

# Why High Court Ruling Cheers Busing Foes

By Observer Staff

Suburban opponents of cross-district busing were encouraged by Monday's U.S. Supreme Court decision that in effect stopped busing in the tri-county Richmond, Va. area.

The high court upheld the conservative Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which overturned District Judge Robert Merhige's integration order.

The appeals court ruled



that "state action" wasn't to blame for confining black residents to Richmond rather than the bordering, mostly-white Henrico and Chesterfield counties.

Opponents of cross-district busing in the metropolitan Detroit area noted two signs in their favor:

- The Supreme Court split was 4-4, and its one-sentence

action has failed to achieve its assumed invidious purpose.

Richmond schools may be getting blacker, but so also are the schools of Henrico, and the trend may soon reach Chesterfield.

The appeals court said many "economic, political and social" reasons - rather than "invidious" state action - were responsible for Richmond's concentration of blacks. Then in a sentence that could be significant here, it added:

"Indeed, this record warrants no other conclusion than that the forces influencing demographic patterns in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Atlanta and other metropolitan areas have operated the same way in the Richmond metropolitan area to produce the same result."

The court agreed that "there has been some inaction (e.g. non-participation in construction of low income housing) by the counties which may have restricted the access of blacks to residences in these counties."

"If we assume invidious purpose, and none is established, it is possible to draw an inference of cause and effect if one ignores the possibility that in a heavily white county much of such housing would likely be occupied by low income whites."

"School construction site selection would seem to have little relevance to city-county movement by blacks, since, until recently, blacks who moved to the county would still have had to go to segregated schools."

"Thus the choice of whether to move or not would not have been influenced by the location of schools in the counties or the city."

The judges agreed that "whatever the basic causes, it has not been school assignments, and school assignments cannot reverse the trend."



Thomas F. Rost, manager of the beautiful new Harris Funeral Home in Garden City, combines youth with the practical know-how and the wisdom that comes from being brought up in the Harris tradition. Tom's grandfather and great-grandfather were founders of the firm.

"I learned early," says Tom, "that funeral direction requires ability as well as a kind heart. People who experience a death in the family need more than understanding, they need someone they can rely upon to handle the many details. That's why we strive to be sympathetic professionals."

David Whitney is a Harris professional whose thoughtful service has been appreciated by thousands of people. David is manager of the superbly appointed Harris Funeral Home in Livonia.

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## Poster Makers Win Praise

Winners have been named in the annual high school poster contest held last week at the Livonia Mall, under the sponsorship of the merchants association.

Area students were invited to submit posters on the theme of "a declaration of independence." Such ideas as Americans' dependence on each other, the environment and history were to be illustrated by implication in each poster. Judges were two Observer Newspapers Inc. staff members.

Best of show award went to John Kouslous, Livonia Stevenson 10th grader. Kouslous won a \$50 prize.

The first, second and third place winners respectively for originality were Patricia Tappan, Livonia Ladywood senior; Ann Borowski, ninth grader from Ladywood; and Randy Steele, 10th grader from Thurston High in South Redford.

Awards for artistic achievement went to Jeff McClain, Stevenson 10th grader, first; Karen Gorski, ninth grader from Ladywood, second; and Mary Ballini, Farmington High, 11th grader, third.

Prizes for best use of the theme went to Mike Stiles, 11th grader from Stevenson, first; Ryan Nixon, 10th grader from Thurston, second; and Jim Day, 11th grader from Stevenson, third.

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