

Bandler, R

12/17/87 RP

Murder

# Bandler attorney continues grilling

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James Marino spent all day yesterday being grilled about inconsistencies in his story about the murder of Corine Christensen.

While he stuck to his story that Richard Bandler, 37, killed Christensen, Marino admitted that he has given different answers to questions about the details surrounding the killing. He has been on the witness stand all week in Bandler's murder trial.

Only Marino and Bandler were present when Christensen was shot in her home on Charlene Lane in Live Oak on Nov. 3, 1986. Bandler's attorney, M. Gerald Schwartzbach, contends Marino killed Christensen.

Schwartzbach spent all day yesterday pointing out inconsistencies in Marino's story. Schwartzbach frequently used tapes of detectives' interviews with Marino or read from a transcript of Marino's testimony at the preliminary hearing, to show that Marino was telling a different story this week than he has told before.

Marino denied yesterday that he suspected Christensen of breaking into his house. Schwartzbach read back Marino's earlier testimony, to refresh his memory, that Marino had said he believed Christensen had broken into his home and stolen from him.

Marino said yesterday he was not upset that Christensen had asked a woman to leave her husband so they could spend more time together. After Schwartzbach read back his earlier statements indicating the contrary, Marino said he now recalls giving that response to the question several months ago.

Marino said yesterday that at the time of the preliminary hearing, his head was bothering him from a severe beating he received a week before Christensen was killed. Schwartzbach pointed out that at the time of the hearing, Marino said his head was not bothering him. Marino again said he now remembers giving that answer.

That was the line of questioning for much of the day. After Marino said he didn't think Christensen was behind his beating, Schwartzbach asked, "Are you as sure about that as you are about who shot Miss Christensen?"

Marino answered yes.

Then Schwartzbach reminded Marino that he had told a sheriff's deputy before that he thought Christensen arranged for the attack on him because she didn't want him to leave town as he had planned.

Marino was back on the witness stand today. The Bandler trial will recess at the end of this week's testimony, and resume after the holidays, at the beginning of January.