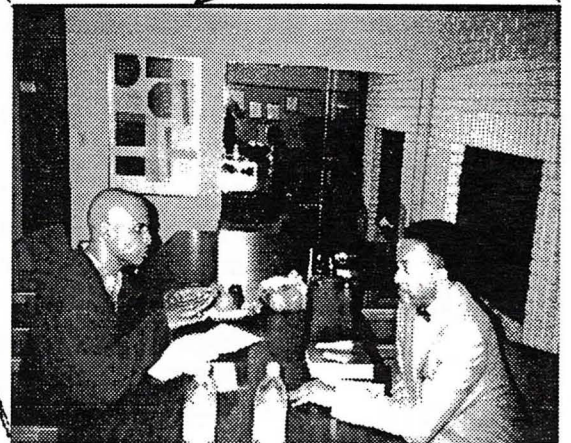


# Remember us?



.50

Well Sir, I think we're almost done with the NEW issue!!!



# We're back!!!

inside...

- \* Dr. B. Muhammad brings message of The Million Man March (p3-4)
- \* Things Get Funky at the Hilltop FUNKFEST
- \* Local residents to speak at Evergreen State College, Tacoma Campus

# HOH IS BACK IN EFFECT!!!

## HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP

(HOH is also a Native American Chant, for those of you who didn't know)

I could go on and on about what has taken place in the two years since we last published Happenings On Hilltop (February, 1995), but what good would that do? People have been coming up to me pretty regularly, asking when the next issue is going to come out. Basically, I was burned out and needed to get a better perspective on life in general.

I was forced to address certain realities of life. Two surgeries in two years would not allow me to return to active duty firefighting for the City of Seattle. So in May of 1996, I directed my attention to the matters at hand. The events of the past two years have brought clarity to the work and the mission of Happenings On Hilltop. After attending The Million Man March on October 16, 1995, it became clear that things as I knew them, would never be the same. I could no longer drive down the streets of Hilltop with the same outlook. I could no longer look at the conditions brought to bear in this community without seeking realistic solutions.

And so, it is with great honor and pleasure, that I re-introduce (to some) and introduce to others...

## HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP

We have our special way of covering the news and events as they pertain to life "In Da Hood." I have contacted many of the writers from way back when and they all seem ready to get back in the literary saddle. Don't forget, you too, can be a part of Happenings On Hilltop by sending in your comments, poetry and pictures. We'll do our best to get some ink to your pearls of wisdom.

We want to keep ya'll informed of the most recent happenings and news. We want to explore the issues and get your input and feedback. And by all means, we want to let everyone know about upcoming events. In this issue, we'll also touch on:

- \* **Region 23, helping youth exceed expectations (p 9)**
- \* **Rap Summit opens up dialogue and new possibilities**
- \* **Update on Unity In The Community**

*So just slide, slide, slippity slide. Just forget about your troubles and yo'  
9 to 5.*

*Just Read along, that's all you have to do. Cuz we've got this new issue  
especially for you!*

RIP

C-NOTE  
AND  
GINO

## DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS BRINGS THE SPIRIT AND MESSAGE OF THE MILLION MAN MARCH BACK TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

