

A6 Decatur, Illinois • Friday, December 17, 1999

## JACKSON: Men were arrested on preliminary charges of mob action

**Continued from A1**

delegations of a minor, all misde-  
meanors. Jackson and his supporters were arrested Nov. 16 after crossing a police line at Eisenhower High School to protest the expulsion of 10 Decatur high school students.

The charge Jackson responded to on Decatur School District property Nov. 16 and 14 and encouraged two expelled students — who are minors — to trespass the same days, according to the documents. The students were barred from school property as part of their expulsion in connection with a Sept. 17 fight at an Eisenhower football game.

Criminal trespass is a Class B crime, punishable by up to a month in jail. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor is a Class A crime, punishable by up to a year in prison or fine or possible to their regular high schools.

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"I never take these charges lightly. They are the price to pay to do our nation's conscience," Jackson said. "Getting arrested is a non-negotiable act of conscience and dignity. If we had not come to trial, these never would be on a criminal trial — a death sentence."

The six expelled students — a seventh was allowed to withdraw without being expelled — were enrolled in alternative schools Nov. 18. Jackson said the six are attending classes and making progress.

Later Thursday, during an interview with the Herald and Review, Jackson accused several children of Decatur school board members of harassing another student — an accusation that school officials said was long ago proven untrue.

"I was looking to see if there are board members who are harassing other children," Jackson said.

Through his private e-mail, Jackson said he referred to a specific incident involving three sons of board members who allegedly harassed a female student. The students, including sending harassing e-mails to the girl, he said.

Jackson said a reporter outside Decatur located the victim's mother and talked to her.

"She does exist; she's a some-  
what famous person," the mother is afraid. She has to live in this town," Jackson said.

Jackson said the mother asked to have the girl from her school, but provided no further elaboration.

These board members contacted Thursday. Terry Robinson, Philip Wilhelm and board President Jackie Goettner — said they had no knowledge of any such incident. Superintendent Kenneth Arndt did.

Arndt said he is aware of Jackson's claim and, if he's thinking of the same alleged incident, it was shown to be unfounded nearly two years ago.

"The board, in total, never really knew about this," Arndt:

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