

# Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood

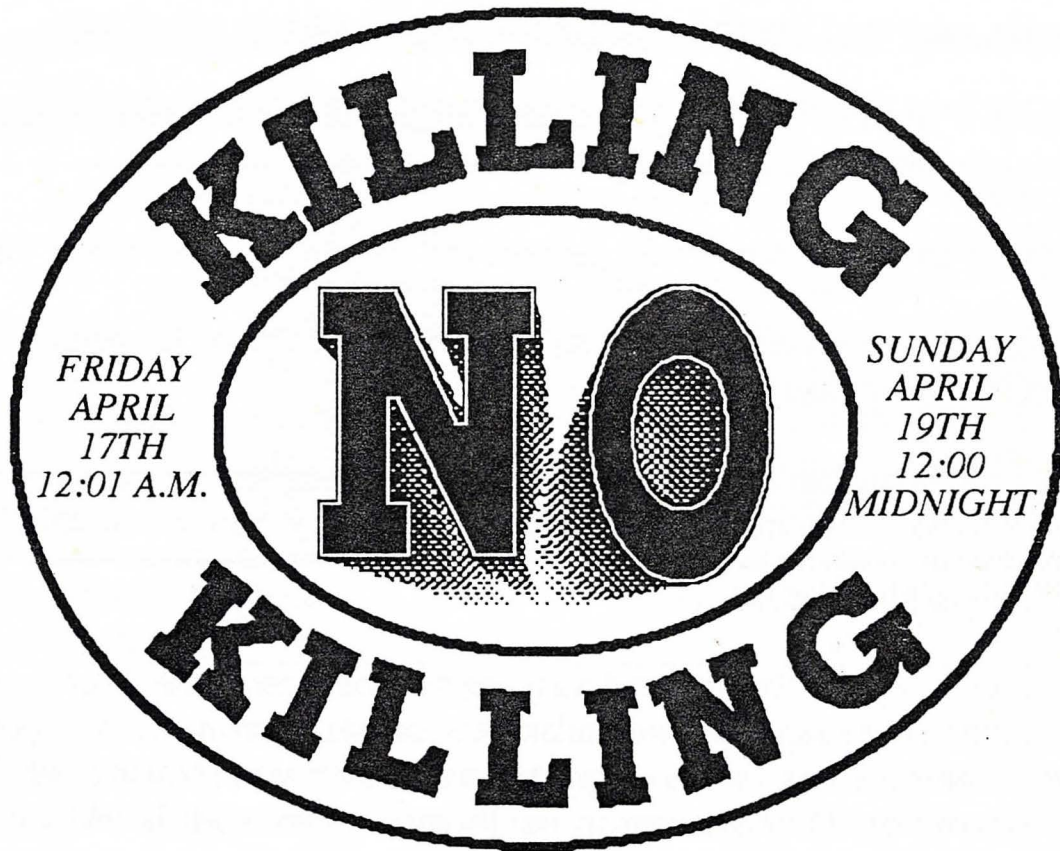
50¢

Volume 2, Number 10

SPECIAL ISSUE

June 1992

## THE SOUTH CENTRAL REPORT



**HELP US TO HAVE**

**A**

**NO KILLING**

**WEEKEND**

## COVER:

Designed by Community Youth Services, Youth 2000 and local gang members in South Central. Here are some of the tips that were advised for the NO KILLING WEEKEND

### TIPS FOR PARENTS AND RELATIVES OF YOUTH IN GANGS.

- 1). Be aware that black clothing and other apparel are identified as gang clothing. Think before you purchase black clothing of any type for kids under 16 years old. It's your money. Spend it with love and care. Clothing is a poor reason to die.
- 2). Realize that gang violence is hate violence. Self-hate violence Black vs Black, Latino vs Latino, Asian vs Asian. It is anger and hopelessness turned inward; a form of mass suicide with colors and turf as an excuse to self-destruct. Self-hatred is a result of not feeling loved. Tell your family how much you love them. Teach your children pride, values and love and respect of self. The rest will take care of itself.
- 3). Call someone. If you need help with your child do not be embarrassed to ask for help. It is better to suffer any degree of embarrassment than the pain of a lost loved one.
- 4). Pray as a family and ask for forgiveness, guidance and strength. It is there. Doors will open.
- 5). Maintain hope and success for your child. As you believe so shall it be. Encourage a determination to excel daily. If you believe so shall your child.
- 6). The media can do more harm than good. They historically communicate messages of ethnic stereotyping and violence. Be aware and be careful of the messages you allow your children to be exposed to.

---

---

## THE SOUTH CENTRAL REPORT

*By: Larry*

I have spent the last few years observing and analyzing this phenomena called "community". I have lived in various communities, some racially mixed while others slanted towards a majority of one race or another. None of my previous experiences could have prepared me for the week I spent in South Central Los Angeles. I shot thirteen rolls of film, interviewed over thirty people and visited a wide range of organizations serving Los Angeles. As I sort through this vast amount of information, I am aware that the story must be told. South Central is not about Rodney King, it is about PERCEPTIONS.

As you read through this article, bear in mind that while I may have my own personal opinions, the people I met and spoke with are telling this story from their perspective, and rightfully so. It matters little whether I agree or disagree with motive or rationale. What I found extremely interesting was how each person or group from South Central added to or detracted from my own personal, preconceived perceptions about what occurred.

How often in our lifetime are any of us privileged to witness history? You know the type of things I'm talking about; Martin Luther King's speech at the Washington Monument, President Kennedy's assassination,



the first moon launch. There have been many over the years to be sure. In today's society though, with technology bringing world events right into our living rooms the second they happen, it is difficult to determine what is a history making event.

I remember hearing about the insurrection in Los Angeles. I don't regularly watch TV, so April 29, 1992 was basically just another day for me. It wasn't until the next morning that I was surprised to find out what had happened in South Central. I remember just sitting frozen for a moment, trying to digest the information I had just heard. Had things gotten that bad in Los Angeles? I didn't really know what South Central meant geographically.

I quickly began asking questions as to why such a thing took place. The initial reason from most sources was the Rodney King Verdict. What did a verdict have to do with what I was seeing on my television and reading in my paper? Anger, yes. Frustration, most definitely. There was even a feeling of betrayal by the system. I could think of a number of reasons to become angry and a great number of ways to deal with the feelings I felt welling up inside me.

Had I really thought of different ways to deal with my anger? I was almost startled at the thought that came to my mind. For a split second, I was in total agreement with what was taking place in a city I had never been to, with people I'd never met, and for causes I had little or no understanding of. I had heard and seen the Rodney King incident many times. I remember all the media coverage and analytical debate that followed the first viewing of the video. I certainly had my own "opinion" of what happened and what needed to be done. Yet Rodney King was greatly overshadowed by what took place after the verdict.

I began to ask who Rodney King was. Maybe just days before the decision, Mr. King had been staging demonstrations or refusing to eat until the verdict was handed down. I was like many of us who just knew a verdict of guilty was forthcoming from the case. There was no reason to sit in front of the television or huddle next to a radio as if a national alert had been given. Besides, we were living in the land of the free and the home of the brave, with liberty and jus.... Wait a minute! I almost fell out of my seat. Could this whole thing be about justice (or the lack of) in our society as a whole? I had to know more. Something was going on in South Central and it wasn't going away tomorrow or the next day.

