

COLUMBIA MAJOR CRIMES UNIT  
VIDEOTAPE INTERVIEW  
OF  
CHARLES ERICKSON

MARCH 10, 2004  
10:05 A.M. - 10:57 A.M.

INTERVIEWER: JOHN SHORT

COPY

TRANSCRIBED FROM VIDEOTAPE BY:  
LISA M. HENNON, RPR, CCR, CSR  
1718 JANICE COURT  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101  
(573) 659-3609

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1

1 A. Yeah.  
2 Q. He just wanted some more money for booze, to go  
3 buy some more liquor, right?  
4 A. Yeah, that's what it was, yeah.  
5 Q. Okay. So you guys start walking. You see this  
6 guy at the Tribune?  
7 A. Uh-huh.  
8 Q. Okay. Now, did you both confront him at the same  
9 time, or --  
10 A. Yeah, we both confronted him at the same time.  
11 Q. Okay. You both confronted him at the same time.  
12 Now, did Ryan -- Now, you said something about a wrench  
13 earlier.  
14 A. Yeah.  
15 Q. Now, did Ryan get that out of his car?  
16 A. Well, yeah. I think it was, like --  
17 Q. Was it, like, a tire tool, or was it, like, a  
18 wrench?  
19 A. It was, like, a tire tool.  
20 Q. Okay. Like, one of those -- what they call an  
21 arm breaker?  
22 A. Like, a real skinny thing.  
23 Q. Okay. Did it have a curve on it?  
24 A. I don't think so.  
25 Q. Okay. Just a skinny tire tool kind of thing?

3

1 (The following questions were propounded by  
2 Mr. John Short, and answers were given by  
3 Mr. Charles Erickson unless otherwise indicated.)  
4 Q. Here's your water, man.  
5 A. Thank you.  
6 Q. You're welcome. All right. Let's go over this  
7 one more time. Okay? So you and Ryan were at By George's,  
8 right?  
9 A. Right.  
10 Q. Okay. Nobody else came in here and talked to you  
11 while I was gone, did they?  
12 A. No.  
13 Q. I left you alone and all that? Okay. So you and  
14 Ryan were at By George. What happens?  
15 A. I guess (inaudible) we ran out of money.  
16 (Inaudible) for cash. I don't know if she ran out or what.  
17 Q. So you guys ran out of money?  
18 A. Yeah. And I think we were leaving.  
19 Q. Was this at closing time?  
20 A. This was before that.  
21 Q. Okay. So you all left the bar. Okay. You guys  
22 left the bar?  
23 A. Yeah.  
24 Q. According to what you told me earlier, it was  
25 Ryan's idea to go rob somebody.

2

1 A. Yeah.  
2 Q. Okay. So did -- You had the tire tool?  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 Q. Okay. Now, you both confronted him at the same  
5 time?  
6 A. Yeah.  
7 Q. Okay. Did Ryan hit him first, or did you hit him  
8 first?  
9 A. I hit him first.  
10 Q. And you hit him in -- Where did you hit him at?  
11 A. In the head.  
12 Q. In the head with --  
13 A. A wrench.  
14 Q. Okay. Now, did he go down immediately?  
15 A. I don't think so. I think that he kind of  
16 staggered. And then, like, Ryan threw him down or I threw  
17 him down.  
18 Q. So one of you threw him down?  
19 A. Yeah.  
20 Q. He goes down. Okay. What happened next?  
21 A. Like, before he even hit the ground, I think, is  
22 when I got sick.  
23 Q. Okay. So you were getting sick to your stomach  
24 at this point?  
25 A. I saw him just staggering, just --

