

Decatur, Illinois • Sunday, December 12, 1999 CENTRAL ILLINOIS A5

## RIFT: Many believe solutions lie within individuals

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students who, it is claimed, are members of a cultural group already suffering from discrimination and unequal opportunity.

In the case of opportunity caused by racism, different backgrounds and cultures, an honest discussion of school safety policies or all of these factors.

There is little agreement on the answer to that question. Most, if not all, deplore what they see.

Mustafa Yassin, a Millikin University student and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's representative in Jackson, says the city is reeling from being shocked into facing some uncomfortable issues by Jackson's arrival.

Yassin says he sees a troubled future for the facets of a group of young men who were from many backgrounds who suffer the effects of racism and unequal opportunity, leaving them feeling isolated from the rest of society. Also working against them, he says, is a conservative mindset in Decatur that resists change and wishes problems would just go away.

Yassin sees the need for democratic changes in the world and society. If we don't recognize those changes, the problems will keep building until you get an explosion.

Yassin, 21, Jeanelle Norman, president of the Decatur branch of the NAACP, agrees there is real anger out there and it is all focused on the fate of expected students.

One lady at one of the rallies said she was marching because she had been told to move at the mall by a security guard, when all she was doing was talking to her family," said Norman, a professor at Richland Community College.

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