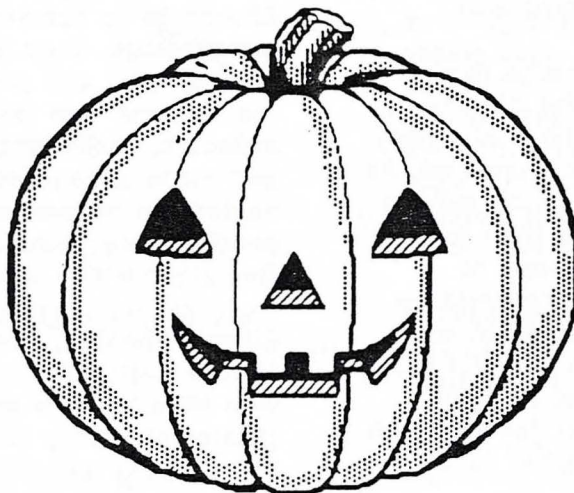


Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

Volume 2, Number 14

October 1992



THEM COLORS ARE A CHANGIN'

by larry norman

Just one look outside and you know it's fall. The leaves are changing as mother nature prepares her children for a long awaited rest. The weather hasn't taken a turn for the worst yet. There is still time to wear those shorts and cute outfits that attracted so much attention during the summer. But gradually people are pulling out the overcoats, rain boots and umbrellas. If you have been following your newspapers, you are probably seeing items such as sweaters topping the sales list.

Let us also not forget to winterize our homes and automobiles. Make sure the pipes are wrapped and the antifreeze has been checked. There is nothing worse than being stranded on a road somewhere or coming home to a basement full of water. That is unless you are homeless and don't have a car. These situations present a different set of problems.

This is probably a good time to remind ourselves that in spite of the gloomy outlook on the economy, there are many who are less fortunate than ourselves. As the holidays approach, let us be mindful that it is still better to give than to receive. We can still bring hope to another person by just sharing what we have. Granted, it's not easy when we ourselves are feeling the pinch. But I have a feeling that whoever is running the universe will look rather favorably on those who elect to help his/her fellow man.

As always, we are in need of paper, toner (for the copy machine) and your prayers. Last month we could only print 500 copies and we had to cut back on the number of pages. We still count it a blessing to have the opportunity to bring this newsletter to those we can reach. So please, do what you can. I will be happy to pick up any donations if you will call me at 272-8133.

Now, let's get rolling and see what's HAPPENING ON HILLTOP!!!

HAC MEMBERS GIVE AREA'S 2&3 A FACE LIFT

by larry norman

If you've driven down the streets between South 27th to 13th and Tacoma Avenue to K Street, you are aware that the area could use a face lift. No, the people who reside in that area of the Hill aren't that bad, but the amount of garbage, drug needles and overgrown lots are a visible concern.

On September 19 at 10:00am, 12 to 15 area residents gathered at the Family Life Church to do something about their surroundings. They were asked to bring gloves, tools and pick-up trucks. Though the turn out was less than organizers expected, those who participated dug in and made a commendable effort. 5 trucks hauled out twelve loads of garbage. Many needles were found and discarded. Overall, the day was a success.

Clinton Spencer, Area 2/3 representative for the Hilltop Action Coalition, along with Mike Williams and Reverend Penton (Pastor of Family Life Church) assisted in coordinating and directing the group.

I talked briefly with Clinton regarding his role as a community organizer. He has lived in the Hilltop community for 35 years, owns a home, raises a beautiful family and works for Boeing. Clinton has seen first hand many changes come to his neighborhood during the period he has lived here. Many of these changes concern him. "What used to be a clean and beautiful neighborhood, has turned to streets with drug selling, needles everywhere and garbage in the

streets that belongs in trash cans."

Clinton stresses a hope that is felt by many residents; "Let's get this place cleaned up and have pizza delivery again!" It may sound over-simplified, but something as basic as pizza delivery is a luxury that we deserve:

Hat's off to Clinton Spencer and those who are willing to take that extra step and make this community a place we can all be proud of. Let's keep it going!!!
PEACE.

