

*I/V Reinkens, Kurt 10/28/09 C23

Interview by Detective Ross Diskin:

On 10/28/09 I interviewed Kurt Reinkens. Kurt was a participant in a James Ray event in which Kurt received an eye injury from an arrow. The following is a transcript of that interview:

Kurt: This is Kurt

Det. Diskin: Yea Kurt, this is Det. Diskin again

Kurt: Hi

Det. Diskin: I'm back at my desk now and uhm I just wanted to get, get a little background. First your uh last name, R-E-I-N-K-E-N-K?

Kurt: K-E-N-S

Det. Diskin: S, okay. That sounds easier to say

Kurt: Reinkens, yea

Det. Diskin: Which uh Quantum Leap were you at, what were the dates?

Kurt: Whew, I don't have that in front of me

Det. Diskin: For, for what year?

Kurt: I believe it was uhm I think it was in '07

Det. Diskin: Okay. Okay.

Kurt: I can dig in the files and confirm that

Det. Diskin: Okay, how did you learn about James Ray?

Kurt: Uhm my wife uh was attending a convention for Multilevel Marketing Chocolate; the show side Chocolate and James Ray was the guest speaker. And he uh was like a free seminar and uh she liked what he had to say. Uhm and signed us up for an event, uhm, I'm trying to remember what the first event; we've been to three. So we've been to uh Absolute Wealth, Harmonic Wealth and Quantum Leap.

Det. Diskin: Okay

Kurt: And I forgot the order, but uh I can dig into that. We have the records. Uhm went to the first one, then signed up for two more at a discounted rate. Uhm one of the events, you know, challenging people to push past their comfort zone and their challenged to go through the barriers of fear. He has you kind of punch through a block, a wood block. It's just a 1x piece of pine and you know uhm I've done construction so I, I didn't feel threatened doing that one. Uhm and that Quantum, Quantum Leap he uhm had us uh in a high pressure situation uhm, uh line up and lean into an arrow where the metal part of it; and a standard archery arrow, uhm the metal, sharp metal tip uh, put it at the soft part of your neck right above your, your sternum right where the, there's no muscles, you can feel your trachea through the skin there and lean into it. Uhm we had signed a disclaimer going in, you know, I ski in, in Tahoe here and I'm used to seeing disclaimers on the back of uh, of, of tickets. I understand that just about any one business is gonna try and get a disclaimers. Uhm and so at the same time I'm looking at this room, I think there's several hundred people. I'm thinking there's no way this business model can exist where he's killing his, and seriously maiming his people or we would have heard about it. There must be a parlor trick or something going on here. Uhm and in my group I'm guessing there's maybe ten lines each with I don't know how many people in each line, twenty, thirty people. Uhm I was first, or my wife was first in line and she panicked and threw me in front of her and uh I went first and uhm I noticed that the person that I was lined up across one of his Dream Team or staff members was wearing safety goggles and had a leather glove on. And uhm as I leaned forward the shaft of the arrow bends which I'm sure he's trained their staff to do, is to make sure they bend, but the, the, so the wood splinters but the, the, can imagine the quantity of splinters going off in random directions uh, one of the splinters flew up underneath my glasses and uhm penetrated my eyelid. It was kinda a bloody mess and discovered very quickly that they were not prepared for uh anything to go wrong. They didn't have any first aid, they had to scramble and go to the hotel and the hotel found a, a first, a little, cheap, plastic first aid kit. They didn't have any medical people there for such a dangerous activity and in light of what's gone on down in, in Sedona, uh to me it was just another example of uhm reckless behavior. And I think, you know, it just shows a pattern of reckless behavior. Uhm and uhm that is, that's it in a nutshell. Uhm I've been on the Facebook page that uh there's been a lot of dialoguing going on. Uhm, uh and there's somebody on there that I suspect is from law enforcement uhm that posted your guys' number and advised that uh that I call you guys.

Det. Diskin: What Facebook account is that?

Kurt: It's the James Arthur Ray

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Kurt: I presume he's FBI just cause if he's not he seems to be posing, I don't know if it's technically, legally posing but he certainly looks that way

Det. Diskin: Okay. And are you the one that was on tv?

