

*I/V Giroux, Lance "The Samurai Game" Poling C27:

On November 09, 2009 at approximately 2:46 p.m. (MST) I conducted a telephonic interview with Lance Giroux from "Allied Ronin" Leadership Training and Consulting in reference to the "Samurai Game." The following is a transcription of the interview. For complete details please refer to the audio recording placed into evidence.

Interviewer: Hi Lance Giroux. My name is Mike Poling. I am a detective with the Yavapai County Sheriff's office of Arizona. I was wondering if I could take a few minutes of your time. I don't know if you expected us to call but this is in reference to the Samurai Game

Respondent: I will tell you what I am in a lobby right now checking out of the hotel. Can I call you back at the number that you are calling me on?

Interviewer: Yes. This is not my desk number but you can ask for me. My last name is Poling. P o l i n g.

Respondent: Hold on a minute. Why don't you give me the best number for me to call you on? I have got a pencil in my hand.

Interviewer: [REDACTED]

Respondent: Okay. Talk to you in a few minutes.

Interviewer: Thank you very much.

Interviewer: Detective Poling.

Respondent: Hi Mike this is Lance Giroux calling you right back.

Interviewer: Hi Lance. Thanks for calling me back. Are you aware of what's going on around here and what this phone call might be about?

Respondent: I am aware what the phone call is probably about. I am not aware of all of the details but I have got to, I have seen a little bit of the news and then Nancy Ogilvie advised me that she had spoken with a Mike at the Yavapai County. That's probably you so.

Interviewer: That's why I am calling today. And again I am just trying to get the facts together so that I understand what happened over here at the sweat lodge which may or may not be reflected upon the games I mean the Samurai Game that I believe that you maybe showing to corporations and things like for leadership.

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: I am not trying to point fingers but what I am trying to figure out here is a lot of techniques that are provided into his participants that follow James Ray. He draws from a wide variety of people like I believe he draws a little bit from the Samurai Game. He develops some things from Grof in what refers to holotropic breathing, things like that. And he puts them into his own works and helps people out which is his business to do. But what I am trying to figure out today is in the Samurai Game, the certain things about it, it looks like it is registered trademark by you.

Respondent: The game is owned by George Leonard and his wife Anne and their family trust. The game is, the term Samurai Game is a registered trademark and the game is his intellectual property and it's copyrighted.

Interviewer: Is it something you certify people with?

Respondent: That's correct. He, George Leonard, himself certified people years ago and then in about 2000 got a representative on our website, on his website, samuraigame.org website. I began acting in his behalf to develop training and certification method for him and I don't know if you have been to the website but on the facilitator's page you can download methodology or you know the proper procedures for someone to become certified.

Interviewer: Okay. Would you know if James Ray had ever been certified through your program?

Respondent: No. He has not. I have no recollection of him at all. I have seen the movie The Secret but then that was quite a few years ago. Only saw portion of it and then I think when this all happened it was Nancy I think mentioned it to me or someone else that he was in that film too and I queried the Leonards if they had any recollection of him ever being certified and I also queried some of the people that could be game on the most who are certified and none of them are aware of him ever attending Samurai Game Event.

Interviewer: Okay. Is the Samurai Event that he is talking about in The Secret is that similar to what?

Respondent: Let me be clear about that. I do not think there is any reference whatsoever in the film The Secret to the Samurai Game whatsoever. I don't recall at all or know what he covered in that but to my knowledge he wouldn't have even mentioned the Samurai Game.

Interviewer: And you mentioned that the facilitator, the proper procedure for a facilitator is on the website?

Respondent: Yeah. All the procedures that have been developed since the year 2000, prior to that it was, George Leonard was certifying them however he did.

Interviewer: And I guess I could look that up but I was wondering is the facilitator, does the facilitator take the law and maybe I am saying this wrong not as God but as someone in that nature.

