

1 Q. Where is he sitting and what is he wearing?

2 A. White shirt.

3 Q. No further questions.

4 *****

5 THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Stewart?

6 MR. STEWART: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: You may step down.

8 A. Okay, thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 *****

11 THE COURT: Next witness?

12 MR. JENSEN: At this time the People would call
13 Ramando Alexander. I believe he is in custody.

14 THE COURT: He is in custody, I called for him, I
15 don't know if he is here yet.

16 *****

17 (Witness was sworn.)

18 RAMANDO ALEXANDER

19 called as a witness herein, having been duly sworn,
20 was examined and testified as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. JENSEN:

23 MR. JENSEN: Tell us your name, please.

24 THE WITNESS: Ramando Alexander.

1 Q. Mr. Alexander, are you in custody at the present
2 time?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And are you in custody of the Department of
5 Corrections?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And how old are you?

8 A. Twenty.

9 Q. And in October of 1999, where did you live?

10 A. 2150 Rockwood.

11 Q. In Alton?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you grow up in Alton?

14 A. No.

15 Q. In order for the jury to correctly understand why
16 you are in custody, were you charged with a case that
17 occurred some years ago?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that case involved the death of a man?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Were four or five other people charged in that
22 offense?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And do you have an attorney?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Would you state for the record who that attorney
3 is?

4 A. Dan Schattnik.

5 Q. And in that case there are four or five people
6 currently charged with murder, an individual was beaten to
7 death?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you participate in that?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Were you charged as an accomplice?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Have you disposed of that case?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what did you plead guilty to?

16 A. Unlawful restraint.

17 Q. Was that for holding the victim at that
18 location?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And on unlawful restraint, were you sentenced?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you sentenced to the Department of
23 Corrections?

24 A. For eighteen months.

1 Q. Now, as part of your agreement in that case, who
2 do you have to testify against in that murder?

3 A. Eddie Alexander, Brendon Wallace, Jeffrey Ewing
4 and Michael Tate.

5 Q. So you will be testifying in four murder cases
6 against those people where you are actually a witness or had
7 some involvement?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now, before that, and that occurred some time
10 ago, when were you apprehended or charged with that?

11 A. Last December.

12 Q. In December of 1999?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, with that in mind, in October of 1999, were
15 you present at the Chess Club?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell us what time you got to the Chess
18 Club?

19 A. About quarter to three.

20 Q. Did you work that night?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would you tell the jury where you work?

23 A. I worked across the street at CTW's, cooking
24 chicken.

1 Q. And what was the purpose of cooking the chicken
2 there?

3 A. Excuse me?

4 Q. Were you going to do something with that chicken?

5 A. Yes, I was going to sell it.

6 Q. And where were you going to sell it?

7 A. At the Chess Club.

8 Q. So you cook the chicken up until the time the
9 CTW's closed, how did you take the chicken over to the Chess
10 Club?

11 A. It was in a bag that we carry to keep it hot.
12 We sell it piece by piece.

13 Q. How much is a box of chicken?

14 A. \$3.00.

15 Q. Does the owner of CTW's know you are doing that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How many bags of chicken did you carry over
18 there?

19 A. About eight.

20 Q. But what did you do with the other chicken?

21 A. I ate three boxes, I ate three boxes myself.

22 Q. Okay, when you go over there, about what time was
23 it?

24 A. About 3:50, 3:55.

1 Q. Was it crowded in the Chess Club?

2 A. Somewhat.

3 Q. Did you have to buzz in?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who was the doorman?

6 A. Kenny.

7 Q. When you got in, did you see anyone you
8 recognized?

9 A. Yes, I saw a few people.

10 Q. Okay, who did you see?

11 A. Saw Tremaine Brown, Lloyd, Valdez, Darmon Gipson,
12 Tracy, saw a few people I know.

13 Q. When you say Tracy, is that Tracy Everage?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now, do you have a nickname?

16 A. Me? Yes.

17 Q. What is it?

18 A. What nickname?

19 Q. What nickname do you go by?

20 A. Rae-Rae.

21 Q. Does Tremaine have a nickname?

22 A. Money Man.

23 Q. Does Valdez have a nickname?

24 A. As far as my knowledge, Dez is what I call him.

1 Q. Dez. How long had you known Dez?

2 A. About six or seven months.

3 Q. Did you engage in any gambling?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you help out with the dice game?

6 A. No. Somebody just asked me to watch their money
7 while they went to the bathroom.

8 Q. Who was that?

9 A. U-Set.

10 Q. Who is U-Set?

11 A. Seth Gipson.

12 Q. Okay. And did you watch his money?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you place bets for him?

15 A. No.

16 Q. When he came back from the bathroom, did you stay
17 right around the dice table?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who all was playing in the craps game?

