

1 MS. CHIEN: Okay. That's all I have.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else, State?

3 MS. LASKOFF: No.

4 THE COURT: Thank you for being here. Free to go.

5 Next witness.

6 MS. LASKOFF: Andre Blanco.

7 * * * * *

8 WHEREUPON:

9 ANDRE RAMON BLANCO

10 having been called as a witness in this cause, was duly sworn, examined and testified as
11 follows:

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. LASKOFF:

14 Q Sir, can you state your name for the record?

15 A Andre Ramon Blanco.

16 Q And Mr. Blanco, were you at the Doll House in the parking lot on the
17 evening of October 25th, 2006?

18 A Yes, I was.

19 Q And was there an instance where a fight ensued?

20 A Yes, it was.

21 Q Can you describe to the Court what happened right before the fight
22 happened? Who was out there?

23 A It was me, Anthony, Will and also Frank. We came out -- I came out of the
24 club and went towards my car...

25 Q Okay.

1 A to get it ready so we can go -- go home.

2 Q Okay. And when you walked out to your car, were the other guys with you
3 or were they behind you?

4 A They were behind me.

5 Q All right. And when you walked out to your car, did anything happen when
6 you walked out to your car?

7 A No. Not -- not in my view.

8 Q Okay. And did you get to your car?

9 A Yes, I did.

10 Q And when you got to your car, what happened?

11 A I started up my car. I'm waiting for the rest of my friends to follow up -- to
12 catch up to the car, and then I heard an argument.

13 Q Okay. Did you see who was arguing?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay. And could you hear what was being argued about?

16 A Not exactly; no, ma'am.

17 Q All right. And what did you do when you heard an argument?

18 A I just looked towards the direction where the argument was coming. And
19 then I glanced at a car. I didn't actually see the whole -- the whole car, what kind of
20 make and model it was, but I glanced at the car, to where I think a girl was on the
21 passenger side screaming or something.

22 Q Okay. And so there was a girl on the passenger side of the car screaming.
23 Is that the argument you were hearing?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Okay. And then what happened?

1 A Then the car drove and parked next to the left side of my car, to the left side
2 of my driver's door.

3 Q Immediately next to you or some spots down?

4 A Some spots down.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And then from that point I really can't tell you what happened, because I
7 got stuck in the face, and I went blank from that point on out, so I really don't have a
8 good description of what happened.

9 Q Can you tell the Court -- you're in your car. How did you -- how did you
10 get out of your car?

11 A How did I get out of my car?

12 Q Um-hum.

13 A I -- I got in my car and just cranked the car up and just walked to the rear of
14 my car.

15 Q Okay. So you got out of your car?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Did you see anything out as you walked to the rear of your car before you
18 got stabbed in the face?

19 A Did I see -- rephrase it again, please?

20 Q Did you see something when you walked around to the back of your car --
21 you got out of your car, what happened at that point?

22 A Like I said, it's kind of blurry.

23 Q Okay.

24 A So I can't really describe what happened exactly when I got to the back of
25 the car.

1 Q Were you attacked?

2 A Yes, I was.

3 Q Okay. And did some kind of a physical fight happen?

4 A Yes. What -- from my recollection...

5 Q Um-hum.

6 A ...a gentleman came, lunged at me, at my face. I didn't know I got stabbed.
7 I got hit. I fell to the ground. Got back up. Then I seen the gentleman that actually hit
8 me, went towards him, started hitting him. And then I walked away, because I guess I
9 was feeling faint from the blood that I was losing, not realizing that I was stabbed, but I
10 was feeling faint, so I walked away. And there was a girl in the background saying,
11 you're too slow, you're too slow. They both -- the gentleman and the girl jumped into the
12 car and took off fast.

13 Q Okay. Now, was it the gentleman that was fighting with you, or was it the
14 female that you were talking about that's fighting with you?

15 A The gentleman stabbed me, went towards his car. And the female was
16 arguing. And then she -- they both got into the car at the same time.

17 Q Okay. And did you observe any other people fighting in the parking lot?

18 A Yeah, Frank.

19 Q Who's Frank -- the full name?

20 A Frank Gotey.

21 Q Okay.

22 A He actually -- when I -- I guess when I got hit, went to the ground, he -- and
23 I -- after I hit the ground, I went towards the guy, and Frank was -- I guess he saw the
24 commotion, went over there to help. And then from right there, that's where it gets hazy
25 again.

