

## FIRST KILLING , THEN CARDS , JURY IS TOLD

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, September 4, 1985

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Victor Malone, accused of the July 1984 strangulation murder of a Detroit prostitute, was portrayed by the prosecution Tuesday as a brazen killer who calmly returned to a **card** game at the after-hours club where he had met his alleged victim earlier that night.

Malone, 38, on trial before Recorder's Court Judge Edward Thomas on a **first** -degree murder charge, **is** accused of the slaying of Anita Willis, a nude dancer and prostitute.

Malone, who **is** awaiting trial for two other murders, **is** a suspect in at least 10 other slayings in the Detroit area over the past 12 years.

Assistant Prosecutor Robert Agacinski said in his opening statement that Malone lured Willis into his van with an offer to drive her to a party during a break at an after-hours club where she danced. **Then** , Agacinski said, Malone strangled her and abandoned her nude body.

"Miss Willis never got back to the club, but Mr. Malone did make it back," Agacinski said. "He was playing **cards** . That was kind of bold, wasn't it?"

In his opening statement, defense attorney Glen Warn **told** the jurors they were not empaneled "to judge the morality of Mr. Malone or his lifestyle," but to weigh the evidence of **first** -degree murder.

The prosecution, Warn said, "has the absolute burden to prove that Mr. Malone **is** guilty of this horrendous crime charged. . . . We do not believe they can do that."

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Caption: Photo

Memo: SEE ALSO STATE EDITION

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 14A

Index Terms: COURT ; TRIAL ; MURDER

Record Number: 8502050191

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