by larry norman

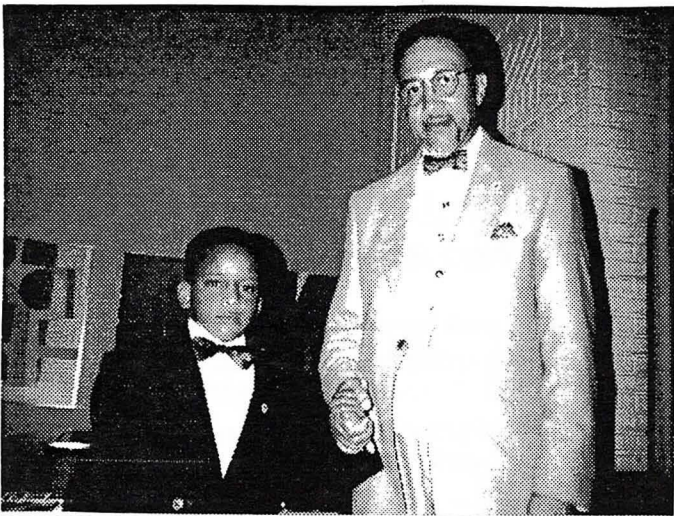


In April 15, 1997, Dr. Benjamin Muhammad (formerly Benjamin Chavis) revisited the Pacific Northwest at the Central Area Motivation Program in Seattle. The purpose of his visit was to bring news of his acceptance of the Islamic faith and to update the masses about coming events relative to the Million Man March.

Who, you may ask is Dr. Benjamin Muhammad? He has, for the better part of four decades, been involved in the struggle for the dignity and self respect of his people. From his early childhood in the Carolina's, "The Doctor" was making his presence felt.

- \* At twelve years of age, walked into a segregated library and was instrumental in getting the "White's Only" policy changed.
- \* During the seventies, he was incarcerated for nearly ten years as a member of the "Willmington 10."
- \* Served as the National Director of the NAACP From 1993-1994.
- \* Co-director of the Million Man March, 1995.

I personally met Dr. Muhammad in 1993, when he was at Mt. Zion Church, in Seattle, for the 75th Anniversary of the NAACP. So moved by his appeal for people to work harder in their communities, that I asked to speak with him briefly afterwards. I didn't see him again until October 16, 1995, at the Million Man March. This time, I was only ten feet away from him, but the masses swept him away after his brief interviews with CNN and BET.



Dr. B. Mohammed poses with son of Brother J. Muhammad

This night, as I waited for Dr. Muhammad to speak, I noticed the lack of media. In fact, I was the only media person in attendance. What I also noticed, was the number of youth in the audience. I spoke to Bro. John Muhammad's son, a youth of seven years old. He understood completely why he was there and how he should conduct himself. There was a large number of "The Nation" in attendance. However, the majority of the audience were just "folks" waiting to hear Dr. Muhammad. One brother was passing out literature about a program to help fathers play a greater role in their children's lives. I also noticed stacks of the Final Call magazines,

along with a tray of bean pies. The message of "Self Empowerment" was everywhere.

To set the tone for the evening, there were speakers from Tacoma, Seattle and Los Angeles. As Dr. Muhammad reached the podium, there was a standing ovation that lasted nearly three minutes from the crowd of about a hundred. Dr. Muhammad began to speak regarding his recent acceptance of the faith of Islam. He seemed adamant that his (or any man's) religion should not deter other "Men of God" in working towards solutions for our people. This sentiment is similar to that of Malcolm X during his April 14, 1964 speech in Detroit, when he addressed his stand on religion (ya'll should check out "The Ballot or The Bullet" speech by Malcolm X).

(continued on next page)

"Since the Pacific Northwest prides itself on its diversity, let there be room for Black Awareness and "The Nation's" diversity."

Dr. B. Muhammad

(continued from page 3)

Dr. Muhammad spoke on the importance of action: "If there is injustice in your midst, it will remain until a righteous man removes it." He also cautioned those in attendance not to be fooled by the accepting society of the Pacific Northwest: "Since the Pacific Northwest has diversity, make sure there is room for Black Awareness and The Nation's Diversity."

I did not get the impression that he was excluding anyone from the task at hand because he stated that "Our struggle is big enough for everyone."

