

\*I/V Rainey-Amstel, Brandy 2009 Transcript of Sup#28 C22

On 10/26/2009 I interviewed Brandy Rainey-Amstel. She participated in Spiritual Warrior 2009. I later placed a digital audio recording into evidence with this incident. Refer to that for a complete record of our conversation. The below transcript was created by another person and the audio recording should be referred to for an accurate record. Detective John Johnson #6863/C22

Det. Johnson: Do you have time to do interview now?

Brandy Amstel: Sure.

Det. Johnson: Excellent. We just had some, I know you have probably talked to detectives and all that happened but we were just doing some further follow-up interviews with everybody.

Brandy Amstel: Sure.

Det. Johnson: I will just make sure I have a little information before we get started. And I have [REDACTED], is that a road or?

Brandy Amstel: It's [REDACTED] There is no road or anything.

Det. Johnson: Okay. And that's in [REDACTED], and your zip code is [REDACTED]

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: And your first name is Brandy, last name Amstel.

Brandy Amstel: I go by Brandy Amstel but on my driver's license is Rainey.

Det. Johnson: Rainey. And what's your middle name?

Brandy Amstel: Kay.

Det. Johnson: And your last name is Amstel?

Brandy Amstel: That's right.

Det. Johnson: What's in your license though?

Brandy Amstel: Rainey.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So Rainey is your last name, Brandy is your first name?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: Okay. And what's your date of birth?

Brandy Amstel: [REDACTED].

Det. Johnson: And the phone number I left a message for you on the [REDACTED] is the best number to reach you out?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: Do you have any other numbers I could reach you on?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, they all forward to my cell, so you know the best number.

Det. Johnson: So how did you first learn about James Ray?

Brandy Amstel: (Inaudible 00:02:22)

Det. Johnson: (Inaudible) we talked to so we had a list of questions.

Brandy Amstel: I watched the DVD, The Secret, and he was the speaker that I resonated with and then he was doing a free event the next month here in [REDACTED] so I went and checked him out.

Det. Johnson: When was that?

Brandy Amstel: Like December of '07. And the free event was in January of '08.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Since that event how many events or seminars, what else you have attended?

Brandy Amstel: I have completed the Journey of Power.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Where was that?

Brandy Amstel: (Inaudible 00:03:19)

Det. Johnson: What we are trying to do is just get like you know you San Diego you attended this, or like in Tahoe you did the practical mysticism on that month and year kind of thing. And so after that free event what was the next thing you went to?

Brandy Amstel: I went to the Harmonic Wealth Weekend in Arlington, Texas. That was in February 14, '08. Then the next round was Modern Magick: Sacred Energy Exchange in Kahuna Hawaii. That was in April of '08.

Det. Johnson: That's a five day, correct?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. Essentially, I mean it was a long one.

Det. Johnson: And it was part of Sacred Energy Exchange?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: Okay. And after that?

Brandy Amstel: Then I did, I signed up for World Wealth Society at that point, not have been and I can and so that allowed us to repeat things and to include everything in our free all courses. So I went to, I think I went back to another Harmonic Wealth in San Francisco that was in June '08. And then I went to Modern Magick in Tahoe. That's not Modern Magick, it was Practical Mysticism. And then that's in July '08.

Det. Johnson: And that was the 5-day or so event?

Brandy Amstel: Yes. Then I went to another Harmonic Wealth in San Diego in August of '08. There was the World Wealth Extravaganza in October or November, I don't remember which. It might have been November and that was right before Quantum Leap.

Det. Johnson: That World Wealth Extravaganza after San Diego's Harmonic Wealth where was that?

Brandy Amstel: That Harmonic Wealth was in San Diego.

Det. Johnson: Right but the World Wealth where was that at?

Brandy Amstel: Las Vegas.

Det. Johnson: Las Vegas, okay. The Harmonic Wealth is a 2-day?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: Okay and then the World Wealth Extravaganza was a two or three?

Brandy Amstel: Actually I think as far as the timing goes, I think what happened was you go to Quantum Leap and then some people were invited to stay afterwards and attend the Extravaganza so it was like a whole long event. So Quantum Leap I think is three days and then I think that the Extravaganza was like another two days. And it was like a long trip for us.

Det. Johnson: Also Las Vegas, you went to Las Vegas, did Quantum Leap and then the World Wealth?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. And then after that we did in December we did Creating Absolute Wealth and the Leap.

Det. Johnson: Where was that?

Brandy Amstel: San Diego. And you are just asking specifically about courses I have done not like any other activities, correct?

Det. Johnson: Yeah, we are just kind of just so we know what else have you attended, I guess some of the other people have attended these exact same things, that kind of thing you know at the same time.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. As part of World Wealth Society you do other events, other things with James but they are not considered courses.

Det. Johnson: Okay. They are like, so you are kind of like at a higher level in the program where you did --

Brandy Amstel: We went to Egypt and you do a lot of other stuff too. We had a New Year Eve Party and stuff.

Det. Johnson: Creating Absolute Wealth where was that at?

Brandy Amstel: San Diego.

Det. Johnson: Any other major courses?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I mean when I went to one or two major courses and the next one was on 8th April.

Det. Johnson: I just mean any of these organized events.

Brandy Amstel: We went to Cabo San Lucas World Wealth Congress in February '09. We should organize events, I mean the other two events that I was telling you about, they were also organized with 60 people going and

Det. Johnson: Okay, so these were also large organized events?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: So when were those events then?

Brandy Amstel: We went to Egypt, I think it was for five days, it's called the World Wealth Excursion and that was in September or October like that little week in '08.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: Then they, it was a New Year's Eve event. It was just one day. That was New Year's Eve.

Det. Johnson: Where was that at?

Brandy Amstel: Out in San Diego. And then also I told you about World Wealth Congress which was in Cabo San Lucas.

Det. Johnson: Yeah. Did you do that Peru trip?

Brandy Amstel: I didn't do Peru. I didn't rejoin World Wealth Society.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So it was like --

Brandy Amstel: That was for next year. Every year he does an excursion and this year they went to Peru.

Det. Johnson: Okay. All right, so after all those things in a way your next organized event then was in April 2008?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, April 2009.

Det. Johnson: I am sorry, '09, yeah, and where was that?

Brandy Amstel: And that's called, it's Modern Magick, yeah. There is like four Modern Magicks and this one has another name. Oh my God. That's bad, I don't even remember. The next year (inaudible 00:10:49) I don't know, I could look it up.

Det. Johnson: It's all right. And where was that at?

Brandy Amstel: That was in Dana Point, California.

Det. Johnson: And it was a five half day, wasn't it?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: By five half day means five half day sessions?

Brandy Amstel: I don't know that. It was five days.

Det. Johnson: It was five full days. Somebody else has been telling me about it was five half-day sessions I felt it was that one in Dana Point.

Brandy Amstel: I don't know.

Det. Johnson: Might have been a different one though.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I don't know, maybe that was an older script

Det. Johnson: That may have been like one in '07 or something you were telling me about. Anything after that Modern Magick?

Brandy Amstel: No. For me that was it. The next one would have been the Spiritual Warrior.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So have you ever been in a sauna or sweat lodge before and if so how was this different?

Brandy Amstel: I went to a sauna at my gym before but it was hot and stupid and walked out.

Det. Johnson: Yeah a lot of people are running into those so much. How would you consider this different from that as far as like temperature, steam, those kinds of things?

Brandy Amstel: Say it again.

