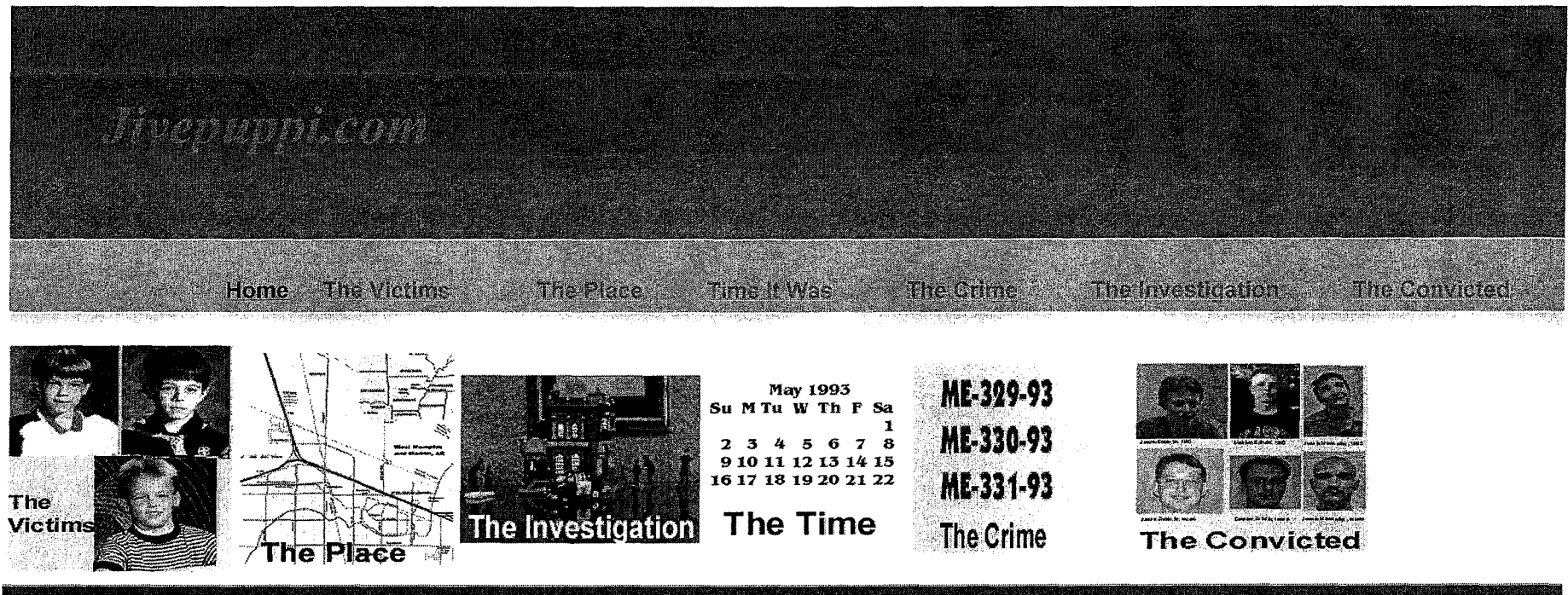


EXHIBIT A
(Part 12)

EXHIBIT A-91



Summary of DNA evidence.

On July 7, 2004, Bode Laboratories of Springfield, Virginia received evidence items for DNA testing. These items were numbered in a series "2S04-114" from 01 to 36. Although 36 items are listed, many of these represented multiple samples. In the extreme case, 26 hairs found on Chris Byers comprised item #11 and were identified as 11A to 11Z.

Samples included:

- From victims:
 - Swabs from each of the three victims from their mouths, rectums, and nasal passages, swabs from Moore's and Branch's penises, and scrapings from each victims' left and right hand fingernails.
 - Possible tissue from ligatures of each victim and a "red-brown stained string" from Stevie Branch.
 - Hairs from Michael Moore's ligature (described as 3 hairs on two slides).
 - Hair from Stevie Branch's ligature.
 - Hair from Chris Byers' ligature.
 - Dark Caucasian hairs from Stevie Branch. (described as 3 hairs on two slides)

- Hair from the lower body of Chris Byers.
- Hair from the "perineum of Chris Byers ligature." (sic)
- Hairs found on Chris Byers (slide with 26 hairs).
- The ligatures from each of the three victims.

- From morgue sheets:
 - Slide with nine hairs including one described as a Negroid hair fragment and one described as animal hair from white sheet used to cover Chris Byers.
 - Dyed hair from white sheet used to cover Stevie Branch.

- From victims' clothes:
 - Hair from blue pants (E3) (slide with 2 hairs)
 - Hair from Scout cap (E5) (slide with 2 hairs)
 - Cutting from blue pants.
 - Cutting from blue jeans.

- From recovery area:
 - Hair from tree stump.
 - Bag with clothing and miscellaneous items found near crime scene.
 - Three tree branches (identified as E17)

- Knives:
 - E27 - Hair from Richard Cummings knife.
 - E28 - Hair from Richard Cummings knife.
 - E126 - Hair from knife seized at Domini Teer's residence.
 - E147 - Two hairs from knife found at school.
 - E178 - Kershaw knife from Byers household. (blade, handle and hinge tested).

The initial items did not include reference DNA from the victims or from those in prison, precluding the possibility of contamination from reference samples. Samples from Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley were received on October 12, 2006. Samples from the victims were received on April 5, 2007.

Forty of the above items and subitems were sent for STR (nuclear DNA) testing as were the reference samples. Samples from swabs were divided into sperm fraction and non-sperm fraction before PCR analysis. This does definitively identify sperm as a source for the sample results, but can clarify trace sperm material separate from victim DNA if sperm is present.

Results from the STR analyses:

Significant samples with no results or no reportable STR results.

- The Kershaw knife.
- Hair from Stevie Branch's ligature (also described as skin, tissue, hair from ligature).
- Several swab fractions.
- Cutting from blue pants.
- Razor blades from bag at crime scene.
- Most nail scrapings (exceptions listed below).
- Most ligatures (exceptions listed below).
- Hairs 18E, F and I from white sheet.
- 03B Hair from M. Moore ligature.
- 20B Hair from E3 (blue pants).

Finding #1. The victims' DNA matched most evidence samples.

The STR (nuclear DNA) attempted to amplify either 13 or 14 sites and determined sex. Because of the number of reactions and the age of the samples, the only samples that amplified at all sites were those with larger quantities of source material. Specifically, most of the swabs from the victims (oral, penile, rectal and nasal) had complete amplification. For each victim at these sites, the nuclear DNA was their own. The "red-brown stained string" from Stevie Branch also had complete amplification and the DNA matched his own.

Partial STR (4 or more sites) amplifications were achieved from other evidence samples. These are sufficient to exclude other sources and indicate whether the DNA was consistent with the reference DNA. Several of the swabs and their fractions fell into this category. In each case, the DNA belonged to the victim. The three hairs (of the collection of 26) that were found on Chris Byers were consistent with Chris Byers DNA. The right hand nail scrapings from Chris Byers were also consistent with his DNA (6 out of 6 site matches). Stevie Branch's ligatures matched at five sites with Stevie Branch's DNA and had a single additional band (described below).

Partial STR (less than 4 reportable sites) was achieved from several of the swabs, two fingernail scrapings and the ligatures. These were consistent with the victims with additional bands being found in the sperm fraction of Stevie Branch's penile swab, in the combined left and right nail scrapings of Michael Moore (described as possibly below detection limit), and the nonsperm fraction of the penile swab from Michael Moore.

Finding #2. None of the DNA profiles were consistent with those imprisoned.

The STR was only able to resolve at multiple sites for a limited number of samples, but none of these were consistent with those in prison, beyond genes that matched the victims. The results were more profound for the mitochondrial DNA where complete resolution took place in 26 of 29 samples - none of which corresponded to those in prison (nor did the two with partial resolution).

Finding #3. Several samples had "mixed results."

The following evidence samples produced DNA from more than one source. In each case, one source was consistent with being the victim, with an additional band or bands being from another source. The fact that these were few bands suggests presence at the lower limit of detection. The presence of additional bands from Moore's and Branch's penis is suggestive of perpetrator contact with the penis. The

additional band in Moore's fingernails may be related to the killer as he had the clearest defensive wounds.

Being a single locus in each case, it is inadequate to use to determine with confidence a specific source and in all but one case these bands could have come from sample contamination between victims. For example, transfer of a small amount of blood between victims as they were taken from the water. Alternatively, they could have come from the perpetrator. Band 8 (locus D16S539) was not present in any of the other victims or those imprisoned. Two of the mixed results came from penile swabs, suggestive of criminal contact.

Mixed results:

- A single additional band, not matching Stevie Branch's DNA, was present on the amplified extract from the mix of Branch's left and right ligatures. D5S818, band 11.
- Two bands, not matching Stevie Branch's DNA, were present on the sperm fraction from the penile swab. D16S539, bands 8, 11.
- A single additional band, not matching Michael Moore's DNA, was present in the combined left and right nail scrapings from Michael Moore. D5S818, band 10.
- A single additional band, not matching Michael Moore's DNA, was present in the nonsperm fraction from the penile swab on Michael Moore. D5S818, band 12.

Mitochondrial DNA results.

Almost all human cell types have hundreds of copies of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). This allows mtDNA to achieve test results when nuclear DNA tests fail. Hair shafts only have mtDNA, no nuclear DNA.

Twenty-nine of the above items, all hairs, were tested for mtDNA as were the reference samples. Two samples had partial results. One sample 20A (one of the hairs from the blue pants) did not have a reportable sequence. The other 26 had full mtDNA results.

Samples 03B (one hair from Michael Moore ligature) and 21A (hair from scout cap) were consistent with the mtDNA of Michael Moore.

Samples 08A, 08Ba, and 08Bb, three hairs found on Stevie Branch, were consistent with the mtDNA of Stevie Branch.

Samples 11B, 11C, 11P, 11Q, 11V, 11Z (six of a set of 26 hairs found on Chris Byers), 14 (hair from lower body of Chris Byers), 17 (partial sequence, hair from perineum of Chris Byers), 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E, 18F, 18H, 18I (7 hairs from morgue sheet) and 20B (hair from blue pants) are consistent with the mtDNA of Chris Byers.

The following samples each had different individual profiles, not matching the victims or those in prison:

- 03Aa (Hair from Michael Moore ligature)
- 15 (Hair from Chris Byers ligature)
- 18A (Negroid hair fragment, morgue sheet)
- 21B (Second hair from scout cap) (only partial sequence available)
- 23 (Hair from tree stump)
- 27 (Dyed hair from sheet used to cover Chris Byers)

The hair from Michael Moore ligature was later found to correspond with the mtDNA profile of cigarettes from the home of Terry Hobbs. The hair from the tree stump was later found to correspond to the mtDNA profile of David Jacoby (friend of Terry Hobbs). The conclusion was made that they could not be excluded as the source of the mtDNA.

Item 15, a hair from Chris Byers ligature, was successfully sequenced but a match has not been found (or named). The origin of the dyed hair, the Negroid hair, and an additional hair from the Cub Scout cap are also undetermined.

Two items which failed STR analysis can still be examined by mtDNA. These are the hair/tissue from Stevie Branch's ligature (#09) and the cutting from the blue pants (#25).

Serological Research Institute.

Fourteen items have been received and processed at the Serological Research Institute (SERI), Richmond, California, as of October 2007. The identities and results from items 1 through 7 are not presented in the appeal documents. Items 8 through 14 were cigarette butts gathered from the home of Terry Hobbs, a Q-tip from Terry Hobbs, cigarette butts from David Jacoby, and hair and a cheek swab from David Jacoby.

The cigarette butts from the front yard and ashtray of Terry Hobbs provided a mtDNA profile. There was one nucleotide difference between the hair in the ligature (#03Aa) and the mtDNA profile of Terry Hobbs.

Similarly, the cigarette butts and cheek swab from David Jacoby displayed one nucleotide difference between the hair at the tree stump. This can also be due to a natural variation in mtDNA within a person. In each case there was a single nucleotide discrepancy, described in more detail below. The limits of the matching of the mtDNA are discussed elsewhere.

The swab from Terry Hobbs and the cigarette butts from his driveway were not successfully clarified. The hair from Jacoby was saved for possible future testing.

Summary.

The DNA results so far are tantalizing. The hair from Michael Moore's binding is consistent with Terry Hobbs being the source. The hair from the stump is also consistent with David Jacoby being the source. Jacoby has stated he was not in this area during the search. Both of these sequences have at least one nucleotide difference from their respective matched samples - explainable by heteroplasmy and diminishing the statistical power of the conclusions.

The source of several hairs can provide additional answers, particularly matching the successfully amplified DNA found beneath Chris Byers ligature.

Nowhere has it been mentioned in the appeals documents that DNA has been tested for any other prime suspects. The samples of DNA from Terry Hobbs were surreptitiously obtained. A formal and larger sample could bring clearer results.

Items not tested by STR or mtDNA.

- 03Ab Hair from ligature of M. Moore.
- 04 Possible tissue from ligature from M. Moore.

- 11 Hairs found on C. Byers body. 26 hairs found, 10 were tested.
 - 16 not tested: 11A. 11D through 11O. 11U, 11W, 11X.
- 16 Possible tissue from C. Byers ligature.
- 18 Hairs from white sheet. 9 hairs found, all but one tested.
 - 18G Described as animal hair.
- 22 Hair from knife. (E126 - seized from Domini Teer's residence)
- 24 Two hairs from knife. (E147 - knife found at school)
- 26 Cutting from jeans.
- 28 Hair from knife. (Cummings knife)
- 29 Hair from butterfly knife (Cummings knife)
- 30 Hair from folding knife (E134 - knife from Principal Heath, found at school)
- 32 Items from bag of clothing
 - 32A Pair of white socks.
 - 32B Leather (or vinyl) pull tab of unknown origin.
 - 32C Plastic bag "Time Saver"
 - 32D Tan button down shirt.
 - 32E Black thermal shirt.
 - 32F Cargo style jeans.
- 36 Three tree branches.

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EXHIBIT A-92

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GERALDO

SHOW: GERALDO (4:00 PM ET)

March 16, 1994, Wednesday 2:50 PM

LENGTH: 7258 words

HEADLINE: KIDS WHO KILL: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? PAM AND TERRY HOBBS, PARENTS OF MURDERED ARKANSAS CHILD; JESSIE MISSKELLY, FATHER OF CONVICTED TEEN MURDERER; DR. HERBERT NIEBURG; JACK LEVIN; JACK ROPER; MARCOS QUINONES; ADOLESCENT SATANISM

ANCHORS: Geraldo Rivera

BODY:

HOST: Geraldo Rivera

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Martin M. Berman

KIDS WHO KILL: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT?

GERALDO RIVERA: On May 5th, 1993, three eight-year-old boys were brutally murdered in a small town in eastern Arkansas. There is evidence the killings may have been part of a Satanic ritual. But much about this awful case remains unclear. Today, we'll try to solve the remaining puzzle with the cooperation of experts and family members from both the young victims' side and the side of the teen-aged accused.

Pam and Terry are the parents of Stevie Hobbs; Stevie, one of the eight-year-old boys brutally murdered. Jackie is the victim's grandfather. I know it's difficult, Pam, but can you describe the wounds on Stevie's body?

Mrs. PAM HOBBS (Son Murdered By Alleged Satanic Teens): The left side of his face was cut and mutilated. He was tied hand and foot...

(Photo of Steven Hicks)

Mrs. HOBBS: (Voiceover) ...and he had injuries to his head where they had--his brain had scattered when they hit him.

RIVERA: Essentially, he was beaten to death?

Mrs. HOBBS: Mm-hmm.

RIVERA: Tell us your reaction, Terry, when you heard what had happened to your stepson.

