



Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

50¢
Donation

Volume 2, Number 17

January 1993

1993

NEW YEAR!

NEW CHALLENGES!

First off, let me apologize to all those who have sent their money in for subscriptions. There was a rush of activity throughout the community last month, and our copy machine was down for a while. Please have patience with us. We are striving to bring about a situation where we can continually bring you Happenings On Hilltop in a consistent and timely manner.

December was filled with many notable challenges that are going to be with us for quite some time. We must make some form of commitment to just get the job done. There is no time for placing blame. The fact is, we ALL have a situation which requires a solution and there are becoming fewer excuses for not addressing them. Our children are counting on us to leave them a legacy in which they can build their future. Are we up to the challenge? I for one, say YES!

A special thanks to the mayor, city counsel and local residents who were present at the ground breaking ceremony on January 2. Our community deserves much credit for the work it has put forth to make the monument a reality. Many other projects are on the way, so stay in touch!

A Special note to the family of Damon and Kunta:

MUCH LOVE AND OUR UNDYING SUPPORT TO YOU IN YOUR TIME OF LOSS. REMEMBER, ALL LIVES ARE PRECIOUS. WE, HERE AT HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP AND THOSE WHO KNEW THEM FOR WHO THEY REALLY WERE WISH TO THANK YOU FOR GRACING OUR LIVES WITH YOUR SONS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT WE

MAY BEGIN THE PROCESS OF HEALING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SO THAT THE REMAINDER OF OUR CHILDREN WILL BE MENTIONED IN A LIGHT THAT WILL BRING TEARS OF JOY TO THE FACES OF ALL WHO BEHOLD THEIR NAMES.

PEACE

Also, there was an error in the article written in Sunday's News Tribune (January 3, 1993) about the ground breaking ceremony.

PLEASE NOTE: THE GROUND BREAKING WAS FOR A MONUMENT, NOT A MEMORIAL. THE INSCRIPTION WILL BE "ALL LIVES ARE PRECIOUS", AND NOT A LIST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED DUE TO THE VIOLENCE HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THERE ARE PLANS FOR A MEMORIAL THAT WILL BE DONE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. INFORMATION ON THAT PROJECT WILL BE FORTH-COMING, SO STAY TUNED!!!

Now, with this business out of the way, let's break 'em off some and see what's HAPPENING ON HILLTOP.

EDITORIAL

BY LARRY NORMAN

The end of 1992 brought with it many wonderful memories that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. My children were with me, my sisters and their families were still intact, I found a wonderful person to accompany me to the Fire Fighters New Year's Eve party (thanks for bailing me out "D"), my mother is still in good health and many of the people whom I have come to know and love are still with me.

The later memory was perhaps the greatest gift of all in light of the current conditions here in our community. I can not tell you how many times I read or heard of someone passing from our midst during 1992. I had the unfortunate opportunity to be present at funerals and I visited the mortuary far to many times.

I have tried to put into perspective what all this means. Part of me wishes to concede that much of this violence is "unnecessary". Then there is that portion of me that can feel the "survival instinct" which often accompanies many youth during their daily walk in life.

There are many issues that must be addressed before "PEACE" in the streets can become a

reality here in Tacoma. I have worked with youth who have not acquired the basic necessary educational skills to effectively compete at their current grade level. The lack of education is one of the first keys that opens the door to the street life that draws so many of our children out into the cold. The lack of a stable home environment is another major obstacle. Perhaps the most threatening concern at this time is the inability for people to access the system, whether we are speaking of services or legal representation.

As hard as this perspective may be to consider, it has become a harsh reality, and justifiably so. I have sat in many court rooms and observed both justice and the lack of. I have observed commendable legal representation as well as deplorable. The number of negative encounters between community residents and the legal system vary, depending on who you talk to. What most will agree upon is that while we don't have a perfect system at present, this is the only system we have.

But does "It's the only system we have" justify the lack of respect and basic civil rights many people face? Has our system become so large and cumbersome that we can no longer connect with people on a personal level?

As I have pointed out to many people over the last few weeks, there is a tremendous amount of energy swirling around in our midst. At this time, we as people have the opportunity to determine the direction of it.

