

9th August

Farrington's Ex-Girlfriend Testifies

By Stephen Gay

The jury in the Cordell Farrington murder trial continued to sift through testimony yesterday, hearing from a former girlfriend of the accused and expert witnesses who provided additional insight into the forensics aspect of the case.

Farrington is accused of the murder of Jamaal Robbins, his friend in Grand Bahama. Robbins was missing for ten months before a series of events eventually lead to the discovery of his remains.

Katsia Dean-Parker told the court that she met Farrington in late October 2002 while holding down two jobs as a sales clerk at Frank's Ice Cream Parlor and a pump attendant at the East Mall Service Station in Grand Bahama.

She disclosed that she and Farrington became friends, and two months later she moved in with him at the Kwan Yin apartment complex in the Freeport area. But that time the friendship had evolved into a full-blown relationship, she testified.

The witness recounted the events in which she said Farrington lead police officers to a box which was later found to contain Robbins' remains. It happened at number 11 Poinciana Drive, where - by that time - the pair had moved in with Dean-Parker's mother and siblings.

The witness told the court that she was at home with her family watching television when Farrington appeared with a number of police officers. She recalled him pointing out to those officers a box that was among some of his personal belongings.

Robbins' remains were eventually sent abroad for DNA testing.

Those experts who examined the skeletal remains also took the witness stand yesterday. Forensic Analyst John Berkley told the court that he was responsible for extracting DNA from two teeth believed to have belonged to the murder victim. A human tooth can hold the purest samples of DNA even years after death.

Additionally, pathologist Dr. Govinda Raju testified that he examined the skeletal remains brought in on October 27, 2003 at the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama which included some 20 bones. Some of them, he said, had irregular markings believed to have been caused by animals gnawing at them.

Dr. Raju said that based on his examination of the skull, certain fractures and cracks lead him to believe that the victim died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head.

Justice Antia Allen adjourned the case until 10:00 this morning.

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