

❖Happenings On Hilltop❖

Volume 5 Issue 5

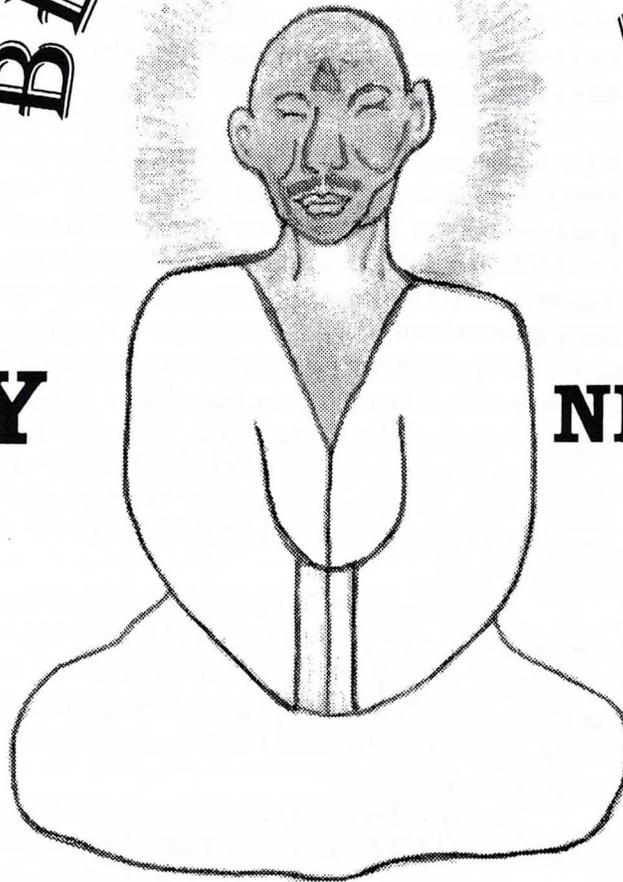
DECEMBER/JANUARY 1997-1998

PLEASE...

BE THANKFUL!

\$1.00

HAPPY



NEW YEAR!

☐ ॥ (peace)

lfn 1997

FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE

THANK YOU!

Once again, another year is about to come to an end. Actually, by the time this issue reaches you, we will probably be into a new year! But oh well... I have to say this. I have seen so much in '97. I'm sure that you have had a lot go on in your life as well. Getting through the struggles in life is what gives meaning to our lives. And right now, the life God has given me means a lot!

I took some losses in '97, but with those losses came growth. I didn't think I was going to make it through some struggles that came my way. But here I am today, still here. What do you have planned for '98? Are you going to be a better person than you were last year? Are you going to be more committed to those things that YOU need to attend to?

God has seen fit for us to be here to see the coming of a new year...with new possibilities. Let's see what we can make of ourselves, our families and our community. By the way... don't get your panties in a bunch if some of the material this issue seems dated... if this is the first time you're reading it, then it's new stuff, right? If you're tired of the same old stuff, why don't you send us something? We'll be glad to get it in.

So with that in mind,
Let's try to be kind.
Just give us a chance,
'Cause we're about to enhance...
What's

Happening On Hilltop

KWANZAA: A CELEBRATION FOR US ALL

During this time of year, there are many religious celebrations. The main theme generally evolves around one being thankful and giving. You would think that this focus would draw us all closer together. For many though, there stands the issue of religious preference. Often, our religious beliefs stand in the way of sharing and celebrating with others who may not believe as we do. As this century draws to a close, some of us (myself included) have grown tired of barriers that keep people separate. What is needed are observances that are inclusive, rather than exclusive. May I suggest; KWANZAA?

What is KWANZAA? The holiday itself, was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, the professor and chairman of The Department of Black studies at Cal State Long Beach. The concept of KWANZAA is ancient and comes from the people of Yoruba. It is taken from the philosophy called Kawaida. Simply put, KWANZAA focuses on the gathering of people; special reverence for the Creator and creation; reflective commemoration of the past; an ongoing re-commitment to our highest cultural ideals; and a joyous celebration of good.

