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Clinton

Clinton throws his full support behind Obama

DENVER. Former President Bill Clinton forcefully endorsed Barack Obama's bid for the White House yesterday, telling delegates to the Democratic convention that Obama is "ready to lead America." Clinton pushed back on attacks — initiated by himself and his wife during the bitter primary campaign, and later taken up by Republican John McCain — that Obama is ill prepared for the White House, especially on matters of national defense. **AP**

More convention news [page 06](#) »

Entertainment [page 11](#)



Everyone's dropping their drawers

Statistics/
Baby import



Despite what Americans such as Madonna and Angelina Jolie might have you thinking, people in Spain and Sweden are most likely to adopt an orphan from a foreign country. **Source: Hague Convention**



Williamsburg's 90th police precinct has experienced the sharpest rise in crime since last year of any neighborhood in Brooklyn, making some locals nervous.

A spike in crime has Williamsburg wary

Talk of machetes, gangs rampant in Brooklyn hipster haven

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By the numbers

So far this year, the 90th precinct has seen 294 robberies (up 14.4 percent), 245 burglaries (up 15.5 percent), 384 grand larcenies (up 25 percent), 146 felony assaults (up 10.6 percent) and three murders compared to one from the same time last year.

Crime has become a hot topic in Williamsburg — especially tales of machete-wielding kids roaming the streets.

"My friend said they're attacking white hipster boys on bikes," Neil Campbell, a tattooed South Fourth Street resident who fit that bill, said.

Anna Maria Hernandez, his manager at Papa Lima, a 1-year-old café on South Fourth and Bedford Avenue, initially heard something similar.

"Then I heard it was gang-related," she said. "It's really scary. It doesn't matter to me who they're attacking. It's crazy that they're doing it."

Of Brooklyn's police precincts, Williamsburg's 90th, which encompasses the gentrifying South Side plus its central and east sections, has seen the greatest rise in crime over the past year —

13.49 percent — according to Compstat data. The neighboring 94th precinct, which includes Williamsburg's tonier North Side and Greenpoint, has seen a 6.38 percent crime hike — the borough's second-highest increase.

"Gang violence in the community [has] re-emerged into something we haven't seen since the 1980s," said William Orellana of

community group El Puente.

Last month, Richard Duran, 22, who residents say was not a gang member, was shot at the bus depot on the South Side near the Williamsburg Bridge. Some believe the shooter was a member of the PBGs, or Pretty Boy Goons. Later that night, young men with machetes — allegedly Trinitarios — slashed two people on South Third Street near Bedford Avenue.

"We don't want to overstate the problem," City Councilwoman Diana Reyna said. "But if we don't do something, we're going to have serious problems."

Neighbors eye a fix [page 04](#) »

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