

HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP

IS ANYONE LISTENING ?

SAVE TIME: STOP: PAY BILLS
 RENEW YOUR TABS HERE
 VEHICLE/VESSEL LICENSING
 ANOTHER LIFE LOST
 TROY ROBINSON R I P
 WE BUILD DREAMS

SAVE TIME: STOP: PAY BILLS
 RENEW YOUR TABS HERE
 VEHICLE/VESSEL LICENSING
 TROY ROBINSON R I P
 INCREASE THE PEACE
 DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN

In Loving Memory of



TROY KERRY ROBINSON SR.
 March 29, 1971 - April 29, 1994

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

KEEPIN' THE FAITH

I've been hearing a real negative reaction to the hood from our residents lately. It's not just new people in the Hilltop either. I have been hearing this statement from long time residents as well: "Man, I was doing just fine 'till I came back to Tacoma! Now look at me; I'm in trouble with the law and my live is all messed up."

I must admit that I too have fallen on trying times. But brothers and sisters, this is not the time to give up! I can't tell you how many times I have thought about leaving the Hood. Rarely do I find time to get out and do things I should attend to on a personal level. But give up? Not on your life! We have too much at stake, and we are too close to turn back now.

Just look around and check who's getting involved. It's like the whole crew is shifting focus and starting to get involved, wanting to do something "GOOD" in the "HOOD." I am now hearing conversations on the street that ring with hope. Our young brothers and sisters are actively seeking out alternatives to what has been keeping them down.

No, we need to stay the course. It's not the area that is keeping folks down, maybe just our attitude. **The summer is nearly upon us and we must do whatever we can to have positive things in place for our community to get involved in.** Let's jump in with both feet. It won't be the easiest work we've ever done, but the possibility of turning lives around and encouraging positive change might be just the prescription to help many of us begin healing our own personal ills. **TRY IT, YOU MIGHT LIKE IT!**

YA'LL DON'T FEEL ME THOUGH!!!

I was talking with brother Focus the other day. He was on a roll, BUT he finally kicked in with some real positive verb; "Man, brothas need to Squash all that sh..!"

Focus had made reference to the recent funeral, all the petty arguments people are getting into and the physical harm we continue to do to each other. WE need to realize that it's the small things that are taking people over the edge.

Right now, we have people who haven't spoken to one another for years just because of an unkind word or deed. Can we afford this type of mentality? I say NO! If we believe that we have the seed of the original man within us, then we must also except the awesome responsibility of being peace makers here in this world. That is what GOD created the original man for.

Sure it seems crazy that I should be asking us to lay down our weapons for the sake of another. But really, is any of this worth? Has any of the blood shed, bickering, fighting and strife brought back any of the many who have passed from our midst? Has getting the last word in ever resolved or saved a marriage?

I think we would do ourselves well to listen to Focus on this one. We need to squash the sh.. with the quickness. **ONLY TRUE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER CAN TAKE US WHERE WE WANT TO GO, BUT YA'LL DON'T HEAR ME THOUGH !!!**

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

A TRIBUTE

TROY MY BOY

BY CAROL ARMSTRONG

No more will Troy's voice I hear, or his smile I see.
So loving, thoughtful and kind as can be.

Living life to the fullest, this was Troy My Boy.
His family, friends, cars and dogs gave him such satisfaction
and joy.

As sure as we are born, I know we must die.
To take a life, any life, especially "Troy My Boy", I would give
the life in me to understand why.

While we search far an answer "Why Troy," who should we
blame?
It's the EVIL within and it has no shame.

Stop sagging and dragging and killing each other.
Find a better way to solve these problems, make peace with
your sister and brother!

But you don't hear me though!

So take a walk with me in the Troy family shoes.
Picture your mother, family and friends devastated, broken
hearted over this sad news.

I've known and loved this family since 1956.
I've repaired cars, doors, changed diapers, bandaged knees
and many a night, tacos I would fix.
It hurts me to my heart this awful tragedy before me and I don't
have the power; only the thoughtful words I can mix.

To my life long friend Krista, his mom, family and friends, I truly
share your sorrow.

We must ask God to give us understanding and comfort our
hearts, for it is God who holds that powerful key of life; "God is
our true tomorrow."

If all the tears could bring you back that I have seen fall;
"Troy My Boy," may God bless, you wouldn't be gone at all.