Det. Johnson: How would you consider the sweat lodge experience to be different from that sauna you went into? Were you in there long enough that you kind of got a feeling for the temperature and everything or?

Brandy Amstel: No, I walked in and it seemed close and hot and claustrophobic so I walked out so I don't exactly have a true sense of what a sauna is. I don't know.

Det. Johnson: And you have never done any of the sweat lodge type things before?

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: Did you hear anyone talk or make assurances of personnel conducting or building a sweat lodge, and how they had any special training or expertise?

Brandy Amstel: Ask the question again.

Det. Johnson: Before and during this event did you hear anyone saying that the people who were conducting or had built the sweat lodge had special training or expertise in sweat lodges?

Brandy Amstel: So the keyword being before and during the event, no.

Det. Johnson: I mean like you know I know they did a briefing in the seminar room or like where you guys were about to enter and then talk about how these people have done sweat lodges or anything like that in the past.

Brandy Amstel: I guess what was said was that James, while we were on our Vision Quest, James had gone in the Sedona and spoke with a Native American about sweat lodge and he talked about his sweat lodge was, you know the Lakotas they are like considered crazy. This sweat lodge was different than even those guys.

Det. Johnson: How did he say it was different?

Brandy Amstel: Nobody has a sweat lodge like James. That's what the Native Americans supposedly told them.

Det. Johnson: Did they say how his was different or what it is compared to the Native American sweat lodges?

Brandy Amstel: All I got was that it was going to be very hot. I mean not about construction or I do remember him saying that he told us about it I mean he told us like what it was. He said it was, not going to be able to walk around there, it's really short because he wanted to keep the heat there. He said some stuff like, I don't know, it was pretty scary (inaudible 00:15:24)

Det. Johnson: (Inaudible)

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, it was going to be short so we are going to have to crawl in and there was like going to be a ceremony going on. There is going to be one door and we are going to enter a particular way, the ritualistic way, and if you needed to exit you are going to have to exit a particular way. And so me based on that I was like holy shit I am going to be the first ones in there, I am going to be the first people they can call out. I don't want to have to crawl all the way around the tent just to get out so like I made sure that I don't want to have to crawl all the way around the tent just to get out. So I got to make sure when I got last and I got down there and the delay that we were about to enter I stand sort of close to James so I knew that I would be one of the first few people in. I have done exercises to know because even Practical Mysticism we do the same thing you know where you do a large ring and it's fire in the middle and so it was like a lot of people in that course. I don't know, maybe a couple of hundred or three hundred or there were a lot of people. So you enter one particular way in a single file and then you walk and then you keep walking and then they dabble you up or if you are in an inside circle then you have to wait for all the people in the outside to go first and then you finally get to go and it's a lot longer. So I was new.

Det. Johnson: -- system and make sure you were in line.

Brandy Amstel: Exactly I just wanted to dillydally with this one. You just need to get in line next to that way you quick to get out.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Did you feel prior to going inside the sweat lodge that it was safe and if so why?

Brandy Amstel: Yes, a little bit safe, yeah. I mean --

Det. Johnson: Obviously after the fact you saw James but before you went in?

Brandy Amstel: Before I went in I felt like a lot of people have done this. It is like the seventh year. I mean like Liz Neuman which is one of the people who died, I mean this is her fifth time to do this with James. And so I felt like it was safe and James has never done anything that harmed me and it was still there in the past so I mean it's all been fairly safe and so it was just a matter of am I going to be tough enough to do this and can I just get over all of my stuff I mean while we were in the Great Pyramid in Egypt it was kind of scary and I.

Det. Johnson: Claustrophobic and dark.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, really claustrophobic and dark and I thought I was going to have major issues. I sweated that one for probably three months before we went and then just before we went in he kind of give everybody a test rally and said you know there were, it was going to be tight and it was going to be little tiny crawl space and you freak out then the people behind you are not going to be able to get the experience because you freaked out before anybody could even get down there like you clogged the drain so he told us all like really decide for ourselves well are we going to be able to do this, are we going to be push past our barriers and you know I first I didn't think I could and then I was like I am not coming all the way to Egypt and not do this. So I bucked up and I did it and there were people that chose not to because they were concerned that they couldn't, not going to be able to deal with that close space because it was smaller than the sweat lodge like to get around if they were crawling a 150 feet down a little shaft and yeah. So I did fine, I wasn't even scared. I didn't hyperventilate. I think everybody thought so that's why I was like okay it can't be worst than the pyramid I mean it really can't be and I did find them to I will be fine at this.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So what your position inside the sweat lodge? I know you kind of queued up early?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah I was in the east so I was like at the 10th quarter. I am sure you have heard all the stories about north south east west.

Det. Johnson: Yeah, one of the people I talked to did, I think it was one of the women I talked to was, she said the door was at the south and being 6 o'clock you know so then the north end ups with the door, it would have been 12 o'clock and so with respect to the clock face where were you sitting?

Brandy Amstel: So I was, one person, like I was not 4 o'clock as we were tighter than that but I was between 3 and 6.

Det. Johnson: Between 3 and 6, so you were on the south east side?



Brandy Amstel: South east side, yes. I was the person sitting next to Dream Teamer that was in east. Actually it wasn't even Dream Teamer, it was Josh, so he was the JOI.

Det. Johnson: So you were on the south east side you know and the 3 o'clock being duly 6 o'clock being the door, do you think you were closer to the door or closer to?

Brandy Amstel: No, I was right next to 3 o'clock.

Det. Johnson: Okay, so you were a little bit further from the door?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So closer to the east, so you were like south east based.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I was so close to east that it was the first thing.

Det. Johnson: So how many people were sitting between you and the door?

Brandy Amstel: I don't know, maybe 10-12, maybe more, I am guessing.

Det. Johnson: Were you in the back row or front row?

Brandy Amstel: I was in the back row but there was no one sitting in front of me.

Det. Johnson: When you say 10 to 12 people I know people were kind of lined up in the back row and the front row. Was it 10 to 12 in all the rows between you and the door, just 10 to 12 people in the last row between you and the door?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, there wasn't 10 to 12, no I don't think because there wasn't anybody in front of James. There wasn't anybody in front of Megan and Taylor because those were like the first three south positions. There couldn't have been 12. I mean it was probably like several of them like maybe 6 or 7 and the one woman that was right in front of the girl sitting next to me just to my left was really big so she was taking up space, a lot more space than some people so it was not that many people.

Det. Johnson: So do you know who was sitting directly to the left of you?

Brandy Amstel: I know her face, I know her eyes, oh I do know her name, Teresa.

Det. Johnson: So Teresa was to your left? Do you know who was sitting to your right?

Brandy Amstel: Josh Fredrickson. I think the lady in my front was Linda. I think it was, I didn't really get to know her until after all this came down but I am pretty sure that that was who was sitting in front of me was Linda.

Det. Johnson: And Linda was the one in front of Teresa?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. Well I mean she was overlapping you know in front of me a little bit. I could still put one of my legs out straight and the other one was, so she kind of bleed over into just ugly.

Det. Johnson: Did you move to different areas while you were inside or did you just stay right there?

Brandy Amstel: I stayed right there. I didn't really, I didn't want to move around. I laid down.

Det. Johnson: When did you start lying down?

