

Happenings On Hilltop

Hilltop Neighborhood



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BE MY VALENTINE

BY LARRY NORMAN

Maybe I'm sounding a little sentimental, but this is February and Valentine's day is this month. But so are a number of important occasions. For most, Black History Month is celebrated by the Black community. It is perceived by most as a "Black Celebration." But there is much that can be learned by all if we are open to the celebration of differences. If we could look past the hype and media bombardment, there could be some information and insight we all could use. Question is, are we willing to take the time to get to know our neighbor?

Since the last issue, many things have happened in my life; professionally, personally (yes, this means you, DANITA) and regarding my involvement here in the community. I no longer question the situations I am placed in. The people around me have also gone through many changes, much of it is positive. The Hilltop Action Coalition is electing new officers, the Police Department has been making efforts to broaden communication with the Hilltop community, and the city is stepping up its commitment to the community.

To me, Valentine's Day is symbolic of a commitment to Love. We should all take some time and evaluate how much we are willing to love ourselves and one another. If we can Love ourselves, chances are a lot of the negative things we do to one another would be eliminated.

I have also been receiving many phone calls from people who are growing more concerned with the condition of this neighborhood. Folks listen, it is perfectly normal to have concerns. I have concerns myself; the question is, what are you willing to do to address your concerns? Are you willing to get involved to solve that situation you feel is so negative? If you want to get involved, I have many resources where you can help. If you just want to complain, I would suggest contacting someone who also wishes to complain. That way, you can receive the "positive" reinforcement you are looking for.

Also, the city will be picking up debris left over from the storm until February 10th. You have to have it bundled up appropriately for curb-side pick up, or if you wish, you can take it out to the dump for free. For more information, call the city Refuse Department at 591-5543.

Now with these things out of the way, why not go find your sweetie, give 'em a hug or kiss, snuggle up on the couch and let's see what is really HAPPENING ON HILLTOP!

SEAFIRST AND HILLTOP: BANKING ON A CHANGE

BY LARRY NORMAN

For most people, the most visible sign that you have entered the Hilltop community is the high visibility police presence, the large groups of people gathered on various street corners, and perhaps the general perception that has been created about the Hilltop area. For a lot of residents though, the most visible signs are the boarded up houses and the over grown vacant lots.

Over the last year or so, there has been much said about the money that has come to the Hilltop area for housing. Many residents applaud this as an opportunity to raise home-ownership levels. Currently, home ownership accounts for approximately 30% of the housing on Hilltop, while the city average is about 50%. Others contend that this is just another program to assist middle income people in buying up the area and allow developers an opportunity to build high priced condos and apartments with subsidized money.

Regardless of which view you believe, what is needed more than anything is correct information regarding what a program can and cannot do. I spoke with Lonnie Wheeler, Vice President and Manager of the Seafirst Housing Rehabilitation Center. She is working closely with Bill Conner and Alberta Canada at the UTRA Center to assist in developing and maintaining a housing rehabilitation program for the Hilltop community.

After working through various technical aspects of the overall housing program, I was impressed by some of the basic

assistance that Lonnie has provided through Seafirst Bank. For its part, Seafirst will be processing the Home Rehabilitation loans for this housing program. Seafirst has also stepped forward with a commitment of two million dollars over the next two years. Currently, there is such a good response to the Rehab program, that more money may be needed and there is a good chance that Seafirst will assist even further.

Too often though, program money doesn't actually translate into something tangible for the group or community it was meant

FREE SEMINAR

Why Just Dream It When We Can Help You Do It?


Make home ownership a reality by attending a seminar on Saturday, February 6th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Victory Bible Church at South 10th & K.

You'll find out about today's real estate market, rehabilitation loans, financing and down payment assistance programs, and much more.

In fact, with our help you can be dreaming today, and making your dreams come true tomorrow.

1 SEAFIRST BANK
Expect excellence

For reservations call Bill Conner, Upper Tacoma Renaissance Association at 597-6433.
Continental breakfast and refreshments will be served.
Due to limited space, child care cannot be provided.



to serve (witness the housing programs of the seventies).