Even though my interest was peaked by the events of those twenty four hours, there was little to tie the situation here in Tacoma, Washington with the hysteria in South Central Los Angeles. Being the editor of a local newsletter, Happenings On Hilltop, I made a point of going out and talking with Hilltop residents and businesses. While the overall sentiment was that a major injustice had been committed, we here in the Pacific Northwest were not ready to get actively involved with what was happening in our own communities. We saw what happened as somehow foreign and outside our scope of reality. After all, here in Tacoma we are an integrated society. Blacks and Whites get along just fine here. If anything, we could offer some solutions to South Central Los Angeles that would assist them in creating a happier community.

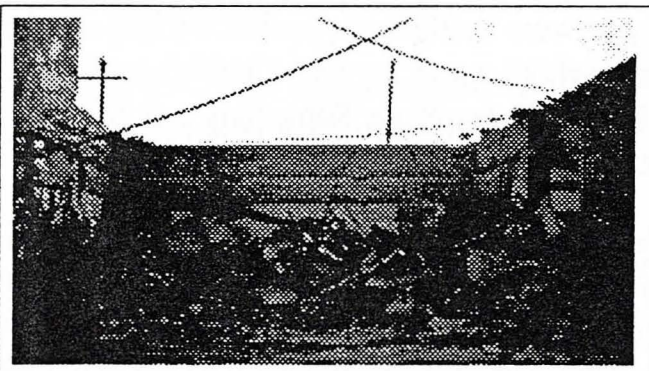
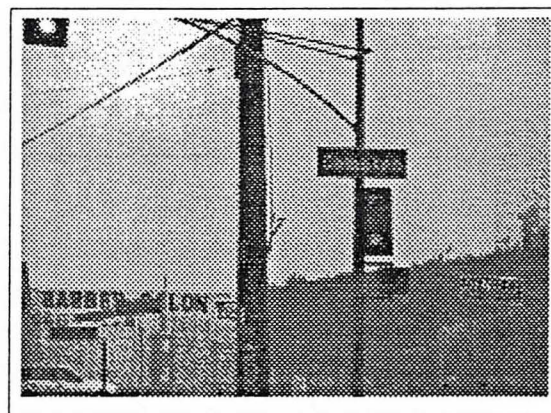
Indeed, there were many comments that I received from people who genuinely wanted to help, if it wasn't but to offer a suggestion or two. Often times, a person from the outside looking in may have a clearer grasp of what is necessary to resolve a situation. As I reviewed my interviews something occurred to me. None of us here in Tacoma were present before, during or after the events of South Central. All we had to go on was



what we had seen on television and read. Maybe some of us had friends or relatives who lived in South Central to give updates and keep us abreast of developments. For the most part though, I think we were all willing to rely on the story as it was being told by press, media and analysts. Why should we doubt the media? Had they not covered the war in the Widdle East? Had they not given us up-to-date exit poles during primaries? Wasn't the media keeping us abreast of our local water shortage?

Yet there was something different about South Central, something larger than life itself. There was a feeling of evolution, a new birth in our society. I couldn't really explain why I needed to know more. Maybe it was because I was born and raised on Hilltop. Since a certain incident happened a few years back that brought national media attention to our community ( much of it focused on sensationalism), I have learned to gather information for myself and if something is not of my experience, it is merely my opinion. I saw my neighborhood in a far different light than what the press clippings or the evening news chose to cover. Could it be that maybe the same thing was happening to South Central Los Angeles as well? Could it be that South Central was also receiving "Bad Press"? I had to know. I was living through a historical event and I knew that if history was going to be written to teach our future generations about what happened and what kind of people we were, then more information was necessary.

What follows is a number of pictures and quotes from the various people who lived the riots of South Central. Some were business owners, public servants and health providers, while others were community residents. Collectively, they paint a picture of hope. Their focus is on rebuilding, in a constructive way their lives and their communities in a city much like any urban area in America today. Let us compare the notes from South Central and see what's HAPPENING ON HILLTOP.



### A CLOSER LOOK

One of the major perceptions that came out of South Central was the destruction and social unrest. In Los Angeles, Compton has been an area of tension for some time. Bars on windows, six and eight foot fences around homes and the ever-present gang violence had painted a picture of destruction way before the unrest of April 29, 1992.

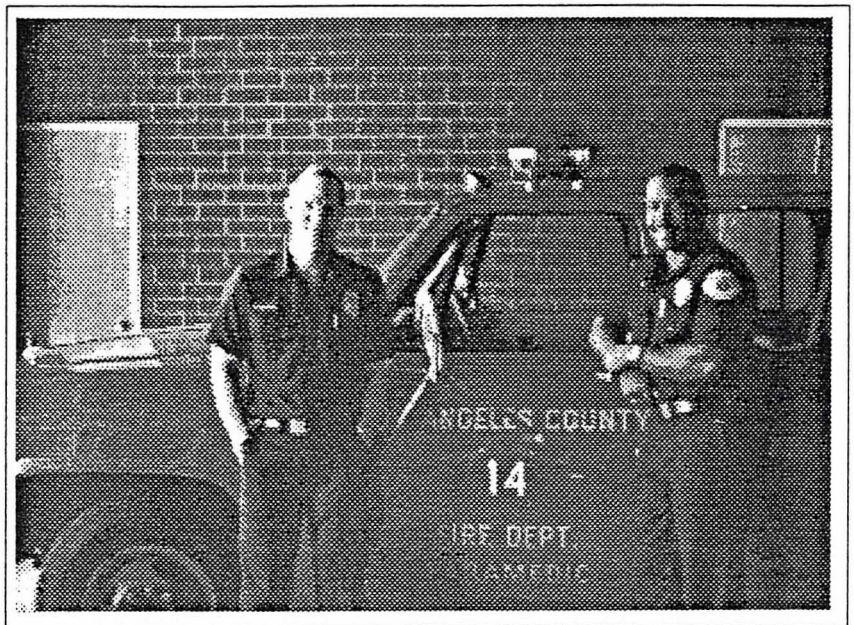


In viewing the many buildings which were burned, I tried to picture in my mind what it would have been like to witness the Hilltop community in flames. I wondered what it would take to push our community over the edge to when the citizens would see no other alternative but to burn and destroy.



## HELP IS ON THE WAY

I spoke with a number of firefighters and medic personnel who had worked during the riots in South Central. Their story was one of experiencing hazardous conditions while demonstrating a dogged determination to provide the services necessary to keep the entire city from becoming a raging inferno with a loss of life paralleled to that of war. Said one firefighter, "When we came to the first fire, we tried to handle it by the book. When we started seeing flames shooting up everywhere around the city, our tactics



changed. We had to knock down as much fire as best we could and go on to the next blaze." Paramedics were equally challenged as to how they were able to implement their services. "We couldn't get into some areas the violence was so bad. One guy had a cut arm. We tossed him a roll of bandages and told him we had to go to help someone else. The guy said that was o.k. and to be careful." Some of the vehicles were shot at and pummeled with rocks and bottles. In spite of all the mayhem, most service providers felt a sense of pride in having the opportunity to serve under such adverse conditions. They also held little or no animosity towards the enraged community for some of the attacks that were directed at them.

