

1 of 250 DOCUMENTS

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The Washington Times

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Correction Appended

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HEADLINE: Bowie Blade defies judge's ID ban

BYLINE: Mensah Dean; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

On Thursday, the weekly Bowie Blade newspaper published the name and photograph of the teen accused of planting two bombs in Bowie High School and the name of one his two accused conspirators as well.

Prince George's Circuit Judge Michele Hotten had warned the media not to publish the names or photographs.

The defiant publishing led to a showdown yesterday on the last day of the first defendant's trial, when Judge Hotten confronted a reporter from the Blade and they jostled over the newspaper's right to publish information it had obtained outside the courtroom.

Judge Hotten closed future proceedings about the case to the media, allowing only people directly connected to the proceedings into the courtroom. Affected will be the sentencing of the 15-year-old convicted yesterday and the upcoming trials of his two alleged accomplices.

"I am extremely concerned about this article and what has been presented to me," Judge Hotten told Blade reporter Donna Reifsnider and her attorney, Benjamin Boyd. The judge gave them the option to refrain from again publishing the names of juveniles in the cases or risk her exercising her right to close her court.

When they insisted on the right to publish, Judge Hotten closed the court.

Later in her chambers, Judge Hotten said, "I can change this at any time.

"It changes if they change," she said of the Blade.

CORRECTION-DATE: April 30, 1997, Wednesday, Final Edition

CORRECTION:

The Bowie Blade-News was incorrectly identified in an article yesterday about that newspaper's coverage of the trial of a Bowie High School freshman convicted of placing an explosive device in the school.

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