4

1 Q. Did you see blood coming from him?  
 2 A. Yeah.  
 3 Q. Okay. So you know he's staggering. You're  
 4 starting to get sick, and then Ryan gets him to the ground?  
 5 A. I don't know if he fell or Ryan got him to the  
 6 ground or what.  
 7 Q. Okay. Then what did you see?  
 8 A. I saw him over -- I saw Ryan over the guy.  
 9 Q. Okay. What was he doing over him?  
 10 A. He was just like that basically.  
 11 Q. On his neck, strangling him?  
 12 A. Yeah.  
 13 Q. And the guy that was being attacked was on his  
 14 back?  
 15 A. Yeah, I think, yeah.  
 16 Q. Does that sound right? After that, what  
 17 happened? Is that when you saw the lady on the back?  
 18 A. Yeah. It happened really quick.  
 19 Q. I understand. But you said this girl looked like  
 20 a cleaning lady to you?  
 21 A. Yeah. I remember, like, she had a cord, like, a  
 22 vacuum. She was doing something. But, like, she was in the  
 23 middle of the hallway between two, like, double doors.  
 24 Q. Of the business itself, of the Tribune?  
 25 A. Yeah, I think so. And then, like, I remember

5

1 seeing her through the door, and I just remember yelling at  
 2 her.  
 3 Q. What did you yell to her?  
 4 A. I don't know if I was yelling at her or I just --  
 5 I told her to go get help. I don't remember what, but --  
 6 Q. She says that somebody -- and from what you're  
 7 telling me -- she says that somebody said, "Go get help."  
 8 So that's probably you, right?  
 9 A. I guess, yeah.  
 10 Q. After you yell at her, she kind of gets spooked  
 11 and takes off. What happened?  
 12 A. Like, I sat down on the curb, just not -- I  
 13 don't know. Just -- I don't know if I got sick after that  
 14 or what. But I remember just, like, sitting down. And then  
 15 I remember, like, hearing people hollering and shit. And I  
 16 was, like, you know, let it go.  
 17 Q. Where was you sitting on the curb at? Was you  
 18 right back there where the guy was, or --  
 19 A. Like, on a parking block or something.  
 20 Q. Like, on a parking lot or in a park or --  
 21 A. It was a parking lot.  
 22 Q. Okay. So you're sitting on the curb. You hear  
 23 people yelling. Where did you guys go from there?  
 24 A. Then we ran, I guess, across Providence. And  
 25 that's when I saw this other guy.

6

1 Q. Who was that again?  
 2 A. That Dallas Mallory.  
 3 Q. And you told Dallas Mallory what happened?  
 4 A. Yeah, basically that, like, I think that, like,  
 5 Ryan told me to hit him and I hit him. And that's basically  
 6 what I told this guy.  
 7 Q. So you tell Dallas that Ryan told you to hit the  
 8 guy, so, "I hit the guy. Now he's down. He's hurt."  
 9 A. Yeah.  
 10 Q. Now --  
 11 A. That's, like, what I think I told him. There  
 12 wasn't much time to talk, and I was just freaking.  
 13 Q. Right, right. You're moving pretty quick at this  
 14 point?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. But you said earlier something about Ryan wanted  
 17 to choke him down to make sure he was dead; is that true?  
 18 A. I think that he would, like -- Yeah.  
 19 Q. Okay. What did he say to you about that?  
 20 A. After -- Like, I don't even know if we realized  
 21 that the guy had died or not. But, like, afterwards, I  
 22 think, on the way home, he said that he had always wanted to  
 23 kill someone before he was sixty anyway.  
 24 Q. Okay. Ryan said that?  
 25 A. Yeah. And then he said it to me, like, on New

7

1 Year's, like, after I had finished talking with him, like,  
 2 just to kind of fuck with me.  
 3 Q. This was just this past New Year's that you all  
 4 talked about it?  
 5 A. Yeah. After I brought it up and everything,  
 6 like, just to fuck with me, he said, "I always wanted to  
 7 kill somebody before I was sixty anyway."  
 8 Q. What night was this that this -- that this  
 9 happened down here at the Tribune? Was there a special  
 10 occasion?  
 11 A. It was Halloween, yeah.  
 12 Q. Halloween? Okay. So that night when you see  
 13 Ryan choke him out, did you think that Ryan was choking him  
 14 to make sure he was dead?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. Yeah? Did he say that, or is that just you  
 17 thinking that?  
 18 A. That's what I think.  
 19 Q. Okay. All right. Was there anything taken from  
 20 the guy that we will know where it's at or we will be able  
 21 to find?  
 22 A. I think his dad found the wallet.  
 23 Q. Ryan's dad found a wallet?  
 24 A. Yeah, but I'm not --  
 25 Q. Not for certain on that?

