

## **Pleads innocent to molestation**

**SEATTLE —** A church youth coordinator has pleaded innocent to new charges of sexual misconduct involving four children, according to King County prosecutors.

Three weeks ago, James Richard Funnell, 35, was charged with second-degree statutory rape for allegedly engaging in sexual activity with a 13-year-old boy. Prosecutors Thursday reduced that charge from a felony to a misdemeanor. He is now charged with five counts of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes.

Prosecutors had requested that the original count be reduced because the youth involved said the alleged incident occurred in June or July 1987 when he was 16, not in 1985 when he was 13, as originally believed.

The age of a victim has a bearing on the charge when there are allegations of sexual misconduct, under state law.

The new charges involve allegations that Funnell showed X-rated films to teen-age boys and exposed himself to a 12-year-old boy.