

Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

Volume 2, Number 5

November 1991

BOO!!!

By: Larry

Halloween, the Harvest moon, leaves falling from the trees. These are all signs that fall is upon us. November is also a time to begin planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday festivities. November 5th is election day. We have a lot of stuff to talk about. Last months issue received tremendous response. Now we're getting it! As always, we still need more input from you, the community. That's how we get things accomplished, communication.

So, Put the rake away for a moment, pour yourself a cup of coffee and take a few moments to see what's HAPPENING ON HILLTOP.

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	Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit	911 So. 11th Street
Martin Luther King Center	1424 Tacoma Ave. South, Suite A		
University of Puget Sound, Cafeteria		Tacoma Community College, Cafeteria	

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.

We have received a few calls concerning spelling accuracy and punctuation. Our staff is working towards producing the best newsletter we can. We appreciate your objective criticism and will continually work to eliminate spelling and punctuation errors. Thank you.

Now , with these items out of the way, let's get rolling!!!

HAC ANNUAL MEETING BANG OR BUST?

by Larry

On October 18, the Hilltop Action Coalition hosted its annual Community meeting at Stanley School. The Mayor, Police Chief, County Counsel Representative and a host of other public officials were on hand. The purpose of the meeting was to bring the Hilltop community up to date on the work being done by Safestreets and the Hilltop Action Coalition.

What was evident by the turn-out (only 40-50 Hilltop residents showed up) is that there is still much work to be done in Hilltop. Community participation has always been a concern for any organization that has worked within the Hilltop area. Now, more than

ever, the community must begin to address the problems it faces.

Keynote speaker Dennis Flannigan (County Counsel District Representative) urged the community to begin the process of healing by mutual involvement. His presentation was moving and inspirational. Hilltop Action Coalition president, Maurice Wright, along with Area Representative Tommie Cebrum and the Mayor gave presentations.

Like any other organization, the Hilltop Action Coalition has been going through the process of growth and trying to find its true identity. The organization is in the process of addressing those issues which internally hamper its effectiveness within the community. While some issues are going to require more time than others, the overall atmosphere within the organization is positive. What

everyone does agree upon is that participation of the community is essential.

New board members were elected to the various areas as representatives. It is hoped that the infusion of new blood, along with the knowledge of current board members will draw the organization closer to the goals it has set for itself and the community.

Let us remind ourselves the next time we observe something in our community we dislike, that we have opportunities to change things. If we choose not to get involved, we have no one to blame for those conditions but ourselves. There are more than forty or fifty people with concerns here on Hilltop. With various agencies and organizations doing their own internal housecleaning in order to be more effective, shouldn't we, the community begin ours.

HELICOPTERS

Another Point of View

by BLK

He strained forward in his seat, jack-knifed against the confines of the seatbelt. His head was twisted up toward the window, eyes intensely studying the evening sky. In an effort to be heard over the clamoring din, he shouted, "A helicopter! A helicopter! Look, a helicopter!" Our car seemed to keep pace with the hovering craft, and The boy kept it locked in sight, studying it with a fascination that was still fresh, having been on this earth only three years now.

On we went, one modern miracle of technology (the automobile) following another (the helicopter). The helicopter was being closely watched and coveted by one who sees them for what they really are, which is very neat things! Helicopters are marvels. Helicopters are mysterious. Helicopters are Cool, Dude! Everyone knows that. Helicopters can fly.

It isn't the helicopter we dislike, or the noise. We used to think like The Boy: Wow! A helicopter! What we don't like is what the helicopter's presence represents. We don't like the fact that something has robbed us of the the freedom to appreciate a helicopter for what it really is (a neat and interesting thing) and for what it can do. There are those that don't understand what true power is, those that are creating dark dramas, not only out there on the streets, but most gravely, in their beings, and they have become the unfortunate reason for the frequency of hovering helicopters. These dark dramas are unfortunate for all of us in that they are truly slowing us down.

Reaping and sowing is not a difficult concept to grasp. You plant an apple seed, you get an apple tree. You plant good vibes, you get good vibes. You plant love, you get love. You plant respect and trust, you get respect and trust. These are the basic rules in life. We create. That's the power. At a very early age we know that the better you get at playing by the rules and developing your skills and strategy, the longer you stay in the game. Whoever doesn't bother to learn the rules, or chooses not to play by them, gets captured and taken off the board. We know that if we decide to cheat, before long, no one will want to play with us anymore because we don't respect the game or our ability to play it well. We should understand that there is no victory, no glory or win, when we play outside the rules. We are reminded how the world feels about this type of player when the media learns of a well known athlete, company or politician who has been found playing outside the rules in one way or another.

When we all remain conscious of how the rules really work instead of naively thinking they only pertain to other people, or that we can get around them, we will have no need for helicopters that fly in circles above our heads in a threatening and intrusive manner. Helicopters will again be free to be simply objects that fascinate some of us, inspire others to learn to fly or to learn mechanics and will again be watched in awe fantasy rather than in fear and scorn.