---

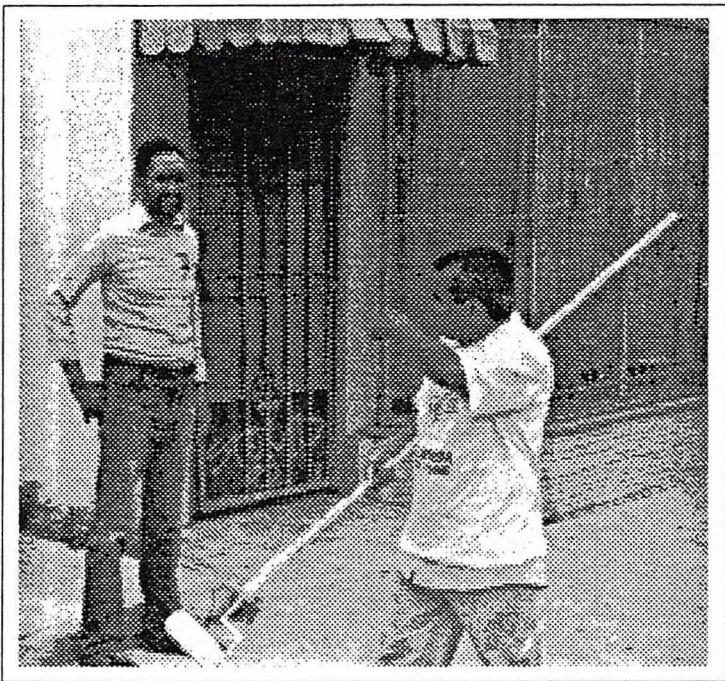
---

### SUBSCRIBE TODAY

BY BECOMING A SUBSCRIBER TO HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP, YOU ARE HELPING THE COMMUNITY TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, NEWS AND UP COMING EVENTS THAT OCCUR ON HILLTOP. PLUS YOU WON'T MISS OUT ON SPECIAL ISSUES LIKE THIS ONE. WE ARE PROUD TO BE YOUR EYES AND HEARS OF THE COMMUNITY AND SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU ALL. PLEASE ORDER TODAY TO PRESERVE THIS NEWSLETTER AND HELP MAKE IT GROW WITH THE COMMUNITY.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR ORDER FORM.





## A CLEAN SWEEP

After the major clean up, organizations returned to the task of maintaining the community. Graffiti removal, street cleanup and garbage removal were the tasks of the day. Efforts to include area gang members

in a number of facets of community revitalization were among the high priorities for the community groups.

There was a strong sense of optimism held by the volunteers. The feeling is that with cooperation from city and federal government, the community can and will join forces to begin the task of rebuilding. There was concern by



many that the funds which had been appropriated for rebuilding might end up in the hands of businesses and developers who live outside the community, thus depriving the community of much needed jobs and financial resources.



## STILL AT LARGE

Two weeks after the riots, a large police presence in South Central was still very visible. I was surprised to find most residents viewed this as a normal part of life in South Central. I thought of how often I had seen large numbers of police cars patrolling my neighborhood. Were our communities that different after all?

A reporter for Newsweek was in South Central the same time I was. His observation of certain events that I too had witnessed was very different. Take the meeting of the Bloods and Crips of South Central, meeting in the park. I spent most of the day Saturday and Sunday (May 16 and 17) talking with gang members, gang intervention officers and community residents. They viewed what was taking place as extremely positive and a necessary step in rebuilding the community.



### Defiance on the Beat

Newsweek, May 92

Once the kings of the street, L.A.'s cops are encountering a new defiance at a time when morale and resources are at a low point. Last week NEWSWEEK's Michael Meyer went out on patrol with an LAPD veteran. His report:

Sgt. Terry Barclay tries to laugh off the insults. As his squad car idles at a stoplight, a well-dressed black woman driving a shiny Toyota shouts out: "F—the cops!" Along a shady street of bungalows, a white-haired man returns Barclay's "hello" with a one fingered salute. Walls are scrawled with ugly graffiti: "Kill the LAPD."

Barclay has been on the force for 22 years. He's assistant watch commander for the Newton Division, just north of South-Central and scene of some of the worst of L.A.'s rioting. Gangsters call it "Shootin' Newton." Neither they nor the cops are reluctant to "pop a cap" when things get rough. Word on the street is that Newton's 5 odd gangs have declared a truce. "That can only mean a hit on the police," one cop mutters at headquarters. At the afternoon roll call, Barclay briefs his

unit. The day before, a woman in an LAPD T shirt was accosted by two men. "Hey lady, your brains are going to be wasted," one said, then fired a shot through her windshield. "Watch your backs," Barclay warns his 30 officers.

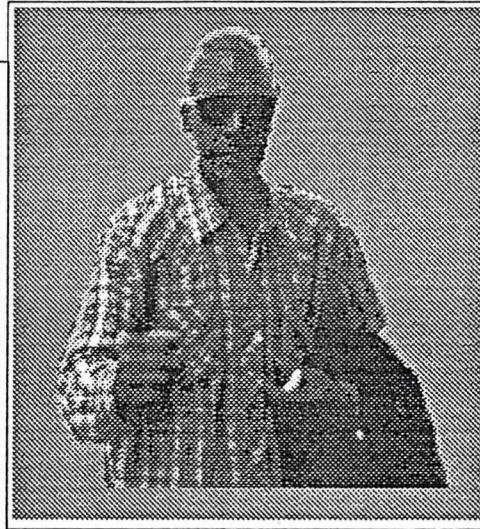
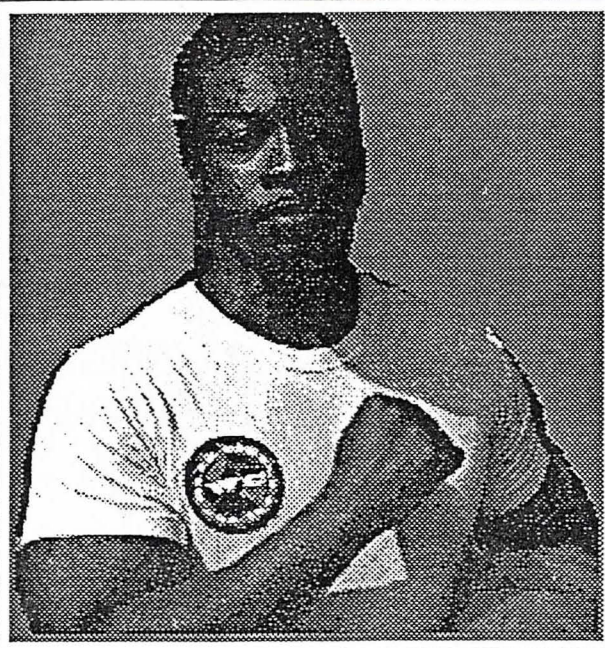
Newton is not a nice place, even by day. Prostitutes and homeless drifters crowd Seventh Street, blocks from downtown L.A. To the south, burned and looted stores line the main streets. We answer a few calls. Near The Pueblos, a barracks like housing project on Long Beach Avenue, two black youths sit in the back of a squad car. "Bishop Bloods," says Barclay, referring to a local gang. Rival gangs have been gathering at The Pueblos, more than 200-strong, representing three "sets" of Crips and half a dozen Bloods. These gangs would normally be killing each other. Now they're not only cooperating but have defied orders to disperse. "They tell us they are talking peace," Barclay says. "We think they are planning an ambush."

