

HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP

WILL IT BE ENOUGH
JUST TO SURVIVE...
IN THE YEAR 1995??

WHEN ARE THE CAMERAS COMING DOWN? WHAT ALTERNATIVES ARE THERE REALLY FOR PEOPLE WITH PRISON RECORDS? WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE OF THE DRUGS AND GUNS COMING INTO OUR COMMUNITY? WHERE DID ALL THE MONEY GO FOR THE PROGRAMS EAR-MARKED FOR HILLTOP? IS THERE A GOD AND DOES HE/SHE CARE? DO I REALLY CARE ABOUT

ME? WHY DON'T ANY OF THE POLICE OFFICERS WHO *MAKE A LIVING* IN OUR COMMUNITY *LIVE* IN OUR COMMUNITY? WHEN ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE GOING TO LEARN? IS THERE ANY JUSTICE IN THIS SOCIETY? DO WE HAVE THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO LIFT OURSELVES FROM THIS APPARENT HOPELESSNESS? WHERE WILL I LIVE ONCE THE PROFITEERS FINISH DIVIDING UP THE COMMUNITY? WILL THERE REALLY BE MORE JOBS ONCE THE U.W. CAMPUS COMES HERE? IF WE HAVE "SAFESTREETS" IN THIS COMMUNITY, WHY DOESN'T ANYONE FEEL SAFE? WHO'S GOING TO GET THE NEW "RHINO" BULLETS? IF I CAN'T CARRY A FIREARM, HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF? WHY IS EVERYONE ASKING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THOSE WHO RECEIVE SERVICES, BUT NOT FROM THE SERVICE PROVIDERS? WHY DOESN'T ANYTHING EVER HAPPEN TO POLICE OFFICERS WHO BREAK THE LAW IN OUR COMMUNITY? HOW MANY MORE LIVES MUST BE LOST BEFORE WE BEGIN TO CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER? IF THE POLICE SUBSTATION/CITY COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING ON MLK STREET IS *REALLY* PART OF OUR COMMUNITY, THEN WHY DOESN'T ANYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY *WORK* THERE AND WHY IS IT ALWAYS LOCKED? AM I DOING ALL I CAN TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE? ARE THE SHORT-COMINGS I SEE IN OTHERS MERELY A REFLECTION OF MYSELF? IS IT OUR DESTINY TO SELF-DESTRUCT, OR CAN WE CHANGE THINGS?

IS IT REALLY UP TO US???

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Recently, I had what some may term a spiritual experience. This Christmas was one I will always cherish because I was touched in a most intimate way, by the true spirit of this holiday: **Giving**. I was not in a position to give **QUANTITY**, but I was able to give **QUALITY**. I did not have the money or recourses to give to my children or loved ones the way I would have liked to. Instead, I Gave my children a ride down by the mission to see and feel those less fortunate than themselves. I gave my wife an opportunity to continue to build on our relationship. I gave myself a challenge to work harder at being consistent in all that I do. I even gave the community Christmas Carols from the young voices of those who will inherit our legacy.

Even in the negatives, there are the opportunities for positives. In spite of the obvious unconstitutional manner in which people have been rounded (herded?) up around here, the only saving grace is that some of the attorneys and public officials will see that this is no way to go about solving our concerns, it is a step backwards! Two days ago, I lost four of my comrades in the Seattle Fire Department. It was devastating to say the least. I can't really express what I feel right now, but those close to me, know what's up with the Norm! I will touch on it a little bit in the script later.

I sat in Judge Jack Tanner's court twice in '94. I must say, the brotha' is **DEEP!** I came expecting one thing, and came out with a whole different perspective. I have to give respect, where respect is due. If ya'll really want to find out more about this legend, why not research "The Judge" Jack Tanner for a school project during Black history month in February? You won't be disappointed by your labors. He is truly a pioneer in many ways. While he is yet with us, let's take advantage of this treasure.

The previous paragraph may seem a bit one sided, especially since many people from the 'Hood have had contact with Judge Tanner while he is "doing his job." But folks, let's not miss the forest for the trees. Study the man and see what his life is all about.

