



Herald & Review

Friday

December 17, 1999

Decatur, Illinois

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Quick Take



'Outsiders' team up
Presidental hopefuls Bill Bradley and John McCain crossed partisan lines Thursday to pledge "genuine campaign finance reform."

Nation / A2



Thumbs up
After a year in which Decatur's race relations were sometimes strained, the spirit of unity displayed at last week's Kwanzaa celebration was a thumbs-up. Jeanelle Norman's African-American Experiences class, which sponsored the event, deserves credit.

Opinion / A8



Hot shooting
Meridian High School rolled to an 88-59 victory over Macon-Forsyth in the Macon County Tournament.

Sports / B1



Lottery
Here are the winning numbers Thursday in the Illinois State Lottery:
■ Pick Three-Midday: 1-67
■ Pick Three-Evening: 0-7
■ Pick Four-Midday: 2-8-9-1
■ Pick Four-Evening: 2-9-3-5
■ Little Lotto: 04-07-17-22-28
■ Lotto jackpot: \$9 million
■ Big Game jackpot: \$23 million



Weather
■ Today: Cloudy, High 32.
■ Tonight: Clearing, Low 16.



Details / B8



Inside



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Business D2
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Comics D6
Lifestyle D1-7
Movies D5
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Puzzles C3-6,8
Sports B1-8
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countdown:
15
Celebrate 2000



Sponsored by:
Arch Barbers Midland Co.,
Decatur Memorial Hospital
Illinois Power Co.



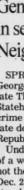
50 cents
Our 126th year
Issue 351 • Four sections



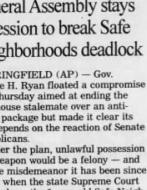
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Illinois House GOP Leader Lee Daniels reacts Thursday to the news that the General Assembly will remain in session as lawmakers continued to find a compromise on the Safe Neighborhoods Act.



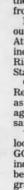
Associated Press



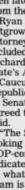
General Assembly stays in session to break Safe Neighborhoods deadlock



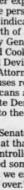
SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Gov. George H. Ryan floated a compromise late Thursday aimed at ending the stalemate stalemate over an anti-crime package but made it clear its fate depends on the reaction of Senate Republicans.



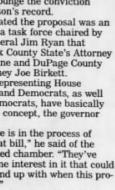
Under the plan, uninsured possession of a handgun would be illegal — and not the misdemeanor it has been since Dec. 2 when the state Supreme Court struck down the 5-year-old Safe Neighborhoods Act.



But, in a new twist, a judge would be empowered to order probation instead of prison time for a defendant with no prior criminal history and



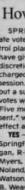
then later excuse the conviction from the person's record.



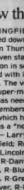
Rep. Jim Ryan proposed an outgrowth of a task force chaired by Attorney General Jim Ryan that recommended changes in sentencing people charged with felonies.



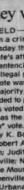
Democrats and Republicans, as well as the Senate, have finally agreed to the concept, the governor said.



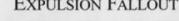
"The Senate is in the process of looking at that bill," he said of the GOP-controlled chamber. "They've indicated some interest in it that could mean what we end up with when this program is over."



Senate President James "Pete" Philip said it was skeptical that the proposal would even pass the House,



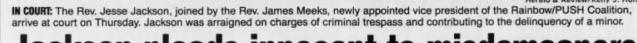
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EXPULSION FALLOUT



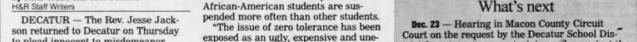
Herald & Review/Kelly J. Hoff



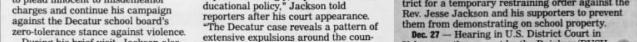
IN COURT: The Rev. Jesse Jackson, joined by the Rev. James Meeks, newly appointed vice president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, appears at court on Thursday. Jackson was arraigned on charges of criminal trespass and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.



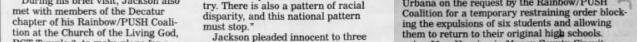
Jackson pleads innocent to misdemeanors



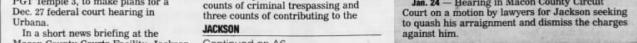
By BRAD MUDD and TOM COLLINS



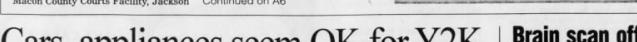
DECATUR — The Rev. Jesse Jackson returned to Decatur on Thursday to plead innocent to misdemeanor charges and continue his campaign against the Decatur school board's zero-tolerance stance against violence.



During his brief visit, Jackson also met with members of the Decatur chapter of Rainbow/PUSH Coalition at the Church of the Living God, PGT Temple 3, to make plans for a Dec. 27 federal court hearing in Urbana.



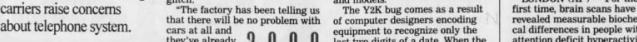
In a short news briefing at the Macon County Courts Facility, Jackson talked about a recent study that shows African-American students are suspended more often than other students.



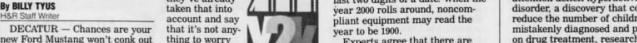
"The issue of zero tolerance has been exposed as an ugly, expensive and unnecessary policy," Jackson told reporters after his brief appearance.