Lonnie explained that her involvement in housing rehab is not new. While with Security Pacific (before the Seafirst merger), Lonnie worked with Seattle Emergency Housing to provide counseling for people who were homeless, yet dreamed of some day owning their own home. In fact, she has created successful rehab programs for years all over the state, from Central Seattle to Aberdeen and Spokane. Some of her key components for success are:

- * No investor loans are offered through her rehab programs.
- * Working with buyers, one on one to help them qualify.
- * Blending the rehab program with funding already appropriated by the city and various agencies.

A major concern for any project of this nature, is finding out who does what. A requirement for qualifying for any of these assistance programs is that you attend at least one meeting that explains how the program works. Seafirst will be offering one such seminar on February 6th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Victory Bible Church at South 10th and K (Opps! Martin Luther King Way).

For most local residents, having to go to another program "seminar" is unbearable and for

the most part, I agree. But there is some very important information planned to be given out at this one. Some of the topics include:

- * Housing inspectors, what they are looking for
- * Realtors, speaking on the current housing market
- * Appraisers, how do they come up with their prices
- * Underwriters, who insures that the work gets done to code
- * Consumer Credit Counselor, why your credit matters
- * Representative from City of Tacoma, on available housing
- * City Light on current programs to assist with insulation

So if you've even considered having your own home, make it a point to be at this seminar. We need more home owners for sure. As a community, we need to understand that if we do not take advantage of programs when they are presented to us, we stand to loose out on the needed assistance to help us help ourselves. Even though this program is targeted for Hilltop residents, if we don't make an effort to qualify for the housing, someone else will.

Thank you Lonnie, Alberta, Bill, Dave and all the people who are coming together to make affordable housing a reality here in our community. Maybe now there will actually be a "Model Cities" here in Tacoma.

**HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED YET?
WHY NOT?**

THOUGHTS FROM THE WANDERING MIND? OF WJD, CPA, NG

CONCERNING THE PCDCC (THAT IS PRONOUNCED 'PICK DICK' OR PUCK DUCK, DEPENDING ON WHICH PART OF EAST TACOMA YOU'RE FROM) COMES THE FOLLOWING THOUGHT ABOUT THE VERY NATURE OF OUR POLICE/JUDICIAL SYSTEM:

WE KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT LADY
JUSTICE IS BLIND;
WHAT APPEARS TO BE OF GREATER
IMPORT CURRENTLY IS THAT
LADY JUSTICE ALSO APPEARS TO BE:
VERY HARD OF HEARING,
SHORT OF COMPASSION, AND
EXCEEDINGLY AND EXCESSIVELY
CONCERNED WITH THE FISCAL
WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE
JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN WHICH
WE HAPPEN TO BE (IN)CARCERATED

BUT LET'S NOT COMPLAIN! WE DO GET THE BEST JUSTICE MONEY CAN BUY!

EVERYWHERE WE TURN

BY O.G.Y.T.

"Give us, in mercy, better homes when we're a-lying in our cradles; give us better food when we're a-working for our lives; give us kinder laws to bring us back when we're a-going wrong; and don't set Jail, Jail, Jail afore us, everywhere we turn."
Charles Dickens- "The Chimes" Third Quarter

"You might have the cash, but you can not cash in your face."
Stevie Wonder- "Cash in your face" Hotter Than July

Prejudice is everywhere. I am not a person of color and I do not live in the Hilltop neighborhood, yet I have experienced this recently in my attempts to rent an apartment. My references were excellent, however, my family and I were denied fair housing in the nearby community of Steilacoom for no reason other than the owners prejudice towards us.

His wife showed us the unit and we talked about our references and went to her house to fill out the paper work. Her husband met us, said not a word to us and called his wife aside to talk.

After a moment or two, she returned to inform us that her husband had said that we could not move into the apartment because he thought it was too small for us. It was cozy, but large enough for the limited possessions we possess and our family.

We left and I had a hollow feeling inside. We were discriminated against because the owner has the right to discriminate against anyone. Sometimes it is not the color of your skin or what someone does, but who they are that is judged.