Brandy Amstel: Initially the heat came out like the first round and it was so freaky that in a way I was going to throw up and the people around me kind of you know had me calm down and so then I think the second round the door opens and I am like debating whether or not I am going to go and I am like want to go, I want to at least you know experience and I am going to force people to leave. So I thought I calmed my breathing down and then Josh told me that it was better if I laid down because the ground is cool. So then I had my legs up and I think the woman in front of me, it couldn't have been Linda then, unless Linda came back in I don't know that. Was there two large women, who knows? Anyway whoever there left the first round so then I laid but I had my legs like propped up and my back was flat on the ground with head towards the tent.

Det. Johnson: All right so during that first break you started lying down or during the second round?

Brandy Amstel: During the second round because I was freaking out the first round and then they tried to calm me down and said well it is better if you do this and I was like okay. But then I was fine. I started to even my breathing out and it was a much cooler on earth.

Det. Johnson: So you just stayed lying on your back with your knees up for the rest of the event?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, until I departed. I did lay them flat one time. I laid my legs flat too.

Det. Johnson: Okay, but you stayed lying down after that point?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: How long did you stay inside?

Brandy Amstel: Until the sixth round, end of the fifth round.

Det. Johnson: Okay, so you left during the break between the fifth and sixth?

Brandy Amstel: Yes. Right after the heart round and that's to the place I wanted to get and I crawled out and I left.

Det. Johnson: What did you eat in the days prior to the sweat lodge?

Brandy Amstel: What did I eat in the days prior like how many days?

Det. Johnson: You did the Vision Quest, correct?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: So you laid down 36 hours didn't eat, before what was your diet and also like salads or what kind of foods were you eating?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, they were, it was all vegetarian diet.

Det. Johnson: So you were on a vegetarian diet and then you went on the Vision Quest for about 36-hour fast?

Brandy Amstel: I don't know, that's what everyone is saying 36 hours?

Det. Johnson: Well what time do you remember at beginning and what day?

Brandy Amstel: Tuesday evening it began and it was, if I had to guess because that's all we were wearing, we couldn't wear our watches. So it was probably 11 11:30.

Det. Johnson: And when did you get back?

Brandy Amstel: They came and got us Thursday morning at about 6:30 to 6:45.

Det. Johnson: Okay, you were saying you didn't have anything to eat or drink during that time.

Brandy Amstel: No. We were asked to consider eating lightly the day before, that's Tuesday. Because we were going to be in our circle and we couldn't leave that circle so going to the bathroom was going to be in that circle so you wanted to keep that in the consideration as you were eating on Tuesday.

Det. Johnson: This was like the group circle or your circle during the Vision Quest?

Brandy Amstel: It was circle during the Vision Quest.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So you got back 6:30 on Thursday morning, what did you have to eat and how much water do you think you drank on Thursday?

Brandy Amstel: I distributed a water machine. I get how important water it so in that 6 hours I had 4 liters of water. I had oatmeal. They served every morning so I had, that's what I always have oatmeal and they had strawberries that morning which were gray and then I was eating a piece of the whole wheat toast with some almond butter.

Det. Johnson: You had about a total of 4 liters of water between the time you got back and the time you entered the lodge?

Brandy Amstel: Yes.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: I count how many liters I have per day. Like my goal is usually 5.7 so I am just little rigorous with my water and I know how much you have to get down. I took into consideration that we hadn't drink for such a long period and I knew that I needed to drink water. I did not really know oh you should drink in pot loads because you are fixing to go into a sweat lodge. But I actually, like you hadn't told us about the sweat lodge yet, that morning. And we didn't know about it. I mean we saw it on the waiver but sometimes he doesn't always do everything that's on the waiver so I just knew that I was really thirsty and I needed to hydrate and I was going to need more water that day than even my 5.7 liters normally. So I just knew I needed to start drinking and plus you are thirsty so I drank and had I in retrospect I should have drank more and I should have made sure that people around me drank more. Because I know I am rigorous with it but the people aside they might have gotten a half liter or a liter down. You know they are just not doing good with that.

Det. Johnson: Did you take any salt on Thursday?

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: Were you doing that daily salt thing?

Brandy Amstel: I mean I was until Tuesday morning. Monday and Tuesday I did. I did it on Wednesday and I did on Thursday yeah. I actually didn't think about it and we weren't reminded. It seemed like I had no responsibilities. Yeah, like I wasn't really reminded that oh you need to take that salt because I kind of thought it was coming too close like we were going to go, we were going to go in the room, we are going to talk for a little bit and then I will kind of wind it all down and like talk about the Quest thing and those little pouches that we had made on our Vision Quest but it didn't really occur to me that with just a few short hours left in the event that we were going to go and do some crazy intense things but it's been more like from the downhill slide we just made it through that and it was going to be easy.

Det. Johnson: So did you know what to expect for that Vision Quest you did?

Brandy Amstel: No really, I mean I knew once I heard that we were doing it and you know all that kind of stuff I was like oh because I am from the country, I was like really-really cool, but no I didn't really know what to expect or like what was going to happen to me by myself that long that was going to be so beneficial like really I just didn't know that. But after being there I did get value from being there.

Det. Johnson: Did you know what to expect from the sweat lodge?

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: So, I know you told me about they talked about any day in a certain way and you had to do a complete circle then and leave. Did they discuss any safety procedures as far as what to do if there was a problem inside the sweat lodge?

Brandy Amstel: No, there were no conversations about a problem. There was no room for problem.

Det. Johnson: Right. But I mean I know like you said when you guys went inside the pyramids they said well this is what might happen if you had a problem, they didn't do anything like that for the sweat lodge?

Brandy Amstel: I mean Cathy told us that we could leave, I mean if getting inside oh if it gets too hot you could leave but he I guess told us that, yeah I don't want to worry like I assume when to leave. I mean we are in control, I mean some you were allowed to approach well and they were like screw this you know they were freaking out about it being dark or being hot, or you know just claustrophobia. A lot of people had major issue with that including myself and you know that first round you were very clear whether or not that was going to work for you because they put the logs and they are still light and everything is okay. It's starting to get warm and you are lowered what this is about and then it closes the hatch and it's pitch black in there and then there is like some, they pour the water on it like this is really crazy intense heat and you are like gets a lot to take if they are claustrophobic or if you are I mean just sitting next to people that close and touching is freaky.

Det. Johnson: Yes in the dark right that.

Brandy Amstel: I wouldn't do it in the broad daylight. I don't know I don't really like people that much.

Det. Johnson: So you live in [REDACTED] with lot of space.

Brandy Amstel: Exactly. I go by the reaction so I didn't see anybody but my own little brother that was there.

Det. Johnson: So did anyone tell you what to expect inside the sweat lodge or how to respond or any reactions you might have?

Brandy Amstel: No. I was sitting next to Josh and so I felt like I was the one that was being the problem child. And I am sitting over here in first round, hyperventilating about the floor a lot because I am freaking out and he is like breathe Brandy just breathe. So he was the one that was kind of helping me and nobody else seemed to be doing that because I was in my own stuff. I don't really know what other people were doing at that point but yeah so he just kept telling me to breathe which was encouraging. I needed to go away and then I was fine and if you get yourself worked up then you could probably made yourself sick. I mean I know what could have, it was really close and then I had all that fear about (inaudible 00:35:26) these people and you know because I did you didn't ask me a question earlier so I did say what happened if you have to go to the bathroom. Well, you don't need to go to the bathroom was the answer. And what happens because there was no Q&A or people could ask questions or not. Most of us were just scarred to death like Holy Loly what are we doing. And then, but I do remember somebody asking that, and then somebody said well if we have to leave and he goes well you do the circle and you come back and you exit through the door and trying to think if there were any other questions. Mostly the questions were really sparse from this one. Because we just had nobody really had any idea what to expect or what it was all going to be about. And of course there were questions about what to wear and those things and he said to wear you know things that you could feel cool, I mean the paper said to branch them through or something short and a t-shirt or something like that.

