

HAPPENINGS ON HILLTOP

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1997

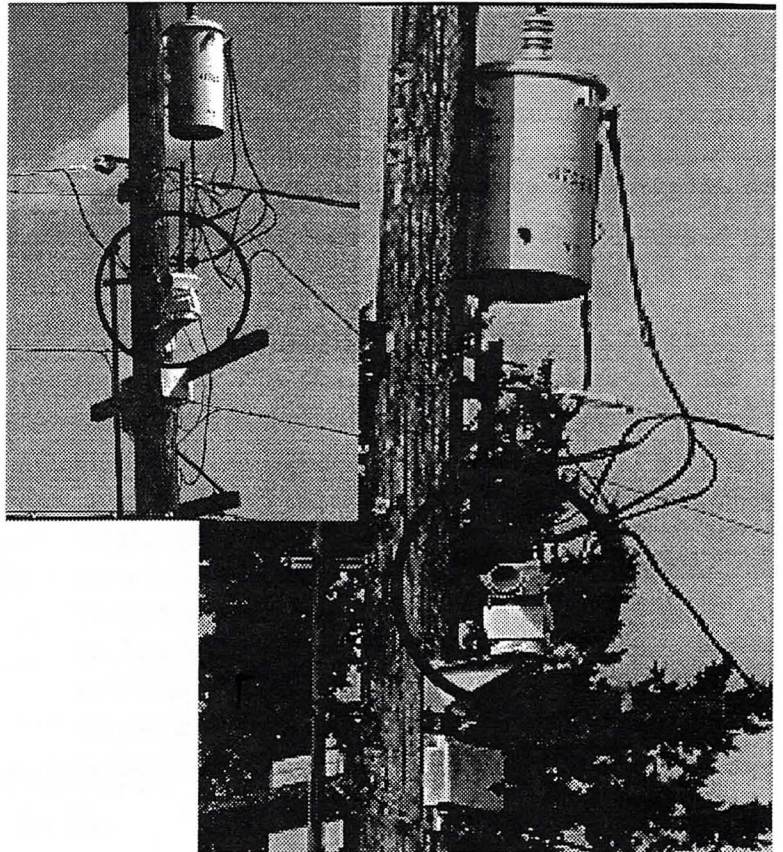
VOLUME 5 NUMBER 3

HEY HILLTOP!

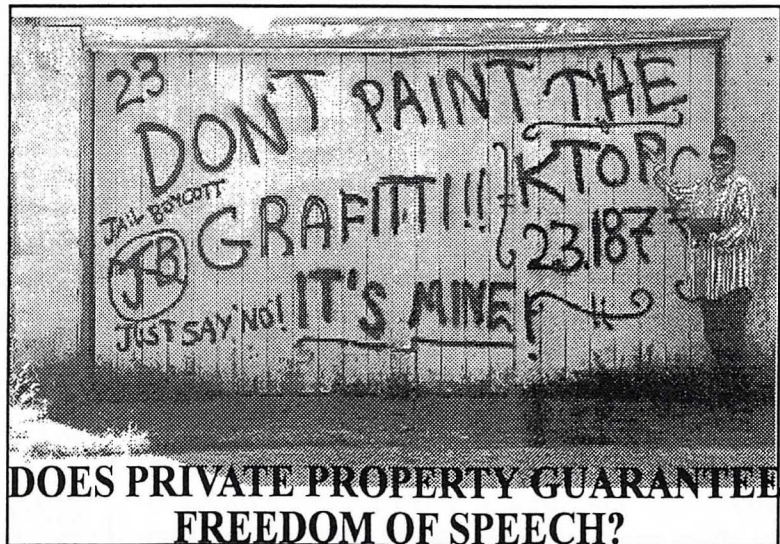
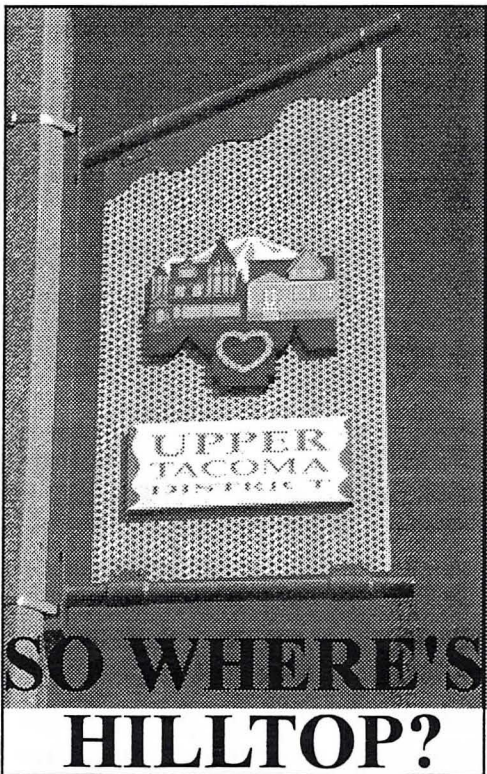
IT'S TIME TO MAKE
A CHANGE!!!