Mr. TERRY HOBBS (Stepson Murdered By Alleged Satanic Teens): I don't know. I just--I couldn't

believe it. We've been--went into shock--may be in shock now. And I still can't believe it. We hadn't--it's like a long nightmare that you keep waking--waiting to wake up from. And we're here in the middle of it.

RIVERA: Joining us via satellite from West Memphis, Arkansas, is the father of one of the three teen-aged accused. Actually his son has already been convicted of murdering the three eight-year-olds. This is Jess--Jessie Misskelley Sr. He's joined by some supporters, you can see, in the background.

Before I talk to that side and this--much more deeply about what happened, you should know that this story of the murders of the three young boys has taken many bizarre twists and turns. Indeed, new revelations are emerging every single day. Our team visited West Memphis, Arkansas, to investigate. Here's the story of the three dead young men.

(Begin investigative report; narration by Geraldo Rivera)

RIVERA: Reminiscing over children's photos brings joy to most families. But in the house of Marie Hicks and her daughter, Pam Hobbs, it is a painful and torturous event.

(Photograph of Steven Hicks)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) Pam's eight-year-old son, Steven, was sexually molested and brutally murdered...

(Photos of Michael Moore and Christopher Byers)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) ...along with two other eight-year-old boys, Michael Moore and Christopher Byers. It happened in West Memphis, Arkansas, on May 5th, 1993. Christopher had also been castrated.

(Photos of Jessie Misskelley Jr., Damian Echols, and Jason Baldwin)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) Charged in the brutal murders are three local teen-agers; Jessie Misskelley Jr., 18; Damian Echols, 18; and Jason Baldwin, just 16. The parents of one of the murdered boys yelled at Damian on his way to a court appearance.

Unidentified Man #1: Faggot! What you know about the faggots?

RIVERA: Adding to the parents' horrors...

(Newspaper headline reads, "Misskelley Friend Says They Attended Cult Event")

RIVERA: (Voiceover) ...were reports that the killers had participated in devil worship.

(Footage of Jessie Misskelley Jr. in police custody)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) On February 4th, Jessie Misskelley Jr. was found guilty of the murders. He was sentenced to life in prison plus 40 years. The trials of Damian Echols and Jason Baldwin are scheduled for late February.

(The Commercial Appeal newspaper headline reads, "Cult Experts Gave Warning in 1992")

RIVERA: (Voiceover) In June of last year, 1993, the Memphis Commercial Appeal reported that cult

experts had warned West Memphis officials, back in 1992, that Satanic cult activities were present in the community.

(Photos; Satanic graffiti on wall)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) One of the three defendants told West Memphis police that local cult activities included eating dogs and participating in sex orgies. Acquaintances of Damian Echols told reporters that Echols customarily wore black, killed cats and worshipped the devil.

(Footage of Damian Echols in police custody)

RIVERA: Stephanie Dollar, a West Memphis resident, said there has long been talk about cult activities in West Memphis.

Ms. STEPHANIE DOLLAR (West Memphis, Arkansas, Resident): Yeah. It's just, I mean, all the talk about it. I mean, the symbols that you see wrote everywhere--I mean, which it could be just kids writing things. I don't know. I mean--but there's just too much talk about it for it not to be true.

(Footage of the West Memphis trailer park)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) Jessie Misskelley Jr., like his two co-defendants, lived in a rundown trailer park in the West Memphis area. The teen-ager's room revealed nothing extraordinary.

(Interior of Jessie Misskelley Jr.'s bedroom shown)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) Most of the pictures and posters were fairly typical for an 18-year-old boy's room. Although a jury found his son guilty, Jessie Misskelley Sr. steadfastly professes his son's innocence.

Mr. JESSIE MISSKELLEY Sr. (Son Convicted Of Murder): I've got 15, 20 people that saw him out here in this trailer park that day up until 7:30. Then he went to Dysart and he saw the wrestle. There's no way he could have been up there to kill those boys. He was out here in this trailer park because they have witnesses to prove that he was here. But the police--they say he was not here. They got up there and lied. Jessie was not in on it because--said he ate the hind leg of a dog? Jessie won't even eat fried chicken. What are you talking about?

RIVERA: Jessie Sr.'s story is supported by 15-year-old Susie Brewer, Jessie Jr.'s girl friend.

Miss SUSIE BREWER (Jessie Junior's Girl Friend): I think they're stupid. I don't think he did it. I just tell him I still love him and we're all behind him. Damian's weird looking and--and Jason, he's just quiet.

RIVERA: Police believe the murders occurred in a small grove known by the locals as Robin Hood Woods. It's a popular spot for teen-age beer drinking and parties. Based on police and news reports, we have recreated the boys' final moments.

(Partial re-enactment shown during narration)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) Late afternoon on May 5th, 1993, the boys entered the woods. One was riding a girls' bike, the other a boys' bike, the third child had a skateboard. It is believed the boys spent some time roaming and playing in the woods. At some point, however, after 6:00 PM, the three children and

their assailants met. The following day, May 6th, the police spotted a young boy's sneaker and a Cub Scout hat floating in a small creek. The bodies of the three boys were found just yards away.

(End investigative report)

RIVERA: Pam, can you tell us what happened that afternoon? What happened to your son? What was he usually doing at that time?

Mrs. HOBBS: After school, Michael had come over and asked could Stevie go to his house and play. At first I...

RIVERA: Michael Moore, one of the three victims, yeah.

Mrs. HOBBS: Sorry? Yeah. To Michael Moore's house, the other boy. And at first, I told him no. And he kept begging so I went ahead and told him that he could go, and I gave him a time to be home. I told him to be home by 4:30, that if he wasn't home, he would be grounded. And I had to go to work that night. And I left for work around 4:55 and he still wasn't at home. So I went on to work and my husband started searching for him. And we searched all night and just--it come up the next day that he was dead.

RIVERA: Who told you that they found his body?

Mrs. HOBBS: My husband and I went to the school to check, to tell them that we hadn't found the boys. And there, a lady said, I heard they just found three boys.' So we went to the park where they had found them at, and I run up. They already had the police line out and everything, and I run up, and someone said that it was Stevie, that it was the boys.

RIVERA: Grandpa Jackie, do you believe this was a--a devil-worship cult? Do you believe this was a Satanic organization?--or these boys were in some way connected? And how do you respond to that?

Mr. JACKIE HICKS (Grandson Murdered By Alleged Satanic Teens): Yes, I definitely believe that it was. At the time of the murders, Satanic was a world of its own. It--it was something that wasn't even in my mind. But as time progressed and goes on, and we've learned a little more, studied a little more and went along with it; it all points, from what we've read and studied--yes, it was a Satanic-type murder.

RIVERA: What's your reaction? I know you folks are nervous about being on TV. What's your reaction to what happened to your grandson?

Mr. HICKS: Well he--him and a couple of the boys were just beautiful little boys, a-playing. Those little boys still believed in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunnies.

(Photo of Steven Hicks)

Mr. HICKS: (Voiceover) They were playing in the woods, called Robin Hood Park where all the neighborhood kids play at. And evidently, they run up onto something. And those boys were cruelly beaten to death. They were beaten to death. I saw my grandson at the funeral home before he was taken out of a body bag, just like he came back from the coroner. And it was pitiful.

RIVERA: Tell us. Help us understand that. What did they do to him?

Mr. HICKS: What did they do to him? His jaw was completely tore loose from his face. His eye was busted in the socket. His chest and all was kicked and stomped. His face was kicked and stomped--just

pitiful, pitiful. It's something that a decent human being wouldn't even do to a live dog, let alone a human being.

RIVERA: Did a feeling of rage swell up in you?

Mr. HICKS: Well, naturally, you know, the feeling of rage swollen up, yes, it's--it's swollen up. Yeah, it did.

RIVERA: Did you want to go out and find his murderers yourself?

Mr. HICKS: Naturally, you know that, too. Yes, I did want to go out and find these murderers myself at the time.

RIVERA: Do you believe that the right teen-ager was convicted?

Mr. HICKS: Yes, I do.

RIVERA: Jessie Misskelley Sr. can you hear me?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Yes, sir.

RIVERA: You still, despite the fact that a jury has convicted your son and sentenced him to life plus 40 years, you believe him to be innocent?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Yes, sir, I sure do.

RIVERA: Isn't it a fact that Jessie Misskelley Jr. was a member of one of these Satanic cults?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No, he was not.

RIVERA: He didn't attend meetings?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No, he did not.

RIVERA: There was testimony to that effect at the trial.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: That's a lie.

RIVERA: Do you think everyone is lying about your son?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Yes, I do.

RIVERA: And you believe that he had an alibi?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: I know he did.

RIVERA: Then why did he make a 32-minute confession to the cops?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Because they hounded him, they cussed him, they threatened him. And he just made a statement to get him off his back.

RIVERA: Terry, you want to say something to Mr. Misskelley Sr.?

Mr. HOBBS: I have a lot to say to that man. But I can--I don't want to talk to him. I don't appreciate the actions of your son. He come out of your home, out of your raisings. And, no, I...

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Sir--but my son did not do it.

Mr. HOBBS: He said he did.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: But he--he's mistaken. He--they made him say that.

Mr. HOBBS: He had a chance to tell the whole world he didn't do it. And he didn't.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: What did he say?

Mr. HOBBS: He didn't.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: We tried.

Mr. HOBBS: He didn't. He had a chance.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Well, he tried, but they wouldn't let him.

RIVERA: Paul Morrison is a television reporter who got so close to this case that he became almost obsessed with it; so much so that he was forced to quit his job in a Memphis television station.

Paul, what about the Satanic angle here? Were these boys ritually slaughtered?

Mr. PAUL MORRISON (TV Reporter Fired For Obsession With Satanic Case): So far, we've heard nothing from the police certainly. They did not establish motive in the killings. As you know, you don't need to establish motive for a conviction, but publicly, there's been no mention that the motive of these killings was sa--a--cult-related.

RIVERA: What else could it have been?

Mr. MORRISON: I think in--when you look at a case like this, some of the questions that might go through your mind would be child-sexual abuse or if--if the motivator was indeed sexual as opposed to cult-related. I--I cannot say for sure it was or it wasn't. I do know this much, as you've already indicated, I'm convinced there was a cult of some form or fashion alive and well in West Memphis, Arkansas.

RIVERA: Isn't it a fact that aside from the brutal beating that they administered to these three eight-year-olds, that they also castrated one of the boys?

Mr. MORRISON: Christopher Byers' sexual organs were rather artfully removed. To my knowledge, they've never been found.

RIVERA: Picture this happening in your town. Three eight-year-old boys, wonderful, innocent, Santa Claus-believing, eight-year-old boys, brutally beaten to death, hacked and mutilated. Later, three teenagers arrested, one of them already convicted, the trials of two others to take place. What impact would it have in your community--particularly if you learned that there was possibly a Satanic cult that these teenagers belonged to? WHEN KIDS KILL KIDS: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? the focus

of this edition of GERALDO.

(Theme music and applause)

(Announcements)

(Theme music and applause)

RIVERA:KILL KIDS: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? I want to go back to West Memphis, Arkansas, back to Jessie Misskelley Sr., surrounded as you can see by other supporters and family members of the--of the youngster--17 years old at the time of the crime, now 18 years old and sentenced to life plus 40 years.

Mr. Misskelley Sr., we have one of the victims' grandfathers here. He's a man, I think, who knows you. Jackie, do you want to say something to Jessie?

Mr. HICKS: Yes, Mr. Misskelley, I didn't get a chance to say anything to you after the trial. But what I say--and I'm talking personally to you. I see a re--repeat--a repeat of a beer-drinking--all I see is--it--what I'm trying to say is it's his raising. I feel sorrier for him than I do for you. You've never done nothing for him. And that's all he ever knew is what he was done. And brother, that's your fault as much as it's his.

(Applause)

RIVERA: Mr. Misskelley, do you want to respond?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No. They can run me down all they want to. But I don't care what they say. Just leave me the hell alone.

RIVERA: But, Mr. Misskelley, isn't it possible, now that your son is convicted, can't you look at this thing a little more objectively?--convicted after a confession.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: A confession...

RIVERA: Isn't it possible that he went astray some place?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No.

RIVERA: Something went wrong with your son?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No. He was coerced in making that--station. He was kind of scared. He had the mind of a seven, eight-year-old, and he was scared. And he told them anything they could--he could think of to get them off his back.

(Photo of Jessie Misskelley, Jr.)

RIVERA: (Voiceover) And the woman--I believe, Paul, her name was Hutcheson?

Mr. MORRISON: Victoria Hutcheson.

RIVERA: Who--who testified, Jessie, that your son was at one of these cult meetings--at least one?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: She lied.

RIVERA: Why would she lie?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: That I don't know.

RIVERA: Paul, how convincing was her testimony?

Mr. MORRISON: It was rather brief but it--she indicated that she had attended what appeared from the testimony to have been a--a meeting--a Satanic ritual called an Esbat, which in those terms, is more or less a monthly or regular business meeting.

RIVERA: Jessie, is your son going to testify against the other two boys? Against--what's his name?--Damian and Jason?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: That I don't know.

RIVERA: Let me introduce our experts because I want to broaden this beyond West Memphis, to talk more about this whole, very controversial issue of Satanic cults and devil worship. Whenever this is mentioned in polite society, people like to bury their head under the pillow and--and refuse to believe that it exists. And very often, reporters, like Paul Morrison, get an awful lot of heat for staying with these stories. I know when we did our devil worship special, how very controversial that was. But we still stand by that one as well as what you're hearing today.

OK. Dr. Herbert Nieburg, a man who specializes in adolescent Satanism among many other things. He has been counseling victims and ex-cult members for years. Jack Roper is one of the nation's leading authors and experts on Satanic cults. Our old friend, Jack Levin, renowned, certainly well-known professor of criminology at Boston's Northeastern University, a man who says Satanism is used as a cop-out and an excuse by troubled, violent teen-agers. And finally, a man who knows it from the--from the streets, Marcos Quinones. He's an officer with the good old NYPD, New York City Police Department. He says that more Satanic murders occur than we know about.

These four experts, joined by our--our bereaved relatives. On both sides, they are saddened. We'll continue this discussion of WHEN KIDS KILL KIDS: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT; right after this brief intermission.

(Photos of Satanic graffiti)

(Theme music and applause)

(Announcements)

(Theme music and applause)

RIVERA: WHEN KIDS KILL KIDS: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? Our specific focus, this horrible triple homicide just west of Memphis on the Arkansas side of the river. Yes?

Unidentified Man #2: With the cult, I know that there's a history of hallucinogenic use, and was there any such, I guess, tie with that in this murder?

Mr. MORRISON: During Jessie's trial he indicated, or the--the testimony indicated, that he had had some experience with drugs. I do not know the extent of it. It didn't--and the other two, we--we do not know yet because, basically, the case file is sealed.

RIVERA: Jessie? Jessie Sr., was your son a drug user?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No. Not especially. He smoked a little marijuana every once in awhile.

RIVERA: Uh-huh. Was he a big boozier?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No. Not a big boozier. He dr--he did drink whiskey though.

RIVERA: Uh-huh.

Unidentified Woman #1: Do you have any more children?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Yeah.

RIVERA: Pam?

Mrs. HOBBS: Yes. A little girl.

RIVERA: How old is she?

Mrs. HOBBS: She just turned five.

RIVERA: Does she have any understanding of what happened to her brother?

Mrs. HOBBS: No, she doesn't understand it. She misses her brother but she doesn't understand. She knows he's gone and she says she knows he's in heaven. But to really understand it, no she don't.

Unidentified Woman #2: Hi. I would like to know what type of person it is that gets involved with cults?

RIVERA: I--I don't know. Dr. Nieburg, I want to save you for the bigger question of whether you think this is Satanic-related. I want to ask Jack Roper that question. Is there a--is there a typical kid who gets involved?

Mr. JACK ROPER (Satanic Cult Expert): I think you have to look at--just look at the overall view. It can be from all educational perspectives, from those that are real unintelligent to those that are extremely intelligent--valedictorians. So we have to look at where they're coming from, their--their--their background of the family, how the family treats them, have they been abused. So there's a lot of factors you have to consider with each...

