

89 P

A1

# Herald & Review

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Sunday  
December 12, 1999  
Decatur, Illinois

## Decatur struggles to mend rift

UNITED FRONT: Many local residents joined the Rev. Jesse Jackson on his march to protest the expulsion of six Decatur high school students.

### TOASTING THE NEW YEAR

STOCKING UP: Brad Wright, assistant manager at Famous Liquor in Decatur, has stocked up on Dom Pérignon, Moet & Chandon and White Star champagnes for the 2000 New Year's celebration. The Dom Pérignon sells for \$129.99 a bottle.

### Millennium zeal bubbles over into wine sales

Anticipating a high demand, liquor stores stock up on champagne, but warn parties to buy early

**Quick Take**

**Illinois scores 3rd straight win**

Frank Williams scored 20 points and Lucas added 14 Saturday night as No. 22 Illinois rolled to an 81-48 victory over Kansas State for its third straight win.

**Stars shine early**

Today at 7 p.m. WNBA stars Lisa Leslie, Chamique Holdsclaw, Dawn Staley and other members of the USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team will take on the 17th-ranked Fighting Illini in an exhibition game.

**Sports / C1**

**The stockings were hung ...**

While yuletide decorating fads come and go, the stocking has long been a traditional staple when it comes to decking the halls.

**Home / E1**

**Costly convenience?**

More Americans are turning to credit cards to meet their short-term cash needs, but some critics warn that too many are quickly ending up in debt.

**Business / D1**

**Lottery**

Here are the winning numbers selected Saturday:

- Pick Three-Midday: 1-5-2
- Pick Three-Evening: 1-4-1
- Pick Four-Midday: 1-5-6
- Pick Four-Evening: 5-6-2-0
- Lotto: 01-02-05-45-46-52
- Lotto jackpot: \$7 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$19 million

**Weather**

- Today: High 45.
- Tonight: Light showers. Low 32.

**Details / B6**

**Inside**

All Home	E1-6
Ann Landers	G3
Business	D1-6
Classifieds	SE 8, F3-12
Comics	Section 5
Explore	F1-2
Lifestyle	G1-5
Movies	G5
Obituaries	B2, 3
Opinion	B4
Fun	F5
Sports	C1-8
Television	G4

**countdown:**  
20  
Celebrate 2000

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**In the wake of expulsion controversy, community leaders and residents unsure of what's in store for city.**

**By TONY REED**  
Herald & Review

**DECATUR** — As the dust settles in the battle over the expulsion of a group of students from Decatur schools, a question hangs in the air: What now, Decatur?

The crisis was thrown into the national spotlight by the Rev. Jesse Jackson's dramatic intervention. And many say the controversy has caused a deep, almost revealed — a deep fracture in the community.

But the question of how to fix it, of how to safeguard the future, is a debate that likely

will reach far into the new millennium.

In the expulsion controversy, there are two distinct camps.

Standing on one side are those who support the Decatur school board in its decision to expel the students. They say having safe schools is central to education, and racism has nothing to do with it. The group is made up mostly of white parents.

On the other side is a group made up mostly of African-Americans, who point to the school board handing out heavy punishments to African-American students while on the job.

**RIFT**  
Continued on A5

### Army urges discharge of gay reservist

Investigation begins after lieutenant reveals his sexual orientation while on the job.

**PHOENIX (AP)** — A military investigator is recommending the Army discharge a gay lieutenant who revealed his sexual orientation while on the job, a state lawmaker said.

Army officials began investigating Lt. Steven May after he discussed his homosexuality during a legislative hearing in Phoenix May 1998, a lawmaker at the time, but was recalled to active duty a few weeks later.

"It's been a difficult command. I have not had a single commander has not an option but to recommend initiation of a separation action to higher headquarters," said Lt. Col. Maj. Eileen Norton, wrote in her report. The report is part of May's confidential personnel file, which was released to The Associated Press.

Norton recommended May's commanders consider his performance — he was rated an exceptional officer with an accomplished career — when deciding whether to recommend retaining or dismissing him.

In a sworn statement for the investigation, Capt. Stephen Stenberg, May's superior officer, said: "May's performance as an officer under my command has been outstanding and outstanding since he joined the unit."

Under Department of Defense regulations, homosexuals are not allowed to serve in the armed forces. The military's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy is designed only to prevent it from seeking out homosexuals.

May's commanding general will decide whether to call a separation hearing before senior military officers. If he board votes to discharge May, the decision would have to be approved by the secretary of defense. The process could take several months.

In the meantime, May, 28, is being considered for promotion to captain.

"I'm physically fit, mentally fit, an outstanding officer and they're kicking me out," May said.

**A little wine wisdom**

Here are some facts about champagne and sparkling wines:

- In 1997, Illinois residents consumed 3.1 million gallons of champagne and sparkling wine.
- It's been said Marilyn Monroe favored a champagne bath.
- Champagne can be stored for a short period of time, but it's meant to be consumed when purchased.
- The most popular champagne style is Brut, which is also the driest. Extra-dry is less dry than Brut. See sweet, and Demi Sec is even sweeter.

producer of sparkling wine in America in 1847, followed by California in 1855 and New York in 1865.

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year. The United States is expected to receive 20 percent more than the 17 million bottles shipped in 1997.

Shipments of U.S. sparkling wines, most of which are produced in California, were up 20 percent through the end of September compared to the same period last year, according to the Wine Institute. That number will continue to rise to about 30 percent of sales are made in the last nine weeks of the year.

Despite the increase in demand, some experts predicted about the same as last year, retailers and distributors say. They hope to make more profit next year with champagne pleasant so they buy more before the next millennium.

"Everyone from supplier to CHAMPAGNE

Continued on A5

**Worldwide shipments of Champagne, a name that should be used only for the La Champagne region of France, are expected to top 315 million bottles this year.**

could be tapped out by Jan. 1, retailers and industry experts experts say. Less expensive U.S. brands that can be produced in 60 to 90 days will be easier to find as the new year approaches.

sources: Domayne Restaurant and the Wine Institute

**Yo quiero Taco Bell?**

Chihuahua survives wild ride that ends in the restaurant's parking lot

**CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)** — After his Jeep was rear-ended in the parking lot of a Taco Bell, Tinker Melvin stepped out to have a word with the driver of the offending Chrysler.

In the driver's seat was a Chihuahua named Mr. Chips, one paw on the wheel. The dog had just had a wild ride, with the car careening across five lanes of traffic from a nearby McDonald's.

"I said to myself, 'If this dog's mouth moves, I'm getting out of here,'" said Melvin, a Baptist pastor.

Taco Bell, after all, has commercials featuring a pony-sized, pint-sized, Spanish-speaking Chihuahua named Dinky. Its signature phrase, "Yo quiero Taco Bell," means "I want Taco Bell."

All Connie Sies wanted was her dog back. The strange ride started Thursday when the dog, who had been stopped at the McDonald's to buy her pooch some McNuggets, stepped out of the car and slipped off the brake. The Chrysler, with Mr. Chips in the front seat, took off without her.

**Mr. Chips**

**POPS GOES THE HOLIDAY**

**EVERYBODY SING:**  
Erin Kurecki, 3, urges a crowd of almost 2,000 to sing along as musical director Michael Luxner conducts the Mid-Illinoian-Prairie Symphony Orchestra during the Holiday Symphony Pops Concert at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center Saturday.

**Herald & Review/Phil Jacobs**

**Central Illinois / B1**