

Statement of River Moon, a/k/a Barry Redfern, January 19, 2006, given to Thompson County Assistant State's Attorneys Lily Garcia and ASA Rory Charles.

LG [ASA Garcia]: Okay, good. On the record. I am Lily Garcia, Assistant State's Attorney of Thompson County. This is a recording of interview of River Moon, also known as Barry Redfern, January 19, 2006, in Room 216 of the Marshall City Police Department Building.

RM [River Moon]: Please. My name is River Moon.

LG: You are also known as Barry Redfern?

RM: Used to be.

LG: OK. River Moon. As you know, you are under arrest in connection with the January 1, 2006, arson at the Treasure Homes construction site at the 5900 block of N. Volini Drive. At the time of your arrest, you received Miranda warnings, and you waived the right to counsel. Now that we're recording this, I want to make sure you know you have the right to remain silent, and that anything you say will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney and that if you cannot afford an attorney one will be appointed for you, free of charge. Do you understand that?

RM: I watch TV. I got it.

LG: And you consent to have this interview electronically recorded?

RM: Yes.

LG: Will you talk to us without an attorney?

RM: Yes, I have nothing to keep quiet about. I want to tell what I know. I will tell the truth. The truth shall set me free.

LG: Where were you on December 31, 2005, from 6 p.m. until 5 a.m. January 1, 2006?

RM: That whole time I was at the condo at 5415 N. Volini Drive. I was hosting a New Years Eve party with my roommate Courtney Stanwick.

LG: Who else was there?

RM: Well there was Teak River, Tyler Voight, Rachel Nedski, Bruno Diggs, and maybe a couple other people. Of course, Courtney was there. It's really Courtney's place. We are all friends.

LG: To your knowledge, were there any drugs there?

RM: Yes. I have ... I found out that Teak brought some pot. I didn't have any. I was enjoying a special New Years Eve batch of my home brew. Leaf ale. Made it for the occasion, you

know, the, to celebrate.

LG: How much did you drink of your ale?

RM: Oh, I would say I had several. Pint-size glasses. Through the evening, from when the party started about seven or so glasses – pint glasses -- until I passed out, well, fell asleep, whatever, about two in the morning. Ask Courtney. My best guess is 6 pints. It was maybe six percent alcohol in those beers. I made a total of ten pints. We, the others, drank the other foam. I make ten pints at a time. That's the, to comply with the personal consumption law. You know that law?

LG: Yes. Ten pints is the limit, per month, under the law, without a license. Do you have any left that we can check-test?

RM: No. Like I said, we finished off the batch. I can give you the recipe if you like. I call it leaf ale

LG: No thanks. What's leaf?

RM: That's Project Leaf, spelled L-E-A-F, with an exclamation mark at the end. It stands for Loving the Environment And Forests. I started it with Teak River in late 2002, early 2003.

LG: Leaf ale, Project Leaf, OK. How long has this Project Leaf been around?

RM: 2002. Right after Teak got out of prison. A pot charge. I

said, Teak, you got to have something positive to focus on. We can form a pro-environmental group. So, in October 2002, it started as a small city-wide organization. Now there are maybe eighty members, and we have start-up chapters on local college campuses. It's also state-wide. Out of state, we have a small chapter in Rhode Island – Wickford, Rhode Island.

LG: How did you first meet Teak?

RM: 1999. We met at a protest rally against Halliburton, at their corporate offices here in Marshall City. We connected right away. Got to be best friends. We changed our names in 2000 to have natural names and to share the name "river." I am now River Moon. Teak is Teak River. We went to court and did it all legally.

LG: Back to New Year's Eve. You are there at 5 p.m. What time did the others get to your place?

RM: Well, Courtney was already back from the family stuff at by then. See, Courtney went to Cranston, the Stanwick estate, for a family New Year's brunch or dinner. Whatever. Rachel showed up at about 6:30 and Teak and Voight came in about 7 or 7:30. We had a buffet – some of it vegan from the Happy Carrot – some days Courtney is vegan. We played music and watched some TV, mostly to watch the new year come in, like in London. We unwound. We closed out the year.

LG: Did you talk about the Treasure Homes development?

RM: Me?

LG: Anyone?

RM: Sure. Oh yeah. That came up a lot. That was a major part of what all of us did in 2005. I mean, we were active in Leaf and were really focused on stopping that project. Councilman Pat Sullivan was totally bought-off. Elite Homes spread some serious money around there. Not only were our voices ignored, but it seemed to me that the developer knew the project was already approved well in advance of the public announcement. The City Council gave final approval on the project late one Friday afternoon in October. October 21st. The very next Monday morning the developer was tearing down the trees with heavy equipment I mean, the bulldozers were on the land Saturday and first thing Monday you could hear the heavy equipment and the chainsaws clear across town. Like, we are a mile away and could hear. They organized that over the weekend? They planned it ahead of time because the fix was in. I have worked on many environmental projects, but none with the fast track approval speed of this one. It's big money – when we point out it's big money, they put out expensive press releases accusing us of fomenting class warfare! They are the ones starting and perpetuating class warfare. Money can buy anything these days. It's the monied class against the rest of us!

