

HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP

July/August, 1997

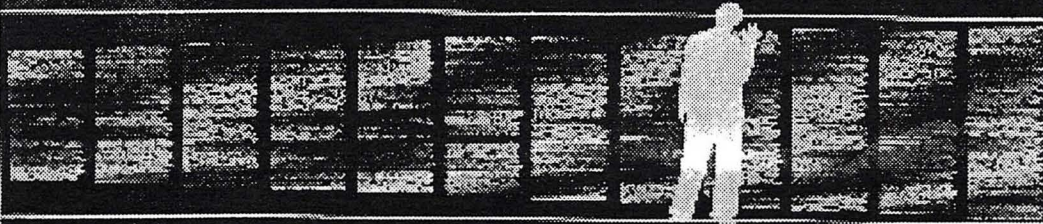
Volume 5 Issue 2

\$1.00

CHECK OUT THIS MONTH!

THE MOVING WALL

Vietnam Veterans Memorial - Sat., July 12 - Fri., July 18



QUESTIONS  ANSWERS

A MOVING MEMORIAL - P.5

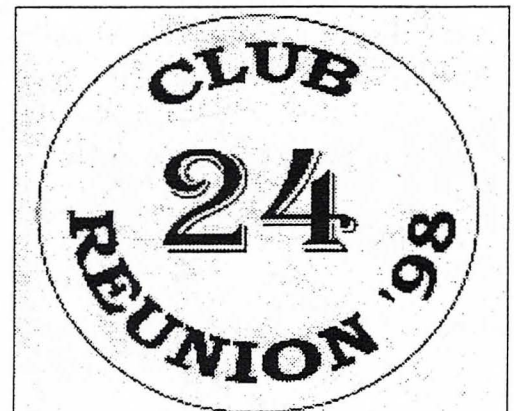
AND...

YPP (YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE) - P.9



Hilltop, 23rd & Met streets, 1907

SHOTS FROM DA HOOD - P.7



CLUB 24 REUNION - P.11

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W H E W ! ! !

I really have a lot to say this issue, but let's let the newsletter do the talking. Mr. James is awaiting this edition of the newsletter as we speak, so he can turn some of his "partners" on to some real local info! Yesterday (whatever day that was!), we had a car wash on 23rd in front of "Headquarters" with some of my young friends. We each made about 14.00, sold a few mustard greens and played some dominoes. I guess you could say we all had some good, clean fun (smile). I wish I had a camera. Many people stopped by and commented that it was so good to see this happening again in the heart of the hood.

Also, on July 25, we had a wonderful time with about 15 kids on an overnight trip to Mr. and Mrs. Beason's house out in Puyallup. Everyone, including the adults, had a great time. Let's do it again.

I have also had a number of people, both resident and non, come to me seeking a way out of the madness they call everyday life. I feel ya. I'm wrestling with my issues as well. I just try to keep working at it daily. Bottom line is, we must all carry our own burdens. There is nothing wrong with asking for help. At the same time, let's make sure we are ready for that help when it comes.

Enough already, I know Mr. James is hot (literally) out there in the sun at the City of Destiny Parade.

So take a sip, but please don't trip! Let's find out, without a doubt, what's really..

HAPPENING ON HILLTOP

BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR BUSINESS AD, LIST ITEMS FOR SALE, ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICES, OR MAKE CONTACT WITH THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE IN HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP!!!
THE COST IS:

*PERSONALS, SERVICES,
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1/4 PAGE AD-\$45

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DEADLINE IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT EDITION.
PAYMENT FOR AD IS DUE AT THE TIME AD IS PLACED.

CALL (253)272-8133
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PEACE

**PLEASE NOTE:
SOME OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER
ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF
THE STAFF AT HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP.**

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information and inspiration to the people of the Hilltop Community and those who desire to be constructive individuals.

EDITORIALS

My good friend Larry Norman came by my corner the other day and informed me that he will begin publishing Happenings On Hilltop again in the near future. I am so glad that he has found the time to put the paper out again so that the people in the community will have a forum or platform where they can express themselves.

Just in case you are a new reader of the "Happenings," or you have forgotten who I am, let me introduce myself. My name is I.M. Blackman. I have lived in this (and all other) Black communities, all my life. My partners and I have a vast amount of experiences and knowledge of Black culture and we like to talk about it. I can't say that we are always right, but that's where you come in. You can put your two cents worth in and put us on the right track. I realize that a lot of what I say is my own opinion. So I'm going to put my opinion out there until you put yours out there.

