

*I/V Pogash, Susan Transcript Det. M Poling

On November 23, 2009 I conducted a telephonic interview with Susan Pogash. The interview was recorded and the following is a transcription of that interview. Please refer to the dss.file placed into evidence for complete details.

Susan: Susan Pogash, hello.

Det. Poling: Hello Susan.

Susan: Speaking.

Det. Poling: Hi Susan, this is Detective Mike Poling with the Yavapai County Sheriff's office, how are you today?

Susan: Right, I'm good how are you?

Det. Poling: I'm good. I was wondering if you have time to talk if this was a good time or --?

Susan: It's okay.

Det. Poling: It's okay right now?

Susan: Sure.

Det. Poling: I think I called once and I got this email from my secretary saying that you didn't know who I was right, but anyway

Susan: Yeah I mean I called you back right away, I called you back three times.

Det. Poling: Okay. I am sorry I didn't get back to you.

Susan: No problem. No problem.

Det. Poling: Okay, I will start by asking you, which events of James Ray have you attended before?

Susan: Quantum Leap and Creating Absolute Wealth, let me see, there are two things with wealth in it right?

Det. Poling: Yes.

Susan: What are the two names again?

Det. Poling: Harmonic Wealth and Creating Absolute Wealth.

Susan: Okay, I think I went to Harmonic Wealth and Quantum Leap.

Det. Poling: Okay that's right. Okay I got you. Harmonic Wealth, Harmonic Wealth what I understand is a prerequisite that he gets you involved in that program?

Susan: Well yes except that when I attended, by the time I attended the one that I went to or the ones that I went to, they were standing, just (Inaudible) with that and they were saying that you didn't have to go to the (Inaudible) to take your order.

Det. Poling: Okay cool. And what I am trying to figure out here is and I guess you weren't at Spiritual Warrior then, is that correct?

Susan: No.

Det. Poling: Were you injured at all in any of the events?

Susan: No.

Det. Poling: Okay. Do you know anyone that was injured?

Susan: I don't, well I think I said that I was, that when I went to Creating Absolute Wealth, I don't remember actually which one it was, it was Absolute Wealth or Quantum Leap, he like everybody get up when it was really, really late like past midnight. And on a program, it says that you are going to, it would be over by 9, that's not what he does of course. So he had everyone stand in a large circle and he just like went around talking about nothing and then some people started to faint and they had to call an ambulance.

Det. Poling: Okay. So they did take care of them, with an ambulance?

Susan: The people, some older people near me were having trouble standing and I don't know if it was one of the guys needed a cane to stand up, but is that what you are looking for I mean --

Det. Poling: Well I am not looking for anything, but what I am trying to figure out is if we are going to pursue criminal charges on James Ray, we have to put together that the care that he was giving to the people is, you know endangering them or something you know.

Susan: Well obviously that's the case, but in this case he did not attribute any concerns for the people that came to it and he just carried on as if nothing had happened basically.

Det. Poling: Okay, you are right. And he wasn't the one given the medical attention if I understand you right?

Susan: Not at all.

Det. Poling: So someone passed out, he didn't go over there and take care of the problem?

Susan: Not at all.

Det. Poling: Did he make comment like say, hey I need paramedics over here or (Inaudible)

Susan: No, I don't remember that happening, I remember that somebody from the hotel came in, the paramedics came in and I mean they were the ones who said you know paramedics are here, I don't remember him getting involved at all.

