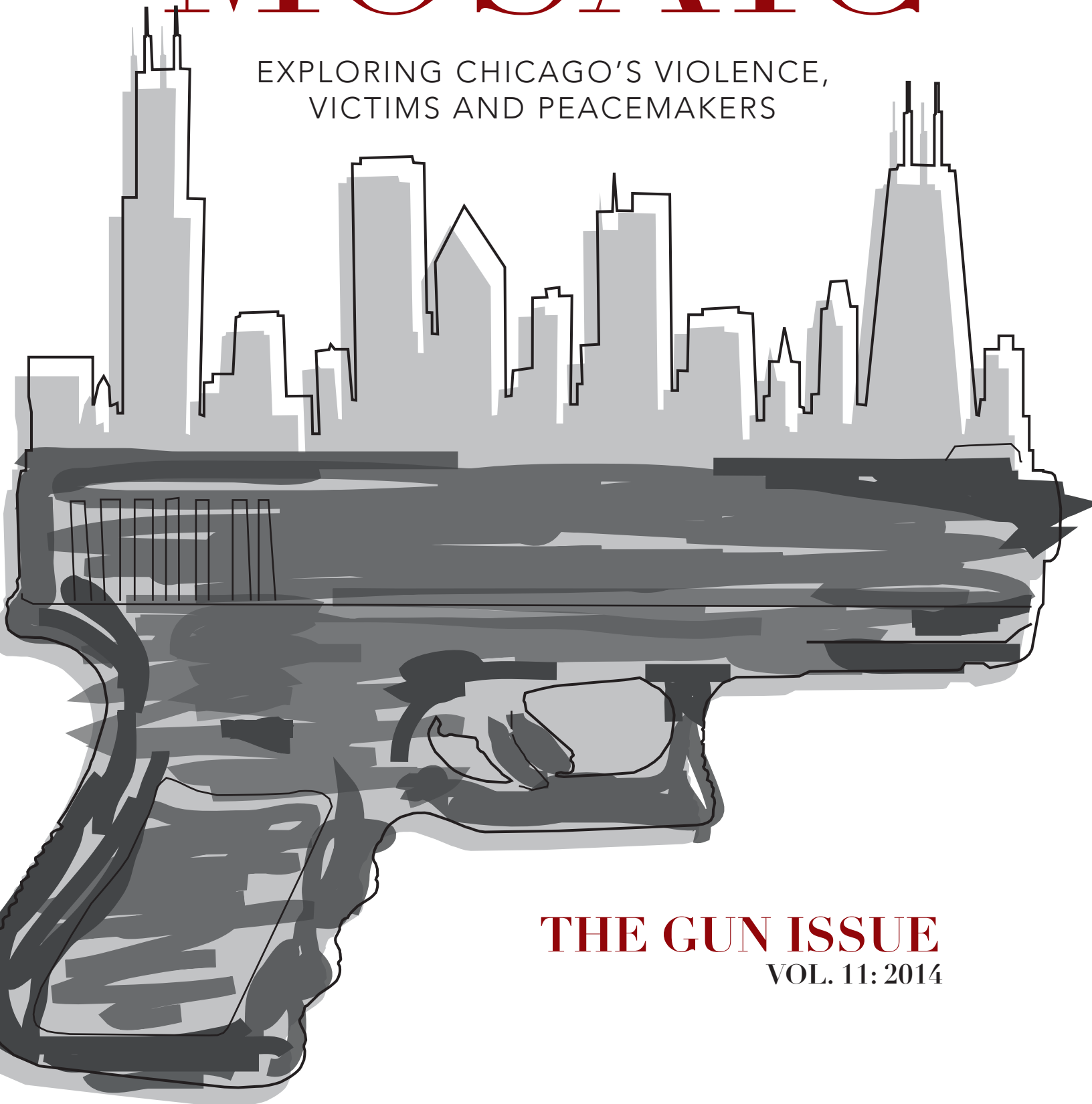


A LOYOLA STUDENT SOCIAL JUSTICE MAGAZINE

MOSAIC

EXPLORING CHICAGO'S VIOLENCE,
VICTIMS AND PEACEMAKERS



THE GUN ISSUE

VOL. 11: 2014

LOYOLA



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MOSAIC | 2014

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Sarah Aiken | Advertising Manager
Ashley Cox | Videographer
Nia Allen | Promotions Manager

EDITORIAL LOCATION

Loyola University Chicago,
School of Communication
51 E. Pearson St., Chicago IL 60611

COVER DESIGN

Marissa Boulanger

For more information on MOSAIC or the Journalism Program at the School of Communication, contact Beth Konrad at bkonrad@luc.edu.

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JOURNALISM

The Loyola Journalism Program wants to acknowledge the hard work of our journalism students, and commitment to knowledge and truth represented in these pages. Like any 'ism' our program exemplifies a distinctive practice, system, and philosophy of reporting with integrity coupled with using the latest technological advances to tell stories that people need to know about.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MOSAIC STAFF!



MOSAIC

EDITORS' NOTE



EMILY STUDY
editor-in-chief



RIANNE COALE
managing editor



DEVIN MACDONALD
content editor

Dear Readers,

When the Federal Bureau of Investigation released its 2012 crime statistics report highlighting Chicago as the most dangerous city in the nation, it cemented what many Chicagoans already knew: There is a gun problem in the city.

While this violence is often depicted as a strictly South Side issue, Mosaic staff writers found that it exists in every corner – South Side or otherwise – in Chicago.

We took a hyperlocal approach to covering crime and dug deep to discover the stories that were often overlooked, but needed to be told. From job stressors facing the Chicago police to a woman whose son was murdered, we took time to get to know the people directly impacted by the city's rampant gun violence.

Our profiles and trends investigate the unknown as well as the well-known stories surrounding the lives of these Chicagoans. We looked at victims as people, not statistics, and we recognized trends as ways to educate ourselves and others on what's going on around us.

The story of gun violence is a complicated but important one, and it's one we hope to convey collectively through our articles. Take some time to learn more about these complexities and what victims of the violence live through every day.

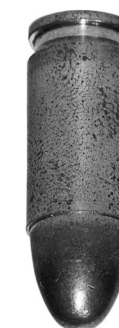
Mosaic
Editorial Board

2013 TOTALS

Shot and Killed
372

Shot and Wounded
1778

Total Homicides
415



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MOSAIC | STAFF





Loyola University Provost John Pelissero
Image courtesy of luc.edu

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CONGRATULATIONS!

To the editors of Mosaic Magazine and the authors whose works are published in these pages. We are proud of the work and efforts of all our Journalism students.

The Office of the Provost



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MOSAIC

ONLINE LOYOLAMOSAIC.WORDPRESS.COM



VIDEO interviews & behind-the-scenes footage

Our videographer takes you into the classroom to see our design team at work and hear what they have learned while working on the magazine.

BLOG POSTS

The issues of crime and gun violence in America go beyond the statistics and stories found on these pages. Our staff shares their thoughts and commentary regarding national debates and tragedies, as well as personal experiences that have shaped their views on guns and violence.

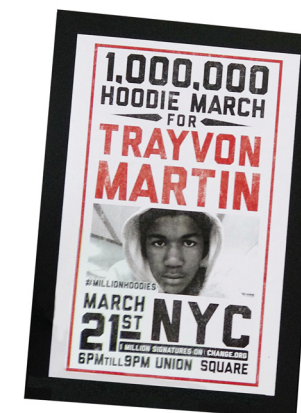


VIOLENCE & VIDEO GAMES Christina Skopec
"What concerns me is the absence of parenting when it comes to violent video games."

DEAR TRAYVON Nia Allen
"Gun violence has become an issue that has touched every family and every person but no one should have to die."

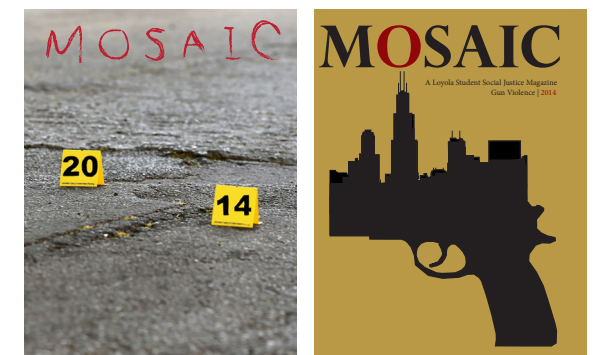
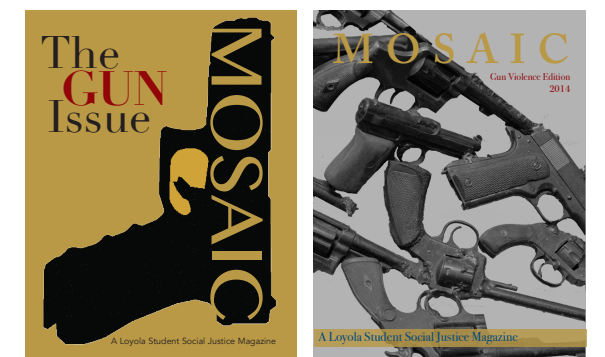
3-D PRINTING OF GUNS Taylor Friedle
"The role technology plays in gun control is very unnerving. It's hard to believe it's advancement and how deadly it can ultimately be."

A COMPLICATED ISSUE Jenna Fischer
"The best way to address the issue of gun violence, then, is not to try to control gun ownership, but to try and control the legal sale of guns."



COVER GALLERY

Each of our designers took on the challenge of pitching a concept for this year's cover that captured the solemnity of our subject matter. We have assembled their designs online to provide some insight into the process behind choosing the leading image of our magazine.



‘CHI-RAQ’: THE NEW NICKNAME FOR THE WINDY CITY

But one South Side rapper doesn't promote the hype

by SARAH MURRAY



The Windy City has earned a new nickname: “Chi-raq.” This moniker references the widespread violence in the city, and many well-known rappers from Chicago’s South Side, such as Lil’ JoJo and Chief Keef, proudly use it in their lyrics. But not all Chicago rappers think the city’s violent side is a source of pride.

Rap artist and South Side native Ryan Burts, 25, has an instant likeability factor and polite demeanor, perhaps stemming from his strong Christian upbringing, which he describes as one of the reasons he was able to avoid the violence of the streets.

“I come from a very big Christian family,” Burts said. “I do believe God is covering me every time I go out the door.”

His cousin, Richard Smith, fondly remembers attending church with Burts when they were young.

Even then, Burts showed his lyrical passion.

While we were in church, we would make up different words for all the hymns,” Smith said. “We would sneak out of children’s worship so we could go in the bathroom and freestyle.”

But Burts’ struggle to avoid the entrapments that lead some young men to lives of crime wasn’t easy. He learned quickly and early that in order to succeed he had to face things head on.

“Why be scared? You have to deal with it,” Burts said of his honest attitude.

Burts’ early days were spent near 35th Street and Cottage Grove. But it wasn’t until he moved to 85th and State streets — the Chatham neighborhood — that he began to experience the darker side of the city. The neighborhood was comprised of drug territories, where gang members would peddle their illegal products blatantly on the streets.

“They didn’t try to hide it,” Burts said.

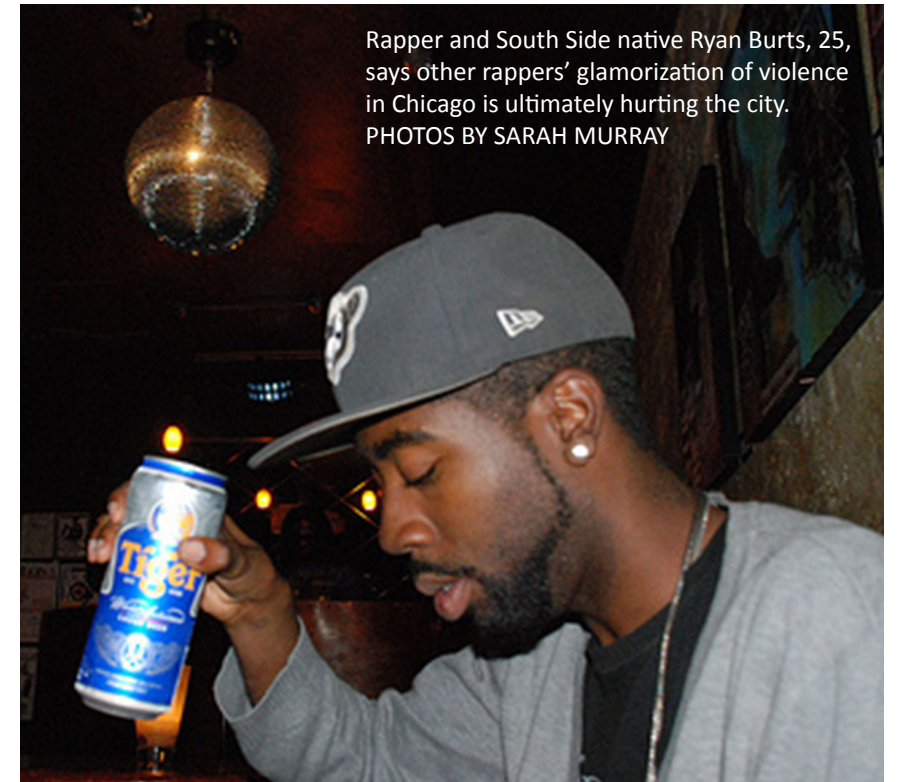
According to the ACLU’s 2013 report on racial disparities in marijuana arrests, Cook County is by far the worst offender in the nation. Of 33,068 marijuana arrests made in 2011, 72.7 percent of those arrested were black males. Burts believes legalizing marijuana would cut down some of the crime that plagues the area.

“If you make [marijuana] illegal, they’re still going to find a way to get it,” he said. “The more illegal it is, the more money they can make.”

Marijuana and other illegal drugs are easy money-making opportunities and some feel they have no option except the drug trade.

“If you’re not hittin’ the trucks and selling stolen flat-screen TVs and iPods and [other things], how else is there to make money?” Burts said. “I can’t say what’s going to decrease [the violence] because as long as illegal drugs are around, there’s going to be a war.”

Drugs and violence are a way of life for some people, and it is promoted loudly. Other rappers from the South Side embrace



Rapper and South Side native Ryan Burts, 25, says other rappers’ glamorization of violence in Chicago is ultimately hurting the city.
PHOTOS BY SARAH MURRAY

their violent backgrounds and speak of “Chi-raq” in proud, nationalistic terms. But Burts thinks their blatant promotion is ultimately hurting the city — and giving it a much worse reputation than it deserves.

The short documentary “Chi Raq” by Will Robson-Scott explores the violence that plagues communities like the one Burts grew up in. In it, he finds caring, decent people who are caught in a cycle — and that this cycle is not necessarily unique to Chicago.

“The reasons for the violence are deep-rooted in the community, but to be honest, this is not strictly a Chicago issue, although it’s very bad in Chicago,” Robson-Scott said. “It’s an American issue.”

