

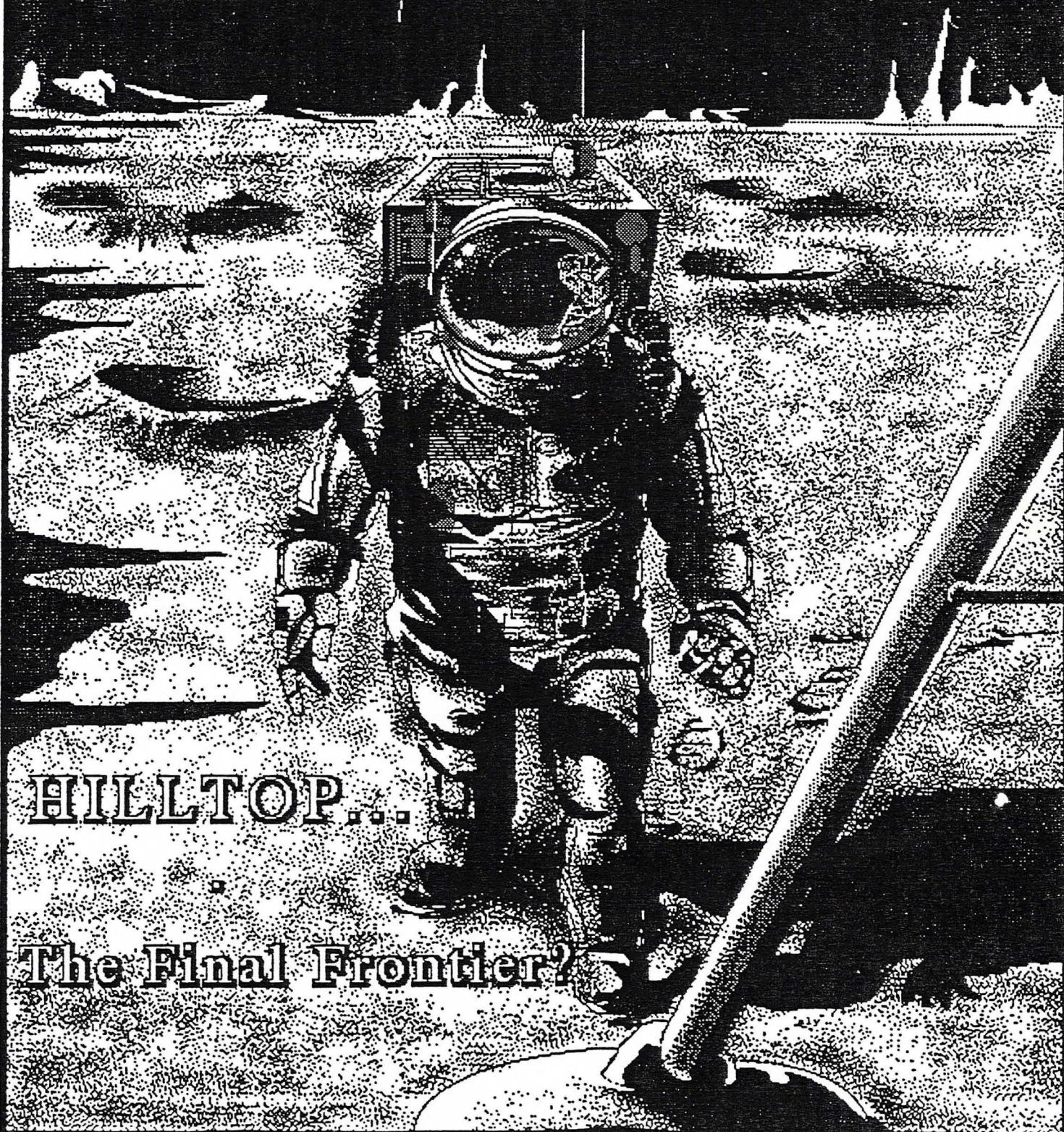
Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

50¢
Subscription

Volume 2, Number 19

March, 1993



HILLTOP...

The Final Frontier?

HILLTOP ACTION COALITION IN SEARCH OF: A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

BY LARRY NORMAN

On February 10th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Tacoma Public Library, the Hilltop Action Coalition held its annual meeting. The theme was "A Diamond In The Rough." Many people were on hand to hear guest speakers such as Mayor Vialle, Counsel representative Delores Silas and Maureen Howard. Mr. John Wells, a long time Hilltop resident, was presented with an Advocacy Award.

