

# SPLC REPORT



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MILITIA TASK FORCE · KLANWATCH · TEACHING TOLERANCE

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Institute Coordinator Glenda Valentine reviews applications for the first Teaching Tolerance Institute, to be held in Seattle in July.

## Classroom teachers selected for pilot tolerance institute

Response to last September's announcement of the first-ever Teaching Tolerance Institute was overwhelming: More than 7,000 educators requested applications for the 30 available slots. When the submission deadline arrived in March, more than 1,200 completed application packets had poured into the Teaching Tolerance office.

On April 12, a selection committee undertook the challenging task of choosing the 30 teachers who would be invited to the Institute. Applicants were evaluated on their answers to several questions: How do you incorporate tolerance or multicultural themes in your classes? What are the challenges you face in teaching tolerance? What do you hope to gain from the Teaching Tolerance Institute? In addition, each applicant was required to submit letters of recommendation and a 400-word personal essay.

Overall, the selection committee looked for a commitment to tolerance education and the ability to successfully implement tolerance strategies despite unique challenges, such as limited access to tolerance-related professional-development programs.

Selection committee members were Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes, Institute coordinator Glenda Valentine and research fellow Rosa Hernández Sheets. Other members were educators Ting-Yi Oei, a high school teacher in Reston, Virginia, and a former Teaching

Tolerance research fellow; and Jerry Franson of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

The selected Institute participants are 21 women and nine men who represent a broad diversity of personal backgrounds, school environments, grade levels, subject areas and geographic regions. Twenty-three states are represented, ranging from Alaska and Hawaii to Utah, Mississippi and Rhode Island. The teachers work in a variety of settings, including urban schools in California and New York and suburban schools in Illinois and Massachusetts.

"We are very pleased and excited to have such a diverse group of educators for our first institute," said Valentine. "We hope that they will be valuable resources for each other during the Institute and long after the program ends."

### Guest scholars

During the three weeks of the Institute, participants will study with some of the top scholars and practitioners in the field of multicultural education. Presenters will include Asian scholar Ronald Takaki, history professor Carlos Cortés, multicultural educator Geneva Gay, and early childhood master teacher Vivian Paley. Throughout the program, Dr. James Banks, often referred to as the "father" of contemporary multicultural education,

Please turn to p. 5, "Classroom teachers..."

## Two years after Oklahoma City, Patriot movement poses continued threat to American public

The anti-government Patriot Movement poses a continued threat to the safety of the American public. Groups that adhere to this extremist philosophy are growing in number, and some members are involved in a wide range of criminal activity, much of it violent.

These are the conclusions of a study conducted by the Center's Klanwatch Project, entitled "Two Years After: The Patriot Movement Since Oklahoma City." Klanwatch monitors extremist groups on the far right and created its Militia Task Force in 1994.

"The Patriot movement is firmly entrenched in this country," said Joe Roy, Klanwatch



director. "A winnowing process has taken place since Oklahoma City. While casual adherents have abandoned the cause, new groups have been formed to take

their place. What remains are true believers who are isolated from the political mainstream and committed to an extreme anti-government agenda."

Here are the main points of the Klanwatch study:

- In 1996, at least 858 Patriot groups, including 380 armed militias, were active in the United States. This represents a six percent increase over the number of groups identified by Klanwatch in 1994 and 1995. Patriot groups were active in all 50 states.

- The United States faces an increasing threat of biochemical terrorism — possibly from elements in the Patriot movement — which would result in mas-

Please turn to p. 5, "Two years after..."

## Following his father's footsteps: Center's landmark suit opened door

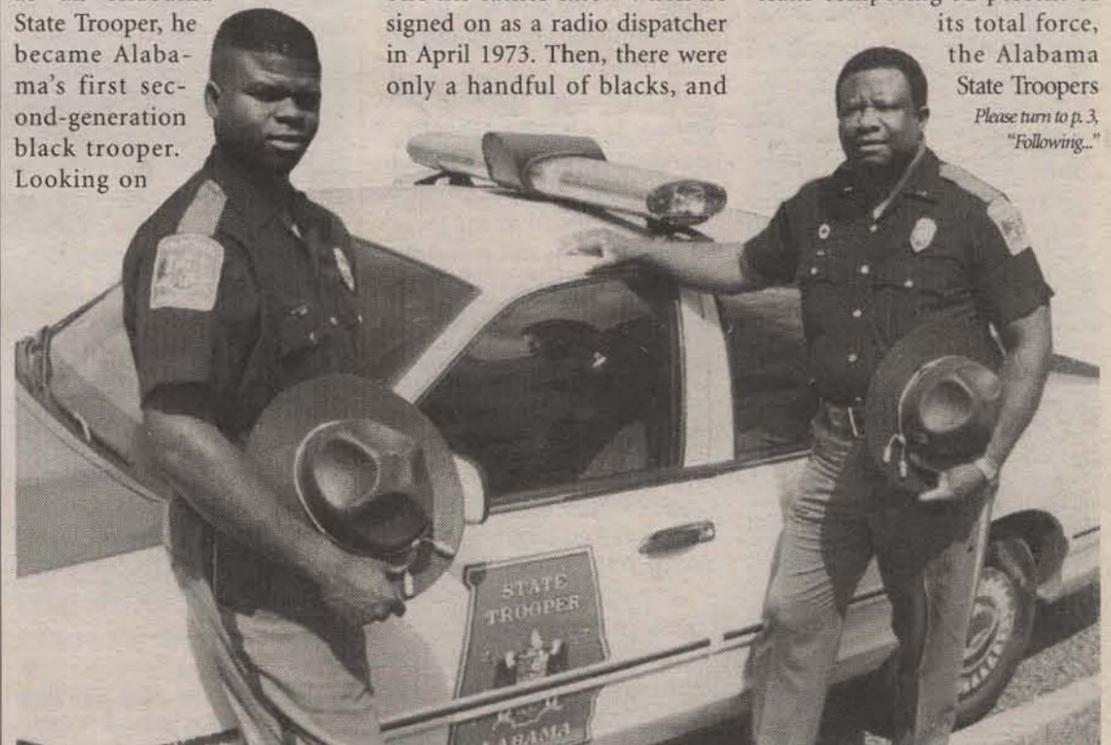
MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Isaac family made history on March 21. When 22-year-old Jamaine Isaac stood at his graduation ceremony and took an oath as an Alabama State Trooper, he became Alabama's first second-generation black trooper. Looking on

