

YOU THINK REA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect renters from Olympic gouging, too

We were pleased to see "No gouging Olympic fans," [Jan. 13] a news brief in the Metro section that confirmed the Chicago 2016 applicant file's promise to enact price controls on Chicago's hospitality industry during the Olympic Games. As Fran Spielman noted, "The decision to impose price controls during a Chicago Olympics is designed to prevent hotels from making a killing at the expense of athletes and spectators."

However, we have yet to see Chicago 2016 present a post-Games legacy plan for Chicago that includes strategies and controls for housing cost. Historically, the Olympics have provided an even greater opportunity to gouge renters and homeowners than they have tourists. In Sydney, the host of the 2000 Olympics, rents increased 40 percent in the six year lead-up to the Games, 31 percent more than in any other part of Australia.

The foreclosure crisis has yet to reach its peak, with Chicago alone filing 1,000 foreclosures every month. Chicago's median income shrank 5.3 percent since 2000, while the number of households paying more than \$2,000 in mortgage payments is six times what it was then. Can Chicagoans afford another blow to affordability?

A portion of the revenue from whatever tourist tax and related fees the city establishes should be designated for the Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund.

At the same time, Chicago must commit to the preservation of the affordable resources that it has, particularly the stock of multifamily housing that is home to many of the city's working families.

The same protection extended to visitors should be used to ensure an inclusive housing environment for renters and homeowners throughout Chicago.

Kevin Jackson,
executive director,
Chicago Rehab Network

Mine," for giving his blessing to the spaghetti-spined wimps who believe that because they got 20 minutes of exercise digging out their car it gives them the right to claim their own private space till May.

Thanks to the king, my street looks like a flea market. All that's missing are hanging curtains.

Rob Hirsh,
Hollywood Park

Where's Duncan's degree?

As Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan goes off to



Arne Duncan

Washington to face confirmation hearings to become the next U.S. Secretary of Education, is it just me, or does anyone else wonder why in the seven years that Duncan been the CEO for Chicago Public Schools, he did not at least get a master's degree in education?

Bernadette Johnson,
Bronzeville

Burris disgraced himself

As a lifelong Democrat, I fully stand behind Republican National Committee Chairman Robert M. Duncan for chastising Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin for flip-flopping on the appointment of Roland Burris to the U.S. Senate.

Burris is just a political opportunist who disgraced himself by accepting a tainted appointment that others would not touch with a 10-foot pole.

William F. Creighton,
North Riverside

Gov should have resigned

If Roland Burris is Gov. Blagojevich's attempt at redeeming himself, then he was better off just resigning as governor.

Francisco Franco.