As night falls, Newton turns into a combat zone. A cloud of black smoke rises against the fading evening sky. Firefighters and police race to the blaze, a warehouse fire deliberately set. "At

least no one's shooting at us," says Barclay, a big difference from two weeks back. We check out South Park where gangs are also gathering. Not far away, a sudden crackle of gunfire; Barclay noses his cruiser toward the sound. By now, crime reports are sputtering from the radio. At 9:50, "Gang stripping car at 40th and Main." At 9:57, a backup request for a unit chasing a stolen car. Then, at 9:58, the most chilling report: "Ambulance shooting at 56th and Hooper." There, a Pueblo Bishop Blood lies on his back, three bullets in his head. "He probably kept his drugs in that," says Barclay, nodding at a Chap Stick at the dead man's feet.

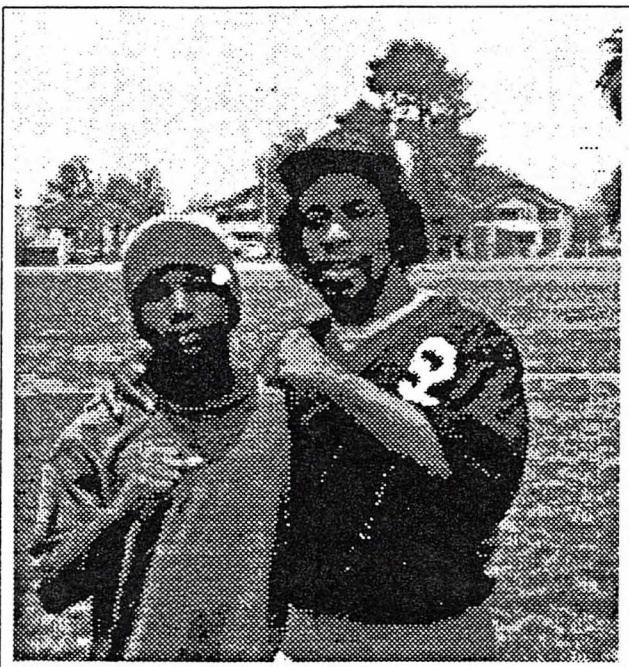
L.A.'s police have been accused of an "us against them" attitude toward the community. Cruising Newton, it's hard not to feel apart. "It is us versus them," Barclay explains. "There are a lot of good guys out there, and a lot of bad. It takes experience to tell who's who."





## WORKING TOWARDS PEACE

The truce in South Central by local gang members had taken many by surprise. While the police were perceiving it as a sign of possible escalating violence and retaliation towards law enforcement officers, the gang members and community residents saw it differently. Gang members young and old, who had pledged life long allegiance to "the colors" were now uniting under one common bond, survival. For them, peace meant an opportunity to start new lives and build a future for their children. Some of the people I spoke to had never seen this area of town, even though they lived just a short distance from the park. "It's like a breath of fresh air", explained "Ace", a long time member of a group from Inglewood.

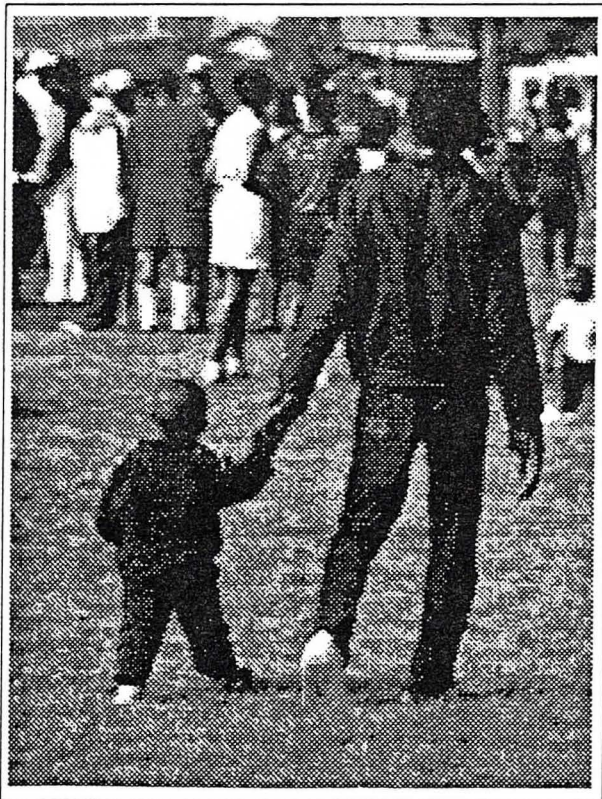
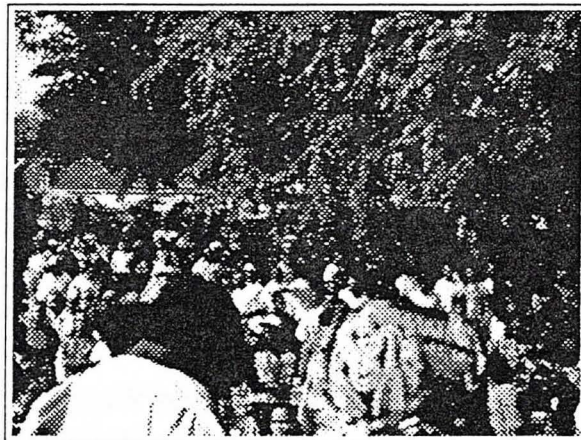
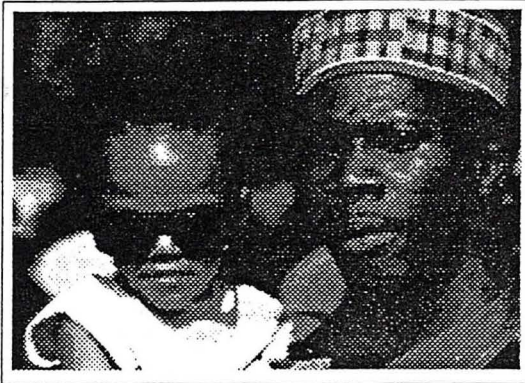




## THE FACES OF HOPE

On Sunday, May 17, a gathering of hundreds in South Park near Pueblo caused a variety of perceptions. There was a major police presence around the perimeter of the park. The energy inside the park was so positive though, one felt as if there was nothing but solutions on the horizon. Former gang members, children, sports and television celebrities and religious leaders gathered for what could only be viewed as a historical event. While I was aware of the police, it mattered little in the overall scope of things. People who would have been trying to kill one another a few weeks ago, were shaking hands, exchanging "rags", sharing

food and drink, and experiencing a togetherness that has been lacking in the black communities across this country for years. It felt "good" to be black. Everyone was beautiful. I asked former gang members if they would send a message back to Hilltop, and many were quick to oblige. "Yo Hilltop, this is Tiny from the Warlocks. It's on! This is for real. Come together. It's not a red thang or a blue thang. It's a Black thang." "We started the Bloods and Crips here in South Central. Today, this is where it ends. Hilltop Brotha's come together!"