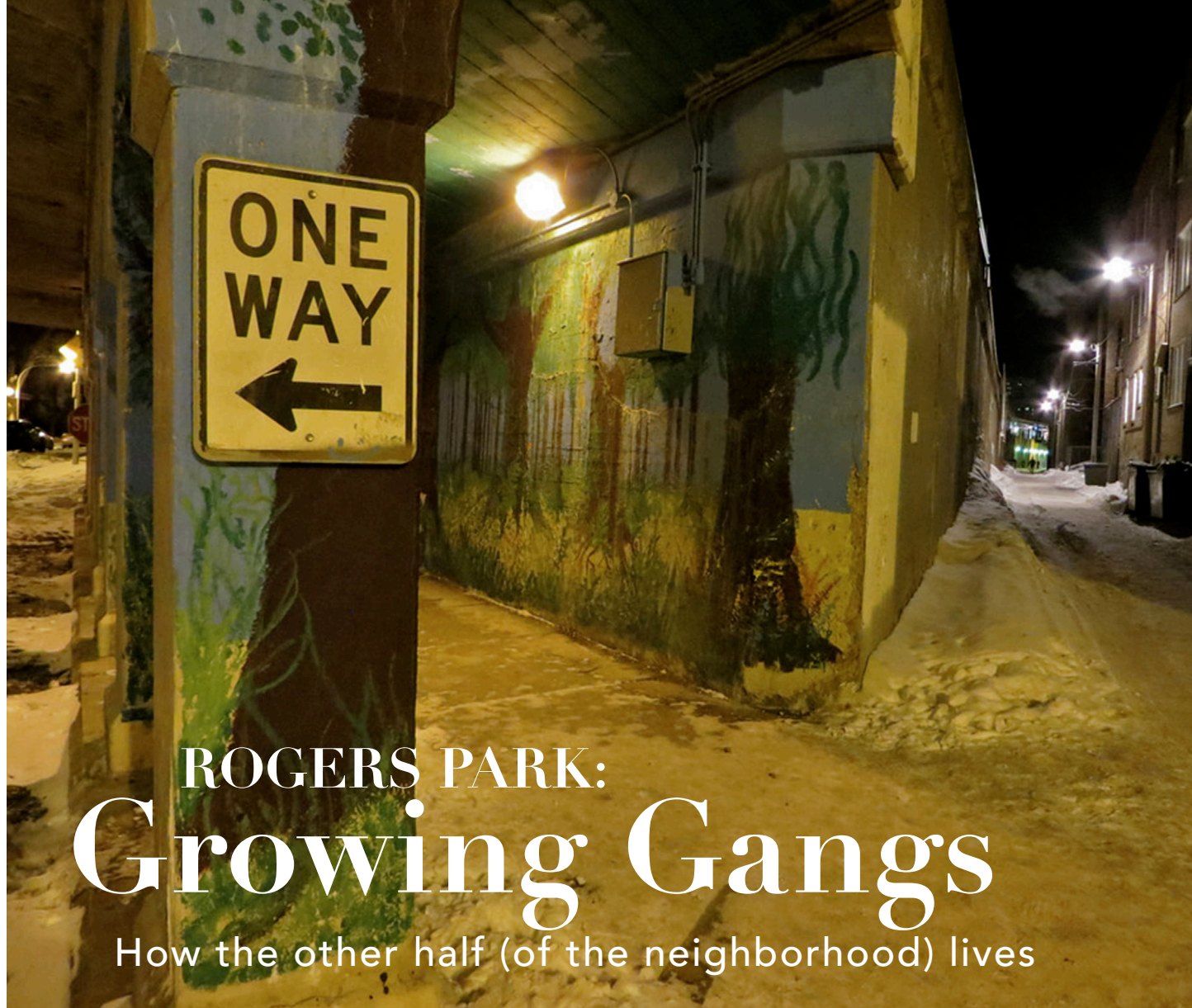
Burts sums up his view in the lyrics of his track “Sweet Home Chicago,” a collaboration with Chicago rappers Matty Rico, Brice Fox, The Pro Letarians and Benny Nice. “Them guns they all like to blow / I really think it’s foolish / It’s like a damn trend / and the kids they think it’s cool and shit / It’s not all bad in the Chi / we have our good times.”

While Burts didn’t point fingers, he said the culture of violence being promoted — over the city’s redeeming qualities — is a major factor in the glamorization of violence for impressionable kids in Chicago’s South Side. He refuses to promote this.

“If I put [a song] about violence online and it spreads to a million people, who are rockin’ out to it, that’s called promoting it,” Burts said.

Burts said he is grateful for his life experiences and their effect on his music. His lyrics show his honesty and personality.

“Street smarts are just as important as book smarts,” Burts said. “Stop being naïve, pay attention to your surroundings, accept reality, ... but most importantly, live your life. It’s as simple as that.”



ROGERS PARK: Growing Gangs

How the other half (of the neighborhood) lives

PHOTO BY HEREL HUGHES

by ALEX CRISSEY

Julie Fitzpatrick sits on the porch of her house in Rogers Park, a house she and her husband bought 20 years ago, when it was in much worse shape.

Over the years they gradually improved it; the house was half the size it is now when they bought it, and she describes it as having “a tiny kitchen,” in which “it was really uncomfortable to cook.”

Now what was once a pitiful two-bedroom house has become a much larger four-bedroom home fit for a family of six. She says it’s been a home to her family all their lives.

Yet she can’t wait to leave. “I love my house,” Fitzpatrick said, “But I can’t wait to

move out of this neighborhood.”

Her house is at the northernmost tip of Rogers Park, and is flanked by two rival gangs.

She worries about her kids, two of whom have to walk home from the Howard CTA Red Line station. She says they’ve heard gunshots on the way home from the station more than once.

But Fitzpatrick does say that it’s been “pretty quiet for September. The gangs are usually much worse around this time of year.” Violent crimes in Rogers Park are, in fact, down 30 percent compared to August of 2012, according to statistics gathered by the Chicago Tribune.

Fitzpatrick doesn’t think Rog-

ers Park was quite as dangerous when she first moved there.

“It’s definitely become worse over the years,” Fitzpatrick said. “One thing that happens ... is that the gangs move from place to place. There isn’t always the same gang in the same place for years. And over the years they’ve moved east, toward where we live.”

She’s not alone in her desire to get out of Rogers Park. Since 2000, the population of Rogers Park has decreased 13.4 percent, according to the Chicago Tribune, though of course this may not be entirely due to the crime rate.

Many Loyola students move out of the neighborhood as soon as they graduate.

“ The socio-economic differences of the two sides of Rogers Park, plus the gangs on the northern half, make each side a completely different beast when it comes to crime. ”

— Robert Lombardo, Loyola criminology professor

“That’s why I moved out of there. It’s definitely one of the worst neighborhoods in Chicago,” says Matt Ciani, a former Loyola student who now lives in Lincoln Park.

Robert Lombardo, 65, a criminology professor at Loyola University Chicago and former Chicago police officer, agrees that Howard Street and its surrounding area has “always been shady,” and acknowledges that its reputation as a violent area is “well-deserved.”

Rogers Park is not a particularly crime-ridden neighborhood according to the numbers collected by the Chicago Tribune. Much of this is due to the presence of Loyola in the southernmost end of the neighborhood. Loyola and its surrounding area

is patrolled by the school’s Campus Safety officers as well as Chicago police officers, and students have a variety of resources to help them steer clear of high-crime areas.

Entire blogs are devoted to telling the world to stay away from Rogers Park. Morse Hellhole, a Blogspot blog, is one such example — and the title may say all one needs to know about the blog.

“The socio-economic differences of the two sides of Rogers Park, plus the gangs on the northern half, make each side a completely different beast when it comes to crime,” Lombardo said.

What advice would Lombardo give to one of his students concerned about staying in Chicago after graduation?

“There’s always the suburbs,” he says.

That’s not far enough away for Fitzpatrick. The cumulative effect of the crime in Rogers Park has made her lose patience with the neighborhood. Her family has been talking about moving to Seattle for years, but they can’t go unless her husband finds a job there. So far he has been unsuccessful.

There have been promising signs for Rogers Park lately: between November 2012 and March 2013, no one was shot in the neighborhood. In 2012, however, gang violence rose 300 percent compared to 2011, according to the Chicago Tribune. For some, like Fitzpatrick, any improvement in this neighborhood is simply too little, too late. ☘

Known gang territories in Rogers Park

- Belizean Bloods
- Black P Stone
- Gangster Disciples
- Latin Kings

Belizean Bloods

Colors: White/Blue

Saying:

Symbols:

Gangster Disciples

Colors: Black/Blue

Saying: GD Till the World Blow

Symbols: 6 point star; pitchforks; heart with wings, tail and horns

Black P Stone

Colors: Black/Red/Green

Saying: BPS F*** the Rest

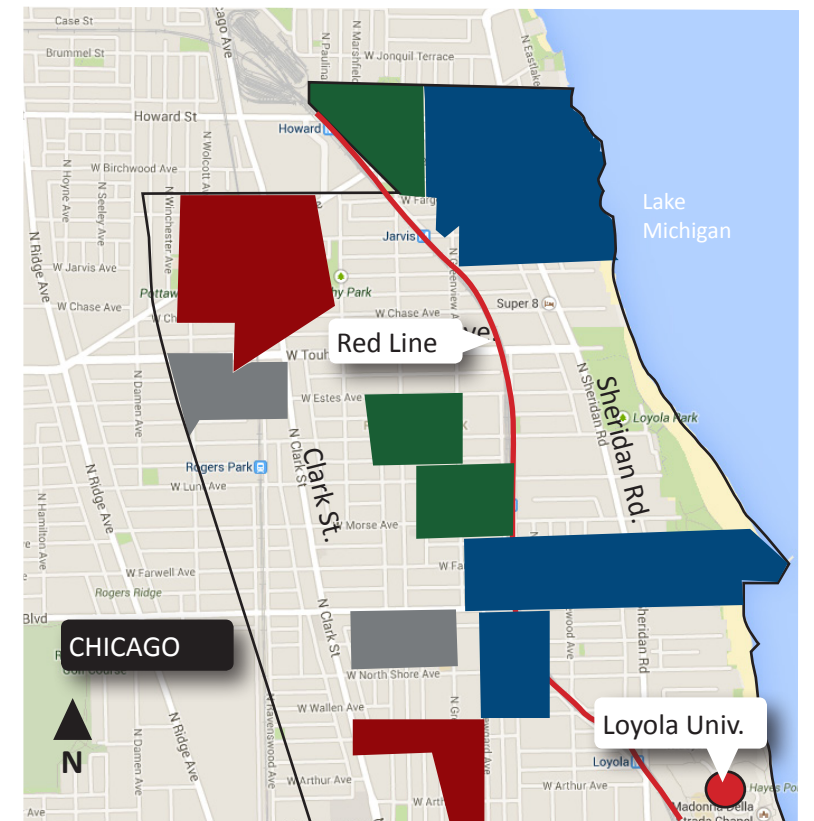
Symbols: Pyramid with 20 bricks/ Rising Sun/Eye/Number 7

Latin Kings

Colors: Black/Gold

Saying: Markings of LK, ALK, ALKN, ALKON

Symbols: 5 or 3 point “sacred crown”, drawings of the Lion and/or the King Master



FIGHT OR FLIGHT?

Self-defense classes remain important, but unpopular

by RIANNE COALE

Crime on and around college campuses raises the question of whether self-defense classes are offered to students. With a look at campuses located in higher crime-ridden neighborhoods in Chicago, Molly Norris, a self-defense instructor, talks about the importance of self-defense classes and the trends she seen in the last few years.

Norris lived in the Bucktown neighborhood for three years and saw the same homeless man every day. One night, the man decided to follow her home. When he was close enough, he spit on her, and she hurried across the street. He copied her every move, mirroring each step she took. Norris finally decided to flag down a cab a block away from her home, but she realized she had no idea what to do in that situation.

Like Norris, many people have had

close calls at least once in their lives, but most do not have the necessary skills to defend themselves against the violence.

Norris, now 35, is a lead trainer for IMPACT Chicago, a self-defense center committed to ending violence and building a nonviolent world. She sees an essential need for self-defense classes on college campuses.

"We teach hourlong courses on campus, and we may only have four or five girls sign up for the class when we should really have 30 or so," Norris said. "I see a real disconnect between the university leaders and the students when it comes to empowering them to protect themselves."

According to crime data collected from the Chicago Police Department, these crimes are prevalent near the city's universities. In any two-week period

since August 26, 2013, there have been between 23 and 50 incidents within a half-mile radius of the Chicago State University campus. The most common crime types are larceny and robbery, which generate between 30 and 45 percent of the crimes, but simple and aggravated batteries have also been reported.

The University of Chicago, located in Hyde Park on the South Side, has between 15 and 39 incidents reported within a half-mile of campus on a bi-weekly basis. Between 20 and 33 percent of the crimes committed are either larceny or robbery, but at least three cases of aggravated battery and multiple cases of simple assault and battery have been reported between August and October 2013.

Data collected from the University of Chicago's crime trend report shows

a steady decline in violent crime in the neighborhood since 2001. Although the school has made an effort to create a safer campus by offering late-night transportation services and a "Common Sense" guide for incoming freshmen, self-defense classes are few and far between.

"I really think that by making it a dangerous thing to attack a woman, it could stop the violence from happening," Norris said. "If we have a class of 16 women, between one-third and one-half are survivors of abuse or rape."

Those numbers can be compared to Wilbur Wright College, a community college on North Side in the Dunning neighborhood, where between six and 21 crime incidents have been reported and seven of those cases were simple assault and battery.

These crime statistics give just a snap-

shot of the types and frequency of crimes happening around each of these campuses and campuses similar to them. An analysis of crime in these university neighborhoods explains why there is a need for self-defense classes to be offered on college campuses.

"The campuses where they offer self-defense classes are usually the ones where people live," said Almendra Lopez, an administrative assistant for the Continuing Education Department at Wilbur Wright College. "Since we are just a two-year nonresidential college, we don't see a need in offering those classes to students."

Although violent crime, including robbery and sexual assault, are on the decline across many of Chicago's college campuses, the lengths to which a self-defense instructor has to go to offer seminars on location is something that Jeff

Ladin, an experienced martial arts teacher and self-defense instructor at Windy City Self-Defense, knows all too well.

"I don't understand why more people don't sign up and do it, because in reality, these crimes could happen anywhere to anyone," Ladin said. "I am really shocked by how few people ask me to come do a seminar. I might do one a year."

In the event of an attack, Ladin stressed the importance of projecting confidence and trusting your instinct, whether you're getting on an elevator or walking home from class in the dark.

"You have to have the right attitude, and that attitude comes from confidence and empowerment," Ladin said. "The empowerment comes from practice and understanding of the techniques learned in a self-defense class." ❁



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH AIKEN



A firearm instructor advocates for Second Amendment rights

Gerald Vernon chuckled at the notion of having a single firearm.

“Let’s just say I’ve got more than one.”