Det. Johnson: You told me you sat until the end of the fifth round, correct? How did you feel physically?

Brandy Amstel: I felt it was too hot and I had gotten what there was for me to get out of this exercise and so I told Josh I was ready to go and so he and Teresa both helped me to get up right, at least you know sit up and I noticed that relief that I was about to leave and then also like weak.

Det. Johnson: That's why I asked why they had to help you to sit up?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, so I am like well okay that was intense and then I am like crawling out and it seemed very difficult for me to move. Of course it was hot on the knees too. I mean it bare skin and some really rough crazy rocks. And then I get through the door. The door was open and I get through the door and it was really and there was a whole bunch of people standing outside and they kind of picked me up and guided me over to the tarp and I remember just kind of being really in slow motion, so not functioning properly like I got that I am not 100% but I was aware of what was happening and then they put me down on the tarp and it was like a slip and slide because it was wet and kind of (inaudible 00:38:19). I got into it and they escorted me with the water hose, and water I felt great and I remember feeling like I was looking at this steam come out from my body; oh that's pretty intense. And then I tried to get up and they are like no, no, no, you just need to stay down for a while and when I got kind of trying to sit up by myself, it seemed heavy, like I seemed heavy, so I could tell I wasn't right I wasn't 100%. I laid there little bit cooling off and then it started getting cold when I sat up and

I sat there for a while and I kind of watched a couple of people come out and I made room for them and tried to get up and get in a chair and I was wobbly and I almost down so then people kind of rushed to my side and helped me sit in a chair and then I pretty much sat there the whole time watching everyone being pulled out and just everything that happened and there was, I was lucid but I wasn't, my legs still weren't good. So I mean I knew what was happening. I could see people and at certain point there was lot of stuff happening and the Dream Teamers were helping certain people because there were so many were coming out and I was like, Lou one of the guys that was there was shaking I mean he got really very cold after they put your body in that much shock. And he was just with hand a bucket of ice, he was just shaking and shaking and shaking and uncontrollably shaking and I just pointed and I was like trying to get people's attention to help him and so I was helping anyway and they encouraged us not to talk to people either but one of my friends had been pulled out and she was unconscious and so I was kind of there next to her trying to keep an eye on her because they got busy and had to pay attention to other people but --

Det. Johnson: Who was that?

Brandy Amstel: Ami Grant.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So Ami was next to you?

Brandy Amstel: When they brought her out. They brought her out and laid her because she was unconscious. It took four people to hold and then they sat her down and she wasn't awake for a good little bit.

Det. Johnson: When you walked through chronologically from the time you came out and I assume you weren't really noticing the other stuff going on until you sat in that chair.

Brandy Amstel: No, I mean I did I knew that there were people to my left, which was there were some folding chairs to the left which are the ones on the pictures that's all over the media. Those little chairs there were people sitting on them and I thought to myself gosh who are those people, are they the one that left early and they are just hanging out here. My assumption was that once you got out you could just go back and take shower and do whatever but I guess that wasn't the case that you were, once you get out you are asked to stay there. And so I was looking at those people and can I use names in my first I don't know am I supposed to, I am like I don't know what this is all about and Lou came out and I am still you know lying there and Lou was burned and he was just really stunned or gazed and he was sitting up and he was looking at his hand and the people were freaking out, trying to help him and cool him down and other stuff and somebody is like oh my God get him a bucket of ice and so there is somebody who went and got him a five gallon bucket. I guess one of the bucket that James was using for watering the tent, they used one of those buckets and so there was ice and he applies it and then he was there like that for a long time and that's when I got up because he was just had his hand in that bucket and he was fine and then I went and sat down and that's when I thought I just

started shaking and freaking out and then I saw, yeah, I was pretty tame when I came out like I don't think like Lou like I think I was even normal. Like people they are hot, they come out and they spray him down and they kind of recovered and they are up and they were helping. Like one of the things I saw when I was sitting in my chair was they had everything set out and they were like towards the tent and they were circling the tent like encompassing the whole tent and they were intending energy I guess to the tent and I was like, oh okay interesting, so you could put to work once you are out of here. They said they wouldn't let me do that so I was like, okay well I must be a loser than those people are but I could feel what's happening and I called Lou and he was tame and after Lou he decides I guess another round happened and they brought Lynette and a couple of other people out. Lynette was really upset. She was screaming and fighting and kicking and you know I want to go home, I want to go home. She was crying and I was like well that's crazy. And Lou decided he is going to go back in what I thought was crazy.

Det. Johnson: He had been given the burns and stuff he had?

Brandy Amstel: No. I mean it was really, what they kept saying was this is your experience. If you are upset, if you are sad or if you are crying or if you are throwing out I mean this is your experience and you just need to experience your experience. Don't worry about anybody else, have the experience you are supposed to have. And so I know there were, and you were totally permitted to go back in if you wanted to. So he got up and he doesn't come back in and he went back in, actually I am not that 100% correct but what I do remember very clearly was that Lou still had his hand in that bucket and I had brought Denise out and then moved some more to the right and like Lynette was essentially right where I was and Lou was sitting in the middle like straight across and then just to the right of me was what they had Denise was screaming at the top of his lungs, I don't want to die and then like you know just screaming, not making sense just like making sounds and I started crying because that was a lot, I didn't know what was happening with him and he is kicking and fighting people then he was doing that, doing the same thing and Lou is there and so he was hollering I never heard a man holler at the top of his lungs uncontrollably before and so he was freaking out and James goes who is that like he is in the tent; who is that making Lou, you need to pull it together. Lou you need to stop that. And Lou goes, he looks up and he is like it's not me. And so James goes who is it and the Dream Teamer said it's Denise. And then James goes Denise buddy you need to pull it together, you need to pull it together and so I will go from inside the tent and then Lou went back after that so Lou was actually present and he had a little bucket of ice responded that way. And then after the next session -

Det. Johnson: Did guys respond to James yelling at him to you know to stop and calm down and was he able to respond?

Brandy Amstel: I don't really have a recollection. I believe he was still making a lot of noises and stuff but it did kind of calm down from the thing that it was. So then he is like 30 seconds later he is like puking, so I mean that kind of stops you from hollering too. So was it James, I am not 100% sure that's the case. He was making sounds then he had



terrible headache so then she took four Motrin. She works in the medical industry and she assured us that no this is what she needed and I am like I don't think so, I think it's going to make you throw up more and she was like no they are in my purse get them out and so I got them out. She took them and then she was still sick anyway but her headache didn't go away. And the whole time I felt a lot of headache and I felt my stomach is still hurting but I wasn't throwing up like her. I was not dehydrated like that so I didn't really.

Det. Johnson: When she heard of this meeting on Thursday morning that she had thrown up during Vision Quest towards the end, did she say it was like a one time thing or she had been constantly doing it?

Brandy Amstel: It was like part of, like it was a one time thing.

Det. Johnson: Okay, while she was (inaudible 00:47:34) when she threw up.

Brandy Amstel: Exactly, like it was not the whole time she was not ill.

Det. Johnson: One of the things I wanted to clarify, when you told me you had been sitting in the chair and you tried to find Ami or actually you walked towards James and Kirby somebody had turned you back and that's when saw James Ray, who turned you back from going towards James?

