

# Herald & Review

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

Monday  
November 15, 1999  
Decatur, Illinois

## Quick Take



### The saga continues

Follow along today, as some quick thinking and life-like sounds help rescue March.

Central Illinois / A3

### Exciting times

University of Illinois fans can ponder: A) a possible bowl trip to Hawaii, B) the final tuneup for the nationally ranked men's basketball team, and C) the season opener for the ranked women's basketballers.

Sports / B1

### EgyptAir voice recorder studied

Nation / A2

### 1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Goal ..... \$2.5 million  
Raised ..... \$2,139,471.09  
Needed ..... \$360,528.91  
Days left ..... 4

### Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Sunday in the Illinois State Lottery:  
■ Pick Three-Evening: 2-2-3  
■ Pick Four-Evening: 5-7-1-0  
■ Lotto jackpot: \$2 million  
■ Big Game jackpot: \$7 million

### Weather

■ Today: Sunny, High 56.  
■ Tonight: Clear, Low 32.

Details / B14

### Inside

Ann Landers ..... B8  
Classifieds ..... B9-13  
Comics ..... B6  
Lifestyle ..... B6  
Movies ..... B6  
Obituaries ..... A7  
Opinion ..... A12  
Puzzles ..... B10, 11, B13  
Sports ..... B1-5  
Television ..... B7

countdown:

47

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## Expulsion issue grips city

Demonstrators from inside Decatur and out mobilize to march and rally.

By KEN DICKSON, BILLY TYTUS,  
RON INGRAM and AMY BURCH  
H&R Staff Writers

DECATUR — On the heels of three demonstrations involving thousands of people Sunday in Decatur, the battle between the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and the Decatur school board is broadening.

Not only is the Rev. Jesse Jackson continuing his effort to get seven expelled Decatur high school students back in school, but a U.S. congressman will be taking the battle to Washington, D.C., and a state senator plans to take the fight to the Illinois General Assembly.

Meanwhile, at 7 a.m. today, a group of supporters will hold a prayer vigil at MacArthur High School. And, at 7 tonight, a rally is planned at the Church of the Living God, P.O.T. Temple 3, 1702 E. Prairie Ave.

Jackson said if a resolution has not been found in the meantime, he and other supporters will be taking the students "across the line" and returning them to school on Tuesday morning.

Reminiscent of a week ago at Eisenhower High School, Jackson asked the crowd at a MacArthur High School rally Sunday how many of them would be willing to get arrested for the cause. Almost everyone raised a hand, even little children watching as they straddled a parent's shoulders.

The early stages of a state and national political campaign against the expulsions and the district's "zero-tolerance policy" were evident with the presence of U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Chicago, state Sen. Donna E. Trotter, D-Chicago, and state Rep. Harold Murphy, D-Markham.

Rush said he would contact U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno in support of Rainbow/PUSH's allegation that district officials released personal student information — thereby violating privacy statutes — and about the zero-tolerance policy, which he labeled "unfair." He also said he plans to ask that the House Judiciary Committee convene hearings on the zero-tolerance policy in the near future.

Trotter, chairman of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, said he

### EXPULSIONS

Continued on A8



ON THE MOVE: Marchers, including Rainbow/PUSH Coalition attorney Lewis Myers Jr., center, fill East Grand Avenue during Sunday's march to MacArthur High School. Police estimated the crowd at about 2,000.

## 'Stop the Violence' march stays mostly local

By ARVIN DONLEY  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — No more violence. Support the school board. Decatur's problems can be solved without outside help.

That's what many of the 250 people participating in the "Stop the Violence" march were talking about as they walked a one-mile stretch on Eldorado Street Sunday in Decatur.

Organized by Decatur City Councilwoman Betsy Stockard, the march drew residents who supported the local school board's decision to expel seven students involved in a brawl that spilled into the stands during a football game on Sept. 17 at Eisenhower High School.

"We're here to tell the community that we're standing together and that we want a peaceful solution to this," said Carol Chalgirris, a Richland Community College

trustee. "We need to stand behind our elected officials. We've not bused people in for this march; these are people from our community."

A few blocks away, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who is fighting to have the expelled students reinstated, led an estimated crowd of 2,000 plus, including more than 1,000 who were bused in from Chicago, on a march organized by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

Although the "Stop the Violence" march was composed primarily of local residents, Victoria De Cello, 28, drove two hours from Manteno to take part in Stockard's march.

"Jesse Jackson has no business being in Decatur," De Cello said. "Throughout the event, people driving by honked their horns in support of the marchers. Many individuals were blue ribbons to show they were behind the school

board and a long blue streamer, which stretched nearly two blocks, was carried by the participants."

While the march included men, women and children of all ages, Stockard and her family were the only African-Americans in the crowd.

"I know of other African-Americans who support this," Stockard said. "I'm not going to say they're not here. But I do know a lot of people don't want to stand out publicly. Some of it is fear of being scrutinized like I have been and still continue to be, and some of it is that people prefer to show their support by praying and doing other things."

Sunday's march drew about five times as many participants as a "Stop the Violence" event organized last week by Stockard.

## Sunday's developments

■ No major incidents were reported at three separate demonstrations related to the expulsion of seven Decatur high school students. Police estimate about 2,000 people took part in a march to MacArthur High School, led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, though the coalition is estimating turnout at much higher.

Decatur City Council member Betsy Stockard drew an estimated 250 people to a "Stop the Violence" march on the city's eastside.

Meanwhile, at the Nelson Park pavilion, members of the Ku Klux Klan held a rally attended by an estimated 200 people.

## What's next

■ All Decatur schools are scheduled to be open today.

■ At 7 a.m. today, a group of Jackson supporters will hold a prayer vigil at MacArthur High School.

■ At 7 p.m. today, a rally is scheduled at the Church of the Living God, P.O.T. Temple 3, 1702 E. Prairie Ave.



HERALD & REVIEW/KARLY J. HUNT

KLAN IN DECATUR: A member of the Butler, Ind., American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan stands alone in a Nelson Park pavilion in Decatur Sunday, looking out on 200 people assembled for the rally.



HERALD & REVIEW/JOSEPH C. GARZA

MEDIA CRUSH: The Rev. Jesse Jackson is surrounded by the media after arriving at the starting point of the march.

## These checker players anything but squares

PANA — Checkers, on the face of it, seems such a nice, simple, gentle game.

You sit down opposite sweet-looking great-grandfather Claude Gould in his Pana living room and get ready for a pleasant session of sliding the little plastic discs across the checkerboard.

And then you get annihilated. Players like 92-year-old Gould eat beginners for breakfast. A quick hop, skip and jump flurry, and heart, checkers needs you.

his inexperienced opponent is toast. But take heart, checkers needs you.

"We are always trying to get more players

involved in the game, especially younger players," says Gould, who finished second in the Illinois state checker championship in 1941 and 1984. "It really is a fascinating game, and I play for the fun, challenge and fellowship. It keeps you mentally sharp, too."

Gould belongs to a loose-knit bunch of about 12 Central Illinois players, most of whom are members of the Central Division Illinois Checker Association and the Missouri Checker Association. They wander all over the two states — and beyond — to play in tournaments or just for friendly games with each other. They all bristle at any suggestion the passion many of them have spent their

### POSTCARDS

Continued on A4



HERALD & REVIEW/JOSEPH C. GARZA

WHAT WAS THAT MOVE? Bob Hazelp of Bunker Hill, left, checks out Bobby Smith's strategy as the Effingham man takes on Claude Gould at Gould's home in Pana on Wednesday.

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