Vernon was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and has been interested in guns since elementary school. His resume boasts more than six pages and 21 years of weapon-training courses. For Vernon, the right to bear arms, and more importantly, the right to defend his loved ones with lethal force if necessary, is a passion. There is only one problem: he lives in Chicago, a city with some of the strictest gun

control laws in the nation

Vernon became serious about gun control and politics in his high school years and began taking security-training courses in 1984. Before he obtained his GED, Vernon vowed he would never join the military or the police force. U.S. foreign policy is not something Vernon admires, nor does he admire the relationship between the police and the South Side community. Vernon has become an expert in firearms independent of any public institution. He says he is his own man and is trained—and usually armed—to the teeth.

Certain events have inspired Vernon to become more involved in advocating for Second Amendment rights. The amount of horror stories he has about gun violence seems almost infinite. His defense for any anti-gun rhetoric often comes in the form of a gruesome, exceptionally bloody story that could have been prevented by a sensible firearm owner.

In 2009, Vernon’s girlfriend was robbed in the Washington Heights neighborhood at 7:30 a.m. on her way to church. Before Vernon’s girlfriend could finish describing the perpetrator to church security, they knew exactly who he was; he had committed similar crimes in the neighborhood very recently.

Hours after the robbery, Vernon’s girlfriend’s credit card was used at a nearby gas station on Halsted and 99th streets,

2008. According to Rowe, Vernon adds a unique perspective to the organization.

“Gerald is well-spoken, but soft-spoken. [He is] quiet and dignified, not an in-your-face gun nut. He’s not a gun totin’ vigilante. We’re all just quiet unassuming folks who want to protect our families,” Rowe said.

Though he is a dedicated supporter of conceal carry rights, Vernon does not feel the same about open-carry laws or the right to openly carry a firearm in public. For Vernon, the right to bear arms is about self defense, not crime fighting

“I’m not trying to be a vigilante. I don’t want to be Batman. All I want to do is live in peace and enjoy my retirement,” Vernon said.

THE 2ND AMENDMENT

“A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

which had security cameras. According to Vernon, this was not enough for police.

“[The police] got his picture, his license plate, and everything they needed to catch this guy. And they assign it to some cop who’s going on vacation for two weeks. The gas station erases their tapes every week,” Vernon said.

Vernon’s lack of faith in police protection largely motivates his advocacy of gun rights. A motto of his is: “When seconds count, the police are only minutes away.”

The assault on his girlfriend greatly affected Vernon.

“That really shook me. Listening to her cry that night, and knowing that I couldn’t do anything legally to protect her any better tomorrow than I could the day before was just unnerving.”

After his girlfriend was robbed, Vernon became involved with Illinois Carry, an organization that is attempting to secure conceal carry rights for Illinois residents. Teaching at Northeastern University, Vernon led a group of students who were interested in gun rights in Chicago.

Vernon is also the proprietor of Personal Protection Consultants (PPC). Founded in 1991, PPC teaches “multi-level self defense training including hand-to-hand combat, knife, stick, combat cane, handgun, rifle and shotgun training.” To avoid Illinois’ strict gun statutes, PPC operates out of a gun ranch in Indiana. The course currently advertise on PPC’s website is called “Urban Rifle 1.”

Valinda Rowe, spokesperson for Illinois Carry, has known Vernon since meeting him at a second Amendment rally in



Gerald Vernon, the proprietor of Personal Protection Consultants (PPC), encourages proper gun education and training while advocating second-amendment rights. PHOTO BY ERIC RAHILL

In Vernon’s ideal America, every capable citizen should have some sort of firearm training, which was a driving factor in his establishment of PPC. He says every capable citizen should be allowed to carry. Teaching those who want to learn is his life mission.

“If someone walked up into this library right now and pulled out a gun and started shooting folks, what would you do? What could you do?” Vernon asked. “That’s what I’m talking about.”

Congratulations, Mosaic.

Loyola University Chicago School of Law joins
Mosaic magazine in celebrating its 11th issue.



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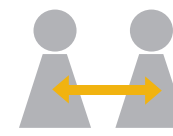
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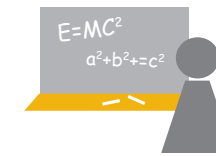
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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



What you think you know about tutoring

MYTH: Only students with "learning difficulties" require the services of a tutor.

FALSE

FACT

Anyone can benefit from having a tutor. Some people simply get lost with the material and need a tutor to help them understand **before** they fall behind in class.

FACT

MYTH: People who have to hire a tutor are "dumb" or "stupid."

FALSE

FACT

This could not be further from the truth. Tutors can help individuals learn material that may be difficult for them to master. These people aren't "dumb"; they're smart for recognizing that they need some extra help!

FACT

MYTH: The Center for Tutoring and Academic Excellence is only intended for students who are at risk of failing their courses.

FALSE

FACT

The CTAE is designed for students at all levels of experience and academic ability. We are here to help you discover practices that work for you regardless of your current level of success.

LOOKING DOWN

A LOADED BARREL

by ELISABETH MONTEMURRO

Loyola law student held at gunpoint for petty theft

Ezrah Bryant enters the lobby of Loyola's downtown Corboy Law Center. Beaming, he stops to chat with a friend before continuing through the lobby. His calm presence noticeably warms those around him, but his smile quickly fades as he begins to discuss the event that occurred last year.

After a night of drinking with some fellow law students, whom he refers to as colleagues, Bryant left a River North bar, The Kerryman, around 2 a.m. Since moving from Los Angeles to Chicago in mid-August 2013, he now considers that time "early," after discovering the city's penchant for late-night bars.

Bryant faced another challenge familiar to many of Chicago's newcomers: navigating the Chicago "L" trains.

"I had only been on the Red Line maybe once or twice before," he said. Bryant hopped on a southbound train – the wrong direction. After what seemed like 45 minutes, Bryant got off the train at the Ashland and 63rd stop and switched to the Green Line.

"I know I was south of the Loop," he said. "I was just walking ... a block or two and I was looking around and I didn't see anything that I recognized."

But before he could acclimate himself to his surroundings, two men approached Bryant from behind.

"They were young. They couldn't have been more than [in their] 20s, maybe,"

he said. "It sucked to see that they were African-American – just like me."

One of the men held Bryant up against a brick wall with a pistol in his face while the other searched his pockets. The takeaway for the robbers was no more than \$80 in cash.

"I've been robbed before in Los Angeles and when I was abroad," Bryant said. "But it was never at gunpoint."

Since being robbed at gunpoint, Bryant no longer goes out for the evening with excess items like credit cards. He was thankful the men did not take his CTA pass so he could still manage to return home.

According to the City of Chicago Crime Data report, in the first month of Bryant's Chicago residency, a total of 2,517 thefts were reported in which the total damages per theft were less than \$500, a category Bryant's incident falls under.

Bryant's robbers went unreported to the authorities. Despite having a pistol shoved in his face, Bryant displayed empathy for the two men.

"It's saying something about the circumstances that these kids are in. ... There's no other option for them but to do that," Bryant said.

He "didn't see the point" in reporting the incident; he claims doing so would have just put two more kids in an already crowded system. Instead, Bryant shared this nerve-racking experience

with his colleagues in the Black Student Law Association.

One colleague, Shana Jackson, a second-year Loyola law student who is also pursuing a master's in social work, said she does not know Bryant that well, but she was horrified when she heard about the incident.

"He's from out of state, and I didn't want his first impression of Chicago to be that he was going to be robbed at gunpoint," Jackson said.

Jackson passes Ashland and 63rd and the level of violence in that area disturbs her. She advised Bryant to give her a call if he ever got lost again.

"I just told him he's part of the family now," she said.

Before Bryant moved, the L.A. native's family and friends were concerned about Chicago's history of violence. Admittedly, their views are based on their own news consumption. Describing himself as one that "doesn't buy into the hype," Bryant was rather surprised by the overwhelming number of warnings he received.

"I don't know too much about the city's history as far as guns are concerned. But obviously, these kids are getting easy access to them," Jackson said. "These are sophisticated weapons."

Bryant says it's "a disease, especially in the poorer communities." He believes sharing this experience is just one way to fight its spread. ☀



Loyola law student Ezrah Bryant was robbed at gunpoint near the Ashland and 63rd Red Line stop last year. PHOTO BY ELISABETH MONTEMURRO

◀ A first-hand encounter with gun violence can happen anywhere, even at an ordinary Red Line platform. PHOTO BY HEREL HUGHES

APPLE PICKING

iPhone thefts becoming new trend on CTA, street

by VICTORIA ARRUDA

The sounds are familiar: dull chatter, chairs scraping against the floor, papers shuffling. It's reminiscent of a classroom before the professor clears her throat to signal social hour has ended.

But this is not one of Chicago's many universities. It is a hall at the 19th District police station, where a handful of officers sit at a banquet-style table at the front of the room. The rows of folding chairs are filled by more than 30 concerned Lakeview residents attending a Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meeting for three community beats, where police hope to have a productive discussion about a spike in crime.

Statistics suggest 0820s, the code for theft with value less than \$500, are the most committed crime. In the past year, there have been 2,467 thefts in the area, according to the Chicago Tribune's crime statistics, many of which involved armed criminals. The same set of statistics indicates violent crimes between September and October 2013 are up 40 percent since the same period in 2012.

"Most of the robberies ... occur in the morning hours as the bars are closing," said 19th District Cmdr. Elias Voulgaris, adding that most happen on Friday or

Saturday nights, when popular entertainment communities like Wrigleyville and Boystown attract throngs of people.

Perpetrators are "apple picking," grabbing iPhones and other smartphones, Sgt. Jason Clark said. Anything from white earbuds to heads bent down in quiet concentration can be a signal that someone is carrying valuable goods; smartphones are worth big money in the black market.

It's a simple case of supply and demand. Years ago, we carried cellphones no one wanted. Think about the first cell-phone you had: It was probably bulky, unattractive and cheap.

But new technologies flourish in the underground economy.

Many of the citizens at the meeting are at least 30 years old, but there is a handful of younger folks. Their clothing ranges from a suit and tie to jeans and a T-shirt. All are passionate; heads nod in agreement with police and hand after hand is raised to ask questions. They all have different concerns.

One resident spoke on behalf of a friend who worried about his 5 a.m. commute to work. Despite a brief period when the area was free of loiterers, the Red Line Belmont station has "reverted back to its

old ways," he said. He wants to know what police can do.

Voulgaris said police have added a second watch shift, with two cars patrolling the area starting in the early hours of the morning. But comments on the anonymous blog "Crime in Wrigleyville + Boystown" blame the wave of crime on a lack of police presence and an overall denial that crime is happening.

"When we call 911 ... will we need to wait 3 hours?" asked R, an anonymous blog user. "Are we supposed to tie up the hoodlums? Hold guns to them?"

The issue of manpower is nothing new for Chicago police. The 19th District alone has lost 69 officers to transfer, retirement and promotion since 2012, Voulgaris said. The district ranks sixth in staffing, meaning more troubled communities are also severely understaffed.

But with the officers they do have, the district has been able to make arrests. They have increased foot and bike patrols and added an Entertainment Detail, an eight-officer patrol of popular entertainment spots.

Statistics report that the district made 15 arrests in one month for robbery and burglary combined, what police called "fantastic numbers."

"We do need more police officers," Voulgaris said. "But honestly and frankly, I need to deal with what I have."

At the close of the CAPS meeting, a middle-aged woman tentatively raised her hand and asked how to recognize gang members. No one can, police said, be-

cause they sport "one uniform": jeans and a plain white T-shirt.

With the seemingly endless supply of lucrative cellphones, police said fighting back isn't so much about squashing gangs.

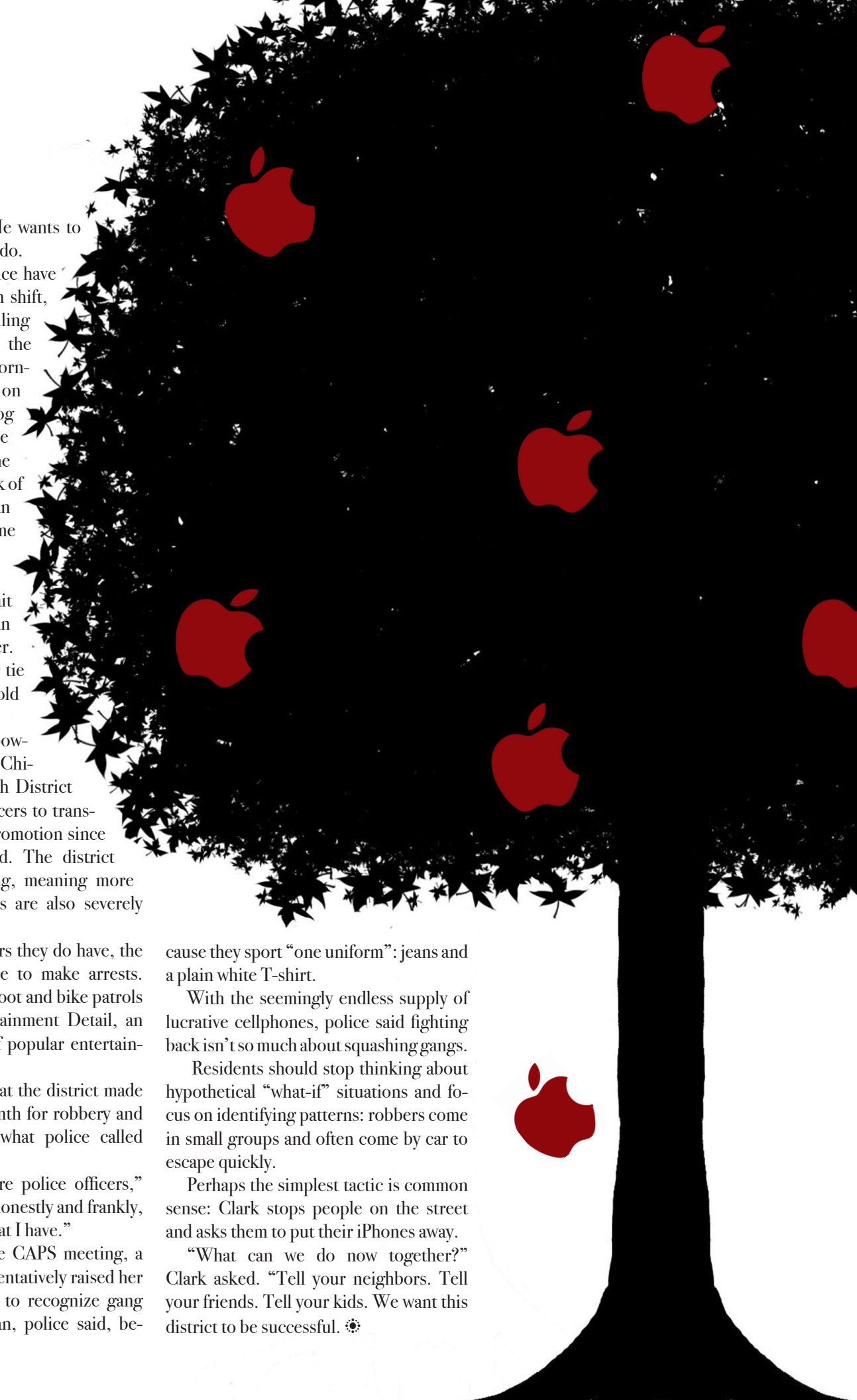
Residents should stop thinking about hypothetical "what-if" situations and focus on identifying patterns: robbers come in small groups and often come by car to escape quickly.