I have a few thoughts about the Vietnam War and the Moving Wall that was in Tacoma during the month of July. I know... I know..., the war has been over for nearly thirty years and we should let it rest. But I just have to say this. I felt really bad because I didn't get out to see and experience the Veteran Memorial/ Moving Wall (even after it was brought damn-near to me).

I know there were a lot of Vietnam Veterans who didn't get to pay their last respects either. A lot of Vets are still suffering from the affects of the war, even though all this time has past. They still haven't been treated and compensated for the PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome), alcoholism and drug addiction, or any number of illnesses that have plagued us since the war. There are too many of my Black brothers who are falling through the cracks. They are missing out on the treatment and financial resources that are available to them. It seems to me that many of the White Veterans are getting the help they need and deserve, but the "minority" Vets are missing out.

This brings me to the "Veteran" of our current national war; those who are missing out on the benefits and services that was meant for them. They too, are suffering from the same illnesses that the

generation before has suffered.

I am talking about **The War On Drugs** and the war against so-called "**Gangs.**" Folks, here you have a war that is fought daily in our streets and communities. Many of these youngsters (Veterans of the Drug War) have experienced as much, if not more, violence than most of the soldiers in Vietnam did. They have been beat down by the police and had their "homies" shot in their presence or watch them die in their arms. These young people have been traumatized and need treatment as much as anyone else that is suffering from PTSD.

I also feel that they should be compensated for their losses because most of them have been the victims of discrimination within the legal system. Hardly any of the Black youth that were arrested for drug crimes in the late 80's to early 90's got fair and equal treatment.

Currently, President Clinton is reviewing legislation that may correct the obvious disparity in sentencing of minorities for cocaine related drug offences (Yea right. I'll believe that, when I see it!). Further, the government has been allocating money to help clean up the crime and problems related to drugs and turn the youth around. To date, hardly any of this money has gotten to the kids and families of those for whom it was intended. Most of this money has gone for law enforcement personnel and tools like; cameras, jails, cars, service providers, etc.. The actual victims (the so-called gangsters) have yet to receive treatment or rehabilitation for complications related to "The War On Drugs."

Well, let me stop right here because I could go on and on about this subject. It is truly one of my pet peeves. So, what do you think and how do you feel about two generations of Black Americans who seem to have been used and then left out... out in the cold? See ya!!

I.M. Blackman

Psst! Mr. Blackman doesn't know this, but we did get some pictures from the Vietnam War Memorial. You can see them on page 6!

PO-E-TRY

WHEN I THINK OF MAYA

by "Mel"

When I think of Maya, I think orange;
action people.

No time for hard times, only good times;
hand to hand combat, Mai Tai's and
Hurricanes (track stars from Pasco, trying
not to lose their legs).

No adventure too risky, no excitement too
tame. So full of energy, it was hard to
explain. Laughing at everything, laughing at
nothing. Not goofy or fickle, but daring to
be funny.

What she seriously desired, she went after
with a passion, with sweet smiles for miles
and miles, tattoos and that crazy blonde dye.
Face front to the camera, daring to see this
gorgeous (but giddy) girl who might have
been a model, and not the street worrier in
the mix, always yearning to be free.

Everybody can't be all things to all people.
Many people can't be anything to anyone.

Some people can only be themselves.
Maya- so unique and special, but only the
good shall I dwell on. Looking down on us
she'd say, "Ya'll don't cry for me. Just carve
my kids a pumpkin on Halloween."

Mother, sister, cousin, niece and true friend.

Our love for Maya will never end.

She made it home, don't have to carry no
load. I love you home girl, see you at the
crossroad.

"MINDS ARE LIKE PARACHUTES- THEY ONLY FUNCTION
WHEN OPEN."

THOMAS DEWAR

THE MANTEL

by Lawrence F. Norman (C 1997)

"The meek shall inherit the earth."

Then why do we see so much false pride?

Pride in one's self. Pride in one's country.

What's that old quotation say: "Pride commeth before a
fall?"

(Lord knows I don't need to fall, again.)

One who truly seeks wisdom, places humility at the
cornerstone of their existence.

I consider myself fashioned in this light.

Unfortunately, others may see me differently.

Not that I even care (oh yes I do)!

As I look to my left, there they sit, on **The Mantel**.