There are definitely many other note-worthy and influential Blacks right here in this community or who have ties to the Hilltop and... Just "peep" our rich history and...well, I aint no psychic, but you might be surprised at the knowledge and personal satisfaction you will receive just from knowing about the success stories amongst your people. You have a tremendous amount of resources at your disposal: the local stores and establishments, many of the Seniors (yes, especially the seniors), local colleges, the downtown library and even the city and county government departments downtown. If you want to make the grade, you got to put in the time, feel me?

This year, I also learned about the meaning behind Kwansa. Coupled with my "Christmas of Giving," there has awakened a new desire and inspiration to further assist my fellow man and hopefully this year (God willin') make a difference. Let's make it a point to keep on giving year round. Sure, giving hurts at times, but when it feels good... Boy, does it feel good!

One last thing before we kick it... A straight shot out to my girl, Erin Ford. She has really kicked-in to this community, even after she got a new store and was no longer the manager at our local Safeway. If you're ever out by T.C.C., why don't you stop in the Safeway there and let Erin know you appreciate her support. I know I do and I always will.

So with that out of the way,
I guess there's little else to say.
Let's stump the blunt... this rhyme was a flop.
Now let us peep what's Happening On Hilltop.

PEACE

SPECIAL NOTICE!

What's happenin' Locs? If ya haven't noticed, ONETIME is comin' thru the 'Hood trippin'!!! We're not gonna see a lot of homies this Christmas!!! The Federalies, DEA, and a special team from L.A. have come together sweepin' the Hilltop, 56th & Orchard, 38th st., and a couple night clubs. It is said there was 60 federal indictments issued during the '94 year. Over ? Arrests have been made this month and they say their not finished. (Scary...isn't it?!!) Well Locs, my last words are these..... 1. Do Not Sell Anything Illegal. 2. You Might Wanna Get A Job. 3. Stay On Yo' Toes!!! MUCH YOUNG LOVE

K2\$WISS\$5

EDITORIALS



Dear Larry:

This is a little something I would like to say. Please, can you put it in Happenings On Hilltop?

Unity in OUR community- *Unity means the state of being one, as in agreement. *Community means a group of people with common interests living in the same area.

Now that we have our title straight, let me tell you something. I am a young Black woman, living in the "area." Some of you know me and some of you don't. Just recently, I was "jumped" by a few young Black girls. The reasons to me, are unclear. In my opinion, it was jealousy. Basically, I don't care. All I know is that it was vicious. It just made me realize that there is no unity.

I feel I am the same as anyone else. I have been dealt a cruel hand as far as Life & hope go- as I'm sure some of the people involved have too. I feel I am the same. I am Black. I could have been equally vicious, but I feel I am the same & to "fight back" would be to fight myself. I am not overly religious or anything but I do believe the "Lord is Divine," cuz it could have been worse.

I will heal, I will forget, but I may never forget, but I do have a goal... That is to see Unity in Our Community... that means for our group of Black people to come together as one & be in agreement in our area.

Sonja A. Howard



I.M. BLACKMAN

Mr. Blackman wants to wish all of you a safe and better new year for 1995. We all should be thankful that we are still alive. And don't forget that our prayers and treasured memories should be with those of us who has past on to newer and greater beginnings.

As usual, I am having a hard time trying to figure out which topic I feel is most important for us to discuss and think about as we start off our new year. There are so many issues that our community needs to address. But, I guess what has been on my mind the most is the use of a new word in our vocabulary; the word "Criminal."

I remember when I was serving this country in Vietnam. The white soldiers (and some of the mis-guided Blacks) were calling the Vietnamese people "Gooks." I didn't know what "Gooks" meant or the purpose for calling them that name at the time. As I got older and more informed, I learned that the word "Gooks" was a word used to degrade a race of people and to dehumanize them.

This also allowed American soldiers to see the Vietnamese people as less than human. In this way, American soldiers were able to commit atrocities against the Vietnamese. They were able to slaughter the women, children and old people with no more feeling than they would kill a dog or cat.

