

Guard in sex-assault case worked for county

By Lonnie Mack
Staff Writer

Middlesex County: Records show that Henry Solares started work at the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center about the same time he is accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year old student at the New Brunswick High School where he was employed as a security officer.

Solares, a former security officer at the high school, is on trial in Superior Court , New Brunswick, charged with second- degree sexual assault and second-degree official misconduct , crimes that carry penalties of up to 10 years in prison for each offense.

He was also working as a correction officer at the county detention center at the time of June 19, 2003 incident.

Richard Whiteford, assistant superintendent at the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center, said records for the day of June 19, 2003, show that the former corrections officer signed in at 3p.m. to 11 p.m. shift.

Whiteford who was called as a defense witness by South Orange defense attorney Timothy Smith said the person who monitors the sign in does not report the employee tardy unless he is more than eight minutes late. Whiteford said there was no report that Solares was late.

The teen, who was a freshman at the time and now, attends the Adult Learning School, said Solares kissed, fondled, and performed sexual intercourse on her in a janitor's office in the boiler room about 2:30 p.m. and that the two left the building together about 3 p.m.

Solares, 31, took the witness stand and denied the allegations. He said he always left school about 2:35 p.m., 10 minutes before the end of his work shift, to get to his second job at the detention center by 3 p.m.

He said it took him 20 minutes to drive to the detention center on Route 130 in North Brunswick from the high school which is located on Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick.

Solares testified he never had anything to do with his accuser until one day in June when he saw her sitting near the parking lot and noticed she had bruises. He said he attempted to find out what caused the bruising and she refused to talk about it.