STOP



P

LIVING IN FEAR



BOB SMITH'S K-9 ASSOCIATION: TAKING A BITE OUT OF IGNORANCE AND CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

by Larry Norman

It is 6:30 P.M.. Bob Smith is in a vacant parking lot across the street from his office on 10th street. He is working with about a half dozen people who have come from as far away as Kent to learn from Bob how to effectively train their dog. As I sat and quietly watched, it was obvious that Bob Smith was doing more than just teaching people how to handle animals. He was teaching people about handling themselves through their animals.

Bob's first exposure to working with

animals came when he was twelve years old. He had to have an operation on his left arm that required a cast. While his was not allowed to leave the house, his mother bought him a Belgian Shepherd. As Bob spent more and more time with his dog, he began to understand that dogs knew exactly what was going on in a humans world. It was humans that didn't understand animals.

At twenty years old, Bob was drafted into the Army. During the twenty-one years he spent in the service, Bob never left his passion for working with dogs. "Both my father and grandfather worked with and trained animals, so I guess it's in my blood," Bob told me rather shyly. It is with good reason that Bob has chosen this career (As I sat and watched, I noticed how even the most uncontrollable of the animals present, needed only a glancing stare or firm word from Bob and the situation was back in order).

In 1973, Bob began buying, training and selling dogs. Many of these animals people had given up on or no longer had use for. Bob would patiently give the animal the necessary patience, love and guidance and soon, an animal that was destined to be put to sleep, was on his or her way to a new family.

In 1986, Bob retired from the Army in Fort Laughton, Oklahoma. There he started a kennel for about one year. At its peak, Bob had up to twenty animals. "I train the dogs for sociability. Phase one is sociability with other animals (dogs, cats, etc.). Phase two is sociability with family members. Phase three is sociability with strangers and understanding the difference between a stranger (friend of the family) and a strange stranger."

In 1987, Bob delivered seven dogs to the Rosenberg Kennel here in Tacoma. Soon after that, he began working at the kennel. In 1988, Bob started what is his present business, K-9 Association.

The red business card catches your eye.

The phrase "Socialize not Euthanize" really catches your eye. I read through one of his fliers. It was rather ironic that the location of Bob's office and the goal of his Association are both addressing concerns that have been on the mind of all residence here on Hilltop. Bob's program assists people so they can:

- *Stop living in fear
- *Take a bite out of crime
- *Promote loyalty, protection and peace of mind

Bob also feels that many of his techniques could assist in socialization of inmates and youth who have a difficult time adjusting to the norms of this society. "I not only train animals to live together with one another, I help people to appreciate the differences in each other, rather than use those differences as a reason for violence or behavior that ultimately ends in a negative situation for that person and all those around him or her."

Bob pointed out at the students that were working with their animals. There were male, female, black , white, Italian. They all had dogs that had different needs that required attention, much like us humans. And Bob patiently worked with the owners to guide them through the frustration of trying to correct negative behavior in their pets, kind of like us humans (interesting isn't it?). Bob affectionately calls this group his "RAINBOW COALITION".

I realize some of my readers may draw the conclusion that I am putting our condition as humans on the same level as that of canines. Please give me more credit than that! I would like to say though, that there are some basic things that Bob brought out regarding basic needs and if attended to (whether you are animal or human), you stand a good chance of altering negative situations. I am not saying that people should just roll over and stop being themselves. On the contrary, there are still many issues that require as many people as possible to stand up and be counted.

Maybe with a little help and guidance, many of us (animals and human beings) can find ways to channel some of our aggression and anger into positive directions that we can all benefit from.

If you or someone you know could maybe benefit from a chat with Bob Smith, why don't you give him a call at 572-5508. If you are in the market for alternative security measures, this may be just what you're looking for. Let us not forget, Dog is man's best friend, or at least he used to be. Thank you Bob Smith for reminding us of this. Let's make it safe out here for everyone.