20 A. Seth Gipson, Darmon Gipson, Valdez, Money Man,
21 Tyrone Parker.

22 Q. Who was winning?

23 A. Tyrone and Darmon.

24 Q. Did Tyrone, do you know how much Tyrone was up?

1 A. No, I am, I don't know how much he was up.

2 Q. Was it obvious that he was winning?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who was losing?

5 A. Valdez was losing. Money Man was losing.

6 That's about it.

7 Q. Who was running the game?

8 A. Darmon.

9 Q. Is there anyone that helps run the game, besides
10 the person that is handling the dice?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What is he called?

13 A. He called the house.

14 Q. The house, who was the house?

15 A. Tracy.

16 Q. That would be Tracy Everage?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. At some point in time did Valdez Jordan quit
19 playing craps?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And do you know why?

22 A. I guess he lost, I really don't know why.

23 Q. What happened then when he quit playing craps?

24 A. Turned around, he was gone.

1 Q. Do you know what time that was?
2 A. Not really.
3 Q. Was Valdez Jordan angry with anyone else?
4 A. Not that I recall.
5 Q. Did he have any relatives there?
6 A. Not that I recall.
7 Q. After he left, did you later see an incident
8 occur inside the Chess Club?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. About how long was that after Valdez left?
11 A. About fifteen, twenty minutes.
12 Q. What happened?
13 A. Man came in with a mask on, and a gun in his
14 hand. And had Kenny in his arms.
15 Q. Had Kenny in his arms?
16 A. Had Kenny like in a choke hold.
17 Q. You are indicating with a right arm?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. What did he have in his other arm?
20 A. He had a gun.
21 Q. What kind of gun?
22 A. I'm not sure what kind, I know it was a chrome
23 automatic.
24 Q. Do you know what caliber?

1 A. No, it was big though.

2 Q. When is the first time that you saw this man
3 holding Kenny?

4 A. Not when he first, the very first, came in, when
5 he very first got by the pay phone.

6 Q. Okay, if I show you Exhibit #10, does this show
7 the entry and the pay phone that you just described?

8 A. Yes, that is when I first saw him.

9 Q. That is when you first saw him?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Where were you?

12 A. Right here.

13 Q. You are showing on the other side of the pool
14 table?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. At that point in time then what was said or what
17 happened?

18 A. I heard, drop it. And everybody turned around
19 and looked. And I guess they thought the man was playing,
20 until he said, he ain't playing, drop it. And then everybody
21 just dropped their money and started scrambling on the
22 ground.

23 Q. What else happened?

24 A. The man started walking towards the bar, and as I

1 am scrambling around on the floor, I see his feet. As he
2 would move one way, I moved the other way. As he moved the
3 other way, I moved one way.

4 Q. Where are you in the building?

5 A. Right here.

6 Q. Okay, so the jury can see, you are right
7 alongside the pool table, opposite the doorway?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When he would go one way, you will go the other
10 way?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Are you staying below the pool table?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened next?

15 A. He moved towards the bar, and I moved towards the
16 door, where I could run out. But I heard a gunshot, and when
17 I tried to open the door, the door was locked. So I unlocked
18 the door and ran out.

19 Q. Now, the first gunshot, did you see where it
20 went?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did he say anything after he shot the first
23 time?

24 A. Not that I recall.

1 Q. After you ran over to the door, did anyone else
2 go with you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who?

5 A. Anthony Greer.

6 Q. Did he get out alright?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you got out alright?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you hear anything after that?

11 A. I heard another gunshot while I was outside.

12 Q. What did you do after you got outside?

13 A. I got in the car, because I had car keys. And we
14 got in the car and rode around the block.

15 Q. When you came back, what did you see?

16 A. I saw a man running up towards the hill.

17 Q. Was that the same man that you saw inside?

18 A. I would assume.

19 Q. What was he wearing?

20 A. Black pants, black sweatshirt.

21 Q. Now, the guy inside, was his identity concealed
22 in any way?

23 A. Yes, he had a mask on.

24 Q. And would you describe that mask for, describe

1 the mask for us?

2 A. It was a tannish brown mask.

3 Q. Now, did you recognize who that was with the gun?

4 A. Besides having a mask on, yes.

5 Q. Okay. And who was it?

6 A. Valdez Jordan.

7 Q. And how did you know this?

8 A. I heard his voice, and he had the same clothes
9 on.

10 Q. And it had been about fifteen, fifteen to twenty
11 minutes since you had seen him?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When you say same clothes, what was it?

14 A. The same black pants, the same boots that he had
15 on when he was gambling.

16 Q. When he was gambling, how far away are you
17 standing from him?

18 A. About a foot away, I am right next to him.

19 Q. Was the person that had the gun the same height?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How about weight?

22 A. Yep.

23 Q. Any doubt in your mind as to who that was?

24 A. No.

1 Q. No further questions.

2 *****

3 THE COURT: Mr. Stewart?

4 MR. STEWART: Thank you.

5 *****

6 CROSS EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. STEWART:

8 MR. STEWART: Mr. Alexander?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 Q. You said you were originally charged with murder?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. And I believe Mr. Jensen said that was some time
13 ago, but that was just last year, right?

