

Happenings On Hilltop

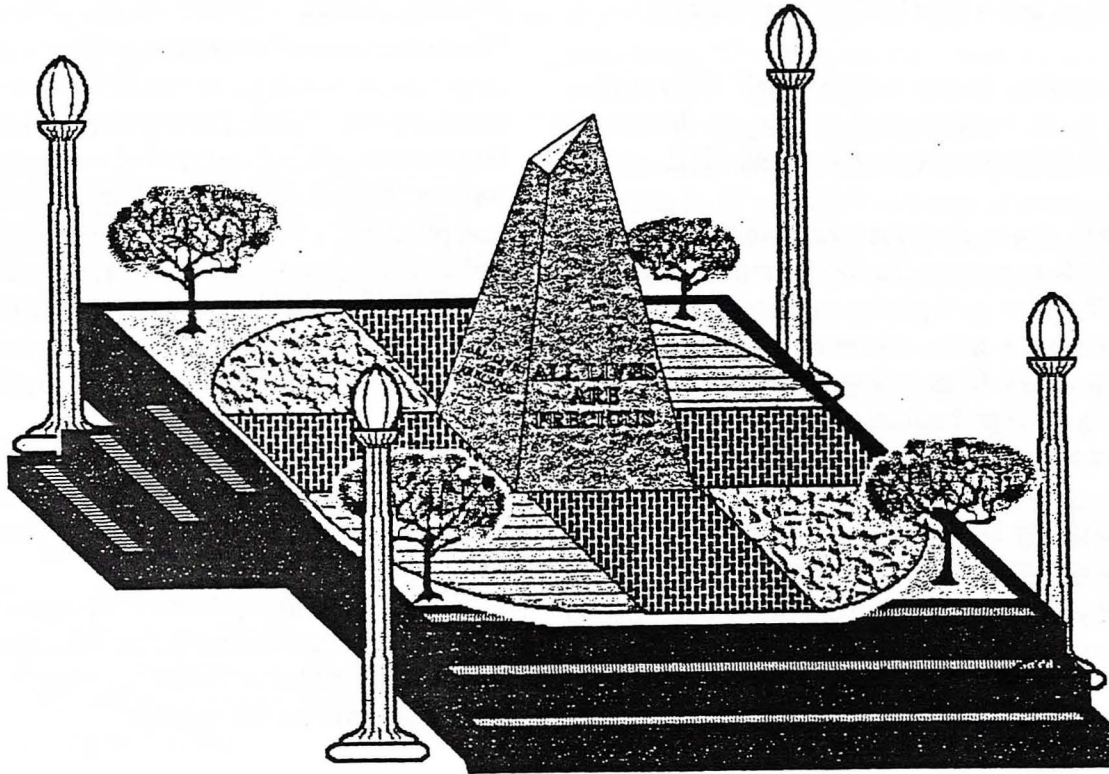
Hilltop Neighborhood

50¢
DONATION

Volume 2, Number 16

December 1992

ALL LIVES ARE PRECIOUS



Cover

Artist perception of proposed Park Monument project, surrounded by scenes of the community.

.....
PEACE!!!

Is it December already? OK., I know it's December. As a matter of fact, it is now almost 1:00 a.m., December 4th, and I am at work in Seattle, trying to finish up the December issue of HOH!!! Shhhhhh! Don't tell anyone. This is supposed to be a professional looking newsletter. Never fear. The trusty staff of Happenings On Hilltop will cover my hind quarters again and we shall have the issue out for your reading pleasure in a day or so.

I trust everyone has had an opportunity to get your shopping done. I realize for some, there may be no shopping for presents this year. That is a sad reality of our society. Why should any person go without at this time of year (especially)? I know things are tight, but can't we pinch a penny or two a little harder? Sure we can!

Last month, needless to say, was "WOW!" If you still haven't gotten a November issue, we may be able to print you up one. Call Preston for details at 383-1252.

A special thank you to all those who have been working around the clock to prepare the soil for the seeds about to be planted. There are going to be a number of Christmas presents given to the entire community during December, so be looking out for fliers telling you of upcoming events. See, in order to find out what's going on, your going to have to stay with us, 'cause we move sorta fast!