## THE FIRST STEPS

Efforts to begin a peace movement between Bloods and Crips in South Central had begun weeks prior to the Rodney King verdict. Evidence of this can be found in the flier we used for the cover of the newsletter. Local community gang intervention services (CYGS), businesses and the gang members themselves had been meeting to discuss the best way to present their intentions to the public. Here is a press release that was issued covering events of the week I was in South Central:

### SOUTH CENTRAL BLACKNESS

Brief summary of our first week at peace.

5/11/92-5/15/92

Monday morning we entered the Community Youth Gang Services with a suggestion and a plea for their help. They not only agreed to the fullest, they gave us space in the CYGS to serve as headquarters for our needs. We decided to go about this the right way with the right people to stand behind us. We chose to go to Newton Police Station, the L.A. Sentinel, KJLH radio and hold a press conference. We also thought to get the pastor Rev. E.V. Hill to assist us in a spiritual way. These decisions were made to let the world know that we were serious. Our goal is to stay as one, forget, improve and move on together.

During this first week, we as a whole got a lot accomplished. Now we share with the whole community the things that were done:

- 5/11/92: We entered, met and announced our intentions to Community Youth Gang Services Project.
- 5/12/92:
  - 1) Set and agreed on our immediate boundaries.
  - 2) Made appointments with the Police Department, media, and the pastor.
- 5/13/92:
  - 1) We talked to Captain Cante at Newton Station.
  - 2) Contacted Jackie Stevens and Jeff Gill at KJLH radio.
  - 3) Contacted Marsha Mitchell at the L.A. Sentinel.
  - 4) Contacted Pastor Rev. E.V. Hill at Mount Zion Baptist Church.
- 5/14/92: Press conference on Slauson/Western for all media. We went to Tustin, Santa Ana at TBN television station to speak on Worldwide live with the pastor.
- 5/15/92: Set up for this weekend in our park.

The reason we have gone to the press and media is to let them and the world know that we are on the right track. Also we did it to deny all of the negative bullshit. We as a whole should be very proud of this stone in history that we have placed. We must stay together and keep this bond forever. Remember "Only The Strong Can Survive".

Always South Central Blackness (as a Whole).



## A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS

I had the opportunity to interview a woman who's perceptions had been challenged by the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. As a Christian, she saw a need to alert others who may have fallen into the same position of having to question their values and religious commitment. Here is what she had to say:

May 4, 1992

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

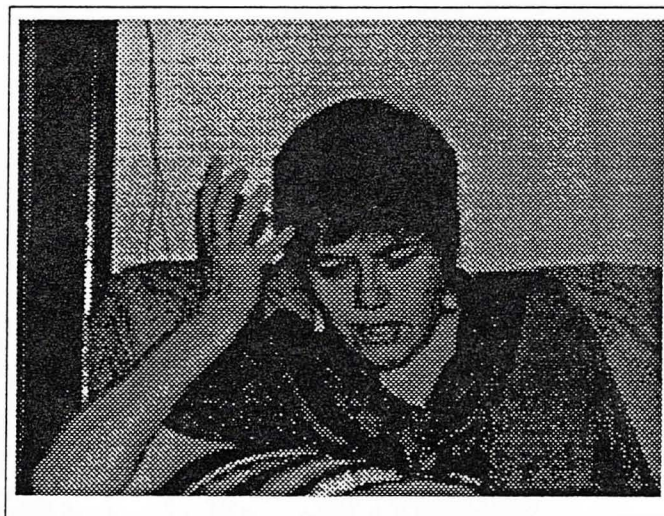
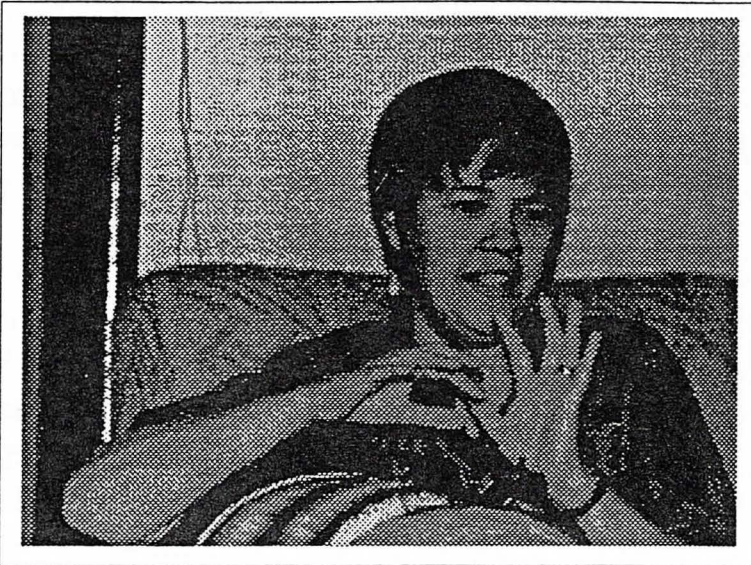
Scripture is quite clear on confessing and asking for forgiveness. Jesus said not to even continue on to the temple if anyone has something against you. Don't continue on until you have dealt with your sin against another. So feeling sad about your community isn't enough. Feeling shocked about the verdict isn't enough. Feeling sorry I never listened isn't enough. Feeling bad I never helped isn't enough. I must ask...

Please forgive me for being "White".

I traveled and never cared why I can and others can't.

I'm educated and never cared why I can and others can't.

I've lived in safe neighborhoods and never cared why I can and others can't.



Please forgive me for self-righteousness.

For pointing a finger at your high crime rate and not pointing a finger at discrimination

For criticizing the way you raise your children while my own son, in trouble with the law, was receiving every consideration and help possible from the police and courts

For clicking my tongue and shaking my head at you for not caring about education while I horde the better schools and training opportunities

Please forgive me for thinking of you as "those people" over there.

Please forgive me for blaming you for being poor.

Please forgive me as a Christian for saying, "There's nothing I can do about it" and turning away.

Please forgive me as a Christian for saying, "Thank God so-and-so was called to work in that neighborhood and not me."

Please forgive me that it took death and destruction for me to see my sins.

But feeling isn't enough, and talking isn't enough. I must live my faith. I see the book of James before me and I believe that if I turn away now my conscious will be seared forever.