BUT...

ARE YOU READY?



**PUBLIC SAFETY OR...
FURTHER CONTROL??**



**DOES PRIVATE PROPERTY GUARANTEE
FREEDOM OF SPEECH?**

inside...

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CLUB 24

IS YA'LL READY FOR THIS ISSUE?

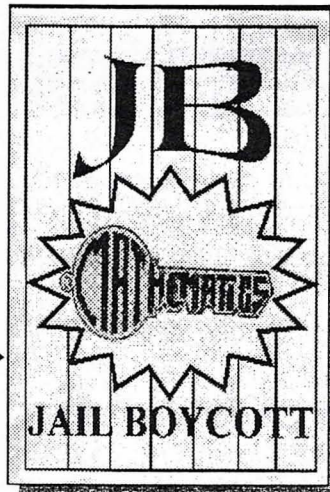
Ok folks, lets get this show on the road! A lot has happened and a lot is **HAPPENING**. The question is... are YOU willing to become involved? The question is... are You going to just sit by and watch things happen, then complain because things aren't the way YOU want them?

I'm not just talking to those who have regular contact with local law enforcement; that would be too easy. I'm speaking to all of YOU who get up and go to work everyday, watch T.V., go to school and church, and can read a newspaper! We all should start looking at the issues and see where we stand. That's why I have dedicated the next couple issues to information that voices many concerns. Just take a look at the cover.

You may not be in agreement with everything you read or see in this newsletter, but something should strike your interest. Don't just sit back and try to remain neutral. **THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND!** The issues that affect our daily lives are far too serious to ig-

nore. So please take a little extra time with this issue and if something really strikes a chord with you, why not write us?

The symbol to the right, is an important one. Many people who face a life of going back and forth to prison, are searching for answers to their seemingly hopeless situation. Granted, churches have helped some and so have some of the programs currently offered by the state. But even with all this, why do we still have a need to build jail after jail? You can read more about the Jail Boycott on page 3 of this issue.



In the mean time...

Open up your mind and your heart.

I have one thing to say just before we start...

Let's not put the horse behind the cart...

Let's see what's

Happening

On

Hilltop

□

the charges are dropped or you get sent on your way with no explanation.

Is this any way to treat any portion of our society? Hey, I don't necessarily agree with drug trafficking or even some of the negative things that happen when young people join gangs. But to remove basic civil rights for these individuals?

The only way I would accept this authority for law enforcement is if they are willing to start doing it to everyone. Let's have law enforcement out to the Mall and start pulling over shoppers as they leave the shopping area. Or maybe start checking everyone for tabs, licences and tickets as they leave from a city counsel meeting. Did I forget Gig Harbor or the North End?