LG: Didn't you get very upset that night, talking about it?

RM: You got it. Rachel was calling for blood. She says we got results when we were outrageous. She's right. Leaf got ink – I mean real debate -- over the Valentine's Day protest. There was no real coverage of the Treasure Homes development permit hearing or process, even though I called my old sources at the paper, the Marshall City Bee. Voight said the media paid attention once there was property damage. Teak pointed out the coverage was likely due to the unique angle of it being Valentine's Day. You know, like the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. What is it about Valentine's Day? I don't know. It works. We resolved that we were going to work harder for Mother Earth in 2006.

LG: What was your resolution?

RM: Until you seized my diary in your Nazi raid, I was keeping a journal of what I was doing for the Earth everyday. I wanted to track my achievements. I stopped the diary.

LG: Is this the journal you're referring to? I am handing River Moon a copy of Impound Item B.

RM: Yes, that's my journal.

LG: Thank you. Item B is the witness River Moon's journal. This is your writing?

RM: Yes.

LG: Now – how did the party end?

RM: Well, I was pretty well gone, you know, like drunk. We were crashing -- falling. [Laughs]. Well, Courtney wasn't, of course. Teak and Voight went back to Teak's apartment for the night. I think they left about two, only because I remember some joke about the bars closing. But really, by this time, I was pretty wasted. I don't remember much. Rachel wanted to use the Peanut - that's my scooter - and I gave it to her. She needed it for a ride home.

RC: Where does she live?

RM: In the apartment above the Happy Carrot when she's in town. The Happy Carrot is at 2800 Broad Street. That's maybe five miles from the condo. I couldn't let her walk it. Rachel is, like, she's the daughter of the owner of Happy Carrot, the food store, right?. Her real home is Hawaii. She goes home to Oahu often. When she's out of town, I run the store. Her father says she should travel a lot. So, she follows bands. She's okay. A little, like, too radical for my taste.

RC: What do you mean?

RM: Rachel wants Project Leaf to be more aggressive. Like in demonstrations. Like PETA, you know? Make loud, media savvy demonstrations. I always tell her, and Teak does too, that Leaf is a local group just trying to do our part to, as they say, "Think

globally. Act locally." That's all. I did not like what happened on Valentine's Day. People like Rachel and Voight eat it up.

LG: How long have you worked or whatever at the Happy Carrot?

RM: Since 1996. I went in there to do a story for the campus paper on a vegetarian lifestyle. I was like mostly a carnivore then. I was also doing free lance writing for pocket money. I also worked as an office temp. I smoked tobacco, didn't exercise, and was not making much of my life. I didn't think outside my everyday box. I started talking with the owner, Rachel's dad, his name is Ben, and was just drawn to that life. We talked for hours and I started working there that week, took up yoga and began a holistic lifestyle. Ben is like the father I don't have anymore. I found peace instead of anger. The rest is history.

LG: How long have you lived with Courtney Stanwick?

RM: We met in January 2003 at a meeting early in the process of forming Leaf. Courtney had so much anger. So did Teak, having gotten out of prison so recently. Courtney is great. We bonded fast. I seem to find people who need a peaceful place, like I did, don't I? I made mention of how forming Leaf was using up all of my slim earnings from the Happy Carrot. Courtney offered me a room in the condo Courtney owns. Right away. I moved in the end of January and we have had a tremendous amount of fun, although I can't get Courtney to

stop drinking caffeine, but that's another story. I mean Courtney doesn't need the money, but I think I give Courtney some balance. I'm spontaneous, Courtney is deliberate. I'm disorganized, Courtney is very organized. I spill a little coffee, Courtney cleans it up. Courtney is trying to change from a very materialistic and egocentric perspective. We're very different in that respect. I give credit where credit is due. Courtney has come a long way. Very clean person.

LG: What's Courtney's perspective that you're talking about?

RM: Well, I have had to work very hard for everything I have. Do you know what I mean? Do you know what it is to work hard? I am an only child and my parents died in a car accident when I was just eighteen. They were hit by a Ford Suburban. I had to start working right away, move from our house, and had to work to go part-time to college. I had to feed myself. I lived paycheck to paycheck. Today, I still attend UMT part-time and am getting credits towards a degree in environmental science. I'm a long way off from graduation, but I keep moving along the path. Maybe I will go full-time. You know, student loan. But I can't have a criminal conviction.

LG: Sounds more like your perspective. I want to get back to the party.

RM: Well, everyone left about 2 a.m., but I can't say for sure. Courtney was scrubbing the place, you know, like with Lysol. I put a DVD in and fell asleep or passed out, whatever you want

to call it. On the couch. The next thing I remember is Rachel coming in the house. I looked at the clock and it was just after 4:15 or 3:20. I couldn't tell the hands apart. She is shaking and says she poured the gas from the can, the gas can, kept on the back of the Peanut. Poured it on some wood at the construction site. She says she only meant to start a small fire, but the fire spread onto something that, like, blew up. She got on the scooter and sped back here. You could smell gasoline on her. I was so scared for her. I told her, of course, that we had to call the police. She freaked out and ran from the house. I tried to follow her, but she was too fast for me. I kept calling the Happy Carrot, but she never answered. I couldn't follow her on the Peanut, because I was still too drunk to drive.