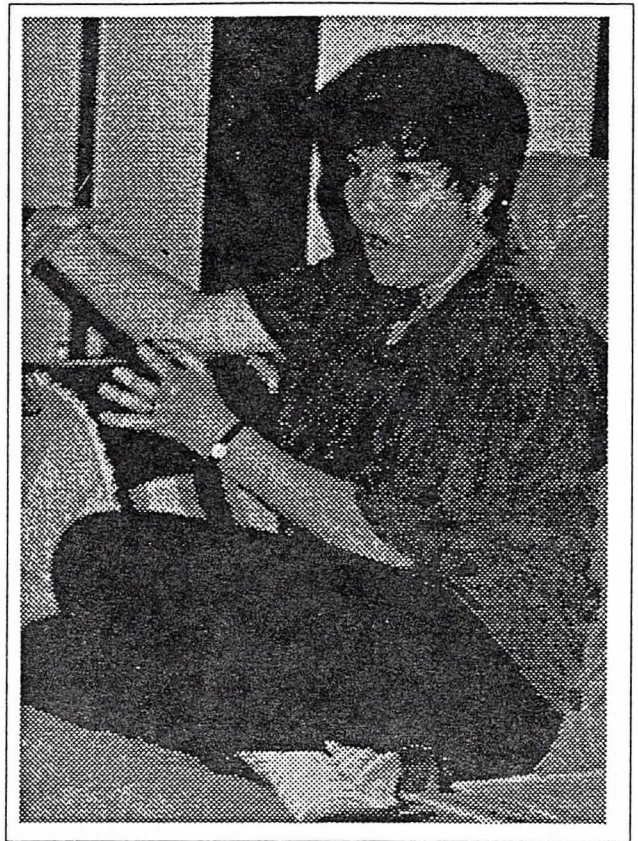


But I don't know what to do. I don't want to sweep awhile then say I have done my duty. I don't want to send a box of clothes then say I have done my duty. I don't want to send a check then say I have done my duty. I'm not adverse to any of those things, but I fear falling into the world's ways of a one-timer 30-second, quick-fix-attitude.

I feel foolish and inadequate in offering to help, probably because I am foolish and inadequate. We can only hope in I Corinthians 1:26-31. I am enclosing our prayer list. We would like to pray for you in specific ways if you feel led to write or call. I can't enclose our church address or number because we don't have one. We are a newly planted church and meet in a school gym, New Life Fellowship (Four-square Glendora). We have about 40 in attendance. Would you pray that our Christian flame would shine bright here and attract the sin-sick and hurting people. The spirit of Laodicea permeates this place like oily black smoke.

I pray for you now that you will feel the presence of the God of All Comfort in a mighty way. And I pray that if you have aught against me that you will explain it to me — I wish I could get all the white churches, the middle-class and upper-class churches to begin the healing in repentance, confession, and forgiveness.

But I can only do me.

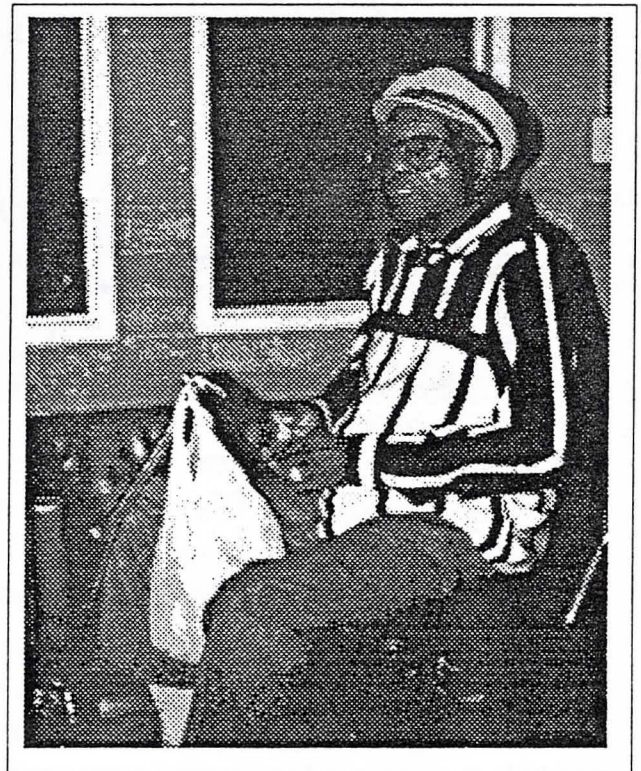


---

## A MAN WITH VISION

Ted Watkins is President of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. He was one of the original members of a group of black men who formed a union shortly after the Watts riots in the sixties. Their goal was to rebuild the current housing units in the Watts neighborhood, provide jobs in the community and develop a financial base.

Today, the WLCAC has contributed greatly to building and maintaining a strong community presence. The organization provides many services to the community, run by the community. Watts has its own transit system, senior citizens transportation program, housing for the homeless, refuse department, job and housing program and a number of other vital services. WLCAC was also instrumental in getting the Martin Luther King Hospital built. "We started a campaign to get that hospital built in January of 1966. That hospital is here today. We've built over six hundred houses and three-hundred apartment units in this community. We built a shopping center and a number commercial buildings right here. It has taken us twenty-eight years to

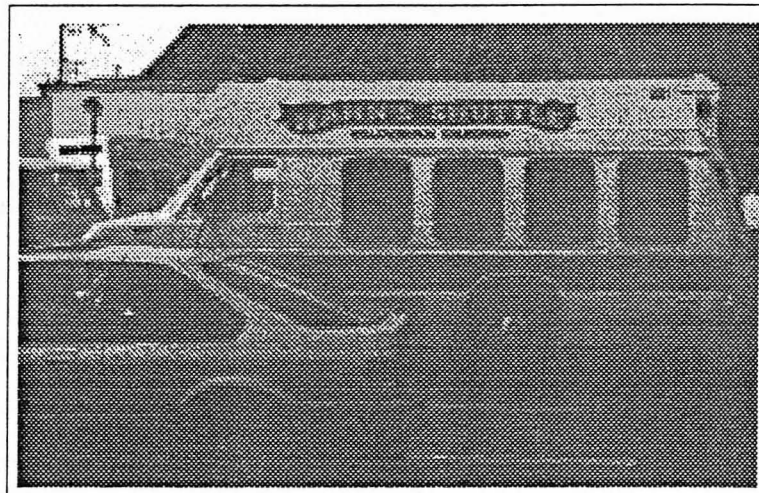
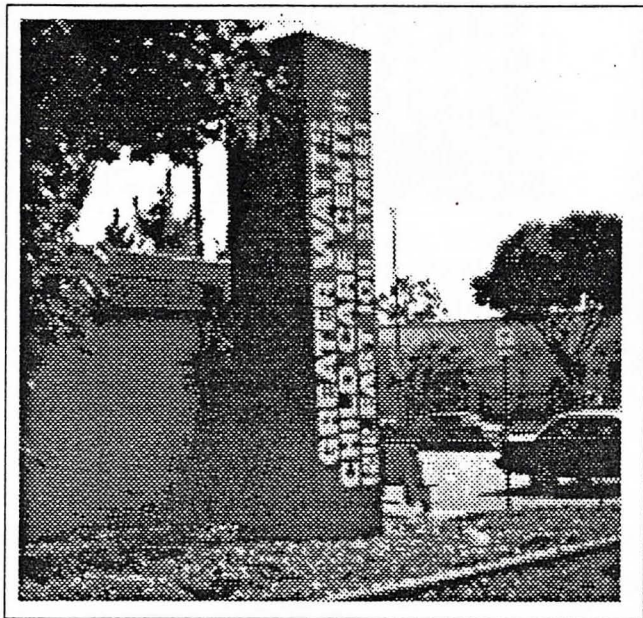




accomplish this. We started out with \$5.38.”

