

1 drive-in between like Wal-Mart and Lowe's. And from there we
 2 got Interstate 55 heading north.
 3 Q. Did you pass any police cars during this time that
 4 he had been, he drove past Michael Sanders and was heading for
 5 I-55?
 6 A. At that time I'm really not for sure if we passed
 7 any or not.
 8 Q. Okay. Once you got to I-55, can you describe for
 9 the jury which direction you took?
 10 A. We were heading north towards St. Louis.
 11 Q. And as you're heading north, were your hands at that
 12 point still duct-taped in front of you?
 13 A. They were, that's hard to say because the whole time
 14 I was either handcuffed, duct-taped or both. It would
 15 alternate. He'd get fidgety and put the handcuffs on. Take
 16 the duct tape off. Put the handcuffs back on. And just
 17 alternate between the handcuffs and the duct tape. But I was
 18 pretty well bound the whole time.
 19 Q. What about the guns? What was he doing, if anything
 20 with the guns during this time that he was driving you around?
 21 A. He had one on his hand, one on his lap all the time.
 22 Q. Basically the whole time?
 23 A. Yes. They were on him.
 24 Q. Did you feel you had any chance to grab at all for
 25 the gun in his lap?

1 A. Say what he said?
 2 Q. Yes, ma'am.
 3 A. He said that he wouldn't go back to jail. He
 4 wouldn't go back to prison. And he wouldn't die in an
 5 electric chair. That he was going to go down in a blaze of
 6 glory and he was going to take out as many of those son of
 7 bitches as he could with him.
 8 Q. Had you and he been familiar with a song called
 9 "Blaze of Glory"?
 10 A. He has. I don't listen to it. It was his --
 11 THE COURT: Ask your question, counsel.
 12 Q. And can you describe for me as you're driving or as
 13 he's driving towards St. Louis on I-55 ultimately did you see
 14 a police car behind you?
 15 A. Yes. We saw a police car in the median in between
 16 the interstates. That's where we saw the first, the first one
 17 that started the chase. We had seen them beforehand.
 18 Q. You saw it approaching as Russell Bucklew's car is
 19 heading toward the parked police car?
 20 A. No. He kept -- Should I explain that?
 21 Q. Yes, ma'am.
 22 A. He kept trying, needed gas and he was going to try
 23 to stop for gas but he couldn't because every exit that we
 24 would go to a cop would, would see a cop. And he'd have to
 25 turn around real quick or just get back on the interstate

1 A. I thought about it. But no, I didn't think so.
 2 Q. In your mind what did you expect was going to be
 3 happening to you that night?
 4 MR. WOLFRUM: Judge, I'll object to speculation,
 5 being irrelevant.
 6 THE COURT: The objection will be sustained.
 7 Proceed.
 8 Q. Would you describe for me, Stephanie, once you got
 9 to I-55 and started heading north, were there conversations
 10 that you had with Russell Bucklew about what his intentions
 11 were?
 12 A. He never really said. There was just talks of his
 13 mother and father. There was talk of Colorado. But he never
 14 did really say what the intentions were on where we were
 15 going.
 16 Q. At some point did he talk to you about police
 17 officers?
 18 A. Yes, he did a few times.
 19 Q. Had he talked to you about a gunfight with police
 20 officers?
 21 A. Yes, he did.
 22 MR. WOLFRUM: Object. It's irrelevant and leading.
 23 THE COURT: No, that objection will be overruled.
 24 Q. Go ahead. As far as the question talked to you
 25 about having a gunfight with police officers?

1 because there was cops at every exit that he would try to stop
 2 at until we got to Festus, Crystal City.
 3 Q. Did he stop for gas at Festus, Crystal City?
 4 A. Yes. There was a 7-Eleven. He stopped for gas.
 5 Q. How did he go about paying for the gas with you
 6 being there in the car?
 7 A. He had me handcuffed and duct-taped. I was
 8 duct-taped and the cuffs were worked where they were around,
 9 one was around my arm, the other was around the steering
 10 wheel. He had taken one gun with him and there was one on the
 11 floorboard of the car, I could see it but there was no way I
 12 could reach it. He got out to get gas. He told me "If you
 13 scream, if you honk that horn, I'll shoot every son of a bitch
 14 in this place." So if I'd have screamed, start shooting.
 15 Q. Did you scream or honk the horn after he made that
 16 threat?
 17 A. No. No, I didn't.
 18 Q. Would you describe for us then what happened after
 19 he had gotten gas in Festus? Is that when he got back on I-55
 20 and headed north?
 21 A. Yes. Before that he had told me when we got there
 22 that he was going to let me off at a hospital and he was going
 23 to run. Well, he didn't. We got back on the Interstate 55.
 24 Heading north. And I don't really know how long it was before
 25 the first officer seen us and got behind us.