I am a white man of Irish ancestry, yet this offers no immunity to intolerance. That is why I write for this newsletter. I support unity and peace for all persons and the struggle for these things in the Hilltop community, in this city, this state, and this country, is the struggle of the world. May God bless those who carry on a most noble revolution of the spirit, mind and heart. The victory of the whole depends on the victory of the few. In Peace.

RELATIONSHIPS

BY HARJAS

As the many divisions of mankind are truly related to one another, so are the problems besetting mankind. Some of these relationships are obvious, of course. We realize at once that war, poverty, destruction, and starvation are related in cause and effect. We know that crime and punitive reaction are inter-related. But there are also relationships which are often overlooked. There is the relationship between mind and matter, that is, between consciousness and its effects on the physical world.

The earth as it was created, complete with plant life and animal life and plenty of nourishment for the sustenance of both, is vastly different from the world re-created or re-molded by man, wherein plant life and animal life, including man, are in jeopardy of being drastically reduced, if not destroyed, by the hand of man. Here is the often overlooked relationship between mind and matter. Action precedes reaction but both are preceded by thought, and thought is the function of mind.

Man is in a very true sense a creator as well as a creature. By his use of mind and subsequent action, man has arrived at the present state of affairs. By his use of mind, he has found remedies for many diseases and has learned to master many skills,

all for the benefit of his fellow-man. By his use of mind, he has shrunk distances both terrestrial and celestial; he has opened up many new horizons and many new challenges.

But he has also, by the use of mind, found ways to undo all that was gained by his fellow-man. He has produced weapons of warfare such as the world has never before witnessed. Figuratively speaking, he has installed many push buttons for many purposes, knowing that pressing the wrong button at the wrong time may end it all. All of it started within mind. Mind made history come to pass, and mind shapes the future. A few examples may make this more clear.

What would have happened, if in the fourteenth century B.C. Pharaoh's daughter would have had a change of mind regarding the infant Moses and instead of saving the babe, in spite of Pharaoh's decree to the contrary, had decided to let the law take its course? History would have been different.

In "Brave New Era" featured in the October 1969 issue of the Rosicrucian Digest, it was put this way: "...one cannot help but think what might have happened if Isabella of Spain had decided to use her money for urban renewal instead of giving it to a Genoese sailor who thought he could find a new route to India." History would have changed, and all on account of a change of mind. All this shows clearly that everything is related to mind and in mind everything is related to everything else.

Knowledge is not what it used to be. In the sense that what was knowledge once, has later been refuted, replaced with new, broader concepts and there is little reason to believe that what we know as truth now will be truth forever. In times to come, present knowledge will be based on further experiments and more experience.

However, knowledge is exactly what it always has been and God is what we believe him to be. So it was, so it is, and so it will be, I presume, at least for some time to come yet. With a change of mind we can change for us, and so, of course, our views of God a change of mind on our part will change our concept of God. It all starts within mind.

Let us briefly look at it from another approach. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. and the Word was God." All was dark and void but a change of mind brought the uttering "let there be light," and so there was. "let the waters be divided." There was division instituted by God. "Let there be lights in the firmament..." and let one light brighten the day and another the night - more divine separateness. This was the mind of God in change, in effect, in action. "And He saw that it was good." Then, man was "to have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

As the mind of God brought about things, events, and conditions,

so this mind used by man brings about things, events, and conditions - some of which he sees as not so good. How does man change the things he deems evil? By changing his mind. But here a profound blessing becomes a grave problem. Man, as creator of things, is blessed with a free will, he makes his own decisions, the choice is his, and there is his first problem. If only we could see the true significance, if only we could rise to the proper prospective, we would then see the true relationship between our thoughts our actions, and reactions. However, failing this, man often resorts to drastic measures in his efforts to change the things he considers bad.

He often chooses revolutionary methods, for he likes to see direct and immediate results from his choice of action. He wants to reap at noon what he sowed in the morning, and for this reason he fights evil with evil, fighting fire with fire, and eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. In order that we may stamp out some evil, we produce a bigger eye yet. We have created some real problems and are still busy concentrating on greater ones yet.

