

# Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

50¢

Volume 2, Number 15

November 1992

## A LIFE SO PRECIOUS





## IN MEMORY OF...

... MARVIN SCOTT-ANDRE' LAMAR-ALTON SOLTER-RAYMOND WILSON-LI'L TANK-JAMIE HOWARD-DWAYNE HILL-JEROME SATTERWHITE-FREDDIE BAILEY-BARNARD HOUSTON-DOWELL THORNTON-JOHNATHAN ROBINSON-DAVID JOHNSON-HOWARD HARE-ANDRE'-QUINCEY O'NEIL-EVERETT HOLDER-GREG-JOHN CARPENTER-SNOOTY HILL-BO BO HAWKINS-RONNIE GAYLES JR.-MATT MIDDLETON-LATOYA GORDON-TACOMA HAYES-SHELLY WALLER-OTIS BANKS-GEORGE BROWN-WALLACE BRADFORD-SEPHONIA-BARBARA HAYNES-LARRY GLOVER-ANITA DRISCOLL-DEBBIE CRITTENTON-NANCY MONTGOMERY-JANET JOHNSON-DALE WALLER-BENJIMAN ISSAC-HENRY BURLY-ROCHELLE TABER-EVELYN WILLIAMS-DONNA FRANKS-(DEBBIE'S BROTHER) JOHNSON-ANDRE' FOUNTAIN-IRVIN EDWARDS...

## ...AND THE SOULS OF ALL GODS CHILDREN DEPARTED

The list of names you just read are brothers, sister's, sons, daughters, even fathers and mothers, of our friends who have resided here on Hilltop. It hurts to know so many people who once graced our lives with their energy, love and happiness. Yes friends, it hurts deeply to read these names. What hurts even more, is that these names were compiled of young people from the Black community of Hilltop. We haven't even covered the Asian, Native American, White and Hispanic youth who are gone from our midst.

At this point, it matters little what caused their demise. The fact that this many names are on a list "in memory of..." says all that needs to be said. They can no longer speak for themselves on their behalf. The question is, when are we, the living, going to speak up and address this issue? Have we not grown weary of funerals? Have we shed enough tears? Haven't there been enough toasts to the brothers and sisters who aren't here?

If you don't recognize any of the names above, you are fortunate indeed. I am burdened (and blessed) to have known many of these youth, some since they were children. I carry this burden with me whenever I address issues concerning conditions within our inner city. Many people have trouble understanding why I have such resolve and determination for change. Some have even suggested that I am manic depressive. If this is the case, I count my infirmity a blessing because I know that until we can cry or speak out on behalf of another, can we truly possess compassion, empathy and sympathy. Our Maker requires these feelings of us if we are to draw closer to him.

Dear friends, I am not trying to preach. I am asking us to look within and check our values. What is important to you? The commandments we were left with to govern our

existence are basic; "Love thy neighbor as thyself and Love the Lord God with all thy heart." Are we doing this? If not, we need to get in touch with whatever it is that keeps us from feeling the pain of another. If we are truly about the business of helping one another, let our actions speak this.

It is my hope that the next list I post will be of young people who graduated from high school, got jobs, went on to college, bought a house, ran for public office, or any number of positive situations. To the friends, family and loved ones of these young people, may you receive the strength to carry this cross. Always remember, we are never given more than we can bear...

PEACE.

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## DON'T STRIKE OUT

by *GEORGE WILLIAMS*

If you are reading this article and there are people around you, please read it aloud. Having been around a great deal of teens, pre-teens and adults, it has been shocking to find that many of my neighbors can neither read, write, or count. In the society we live in, illiteracy is like the yoke of a slave master, it is a strike at the plate of success if you will. It is a strike we can and must avoid.

Many Hilltop residents already have one or two strikes against them. Strikes can be interpreted as anything that serves to prevent ones forward and upward struggle to be a success or even to get a job to merely survive. I see many things that could be considered strikes under certain situations, such as: race; the lack of education; gender; addiction; homelessness, the list is quite lengthy. And persons having those areas in their life, believe it too. If you are applying for a job from



someone, and have this attitude or belief, you know your turn at bat will be brief.

Don't strike out. If you, or someone you know cannot read or write, there are people right here in the local community that can assist you. If you don't want anyone to know... cool, we'll find a way to work around that, but let's work at it.

Illiteracy hurts everyone; the person, the family and society as a whole. Remember, illiteracy knows no age, gender or race. If you have gotten through school, still in school, quit, whatever... if you need and would like help, let us know. Let us help swing the bat of "life". If three strikes are all we get in life, let's be prepared for that pitch we can all hit, with a little help. Learn to read, write and count. DON'T STRIKE OUT!!!