RIVERA: One of the defendants stylized himself Damian after the character in "The Omen." It's not his given name, but he calls himself Damian. Is that an indicator of anything to you?

Mr. ROPER: Well, Damian...

(Photo of Damian Echols)

Mr. ROPER: (Voiceover) There's also a well-known church--there's a Satanic organization and the leader of that, his AKA is also Damian. I won't bring up his name.

RIVERA: What's the dagger you're holding?

(Close-up of dagger)

Mr. ROPER: Well, I want to point out that this kind of stuff is available. You can go to warehouses. There are cult warehouses in the country where you can buy this kind of stuff.

RIVERA: See the skull atop with the rubies? OK. What else?

Mr. ROPER: And also now there are--there are cases, active cases, and--and dismissed cases out there. But this is one case of an individual. I have his Satanic diary, his book of shadows. And this individual was--sent threatening letters to President Carter. The US Circuit--Secret Service was involved with this case. I also have another one where an individual, who is in prison right now in Massachusetts, he sent me a letter to get some information on Satanism. But he was also, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, said here that he was involved with a decapitation, a killing and a mutilation.

RIVERA: A decap--oh, brother.

Mr. ROPER: Yes.

RIVERA: Let me--let me go to Dr. Nieburg. Does what happened in West Memphis smack of Satanism to you?

Dr. HERBERT NIEBURG (Ph.D., Specializes In Adolescent Satanism): It's a crime that's associated with Satanism. This is not a typical Satanic crime. Typical Satanic murder, one would expect, is part of a ritual. You would expect a--an altar. You would expect certain kinds of ritualistic functions to have been performed. You would expect vestments. You would expect lots of other signs. I think this is a very tragic case, one that's not terribly atypical or unusual. I think this is a murder that's perpetrated by some very disturbed young men. And I--I agree totally with--with Dr. Levin, that--that these cases are where somebody takes up the identity and wants to be known as a Satanist to condone, to justify what they're doing, which really, antecedes--goes way back before anything about Satan. These are disturbed kids who are murderers. This was a mens rea, a criminal mind, using Satanism as a--as an excuse.

RIVERA: Jack?

Mr. JACK LEVIN (Criminology Expert): Yeah, I think that's a very good point. And you don't need Satanism as an excuse. There are plenty of others. You can blame pornography, you can blame drugs or alcohol or maybe even a bad childhood. But Satanism is particularly easy in terms of a justification because it ritualizes. And, you know, even something as hideous as--as rape and murder, can seem wonderful when you envelope it in this--this mystery of the Satanic ritual. Also...

RIVERA: I neglected to mention the boys were also--two of the boys were also raped...

Mr. LEVIN: That's right.

RIVERA: ...by these perpetrators.

Mr. LEVIN: And--and--I mean, you know, it's interesting that Satan himself is seen as a--as a powerful figure. And, you know, as Dr. Nieburg points out, these kids probably were very marginal. They probably weren't getting along very well at home, not doing well at school, dropouts, spiritually as well as physically, and felt very, very powerless. Maybe 20 years ago, they would have stolen hub caps. But today in this age of decline of moral responsibility, you know, they'll do a lot worse than that.

RIVERA: Where the hell did they get the idea, though, to do something this brutal?

Mr. LEVIN: You can get the idea in a lot of places nowadays. You can get it in comic books. You can get it by watching television. You can get it from your friends. You can get it from--from attending a meeting of strangers. But I don't think it's the point that Satan per se is the problem. I think--let me point out, in Clifton, New Jersey, not long ago, three guys--teen-agers--brutally strangled their buddy while they recited Hail Marys. And--and--and Jeffrey Lundgren killed five people in 1989. He thought he was a prophet. He talked to--he kind of like had a direct line to God, he thought. He--this was a radical offshoot of the Mormon church. It isn't Mormonism that we blame. And clearly, we don't blame the Catholic church either. We shouldn't. The point is that religion, and also the occult, can be used for good or evil. In this case, it's used to justify something horrific.

RIVERA: Your reaction to the father's alibi? The father saying his son...

Mr. LEVIN: Well, I--you know, I'm going to take issue with everybody here. I have to because, you know, there are a lot of victims of this brutal kind of multiple murder besides just the three eight-year-old boys. Yeah, I'll tell you who else gets victimized. The family of the--as you can see--of--of Stevie and the other boys who were brutally murdered. And, you know, sometimes it's also the family of the perpetrator, who tries to support and protect his youngster. He may know in his heart that his son is guilty, but, you know, he also knows that everybody will blame him for having created a monster, whether he deserves it or not. So maybe we should be a little bit more tolerant and withhold judgement unless we understand all of the facts of the case.

Dr. NIEBURG: Jack, that's a point, though, because nobody--what we forget is that you can lead somebody down a path. The ultimate choice and decision--the ultimate responsibility for this murder was not his father. This boy chose to do that, regardless of what those other antecedent causes are.

Mr. LEVIN: Exactly. Let's blame the killers...

Dr. NIEBURG: Exactly.

Mr. LEVIN: ...for the crime.

Mr. NIEBURG: Right.

(Applause)

RIVERA: All right. We have a reporter standing by now in Arkansas, who will give us the latest on what's going on in the case.

Jim Taylor, are you there?

Mr. JIM TAYLOR (KAIT Reporter, Jonesburo, Arkansas: (By Telephone) Yes, I am, Geraldo.

RIVERA: OK. Let me take a break. We'll come to Jim Taylor from KAIT in just a minute.

Stay tuned. An update on the triple homicide, the trial going on right now.

(Theme music and applause)

(Announcements)

(Theme music and applause)

RIVERA: WHEN KIDS KILL KIDS: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? Yes?

Unidentified Man #3: I want to know, did the children know who their killers were? Like, were they frien--were the--did the children know their killers, so, like, they were friendly?

RIVERA: Did Stevie know Jessie or Damian or--or the other fellow, Jason?

Mr. HOBBS: Not to my knowledge, he didn't.

RIVERA: Now as the case has been reconstructed, Paul, was there a stalking of these particular victims?

Mr. MORRISON: In testimony, the mother of one of the victims told the court that a month or two prior to the killings, that a man dressed in black had taken a picture of her son. And then during the trial, it was still rather uncl--a little bit unclear, but it was--prosecution indicated that there had been a photograph, or photographs of the young boys and implied that there was some stalking going on.

RIVERA: Are you there, Jim Taylor?

Mr. TAYLOR: Yes, I am.

RIVERA: From KAIT?

Mr. TAYLOR: Yes, I am.

RIVERA: Well, welcome. What's going on?

Mr. TAYLOR: Today, more jury selection. Five people have been chosen so far. One man and four women. And they're looking for 12 people, plus two alternates. So 14 people have to be chosen. Five have been chosen and more jury selection this afternoon and tomorrow, I'm sure.

RIVERA: What's the buzz about Jessie Jr. testifying against his two co-defendants?

Mr. TAYLOR: If you--and just give you a moment of time, I can tell you that in Arkansas, the judge in this case appointed a separate attorney to meet with Jessie Jr. to explain what benefits Jessie could receive...

(Photo of Jessie Misskelley Jr.)

Mr. TAYLOR: (Voiceover) ...for his testimony. That attorney met with Jessie Jr. on Tuesday night, and I do know for a fact that Jessie Sr. was with Jessie Jr. whenever those discussions were taking place. There is lots of speculation as to what type of year amount Jessie Misskelley Jr. was offered in exchange

for his testimony. But that's a question that I think Mr. Misskelley Sr. could answer, and that's something that a lot of people in our area would like to know. What was the year amount that Jessie Jr. was offered from the prosecution in exchange for his testimony?

RIVERA: Let me ask Jessie Sr. They attempted, or are attempting, to make a deal with your son to testify against the other two boys who are accused of this triple homicide. How many years did they say they would take off his life plus 40-year sentence, in exchange for testimony?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Well, I don't think I should tell you all. I don't think the lawyer would want me to say that.

RIVERA: Is it a substantial reduction in his sentence?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Yes, sir.

RIVERA: So he would be out when?--by his middle adult years?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: That I don't know.

RIVERA: You don't want to say?--a 20-year sentence?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No, it's more than that.

Mr. TAYLOR: Geraldo, I think--Geraldo, can you hear me?

RIVERA: Yes. Go ahead, Jim.

Mr. TAYLOR: I think Mr. Misskelley could give us more insight into what his son was thinking, because he was with his son when the decision process was going on. And we can get a better understanding of--of Jessie Misskelley Jr., the defendant, if Mr. Misskelley is allowed to elaborate on what they discussed the other night when the offer was made.

RIVERA: You hear him, Dad? Why don't you tell us? What were they talking about?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Well, they was talking about telling the truth. And that's what he said he was going to do, cause he was not...

Mr. TAYLOR: Mr. Misskelley, if I may ask you, sir, is your son holding out for a better deal?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No, he was not. He said that...

Mr. TAYLOR: Do you think...

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: ...that...

Mr. TAYLOR: Do you think your son will change his mind and testify?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: That I don't know. I know one thing. They asked him, up there, if he could walk out the door right now, would he get up and testify, and he said no. He said...

Mr. TAYLOR: Why did he say no?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: He said, because he didn't want to get up there and tell a lie and...

(Photo of Jessie Misskelley Jr.)

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: (Voiceover) ...send somebody to prison, death, if they weren't guilty. He said he don't know if they're guilty or not because he was not there.

RIVERA: He still maintains he was not there?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: Yes, sir.

RIVERA: But he's willing to testify against the--I'm sorry, Grandpa Jackie?

Mr. HICKS: It was proven in the trial that he was there...

Mr. MORRISON: I--I think...

Mr. HICKS: ...by his own testimony.

Mr. MORRISON: ...that they--they--they convicted Jessie Misskelley...

Mr. HICKS: That was a coerced testimony.

Mr. MORRISON: ...convicted Jessie Misskelley Jr. based on one thing: that was the confession. There was no physical evidence--none...

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No.

Mr. MORRISON: ...linking him to the crime scene in any way, shape or form.

RIVERA: Well, what physical evidence existed?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: He was...

Mr. MORRISON: Very little. A number of hair fibers--that we know of; that--that the investigators will tell us--a few hair fibers and some microscopic clothing fibers.

Mr. HICKS: Yeah, he...

RIVERA: Jackie, do you have any doubt in your mind that the right guy has been convicted?

Mr. HICKS: Yes, I think the right guy's been convicted. He's had--he had all of his testimony. He had any time to back out on what he was saying. And he didn't back out until it came up before trial, and now he wants to back out. His daddy wants to play him ignorant. And everybody else wants to play him ignorant, and he's not ignorant. A man that is not guilty will stand up. He'll stand up. He won't fall in for the police or nobody and confess guilty.

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: He's not a man, though. He's a seven- or eight-year-old kid.

RIVERA: Is he retarded? Is that what Dad is saying here?

Mr. MORRISON: He functions--he functions at an--at an IQ level of 72--an over all IQ. So in a--in a legal sense, he is not retarded. Jessie Misskelley, though, it was apparent, is a--is a slow thinking teenager.

RIVERA: Who is the ringleader allegedly?

Mr. HICKS: Well, he can think fast enough to do and get out and do what he was doing down there at Mem-- West Memphis; drinking his beer and carrying on with the other people. So, you know, it's just like Paul said, in the state of Arkansas, mental retardation starts at an IQ of 65. Seventy-two? We've all got some mental ability, you know? If you want to holler that, then I'm a little bit nuts, too.

RIVERA: Me, too.

(Applause)

RIVERA: We'll take a break. WHEN KIDS KILL KIDS: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? Stay tuned.

(Theme music and applause)

(Announcements)

(Theme music and applause)

RIVERA: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? We're examining a brutal, triple homicide. Three eight-year-olds hacked to death down in West Memphis, Arkansas. Yes, sir?

Unidentified Man #4: Yeah. I'd like to know, do you feel that your son may have been involved in this Satanic cult himself; because now kids are very impressionable and you never know?

RIVERA: No. These kids were eight years old. There's no...

Mr. HOBBS: Not a child. No.

RIVERA: No, sir. Terry, do you want to say something about your son?

Mr. HOBBS: Well, we had a--you know, an honor roll student, three years. We had an outstanding little boy. And he deserved better than this.

RIVERA: Do you ever, Pam, second guess yourself, as so many survivors of murder--murdered children do? Oh, I shouldn't have let him out. Oh, I shouldn't have let him walk across town. Oh, I should have kept my eye on him?"

Mrs. HOBBS: I blamed myself for awhile.

RIVERA: Oh, you can't do that. You know that's...

Mrs. HOBBS: Well, I did at first. I blamed myself because I let him go, but it's not my fault. I can't take the credit of saying that it's my fault. It's not my fault.

Mr. MORRISON: These three kids did--did exactly what any one of your children did that afternoon. They went out for a bike ride in their neighborhood and they never came back.

RIVERA: Mm-hmm.

Unidentified Woman #3: For the parents, do you think that justice was served? Do you think that this boy deserves the death sentence? Or what would you like to see happen to the one who was convicted?

Mrs. HOBBS: I'm satisfied with the sentence--the sentence that he did get. And I don't want to--them to reduce it to get him to testify. I would rather them, the prosecution and all, to go with whatever information they do got without him.

Unidentified Woman #4: We saw the perfect room of a teen-ager. I'm curious to know, there's got to be other signs of dysfunction that would trigger someone in their mind to say this is someone who's very possible--could get involved in a Satanic cult. One of my--one of my more specific questions is dysfunction, meaning rebellion.

You know, you had boundaries for your son. You knew where you sent him. He knew when he was to be back. But to Misskelley, did your son have boundaries and did he follow his boundaries? Do you know where your son was?

RIVERA: Mr. Misskelley, was Jessie kind of a hell-raiser?

Unidentified Woman #4 (Neighbor Of The Misskelleys): No.

RIVERA: Jessie?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No, he was--no, he was not a hell-raiser.

Woman #4: I don't think they can hear me.

RIVERA: Who else is speaking? Is that your wife sitting by you?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: No. It's a neighbor.

RIVERA: OK. Hello, neighbor. Do you want to say something?

Mr. MISSKELLEY Sr.: She's the one that baby-sit--Jessie baby-sit for.

RIVERA: You let Jessie baby-sit your children?

Woman #4: Yes, and I would today.

RIVERA: Are you one of the people who claims you saw Jessie the night of the crime?

Woman #4: I don't claim that I saw him, I know I saw him.

RIVERA: Did you offer to testify on his behalf?

Woman #4: I did testify.

RIVERA: Obviously, they didn't believe you. Why?

Woman #4: I don't know why they didn't believe me. I told them the truth and that was the truth. I seen him out here at 6:30 that evening and that's where he was at.

RIVERA: OK. Terry, you want to comment on what she just said?

Mr. HOBBS: I heard a lot of testimony come up there for his defense, that was not convincing even to me. And I wasn't a juror.

RIVERA: Now go back to Paul Morrison there. I want to get to our Satanic experts and broaden this discussion, Paul, but what about what the young lady in the first row asked? What about evidence that Misskelley was in some other way, to use that much-banded expression, dysfunctional?

Mr. MORRISON: I think you--you could find that. As a matter of fact, his own clinical psychologist and several pretrial hearings said as much on--and this was his defense psychologist. And the other two, Damian and Jason, I think you'd find that they, too, come from what is the politically-correct term, a dysfunctional home, to one degree or another. But so do a lot of teen-agers in this day and age.

RIVERA: OK. Jack Levin?

Mr. LEVIN: I think that's a good point. There are millions of people who've had troubled childhood experiences, and they don't go out and commit these hideous acts. On the other side, I think that we--parents everywhere--have to know that their kids--their teen-age kids, especially--are being supervised. You know, it's--it's not that our--that television is responsible for everything. Because we're always blaming television. It's that our other institutions, our families, our religion, and our schools have become so weak. We've got to invest as much in our teen-agers as we now invest in the stock market.