Mr. Watkins has seen the many changes that have taken place in his community over the years. “We had gangs back then, but they were more subdued. Today, gangs are challenging the whole structure, the police, the system and they number in the thousands.” Mr. Watkins solution to getting gang members involved is simple, “We found that we could take the sticks, bricks and weapons out of the kid's hands and replace them

with hammers, saws give them a wage and they would participate. When the money has been available, the program has been very successful. Right now, the money is almost non-existent.” With all the money that is being allocated to rebuild this community, Mr. Watkins is



pessimistic that funds will be available to assist the programs already in place. “I think they’ll do a lot of talking and go back to business as

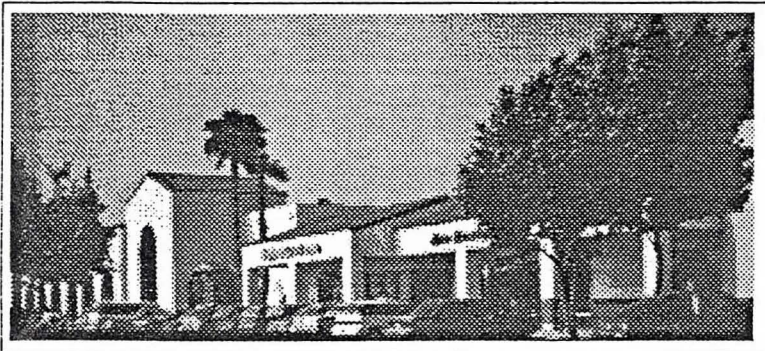
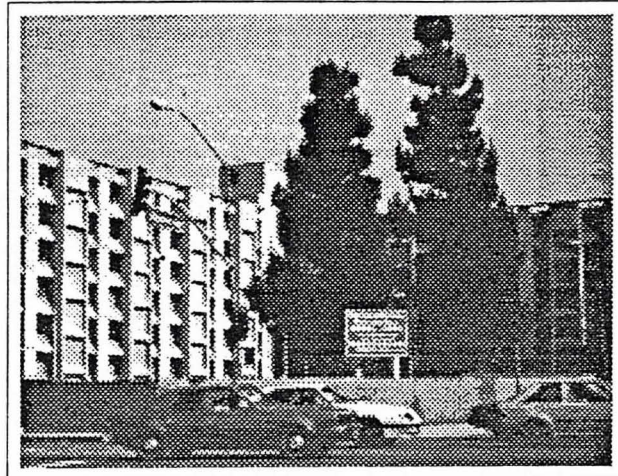
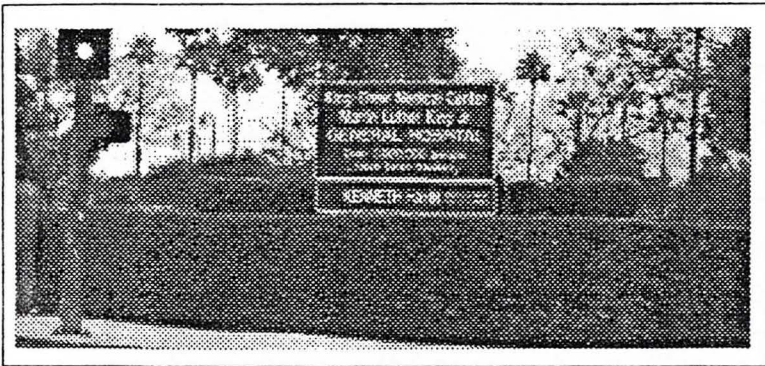
usual.” There doesn’t seem to be any end to conditions which caused both riots in the South Central communities that span three decades. “Racism is still present. We lost contact with these kids when that crack hit the streets. We have young men and women working in various programs, but the programs are dwindling. There is almost nothing for the young peoples twelve and thirteen years old”.

WLCAC wasn’t spared during the riot. “We were hit by the burning and the looting. And there was another element that wasn’t present in the riots of the sixty’s. There was major Hispanic and White involvement.”

Besides more funding and job opportunities, Mr. Watkins sees other areas that need to be addressed. “There needs to be a national committee to change the economic condition of the have-nots and I don’t see that coming. There is also no commitment to change. There has to be commitment by the police and local officials to change. We need more recreational facilities, not just parks. Affluent communities have bowling alleys,

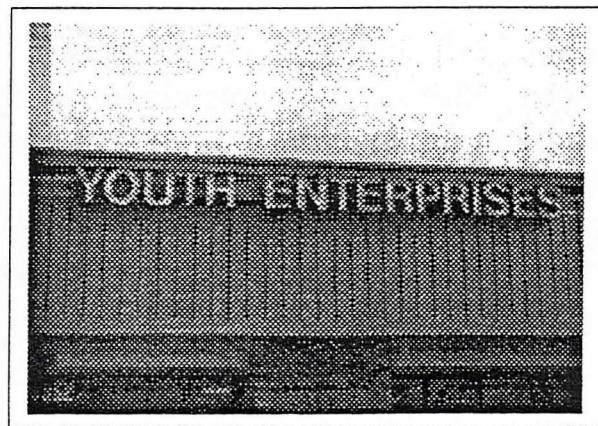
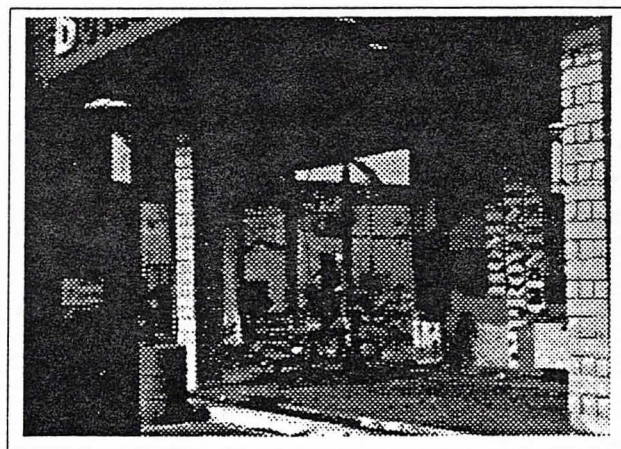






swimming pools, ice skating rinks, all kinds of things. The elders in our communities have lost their credibility because they are not in-tuned to the needs of the young folk."

Mr. Watkins is convinced that a quality environment makes a difference in how people see themselves. "We put people who are on welfare in houses worth over two-hundred thousand dollars. By changing a persons environment, you change the person. I can see the difference in the people we have placed in safe, clean and sanitary housing. We placed them in communities where other people are affluent."



