

STATEVILLE SPEAKS

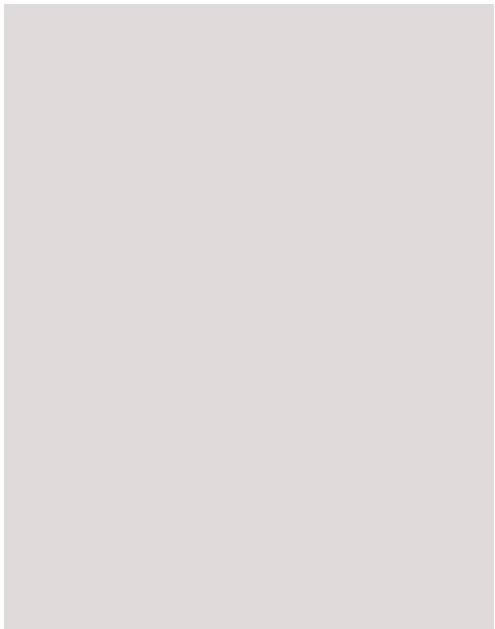
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As Stateville Speak goes to press, we are awaiting a court decision that concerns all those interested in prison reform. Shortly, the state court in downstate Alexander County will decide whether to allow Gov. Quinn to carry out his plan to shut down Illinois' supermaximum prison, Tamms Correctional Center. The decision will come in a lawsuit seeking to prevent the prison's shutdown, which was brought by the union representing Illinois Department of Corrections em-



By Haroon Najam

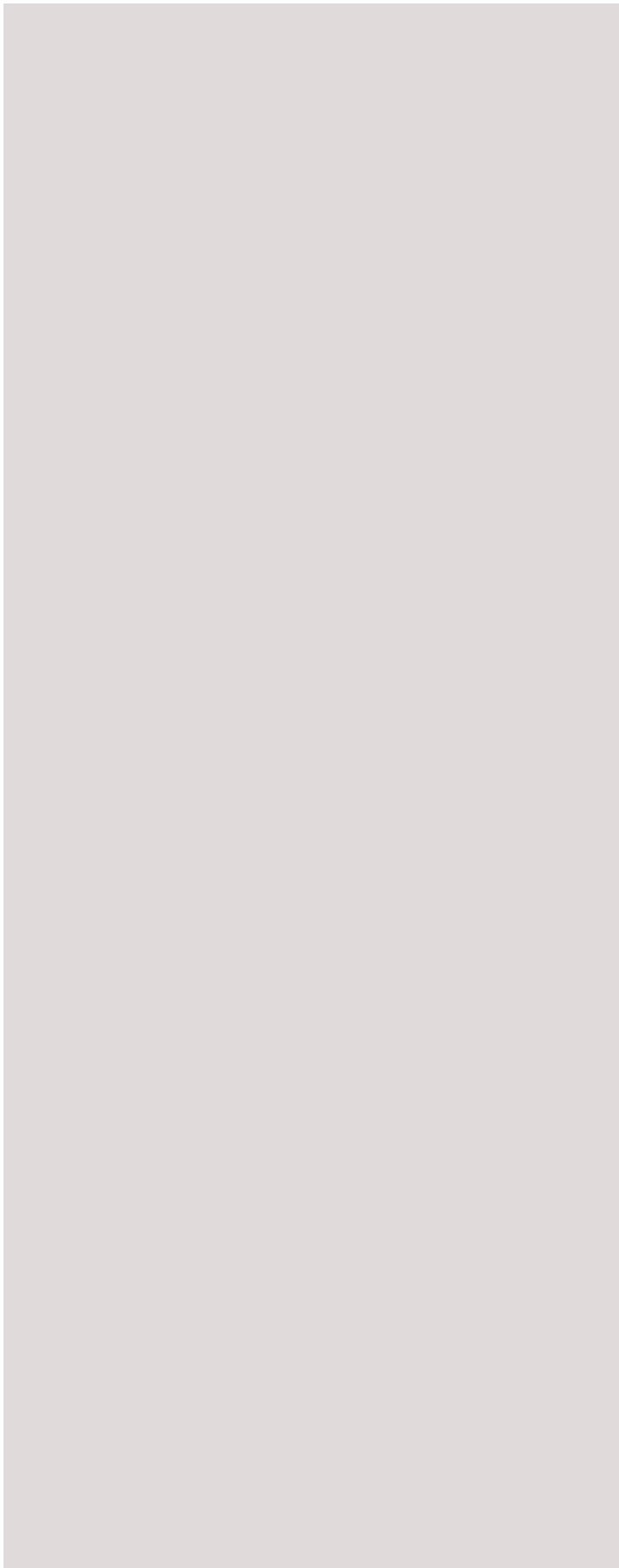
“We want to change how society views formerly-incarcerated individuals,” says Dr. Rolanda West. Speaking of a training program for the brothers reentering the Chicago Lawn community through IMAN’s Green Reentry Project, she adds that “it aims to teach the social, emotional, spiritual, leadership and, eventually, economic skills necessary to make a successful reentry into the community.” The formation of a functional and empowering social identity is the key, according to her, to making such individuals pillars and leaders of the communities they are returning to.