(Applause)

RIVERA: Let me take a break on that note. Then I'm going to go to Marcos Quinones, the cop here in New York, ask him what the big-city reality is in this regard.

Stay tuned. Be right back.

(Theme music and applause)

(Announcements)

(Theme music and applause)

RIVERA: Professor Levin was talking about the decline and fall of American civilization with emphasis on family, church and school. But not all kids--I mean, some kids given the same opportunity, they do fine. Like little Stevie, one of the victims, Pam and Terry's boy. This is his homework from the day he was murdered. In math, he got 100. In cursive writing, he got a--a star. And in English, he got a 'Very Good.' And now he's dead, brutally murdered by--well, one 17-year-old already convicted, two others allegedly also responsible.

I want to go to NYPD's Marcos Quinones. Is any of this relevant to big-city America? Is it relevant to New York?

Office MARCOS QUINONES (Researcher Of Cult Crimes): Yes, I think it is. I think that many children, depending on the lifestyle they have at home and the fellowship with their parents, if they don't have that family structure, will look into something else. I think because of the lack of power that they have, they will turn to Satanism or some other form of the occult. There's so many things out there that will introduce this kind of philosophy. The philosophy is out there. My condolence to the family over, you know, this situation. Fortunately, not--not all kids will, you know, kill or commit suicide with the exposure of Satanic material. But you get that one child out of a thousand--all of a sudden, you have something like this. And I think it's very important for parents, teachers to be on top of these children, giving them what they need. I think the basic home life, the love--I think that's the answer to all of this.

RIVERA: Are there more Satanic or ritual homicides here than we know about?

Officer QUINONES: I think in looking at some cases, a lot of it is labeled as Satanism. I don't think every mutilation crime is a Satanic crime. I think we have to separate fact from fiction. But you get a case like this, and it's my own personal opinion--I think there's an element here. I don't know, Paul, if in your investigation you feel that there are adults involved in this. That--you know, you just don't kill someone or three individuals like this. The training that it took for these people to do this...

Mr. MORRISON: Not only that, but how do three teen-agers, one of them admittedly slow, no matter how diabolically clever, so thoroughly sanitize the crime scene, and the time--and do all of the--all of the--made all of the injuries, committed the crimes and basically, be back home in three hours? To the point there's not one drop of--excuse me--there was some microscopic drops of blood ruled inadmissible. No blood at the crime scene.

RIVERA: How about the semen samples?

Mr. MORRISON: Well, the semen sample--they--a DNA specialist out of Greensboro, North Carolina, did testify that he found what appeared to be semen on one of the young bo--victim's pants, but there was not enough of that material for a proper test to get any match. Questions.

RIVERA: Dr. Nieburg, overview on this?

Dr. NIEBURG: I--I think it's a very perplexing case. I think it's clear that there--there was a--there was a murder perpetrated. I think we--we have not heard enough about the backgrounds, as--as Jack Levin had said. I'm--I'm convinced that if one does what's known as a psychological autopsy; if we really go back--and I think Paul is really doing that, as--as a result of his chronicling and his record-keeping--things are going to come out; and especially after the trial. There's an awful lot sealed here that we don't know about. And...

RIVERA: What about the larger question of is there an epidemic of ritual cwi--crime?--violence?

Dr. NIEBURG: There's not an epidemic. There are more cases reported, it's out in the open. We're educating people. As a matter of fact, one of the things I really wanted to share with both of you is, if there's anything that would--and I don't mean the word 'justify' in its--in its real sense--the fact that you are here, the three of you, to educate other people to what this is about, in--in one sense says that you're doing your part to help this heal.

Mr. HICKS: Definitely. That's exactly right.

RIVERA: We'll be right back.

(Theme music and applause)

(Announcements)

(Theme music and applause)

RIVERA: Professor Levin, do you have a 30-second bit of wisdom for us?

Mr. LEVIN: Well, you know, we've already said make sure you know where your kids are. But I would say, make sure you know who your kids' friends are.

Mr. MORRISON: Make sure you know what they're reading, too.

Mr. HICKS: Yeah.

(Applause)

Mr. LEVIN: And make sure that you know what they're seeing in every day life, because we don't want to let the peer groups fill the void in our children's lives, that ought to be filled by our traditional institutions.

(Credits roll)

RIVERA: Jackie, do you want to say something?

Mr. HICKS: Yes, I would. I'd like to say that the only reason that I come to New York to be on this show, I'm--don't want my little grandson's death to go in vain. I don't want to be critical, but I want to very, very much make a plea to all the mothers, fathers, grandmas, granddaddies: please love your children. Believe it. Get your heads out of the sand. It's real. Love them, respect them, show them your love.

RIVERA: DID THE DEVIL MAKE THEM DO IT? We'll keep you updated on this. Thanks for watching, folks. Bye-bye.

(Theme music and applause)

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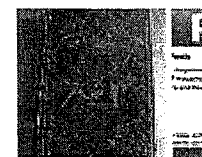
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Additional Information

"October 29, 2007

Dear Friends & Supporters:

I have waited a long time to write you this note.

Just hours ago, our attorneys filed a Second Amended Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus proving that three innocent men were wrongfully convicted of murder in West Memphis, Arkansas, in 1993. Citing DNA testing and evidence from several witnesses and leading experts, the nearly 200-page writ asks the Court to order a new trial for my husband, Damien Echols, or release him.

In short, DNA testing has been conducted on dozens of pieces of evidence. The DNA results show no link whatsoever to Damien Echols, Jesse Misskelley or Jason Baldwin – and all of the experts agree that, under the prosecution theory of how the crime was committed, their DNA would be present at the crime scene if they were guilty. Instead, the DNA results match Terry Hobbs, the step-father of one of the victims. Our new filing also includes strong

evidence from Pam Hobbs (the ex-wife of Terry Hobbs and the mother of one of the victims) implicating her former husband in the murders.

The writ includes scientific analysis from some of the nation's leading forensics experts, stating that wounds on the victims' bodies were caused by animals at the crime scene – not by knives used by the perpetrators, as the prosecution claimed. These wounds, and evidence about knives, were the centerpiece of the prosecution's case.

Beyond writing to share this exciting news, I want to thank you for your support. Each person who spoke out about this case or donated money – each person who refused to let the world forget about three men locked away forever, one on death row, for a crime they so clearly did not commit – made this week's filing possible. Without you, we could not have made it this far, and we cannot thank you enough...Go [here](#) to read the writ we just filed in federal court, and you'll see that we are at a critical juncture in this case, and that your help and support has gotten us here. Please help us, and please know that your support has already gotten us farther than many people thought possible.

Thanks very much,
Lorri Davis
and the Damien Echols Legal Team"

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Diann* says:

I'm always surprised by your range of interests---their story, and the linked website information, was very interesting to me.
Posted 16 months ago. ([permalink](#))



Carla216 says:

To paraphrase [Harriet the Spy](#), I want to learn everything, and I want to write it all down.

I've been helping out over the years, send Lorri money when we could, buying the guys books from their Amazon wishlists.
Posted 16 months ago. ([permalink](#))



Carla216 says:

More information--best sources--gathered just for you :)

hauntedpalace.net/2007/11/03/16/
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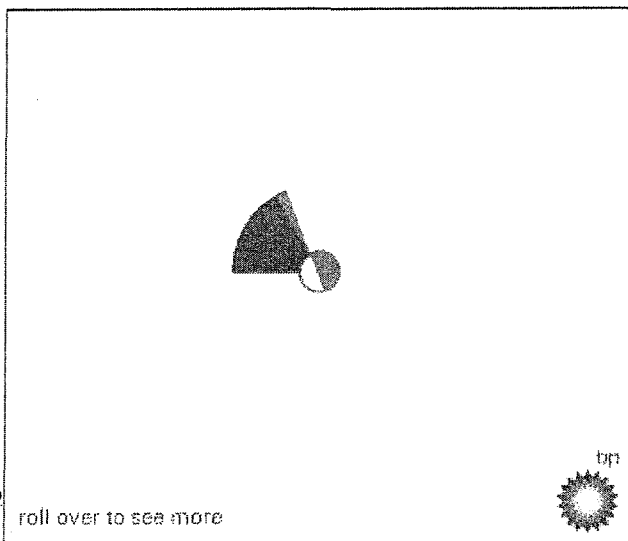


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ANDERSON COOPER 360 DEGREES

Pat Robertson Endorses Rudy Giuliani For President; Murder of

Three Arkansas Boys Reexamined

Aired November 7, 2007 - 22:00 ET

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ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Tonight, a coveted political endorsement from an unlikely source, why televangelist Pat Robertson, the man who blamed 9/11 on gays and abortionists, is endorsing pro-choice Republican Rudy Giuliani. Will his backing actually translate into votes? Just ahead, the battle over Christian conservatives.

Plus, a stunning revelation from the polygamist leader Warren Jeffs. Thousands consider him a prophet. Tonight, they will hear them say he's no prophet. And you will find out why he tried to -- or what he tried to do to himself while locked behind bars.

Also ahead tonight, O.J. Simpson preparing for another day in court. We talked with the prosecution's star witness and investigated the heavy baggage he brings to the trial.

All of that in the hour ahead, but we bring the endorsement that has produced the latest pair of strange bedfellows, Pat Robertson and Rudy Giuliani, an unlikely couple, to say the least. One is the founder of the Christian Coalition, who literally put the religious right on the political map. The other is a pro-choice presidential front-runner who, in the past, has supported equal rights for gay Americans and is on his third marriage.

The common ground they have managed to find says a lot about where the race for the Republican nomination may be heading.

More on that right now from CNN's John King.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PAT ROBERTSON, TELEVANGELIST: We're both prostate cancer survivors.

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT (voice over): Two men with a personal bond, and now a surprising political alliance.

ROBERTSON: Rudy Giuliani is without question an acceptable candidate.

KING: It is a striking statement from a legendary and controversial religious broadcaster who calls abortion evil and homosexuality an abomination. But Robertson says he is convinced Giuliani would appoint conservative judges and also convinced there is a bigger test for the next president. ROBERTSON: The overriding issue before the American people is the defense of our population from the bloodlust of Islamic terrorists.

KING: Giuliani backed taxpayer-funded abortions as mayor and also signed a sweeping civil unions policy. So, Robertson's blessing is a boost for a candidate whose biggest weakness is the Christian right.

RUDOLPH GIULIANI (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I hope it sends the message that we have the same goals, all of us in the Republican Party.

KING: In Iowa, more evidence of the fierce competition. John McCain welcomed the endorsement of anti-abortion Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, who dropped out of the Republican contest three weeks ago.

SEN. SAM BROWNBACK (R-KS), FORMER REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'm here today to endorse the best pro-life candidate to beat Hillary Clinton.

KING: White Evangelicals are critical in two of the early nominating contests -- Iowa and South Carolina -- but have yet to coalesce around one candidate.

KING: Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney's appeals include this stop at a South Carolina Christian adoption agency.

MITT ROMNEY (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: In the Book of Psalms, what is it, 126th?

KING: Later, Romney predicted most evangelical voters won't follow Robertson's advice.

ROMNEY: I don't think the Republican Party will choose a pro-choice, pro-gay-civil-union candidate to lead our party.

KING: Robertson founded the Christian Coalition from the ashes of his 1988 presidential campaign bid. And it

was a powerhouse in Republican politics in the 1990s.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ROBERTSON: The coalition is here for the long haul.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: But others have eclipsed Robertson's political clout in recent years, some going as far as warning of a possible third-party effort if Giuliani wins the Republican nomination.

TONY PERKINS, PRESIDENT, FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL: To the degree that the party moves away from those principled issues, social conservatives, evangelicals will move away from the party.

KING: So, some saw this as a risky effort to reclaim the spotlight by making a different calculation, that Giuliani is electable and better than the alternative.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Same-sex marriage issues, abortion issues are being decided in the courts. So, what's most important is that Hillary Clinton is not picking our judges or Barack Obama is not picking our judges.

GIULIANI: I am very, very pleased to have Pat Robertson's endorsement.

(CHEERING AND APPLAUSE)

KING: In South Carolina, hours later, Giuliani saw only an upside.

(on camera): But with the benefits also could come some baggage. Asked here about one of many controversial Robertson remarks in recent years, that 9/11 was caused by God's wrath over abortion and pornography. Giuliani said, Robertson had long ago explained what he meant and that all leaders from time to time say things they later regret.

John King, CNN, Columbia, South Carolina.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Well, as John mentioned, Robertson's endorsement does not come without controversy. He can be a lightning rod, to say the least. Here's the "Raw Data," some of his more controversial comments.

In a 1992 fund-raising letter, Robertson said that feminists encourage women to kill their children and practice witchcraft. Last year, he called for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. And he also suggested that Ariel Sharon's stroke was divine restoration for Israel's withdrawal of Gaza, which Robertson opposed. He later apologized.

The former Israeli prime minister is still hospitalized in a coma, by the way.

Pat Robertson's endorsement of Giuliani has a lot of people talking today, including our political roundtable, CNN senior political analyst Gloria Borger, Bill Bennett, CNN contributor and author of "America: The Last Best Hope," and CNN contributor Roland Martin, the author of "Listening to the Spirit Within."

We talked earlier today.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Bill, let's start with you.

Were you surprised, Pat Robertson endorsing Rudy Giuliani?

BILL BENNETT, CNN CONTRIBUTOR: I was a little. I was a little. It's a very big endorsement for Rudy Giuliani. As people have said in the last few years, you never know what Pat Robertson is going to say or going to do, but this was a surprise. And this is a big -- big help to Giuliani.

COOPER: Big because Robertson still has that big a following?

BENNETT: Yes. People have suggested over the last couple years that he's just kind of a crank. He's...

COOPER: Right. They say he's not as important.

BENNETT: But he's got a TV show that has 800,000 viewers a day, which, I think, stacks up pretty well with a lot of shows. There are a lot of people who listen to him. And he's a bona fide TV personality of the conservative Christian persuasion who has done an awful lot of work, whether people are happy with the things he said in the last few years or not, long track record of working in these vineyards. It's very good for Giuliani.

COOPER: Gloria, were you surprised by it?

GLORIA BORGER, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST: I wasn't totally surprised, only because rumor was out that Giuliani had really been courting Pat Robertson, that he had appeared at Pat Robertson's university, that they are united in their fight against terror.

COOPER: But, I mean, Mitt Romney has also been really courting him.

BORGER: Yes, he really -- he really had.

And I think -- you know, in a way, Anderson, this might be more about Pat Robertson than it is about Giuliani.

COOPER: How so?

BORGER: Maybe Robertson thought -- well, maybe he thinks he wants to go along for a ride with the winner. Maybe he wants to be the preacher to a president. Maybe this is about Pat Robertson's own survival more than it is for Giuliani's candidacy in the long term.

COOPER: What, showing that he's still relevant?

BORGER: Yes, exactly, showing that he's still relevant. He will be out there. Now, when he speaks, people are going to listen.

And I think, in the end, Giuliani may end up having to apologize for a lot of things that Pat Robertson ends up saying.

COOPER: And, essentially, I mean, Roland, you have Robertson saying that the most important issue, above all, anything else, above social issues, is -- is Islamic terror.

ROLAND MARTIN, CNN CONTRIBUTOR: And that's why I'm not surprised.

Why I interviewed Reverend Jerry Falwell on the CNN special "What Would Jesus Really Do?" back in April, he said then -- and I said, is there a litmus test? Reverend Falwell said: I would rather have someone who can fight national security than someone who is a Sunday school teacher.

That signaled right then that that was going to be an issue there. And, so, I think what this also does, it also puts evangelicals on the spot, because for years they have been saying there's nothing more important than abortion and homosexuality.