KWANZAA is celebrated over a seven day period, with each day honoring one of the seven principles (Nguzo Saba): 1. Umoja (unity); 2. Kujichagulia (self-determination); 3. Ujima (collective work and responsibility); 4. Ujamaa (cooperative economics); 5. Nia (purpose); 6. Kuuma (creativity); 7. Imani (faith). This year, the theme is "bringing good to the world." lord knows, we could all use a little good in these dark and evil times; regardless of our religious belief.

It has been said by the ancient Yorubian sage, Orunmila, that to honor our mission of bringing good into the world, we need several qualities. Among these are: internal strength, good character, wisdom for good and for governance, a morality of sacrifice, the disposition to do good for everyone, especially the needy, and a commitment and ongoing effort "to increase good in the world and not let any good be lost."

Our world is full division. I find it a pleasant change that a celebration such as KWANZAA has been created to bring us all closer together and focus on the much needed tasks of this age, regardless of our differences. It has said that entire cultures have been wiped out because of religion. Hopefully, the observance of this very basic celebration, will help to build new ones. If you would like more information about KWANZAA, you can go to most any book store and ask for "KWANZAA: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture," by Dr. Maulana Karenga. I have also included a few KWANZAA pictures in our photo section of this months issue. Enjoy.

**NEED TO SELL SOMETHING?
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STARTING NEXT MONTH. CALL 272-81331**

I.M. BLACKMAN

It's time for Mr.Blackman to get busy with this month's thoughts and information. As we all know Thanksgiving has passed us by and it is now time to get ready for the Christmas holidays. Man! How time flies. It is now Christmas 1997.....a little over two years until the year 2000. For the people who are in their 40's and up, this has to be an awesome concept. People playing around in outer space, computers that fit in your hand; telephones that fit in your pockets; people being engineered; and on and on. Things are happening now that most people thought was impossible just a mere 30 years ago. But here we are, on the edge of a new era. Wait a minute. Is this really going to be a new era, or is it the same ole' shit in a new package? Is things getting any better for the masses or is it getting worse? I think that it's all according to who you are and what place you have been assigned in society. If you are poor, black (or other third world person), then chances are your life is getting worse.

I was surprised at the number of homeless and hungry people at thanksgiving time, especially when there is so much wealth around them. But, I guess we can't forget that the wealth is still concentrated in just a very few (less than ten percent of the total population). I guess I shouldn't have been surprised. We learned long ago that in America, the rich keeps getting richer and the poor keeps getting poorer. I imagine that's why the police budgets keep getting bigger and the social budgets get smaller. How else are the rich going to keep on throwing up their richness in the face of people who have nothing. The reasoning for continuing with this masquerade is getting more illogical as time goes on. Check this out. Earlier this month the county found enough money to hire 15 more law enforcement people with the reasoning that domestic violence is the root of all the other criminal problems. What a joke!! We all know that domestic violence is a symptom of America's other deep-rooted problems, just like most of the other criminal problems. Let's get rid of the racism, discrimination, and economical inequality first. Let's get rid of the violence and aggression that comes from the top of our society and then talk about domestic violence. The problem is that we are a two-faced, lying , conniving , selfish, nation of people. Let's stop bombing whole nations of people (including children) to get back at one so-called terrorist. Anyway, that's not what I want to talk about in this issue of the HOH. This time is for the Christians. Let's talk about Christmas, Jesus, and God. Amen.

Here we are getting ready to celebrate the birthday of the single most important person born on the face of this earth, and we can't even get that right. First of all, the evidence points to the fact that December 25th is not even the day that Jesus was born. It appears that Jesus was born sometime in October. Second, Jesus did not want us to celebrate his birthday. Jesus wanted us to celebrate his death. Here in the 20th century we are pretending to pay homage to Jesus by mimicking the three wise men bringing presents by going crazy in the shopping malls spending money that could well be spent feeding and housing the less fortunate. During a time when we should be showing the most humility we indulge ourselves in extreme extravagance and vanity. I wonder if Jesus would approve?