In order to accomplish the successful changes from one evil to another, man has changed his mind from concentrating on swords and crossbows to gun-powder and cannons, from T.N.T. to nuclear weapons, and so on. No, only until man learns that he can just as well change his mind to more positive, constructive things.

YAKIMA BRINGS TO REGION AFRICAN VILLAGE

BY LARRY NORMAN

What ails Black American society has become so broad in scope, that there are no easy answers to resolve any of these issues. Many experts point to the lack of guidance provided by the Black family and the community. Others will say there is a genetic imbalance which breeds an inferior race.

Being Black, I often wonder what many of these experts really know about being "Black" here in America. I also wonder how effectively they can respond to the needs of Black America as they (the experts) develop program after program designed to "assist the Black man in raising his standard of living?"

What seems to be the most effective way to address issues within urban areas is to allow those who are effected most, the opportunity to create programs themselves. Take the African Village located in Yakima, Washington. What started as a youth program in 1967, has become a little known mecca for this region. The focus of this cultural center is to have a creditable cultural center as an outlet for the creative energies and talents of Black people.

The Afro-American Players leads the list of activities which are supported through the efforts of the village. By actively participating in art, music, history and dance, one has a chance to visualize and feel his/her heritage. The players are set up in three groups; drumming, dancing and drama.

As the children and adults get acquainted with working together, they begin to create short plays and poetry which are relevant to contemporary issues. In 1974, the Afro-American Players performed at Expo in Spokane and since then, have been invited all over the region to perform.

If you have some time, I would strongly urge those of you who are in the business of working with youth to get further information about this program. You may write to:

African Village
Route 3 Box 697
Yakima, Washinton 98901

Personally, I think it is nice to know that we have a resource such as this in our midst. Let's get together and use it. Remember, we are talking about helping and saving young lives, aren't we?

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

By Shantella

I've noticed everyone is in a hurry. What's the rush? Everyone has a time when they will leave this earth. But I don't recall ever having knowledge of anyone knowing their date or time.

Take time to appreciate life. See what it has to offer you. Smell the roses. Smile for no reason, feed the squirrels. Stop, not just slow down at the corner. Take time out to relax. Watch the sunrise or sun set.

Enjoy this life that we all have to share together. Take time to say, "I love you".

Life and time are both

precious.

From Shantella

Special thanks to the crew at Little Ceasars Pizza. I've enjoyed working with you and to the suprise of many, Shantella Lamar is the employee of the month. Come on by Little Ceasar's and get extra toppings on both pizzas for only 99c.

ROLLIN WITH J.C.

BY J.C.

This month I didn't have to roll anywhere to gather my thoughts, they came to me at home. January 18th was the day

that our nation celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. While there were many celebrations for the holiday this year, I decided to celebrate by reading some of Martin's last speeches.

As I read, it became clear to me that the same problems we were facing then as a race and country, still exist today. To honor Martin Luther King, we must always be reminded that we still have to work towards the dream that he was seeking.

I would like to leave you with a section from one of his speeches a year before his assassination:

"In 1963... in Washington D.C.,... I tried to talk to the nation about a dream that I had, and I must confess...that not long after talking about that dream, I started seeing it turn into a nightmare... just a few weeks after I had talked about it. It was when four beautiful... Negro girls were murdered in a church in Birmingham, Alabama. I watched that dream turn into a nightmare as I moved through the ghettos of the nation and saw black brothers and sisters perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity, and I saw the nation doing nothing to grapple with the Negroes' problem of poverty. I saw that dream turn into a nightmare as I watched Black brothers and sisters in the midst of their anger and understandable outrage, in the midst of their hurt, in the midst of their disappointment, turn to misguided riots to try to solve that problem. I saw the dream turn into a nightmare

as I watched the war in Vietnam escalating...Yes, I am personally the victim of deferred dreams, of blasted hopes."