And so now all of a sudden, you have a candidate who is pro-gay marriage, who is pro-choice. And, all of a sudden, evangelicals will say, wait a minute. What's really more important, party or principle? Is it God or Giuliani? That's what is going to happen here. And they are going to have to answer to that. All of these comments they have made over the years about this being most important, no chance at all, forget everything else, abortion, gay marriage, now they have to deal with that. And their own words are going to come back to haunt them.

COOPER: I do want to talk about the Democrats a little bit, because Bill Clinton, you have him weighing in on his wife's performance in the debate and going after those who, you know, dare to criticize or -- or question Hillary Clinton.

I want to play what former President Clinton said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We would listen to people make snide comments about whether Vice President Gore was too stiff, when they made dishonest claims about the things that he said that he had done in his life, when that scandalous Swift Boat ad was run against Senator Kerry.

Why am I saying this? Because I had the feeling, at the end of that last debate, we were about to get into cutesy land again.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Does it make her, though, look weaker, that Bill Clinton has to be the one stepping in to do this? Or is that just the -- the traditional -- is he playing the role that the vice president usually plays?

BENNETT: She needs to be very careful about -- about that.

But she's -- she's pretty good on it, it seems to me, Anderson. She says things like, well, if he were here, you know, he could -- he could say his own piece. For him to do it, I think -- I think is fine.

But what they have to, I think, be careful of is this piling-on thing, the complaining about the piling on, on the guys. The biggest trouble I think she has got is not any of this. I think the biggest trouble she's got is this immigration business. I think coming out and supporting Governor Spitzer has bought her a whole lot of trouble. MARTIN: Anderson, I say, thank God. Four months ago, I said Democrats, why do you keep giving her a pass in the debates, allowing her to take credit for all of Bill Clinton's, you know, great success stories, but then slide on

some of the failures?

At some point, they had to say, wait a minute, Bill Clinton is no longer on the Democratic side. He's on her side. And, so, we are fighting him and her. And, so, you need to figure out, wait a minute, how can I take some of the failures and then sort of amplify that?

And, so, the criticism is on the money. But this notion that, all of the sudden, it's a Swift Boat deal, it's ridiculous, just like Geraldine Ferraro's comments on Monday all of a sudden injecting the race card, saying, well, they would never attack Barack Obama like this. It's OK to be sexist in America, but not to be racist.

That is ridiculous. She's running for president. She should be questioned, just like everybody else is.

COOPER: Gloria, doesn't it also raise the issue of this two-for- one issue of, are you -- you know, are you getting Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton? Are they -- I mean, what exactly is -- how are they going to rule?

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: Is this really some sort of partnership?

BORGER: Well, you know, I think it does raise the issue.

And I think, in the Democratic primary contest, it's a good thing to get two for one -- in a general election, not so much. So, I think, right now, when you heard Bill Clinton complaining about the cutesy stuff and getting swift-boated and all the rest, he was talking to the Democratic primary audience, the people who love him.

And there are two roads to take in a campaign. You know, you take the high road or you take the low road. The candidate doesn't take the low road. Her surrogates will take the low road. And Bill Clinton is the one who will feel free to be out there, attacking on behalf of his wife, particularly during this primary season.

COOPER: We are going to leave it there.

Gloria Borger, Bill Bennett, Roland Martin, thanks for being on.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Well, Christian conservatives are not the only hearts and minds the candidates are going to be trying to win. In the last presidential election, roughly one in four voters who turned out on Election Day were

independents. And they split their votes almost evenly between John Kerry and George Bush.

They are also the subject of a new book by CNN's Lou Dobbs. "Independents Day: Awakening the American Spirit," it's called. I talked to Lou earlier about why he thinks independents have an even more important role to play this year.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: By registering as independent, is that to send a message to these parties?

LOU DOBBS, HOST, "LOU DOBBS TONIGHT": Absolutely, to say to...

(CROSSTALK)

DOBBS: Here's the message to the Republican and Democratic national committees: Go to hell. You have screwed this system up. You're nothing more than patsies to corporate America and multinationals. And you no longer hold American citizens in regard, whether the issue is border security, illegal immigration, public education, free trade, public investment. My God, the list goes on.

And then you have got these people lining up to say they want to be president of the United States? How dare they?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Well, now to a stunning admission by Warren Jeffs, the polygamist leader who is awaiting sentencing this month in Utah.

He was convicted this fall of being an accomplice to rape. You probably remember that. Now the judge has unsealed sensitive court documents, including a videotape that shows Jeffs as we have never seen him before.

Now, keep in mind, Jeffs has always told his sect that God speaks directly through him, and they have always believed him.

Here's CNN's Gary Tuchman.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): To as many as 10,000 followers, this man, Warren Jeffs, is the undisputed prophet, his word sacred, even when a jury convicted the polygamist leader of being an accomplice to rape.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He is a perfect preacher man. He's a man of God. And we will always love him. And once a prophet, always a prophet.

TUCHMAN: But now a new image of the powerful man, like his followers have never seen before.

WARREN JEFFS, CONVICTED FELON: I ask for everyone's forgiveness.

TUCHMAN: This is video from a jail taping system. It recorded Jeffs and his brother, Nephi. Jeffs was depressed, and, as it turns out, suicidal. W. JEFFS: Farewell, all of you.

TUCHMAN: Three days later, the head of the largest polygamist sect in North America attempted to hang himself.

An unsealed psychological report indicates that, in the days following the suicide attempt, he threw himself against jail cell walls and banged his head against a wall.

W. JEFFS: I have been the most wicked man.

TUCHMAN: Jeffs' followers make major life decisions based on what he tells him. If they didn't believe unconditionally in him to be their prophet, it would cause huge upheaval. That's why what about you're about to see and hear is so significant.

W. JEFFS: I'm not the prophet. I never was the prophet.

TUCHMAN: Prosecutors wanted to use this dramatic jail video during Jeffs' trial. The judge would not allow it.

But after requests by the news media, it has now been released. It might be even more difficult for the faithful hear this. Other court documents indicate, in a recorded phone call, Jeffs cryptically said, "I was covered with immorality with a sister and a daughter when I was younger."

Again, Warren Jeffs with his brother:

NEPHI JEFFS, BROTHER OF WARREN JEFFS: You're perfect in every way.

W. JEFFS: If we were perfect, we would be doing better.

TUCHMAN: In the Utah-Arizona border community where Jeffs' FLDS Church is headquartered, most followers do not deal with the outside world. So, do they know about the suicide attempt?

(on camera): Can I just ask -- I just want to ask you. We learned yesterday that Warren Jeffs tried to kill himself. Do you have any comment?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. I'm not (INAUDIBLE)

TUCHMAN (voice-over): This follower was more willing to talk, but not with a microphone. She told me Warren Jeffs was perfect and there is no way he wanted to kill himself. Those are all lies, she said.

(on camera): Warren Jeffs' attorney say he was in bad medical shape when he made the prophet comments, and retracted them a month later.

But it's reasonable for others to come to the conclusion that maybe it was a dose of honesty from a man who perhaps had some remorse. (voice-over): This couple also doesn't believe that Warren Jeffs has said these things.

(on camera): If he stays behind bars and doesn't get out for a long time, will you still consider him your prophet?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I will always consider him a prophet.

TUCHMAN (voice-over): Jeffs ended his visit with his brother by saying this.

W. JEFFS: Farewell.

N. JEFFS: We love you. We love you. We love you.

TUCHMAN: If his brother thought he was on the verge of a suicide attempt, authorities say they were never told.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Quite a family. Gary joins us now outside the courthouse in Saint George.

What is next for Warren Jeffs?

TUCHMAN: Anderson, Warren Jeffs is coming to this courthouse a week from Tuesday, where he will be sentenced on his two convictions, faces the possibility of five years to life on each count.

But, even if he gets five years, the state of Arizona will still try him on similar charges. So, Warren Jeffs, whether he's a prophet or not, will likely be in jail for a very long time.

COOPER: Fascinating.

Just ahead, we are going to hear from one of Warren Jeffs' former followers who managed to escape from the sect in the middle of the night, taking her eight kids with her. What does she think about these new revelations?

Find out next on 360.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: The polygamist leader Warren Jeffs is awaiting sentencing in Utah later this month.

Before the break, we told you about the newly unsealed court documents, including a videotape in which Jeffs admits he's not a prophet after all. It is a stunning admission.

Earlier, I talked with John Llewellyn, a former polygamist who was not a member of Jeffs' sect, but has written about the lifestyle in "Polygamy's Rape of Rachael Strong." And Carolyn Jessop, who managed to break free from Jeffs' sect three years ago and describes her terrifying experience in the book "Escape." (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: So, John, were you surprised to hear that -- that Warren Jeffs tried to kill himself?

JOHN LLEWELLYN, AUTHOR, "POLYGAMY RAPE OF RACHAEL STRONG": No, it wasn't any surprise at all, because here's a man that has been born and raised under the umbrella of the FLDS, somewhat secret society.

And when he was arrested, I believe it was probably the first time that he really was confronted with reality and the real world, what it was like. So, it had to be a very traumatic situation for him while he was incarcerated, away from all the support and the -- the literature that he had to -- to help him along. So, no, it was no surprise.

COOPER: Carolyn, the fact that he denied being the prophet, and then sort of later recanted that, what do you make of that?

CAROLYN JESSOP, FORMER MEMBER, FUNDAMENTALIST CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS: Oh, I wasn't surprised about that at all. I think...

COOPER: Really?

JESSOP: Well, I think that him denying that he was a prophet was, in his own way, trying to get out of going to jail. I think he felt like the authorities were after him because he was the leader of this cult, and, if he denied that he was the prophet, then they would let him go.

COOPER: But you don't think -- you think, in his mind, he always -- that he truly believes he's a prophet?

JESSOP: No, I think, in his mind, he knows full well he's not a prophet. I just think he has something going that's working well for him, and he's taking advantage of it.

COOPER: John, do you agree with that?

LLEWELLYN: He knows the difference between right and wrong, you bet.

And I -- what he does is, he indulges himself into the character, so that he can sound believable before his people. But, down deep, he knows that he is not a prophet and he's not received the revelation.

COOPER: Carolyn, he also confessed to -- to immorality with a sister and a daughter.

JESSOP: Yes, he did. And there's actually been reports around about the sister he hurt. So, there were many of us who were already somewhat aware that he had injured one of his sisters.

Nobody was aware of the daughter, though. That came out of the blue. However, he's -- there's a lot of people who claim they have been hurt by him sexually. So, that was not a surprise, that he would confess to some of...

COOPER: And, I guess, John, in a community like this, you know, with so many siblings, so many people in the families, I guess it's not that big a surprise?

LLEWELLYN: No, it isn't, you know, and I have studied just about all of the groups. And every single one of them have these horrible stories coming out of pedophilia, molesting of children.

And all of these kids, a lot of them are put together with very little supervision. And the boys have that testosterone running through their bodies. The white chromosome is as active in them as it is anybody else. And these things are bound to happen.

COOPER: It's fascinating, though, when, even now, we have had, you know, people from CNN talking to folks in the community, the few who would talk to us. And they say simply they don't believe Jeffs ever said these things.

LLEWELLYN: Well, they are going to believe what they want to hear.

And it's been my experience in other lawsuits against the polygamist subcultures, you know, they believe in the spirit. And they believe that the spirit speaks the truth, even when it conflicts with facts. So, they are -- you know, there's a symbiotic relationship between the prophet and the group. They are dependent upon each other.

And the group, without the prophet, is like a ship without a rudder. They need each other. So, they are going to manufacture and believe whatever they want to keep that prophet as a prophet.

COOPER: It's fascinating, that this goes on hiding in plain sight in the United States of America.

John Llewellyn, we appreciate your expertise.

LLEWELLYN: Thank you.

COOPER: And, Carolyn Jessop, it's always good to talk to you.

JESSOP: Thank you.

LLEWELLYN: Thank you.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: In Arkansas tonight, new developments in a case that had captivated the country more than a decade ago. It was 1993. Three boys were murdered in the woods. Three teens were convicted of the unspeakable crime.

Now, right now, two of those, well, former teens are in prison for life. One is on death row. The question is, are they actually innocent? CNN's David Mattingly reports on some shocking new developments.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DAVID MATTINGLY, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): What happened in these woods shook even hardened cops. It was a crime so terrible, families from miles around lived in fear. And, at the time juries had no doubt, three West Memphis, Arkansas, teenagers were guilty in the satanic ritual murders of three 8-year-old boys.

But, a decade-and-a-half later, many now believe it was a case of justice gone bad.

(on camera): The police, the prosecutor, the judge, the jury, all of them got it wrong?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In our opinion, yes.

MATTINGLY: Reexamining old evidence and using DNA testing not available at the time of the murders, defense attorneys say the belief in a satanic ritual of sexual assault and mutilation was a fantasy, a satanic panic that they say sent three innocent teenagers to prison.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What we are saying is that there's no credible evidence that links any of these defendants to the crime.

MATTINGLY: The bodies of Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steven Branch were discovered bound, naked and submerged in a muddy ditch.

In a petition filed in federal court, defense attorneys say their experts today find no evidence of sexual assault and no evidence of a satanic cult.

And the evidence that horrified juries, signs of ritualistic torture and mutilation, may have actually come from animals attacking the bodies after the boys were killed.

(on camera): When we asked for a comment about the old case, Arkansas prosecutors turned us down. But, in an earlier statement, a spokesman for the state attorney general said that Arkansas will look at the new findings objectively. But they stand behind the old convictions and do not believe that the courts will change anything.

(voice-over): The oldest defendant at the time, 18-year-old Damien Echols, was sent to death row. Sixteen-year-old Jason Baldwin and 17-year-old Jessie Misskelley got life in prison.

RON LAX, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR: They were victims of poor representation, poor resources, and a community that was already on track to convict somebody.

MATTINGLY: I returned to the scene of the crime with Ron Lax, a private investigator for the defense in 1993. Back then, he made this video of the woods where the three boys went to play, never to be seen alive again. Today, defense attorneys say they can find no DNA traces on evidence taken from those woods to show the convicted teenagers were ever there at all.

(on camera): Is this a crime that three teenagers could pull off and leave no trace of their existence out here?

LAX: It sounds pretty remarkable if they did.

MATTINGLY (voice-over): The woods were recently cut down and cleared way. But plenty of questions remain. If it's true the teens were not in these woods to commit these murders, then who was?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Faces of evil or of wrongly convicted young men? Those three young men were found guilty of a triple murder, the victims, three boys, each 8 years old.

Prosecutors called the killings part of a satanic ritual. As we told you before the break, the defense team is hoping new evidence is going to lead to those young men's freedom. We're going to let you be the judge tonight.

Once again, here's CNN's David Mattingly.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

MATTINGLY (voice-over): To many, they have become known as the West Memphis three. Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin, and Jessie Misskelley were all teenagers sent to prison for the gruesome satanic ritual murders of three 8-year-old buys.

And, 14 years after the crime, proving their innocence may depend on two human hairs recovered at the scene.

THOMAS FEDOR, FORENSIC EXPERT: None of the defendants could have been the source of that hair. None of the victims could have been the source of either hair. None of the DNA evidence from the crime scene

connects any of the defendants to the scene of the crime.

MATTINGLY: So, who could the hairs belong to? A defense petition in federal court says the DNA from one hair is consistent with that of Terry Hobbs. Hobbs is the former stepfather of victim Steve Branch.

(on camera): Mr. Hobbs, do you feel like that the attorneys are accusing you of this crime?

ROSS SAMPSON, HOBBS'S ATTORNEY: The answer to that would be no.

MATTINGLY (voice-over): Hobbs agreed to go in front of our cameras while his attorney did the talking. And through most of my questions, Hobbs remained silent. (on camera) Is it possible, Mr. Hobbs, that that was your hair?

SAMPSON: Sure. It was his son, Stephen Branch, who was murdered, and he's had to deal with this for the last 15 years.