8

1 A. No.  
 2 Q. Okay. And what did you say earlier about what  
 3 you thought he choked him with? Or it's possible he may  
 4 have choked him with something; is that right?  
 5 A. Yeah.  
 6 Q. But you don't know what it was?  
 7 A. No.  
 8 Q. Okay. All right. There was obviously a lot of  
 9 injuries to this guy, so it's -- it's pretty obvious that he  
 10 was hit more than once. But you're not sure who did that,  
 11 right?  
 12 A. Yeah.  
 13 Q. So basically your feeling --  
 14 A. I think I just blacked out.  
 15 Q. After you hit the guy and he went down, you see  
 16 Ryan choking him?  
 17 A. Yeah. I blacked out in between when I hit the  
 18 guy and when I see this lady basically.  
 19 Q. Okay. But you did see Ryan choking him out?  
 20 A. Yeah.  
 21 Q. Okay. All right. Hang on for just a second.  
 22 I'm going to try to find this Dallas guy. I'll be right  
 23 back with you. Okay?  
 24 A. Yeah.  
 25 (Mr. Short left the interview room.)

9

1 (Mr. Short reentered the interview room, and the  
 2 interview resumed.)  
 3 Q. I just checked over my notes, and I've got a  
 4 couple more questions for you. Okay? I don't think we've  
 5 ever called Ryan by his last name. What's Ryan's last name?  
 6 A. Ferguson.  
 7 Q. Ferguson? Okay. How long have you known him?  
 8 A. Five years.  
 9 Q. Five years? Were you friends in high school or  
 10 something?  
 11 A. Yeah.  
 12 Q. Yeah? Okay. Now, when you was talking about  
 13 seeing this Dallas guy, you said you saw him at Providence  
 14 at the Break Time; is that right?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. Was it the Break Time, or, just so there was no  
 17 confusion, was it the Express Lane down a little bit further  
 18 south there at Providence and Locust? You know, Break Time  
 19 is right there on the corner just down from the Tribune.  
 20 The other one's a little further down.  
 21 A. I think it was the one that's down from the  
 22 Tribune, whatever that was.  
 23 Q. Okay. So you saw him in his car with these two  
 24 girls?  
 25 (Mr. Erickson nodded his head in the affirmative.)

10

1 Q. Okay. Do you remember -- When you're talking  
 2 about leaving, do you remember what path you took when you  
 3 left?  
 4 A. Just, I think, across Providence. And I think we  
 5 climbed up some wooden embankment or something --  
 6 Q. Okay. When you left --  
 7 A. -- and then ran, like, the back way to the club.  
 8 Q. Not real sure about that though?  
 9 A. No.  
 10 Q. Did you possibly -- And I'm just asking. I  
 11 don't want to put words in your mouth. Like, here's the  
 12 back of the Tribune. Did you go straight towards George's,  
 13 or did you go around the side and then across Providence  
 14 like you went to Walnut Street?  
 15 A. I think we went, like, across the side and  
 16 then --  
 17 Q. To Walnut Street?  
 18 A. Yeah.  
 19 Q. And then across?  
 20 A. Yeah.  
 21 Q. Okay. Something I kind of missed when I was  
 22 talking to you earlier, and I just thought about this. You  
 23 said Ryan's dad found the wallet?  
 24 A. I don't know. I mean, I don't even know with  
 25 that. Like, I was just -- Like, I think he told me this