Kurt: Yes, CBS in Phoenix Tuesday night

Det. Diskin: All right. It's ironic that you called because we just had a meeting and one of our tasks that we discussed in that meeting was, was locating you.

Kurt: Well here I am

Det. Diskin: Your ears must have been ringing. Uhm I guess

Kurt: And also disclaimer, Kirby uhm, we knew Kirby. Kirby worked for my wife, uhm, about ten years ago or more. And then she was visiting here in town last year uhm so I don't know if that would create a you know, a conflict or something in, in your court case. Uhm, I just want to put that on the table so it doesn't surprise, come as a surprise.

Det. Diskin: Right. Okay.

Kurt: You know if the defense is claiming conflict

Det. Diskin: Yea and (Inaudible)

Kurt: But as far as your guys' investigation, the event I was at, James Ray had a crew there filming everything so there is somewhere a huge pile of, of video data of, of the event.

Det. Diskin: Okay and we, we

Kurt: And

Det. Diskin: we may have that

Kurt: And I was interviewed later, uh, they pulled some of us into a room and, and you know had us, had us talk and I'm the guy with the eye swollen shut. Looks like a, a boxer in a boxing match so if you guys dig that up.

Det. Diskin: Okay. And what was the purpose of that, make you talk about what?

Kurt: Well he was just, just, he was asking for people just to talk about what they were going through, why they were there, what the event. I think he was gonna use it for a marketing piece or for future events. I mean he's, he's a consummate in sale and marketing, I mean it's just off the chart.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Uhm did you get any kind of medical attention? Did you go by yourself to the hospital?

Kurt: There happened to be someone attending there that was a, I forget, I don't remember the term. Either an, I think an Ophthalmologist that just, just by chance was

there and that person uh checked me out and saw that my eye was not injured but that it was a skin tear of the eye lid on the outside of the lid and that uh just you know, Neosporin and uhm, uhm, uhm proper hygiene and it would probably heal and suggested that if the swelling doesn't go down in a couple days when I get home to go see a professional. Uhm you know I might have gone to my eye doctor when I got back, uhm

Det. Diskin: If you could check on that and see if you can give me any kind of medical records

Kurt: Yea I'll check on that one, (Inaudible) checked on anyway

Det. Diskin: Do you by chance have any pictures of it? I mean did anybody take your picture?

Kurt: Whew. No, no I did not other than the James Ray videos that exist. Uhm, I'm trying to think of who else, I mean my wife was there but uhm I'm trying to think if I know of anybody else who was attending that

Det. Diskin: And did, did your wife participate with breaking the arrow?

Kurt: No she saw me kinda lunge forward and saw the blood and then she came chasing after me and was attending to me rather than do the exercise.

Det. Diskin: Yea that's probably good

Kurt: Yea

Det. Diskin: How, how, how did they react to that? I mean obviously the staff would have been whoa, that arrow just went into your eye, you know? What did they do?

Kurt: Well uhm, they kinda whisked me out of public view, over to the side of the room. Uhm sat down, they had a, somebody that, that was not one of the people with the leather gloves on came over to me. It was a female uh and uhm she you know was concerned, uh, and acted concerned. She proceeded to uh, uh, you know she went to work to find the first aid kit, or had someone else do it, I don't remember, kinda blurry memory in that regard. Uhm, and then this other Opthamologist, whoever that they found, that was in the audience that uh came forward to help that even, I mean she stated her credentials and everything. Uhm then she took down my contact information and said that she would be contacting me in a couple days to make sure I was okay. And you know my phone number, names, phone numbers, etc., they never contacted me. Uhm

Det. Diskin: Okay. They didn't say he you know we'll give you a refund, anything like that?

Kurt: Oh no, no, no, no offer there. Uhm and then uhm yea, and, and, and later you know in the event, if you guys come up with the film records you'll see that later we're

supposed to, people are invited to the next day to, or later that afternoon, I don't remember to, to, to stand up and share some of their experiences and uhm and what you're trying to process. And uh I stood up and spoke and so James Ray saw me. I had, you know, I had said what had happened. Uhm and he did not, so it wasn't like he claimed ignorance that he didn't know that it had gone on. He knew it happened, here I am in front of the microphone on film, that he's filming, saying what had happened and there was no, I don't recall there being any apology or any offer to, to you know refund anything or anything like that.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Then what did you say, I mean were you upset when you when you talked?