MATTINGLY (voice-over): Defense attorneys say a second hair found at the scene is consistent with the DNA of Hobbs's friend, David Jacoby, and that the two were together in the hours before and after the victims disappeared.

Jacoby did not return our calls, but he did volunteer DNA samples to the defense. Authorities say they stand by the old convictions. West Memphis police have no plans to question anyone.

(on camera) Is there anything that you feel comfortable telling me?

TERRY HOBBS, FORMER STEPFATHER OF VICTIM: You live with this every day. And then, to have your friends and neighbors look at you and think, is there something else there? That's -- that hurts.

MATTINGLY (voice-over): After 14 years, the rampant fears of devil worshippers and murdered children have subsided, replaced by a new wave of emotion, demanding a reopening of the case of the West Memphis Three.

Now in their 30s, their entire adult lives spent behind bars, three grown men greet the DNA findings with hope, wondering if this latest twist will one day set them free.

David Mattingly, CNN, West Memphis, Arkansas.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: We'll continue to follow up on what happens next.

Tomorrow on 360, we take our "Planet in Peril" investigation one step further. Last month more than 15 million people around the world watched our special report on our changing planet; sparked a lot of questions, a lot of controversy. Tomorrow we're going to answer some of your questions, like this one.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How much impact would it have if each individual becomes an eco-friendly person?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: If everybody behaved like this viewer, we would certainly be much, much better off. But, again, that is not going to be enough to solve the problem. We absolutely have to have policies, because consumers don't have enough choices to real solve this problem. We never solved any major voluntary issue just with voluntary consumer action.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think the most important thing that citizens can do, we live in a democracy, and we should influence the decision makers. We should ask them, the candidates from office, are they really going to do anything? Not just set a goal for 2050, because they won't be in office in 2050. Will they really do the things that are needed?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: An interesting discussion on climate change and other things, tomorrow on 360.

Let's get caught up on more of today's headlines. Erica Hill joins us with the "360 Bulletin" -- Erica.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ERICA HILL, HEADLINE NEWS ANCHOR: Anderson, a development tonight in the crisis in Pakistan. President Bush has called President Pervez Musharraf, telling him he should hold planned elections soon and that he should step down as Pakistan's military leader.

Meantime, in the streets of Islamabad, police firing tear gas in support of former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. She wants the people of Pakistan to join protests on the government's state of emergency that she says amounts to martial law.

In Finland, a high school student opened fire, killing eight people before turning the gun on himself. He later died in a hospital. Seven of the victims were students. The eighth was the school's headmistress.

Just hours before that shooting, a video posted on YouTube warned of a massacre at the school. One clip shows a young man firing a gun at fruit in the snowy woods. It is believed to be the gunman.

And the Space Shuttle Discovery back home tonight after a 15-day mission to the International Space Station. The crew had to fix a broken solar wing. NASA called the dangerous mission one of the top all-time space saves.

COOPER: That's cool.

HILL: Not bad at all.

COOPER: Not bad at all.

HILL: There you have it.

COOPER: Erica, thanks.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Up next, an eighth grade girl busted at school, sentenced -- sentenced to two days in detention. So what was her crime? Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MEGAN COULTER, SUSPENDED FOR HUGGING FRIEND: I went like this, and I went to Katie like this.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Yes, she hugged her friends. We couldn't believe it either, so we had Randi Kaye check out our story. She's "Keeping Them Honest" next.

Also ahead, television's bounty hunter in the doghouse. His racist comments and tearful apology to Larry King less than an hour ago. That's coming up on 360.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, the next story seems, frankly, pretty outrageous. An eighth grader in Illinois is being punished for violating a school policy banning public displays of affection.

So what exactly is this young girl guilty of? Turns out she hugged two of her friends. At a time when we hear so many stories about school violence, we have to wonder what could possibly be wrong with a simple hug?

Randi Kaye's "Keeping Them Honest."

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): At just 13, Megan Coulter is a bit of a celebrity. Her phone is ringing off the hook, people offering their support.

MEGAN COULTER: I love you, Mama.

KAYE: What's all the fuss? Her Mascoutah middle school put her in detention for two days for -- get this -- hugging. It was two hugs, in fact, given to two friends, one boy and one girl, after administrators say she had been warned.

MEGAN COULTER: I gave him a hug. It was just simple, across the shoulder, nothing. No bodies pressing up against each other or anything.

KAYE: Megan says it was the same squeeze she's given her parents and friends before, but this time the hugs landed her in hot water.

(on camera) Turns out there's a written policy against public displays of affection at Megan's school. A student handbook given to every family spells out policy and punishment. It's been in place for over a decade, approved by the board of administration.

Administrators tell us Megan was not the first to get detention this school year under this policy.

(voice-over) The policy reads, "Displays of affection should not occur on the school campus at any time. It is in poor taste, reflects poor judgment and brings discredit to the school and to the persons involved. First offenders will be warned. Second offenders will serve detention, and a parent conference will be held. Third offenders will serve in-school suspension."

Why was Megan considered a second offender? Because she gave two hugs.

"Keeping Them Honest," we ask the superintendent of schools, isn't this a bit extreme?

SAM MCGOWEN, SUPERINTENDENT: You know, hugs lead to other things. And when they get to the point where they're leading to other things, then they are in violation of our policy.

KAYE: Superintendent Sam McGowen went on to say he doesn't want the 600 or so students, quote, "distracted."

MELISSA COULTER, MOTHER: I think it's ridiculous. Most children are naturally affectionate creatures.

KAYE: Megan's mom, Melissa Coulter, agrees too much affection is not a good thing for impressionable kids, but she insists this rule goes too far. She and her husband plan to push the school board to reword the policy and be more specific about what constitutes a public display of affection.

MEGAN COULTER: It's very confusing to me, because I have always been taught, like, you know, when you see your friends, you hug. When someone is having a bad day, you hug.

Even in sixth grade at the same middle school that I go to now, we had a DARE program, and the motto was, "Hugs, Not Drugs." At one point they're telling us to hug each other, and at one point they're not.

KAYE: Randi Kaye, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Man, so much for hugs, not drugs.

All right. O.J. Simpson has a big day tomorrow. He's due in a Las Vegas court, where evidence in the alleged armed robbery case is going to be presented. Simpson, you know, is accused of masterminding the hotel room holdup. I'm not sure masterminding is really all that accurate of a term.

Anyway, if he's convicted, he could spend years in prison.

But will the questionable credibility of the other players in the room that night give Simpson all the defense he needs?

CNN's Ted Rowlands joins us tonight live from Vegas -- Ted.

TED ROWLANDS, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, tomorrow is the beginning of what is expected to be a two-day preliminary hearing. We'll hear from a number of witnesses we expect. We'll also, we expect, hear that infamous audiotape of the alleged incident inside that hotel casino, that audiotape that we've all heard before that was obtained by TMZ.com.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

O.J. SIMPSON, ACCUSED OF ARMED ROBBERY: Nobody leaves this room. (EXPLETIVE DELETED). Think you can steal my (EXPLETIVE DELETED) and sell it?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

SIMPSON: Don't let nobody out of here. (EXPLETIVE DELETED), you think you can steal my (EXPLETIVE DELETED).

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ROWLANDS: That audiotape could go a long way in holding Simpson over to trial.

We're also going to hear from Bruce Fromong. He's the guy that had a heart attack, the memorabilia dealer who was in that hotel room who says he got all of his stuff stolen. He is a key witness in this case.

Coming up after a short break, we have an exclusive interview with him. Stay with us. Coming up.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SIMPSON: Don't let nobody out of here, man.

And you, I trusted you, man.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I just...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bag this (EXPLETIVE DELETED) up.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bag this (EXPLETIVE DELETED).

SIMPSON: Where'd you get all my (EXPLETIVE DELETED) personal (EXPLETIVE DELETED)?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Were they trying to say the most curse words in the shortest amount of time? What do you think? They may have come close to breaking the record there.

That, of course, is the audiotape from the night O.J. Simpson allegedly committed armed robbery in a Las Vegas hotel room.

Tomorrow morning, Simpson faces a judge in a preliminary hearing, one that his defense team hopes put the case against him to rest. But the prosecution has its own game plan.

Once again, here's Ted Rowlands.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ROWLANDS (voice-over): If the armed robbery and kidnapping case against O.J. Simpson goes to trial, prosecutors will be counting on this man to help them put Simpson in jail.

BRUCE FROMONG, ALLEGED ARMED ROBBERY VICTIM: I don't care if he was my friend or not; nobody is above the law.

ROWLANDS: Bruce Fromong was in the room at the Palace Station Hotel when the alleged crime happened. Simpson denies the charges.

Fromong says, even though Simpson is an old friend, he wants him to pay for what he says happened that night.

FROMONG: All of a sudden the door bursts open, and in come, you know, four people and then O.J. And, you know, they had guns drawn.

ROWLANDS: Fromong says an audio recording of what happened, obtained by TMZ.com, seems accurate. In it, a voice that appears to be Simpson's can be heard yelling and giving orders.

SIMPSON: Don't let anybody out of here.

ROWLANDS: Fromong claims Simpson and the other men took tens of thousands worth of memorabilia, carting it out in boxes and pillow cases.

FROMONG: They took everything. And the last item that was taken, because the last man out of the room, was O.J. Simpson. And he took my cell phone.

ROWLANDS: A few days later, Bruce Fromong suffered a heart attack, which he partially blames on stress from that night.

Fromong says he's known Simpson for years and even supported him after the former football star was accused of murdering his wife, Nicole, and Ron Goldman. In fact, Fromong testified on Simpson's behalf during the civil trial.

FROMONG: O.J. was a very good friend. I mean, I knew him for 17 years.

ROWLANDS (on camera): Do you want him to go to jail?

FROMONG: I think that jail may be -- may be the answer to O.J.'s problems.

ROWLANDS (voice-over): But Bruce Fromong as a witness may have some problems, as well. Listen closely to the TMZ.com audio recording after Simpson left the hotel room.

FROMONG: I helped him set up his (EXPLETIVE DELETED) offshore accounts. Don't (EXPLETIVE DELETED) with me.

ROWLANDS: Fromong seems to say he helped Simpson set up an offshore bank account, which could be used to help shield income from the Goldman and Brown families.

FROMONG: At the time I was extremely mad, you know, and I said a lot of things that night. But it -- it will be explained later on, and people will understand. I think even the -- you know, the Goldmans.

ROWLANDS: Fromong says, while he's still a little weak from his heart attack, he's ready to testify this week against his old friend.

FROMONG: This is the right thing to do. And that's the only reason. I mean, it saddens me that I have to -- you

know, I might be the one that puts O.J. in jail.

ROWLANDS: Ted Rowlands, CNN, Las Vegas.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: We shall see.

Still ahead -- Dog the Bounty Hunter, in his own words. What he told Larry King tonight about the racist rant that cost him his job, so far. But first, Tom Foreman is in Washington with "Raw Politics" -- Tom.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: You know, when everybody in Washington knows something, there's a good chance it's not true. For months everybody here has said it's about the war, the war, the war. That's the election. Turns out, they may be wrong. "Raw Politics" coming up.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: More fallout today from the so-called fake FEMA news conference. That's it right there. You might recall that, when it was staged during the recent wildfire crisis in California, there actually weren't any real reporters present. Now a second FEMA official has resigned, press secretary Aaron Walker.

On that note, let's go to Tom Foreman and tonight's "Raw Politics" -- Tom.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

FOREMAN: We have been saying it for months, and now the "Raw" numbers are backing us up. The war may very well not dominate this election. (voice-over) Economic worries have taken over as the number win issue for voters in our latest CNN poll. Housing, health care, gas prices. The "Raw" read: when the economy goes south, voters often lean left. So politically, the Dems are dancing.

But they can expect a firestorm over this. A new federal law is moving swiftly through Congress to outlaw discrimination in jobs or housing based on sexual orientation.

REP. BARNEY FRANK (D), MASSACHUSETTS: To tell millions of Americans who are gay and lesbian that they are not bad people.

FOREMAN: The conservative roar is already rising.

Spruce up the guest room. French President Nicholas Sarkozy spent the afternoon with President Bush at George Washington's maison in Virginia. Sarkozy says he wants to re-conquer the heart of America. Hint to Mr. Bush: don't bring up the ex-wife.

Some quick hits: Fred Thompson losing a lot of weight. Says his health is fine, just eating more salads.

MICHAEL MOORE, COMEDIAN: Get in my belly!

FOREMAN: Barack Obama going blue color, with new economic promises to make college more affordable, overhaul bankruptcy law, cut the income gap.

And Obamarama's charter plane swooped in to Iowa for a big rally in Cedar Rapids this week. The problem was, it landed more than 100 miles away in Des Moines.

(on camera) The mix-up made him about an hour late. Still, he says he can lead America in the right direction -- Anderson.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, honest mistake.

His racist comments cost him his popular TV show. We're talking about the Dog. That's right. Tonight, Dog is talking again. Is he sorry? You can hear for yourself in just a moment.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's got an 8-year-old daughter, looks like.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Listen to this.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Erica Hill joins us again with the "360 News and Business Bulletin" -- Erica.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HILL: Anderson, a manhunt ends in Florida with an arrest in a killing of a sheriff's deputy. Escaped prisoner Michael Mazza is accused of shooting the deputy on his way from jail to a court appearance. Mazza is already serving two life sentences for an earlier robbery conviction.

Developments tonight in the disappearance of Stacy Peterson. She, of course, is the wife of an Illinois police sergeant. Investigators now want to question the officer's children from earlier marriages. They're also taking a new look at the bathtub drowning of Sergeant Drew Peterson's third wife.

In business news, a dark day on the trading floor, the Dow plummeting 3609 points to close at 13,300. That is one of its steepest dives (ph) of the year. The NASDAQ lost 76. The S&P plunged 44 points.

And a fender-bender on the waters of San Francisco bay: a container ship clipping one of the towers holding up the Bay Bridge. No word on the exact cause, but it did happen in heavy fog. There was little damage to either the ship or the bridge, and we are told it is unlikely the bump was even felt by any drivers, which is probably a good thing.

COOPER: Wait. It was a fender bender in the water?

HILL: Well, yes. You know, the fender of the container ship. Maybe only one fender.

COOPER: Hmm, I see.

HILL: Maybe a hull bender.

COOPER: OK.

HILL: A hull bender perhaps.

COOPER: All right.

HILL: So technical, Anderson Cooper.

COOPER: No.

HILL: Come on. Just have a little fun!

COOPER: Yes.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Now "The Shot", Duane "Dog" Chapman. You know the former TV bounty hunter. Former, that is, because his show has been yanked by A&E, for the foreseeable future, they say, over Dog's use of the "N" word to describe his son's girlfriend.

Well, tonight Dog tried to explain everything by Larry King, saying he thinks he was set up by his son Tucker -- well, we know he was set up by his son Tucker and the girlfriend -- even before Tucker sold the audiotape to the "National Enquirer." It's very confusing.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DUANE "DOG" CHAPMAN, BOUNTY HUNTER: One time outside my office these girls were going to jump Beth and tape record Beth and try to get her to fight.

LARRY KING, HOST, "LARRY KING LIVE": Your wife?

CHAPMAN: My wife, Beth, right. And they had dressed for the fight, had tank shirts on, these girls. So ended up one of them was Tucker's girlfriend.

So I called him up and said, you know, "What are you doing, son? What are you guys doing here?"

And the whole idea was the "Enquirer" magazine was trying to trap me using racial slurs.

First I thought, oh, my God. You know, well, people know it's the truth. I thought, you know, people know it's me. They know me.

KING: You didn't think anything would happen?

CHAPMAN: Well, I knew it would happen, but I went, "Oh, my God. Here I have to explain now." What -- you

know, why I think I'm cool with the black race. And I thought -- I was thinking, God, America just don't -- wouldn't understand that.