Perhaps the simplest tactic is common sense: Clark stops people on the street and asks them to put their iPhones away.

"What can we do now together?" Clark asked. "Tell your neighbors. Tell your friends. Tell your kids. We want this district to be successful. ☺"

“Most of the robberies ... occur in the morning hours as the bars are closing.”

—Elias Voulgaris,
19th District Commander





Gangs use the Internet to establish reputations, perpetuate conflicts

by EMILY STUDY

“Ak Shot gun we let our shots out, watch y’all run.”

While these words are some of the lyrics to infamous Chicago rapper Chief Keef’s song “All Time,” they also, more alarmingly, come from a tweet on Oct. 13, 2013, registered on 120th Street, mere blocks away from an area that is largely occupied by the Gangster Disciples – the rival gang of Chief Keef’s Black Disciples.

These two gangs are the same rivals that made headlines in 2012, when teen rapper Lil’ JoJo, a member of the Gangster Disciples, was rumored to have been killed by a member of the Black Disciples.

A tweet from Chief Keef’s account hours after the murder read, “Its Sad Cuz Dat N— Jojo Wanted To Be Jus Like Us #LMAO.”

Although it’s unclear whether the Oct. 13 tweet predicted any dangerous or potentially violent activity between the two gangs, one thing is clear: social media has become an outlet in which rival gang members spark or amplify conflicts.

“It serves as kind of a base or a means for gang members to taunt,” said Matt Jacob, research and operations manager of the Chicago Crime Commission. “Gang

members are now able to ‘represent’ their gangs or their factions and street crews via taunting someone else, an opposing gang member, through Twitter or Facebook.”

Ben Austen, a contributor for Wired magazine, wrote an article in September 2013 called “Public Enemies: Social Media is Fueling Gang Wars in Chicago,” which examined the conflict between Chief Keef and Lil’ JoJo, and investigated the impact of social media on gang violence.

“Social media is not the cause of the violence, ... but it’s a symptom of it, meaning that it reflects a violent environment in which people are living and shows the fragmentation of gangs,” Austen said.

No longer are gang territories kept within the realm of street corners and vacant lots; the endless boundaries of the Internet are now providing more than just a way for average users to connect with friends and family.

“Before, [gangs] would refer to graffiti and tagging in different buildings and territories to taunt,” Jacob said. “Although that still takes place, social media is obviously a much more convenient way to do it; you’re sitting at your computer and you can do and say what you want.”

Aside from its convenience, social media also serves as a “protective mechanism” for gang members, according to Austen.

“A lot of guys are not hardcore gangbangers,” he said. “They’re just trying to make it in the neighborhood, and that involves sometimes projecting an image of [themselves] as being tough so [they] don’t seem like the kind of person that’s an easy target.”

David Pyrooz co-authored a 2013 study called “Criminal and Routine Activities in Online Settings: Gangs, Offenders, and the Internet.” Like Austen, Pyrooz said gang members often use social media to inflate their reputation.

“Much of what gangs are oriented around is reputation management and the ability to establish and maintain a reputation, ... and that’s what the Internet is conducive to,” said Pyrooz, assistant professor in the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University. “We’ve called it an electronic graffiti sign.”

However, it is not only gang members who are using social media to their advantage. Jacob said the Chicago Police Department (CPD) is capitalizing on this trend by generating fake profiles on

Facebook or Twitter and finding ways to follow leads on potential suspects in an investigation.

In conducting research for his Wired article, Austen said he spent time with CPD, as well as police departments in other cities.

He said the trend of gang members using social media to amplify conflicts actually helps police prevent some crimes before they happen because police are able to track the members’ posts.

“The head of the gang units in Chicago told me it’d be stupid if they weren’t [tracking social media],” Austen said. “You can see the affiliations; you can see who is who on the streets.”

CPD, however, could not be reached for comment.

While law enforcement remains fairly open about their use of social media to monitor posts, gang members often disregard police presence online, which Pyrooz calls the paradox of this trend.

“They know law enforcement is online, but it doesn’t deter many of them in posting their information,” he said. “They’ll post fights and advertise it to their friends but take it off within a few days, thinking law enforcement isn’t savvy enough to see it.”

The Lesson Begins in These Chairs



'Becoming A Man' program guides at-risk youth toward manhood by teaching right from wrong

by DEVIN MACDONALD

For 15 boys at Hyde Park Career Academy, the path to becoming a man begins with a misstep. They are seated in a lopsided circle of folding chairs. The windows behind them are covered with red, white and blue paper taped up before President Barack Obama's visit to the South Side high school in February.

"Raise your hand if you ate the pizza," says B.A.M. (Becoming A Man) counselor Marshaun Bacon.

Slowly, arms extend. The pizza was left behind by Mr. Lewis, a teacher, who is not happy the boys devoured it on sight.

Nobody takes names down. Nobody shouts. Daryl Howard, another counselor, offers to repay Mr. Lewis and the session continues.

This is lesson number one in one of Chicago's most high-profile violence prevention programs. But B.A.M. doesn't simply preach the difference between right and wrong, it provides at-risk male youth with a new model for manhood.

Created in 2003 by social worker Anthony DiVittorio as part of social service agency Youth Guidance, B.A.M. is what Howard calls a "perfect storm." It combines school-based counseling, violence

prevention tactics and a dose of fun to help students avoid the slippery slope of gang involvement.

This is largely accomplished through cognitive behavioral therapy. Students in the program learn to identify their emotions, target faulty behaviors and alter their thought processes.

Of course, the change doesn't happen overnight.

"A lot of [these boys] don't see themselves being older than 20, 25 years old," Howard says. "It's very important that we get them to start looking down the road, start challenging their thoughts."

Most of the students entering the 30-week program, either at the suggestion of concerned adults or by choice, have already had a run-in with the law. They come largely from single-parent families and lack positive male role models and respect for women. As Howard puts it, they are "defiant across the board."

"Once you leave school, you ain't thinking about homework," one young man interjects during the first meeting as the conversation turns toward academics.

Chicago is now the murder capital of America according to the FBI, with 500

murders recorded in 2012. Considering blacks aged 10-24 are 13.7 times more likely to be both a victim and perpetrator of murder, according to the Center for Disease Control, the odds aren't good for these boys.

Howard can relate to this struggle. Growing up in the suburb Harvey, he recalls having a gun pointed at his head despite never being affiliated with a gang. You wouldn't know it now, to see him laughing as he restocks his candy bucket. But successfully navigating these situations, he says, requires a dual identity.

"I don't know what their daily life is like in the streets and how they have to behave to survive," Howard says. "I just know that what they're doing in the streets isn't working in school."

It is this firsthand understanding that allows B.A.M. counselors to make an impact. Howard describes it as "meeting them where they are." Howard slaps hands and bumps fists as he walks down the hallway. The rhythmic street lingo trips off of his tongue when he talks to students.

"You almost have to be Cedric the Entertainer," Howard says. "You have to be a comedian. You have to be a social worker.

You have to be that father figure or brother they don't have."

The counselors model the behavior they want to see laid out in B.A.M.'s six core values: integrity, accountability, self-determination, positive anger expression, visionary goal-setting and respect for women.

Counselors first demonstrate these behaviors by sharing their own experiences. Then, they stage "group missions," in which students have to exhibit a given value to successfully complete an activity. To end, they show examples of each value in pop culture.

During the session, the counselors prove their mastery at plucking teaching moments from misguided actions and conversations. Exhibit A: the pizza – a hidden lesson in accountability.

According to the University of Chicago Crime Lab, B.A.M works. Findings from the 2009-10 school year show a decrease

in failing grades by 37 percent, a decrease in violent crime arrests by 44 percent and a 10 to 23 percent increase in graduation rates.

With an estimated cost of \$1,100 per participant and a return in benefits to society valued between \$3,600 and \$34,000, it's no wonder B.A.M. landed a prominent place on Mayor Rahm Emanuel's radar.

On Feb. 7, 2013, Emanuel announced a \$2 million increase in city funding, allowing the program to expand services from 600 students to 2,000 citywide. In July, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation announced a \$2.75 million investment over the next three years.

Howard is thrilled.

"It worked like a charm," he says. "Day one, they're coming in and mean mugging each other. By the end, they're inseparable. To see guys from different parts of the city, from different gangs, interact like brothers ... it was amazing to see." ☀



On April 4, 2006, the life of Pamela Bosley changed forever when she learned her son Terrell Bosley, 18, had been gunned down and killed outside a church on Chicago's Far South Side. PHOTOS BY EMILY STUDY

THE Day THE: Music DIED

Former choir director now heads program for grieving parents following the murder of her son

by EMILY STUDY

For many churchgoers, singing praises brings a sense of comfort, a way to express themselves and rejoice. But for Pamela Bosley it only brings sadness. Music has become a painful reminder of the day her son was shot and killed.

On April 4, 2006, Bosley, a choir director at the time, stopped listening to gospel music. That day, her son Terrell Bosley was gunned down at 116th and Halsted streets outside a church on Chicago's Far South Side. Terrell's case remains unsolved.

"To this day, I don't really listen to the music anymore like I used to," said

Bosley, a member of the New Bethlehem No. 4 Missionary Baptist Church. "I turn it on a little bit, but it hurts, 'cause I hear the bass line playing, and I know my baby can do that."

Terrell played the six-string bass guitar and was pursuing a degree in music at Olive-Harvey College. He was killed at age 18. A shared love of music created a strong bond between Bosley and her son, she said, adding that a communication line was always open.

But in the year following Terrell's murder, Bosley tried to kill herself twice.

"Terrell was my life; it's hard to pick

up and keep going when you don't have your child. So I'm depressed sometimes, and I still try to fight through it because I have two other children, but some days I just want to lay in bed and not get up," Bosley said quietly.

She said the safety of her two sons, Trevon Bosley, 15, and Terrez Bosley, 19, motivated her to reach out to troubled youth in the community.

She and her husband Tommie Bosley founded the Terrell Bosley Anti-Violence Association, an organization focused on delinquency prevention programs. And Bosley began coordinating a

CONTINUES PAGE 32 ►



◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

youth group called the BRAVE Youth – Bold Resistance Against Violence Everywhere.

Bosley, from the Roseland neighborhood, also started working at The Ark of Saint Sabina, a community youth center on the South Side, where she serves as the violence prevention manager.

But it's Bosley's work with an organization called Purpose Over Pain that may have the farthest-reaching effects. Co-founded in 2007 by Bosley, her husband and fellow grieving mother Annette Nance-Holt, the organization brings together parents who have lost their children to gun violence.

Nance-Holt's son Blair Holt was shot and killed on a Chicago Transit Authority bus after leaving school on May 10, 2007. Like Bosley, Nance-Holt said her life was forever altered the day her son was murdered.

"In the blink of an eye my whole life changed, and there was nothing I could do but plan a funeral that I never should have planned," she said.

After meeting Bosley, Nance-Holt said she found a purpose. Nance-Holt, Bosley and other members of Purpose Over Pain act as the voices of their children, speaking out for them since they no longer can, Bosley said.

The organization's members advocate for stricter gun control, reach out to at-risk youth and provide an initial support system for parents of murdered children. They travel to and from Washington, D.C., encouraging others to stand with them in their fight to end

gun violence.

"We figure that if we pull together, maybe we can change the hearts and mindsets of America," Nance-Holt said. "We want to make sure that guns are in the hands of people who should have them."

Bosley also meets with representatives in Springfield, Ill., to push for "common sense" gun laws, which promote requirements such as universal background checks, limiting the number of guns sold to each individual and limiting the number that a person can carry, Bosley said.

These restrictions could stop some of the influx of weapons to gang members, according to Jona Goldschmidt, associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Loyola University Chicago.

"In my mind, there's only one solution, and that is banning all handguns," Goldschmidt said.

However, more than anything else, Bosley said the South Side needs career-based jobs for young adults, better education and more funding for youth programs.

These things, she said, will keep teens out of gangs and make the city of Chicago a safer place for kids like Terrell. And that's exactly what Bosley and Purpose Over Pain are fighting to accomplish.

"The pain is not going to go away. It's something we're going to live with the rest of our lives, but we can make a difference on behalf of our children," Bosley said. ☀



After her son's death, Bosley began coordinating a youth group called the BRAVE Youth, and founded Purpose Over Pain in order to reach out to parents of murdered children.

Claude Robinson has been a witness to inner-city violence since his childhood. As an only child, he spent his middle school years living with his grandmother in Philadelphia. During his freshman year of high school, he moved with his mother to Chicago, where they lived on the city's South Side.

"Violence was a way of life," said Robinson, 47, describing his childhood homes. "You had to protect yourself. You had to carry yourself a different way."

Now, Robinson sees those lifestyles from a different perspective. He is the executive vice president of external affairs and diversity at UCAN, a social service agency that empowers youth to become the nation's future leaders even after suffering trauma.

Since its creation in 1869, UCAN has grown to encompass more than 30 services for at-risk youth in Chicago, including a therapeutic day school, outreach programs that teach nonviolent strategies and outpatient counseling.

"We don't have a dogmatic approach towards young people," said Robinson, who holds a degree in psychology and counseling.

Instead, youth are taught to work with assets they already have, including the ability to make positive decisions. Encouraging this ability builds confidence in the teens, which is central to the program's mission.