11

1 one day. This was before I could, like, recollect anything.  
 2 But he called me -- Like, I kind of, like, remembered this  
 3 later, but -- and, like, he said, "My dad woke me up  
 4 strangling me today." And I was, like, "Why?" And he was  
 5 like, "Well, he found this wallet -- he found the wallet."  
 6 And I was, like, "What?"  
 7 Q. Found the wallet from --  
 8 A. And I couldn't remember. I think --  
 9 Q. So you don't remember the wallet being taken, or  
 10 you just --  
 11 A. I mean, I don't remember a lot of this.  
 12 Q. Okay.  
 13 A. Like, I don't remember -- Like, then I didn't --  
 14 Like, I had no idea what he was talking about. This was,  
 15 like, a year later.  
 16 Q. Okay. But this comes back to you now --  
 17 A. Yeah.  
 18 Q. -- right?  
 19 A. And I was, like, "What wallet?" And he was just,  
 20 like, "You know what? Just forget about it."  
 21 Q. He didn't say if it was Kent Heitholt's wallet or  
 22 anything like that?  
 23 A. No, no.  
 24 Q. Okay. Okay. Was there anything else taken that  
 25 you know of?

12

1 A. I don't know.  
 2 Q. Okay. Now, you said earlier that after you  
 3 had -- after you hit the guy that you got sick. Did you  
 4 actually throw up, or did you --  
 5 A. I threw up.  
 6 Q. You did throw up?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Okay. We didn't find any vomit down there. So  
 9 can you kind of pinpoint where you think you got sick at?  
 10 A. I don't know.  
 11 Q. Was it on the park maybe on some dirt, or was it  
 12 on concrete? Do you remember hearing that splashing sound?  
 13 A. Yeah, I think.  
 14 Q. You think?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. You're not certain though, right?  
 17 A. Yeah.  
 18 Q. Okay. That's fine. Back to the wrench. These  
 19 are just my notes, so I (inaudible). You said it was kind  
 20 of, like, a tire tool style wrench; is that right?  
 21 A. Yeah.  
 22 Q. It wasn't, like, a crescent wrench or a half-inch  
 23 or anything? What color was it?  
 24 A. I don't know. Dark steel blue or something.  
 25 Q. Okay. How long do you think it was?

13

1 A. Not that long at all.  
 2 Q. Okay. If I was to hold it --  
 3 A. Like that.  
 4 Q. And it was all flat?  
 5 A. No. It was just round.  
 6 Q. Okay. It was round?  
 7 A. Yeah.  
 8 Q. Okay. Kind of like a piece to a car jack maybe?  
 9 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
 10 Q. Okay. All right. And that came out of Ryan's  
 11 car?  
 12 A. Yeah.  
 13 Q. What kind of car did he have at the time?  
 14 A. A Mercedes something.  
 15 Q. A Mercedes? Does he still have that car, do you  
 16 know?  
 17 A. No.  
 18 Q. Okay. Do either one of you smoke?  
 19 A. Yeah.  
 20 Q. Okay. Did you all smoke when you was there?  
 21 A. Maybe.  
 22 Q. Maybe? What kind of cigarettes do you smoke?  
 23 A. Camels.  
 24 Q. What does he smoke, do you know?  
 25 A. Camels.

14

1 Q. Both of you Camel regulars?  
 2 A. I don't know. Camels, Marlboros.  
 3 Q. Just whatever -- whatever you're buying at that  
 4 time?  
 5 A. Whatever.  
 6 Q. But you're usually a Camel man?  
 7 A. Yeah.  
 8 Q. Okay. Anybody wearing gloves?  
 9 A. No.  
 10 Q. Okay. What was -- What was this guy doing on  
 11 the parking lot when you all first saw him?  
 12 A. I don't know. I mean, I could just be completely  
 13 making assumptions off of --  
 14 Q. I know. I just want you to tell me what you  
 15 remember. I don't want you to make assumptions. Okay? You  
 16 don't know what he was doing when you got there?  
 17 A. No.  
 18 Q. Okay.  
 19 A. Maybe he was getting into his car, maybe -- I  
 20 don't know.  
 21 Q. Okay.  
 22 A. I think -- Like, I remember, like, I read in the  
 23 newspaper that, like, he was feeding a stray cat or  
 24 something.  
 25 Q. But you didn't see that?