And then when it happened, I thought, you know, wait a minute. You know, people know me. They know that I'm not prejudiced; I'm not like that. I've come a long way. And, Larry, it's tough to be a nobody and then work up to be a somebody. There's -- and some of old things still hang onto you.

Unfortunately, my vocabulary. I'm not -- trying not to swear. The "F" word, the "A" word, the "P" word, the "N" word. I'm trying not to use any of those words. Then I won't be accustomed to just letting this stuff fly. I have quit swearing for four or five days. And now to hear the "F" word when people use it, it kind of upsets me a little bit in my spirit: "Oh, what are you saying?"

And I thought today, you mean, when I swore like that, that's what it meant to people?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: I can't explain that. I watched the whole thing. It lasts an hour. You can watch it on "LARRY KING LIVE" later tonight.

That does it for this edition of 360. For our international viewers, "CNN TODAY" is next. Here in America, "Death Grip: Inside Pro Wrestling," a CNN special investigation, starts right now.

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CNN LARRY KING LIVE

Damien Echols: Death Row Interview

Aired December 19, 2007 - 21:00 ET

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

LARRY KING, HOST: Tonight, a LARRY KING LIVE exclusive.

Is an innocent man on death row or is a murderer where he belongs?

Damien Echols -- he's been in prison for 13 years. But now new DNA evidence has raised disturbing questions in this case.

Did he take part in the savage killings of three young boys?

Does Damien Echols deserve to die?

It's a jailhouse interview you will not want to miss.

It's next on LARRY KING LIVE.

Before we start our interview with death row inmate Damien Echols, CNN's Ted Rowlands has been digging into the West Memphis Three story. He has background on this shocking crime -- a sensational case -- and the latest legal developments.

Here is Ted Rowlands.

(BEGIN VIDEO TAPE)

TED ROWLANDS, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Fourteen-and-a-half years ago, the gruesome murders of three 8-year-old boys shocked West Memphis, Arkansas -- Stevie Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore -- second grade playmates -- were found beaten to death, naked and bound in shallow water. One of the boys was dismembered.



Police arrested three teenagers, including an alleged devil worshipping ringleader named Damien Echols. At trial, prosecutors used Echols' own words from his bizarre writings to convince the jury that the murders were part of a Satanic ritual.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "Thirsty for blood and the terror of mortal men, look favorably on my sacrifice."

ROWLANDS: Echols and 16-year old Jason Baldwin denied involvement. But 17-year old Jessie Misskelley confessed, telling authorities on three separate occasion, they killed the boys after a chance encounter in the woods. Misskelley, who defense attorneys claim has low I.Q., now says the confessions were coerced.

Despite a lack of significant physical evidence linking the teens to the crime, all three were found guilty. Echols was sentenced to death.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We, the jury, find Damien Echols guilty of capital murder.

ROWLANDS: Questions about whether justice was served has loomed in this case since the verdicts. The HBO documentary "Paradise Lost" gained the case worldwide attention -- painting the trial as a rush to judgment fueled by Satanic fear.

DAMIEN ECHOLS, CONVICTED KILLER, ON DEATH ROW: West Memphis is pretty much like a second Salem. I mean, you know, because everything that happens there, every problem, no matter what it is, it's blamed on Satanism.

ROWLANDS: Last month, defense attorneys announced they have new DNA evidence that shows no trace of Echols or the other defendants at the crime scene. Even some of the victims' relatives, who initially agreed with the verdicts...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I believe they did it. I would -- I believe I would try to kill them, too.

ROWLANDS: ...now think the men in jail are innocent.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I would like to see another trial. Give them a fair trial, present the evidence that really wasn't presented in the other trial. Then if they're guilty, so be it, that's where they stay. But if they're not, God don't put somebody to death because, you know, oops.

ROWLANDS (on camera): Despite the huge outpouring of support, not everybody believes there's been a

mistake. In fact, some of the family members still believe that Echols -- who's here, on Arkansas' death row -- and the other two, who are serving life sentences -- got exactly what they deserved.

(voice-over): Todd Moore, father of Michael Moore, told CNN: "We know the correct men are in prison and they should stay there."

Prosecutors won't comment on the case. There's been no state ruling yet on a defense request for a new trial.

Ted Rowlands, CNN, West Memphis, Arkansas.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

KING: From the Varner Unit of Supermax State Prison Facility in Grady, Arkansas, we are joined by Damien Echols, who is on death row. He recently had a birthday, by the way. He's 33 years old.

Now, how long have you been on death row?

DAMIEN ECHOLS, CONVICTED OF MURDER: About 14 years. All in all, I've been locked up almost 15 years.

KING: Now there's so-called -- let's get into it -- new evidence in your case. It's encouraged a lot of your defenders -- and there are many -- to feel optimistic.

Give us the story.

What's new?

ECHOLS: There are several things. But I think the main one is probably the DNA testing that know they said it revealed no evidence of me or the other two guys who were convicted of the crime at the crime scene. There was also evidence that said that what the prosecution had alleged were knife wounds, things of that nature were actually more along the lines of post-mortem injuries inflicted by snapping turtles and other things that would have been in the woods.

KING: Why this late, Damien?

ECHOLS: Well, a lot of the testing that they had to use now to reveal this wasn't available. They couldn't do it at the time that I was arrested. You've got to keep in mind, that was almost 15 years ago. And forensic technology

has come a long way in 15 years.

KING: We'll be getting into the case and the structure of the case. But the legal process, if the DNA excludes you, why are you in prison?

ECHOLS: Well, a lot of people think that if you have some sort of definitive proof of innocence, something like a DNA test, that you're automatically released. And that's not actually true. A lot of times in cases like this it's more about politics than it is about justice. You know, a lot of people have built their careers off of this case. You know, you had police officers who were given promotions. You had the prosecutor, who ran for and was elected judge. The judge -- or the circuit court judge is now saying that he plans on retiring and running for Senate.

All of this pretty much happening on the merit of this case. And these people do not want to admit that they made a mistake.

KING: Now we understand that in late November, a U.S. district court judge ruled that your attorneys must present the new DNA tests and other evidence to state judges before they go forward with the federal filing.

Is that your understanding?

ECHOLS: Yes, that's correct.

KING: And where is that now?

ECHOLS: Well, it's not really moving anywhere right now, just because there are plans to be made. We have to get with the other two guys' attorneys who are also defendants in this case. And it has to be a combined effort. And it takes a little while for everybody to get linked up and dates to be set and things of that nature.

KING: If you know you didn't do something, isn't all of this frustrating? ECHOLS: Frustrating doesn't even begin to describe what all this is.

KING: All right, this is the story of you and two other guys. We'll get into it in a minute. A number of famous people -- celebrities and artists and writers -- have rallied to your cause.

How does that make you feel?

You've become a cause celebre.

ECHOLS: Grateful, appreciative, thankful -- more so than I could ever even begin to articulate. You know, it's through their efforts and through the attention that they've brought to the case and through donations that people have made that we were even able to do this DNA testing now.

KING: Do you think you're going to be free someday?

ECHOLS: I believe that, yes. I'm absolutely convinced of that.

KING: Let's go back to the case.

It's you and two other -- were the three of you friends?

ECHOLS: One of the guys I was familiar with. He was more an acquaintance. The other guy was my best friend.

KING: Give me the case.

What happened?

ECHOLS: Well, it started on May 5th, whenever they found the bodies of three boys that had been killed in a small wooded area in West Memphis. About a month later, they arrested me and the other two guys. One of the other two guys, he was border line retarded. He had an I.Q. of about 72. And the police picked him up and who knows what they did to him for, you know, 12 or 14 hours before they finally said that he confessed.

The problem was, once he did confess, pretty much not a single detail of what he said was right. They knew that, but they didn't care. They were just trying -- they were under a tremendous amount of pressure to get the case wrapped up as quickly as they could and they were doing whatever it took to do that.

KING: How old were the boys that were killed?

ECHOLS: I believe they were, all three, 8 -- 8 years old.

KING: Eight years old.

Did you know them?

ECHOLS: No. I had never even heard of them before this.

KING: Did you live in the vicinity where they lived?

ECHOLS: Well, I lived -- I didn't actually live in West Memphis. I lived in a small town right outside of West Memphis called Marion. So it was within, I don't know, I'd say about a 10, 15 mile area.

KING: How old were you at the time?

ECHOLS: I was, I believe 18 -- 17 or 18.

KING: Now, what was the state's case with regard to motive?

Why were these three boys killed, according to the state?

ECHOLS: The state alleged that -- they couldn't come up with anything more tangible, you know, like robbery or anything like that. So basically what they threw out was that it was some sort of Satanic ritual murder -- that these children were killed as some sort of Satanic cult thing. I'm not -- you know...

KING: Were they...

ECHOLS: ...whatever sense that makes.

KING: Were they killed in a weird way?

ECHOLS: No, not particularly. Well, you know, any -- murder is always weird...

KING: Yes.

But I mean how?

Were they stabbed?

Were they shot?

How were they killed?

ECHOLS: The prosecution at the time alleged that they had been stabbed. Now we know that they weren't. We know that the wounds that the prosecutor was saying were stab wounds were actually inflicted by animals after

they were dead.

From the best we can figure now, I believe they said two of them died from blunt force trauma. And if I'm not -- I'm positive about this now, but I believe the third one they said may have drowned.

KING: We're with Damien Echols. He's on death row in Arkansas.

We'll be right back.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We, the jury, find Damien Echols guilty of capital murder in the death of Stevie Branch.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So (INAUDIBLE) and wait until momma gets up there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We, the jury, find Damien Echols guilty of capital murder in the death of Christopher Byers.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And guilty is guilty. And I hope the little sucker when it's coming, they get it. That's right off the bat.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We, the jury, find Damien Echols guilty of capital murder in the death of Michael Moore.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Just because somebody wears black and has different (INAUDIBLE).

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We, the jury, after careful deliberations, have determined that Damien Echols shall be sentenced to death by lethal injection.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Faces from an angry, curious community came to see the teenagers who stand accused

of a crime that makes no sense.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He was guilty when I first laid eyes on him.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Who could do such a thing to three small boys?

ROWLANDS (voice-over): Prosecutors portrayed 19-year-old Damien Echols as a murderous devil worshipper.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You begin to see inside Damien Echols. And you look inside there and there's not a soul in there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: There couldn't be a worse capital murder ever committed in this state that I'm aware of.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Investigators say the suspects aren't the typical boys next door.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's not the all-American boy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You can feel good returning a verdict of guilty.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: These guys, you know, were put behind bars and now maybe life can go on.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They want to worship the devil, I hope they meet him real soon -- the sooner the better as far as I'm concerned.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We are back with Damien Echols.

The three boys who were killed, you didn't know them, you weren't anywhere near there.

So why you?

What were you doing then?

Why you?

ECHOLS: I think in the -- this was, once again, 15 years ago. Things weren't exactly the same -- especially in the South -- as they are now. I believe that I probably stood out in the small town where we were living just because of the music I listened to, the clothes that I wore, things of that nature. They considered me an oddity. So I drew attention.

For example, one of the things they used against us at trial was the fact that I listened to Metallica. You know, back then, 15 years ago, that was something that was considered strange. Now you hear it played on classic rock stations. It's not big deal at all.

KING: What about your best friend?

ECHOLS: I think they pretty much just brought him in because he was my best friend.

KING: Now, did the boy who was border line retarded, did he say you did it?

ECHOLS: Yes, after coaching from the police.

KING: So where were you when they came to arrest you?

ECHOLS: I was at my mother and father's place. They were gone out of town at the time. It was probably -- it was sometime during the night. Like I say, this has been 15 years ago so it's hard to remember a lot of the small details like times that things took place.

KING: But you'd be -- I don't need the exact time, but you must remember whether it was night or day and who came to the door and why.

ECHOLS: It was night.

KING: All right.

And who came, policemen?

ECHOLS: Yes, policemen. Once again, I couldn't tell you who they were. It looked like all of them to me.

KING: Had you ever been convicted of anything?

ECHOLS: No.

KING: Therefore, can we say they come to the door, they knock on the door, they're there to arrest you, that you're in total shock?

ECHOLS: Well, they had been harassing me for about a month before this took place. They came to my door nearly every single day for the month between the murders and the time that I was arrested. And the night that they did this, I thought it was probably just more of the same harassment.

So at first, I didn't even get up. You know, whenever they knocked, I didn't even bother to answer the door. I figured they'll go away -- you know, they'll get tired of it and go away. But they didn't.

KING: So you knew you were a suspect?

ECHOLS: Yes.

KING: Did you hire a lawyer during that period?

ECHOLS: No, I didn't. Well, I take that back. I think I did for one -- one day, maybe, during a brief period of time. But for the most part, I didn't think I needed one. You know, I thought only guilty people needed lawyers.

You know, I didn't have any experience with the justice system or anything legal, for that matter. So I felt only guilty people needed attorneys.

KING: Why, Damien, then, not only were you convicted, but you get the death sentence and the other two boys get life?

ECHOLS: You know, I don't believe I've come in contact with many people over the years who haven't asked me that question. And I still have no idea. The only thing I can figure is that I think the police -- maybe they went on what the police were saying, that I was the ringleader of whatever happened. And that's the only thing I can figure.

KING: Were you all tried together?

ECHOLS: No. The border line retarded guy was tried by himself, separately. And me and my best friend were tried together.

KING: Was the jury -- was it a jury trial?

ECHOLS: Yes, it was.

KING: Was the jury out a long time?

ECHOLS: I can't remember exactly. If I had to guess, I'd say, no -- no, they weren't. I don't even want to guess about the amount of time they were out. But I think it was less than two days.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The first verdict reads as follows: "We, the jury, find Damien Echols guilty of capital murder in the death of Stevie Branch."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: In retrospect, what was the key evidence against you? What convicted you?

ECHOLS: Honestly, I believe it was -- for the most part, I think it was the local media more than it was anything else -- the way they handled the case, the way they made it such a sensational issue and turned it into, you know, this huge story of -- you know, all of these Satanic rumors and all this sort of thing. I believe that was what convicted us more than anything else -- because there was no physical evidence.

KING: No physical evidence.

Was -- was there -- is there a big paper in West Memphis, Arkansas?

ECHOLS: No. There was mostly -- we mostly get the Memphis news stations, the Memphis newspapers, things of that nature. The only paper they had in West Memphis was a small -- you know, a small town newspaper.

KING: And is it the Memphis papers that played this up?

ECHOLS: The Memphis papers, the Memphis television stations -- but, also, all the stations all around Arkansas. You know, this was a huge deal, not just in Arkansas, but in neighboring states, also, like, you know, Mississippi and Louisiana. It was a big deal there, also. There was coverage, you know, in the tri-state area.

KING: Did you testify?

ECHOLS: Yes, I did.

KING: And when cross-examined, what happened?

I mean, did it not go well?

ECHOLS: No, it didn't. It didn't go well at all, I'd say, just because of the fact that I was a teenager, had no experience with these sorts of things. And this is what the prosecution does for a living. You know, they take whatever you say and make it look however they want it to look. And I think it was especially easy for them to do that whenever you're dealing with teenaged kids with no life experience and no experience with the judicial system.

KING: How did your best friend take all of this?

ECHOLS: We haven't really had a chance to communicate that much. They don't want us seeing each other, talking to each other, anything like that. So other than maybe just like -- I saw him a couple of times passing down the hallway, you know, nod at him, something like that. But there's been no real communication.

KING: We'll be right back with more of Damien Echols and this incredible story.

Don't go away.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you kill Michael Moore?

ECHOLS: No, I did not.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On May the 5th, did you kill Stevie Branch?

ECHOLS: No, I did not.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On May the 5th, did you kill Chris Byers?

ECHOLS: No, I did not.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE (voice-over): If the West Memphis three are innocent, as Damien Echols' supporters claim, then someone had to have murdered the three boys.