Next, we were given the agenda for the next four years rearming the Million Man March:

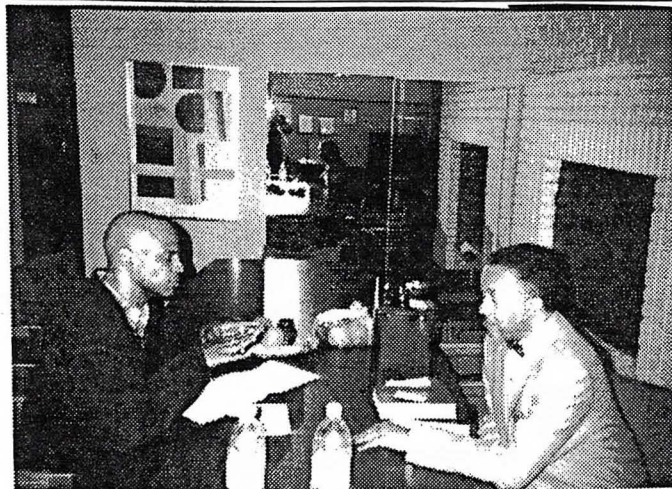
1997-State-wide observance of The Million Man March

1998-County-wide observance "

1999-City-wide " "

2000-"We're Going back to D.C. Bring the Wife and the Children!"

L. Norman speaking on "The Real" with Dr. B. Muhammad



**"Youth must perceive sincerity in our efforts to assist and encourage them"  
Dr. B. Muhammad**

Dr. Muhammad stressed the need to get involved, by declaring that he would visit a hundred cities before October 16, 1997, to proclaim the "Good News." There are plans during the tour, to negotiate with local prison systems to allow The Nation to work with incarcerated African Americans to help stop recidivism.

At the conclusion of his remarks, I asked Dr. Muhammad for a few moments to cover a few questions. Here is what he had to say:

*hoh: What role can youth play in the upcoming events and Black leadership today?*

*dr. m: "The priority of The Nation is youth leadership. Youth must perceive sincerity in our efforts to assist and encourage them ."*

*hoh: Are the challenges facing youth today greater or lesser than those you've faced over the years?*

*dr. m: The challenges are greater today. However, our youth have the potential to rise above this adversity. I believe The Nation has been called by God to resurrect our youth."*

*hoh: What was the impact of the Rap Summit ( April 3, 1997) on youth?*

*dr. m "Many of our youth haven't heard yet. There are plans to release an album and do a tour. This will make it clear as we work towards Peace in our Streets."*

*hoh: If you had one thing to pass on to our youth who are struggling today, what would it be?*

*dr.m: "By all means, put God at the center of your life as you plan for your future."*

I found it strange, at first, that Dr. Muhammad would come all this way to the Pacific Northwest for such a small crowd, with no media coverage. But as I looked into the eyes of those in attendance and spoke with him personally, I understood that it was not the number, but the commitment that had drawn him here. Far too often, we get caught up in numbers, rather than individuals. I am reminded that "it only takes a spark, to get a fire going..." □

## THINGS GET FUNKY AT HILLTOP FUNKFEST

by larry norman

**O**n Friday, March 7, 1997, Hilltop threw its first FUNKFEST. The production was hastily prepared by a handful of Hilltop notables. Spinster (oops, I mean Spencer!) came by FUNKFEST HEADQUARTERS with Porkie to insure that a stage and sound system would be available for local Rap-Stars and up and coming hip hoppers. There was even a special appearance by Baby Don (my son) to fix up some last minute details.

The original plan was for a Rap Contest, followed by a jam session (but you know how we do it!). Event promoters decided to put everything into one show. After a few (actually, many) miscues and setbacks, the FUNKFEST was on. Soon it became a Who's Who waiting to get into this jam. A question of *funds* became an issue for many guests. Though a few individuals bo-garted (did I mention you, MOOKIE?), many respected the offering of 4.00 to get in the door. FUNKFEST sponsors have agreed to lower the prices on all future Non-Title events.

Once the crowd got warmed up, some of Hilltop's finest rappers began popping in. DB, K-SWISS, LASHAWN, YP, 1-TWAMP-1 and others gave the audience some great freestyle lyrics. Some one said that Nicole got off (for real!), and there was a number a local folk who took their turn on the mike. We even got a video of the event, so get in touch with Norm, at the spot on the tre's for your copy. There is talk of another FUNKFEST and Battle of the DJ's! So stay tuned (**KTOP** is comin' at 'cha). Thanks to everyone who came out. □

WHERE, OH  
WHERE  
IS  
DANGEROUS  
"D" ?