15

1 A. We -- Like, that might have been what -- how we  
 2 saw him.  
 3 Q. Okay.  
 4 A. I mean, that might have been what he was doing  
 5 when he saw him and decided that was a good person, "We got  
 6 to try to rob him." I don't know.  
 7 Q. Kind of made him kind of a soft guy because he  
 8 was feeding a cat kind of thing?  
 9 A. I don't know. I don't know.  
 10 Q. Okay. Now, you remember when the police brought  
 11 you down here they were cool with you? I always have to ask  
 12 everybody that. The officer that brought you down here, he  
 13 was all right; he wasn't rough with you or anything like  
 14 that?  
 15 A. No, not at all.  
 16 Q. Okay. And I read you your rights when you came  
 17 in here?  
 18 A. Yeah.  
 19 Q. We're cool with that?  
 20 A. Yeah.  
 21 Q. You understood that, right?  
 22 A. Right.  
 23 Q. Everybody's been cool to you, right?  
 24 A. Absolutely.  
 25 Q. Okay. Well, I'm going to have to check my notes

16

1 again. This has been a while back, so I got to keep  
 2 referring back to it and come back with you on some more  
 3 stuff. Okay?  
 4 A. Yeah.  
 5 Q. All right. Hang loose. You okay with the water?  
 6 You got plenty?  
 7 A. I'm fine.  
 8 Q. All right.  
 9 (Mr. Short left the interview room.)  
 10 (Mr. Short reentered the interview room, and the  
 11 interview resumed.)  
 12 Q. Sure you couldn't use the bathroom or something  
 13 to drink or anything like that?  
 14 A. I can't smoke in here, can I?  
 15 Q. Maybe if I twist the boss's arm a little bit,  
 16 he'll let you have one. How's that sound?  
 17 A. That would be great.  
 18 Q. Do you want one?  
 19 A. I don't have any though. They're in the car.  
 20 Q. If you don't tell my wife, I'll let you have one  
 21 of mine. Okay?  
 22 A. Thanks.  
 23 (Mr. Short left the interview room.)  
 24 (Mr. Short reentered the interview room, and the  
 25 interview resumed.)

17

1 Q. Do you want to use that as an ashtray, or do you  
 2 need the water?  
 3 A. I'd like to keep the water if you don't mind.  
 4 Q. Let's get another one for you then. Okay? I'll  
 5 be right back.  
 6 (Mr. Short left the interview room.)  
 7 (Mr. Short reentered the interview room, and the  
 8 interview resumed.)  
 9 Q. Just use that coffee as your ashtray there.  
 10 How's that sound? I better light this candle out here, or  
 11 they're gonna get mad at me. Okay?  
 12 Well, like I said, I had to refer back to my notes,  
 13 because there's obviously some things that I couldn't keep  
 14 up with, because it's a big case file.  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. Okay. One of the things that -- You know, when  
 17 we were talking about evidence earlier, this tool that you  
 18 were talking about that came out of Ryan's car, where did  
 19 that go afterwards? Any idea? Did he throw it back in the  
 20 car, or did you throw it back in the car?  
 21 A. I don't know if he picked it up. I don't know.  
 22 I imagine he did. I didn't really -- I mean --  
 23 Q. So it could have very well gone back to the car?  
 24 A. Yeah.  
 25 Q. Okay. What about the car itself? You said he

18

1 sold that?  
 2 A. Yeah.  
 3 Q. How long ago did he sell it? No idea?  
 4 A. Six months.  
 5 Q. You have no idea? You think it was six months?  
 6 A. I don't know. I really don't. Probably within  
 7 six months.  
 8 Q. Okay. Do you know who he sold it to?  
 9 A. No. Sorry.  
 10 Q. Did he sell it independently, or did he trade it  
 11 in?  
 12 A. I think, independently.  
 13 Q. Okay. Okay. Going back to when you said that  
 14 you hit this guy with the -- with the tool, you said you  
 15 kind of got sick after that. How many times did you think  
 16 you hit him all together?  
 17 A. Just the once.  
 18 Q. Just the once? Well, the only problem I have  
 19 with that is I know he was hit more than once --  
 20 A. Yeah.  
 21 Q. -- with the tool, because --  
 22 A. I'm saying I just hit him once.  
 23 Q. You just hit him once? You didn't hit him more  
 24 --  
 25 A. No.