Det. Poling: Okay. And what about; you talk about in this little email, it talks about weakening the people after midnight and things like that and how did you feel that he was using techniques that you felt would endanger people you know what I am saying like subliminal messages, I am putting words in your mouth, or was there something that he, some type of technique where he would humiliate someone to make it

Susan: Well I wasn't completely (Inaudible) his techniques at the time but I knew I felt like something was wrong and I felt that he was deliberately trying to reduce people's resistance and make them physically and emotionally, wear them out physically and emotionally, and I guess the reason is so that they would be more susceptible to suggestions. But I thought he was doing, I thought it was irresponsible because people were I mean obviously he didn't, but I did because obviously some people were exhausted and their legs couldn't carry them, so I thought it was inappropriate and inconsiderate and reckless, but I mean obviously on a much smaller scale than what happened in the night, I have you know really strong views of what happened in the sweat lodge, but just on a small scale, I mean that was obviously his intention, was to wear them down.

Det. Poling: Yeah to reduce their resistance, okay. Have you ever been to a sweat lodge?

Susan: Wear them down physically. I have been in sweat lodges yes, but not with him.

Det. Poling: Okay. And that's what I was going to ask you, typically how long is a session in a sweat lodge that you have been to?

Susan: Probably about an hour in total.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Susan: With the flaps opening, when the stones are being brought in so that everyone gets a little respite. And I was always told that I could sit near the opening if I wanted to, I could sit near the entrance. I have never ever heard of a leader of the sweat lodge sitting near the entrance. The leader of the sweat lodge in my experience always sits the farthest

from the door and people who are it's their first time or they might get claustrophobic or people who have any fears, it's suggested that they sit close to the main opening. And of course I was always told that I could leave if I needed to.

Det. Poling: Okay. And unfortunately you haven't been to a James Ray event, so you don't know how hot it gets in there and in your experience with the ones that you have, you said it lasts about an hour, can you tell me how many sessions you normally go?

Susan: You mean how many times the flap opens and the stuff comes in? Is that what you mean?

Det. Poling: Yes.

Susan: I don't know I think that's every 15 or 20 minutes or so.

Det. Poling: Okay so if yours was an hour, you'd say between 4 and 5 session would be a total.

Susan: No, between 3 and 4.

Det. Poling: Okay alright.

Susan: It does not get unbearably hot, I have never seen anybody faint, I have rarely seen anyone lie down, I don't think it's encouraged for people to lie down because then you don't know what's going on with them.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Susan: So people are sitting up and the leader of course is checking in with everyone and

Det. Poling: Did the leader check in with you?

Susan: Well I mean it sounded like in this case, he was doing a lot of the singing and chanting and talking, but in the sweat lodges that I have been in, the leader throws out a prayer or a suggestion and then people go around the sweat lodge and speak and you say what's on your mind or what your sense of or what you want to work at, what do you want to change in the world or whatever it is, so that there is no occasion, somebody cannot just flip out and you wouldn't know about it.

Det. Poling: Okay. So would it be safe to say that, well how many people would be in your sweat lodges that you have been at, I mean if we are talking about --

Susan: I would say maybe anywhere from 10 to 12 or just 15 would be the very max I've ever seen.

Det. Poling: Okay. That makes sense, that way everyone can say something in 15 to 20 minutes that you are in there too.

Susan: Right.

Det. Poling: Okay. Any time, have you ever heard James Ray refuse to help somebody?

Susan: Like somebody who needed something, like you ask for something?

Det. Poling: Or did he say anything that to your knowledge was reckless like an example would be, now people you can walk this tight rope, but you may die, but feel free I am going to make sure you are okay, have you ever heard anything like that or witnessed something of that nature from James Ray?

Susan: No, I have not, because the two events that I went to were not, the two activities that were the most risky were breaking the board and the arrow, and I recall that I was, when it actually came time to do those two activities, I don't even remember if he was in the room, I don't remember him actually being present.

Det. Poling: Did you participate in the board or the arrow?

Susan: Yeah I participated in both, but I was extremely reluctant and I remember that I was sort of the last to do it in both situations because I was completely freaked.

Det. Poling: So could you tell me about the arrow, I haven't talked to anyone that did the arrow, I heard something one time about the arrow and I have no idea what that was?