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## RESPECTFULLY YOURS (MORE BRAIN FOOD)

by *GEORGE WILLIAMS*

As children, most of us are taught to respect others, and that disrespect usually has adverse consequences. No one wants to be "DISS'D" (disrespected). It's almost comical, or would be if the results today were not so tragic.

During the past five years or so, many lives have been ruined, ended and otherwise effected because someone felt they had been "DISS'D". Many people have not learned that they get what they give, and I guess that has a lot to do with being disrespected. At times when I ask myself what is the just of a "DISS", I get confused. I get angry when I think of or read about someone being killed because they "DISS'D" someone.

What is the cost or penalty for "DISSIN'" somebody? How can you tell when you're "DISSIN'" someone, or they are "DISSIN'" you? I believe there is a solution to all of this. As a community, city, state and society, we must learn to do several things that will make all of our lives a bit easier and hopefully longer.

The things we can identify are:

- \*learn to respect ourselves as individuals.
- \*learn to respect others as we should respect ourselves.
- \*approach others with the ideal and belief that we get what we give.
- \*learn to practice the art of forgiving.

These are just a few points that I see are major and necessary. Remember too, that an open line of communications can help resolve a lot of differences with others if we use a calm and respectful approach. Sometimes when a person feels that someone has disrespected them, they come to find out later that it wasn't what it appeared to be.

Perhaps it was unintentional, or maybe it was just a misunderstanding, or misinterpretation of the facts. We need to calm down and find out what the situation is before we "GO OFF".

Many times if we think before trying to rip a brother or sisters' head off, we can give ourselves a chance to more fairly evaluate the incident. Also, by taking our time and thinking things over, we may decide "the heck with the whole thing."

There have been times when I felt I needed to cool off before approaching a brother or sister, I have been surprised by the person coming to me to clean up the misunderstanding. So by giving myself the time to think, I also gave the other person that opportunity to clear things up.

Personally, I find the meaning attached to the term "DISS'D", to be an asinine excuse or reason to hurt, maim or otherwise injure another person. Verbal disrespect should be laughed off. To be slapped in the face is reason enough to beat their... umm... let's just say warm them up, but not to blow their head off. When someone we know has been disrespected or taken advantage of. we can rectify the situation without facilitating a funeral.

We must remember and practice the art of self-control. That will ultimately give us self respect. Then, we must treat others with respect and the majority of the time we will be repaid with an abundance of respect for us in return. The Hilltop area is nice. Let us make it safe. Let's respect each other, live long and prosper.

PEACE

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## THE COST OF PATRIOTISM

by *Larry Norman*

This month, we will be asked as American citizens, to select what may be a new president. With so many issues to be addressed, it is very difficult to get a clear



feeling where each candidate stands. One thing for sure is that the issue of patriotism has captured the headlines.

When we speak of patriotism, we are often drawn to lofty ideals of country, which allows the use of freedoms and liberties that are worth giving our lives for. During the brief history of these United States, we have been involved in two World Wars, many continental conflicts, and numerous border disputes. In each of these situations, our country has answered the call by sending its sons (and now daughters) to protect "liberty and justice for all."

During the sixties and early seventies, Vietnam was the issue at hand. Well over 500,000 Americans served during this period. While much has been made of who didn't go, many of those who did, reside in areas of America like Hilltop. Today, the majority of Vietnam Veteran's who are not either locked up, in hospitals are forced to live in Hilltop. Not that living on Hilltop is all that bad. But once again, our society has opted to provide the majority of care and assistance programs for Veterans and others like them, in the area of town where struggle seems to be a major part of life.

In this presidential election, we have two individuals who elected to by-pass the draft by using their families influences in higher places. One is a vice-president, the other is a democratic candidate. I was in seventh grade at the time, so I was spared. But many people who didn't have the luxury of being allowed to "choose" whether or not to go into the reserves are alive today to tell their side of the story. Their views weren't solicited because they weren't running for any office. Yet, they are the ones who, for better or worse, were sent to a foreign country to protect our honor. And as more and more information surfaces that we may have sent our sons to fight in a war that had other motives and interests, the stories of those who were sent should be now told.

Exactly what is patriotism? That desire we have to protect any government, system or ideal, is what many people choose to measure an individuals patriotism. I

have spoken to many who served across the water in Vietnam, and there is a silent consensus that our involvement was neither necessary or worth the tens of thousands of American lives, and the many, many thousands who are still suffering through their various disabilities.

One of my friends sat down one day and told me of his experiences. He told me how he was drafted and had no choice in the matter, how he was not allowed to leave the induction center during the holiday because there was fear that many inductees would go AWOL.

Once in Vietnam, he told of how people of many diverse backgrounds learned to come together and live. Sure there were differences because of what they had been taught when coming up in America, but gradually, people found out that color was not the measure of a person.