19

1 Q. -- like, ten times?  
 2 A. I distinctly remember the first time that I hit  
 3 him, like, I remember hearing this noise, and it just --  
 4 just seeing his face made me sick.  
 5 Q. And the noise was him screaming?  
 6 A. It was, like, a groan.  
 7 Q. Okay. All right. Okay. You said earlier,  
 8 though, that it was possible that you may have hit him more  
 9 than once. Is that different now?  
 10 A. No. I didn't hit him more than once.  
 11 Q. Okay. All right. What kind of shoes was you  
 12 wearing that night?  
 13 A. I don't know.  
 14 Q. You don't remember?  
 15 A. I don't -- Nikes or New Balances maybe.  
 16 Q. It was a tennis shoe of some kind?  
 17 A. Probably.  
 18 Q. Do you still own those?  
 19 A. Possibly.  
 20 Q. What was Ryan wearing, do you remember?  
 21 A. I don't know.  
 22 Q. Okay.  
 23 A. I really don't.  
 24 Q. Okay. Let's go back to when you were talking  
 25 about how you saw Ryan strangle this guy. Now, we know what

20

1 the guy got strangled with. That's kind of a thing I've  
 2 been holding back from you. All right?  
 3 A. Okay.  
 4 Q. Is it possible that you know what he was  
 5 strangled with and you just didn't want to tell me? Because  
 6 I know --  
 7 A. I think it was a shirt or something.  
 8 Q. Well, I know it wasn't a shirt.  
 9 A. Maybe a bungee cord or something from his car. I  
 10 don't see why he'd have a rope in his car.  
 11 Q. Well, we know for a fact that his belt was ripped  
 12 off of his pants and he was strangled with his belt.  
 13 A. Really?  
 14 Q. Yeah. Did you see a belt in Ryan's hand,  
 15 something that looked like a rope maybe or a bungee cord?  
 16 A. I don't know.  
 17 Q. Okay. You didn't put anything in your hand then?  
 18 A. No. I mean, I don't remember that at all.  
 19 Q. Okay. Something else that I need to ask you  
 20 about, we felt like -- You know, I asked you earlier if you  
 21 had gotten hit by this guy or anything like this. But you  
 22 said he kicked you in the balls when you guys attacked him?  
 23 A. I think. I don't really remember.  
 24 Q. But you remember him kicking you, right?  
 25 A. I think, yeah.

21

1 Q. Okay. But -- So did he kick you before or after  
 2 you hit him in the head?  
 3 A. Before.  
 4 Q. Before? Okay. Secondly, did he get a punch in  
 5 on anybody? I mean, did he punch you or punch Ryan at all  
 6 or anything like that?  
 7 A. I don't remember.  
 8 Q. Okay. You don't -- Okay. You didn't wake up  
 9 with any bruises then?  
 10 A. Not that I -- No.  
 11 Q. Okay.  
 12 A. I mean, I would have noticed.  
 13 Q. Sure. The next morning you would have a bloody  
 14 nose or a black eye or something like that?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. And Ryan -- To the best of your knowledge, Ryan  
 17 didn't wake up with anything either?  
 18 A. No.  
 19 Q. All right. Back to this wallet that Ryan's dad  
 20 found, are you fairly certain that was his -- this guy's  
 21 wallet or somebody else's?  
 22 A. I don't understand why he would have called me  
 23 and told me --  
 24 Q. If it was anybody else's? Okay. There was  
 25 also -- The keys were missing to the victim's car. Any

22

1 idea what would have happened to those? Is it possible Ryan  
 2 could have gotten them and you not know about it?  
 3 A. Yeah.  
 4 Q. So it's possible Ryan could have strangled this  
 5 guy with his belt, got the keys, and you not know about it?  
 6 A. The guy -- The man's belt?  
 7 Q. Yeah.  
 8 A. His own belt?  
 9 Q. Yes. Does that ring a bell?  
 10 A. Not at all. Like --  
 11 Q. But you saw Ryan strangle him though?  
 12 A. I thought I did.  
 13 Q. Yeah. Okay. All right.  
 14 A. I mean, I might not even know what I'm talking  
 15 about now.  
 16 Q. Well, like I said, you've told us something only  
 17 people (inaudible) would know, so that's not even a  
 18 question.  
 19 A. What did I -- Like, what?  
 20 Q. Again, playing poker. I mean, you remember what  
 21 you told me. You remember what's going on.  
 22 A. Yeah.  
 23 Q. Where's Ryan at now?  
 24 A. I think he's in Kansas City, going to school.  
 25 Q. Is he living up there?