DOIN' TIME

BOYS 'N "OUR" HOOD PART 2

BY K\$WISS

Back 2 tha BLACK ya'!!!
In the previous issue, I let it be known the way "boys" operate and the "boyish" mentality. Now, I think it's time to let ya'll know how "men" operate and the mentality of a "man". Basically, the outcome of self-knowledge.

A "man" is any male figure ready and willin' to take on the world. A "man" thinks with a Godly-consciousness; Manifesting LOVE and WISDOM to all who come in contact with him. He defines manhood on these terms: Breadwinner, provider, pro-creator and protector. A "man" knows in order to succeed in life he must think big and head for the TOP! A "man" is thrift, hard-working, and perseveres under trials and tribulations. He knows that if he stands society's test and cooperates with the laws, he will please God and be blessed with knowledge, wisdom, and happiness. However, a "man" does not think "I" or "MINE", he thinks "WE" and "OURS".

He develops a natural urge to get involved in family life (husband-hood; fatherhood), the community, and furthermore, the nation. A "man" thinks on a "Universal" level as well. He thinks of things that will affect his people, not just himself. He studies ways to prepare his people for self-reliance.

Being a "man", he no longer wants to be dependent on any other people than his own. A "man" cherishes his freedom and refuses to give it up to meet his unclean desires. A "man" looks at a woman as a companion and a helpmate, and not as an object to please him physically.

These are only a few characteristics of a "man" and the mentality of a "man". A "man" is always climbing to the TOP! A "BOY" = Talk, A "MAN" = Action!. So that, my folks, is a REAL "BLACK MAN"!!!!

P.S. (2 The Brothas) Once again, this is all an outcome of SELF-KNOWLEDGE!!!! Really tho'.

HAVE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION THROUGH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM? IF YOU MISSED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 17, 1994 AT LINCOLN, YOU CAN STILL CATCH THE HEARING IN SEATTLE AT FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL IN SEATTLE ON MAY 24, 1994 AT 7:00P.M. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT 543-9882 OR MIKE CURTIS AT 705-5227. IF SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE SYSTE, WE HAVE TO SPEAK UP IN ORDER TO CHANGE IT! OUR CHILDREN (ALL OUR CHILDREN) ARE COUNTING ON US TO PROTECT THEM. KICK IN!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROY FLETCHER ON BECOMING THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE PEOPLES CENTER!!! THANKS ALSO TO AGEE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HILLTOP COMMUNITY. GOOD LUCK GENTLEMEN!!!

What Being BLACK Means To Me

By A Brotha Doin' Time

Being Black to me is an "Experience". As present times seem to just pass on, I feel all Black men and women have had many experiences dealing with the color of their skin. Having either racial conflicts and misjudgments, or positive outcomes as mentors to all generations.

A Black person is a "Highlight". Being Black gives you choices and power. You can allow the color of your skin to bring you down, or you can choose wisely to show the skills you possess (By choosing the latter choice). Those who oppose you racially will be side tracked by the power of your knowledge.

Being Black is an experience many people would like to try, but they can't. To me, I feel that is why there is a lot of negligence towards Black men and women. Other races see the skills we possess, the attention we attract, and feel its their duty to draw as close to Brothas and Sistas as they can. However, there are some Blacks who feel superior along with our oppressor because their skin may be real light.

My being Black has no effect on my behavior or train of thought. Anything I do depends on how hard I "work". I work hard at being who I am. It is valuable to know your history but life ahead is more important. If we become successes for the future, we can then help Black men and women become successful Black people; not racially hated or hateful.

A TRUE SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

BITS OF GAME

"MAN is the individual who is able to shape his own character, master his own will, direct his own life, and shape his own ends"

Marcus Garvey
(1967)

"YOU will never know who you are in the world until you know thyself."

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP YET? WHY NOT?

U.N.I.T.Y.

The Time Has Come.

Written By SENECA a.k.a. K \$WI\$\$

Brothas and Sistas, the time for UNITY has come! We have got to get past all of our surfaced differences and look at our problems and produce SOLUTIONS! The whimpering and bickering are only signs of weakness! We have got to stop: Talking about each other! Calling each other names! Lying to one another! Snitching on each other! Killing each other with weapons and poison (Drugs)! "STOP" THIS AND "START" THIS:

- * Develop Study Habits (Self-knowledge)
- * Embrace Our Children
- * Teach Our Children Our History
- * Men Honor Women
- * Women Honor Men
- * Re-Program Unhealthy Habits
- * Construct a Value System
 1. Self-reliance
 2. Work
 3. Morality
 4. Restraint
 5. Supporting Your People

Please, be Ready and Willing!!!
MUCH LOVE

P.S.