Hey, we all make mistakes. Unless everyone is going to be put under the microscope, then I feel we have lost the "Justice" in the "Justice System." No one wants to be singled out for harassment. What do you think? □

Olympia wants to check YOU for warrants

by lfn

Somehow I just can't trust it! On September 17th, The Governor held an emergency session of the legislators to continue to allow officers to run warrant checks on routine traffic violations. You would think that this would be a good thing. I don't think anyone wants to have dangerous people out hurt-

ing others. But we must look a little deeper to see how this authority can and will effect each of us. The fact is, the majority of traffic and jaywalking stops are not for dangerous criminals; they are for drug and gang affiliation. I have seen for myself how time and time again, people are detained for the slightest reason, or a reason is created. If you have no warrants, then

WHAT? A JAIL BOYCOTT? (Just look at the numbers!) by lfn

Recently, I was speaking with a good friend of mine, Brother Anthony Muhammad. We had been talking about the high **percentage** of African Americans who are incarcerated and the appalling **number** of African American youth being removed from the school system prior to graduation. Regarding incarceration, Brother Anthony says, "Ya know, we should start a Jail Boycott... Just Don't Go!" I was sitting at my computer at the time. I stopped and

asked, "What? Just don't go?" Brother Anthony laughed, "Yeah, JUST DON'T GO. It's that simple. Just look at the **numbers!**"

Well folks, I had to come up with a graphic for that one! And as you can see, it's simple yet captivating. But for many of our folk, it's not that simple. Many of us who are second and third generation inmates find it hard to just stop going to jail. Building jails has become an industry, full of advertising and job opportunities. But... in order to have a jail, one

must have prisoners.

I only have a few questions: How much does it take to keep a person locked up for a month in Pierce County? How many African Americans are currently locked up? What is the cost of a years tuition at The Evergreen State College, Tacoma Campus, or any number of trade or vocational schools? How much could each taxpayer save by supporting a persons efforts to be self-sufficient? Could someone please tell me?

Brother Anthony and I have been talking it up about this Jail Boycott. People want to know what they can do; how they can get involved. Those who have been prisoners want to know how to break the cycle. Those in the community and organizations want to know what services to offer for this to be successful. All I can say is, it's going to be a tough challenge. Old, negative ideals don't die easily. It will also take time for people who have spent years in the system, to see themselves as anything other than an "INMATE."

There will be more information coming on October 16, 1997, so stay tuned. If we would just do some **basic math**, we would see how much we all could save... in the form of lives and money!

The contractors who currently build the jails, could begin building schools, affordable housing... or whatever. The inmates could start building a future and contributing to society.

What do you come up with? Let's all do the **MATH** and see if the **numbers** really do add up!

SPECIAL OFFER!

MORE ACCOUNTABILITY IS IN ORDER by lfn



After giving it a little more thought, I think I have a solution for those who feel violated by the routine traffic stops which lead to warrant checks

Let's get legislation passed making it mandatory for an officer to give you his/her name, badge number and reason for the stop. If you have been stopped for a specific infraction, then an officer should have no problem

providing you with this information.

The days of going down to "city hall" to complain about an issue "after the fact," are over. If we are to overcome injustice, we must become part of the process itself. That means we must begin to propose alternatives of our own.

Let's start reading, watching and talking about the issues that affect us the most. Then, let's start **DOING** something about it.

To order your Jail Boycott (JB) T-shirt, call (253)272-8133. 10.00 ea. (and we give group discounts) Get your order in **TODAY!** Free delivery to the Tacoma area (for orders over a dozen)

Specify size(s)

ATONEMENT IS AT HAND!

"LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE MILLION MAN MARCH WORLD DAY OF ATONEMENT."


The World Day of Atonement began with The Million Man March on October 16, 1995. This March was divinely called through the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. This history making event was the result of the Spirit of Almighty God moving an estimated 1.2 Million Black Men to Washington DC, showing forth HIS POWER!!! There were countless other participants who joined them in spirit and witnessing the Great Event from the homes, churches, schools and institutions.

Our Atonement and Reconciliation is toward obtaining a perfect union with God which involves eight steps:

1. Our wrongs must be pointed out.
2. We must acknowledge the wrong.
3. Confess our wrongs.
4. Repentance (we must feel sorry)
5. Atonement
6. Forgiveness
7. Reconciliation and Restoration
8. Perfect Union

On Thursday October 16, 1997, the second anniversary of The Million Man March/Day Of Atonement will be observed around the world. For those of us who attended the march in '95, this day promises to be just as memorable because we will have the opportunity to share some of the POWER we experienced (two years ago) with our own communities. It is hoped that those who feel a part of this movement, will support (physically and in spirit) the following events. For further information, call (206)520-8224 or (206)248-2267.