23

1 A. Yeah.  
 2 Q. He's not driving back and forth or anything like  
 3 that?  
 4 (Mr. Erickson shook his head in the negative.)  
 5 Q. Do you know where he's living at up there?  
 6 (Mr. Erickson shook his head in the negative.)  
 7 Q. Where is he going to school at?  
 8 A. I don't know.  
 9 Q. Okay. All right. Well, we'll go try to find  
 10 him. I'll be back.  
 11 (Mr. Short left the interview room.)  
 12 (Mr. Short reentered the interview room, and the  
 13 interview resumed.)  
 14 Q. What color was that Mercedes?  
 15 A. Blue.  
 16 Q. Blue?  
 17 A. Like, dark blue.  
 18 Q. Okay. You want another one, don't you?  
 19 A. Not right now.  
 20 Q. Did you steal my lighter?  
 21 A. Possibly.  
 22 Q. I got it. All right. So a blue Mercedes?  
 23 A. Yeah.  
 24 Q. Was this the same one that he was -- that he  
 25 owned when it got broken into where it was at that workshop?

24

1 A. I don't know what you're talking about.  
 2 Q. Okay. His Mercedes -- A Mercedes he owned --  
 3 Let's put it that way. -- was broken into at a shop that was  
 4 up behind the Oakland Car Wash. Somebody stole the stereo  
 5 equipment out of it.  
 6 A. I didn't even --  
 7 Q. Did that Mercedes have stereo equipment in it?  
 8 A. Yeah.  
 9 Q. So it's possibly the same one; you just don't  
 10 know that for a fact?  
 11 A. Well, he only had one Mercedes.  
 12 Q. Oh, that's the only Mercedes he's ever had?  
 13 A. Yeah.  
 14 Q. Okay.  
 15 A. I think it's, like, an E320 or something.  
 16 Q. I'm sorry?  
 17 A. I think it was an E320.  
 18 Q. E320?  
 19 A. I mean, for all I know, I could have just flipped  
 20 out, man. I don't know.  
 21 Q. Well, before you say that, listen to me. We got  
 22 a Crime Stoppers report that sits there and tells us that  
 23 you made comments -- or not comments -- that you made the  
 24 statement -- Crime Stoppers report said that you said to  
 25 Ryan at a party on New Year's Eve that "We killed that guy."

25

1 Somebody overheard you all's conversation, and they called  
 2 us and made a Crime Stoppers report. So I know that you  
 3 know what you're talking about.  
 4 Secondly, Nick walks in here today and says, "Chuck  
 5 told me he did it." So it's not a matter of flipping out  
 6 and "I don't know what's going on." We know you know what's  
 7 going on. Maybe you forgot some of it, but you didn't  
 8 forget all that you're telling me.  
 9 Number one, I just went and looked at these crime scene  
 10 photographs hopefully for the last time until I ever have to  
 11 look at them again. Multiple, multiple, multiple  
 12 contusions, hits, and strikes on this guy's head. There is  
 13 no way in hell that you hit this guy once, turned around,  
 14 and got sick. If you only hit him once, turned and ran away  
 15 and got sick, you had to hand the thing off to Ryan, because  
 16 this guy's got head wounds all over his head. We're talking  
 17 minimum fifteen strikes.  
 18 A. I must have done it then. I mean --  
 19 Q. Okay.  
 20 A. Either that, or I stopped and he did. I don't  
 21 know.  
 22 Q. Did you ever drop the pipe?  
 23 A. Probably.  
 24 Q. Did you hand it off to Ryan?  
 25 A. I don't -- I don't know. I don't think so.

