

Driver

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sexual acts on them, the report said.
The incidents occurred between May and Labor Day of 1994, the report said.
Werts has been charged with eight counts of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, nine counts of indecent assault, five counts of endangering the welfare of children and five counts of corruption of minors under different sections of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, according to the

report.
His parents put their house up for bail November 21 so that Werts could be released from the Luzerne County Correctional Facility, according to the report.
Werts hasn't been tested for HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, but could be if it's requested by the District Attorney, according to Kingston Township police chief James Balavage.
He isn't allowed to have any contact with his victims and may

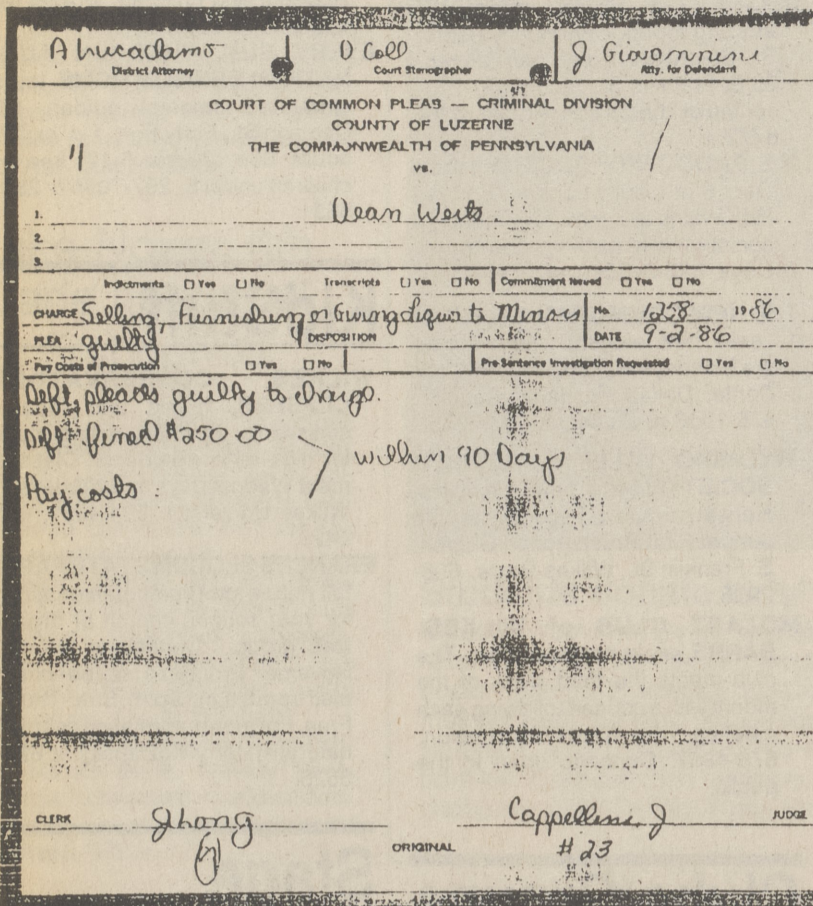
not leave the state without notifying police or the District Attorney's office.
Werts was fired from Emanuel Bus Lines some time between November 16 and 18, according to Dallas School District transportation director Susan Farr. But Emanuel never mentioned the firing in two separate interviews on November 21, even when asked specifically what action might be taken against Werts.
Emanuel said November 29 he wasn't sure of the exact date he fired Werts, other than "on a Thursday."

"We let him go about 10 minutes after we found out what they're alleging he did," Emanuel said. "He's not been proven guilty yet and that's the way you should write it," he said.
Emanuel said Werts drove on several different bus runs, including the route beginning at Orange Village and continues on Orange Road to Upper Demunds Road.

"He was a pinch hitter," he said. "He also helped out in the garage."
Emanuel said he had never received any complaints about Werts from parents.
But when Werts worked for Emanuel in 1988 he was transferred to a run carrying older students after parents complained about his behavior. In 1992, when working for Myers Bus Line in the Wyoming Valley West School District, Werts was removed from a driving position and transferred to garage work after students complained he was overly affectionate toward them.

Myers Bus Lines owner Phil Myers was unavailable for comment on Werts's employment there.
Parents and children should be alert for pedophiles (child molesters), who generally have a victim of choice, either young boys or young girls, Balavage said.
Pedophiles also have a specific pattern of activity with children which can be documented, he added.
"Parents should screen their children's new friends, especially anyone six to eight years older than the child," he said. "They should be alert for much older friends who come to the house at inappropriate times, bring the child gifts, invite them to unsupervised overnight activities and constantly offer to do favors for the child or family. Parents should tell their children what pedophiles do and warn them against it."

"Although our records contain all of a person's convictions, for example violations of the fish and game laws, we're only allowed to give out those covered by Act 34 for these clearances. We don't give out summary offenses unless the person has a pattern of repeating the same offense several times."
For example, an arrest for DUI (driving while under the influence) wouldn't appear on a person's Act 34 unless they had been arrested several times for it, Hanula said.
"If an employer denies a person a job based on their Act 34 record, he must give the applicant this reason in writing," he said. "The applicant's crimes must be less than five years old and must directly apply to the job which the person has applied for."
School bus driver Dean Lee Werts had pleaded guilty to furnishing liquor to minors September 2, 1986.
His latest Act 34 clearance, obtained in August, 1993, was clean, according to bus owner Leon Emanuel, who described Werts as "a good employee."
Furnishing liquor to minors is a misdemeanor under the state's liquor code, Hanula said. Unless police had fingerprinted Werts when they arrested him, the liquor code violation wouldn't have shown up on his record.