Brandy Amstel: I don't know. It would be a guess. I don't remember.

Det. Johnson: But you went back James was sitting in your chair and Ami was missing.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: And that's when you went and found Ami. Ami said James had told her to go behind the tent to throw up, but when you told me about James telling Lou, Lou that's going to be a reminder as far as these burns, the third degree burns on his hands was that after he was, that was while he was sitting in your chair so that was after a while that these things had already happened?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. And it had been like Ami must have, Ami was still there at that point. I saw James and Ami like I knew that they were having a conversation that's why I kind of felt like he was being taking care of somebody's watching her and then that's when I kind of got up and started you know moving about because I was fine this people needed to sit down. They needed the chairs not me. So that's why I kind of got up and I was just on the periphery of the whole mayhem. And then I was like okay well let me walk back here and see if I can help. I mean I don't know CPR but and so I walked back then I was like no, no, no, you need to just go back over here and I walked back and then Ami's gone, and then I am like where did Ami go. It took me a long time to find her.

Det. Johnson: At what point did James tell you that, was that when Ami was gone or?

Brandy Amstel: I think Ami was still there. I think so.

Det. Johnson: So that kind of set up, they talked about, does anyone know CPR, James and Kirby were down, that's when James had sat down and was after that you heard him say that but was prime he was missing.

Brandy Amstel: He had to do were asking everybody about CPR, James didn't even know about it yet, he didn't even know that had happened --

Det. Johnson: You said you had stood up from your chair when they asked about CPR, right?

Brandy Amstel: That was when they were pulling everybody out and I just saw I needed to get out of the way because these people are way more fucked up than I am. So I kind of stood up and got in the back. So I don't know and while I am up they were asking everybody who knows CPR, who knows CPR. You know the Christina thing was happening and Denise was still having issues and James is sitting here and he is getting called off and I know that he got asked to go and deal with Christina and he walked over there and then there was like this whole thing about kind of go see what's going on behind the tent because now there is like several people back there. I think it was Mike Elson who asked me if I knew CPR who was the participant and he wasn't even a Dream Teamer.

Det. Johnson: So he was the one who was asking does anyone know CPR.

Brandy Amstel: I think so I mean I remember him asking me that but I don't remember if he was the only person who was asking that and that's why I was like CPR wow really, what's going on okay so that kind of alerted that there were people that were talking to my friend Ami who came out unconscious because she came out unconscious but they didn't do CPR to her. She was still breathing.

Det. Johnson: So after all those events is when James was sitting and you heard him say that Lou but that was before Ami went missing?

Brandy Amstel: I think it's before anybody had said about the CPR. Because I think once James knew about the same thing, then somebody came up to him and said you know --

Det. Johnson: That would be after, you had heard about the CPR?

Brandy Amstel: I don't know that. I don't know the timing of that. I know that was happening kind of fast.

Det. Johnson: And then you went and found Ami. She said James it's over there and then from that point on was when you kind of stayed with Ami while she was -- all the stuff she was going through?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, and that's about the point where the helicopter came in and the emergency everyone in that claimed and then yeah they tried to clear us out as soon as possible at that point when once those people were there. And just because they cleared us out from there, they sent us all to the kitchen then they decided later on that bunch of us should have gone to the emergency room anyway but I guess they were just taking care of the people that were like unconscious or yeah had like burned lungs and stuff.

Det. Johnson: When Denise had come out how early was it that he had come out because I know he had come out, he was kicking and screaming and making so much noise that James heard it from inside the tent was yelling out that you know he needed to, Rosy said he had said to him.

Brandy Amstel: Lou, because Lou you need to pull it together and he said Lou you need to stop that. I think that's the way he said, Lou you need to stop that. And then everybody is like, Lou said that's not me and everybody is like no, it's Denise, it's Denise. Everybody was kind of yelling that and then he goes Denise you need to pull it together.

Det. Johnson: I had all that done but what did you think approximately was all that happened where Denise was coming home?

Brandy Amstel: Like 6 or 7. I can't remember if they pulled it out the same time as Lou. I don't think so. I think Lou came out and then because I was noticing Lou and like he is burned and Lynette and it was that drama going on and then like the next time somebody was able to come out I don't know if he was the round, I am assuming he was a round but they could have left early. I don't know. And then they come out and then there is Denise and there was Bill and they were just throwing up and causing all kinds of rackets. Bill was quiet though but he was still throwing up. And that's why I knew wow this is not what I expected and so. I think that unless they came out of the round early that would have been seventh round. And I think Denise doesn't have clue.

Det. Johnson: Because he was so?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I mean most of the people I have talked to like I could have stayed a couple of days afterwards and as people would come back from the hospital you would ask them you know how they are doing and all those things, oh God what happened because the only thing I remember is that so people's recollection the ones that went through the actual hospital was I just went for heat exhaustion and so therefore I had more recollection than the people with hyperthermia. Those people don't remember like blanks of time are gone.

Det. Johnson: In this case there was such an extreme health issue.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah and they were all after us, well gosh what happened and then they would say you know I don't remember any of that and then Ami was trying to steering at least a couple of things together but you know she doesn't remember much of all either.

(Informal Talk)

Det. Johnson: Did anyone speak during the ceremony inside?

Brandy Amstel: Anyone speak?

Det. Johnson: Inside. I know you were only in for the first five rounds but.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I mean I was speaking. I don't know what (inaudible 00:57:43) wan us to be there, so I don't know what your question is.

Det. Johnson: Just anything unusual or different. My understanding of what happened was at the beginning of each round James would kind of like lead in through different things rather canteen or whatnot but would kind of start talking about what the intentions were, that kind of thing. Is that what you heard?

Brandy Amstel: I mean you are talking but you are asked to I guess part of the ritual you are supposed to say things out loud. You know we were asked to participate, the chanting with all of us and the prayers with all of us and singing with all of us and there were parts where he said because each one of the little pouches that we created there was a different intention behind it and so you were proclaiming those things into the space. It was participatory.

Det. Johnson: Are there, what I am looking for more was outside the ceremony in those first five rounds, were there any instance as far as people having health issues or a thought where person needs help and that kind of stuff.

Brandy Amstel: I don't know I mean Mike Olson says after like the second, I don't know some learning there is like if I have to pee do I leave or should I just do it right here? And James you should do it right there. So I am assuming that Mike pissed on himself and I was just like that I not certain by him?

Det. Johnson: Did he told him to pee inside the sweat lodge?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. I don't remember that conversation. I don't remember anybody really asking James or anything other than that. I am not sure. I remember him saying something like, somebody said something like that somebody was making a challenge that I don't somebody said something but I don't remember what it was.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: I don't remember I mean mostly it was a ceremony which is I am trying to just be there. It took a lot to be there. It wasn't easy.

Det. Johnson: Right. Do you know if anyone left the lodge other than through the door?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I mean I hardly really know exactly because like I had my eyes closed in addition to it being dark in there because the steam was so hot that it was burning everything on me. So, at one point, I remember like light entering the tent and like a commotion and then I remember James saying something like who just did that that sacrilege or gas something like that to that effect. And like we all got that you know you are not that broke the ritual and you are still to exit through the door and you are still to exit clockwise and that whole thing so you are breaking the energy field that we had created the face based. And so I saw what had happened because then we get hit so I don't even no if I had my, I saw the light so I see that if I have seen the light my eyes probably were open. It was really fast so I guess thought somebody broke in and went through the front door, through the door in the south and they exit it but then when we started with sacrilege within the middle of the round so it would have been sacrilege even he had gone clockwise doing a little bit around. But that's why it was a little bit unclear if he actually just went out through the back or right where he was or if he had pulled it and went through the door. I think that there was no way to really bolts like you had to be on your knees, he probably just rolled off the back wherever he was. So that's a lot of assertions but like I had some grounding in that and there was no running. You can be on one side of the room and both for the door.

