

# Jackie Hill: A poet who knows it

By Richard Mitchell

Maywood resident Jackie Hill has found a way to express her feelings for whatever mood she is in. And it is a talent she hopes to one day turn into a business.

Hill, 26, said she has written thousands of poems over the past 18 years.

"I started writing because of the different moods I get in," she said. "I could always express the moods on paper.

"If anyone was to see me on the street, they would think I'm the happiest person in the world. If something bad happens, I write about it. It is not the unhappy face I show you."

HILL SAID SHE can compose a poem in a matter of minutes, although if she writes about something unpleasant she continues until the pain has left.

"I have some poems that are four lines long, others are four pages," she said.

She said that during one particularly unpleasant week she wrote 216 poems.

"I write about everything and anything," Hill said. "Child abuse, rape, being alone and children, in particular."

She has written about a relative who had a drinking problem; child abuse, after she worked as a counselor; and rape, after speaking to girls who had been attacked.

SHE HAS ALSO written poems for her brother to give to his girlfriends. "He got a

lot of girlfriends that way," she said.

Hill has also written many poems for her friends.

One poem was for a friend who was having "man problems," while another was for a male friend "who was shy about wearing jeans, so I wrote about it."

Although she has received compliments about the poems from teachers and friends, a meeting with Armand Jackson, midwest and west regional manager for Black Enterprise magazine, convinced her to start her own newsletter to feature the poems.

"Jackson said I have the talent to do it. That's all I needed to hear," Hill said. "He was someone talking who is not just a friend."

THOUGH THE NEWSLETTER is still in the planning stages, Hill said it will be called "True Expressions."

The mother of two girls, Hill works two jobs — as a bartender and fundraiser consultant — to raise money for the venture. Until recently, she also worked as a teacher's aide at Grant Elementary School in Melrose Park.

Starting new projects is nothing new to



Jackie Hill

Hill. While living in Japan, where her husband is stationed with the U.S. Air Force, she began a service to provide military personnel with furniture.

Jackson described Hill as "an excellent poet with a great deal of talent.

"I don't know if it is God-given, but she writes proficiently," he said. "She could write well in almost any type of situation. It's almost like mood music."

# Before I Was Bosby

## The poems of Jackie Hill

*The poems of Jackie Hill reflect the pride she has in her race and her family. The Maywood Herald prints two of her works.*

### BEING BLACK

I was born in '60 with no guarantee  
That life would be real easy for me  
Born black, the first strike I see  
And being a female wasn't the key

I have to be stronger in every way  
With two strikes against me, I shall pray  
I have to be better than the best, they say  
In order to achieve the normal goals today

But there's a little secret I must tell  
Being black, has done me well  
It's given me the chance to try it all  
And not be afraid if I fall

Now no matter what your nationality  
I'm beyond the stage that you'll bother me  
I've heard enough, where I don't care  
I can deal with the fact, life isn't fair

I'm young, intelligent, a hard worker too  
With plans to achieve in all I can do  
Black, gifted, an eager woman who's free  
But most of all born to be me

### MY LITTLE LADIES

Kyta and Tari, bold and free  
Being black is no crime you'll see  
Some people will always put you down  
Just be proud and know your ground

Kyta you're six and Tari you're three  
You both have time, this you'll see  
And being black is no regret  
For you'll make it, when the time is set

Kyta and Tari, beautiful and sweet  
Young little ladies all should meet  
Don't get upset by what people say  
Look and smile, walk the other way

My little ladies, this you are  
Yesterday babies, tomorrow stars  
Character, charm, personality  
I am proud you are a part of me

Mama Loves You!!