In the March 2012 issue of Stateville Speak we introduced a movement called Vigil for True Justice. This article generated a tremendous amount of mail with inquiries about the purpose and goal it works and how one might participate were asked. It also posed the possibility that participation could put an additional burden on inmates, families and friends, who already face tremendous stress, by asking them to deny themselves, or someone they love, some of the very few services or products that bring them a little bit of humanity or joy, while being incarcerated.

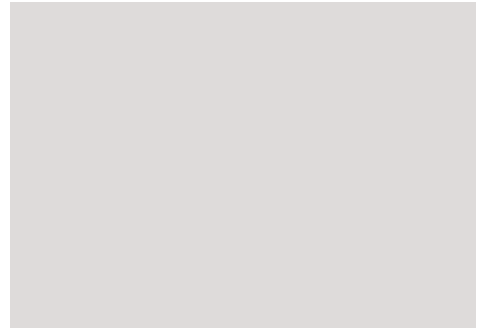
, Q DQ HIIRUW WR GH¿QH WKH LGHDV DQG PRWLYHV EHKLQG 7KH 9LJLO we asked civil rights attorney, educator, prison activist and advocate, James Chapman to help enlighten us.

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-DPHV &KDSPDQ 7KH GH¿QLWLRQ RRIYLJLO LV WR ³UHPDLQ LQ D VWDWH

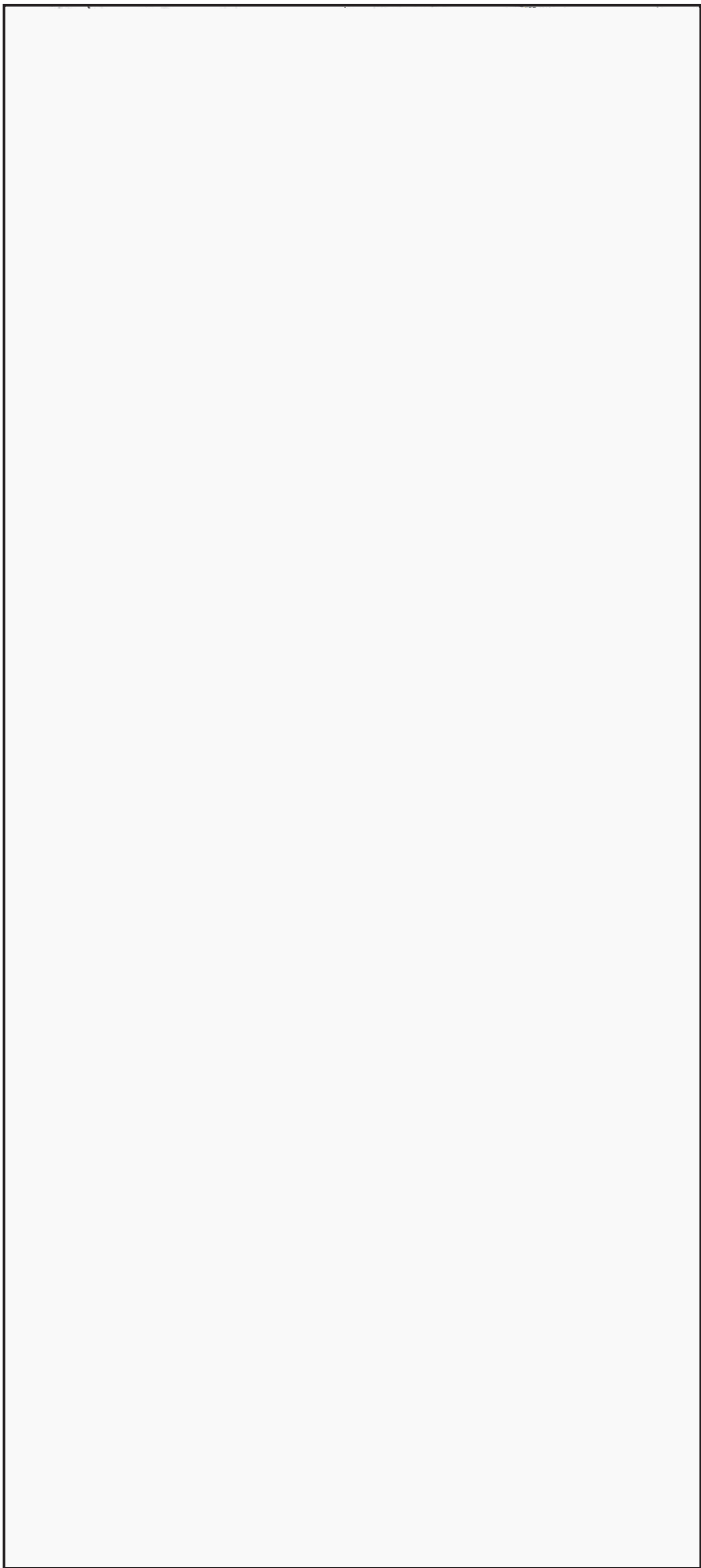
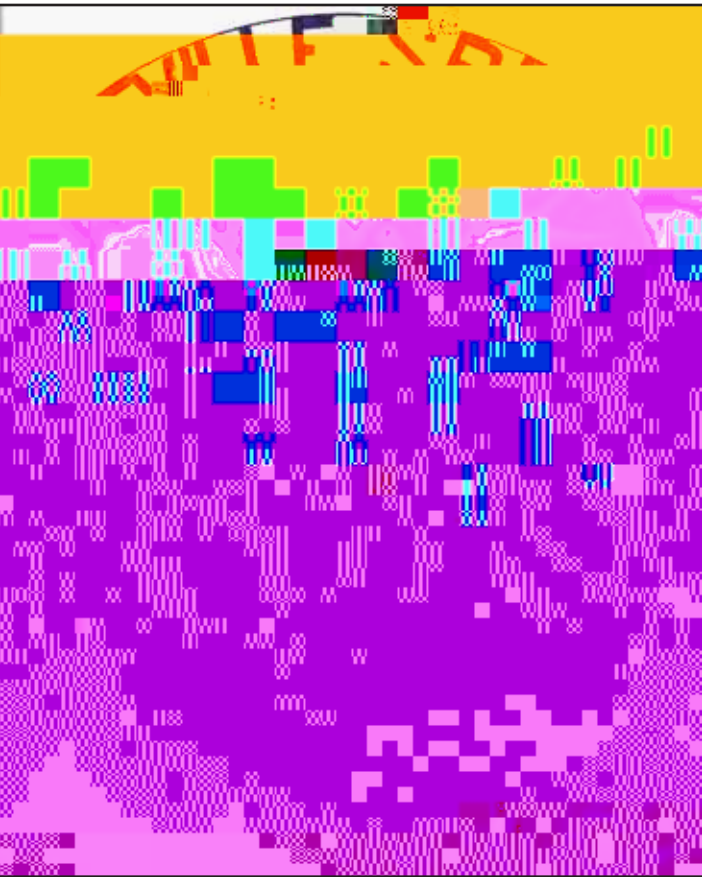


UPTOWN PEOPLE

2012 was one of the hottest summers on record in Illinois. Cell houses throughout the Illinois prison system are poorly ventilated, and generally hold two men in spaces designed for one. When the outside temperature reaches 95—as it did repeatedly this summer, temperatures inside cells on upper tiers at Stateville Correctional Center, Menard Cor-