Susan: Okay well there is a wooden arrow and what's supposed to happen, it's funny because I have forgotten that (Inaudible) and you take the point of the arrow and you sort of break it against your, the most, there is a point right under your chin at your neck between it's actually your shoulder blade underneath and it's very vulnerable point and they put the point of the arrow there and push it and it's supposed to break. I mean obviously there can be problems that I think the irresponsible part was that I and other people, where I was (Inaudible) to believing that it was physically safe, and that is was my own fear that was blown completely out of proportion. I don't think that I had any sense that it could go wrong, because I didn't see it going wrong for the people in the group that I was with. Just I had, and the same with the board, if I had been told that there were instances where people broke you know punctured a vein or broke their hand or broke a bone, I don't think I would have done it, so as I said we were not presented with any evidence or even suggestion that something could go wrong. The only suggestion we were given was that if you have the full intent to do it, you will do it correctly or something. So I guess that's sort of (Inaudible) right there.

Det. Poling: Okay. When you did the arrow did it, is the arrow supposed to break or before it hurts you is that the key?

Susan: Yeah it's supposed to break.

Det. Poling: Okay and

Susan: And then you got to take home the broken board and you got to take home the broken arrow.

Det. Poling: It shows your accomplishment that you can breakthrough and if I understand right you can breakthrough, these you can breakthrough anything in your life, you know nothing should be standing in your way and that I don't mean that in a bad sense

Susan: (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Right okay. And your potential is greater than what you believe you can do, yeah and that's fine, but you know did he make you feel like you were going to be safe?

Susan: I would say that the people who work for him made me feel like I would be safe, I don't remember him having any, I don't remember him having any part in that at all really. I mean it was (Inaudible) that we were going to do you know I think that, you know we got off our chairs and pushed all the chairs back and the room was sort of rearranged and then we had a break and then we went to the room and when we went back to the room for it he was either not there or he was probably remotely somewhere back on the stage, but I am not even sure he was there at that time. So I got comfort and reassurance from his leaders the people that were, each line where people, you form like 10 lines and you got on one line and when you got to the front you know then that's where it would happen and it would happen with one of his staff people and I got reassurance from other attendees who had gone through it and from you know the staff person when I went to the front.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Susan: But I also felt like it was all in my head because everybody else seemed to be fine and nobody seemed to be suffering and so I didn't know, it seemed that there were never any accidents.

Det. Poling: Now you said Quantum Leap, you have gone through, is that the one where you dress up as a homeless person?

Susan: No, in my Quantum Leap, we did not. The one that I went to was, you know the one that was cancelled, that was Quantum Leap and that was at green something, I don't know it was, I guess near, outside of Las Vegas and it was 2 years ago, no that's where, I think I did the arrow one or the board one, I can't remember which is which, let me try to figure it out.

Det. Poling: And that's both in 2007, you did these?

Susan: Yes.

Det. Poling: And why did you not go to anymore events?

Susan: Oh because I got completely turned off. I realized that in the event, each event that I felt that we were paying very, very good money for each hour, each moment of the event and I realized that about 20% of the time or more he was devoting to marketing and enrolling us for the subsequent events. And so I had already signed up for like I think a package of 3 more events and I realized this at the first event package that I bought, I also my academic situation changed and I really needed the money back. So I tried to get it back and then of course couldn't and they said, I could try to sell it as a credit on their website and I was unable to, I didn't even get you know one bite. And so that was even though I offered a 30% discount, you get these credits at 30% discount, so you can participate in an event, it will cost you 30% less and so didn't get any takers. By that time, there was really good incentive because at the last event that I had gone to which is Quantum Leap, he made the announcement that day about his, first announcement about his Wealth Society or whatever he called it, you know what I am talking about?

Det. Poling: Yes World Wealth Society.