### GHETT-O-LYMPICS III A SUCCESS

(THE LIGHTER SIDE OF A POLICE SWEEP)

by Syn Q

Once again, Hilltop's GHETT-O-LYMPICS was a smashing success. Sponsored by Hard Rock III, this year posted some memorable performances by both veteran and newcomers. Many local residents participated in the event. Hard Rock III sent out well over 50 invitations. Said one contestant as he was being escorted to his special limousine, "Man, these folks is doin' way too much! They need to choose someone else's 'Hood next time."

But even with all its success, the GHETT-O-LYMPICS did encounter a few rough spots. Said one spectator, "There were so many Hard Rock III officials, you can't tell who's who and they didn't always wear clearly marked uniforms. I also found it hard to get straight answers as to when the next event was starting."

And some Hilltop residents were upset at the layout for some events. Said one local who asked not to be identified, "This is Bull Sh\*\*!!! Today, I saw 15 or 20 of your "contestants" running through my alley, jumpin' over fences and knocking over my trash. I had to chase a half dozen of them out of my basement last night. For God's sake, cut it out!"

(story continued at bottom of next page)

(Ghett-O-Lympics continued from page 5)

Interest in the event has grown. This year, there were so many participants (some as far away as California) that over twenty five awards were given out for just one event! "It's going so well, we had to make room at the hotel for the late comers. But we couldn't have done it without the support of many local residents and groups. They helped us identify the best views for the media coverage. Some volunteers even pointed out contestants for future events," smiled one officer (official) while eating a breakfast square.

WELCOME

A spokesperson for Hard Rock III conceded however, that in order to do the event again, they will have to keep their sponsors. "Heck, let's face it, this is a numbers game. If we don't produce the events our audience wants to see, the sponsors will pull the plug on the whole event. This event could go to some other community. It's our event and we want to keep it right here! Hilltop is like Home to us."

HOME

"TIGER!"

So big Kudo's for the Ghett-O-Lympics and their sponsors; Hard Rock III. By the expressions on the faces of those who participated in the ceremonial parade to downtown, it would appear that everyone had a great time. Special thanks to all the local contestants who volunteered their time to provide memorable Kodak moments. Yes folks, this is the type of event every community needs, to bring us all closer together, don't you think? □

## RAP SUMMIT CALLED FOR BY MIN. FARRAKHAN

( Excerpts taken from *The Final Call*, April 15, 1997)

**W**ith the recent death of Rap Artist's Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G., many communities across the country fear even further violence amongst youth. Serious concerns have been raised regarding the violent content contained in many of the lyrics. The artist contend that much of the "message" in their music is encoded in the slang they speak. But without guidance to understand what the message is, many youth have been misdirected. It appears that the simmering discontent of many African American communities, has met with a volatile lack of hope, shared by so many youth today.

On April 3, 1997, Minister Louis Farrakhan called many of the nations elite Rappers to Chicago. "The base of all this is atonement, reconciliation and accepting responsibility," said the minister. Those in attendance included: Snoop Doggy Dogg; Too Short; Doug E. Fresh; Ice Cube; Chuck D; C-Lo; Willie D and many others. A pledge was taken by those in attendance that calls for a commitment by Rap artists to bring enlightenment to the people in a constructive manner (see Rapper's Pledge on page 8).

I have taken a few excerpts from this important issue of *The Final Call* (April 15, 1997, Vol. 16, Num. 24) to give you an idea of why **YOU NEED TO GET THIS ISSUE!** Peep this:

\* **Willie D of The Ghetto Boys**- "...They want to call me a gangsta rapper, but Bruce Willis is not a gangsta actor. So they are puttin gangsta in front of or names so when anything happens to us, you can just say "he was a gansta; he deserved to die..."