UNITED WE STAND
DIVIDED WE FALL!

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH "UNITY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY DAY," PLEASE CALL ME AT 272-8133. WE STILL HAVE A FEW MONTHS, SO LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.

HELP WANTED

What's happenin' Brothas and Sistas? Livin' life like "soldiers" I assume. Peep game; I need your assistance. Please list and send me any services you need on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

The purpose of this is to establish business' and create Summer jobs for Youth. List any products, or materials you need on a regular basis also.

Write to: HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP (K\$WI\$\$), 2320 South Wilkeson, Tacoma, WA 98405

Please, help keep OUR YOUTH busy this summer. Busy the right way! Thank You for your support!

Your Brotha,
K\$WI\$\$

COMMUNITY POTPOURRI

It's Time We Hear

By Carolyn Gore

For the past 7 years, we have sat idly by and watched our youth self-destruct. Hoping & praying that they would realize and STOP their violence. In our silence we have lost too many of our babies!! It's time for **US** the Parents, the Adults, the System, the Community to unite and work diligently at a solution to this growing problem before all of our young adults; which are our future, perish before our very eyes.

Society "The System" has robbed our youth of the Hope of a better tomorrow, they no longer have the Faith of equality, nor the Dream of accomplishment thus preventing from anchoring because of the lack of desire to even try. Our young adults need us now! To show them that we DO care, that we have faith in them. Above all, to help them see that Gangs and drugs are merely another avenue, another block placed by society to suppress, to enslave, to destroy our people. With ALL of us pulling, working together, WE CAN! We will change our direction! We cannot allow our people to perish through our own destruction.

A small group of us have united and established a small business "4 Season Plaza". This business consists of 4 shops and a restaurant. This establishment has enabled our young adults the opportunity to own their own business, thus restoring their self worth. Our goal is to show and prove that they can achieve. Our hope is to give them back their self esteem, the faith that they can be treated equally. That, with positive direction, they are capable of achieving their dreams. Our venture has surprisingly proven to be more rewarding than anticipated. For the first time in a long time, I have witnessed genuine excitement. I have seen the glow in their eyes. I watched Hope, and Faith restored into their lives. I've seen hard work and uniformed participation.

The plans for the "Plaza" entails much more than the 4 shops. Our plans are to set up counseling, tutoring, G.E.D. preparation, (Too many of our youths have stopped attending school for one reason or another). We plan to supply those who are interested with the opportunity to retrieve their education by studying in a more relaxed atmosphere with a one-on-one relationship while preparing for their G.E.D. Above all, the direction and knowledge of becoming a efficient "Entrepreneur". With the sincere prayer of re-establishing and confirming their self-worth in our community as well as the entire world.

I realize this will take time "Rome wasn't built in a day", but with help, hard work and taking one day at a time, putting one foot in front of the other. WE CAN! WE WILL, reach our goal that is to, "Save Our Babies".

I ask that you join in this plight! In view is a larger, more spacious building which will enable more of our young adults the same opportunity depending on their interest. We ask that our youth have a sincere desire to achieve, be willing to work and know this is not a Gang Thang. It's a Business Thang with this understanding and the willingness to learn you can achieve anything/everything.

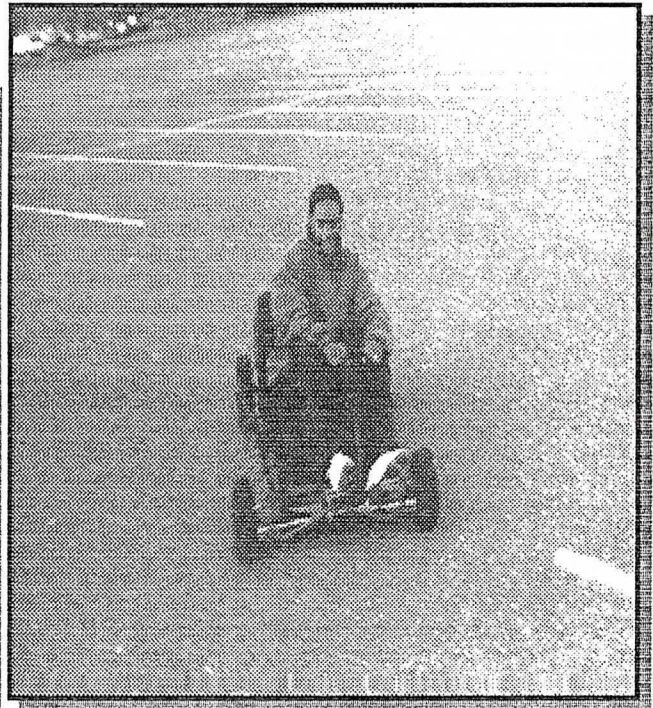
We ask the "Parents" our established Black Businesses, "The entire Community" to join in and support our quest. Realize that regardless to your status or stature, this problem affects all of us and it will take all of us working to resolve it.