There is also plenty to get involved in. Check with local Boy's Clubs and centers (like our own People's Center, hint!) to find out how you may participate.

Well, I'm pretty tired now and I hope we don't have too many runs tonight! Bless each and everyone and We'll see ya in January.

PEACE!

If you are interested in getting a copy of all previous issues of Happenings On Hilltop, the cost is \$28.50. If you would like to have it by Christmas, you're going to have to hurry, Preston and his elves are very busy this time of year. Call him for more details. So put away the snow shovel, take off that jacket, get a cup of (whatever) and enjoy another issue of HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!!!

by LARRY NORMAN

I almost forgot, we are now two years old!!! Our first issue came out in December 1990. If I can find a copy around here somewhere, I'll throw it in with this month's issue. And for those of you who have been wanting to subscribe, but couldn't find the subscription form, it's right on the back, every month. Share it with a friend. Oh Yes! To Bill & Cathy Charles, my original news partners, thank you for helping start this positive movement! I love you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Norman:

"With a few minutes to spare before heading out the door to work, I sat down at the table and picked up the November issue of HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP. I didn't know how it got to our house and thinking it was another piece of junk, I nearly threw it into the garbage. I began reading it and was moved by much of what was written. I heard sadness and despair. I heard frustration and pleading. I heard a sense of being overwhelmed at the depth and the immensity of the numerous problems that run through our society. More importantly and with thankfulness, I also heard empathy, courage, hopefulness, desire, challenge, commitment, and caring."

..."This has become my community (a long way from my childhood), and the drug dealers and slum lords can't have it. There is great sorrow, but there is also great joy!"

..."It seems that the battle never changes-only the battlefields, from the streets, the jails, the classroom, the work place, the board rooms and every where in between. Will there ever be any respite?"

"Then, from somewhere, comes a voice such as yours that says there is hope and there are people who care that Hilltop and its rainbow of residents rise above the squalor and say we count, we have rights, and we can affect change".

"I am often reminded of the story of the little girl at the beach picking up and throwing back into the ocean the sand dollars washed to shore with the waves. A man told her there were too many, that she couldn't save all of

them, and that it really didn't make a difference anyway. As she threw another sand dollar into the ocean she simply said, "To this one, it makes a difference".

..."We must continue to encourage one another and implore others to join us with their skills and abilities at the water's edge to return sand dollars, one at a time, back into the ocean. We have to believe that what we do does make a difference, even if only to a few. God knows and blesses".

"I will pray that you will not tire, that you will see some of the fruits of your labor and not become discouraged. The Hill, the greater community, and the world need more of the likes of you and Alberta. Thank-you for your efforts!"

Most sincerely,

CAROL WATSON

ROLLIN' WITH J.C.

by J.C.

This month I rolled into the theater and went to see Malcolm X, the great motion picture by Spike Lee. I entered the theater expecting to it to be full of brothers and sisters, but as I took my seat I realized that there were as many whites as well as African Americans. I could hear small private conversations and comments from others in the audience and I wondered if whites were offended by some of the remarks. I guess not, because there were no problems.

I have read the Autobiography Malcolm X and I thought that I gotten all that I could of the X experience. I was wrong. As I sat and watched the movie, I was able to see some things that I had overlooked. One of the main things I overlooked was that this story relates directly to the problems we are facing on Hilltop.

When I look at many of our Hilltop youth, I see a little Malcolm in them. What I mean is, they share a common bond with him because they are doing the same things that Malcolm did in his younger days; they hustle, smoke chronic, sell drugs, and most of them have been to jail or prison.

I have talked to many Hilltop youths and it is clear that they are intelligent.

I often wonder what could become of them if they were given an equal chance or if they lived in a different environment. I can picture some of them as doctors, lawyers, teachers of our youths and entering the business world. I know that these guys are smart just to be able to do what they do. There are people who have been to college who don't possess the basic salesman skills that they use on a daily basis on the street. Just think what would happen if they were motivated to use their skills to take them in a different direction. They can become educated in different areas. But for white society, they would become dangerous weapons.