One day, while out on patrol, my friend and his company triggered a land mine. Many of his partners didn't make it. He was fortunate to have only the bottom of his feet blown off. After a short stay in the hospital, he returned state side. While in Tennessee, he went to a restaurant for lunch. The waitress informed him that "We don't serve Niggers!" At that point, my friend threw away many of the medals (including a Purple Heart) that he received while serving his country. I asked him if he still felt a love for this country. After a moment, he said "yes."

I realize that for many, this story may sound like a contention that only those who actually went to Vietnam are patriots, or that this country owes people something due to the inconsiderate actions of certain people. The truth is, we have all been treated unfairly and have treated others unfairly also.

What we as a country must address is, when we are going to start realizing that fear is a human condition. Whether it is the fear of being killed at war, or the fear of another person because he or she is different, it is still

If you wish to submit an article to the Hilltop Newsletter, you can mail it to:

**Happenings On Hilltop**

C/O Preston Ward

1809 So. 25th St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

Or call Larry Norman

Please send your comments and suggestions!!! Please have your articles in by the 15th of each month.

Note: Pictures and Art work can now be put in our newsletter. We will try to return your work as soon as possible.



fear. Instead of judging a person on an incident where they exhibited fear, let us begin to also look at the positive things we as Americans, can be, whether it is being a friend in times of war, or president of the United States of America. We all need to heal. We all love our country and we are all patriots. All it cost each of us, is a commitment to love one another.

PEACE

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## “OUR CHILDREN”

by Marilyn Barker

Dear Friends,

I would like to make our community aware of problems that we all face in our public school system. It has been brought to my attention that we need “parents, grand-parents, or friends to volunteer time on the school playgrounds at recess and lunch times. We need to keep children our children safe! Please help us! For Kids Sake. Contact the school closest to you or contact Marilyn Barker at 627-2224 for further info.

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## ROLLIN’ WITH J.C.

BY J.C.

While driving around on Hilltop, I took time out to think. I thought about what Hilltop used to be like five years ago, what it is like now, and what it will be in the future. After thinking for a while, I came to the conclusion that Hilltop had not changed very much. The People’s Center (which used to be the Malcolm X Center) is still a fixture in the community, for better or worse. K Street is still the same, though many Hilltop residents have suggested a name change to Martin Luther King Boulevard. Many Brother’s and Sister’s seem to be content with our small Black Business District.

I thought for a while longer and I got deeper into what was really going on here in my community. I came up with; teen age pregnancy, black on black crime and drug abuse, but I didn’t dwell on these problems because they are nothing new to this community, or any like it across the country. I did wonder how these problems arose. Why have these problems escalate at such a fast rate over the past couple years?

Many would like to believe that Black people have brought these problems upon themselves. If you believe

that, then you are very misinformed. The reality is that much of the fault lies with the school system which time and time again, has let our Black youths down. Many of these children are set up to fail. This is partly done by taking away those programs that have given Black youths extra circular activities to keep them interested in school. Programs such as sports, band, and various clubs.

I realize that we still have many of these programs in our public school system, but only at the high school level and that’s great. But what about our middle school children? I don’t know if the school system realizes it, but between the ages of twelve and fourteen is a time in life where children are influenced by their peers. Many youths are sucked into gangs, drugs and sex. Maybe you’ve heard the term “An idol mind is the devils workshop.”

The bottom line is this; the future of Hilltop lies in our own hands. It is too late to change what is, to what was, but it not too long to change what is the future. So if you are driving around Hilltop one day (or night), take a few minutes to think about where you are and might come up with some great ideas and thoughts, but don’t keep them to yourself. Share them with your “Homie’s,” your girl or guy, or any one you meet. You will probably find that you are not the only person thinking up here on Hilltop.

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## A POEM FROM THE HOOD

BY A CONCERNED DEMOCRAT

Bush is my shepherd, I shall surly want.  
He leadeth me beside still factories.  
He maketh me to lie on park benches.  
He annointeth me with taxes.  
And my Savings and Loan runnith out.  
I shall fear evil for thou art against me.

Five thousand years ago, Moses said “Get off your camel, grab your shovel and gather your ass, and I shall lead you to the promised land.

Five thousand years later, Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “throw down your shovel, sit on your ass and light up a camel, this is the promised land.”

Today, Bush will tax your shovel, sell your camel, kick you in the ass and tell you there is no promised land.

I am glad I am an American.

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I am glad I am free.  
I wish I were a little dog,  
And Bush were a tree.

BLESS EACH OF YOU:

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## “LET’S DO LUNCH”

BY LARRY NORMAN/WENDY DAVIS

How often have you met with people who wish to discuss business over lunch. It is common in the business of running a city or organization. But during these relaxed meetings, how much is really getting accomplished?

