

Delay of Skokie march is upheld

By Chip Magnus

A U.S. appellate court Friday upheld a lower-court ruling that barred a march by neo-Nazis in north suburban Skokie before May.

The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2 to 1 to uphold a March 17 order by U.S. District Court Judge Bernard M. Decker for a 45-day cooling-off period.

Frank Collin, leader of the National Socialist Party of America, had asked the appeals court to vacate Decker's ban so that his group could march through the heavily Jewish suburb on April 20, the birthdate of Adolf Hitler.

Decker has ruled that the march itself can be held. In a suit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the neo-Nazis, Decker struck down Skokie ordinances

banning the march as unconstitutional.

However, he ordered the temporary ban partly to permit the village to appeal his ruling. This appeal is also before the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals and is due for a hearing the last two weeks of May.

The village also has an appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court, asking reversal of an Illinois Supreme Court decision. The Illinois high court reversed a 1977 injunction against the march.

Thursday, the Illinois Supreme Court refused to rehear a decision throwing out a suit against the march brought by survivors of the World War II Holocaust in Europe.

Jerome T. Torshen, lawyer for the survivors group, said he will appeal that Illinois high court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.