

Col. R.F.T

THE MIAMI HERALD, JULY 4, 1996

Plantation man arrested in child-porn probe

Davie computer store is raided

By **CONNIE PRATER**
Herald Staff Writer

A Plantation man suspected of selling sexually explicit photos of minors through his "Captain CD ROM" computer business was arrested Wednesday afternoon.

Darren Harris Frankel, 27, was charged with four counts of possession of child pornography with intent to distribute, said Fort Lauderdale Police detective Kevin Allen.

The arrest came after a six-month investigation by Fort Lauderdale police and the FBI.

Police seized a number of items from Frankel's shop at 6858 Stirling Rd. in Davie. The evidence included CD-ROM disks that showed photographs of sexual poses by people who appeared to be minors.

According to police, Frankel expressed an interest in selling child pornography to an undercover officer. He also claimed to

have a clientele for kiddie porn and described how he concealed the sexually explicit photos within his regular CD-ROM inventory, police said.

Police took the pictures to two experts from the University of Miami's Child Protection Team, who determined the subjects were under 18.

He said police first encountered Frankel earlier in the year while investigating reports that his store handled stolen computer equipment and software.

Undercover Officer John Curry visited the shop and sold stolen computers. While there, he noticed that about a third of the inventory included pornography.

Police arrested Frankel on March 1 and charged him with dealing in stolen property. After checking out some of the CD-ROMs, they arrested him on new charges Wednesday.

"We did several undercover transactions with him," Allen said.

Allen said police are still investigating Frankel's source for the pornography and his client list.