with pride was his father Lieutenant Johnny Isaac and other family members.

Jamaine Isaac joins a trooper force vastly different from the one his father knew when he signed on as a radio dispatcher in April 1973. Then, there were only a handful of blacks, and

they were there only because the Center had filed a pioneering lawsuit against the Alabama Department of Public Safety in 1972. Today, with African-Americans composing 32 percent of its total force, the Alabama State Troopers

Please turn to p. 3, "Following..."



Jamaine Isaac (left) and his father Lt. Johnny Isaac are the first black father and son in the Alabama State Troopers.

## MAILBOX

The work you are doing is absolutely vital to the future of this country! The best thing we can do for our country is to teach our children the necessity of tolerance for diversity in our daily lives. Hate-mongering groups such as the Klan and anti-government militia have their roots in selfishness and lack of tolerance. If the Tom Metzgers and the John Tagues of this world had had the Teaching Tolerance curriculum when they were small, who knows how this world might be different today.

M.L.A.  
Osage Beach, Missouri

We are writing to you to thank you for all the work you do. It would be a wonderful world if our daughter grows up "color blind." We feel strongly about doing our part.

A. & J.G.  
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

The tape [*Seeking Justice*] is magnificent. I've helped out when possible in memory of my father. The Klan forced him out of Garland, Texas, in 1922 because he was Catholic. My mother's brother cast the deciding vote at the Klan meeting. Congratulations on your work.

W.Z.  
Mendocino, California

You are doing a wonderful job to combat racial intolerance and injustice. I recently watched your video and was very inspired to continue my own work for racial justice.

E.E.  
Baltimore, Maryland

The quality and scope of the Center's impressive work demands my pledge — which I wish could be larger, but it will be regular.

As a great-grandmother, my initial interest was aroused by the Teaching Tolerance information and the sensitive ways it is being used successfully by creative teachers. Then a few days ago your *Intelligence Report* arrived, and until I read every word (and highlighted a number for emphasis), I could not put it down!

B.H.  
Sebastopol, California

Our thanks again for the gracious hospitality that you showed us on our visit last month. We hadn't expected so much of your time and attention, but we enjoyed it, nonetheless. Our final stop, at the Memorial, was more moving than I had anticipated, partly, I think, because we viewed it alone. Nothing intruded on our concentration. The memories all came back.

At an English teachers' conference in Oregon recently, I introduced several more folks to the Teaching Tolerance program.

We're so proud of and thankful for SPLC — and proud that we're involved.

S. & B.L.  
Bellevue, Washington

I used to subscribe to radical right-wing material. In fact, I even bought literature from them. Then I found out about their lies and deceit. I've now completely scrapped all right wing literature that I had and I'm on your side from now on. You people have taught me a lot about right-wing extremists. Keep up the good work.

D.G.  
Taylorville, Illinois

# 'Soul Spirit' tapestry brings life to lobby

A tapestry reflecting the spirit of the Center's work now hangs in its lobby. Donated to the Center by co-founder Morris Dees, the 100-percent wool piece was hand-tufted by craftswomen in north Georgia. It was created by Atlanta-based artist Susan Starr.

*"Its beautiful, colorful imagery captures the spirit of the Center's goals of tolerance and justice"*

The hanging is one of a series of "Soul Spirit" tapestries based on drawings Starr made after her father died five years ago. The drawings served as "my little diaries about the human spirit, human diversity and the soul," she said. Creating them helped Starr cope with the loss of her father.

Starr obtained her formal art education at the University of Wisconsin. She also studied with Zapotec Indians in Mexico to enhance her talents as a weaver. Over the years, her work has been featured in a variety of national publications and is displayed in corporate headquarters, hospitals, hotels, homes and offices throughout the country.



Atlanta artist Susan Starr created 'Soul Spirit' tapestry.

Recently, the American Textile Manufacturers Institute in Washington, D.C., acquired one of Starr's works for its newly decorated lobby. Starr has taught art in several Georgia schools and colleges and was a weaving instructor at the highly regarded Penland, North Carolina, School of Crafts.

"Even though this tapestry was

created long before Susan ever visited the Center, it looks like it was made for our building," said Center president Joe Levin. "Its beautiful, colorful imagery captures the spirit of the Center's goals of tolerance and justice, while providing an inspirational environment for our employees and visitors."

## Lest we forget

The following letter is from a Center contributor who wishes to remain anonymous.