LATE NIGHT HOOPS COME TO EAST SIDE

by larry norman

Very quietly, there is a movement going on at the local recreation centers, a move towards staying open late to accommodate the ever growing population of our children who are out and about at hours after dark. It is quite easy to say to a teen-ager today "You need to stay home. There is nothing out there but trouble." For whatever the reason, those words have often fallen on young rebellious ears and the result has been a large population of young people out at night with practically nothing to do.

For some time now, The Downtown YMCA has been offering a Friday night program for youngsters. All in all, it was successful. Young people had a place to go on Friday nights with both recreation and supervision. The concern for youngsters on the East side is that many of them wouldn't be welcome at Late Night by some of our youngsters from here on Hilltop. As unneighbourley as this

may sound, it is a harsh reality of life today that must be addressed.

Reggie Wright has been working for the East Side Neighborhood Center a while now. You may have seen him around town driving a UPS delivery truck. Well, he gave that up to give back something to kids, himself. A local product, Reggie grew up on Hilltop (right down the street from my mothers house to be exact) and attended both Hunt and Wilson. His skills in basket ball earned him an opportunity to play at Central Washington University. This also assisted Reggie in earning his degree in Recreation/Liesure Services.

Coming back to work in your home-town is a tough task for any one. Reggie is currently the coordinator of the late night recreation programs offered through the East Side . Currently, there is an adult basketball league that has begun. The league plays Thursday and Friday, from 6:30-11:00pm, at Gault, Lincoln and Mount Tahoma. An adult is considered eighteen and over.

The league has already begun, so there isn't much chance of you old, rusty, dusty hoopsters getting involved. But you can get your young people involved in what looks to a great opportunity for fun, growth and learning to be had by all. Take a look at this list:

WHO: ALL TEEN-AGERS AGES 11 THRU 17

WHAT: NIGHT RECREATION FOR YOUNGSTERS

WHERE: PORTLAND AVENUE RECREATION CENTER, JUST OFF 44TH AND PORTLAND AVENUE

WHEN: STARTING OCTOBER 16, 1992, FORM 6-12AM.

WHY: TO OFFER SAFE AND FUN ALTERNATIVES TO HANGING OUT AT NIGHT.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES: ROLLER SKATING, DANCING, BASKETBALL.

REGULAR
SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE YOUTH FOR
CHRIST/BREAKING
FREE SPONSORED BY SAFESTREETS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU CAN
CONTACT REGGIE WRIGHT AT 474-5673,
OR 591-5052.

EDITORIAL

by larry norman

What is friendship? I mean real friendship; the stuff that allows people to overcome any obstacle to maintain a relationship with a particular person. I have had the opportunity to experience many different relationships with people from various walks of life. Lately, many of these relationships have been strained. I have had to re-evaluate many of my relationships and my findings are rather interesting.

The people who I wish to put the most distance between, tend to be those with whom I had similar obstacles to address in my life as well. Often, it is hard to view your short comings up close. But I find that if I continually remind myself that it is for my own good that I maintain these somewhat painful relationships, I will also experience growth as a human being.

In contrast, the people with whom I wish to keep close to me, tend to be ones who are supportive of me. It isn't fair to surround yourself with just people who say how great of a person you are, when you know yourself that there is personal work to do. I try to be careful not to have too many people who fit this mold. Not that I don't appreciate a flattering word from time to time. I also appreciate blunt honesty. Sometimes what I don't want to hear, is what I need to hear. A friend who is honest almost to the point of always hurting ones feelings, could be

the one person who can help make sense of things when life gets out of focus.

I guess what I wish to say is that friendship has been bought and sold many times throughout the years. And with greed as strong as it is today, many good friendships will be bought and sold in a similar fashion, much like the S&L scandal. Friendship is many things. I am finding that sometimes I ask people to be something that they are not, or give something they are not capable to give. Rather than dismiss this person as "not being a good friend," I find it is a lot better for everyone if I just let people be a friend in their own way. And you know what, it works for everyone!

With things the way they are now, we all could use as many close, good friends as possible. The reality is that we may find just two or three good friends in a lifetime. We can increase our chances of having more honest friends in our life by treating people the way we want to be treated.