Kurt: Well yea I was upset but I wasn't mad. Uhm one of the things partially going on in the (Inaudible) of these courses is you're trying to work on something about yourself. And, and I was there to work on myself so the challenge in his things, as strange as this may sound in light of what's going on, is he's challenging everyone to take personal responsibility for everything in their life. And so what he's trying to get you to do is to acknowledge the, to not be a victim but to take responsibility that, that I myself am responsible for putting myself in that room at the time. I chose to bend forward on the arrow, it split, it's not the arrow's fault, you know it's kinda like he's teaching personal responsibility. So I was talking about what that was doing for me. Uhm and mentally what I was grappling with and this is what I talked about was that for personal achievements or breakthroughs in my life, I feel that somewhere I was programmed earlier in my life that major epiphanies have to be painful. So that like when you go, when I work out, I like to go ride uphill on my bicycle up a mountain. The pain of climbing the hill makes me feel like I've achieved something. For some reason I'm programmed that way, I was grappling with that. And as I was grappling with this, uhm, this, this happened and it was just more of the same and, and I was trying to work through that. So, so that was the discussion at that point.

Det. Diskin: Did you say anything like hey you know there should have been medical staff here, uhm, anything like that?

Kurt: I don't recall saying that

Det. Diskin: Okay

Kurt: I remember, you know, thinking it but I don't remember saying it.

Det. Diskin: Well at the time you know you were probably part of the group and didn't

Kurt: Well that's, there is something there. They, you know I'm not a psychologist, I don't understand you know how all this works and, but there's definitely a group mentality, definitely peer pressure, definitely a lot of hype up, a lot of energy shifting on how uhm, how one's thinking. And that's one of the reasons people go to these things, is

to experience all this stuff and walk away energized, go back to their life and, and feel that, you know they're a better person or that they're, have, something's changed in their life. There, that you know there's a lot of people in the community, I don't mean just James Ray community but people that go to self help workshop, even call it workshop high. You come off a workshop and you're energized and recharged and fired up about life for you know either a day, a week or a month afterwards and, and there's definitely a high running at these events.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Uhm, the events that you went to, did you ever drink anything that, that uh, that uh was mind altering or made you feel kinda light headed?

Kurt: No

Det. Diskin: You didn't?

Kurt: No

Det. Diskin: (Inaudible) any kind of liquid?

Kurt: No. The, the, the events, the two, the three events that I went to were more business related; sales, business, how to get your life back on track. They were not his esoteric as I'll call it uh workshops. Uhm the Quantum Leap was based on some of the science behind quantum physics but his Spiritual Warrior uhm, his, he's got one Practical Mysticism and I can't remember all of the names of them. One he holds in Hawaii, one in Tahoe here and the one in Sedona. Uhm if he was gonna dive into that stuff I could see it happening at this more esoteric ones.

Det. Diskin: Okay. And uhm the, the free seminar, the first one that you went to. Uhm how long was that, what, what took place (Inaudible)

Kurt: Well I didn't go to that first free seminar, my wife did

Det. Diskin: Oh, okay.

Kurt: And it, yea I can't speak for how long it was. It was held in Reno, Nevada

Det. Diskin: Okay. All right. We may have more questions for you down the road. Would it be okay if I give you a call?

Kurt: You, I, I feel, I would love to cooperate with whatever you're gonna ask, as many questions as you want

Det. Diskin: Okay

Kurt: The part that makes me a little nervous is if I gotta go into court. Uhm 1) because I did know Kirby, the defense could come back and say conflict. Uhm the disruption of my life, uhm, all that kind of stuff. I realize if this,

if you know, I, I hate to put the caveat out there but if the guy's gonna walk and get away with this shit I'd gladly step up but I realize it's probably hard. I don't mean to be a chicken shit witness but uhm

Det. Diskin: No I completely understand

Kurt: Just that I'd rather stay under the radar if I can

Det. Diskin: Okay

Kurt: As far as the public's eye

Det. Diskin: Yea we'll

Kurt: There might be a lot of crazy's out there that follow this guy and I don't want to draw that on myself

Det. Diskin: Yea uhm, you know you're one of many, many, many people that were injured at one of his events so I'm not sure how many people we would need to testify should he be charged with a crime. Uhm but it certainly shows one of the elements of the crime. This one's a little bit different than most cases that we worked. Uhm because he didn't intend to kill anybody we don't believe that you know he was trying to kill somebody. The, the element of the crime is negligence and in order to show that negligence uhm we want to show that uh, you know that people

Kurt: a pattern?