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR THE DAY

 On October 16, 1997, the Seattle-Tacoma area is planning for the observance of The World Day of Atonement in the following manner:

- 0900: Fellowship Meeting
Unity Church of God In Christ
8302 Renton Ave. S. (in Seattle)
- 1130: Caravan through the City of Seattle
- 1230: Rally @ The Masonic Temple
306 24th Av. S. (near Jackson St.)
Seattle
- 3:00: Key note address by Min. Farrakhan
The Masonic Temple (same as above)

OCTOBER 16 IS DECLARED A HOLY DAY

IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, WE HUMBLY DECLARE OUR EARNEST AND SINCERE COMMITMENT TO ATONE TO GOD FOR OUR SINS AND FOR THE SINS OF OUR PEOPLE IN OUR LONG STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION. AS RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS AND MINISTERS OF FAITH TO OUR PEOPLE, WE CALL UPON ALL OUR PEOPLE TO REPENT, TO ATONE AND RECONCILE OURSELVES TO THE GOD OF OUR CREATION AND SALVATION. WE SOLEMNLY DECLARE OCTOBER 16, 1995, AS A HOLY DAY OF ATONEMENT AND RECONCILIATION

WE CALL UPON ALL OUR PEOPLE TO BE IN PRAYER AND SOLIDARITY ON THE HOLY DAY. THERE IS TO BE NO WORK, NO SCHOOL, NO SPORT OR PLAY, NO ENTERTAINMENT, AND NOTHING PROFANE ON THIS HOLY DAY. FOR THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, THERE SHOULD BE FASTING FROM SUNDOWN ON THE DAY BEFORE, UNTIL SUNDOWN ON THE DAY OF THIS HOLY DAY.

LET US ALL BE IN UNITY WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER AS WE RECOMMIT AND RENEW OUR DETERMINATION TO DO GOD'S WILL AND SEEK JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND EMPOWERMENT. FOR OUR PEOPLE.

I WILL DO ALL OF THIS, SO
HELP ME GOD

I.M. BLACKMAN

Well, it looks like summer might be coming to an end. It seems to me that it was a little late getting started, but then when it did, it came on like gang-busters'. I've been hearing people say that this might be a cold hard winter because of "El Nino" or the Ozone or something else that somebody done made up. At any rate, I guess that it's time to "really" prepare for the winter. I'm excited because there are so many things to talk about as summer is closing. School is getting ready to start (in fact, school is in by the time you get this paper).

A few weeks ago a Policeman was shot by a man who was having problems with his wife. Of course the policeman was described as a "Hero" and it seems that the system was ready to roll out the fancy big funeral and hoopla that should be reserved for only the really "special people." I don't agree that a person is special just because of his job or position. But here we got people thinking that all police are special....(and we damn sho' know that that ain't true!!! This particular cop sho' wasn't no hero or special person to a whole bunch of young black people and their families (May his soul rest in peace).

Princess Diana got killed in a car wreck over

the Labor Day weekend. The amount of conversation and sympathy that was generated by her death was astonishing. You could walk past the cardboard /blue tarp tent-housing underneath any freeway bridge and hear Po' folk talking about "Princess Diana". Little kids, welfare recipients, any and everybody had something to say. They talked about how "it is so sad... it's a shame that the two kids are left without a mother", and all of the other comments that people make when someone has died.

All Lives ARE Precious. I'm reminded of that daily as I see and talk with some of the truly special people in our community. I realize that someone who I think is special, may not be so special to you.

But, there are some folks that I think we all can agree on. "Daisy" was one of those. Daisy Stallworth was a member in good standing in the black community, starting from the time of her Black Beauty Products store on "K" street, until now. A beautiful black woman who a lot of people are going to miss. I think that Daisy can be counted amongst the Black women like the Maxine Mimms', Virginia Taylors', and Mary Hunts' (just kiddin' ...and that's not to say

that Mary wasn't special), of our community.

I think that public displays of sympathy and grief should be saved for the truly special people who have been a real asset to our communities and lives. Now, just because not everybody is considered "special," doesn't mean that their life is not "Precious." EVERYBODY'S LIFE IS PRECIOUS.