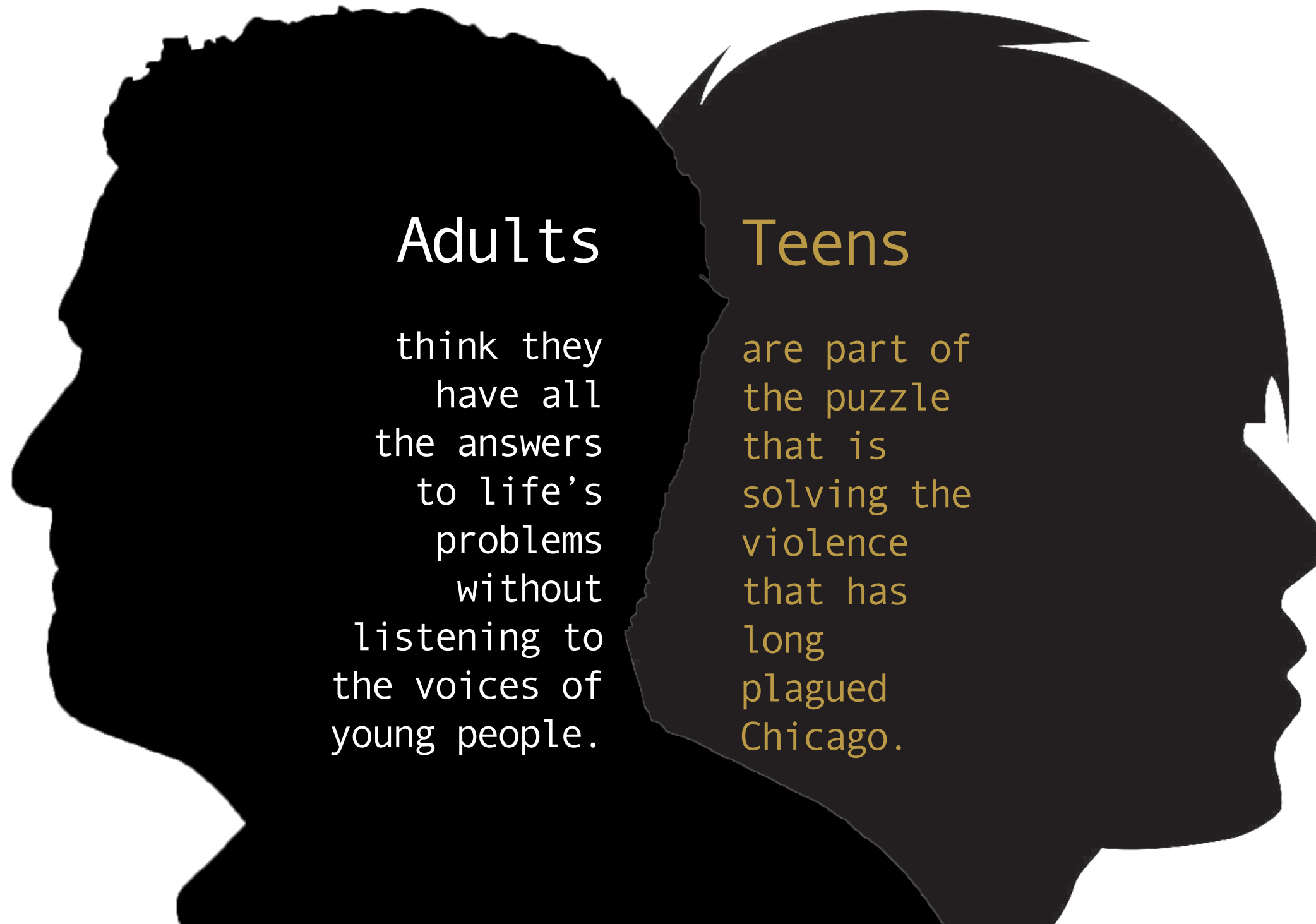
Robinson, who has been with the organization for 18 years, speaks slowly but deliberately about UCAN's strategies. His position requires him to step into various roles at once. When asked to explain, he laughed: "Day to day is, well, how do I explain it?"

He must tell UCAN's story in a compelling, captivating way to a diverse audience. He oversees corporate affairs and community relations. He creates new ways to brand and market UCAN. He develops inclusion strategies. He works on outreach programs and youth development. He encourages youth to move toward a "greater quality of life," he said.

A CALL TO REACH OUT

UCAN works to bridge the gap between adults, youth

by VICTORIA ARRUDA



"[Robinson] has exhibited a tremendous capacity for hard work, determination and commitment to young people," Janice Collier wrote in an email.

Collier works at Leadership Greater Chicago, where Robinson graduated from the Fellows Program for leadership development.

"Most important is his ability to communicate with young people," Collier continued. "As a leader, he is disciplined, humbled and skilled as [a] teacher to inspire our youth."

Robinson's position is more than a job though. It is a "calling," one that connects him with a diverse group of people to create positive influences for youth.

"That's a process that's not an easy one," he said. "You're dealing with some really life-changing [events.] Whenever that happens, it's fulfilling."

Prior to working at UCAN, Robinson worked with the Chicago Park District in West Englewood. Through sports and recreation programs, he encouraged

teens to move away from gang life and toward more positive opportunities.

But the connection to troubled communities – and the drive to change them – is one that has been lifelong for Robinson. Growing up on Chicago's South Side, gun and gang violence were constant, even among his friends, but positive influences, such as sports, kept Robinson away from a destructive lifestyle.

"I always considered myself a leader, not a follower," Robinson said. "I learned how to navigate the different nuances of the streets and make my own decisions."

He recalled what it was like to be young – adults thinking they have all the answers to life's problems without listening to the voices of young people – and concluded that teens are part of the puzzle of solving the violence that has long plagued Chicago.

They want change, he said, and they want adult help.

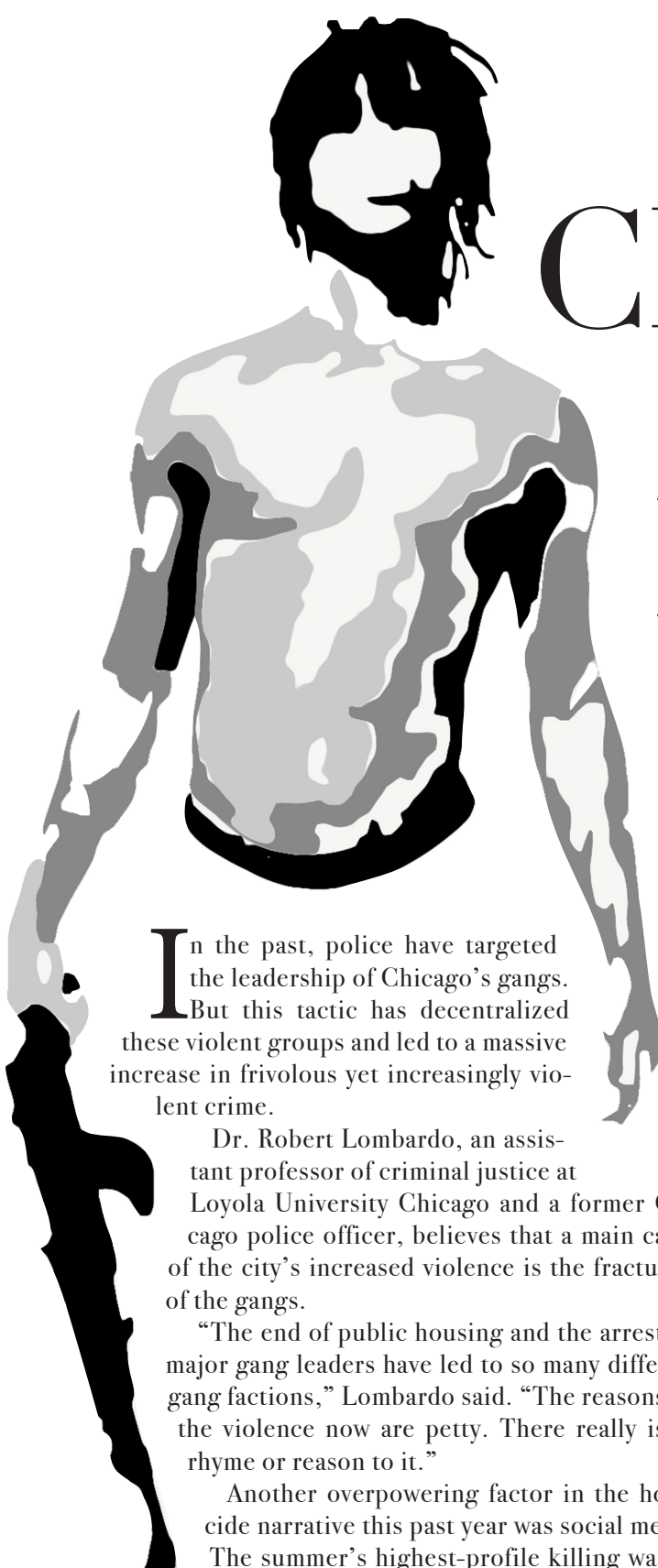
Robinson spoke adamantly about forging new relationships between youth and the adults who surround them, advocating for more positive ways of relating to one another. Both adults and the youth seem to see the benefits of this setup.

"People think a couple big speeches can change this [violence]," 19-year-old Malique Hughes wrote in an email. Hughes has been involved with Project Visible Man (PVM), a mentoring program for young African-American males, for six years. After getting into "a lot of trouble" at a young age, his mother introduced him to the group.

"People have lost mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers," Hughes said. "[PVM] showed me a lot of successful African-American males; therefore, I knew that I could be something in life. PVM made me want to become a better person. I'm nowhere near the person I was some years ago."

Robinson is hopeful that Hughes' outlook is one type of attitude that will change Chicago's gun culture.

"It's going to take a minute," he said. "But I believe it can happen." ❁



Chicago fights BACK

City police officers combat gang activities at the source

by SARAH MURRAY

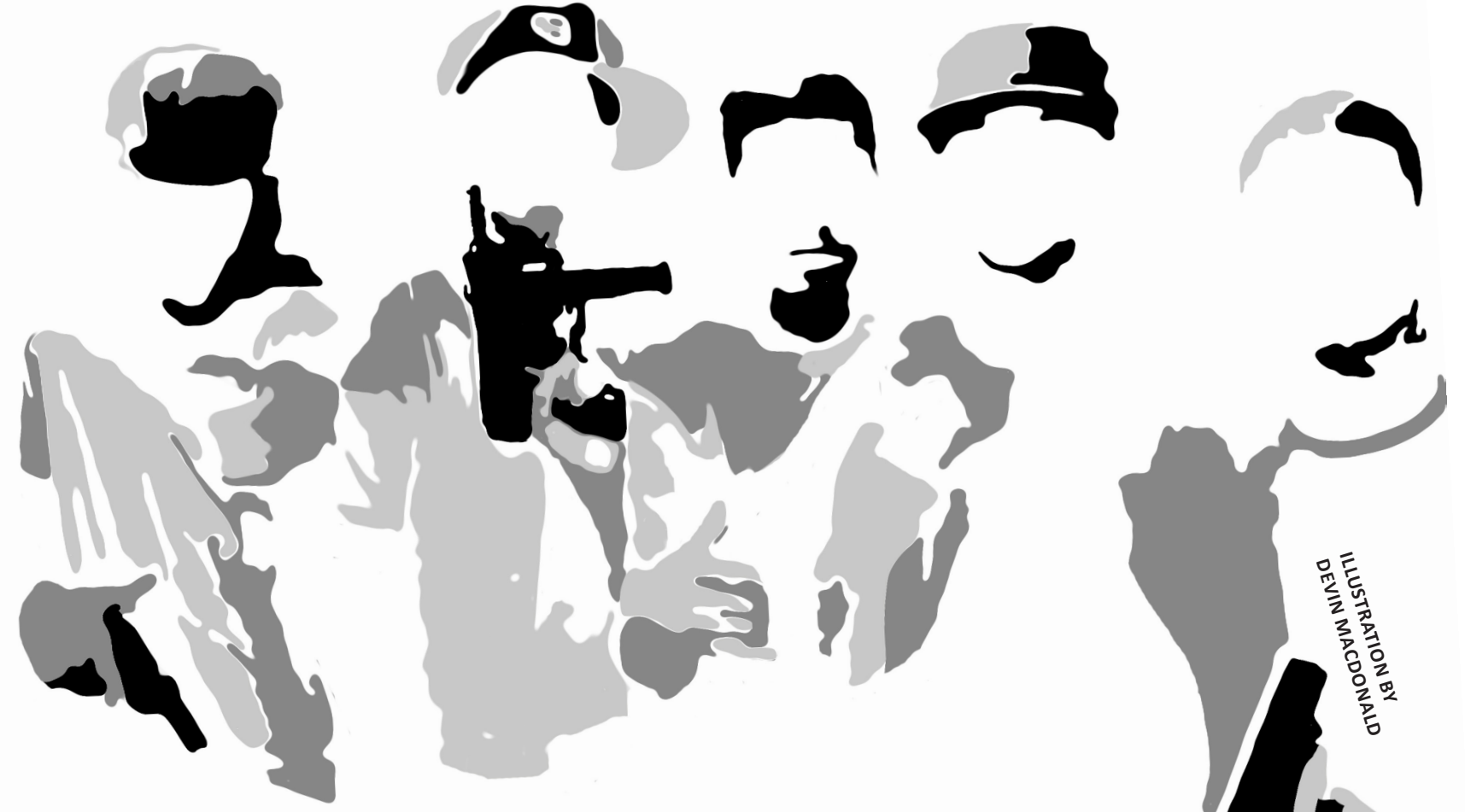


ILLUSTRATION BY DENIM MACDONALD

In the past, police have targeted the leadership of Chicago's gangs. But this tactic has decentralized these violent groups and led to a massive increase in frivolous yet increasingly violent crime.

Dr. Robert Lombardo, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Loyola University Chicago and a former Chicago police officer, believes that a main cause of the city's increased violence is the fracturing of the gangs.

"The end of public housing and the arrests of major gang leaders have led to so many different gang factions," Lombardo said. "The reasons for the violence now are petty. There really is no rhyme or reason to it."

Another overpowering factor in the homicide narrative this past year was social media. The summer's highest-profile killing was almost certainly Lil' JoJo, a young rapper with

a knack for dissing the "300 squad," a group of Black Disciples that includes Chief Keef, another young rapper with a threatening social media presence. These young rappers use social media to "diss" each other and post pictures of guns and illicit drugs.

Lombardo said the flagrant and exhibitionistic attitude with which young gang members tout their violence and weapons points to an even larger problem.

"These kids learn how to be gangsters from the Internet," Lombardo said. "You can tell from the way so many of them shoot sideways. Because that's what they see in Hollywood and rap videos."

The Chicago Police Department has started using social media for themselves, distinguishing approximately 14,000 individuals who are most prone to violence. This is accomplished via algorithms that target gang members who post violent messages, images and videos to the major social networking sites.

The algorithm has identified a striking correlation between gang affiliation and the likelihood that an individual will be the victim of murder. This has prompted the CPD

to team up with the Community Anti-Violence and Restoration Effort (CARE) in order to combat gang violence at the source.

CARE has implemented the Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy, a "collaborative approach bringing law enforcement, community members and social service agencies together to reduce gang-related shootings and homicides in the local community," according to its website.

This group adopts a zero-tolerance stance toward community violence. Using the social media algorithm, members of the group identify and then approach individuals who are affiliated with gangs and warn them of the consequences of their actions.

"[The Violence Reduction Strategy] creates an opportunity to focus funding toward prevention and intervention, which are crucial pieces in the anti-violence equation," said Seth Berliner, a spokesperson for CARE. "We focus on direct community involvement and mobilizing residents to take an active role in their neighborhoods."

One of the ways that individuals with the Violence Reduction Strategy, in conjunction with Chicago police, have gotten directly involved in the community is by going door to door to gang members and their families and letting them know on no uncertain terms will violence be tolerated in the community.

In this way, Berliner says, many communities have begun to police themselves. But while the actions of community members can certainly alleviate part of the problem,

Lombardo believes the issue will not be solved until young people have less access to firepower. According to FBI data, in 2012, 69.3 percent of the 500 homicides that occurred on Chicago's South Side involved a gun.