Respondent: The facilitator takes the role of what's called the war god that's small w small g and you can also describe that person as representing fate, fate of war. The facilitator never take on the role of God and the facilitator, I know you are not asking me these questions, but I should let you know the facilitator, the primary things on the facilitator's mind should be the safety of the people and the facilitator should always by the design of the game give those people at least three honorable opportunities to choose out of playing and in that way never badger, coerce, cajole or anything else. This game is supposed to be played in an atmosphere of respect although it is intent but the people's well being has to be hold uppermost in the mind of facilitator.

Interviewer: And you, is it safe to say that you are not aware of how James Ray does his Samurai Game?

Respondent: I am only aware, my awareness of him is from Nancy Ogilvie and she told me on the telephone that he and the delivery of his event and I can give you some background on that if you will need it that he positioned himself as God and he dresses in the white robe and it would be fine for a facilitator to dress in various clothing but the game is designed you know I can put it on a jeans and a sweatshirt. It doesn't need a lot of paraphernalia I mean if somebody could put on a robe or hang a banner or something like that but I wouldn't hold that out by the norm. It depends on how we came across to the people. And do you need me to explain further how she contacted me?

Interviewer: If you feel okay with that.

Respondent: I received an e-mail from her and I don't have my notes in front of me but it came through samuraigame.org website e-mail where briefly asking if I knew of James Ray and if he had ever put on, was ever certified through the Samurai Game. And I sent her back a note saying I don't know him personally and to my knowledge he was never authorized from the Samurai Game and I felt it was best for me to call her, which I did, and asked her what was the thing like. And then she described what occurred. Her recollection of what occurred and this was I think back two or three years ago. She recalled and what she recalled of being was a situation where people were put in to the altered state and then she said they were divided in two groups or not and then they spent a night with each other and then the next day they had what essentially would have been the game, where two groups battle each other in very, the thing which I do is very simple like stand on one foot or play rock, paper, scissors but they have to imagine as their life is at stake in everything that they do. What she described to me was something that lasted about 15 minutes and then I started asking her some questions because my concern was she thought it was a Samurai Game I am not affiliated with James Ray and from everything I can tell he has never been to a real Samurai Game. I guess he may have, see I heard from her email that one of his or had some graduate of his programs or had an employee of his maybe check it out somewhere along the line or found out about part but

what it sounded like as she described it, division of two teams, the facilitator becoming, in this case she called it God but we would it war god small w small g and our fate of war and then she said he had people stand on one foot, they were spies and each step sounded like the general structure of the game and I wrote to her and said it sounds to me like what he did was an unauthorized variation on the pattern of the game which he shouldn't have done and I asked her for can you get me names of other people who can remember what happened so I can rightfully say this guy so you know virtual property of George Leonard. I mean I don't want to, it sounds like he did but I am not absolutely sure.

Interviewer: Yeah you would have to see it and if I had a videotape of the Samurai Game and I would submit it to you, would you be able to do it?

Respondent: You bet and if anybody does something like what I am supposing he did the least it pisses me off

Interviewer: Yeah, well especially he is using your staff.

Respondent: Yeah, it's not right and it's a horrible shadow over people are doing good work with it and a man who spent his life serving people which is George Leonard.

Interviewer: And again I don't know there are several aspects to what led up to this. Sweat lodge which I don't know if it has anything to do with Samurai Games that's just one of the things that they do during this time and you know and what I have to do is I have to look at all the bases versus records versus you know you did say this game is extreme. I don't know what you mean by extreme and it doesn't sound as you know stand on one foot or doing this but extreme is maybe it is something else that I don't know about.