Susan: Yes and it was so disgusting, I was absolutely shocked and completely disgusted, because he said things like if you want to actually be a friend of mine and spend time with me and be in my inner circle you know you can call me a friend and I will call you a friend, you have to go to the back table today and pay x amount of money and then you will be part of my inner circle and you will get to spend time with me. He also said that we were to actually get, if you were part of his inner circle, you would get to go to an interesting place like Hawaii like for one day before other people came in from that event then we would spend during the day and do stuff, but it was the very exclusivity of the fact that you have to pay a lot of money and this sort of thing and I thought it was abominable. So I vowed at that time I will never continue with this.

Det. Poling: Do you feel, who do you say this is catered to, when I say James Ray's events, do you feel there is a group of people or a certain person that he would be directing his attention to?

Susan: Well it's interesting that you say that because part of what I have read, you know I have read everything I can on the subject and all the bloggers and everything like that, I don't think they are losers, I think they are people who want to make their lives better and look outside in some ways for solution and I am one of those people, I don't always I think I have the answer inside, I think that somebody else can provide me with the answers, so that's one, people who look elsewhere on some

Det. Poling: I didn't not mean loser, that's not what I meant. You now what I mean, I know what you are thinking.

Susan: No, I didn't think you did, but I am reading everything you know and certainly there is a group of people, but I didn't think you meant that, no. You were asking me for the personality dynamics, (Inaudible) and these are people who look outside look outside of themselves for the answers and let me just think because I

Det. Poling: I was thinking about gender base too.

Susan: Well yes he really, really, really uses the sex to draw people in. Certainly there are men who are attracted, straight men who are attracted to a very dynamic charismatic guy and who they want to be like, so they aspire to be like him. Okay as far as women yes there is no doubt that he turned women on with his, you know he used his sexuality very blatantly and after there is a break usually right after lunch when you go back, they have dance music on and then eventually he comes out and dances on the stage and he really does know how to dance, you know I mean he has to do some okay moves I would say. But no, I mean of course that's definitely part of it because when I have seen people talk admiringly about him, it's women and usually (Inaudible) in some way and they say you know they will talk about him as James, that's how they say it and so that is sort of disgusting to me. I think I was also very turned off and I went to one of the local meetings and it was led by a woman named Lori Rovems, like I would imagine would have been in the sweat lodge because she went to everything. And she cut her hair once or twice and she talked about James and she wanted to show this picture of her with him and she very proudly showed the picture. And I noticed that on Flickr you know he takes a lot of liberties and takes on all those (Inaudible) that he wants, even ones that other people might not want because they are quite personal. Okay, so as far as the personality, do I think anything else? I think some people were heavy business people, fairly successful business people who want to be more successful who believed that they can become even more successful by going to some of his stuff. I don't think they stayed for very long, I think they are ultimately turned off by his tactics.

Det. Poling: How about a victim, do you know what I mean by victimology or you know what I am saying appeal to a certain level, does he pick on people, does he look for people, specific points of their life that he can change?

Susan: Well of course, I mean of course, well who was going to be susceptible to his stuff would be people who don't you know their life is full either physically, sexually or monetarily or physically and that they are overweight let's say and I think that he does appeal to people who are at a low point and wanted more of those areas, that's absolutely for sure.

Det. Poling: Does he belittle people?

Susan: I only once saw him (Inaudible) I mean a real honest to goodness shouting match and I have (Inaudible) and I think and I am not, you know I wish I could remember why, but I thought it really grossly inappropriate, I mean he has anger issues, I believe because I am not really sure what it was but I did seem him triggered like twice I would say and it

was pretty shocking how he just, how (Inaudible) speaking and I don't remember how, I am really sorry I don't remember the circumstances.

Det. Poling: That's okay. We are trying to put this together and you know we're just asking all the questions, don't worry about how you are doing

Susan: Yeah I wish I had more information then.

Det. Poling: Well no, you have enough information uhm at this time

Susan: Are you still finding like some of the most, people closest to him aren't (Inaudible) to speak.