It is about perception. It is about planting. It is about reaping. It is about what we are willing to harvest, and about what we are willing to give up and what we're not. It is about who we are willing to play with and about what kind of player we are willing to be. It is about having true power, about being a real champion of the game.

The Boy and I pulled up in front of our house. Having followed the helicopter all the way from the grocery store, and it still right with us, The Boy exclaimed, "Maybe it's coming to our house! Do you think so? Do you think it's coming to our house? Let's wait! Let's not go in for a minute! It might be coming to our house!"

Suddenly The Boy's face fall. "I guess not", he said sadly as he took my hand and started towards the steps. The Boy was disappointed that the helicopter had flown right over our house and hadn't stopped. The Boy had hoped the helicopter might come for dinner. He approached each step slowly as he mourned the turn the helicopter took that seemed to take it further away from us. As we reached the top step, The Boy stopped before going on up to the porch and took on long last look up at the sky. Then he continued inside, shoulders slumped and head down. Suddenly he dropped my hand, whirling around as his ears picked up the sound again. He shouted, "It's turning around! Maybe he changed his mind! Maybe he coming back!"

Indeed. Hopefully, we all are.

Cool, Dude.

TCI UPDATE

As you may have noticed there have been some major changes going on at the old TCI Building, located at 1224 South K Street. TCI Cablevision donated the facility to the city last year and City employees have been busy renovating the building as a municipal service center. The plans are to open the building in November with the dedication tentatively scheduled for the weeks of November 18. The building will contain staff from the Police Department, Fire Department and the Municipal Cable Television Division. Also, there is a training room for City employees. So look for new faces and extra traffic in the area. If you have any questions or want to call and just say "Welcome to the Community", contact Genelle Birk, City of Tacoma 591-5176, or the Municipal Television Division, 591-5168.

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IT'S TIME TO VOTE

by Lawrence Norman

On November 5, we will be asked to participate in a process that is been part of our country since its inception, voting. Most of us have gotten so overwhelmed and frustrated with current conditions, that we have given up all hope. Friends, giving up should be the last thing on anyone's mind right now. What is needed now, is a call of arms. If we are to win back control of our government and other basic rights, we must vote.

This year, there are a number of important issues to be addressed. Depending on how each issue fairs, our state could be setting precedents that have national (if not international) ramifications. I have talked with a number of local residents regarding some of these issues. The responses both pro and con are as different as the people I talked with. Here are a couple of issues on the upcoming ballot and the responses from our neighbors:

Initiative 119- shall adult patients who are in a medically terminal condition be permitted to request and receive from a physician aid-in-dying?

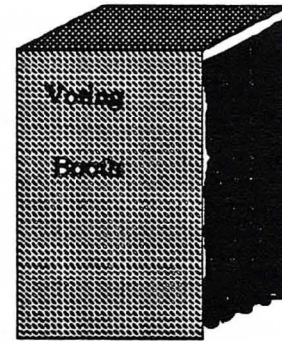
"No way! This is the first step in a process by the government to rid itself of all undesirables. As it is right now, the government can't afford medical costs. With so many people out of work, the homeless population growing and the rise in racial intolerance, the

government is looking for a way to cut the excess. Soon, if you don't have any insurance, when you go to the hospital, it will be your last visit. And the people who can afford medical care are wanting to live longer. There is great demand for spare body organs. If you start getting rid of people, you can start a surplus of hearts, livers and other essential organs. HELL NO!"

"I have worked with terminally ill people and was terminally ill myself. I choose to fight for my life. Yet I have known many people who had chosen to pass on. Unfortunately, because of the current laws, they were forced to suffer through sometimes agonizing pain. All people should have the right to choose when they want to leave this life. I say YES".

Initiative 120- Shall state abortion laws be revised, including declaring a woman's right to choose physician performed abortion prior to fetal viability?

Many women today are still children. They were not taught basic parenting skills at home. Too many adults today are coming from dysfunction in their childhood. No one but God has the right to choose who should or should not come into this world. I realize that circumstances exist when abortion is appropriate, like rape or life-threatening. Those are the exceptions rather than the rule. I say NO".



"If women are refused the right to say what they can or can not do with their bodies, a dangerous president will be set. I personally don't agree with abortion as an option, but I do feel that women have to have rights. If anything, better education and teaching of our children will help women make more conscious decisions regarding abortion. I say YES".

As you can see, there is plenty of room for argument either way. What we as voters need to do is begin discussing the issues to get more perspective. This will allow each of us to be better voters. We have a very powerful tool, let's use it! If you need more information on the other issues on next month's ballot, where to get registered or where to vote on November 5th, call 1-800-448-4881 up to the day of the elections.

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