Respondent: What makes it extreme with people and yet I wouldn't say it's extreme, it's intense. Its intensity comes from the individual looking at themselves as they participate and as they move forward the facilitator should take a good amount of time showing people what they are going to do, outlining the role and moving them to a point where they can cross an imaginary line. And on the other side of that line imagine that they are living in ancient Japan and they take on, each team has a leader, it's great game for team building and leadership and a lot of organizations have used it and I have delivered it to organizations and colleges and the universities and almost everybody gets a lot out of it and its intensity comes from everything that a person does or doesn't do. There are consequences for it and the ultimate consequence is a loss of life but that's all fictitious. That's all is in your imagination. And the facilitator lets the people know before going in what to expect. The facilitator could become somewhat bluff but that's the role the facilitator will play and then when it's over there is going to be a debrief time in which we get to talk about the lessons learned and all of their lessons are to be held with respect, with compassion, with dignity, respect, compassion, responsibility, all those aspects, which is reflective of what it is. George Leonard was a martial artist and a fifth-degree black belt in Aikido. And the game comes from his learning through Aikido though no one does anything physically damaging so the intensity is the intensity of what are my

actions based on, I could have let down my team, I did a good job, I lost that kind of intensity. But the activities are simple things like playing rock and paper and scissors standing on one foot, I don't think it's straight on their finger but it sounds ridiculous. You know I am sure in your training that I don't think you have ever done anything like the Samurai Game but you done situations where you know I know some people that train and police officers in California and they put them in a role point situation. And it can become quite real for a few minutes or for a few hours then there is debrief that kind of intensity.

Interviewer: When you say intensity you don't mean in terms of depriving people of sleep or something like that?

Respondent: No, absolutely not.

Interviewer: And I am not saying that's what he does, I just wondered, you know I know there are some of the things that James Ray does is always on the intensity levels so it's always higher than the norm. And that's okay as long it's in a safe environment.

Respondent: In this environment, in a proper environment The Samurai Game is delivered the participant and I have the background noise of what I recall and what are we talking about. The participants they don't have a classroom situation. They get to go pee when they have to or they have to get up on their feet and go pee or they are sitting on the floor and during the game if somebody, one of the jobs of the facilitator is to make sure that somebody is safe so I will give you an example when I am leading it I will find out from people has he got that needs, is that back, they are comfortable, are you hyperglycemic, you need to keep crackers with you where I can tell if somebody has got a physical issue I can walk over at any point in the game and say you know open your eyes and you will feel better you know or I would say you know we are going to break the rule with you for a minute, just look here, are you okay and they go yeah or no, I need to sit down and I feel refreshing, okay well then sit down or I need to move my back, or my knees. And I am advising the instructors take such good care of the people that that doesn't happen. Some of the things that I found, I had heard while serving was that people couldn't get up and go to the bathroom, I mean you got a pee, they will do it and come back.

Interviewer: And I was told almost the same thing that people if they were dead, they wouldn't be dead they got up or so someone also in the team would die?

Respondent: That's possible but it should be held within the framework of respect. It's hard to make a judgment on that but the general judgment is what's going on here safe with that student who is in a seminar being well cared for.

Interviewer: So after the game is over do you leave the people in the dead position and walk away?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: When the game is over is the game over for everybody?

Respondent: Yeah. When the game is over people are walking around.

Interviewer: They debrief or whatever?

Respondent: It depends on whether the people come back the next day for debrief but there is an initial debrief, what's going on with you right now, what's the emotions are you having. There is a broad spectrum of emotion anywhere from somebody could be angry all the way where somebody could be elated. Somebody is deeply insightful, deeply respectful somebody might be confused and they are advised at that time to use that whatever emotion is going on for them, to use that as a portal for self discovery. It's that emotion and what those people have, they should always be held in the highest regard by the facilitator and never be rated. And when they come back, if they come back the next day they sit and they debrief. Each facilitator has his own debrief or her own debrief. I have developed a series of questions which is sort of guided questions which is very simple about people. The facilitator just lets the people sit with each other in pairs and then in small groups and talk among themselves what they learned.

Interviewer: To get these people to the maybe I am saying this wrong, the spiritualness of this to get them in the mindset is there a technique that's used to get them there so they feel like they are entering into Japan or you know what I mean into this form? I don't know if that makes sense.