1 Q Okay.

2 A Because I really can't tell what everybody else was doing.

3 Q How about -- were you able to see what happened with your friend, Will;
4 William Troy?

5 A I got to see after -- at the last minute, when I looked over to the left after the
6 car was taking off, I looked over. I saw him on the ground. So I ran over to him, started
7 massaging him on his chest, because I seen he had puncture wounds in his stomach and
8 his chest. And I'm trying, you know, to slap him on his face to stay alive, because I
9 figured the ambulance was coming and he would be all right. But he didn't make it.

10 Q Now, the injuries you sustained that night, did you have to have medical
11 treatment?

12 A Yes, I did.

13 Q And what treatment was it?

14 A I got stabbed one time in the face. I got -- no, two times in the face; one
15 right here, one right here. Got stitches for those. I got stabbed right here; one in my chest
16 by my heart, and one underneath here.

17 Q And have they left permanent marks on you?

18 A Yes, they have.

19 Q If you could just point them out to the Court, the injuries that were left as a
20 result of you being stabbed?

21 A Right here to the right side of my face, left cheek, stab wound right here.

22 THE COURT: You don't have to show me. You can explain.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay.

24 BY MS. LASKOFF:

25 Q And you have one where else? You can just point.

1 A In my chest right here.
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2 Q Okay.

3 A And one here.

4 MS. LASKOFF: Yes, sir.

5 I have nothing further, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 Ms. Chien?

8 * * * * *

9 CROSS EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. CHIEN:

11 Q Mr. Blanco, when -- did you leave with all your other friends?

12 A Leave from the club?

13 Q Um-hum.

14 A No. I -- I got escorted by the ambulance out.

15 Q You got what?

16 A The ambulance took me to the hospital.

17 Q Oh, no. Okay. When you first -- you were originally at the Doll House that
18 night; is that correct?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q And you're with your other friends?

21 A Yes, I was.

22 Q And the friends that you were with were who?

23 A Frank Gotey, Anthony Roliano and William Troy.

24 Q And when you were inside the club, had you seen any interaction between
25 my client and Mr. Troy?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q Okay. Did you see any words exchanged inside the club between the two of
- 3 them?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q And when you came outside, did you come outside alone?
- 6 A Yes, I did.
- 7 Q And you -- your friends, they were still inside the club; is that correct?
- 8 A Yes. On the way out.
- 9 Q Okay. And you got into the car?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And you were driving that night?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And you had been drinking that night as well?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q And how many drinks did you have?
- 16 A A few.
- 17 Q How many would be a few?
- 18 A Three to four.
- 19 Q And how long had you got to the Doll House -- what time did you get to the
- 20 Doll House?
- 21 A Around -- I would say between 12:45 and 1 o'clock.
- 22 Q When you were sitting inside your car, you said that you had heard arguing?
- 23 A I wasn't sitting -- I was in the rear of my car.
- 24 Q Okay. You had not gotten inside you car?
- 25 A I got inside the car, cranked the car up, stepped to the rear of the car.

1 Q Okay. And you heard arguing; is that correct?
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2 A Yes.

3 Q Can you tell who was actually arguing?

4 A No.

5 Q Could you tell whether or not Mr. Troy started saying words to Mr. Dobbs?

6 A No, I could not tell.

7 Q Okay. And when you -- the first thing that you heard was the commotion; is
8 that correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And when -- when did you actually first see the fight begin?

11 A The fight -- when the guy lunged at me.

12 Q Well...

13 A ~~I was the first one to be attacked.~~

14 Q You were the first one to get attacked?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Had you -- had you personally said any words to anybody?

17 A No.

18 Q And so ~~someone just attacked you for no reason?~~

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And was Mr. Troy also involved in this fight?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What did you see him do?

23 A I didn't see it.

24 Q And why were you unable to see -- where did the ~~fight actually take place?~~

25 A ~~By my ear.~~

1 Q Did you see who was around your car?
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2 A Yes; Frank Gotey.

3 Q Was there anybody else?

4 A Anthony and William Troy were about ten feet away from the rear bumper
5 of my car.

6 Q Okay. And what started the fight?

7 A I don't know.

8 Q So when the fight happened, what were your other three friends doing?

9 A Just standing there in the parking lot.

10 Q They didn't help you out?

11 A I got hit. I spun to the ground. And then I grabbed him from the back. I
12 went towards him and started hitting him. And then like I said, I drifted off the fight,
13 because I was feeling faint, weak.