Det. Johnson: Right.

Brandy Amstel: That wasn't an option because there were sticks in the middle and like really you couldn't stand up, you couldn't even like three-quarters like hunch over and you use your legs, you had to crawl.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Did you hear anyone saying they were having problems?

Brandy Amstel: I don't think so. The pickups had already gone when all that happened. I heard since then because I rode in the ambulance with people so we are all trying to peace stuff together so I think I heard stuff, I don't think I actually heard it in the space. I was doing the best I could to manage myself.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Did you have fill out any medical forms or were you ever asked about any health issues you had?

Brandy Amstel: Prior to the event?

Det. Johnson: Yeah.

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: No, okay.

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: So, you told me about all the symptoms you had as far as that, when you came out everything was in slow motion, you had difficulty walking, your perception seemed off, your balance was impaired, you just felt very hot. Did you have any other symptoms?

Brandy Amstel: Well I did go to the hospital.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: I was nauseous, I had a really bad headache mostly the nauseous though and I never threw up and I had burns on my legs and I have like these heat evaporating even today, I still have stuff and my face was burned and my eyes, you know the blood vessels in my eyes that busted. They didn't notice when they were (inaudible 01:04:32) but once you went into the shower it was like wow, dude, I had issues.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: And personally, I wouldn't have thought anything about it except the firemen made such a big deal about it.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Were you diagnosed with anything at the hospital other than just the burns or --?

Brandy Amstel: Heat exhaustion.

Det. Johnson: Heat exhaustion.

Brandy Amstel: Which I am nearly sure that's why I mean I have like these little blisters that show up on my body and anytime I get hot over a particular temperature I get more of them now still withdraw me.

Det. Johnson: Do you remember hearing anyone say something about a flashlight inside?

Brandy Amstel: A flashlight?

Det. Johnson: Yeah.

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: There is no way we could have a flashlight on.

Det. Johnson: No I think when that white, when the flap was opened somebody had to seam it up.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I mean were three parts got naked I mean we were in swimsuits, we weren't allowed to wear any rings, watches, jewelry I mean the instructions were you are pretty much down to work without exposing yourself. You are down to do bare minimum so there was no and he kind of scared us and if things get too high like he would told us that if we wore a necklace and heats up at a different temperature than the body then it would actually burn us. So like he gave us some of those, when you asked that question and I just now realized this, but he did give us some precautions that you don't wear jewelry in there.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: He thought that he would go wear his society ring but that's because it was very important and he never takes it off. But just hearing all of that information I checked everything up including my wedding ring which he has not faced. But it was better than I don't want it to be burning me inside of the tent because we were leaving at a wrong, at a different temperature. I mean that kind of made sense to me that metals do heat at different temperatures.

Det. Johnson: Yeah, it's a conductor.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: Okay, obviously there were a lot of people left inside the tent because you left in the fifth round. When you left did you notice anyone in distress?

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: Okay. You told me you had someone say they thought you were having a heart-attack, didn't you?

Brandy Amstel: No, I didn't.

Det. Johnson: You told me one of the men involved thought we had a heart attack.

Brandy Amstel: No, I didn't even know any of that.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So you don't remember anything about that.

Brandy Amstel: No, after the effect like when there were bodies out in the back and they wouldn't let us go over there, there was some conversation that was going on around like you know what's going on over there and somebody said well, somebody had a heart attack but I didn't know anything about that and I didn't haven't hear anybody say that he said that in the camp. But supposedly he said that somebody said in the camp that he is having a heart attack.

Det. Johnson: I am not sure, I just know that had been said at some point by someone there.

Brandy Amstel: I don't know, I wasn't seeing like James work, because they were in the north and so they were like 10 people away from me, probably.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Did you hear anyone saying anything like it's a good day to die?

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: Well a good day to die, not meant like physically, not, what was that called, not physically,

Det. Johnson: (overlapping) physically.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I like, it's a good, James may have even said that, like (overlapping)

Det. Johnson: It was only metaphorical?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, it was just like, that's the whole purpose of us going in there like it was to yield us with dying, leaving that behind and it was converting process, you come out as a brand new person.

Det. Johnson: Right.

Brandy Amstel: So if it was said, I know I would have taken it in that context, because that's kind of what we do.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So, we talked about some of the things you heard and saw James Ray say for people who were in distress, is there anything else that we didn't cover that you could tell me about, as to how he responded or reacted to people who were in distress? Anything else you remember about what he said to people, what he physically didn't respond to people? Let me make it more open ended. When you came outside from the time you left the tent, just tell me everything you see, you remember directly not things people have said afterwards or you heard after the fact, but everything you remember seeing or hearing James Ray say or do from the point you left the tent?

Brandy Amstel: From the point I left, I heard him say the stuff about Denise and Lou, they were just screaming from inside the tent, trying to calm them down. I heard him talk to his assistant Taylor and after what she said about the sweat lodge and her response was, nobody does the sweat lodge like you, James.

Det. Johnson: And when was this?



Brandy Amstel: This was when I just walked out, because they had ended the whole ceremony and like he was the first one, they were the first went out, he was James, Megan and then Taylor, those were the first three people that entered this.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: And so they were kind of standing over on the side and he asked her that, that was her comment, I guess the only thing, I really remember that because I kept thinking to myself, if that pussy girl can sit through the little thing, I can do this. So, yeah but then I left early, but she was sitting by the door, so let's not justify it.

Det. Johnson: Yeah, she was right by the flap when it opens

Brandy Amstel: Exactly, she was getting air, I was like getting air and you didn't feel anything.

Det. Johnson: Yeah. After that what you remember?

Brandy Amstel: Well then I remember that he had commented out who is making that sound and yeah I remember asking that and then I remember him, I don't remember what he said something to Christina, I mean he was actually talking to her, I didn't pay attention to their conversation, because I just didn't feel appropriate. But he was standing over her (Inaudible 1.11.52) her and he made a comment about Lou's hand, which you already have, and then I remember Megan at one point and I can't tell you exactly when, but I remember Meagan coming up for him and they had a quiet conversation and then she walks back to where Kirby and James were. So I didn't hear that conversation, but that was the behavior that I saw, he went back there immediately once she was aware that something was more serious than just people throwing up and freaking out.

Det. Johnson: Right.

Brandy Amstel: And then he said something to Ami, but I don't remember exactly what, it was just like Angel King you know like passing conversation, it wasn't like anything.

Det. Johnson: Nothing serious?

Brandy Amstel: And it wasn't negative, it was just more of like how you would have talked to people so but all I remember necessarily as far as what he said that the comedy made to Lou is completely inappropriate in my opinion and you get that it's your opinion.

Det. Johnson: But, no I mean just on his face I certainly understand why you feel that way. Someone's third degree burns and medical emergency.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I actually had a talk to Lou afterwards when I said it was a second degree burn.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: And initially I thought it was a third degree burn, it looked awful. But when he came back from the hospital they said that it was only a second degree burn.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: And I remember thinking wow third degree must be really bad.

Det. Johnson: You know what you were describing sounded like a third degree.