Back here in America, the white people in the past were able to separate and discriminate against the Black race of people by calling them "Niggers."

(continued on page 5)

As I look out the window at the Monument across the street, I am reminded of how much work, hope, prayer and Love went into it. I also realize that we have yet to give our park a name. Some folks call it "Monument Park." Others call it "All Lives Are Precious Park." Still others refer to our park as "The place with the rock on it." What do you think the name of our park should be? I'd like to know. If we select your name for the park, we'll send you 25.00 and you will be our guest this year at the annual park (re-) dedication some time in late May, or early June. Send 'em to me on the address on the back of this issue. Good Luck!

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

PEACE OUT... TO ALL MY 'HOMIES

With the loss of so many people around me lately, I'm just about drained dry. I am constantly aware of the passing of my mother and other elders of this community and the lost lives of our young people. And just the other day; **BLAM!!!** Four men I've learned to entrust my life to...gone. Can you relate? Hell, why am I asking you? Maybe a better question is Can I Relate?

The truth is, I know many of you can relate. We have all lost someone dear to us, in many ways. Each day, the universe must take a few in order to make room for the new spirits. Admittedly, there are some beautiful children being born. We adults can only hope that we will instill in them the consciousness needed to live in this society. What makes the loss of young lives so tragic is that who knows what they would have become had they lived a long, full life? Would they have been doctors, a mayor or judge, or even a firefighter?

Who knows? God knows. He knows all too well what is taking place in our world today. As a whole, our society has missed the mark. We have no one to blame but ourselves and yet we spend countless hours debating about who was at fault this time. The deaths of our young (and why it happened) will be a legacy we must all carry for lifetimes to come.

I felt the same lack of consciousness when my Homies from the Seattle Fire Department GAVE their lives recently. Being a Firefighter myself, I have learned to recognize commitment in people. Though Firefighters come from different walks of life and have different views on many issues, when the bell hits at the station, we leave all the bullsh@# at the station and work as a unit. WE will give whatever we can to save the life or property of another.

So it wasn't surprising when I heard from other firefighters who made it out of the fire alive, that Lt. Shoemaker was the one who said "get the Hell out a here!". Nor was I shocked that Lt. Kilgore was found along side Jim (JB) Brown and that my brotha Randy Terlicker was found many feet away trying to find a way out of the fire.

These men gave their lives, but for what? A building that was worth how much? Tell me again, so I can get my calculator out and see how much that structure is worth! Instead of asking the insurance company, why not ask the families?

Or maybe you could ask their brotha's in the Fire Department what we think the building is worth. What ever, it was way too much. There are people right now trying to find out who didn't cover their ass or forgot to dot the "i" and cross the "t." Some people say that the firefighters were too aggressive. Hello!!! If my house is on fire or my children are trapped in a car, you damn right I want someone there who is going to be aggressive in trying to help me!

The Real Homies from the 'Hood can relate to being aggressive in life and death situations. I know many young people who have risked and given their lives so that others may live to see another day. It's a shame Homies from the 'Hood can't sit down and talk with firefighters more often. I really believe that we could find some common ground. WE know about loss and not being able to save someone. WE both carry many burdens our entire lives.

I guess there are Homies in all walks of life, all age groups and all colors, shapes and sizes. I like to give respect where respect is due. No, I never kicked it too hard with the four Firefighters who lost their lives, but they were my Homies just the same. I would have given it up for them the same way they gave it up for the sake of those other firefighters who were spared. It's just like REAL Homies in the 'Hood; they will give their last for you. Granted, a lot of folks have been claimin' to be Homies, but when the sh#% hits the fan... well some folks can hang and some folks can't.

