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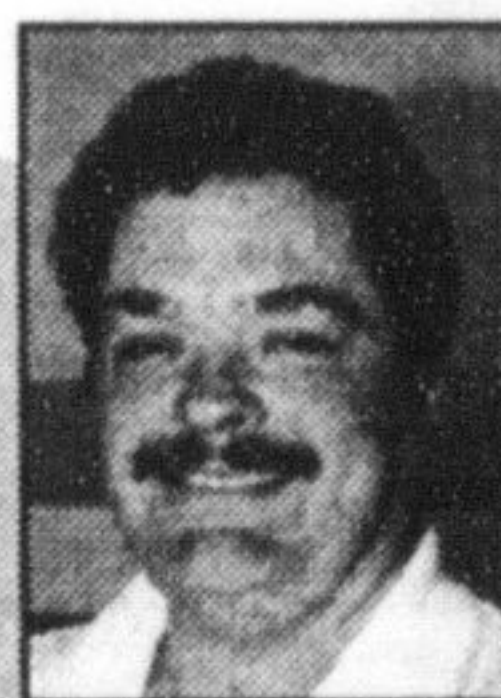
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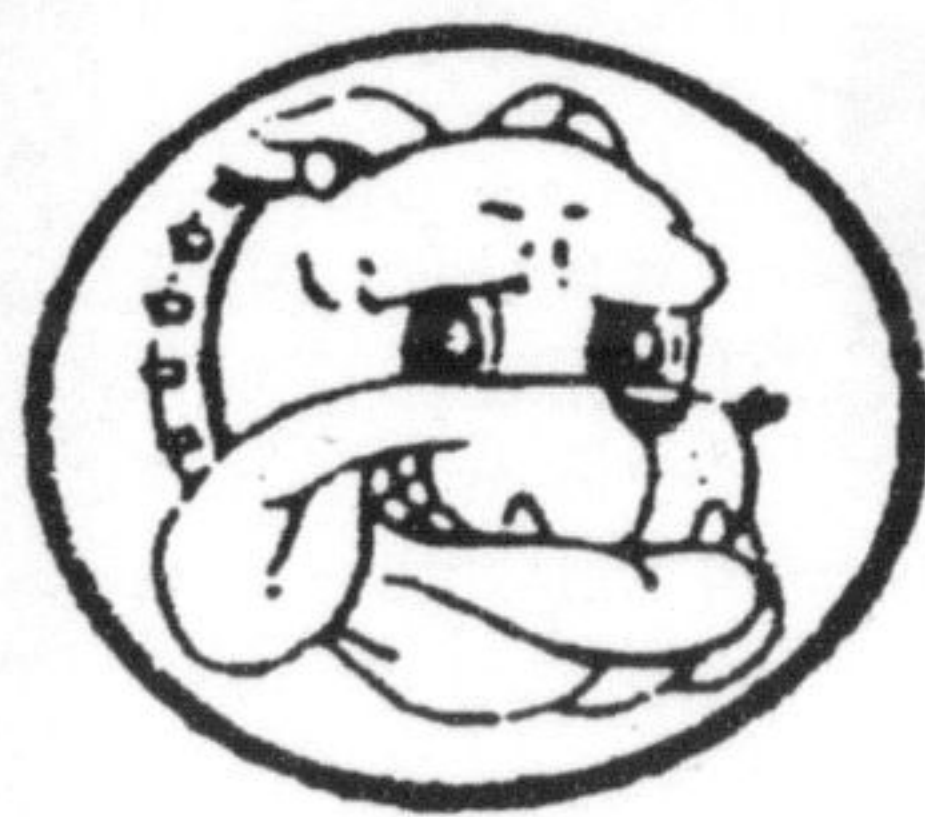
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Furniture store customers testify they didn't get items

By FANNIE SUNSHINE and RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

A Campbellville man faced five former customers in a Milton courtroom this week as they recounted their dealings at the Village Pine Shoppe.

Charles Currie, 43, is charged with 17 counts of fraud under \$5,000 and one count of fraud over \$5,000 in connection with furniture ordered from the Campbellville store.

On Monday, Milton resident Heather Spann testified during examination by Crown attorney Andrew Goodman in Ontario Court (provincial division) that in the fall of 1998 she paid \$1,984 for a bedroom set. The furniture was to be delivered within two weeks but she never received it, she said.

When the furniture didn't arrive,

she and her husband went to the store to investigate. She testified that the two were told by Mr. Currie, with whom they had dealt with during the order, that the furniture wasn't ready and more time would be needed.

"We went home and we waited and we never got our furniture," Ms Spann said. "I got all sorts of excuses as to why we couldn't have it."

After months of waiting for the furniture, the Spanns sent a letter to Oriena Currie (Charles' mother), indicating they would take the matter up in Small Claims Court.

Before judgment was reached in Small Claims Court, Mr. Currie agreed to repay the money in question, but never did so, Ms Spann told the court.

Defense attorney Anthony Bryant questioned Ms Spann as to why she sent the letter to Oriena Currie rather than Charles Currie.

Ms Spann indicated that through

some research she believed Oriena was the business owner.

Mr. Bryant also pointed out the 'fine print' on the furniture invoice stating that the shop doesn't accept responsibility for manufacturer delays. Ms Spann said she hadn't read that portion of the invoice.

Justice J.D. Takach also heard from Jennifer Goodnough Monday, who said she too paid up front for a bedroom set she didn't receive. The set, valued at \$3,600, was ordered in April, 1999 and was to be delivered within 10 weeks. The furniture never materialized, she said.

Mr. Bryant questioned Ms Goodnough the following day regarding the wording on the invoice she received from the purchase.

"It doesn't say the full amount will be refunded if (the furniture) isn't delivered in six, eight, 10 weeks, two years?"

• see on page 19

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We thank all applicants for applying however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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