Det. Poling: Yeah of course you know he is going to have his loyal people that are really surrounding him and who think the world of him and I am not here to say he is not a good guy you know that's not what we are here for, you know of course he has some good points to him. He helps people in a lot of parts of their life, we are not here for that, we are here to find out if he is doing some thing that goes beyond that aspect and when he gets careless and reckless with people's lives and that's when it becomes criminal and what he has done to and that's what we're

Susan: And also I mean not just that, but when it was clear that people were in dire, dire, dire straits, not changing his MO and then when it was clear that they were hanging on to dear life, he was doing nothing and acting like he didn't care and trying to get other people to back off and not help them. I mean that's definitely criminal.

Det. Poling: That's where the reckless comes in and that's what we are trying to figure out too, but now everything helps and I appreciate especially with the other stuff too like Quantum Leap and you know Creating Absolute Wealth you know and it's all totality of what it's about anyway.

Susan: Oh eventually when you said reckless because I think at the point where somebody is suffering and they are hanging on for dear life, they can't breathe and they are unconscious, I mean to ask people to step away and not help them, that's more than reckless.

Det. Poling: Right. And that's what I am, if you heard something like that or you know that's what I need to know, so that I can get direct quotes you know what they heard and what they observed and that's really what I am looking for at this point you know.

Susan: Okay, well that's stuff, I only read, I read every single thing that's ever been printed online about him, I read. So no, do I have a direct experience with that, no, I don't.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Susan: Unfortunately.

Det. Poling: But you have other good stuff too like the back, and wanting to pay him back for what you missed too, you know what I am saying, you pay a package deal and you don't get your refunds things like that, so I am also looking at, but again majority is the reckless in the active self, so.

Susan: Yeah.

Det. Poling: Did you know any of his staff members that might talk to us?

Susan: I don't know any of his staff members.

Det. Poling: Any Dream Team members that you feel were very reckless?

Susan: I am sorry, what?

Det. Poling: Any Dream Team members that were reckless in your opinion?

Susan: Oh Dream Team members, for the most part, they just didn't, like they were very hard workers and they shouldn't (Inaudible), I mean you know because I wasn't in any situation that was you know life or death, I mean I just cannot imagine what happened with Colleen and I know that's not directly what you are looking at but --

Det. Poling: We are doing that too, we are not in a situation, but we want to know what causes things like that, what happened and stuff.

Susan: Yeah. No I wasn't in any thing moderately like that and I don't think I would have done it actually, I think I would have rather just stayed in my hotel room but you know it was just shocking that they have all covered up things they are shocking, but I understand that that's probably what Tony Robbins does too when things happen like that, but I didn't know about that stuff before this.

Det. Poling: What I am going to do is I am going to send you an email in a minute here and just give you my information and if you want to find out more later on you can email me and I will respond to you that way, because that's good for you, if there is something that you want to tell me you that you didn't, you can always email me that way it would be easier for you.

Susan: Okay.

Det. Poling: That I will keep you updated if you need something too.

Susan: Okay. I would suspect somebody Lori Rovems who would not be speaking and I don't have any

Det. Poling: I'm gonna look her up

Susan: Okay it's Rovems and I only know who she is and I have been to her house for this meeting and when I got really turned off and there were two meetings (Inaudible) where she led, but I don't I think she's really hardcore and I don't have any influence (Inaudible) with her, she would just know who I am.

Det. Poling: Not a problem, I won't even use you. I will just try to figure her out.

Susan: Okay.

Det. Poling: But I definitely appreciate your talking to me today Susan.

Susan: Well thank you detective, I really hope that other people provide you enough information so you can make a case

Det. Poling: I think we are in the right direction.

Susan: And it's really (Inaudible) thank you. Thank you for all your work.

Det. Poling: No problem and I will keep you posted I will send you the email.

Susan: Okay

Det. Poling: You take care, Susan.

Susan: Bye.

Det. Poling: Bye Bye.

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