Is it Pride that I detect in my mother's eye; the one who
bore me?

Is it Pride displayed on the pursed lips of my great-
grandfather

(Or could it be the pain and pleasure of wearing a tight,
new jacket; over the welts imbedded in his fifteen year old
back?)

I believe they called it "Emancipation."

My sister is over there, though I have two others.

There's also a news clipping about my father.

I too, have a picture on **The Mantel**.

Mostly, it's a smattering of oddly carved African trinkets.

My nephew built me a pyramid of clay and it's there too.

The more I think about it, Pride is not what I seek.

As I gaze into the many faces made of wood, paper and
flesh,

My existence embraces me, as foretold: I am he and he is I.

A silent blood letting of which I am part.

(Oh, that a single drop of their blood should run through
my veins!)

I seek that which I am.

Pride would have gotten my great-grandfather killed.

Pride would have made my mother leave my father.

Pride would have led me astray.

The Mantel is not pride.

I am here today, because I am Proud of all that I am,

Not because of Pride.

That is for me to know, and you to decide.

The Mantel is My Mantel.

Even when I have fallen from the sky, she embraces me.

She and I are **ONE**.

A "MOVING" MEMORIAL

by larry norman

On July 14, I went to Mountain View to see The Moving Wall (Vietnam Veteran Memorial). This is a complete replica of the original Wall in Washington DC. The Moving Wall has been touring the country since October, 1984. On the wall, is the list of service men and women who had lost their lives during service in Vietnam (some 58,202). The first casualty was in 1957 and the last us soldier to die was in 1975.

As I looked at the awesome numbers of row after row, with name after name, it occurred that there are a lot of people who are still trying to mend and get on with their lives. I also thought about the large number of Vietnam Vets I know personally, right here in the local community. Occasionally, we would talk about the experience of war and many of the awful things one had to do just to survive.

I remembered the many Veterans who wept (as if relieved) once the Memorial was completed in 1982. It didn't matter what each fallen US soldier had done good or bad. The only thing that mattered was that he or she had served in Vietnam. In a lot of ways, I thought that was good. Anyone who has participated in any event, deserves recognition for his or her contributions.

I reflected on a similar set of emotions when people here in the Hilltop Community tried unsuccessfully to have the names of our fallen friends and loved ones placed on The Hilltop Monument (May, 1993). I thought to myself; "Hell, didn't the people in this community lost their lives in a war; A WAR ON DRUGS?"

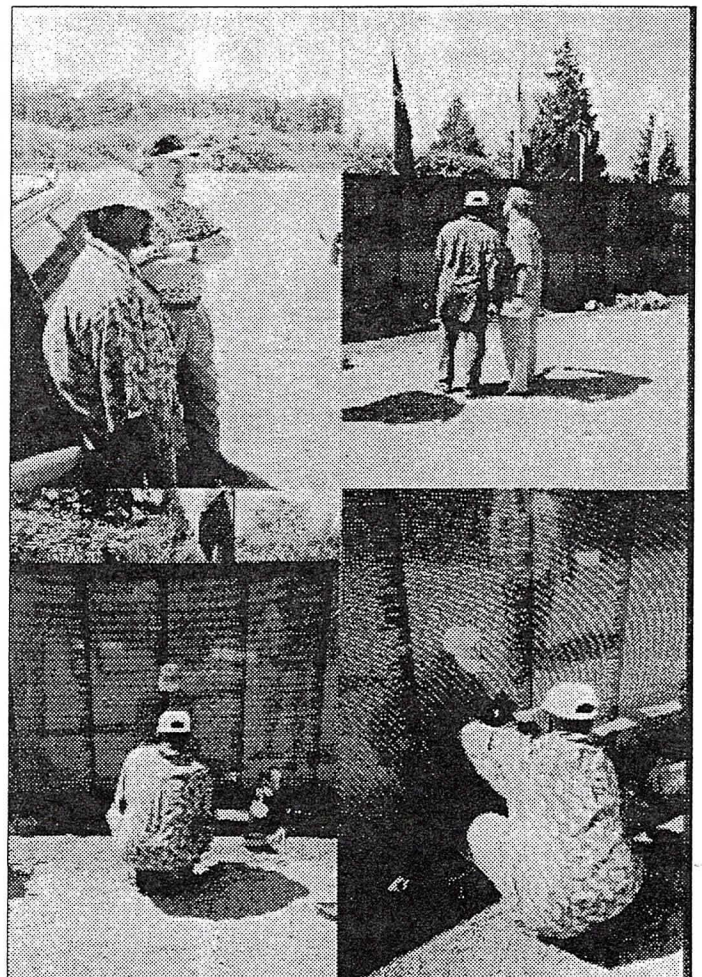
I remember the frustration shared by many of those who helped to conceive and build the project. When we found out the stipulations placed on the project by the city, many felt we were not being respected or acknowledged for our losses. As the Hilltop Monument sits today, it is a blessing and loving reminder to many of us, of the sacrifices we have made in this community.