I am the son of a Ukrainian immigrant and a woman born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her parents, my grandparents, came from Poland and the Ukraine.

My grandparents came to America and settled in St. Joseph, Missouri, as miners. My grandmother told me this story when I was 8 or 9 years old.

She said my grandfather was working in the mine for about

a dollar a day with a lot of other Ukrainian immigrants. This was about 1918-1920. Things were fine until they got rocks thrown at their windows and threats started to come for these people to leave Missouri. Then one night, my grandmother said, these men on horses with white sheets and hoods came. They made all the immigrants come out of their homes. They took one man, and in front of everyone, cut his throat and he died. The men with white sheets said to leave or everyone would be killed.

My grandparents and all the Ukrainians packed that night and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. That is where I was born and grew up.

It's amazing how many people's lives the K.K.K. has affected. Whenever I read your newsletter I think of that story my grandmother told me with tears in her eyes and a quiver in her voice. I thank God the man murdered was not my grandfather, but I feel bad for the family of the man that did die.

My grandmother died in 1973, but I never will forget her story.

### CORRECTION

The March issue of the *SPLC Report* misspelled the name of Flagstar Companies board member Dr. Vera King Farris, who was pictured presenting a check to the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of Denny's. Dr. Farris is president of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. We regret the error.

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All photos by Penny Weaver unless otherwise noted.

# Klanwatch information is key weapon in fight against domestic terrorism

A federal investigator requests an evaluation of the dangers of biochemical terrorism.

A judicial officer in the Midwest needs information on the threat posed by the common-law court movement.

An intelligence officer in the South wants background material on a Patriot group that is organizing in her state.

These are a sampling of the dozens of requests for information handled weekly by Klanwatch and its Militia Task Force. Because of its reputation for delivering accurate intelligence, the organization serves as a vital resource for law enforcement agencies fighting domestic terrorism.

"We have found Klanwatch and the Militia Task Force to be an invaluable asset," says Robert Vanderhee, supervisory special agent with the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. "This group of individuals has consistently provided information in a timely and professional manner."

Klanwatch is uniquely positioned to serve as an information

clearinghouse because of its 16-year history of tracking the Far Right. The organization maintains an extensive database on extremist groups that can be used to link seemingly unrelated individuals and organizations. Klanwatch's ability to "connect the dots" is immensely useful to law enforcement agencies.

"[Klanwatch has] been able to provide information concerning the association of local groups, within central Florida, with groups outside this region. These associations ... enable the Intelligence Unit to provide a clearer picture of the ideals and intentions of these groups and individuals," says Captain Bryan Margeison, head of the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Orange County (Florida) Sheriff's Office.

Klanwatch's *Intelligence Report* is sent out quarterly to over 6,000 law enforcement agencies around the country. Intelligence officers working terrorism cases know they can depend on Klanwatch for specific information whenever it is needed.

"We ... frequently have leaders come into our area with whom we are not familiar. It is a great advantage for us to have the Militia Task Force available to give us background on the incoming new leaders," says Sergeant J.D. Mauck, criminal intelligence officer for the Shawnee County (Kansas) Sheriff's Department.

Klanwatch director Joe Roy and senior intelligence analyst Mike Reynolds share information through frequent presentations to law enforcement organizations involved in anti-terrorist work. "These briefings are professionally done and well-received by the attending agencies," says C. Suzanne Mencer, supervisory special agent in the FBI's Denver office.

"Providing federal, state and local agencies with timely intelligence is a key element in the mission of Klanwatch and the Militia Task Force," says Roy. "If law enforcement understands the threat posed by an extremist group, appropriate measures can be initiated — before someone gets hurt."



### Learning about hate

Klanwatch research analyst Tawanda Shaw tells St. Andrew's-Sewanee School students about hate groups and the Center's efforts to combat them. The high school students, who come from Germany, Korea, Japan, Hungary and several southeastern states, visited the Center on April 14.

# Following his father's footsteps: Center's landmark suit opened door

Continued from page 1

has the highest representation of minorities of any state police force in the nation. It is an affirmative action success story, and the Isaacs are symbols of what affirmative action can achieve.

"The Center's lawsuit opened the door," said Lt. Isaac. "It would not have happened otherwise."

### A protracted legal battle

It took more than two decades for the door to swing fully open. Success came only after a protracted legal battle. The state trooper case, which ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court, is typical of landmark Center cases that extend over long periods of time and result in benefits for years after judgment.

"The all-white Alabama State Troopers long symbolized the system of oppression that existed in the South," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "They stood with George Wallace in 1963 when he promised 'segregation forever', and in 1965, they beat civil rights activists who tried to march from Selma to Montgomery to protest the denial of their right to vote. In the early 1970s, little had changed."

Center attorneys filed suit in 1972 to force the Alabama Department of Public Safety to hire blacks as more than just janitors. A federal judge subsequently ordered the agency to hire one black trooper for every

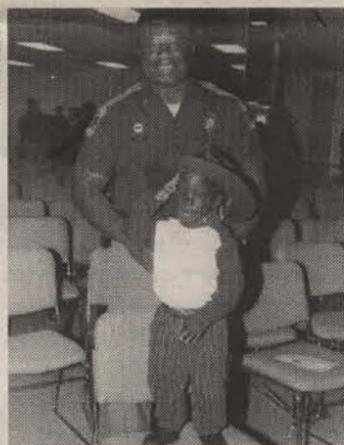
white trooper hired until blacks made up 25 percent of the trooper force. After the ruling, state officials resisted in every way possible. At first, they imposed a virtual ban on hiring to preserve the all-white force. Then they tried to force newly hired blacks off the force by making it difficult for them to complete their training and by subjecting them to unfair disciplinary practices. To keep black officers who persevered at the bottom rung of the trooper force, officials refused to implement fair promotions.