Laurie Walker, current President of the Hilltop Action Coalition, maintains that the board of directors (made up of Area Representatives) is looking forward to its finest year ever.

There has been much said about the activities this organization has undertaken in an attempt to re-build the Hilltop community. Many people feel that if HAC (Hilltop Action Coalition) is going to represent the entire community, it must be more visible and address those things which concern the community most. Others who have worked within organizations before, know that it takes time to build a strong

organization which can represent a community such as Hilltop.

One of the things that was obvious at the meeting was the large number of new faces. While most were there to attend the meeting, a notable number of new residents appear ready to get involved in making a difference.

Currently, many agencies and organizations serve the Hilltop community. It is hoped that at some point, these diverse groups can come together and make the impact necessary to bring about a positive change. Much can be learned from organizations such as the Hilltop Action Coalition. At the same time, more "grassroots" input is needed before certain decisions are made on behalf of the Hilltop community as a whole. What is for sure is that there is much work to do and the Hilltop Action Coalition seems prepared to do what it can to the community. For more information, you can call 597-4808. Keep up the good work!

YMCA BEGINS "ENCORE" PROGRAM

WHAT: the YWCA of Tacoma/Pierce County announces the establishment of their new ENCORE program. ENCORE is a highly respected national program for women who have undergone breast cancer surgery.

The ENCORE program will offer:

- *INDIVIDUAL TAILORED EXERCISE THERAPIES TO HELP WOMEN RECOVER FLEXIBILITY AND MOTION.
- *INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FROM A COMMUNITY BASED SPECIALIST.
- *INFORMAL PEER SUPPORT GROUPS.

WHERE: YWCA Tacoma/Pierce County
405 Broadway
Tacoma, Washington 98402

When: Beginning March 3, 1993
Classes every Wednesday 12:30-2:30

For further information please contact: Leslie Cummings or
Debra Lambourn at the YWCA (206)272-4181

"CAN WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?"

BY LARRY NORMAN

Rodney King has brought many emotions to all of us. For some, he represents indignation. For others, he represents justified rage. For still others, he represents a beacon of hope.

What ever your perception, I'm sure you will agree that Rodney King's statement of "Can we all get along?" is something we all would like. Here in Tacoma, similar conditions exist which caused the South Central area of Los Angeles to explode into violence. Question is, what are we doing to prevent that from coming here? Do we really think that there is currently a good relationship between the people of Hilltop's streets and the Police Department?

At best, the relationship is strained. What makes matters worse, is that as more and more people are finding their way into Hilltop because of the current economic conditions; more opportunities exist for altercations. These altercations usually end in a heightened sense of friction. Not that a physical altercation takes place, but you can see it in the eyes of everyone.

On one hand, the police see themselves as being justified in their actions. In some cases, I can honestly say that they are. It doesn't help matters when a person is cursing, spitting or being aggressive when an officer has come to question or detain him or her. At the same time, I have personally witnessed questionable, as well as unethical procedure conducted by the police.

No one is correct all the time. Sometimes people on the "hood" are having a bad day, and justifiably so. But don't take it out on a police officer! Someday's a police officer gets tired of having the "objective" changed daily. Again, that does not justify taking your frustrations out on the public.

Yes, Rodney said it best. If we could all realize that we are all trying to just make it, there would be a lot less people "stressin' for free." Maybe we can learn what intolerance breeds by what happened in South Central. As summer quickly approaches, I for one would like to have fun this year, so would my family and friends. Let's get on with the business of getting along. It really doesn't hurt to extend a kind word to another human being. And maybe the kindness that you display to another, will help prevent further violence in our communities here.

PEACE

CITY NEWS RELEASE

Tacoma Community Schools, a cooperative effort of the City of Tacoma, Tacoma School District #10, and many volunteers, provide educational and recreational classes for all ages. A sample of classes are, but not limited to: Aerobics, French cooking, basketball, wreath making, lawn care, kitchen re-design, finger-painting, and much more. Classes are offered Monday through Thursday between 6:30 pm and 8:30 p.m. Most classes are free, although a few classes have a small fee.

The Spring session begins April 12, 1993. Registration begins the week of March 29, 1993. Classes are offered at Arlington Elementary School, Baker Middle School, Gault Middle School, Hunt Middle School, Jason Lee Middle School, Mason Middle School, Meeker Middle School and Stewart Middle School.