14 A. The charge was, yes.

15 Q. Yes. And you held someone?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. While they were beat to death?

18 A. No, not while they were beat to death.

19 Q. Oh, just afterwards. And in exchange for you
20 testifying against five people, you are getting to go home in
21 eighteen months, right?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. But it is actually, you get to go home in July,
24 don't you?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. So you held someone that got killed, and then you
3 come into court and you talk about four or five people, and
4 getting to home in six months, seven months, total? Seven
5 months total, right?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. Do seven months total, right, for your
8 participation in a murder, as long as you come in and you
9 talk?

10 A. No, not on this case.

11 Q. Oh, you are just doing this out of the goodness
12 of your heart?

13 A. The police have my statement on this case, which,
14 before I was charged with the other case.

15 Q. Okay, so instead you are just doing this
16 particular testimony out of the goodness of your heart, is
17 that what you are doing?

18 A. No, I am saying I knew what happened.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And I know who did it.

21 Q. Okay, well, actually, there is an agreement
22 between you and the State, isn't there? May I approach, Your
23 Honor.

24 THE COURT: Yes.

1 Q. Make this Defendant's Exhibit #4.

2 (Defendant's Exhibit #4 marked
3 for identification.)

4 Q. And this agreement, given to us by the State,
5 says that you plead guilty to the amended charge of unlawful
6 restraint in case #99-CF-2784, and that you agree to fully
7 and truthfully testify if called as a witness in the case of
8 People Vs. Valdez Jordan. So you are getting something for
9 testifying against Valdez, aren't you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You are not?

12 A. No.

13 Q. The State is lying?

14 A. Not that I know of.

15 MR. JENSEN: Objection, Your Honor. That is totally
16 improper and incorrect.

17 THE COURT: Sustained. The jury will be instructed
18 to disregard that statement.

19 MR. STEWART: Okay, you are telling us today that
20 you are getting no, nothing, that part of your agreement has
21 nothing, has nothing to do with this case today? Is that
22 what you are saying?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You testified on direct that when you left out of

1 that club, someone was following you, right? Anthony Greer
2 was coming with you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you had Anthony Greer with you, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you told the jury that you got into Anthony's
7 brother's car?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that you drove around the block?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. That is not what you told the police, is it?

12 A. If I can recall it is.

13 Q. Didn't you tell the police that as soon as I got
14 out the front door, you heard a gunshot, you ran down to the
15 pay phone at the gas station at 9th and Belle, and you were
16 calling your aunt, your aunt Gwen to get, your aunt
17 Gwendolyn, you were waiting for someone, and you heard
18 another shot?

19 Going on, that you told her the place was being
20 robbed and could she get down there. And it took your Aunt
21 Gwendolyn to come and get you. She drove to 9th Street to
22 pick you up, and you didn't even, go back to the statement, I
23 will show you your statement. I want you to take a look at
24 that, take a look at that.

1 You left Anthony Greer and you drove around the
2 block?

3 A. It don't say it.

4 Q. So that is something else, do you have any
5 explanation for that? You read the statement, didn't you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You signed it, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Said it was truthful, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You have been convicted of another felony,
12 haven't you? In '97?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Possessing a firearm?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And also in 1997 you were charged with theft?
17 And in October of '99 you pled to that, didn't you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. May we approach?

20 (Conversation held at the bench
21 between Court and counsel.)

22 MR. STEWART: Nothing, that's it. Thank you.

23 *****

24 THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Jensen, anything in redirect,

1 sir?

2 *****

3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. JENSEN:

5 MR. JENSEN: The statement that you gave to the Alton
6 Police, if I show you a copy, was that given on October 7th,
7 1999?

8 THE WITNESS: As I recall, yep.

9 Q. At that time did you have any other charges
10 pending against you? At that time?

11 A. No, not that I recall.

12 Q. And at that time did you say exactly what you
13 have told this jury, that it was Valdez Jordan?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you recognize him?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And after that you were charged with this murder,
18 you were charged as being a person that killed the victim?

19 A. I guess.

20 Q. Or were you charged as an accomplice only?

21 A. I was charged as an accomplice.

22 Q. And when did that murder occur?

23 A. In 1996.

24 Q. So it was an older murder, an old murder, but it

Exhibit#65 pg.19

1 wasn't investigated, or at least they didn't focus on it
2 until 1999, in December?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. And that is when you got charged at that time?
5 Did your attorney represent you and did your attorney get you
6 the negotiations that you are talking about here today?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Has anyone ever asked you to lie?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And it is your understanding that you are not
11 receiving anything, benefit, for testifying here in this
12 case, but that you are required to testify in the other
13 cases?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. No further questions.

16 *****

17 THE COURT: Mr. Stewart, anything else?

18 MR. STEWART: No, sir.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 *****

21 THE COURT: Next witness?

22 MR. JENSEN: People would call Tracy Everage to the
23 stand.

24 *****

Exhibit#65 pg.20