So I really could understand how many Vets felt until the Wall was finally complete. I'm sure there were a number of people who didn't like the design, or the fact that an Asian person designed it.

But like us here on Hilltop, we were just as proud once our project was finished.

I observed a Vietnamese walking by the wall and some of the expressions on people's faces. I thought to myself "Hey, they lost more of their people than we did, plus much of their countryside and resources." I could see that even this fact could not remove some of the deep scars people still felt.

Finally, I met a gentleman at the wall who said he was with the 173rd. What ever that meant sure caused a stir with other veterans who were visiting the wall this day. I was honored to share a few touching moments with him. Anyway, here are some pictures. Hope you enjoy them. And if you are a Vet in the Hilltop area, why not write us with your comments and views on things.



NOW IS THE TIME!!!

You've been waiting long enough! Now you can have Happenings On Hilltop delivered right to your door. A one year subscription will keep you current on the "local front" the way only Happenings On Hilltop can do it. You will not only receive 12 issues a year, but you will get 10 to 15 % off all Happenings On Hilltop GEAR (shirts, hats and pull overs). We will also send you our catalogue, which is full of neat stuff! So why not join the winning team? Your subscription will also help us keep a number of local youth and adults employed and making a difference.

Make check or money order out to:

Hilltop Community Services

PO Box 5584

Tacoma, WA 98415

Fill out the following information and send it with your subscription payment.

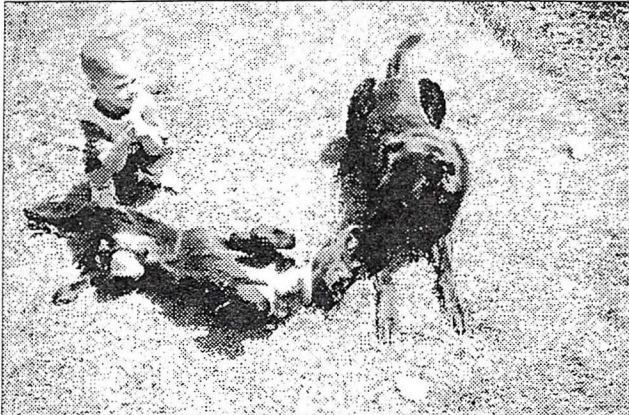
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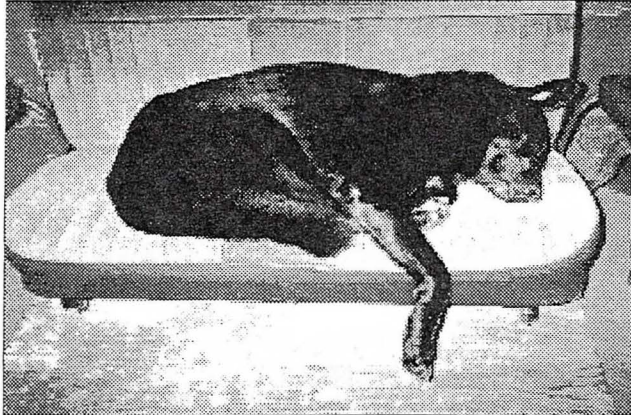
PHONE _____

Briefly, let us know what type of articles, news and entertainment you are interested in _____

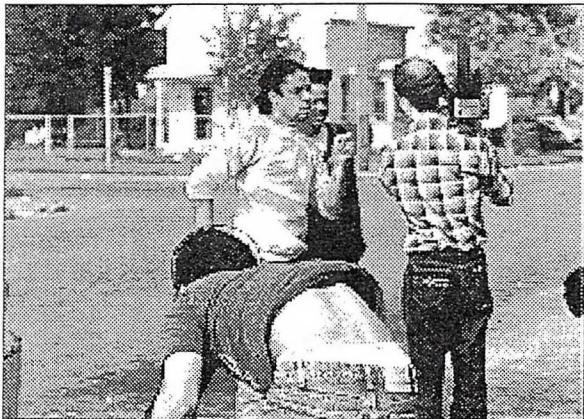
SHOTS FROM DA 'HOOD



THE OG BO TAKING A BREAK AT WORK AFTER WATCHING HIS LITTLE LOC (ALL DAY!) SAID BO, "I CAN'T SAY IF ITS MINE. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE BLOOD TESTS."



