

Bandler, Richard

Witness points the finger at murder suspect Bandler

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SANTA CRUZ — Three people were present when the gun went off in Corine Christensen's townhouse last Nov. 3. Christensen is dead and the other two — Richard Bandler and James Marino — are pointing fingers at each other.

Bandler, 37, a psychotherapeutic

guru, has been charged with the murder. And, Marino, once his best friend, is the key witness against him.

Bandler's preliminary hearing began Monday in Municipal Court.

Marino, 54, took the stand and told of seeing Bandler put a chrome-plated revolver to Christensen's head. Then he heard the shot. He said he looked back to see the 31-

year-old Christensen falling to the dining room floor.

Bandler's attorney, M. Gerald Schwartzbach of San Francisco, has a different version.

"I've said from the beginning the wrong man has been charged (with murder)," he said after hearing the testimony.

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Bandler witness

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Fry told the press that Schwartzbach had written in a court document that Bandler had done work for the CIA and other defense agencies.

And, Fry explained that Salciccia may have concluded that "Special Forces" fired the alleged shot because it's difficult for any but federal agencies to obtain wiretaps.

It was more difficult for Fry to explain some of the other statements.

Asked if the Sheriff's Office had tried to kill Marino, Fry replied, "I hope not."

Then he added, "Make sure you say I was smiling when I said that."

Schwartzbach was asked if Marino

seemed to be a little paranoid. "A lot paranoid," Schwartzbach replied. "He's paranoid and a liar and he's dangerous. This man believes the District Attorney's Office wants him killed for Lord knows what reason, that the CIA and Special Forces want him killed. This guy must think he's Gorbachev and he's their (prosecution's) whole case."

Schwartzbach contends Marino is the killer, and lied when he testified Monday that Bandler pulled the trigger.

Tuesday afternoon, Marino conceded he lied at the preliminary hearing in the case when he said he did not know that Christensen was working as a prostitute until after

her death. He said she was working in a massage parlor when he met her in 1984.

Cross-examination will continue at 10 a.m. today.

Schwartzbach has been relentless in his questioning of the man who, in a magazine article, referred to Schwartzbach as a "curly-haired (expletive) Jew boy."

Marino told Schwartzbach from the stand that he told the writer that as a joke. Marino said he also was joking when he said he'd "like to put a gun to that (SOB's) head."

But, Marino said he wasn't joking when he called Schwartzbach an SOB. "I think you are an inhumane person," Marino said.