An ardent gun control advocate, Lombardo believes the availability of guns, especially at unregulated gun shows, is a major contributing factor to the violence problem. The U.S. Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reviewed more than 1,500 of its investigations and concluded that gun shows are a "major trafficking channel," associated with approximately 26,000 firearms diverted from legal to illegal commerce. Gun shows rank second to corrupt dealers as a source for illegally trafficked firearms.

These gun show loopholes make Chicago police's already difficult task even more complicated. The city's administration reduced the number of beat officers by 1,000 in the last year due to budgeting concerns and disbanded many of the tactical units that used to target gang violence.

"They have lost the ability to flood the affected area," says Lombardo. "Where there used to be a tactical gang force, now there are just a few beat cops. It's not nearly enough to combat the problem."

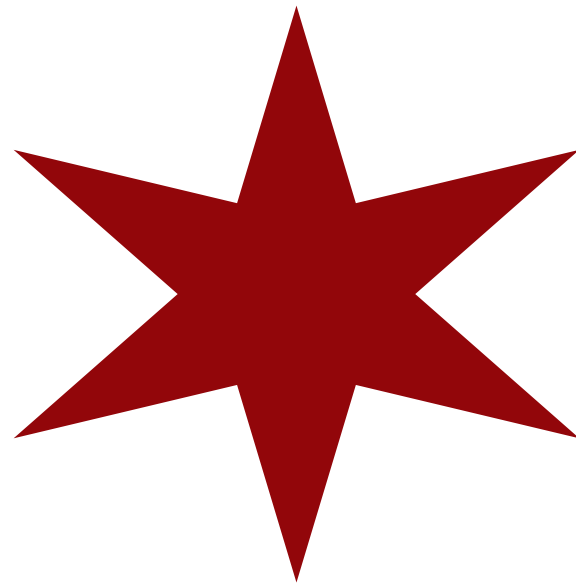
Chief Keef and Lil' JoJo are indicative of a new generation of gang violence that starts with inflammatory words in cyberspace, but due to the availability of guns, ends up with someone being shot in real life. ☼

Chicago: My Kind of Town?

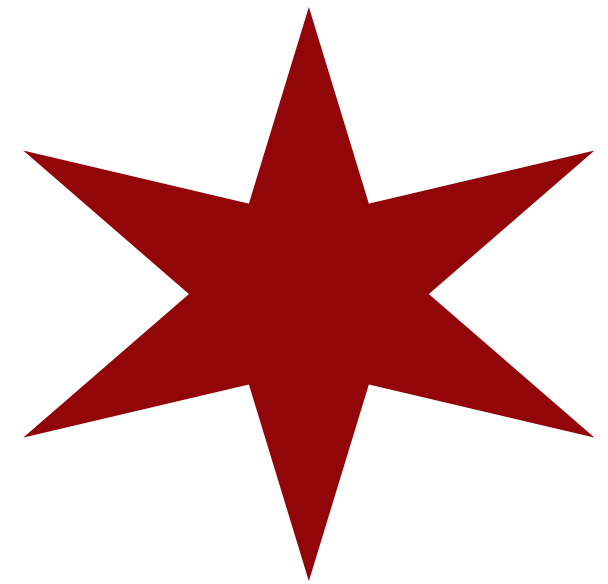
Homicide rates fluctuate, but the city remains U.S. murder capital

by MARTIN LERMA

431
MURDERS
in 2011



500
MURDERS
in 2012



In May 2013, a government study showed a dramatic decrease in gun-related deaths nationwide since 1993 – but not in Chicago. The city hasn't seen the consistent decrease in firearm-related crime like the rest of the country.

A report issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), a federal agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime-related data, showed nationwide murders involving guns decreased by 39 percent from 1993 to 2001.

But in 2012, there were 500 murders

in the city of Chicago, 87 percent of which were committed with a gun, according to the Chicago Police Department. That's an increase from 2011, when 431 people were murdered, according to the Chicago police. According to FBI statistics, these murder rates are higher than in other cities of comparable size such as New York and Los Angeles.

Dr. David Olson, a professor and graduate program director of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Loyola University Chicago, has his thoughts on why Chicago's level

of gun-related violence is higher than in other large cities.

"Many have pointed to the differences in the nature of gang violence and gang activity," Olson said.

Olson also named the differences in the concentration of poor communities and the greater potential access to firearms by offenders as other reasons as to why Chicago's rate of gun violence is higher than cities such as Los Angeles.

Deanne Benos, a public affairs consultant for the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, agreed with Olson

and specified those who are most affected by this kind of crime.

"Most shootings have indeed been confined to low-income, high-crime communities and predominantly impact minorities," Benos said.

The number of homicides is down compared to this time last year. Although the degree of change continues to shift, the latest information puts the decrease in the number of homicides at less than 30 percent, according to the Chicago Police Department. Even though homicides

occurred less frequently than last year, this percentage is still higher than some years in the recent past.

"With all types of crimes, there are clearly seasonal patterns," Olson said. "Similarly, year-to-year fluctuations in crime are also 'normal,' and attempts to explain why crime goes up or down from year to year is difficult. Many say 'one year is not a trend.' If you look at the long-term trends in homicides in Chicago, there are not really year-to-year spikes and valleys, but rather slight increases or decreases."

This idea correlates with the more subtle changes Chicago tends to experience in its crime levels. However, this can also make it difficult to predict how and when things will change in the future.

A Pew Research Center study states that the decrease in gun homicides is even larger, down 49 percent from 1993. This seems to counter the media coverage of recent years, which has focused on a string of mass shootings that took place, from Sandy Hook Elementary School to the Washington, D.C. Naval Yard.

According to a Congressional Research Service report, there were 78 mass shootings in the United States between 1983 and 2012, resulting in 574 deaths and 476 injuries. The report defines mass shootings as crimes claiming at least four victims in a public setting. The Pew Research Center calculated that mass shootings account for .5 percent to .8 percent of murders involving guns every year.

The sheer number of guns may also be a contributing factor to the level of na-

tionwide gun-related incidents. According to the Small Arms Survey, a Swiss research group, the U.S. has more guns per capita than any other nation.

Although Chicago's gun laws are known to be strict, surrounding states, such as Indiana, have not passed the same kind of legislation. This could play a role in the large number of illegal guns found in Chicago, according to Benos.

Olson feels that a number of factors are at play when it comes to why Chicago's gun-related homicides are down this

year. Even changes in temperature make a difference as warm weather encourages people to be outdoors, potentially causing more violence, according to Olson.

"Some have pointed to the increased police patrols and arrests having an impact compared to last year," Olson said, "along with theories that the unusually warm spring in 2012 had a lot to do with increased interpersonal violence and homicides. There are a lot of possible reasons, and no single one can explain the changes." ☼

COMMUNICATION GAP

Dr. Elena Quintana works to reduce violence in Chicago through interconnectedness

by HANNAH LUTZ

Dr. Elena Quintana asked the young men from the South Side Back of the Yards neighborhood, “Where do you feel least safe?”

“When I’m downtown,” one responded.

The two others agreed. These young adults, ages 19 to 22, are community leaders that worked with Quintana for the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation’s Southside Youth Peace and Leadership Council, a violence prevention program for young men ages 14 to 18 in Englewood and Back of the Yards.

The men face danger in their neighborhood every day. Back of the Yards is part of the New City community area where 165 violent crimes occurred from June to August 2013, including robbery, battery, assault, homicide and criminal sexual assault, according to City of Chicago data port.

Quintana said the men lost five friends to gun violence last summer. But in the middle of a crime-ridden area, they still

agreed they feel least safe downtown.

Quintana, 45, lives on the South Side and works downtown as the executive director for the Institute on Public Safety and Social Justice at Adler School of Professional Psychology. Quintana has also worked in violence prevention with organizations such as Precious Blood and Ceasefire.

The young African-American men she’s worked with said people tighten grasps on their purses and pull their children in closer, and security guards emerge from stores when they are downtown. This treatment, the men said, makes it evident they do not belong.

“They [the men] are peacemakers, and they are seen as enemies,” Quintana said. “They are seen as predators. And they’re not; they’re the opposite.”

Quintana has seen many such common but false judgments, including against perpetrators of violence. She believes many approaches to punishment are misguided.

“Generally, these are people that are

highly functional and have a real lack of resources,” Quintana said. “[But] we choose the road of vengeance and debilitation, rather than investing in their accountability, transformation, functionality.”

Quintana worked with Ceasefire, an organization composed of “violence interrupters” who take communicative and preventative approaches to violence. They connect with those acting out destructively to help them determine the source of their anger and how it can be resolved peacefully. “The Interrupters,” a 2011 documentary, was based on Chicago’s Ceasefire organization.

Eddie Bocanegra, a former Ceasefire violence interrupter and a key player in the documentary, said Quintana helped shape his perception of violence. She lends a different perspective because she is understood and respected by two sides of society, as a South Side resident and a psychology expert and researcher, Bocanegra said. She speaks two languages: street and academia.



Dr. Elena Quintana, 45, acts as a translator between divided groups to try to end gun violence in Chicago. PHOTO BY HANNAH LUTZ

“Elena’s insight as a person who grew up in [this] community ... [is] she sees things through that lens,” Bocanegra said.

Quintana can essentially function as a translator between the divided groups that only grasp one side of the spectrum.

The Rev. Dave Kelly, who also worked with Quintana in Ceasefire, agreed that Quintana puts her attitude, psychological knowledge, training and research to action.

“The complexity she embraces is her biggest asset,” he said.

Ryan Lugalía-Hollon, another of Quintana’s Ceasefire colleagues, called Quintana “one of those people who can envision the future and take concrete

steps to making it a reality.”

Quintana illustrated these steps to making her vision for the future a reality with an example. She set school as the backdrop, a place where students bully and get bullied. Many schools have a “zero tolerance” policy. Quintana thinks there is more work to be done after the bully is reprimanded.

“There needs to be swift response and accountability,” she said. “[But] it should be to bring everyone together in a peaceful way. ... If you don’t do that hard work of bringing them back in [the community], then basically you end up ostracizing someone who already acts out in a destructive way.”

Once a bully understands the origins

and effects of his or her actions enough to sincerely apologize and solve the problem at the root of his or her anger, Quintana said, “they cease being a bully, and they start becoming human.”

Reducing trauma at the school level can have lasting effects on a bully’s psychological wellness and a city’s safety. But Quintana believes that violence reduction in Chicago starts with “community interconnectedness” and “closing social distance.”

“There are such deep divides within our worlds,” Quintana said. “There are people who generally feel safe in life and people who generally do not feel safe in life ever, and those people do not understand each other.” ☺

SAFE TO RACE?

Chicago creates new regulations for city races

It takes intensive preparation — weeks, months or even years. Preparing for a distance race such as a marathon is more than a commitment of time or physical endurance; it is a mental challenge. But in the shadow of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, Chicagoland runners have to deal with new mental barriers, stemming from the prospect of terrorism and violence. In response, race organizers have altered race-day procedures to ensure the safety of their participants.



Clockwise from top left: Loyola junior Danielle Orihuela celebrates a new personal best in the Chicago Marathon; some of the 40,000 participants of the Chicago Marathon run on the morning of Oct. 13, 2013; some of the runners continue to race through the Theater District.

by ELISEBETH MONTEMURRO

Last year's Chicago Marathon was a first for Rebecca Geissler. She says she felt safe but noticed that many runners seemed to be "on edge about security."

"While standing in my start corral, someone walked by with a backpack that was obviously mostly empty, and a couple runners pointed the person out to a volunteer," Geissler said.

The Chicago Marathon is one of six international races that make up the World Marathon Majors. These races are complex to organize. Race directors must corral more than 40,000 runners and thousands of volunteers.

The safety procedures for each race vary along with its size. For example, some races allow a runner's family or friend to retrieve their race packet if appropriate permission is granted. Others allow packets to be picked up the morning of a race. Last year's Chicago Marathon enacted a few new practices that may become the norm for other races: participants had to pick up their own bib or race packet, and checked gear could only be placed in a clear plastic bag provided by the race organization. The Chicago Half Marathon, held in September 2013, also utilized clear plastic bags for gear check. A clear bag allows race-day personnel to easily see any items that runners may not carry with them for a race: keys, phone, or warm up gear.

Having run other races in Chicago prior to her first marathon, Geissler felt switching the gear check requirement to a

clear plastic bag was not unusual. Mostly, she noticed an increase in security compared to other races.

Two other runners in last year's Chicago Marathon echoed Geissler's statements, noticing an increase in security along the course. Because spectators are not allowed near the finish line, one runner even welcomed the increased "space" to catch her breath after running the 26.2 miles. She just wished her mom could have seen her cross the finish line.

Chicago Marathon runners had to go through two security checkpoints to reach the starting line; the security checkpoints were assigned based on bib number and color.

Bryan Ganek, volunteer coordinator for the Chicago Area Runners Association, said even volunteers had to go through security checkpoints as they arrived at the course, displaying confirmation that they were officially registered volunteers.

The Oak Brook Half Marathon, which has a smaller racing field, made a drastic change. Its director, Tom Hepperle, was forced to cancel gear check completely for the 2013 race after the local police expressed growing concerns over the amount of security personnel required to safely aid runners.

"Not having gear check, in our case, was basically a workable solution," Hepperle said. "The way our event is set up, parking is adjacent to the starting line."

For Oak Brook runners, accessible parking meant gear could be stored in

one's car. This is not the case for all races, however. In some, runners may have to walk more than a mile to the start of the race from a designated parking location.

Security is not the only concern race directors have to consider, according to Hepperle. In smaller communities like Oak Brook, emergency personnel must also consider the chain of events should a major security issue occur outside of the race.

"It's regrettable that we have to take these kinds of measures ... to ensure the safety of the participants," Hepperle said.

Whether gear check will remain in place for future races, big or small, is yet to be determined and is evaluated on an individual basis. One constant within the Chicagoland racing community is that race-day security has seen changes following the Boston Marathon bombings.

In the end, security is a concern for many. But even in the wake of race violence, Geissler and runners alike fear that too many changes will impact the fans.

Spectators tend to line the 26.2 mile course through Chicago on marathon day, cheering on the runners, holding signs and ringing bells.

"You can really feed off their excitement and this year some of that buzz was lost," said one repeat marathoner.

Geissler added, "There was still a higher chance [of danger] for spectators, but I would hate to limit access to spectators which would destroy the amazing and important part they play in the marathon." ☀



Changes in race security might affect spectator participation in the Chicago Marathon. PHOTOS BY DANIELLE ORIHUELA

Young Guns

21 becoming common age to purchase weapons

by ALEX CRISSEY

His father had guns – an entire wall of them, to be exact. Above his fireplace were two glass cases, completely filled with guns.

And when college senior Nidal Choujaa turned 21, he immediately decided to buy a gun. While 18 is the minimum age to purchase a rifle, you must be 21 in the United States to own a handgun. So who chooses to exercise this right when they turn 21? And why?

For Choujaa, growing up around guns definitely played a part.