Brandy Amstel: Exactly, it was awful and I couldn't believe that was only a second degree burn but not like that wasn't a big deal and the burns that I have had

Det. Johnson: -- your burn can cause infection and death obviously with.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. And I do think he was one of the ones that was flown out because I am not 100% sure who flown out, you would know that. I don't know that. They said four people were flown and Lou went wherever they took care of people burn so I don't know.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Anything after that or other than those things do you remember?

Brandy Amstel: I remember being extremely upset that we didn't get to well the whole thing was afterwards we were supposed to go, have a celebratory dinner and then after an hour of dinner we were all going to go back to the classroom and we were going to complete the evening. And we not only see him for dinner but we didn't see him to complete the evening so it just kind of got left open as this tragic thing that happened and none of us know how to deal with it, we dint even know specific details about that what happened, why it went wrong and I just felt really awful.

Det. Johnson: Did you feel people went after that at all or was it just not till the next day?

Brandy Amstel: We never saw him again.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: Not even the next day. We never saw him. We got a stupid letter on the table, when I get back from the hospital around 03:30 and I went to the kitchen to see who else was there and there was a note, a letter from JOI that says James really wants to be with you but he can't he was detained by the cops and all the staff like we have no idea, we never saw him again.

Det. Johnson: It said he was detained by us.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I said that's what we were told was that the cops had requested him and like Barb and Christine which were two of the Dream Teamers and that they had kept him separated from all of us because they didn't want him to change our testimony or whatever.

Det. Johnson: New Year collection.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah. So, that's why they told us that he wasn't allowed to but then later I found out that he went and took a shower and then I am like

Det. Johnson: Let's see when you left the sweat lodge did anyone say anything to you negative about leaving or say anything to you about your choosing to leave?

Brandy Amstel: No, on the contrary, I mean I was initially a little bit upset that when I told you a little girl that little pretty girl is so fit in there I am not.

Det. Johnson: Yeah.

Brandy Amstel: So, I am going to put two (inaudible 1.17.12) that's my thought and I was crying about like I can't believe I left early as all these people in there and I left early. And then one of the Dream Teamers came up to me and what are you talking about, you did great, you did perfect and I am like cool, and you are right what I always do is that thing and you know I need to be grateful for what I got. So then I started being present to oh, and then I saw that the bodies coming out throwing up and I am like I can't really go out to listen to my intuition it said too hot there and that takes my life so I am really grateful.

Det. Johnson: Yeah.

Brandy Amstel: So it puts around but the people were actually very, very supportive in help and nobody said -

Det. Johnson: Anything negative?

Brandy Amstel: In fact, even James was considered was somebody in this room. So it's somebody that was doing something that was not right and I can't remember what they were doing because I am crawling out. And what they would do he said no, you can't leave and I was so irritated because I was about to leave exit the tent, he goes no, not you, you can go and I am like, oh, okay cool. Because what they were doing was when people left they would go Hi Ya Ya, Lou or whoever like that was the end of their journey or whatever. And they didn't do that for me but that's because there was like some sort of somebody else is doing something, I had asked him a question or something and then it kind of got mixed around and so they didn't do that for me.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: But he did tell me I could go.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: It's clear I could leave. I don't know what the other person was doing or what they had asked or any of that kind of stuff that would have caused that confusion in conversation, maybe somebody else to have their collection of that.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Is there any reason you didn't leave Signer or --?

Brandy Amstel: No, it was all myself.

Det. Johnson: It was just your decision, okay. Did you see or hear anyone being discouraged from helping someone in distress?

Brandy Amstel: No, it seems very supportive from where I was sitting. Like I said I wasn't sitting next to those people but --

Det. Johnson: Okay. When you first realized there was a problem and something was wrong when all these people started coming out?

Brandy Amstel: I mean the people after me came out and then throwing up and then hallucinating and they are not themselves.

Det. Johnson: So when you saw Dennis and one that coming out on screaming and throwing did you think there was a problem?

Brandy Amstel: Well, Lou, I mean I guess Lou was the first person that it was like clear that oh my God, that's just really awful and I guess that could have steamed like there is an accident that kind of happened but then whatever they go Denise and Bill in their way and actually Ami and Ami is like passed out that yeah that was unconscious that's what I knew that something is not right.

Det. Johnson: Alright so Ami almost carried out, Lou came out.

Brandy Amstel: Lou came out first.

Det. Johnson: Okay so it was Lou then Ami and then was Lynette and then Denise.

Brandy Amstel: No Lynette was about the same time as Lou, Lou and Lynette came out at the same time.

Det. Johnson: Okay, so it was Lou and Lynette and then Ami, I am sorry, Ami then Lou and then Lynette and Denise.

Brandy Amstel: No, that was Lynette, I think it was Lynette and Lou at the same time. I think they came out at the same round. And then it was Ami to make big sharing throughout. And I don't even know who he was, I remember Christine being there, yeah Christine Joe. There were four other people holding out from each one, and then Denise and Bill

Det. Johnson: What round was that Lou and Lynette came out on?

Brandy Amstel: I don't know I think it would have to be, it had been like sixth round is what I am thinking, I make a notes, and can not mix it, as Lynette came out right after me and I had to move because they had to put Lynette on the tarp so, and then Lou was right there so I had to screw it over so Lynette can be there and here's Lou on the other side of me, and the hose him down, I mean I actually moved back into my chair and Lynette been put in tandem and that took him a little while to get the bucket of ice and stuff I mean that wasn't just sitting there available, where they knew that somebody was going to get burnt.

Det. Johnson: Did Ami come out also in that same sixth round?

Brandy Amstel: I don't think so because I got to witness all of this, so my eye focus would have completely on Ami had she come out at that point and I was actually sitting up in the chair when they got her out. I was not

Det. Johnson: So do you believe it was the second round when you were out so the seventh round or after that?

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I mean probably didn't take her out in middle of the round so it had to bend at that seventh round.

Det. Johnson: Okay. Denise and Bill the round after that or same round as Ami came out.

Brandy Amstel: They could have been the same round as Ami.

Det. Johnson: Okay, and with that point that you have this five people who have come out you realize there was a problem.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: Okay. What do you think happened?

Brandy Amstel: It was like just an opinion question.

Det. Johnson: No I mean not just opinion, I mean if I was calling and conducting a survey this from the public that been an opinion question but given what you saw and witnessed what do you think happened.

Brandy Amstel: It got too hot.

Det. Johnson: Okay. So you think it was okay this year.

Brandy Amstel: They got too many rocks. I think air didn't circulate in there well enough so James didn't know how hot it was getting in all areas of the tent, he was sitting by the door, and I am sitting in the east and which is only halfway through the tent and I never got fresh air, it never came to me. So the people who was sitting in the north they never ever felt anything. I mean I didn't, I felt nothing, no coolness, no refreshing air, no breeze, that never even made it to the east in the east and the west so that happened in the tent and it just got too hot.

Det. Johnson: Right. Does anyone talk to you about what to say if you are questioned by law enforcement?

Brandy Amstel: No, that's why I am concerned oh, my god, what I am saying it was that, I am going to show up on CNN.

Det. Johnson: No, it's just for our investigation, but no one from like James Ray internationally when he has contacted you and told you what to say if you are contacted by us, especially what I am asking. Okay. Did James Ray or anyone else tell you what his qualifications to running this sweat lodge were?

