

*I/V Fawn Foster by Det. Poling #C27

on 10/26/2009 at 16:50 hrs Detective Ross Diskin and I interviewed Fawn Foster in person at the Angel Valley Retreat Center in Sedona AZ. The following is a summary of the interview. (For complete details refer to the transcript and digital recording ds330358.dss). Present during the interview was Attorney Mark D. Zukowski of JS&H Jones, Skelton & Hochuli, P.L.C., and Detective Sergeant Dan Winslow.

Fawn Foster has been an employee/ "Maid" for Angel Valley Retreat Center since April 2008. Fawn was working and present during the Spiritual Warrior 2009 event and gave a statement on her observations.

Have you seen any of this on the news?

Fawn said she saw some things on the news but turns off the news. Fawn said she witnessed this event first hand and not from the news.

Did you listen to any of the participants discuss what they remembered?

Fawn said she did not.

What about Beverly Bunn, she was one of the participants, did you see that news media?

Fawn said she saw a portion (Tail end) of Beverly Bunn's interview the other morning. Fawn said nothing from what she has heard on the media compares to what she observed "seen" during the event.

Had you been a part of a sweat lodge before?

Fawn has been a participant in other sweat lodges but has only helped out during James Ray's sweat lodge at Angel Valley. Fawn had been present at Angel Valley for two of James Ray's sweats. The first in 2008 when she was a dishwasher and did not observe anything and then in 2009 where she was helping out. Fawn stated she had never witnessed anything like this before.

What was your role during this event?

Fawn said she was working and doing "support" work running waters, watermelon, oranges, electrolytes and making sure there was enough towels, lemon water and making sure they had product to keep the participants hydrated.

Were you involved before they entered the sweat lodge?

Fawn said she was bringing the water over when the participants were entering the sweat lodge.

At 13:45 Fawn said she went over to the lodge with 3 five gallon jugs of water or lemon water, water, electrolyte water, and two big pans of watermelon and oranges as asked to by the Angel Valley kitchen staff.

Fawn observed the fire had been started and understood the sweat was supposed to begin at 14:00 hours. Fawn estimated the sweat began at 14:30 hours (Fawn did not have a watch). Fawn had left the lodge and went to the kitchen to get the pans while the participants were doing their smudging. Fawn said the participants entered the lodge and Ted Mercer put 20 plus rocks for the first round. Fawn counted 18 rocks, the stones she counted each round did not add up.

Who told the Mercer's how many rocks to put in?

Fawn said, "James Ray did."

How many rocks did James Ray ask for?

Fawn said she was not present when James asked for the first set; Fawn counted 18 rocks when she was there. Fawn stated that in every sweat lodge she had participated in she never saw more than 4-5 rocks at a time.

Whose decision is it to request the amount of rocks?

Fawn said the person facilitating the sweat, James Ray.

Fawn said she sat on the log and watched and listened (from outside the lodge). She heard James Ray say at the end of the round, I had no idea how much time passed, James opened the flap 3 people came out and collapsed. Fawn explained that the participants crawled out of the lodge and the Dream Team (D.T.) members were holding them down, pushing them on their backs, to keep them from getting up. Fawn said the dream team members did not want the participants go get up and fall over (stay down,stay down).

Was anything said to these three people?

Fawn said, "No, not really."

Did anyone ask why they (the participants) came out or were they told they need to go back inside?

Fawn said she heard several people inside the lodge encouraging them to go back in. As well as the DT on the outside encouraging them to go back in. Fawn said the three people who originally came out did not want to go back in and remained outside. They (unknown voices, requesting) were encouraged to go back in before the next round started. More rocks where requested and James asked that the "flap" be closed.

Fawn is still sitting on the log approximately 5 feet from the front flap.

Fawn said she could hear what James Ray was saying. When the flap was open she could see James Ray and heard what he was saying. When the flap was closed, Fawn could not hear everything James Ray was saying unless he got loud.

At the end of the second round end, three more participants came out and they too were encouraged to go back inside.

How did they (people inside the lodge) do that and who?

Fawn heard them saying, "Come on, Come on back in, Come on back in here you can do this, you can do this. You're not your body, you can do this, You're stronger than your body! "You're stronger than your body, you are not your body come on back in here you can do this."

Fawn said this is how James Ray encouraged them to come back inside of the lodge. Fawn said these three did not go back in.

During the third and fourth round, Fawn observed one female participant that exited the lodge in the first round, described as wearing a white bathing suit), attempting to go back inside the lodge. Fawn said the woman approached the door of the lodge and was saying to herself, No. Fawn said the woman tried to do this four or five times (trying to get herself in a mind set to go back inside).

Fawn said, "I witnessed the two DT members trying to push her, physically, back into the lodge and Fawn heard Debbie Mercer tell the DT members "No, she does not want to go, let her go."

Fawn said they let her go and the woman whirled around them and walked away from the lodge not to return to the area.

Fawn said 6 people had left the lodge and had not re-entered.

At the end of the fourth or fifth round (unsure), Fawn said a gentleman (Lou Cacie) fell into the fire while trying to crawl out and burned his arm. The flap was "not" opened when he fell into the fire. When the flap was opened, Fawn hear someone yell, "He's in the fire." Fawn said Lou Cacie crawled out and was attended to by one of the dream team members that self proclaimed being a nurse, grabbed a towel and wrapped it around his arm. Fawn said she told the woman to not put the towel around his arm (Fawn did not believe this was proper first aid for a burn). Fawn did not believe this woman to be a nurse. Fawn ran to the kitchen and got a 5 gallon bucket, filled it with water and put Lou's arm in it along with some ice and took the heat off.