“I have always been around guns, because of my dad. I remember the first time he taught me that I needed to respect it because it is not something one plays with,” he said. “Although we had them more for sport and collection, there was always the defensive aspect of it. So, as I got older I wanted to buy one for myself.”

There is no specific data that keeps track of how many people buy handguns at age 21; however, according to Gallup, 31 percent of gun owners are between the

ages of 21 and 29.

The most recent Gallup poll on guns is from 2011, which found 46 percent of households have a gun inside, the highest number since 1993. That being said, there is no universal gun registry, so there is not an exact account of the number of guns in the United States; in addition, many guns are purchased illegally on the black market.

Choujaa wants to be prepared.

“I never wish to ever need to use it for self-defense, but I did want it for my own recreational use,” he said. Though if I do one day need it for self-defense I won’t hesitate to use it.”

Anthony Karam, who works at a real estate company, is another new gun owner who bought his gun immediately upon turning 21. But he has a more politically charged motivation for wanting it.

“I purchased a gun because I enjoy shooting. I also wanted to purchase one before Obama and his left-wing colleagues make it more difficult for responsible gun

enthusiasts to practice a hobby,” Karam said. “The other reason I got my CCW [license to conceal and carry a weapon] is to protect myself from uncertainty when we advertise apartments on craigslist.”

There are, of course, some 21-year-olds who have never thought about owning a gun.

“I never had any desire to buy a gun to protect myself or anything,” said Luke Dahlgren, a Loyola University Chicago student who recently turned 21. “While it might be nice to maybe practice aim as a recreational activity, having protection in the form of a gun never felt like a necessity to me. I feel like there might be more harm done from a safety perspective from having a gun around. It wouldn’t be worth the risks for me.”

It’s not just 21-year-olds who have the itch to buy guns. Many people have campaigned for the age to be lowered to 18,

and according to a recent Salon article, 18-year-olds are taking advantage of loopholes in the law. They can possess guns, they just cannot buy them. In other words, older adults can legally buy guns for 18-year-olds. The article, written by Alex Seitz-Wald, quotes agent David Chipman of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as saying, “It shouldn’t be easier to go buy three Glocks than to buy a case of Bud. But that’s the case.”

Much progress has been made in recent months and years regarding stricter gun control, particularly in light of the events at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut in December 2012. This and a number of other mass shootings recently have caused lawmakers to debate the merits of stricter gun laws.

According to Gallup, while homicides are down (4.7 per 100,000 people, compared to 9.3 in 1992), most American

gun-related deaths are suicides, at a rate of 60 percent.

Choujaa feels that there is no need for stricter gun control.

“I understand the outrage, but it is aimed at the wrong aspect. One thing to consider is that my dad was born in a country [Lebanon] that does not have the gun laws that we do in the States, yet there are not any school shootings or other active shooter scenarios,” he added.

Dahlgren points out one thing that prospective gun owners need to keep in mind.

“People shouldn’t take the idea of purchasing a gun lightly,” he said. “You have to be absolutely sure.”

Choujaa agrees.

“My dad has always taught me that gun safety is key. [When handling guns], I cannot even trust my own father because one mistake can ruin lives.” ☼

- ### MILESTONES
- ✓ Age 4: First day of school
 - ✓ Age 8: Ride a bike
 - ✓ Age 13: First kiss
 - ✓ Age 16: Get license
 - ✓ Age 21: Buy a gun



REAL LIFE LAW AND ORDER

One man's fight to curb
Chicago gun violence

by SHAZIA HASAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO
Crime Lab

The Chicago Crime Lab tests policies in an attempt to find the most effective techniques to reduce gun violence.

PHOTOS BY SHAZIA HASAN

When he was in grade school, Dan Rosenbaum's dream was to work in criminal justice. He was inspired by "Law and Order," which he watched avidly. Now, Rosenbaum is making his dreams come true by working at the Chicago Crime Lab as an integral part in Chicago's fight to end gun violence.

During his college years, the Winnetka native landed an internship with the Chicago Police Department's Area One Detectives Division, which handles the majority of homicides in Chicago's South Side.

What Rosenbaum saw during his internship influenced his decision for his future career. It was then that he decided he would dedicate his work to ending the pain he saw inflicted by gun violence.

Rosenbaum's voice slows and he

pauses to sigh, collecting his thoughts. He begins to explain one of his first experiences with gun violence.

"We went to the house of somebody whose son had just been killed a month before. Just getting her to talk about the issue at all was difficult," Rosenbaum said. "You can just see the pain. Every time, her voice was cracking. It's one of the most heart wrenching experiences I've ever had."

He looks down at the desk and his voice drags, as if he is reliving every moment of that day.

"Seeing that once is enough to motivate you to say, okay, this is an issue that everybody should care about," he said.

Now Rosenbaum is a research specialist at the Chicago Crime Lab. Newly relocated, the offices are now in a bright River North loft office. The desks are

close together and light pours into the space. Researchers appear cheerful yet glued to their computers.

The Chicago Crime Lab tests policies using basic scientific research methods to help government agencies and non-profit organizations find the most effective techniques to reduce gun violence.

Instead of leaning on ideological or political views, the Crime Lab focuses on hard facts.

"We have control trials, do rigorous statistical work around data to develop evidence of what works for whom and why [sic]," Rosenbaum said.

Julia Quinn, another research specialist at the Crime Lab, sees Rosenbaum's dedication as an asset to the team. Quinn says Rosenbaum is one of the last people to leave every night and has been long dedicated to the goal of ending Chicago gun violence.

"Criminal justice isn't just something he became interested in when a cool job

opportunity popped up – he has been living and breathing it since he was a kid," Quinn said.

Rosenbaum is starting research on a project that will focus on underground gun markets in several large cities, including Chicago. The aim is to discover whether people who are prone to violence might be stopped from getting guns.

The data Rosenbaum collects will not be limited to statistics. It will include information gathered by talking to people in communities and jails, creating a fuller picture of gun distribution in high violence communities.

The key to this study is learning "how to prevent dangerous people from getting guns, and to provide evidence policymakers will need when making an argument for enacting gun regulations," Rosenbaum said.

The research specialist's soft-spoken project manager, Susan Parker, sees

Rosenbaum's past involvement with the Chicago Police Department as a valuable addition to the underground gun market study.

"His perspective has brought so much to the project because so much of it is being able to know things law enforcement officials would really want from this study," Parker said.

Though Rosenbaum now spends most of his time at his desk analyzing research, he knows not to forget why he is in this line of work. He focuses on the encouraging aspects of his job to stay upbeat while researching the difficult topic of gun violence.

"Hopefully some of the things that we're doing will prevent people from experiencing the pain of losing someone from homicide," Rosenbaum said. "That is the motivating thing, to know that you're on the right side of the fence, and when it comes down to it, that you're doing the right thing." ☀

“

Seeing that [pain from a loss] once is enough to motivate you to say, OK, this is an issue that everybody should care about.

– Dan Rosenbaum,
crime lab researcher

”



Dan Rosenbaum, a research specialist at the Chicago Crime Lab, uses his past experience with the Chicago Police Department to advance the organization's mission.



Gunshot victims learn how to live wheelchair bound

Paralyzing Power

by MARIE JANZEN

“ It’s dollars we talk about, but you know I would think that as a public with a conscience, we care more about the individuals who have disabilities that could have been prevented. ”

– Dr. Michelle Gittler

Gun and gang violence have reached a new level as gunshot wounds are now the second biggest cause for paralysis. More young men and women are finding themselves in wheelchairs as gang violence persists in Chicago. And although medical costs to treat gunshot traumas is consistently being referenced in the conversation surrounding Chicago’s gun violence, the toll taken on victims is even heavier and more unimaginable.

At the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, it has been estimated that the average cost of treating a gunshot victim is around \$540,000. Most of these victims are uninsured, which means these costs are essentially coming out of taxpayer wallets.

According to a study released by the Urban Institute, costs amount to approximately \$2,500 per household over the course of a year. Although the medical expense is an issue, the plight victims go through after being discharged is a long journey of rehabilitation.

Dr. Michelle Gittler, a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation, works with victims of gun violence at the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital located in North Lawndale. The hospital is known for being the first fully licensed and accredited rehabilitation hospital in the Midwest. It has an intensive inpatient program that consists of at least three hours a day and five days a week of recuperative care, and a list of outpatient services, such as clinical assessments, speech therapy and a focus on accomplishing daily tasks

to promote independence and recovery. “The patients I deal with have a disability,” Gittler said. “The very first thing is, they have lived, so that’s good, but then they realize this isn’t going away and

that realization comes with a struggle.”

Gittler, like many others who see the effects of gun violence firsthand, is promoting a different perspective on the issue. Rather than taking heavier measures in criminal justice and on the consequences of gang and gun violence, Gittler endorses the route of prevention and research.

“It’s dollars we talk about, but you know, I would think that as a public with a conscience, we care more about the individuals who have disabilities that could have been prevented,” Gittler said.

Miles Turner V, one of many paralysis survivors from gun violence, made headlines as he went from athlete to wheelchair-bound. The recent high school graduate was shot five times by gang members near his home in October 2012 as he attempted to help his cousin, who was shot first. As an offensive lineman at Leo High School on the South Side, he was put into a medically induced coma for three months after being admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

In May 2013, he was able to attend his senior and his graduation. Although he survived the he knows his life has ever as he learns of his wheelchair through rehab-

Many notions are taking partnering up Northwestern currently works lence, a national that believes alternative school-based and intervention work can make more of a difference than traditional laws.

Cure Violence, called CeaseFire until 2013, was established in 2000.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital partnered with Cure Violence in 2011 through the organization’s hospital-based violence prevention program. When a gunshot victim is admitted, the hospital notifies the organization which then sends “interrupters” to the hospital and to the neighborhood where the incident happened.

They assist victims, families and communities with the psychological and social toll of gun and gang violence and also help to prevent retaliation and repeat injuries.

Marie Crandall, a trauma surgeon from Northwestern Memorial Hospital sees trauma as a teaching opportunity.

“These patients have touched mortality, which helps them reflect. The interrupters help them down a path of recovery,” Crandall said. ☼

\$540,000

The estimated cost to taxpayers for medical care of a gunshot victim

THE BURDEN BEHIND THE BADGE

Fighting crime may lead to **post-traumatic stress disorder**

by DEVIN MACDONALD

In Chicago, guns grace front pages and murder makes headlines. The city's narrative never strays far from the rise and fall of the death toll – who's doing the shooting and who's getting shot. But gang members and the bystanders caught in their crossfire aren't the only casualties in the fight against crime.

Chicago police are the first to the scene when a shooting has occurred in the city's most dangerous neighborhoods. Police officials have credited their presence for an 18 percent decline in murders in 2013, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Though pricey, the new Operation Impact initiative that put 400 officers on overtime pay every day to target "hot zones" and potential offenders may have another unexpected cost.

"They see more evil in the course of eight hours than many people see in a lifetime," said Rev. Dan Brandt, director of the police chaplains ministry in Chicago. "And they bring these things home with them."

It's the largely untold story behind the badge; one that begins with noble aspirations tarnished all too quickly by a constant exposure to violence ranging from shootings to domestic situations and suicide. Over time, the brutal sights, tensions within the organization and the reality that they won't win every round sap the passion and positive energy they entered the force with.

"You're called in to solve a problem which sometimes, no matter what you do, you're not going to solve," said Patrick Camden, spokesman for the Fraternal Order of Police and a retired officer. "You see some very traumatic situations. There's a certain amount of PTSD involved in being the police."

This seems to be a commonly accepted fact, mentioned in most studies about stressors in police work, though it's hard to come by any real numbers dictating how many officers are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to a study conducted by the University at Buffalo in 2008, 23 percent of male officers and 25 percent of female officers reported more suicidal thoughts than the general population. In 2012, there were 126 police suicides, according to the National Study of Police Suicides. Though down from 143 in 2009, the study states that "police suicides continue at a rate much higher than the number of police officers killed by felons," which was only 47 nationwide in 2012.



Dr. Robin Kroll, a clinical psychologist and facilitator of a Chicago program, Police – Addiction – Depression, which offers group therapy for officers, also lists addiction and substance abuse as issues that officers face as a result of the stressors of the job. Kroll believes that these problems come about largely as a result of dissociation with civilian life.

"They make their whole life about being the police and engaging only in the police department," she said. "They lose that balance in their life, and that balance is what they need to maintain that emotional stability."

Family, friends and faith all go by the wayside for officers who become too wrapped up in their police identities, according to Kroll. Social lives and hobbies are a thing of the past. As a result, these officers forget healthy coping strategies and turn to alcohol or negative behaviors such as spousal abuse.

CONTINUES PAGE 52 ►

PHOTO BY LIZ GREIWE



To the smart, hard working students who produced this magazine and the wise, caring faculty who guided them along the way: I salute each of you.

CONGRATULATIONS ALL.

– Ralph Braseth, Student Media



◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

Kroll's description of an officer's frame of mind is eerily similar to that of the at-risk minority males and gang members the police try to keep off the streets.

"They don't like to show emotion, they're trained not to show emotion, because if they show emotion on the street or in the jail, it can imply vulnerability," she said.

Now, with the increase in overtime shifts and change in the typical work week from five days to the optional sixth over-time day, she worries that officers have even less opportunity to step away from their work. More hours also means more stress and, according to Camden, more missed family functions which creates conflict at home. Officers may jump at overtime opportunities for the extra money they need to put their children in private schools, but Camden feels the payoff doesn't always make up for the service.