14 Q Okay. So at any point in time, was there four -- all your friends fighting
15 Mr. Dobbs?

16 A Yeah. But not at one time.

17 Q Okay.

18 A It was in different sections of the fight, individually, kind of.

19 Q Okay. Why don't you tell me about those sections, how you remember
20 them?

21 A Well, from what I seen, after I got hit, I went after the guy, and I started
22 hitting him. And then Frank approached him, and then that's when I decided to, like,
23 kind of leave, because I wasn't able to actually fight no more. I was already stabbed up, I
24 guess.

25 Q Okay. And what did you see -- how -- what did Frank actually do? Did you

1 see Frank punch Mr. Dobbs?

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2 A Yes.

3 Q And how many times?

4 A I really can't tell you.

5 Q Did you see where he -- Mr. Gotey punched Mr. Dobbs?

6 A No, I can't. I can't tell you that.

7 Q Okay. And where did you punch Mr. Dobbs?

8 A Probably in the face or around the chest area, around there.

9 Q Okay. So you hit his head?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q And it was hard?

12 A I'm not sure. I can't tell you.

13 Q It was a punch?

14 A It was a punch.

15 Q Okay. And after Frank -- you saw Frank hit Mr. Dobbs, did you see
16 Mr. Troy or your other friend...

17 A No.

18 Q So they were never involved in the fight?

19 A They were involved, but I can't tell you what -- what exactly what they did.

20 Q Okay. And why is that?

21 A It's a little hazy still. And at the same time, like I said, I walked away from
22 the fight. So when I walked away, I can't really tell you what I saw, because I didn't see
23 nothing, because I turned -- I turned this way, and the fight is going this way, because I'm
24 feeling the stab wounds on my -- on my chest. So I'm, like, basically looking this way.
25 So the commotion is still going on over here, but I can't tell you who hit who or how it

1 went down.

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2 Q Okay. So at that time you had turned away? You weren't really paying
3 attention.

4 A Exactly.

5 Q Could it -- you -- but you did hear commotion; is that correct?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q And you did hear a fight going on, even though you weren't looking at it?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And you did see -- well, could you hear three people punching on another
10 person?

11 A No.

12 Q You couldn't hear that?

13 A No.

14 Q You mean you couldn't tell that it was three people on one?

15 A No. It never was three people on one.

16 Q Okay. Well, how would you know that, you weren't looking?

17 A Okay. You're right.

18 Q Okay. And isn't it correct that you never saw a knife that night?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And you -- did you do a photo lineup in this case?

21 A Say that again.

22 Q Did the police -- the police went and talked to you; is that correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And they asked you to identify the person who had punched you or fought
25 with you; is that correct?

1 A Yes.
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2 Q And you were unable -- were you able to pick out the photo?

3 A No.

4 Q Okay. So you weren't able to identify the person that did that to you?

5 A No.

6 Q And how long did this entire commotion take -- or fight?

7 A My guesstimation, a minute or two.

8 Q And you're sure that -- do you remember the first time you saw -- did you
9 see an Acura that night?

10 A An Acura?

11 Q Yes.

12 A In the parking lot.

13 Q Okay. And you're -- was that the car that you were saying earlier that drove
14 up to your car?

15 A To the left side of my car.

16 Q Okay. And how many spaces in between?

17 A About four.

18 Q Four. And you actually saw someone get into that car and drive up?

19 A Yeah. They came from a different direction, from like the front of the Doll
20 House, then sped up towards my car and parked right there.

21 Q Okay. And how many spaces between your car and the Acura?

22 A Four.

23 Q And could you see who was actually driving that car?

24 A No.

25 Q And you -- did you hear what you or any of your friends may have said to

1 the person or people who were in that Acura?

2 A No.

3 Q Meaning you don't remember or no words were exchanged?

4 A No. There was words exchanged, but I don't know what -- what they were
5 saying at the time.

6 MS. CHIEN: I have no other questions.

7 THE COURT: Anything else, State?

8 MS. LASKOFF: Just a few.

9 * * * * *

10 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. LASKOFF:

12 Q Now, did you see the defendant punch Frank?

13 A Say that again.

14 Q You said -- as Counsel was asking you questions, that you saw Frank punch
15 the defendant. Did you see the defendant punch Frank?

16 A Yes, I did.

17 Q Okay. And the same thing for Will. You said you saw Will punching the
18 defendant. Did you see the defendant punching Will?

19 A I never actually saw Will getting hit.

20 Q Okay. So you never saw them in a confrontation.

21 A No.

22 Q Did you see anybody with any kind of weapon, including yourself?

23 A No.

24 MS. LASKOFF: Okay. Nothing further, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Anything else, Ms. Chien?