26

1 Q. Okay. So when you say that you must have flipped  
 2 out, then maybe you flipped out and hit this guy more than  
 3 once?  
 4 A. Yeah.  
 5 Q. Because there's no way that this guy got hit  
 6 once. And I'm not barking at you. I'm just telling you the  
 7 truth, because I saw the picturegraphs.  
 8 A. I know -- I don't --  
 9 Q. We've got the Crime Stopper reports.  
 10 A. I know. I mean -- I know. I mean, that's fine.  
 11 Q. Okay.  
 12 A. I know, and I told you that already.  
 13 Q. Okay. I understand. But I'm just reminding you  
 14 where we were at.  
 15 A. I don't --  
 16 Q. Because what's going to happen eventually, I'm  
 17 sure the crime stopper will come forward now that they know  
 18 all of this is coming to a head.  
 19 A. That's fine.  
 20 Q. And I've got to impress this upon you one more  
 21 time. And this is the last time I'm going to tell you this,  
 22 Chuck. Okay?  
 23 A. I know.  
 24 Q. Ryan's gonna talk. Don't let Ryan tell the story  
 25 for you.

27

1 A. I don't know what else to do, because I can't --  
 2 I don't know. I mean, I don't know if he's going to put it  
 3 on me. Like, I don't really care.  
 4 Q. Probably.  
 5 A. I don't care.  
 6 Q. Okay.  
 7 A. I mean, I must have just --  
 8 Q. You know you were involved, and you're ready to  
 9 take that hit basically?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Okay. All right. You want to leave that -- Do  
 12 you want me to light that for you before I go?  
 13 A. I've got a lighter.  
 14 Q. In your pocket?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. Don't be burning nothing in the wall then.  
 17 A. No, I'm not going to.  
 18 Q. Why don't you give me your lighter? You're not  
 19 supposed to have that up here.  
 20 A. All right. No, actually, I don't.  
 21 Q. Okay. I didn't think so.  
 22 A. I have a keychain.  
 23 Q. Anything else in your pockets?  
 24 A. Cell phone.  
 25 Q. Let me go ahead and take everything you've got.

28



1 Is that it?  
 2 A. Yeah.  
 3 Q. Stand up and turn around for me.  
 4 (There was a knock at the door.)  
 5 MR. SHORT: Yeah.  
 6 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You guys -- Does he need any food  
 7 or anything?  
 8 MR. SHORT:  
 9 Q. Do you want something to eat?  
 10 A. I'm fine. No.  
 11 Q. You sure?  
 12 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Water, coffee, soda?  
 13 MR. SHORT:  
 14 Q. I just need to pat your pockets down. Wallet.  
 15 All right. Do you want to smoke that right now, or do you  
 16 want to wait?  
 17 A. I'll wait.  
 18 Q. Okay.  
 19 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Do you want to give him a bathroom  
 20 break while he's unhandcuffed?  
 21 MR. SHORT:  
 22 Q. Do you want to go to the bathroom?  
 23 A. I'm fine.  
 24 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You're fine? Okay.  
 25 MR. SHORT:

1 Q. All right. We'll be right back, man.  
 2 (Mr. Short left the interview room, and the interview  
 3 was concluded.)  
 4 \*\*\*\*\*  
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER  
 2 I, Lisa M. Hennon, Certified Court Reporter and  
 3 Notary Public within and for the State of Missouri, do  
 4 hereby certify that CHARLES ERICKSON is the person  
 5 represented to me to be the person interviewed in the  
 6 foregoing videotape interview and further that JOHN SHORT is  
 7 the person represented to me to be the interviewer in the  
 8 foregoing videotape interview; that the conversation between  
 9 said persons was taken by me from videotape to the best of  
 10 my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me; that  
 11 I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of  
 12 the parties to the action in which this interview was  
 13 conducted, and further that I am not a relative or employee  
 14 of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto,  
 15 nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of  
 16 the action.  
 17 Given at my office in the City of Jefferson, County of  
 18 Cole, State of Missouri, this 30th day of January, 2005. My  
 19 commission will expire October 30, 2005.  
 20  
 21  
 22 LISA M. HENNON, RPR, CCR, CSR  
 23 Notary Public, State of Missouri  
 24 (Commissioned in Cole County)  
 25

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