"There's not enough money in the world to be able to walk into a disturbance and wind up with 51 stitches in your face, like [what] happened [to an officer] the other night," Camden said. "It's a dangerous job. It's a demanding job." ☼

IT'S COOLER BY THE LAKE



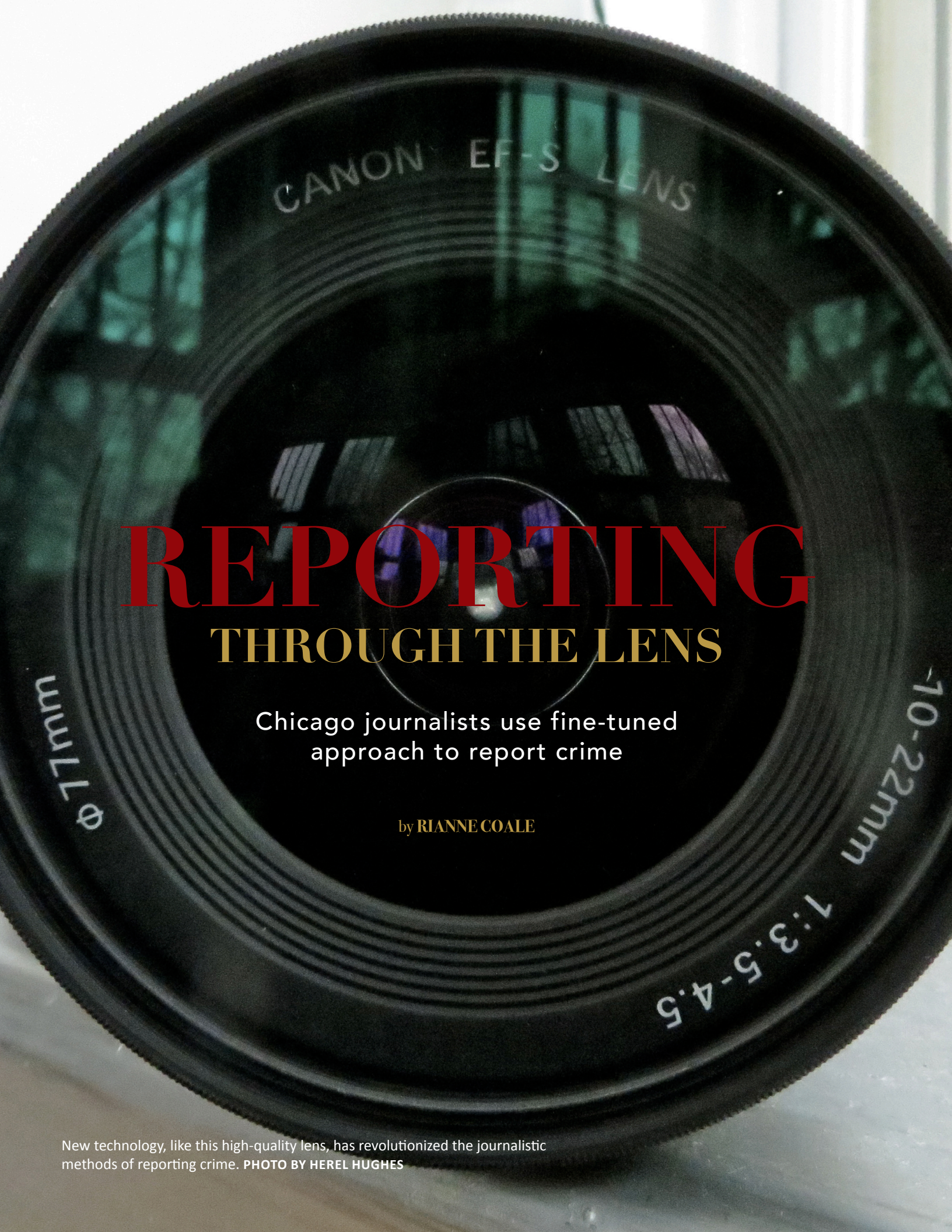
Welcome Ramblers!

The Office of First-Year Experience is dedicated to the success of freshman and transfer students. You are important to Loyola and we're so glad you are here! At FYE, we will welcome you into the Loyola Community and encourage you to make the most of your Loyola experience. We support your learning and growth as a well-rounded individual as you work toward becoming a Loyola graduate.



88.7 fm

Loyola's student-run radio station for independent music and news.



REPORTING THROUGH THE LENS

Chicago journalists use fine-tuned
approach to report crime

by **RIANNE COALE**

New technology, like this high-quality lens, has revolutionized the journalistic methods of reporting crime. PHOTO BY HEREL HUGHES

“ Sadly, crime reporting is almost like entertainment to a lot of people. ”

—John Kim, *Chicago Tribune* photographer

Before the sheriff arrived, Frank Main reached the nearly empty gas station, where a dead body was waiting inside. When the sheriff entered, he handed Main an orange soda as if they had done this a million times before.

The sheriff bent down to reach inside the dead man's pockets, only to find a wallet and a LensCrafters receipt. Main read the man's driver's license, finding his name, date of birth, address and not much else.

The year was 1998, and although Main was new to the world of crime reporting, he had found a niche that would eventually shape the rest of his career.

Main, now 49, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Over the years, the way Main conducts research for his articles has changed dramatically. When he first started reporting, Main only had a phone book at his disposal to gather information about his victims. Now he can take that man's name and date of birth, plug it into a database and find virtually anything he needs to know to write his story.

“Something that may have taken the whole day now takes about five minutes,” Main said. “News and information gathering have accelerated to high speeds.”

The way crime and violence are reported by news outlets has also changed in the past 15 years. In an age where social media is at most people's fingertips, journalists face the pressure to break news as fast as possible.

There is a burden to report information quickly, and crime reporters have to update social media with objective and accurate news for the public. Reporters are also forced to deal with the psychological impacts of what they see and do every day.

At times, crime reporters jeopardize their safety to get details they need for a story, and the late nights and odd hours they work can impact their health and home life.

Main, in his 27-year journalism career, has seen more than his fair share of horrific scenes, and he has worked to keep his professional and home life in separate spheres. He chooses not to share things he has encountered as a crime and investigative reporter with his family.

“I do try to provide a safe home for my kids and to tell the truth. I'm the one at the end of the day who has to go home with this stuff,” Main said.

Due to an overwhelming number of murders and cases of gun violence, a journalist's role in covering violence has become a vital part of the city's efforts to inform the public of the devastations happening all around them. Main explained what he felt was his biggest duty as a crime reporter: verification and accuracy.

“The main role is to not take everything at face value from any one source,” Main said. “If the cops tell you that it's a gang-related source, you should probably find someone else that can verify that.”

Although being a crime reporter is no easy task, Main feels he has fine-tuned his approach to covering crime.

In 2011, Main, with Mark Konkol and John Kim, won the Pulitzer Prize for local reporting for articles documenting the violence in Chicago neighborhoods and the “no-snitch” culture that allowed this ferocity to continue. Together, the three journalists told a compelling story of crime and violence through immersive reporting and striking photography.

John Kim, now a photographer for the *Chicago Tribune*, sat up in his chair and leaned forward eagerly as he explained the intricate partnership between reporters and photojournalists at a crime scene and the impact visuals can have on the reader of a news story.

“Our main goal is to document what is happening as soon as we get there,” Kim said. “We are able to show the readers what they wouldn't be able to see otherwise.”

Like Main, Kim wants to make sure readers are well-informed of crime and violence that threaten their safety. He said he even puts himself in unsafe situations to get the most compelling picture for a story. But Kim fears that readers are sometimes not impacted by the serious conflicts within the stories and are only interested in the sensationalism that crime reporting creates.

“Sadly, crime reporting is almost like entertainment to a lot of people,” Kim said. “They see it in two dimensions, so it becomes like watching a television show. But to the people who live in that community, that's three dimensions. They get the sights, sounds and smells of a ‘fresh shooting’ for lack of a better phrase.”



by MARTIN LERMA

The Daily Struggle

Colleen Daley's quest to end gun violence in Chicago

“There’s no one silver bullet that’s going to fix the gun violence problem.”

— Colleen Daley, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence

In 2012, 500 homicides were committed in the city of Chicago. Eighty-seven percent were gun-related, according to the Chicago Police Department.

The number gripped the nation as the issue of guns gained more and more coverage. Shootings at a movie theater in Aurora, Colo., and at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., also brought the topic to forefront in America.

Colleen Daley is the executive director at the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV), a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public and legislators on gun violence and advocating for gun control measures. Daley is hoping to make the mass shootings that have become headline fixtures a thing of the past.

Before becoming director three years ago, she worked on former state treasurer Alexi Giannoulas’ unsuccessful U.S.

Senate campaign. Upon the campaign’s termination, Daley was in need of a new line of work.

“A few people had mentioned this position to me and it was very appealing,” said Daley. “I believe that we need to reduce handgun violence in our city, our state, our country.”

Her convictions run deep, but they are not merely political; they are profoundly personal.

“I was affected by gun violence,” Daley said. “One of my dear high school friends was shot and killed while I was a senior in college, so this whole issue is very close to my heart.”

ICHV’s campaign director, Mark Walsh, echoed Daley’s sentiment. “Colleen knows firsthand the impact gun violence brings to a community and an individual,” Walsh said. “Additionally, like many of us in the movement, a certain amount of the passion comes from realizing the fight we are in.”

A Chicago native, Daley said she was born and raised in Lincoln Park. Her friend’s murder, which took place there, made her think about gun violence in a new way.

Today, she and ICHV are attempting to add a new dimension to a complex issue. Daley believes the nation’s feelings about guns are not as cut and dry as other prominent social issues, such as gay marriage and abortion.

“Gun violence ... people don’t think it can affect them,” Daley said. “They don’t think, ‘it’s going to happen in my community.’ [They think] ‘that happens on the South Side of Chicago. It’s not going to happen on the North Side of Chicago.’ I’m a testament to the fact that that’s

not true.”

Despite the city’s ban on concealed weapons being ruled unconstitutional by an appeals court in September 2013, Daley is not discouraged. The Chicago City Council passed new ordinances banning concealed weapons in many businesses where liquor is the primary beverage for sale.

Walsh feels that Daley has had a large part in the success of recent gun control measures in Chicago.

“She was instrumental in the passage of two of our highest priorities: reporting lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and a universal background check on all gun purchases,” Walsh said. “She has helped ICHV carve out a position in gun violence prevention education and has led the organization to new heights.”

Beyond working with legislators and lawmakers, Daley and ICHV have established several programs focused on the youth of Chicago. One such program is the Student Voices contest, where students from 1st to 12th grade submit art, essays and poetry dealing with violence. Some have first-hand experience. Last year’s winner was the best friend of Hadiya Pendleton, the high school student who was murdered only days after participating in President Obama’s second inauguration.

“They can talk about how gun violence has affected their lives,” Daley said. “Kids are most disproportionately affected by gun violence, especially here in Chicago, and having that conversation, empowering them, giving them a voice that, because they can’t vote, they don’t have normally.”

But Daley knows that education is only a part of what needs to be done to curb gun violence in the city.

“I hate saying this [phrase], but it’s true,” said Daley, “There’s no one silver bullet that’s going to fix the gun violence problem.”

Daley also said that while Chicago’s gun violence problem is very real, she believes the city often receives particularly strong scrutiny because it is President Barack Obama’s hometown.

She continues her mission for others who have lost friends or family to gun violence.

“Every single child that loses their lives is our child,” said Daley. “We need to keep the public pressure on to make sure that this stops happening.” ☀



Colleen Daley, executive director at the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, focuses her efforts on people’s first-hand experiences with gun violence. PHOTO BY MARTIN LERMA

From Trouble to Trendy

Wicker Park's transformation into a safe, hip neighborhood

by HANNAH LUTZ

Two murders took place in the Wicker Park neighborhood last fall, but residents don't seem to feel at risk.

"Certainly not to mitigate the issue related to serious violent crime, but we haven't had a serious violent crime, other than these recent events, which are highly irregular," said Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy facilitator Mark Amundsen.

Despite reports of shootings in Wicker Park, the area is widely known for its trendy shops and restaurants. The Wicker Park neighborhood and the community's park, bordered by Schiller Street and Damen and Wicker Park avenues, bustle with people.

In the past 10 years, crime in the area has dropped significantly. From 2000 to 2009, total crime went down 33.1 percent in the 14th district, where the majority of Wicker Park is located, according to the Chicago Police Portal. Some residents see that change, but others still feel endangered.

The string of recent shootings started on Sept. 6, 2013, when Emmanuel Bass, 35, was shot in the leg inside the park on the 1400 block of Damen Avenue. He died after being admitted to a nearby hospital.

Just eight days later, on Sept. 14, Mi-

guel Delgado, 19, was fatally shot on the 1500 block of North Milwaukee Avenue in front of a strip of popular bars.

The next month, on Oct. 17, Jeremy Mendez, 24, was shot in the leg on the 1200 block of North Wolcott Avenue. He is now in good condition.

"You just have to be on guard," said Phillip Haley, a man who was feeding pigeons in the popular park where Bass was shot. "If you're going to be out at night, always be with somebody, always be with several people."

The three shootings were isolated incidents and allegedly gang-related. The Maniac Latin Disciples, Latin Kings, and Harrison Gents have gang territory closest to the Wicker Park neighborhood, according to WBEZ's 2011 Gang Map.

"[The community's park is] safer than other areas," said Robert Stockwell. "Night time at parks is the stereotypical 'Don't go there at night,' but overall, like now, it's very safe."

Just a few blocks away shops, bars and restaurants line the streets.

"Fifteen years ago, you wouldn't walk across Division at noon time," Amundsen said. "Today, there are more trendy restaurants on Division than anything else. People are literally lined up. Wicker

Park has become the new trendy place to come, live or be."

The stretch of Milwaukee Avenue where Delgado was killed is home to popular restaurants, thrift shops and boutiques.

"[The neighborhood has] definitely been gentrified. ... What we're seeing happen there now is the spillover from Lincoln Park," said Wicker Park Community Council President Adam Housley.

The neighborhood's gentrification consists of a population shift that includes an influx of wealthier residents and businesses. People who either lived in Lincoln Park or planned to live there are moving to Wicker Park, which has changed the neighborhood's demographic. There are more young singles and families.

"That influx of people with money, it's changed everything," Haley said.

Elaine Coorens, editor of local newspaper *Our Urban Times*, member of the Wicker Park Advisory Council and author of "Wicker Park From 1673 Thru

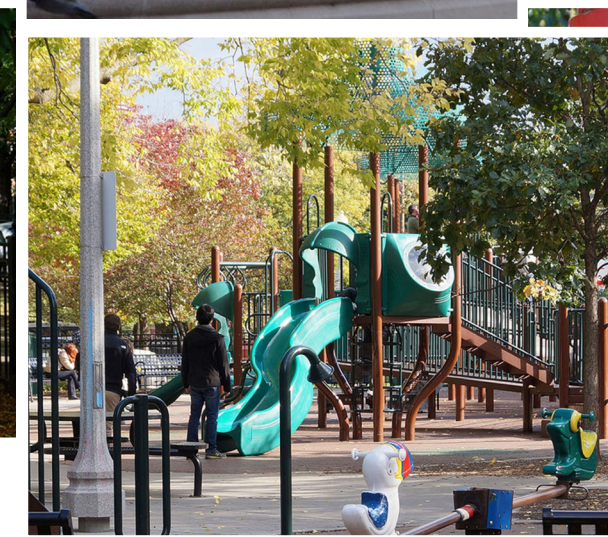
1929 and Walking Tour Guide," said that Wicker Park evolved gradually, starting in the mid-'70s.

"Like so many other neighborhoods, it was the gay community and the artists," she said. "The artists looked at it because there were big spaces and cheap rent. The gays looked at it as like, 'Wow, look at all this fabulous housing stock, and we can do something really wonderful with it.'"

Until the late '80s, the corner intersection of Milwaukee, Damen and North Avenues was dirty and unsafe, according to Coorens. But in the late '80s, a restaurant called Jimo's Cafe bought the corner pharmacy, which had been there for decades.

"That started a visual change," Coorens said. "That kind of thing leads to different perspectives of an area."

Over the next 10 years, the neighborhood went through more changes. It started with small restaurants and local designers' shops. Then national chains and condos were developed.



Clockwise from top: The community park attracts a variety of residents from the neighborhood; a park sign welcomes visitors in different languages and explains the rules; the playground is perfect for families; a young woman walks through the scenic local park on Oct. 19, 2013. PHOTOS BY HANNAH LUTZ

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