Call 591-5066 for more information or visit your local City of Tacoma library and pick up your copy of a Spring brochure.

EDITORIAL: WHAT'S UP?

BY LARRY NORMAN

As if things are not stressful enough on the hood... Now we are asked to sit by and watch as the city spends another 5.1 MILLION DOLLARS on the Sheraton. Not that spending is bad, but please! It is so difficult to get anything done

when working with the system. One begins to understand why so many people are taking "matters into their own hands."

On March 2, at 7:30 p.m., I decided to go down to the public hearing on the Sheraton

I have the opportunity to speak daily and interact with many people who profess Christianity. I must concede, many people who acknowledge themselves as Christians are quietly going about the business of tending the vineyard. There is also a large number of people who I cross paths that make it a point to tell me they are Christians and that they too are about "the Lords work here on Hilltop."

I use to believe that anyone who mentioned God or said they were a Christian, were indeed a Christian. As the years have gone by, I have developed what many would call discernment. This gift allows one to observe a person (through his/her actions), in order to determine where they stand with God and man. Not that I judge anyone. No, discernment is not a judgment; it is a tool God gives man to measure the extent a person is willing to follow God's direction in his/her life. And while no one is perfect (including yours truly!), there are certain basic things that any person (who wishes to follow Christ), must do in his/her everyday life.

It's fairly simple: "Love God with all your heart, and Love your neighbor as yourself." At times I must confess, this is difficult to do. But generally speaking, a Christian should have a basic Love for his God and his fellow man every day of his/her life.

Just having Love is not enough. I will repeat that: JUST HAVING LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH! Love is not a noun, Love is a verb. Love means action. Love is not a person, place or thing. Love means that through our actions, we show Love towards person's, places and things. If there is never any actual work being done, there is little chance of God's Love manifesting in a particular situation.

Let's take... hmm... Hilltop, for example. I receive prayers from many people. Prayer definitely does change things. However, at some point, we must rise from our knees and go forth and make an assessment as to what things need to be done, and that means "work." If our concern are these young people and adults who have "lost their way," why aren't we, as Christians, coming in droves to assist our brethren in their greatest time of need? A few other questions came to mind, if I may:

*Why do so many Christians come to Hilltop on Sunday for church, only to quickly drive away when the service is over, instead of going out to see what they might do to ease the suffering of another right in their midst?

*Why are so many of the children who once attended church, finding their way into the streets with seemingly no where to turn?

*Where is the voice of the Christian lay-person and clergy when people are being deprived of basic civil rights, basic opportunity and at times, life itself?

*Why are so many Christians quick to Pray for you in your endeavor to help those "lost souls in the streets," yet when you ask for physical assistance or even acts of generosity, they often decline?

I really should pause here and go on record as not singling out Christians. Actually, there are many different faiths in the Hilltop community. I really believe that if all the religious community (gangs, if you will) would come together to address issues and really set the standard for working together, the rest of the community would follow.

Let's face it, if Christians really want violence, hunger, homelessness (and your everyday gloom) to cease in this community, it will cease. If Christians (through blatant omission of their Christian duties), allow current conditions to exist, they will.

I have a strong feeling that who ever your God is, he or she won't be very happy with you though. Most of the God's I know really want their followers to do the right thing towards other followers. Hey, do you think that maybe we are all working for the same God? If so, boy is God going to be upset when he returns to the vineyard only to find the fruits of his labor lay un-harvested.

If this short solicitation for resurrection of the believers has touched you in any way, please call me. Again, I am not perfect. I may miss your call a few times or forget to call you. I may even get busy and speak short with you. But rest assured, if you are coming to work, I can point you in a direction. Call me at 272-8133. Let's do lunch or phone tag, I'm game if you are!

PEACE

MAKING PLANS

BY A LOT OF FOLKS!

Tonight I received a phone call from a good friend of mine. We were talking about some things that we should do here in the neighborhood. I realized that most of my time is spent on ideas to make things better. But I am not alone.

Many people spend a great deal of quality time dreaming about what Hilltop could be like; more parks, cleaner streets and alleys, our children attending school on a regular basis, more jobs, safer streets for everyone, and on and on. I do not believe these are lofty expectations. Considering that the majority of people who live here are decent folk, it isn't too much to expect to have basic needs met.

