

A10 Sunday, November 7, 1999

STUDENT: Anti-violence march also set

Continued from A1
ization of which Jackson is the founder and president, said he couldn't estimate how many people will march.

Mark Allen, field director for the coalition, said five busloads of supporters are coming from Chicago and others are expected from communities throughout the Midwest.

Participants will gather at 2 p.m. at the Church of the Living God, P.O. Temple No. 3, 1762 E. Prairie Ave., before marching at 3 p.m. to Eisenhower High School.

The Decatur Police Department has a plan to handle the march, said Sgt. Richard Steil. He would not elaborate on the plan.

Stockard on Friday joined Mayor Terry Howley in voicing support for the school board's action. Stockard said members of YEA on Saturday had asked her to further explain her stance on the issue, which she said she changed after viewing an amateur video of the fight last week.

After listening to her explanation, Stockard said 10-year-old O'Neke Reed was adamant about holding one of the group's "Stop the Violence" marches to coincide with the Rainbow/PUSH rally.

"They wanted to understand why I did what I did, changing my position. And they did understand it," Stockard said. "Then O'Neke said we should have a march to stop the violence."

O'Neke, whose mother, Kimberly Starr Reed, was murdered in 1996, said she wanted people to focus on the violence of the fight rather than the effort to return the boys to school.

"What those kids did was wrong. It had violence to do with it. Somebody could have been hurt," O'Neke said. She said she hoped holding another anti-violence march would make the community "calm down a little bit."

Her mother's murder remains unsolved.

Stockard, who is the city's only black council member, said she already has taken some criticism for her new stance on the issue. She said many people have cloned their minds on the topic and are forgetting that the students could be returned to school as soon as next summer if they follow a program set out by the school board that involves tutoring and community service.

"In some cases, I don't care what you tell people, they're not hearing that," Stockard said. Jackson was in Decatur on Tuesday and Wednesday hoping to convince the board to reconsider its decision. He has said their expulsions, which could last as long as two years, are too lengthy for a fight.

But school officials say the expulsions are warranted considering the severity of the fight. And Jackie Goetter, school board president, has vowed not to reverse the decision.

In addition to the march, Jackson has said he plans to take the matter to court. He has also told members of the local Rainbow/PUSH chapter to "have your kids at school Monday (and) be prepared to get arrested."

Allen said Rainbow/PUSH was informed of an anonymous threat made by someone who claimed to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Allen said he hopes that a threat made by this "nameless, faceless person" won't dissuade people from attending the march.

"The Decatur police have indicated that they get anonymous calls like this all the time," he said. "And they'll have a regular detail of officers to monitor the demonstration."

**Report: Nationalists
had links to Cuba**

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Puerto Rican nationalists offered clemency by President Clinton were members of two groups with ties to Cuban intelligence agents, The Hartford Courant reported.

In a story in today's editions, the newspaper said FBI files on a Wells Fargo robbery in West Hartford document Cuba's support for the Puerto Rican independence movement. The contents of the files have not been disclosed until now, the Courant said.

The FBI monitored conversations and meetings between Cuban intelligence agents and members of the group Los Macheteros, Spanish for "The Cane Cutters."

Numerous court-authorized interceptions of conversations have determined that the Cubans support and direct the Macheteros at a firsthand level, the FBI said in a confidential memo.

In September, President Clinton freed 11 jailed nationalists, members of Los Macheteros or the PALN, the Spanish acronym for the Armed Forces of National Liberation.

SEARS

correction notice

On page 31 of the Segrs insert dated November 7, the following statement was inadvertently left out as it pertains to the "3 rooms for under \$1000" offer: "This offer is 450 sq. ft. for \$999 - and is for the styles mentioned in the ad." We regret any inconvenience this may cause our customers.



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