

## Car rams tree, killing four women on South Side

**ENGLEWOOD | Returning from birthday celebration when vehicle ran off roadway**

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By **MONIFA THOMAS** Staff Reporter

Four women heading home from a birthday celebration were killed early Saturday when the car they were in slammed into a tree in Englewood.

The 2000 Pontiac Bonneville was traveling at high speed when it crashed in the 1000 block of West Garfield around 2 a.m., Chicago Police said. It is unclear what caused the vehicle to go off the road or whether alcohol was a factor in the crash.

Killed were Jacquelon Hampton, 35, of the 5200 block of South May; Latoya Cathina, 28, of the 1100 block of West Garfield; Alicia Landon, 28, of the 6100 block of South Bishop, and Toccara Jones, 25, of the 5900 block of South Justine, the Cook County medical examiner's office said.

Three of the women died within an hour of the crash, while Hampton, who is believed to have been the driver, was pronounced dead at 5:30 a.m. at Stroger Hospital, the office said.

The women were returning from a nightclub where they had celebrated Cathina's upcoming birthday, said Lakeshia McCaskill, Hampton's best friend.

Hampton was a mother of three who worked in a nursing home.

Cathina, who sold insurance in Naperville, would have turned 29 on Monday, and Hampton had been planning a surprise party for her today, McCaskill said.

"Jackie was a positive person. She was outgoing. She was everything you would want in a friend," said McCaskill. "Her kids didn't want for anything."

Landon and Jones had known each other since elementary school, having grown up on the same block, Landon's sister Claretha Landon said. "They were together pretty much every day," Claretha Landon said.

Alicia Landon, a McDonald's cashier and the mother of two girls, was a lively person who loved to shop and listen to music, her sister said.

Jones, who was "always available to help people," had recently gotten a job in home health care and had a 5-year-old son, said Jones' mother, Rose Jones.

Claretha Landon said it hasn't sunk in yet that her older sister and Jones are gone.

"It's sort of unreal. When I see the image of the car on the news, that's what hurts me the most," she said. "It just seems like they're both at work right now."

The Major Accident Investigation unit of the Chicago Police Department is investigating the crash.