With the thanksgiving turkey barely settled in our stomachs we are lined up like horses at the racetrack.....on our mark getting ready to go. Credit cards in hand, caution thrown to the wind, away we go pushing and shoving all the way. The marginally poor people get caught up in the game too. They know that they can't afford to get involved in the American celebration of x-mas, but the peer pressure is on and so they pay for it the rest of the coming year. But, let's stop right here. What is Christmas really supposed to be about? It is supposed to be about love, sharing, and remembering that Jesus was born to provide us a perfect example of how we are suppose to live. And above all, it is about knowing that God is the greatest and that we are so insignificant in the whole scheme of things. It is a perfect time to praise God and thank him for all that he has done from the inception of time. Time to thank him and marvel at the wonders and beauty that he has surrounded us with. Time to step up and be accountable for the earth, animals, and people that he has been so gracious to provide for us. Time to kick Santa Claus, Rudolf(with his nose so bright), and the greedy Christmas merchants to the side and show true love to our family and friends.

I'm hoping that every single person who has the fortune (or misfortune) to read this article will have a true Christmas. That is with peace, love, and goodwill. Be thankful for who you are and what you have and share that with some other soul. Reach out and touch someone and let them know that you care. We can get back to fighting on the 26th. Merry Christmas, I.M. outa' here.

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

Staying Focused

by Dion Ames

Is Your Fear Paralyzing You?

People tend to fear the unknown and that which is different. The mind is capable of creating images about things we have little or no knowledge of. So how do we alleviate those fears?

I would say that acquiring knowledge is a good start. We really should know who and what we are afraid of. Some people in our community fear others who live in the same community. Many of these individuals do not know the members of the community whom they are afraid of. Why don't they know them? Is it that their fear prevents them from getting to know who and what their neighbors are, thus paralyzing them?

Ultimately, this fear prevents us from being active participants in our communities. If we are paralyzed by fear, we are inactive and ineffective due to our lack of involvement. Working towards solutions with others will create safety and also alleviate our fears.

SPECIAL REPORT!

On December 25th, a man dressed in red, was seen coming from chimney's on south 23rd street, in Tacoma Hilltop. He was wrestled to the ground by a number of Hilltop residents. Said one witness; "I hit him because I thought he was a smoker," Said another; "I tried to snatch his sack cuz. You know he had to have some real fat a** "hubbs" in there!!" A



citizens arrest was made and the suspect was held until the authorities arrived. It was later found that his vehicle had no tabs, he did not have a driver's licence and a white substance was found all over his body. As the suspect was about to get cuffed, he broke from officers, jumped a fence (or two), climbed up on a roof near Dabashi's, and took off in his vehicle. Police have no further details (but the Homies do!). See page 6, for more details on this story.

YOU THINK YOU HAVE FOREVER

I write things that disturb me, and I write things that piss me off. I see things that are stupid, petty, and uncalled for. And I talk about peace and don't hurt others. Now all of a sudden, I'm the one who has to be all that shit "I" talk about.

I have to be strong now. I can't succumb to this. Right now I must be in denial and I'm angry. But, I don't know at who. But I do know who. It's me, myself and I. I found myself lashing out at everyone. But why? Is it their fault? No. I even thought it had to be because of someone else. Now I see its easy to say what we all must do. It's another thing to actually accept and do what is necessary to correct and solve problems, no matter what they are. Because after all, who is the controller of one's self. Other than God, we are the maker of our destinies.

Now I've been sitting here expressing and releasing my feelings. And its giving me strength and plans to combat my fears and pain. The question is... what are you going to do with your pain and fear?

"S"

A FRIEND CLOSE TO MY HEART

Someone came into my life, unexpected. Yet, this person has become dear to my heart. This friend, for some reason, has made it so easy to share my inner-most secrets, shames, guilts and fears.

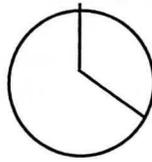
This is a friend close to my heart.