Background check filled with loopholes

Records go back only 5 years; some offenses must be repeated to show

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

A special background check called an Act 34 clearance is required by state law for all people working with children: teachers, school support staff, school secretaries - even foster parents.
Obtained through the Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository in Harrisburg, an Act 34 clearance is basically a person's permanent criminal record.
All information on anyone who has ever been arrested and fingerprinted in the state is kept on file at the Central Repository, with duplicate records on file at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
"Act 34 lists specific offenses, such as child abuse and misdemeanors and felonies under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, which prospective employers must know about," said Lt. Robert Hanula, a supervisor at the Central Repository.

committee) advance notice on large or 'hot' items. They have a slot on our agenda and we welcome their opinions. They provide a healthy diversity."

CAC membership is an interesting mix...there are housewives and businessmen, educators and teachers, parents and ex-parents. The latter may have grown children no longer at home, but have retained their interest in seeing, as one put it, "that my neighbor's children have the same quality of education and learning opportunities that mine had."

Dr. Byron Meyers, former Dean of Administrative Services at LCCC, said he joined the committee when he heard about it, because "It sounded interesting. I believe we have established a closer rapport with the school board. We are looking to be 'proactive' rather than 'reactive' and with our agenda I feel we definitely made a good contribution."
Dick Orłowski of Hillcrest Avenue, an InterMetro Industries executive, says the committee agenda "is a positive one. There is no nonsense or I wouldn't bother to participate. If ideas don't always go our way, no problem. Sometimes it's the process that is important and not necessarily the outcome."

Board president Ellen Nagy in commenting on possible conflicts reported in some quarters between committee and board, says, "I was on both so I can see both sides. Of course we don't always agree, but it's just another viewpoint. You expect that in a district this large." Nagy adds, "We give them (the

Citizens

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representative to encounter the school board at their own monthly meetings.
The CAC chairman, Pamela Langdon of Grandview Avenue, says, "We have been called an 'adjunct' to the board. That's not correct. 'Adjunct' in the dictionary is 'something less important or not necessary, but helpful.' Well, we're helpful, I hope, but the rest doesn't apply at all. We believe we are quite necessary and every bit as important."

Langdon, a mother of four, has two still in school. Her husband, Edward, has his own computer business, "Time-Wise." She has been "involved" since 1986, attending board and committee meetings, and was voted in as CAC chairman last year. Sally Davenport of Shavertown is secretary and Carol Yezilski handles publicity.
Other members include Samuel Barbose, Patricia Eckert, Dr. William Grossman, Marilyn Klick, John Litz, Susan Marcella, Linda Mellner, Lucy Messersmith, Dr. Byron Meyers, Dick Orłowski, Thomas Russ, Edward Steltz and Cathy Wega.

The committee has quite a history. According to Ron Moran of New Goss Manor, who was chairman for 12 years, the group was founded earlier with the help of Wilkes University's Dr. Fahmy, then on the school board.
Moran is Administrative Director of Special Education at Wyoming Valley West, and also coaches field hockey for Dallas. He recalls that the district long-range plans, which were state-initiated and approved, called for a "citizen input committee." He says, "Such a group could provoke opposing opinions and research things the board couldn't. It was a great opportunity, and I thoroughly enjoyed my committee years. It should go on forever. Personally you feel you've accomplished something worthwhile."

According to board president Ellen Nagy, the contract provisions include:
• A three-year term beginning August 31, 1995.
• Annual salary increases of 2.5 to 4.5 percent, based on the cost of living index each year, to be applied to the present 15-step salary scale. The steps are computed by each teacher's years of service and number of graduate school credits.
• Co-curricular positions will also receive a cost of living increase. Several new positions have been added: high school forensics



DICK ORŁOWSKI PAMELA LANGDON

advisor and coaches for girls' soccer, winter track, weightlifting, swimming and middle school soccer.
• A 20-day timeline for each side to file grievances.
The increase in the cost of living is approximately 2.8 percent this year, Wagner said.

According to district director of finances Charlotte Williams, the average teacher's salary this year is \$42,734, with a high of \$49,825 and a low of \$23,056.
"We have a very experienced, well-educated faculty, with 94

people at the 15th step," Wagner said.
Nagy, Ernest Ashbridge, Maureen Banks and Joseph Kuncic made up the school board's negotiating team, while Wagner, association vice-president Mike Pawlik, Charles Preece and Pike Collett represented the teachers.
The district's millage has been 158 for the past four years, with one mill equivalent to \$46,503. According to the 1993-94 budget, the district expected to take in \$16,701,590 and spend \$15,693,095 this year.

Sue Marcella, committee member and parent of a 5 1/2 year old, described a program called Writing to Read, an IBM package for kindergarten and first-graders. The board agenda has been supplied for study and possible research projects in the future. Plans are underway to draw up a committee charter, spelling out goals with a timetable.

Langdon says, "Our next 'get-together' - I hesitate calling it a meeting because we're not that formal - will be on Thursday, December 8, at 7 p.m. in the administration building across from the Country Club Shopping Center."
"We are a long way from being filled up," she adds, "All you would-be volunteers out there, come in and look us over!"

Contract

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JTI to host kids' Xmas party Dec. 11

The Johnson Technical Institute Alumni Association will host its annual Children's Christmas Party at 2 p.m. December 11, in the Moffat Building on campus.
The event is open to the children and grandchildren of JTI graduates and children and siblings of current students.
Participation is limited to children 10 years of age and under.

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4	\$22,200
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