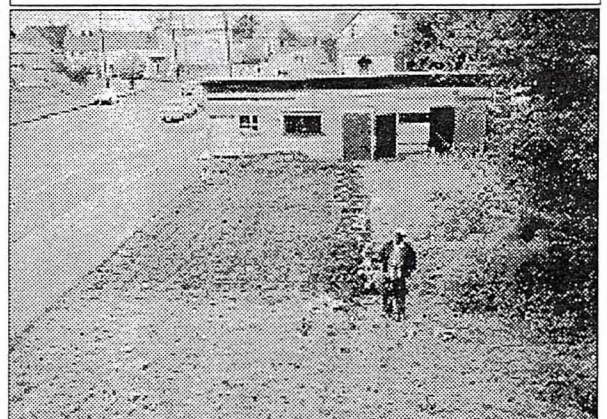
YG WILL GETTING SCHOOLLED DURING LUNCH AT REGION 23 BY NONE OTHER THAN GQ AND BABY KEN LOC!



DANGEROUS "D" ON LOCATION IN THE HOOD WHILE FILMING "WAR ON THE HILL"



"OIL CAN" MAKES PLANTING GREENS LOOK EASY



HEY!
IF YOU HAVE A PHOTO THAT YOU THINK EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE, SEND IT TO US. IF WE USE IT, WE'LL SEND YOU A FEW BUCKS, OR SOMETHIN'
(FOR REAL!!)

ODDS -N- EVDS

"The Cornerstone" of Performing Arts (Pantages) prepares for a museum

by larry norman

The Pantages Theatre has a long history with Tacoma. In 1918, Vaudeville was seen for the first time by local residents at the Pantages Theater. In 1932, The Roxy Theater arrived and brought memorable shows to many, until the current restoration, which began in 1978 and was completed in 1983.

In speaking with Charlee Parker-Glock, Marketing and Education Manager, I was told that the Pantages is the "cornerstone" of the Broadway Center, which is the group of theaters (including the Rialto) located along 9th and Broadway, in downtown Tacoma. But there's more. Charlee says that "the Pantages is the cornerstone of performing arts for the entire South Puget Sound!"

I spoke with Mr. Rui Rodriguez, who recently moved to the Hilltop from California. He works with the Broadway Center in the maintenance division. He is also a talented artist. He was asked by Babe Lehrer, board member of the Pantages, to design a replica of an original cornerstone of the building which was saved during the last restoration (see picture below).

Ms. Lehrer plans to erect a museum filled with the rich history of the Pantages. This actual cornerstone will be the "cornerstone" of the museum, once completed. Keep up the good work, folks!



Mr. R. Rodriguez (left) displays his art work above the Pantages cornerstone.

LIFE

by

a concerned hilltop resident

I read the paper everyday. I am horrified at how easy and senseless people take lives. Is this a new way of handling problems, or just our way of not being able to cope? I believe it's a cowardly and punk ass way of handling business.

I was always told that being able to address something meant coming to some kind of plan, so you could reason with others. I have found that a person can change most anything, if they are willing to except and be accountable for themselves (if you are the problem).

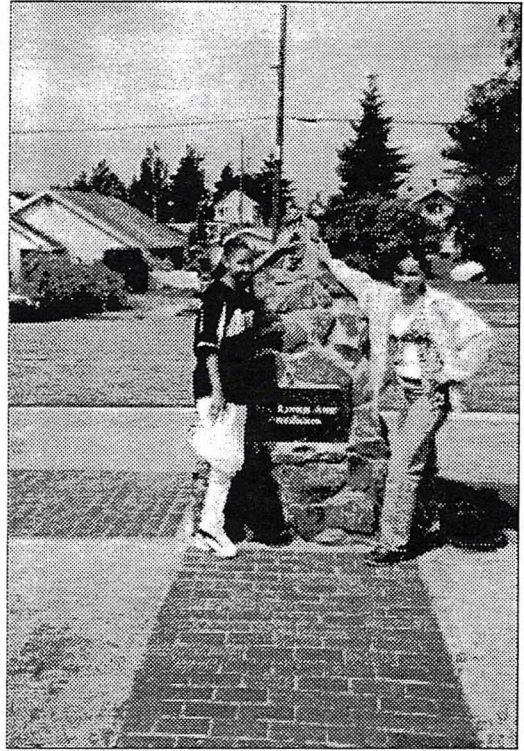
Hilltop used to be a very nice community.