Our government doesn't want that to happen so they make it very hard for them. That is why we as people must unite together and help ourselves. If we don't, no one else will.

The movie also showed me that so many of our youths belonging to gangs is not negative, it is positive. It shows that they have a want and a need to identify with something. If I was to start a movement for change, they would be the first group I would work with. Lets face it, they are young, intelligent and they have nothing to loose and the most to gain, just like many of the followers Malcolm X. If you think in terms of numbers, these youths have more members than any other black organization in Tacoma. Just think what power they could possess if they all were to unite.

Since the movie has been released, I have noticed that the people in Hilltop have become closer. Last week there was even a house party in Hilltop and there was no violence toward one another. Even more surprising, the police came but did not close down the party or take anyone to jail. I'm not sure if the movie X had anything to do with it but I get the feeling that the people of Hilltop are tired of hearing about deaths and arrests.

If you haven't seen X, I advise you to go see it. The movie is a little long but it is a story about a man that African Americans can not afford to miss.

This movie gets three blunts, some stunts, two stogies and I'm out'a here!

TIME FOR A CHANGE

by J.C.

If you haven't heard, it is very possible that K Street in the Hilltop area of Tacoma may soon be changed to Martin Luther King Boulevard. At least That is what many Hilltop residents want to happen. Since the beginning of the streets existence, it has been known as K Street. But for some time, Hilltop leaders have been voicing their opinion on the matter.

At a Tacoma City Council meeting earlier this week, the matter was brought to the floor. Tony Wright, a local African American business owner says, "Although the name change would not end all the problems in the area, it would serve as a foundation in which we can build on".

Steven Smith, an African American and resident in the area says, "Renaming K Street will not make a big enough impact on the community". He feels an educational center would be more service to the youths of Hilltop and would have more impact on solving the problems.

African Americans were not the only people at the meeting voicing a positive opinion on the change. One white K Street business owner says that there should be a Martin Luther King Boulevard but it should not be K Street. He feels that for historical reasons K Street should not be changed. But he urges the city to change I 705 to Martin Luther King Way.

Another white male commented that the name of K Street should be changed because Hilltop has a large African American community. At the same time, there is no trace of any monument to represent the achievements of African American heroes. It is about time the city gives the area something to represent their achievers.

If you were to travel around the country, you would find that there are hundreds of cities with Martin Luther King Boulevard. Las Vegas, Atlanta, and Seattle have Martin

Luther King Boulevard. The question is, why is Tacoma always the last city to follow the trends of cities? If we can answer this question, then maybe Tacoma will begin to grow into a booming metropolis.

But as long as Tacoma is content with the way things are and no changes are made, the city will continue to plummet. If K Street is to be changed to Martin Luther King Boulevard, it will take the help of the people. If you are in favor of change you can help by calling the office of city council women Delores Silas. Just let her know that you are in favor of the change. I'm sure that she will more than happy to hear from you. Support the movement.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for

Saturday Outreach Spectacular
for Middle School Youth

S.O.S. WILL OFFER:

Life skills straining, sports, recreation, art, dance, drama, tutoring, special events, positive role models, guest speakers, and lunch.

BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Opportunity to be a mentor and role model.
Insight into the needs of youth today.
Enhanced problem solving skills.
Volunteer training, and great fun.

TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE:

Trinity Presbyterian Church 1619 6th Ave. Tacoma
December 12, 1992

9:00am-1:30pm (lunch included)

Presented by Outreach Coordinator: Jean Watley
Richardson, Motivation Speaker

For more information call Dee at 272-2958

If you wish to submit an article to the Hilltop Newsletter, you can mail it to:

Happenings On Hilltop

C/O Preston Ward

1809 So. 25th St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

Or call Larry Norman

Please send your comments and suggestions!!! Please have your articles in by the 15th of each month.

