

CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

By: Katy Roscetti

Two months ago I was walking through our Children's Museum, and I was in the exhibit about Ruby Bridges. One article I read explained how the IPS district is getting more black students than whites. It was then that I realized that one of the biggest problems in our world today is lingering segregation, sometimes even in schools. I believe that all students should have the ability to get a good education, regardless of what they look or sound like.

At the heart of our problems is education. It is unique in being both the problem and solution. It is the problem in two ways, first that some schools have been trying and trying to achieve racial balance, but have failed many times. Sometimes the inner city schools have the biggest issue. They are falling apart and some children are moving to different districts and private schools. Disabled children are sometimes put in kindergarten level classes when they are 11 and 12 years old.

Yet education is also the solution. By teaching our generation about the issues of the past, perhaps we can prevent more terrors in the future. All we need is willing teachers and students to help us reach this goal, but without that education will never be fair for ALL students.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character."* Perhaps in the future they will succeed their father's dream, but not today, our world is too mixed up for that. Abraham Lincoln once said, *"These men ask for just the*

same thing, fairness, and fairness only. This, so far as in my power, they, and all others, shall have." Mr. Lincoln and Mr. King had good dreams but without the help of our generation and education, we can never help them achieve them.