Brandy Amstel: Well I mean yeah he gave us the whole rundown about you know he had talked to the State of America and while we are on our Vision Quest and you know they talked about the whole sweat lodge and so I mean in a sense I mean I get that one as credibility, he talked to Native American he is given this how many times so he told us that he had checked in, with somewhat with he knew, you know that's the way I looked at it. I mean this is a Native American ceremony to check in the Native American hangout within the day before the event and make sure everything was cool.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: So, as far as anyone else getting to valley thing with that, no he never asked. Did anybody else tell us? No.

Det. Johnson: Okay. You have my phone number and name that I have written down.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: Okay. You can call me back at this number and just get a hold of me. If you hear anything else, I sent you an e-mail also see you in my e-mail address. If you remember something else that I know frequently after events things then don't come to mind immediately, so if something else comes to mind and you think I should know, anything like that please get a hold to me, okay.

Brandy Amstel: Sure, yes I will and so do you have my medical record or I mean that stuff.

Det. Johnson: I am going to find that out, I didn't realize you had been one of the ones treated. We might need you know because of HIPAA regulations if we need a copy of your medical records I mean we need your signature on a consent to get a copy of medical records, I will get a back hold of you. I am not sure if we are going to need or not.

Brandy Amstel: I mean I know that, yeah, I mean, all of that was not handled properly, fire department to, the people that were running all that, I mean all of that was just a debacle. And it reminded me of The Andy Griffith Show. And people there were overreacting they almost felt like they had, they were excited that there was drama for them to participate in. I mean it felt like to me like the cops, they are not cops the fire people wherever they are were the ones that convinced me I needed to go to the hospital. I mean I probably wouldn't have gone, but they told me I had carbon monoxide poisoning they tested me, they touched all these things and they said you have classic signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. And I don't know anything about carbon monoxide I know okay, if we get too high well that's bad, you just drink lot of water. I was very clear I needed some water, I needed some rest, and I needed some food.

Det. Johnson: Right.

Brandy Amstel: But these people told me I had carbon monoxide poisoning if they had sound they had done a test inside the tent and they had found tracing of carbon monoxide and we had all been poisoned and I needed to go to hospital.

Det. Johnson: Yeah.

Brandy Amstel: So, I mean it makes us seem a lot worse when 22 or how many people got sent to the hospital. I don't know that we all would have gone the hospital had they not scared the shit out of us.

Det. Johnson: You know from first responder's perspective it's obviously someone had tracked it now so I can make smart decisions, I had plenty of time to think about I mean what good that when I was a patrol deputy when you are out there dealing with things as they are happening and you are stressed into this situation and you need to make quick decisions and make sure you protect people, self and welfare, I would far rather see someone go to the hospital unnecessarily and see somebody who should have gone, get talked out of it, and then you know a the end of few days later, or they end up you know losing a kidney or a loss you know permanent loss of some organ because they didn't get the treatment they needed so. EMS I mean they will tell people we don't see a need for transportation but if they send out frequently they will tell people they need to go to the hospital because they need to call me extremely by doctor to make sure you don't permanently lose the use of organ because it's far better go to the ER ten times unnecessarily and save your organ once than to save your

Brandy Amstel: I was good, at that time so

Det. Johnson: So that was one of those guys tend to be that way.

Brandy Amstel: You know and I do, I am grateful that I went because of people that chose not to go I mean it would get for events because they are like oh, heat exertion okay so that's all I have. I don't really have carbon monoxide so there were people that chose not to go.

Det. Johnson: Right.

Brandy Amstel: But as it was like affirmation for them that they didn't have carbon monoxide poisoning more than likely but you know and as it is I have these things that are still coming up, if I get my body temperature up even a little bit, I get blisters all over my body.

Det. Johnson: Were you diagnosed with heat stroke?

Brandy Amstel: No, heat exhaustion is all that I had.

Det. Johnson: Have you seen a doctor since?

Brandy Amstel: No.

Det. Johnson: If you have another appointment coming up for something else I would tell them about that and see what you are having you know this fire after effect that you are still having reactions to get it over heated is concerning.

Brandy Amstel: Well what they told me was that last after a year, that I am going to be impacted and infected by the heat and we went for a movie last night and they didn't have the air conditioning working so it was a little bit warm in there, so now I have new blisters all over my leg.

Det. Johnson: Yeah. They talked about the precautions you should take in general but you need to stay even more careful being hydrated and you might be more susceptible to heat stroke now.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah.

Det. Johnson: Okay, good, is that so, your ailments are probably going to be far less as far as exertion and I know people who have had heat stroke are far more susceptible to having it again.

Brandy Amstel: Yeah, I know. What the doctor told us when we are in there because there were a lot of us all at the same hospital was that you know that you know what he is seeing was that it was heat introduction which many of us had and then some of them



were actually hypothermia and then where he assumed that was a snaring degree of heat, that's what he was seeing in the people that was coming in.

Det. Johnson: Okay.

Brandy Amstel: And you know we are asking them questions you know everybody is supposed to (inaudible 01:31:06) hot so well less than 3 hours and that's where he told us that all they took in they drew blood I mean I have like \$5000 with the medical bill, so they did some cost to us.

Det. Johnson: Yeah, all right. Like I said if you remember anything else please call me and let me know. I mean if something comes up your contact or if there is something you are concerned about feel free to call me and I may be calling you back for little more follow up in the future I think we are done right now, but if I need some more in the future I might be in contact with you again.

Brandy Amstel: So, what's the process, I mean where are you guys going to like have a decision and find out whether you are press charges or not?

Det. Johnson: This is a big part of that process. We are doing this interview thing with everybody who is there, like I may not exactly what happened and after we conclude all these interviews that will be one of the major steps. So we are definitely moving towards that kind decision but we would only take action hastily that's for sure.

Brandy Amstel: Well absolutely and so if there were charges brought up then where would that be held in Sedona or in Arizona?

Det. Johnson: If and there is at this point we haven't said we are going to charge but if something was to happen it happened in Yavapai County so if he was charged locally with local Arizona State charges that would be held either in Yavapai County and probably either in (inaudible 01:32:36) but it's too early to say if that's going to happen or not.

Brandy Amstel: And so if they were to do this aesthetically what would be they call since I talk to you did they call me back there?

Det. Johnson: I am not talking about this case. I am talking about my experience in general here.

Brandy Amstel: Okay.

Det. Johnson: What I always told victims throughout the state because they ask frequently of you know terrorists in Sedona who are in other countries who when I arrest somebody who is victimized I am going to worry about having to come back and this is being treated everybody have told it to you. In the criminal justice system when we do charge people the great, great majority of cases are settled plea-bargains and do not

go to trial and then they never call back and when they do go for trial there is options they have like they can do depositions, so I wouldn't be to worried about that at this point.

Brandy Amstel: Okay.

Det. Johnson: Anything is possible but what I tell people is most things get plea-bargained and if it doesn't sometimes there is options like depositions that kind of thing so.

Brandy Amstel: Okay, good, so I am not really out for coming to Sedona again for a while.

Det. Johnson: Yeah, and that's to say that even happens and if it did even happen or probably a quite a ways into the future before. And we actually had a try anything in at this point we have made even we have file charges at this time, so.

Brandy Amstel: Right, right, okay alright.

Det. Johnson: But he asked if that would happen we definitely have given you plenty of advance notice.

Brandy Amstel: Okay.

Det. Johnson: Alright, thank you very much for your help. I really appreciate it.

Brandy Amstel: Thanks. Bye-bye.

Det. Johnson: Bye.

Brandy Amstel: Bye.

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