Note: Pictures and Art work can now be put in our newsletter. We will try to return your work as soon as possible.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

I'd like to take this time to thank Larry Norman and Happenings On Hilltop for last months issue: "A Life So Precious". I'm sure that it touched the hearts of many, such as myself.

I lost my brother Andre' in January 1991. I miss him so much. It's hard to put into words the pain you feel when a loved one is lost, but somehow you lift yourself up and you have to adjust and continue with your life. It's not easy. There are times when I have felt alone in feeling this way.

Friends like Larry really do mean a lot. I love you. Thanks for being there making a difference.

Shanntella

PUT THIS IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT

REMEMBER ME?

My name is Gossip.
I have no respect for Justice.
I maim without killing.
I break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cunning, malicious and gather strength with age.
The more I am quoted, the more I'm believed.
I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless.
They cannot protect themselves against me, because I
have no name and no face.
To track me down is impossible.
The harder you try, the more elusive I become.
I am nobody's friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never quite the same.
I topple governments and wreck marriages.
I ruin careers, cause sleepless nights, heartache and
indigestion.
I spawn suspicion and generate grief.
I make innocent people cry in their pillow.
Even my name hisses.
I am called Gossip,
Office gossip, Shop gossip, Party gossip.
I make headlines and headaches.
Before you repeat a story ask yourself, is it true?
Is it fair? Is it necessary? If not-SHUT UP !!!!!

WHO IS THEY?

Have you heard of the terrible family They,
And dreadful, venomous things They say?
Why, half the gossip under the sun,
If you trace it back, you will find it begun
In that wretched House of They.
A numerous family, I am told.
And it's genealogical tree is old;
For even since Adam and Eve began
To build up the curious race of man.
Has existed the House of They.
Gossip-mongers and spreaders of lies,
Horrid people whom all despise!
Repeat queer tales about women and men
And quote the House of They.
They live like lords, and never labor;
A They's one task is to watch his neighbor,
And tell his business and private affairs
To the world at large; they are sowers of tares-
These folks in the House of They
It is wholly useless to follow a They
With a whip or a gun, for he slips away
And into his house, where you cannot go;
It is locked and bolted and guarded so-
This terrible House of They.
Though you cannot get in, yet they go out,
And spread their villainous tales about;
Of all the rascals under the sun
Who have come to punishment, never one
Belonged to the House of They.

I&I

EDITORIAL

by THE HILLTOP COMMUNITY

SHORT AND SWEET:

ALL LIVES ARE PRECIOUS!!!

THERAPY

by MRS. RIVERA

Have the psychologists and therapists gone crazy? Today, in an endeavor to find a cure for the common ailment of good-old fashioned discouragement or depression, they glibly diagnose the person as being manic and prescribe tranquilizers to somehow ease the pain. At one time, this pain was eased by a hug from a supportive mate or friend, or simply being hired for a productive job did the trick.

Love is out, drugs are in. It matters little if they are bought on the street, or prescribed by a doctor. Today, it is not acceptable to "Love too much."

1 Thes. 5:11 says: "Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another..." What we need is simply to get back to GOD. We have drifted so far away from the "real" cure. We have replaced GOD and LOVE with Therapy and Pills; and it has the souls of mankind wanting.

UNTITLED

by Laura's Mom

Education is a hot topic these days, problems are plentiful, solutions are difficult to agree on. But everyone agrees that the public school system is drowning.

Why, and how to fix it, are tough to nail down. Investing more money is nifty idea, but the government can't afford it, and neither can the communities. The money just isn't there.

Some of the proposals that have been bouncing around Olympia are good ones. For instance, removing the complicated requirements imposed on teachers by the government is a good start, the problem is that all these great ideas are on the slow train of bureaucracy. Our children can't afford to wait.

Reform from within is our most viable and immediate option. It's time to reclaim our schools. It's time to wake up. "The Government" is us. The schools belong to us. We are responsible for their quality, content, and effectiveness.

Our children are too important to continue passing the buck year after year. Particularly in Hilltop.

Because of the cultural diversity that we have in our community, we have the unique opportunity to provide a rich education to the children in our neighborhood schools. And prove that economically disadvantaged doesn't have to mean educationally disadvantaged.