\* **C-Lo**- "We are dealing with the revolution of the mind... if you spark a match in the midst of darkness, someone will see it." □

## LOCAL RESIDENTS SPEAK AT EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE, TACOMA

**O**n April 29, 1997, James and Dwayne Waller, along with Larry Norman and Antonio Edwards, presented a sobering view of the affects that a "War On Drugs" has had on the Hilltop community. James Waller gave a brief history of the Hilltop community. He also addressed how the governmental programming of over twenty-five years has not effectively addressed the concerns of those individuals who have been targeted by this war.

Dwayne Waller presented the dramatic, *War On The Hill* documentary which explained visually, how this War has affected individuals. This piece was filmed directed and conceived on location in Hilltop. Mr. Waller expertly depicts "Life on The Hill" through what he calls Guerilla photography.

Antonio Edwards introduced the final piece; *Community Justice: A Monumental Concept*. Mr. Edwards worked with Larry Norman, Dwayne Waller and others, to create this meaningful piece which focuses on the healing process a community must go through while dealing with the War On Drugs. This documentary covers the building of the Hilltop Monument

In the closing, "Where Do We Go From Here?," the following solutions were proposed:

- \* True Economic Development designed **for** and **by** those individuals most effected by this injustice.
- \* Development of educational and recreational tools designed specifically to encourage youth to seek forms of expression that promote a peaceful coexistence with others.
- \* Persistent lobbying at the local, county and state level of government to abolish current laws designed to perpetuate the use of law enforcement and drugs as a means to control people economically, psychologically and spiritually.
- \* A re-connection with our spiritual nature to promote a consciousness that seeks the highest level of self-determination for ourselves, our families and our community... regardless of the conditions that have been created to expedite our demise.

Many of those who attended, came away with another perspective that is too often overlooked or silenced. It is hoped that future presentations such as this, will promote and stimulate constructive dialogue with purposeful action. **PEACE**

***IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION, OR HAVING IT SHOWN AND PRESENTED TO YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION, CALL (206) 272-8133.***

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY!**

**DON'T  
FORGET!  
UNITY IN THE  
COMMUNITY  
IS THE LAST  
WEEKEND IN  
MAY  
(24-25)  
CALL  
272-8133  
FOR DETAILS**

## *In Memory of Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.*



Tupac Shakur

# Rapper's Pledge



Notorious B.I.G.

Editor's note: The following pledge was taken by rap artists attending the April 3 summit at the National House of the Nation of Islam.

**I pledge** that from this day forward I shall neither say nor do anything that inhibits or prevents the rise of myself, my family and my people.

**I pledge** that from this day forward I shall use my talents and my gifts to promote the liberation of my people and all human beings who suffer from ignorance.

**I pledge** that from this day forward I, as a leader, as a teacher, as a guide, as a friend, and as a brother will lead my people to the best of themselves, with the help of God.

**I pledge** that from this day forward I will strive to increase my knowledge, to increase my faith, to increase my righteousness that I might be a better example for all those who follow me, so help me God.

**I pledge** that from this day forward I will never add to the controversy that puts East against West, West against East, brother against brother, sister against sister, but I will use my rap to lift my people's sights to the mountain of justice, peace and true liberation, so help me God.

**I pledge** that from this day forward I renounce the hatred of myself and my hatred for my brother. I ask forgiveness for my wrongs that have ill-affected my brother, and I ask to be forgiven as I forgive. And I forgive all that have offended me.

**I pledge** that from this day forward we march as one, as a solid wall of Black unity, African unity, African solidarity, for the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, economic and political upliftment of our people, so help us God.