I've known this friend of mine for years... Now it feels I've known him for a lifetime. He hold's my hand as I carefully open up the painful doors within. He's helped me look at all the hurt and pain with open eyes. He's held me in his gentle arms, as I cried and released all that has held me back. This is a friend close to my heart.

If one day comes and we should go our separate ways, I will always remember the hand he extended out to me, the light he put back into my eyes and the life he breathed back into my body. This is... the friend that is now close to my heart!

*Do you offer special services?
List them in our classifieds. 272-8133*

DOIN' TIME



This month we received a lot of letters from the Homies "Doin' Time." So much in fact, that we can't put it all in. So check this out: if ya'll wants to get your stuff in the paper, keep it to less than 250 words. And folks on this side want to know how you are doing, as well as your views on life. Let us know if you need to hear from someone. We also want to know if anyone needs assistance.

Oh yes, by all means, send us some flicks and poems!!! We also want to know when peoples birthdays are so we can send a shot out to ya (and maybe a card or two!). If ya'll wants to start getting the "Happenings," send us a list of names and we'll see what we can do about getting some subscriptions.

So a shot out to the following writer's this month:

- C.L.
- Lemmone Lewis
- Tommy Brock (Playa, Playa)
- Harold Tony Gray

IMPORTANT!

If you would like to sponsor an inmate with a subscription to **Happenings On Hilltop**, please fill out the subscription form on the back of this issue. Be sure to put the necessary information down, see we will know where to send each issue. **I know ya'll can come up with 12.00 to keep someone inspired, can't ya?**

Dear Editor,

I've just finished reading the latest issue of your magazine and must say that I found it to be very enlightening to the point of addressing some of the more important issues that are facing our society at this time.

I was wondering if you ever considered doing an article on Representative Maxine Waters, the Congresswoman from California? She seems very outspoken and willing to engage in issues many politicians seem all too ready to avoid. I'll bet a lot of readers would like to see you write an article about this interesting and unusual woman.

Well my friend, the thought has crossed my mind a time or too. Let's see what we can come up with in the coming months. I agree that an article on Ms. Waters would be very timely. Thank you for writing in and keep reading HOH (wherever you are!). the editor

ARE YOU GETTING OUT SOON?

If you are going to be in the Tacoma or local Pierce County area, why not contact Hilltop Community Services? We may be able to assist you with a number of areas that generally cause problems for people when they first get out. In addition to just being a place to make the transition and a positive contact place with your peoples from the hood, we also offer these services:

- * para-legal assistance
- * community service hour worksites
- * some job search and resume services
- * educational opportunities
- * motivational and spiritual support

Send your name, address, local contact person's name/number and approximate release date to:
Hilltop Community Services
PO Box 5584
Tacoma, WA 98415

Stocking Stuffers

**You may have thought we forgot...
So check out this little Christmas shot:
The 25th has come and gone,
And so has all the holiday cheer.
But that is no reason to wake at dawn,
Still wearing last year's gear.
Here's a few selections that you might like,
Just try them on for size.
Whether you're an old fart or a lil' tike,
A joyful tear should come to your eyes.**

ONCE AGAIN

Well, here we are again, in that "Christmas Season." The stores have been ready for weeks. Families are decorating houses, fighting for trees and that terrible frenzy is going on at all the malls.

It's just all too much! I thought Christmas was about giving and helping. Now don't get me wrong, I like presents just like everyone else. But to tell the truth, I like to give and see other people smile. It's just so hard these day's. People are so scandalous, they'll take your kindness for weakness.

I truly hope that we can all take a little time to help out just one person. Anything can help, if you try and be sincere. I even catch myself being nice. But you know...it feels good! Try it.

"S"

T'was the night befo' Christmas, and all thru the streets,
Not a soul was stirrin'no cops on their beats.
All the gangstas was snug in their jails,
Most of them carryin' over 20 year tales.

When all of a sudden there came such a roar!!
I thought "Damn, there's cops kickin' in my door!"
I ran to the window to check out the scene.
I stuck my head out.....and fell in a lean.