The events of the last days of 1992 and the upheaval of the first few hours of 1993 have given us an indication of the potential of what we are facing. I can only hope and pray that the people and agencies who are in a position to make a difference, are up to the task. Yes, it will be scary and you will feel awkward from time to time. But our alternatives are running out. We can not continue to address social problems by calling in more law enforcement officers or the National Guard. Our country was supposed to be the "Land of the Free", not a police state!

I have received many phone calls from many of the agencies and organizations that serve the Hilltop area. Many of them thank me for a job well done. They also ask how I may assist them in addressing some of their concerns regarding their effectiveness in the Hilltop area. Folks, as nice as it may be to get one's ego stroked, I really don't see where I (or any of us, for that matter) have arrived at a "job well done" because the work isn't complete yet. To be honest, we really haven't scratched the surface.

Please do not take this as a negative account of the efforts many people and agencies have made to address this situation. We all have much to thank each other for. To me, the word DONE defines a task completed. As I look out my window, or drive through the streets of Hilltop, it is only too obvious that there is much work still left. Actually, that is good because with all the calls I have received from people wanting to

get involved, I can honestly say that there are more than enough worth while projects to keep us all busy for quite some time. So let's get started. Call me at 272-8133.

PEACE.

PERSPECTIVE

BY Harjas

Each division, or part, having predominant consciousness of itself in particular, sees itself out of proportion and is scarcely related to the rest of the world. Each part, in a world within itself, at least in the mind of man belonging to such a division.

Each part is more or less vaguely aware that it may not have been created that way originally but that all parts have at some time or other, somehow, but for no good reason, separated themselves from the main part. In this respect at least all parts are very similar. This is a common perspective with which we are all familiar.

A true perspective would show us a somewhat different picture, of course. If we base our perspective on the vaguely recognized and generally accepted unity of origin, or the original unity of the whole, we would see that mankind and the world have evolved from original unity, or oneness, toward division and separation. A true perspective would show that not all parts (except us) have separated from the whole, or from God, but all

parts, including man, have so separated themselves. A true perspective shows further that violence and war or imbalance of any kind are only possible among the parts of the whole. Conversely, the whole, or Oneness, cannot be at odds with itself.

Next month we will have part three of this continuing series.

ROLLIN WITH J.C.

BY J.C.

This month I took a notice to something very disturbing. I'm sure that by now everyone, some time or another has been or read commercials or literature asking our youths to "say no" to drugs. Personally, I do not condone using drugs, but I do think these commercials are misleading.

While this campaign does aim to keep people off drugs, it fails to separate the different types of drugs. For instance; marijuana and crack are two very different types of drugs. True they are both drugs, but they have different side effects and symptoms that people need to be aware of. From the commercials that I have seen, I get the idea that they are the same and this is not true.

This can be a damaging fact that in reality undermines the whole campaign. The problem is that the majority of people who use crack at one time or another smoked marijuana.

I don't want to frighten any parents but to be honest many youths are already experimenting with marijuana. So if they feel that these two drugs are the same, what's to stop them from moving on to the highly addictive drug known as crack.

It is easy to say "I smoked marijuana, so why not try crack, they are the same thing". This is hardly true. Crack, heroin, cocaine and other drugs are highly addictive, where marijuana has never proven to be physically addictive. Addictions to cocaine products and heroin are sometimes so severe that the users frequently resort to crimes of violence or theft to get money to buy those drugs.

I spoke with a Registered Nurse who deals with drug overdose patients and asked her if she had ever treated a patient who had overdosed on marijuana. Her answer was "no, I never treated any marijuana overdoses, but I get heroin and crack overdoses all the time".

There are many differences that I could discuss, but I think these examples are enough to get my point across.

Like I said before, I do not condone using drugs, but I just thought the people should be aware of these commercials. They can only be effective if they are taken in the right context. I suggest that parents and other informed individuals take time to talk about these differences. You might just save a friend or your child's life.

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

We Are Survivors!!!
Consider the changes we have
witnessed:

We were born before television,
before penicillin, before
polio shots, frozen foods,
Xerox, plastic, contact lenses,
Frisbees and the Pill.

We were born before radar,
credit cards, split atoms,
laser beams and ball-point
pens, before pantyhose,
dishwashers, clothes dryers,
electric blankets, air
conditioners, drip dry clothes
and before man walked on the
moon.

We got married first and then
lived together. How quaint can
you be?