Community Resurrection In Progress  
**REGION  
 23**

\* PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT \* APPLIED ENGLISH & MATH \* MEDIATION/CONFLICT RESOLUTION \*  
 \* CRITICAL THINKING \* CIVICS \* COMMUNICATION SKILLS \*  
 \* FOLK-LORE & MEDICINE \* TRANSITION/LIFE SKILLS \*

PROGRAMMING DESIGNED FOR SOCIALLY & ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGED YOUTH AGES 10-20.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

HILLTOP COMMUNITY SERVICES  
 P.O. BOX 5584, TACOMA, WA 98415  
 (206)272-8133

LAWRENCE F. NORMAN, director

Dear Parents, Teachers, Social Workers and Guidance Counselors:

My name is Lawrence Norman. For over seven years, I have worked with various agencies and community groups in the Hilltop Community. Each year, the work with youth becomes more and more challenging. Parents, communities, courts and the educational system have all but turned many local youth over to law enforcement, incarceration agencies or worse; the streets..

While working in Seattle as a firefighter, I found that many of the issues faced by our youth were regional and national. More specifically, there is a growing sense of urgency by school officials to “create” a safe environment in public schools. Many challenged youth have chosen not to conform to these requirements. Yet ironically, many of the “environmental” concerns faced by the youth (contributing to most of the dysfunction) have not been addressed.

The issue of *Safety versus Equal Access to Education* will eventually create two entirely segregated school systems: one, working towards “educating” youth, while the other attempts to “house” youth during school hours. If alternative schools are to benefit the growing number of expelled or suspended youth, it is mandatory that TRANSITIONAL components are offered at these facilities.

Region 23 is an opportunity for youth who have chosen or been directed out of main stream education, society and economics. It is, in many ways more challenging because perspective students are required to exceed expectations... period! We have observed what youth are capable of, positive and negative. Already, facilitators who designed Region 23 have done a number of retreats, mediations and conflict resolutions with many of the most angry and discouraged youth.

Region 23 also offers young men and women who are in their 20's and 30's the opportunity to work off community service hours and assist Region 23 in re-directing and encouraging youth. The program begins at 8:30. The core of instruction is presented until 10:30. From 11:00-1:100, Region 23 works on economic and community development. The afternoon deals with civics, community service, field trips and speakers (1:30-3:00).

If you , or someone you know is interested in this program, call and make an appointment. Youth must have parent permission to attend. Space is limited, so only those who present a strong desire to attend and exceed, will be offered the opportunity to participate. **PEACE**

the purpose of this newsletter is to provide information and inspiration to the Hill Top Community and those who choose to rise above adversity and keep hope alive!

**QUICK NOTES:**

*DON NICOLE'S TALK SHOP AND EATERY OPENING SOON ON 23RD*

**DON'T FORGET:**

PLAN ON BEING IN OLYMPIA ON **OCTOBER 16!**

(YOUR CLICK BETTER BE THERE!)

**CLUB 24 IS COMING BACK!**

NEED TO RENT SPACE FOR EVENTS OR YOUR ORGANIZATION? CALL 272-8133 FOR DETAILS

OH YES, IF YOU NOTED SOME MIS-SPELLED WORDS OR TY-PO'S, WE HAD TO DO IT SO THAT A FEW FOLKS WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO (SMILE). THIS IS OUR FIRST ISSUE IN 2 YEARS

SO PLEASE BE **PATIENT**

**YOUR COMMENTS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME!!**

**SCENE FROM: WAR ON THE HILL**



**NOW AVAILABLE AT: THE LITTLE GALLERY ON THE HILL (911 S. 11TH, 593-4850) OR CALL 272-8133**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**SOME VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE STAFF AND WRITERS OF HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP**

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**WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR MEMORY AND UNDYING SUPPORT AND LOVE:**

♡ SUE-Z-Q ♡  
DON & NIKI

- JACKIE, DONNA, PAT
- T-MONEY
- MOM & DAD
- LIL-KRISSY
- SCRIBBLES
- 1-TWAMP-1
- MY 23 CREW
- THE WALLER'S
- ANTONIO E.
- BRO. ANTHONY
- THE 16 CREW
- MR. JAMES
- BO, BJ & MUFFIN
- MS. LAMAR
- EVERGREEN,
- TACOMA CAMPUS
- AND OF COURSE...

G  
O  
D

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