There's this fat-assed man, in a funny red suit.
Plus he's got eight skinny reindeer..haulin' plenty loot.
He got's NIKE's and UZI's and diamonds galore.
It look like he took off a runnin' with an entire store.
I see liquor and cronic and gold from some mints,
I saw stacks upon stacks of dead pre-zee-dents.

I yell up at him, "What the hell are you doin'?"
He responded by saying, "I'm loaded, got lost can't see.....
Plus I thought it was snowin!"

I check him out closely, and the sack on his back,
With a sign on it saying..."filled wit goodies-in fact!"
I said "you got to get ghost wit that kinda shit.....
'cause me, you and that dope just don't fit."

He drops to the ground, pins me dead in the eye,
and says, "come on man-n-n, don't tell me no lie!"

I tell him "no thank you sir, I don't care for none,
With people like you perrved... we havin' some real fun.
We laugh and we talk and we say that we love you.
We relax, we take time and give the man above his due.

He whips out his pipe and takes a big hit.
Then he passes it to me, while it was still lit.
I stood there staring with my eyes all big.
Remembering the times when I was the pig.

But this time it just came outa my head.
I don't want none man, those times are dead.
We are carryin' on that same ole' fight,
Of whether we wrong or whether we right.

So merry Christmas to you and your kind.
It's time to get busy and leave all that behind.
It's on to a new year, and all that it brings.
Good-luck, be prosperous and all of those things.

PO-E-TRY

A POEM FOR THOUGHT

Lord, Lord
Why did You make me Black?
Why did You make someone
The world wants to hold back?

Black is the color of dirty clothes,
The color of grimy hands and feet
Black is the color of darkness,
The color of tire-beaten streets.

Why did You give me thick lips,
A broad nose and kinky hair?
Why did You make someone
Who receives the hatred stare?

Black is the color of the bruised eye
When someone gets hurt.
Black is the color of darkness,
Black is the color of dirt.

How come my bone structure's so thick,
My hips and cheeks are high?
How come my eyes are brown
And not the color of daylight sky?

Why do people thing I'm useless?
How come I feel so used?
Why do some people see my skin
And think I should be abused?

Lord I just don't understand.
What is it about my skin?
Why do some people want to hate me
And not know the person within?

Black is what people are "listed"
When others want to keep them away.
Black is the color of shadows cast.
Black is the end of the day.

Lord you know my own people mistreat
me
And I know this just ain't right.
They don't like my hair.
They say I'm too dark or too light.

Lord don't You think it's time for You
To make a change?
Why don't You re-do creation and
Make everyone the same?

GOD ANSWERED:

Why did I make you Black?
Why did I make you Black?

Get off your knees and look around.
Tell me, what do you see?
I didn't make you image of darkness,
I made you in likeness of ME!

I make you the color of coal from which
Beautiful diamonds are formed.
I made you the color of oil, the back gold that
Keeps people warm.

I made you from the rich, dark earth that can
Grow the food you need.
Your color's the same as the back stallion, a
Majestic animal is he.

I didn't make you in the image of darkness.
I make you in likeness of ME!

All the colors of the heavenly rainbow can be
Found throughout every nation.
But when all of those colors were blended, you
Became my greatest creation.

Your hair is the texture of lamb's wool.
Such a humble little creature is he.
I am the Shepherd who watches them.
I am the One who will watch over thee.

You are the color of midnight sky.
I put the stars' glitter in your eyes.
There is a smile hidden behind your pain.
That's why your cheeks are so high.

You are the color of dark clouds formed,
When I send My strongest weather.
I make your lips full so when you kiss the one
that you love, they will remember.

Your stature is strong, your bone structure
thick,
To withstand the burdens of time.
The reflection you see in the mirror...
The image that looks back is MINE!