But lately, you can't even go to the gas station at night for fear of not coming home. It's so easy to pull a trigger, but so hard to put a loved in the ground.

Hey, even a monkey can pull a trigger. Men can reason and think. that is supposed to be the difference between animals and humans. We've all lost family and friends. Some were natural causes, while others died violently. And in spite of the pain, youths still continue to kill. Do you think that you will not be held accountable for this one day? I'm not talking about retaliation, I'm talking God! Life is a precious gift and we all need to start appreciating it. We can make a change in this Hilltop so that it can again be something we are proud of. Question is... WHEN?

YPP: YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

This issue, we will begin a regular section called The Young People's Page. We plan to have a different youth editor and staff every two months. Our first editors will be Kristen Robinson and Kelly Perry (see photo).



Here's what the girls had to say:
Listen up all you youths! If you have something to say about the community or what type of activities you want on the "Hill,," Send us your comments and photo's (we'll try to print as many as we can!). We are forming a group of teens so that we can kick it! We will have such activities as:

- * **Supervised Parties**
 - * **Field Trips and Over-Nighters**
 - * **Tutoring**
 - * **Fundraisers**
 - * **Swim Parties and Dances**
 - * **Bowling**
 - * **Contests for Writing Essays and Photographs**
- ... and many more fun activities.

Oh yea, we feel that gang members and troubled teens should be included in these activities. If parents/guardians want to get their kids or themselves involved or have questions, they can give us a call at 272-8133 and ask for Larry, Kristen or Kelly. Soooo, send your stuff to:

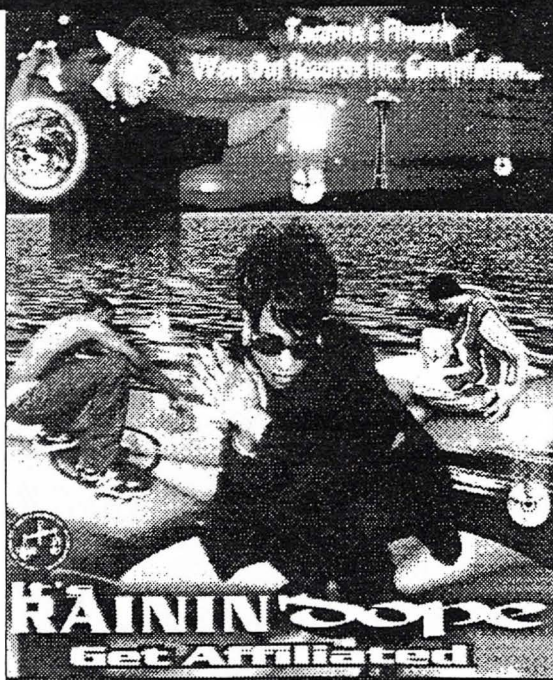
Happenings On Hilltop
Attention: YPP
c/o Kristen Robinson. or Kelly Perry
PO box 5584
Tacoma, WA 98415

Be listening for upcoming events with
KTOP
"STATION 23.187 ON YO' FM DIAL!"

YPP'S TOP 10! (July/August, 1997)

1. SMILE/ Scarface & 2Pac
2. WU LIFE/ Wu Tang Clan
3. LOOK INTO MY EYES/Bone-Thugs-N-Harmony
4. DO YOU WANT TO GET DOWN/ Snoop & J.D.
5. NOTORIOUS THUGS/Biggie& Bone-Thugs-N-Harmony
6. I'LL BE MISSING YOU/ Puff Daddy-Fea. Faith& 112
7. LADIES NIGHT/Lil' Kim Fea. Angie Martinez, Left Eye, Da Brat & Missy Elliot
8. SEE YOU WHEN WE GET THERE/Coolio Fea. 40 Theavz
9. NOTORIOUS B.I.G./ Life After Death
10. PULL/ One Way

SEND US YOUR TOP 10. THE SONGS WITH THE MOST VOTES WILL BE ON THE LIST NEXT MONTH!