When Lou fell in the fire did you hear Lou say anything?

Fawn did not hear Lou scream at all. Fawn said Lou told her he had passed out into the fire.

When Lou fell into the fire was the door immediately opened?

Fawn was not sure.

When the door was opened the next time, was it opened because Lou got burned?

Fawn said, "No, it was not opened because Lou was burned". The door was opened because it was the end of the round/session. Fawn said The Flap was opened when she heard someone on the inside holler and say, "he is in the fire, or rocks."

No one else came out?

Fawn did not miss another flap opening. Fawn estimated she was absent for approximately 10 minutes, going back and forth from the kitchen getting the water. Fawn stated she was not asked by any JRI representative and was not there to render aid, but did so, on her own. Fawn said she used her common sense.

Did you hear anyone say anything to James Ray about Lou Cachi getting burned?

No.

What is the next thing you remember?

Fawn said the end of round 6, the flap opened and the burned man (Lou) decided to go back into the lodge to complete the seventh (7) and last round. Why, she did not know. At the end, Lou thanked Fawn for telling him to "go back in" but Fawn said she did not tell him that. She did not say a word to him except for, "are you ok".

Fawn knew, while the flap was open, that someone (unknown who) from inside the lodge say, "There are three people down back here," and someone asked, "Are they breathing?" Fawn did not hear the answer but heard James Ray say, "Leave them there, we have one more round to do, We will deal with them afterwards."

Fawn said these were James Rays exact words.

You heard someone say "we have three people down back here." Did you get an idea where in the lodge they were?

Fawn said, "In the back of the lodge opposite the front door. Fawn said she visually saw him (James Ray) inside the door of the lodge when he said it. Fawn knows James Ray is and met him last year.

Do you remember how many people had come out.

Fawn said, "NO." Fawn said at this point it's a blur. No, drug out. There were people crawling out but could not tell the numbers. It went from that point to the end of the seventh round and it being bad.

What happened next?

Fawn said at the end of the seventh round the flap was opened and everyone started coming out. James comes out and say's "Hose me off". Everyone else is on the ground screaming and hollering out of their senses (in her mind). And Debbie looked inside the lodge and said there are three people still in here can I open the back of the lodge? James said, "That would be sacrilegious." Then James said, "But If you have to go ahead. Debbie was already ripping open the back of the lodge. Fawn said the three people pulled out were "blue"

Do you know who they were?

Fawn knew who they were by hearing their names from others afterwards (not while being treated).

When Ray first comes out of the tent you kind of raised your arms and said hose me off.

Fawn said that is exactly what he did, he raised his arms and asked to be hosed off. She did not feel it was a "triumphant" raising of the hands, just a signal to hose him off.

Fawn said everyone, one lady foaming at the mouth, people laying everywhere screaming.

Did James Ray stay around there for a awhile? Did he stand around in the middle of it? Where did he go after he got hosed off?

Fawn said, Debbie said call 911. Fawn saw Amayra go one way and Debbie go the other. James Ray walked to the end of the tarps, looked down on them and within minutes she heard sirens approaching. James was around the area for a good 15-20 minutes. When the ambulance was coming down the side of the mountain, James Ray said, "Anybody that can walk, get up and go to your room now."

After that she lost track of James Ray because there were too many people that needed help.

Did he (James Ray)help anyone out?

Fawn said she never saw him help anybody. She observed him bend down to one guy (located near the water tent several yards away from the scene) and grab his hand and tell him "good job." And that was the only thing she observes James Ray do. Fawn did not know who the person was. James Ray never walked over to where the deceased (James Shore or Kirby Brown) were lying. He never walked over there.

Fawn was asked, If someone was to tell us that James Ray went over to these people and said hey what do you guys need, can I get you something? Would they be telling me the truth?

Fawn said, "I would call them a Bold Face Liar."

She said James walked to the people over by the tarp (Water area) and never walked to the other side of the lodge where the deceased was.

Fawn described the area where James Shore and Kirby Brown were lying outside the lodge [position 7:00 if the entrance was at 12:00 (NW side)]. Fawn described James grab the man's hand at the Tarp area [position 1:00 (SE side)].

Is there two places that were open?

Fawn said the front was opened flap and the back of the lodge was pulled up to take the three people out.

Was anyone else drug out?

Fawn said just the three people. Anything else that was opened up was due to pulling blankets off the lodge to wrap people in that were going into shock.

What do you think happened?

Fawn said, "I think these people were put out in a hill for two days with no water." Fawn said:

- #1 You don't do that to people that are from the city and the desert.
- #2 You don't have a 2-3 hour sweat lodge for a bunch of novice who have never been in a sweat lodge in their life.
- #3 You don't put that many rocks, I mean the heat in that lodge must have been unbearable.

Fawn said she is half Indian and has attended sweat lodges on and off her entire life. Fawn said she could not imagine going into that lodge with that many rocks (stones). She could not fathom that in her brain.

Have you been in a lodge built like this one?

Fawn said she has been in this exact lodge but during a different sweat (other than James Ray). "Four beautiful rounds." She said she enjoyed it with 50-60 other people. She did not have any problem breathing. It was not a James Ray Event. This event was held by "Singing Bear" last year.

Fawn has seen 4 sweats on the Angel Valley property and participated in one. She has never seen anyone have a problem. Fawn was present at the Spiritual Warrior 2008 but was not involved in the event.

The conversation was concluded with the agreement that we would be contacting Fawn in the future for additional questions. The attorney requested that we forward any questions to him prior to contacting Fawn.

Investigation Continues.

Thu Nov 05 09:19:50 MST 2009
Apvd C16 /0394 DBW