

# Lawyer previews Bandler's side

By MARK BERGSTROM

Sentinel staff writer

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Richard Bandler's attorney will not say when Bandler will take the witness stand, but says the murder defendant is eager to go before the jury.

Asked how Bandler's testimony will differ from that of his accuser — James Marino — attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach said: "He'll be logical, he'll make sense, he won't be paranoid and he won't come across like a pathological liar."

Marino, an ex-felon and confessed drug dealer, testified for the prosecution that he was with Bandler when Bandler shot and killed Corine Christensen on Nov. 3, 1986.

Schwartzbach says Bandler will tell the jury that Marino pulled the trigger.

Schwartzbach will not divulge when Bandler will take the witness stand. He said Tuesday he has a couple of other witnesses to call first.

Among witnesses who testified

Tuesday was Marino's ex-sister-in-law, Terry Coates. She said Marino told her two days before the murder that he believed that Bandler and Christensen were plotting something against him and that he was "going to get Richard coked up and get it out of him."

She said Marino also told her that he believed Christensen — Marino's former girlfriend — was trying to poison him. She said Marino told her he'd found poison in Christensen's home when he was recuperating there from a beating. Earlier witnesses had testified that Marino thought Christensen had set him up for that beating.

Those are among the motives Schwartzbach alleges Marino had for killing Christensen.

Assistant District Attorney Gary Fry has been in the awkward position of trying to tear down his own key witness' credibility at times in the trial.

He asked Coates if she believed everything that Marino told her.

"James always carried on like

that," she said, adding, "I didn't believe what James Marino was saying most of the time."

Fry contends that no matter what Marino has said about being able to turn street lights on and off with his mind and fearing for his life at the hands of everyone from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey to the local Sheriff's Office, he is telling the truth about the murder.

Also testifying Tuesday was a man who claimed that Marino asked him to solicit "hush money" from Bandler.

Dennis Houghtey, who said he had repaired cars for both Bandler and Marino, testified that Marino approached him just before Bandler's preliminary hearing.

"He asked me to communicate to Richard how much money he'd (Bandler) be willing to pay for Marino not to show up," Houghtey said.

"Richard told me to tell him that he wanted him to show up at the preliminary hearing," Houghtey said.