The other day I had the chance to sit and watch some kids play and gather at the park across the street from one of my old friend's house. The monument, there is an inscription that reads "All Lives Are Precious." I watched the kids for a long period of time but all that I observed them doing was being disrespectful and violent toward the other kids. They said that they were only playing and trying to be "cool" (or whatever they call it being nowadays). They wrestled, hit, shoved, tripped, and generally harassed each other the whole time they "played". Some little white kids came to play and the black kids called them ""honkey's", white trash," and other names. I finally had to get up and go over to tell them that in that park "all lives are precious" and that means that you should treat all lives with some sort of re-

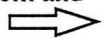
spect. I told them that you can't respect others by calling them names and by talking bad about them.

As I walked away and glancing back, I could see that the kids now were playing peacefully and sittin' and talking civilly. Now, that brings up another subject...The role of the adult in the lives of our kids.

Back in the old days the whole community looked out for your kids. If ole' lady Shubutay saw you doing something that she know your parents didn't let you do, she would stop you and then go tell your parents.

We couldn't get away with nothin' back in the day. But nowadays, we as adults, don't hardly intervene at all. We can see kids smoking and cussing and we don't say anything. In fact, most of these kids look pretty scary to us, so we be thinkin' that we don't want to have to "throw down" (or get thrown down).

But, I found out in talking with the kids this weekend that if you talk to them with respect, and you make some kind of sense, then they will listen to you. I think that we should intervene more often in order to teach our kids to show respect to each other and adults. If I see one of my little neighbor kids cussing and carrying on, I'm going to stop them and



(I.M. Blackman, continued from p.6)

then I'm going to tell their parents.

Anyway, what is it that you want to talk about? I.M. Blackman hasn't had one person to write in to dispute anything that I have said...and I know that it ain't because I'm totally right!!! (By the way...

Shubutay is pronounced: "Shoe-Boot-Tay".) ☐

CLUB 24 NEWS



As you probably already know, things didn't go as planned with the Club 24 Reunion committee during the month of August. There was no August 1997 meeting, although Roy Simpson and James Waller continued to meet to discuss ways to help bring the reunion into a reality.

This past month, we had planned to have a barbecue to bring together some of the people that we all grew up with. We also tried to raise some funds by having a booth at the Destiny Fair and Parade. We took donations for; buttons, hats, t-shirts, and subscriptions to the newsletter. Neither event happened as planned. James Waller donated \$200 to the treasury that was used to pay for the booth space at Destiny fair, a post office box (to receive articles, letters, and subscriptions), the Club 24 Reunion buttons, and the printing cost/share of newsletter. Needless to say, we didn't raise any money at the fair. The good news is that we still have the buttons and Mr. Simpson distributed most of the newsletters.

Everybody on the mailing list needs to have a subscription to the Newsletter!!! This will be our main way of communicating with each other as a group. If some of our members cannot afford the \$12, then a way will be found to make sure that they have a subscription. In other words, nobody will be left out because they don't have the money. But, everybody who can afford the \$12 should send in their checks for that amount so that we can set up the delivery of the newsletter.

For those Tony Bass fans, he was in town during the month of August. He and his sisters will be on our mailing list. Penny Hemphill was down for a visit from Alaska during the first week of September. We missed getting her on the list, but we won't miss her next time. If you know somebody whose name should be on the Club 24 mailing list or who is in town and would like to find out where certain old friends are at now-a days, then drop us a card or letter with address and phone numbers. We hope to work out a plan where members can find each other through our data base. If you're going on vacation and want to know how to contact members that you might know at your destination, contact us.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!

CLUB 24 WILL BE HOSTING A

 **"PIZZA FEED"** 

AT

THE VAULT

(CORNER OF 11TH & PACIFIC AVE.)

ON NOVEMBER 14TH

FROM 2:00PM TO 5:00PM

THERE WILL BE A PHOTO ALBUM & YEAR BOOK PHOTO SESSION ALONG WITH PLENTY OF FUN AND SURPRIZES. WE WILL ALSO BE TAKING DONATIONS FOR THE REUNION AND COLLECTING SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

SO BRING THE FAMILY BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ROY MUHAMMAD AT: (253)-473-9286