JOHN MARK BYERS, STEP-FATHER OF VICTIM CHRISTOPHER BYERS: Terry Hobbs. I don't have any problem with saying his name. In my opinion, yes, I believe he is the perpetrator of this crime.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A recent DNA test found hair fibers on one of the victim's shoelaces matched Terry Hobbs. He was Stevie Branch's stepfather. But the DNA wasn't found on Stevie's shoelace. Hobbs claims it was a casual transfer to one of Stevie's friends, who spent time at their house. We asked Terry Hobbs to comment. He declined.

But his daughter Amanda didn't.

AMANDA HOBBS, DAUGHTER OF TERRY HOBBS: It makes me sick, it really does. I don't really -- it's just crazy, you know?

It's like Mort Byers has been in these shoes for 14 years and now he wants to try to put my father in those shoes?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Mark Byers was questioned by police shortly after the murders, but never declared an official suspect.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's the worst nightmare you could ever imagine. I know the nightmare that the three in prison feel to be wrongly accused.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We're back with Damien Echols. He's at the Varner Unit Supermax State Prison Facility in Grady, Arkansas. He's on death row, but he's got a fighting chance, it would appear, after this DNA evidence. Jessie Misskelley, he was the -- he is the border line retarded person who was convicted separately and who made statements confessing and implicating you, I guess.

What are your feelings towards him?

ECHOLS: Well, I try not to be angry with him, just because I know how the police treated me -- the things they

did to me. And, you know, it was hard. It was -- they put us through absolute hell. And I can only imagine -- what it was for me, how it would be for someone with an I.Q. of, you know, 72.

So, you know, it's not his fault. I think it was the fault of the police, who would rather psychologically torture a confession out of a border line retarded kid than actually go after the murderers. That's who I am angry with.

KING: Is he still in jail?

ECHOLS: Yes, he is.

KING: By the way, one of the people who now believes you and the others were wrongfully convicted is John Mark Byers, the father of the murdered Christopher Byers. After learning of the new evidence, he said he's reversed his belief in the guilt of the West Memphis Three and he now wants you to know, "I'm here for you."

Do you have a comment?

ECHOLS: Just that I -- I really do appreciate that. I appreciate everything he's been expressing lately. I've heard several -- I've heard him make comments like that several times on different local news stations and I've heard people repeat that to me. And I really, really do appreciate that. It means a great deal.

KING: Do we think you know who the murderers are?

ECHOLS: Well, I can -- I can say whose DNA they found at the crime scene, but I'm hesitant to point the finger at him just because I don't want to do the same thing to someone else that was done to me. You know, I was accused...

KING: Fully understandable.

ECHOLS: ... And convicted and tried before I was ever sent to trial. And I don't want to do the same thing to someone else.

KING: All right.

Without that, then, during this period, is anyone, to your knowledge, investigating the other DNA?

ECHOLS: I don't think so. I think once it came out, the prosecution and the police did pretty much what they always do, which is sort of hunker down, cover up, and hope that the media stops paying attention to this so that

they can go about their business like they always did.

KING: Do you have the financial wherewithal to hire a detective?

ECHOLS: We have. There's a private detective who's been working on the case, for the most part, throughout this whole thing. And they -- they uncover little bits and pieces of things sometimes. But you really do need something in a case like this like DNA testing -- something that, you know, really does strongly testify to your innocence.

KING: When have you last talked to Jason Baldwin, your best friend, who was convicted along with you but who got life?

ECHOLS: We exchanged a couple of words, you know, just telling each other, hey, how are you doing? Hold on. This has got to end some time. Maybe two years ago, I would say?

He's -- he was at this prison for a short while and I would see him in the hallway, you know, pass him every now and then. But he's at an entirely different prison now. So there's not a lot of communication.

KING: Have you come into contact with Jessie, the other boy?

ECHOLS: I saw him a couple of times, too. Pretty much the same thing.

KING: Have you ever come in contact with the parents of the dead boys?

ECHOLS: No.

KING: They didn't go to trial?

They weren't in court?

They never had a -- you never had to confront them...

ECHOLS: Oh, they...

KING: They had to confront you?

ECHOLS: They were at the trial. They attended the trial throughout. But there's, you know, been no

communication with them, anything like that -- you know, direct communication and nothing of that nature.

KING: You had never been convicted of anything.

Did you ever do physical harm to anyone?

In other words, were they able to bring up anything in court to show that this is a violent guy?

ECHOLS: No. It was mostly all rumors. You know, they would trying to say this guy is a Satanist because he listens to Metallica, therefore he must be violent. You know, it was all some sort of circular logic type thing. There was nothing -- you know, anything like that.

KING: What are your feelings about these 8-year-olds?

I mean, you must go through some torture here. Three 8-year-olds died, you're in jail -- forever, maybe -- accused of it. You know yourself you didn't do it. Someone out there did it.

ECHOLS: I think it's -- it's -- I wouldn't even want to imagine what they went through. And if there is some sort of afterlife, I can imagine they would probably still be pretty upset right now. I think I would probably feel the worst for their parents who, you know, not only in addition to losing their children in such a horrific manner and then being led to believe that they, you know, were going to see justice done, that the right people had been arrested. And then now, all the new stuff is coming out and they're realizing that a mistake was made.

So it's not over for them even now -- even 15 years later. You know, they've been strung along and drug out by this just like I have. So that...

KING: What...

ECHOLS: ...must be horrible.

KING: What's going to happen, though, is pretty soon, we would hope, that in state court this evidence -- the DNA evidence will be presented.

First it must be presented there, right?

Do you know when that's going to happen?

ECHOLS: No dates have been set yet. You know, this is one of those things in the legal system, they like to drag things out as long as they possibly can. Like I say, I've been here almost 15 years now.

KING: Do you have lawyers, can we say, working feverishly on this?

ECHOLS: Yes. Yes, they've been working on it...

KING: And, of course...

ECHOLS: I'm really happy with the attorneys we have now. They've been working on the case for the past few years. These aren't the same guys that have been working on it from the very beginning.

KING: We'll be right back with more of Damien Echols on this edition of LARRY KING LIVE.

Don't go away.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK) KING: We are back with Damien Echols. Damien, in 2001, a psychiatrist for your defense team submitted an affidavit that essentially concluded -- I'm reading this -- "The nature and severity of your multiple psychiatric illnesses have left you unable to rationally understand the 1994 legal proceedings that convicted you or to rationally assist in your own defense."

How do you react to that, that you are not in a rational state?

ECHOLS: I think maybe -- I don't think they are saying I'm not in a rational state now. I think what they mean is that I wasn't in a rational state at the time of the trial. And I think that I would probably even agree with that, just for the fact that I was a teenage kid and I was suffering from severe trauma and shock from everything that was going on.

I had no experience with anything like that. And it came as a tremendous blow, you know, just the depression and the shock and everything that goes along with it. I would probably agree with that statement.

KING: So what your psychiatrist was saying, that the nature and severity of your multiple psychiatric illnesses made you unable to rationally understand the legal proceedings against you.

Did you have multiple psychiatric illnesses?

ECHOLS: I don't think so. I think at the time I probably suffered from what most teenagers suffer from, you

know, just teenage angst, maybe depression, maybe sometimes even severe depression.

But I don't -- I think it is harder to judge something like that when you are going back in hindsight than it is whenever you are actually, you know, there at the time. You know, this would have been someone who didn't know me at the time of the trial. This would have been looking back in hindsight and trying to put everything together.

KING: How was the DNA evidence uncovered?

ECHOLS: They collected at the time of the murders. And they didn't do anything with it. They just pretty much left it laying somewhere in an evidence room all of this time.

That -- I guess in a way, that kind of makes me angry too, just to think that a lot of this could have been avoided. You know, I could have possibly had 15 years of my life back if they would have bothered to do some of the testing back then.

KING: How have your parents reacted to all of this?

ECHOLS: I don't know. You know, it is really a roller coaster ride for them as well as me, for everyone involved in this case. We never know when to get our hopes up. We never know, you know, how to react, how long something is going to take. It is hard.

KING: What is death row like? ECHOLS: Not fun. It does what it was designed to do, which is pretty much separate you from all your support systems, tear you away from anything that means anything to you, and keep you there until they are ready to kill you.

KING: Have any inmates been killed since you have been on death row?

ECHOLS: I was trying to count that, actually, a couple of days ago, trying to remember. Somewhere between 20 and 25, I would say.

KING: Did you know any of them?

ECHOLS: Some of them I knew quite well. Some of them I knew just as, you know, passing -- maybe speak to them as I passed them, something like that. Some of them I knew quite well.

KING: How is death performed in Arkansas?

ECHOLS: Lethal injection.

KING: When they were killed, would every other inmate know the night that was going to happen?

ECHOLS: Yes. They usually come in some time between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m. and take them out. And usually everyone in the barracks will be up and watching as they lead him out the doorway into the death chamber.

KING: Well, how is -- that must feel terrible for you when you -- especially when you have gotten to know them, right?

ECHOLS: Yes. It is pretty hard. I mean, even if you are not -- even if it is someone you don't know, just watching someone being led out in front of you, and knowing that this person is being taken to their death. I mean, that is a hard thing itself, even if it's someone you don't know.

KING: Do you have a date set for your execution?

ECHOLS: No, not right now.

KING: All of that would be on kind of hold anyway, with all of these legal proceedings.

ECHOLS: Right.

KING: We will be right back with Damien Echols on this edition of LARRY KING LIVE. Don't go away.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

KING: We are back with Damien Echols. By the way, just so we clarify a couple of things. Was the semi-retarded young man -- was he the only witness against you that would be called an eyewitness?

ECHOLS: Yes, he was.

KING: And did you have any psychiatric treatment at all before all of this?

ECHOLS: Yes. I had been in counseling session for therapy and I had been on anti-depressants for several years, I would say probably between two and three years.

KING: But not having anything to do with your being violent?

ECHOLS: Oh, no. No, nothing like that.

KING: OK. In addition to December being your birthday month, it is also the month you married Lorri Davis (ph) in a prison wedding ceremony in 1999. How did Lorri come into your life?

ECHOLS: She was one of the very first people who saw the documentary that they made about the case when it originally aired in New York at a small theater. She lived in Manhattan at the time -- or Brooklyn. And after she saw the documentary, she started corresponding with me, writing to me and we started talking on the phone. And every few months, she would fly back and forth from New York to Arkansas.

And then probably about 10 years ago, she finally moved here. We have been together about 12 years now. We have been married for eight.

KING: Did you regard it -- I don't know if strange is the right word -- that someone would want to marry you that can't co-habit with you?

ECHOLS: I can understand how a lot of people would maybe think that was odd. But we love each other. She is my life. And I'm hers. So we do what we have to do to make it.

KING: Don't you worry about her on the outside and you are not?

ECHOLS: Constantly. Once again, worry is not even a word that begins to describe it. You know, she has had to work 10 and 12-hour days for years now and then come home every single night and work for hours and hours on this case.

You know, she does as much work on my case as the attorneys do, as the private investigators, as anybody has done. She has done that much or more. And she -- quite frankly, after all of this time, she is exhausted, as am I. And it is really hard to see that.

KING: Do you have any -- Damien, any guilt that even though there is a great deal of love, you are preventing Lorri from having a full life?

ECHOLS: No. I don't think so. And the reason I say that is because she doesn't want to be with anybody else. And I don't want to be with anybody else. This is what we want. We -- our life isn't something that we think of as being something set off in the future that we have to work towards. We have a life together right here and now.

And we try to get as much joy from that, as much happiness from that, and we support each other as much as we can. This is our life.

KING: And it all started with her seeing the documentary about you in New York.

ECHOLS: Correct.

KING: Has that documentary gotten wide play?

ECHOLS: It has been shown all over the world. I get letters every day from people everywhere from Israel to Australia to pretty much every state of the United States where this documentary has been shown, all over the world.

KING: We will be right back with more with Damien Echols. Don't go away.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ECHOLS: Even after I die, people are going to remember me forever. They're going to talk about me for years. People will tell their kids stories. It will be like I'm the West Memphis boogey man. Little kids will be looking under their beds before they go to bed. Damien might be under there.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

KING: We are back with Damien Echols. In addition to Lorri in your life, you also have a son, right? But not by Lorri. Who is the mother?

ECHOLS: She was someone that I was with before I was arrested, someone I used to live with, a girlfriend at the time.

KING: You were pretty young then to be a father.

ECHOLS: Yes, I was. My son is already 14 and I'm only 33 now.

KING: Do you get to talk to him?

ECHOLS: As much as we can. We try to keep him separated from this case as much as possible. He lives pretty far away from here, just to be away from all of this.

KING: Do you talk to your --

ECHOLS: We try to shelter him as much as possible.

KING: Talk to his mother?

ECHOLS: Yes. We are still on friendly terms.

KING: While you were in prison, awaiting trial, you wrote a number of letters containing things a lot of people would consider disturbing. Among them, you wrote to Gloria Shettles, an investigator for your defense team.

And you wrote: "Everyone will pay because everyone is too stupid to open their eyes. This is the final time and I am the new messiah. My body is changing but that medicine is making it happen a lot more slowly than normal. I am outgrowing my skin. I am eating packs of sugar and Kool-Aid to give my body extra energy it needs to make its change. Soon people will be able to know I am the Christ. I always knew I was different from other children."

How do you explain that?

ECHOLS: I don't know. I mean, like I said, that was 15 years ago. That could have been -- I'm not sure what that was. What I was talking about could have been a short story. I really don't know. You know, I write constantly, non-stop. I actually consider myself a writer. I have had several things published.

And some of it is hard to keep track of after all of these years. Even now I come across things that I read that aren't familiar to me. I will recognize my hand writing, but have no idea what it was, what context it was in, any of that.

KING: Ever thought about suicide?

ECHOLS: Yes. Back in the -- I don't anymore, not since Lorri. But back whenever this first started happening, 15 years ago, yes, I did. This was an extremely hard thing to go through. And sometimes that seemed like a very inviting option back then.

KING: Is it possible, Damien, just possible that you committed this crime under some sort of delusional state and have blotted it out?

ECHOLS: Absolutely not.

KING: You didn't know the boys and you know you didn't do it.

ECHOLS: Exactly. And delusions don't leave DNA.

KING: Your wife, Lorri, told "The Arkansas Times" a few years ago that she knows some people perceive you as scary, even maniacal. Do you think that is the public perception?

ECHOLS: I think it probably was at one time. I don't think it is so much anymore, just because I have been more exposed to the public. But I think back then, due to the way the local media portrayed me and the way I was portrayed by the police department, I think that would probably be pretty accurate.

(CROSSTALK)

KING: Lorri also said she thinks some of your behavior during your trial may have contributed to your conviction, that you didn't act as a lot of people thought an innocent person would act. ECHOLS: I would probably agree with that too. But at the time, once again, I go back -- you know, I was a teenager. I was a very foolish kid, basically. There was that aspect of it and there was also the aspect of -- my behavior felt to me at the time sort of like defiance in the face of injustice.

KING: Some more moments with Damien Echols right after this.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

KING: We are back with Damien Echols. By the way, we understand you are supported by many people. Among them, Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks and Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, is that right?

ECHOLS: That is correct.

KING: Have they been to see you?

ECHOLS: Eddie has. He has been to see me a couple of times. We talk on the phone, write, things of that nature. He keeps a -- he has been -- Eddie has went above and beyond the call of duty to me and my wife both. You know, he has been probably the greatest friend a person could have through all of this.

KING: Do you have strong spiritual beliefs?

ECHOLS: I think I do. But it is pretty hard to articulate exactly what that is.

KING: What keeps you going all day?

ECHOLS: My wife. My wife and I guess you could also say those spiritual beliefs.

KING: You are a Catholic?

ECHOLS: I'm a member of the Catholic Church, yes.

KING: Damien Echols, he is at the Varner Unit -- V-A-R-N-E-R, Varner Unit Supermax State Prison Facility, Grady, Arkansas. The next procedure will occur in state court dealing with the DNA evidence.

Anderson Cooper with "AC 360" is next. Anderson?

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