Here are just a few of the ideas that are swirling around in the minds of some of your neighbors:

- *A MINI-MALL
- *COMMUNITY OWNED CLEAN-UP COMPANY
- *OUT PATIENT CLINICS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HILLTOP
- *A COMMUNITY TRANSIT SYSTEM
- *A COMMUNITY RUN OUTREACH/RESOURCE AND JOB CENTER
- *A HILLTOP PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

If you have any ideas of your own, please don't be shy, we can use them. Let's look at Hilltop as a big puzzle. In order to see the big picture, we need to find all the pieces and put them in place. Besides, puzzles are fun, right?

SPECIAL THANKS

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO THIS MONTH, THAT I WOULD LIKE TO JUST SAY; TO ANYONE I HAVE SPOKEN TO OR MET WITH FOR THE FIRST TIME, THANKS! YOUR INPUT AND CONCERN IS INVALUABLE TO ALL THAT IS GOING ON POSITIVE HERE IN THE AREA. LET US KEEP THIS COMMUNICATION AND HEART-FELT DESIRE (TO DO THE RIGHT THING) GOING. I AM BEGINNING TO THINK WE HAVE REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC. I ENCOURAGE ALL TO BRING WHATEVER RESOURCES YOU HAVE AVAILABLE, TO THE TABLE. YOUR TALENTS, SKILLS, EVEN FINANCES ARE MUCH NEEDED. AS ALWAYS, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.
PEACE

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP YET?
WHY NOT?

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HILLTOP YET?

WHY NOT?

FOLKS, IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS THING GOING, WE HAVE TO HAVE PAPER, TONER, AND ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP OUR EQUIPMENT IN REPAIR. FIFTY CENTS A MONTH CAN HELP KEEP US ROLLING. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A JOB FOR SOME YOUNG PERSON TO DELIVER THE NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH. DOES THIS SOUND LIKE A WORTH WHILE PROJECT TO YOU? IT JUST MAKES SENSE TO SUPPORT THOSE THINGS WHICH SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY. YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN KEEP THE WORD FLOWING.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO MY SISTER, DONNA:

THANK YOU FOR COMING HOME AND TAKING CARE OF MOM. I'M SORRY I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO SPEND WITH YOU, BUT MY LOVE FOR YOU IS UNDYING. I HOPE THAT WE CAN SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME TOGETHER SOON. HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME! MUCH LOVE.

YOUR BABY BRO

Happenings on Hilltop can be found at the following locations starting the first week of each month:

Location	Address	Location	Address
Safeway	11th & Sheridan	7-11	19th & K Street
A.M./P.M.	19th & K Street	Kentucky Fried Chicken	6th & Sprague
Maytag Laundromat	6th & Sprague	Pinches Deli	6th & Division
K Street Bar & Grill	11th & K Street	Lucky 7	9th & K Street
Sam and Terry's Barber Shop	17th & K Street	Northwest Dispatch	1108 South 11th Street
UTRA	1023 So. K Street	Your Fish House	1814 So. K Street
Silver Screen Video	2024 #G 6th Ave.	Southern Kitchen	6th & Sprague
MLK Center	1424 Tacoma Ave. So., Suite A		
University of Puget Sound, Cafeteria		Tacoma Community College, Cafeteria	

* Indicates new arrivals.

If you are a business, or organization and would like to have Happenings on Hilltop for your customers, call Larry Norman at 272-8133. We will be more than happy to get you started. Please note; the views contained in some of the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the staff of Happenings on Hilltop.

Important Phone Numbers

Here are some important phone numbers to help you in the event that you are experiencing problems. Cut them out and keep them Handy.

EMERGENCY (POLICE, FIRE) - 911
 Crack Hotline - 475-CRAK
 Hilltop Action Coalition - 597-4808
 Safe Streets - 272-6824
 Crime Prevention - 591-5883
 Abandoned Autos - 591-5926
 Refuse Department - 591-5544
 Recycling Department - 565-5955
 Larry Norman (Editor) - 272-8133



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Now you can have Happenings On Hilltop all year. It's the easiest way to keep informed about your neighborhood without leaving home!
 For a donation of just 6.00 a year.

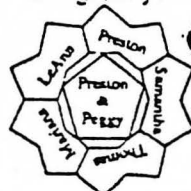
Send check or money order to:
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 2320 S. Wilkeson
 Tacoma, Washington 98405

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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Typesetting: This publication is created using Aldus
 PageMaker®

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide inspiration, information and direction to the residents, organizations and businesses on Hilltop.