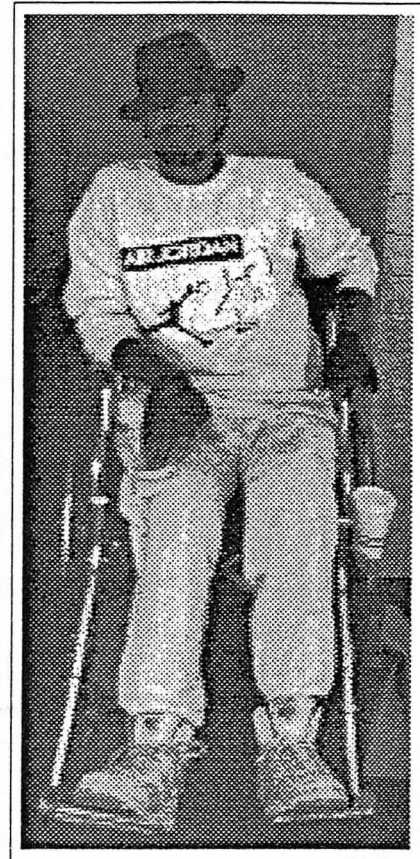




## THE COST OF VIOLENCE

Caroline Baker is a chaplain at the Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. She is also the director of Project Valor, which serves as a resource for many of the people who have lived through violence on the streets of Los Angeles. As a chaplain, she warns fellow ministers of the danger in looking the other way and not getting involved. As the number of individuals

who have received permanent disabilities from gang violence grows, Pastor Baker continues to educate and solicit assistance from communities and churches alike. Here is a brief description of her program at Rancho Los Amigos, along with photos of a patient I interviewed as he was graduating from the program that day.



## PROJECT VALOR PROPOSAL

There is a pressing need throughout America to combat the problem faced by inter-city residents. These problems include the ever rising population, homelessness, and the increase of violence. According to California Department of Corrections, 39% of the prison population of 101,808 inmates comes from the Los Angeles area. The Los Angeles County Probation Department reports that there are over 6,000 identified gang members in Los Angeles County. Pastoral staff, church members and community residents need help to overcome these problems and to understand the needs of those individuals that have been injured by inter-city violence in order to assist them in their re-entry into society.

Project Valor, based on the grounds of Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center in the of Downey, has developed a program designed to bridge the gap between the community, the church, and those with life-controlling problems. Project Valor staff and volunteers help to create a positive atmosphere on the hospital units housing those individual that have been injured by acts of violence within the urban community. These individuals may have been either the perpetrators of the violent acts and/or the victims. Upon release from the hospital, Project Valor representatives will follow-up on each individual to assist them as they re-entry society.

Project Valor is a three-phase program designed to assist an individual on a personal and corporate level as they go through the rehabilitation process. Phase One consists of the recruitment and training of volunteers. Church pastors, Lay-Leaders, and community members will recommend individual to participate in Project Valor. These individuals will be screened and a section will be made by the Project Valor staff. Participants will then enter and complete a training course designed to give exposure to people with disabilities, hospital



rules and regulations, inter-city problems and trends, one-to-one relationships, and on-the-job training.

Phase Two consists of the assigning of Project Valor representatives to selected hospital units. Each representative will develop a one-to-one mentoring relationship with the inter-city patients. Emphasis is placed upon relationship building, personal accountability, and peacemaking when hostilities between patients arise. Project Valor representatives will also, for three months, assist with follow-up support and provide information and referrals to family members.

Phase Three is designed to provide advocacy services and efforts aimed specifically at the church within the inter-city. This target population has traditionally always been a symbol of support and comfort in the community. However, when it comes to need of the disabled, churches have not responded to meet the needs of this special population group.

## THE CODE WORD

By: OGYT

Seems like the code word was going to be "UNITY" due to our Brothers of blue and red/red and blue seeing a true 'Black Vision'. The ties that bind would be based on color of skin, not bandannas. Suddenly, a Black man would not worry if met by an unfamiliar Black man. As long as no disrespect was given by one or the other, no ill would come of this meeting.

A worthy vision. Witness the former Soviet Union healing with the Decadent West. Observe the reunification of East and West Germany. These lofty goals of human unity have changed our view of things not seen, but believed in. And now, in a small corner of a giant world, a pact is hammered out to ensure the future of Black neighborhoods in the United States. No social worker or federal agent could do what the Brothers would do for themselves. UNITY.

But UNITY will not be the code word after all. I didn't decide this, however I do predict that another word may emerge as UNITY plays out it's hand.

Personally, I feel that all of us who have been dumped on in one way or another wish that we were doing the dumping instead. Any unity based on reverse discrimination will ultimately cause division on a larger scale and result in Black Humans disrespecting White Humans. White Humans disrespecting Asian Humans. Asian Humans disrespecting Hispanic Humans. Hispanic Humans disrespecting Black Humans and, it figures, all colored combinations of disrespect.

The "Black Experience" has been an uphill battle to remove centuries old racism from modern Black reality. Injustice is wrong but just as wrong will be any backlash against any innocent bystander in the name of justice. "By Any Means Necessary" involves being dedicated to the achievement of goals. It is not a slogan threatening the destruction of a nation unless tribute is paid. It is not permission from anyone to disrespect another at will. Please do not confuse Guerrilla Warfare with Honorable Achievement. Our detractors and enemies will harden as the spears are thrown, the blades will chip and shatter against concrete and steel. The battle will ebb and flow as the tide with the waves becoming mighty and the shore will tower higher. Soon, all will be warfare and death, souls begging for peace amid the devastation drowned out by



screams of terror.

It has occurred like this over and over again in human history. Imagined unity gives way to pride which begets isolation. Let us not follow history's stupid examples. Let us not accept a quick fix over true satisfaction. Is our goal truly equality or is it domination and repression? Did Hitler's men ever explain to greater Europe "It's a nazi thing, you wouldn't understand."?

Nope, UNITY can't be the code word. Too much anger remains. Attitudes are too self centered to look beyond today's ills. To me, the code word is almost the opposite of UNITY. The other end of the spectrum but right next door: POLARIZATION.

Let's not accept neighborhood unity as the goal. Let us reach higher as we stand today on a unity of color until we grasp a greater unity of character. Peace.

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.**

We have received a few calls concerning spelling accuracy and punctuation. Our staff is working towards producing the best newsletter we can. We appreciate your objective criticism and will continually work to eliminate spelling and punctuation errors. Thank you.

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.



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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**



Editorial Assistant: Preston A. Ward, Sr.

Typesetting: This publication is created using Aldus PageMaker®

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

In summary, I have only given you a small portion of the information I received while down in South Central. I will be giving presentations to communities and organizations around the Pacific Northwest. There are also plans to bring some of the people I spoke with to our region to explain in more detail their contributions to rebuilding and maintaining Los Angeles. It is hoped that just as our input was received to assist them, we can also embrace theirs as well.

I wish to thank the many people who assisted in making this trip a success. Without them, I couldn't have gone:

Safeway  
Alaska Airlines  
Sam and Terry's Barber shop  
My family  
Budget Rent-A-Car  
Diane and Mrs. Allen  
John Clark  
Seattle Fire Department  
Seattle Black Firefighters Association  
All those who participated in the Hilltop video  
All those who I interviewed and photographed in  
Los Angeles  
The fellas in Randy's parking lot  
Lana  
Chaplain Baker  
Ivory  
Station 14 and 66 in Los Angeles  
Phil (LAFD Public Information Officer)  
Harjas, Barb, Niki and Don, Colleen, T-Money,  
P-West,  
all my friends on the Hood, Teresa and many,  
many more.

And a special thanks to Preston Ward, my right hand man who has hung in there with me through it all.

God Bless!!!