Now you too can own the documentary everyone is talking about!

War On The Hill gives you a first hand feel for what the effects that a "War On Drugs" has had on a small community called Hilltop, in Tacoma, WA. Dwayne Waller directs and edits this production shot in 1990-91 entirely on 8mm in black and white. Community Justice: A Monumental Concept brings you full circle to the healing process. Built in 1993, the Hilltop Monument is a symbol of hope to many people that a community can rebuild and lives can be saved. Timely interviews are given by local residents, young and old as they tell how a monument has helped "heal the wounds of this injustice."

Both documentaries are approx. thirteen minutes each. An excellent training tool for troubled youth and community groups and organizations currently searching for solutions on how to deal with these concerns. Presentations are available by request. Order now, and receive copies of the original Happenings On Hilltop newsletters that covered this event, free!

If you would like your copy, send check or money order, made payable to **Hilltop Community Services**, in the amount of 27.95

(includes shipping and handling) to:

Hilltop Video Documentary
 c/o Hilltop Community Services
 POBox 5584, Tacoma, WA 98415
 (please allow 2 weeks for delivery)
 or call: 253-272-8133

NOW available at the following locations:

Music Galore, Block Buster
 Sam Goody
 &
 Camelot

A special Thank You to everyone who has been patient and loving enough to keep Happenings On Hilltop alive, through the best and worst of times. I can see why this newsletter is so special to so many of us. Every issue, we're saying "don't give up!" There are still so many stories to cover. I have truly been blessed by your encouragement.

I.f.n, editor

CLUB 24's 3RD REUNION TAKING SHAPE

by james waller

This letter is to inform you that we are making preparations for the third reunion of Club 24. Although we have had two previous reunions (1989 and 1991), this one will be the event of the decade. We have, in the last 90 days, worked on some of the initial preliminaries. It is now time to bring the entire committee together. Here's what we have planned so far:

* The reunion will run three days. It has been

tentatively set for a weekend in August, 1998.

*The reception, registration and pizza feast will be at The Cabbalero's Club, on Friday

*The big picnic will be at Titlow Beach Saturday afternoon and evening.

*Our final event will be held at the Golden Eagles Social Club, and will run all day Sunday. The day will consist of a banquet, a stage show and a guest speaker's forum. Some of the tentative speakers are: Dr. J.D. Matlock, elected Vice President of Club 24 in 1947; James (Shorty) Patton, elected President of Club 24 in 1945. For our main speaker, we are anticipating the Honorable Judge Jack E. Tanner.

Our official newspaper will be the Northwest Dispatch, Virginia Taylor, Publisher. Our official newsletter will be Happenings On Hilltop, Lawrence Norman, Editor. We will be calling our next planning session within the next 30 days. You will be notified of the next meeting by phone and newsletter of the exact time.

We are requesting that you sign up for a subscription to "Happenings On hilltop" because our communications will be through the Club 24 newsletter which will be printed in the Happen-



ings. We are seeking a bulk mailing permit so that you will be sure to receive your monthly copy. You will be able to send in your ideas and other information you wish to share with other Club 24 members through our mailing list.

The annual subscription is \$12.00. Mail your subscription checks and other correspondence to:

Club 24 Reunion Committee
P.O. Box 5402
Tacoma, WA 98415-0402

We still need people to chair the following committees:

1. Public Relations, Communications, correspondence, History, Year Book, Photo Album, Film and Photography.
2. Music, Entertainment, Food and Decorations.
3. Transportation, Accommodations
4. Reservations and Admissions, Door and Participation Prizes.
5. Membership-Fundraising, Investment, Budget.
6. Advertising.

We feel that every original member of Club 24 should also become a member of the Reunion Committee. A letter is being sent to every original member throughout the United States. Every original member, along with his/her immediate family and relatives will have a reserved table. They will also appear in our annual photo album.

Our theme for 1998:

**BLACK HISTORY
IN
THE CITY OF DESTINY**

CLUB 24 REUNION

COMING NEXT YEAR
IN
AUGUST, 1998

Complete the information below so that you can receive the monthly newsletter and keep up with the upcoming events.

Clip (or tear) this page out and mail it to:
Club 24 Reunion Committee
PO Box 5402
Taocma, WA 98415-0402

Make your subscription check payable to:
Club 24 Reunion

NAME _____

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ON A COMMITTEE? YES NO (MARK ONE)