All ideas, suggestions, financial aid, educational, and volunteers will be greatly appreciated. **Remember, nothin' beats a Failure but a Try!!!!**

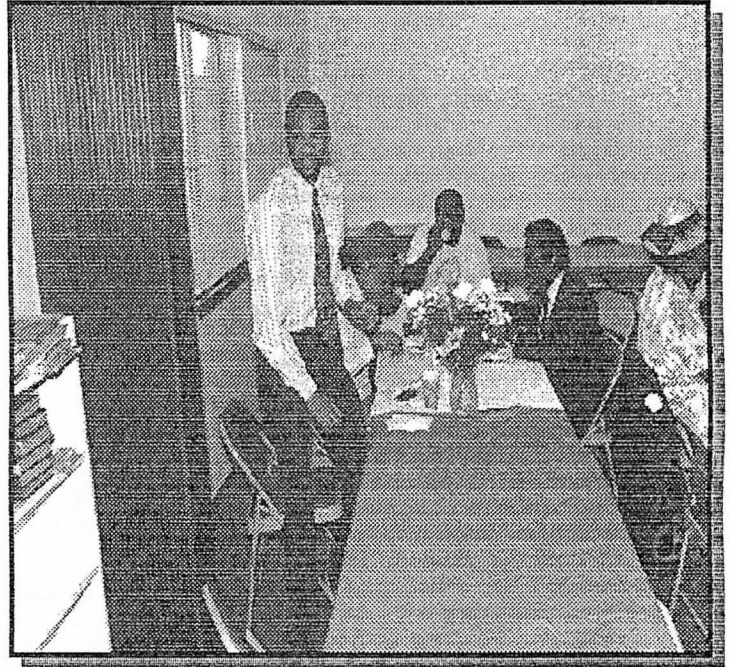
The 4 Season Plaza is now open for business. **Our Grand Opening is June 3rd & 4th . We are located on the corner of 11th & Sheridan (behind Safeway). We look forward to your support, patronage and simply seeing you!!!!**

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP YET? REALLY, WELL WHY NOT THEN? YOU SUBSCRIPTION WILL HELP US KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE AND HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF MANY.

SHOTS FROM THE 'HOOD



MO' SHOTS FROM THE HOOD



HAVE YOU SEEN THE MONUMENT PARK LATELY? STOP BY 23RD AND ALASKA. IT IS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD. THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS A REALITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY!!!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE PARK GOING IN BEHIND THE HILLTOP MONUMENT? STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING PARK ANNIVERSARY!!!

NEWS STAFF:

Larry Norman- editor
Dwayne Waller- the danger zone/asst. editor
Cora Warren- doing time
Seneca Hopkins- asst. editor
Danita Norman- secretary

NOTE:

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP, IT MUST BE IN BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

MR., & MRS. WALLER AND FAMILY
SEARS (TACOMA MALL)
REV. FLETCHER AND CONGREGATION
SIS. LAURA NEAL
RON DIETRICK
TACOMA IMAGING
DELORES SILAS
JIM KNIGHT
K-SWISS

**SUBSCRIBE, SUBSCRIBE
SUBSCRIBE!!!**

Now you can have Happenings On hilltop all year. It's the easiest way to keep informed about your neighborhood without leaving home! All this, for a donation of just 9.00 per year.

HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP
2320 SOUTH WILKESON
TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98405

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
MAYORS OFFICE	591-5100
ABANDONED AUTOS	591-5926
RECYCLING DEPT.	565-5955
REFUSE DEPT.	591-5544
HAC	597-4808
SAFE STREETS	272-6824

LARRY NORMAN (EDITOR) 272-8133
HILLTOP COMMUNITY SERVICES 272-8133

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO PROVIDE INSPIRATION, INFORMATION AND DIRECTION TO THE RESIDENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES THAT RESIDE AND SERVE THE HILLTOP COMMUNITY.