Respondent: I have not been to his, I understand he calls this thing The Spiritual Warrior. I will just tell you that what happens that people should, they go through a series of movement where they practice balancing on a foot. They need to practice some of the simple basic rounding things from the Martial Art of Aikido which is standing and posture and being able to move with grace and it's very undignified and at a period of time after they are given opportunity to choose out and I have had people choose out. And generally what happens is the people stand in a circle and the facilitator says in a moment I am going to clap my hands and when I do I want you to begin walking and imagine that you are walking back into the past. And you should take a step, imagine you are walking away from here and you are going to be living for the next two or three hours as a samurai in ancient Japan. And that's how you play the game. And they just don't walk, they walk around the room with hands crossed again and then when facilitators says let them divide into teams then they have to pick their team leaders, they have to train you know practice doing the things that they are going to do and at a point in time he or she lets the facilitator know to let the battles begin. I am giving you brief overview.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: And that would take some time but it takes about anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes, appearing the time like the. The pregame stuff grounding and centering

exercises in seminar activities you would find something depends on the course that's being led in but applying some of the same stuff that you might find in any other public seminar or college class where you are talking about Johari window and leadership and that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: What it sounds to me like and I used to work for a company called Conair an architectural aluminum place, but anyway it's been like we have had these types of team-led leadership or supervisory roles where you learn this teambuilding atmosphere. Now it sounds to me like this is more for teambuilding more or less than it is for an individual?

Respondent: In the individual reflection people learn about, there are certain objectives, there are stated objectives of the game, one of the objectives is to notice what you did or didn't do and how that reflects on habitual patterns that you have seen in their life, that's an individual reflection.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Another is to notice where you are honor strength is, your integrity strength is and order begins to crack and weaken. They have the purpose of learning from that not to make one better than the other you know to learn about yourself. Team building can be and from a team building you have got the dynamic you know organizational dynamics you know how does a team form, how do they pick their leader, generally the leader is picked by, because it's ancient Japan things like democracy don't exist so how do they pick their leader unanimously without talking and then eventually arrive at one person being selected, then they can reflect on this there is no right or wrong about that but one team everybody might jump up and stand in front of one person and the other team people are trying to figure out well who do I pick and then they pick and somebody stands in front of you and somebody stands in front of Jane and after a while the person standing in front of you says well I will stand in front of Jane and Jane said in front of Mike. It's quite simple and then, but at the same time it reflects that the individual when do I give up my position and take on another position, that you are reflecting.

Interviewer: It does sound good, and I was thinking maybe this leadership training or this part that I am thinking James Ray used to work for AT&T and I didn't know if maybe AT&T are taped in this and was trained or maybe he learned it from a seminar he attended while working with AT&T.

Respondent: I know that AT&T had trainings in which the game was used. I can't tell you if James Ray ever went to one of those. I never delivered for AT&T. The man that I knew of that delivered the game I believe he delivered it for AT&T was Jack Sherry and Jack Sherry died in 1990 to my knowledge because I wasn't involved with the game at that time. I take that back, I was involved with the game but I was just introducing it to the seminar company that I went to work for. The organization that was delivering AT&T was Sports Line and the head of that organization was Chris Majors and Chris Majors was certified to deliver the game and he is currently certified in deliver the game.

Interviewer: Okay. That might be where he learned it from?

Respondent: I don't know, from what Nancy told me it sounds that and this is I am just going on my self realization that was like somebody told him about it and then he patronized it.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: Either that or he did it so long ago that he didn't remember what to do. She was going through her grief when she talked to me and she was trying to tell me well Giroux how these things went down she said I went after 15 minutes and then I went oh, didn't sound like this guy knew what he was doing if he was trying to play the Samurai Game.

Interviewer: And I haven't really learnt much about it just as part of it and part of the exercise in the Spiritual Warrior outlook but I believe that was done first and then they do other things that you know caused what led up to the events of the night. But this was done earlier on I believe. And I haven't heard anyone getting hurt or anything by this game at all.

Respondent: No, the job of the facilitator is to keep safe.