Now, think about what Dr. King talked about and see if you can make some connections with what is happening today. It should be clear to you that King was not able to find his dream in his lifetime. It should also be clear to you that we must continue to search for the dream. Many times it may seem impossible but you have to believe and have faith. This was what helped King to continue his search for the American dream.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to say thank you to the many people who have made a difference in practically everyone's life. If you don't know the names off hand, why not go to your local library and find out who they are. As always, there are many people in the local area who have been consistently making a difference. As always, Thanks so much!

Charles Drew
Langston Hughes
Shirley Chisholm
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Gen. Begamin O. Davis
Frederick Douglas
Henry Ossian Flipper
Benjamin Hooks
Althea Gibson
Roy Wilkins
Dred Scott
Madame C.J. Walker
Oscar Micheaux
Chappie James

Ida B. Wells Barnett
 Barbara Jordan
 Harriet Tubman
 Prince Hall
 Paul Roeson
 Net Furner
 Alex Haley
 Colin Powell
 Ralph Elisson
 Mordeca W. Johnson
 Clitus the Black
 Saint Augustine
 Marin Anderson
 Authur Ash
 James Baldwin
 General Hamilcar Bareas
 James P. Beckwourth
 Lerone Bennett, Dr.
 Guians Bluford, Jr.
 Gwendolyn Brooks
 Eugene Jacques Bullard
 George Washington Carver
 Stokely Carmichael
 Eldridge Cleaver
 Major Taylor
 Rosa Parks
 Thurgood Marshall
 Nat Love
 John (Dizzy) Gillespie
 Angela Davis
 Marcus Garvey
 Nikki Giovanni
 Ernest Just
 Booker T. Washington
 W.E.B. Du Bois
 Bobby Seale
 Malcom X
 Elija Muhammad
 Lucius Septimius Severus
 Hannibal
 Richard Wright
 Nelson Mandela



HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED YET? HAVE YOU
 SUBSCRIBED YET? WHY NOT? HAVE YOU
 SUBSCRIBED YET? WHY NOT?

...AND TO MY GREAT, GREAT-
 GRAND-FATHER; VAN CAUSEY, MUCH
 LOVE! THANK YOU FOR SURVIVING
 THE YEARS OF INTERNMENT SO THAT
 I COULD BE HERE TODAY TO
 CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 HERE IN THIS SAME AMERICA.

Happenings on Hilltop can be found at the following locations starting the first week of each month:

Location	Address	Location	Address
Safeway	11th & Sheridan	7-11	19th & K Street
A.M./P.M.	19th & K Street	Kentucky Fried Chicken	6th & Sprague
Maytag Laundromat	6th & Sprague	Pinches Deli	6th & Division
K Street Bar & Grill	11th & K Street	Lucky 7	9th & K Street
Sam and Terry's Barber Shop	17th & K Street	Northwest Dispatch	1108 South 11th Street
UTRA	1023 So. K Street	Your Fish House	1814 So. K Street
Silver Screen Video	2024 #G 6th Ave.	Southern Kitchen	6th & Sprague
MLK Center	1424 Tacoma Ave. So., Suite A		
University of Puget Sound, Cafeteria		Tacoma Community College, Cafeteria	

* Indicates new arrivals.

If you are a business, or organization and would like to have Happenings on Hilltop for your customers, call Larry Norman at 272-8133. We will be more than happy to get you started. Please note; the views contained in some of the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the staff of Happenings on Hilltop.

Important Phone Numbers

Here are some important phone numbers to help you in the event that you are experiencing problems. Cut them out and keep them Handy.

EMERGENCY (POLICE, FIRE) - 911
 Crack Hotline - 475-CRAK
 Hilltop Action Coalition - 597-4808
 Safe Streets - 272-6824
 Crime Prevention - 591-5883
 Abandoned Autos - 591-5926
 Refuse Department - 591-5544
 Recycling Department - 565-5955
 Larry Norman (Editor) - 272-8133



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 For a donation of just 6.00 a year.

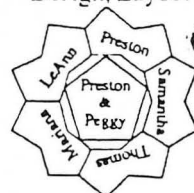
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 Happenings On Hilltop
 2320 S. Wilkeson
 Tacoma, Washington 98405

Name _____

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