### 'There were tough times'

"There were some tough times back then," said Lt. Isaac, 46, of his early days with the troopers. "I've gone through a lot that I've never told anyone."

Center attorneys continued to fight on behalf of the black troopers, taking the state to court time and again. In 1987, the Supreme Court upheld an order that one black trooper be promoted for every white trooper — as long as qualified applicants were available — until the state developed a fair promotion plan. It was the first time the Supreme Court approved a race-conscious promotion plan.

After the Center's victory in the Supreme Court, state officials decided to end their resistance and to work with the Center to make the trooper force a model for the nation. "In some employ-



### A third generation?

Four-year-old Jamarcus Williams seems eager to follow his uncle, Lt. Johnny Isaac, in a law enforcement career. He provided this fine salute at Trooper Jamaine Isaac's graduation ceremony on March 21.

ment discrimination suits, everyone wins," said legal director Cohen. "This case opened opportunities for white as well as black troopers because it created a promotion system based on merit rather than favoritism." The case finally ended in 1995.

### Father-son tradition

The Isaacs are part of a long-standing trooper tradition of generation following generation into the elite force but they are its first black father-son legacy. "If you're not a part of law enforcement, you may not understand the importance of the tradition," said Major Larry Ray, who is chief of the highway patrol. "We have many father-son troopers — and several

grandfather-son-grandsons and -granddaughters.

"We hire a lot of people, and many don't know what they're getting into. There's a large washout," Major Ray said. For instance, 73 candidates began the trooper academy with Jamaine Isaac; 56 completed it. "People who follow their father's footsteps do better. They don't drop out during the training process."

Major Ray praised Lt. Isaac. "He has done an outstanding job. I told his son that we were expecting great things out of him, just like his dad," he said. The elder Isaac not only is a very good trooper, he is also a "highly moral, ethical person who is a leader in his community," said Ray.

The Isaacs grew up in Forkland in Alabama's Greene County, where Lt. Isaac still lives. Both father and son graduated from the same high school in nearby

Boligee. Lt. Isaac began his law enforcement career as a radio dispatcher in Demopolis. He became a trooper in 1978 and attained the rank of lieutenant in August 1994. Today, he is an assistant commander over an area covering seven counties with posts in Demopolis and Selma.

Trooper Isaac lacks only a half-semester's internship to complete a degree in criminal justice from Alabama State University. He can accomplish the requirement as he does his duty as a trooper. After completing the state police academy in March, he was assigned to a post in Centerville, a small town halfway between Montgomery and Tuscaloosa. On May 27, Trooper Isaac completed an eight-week field training program in which he rode with a veteran officer. He is now a full-fledged trooper.

## Alabama State Troopers today

According to a May 1 report provided by the Alabama Department of Public Safety, blacks are well represented in all trooper ranks. Statewide, Alabama's black population is 26 percent.

POSITION	WHITE	BLACK	% BLACK
Trooper	290	154	35%
Corporal	72	16	22%
Sergeant	27	20	43%
Lieutenant	18	5	22%
Captain	16	4	20%
Major	4	1	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>32%</b>



Center staff attorney Marcia Bull and chief trial counsel Morris Dees at the Sumter County Courthouse after arguing against the Klan's motion

## Judge denies Klan's attempt to halt church-burning suit

SUMTER, S.C. — A Center lawsuit to hold the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan responsible for the arson of a black South Carolina church moved forward when a judge here denied the Klan's motion to dismiss.

Rejecting the Klan's claims of First Amendment protection, Circuit Judge Don Beatty told the Klan's lawyer that the allegations in the complaint state a legal cause of action.

The ruling came March 12 following a hearing at the Sumter County Courthouse.

The Center filed the action in June 1996 on behalf of the century-old Macedonia Baptist Church, alleging the Klan conspired to burn the black church. Fire destroyed the church's cinder-block structure in 1995. Two Klansmen pleaded guilty to set-

ting the blaze and implicated two other Christian Knights members, who also confessed their involvement in the crime. The Center sued the Klan and the four men to recover financial damages caused by the fire. The suit also seeks punitive damages to punish the Klan and the conspirators and to deter others from similar misconduct.

"The First Amendment is not absolute. It does not protect violence. It does not protect illegal acts," argued Center staff attorney Marcia Bull at the hearing. "We're not here to hold the Klan liable for its beliefs. We're here to hold the Klan liable for its actions."

The Klan's lawyer admitted the arsonists had "some association with the Christian Knights," but said the organization should not be held responsible for the fire.

"The court recognized that the Christian Knights cannot use the First Amendment as a shield for its illegal activities," said Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees. "If the Klan encourages its members to commit violence, it will be held accountable when violence actually occurs."

Gary Christopher Cox, 23, and Timothy Adron Welch, 24, acknowledged Klan members, admitted setting the fire and were given federal prison sentences in February. Welch was sentenced to 18 years and Cox to 19 years.

Arthur Haley, 51, and Hubert Rowell, 50, await sentencing after admitting they conspired with Cox and Welch to set the Macedonia Baptist fire. Haley was an official of the Christian Knights, and Rowell has been described as a Klan guard.

