

3 TEENAGERS SUSPECTED IN YOUTH'S DEATH ON BUS

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On a bus Thursday morning, **Montae Rowser** passed out fliers for a party tonight at his east side home, telling passengers about the fun.

But Montae, 16, won't go to any more parties.

Instead, relatives and friends will try to understand the argument and fight that left Montae dead about 10 a.m. from a gunshot in the chest on a city bus at East 7 Mile and Bloom.

About 20 passengers escaped unharmed. Police said they expect to seek murder charges today against three teens -- two 16 and one 17. The suspects attend Pershing High School, said Thomas Woodhouse, an assistant principal.

One suspect was caught at Pershing; the other two were found at a nearby house, Woodhouse said.

"It was a senseless thing," said Beverly Harris, 42, Montae's cousin.

Montae's relatives and Detroit police said Montae, a Southeastern High sophomore, was on the westbound East 7 Mile bus with a friend who attends Pershing. Montae wanted to transfer there, his relatives said.

Antwano Rowser, 18, Montae's older brother, said the friend told him Montae, while passing out fliers, was confronted by youths. Montae was asked whether he was in a gang and what school he went to, Antwano Rowser said. Words and looks were exchanged.

Family members say Montae was not in a gang.

A fight began and a 16-year-old pulled out a small-caliber handgun and shot Montae, police said.

"Not only Pershing, but the vast majority of the high schools in Detroit are populated with good young people," Woodhouse said. "But until this school district takes a firm stance with that minority of 2-3 percent of youngsters who repeatedly violate the written rules of our school district, we're going to have problems."

Montae had been in trouble before, according to Wayne County Juvenile Court records. He pleaded guilty to receiving and concealing stolen property -- a 1986 van -- last year.

According to a Free Press tally of police records, at least 35 youths ages 16 or younger have been shot in Detroit this year; three fatally.

Besides his brother, Montae's survivors include his mother, Daisy Rowser, and sisters Antwanda, 13, Marquise, 12, and Alicia, 9. Funeral arrangements were pending.

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