For me, I'll continue kickin' it with REAL Homies, wherever I find them. WE may not always see eye to eye, but I know they got my back and I've got theirs. We have to believe that all this givin' is going to give back. If not to us, then to our family or community. So to the family and friends of ALL our Homies: Stay Strong. And to ALL MY HOMIES:

R.i.P. in da'95. You got that commin'

"...I tips a for-ty to your memory.
Takes a drink and I, starts to think
and I... I know one day soon..., we'll
be hangin' out "

PEACE

ODDS-N-ENDS

THE DANGER ZONE

"The Dangerous One" was not available to make an entry this month due to an unprecedented number of his Super-Hero heroics. Just last Saturday, after a movie, one Andre "Booge" Normski, was walking out into the middle of a busy parking lot. There was an on-coming car. The "D" had no time to change into his Super-Hero stuff and was forced to unveil his cape in front of dozens of on lookers. As he swooped down and grabbed the young tyke, there was the scent of jet fuel in the air. We appreciate "The Dangerous One" risking his cover to save the young lad. When asked how he felt after being saved, the "Bootch man" replied: Aw, it was cool, but the "D" wrinkled my player-player jacket!" Yes Folks, it's tough being a super hero. We, here at Happenings On Hilltop hope that The "D" can find time next month to provide our readers with his titillating use of the English vocabulary.

(I.M. Blackman continued from page 3)

Historically, white people have felt that they were better and more deserving than the "Niggers," who were constitutionally only 3/4 human.

But, in the world today, this type of thought and action would not be tolerated by the civilized world. So, under the veil of being civilized, I see the American society creating a new category for DE-humanizing people who happen to be young, Black, and/or poor. These people can be denied their rights by the system.

The frightening thing about this movement is that it has created a class of people who can be jailed, beaten and killed with no repercussion from the general population. In fact, the general population has been authorized to protect their property and lives from "criminals" in the same manner which was once reserved only for police.

Remember that title---**CRIMINAL**. If you are young, Black, male and poor, chances are that you are (or will be labeled) a criminal. Just remember that this is the modern way of white people saying "Nigger, Gook, Spic, Jap and Etc.." This is the modern way of perpetuating Americas slave mentality of oppression. Before I sign off, I leave the Black squares with this warning.....you are next!!

Our local cartoonist, Mr. O.G. Fly himself, was entangled in a bitter life and death struggle recently.

Sources close in say that that Mr. Flioga is healing very well and that his writing hand, which had been protected by a Super-Hero glove (once worn by "The Dangerous One" himself) was lost in the scuffle. He should be cranking out drawings shortly.

When asked why it has taken him so long to get his stuff in the newsletter, Mr. O.G. Fly replied: "Man

look, I am an art-eest. Just chill, I'll have the @#*\$ for you!"

WHAT UP CUZ?

I would like to speak on some GANGSTA SH*#! First of all , I wanna say SLEEP WELL to the little homie CHAZ!!!

Goin' to another funeral this year had my insides feelin' funny. I mean, sh*\$ ain't the same no more!!! We as Black folks need another curriculum.

Instead of homies comin' up short, homies should be gettin' seen off to college, or at least walkin' that walk, receivin' diplomas!!! When I see my niggaz in the hood everyday I think to myself ..." Damn!, will I live long enough to see my young locs do something for themselves? Will I live long enough to sit down with these niggaz and conversate on how we made it out the punk-ass system!!!" I think about different sh*# everyday.

As an elder loc from the set, I gotta' lay down as much game as I can to the younger comrades up around me!!! I see it like this... Why hang around niggaz with no direction? In order for K SWISS to kicc it wit' cha', you gotta be on a higher level than just smokin' budd and kiccin' up dust!!!

Bottom line, we can't win a game without a strategy!!! So let's relax our minds and begin layin' down game to each other!!! Age ain't a factor in this lil' category!!! Young or old, we all learn daily!!! MUCH LOVE HOMIES!!!

MR. KSWISS
3's & 5's

HEY!!!

*HOW ARE WE DOING?
DO YOU LIKE THE ARTICLES?
ARE WE GIVING YOU WHAT YOU WANT?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?
ARE YOU WILLING TO WRITE AN EDITORIAL FOR US?
HOW CAN WE DO A BETTER JOB?*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS COMMENT FORM AND GET IT BACK TO US. REMEMBER,
THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER. SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

*HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP/Attention: Editor
2320 South Wilkeson
Tacoma, Washington 98405*



YOUR COMMENTS:

OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO CHIEF CLAUDE HARRIS OF THE SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE RECENT LOSS OF FOUR FIREFIGHTERS. A BLACK PIONEER HIMSELF, CHIEF HARRIS MUST SHOULDER A GREAT BURDEN. WE, HERE AT HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP SUPPORT YOU. THANKS FOR YOUR DREAM, CHIEF HARRIS.