## Militia coalition launches nationwide intelligence network

A national militia network has developed a comprehensive plan for spying on the military, law enforcement and public utilities in the United States.

The American Constitutional Militia Network (ACMN), a coalition of paramilitary organizations, distributed a document entitled "Intelligence Gathering Guidelines" to members in early February. Klanwatch obtained a copy from confidential sources and confirmed its authenticity. The ACMN includes militia organizations from 14 states, primarily in the South and Midwest.

"Some of these militia groups consider themselves at war with our government. They see this country's democratic institutions as their enemy," says Joe Roy, director of Klanwatch and its Militia Task Force.

Roy says the content of the ACMN document challenges the militia movement's claim that it seeks to protect the constitutional rights of citizens. "This document encourages militia members to collect sensitive and confidential information that can be used to attack American institutions. It represents a real threat to public safety and security," he says.

ACMN was formed out of the remnants of the Tri-States Militia, which fell apart in 1996 after reports that its leader was an FBI informant. The ACMN includes militias from Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

The ACMN document outlines "passive" and "overt" methods of intelligence gathering. The former includes talking with military and law enforcement

personnel, observing troop activities and scrutinizing media reports. Overt intelligence gathering involves the development of "assets" who can provide sensitive information about targeted facilities or organizations.

"Your [unit intelligence officer] may ask your assets to seek out certain professionals to befriend and, through this friendship, extract critical information. He may ask your assets to do a physical recon of various facilities in order to determine floor plans for security procedures," the document states.

More ominously, the Guidelines encourage militia members who work for gas, electric, telephone or water services to disclose company security procedures to militia leaders. Such members can also "target key installations for the purposes of harassment, disruption, and disabling (emphasis added) of enemy communications, water supplies, fuel supplies, and make occupation by these enemy troops more difficult," the document states.

Techniques for reporting information to the militia's "Intelligence Committee" are detailed. Militia members are encouraged to use the acronym SALUTE — (Size, Activity, Location, Unit, Time, Equipment) — in determining what information to collect.

"Who winds up with this information? That's the real danger of these rogue operations," says Roy. "These networks could convey sensitive material to domestic or foreign terrorists. Such detailed intelligence would be vital to a successful strike — ensuring maximum target damage and casualties while minimizing the risk to the terrorists."

## Klanwatch welcomes new staffers

Lynette Green has joined the Klanwatch Project as department secretary. In her position, Lynette handles general clerical duties, updates law enforcement contact files and routes requests for information to the appropriate staff members.

Lynette is a graduate of Montgomery Catholic High School and is currently enrolled in the Evening College at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, where she is studying computer science and business administration. "My work at Klanwatch has given me a greater understanding of



Lynette Green and Maranda Henderson

the problems of racism and violence in the United States," says Lynette.

Maranda Henderson is working in Klanwatch's research department as an information specialist focusing on white supremacist activity. In that position, she enters information

into the Klanwatch database and transcribes telephone "hate lines" operated by white supremacist groups.

Maranda graduated from Troy State University with a degree in elementary education and is pursuing an associate degree in information management from the Community College of the Air Force. She is a member of the Alabama Air National Guard.

"I find it very fulfilling to utilize my research skills to gather important information on groups and individuals that threaten our society," she said.



Center Champions

For the second year in a row, the Center's team spelled its way to victory over 11 Montgomery-area businesses and civic groups in the Corporate Spelling Bee championship. The competition benefits volunteer literacy efforts in central Alabama. Members of this year's winning team were paralegal Lanita Crawford (from left), Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes, and Teaching Tolerance departments editor Elsie Williams.

## Center's new receptionist brings experience to job

After two years as switchboard operator at a busy city hospital, **Petrina Watkins** finds her phone duties as receptionist for the Center somewhat more "settled," she says. Petrina joined the Center's staff in December as an administrative assistant, and she also served as backup receptionist. When long-time Center receptionist Tonia Garrison resigned, Petrina replaced her. Handling Center telephone calls both calmly and efficiently requires patience and organization. It is not an easily accomplished task, but Petrina does an excellent job.

Petrina graduated from Carver High School in Montgomery and also attended the local branch of Troy State University for a year. Reading is



Petrina Watkins

her favorite pastime, and she especially enjoys legal thrillers. Working at the Center is a family tradition: Her mother, Betty Watkins, was in the Center's mail operations department for 14 years. "She's now living quietly at home," says Petrina.