In our time, closets were for
clothes, not for "coming out
of." Bunnies were small
rabbits and rabbits were
Volkswagons. Designer Jeans
were scheming girls named Jean
or Jeanne, and having a
meaningful relationship meant
getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what
you ate during Lent, and Outer
Space was the back of the
Riviera Theatre.

We were born before house-
husbands, gay rights, computer
dating, dual careers and
computer marriages.

We were born before day-care
centers, group therapy and
nursing homes.

We never heard of FM radio,
tape decks, electric
typewriters, artificial hearts,
word processors, yogurt, and
guys wearing earrings.

For us, time-sharing meant
togetherness, not computers or
condominiums; a 'chip' meant a
piece of wood.

Hardware meant hardware, and
soft ware wasn't even a word!

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant
junk and the term "making out"
referred to how you did on your
exam.

Pizza, "McDonalds" and instant
coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there
were 5 and 10 cents stores,
where you bought things for
five and ten cents.

Isaly's sold ice cream cones
for a nickel or a dime.

For one nickel you could ride
a street car (trolley), make a
phone call, buy a Pepsi or
enough stamps to mail one
letter and two postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe
for \$600, but who could afford
one: a pity too, because gas
was 11 cents a gallon!

In our day, cigarette smoking
was fashionable, Grass was
mowed, Coke was a soft drink,
and Pot was something you
cooked in.

Rock Music was a Grandma's
lullaby and AIDS were helpers
in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not born
before the difference between
the sexes was discovered, but

we were surely born before the
sex change; we made do with
what we had, and we were the
last generation that was so
dumb as to think you needed a
husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused
and there is such a generation
gap today!

But We Survived! What Better
Reason To Celebrate?!

PARENTING PLUS

Parenting Plus is a free
program for parents who want to
learn more about parenting,
children and themselves. It
provides an opportunity for
parents to be with other
families, to learn about common
parenting concerns, listen to
other views, and enjoy an
activity with their children.

For more information you can
contact Karon Swenson at
1517 South Fawcett Suite 200
Tacoma, WA 98402 (206)572-5541

THE UNANSWERED MAIL

The mailman comes, the mailman
goes.
The postman passes by,
And someone only can suppose.

And wait, and wonder why,
Today no letter, and tonight
A silence hard to bear.
We wonder if they can write,
Or simply do not care?

The little note is laid away,
The letter put aside.
Yet someone hoped to hear today
An answering voice denied.

You may be busy, well we know,
So many things you're at.
You may be busy.
Are you, though,
As busy as all that?

Oh, keep the freshness of
friendship green
When friends are far apart.
How much a word of yours would
mean
To cheer some absent heart!

The rose not watered droops and
dies,
Yes, dies in some sad hour;
The letter that unanswered lies
Is love's not watered flow'r.

IF A CHILD...

If a child lives with criticism
He learns to condemn
If a child lives with hostility
He learns to fight
If a child lives with ridicule
He learns to be shy
If a child lives with shame
He learns to feel guilty
If a child lives with tolerance
He learns to be patient
If a child lives with
encouragement
He learns to be confident
If a child lives with praise
He learns to appreciate
If a child lives with fairness
He learns to be just
If a child lives with security
He learns to have faith
If a child lives with approval
He learns to like himself
If a child lives with
friendship
He learns to find love in the
world.

FOR THE PRICE OF A MOVIE

BY LARRY NORMAN

If you go downtown these days, you can't help but notice the face-lift it has received. The Pantages has become a landmark showcase as have a number of other historic buildings. The Union Station has become a Federal Court house. These and many other changes to the landscape of the downtown sector have given many a reason for optimism.

Not too many years ago, there were two theaters that offered many of us an opportunity to view first run movies and participate in the age old ritual of the matinees. The Roxy and Rialto have left many of us with fond memories of a day gone by; a day where if you were good during the week, your parents would drop you off with your best friends and you could enjoy the afternoon and feel like a grown up. For others, the Rialto, in particular, offered more than just a place to go on the weekends; it was a place to come out of the cold and for a few hours, have some warmth and some form of safety.

Kevin and Karlyn managed the Rialto during the early eighties. They came in after the Rialto had all but died. Says Kevin, "We tried to re-build the clientele. The Rialto wouldn't work as a first run movie house. Even though our prices were lower than the multi-screen theaters, people still chose to go elsewhere."