Det. Diskin: yea a pattern of people being hurt, no medical staff, uhm that kind of stuff and so your testimony would be important, uhm, but it's one of many and I don't know how many we're gonna use. But you'll be talked to about that, if you're willing to testify, you know, down the road. Uhm but these, these kinds of cases if, if Mr. Ray is charged with a crime uhm it could be a year or two before it went to trial.

Kurt: Right. Are you guys able to get help from the Feds or anything on this or you guys having to do this on county dollars?

Det. Diskin: Yea I mean we've got uhm, we investigate you know homicides all the time. But yea we, the Feds haven't uh gotten involved. They may, and you know, I think that that would be good for additional help, uhm, but they might look, they might be investigating it differently. They might be looking at business practices and, and things of that nature. Maybe some fraud, the way he runs a business, uhm that kind of stuff. They probably wouldn't investigate the, the homicides.

Kurt: So are you guys monitoring the, the Facebook page because there's some

Det. Diskin: I've got, I've got somebody doing that right now. I looked at his Facebook page and read a bunch of the comments

Kurt: Mmm Hmm

Det. Diskin: which, you know, were almost all negative

Kurt: Yea

Det. Diskin: uhm but I don't know how to get back into it now. Something, I don't know if he blocked it, if you have to be a, you know

Kurt: Well you just call yourself a fan and then you can get in

Det. Diskin: Okay

Kurt: Uhm but there's a guy that, by the, by the whatever, screen name James Connery on there that you know he's, he's insinuating on there that he is law enforcement.

Det. Diskin: He may be, uhm, I don't know who that is and it's not somebody that, that works here

Kurt: Cause he's the one that did post the, the number I called in on so he's, he's working with you

Det. Diskin: Okay

Kurt: Uhm, and uhm, anyway, neither here nor there, I mean it's just, it's, I mean I'm glad to see that, I was kinda excited to see that people were paying atten; I mean there's a wealth of connection to potential witnesses out there through the Facebook page so

Det. Diskin: Yes, and we

Kurt: there's a lot of people not posting, their watching it, uhm, probably afraid to post.

Det. Diskin: Yea, well we've you know literally talked to hundreds of people already and we're gonna continue to do so and we're gonna take every lead we can find. You know, cause we want to get all the information we can uh you know that way we're set to go should we you know charge him with a crime.

Kurt: Alright. I mean my perception is the guy is not a cult leader. There's a lot of people calling this a cult and I think that's just a natural reaction to what's going on and I don't even know what the definition of a cult is. But you know I'm thinking Jim Jones, this that and the other thing, but there are people there that probably have all of the symptoms of being cult followers that uhm, that hook onto this guy and, and, and you know put him up on a pedestal. Uhm but I agree with you, this is just negligence and

uhm I think he's got a lot of great teachings and, and they're not just his teachings. These are ancient, a lot of them are very old teachings. He's just put them in a package, uh, made it easy for people who are busy in their lives to, to, to you know work on themselves over a few day time period. Uhm but the negligence, and I, I think it's coming from arrogance. I mean his personality, uhm, it just

Det. Diskin: Yea you know a lot of people have said that. Uhm yea, you know we don't, we don't know, we're still looking into it. Uhm there's so many other things associated with this case. There was a suicide that happened at one of the events, uh, which didn't seem right. I mean it seemed kinda hokey but we're looking into that too. So we're looking at every angle that we can find but I hear your phone ringing so I'll let you go.

Kurt: Alright thanks

Det. Diskin: Alright, take care

Kurt: Alright bye

Det. Diskin: Bye

Tue Nov 10 14:12:50 MST 2009
Apvd C16/0394 DBW