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Suspended!

Dallas mayor suspends policeman over incident

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

A Dallas Borough policeman has been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation into that officer's handling of an alleged underage drinking incident a week and a half ago.

Officer Chris Purcell, in a letter dated November 5, was informed by Dallas Borough Mayor Paul LaBar that he has been suspended from further duties until his involvement in the matter is cleared up. LaBar said he levied the suspension on the advice of Borough Solicitor John Fine.

The incident in question occurred on Saturday,

November 1 when Purcell responded to an anonymous complaint at approximately 10 p.m. at a private home located at 84 Norton Ave., Dallas.

Dallas Borough police commissioner Tim Carroll said the investigation, which will be done by somebody outside the Borough Council, will begin shortly. As of Monday night, Carroll did not know who would conduct the proceeding.

Arthur Miller, 39, of New Goss Manor, Dallas and owner of the Norton Avenue home, last week told The Dallas Post he filed a complaint against Purcell, accusing him of illegal search and entry, improper seizure and conduct unbecoming a police officer.

Miller said his daughter had planned an

overnight slumber party but the episode ended with eight juveniles being cited for a number of violations. Miller, who said he was at the Norton Avenue house until 9:30 that night, admitted there was alcohol already present in the house, but did not know if anymore was brought in by any of the approximately 20 Dallas High School students who were present.

Miller reported that, after leaving the house that evening, he was later contacted by a friend who had been contacted by Miller's daughter. Miller said he returned to the home at approximately 10 p.m. at which time he encountered Purcell on the front lawn. Miller said Purcell told him he was responding to an anonymous complaint, saying "it appears we have an

underage drinking problem."

Eight students were eventually taken to the Dallas Borough Building and were cited and released pending notification of their parents, Miller said. Miller also indicated he was not happy with Borough police chief Ed Lyons' involvement, stating that he (Lyons) "could be of little assistance" and did "little or nothing." Miller reported he requested to have Lyons called out to the incident.

Miller has declined further comment on the matter until the investigation is completed. Lyons and Purcell have both refrained from making statements on the advice of the borough solicitor.

Where's the report?

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

There are no laws mandating that a police officer file a report to his respective police chief regarding certain investigations, according to Luzerne County Assistant District Attorney Fred Pierantoni.

Pierantoni said he believes that sort of policy is usually left up to the individual police department, but that the department's solicitor might be able to shed more light on the matter. Dallas Borough solicitor John Fine could not be reached to comment on the subject.

The question of completing and filing police reports arose last week when a Dallas Borough police officer allegedly cited eight Dallas High School students. The incident in question reportedly occurred on Saturday, November 1 and on Tuesday, November 4, there was no police report filed on the incident.

Dallas Borough police chief

Ed Lyons said he requests that his officers fill out reports as soon as possible, although he did not say what how much time he allows the officers. He said policemen sometimes are called on other assignments and may not be able to complete a particular report. He does, however, ask that reports be filed as soon as practically possible.

Kingston Township police chief Paul Sabol said he requires his officers to fill out a hand-written report in the police cruiser regarding car accidents. That report, as well as those involving other types of investigative matters, must then be typed out by the time that officer finishes that particular shift or by the end of his following shift.

Dallas Township police chief Carl Miers said his department adopts the same policy, although there are times when that may not be possible. For example, Miers said, a person cited for some traffic violations must be given five days to produce their driver's license.

Overcrowding issue surfaces once again

Several parents in the Dallas School District voiced their displeasure concerning overcrowded conditions in certain grades in the Westmoreland and Dallas Elementary schools. The parents complained to members of the Dallas School Board at that group's monthly meeting Monday evening.

Parents say they are mainly worried about the excess of students in the first and third grade levels and would like to have the problem corrected as soon as possible.

Bill Bachman, a Kingston Township resident and one of a

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News you need

Tech to conduct Open House tonight

The West Side Area Vocational-Technical School, located in Pringle will hold its annual Open House this evening from 6:30 to 9 p.m. West Side Tech, a full-time school, serves the educational needs of students in the Lake-Lehman, Dallas, Northwest, Wyoming Area and Wyoming Valley West school districts.

Teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators will be available to explain the academic and vocational programs offered at the school. Also on hand will be several of the coaches who will discuss the Titan athletic program.

Questionnaires mailed to Lehman parents

Lake-Lehman School District, in conjunction with its long-range planning for school improvement project, will be mailing, on November 14, a questionnaire to randomly selected members of the community. This questionnaire is designed to elicit input from residents on the programs and services offered by the School District.

People who receive the questionnaire are asked to complete and return it to the School District by November 29, 1986. The results of the survey will be used to assist the District in its planning process.

Mail to: Office of the Junior High Principal, Lake-Lehman School District, Lehman, PA 18627.

Tupper back on job as police officer

James Tupper, a Dallas Borough police officer, returned to his job this past Monday.

Tupper, who worked the 3-11 p.m. shift on November 10, has been off the job since June when he was involved in a shooting at the Dallas Township Municipal Building.

Tupper, who was shot in the leg, was involved in the incident along with Dallas Township police officer Wayne Miers. Miers returned to his job last week.



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Gimme that shoe!

Toni and Sarah Beth Gorgone attempt to take the Old Shoe trophy away from Ted and Matt Jackson while their dads, Rich Gorgone and Ted Jackson, look on. Can't say either side won

since the "shoe tug" ended in a stalemate. Gorgone and Jackson and their charges from Lake-Lehman and Dallas, respectively, will bump heads in the annual Old Shoe Game this Saturday. (Story page 11)

Today's nun

She works just like the rest of us

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Sister Cynthia March and Sister Catherine Winters are Sisters of Mercy — teaching, ministering to the sick, disadvantaged and the elderly. They are modern examples of the vows professed by the founder of their order, Catherine McAuley, in 1831 in the City of Dublin, Ireland.

Catherine McAuley, who used her inheritance to build a large house in Dublin where she could carry out her service to the poor, sick and ignorant, and provide a home for herself and others choosing to work with her in her ministry, called it the House of Mercy. She and her followers sought to minister to all those in need and because of this they became as the "walking or moving nuns."

Unlike most congregations, the Mercy rule approved by Rome provided the Sisters of Mercy with the freedom to be wherever they could best be of service to the poor, sick and uneducated. Today, they move freely through the church of Christ in this world responding to those in need.

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Dallas Post/Jane Renn

Working Sister

Sister Catherine Mary Winters, RN, attends to an infant in the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital Newborn Nursery. Sister Catherine, a member of the Sisters of Mercy, is employed full-time in the Obstetrics Department at Nesbitt. She is just one of several Sisters of Mercy who have entered the working world.

Committee expected to be named

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The appointment of a negotiations committee, negotiator spokesman and resource persons for negotiation of the contract between the school district and the school's service personnel association was expected to be made at last night's meeting of the Lake-Lehman School Board.

Committee members named for appointment are Martin F. Noon, chairman; Robert C. Emory, Joseph "Red" Jones, Raymond C. Bowersox, secretary and business manager of the district, and Atty. Joseph J. Gale, solicitor. Advisory members to the committee expected

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