## Classroom teachers

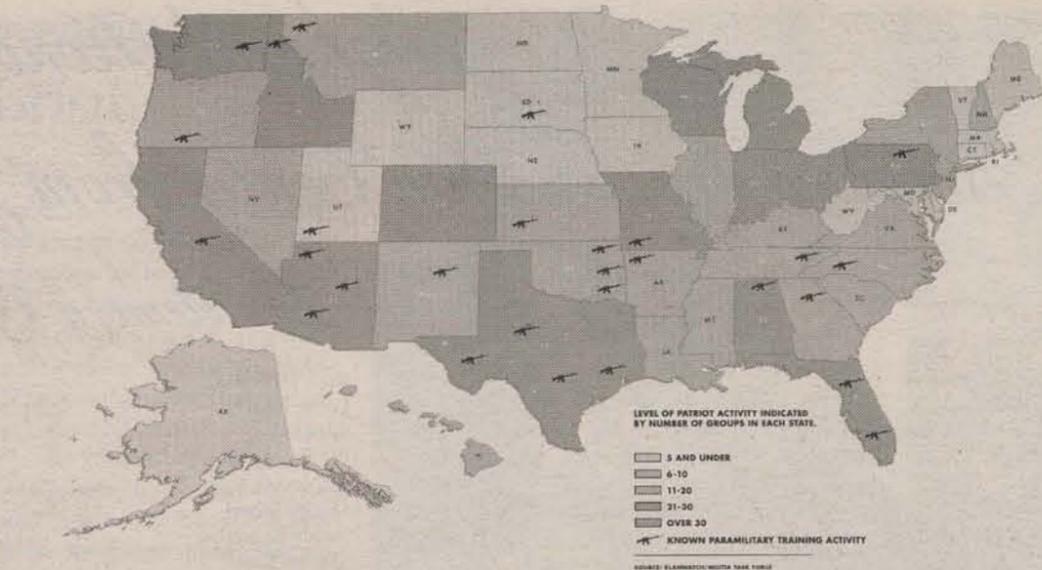
Continued from page 1

will lead sessions on curriculum construction and guide participants in the development of tolerance-related lesson plans to carry back and implement in their schools.

Although the Institute is designed for K-12 classroom teachers, a significant number of applications were submitted by school counselors, principals, librarians, nurses and university professors. "This response is an indication of the need for hands-on training in tolerance educa-

tion," said Valentine. "It was very hard to say 'no' to the other educators, but we wanted our first institute to focus specifically on classroom teachers, who are truly on the front lines in promoting acceptance of diversity. Perhaps in the future we can develop a program for a larger audience of educators."

The Institute is funded by the Center's more than 350,000 private donors and a special gift from the Jeffrey M. and Barbara Picower Foundation. (See related story on page 7.)



## Two years after Oklahoma City

Continued from page 1

sive death and destruction. Patriot publications are filled with stories about an impending biological or chemical attack on U.S. citizens by the federal government. Such propaganda is ominously reminiscent of the anti-government hysteria whipped up by Patriot leaders prior to the Oklahoma City explosion.

• So-called common-law courts are a fast growing segment of the Patriot movement. These renegade judicial bodies commit acts of "paper terrorism" such as filing false liens against public officials and circulating bogus financial instruments. Many common-law court members consider themselves sovereign citizens who owe no allegiance to the government and thus are not required to pay taxes or adhere to regulations. Klanwatch identified some 131 common-law courts operating in 35 states in 1996.

• Patriot groups are engaged in joint intelligence-gathering operations designed to collect sensitive information on public and private targets. This nationwide effort is seen as a prelude to war against the military and law enforcement. Patriots are sharing this information via sophisticated communications networks that incorporate short-wave broadcasts, fax machines and the Internet. (See related story on page 4.)

• Despite claims by high profile leaders that membership is open to all people, racist ideology continues to influence the Patriot movement. Klanwatch identified 101 active militias and support groups that have ties to white supremacist and anti-Semitic organizations. Elements in the Patriot underground in the United States envision the establishment of a white nation within the borders of the United States — by violence if necessary.

Surprising, perhaps, is the strengthening of the Patriot

movement in the wake of the outrage that followed the Oklahoma City bombing. After learning about the extremist backgrounds of accused bombers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the public realized the threat posed by elements on the Far Right. Subsequent scrutiny of the paramilitary subculture created a backlash against gun-toting, camouflage-clad militias.

"There is still a climate of mistrust in which politicians of all parties routinely lambaste the federal government, and large numbers of citizens shun elections. In such an environment, the radical anti-government philosophy preached by the Patriot movement finds willing recruits," says Roy.

Roy says McVeigh's June 2 conviction isn't likely to have a major impact on above-ground Patriot groups. "If it resonates anywhere, it will be in the hard core underground of the Patriot and militia movement," he says.

## Center attorneys craft model anti-militia law

State governments can play a role in fighting domestic terrorism by passing anti-militia laws or enforcing such statutes already on the books. Though 24 states currently have anti-militia laws, only one state, Texas, has ever challenged a group for violating these laws. And that action came only after the Southern

Poverty Law Center filed a lawsuit on behalf of Vietnamese fisherman to shut down Ku Klux Klan paramilitary operations there. Some state and local officials claim that the laws have constitutional defects.

Law Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees and staff attorney Ellen Bowden argue that anti-militia laws do not violate constitutional guarantees of free

### The Model Anti-Militia Statute

#### A-A-A. Unauthorized Military Organizations

- Any two or more persons who associate as a military organization or demonstrate with arms in public without the governor's authority shall be guilty of a Class \_\_\_\_\_ misdemeanor.
- A military organization is any unit with arms, command structure, training and discipline designed to function as a combat or combat support unit.
- This section does not apply to any school or college where military training and instruction are given under the provisions of state or federal laws.

speech and association. In an article in the June issue of the *Gonzaga Law Review*, Dees and Bowden note that such laws do not prohibit militia members from speaking out against the government. Likewise, they point out that anti-militia laws do not restrain militia members from meeting together as a group except when they are functioning as a military unit.

Only their "conduct" — operating a private military organization that threatens public safety — is proscribed.

"The outright ban on militias is the only way to prevent the militias that are preparing to commit violence from actually doing so," they argue.

Dees and Bowden also dismiss arguments that anti-militia laws are unduly vague. "Anti-

militia laws reasonably inform the average person that his or her conduct is prohibited," they write. In an effort to clarify the prohibitions, the Center attorneys crafted a model anti-militia statute that precisely defines unauthorized military organizations and exempts units set up by schools or colleges.