Top Left: Patrick Tullis
Bottom Left: Alan Vega (entry #2)
Right: Pearl Tuma

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THE REAL ISSUE

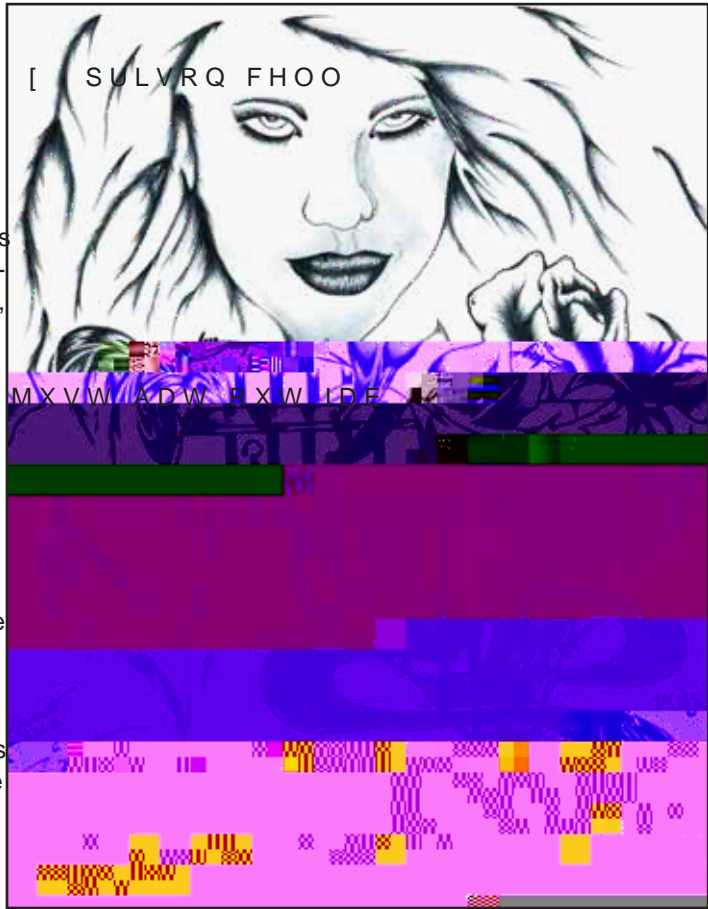
by Keith E. Bennett

While I sit alone with the FRQ ÿ QHV RI WKL V it's mind boggling to listen to fellow inmates complain about the quality and quantity of food, the hardness of both the pillow and mattress, commissary prices or how many photos and magazines they are allowed to have, along with a number of other complaints that hold no real sig- QL ÿ FDQFH RU DUH ricated.

I have only three complaints: The noise fellow inmates make, day and night, without any respect for those trying to sleep. And the attitudes of fellow inmates- as if life and prisons are just a game... But most importantly: The emptiness I feel within without the love and compassion of a women, the emptiness that comes from not being able to spend the night with my arms wrapped around the woman I love.

If it were not for the love and compassion of a woman, man would never have become civil. To VWULS PDQ IURP WKH PRVW LPSR E W D Q G LQ À X H Q F H L Q K L V O L I H L V W R P H cruel and unusual – not the quality and quantity of the free food.

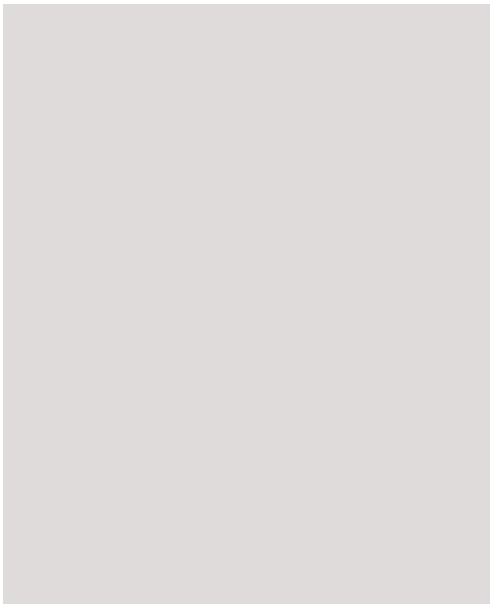
Placing man in an environment stripping him of his manhood is not only forcing the majority into homosexuality, but is being purposely used to do so. I refuse to sit here and sugar coat what I witness within these walls on a daily basis. Fellow inmates, either on the down low, or out in the open are engaging themselves in activities



