

**CRIME: Accused Scarborough courthouse shooter feared for his life, jury told**

# York officers testify at trial

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STAFF WRITER

The man accused of attempted murder outside a Scarborough courthouse told police he was in fear for his life during the summer of 1997 and intended to "lay low" so he wouldn't be "regulated."

Sean Currie, 27, is charged in the shooting of David Francis, 22, on the steps of the Eglinton Avenue courthouse on May 13, 1997.

York Regional Police Dets. Norm Miles and Keith Freemantle, who were instrumental in persuading Currie to give himself up to Metro Police 41 Division officers early the next morning, testified yesterday at Ontario Court (General Division) in downtown Toronto.

Crown attorney Paul Amenta told the six-man, six-woman jury Tuesday the motive for the shooting was revenge.

Currie and Francis have a history going back more than two years. Currie was a shooting victim himself

on July 2, 1996 while visiting friend Tyrone Edwards on Markham's Hillcroft Drive.

He was shot in the left arm and shoulder as he sat in the front seat of a Jeep.

Another bullet — of the more than 30 fired — took out a few of his dreadlocks.

Miles said yesterday police were then still trying to locate the three firearms believed used in the Hillcroft attack — a 9 mm semi-automatic, a .25 calibre semi-automatic and a .357 revolver.

Currie and Edwards named Francis, Erick Christian and a third man as the shooters.

Francis and the third man were tried in Newmarket in March, 1997 but Edwards did not testify, and with only the uncorroborated evidence of Currie, both were acquitted, Amenta said.

Christian was killed before he could be arrested.

Yesterday, Miles testified Currie told him he feared for his life after the two walked away free from the Newmarket

courthouse.

Reading from a previous statement given by Miles, defence attorney Peter Bawden stated: "He felt he would be killed before the end of the summer. He still wore a bullet-proof vest and had changed his cell and pager numbers."

"That's correct," said Miles.

Miles said he had been told by Metro Police officers to use caution when dealing with the suspects, and had been given authorization to carry his firearm while off duty during the investigation.

"They said they weren't really nice people, that they were well known to Metro Police and they were flag-residences — that if there was a call from those residences, officers would get a flag that it was a place to use caution," Miles said.

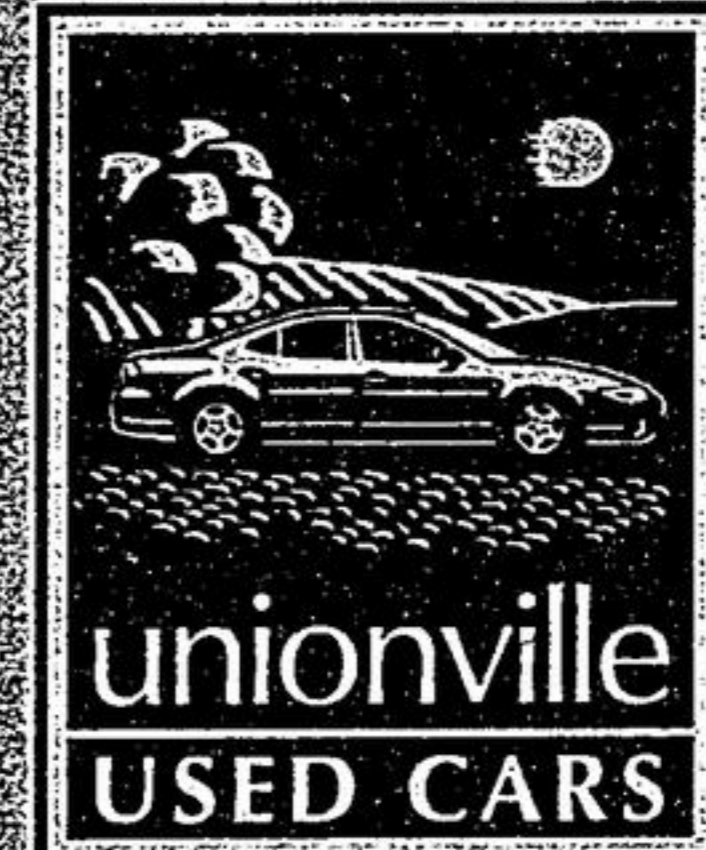
Francis was at the Scarborough courthouse for his brother's bail hearing that day and was standing outside when he was shot.

The bullet grazed his skull. The trial continues.

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