Kevin points to some reasons

for this. "There was no parking, the police had a low visible presence (they'd drive by, but rarely stopped)."

Then, Kevin and Karlyn decided to do the unthinkable; two movies for 99¢! Not only did business pick up, but for a time, it seemed as if the Rialto was going to survive. "We ran it like a real theatre," recalls Kevin and Karlyn. "If you weren't 17, you didn't get in without an adult. Many kids complained that the other theatre's would let them in, but we held firm. The police became more helpful. At this time, we were having two or three calls a night for police support."

Kevin notes that this was about the time that the gangs began to show up on the scene in Tacoma. "We saw the kids change. We would have problems when the rules were enforced. I don't believe in a police state, but people weren't respecting each other."

To Kevin, Karlyn and their staff, what was most important was offering direction and caring to a neighborhood that was changing for the worst. "We tried to instill a sense of fairness and a place for kids and neighbors to go and relax. We tried to take care of our neighbors by keeping things peaceful and keeping the prices low."

But by 1988, the problem in the streets became more than Kevin and his staff could handle. "People began moving out the Hilltop. It wasn't a safe place anymore."

But more than just the eventual

demise of another independent movie theatre, Kevin also sees an alarming trend in family entertainment. "Multi-screen theatres took the business from small "mom and pop" theatres. There were no longer jobs for neighborhood youth, no place for local kids to go." And Kevin sees other concerns on a broader scale. "Our kids are growing up without Drive-in's. Only the Starlite and the Valley remain. You used to be able to load up the kids in their jammies, pop some corn and for the price of a movie, spend an evening with your family."

As we began to close our interview, Kevin and Karlyn seemed as though they wanted to leave me and my readers with a piece of the memories they had shared and a hope for the future. "The Rialto was catering to the people. We didn't come at the people. The Rialto was a place to learn about morals, ethics and obeying the rules. We tried to show people that not all business people are "jerks". Today, most businesses that serve the public are in it for the profit, not the people."

When I asked Kevin to sum up our interview, he paused and said, "Why can't we bring back some of yesterday's values to our society today?" Why indeed, Kevin and Karlyn. Thank you both for making a difference. Hopefully, there will be drive-ins for our children and 99c movies. And maybe, just maybe we can bring back family time...for the price of a movie.

PEACE

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

ALBERTA, FOR YOUR INSIGHT, - PATIENTS AND LOVE (AND YOUR BRAIN CHILD)
ACID, FOR THE CAP YOU LEFT ME (THANKS)
SHAUNTELLA (MUCH LOVE!)
MOOKIE (I CAN FINALLY FIND MY FRONT DOOR)
ERIN, PETE AND THE SAFEWAY POSSE
DEUCE-TRAY (KEEP THE GANG, LOOSE THE BANG, WORD!)
DANITA, BOOCHIE-MAN, SHAY AND THE JENKINS POSSE (YOU ALREADY KNOW!)
FRED, FRED, FRED
GARY (A.K.A. MR. CLEAN)
THE WALLER CLAN (THANKS FOR MAKIN' THE GROUND BREAKIN' A HAPPENIN')
BO
MARK (IS THAT THE SAME HOUSE?)
THE NICKSTER AND THE DONSTER (MY BABY'S)
DAVE
MAYOR VIALLE, DR. SILAS, BILL BARSMA AND THE T-TOWN POSSE
REUBEN AND LINDA (KEEP A COLD ONE READY FOR ME)
CHIEF MORTON, CAPT. VICORY, CAPT. HEPBURN
T-MONEY AND THAT GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS KNOWN AS MY NEPHEWS AND NIECES
MY DEAR MOTHER AND WONDERFUL SISTERS (JACKIE, LEAVE KENTRELL ALONE)
DID I MENTION DANITA ALREADY?
MY POSSE AT STATION #2 (BREAK 'EM OFF SOME!)
THE GOOD FOLKS AT H.D. BAKER
ALL THE WONDERFUL AGENCIES THAT ARE GOING TO BE WORKING TOGETHER IN THE COMING MONTHS (WHAT, NO ONE TOLD YOU YET?)
PRESTON, DAVE AND COMPANY (GOOD LUCK!)
MISTY (AND WENDY, I GUESS)
THE BEEB AND MELLI-MEL (STAY UP!)

*and of course . . .
God !!*

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.

<p>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</p>
--

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!

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.