

Bandler, Richard

# Figure in Bandler's case 10-18-87 tells his story of beating

SANTA CRUZ — The man who had beaten up the key witness against murder suspect Richard Bandler has told authorities that murder victim Corrine Christensen had not put him up to the beating.

David Greenberg, 23, of Watsonville made the statements to investigators in a deal that allowed him to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge in connection with the Oct. 25, 1986, beating of James Marino.

Marino, 54, is the key prosecution witness against Bandler, co-founder of Neuro-Linguistic Programming, a psychotherapeutic technique.

Assistant District Attorney Gary Fry contends that Bandler, 37, shot and killed Christensen, a Capitola prostitute, on Nov. 2, 1986, because he believed she had put Greenberg up to the beating.

Marino was Christensen's ex-boyfriend.

During testimony at Bandler's preliminary hearing, Marino testified that he and Bandler were close friends, and had almost a father-son relationship.

Even though authorities now know that Christensen had nothing to do with the beating, Fry said Friday it doesn't

change the motive.

Fry said the questioning of Greenberg "sort of fizzled out as a dramatic turn of events." But, he said, the fact remains that Marino and Bandler believed Christensen had put Greenberg up to the beating and that's what counts as far as a motive.

Both Bandler and Marino admit to being at Christensen's townhouse when she was shot to death. Marino testified at the preliminary hearing that Bandler pulled the trigger.

Bandler's attorney, M. Gerald Schwartzbach of San Francisco, claims Marino did the shooting.

The case is set to go to trial Nov. 2.