A couple weeks ago I had the opportunity to spend my lunch break with some very important people. Actually, the business we were discussing had very little to do with the corporate world, and much more to do with the basic necessities of life; food, shelter, employment and most important, maintaining self-esteem.

You see, I spent my lunch hour at St. Leo’s at the food bank. While there, I received generous helpings of compassion, laughter, and just basic good will. The food was quite good. I was surprised by the extent of genuine hospitality. Not that I was anyone special, but it is normal practice to make one feel unwelcome. But instead I received a positive response as a first time visitor.

If we could get the proper direction from the persons we come in contact with (who are in a position to make a major difference), a lot more could be accomplished in one lunch hour. The difference this could make in one persons life, could turn his or her situation into a totally different atmosphere of acceptance, for everyone concerned. After all, what good are programs, organizations and funding, if the people who actually need the resources aren’t really participating? Or maybe with a little more self-determination and drive, many of us could get where we want to be on our own.

There are many scenario’s that should be addressed during a discussion of this nature. Maybe we could "Do Lunch" sometime and talk about it. What do ya say?

---

## SPECIAL THANKS


BY LARRY NORMAN

I WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR HELPING MAKE THIS ISSUE POSSIBLE. GOD

THE SCOTT FAMILY (THANK YOU FOR MARVIN)  
MOM (WHAT ELSE IS NEW?)  
MY SISTERS  
WENDY, MISTY (THE AIRFORCE!)  
T-MONEY AND THE LYNCH MOB  
NICK AND DON (MY BABIES)  
BARBARA, COLLEEN, CATHY  
ALBERTA (BOY, DO I LOVE YOU!)  
SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
SEATTLE BLACK FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOC.  
LINDA, REUBEN AND THE 23RD ST. POSSE  
PATRICK  
ANITA AND ANNETTE (SMILE)  
CATHY (LOOK! THEY’RE STEALING THE STORE)  
LITTLE RECORD MART (STAY TUNED!)  
BILL CONNER AND THE HOUSE POSSE  
JACKIE (WHEW!, YOU DON’T EVEN KNOW)  
DAVE, IRENE AND THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA  
HARRIS AND B (YOU TOO, TINA!)  
FREDDY  
MOTOWN MORTON (HE’S A GEM, FOLKS)  
MY DAD, LAWRENCE (ENJOYED OUR VISIT)  
PRESTON & PEGGY WARD AND THE KIDS  
ANDY YATES  
AND GOD (THANKS FOR IT ALL)

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Corner of 11th and So. K



# EDITORIAL

BY ALBERTA CANADA

There is nothing I can say to express the appreciation I have for Alberta and her work. Recently, she wrote this letter on my behalf. So moved was I that I asked her permission to print it. Please read. This is not about me, more than it is an invitation for all to participate in this great work.

ENJOY!

Dear Larry;

I was really pleased to discuss Hilltop education and training, employment and housing issues for Hilltop residents with you.

I share your concern for the escalation of soul searing developments within the past three years; the appalling levels of unemployment among young people of color; the poverty; the drop out, suspension and expulsion rates of our children from public schools; the rate of incarceration for African-American youth; the embracing of gangs and substitution of drug trafficking for lawful but inaccessible means of capital; the maiming and murders of our sons and daughters trapped in a web of hopelessness and despair. I take it personally and it cuts to the core.

You asked how I have borne the deaths of twelve young men and women from the neighborhood. I offered you an interview I did with the Morning News Tribune. As you can tell, for an intense period, depression was a constant companion as I grappled with the enormity of our problems and the scarcity of resources and public will to resolve them. I know this depression is a situational response to the ravages inflicted

I will certainly not sell short the therapeutic benefits of counseling following moments of bitter disillusionment and tragedy. That help permitted me to be walking wounded while keeping hope alive. I learned with that help that the hurt and sorrow I feel need not

As you know, my activity level has been hectic, perhaps even frantic for the last two years. I think that's what it will take to have a ghost of a chance of salvaging this generation of young people, my own three daughters included. I am pleased to encounter in you another individual with the drive, energy and sensitivity to put your shoulder to the wheel.

You will struggle, sacrifice and suffer. You will despair. Perhaps no one will appreciate how close to the heart you bear the pain of lifting and climbing, of casting your bucket down where you stand. Bear in mind this observation from Margaret Mead, another individual with an unconventional emotional make-up:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Alberta J. Canada



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.

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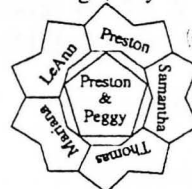
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**The purpose of this newsletter is to provide inspiration, information and direction to the residents, organizations and businesses on Hilltop.**