Interviewer: And I have never heard of anyone getting hurt during this game, I am just trying to understand when we put the whole thing from A to Z together where these people are running and how they are feeling as what is the facilitator doing during this time but it's always why and this is, the case we are trying to put together but the facilitator is responsible for each action I am thinking of the whole thing. So where is the safety rules in some of them and I want to make sure that all of them are taken in that respect that you know the sweat lodge or whatever happened the facilitator needs to be held responsible and what were those factors that kept him responsible. So anyway, I don't believe anyone I have never heard of anyone getting hurt during the Samurai Game.

Respondent: I haven't either, I mean if you balance a little like a half inch dowel on your finger it, falls down unless if you are on the knee or on the top of your head that might hurt for a moment but nothing like what happened in that Yavapai County.

Interviewer: Yeah well the Samurai Game doesn't have anything to do with arrows, does it?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: I don't know if you have seen that one that demonstration before.

Respondent: No, what is that?

Interviewer: But I don't know exactly how it happened but someone put an arrowhead on their throat and I don't know if it's against a wall or something but what happened is the arrow wouldn't penetrate where arrowhead was but what happened is the stick broke and part of that went into someone's and lodged in there above their eye and caused them damage but it's one of these demonstrations that went bad, that I didn't know.

Respondent: With this one?

Interviewer: Not this one, no this was, there are several events that he puts together and he does different things that lead up to the Samurai and to the granddaddy of it that's what I call it, you know the steps to the last one and which was Spiritual Warrior which is in Sedona but there is other things that they do that lead up to that practice.

Respondent: Yeah I don't know his methodology but I am guessing that people go to a they have to present, I mean this is the common methodology in this training world is to go a guest presents, I want to take Tom in some seminars, we would go to guest presentation and then we would go to basic course and then we go to the next level course and a next level course and a next level course and by the time they get to the big one, we have been through a lot of seminars led by that organization with those facilitators. So the people get you know they get quite involved in their learning process and that's common in any you know teaching field the way I do it but (overlap) I am not a psychiatrist.

Interviewer: And that's all good, I don't want you to feel bad about anybody or him or what I just want to make sure what he was doing is on the up and up and he is taking your ideas that it was done correctly?

Respondent: I want to make sure, I was hoping that I could find other people that could say this is what occurred so that the Leonards can write a letter to him and say stop, it's my years to do, because it sounds to me and I would advice them like please forget the game, I don't know that he even called this a Samurai Game.

Interviewer: I think he does, maybe not exactly the Samurai Game but maybe Samurai Warrior Game or something but it is the Samurai Game from what I have understood too and that's what there is and I guess that's how she contacted you about this but I will I am going to try to get some footage and if I get the footage of the game and if I am allowed to, I will send it to you to view.

Respondent: I would like to look at it.

Interviewer: I would like to do that if you are good with that.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: But I have your information a little from San Diego area?

Respondent: No, you are, I am in San Diego right now on business and you are calling my cell phone which is [REDACTED] and I don't know if you call my cell phone originally if you called my home office line, I will give you my contacts is you call [REDACTED].

Interviewer: Okay got that. Where area is that in?

Respondent: That's [REDACTED]

Interviewer: Oh that's [REDACTED]. I thought it was [REDACTED] that whole area up there. I was doing a homicide similar to there up in [REDACTED] with two people on the beach. I don't know if you are familiar with it.

Respondent: How long ago?

Interviewer: Last year or actually was it last year, actually it might have been a few years ago because it was tied into one of our cold cases.

Respondent: (Inaudible 30:55).

Interviewer: Yeah. So that was sad too, but anyway I will do that I am going to, like I said I am going to see if I can get some raw footage of this and that way at least you know what's going on.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah anyway I definitely appreciate your talk to me today Lance and if you have any questions or you think of something that might help us and I will give you what I can.

Respondent: Okay. And please all the objectives of the game and the outcomes I think it's pretty well spelled out right there on the website.

Interviewer: Okay I will definitely look at that and specially in the facilitator section.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Well I definitely appreciate your time today.

Respondent: You bet, good luck.

Interviewer: Take care Lance.

Respondent: Call me anytime soon.

Interviewer: Okay thank you.

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