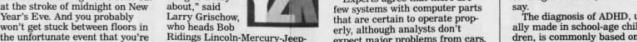
"The Decatur case reveals a pattern of excessive expulsions aimed to control students rather than to reduce racial disparity, and this national pattern must stop."



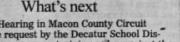
Jackson pleaded innocent to three counts of criminal trespassing and three counts of contributing to the



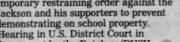
JACKSON



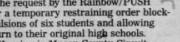
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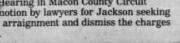
What's next



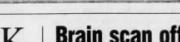
Dec. 23 — Hearing in Macon County Circuit Court on the request of the Decatur School District for a temporary restraining order against the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his supporters to prevent them from demonstrating on school property.



Jan. 20 — Jackson returns to Urbana on the request by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition for a temporary restraining order blocking the execution of school expulsions pending his return to the original high schools.



Jan. 24 — Hearing in Macon County Circuit Court on a motion by lawyers for Jackson seeking to quash his arraignment and dismiss the charges against him.



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Cars, appliances seem OK for Y2K



Number of small exchange carriers raise concerns about telephone system.



By BILLY TYUS



H&R Staff Writer



DECATUR — Chances are your new Ford Mustang won't konk out at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. And chances are you won't get stuck between floors in the unfortunate event that you're forced to bring in the new year on elevators.



Cars and elevators are two of the often-used products that experts expect are immune to the



Y2K bug, a computer dating glitch.



"The factory has been telling us that there will be problems with cars at all and they've already taken that into account," says Mark Engle, a spokesman for Ford. "They say that it's not anything to worry about."



Lee Griswold, who heads Bob Rings Lincoln-Mercury-Jeep-Eagle in Decatur, says, "The carmakers in cars affect things like timing in the engine where date isn't really a factor."



According to local dealers, the same is true of other car makes and models.



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The Y2K bug comes as a result of computer code designed to recognize the last two digits of a date. When the year 2000 rolls around, noncompliant software may read the year to be 1900.



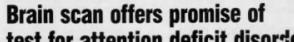
Experts agree that there are few systems in place that can certain to operate properly, although analysts don't expect major problems from cars, elevators, air conditioners and some heating systems, among



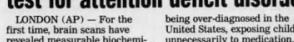
Y2K



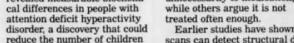
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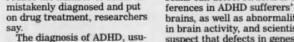
Brain scan offers promise of test for attention deficit disorder



LONDON (AP) — For the first time, a brain scan is providing a quick and measurable biochemical difference in people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, a discovery that could lead to earlier diagnosis of children mistakenly diagnosed and put on drug treatment, researchers say.



The diagnosis of ADHD, usually made in school-age children, is commonly based on observation of behavior. Some experts believe it is highly subjective — essentially just an educated judgment.



Some say the condition is



being over-diagnosed in the United States, causing children unnecessary side effects of medication, while others argue it is not treated often enough.



Earlier studies have shown that an area of the brain involved in attention and memory is smaller in ADHD sufferers' brains, as well as abnormalities in brain activity, and specialists suggest the behavior is generally related to the brain chemical dopamine probably are involved.



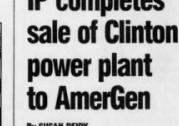
The latest study, conducted at



ADHD



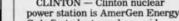
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IP completes sale of Clinton power plant to AmerGen



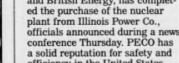
By SUSAN REDD



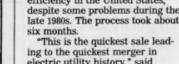
H&R Staff Writer



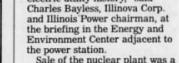
CLINTON — Clinton nuclear power station is AmerGen Energy Co.'s first plant purchase and could be the first in a regional operating group, company officials said Thursday.



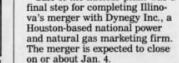
AmerGen, which is a joint venture of British Energy Co. and British Energy, has completed the purchase of the nuclear plant from Dynegy Inc., a Texas-based natural power and natural gas marketing firm. The merger is expected to close on or about Jan. 1.



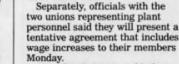
Separately, officials with the two unions representing plant personnel said they will present a tentative agreement that includes wage increases to their members Monday.



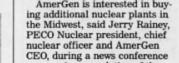
AmerGen is interested in buying additional nuclear power in the Midwest, says Jerry Rainey, PECO Nuclear president, chief nuclear officer and AmerGen CEO, during a news conference attended by several regional operating groups. The process took about six months.



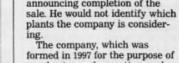
"This is the quickest sale leading to the quickest merger in electric utility history," said Charles Bassett, Illinois Corp. and Midwest Power Co. chairman, at the briefing in the Energy and Environment Center adjacent to the power station.



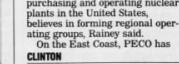
Sale of the nuclear plant was a final step for completing Illinois' merger with Dynegy Inc., a Texas-based natural power and natural gas marketing firm. The merger is expected to close on or about Jan. 1.



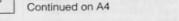
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On the East Coast, PECO has



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