By
RuNell Ni Ebo

BUTTERFLY

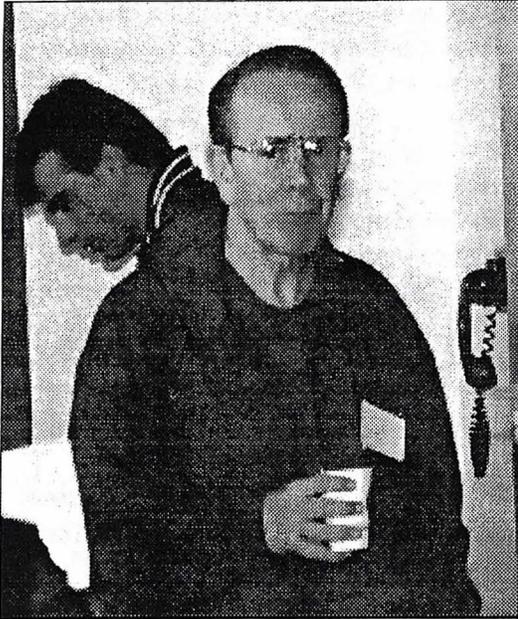
by Tacoma Waller

If I could be a butterfly,
where would I go?
Maybe around the world,
where only butterfly's know.
If I could be a butterfly, I
would sore so high....
and watch from up above, as
time goes by.
If I could be a butterfly, my
time will be done.
But I know a new life has just
begun.

TO LET GO TAKES LOVE

To let go does not mean to stop caring.
It means I can't do it for someone else.
To let go is not to enable,
But to allow learning from natural
consequences.
To let go is to admit powerlessness,
Which means the outcome is not in my
hands.
To let go is not to care for,
But to care ABOUT.
To let go is not to judge,
But to allow another to be him or
herself.
To let go is not to be in the middle
arranging all the outcomes,
But to allow others to determine their
own destinies.
To let go is not to be less protective,
It is to permit another to face reality.
To let go is not to dominate,
But to be willing to let things happen.
To let go is not to betray the past,
But to have faith in the future.
To let go means to fear less,
And LOVE MORE.
(author unknown)

SHOTS FROM DA 'HOOD



**GET WELL SOON!
JUDGE SULLIVAN
(WE NEED YOUR SPIRIT)**



paperwork, paperwork!



May I see your license and registration please, sir?



A meeting of the MINDS



"I'll take three ham-
burgers and two fries, please"

SHOTS FROM DA (HOLIDAY) 'HOOD

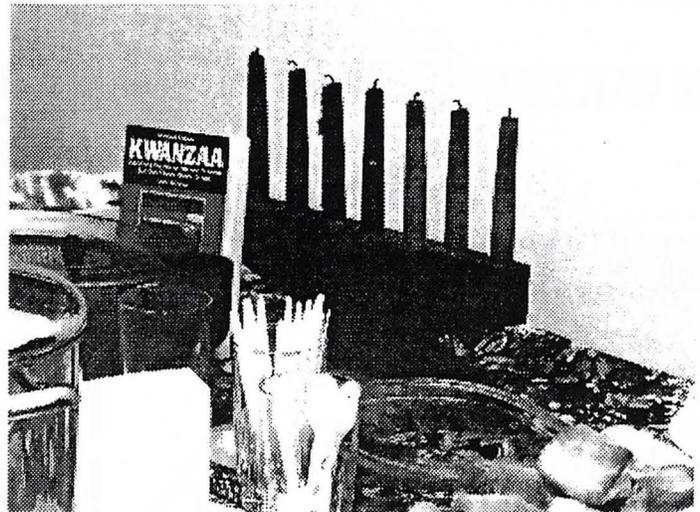


During the holidays, many people were expressing their beliefs and joy with others. Here are just a few of these expressions that we participated in over the holiday season.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING!



UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF KWANZAA



THE SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA



LET THE JAZZMAN PLAY!



BRINGING HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE PEOPLE

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 * REMEMBER BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 * KEEP YOUR HEAD TO THE SKY AND YOU'LL NEVER FALL

Happenings On Hilltop is...

editor- larry norman
asst.editor/
club 24- james waller

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Tacoma, WA 98415



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*The purpose of this newsletter is to provide
motivation, information and inspiration to the
Hilltop Community and individuals of good intent.*