that not only spreads diseases within the prison, but also to the streets upon their release. Some beautiful lady is awaiting her man at the gate without any knowledge of what he was doing within these walls. If there is any issue that any relevance or real VLJQL ÿ FDQFH LW ZR X C the above.

The majority of fellow inmates have women who support them while imprisoned- some have more than a couple. I myself don't even have one, but I know for a fact if I had a women who supported me through all my failures, I would not return the love she has shown me by bringing home a disease.

Children and adults alike within this world, who have never committed a crime, suffer daily from thirst and hunger. For me to sit and complain about the food that keeps me alive after the crimes I've committed seems V H O ÿ V K ! P O p K ÿ ð ° O í P @ í wome-thatkouldnotrnlysb

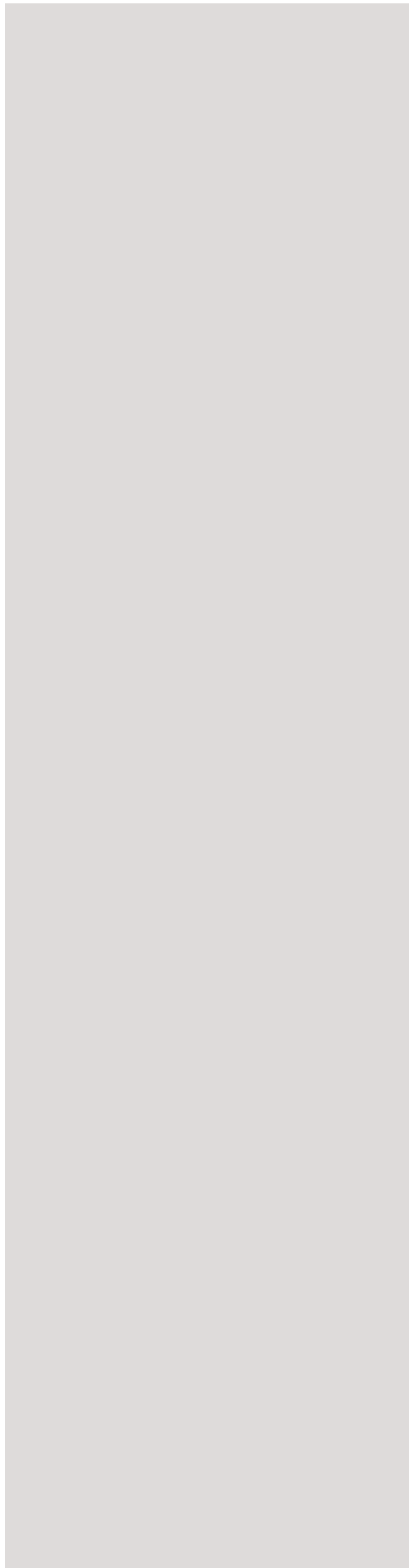


PRAYERS

WE THANK YOU

By Priest Eugene Pryor Sr.

We thank you Lord God, heavenly father for your faithful providence which we have enjoyed and for thy gracious provision of fellowship with one another and with thee. Teach us to receive thy gifts with Thanksgiving, that with grateful hearts we may enjoy the gifts which have come from God, who together with the son and the Holy Ghost are one God and one Lord wip6e



STATEVILLE SPEAKS

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Donald McDonald, Aldwin McNeal
& Anaviel B. Rakemeyahu

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Stanley Howard, Jeanene Clay,
Vincent Galloway, Renaldo Hudson,
Tom Odle, Mychal Thompson,
Ronnie Carrasquillo, Theresa Heater,
Margaret Majos & Ron Kliner

: R P H Q T V , V V X H V

Millie Lee & Janet Jackson

Cartoonist: Arkee

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0 D L O L Q J \$ S e n d s u b m i s s i o n s
and correspondences to:

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