

# Rules for coverage of murder case hearing set

By James Radebaugh  
staff writer

Forty-Eighth District Court Judge Edward Avadenka does not want today's preliminary examination for two men charged with the murder of West Bloomfield resident Ralph Schultz to be turned into a "circus."

Avadenka called a meeting with reporters to lay down guidelines that will govern media access to the court proceeding. Print, television and radio reporters and photographers will be allowed in the courtroom, but at least two witnesses will be shielded from any photographic or electronic recording of their testimony, he said. He would not name the witnesses.

"I want to cooperate with the press. . . . The public has a right to know, but there are other rights that need to be addressed as well," Avadenka said.

As a security precaution, the courtroom will be locked when the examination begins

at 1 p.m. and reporters will be allowed to leave only during a pre-designated break, Avadenka said.

"Once in, you're in, because once out, you won't be let back in."

AVADENKA WOULD not say what prompted the special security concerns or say what other security measures will be taken.

He said he would hold in criminal contempt anyone who violates his orders, particularly regarding photographing the excluded witnesses.

Guidelines about cameras and recording equipment in a courtroom give any judge latitude to set rules for how the proceedings will be covered with audio and visual equipment.

The guidelines do not affect reporters taking notes or artists making drawings. A preliminary examination is conducted

to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the crimes alleged to have been committed actually were committed, and that there is sound reason to believe those charged may have committed them.

WILLIAM McMICHAEL, 18, and Adell Courts, 28, both of Pontiac, were each charged last week with 12 counts, including first-degree murder, armed robbery and possessing a firearm while committing a felony. In the case, McMichael will also face examination on a previous charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

Police and prosecutors say two men forced their way into Schultz's home March 17 and held Schultz, his wife and two children at gunpoint while they demanded money and ransacked the house. Schultz was shot to death during a scuffle with one of the intruders, police said.

James Burdick, a court-appointed attorney representing McMichael, said late Tues-

day he would not waive the examination even though he said he had just received police reports about the case and that his only familiarity with what his client is accused of has come from news reports.

A defendant has a right to a preliminary examination within 12 days of being charged with a felony. It is common for defendants to waive that right if their attorneys need time to prepare their cases, which prompted some speculation that today's examination would not be carried out.

Maureen Duffy, Courts' court-appointed attorney, could not be reached for comment.

THE OAKLAND PRESS created some controversy last week by violating Avadenka's request that photographs of Courts not be published until after witnesses had the opportunity to identify his photograph from among several others in a photo lineup. Avadenka made the request just prior to last Thursday's bedside arraignment of

Courts in Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital Courts since have been transferred to the Oakland County Jail.

West Bloomfield police responded to the publication of the photograph with an angry letter, copies of which were sent to all other news organizations in the area, claiming that the Oakland Press jeopardized the prosecution's case and strained its working relationship with the West Bloomfield Police Department.

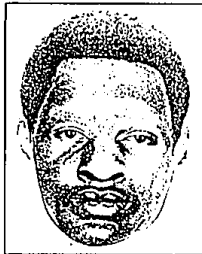
Oakland Press executive editor Bill Thor as on Tuesday defended the paper's decision to run the photograph of Courts in its March 23 issue.

Thomas said his decision was influenced by the photograph's being published more than 48 hours after Courts became a prime suspect and by Courts' having already been arrested and arraigned on the charges. "I made what I felt was a reasonable decision. There are those who disagree, but that's where I'd like it to lie."

## Cops track leads in coin con caper



This is a composite drawing of the man believed to have tricked the Bavarian Village Ski Shop in the Orchard-12 Shopping Center out of \$62 March 20.



This is a composite drawing of the man believed to have tricked the Marathon station at Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile out of \$89 on March 20.

Farmington Hills police have a possible suspect in their search for the coin-roll con artist, who has preyed on five local businesses this month.

"We'll be following up leads this week," said Detective Darnel Krause Tuesday.

The con man, described as calm and professional, duped four businesses out of more than \$250 but was foiled in another attempt by an employee who checked some of the coin rolls and found pennies.

He hit three businesses in the 12 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area on the same night, March 20.

In at least a dozen recent suburban incidents, a man has approached

a business, said he was from a nearby business and wanted to exchange rolls of "dimes" for paper currency.

Later, the merchants who agreed to the exchange found that the rolls actually were filled with pennies, with dimes on each end.

Livonia, Southfield and Dearborn Heights also have all been targeted. Krause thinks two men are involved — one the con artist, the other the getaway driver.

Police recommend that merchants not accept coin rolls from strangers, call the business a person claims to represent to confirm identity, or inspect at least some of the rolls before accepting them.

## Maps, code changes found in new directory

Complete, up-to-date maps and a listing of zip code changes recently announced by the U.S. Post Office can be found in the 1990 Ameritech PagesPlus West-Northeast Yellow Pages telephone directory — the official Michigan Bell directory. The zip code information can be found beginning on page 32 of the InfoPages section.

Delivery of the yellow and white pages directories begins March 30 and is expected to be completed by May 8. Approximately 251,000 businesses and residences will receive copies of the directories.

The Customer Guide pages in the front of the white pages directory also feature useful information, including rates for many types of local telephone services and options, directions for using customer calling features and times when customers can take advantage of discount rates.

Customers also will find information on how to order telephone service and how to make local and operator-assisted calls. The directory also lists the times when discounts are in effect for zone and some long distance calls.

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