The languages, skills, hobbies, and life experiences of the people in our community are a bottomless resource that has not been tapped. Imagine that everyone in our community shared their precious individuality with our children. What a beautiful change we could make in our schools, from the inside out. What a full and wide range experience we could give them.

We can't wait on legislation any longer. If we want our schools to work for us, then we have to work for them. It's a simple matter of survival.

WORLD PROBLEMS AND MAN

by Harjas

The world's greatest problem is man, and man's problem is his fellowman. Man is by far the most dominating creature on earth. Man is also the most quarrelsome and the most deceiving creature. Man is quite proficient in saying one thing while doing another, a master at camouflaging his true feeling and intentions. This makes man the most unpredictable and the most dangerous creature on earth. Generally speaking, man is a calculating, scheming, practical little demon. He often succeeds in deceiving even himself!

It seems strange indeed that individually man seems peace-loving while, observing mankind collectively, it is obvious the many sections are ready to strike at one another at the drop of a hat. Nobody wants war, but everybody gets ready just in case somebody else should start something. This is a problem all right, a basic one, one that manifests in many ways. There is the widespread violence among the various races, cultures, and ideologies of mankind, the almost global state of war in varying degrees of intensity, along with under nourishment and actual starvation of many millions of human beings. These problems and many others, representing the precarious state of affairs man has created for himself, all have their particular causes in people - more especially in the way mankind thinks or in the way man uses mind. In his thinking and in his subsequent actions, man has been and still is rather selfish and intolerant in very many ways. Ironically, whereas this selfish intolerance was probably

caused by man's urge for survival, the present forms and magnitude of selfish intolerance deeply undermine and threaten this very survival.

Intolerance, with its attendant agents of intemperance, ignorance, and selfishness, is the main cause that has set man against man, race against race, nation against nation. Intolerance has created separation, division; it has built barriers and boundaries, and the very apparent significance of it all is the multitude of more or less intense troubles of many kinds.

If this apparent significance seems bad, the true significance is worse. In a sense, as man separates himself from his fellow-man, to that extent does he separate himself from God - for God is with all. And, in a sense, as man divides the world and humanity, so does he divide God, for God pertains to all. Again, each division, being but a part of the whole, has but a part of God, who created it all, permeates the whole.

Next month will be on Perspective

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Shanntella Lamar (for everything, girlfriend!)

ALL THE MOTHERS ON HILLTOP!!!!

Boy Scouts Troop #104 and Nathan Bowling

Preston & Co. (as usual)

Gary, Monty, Karl, Brian and The Living Stones (get it guys?), Beeb, Fly, T, Mama G, Dangerous, Melli-Mel, Delores, J.C., Mark (and the wood rats), J.J, J-Bird, Whitney, Walley, Terance

Kentrell (can you hook up my do?)

T-Money (I'm proud of you)

The Safeway Posse

Lisa Lightnin' Fingers

All the folks in the crib I don't know

23rd Street posse (let's keep it clean!)

Linda and Ruben (I love ya'll)

Cathy

Lisa & Mike (it's time to hook up)

Genelle Birk, Elton Gatewood (the city posse!)

Alberta (see, you made the big time!)

My posse at The Fish House

The Southern Kitchen

Tori and KFC

Moon (do you change your name during the day?)

Colleen, Nik and Don (it's still a package deal)

The Waller Clan (in the HOUSE, oh yea!)

Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred (I bet I still missed one)

SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT (I know, I know, I'm

workin on it!)

Mom and the Girls (drapes by Christmas?)

George Foster, Seattle P.I. (and posse)

Debbie Abe, Morning News Tribune (ditto, girlfriend!)

All my creditors who have been so patient with me!

The South Central Posse. (keep the faith, much LOVE)

My Baby BO.

George & Dino

Delores Silas

And my boy P-West. You already know!

And of course, GOD!!!

If you should have been on this list, please call Preston and let him know at once. He'd really love to hear from you!

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PRESENT THIS COUPON AT TIME OF ESTMATE.

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.