

Student Wins Martha Mitchell Interview

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By Martin Weil

Washington Post Staff Writer

A George Washington University student paid \$100 at a campus charity auction last month to meet Martha Mitchell, wife of Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Although the student, Jan Bridge, of Richmond, has not yet met Mrs. Mitchell, he has found himself in a situation full of confusion, comedy and misunderstanding.

He said he was summoned last week to the Justice Department where "at times I felt as if I'd been intimidated." He said an official asked why he wanted the interview and told him that he would be checked by the FBI.

In addition, Bridge, said, the official, R. Richards Rolapp, asked to look over all quotations before possible publication, said he would have to attend the interview and said a tape recorder could not be used.

Bridge said yesterday he was telephoned by Rolapp shortly after a reporter asked Rolapp if he had interviewed Bridge. Bridge said he was told there would be no interview with Mrs. Mitchell if a story involving the exchange were published.

When asked if he had made such a statement Rolapp said: "No comment."

A Justice Department spokesman said yesterday that the interview is tentatively scheduled April 10. He said the only condition imposed is that Bridge is not to bring a tape recorder.

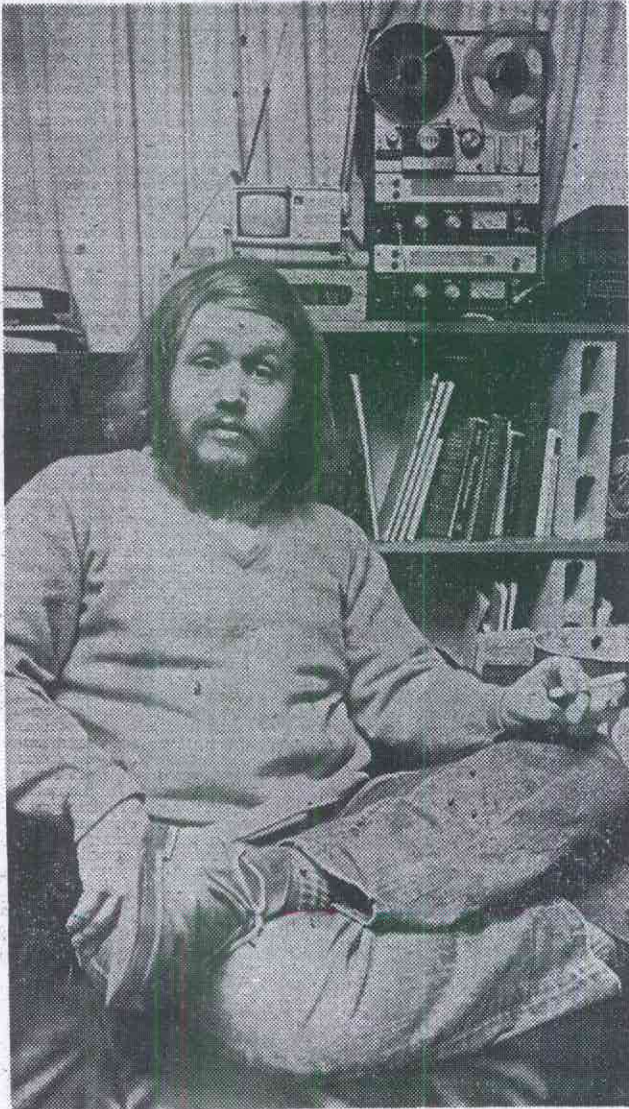


MARTHA MITCHELL
... "I didn't know"

He denied that an FBI check will be required of Bridge, and denied requesting to inspect Mrs. Mitchell's quotes before any publication.

A meeting with Mrs. Mitchell was one of the items offered at auction at George Washington University last month by students seeking to raise money for campus scholarships and loans.

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By Ken Fell—The Washington Post

Jan Bridge hopes to launch a career in journalism.

Student Wins Interview With Martha Mitchell

INTERVIEW, From A1

The auction, called Martha's Marathon of Birthday Bargains, is a traditional campus event, held near Washington's birthday, in which various items associated with and donated by celebrities go to the highest bidder.

Cathy Bernard, chairman of this year's auction, which raised about \$2,500, said she called the Attorney General's office at the Justice Department to ask that Mrs. Mitchell offer something for the auction.

In her request, Miss Bernard proposed an interview. She received a letter signed by Mrs. Mitchell saying, "I am delighted to take part in the auction and would enjoy taking a student to lunch."

However, Miss Bernard said, before the letter was received, Mrs. Mitchell's donation was already being advertised on campus as an interview. At the auction, she said, it was billed as an interview and lunch.

"Despite the confusion," a Justice Department spokesman said yesterday, "we're not contesting the interview."

In an interview with The Washington Post yesterday, Mrs. Mitchell said, "I granted an interview. I'm going to have it."

But when told that the student hoped to use the interview for publication, she ex-

pressed some hesitancy. "I didn't know," she said. "The conditions they gave me from the start were that it was for the sole benefit of the school . . . I'll have to investigate."

Bridge, 19, a sophomore in journalism, said he hoped to sell the interview to help launch his career. He also said he believed the interview might help give Mrs. Mitchell "credibility."