LG: That construction site is 10 minutes from your house?

RM: Depends on traffic. I can make it in about 15 minutes. More or less.

LG: Did you call the police?

RM: No. I wasn't going to nark on her. I am only telling you this now, because you think I did it.

LG: Well, you have to admit you're glad the development was halted, aren't you?

RM: You bet. Yes.

LG: You got what you want?

RM: I'm glad justice was done and that's not a crime. It's a shame about the Peace Tree. Maybe the media attention will do some good, you know, to highlight the issue of this development. An immoral condemnation of good green land, and an unconscionable development project.

LG: Violence works?

RM: Violence gets respect. Anyone who is sad about the tree being destroyed should have been fighting with us to prevent it from being behind the gates of the privileged in the first place.

LG: Let's go back. You were at the construction site often in 2005?

RM: Almost every day from October 24 to December 31. You know I was there. You had surveillance. I am sure there are police reports. I didn't hide. I wanted to make sure every correct step was taken in the construction process. If they didn't follow the rules for removing the plants and trees, and I intended to bring the EPA in. I was not done fighting. You got to understand that we are talking about a global problem – the exploitation of the environment, the privatization of profits and the socialization of the costs.

LG: Did you take photos of the site when you visited it?

RM: Yes, it was my mission for the earth, mother earth, to protect ...

LG: Why did you wash your scooter?

RM: When? I wash it all the time.

LG: Why on January 1?

RM: It was dirty.

LG: You knew it could be evidence.

RM: Maybe I wanted to make sure that I wasn't wrongly implicated in the fire. I am a target. I've been out front in Leaf. That means something. See, I know you are taking double pleasure here -- making a quick arrest in this high profile case. Calm the power structure in the city. You get rid of me. Problem is, you cannot silence people like me. I did not want any soot, gas, or dirt on the Peanut.

LG: When did you see Stanwick the morning after the fire?

RM: Courtney always wakes at 7:30 a.m., no matter how late Courtney crashes the night before. So, I saw Courtney at that time when Courtney was making the usual pot of coffee and sorting bills.

LG: Sorting bills?

RM: Yes. Listen, Courtney was generous to let me stay free at the condo. But Courtney is strange in some ways.

LG: Sorting bills?

RM: Courtney washes money – sometimes every day. In the dishwasher. Sometimes, usually, boils the loose change. Takes the bills after they dry off and – are you ready – irons them flat. Germ-free, see. So the next morning Courtney was sorting out the ironed bills. Courtney washes and irons bills every night before going to bed.

LG: Not so unusual. I hear a Chicago judge used to do that.

RM: And went to jail? For what, laundering money?

LG: No, I think it was for taking bribes.

RM: Not setting fires.

LG: Not arson. So Courtney washed the scooter?

RM: I washed the scooter.

LG: To get the gas, soot, and dirt off.

RM: Yes. Washing the Peanut to protect Rachel. About 30 minutes later, Teak comes by with Voight. They told us the

news was on the TV. We turned it on. Wow. Rachel really got some air time.

LG: The gas -- did you ever steal gas?

RM: Depends on what "steal" means. I think people who drive SUVs should pay. If I have to breathe the air they pollute, they can provide a few ounces of gas to drive a small scooter around town. I get 80 miles per gallon. I put the red gallon can on the back of the Peanut. If I am in the mall parking lot or any place where there are lots of SUVs ... it's easy. Suck on the tube and start the flow. So what? If you want to arrest me, do it for something I actually did. All you have to do is figure out where and when. I am pretty good at getting away with stuff.

LG: When was the last time you did this?

RM: You really want to know?

LG: You said you would tell the truth.

RM: New Year's Eve. Courtney told me about using gas to drive the Harley to the Stanwick estate I knew I would need to fill up Courtney's and my tanks soon. So I ran out that afternoon and filled the can up so we would have some when we needed it. The can was on the Peanut for Rachel. I filled up that day and left the can on the Peanut. I think Rachel could have maybe up to five gallons for starting a fire.

LG: Do you know where Courtney is?

RM: Courtney left right after the police came with the search warrant. Courtney was freaking out about losing everything. I got a message on the machine at home the day after the search - that was the 6th - that Courtney and the Stanwick family went to their house in Aspen. With the lawyer. I can stay in the condo for two weeks. Then I am supposed to move. Courtney said I could expect a call when they got back. You arrested me before they got back. If you don't let me go, I need to call to say that I am okay. I need to call Teak too. I wasn't upset about the search, because I knew you wouldn't find anything. We're innocent.

LG: Do you know where Ms. Nedski is now?

RM: No.

LG: Would you tell us if you did?

RM: Probably not. She will show up. You know all you need to. Can I go home now?

LG: No.

RM: Can I make some calls.

LG: End this tape.

Date: January 22, 2006

_____s/s_____

T. Marchell