THE NEW CIVIL RIGHTS BATTLE

By Brian Young

Recently, I followed Larry Norman down to the Federal Courthouse at Union Station. We were waiting for Jack Tanner to sentence a young, black man. Judge Tanner has a reputation for civil rights. Indeed, the very fact of his being the senior judge of the court, is a major victory for civil rights. Today though, he was sentencing a young, black man on a drug charge and Judge Tanner has a reputation for hating drugs and what they do to the Black Community. For this, he has earned the title: "Maximum Jack."

Larry Norman was testifying on behalf of the young man, reputed to be a Hilltop Crip. Larry had been trying to work with the young man and involve him in a more constructive life style. Larry is the Director of Hilltop Community Services and works out of the SOL (Starting Over With Life) office at 1122 South 23rd Street. He is a community advocate and knows politicians high and low and the many in between. He spends countless hours with youth to understand what it takes to make a young Gangster change course and settle down. It's just that more often, Larry is writing letters of recommendation for judges instead of employers or applications for re-entry into school.

"You can't change the system. All you can do is change the attitudes and consciousness of those who work in it," Larry says.

Judge Tanner arrives and shortly thanks Mr. Norman for his letter. Then he says the only person who he wants to hear from is the defendant. He begins grilling him about his past, his beliefs and why he has done the things he has done. You get the feeling that the judge really cares, which is unusual in any courtroom. Judges certainly take their job very seriously, but Judge Tanner is personally involved in this case. The young man is really too young to be a hardened criminal. His mother and his aunt are in the courtroom.

The young man answers respectfully. He could be a high school kid standing before the principal caught spray painting the football teams name on the side of the gymnasium.

It is hard to believe he could do anything really wrong. Yet, on the back of his neck is a crease where a bullet almost killed him in his sleep. On that day, he awoke to a gunfight in his bedroom between a bounty hunter and one of his friends.

Yet something in the way of answers touches "Maximum Jack" and the judge sentences him to only a medium sentence.

Now some of you may say that the judge should have given the young man the maximum--- however remorseful or redeemable a convicted drug felon, they should be put away for as long as possible. And you would have your reasons. Others may say that the judge should have given him the minimum--- or even thrown out the charge entirely on a technicality and you would have your reasons too.

Sometimes the world seems to be divided into forces and people who want to put young, black men in jail and those who want to keep them out. That struggle is waged on the street and sometimes in the courts.

Civil rights is supposed to protect us from living in a police state and uphold our dignity as human beings. Our institutions have been severely challenged by Generation X and in the Black Community by gangs and violence. Are our laws adequate to meet the challenge?

Judge Jack Tanner may be asked to rule on whether the Pierce County Jail is so overcrowded with the constant new arrivals that the conditions are cruel and unusual. What does that mean? The new head of the jail says he can handle the problem, while Monte Hester leads a team to make sure it's handled correctly. The jail crisis is certainly a place to start a search for the **NEW CIVIL RIGHTS**.

**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE
NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE STAFF AND/OR ITS
CONTRIBUTORS**

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**YOU CAN FIND HAPPENINGS
ON HILLTOP AT THE
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit

Little Gallery On The Hill

Sam and Terry's Barber Shop

Thompsons Tavern

Dabashi's Market

Your Fish House

Brown's Star Grill

Key Beauty Salon

**AND COMING SOON...
TO A BLACK STUDENT UNION NEAR YOU**

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

FIRE-POLICE	911
ABANDONED AUTOS	591-5926
REFUSE DEPARTMENT	591-5544
RECYCLING DEPT.	565-5955
MAYOR/CITY COUNSEL	591-5100
PEOPLES CENTER	591-5312
TACOMA NAACP	272-0357
LARRY NORMAN (EDITOR)	272-8133

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