds. When asked if there was any chaos at the end of the ceremony, she told me there was never any melee or panic to get out of the lodge.

Melinda told me James, Kirby, and Shawn Ronin were the three pulled out the back of the lodge; Marta said Liz was dragged out the front. She said Sydney Spencer was dragged out early, very incoherent, and up to that point (in her time following James Ray) was the worst reaction she had ever seen from a person who was in the sweat lodge. Marta or Melinda told me Stephen Ray was dragged out the front of the lodge at the conclusion of the ceremony; he was unconscious and his eyes were fluttering, as if he was having a seizure. She said he was the first flown out and Liz was the second one flown. Marta told me Liz has done five of James Ray's sweat lodges prior to this one.

Marta told me she started out as a student of James Ray in 2004 as a participant and has attended every one of his events. She said the Spiritual Warrior event is normally attended after the others, but recently James Ray changed the prerequisite conditions making every event open to everyone in any order.

Melinda told me James Ray has a Publicity Waiver and a Release form, but there are no specific medical warnings or limitations for incapacities or medications. She went on to say James Shore was very stubborn and independent, insisting that he be left to find his own way back after his Vision Quest. She described this activity as 36 hours alone in the desert within an arms-and-leg's-width span "wagon wheel" circle. She said the participants were walked out to their individual areas on Tuesday night, and the Dream Team volunteers (as well as her) picked them up on Thursday morning. Melinda told me the participants were split up into five groups, each of which had a guide. The group's size ranged from five to eighteen members.

Melinda described Kirby and James's condition at the culmination of the sweat lodge as unconscious and vomiting up food and bile but no blood. When asked about medical personnel present at the sweat lodge, Melinda told me Lisa Rondan is a registered nurse and was at the Spiritual Warrior event as a volunteer, part of the Dream Team. She told me Lisa advised her and Megan Fredrickson that she was a nurse and requested to be on the outside of the sweat lodge so she could help the participants coming out, because last year she was a participant inside the lodge and ended up helping people. Melinda told me she was also on the outside and knew CPR, and she said there was a doctor, Jeanne Armstrong, inside the sweat lodge as a participant in the event. She also thought there was a nurse from Angel Valley present but didn't know who it was. She said there was nobody contracted or assigned specifically to handle medical issues at the sweat lodge.

I interviewed Lisa Rondan (not recorded) at the Flagstaff Hospital on Friday October 9, 2009. She was there staying beside her friend (possibly boyfriend) Stephen Ray. The following is a summary of what I learned from Lisa.

Lisa told me when Stephen came out he told her he was feeling suffocated, and then things went black.

Lisa told me the first paid event she attended with James Ray was in June of 2007, the Harmonic Wealth Weekend. She said September of 2008 was her first Spiritual Warrior event. She told me she got out of the sweat lodge at round two last year because she felt she couldn't breathe. This year she requested to be outside because she ended up helping so many people last year. When asked if she witnessed any serious medical issues last year, Lisa said she did not, but she heard from Barb Waters that she had passed out and took some time to come back last year. She said this year she felt okay about the people coming out of the lodge until they pulled people out with no pulses. She said she saw James Shore pulled out, and he looked mottled and purple, almost a look of blood pooling. Lisa said Kirby came out after James, and when she checked her pulse, she found none, but her color looked more even and less splotchy.

Lisa told me someone took himself out the back of the lodge around round four; she thought it might be John Ebert. She said when he went out of the lodge, James Ray commented "We don't do that." Lisa told me Shawn Ronin was also taken out the back of the lodge; he was conscious but vomiting bile and food pieces.

Lisa told me James Ray is always the first one out of the lodge because he is in the first position (first one in and first one out following the only-clockwise movement doctrine in place in the lodge.) When asked, she told me someone is supposed to go in and make sure nobody is left inside after everyone has left the lodge, but there is no actual policy about that or someone specific assigned to the duty.

End of Supplement

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