"In an age increasingly populated by militia groups that train

to commit violence, states should seriously think about using their anti-militia laws to shut down militias," they conclude. "States without these laws should enact them, because they are the best route to prevent the violence that militias can cause before it occurs."

States lacking anti-militia laws include Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin. Some of these states have anti-paramilitary laws, but these are much less effective than anti-militia statutes.

# *Memorial and Honorary Gifts*

## *Received by the Law Center from January to March 1997*

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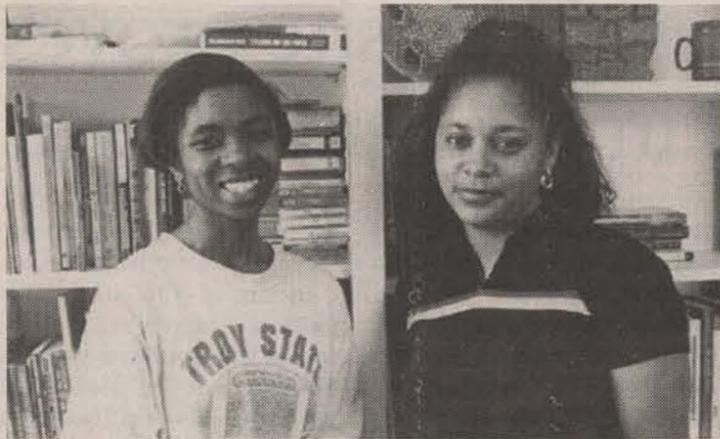
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Tafeni English (left) and Audrey Moore

## Expanded education efforts require new support staff

In order to meet the demands of the expanding Teaching Tolerance project, director Jim Carnes has added two new positions to the education department support staff.

Audrey Moore, who completed her B.S. in English at Alabama State University in May, joined Teaching Tolerance last fall on a temporary basis to help process the thousands of inquiries received for the Teaching Tolerance Institute. She was hired to a permanent position as clerical assistant in January and continues to assist Institute coordinator Glenda Valentine as well as perform other clerical duties.

"By becoming a part of the Center's work for tolerance and justice, I can live out my passion for helping people," said Moore.

In March, Tafeni English joined the staff as library and filing clerk. English earned her B.S. in marketing from Troy State

University in Troy, Alabama, in 1996. In addition to maintaining the Teaching Tolerance library and files, she helps process the tremendous number of requests the project receives for its educational materials.

"Working for Teaching Tolerance has already made me aware of how important it is that I continue my efforts to promote racial harmony," said English.

Director Carnes commented, "With this capable, enthusiastic office support team, we should be able to handle the demands of our expanding program and the new materials we are offering." In addition to distributing *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, *The Shadow of Hate* teaching kit and the "One World" poster set, the project will release its third video-and-text kit, *Starting Small: Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades*, in September 1997.

## Awards continue for Teaching Tolerance

The Center's Teaching Tolerance project continues to garner awards for its educational materials and their impact on schools and communities.

In April, the Educational Press Association (EdPress) granted two Distinguished Achievement Awards to *Teaching Tolerance* magazine. The design team won for overall design of the Fall 1996 issue. The editorial staff won for the article "In Our Own Words," which presented the voices of 10 Asian-American students reflecting on the challenges of living in two cultures. Teaching Tolerance has received a total of 13 EdPress awards.

The hardcover edition of *Us and Them: A History of Intolerance in America* (Oxford University Press) was recognized as an outstanding resource for young people by two different organizations. It was chosen as a Notable 1996 Children's Trade Book by the National Council

for the Social Studies (NCSS) and was listed in the April/May 1997 edition of its journal *Social Education* as one of 150 exceptional books for children.

In February, the book was selected for the New York Public Library's 1997 Books for the Teen Age. Written by Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes and first published by the Center in 1995, *Us and Them* was included in *The Shadow of Hate* video-and-text kit, now in use in more than 55,000 schools and community organizations nationwide.

In March, Teaching Tolerance Director Jim Carnes accepted a Special Community Advocacy Award from the Montgomery chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The group recognized the project for its contributions to social harmony. Staffers Elsie Williams and Glenda Valentine also spoke at social workers' conferences in Tuskegee and Birmingham in March.

# Grants fund innovative classroom tolerance projects

More than 60 educators nationwide have submitted grant proposals since Teaching Tolerance announced in January that grants of up to \$2,000 are available to K-12 teachers for implementation of tolerance projects. As of early May, 32 teachers in 18 different states were awarded more than \$42,000 for a variety of projects that promote intercultural understanding in the classroom and the community.

"We're impressed by the originality and scope of the various projects teachers have planned," said grants administrator Elsie Williams. "With our donors' support, we are funding projects that will enable educators to put into practice the concepts of tolerance and acceptance of diversity they've learned about in our educational materials."

A screening committee of Teaching Tolerance staffers, including Williams and director Jim Carnes, awards grants based on several criteria: the nature and focus of the program, the strength of its tolerance connection and the number of students it will affect. The approved projects cover a wide spectrum — from "traditional" conflict resolution, storytelling, music and mural activities to innovative ideas such as developing a physi-

cal education unit that incorporates games and activities from countries and cultures around the world.

