

# Herald & Review

Wednesday

November 17, 1999  
Decatur, Illinois

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

## Quick Take



### Trimming the fat

When a person's weight becomes a threat to his health and regular diets fail, surgery may be the answer.

Lifestyle / C1

### Crash probe

At Egypt's request, officials delayed turning the investigation of the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 over to the FBI.

Nation / A2



The final chapter / C1

## 1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Goal . . . \$2.5 million  
Raised . . . \$2,269,662.03  
Needed . . . \$230,337.97  
Days left . . . 2

## Lottery

Here are the winning numbers Tuesday in the Illinois Lottery:  
■ Pick Three-Midday: 6-2-0  
■ Pick Three-Evening: 2-6-9  
■ Pick Four-Midday: 0-4-7-4  
■ Pick Four-Evening: 1-3-9-2  
■ Little Lotto: 05-13-17-19-25  
■ Big Game: 10-27-29-37-46  
■ Big Money Ball: 31  
■ Lotto jackpot: \$2 million  
■ Big Game jackpot: \$7 million

## Weather

■ Today: Sunny, High 56.  
■ Tonight: Clear, Low 35.

## Details / B8

## Inside

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countdown:  
**45**  
Celebrate 2000

Sponsored by:  
Archer Daniels Midland Co.,  
Decatur Memorial Hospital  
Illinois Power Co.

50 cents

Our 125th year  
Issue 321 • Four sections



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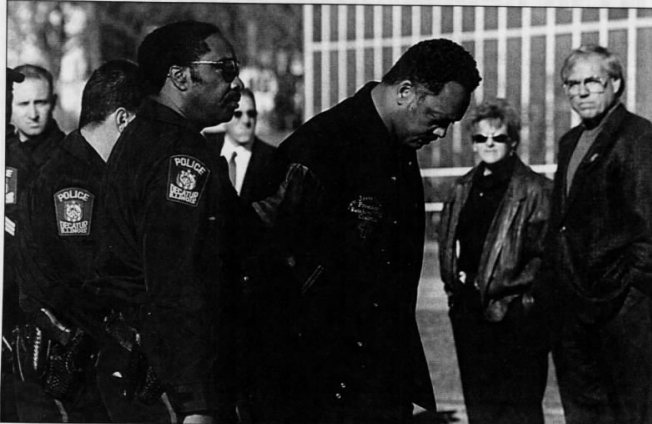


Herald & Review/Kelly J. Huff

**SUPERVISING SCHOOL:**  
Decatur School Superintendent Kenneth Arndt arrives at Eisenhower High School Tuesday before the Rev. Jesse Jackson was arrested by Decatur Police.

## EXPULSION CONFLICT

# School board stands ground



Herald & Review/Dennis Magee

**UNDER ARREST:** Decatur police officer Larry Bond directs a handcuffed Jesse Jackson toward a transport vehicle after Jackson's arrest Tuesday morning at Eisenhower High School. Jackson was arrested on preliminary charges of felony mob action, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and solicitation to commit a crime. School board member D.R. Roberts is at right.

## School board, Jackson roll in opposite directions

By KEN DICKSON  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — For a while, it seemed the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and the Decatur school board were traveling on the same road, but perhaps at different speeds.

Both wanted the expelled students to have access to education. Agreeing on what that meant was the stumbling block.

But it became clear on Tuesday night that although both sides claimed to be on the same road, they were going in opposite directions. Tuesday night, all seven members of the Decatur school board met in emergency session for the second time in eight days to discuss the expulsions of six Decatur high school students. A seventh student implicated in the fight on Sept. 17 has withdrawn and moved out of state.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson was led away with three supporters in

ANALYSIS

Continued on A4



Herald & Review/Joseph C. Garza

**MAKE WAY:** A Decatur police officer makes a path for a squad car and the Transport Unit van that holds the Rev. Jesse Jackson Tuesday at Eisenhower High School. Jackson was arrested on preliminary charges of felony mob action, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and solicitation to commit a crime.

- Students say their school day was anything but business as usual
- Jesse Jackson's demonstration Tuesday drew a crush of media

Stories / A5

## Farmers get little guidance at workshop on genetically altered crops

By PAUL BRINKMANN  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Farmers came to a workshop on biotechnology Tuesday for advice on what kind of seed to plant next year, but they received few firm answers.

Instead, some agribusiness executives, including a vice president from Archer Daniels Midland Co., admitted that the global acceptance of genetically altered crops is unpredictable.

"We honestly don't know . . . Go to your grain companies for advice," said John McClenathan, vice president of ADM's Growmark division. "Each farmer should make their own decision based on production economics and market economics."

The workshop at Richland Community College attracted more than 200 farmers. The title was "Should I Grow GMO?" referring to genetically modified organisms. It was sponsored by the University of Illinois

Extension office's Macon County Unit. Farmer uncertainty over the issue follows a year of growing opposition to genetically altered crops in food from Europe, Asia and even some U.S. food companies such as Gerber and Heinz, which are not accepting genetically altered food ingredients.

Consumers and environmental groups around the world have questioned the safety of genetically altered food, despite persistent assurances by U.S. scientists and

regulators that the technology has been thoroughly tested. Agribusiness executives at the workshop stressed their confidence in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of biotech foods.

ADM shook up the agribusiness world in August with a request for farmers and elevators to keep genetically altered crops separate from conventional crops.

CROPS

Continued on A2

Members say no to more compromises; Jackson arrested on charge of mob action

By ARVIN DONLEY, BRETT WILCOXSON, TOM COLLINS, KEN DICKSON, RON INGRAM and BRAD MUDD  
H&R Staff Writers

DECATUR — Hours after the Rev. Jesse Jackson and several supporters were arrested for crossing onto school property, the Decatur school board defended its decision to expel seven Decatur students for fighting and vowed to hold its ground.

In an emergency meeting that included a closed session lasting nearly three hours, the board emerged to say it would not compromise any further on a one-year expulsion of the students, who were involved in a brawl Sept. 17 at Eisenhower High School. Jackson, who was arrested after crossing police barriers at Eisenhower, and members of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition plan to stage a prayer vigil at 7 a.m. today outside MacArthur High School.

During the closed session, the Rev. James Meeks, a Chicago minister and Rainbow/PUSH vice president, asked the board to consider allowing the students back into their schools in January based on each individual's performance in alternative schooling during the next 10 days.

The board, which listened to Meeks for 20 minutes, later said in a statement read by school board President Jackie Goetter that if the expelled students and their parents believed the board acted incorrectly, they should seek relief in court.

"We must feel secure in our right to respectfully disagree with the intervention that seeks to overwhelm a duly elected authority by employing great resources and intense public pressure," Goetter said.

The board then voted to retain additional legal counsel from a Springfield law firm to deal with lawsuits filed against the board. Meeks said the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition plans to file a lawsuit today in Champaign charging that the school board released private records of the students to the public.

After the board meeting, a visibly upset Meeks walked to the microphone and chastised the board for not voting on his request to have a blue ribbon committee review, on a case-by-case basis, whether the students had performed well enough in alternative schooling to be reinstated for the second semester.

"At least they could have given us the courtesy or decency to put the issue to a vote," Meeks said.

Late Tuesday evening, Jackson said the board only offered to consider examining the case of Gregory Howell because he acted in self-defense before he became aggressive. Jackson said leaving

JACKSON

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