Honest friendship is worth its weight in gold. I, for one, do not wish to squander this treasure. Nor should you. Is there someone who you've been close to for years, but because there have been words our a misunderstanding, you aren't speaking to one another? What if you or that person were to die before either of you had the opportunity to say "I'm Sorry." Believe me, that hurts. So let's give our friendships the time they deserve.

PEACE

PACIFIC COAST FORD 

"It's a matter of pride"

MARTY

Office: 952 7700 Res:

SOUND FORD. A SOUND PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

by larry norman

Not everyone follows professional football. If you are one who does, then maybe you remember a player named Floyd Little who played for the Denver Broncos back in the 70's. During his tenure with the team. Floyd established himself as a leader and a person whom others could depend on.

After his football career, Floyd took those same qualities into the world of automotive dealerships. He started out in California and a couple of years ago, moved his organization to the Pacific Northwest. Since that time, Floyd has built a dealership that even his employees speak highly of.

I had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Little this month. I had been looking for a truck so that I could transport area youth on activities. I was surprised to find that Mr. Little has been addressing issues that involve our youth for quite some time. He was speaking at local schools while he was in Denver and California. Here locally, he has been involved in a tremendous way with many of the schools in the Federal Way school district as well as outlying schools.

Floyd's message is also heard by many rehabilitation programs. He is also on the Board of Directors at the Federal Way Boys and Girls Club. With such a busy itinerary devoted to making a difference, it is easy for one to forget that he also owns and operates Pacific Coast Ford in Federal Way.

I asked Floyd about the message he delivers when he speaks. "I address the concerns of each individual group. The things I speak on at a rural high school may not be relevant at a high school in the inner city." During our conversation, I was certainly listening as Floyd explained his message and why he puts it out there

the way he does.

"I want to inspire kids about the future." Floyd makes no bones about being straight forward with people and that it just takes plain hard work and desire to get where you want to go. "I grew up just as hard as these kids today. I know what it took for me to rise above my situation. I didn't expect any favors from anyone. I tell kids and adults that success is a combination attitude and direction. Kids have got to set goals for themselves."

Here are a few tips Floyd graciously passed on during our conversation:

- * With consistency, comes success.
- * If you want, I can show you how to make a job into a career.
- * Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land amongst the stars.
- * The person who succeeds, is the one who thinks he can.

There was much more knowledge Floyd shared with me during our brief talk. If you, your group or organization would like to talk to him about speaking, why not contact him at 952-7700. And if by chance you are in the market for a good new or used vehicle, Floyd can help you there also. He has slowly built a reputation for giving good, fair and honest service to all his customers, regardless of race or social status. Speaking with his staff, they all felt that this was one of the best work experiences they've had. "Floyd is a good man and he works hard for his customers as well as his employee's."

So if you do go by Pacific Ford, tell Floyd or Marty that you heard about them from Happenings On Hilltop!

Thank you Floyd Little for sharing your world with our readers. And thank you for caring enough to give back some of the knowledge you have been blessed with. May you and your endeavors continue to prosper.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

by larry norman

To all my friends down in South Central Los Angeles:

I Love you all and keep the faith.

Dave, Irene and the kids:

Let's turn Tacoma On and Enlighten them!

Mom and the girls:

Thanks for hangin in there for me. You're wonderful.

Preston and family:

The greater the Love, the greater the challenge.

My Babies and their mom:

Oh well, it's a package deal I guess.

Lemonade Posse:

It's time to get busy!!!

Barb:

I'll always Love ya. Abide in Peace, always.

HILLTOP/EASTSIDE:

Get ready! A change is on the way!!!

AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO JOHN CLARK WHO WILL BE DOING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. WELCOME ABOARD!!!

THEOS

- *COMMUNITY/GROUP/NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION
- *MEDIATION
- *CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- *CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- *SELF-ESTEEM/MOTIVATION DEVELOPMENT

LARRY NORMAN (206)272-8133

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:
Happenings On Hilltop
1809 South 25th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98405

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



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