

Sgt Merritt testimony from Post-Conviction

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. The first full question and answer, you
3 asked Ms. Smith, "Did Sheila tell you or mention
4 that Vern strangled or pretended that he was
5 strangling her during any of their sexual
6 encounters?" And Ms. Smith indicated, "No, she
7 did not."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I want to ask you if you remember why you
10 asked that question, where that information came
11 from?

12 A. well, primarily because Sheila was
13 murdered by strangulation, and I was anticipating
14 -- I mean, I had heard about people being
15 strangled during rough sex or whatever in the
16 media.

17 I had never had any cases like that, but
18 I was anticipating that this might come up later,
19 and I wanted to know if that was part of their
20 sexual, I guess, activity. And she told me that
21 it was not.

22 Q. As far as she knew?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Ms. Smith also gave you some additional
25 information about the times that Ms. Braswell had