1 Q. Would you describe for the jury what was going on
2 inside the car once the police officer was behind you and was
3 following?

4 A. We were talking and he kept, he asked me why I
5 cheated on him. And I told him that I had never cheated on
6 him. And he was just trying to talk to me like nothing ever
7 happened. You know, like we were supposed to still be
8 together. And so I let off that and told him what he wanted
9 to hear.

10 Q. And could you tell whether he noticed that there was
11 a police officer following you?

12 A. He knew.

13 Q. What sort of things did he say, if anything, that
14 let you know he knew?

15 A. He, reaction. He seen him in the median. And he
16 got really nervous. And really anxious.

17 MR. WOLFRUM: Can we approach, please?

18 (Counsel approached the bench and the following
19 proceedings were had:)

20 MR. WOLFRUM: I intentionally waited a minute before
21 coming up because I didn't want, I did not want to emphasize
22 something she said. The only remedy I'm asking for is
23 available now as it was when it was said. I'm requesting a
24 mistrial because of earlier statement about "I'm not going back
25 to prison" because it's a reference to prior convictions. I

1 do not want it mentioned in front of the jury because that
2 would simply emphasize. The request I'm asking for is a
3 mistrial. And that's as available now as it was when it was
4 said. I understand it was an alleged statement of his.

5 THE COURT: The request is denied at this time.

6 MR. WOLFRUM: Objection is overruled?

7 THE COURT: The request is denied at this time.

8 (The following proceedings were had in open court:)

9 Q. Directing your attention back to after the police
10 car had started following you and you're on I-55. Did Russell
11 Bucklew make any comments to you about doing motions to
12 pretend you were his girlfriend or anything like that?

13 A. Yes. At that time he was really itchy. So I
14 basically had to pretend like I didn't want him to get hurt.
15 And I scooted over towards him. And had my hand on the back
16 of his hair and was sitting by him.

17 Q. What was the situation as far as your hands at that
18 point as far as being handcuffed or duct-taped or free hands?

19 A. That's what I was trying to explain.

20 Q. Go ahead.

21 A. The cop was in the median. The reason I guess that
22 he saw us was that he was finally letting me out of the stuff,
23 of the tape and stuff, was trying to cut the tape off.

24 Q. So you were in the process of getting the tape --

25 A. It was in the process 'cause I couldn't cut it. He

1 was getting the tape off. And the dome light was on. And
2 that's, it was I mean you could just see us in the car. And
3 that's when the police officer was in the median. And it's
4 like he didn't want us to know he was behind us. He didn't
5 turn on his lights. He waited a few minutes then got behind
6 us. And Russell knew, he said "Get that damn dome light
7 off." And things just said there just really hectic in the
8 car.

9 Q. At that point were your hands free?

10 A. At that point my hands were free. He had me get out
11 of them.

12 Q. Describe for me then once that first car started
13 following, could you see whether other police officer, police
14 cars had also joined the pursuit too?

15 A. Eventually down to the next exit I don't know what
16 the exit names are but eventually two more came down off the
17 next exit. They didn't hit their light. They stayed behind
18 us. But he knew that he had been had.

19 Q. What happened then?

20 A. He was just, he was driving the speed limit. Just
21 normal. Actually he was slowed down a little bit below speed
22 limit. And he was having me light him cigarettes and find
23 music on certain stations and points in time where we went
24 past more, I mean another exit and more officers came down and
25 that's when they all, just at one time their lights just

1 started flying. They turned their lights on at that time.

2 Q. What happened then?

3 A. That's the first time they tried to stop us.

4 Q. At that time were your hands still free or had --

5 A. When they hit their lights, he had me put the
6 handcuffs back on.

7 Q. And what happened then that first time they tried to
8 stop?

9 A. The first time they tried to stop us, they had
10 gotten all around us. And they pretty much had us stopped to
11 a normal stop. And that's when he put the gun to my head. He
12 had it pressed right there in my head. And he said, you know,
13 he was screaming "Back the fuck off or I'm going to blow her
14 head off. And this time I'll kill her, I'll shoot her. Back
15 off, back off." They spread out and they let him go.

16 Q. Did he take off again in his car with you as the
17 passenger?

18 A. Yes, he did.

19 Q. What happened then?

20 A. Well, at that time they cleared the interstate. So
21 it was just us and the cops. And an officer tried to get up
22 beside me to see if I was okay.

23 Q. His car is running on the passenger's side?

24 A. The officer's car is running along my side, the
25 passenger's side of Russell's vehicle.

1 Q. How close would you say the patrol car on the
2 passenger's side?
3 A. I'd say he was about one lane away. So it would,
4 actual distance would probably be from this bench to the first
5 bench over there where the evidence is.
6 Q. What happened?
7 A. He tried to get up by me and he looked at me and
8 he's like "Are you okay?" I held the handcuffs up and I
9 looked at him. And I just mouthed words "God please help me."
10 Q. Pardon me.
11 A. I looked at him and naturally he couldn't hear me so
12 I mouthed the words "God please help me," you know, to the
13 officer. And as soon as Russell seen them getting close
14 enough, coming up to the vehicle, Russell took the same gun he
15 had at my head and drew it over past me in front of my face to
16 the window, screaming "I'll kill you," you know, to the
17 officer. The officer swerved over real hard and fell back and
18 joined the chase again. At that time I can't say what the
19 cops were planning. I just know what they finally did get us
20 stopped a little bit before 270 I guess it was, the
21 interstate.
22 Q. Can you describe for the jury once the police
23 officers had Russell Bucklew's car stopped, were you still
24 sitting in the passenger's seat?
25 A. Yes, I was.

1 Q. And would you describe what, where in the patrol
2 cars as best you could see compared to Russell Bucklew's car?
3 A. The way I seen it, they were all around us. I mean
4 there was nothing but cars and sirens. And there was one
5 directly in front of us. And then they were just kind of
6 like, you know, like they would block you in. One then two,
7 then two, then back to the rear. That way he couldn't get
8 out.
9 Q. Describe for us what happened then once the police
10 had Russell Bucklew's car stopped.
11 A. Once the car stopped, he put one gun to my head and
12 one gun pointing towards an officer.
13 Q. Then what happened?
14 A. Shots just, shots started flying.
15 Q. As far as what you could see and hear, you heard
16 shots going off?
17 A. Yes. It was just nothing but constant ringing
18 'cause he was firing and once he fired they were firing. And
19 just glass breaking, metal getting hit.
20 Q. What about that gun that had been pointed at your
21 head? What happened there?
22 A. The one that was pointed at my head fell. I guess
23 the first time the bullet penetrated him because I seen it
24 'cause Lord knows I was watching it. And it's like his body
25 just kind of went limp and the gun came down and then I heard

1 the gun go off.
2 Q. Did you feel pain?
3 A. I felt a burning. But I was in so much shock that I
4 didn't really actually know that I had been shot yet.
5 Q. And what happened then after you were shot?
6 A. There was this, it happened so fast that it seems
7 like right after the gun went off this same officer I looked
8 at, said "God please help me," he busted the window out of the
9 passenger's window out of my side, reached in, un, got the
10 door opened and got me and took me back by his car. He laid
11 me on the ground and he spread his legs over me and stood over
12 me and still he went back in a stance towards Bucklew's car.
13 Q. When you say went back into stance, what do you
14 mean?
15 A. He was, you know how they stance on the vehicles,
16 just I guess covering to see if he was going to start, you
17 know, if he was dead or alive or more fires were going to go
18 off or what.
19 Q. Can you take a moment to describe for the jury once
20 this had happened were you taken to the hospital that night?
21 A. Yes, I was taken by the ambulance.
22 Q. And can you describe for the jury what injuries did
23 you end up realizing you had once you had gotten to the
24 hospital?
25 A. I had to have, I don't recall how many stitches. It

1 was between 8 and 13 I think.
2 Q. Where did you get the stitches?
3 A. They were on my face where he had pistol-whipped
4 me. The leg they had to sew it up. They treated it and had
5 some bumps and bruises and scrapes but the main two were my
6 leg being shot and my face.
7 Q. Is it your understanding you had a fracture to your
8 face as well?
9 A. Yes, it was, at that time I really wasn't listening
10 to them but it was along this cheek bone where the pistol had
11 hit me.
12 Q. As far as the gunshot, can you take a moment to show
13 the jury where the gunshot wound was?
14 A. You mean stand up?
15 Q. If you would.
16 A. I don't know if everybody can see it. I don't want
17 to lift this up to high. I have high heels on now. But
18 that's, you can kind of still see a purple spot on there. And
19 it came out through here. It's hard to see but you can see
20 the dent going in.
21 Q. Thank you.
22 I have some exhibits I'd like to show you. This has
23 been marked State's Exhibit 85. I'm showing you State's
24 Exhibit 85. Does that appear to be a fair and accurate
25 diagram of Michael Sanders' mobile home as the layout was on