A first-grade bilingual teacher in a Texas school will bring in Ballet Folklórico dance instructors

*"With our donors' support, we are funding projects that will enable educators to put into practice the concepts of tolerance and acceptance of diversity."*

from the local junior college to teach students Mexican and Indian dances. This interdisciplinary project will allow students to study their own cultural traditions in reading, music and social studies classes.

Two awards have been granted to teachers who want to promote Holocaust studies in their schools. A middle school teacher in Iowa will build a classroom library of relevant books, and a high school teacher in Arkansas will use grant funds to purchase

resources for a full-semester English elective course on the Holocaust, genocide and tolerance.

An elementary art teacher in Chicago will expand the school's "Changing Worlds" photography and oral history project, which focuses on 15 families in the predominantly immigrant neighborhood around the school. Grant funds will pay for translations of the families' oral histories into Somalian, Bosnian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Assyrian, Spanish and Arabic so all families in the community can read them.

In accepting the grant, teachers agree to document their project and provide the Center with a written report of the results.

Response to the grants include the following:

• "Thank you very much. This will make a big impact on over 30 California schools."

• "I cannot possibly express the joy in opening your letter. ... Thank you for wanting to make this world a better place for everyone."

The grants program is an ongoing effort, and teachers may request guidelines for applying by contacting Teaching Tolerance Grants, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104 (Fax: 334-264-3121).

## Family foundation helps sponsor Institute

The Jeffrey M. and Barbara Picower Foundation has long supported the Southern Poverty Law Center and its programs. The Foundation first learned of the Center's efforts to combat hatred through the child of one of its trustees. As the Foundation grew and began to delineate its goals, it became apparent that the Center and the Foundation shared the same mission: Eliminate bias and advance the concept of tolerance.

Established in 1989, the Foundation supports specific and measurable philanthropic initiatives in the areas of education, minority and societal betterment, and antidiscrimination. "As an organization, the Foundation is acutely concerned about how its donated funds are used and was immediately drawn to the Center's Teaching Tolerance project," says Barbara Picower. "After meeting with its staff, we were

very impressed by the Center's strong programs and measurable achievements as well as the drive and energy level of those who work there."

Since 1993, the Picower Foundation has consistently contributed to the Center's Teaching Tolerance efforts. The Foundation helped fund the distribution of *America's Civil Rights Movement*, the Center's first video-and-text teaching kit, and significantly increased its support for the Center's second kit, *The Shadow of Hate*. Recently, the Foundation again showed its commitment to the Center by becoming a financial partner in a new endeavor, the Teaching Tolerance Institute.

With the Foundation's help and that of other caring supporters, the Center will launch

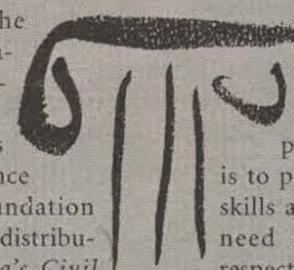
the Institute this July. This

three-week summer program will offer 30 educators from across the nation intensive

academic and interpersonal training on topics related to teaching tolerance, at no cost to the participants. Its goal is to provide teachers the skills and knowledge they need to foster equity, respect and understanding

in the classroom. The Institute will have a national impact as its participants return to their schools and conduct tolerance workshops with their fellow teachers, students and community groups.

On behalf of the countless educators and children touched by the Jeffrey M. and Barbara Picower Foundation's generosity, the Center honors the Foundation's spirit of philanthropy and hope.



## CENTER VISITORS



Klanwatch research information specialist Maranda Henderson (left) greeted longtime donors Colonel Crispus Nix and his wife Edna (center) and their friends George and Lois Eichacker when they visited the Center on March 7. Before retiring and moving to Alabama, Colonel Nix was warden of the Iowa State Penitentiary for 12 years following a career as a military policeman.



Center co-founder Morris Dees (left) talks with Dr. Robin Biellik, an epidemiologist with the World Health Organization currently working in Zimbabwe. Dr. Biellik, who has supported the Center's work since 1988, visited on April 21.

## Center's new Web site proves useful tool in combating hate

Up and running for only a few weeks, the Center's site on the World Wide-Web has already demonstrated its usefulness in the fight against hate and intolerance. Response to a Center presence in cyberspace has been highly positive.

Many individuals have reported important information about hate activity in their communities through the site's Comment Form, which provides electronic communication directly to the Center.

- An Indiana pastor told of Klan recruitment efforts among middle-schoolers in his town.

- A Minnesota policeman reported Skinhead activity in his city.

- An Iowa woman gave the name, address and telephone number of a new Aryan Nations leader in her state.

"The intelligence provided through the site has proven quite useful," said Klanwatch director Joe Roy. "It enables citi-

zens to quickly and easily inform us of situations which need our attention."

The reporting of such activity offers a way for people be a part

*"Our financial resources are so limited, but with your new Web site, we need not feel isolated."*

of the Center's effort to combat hate and intolerance. The site also provides a connection to those who feel isolated in their communities.

"I am so pleased to have found you!" wrote a YMCA program director in Washington. "Your resources will be invaluable to me in my small rural community. I am seeking to organize community forums to

address the issues of hate and racism that are pertinent to our community and state. Our financial resources are so limited, but with your new Web site, we need not feel isolated. I applaud your work! Thank you for sharing your wisdom."

A longtime Center supporter wrote: "I am so happy to see you on-line. I've been a sustaining member for many years now, but have always felt a little distant from the Center. Now that you are on-line, I can access you anytime, and that is really wonderful! Congratulations from a faithful supporter."

"I am thrilled to find your Web page," wrote another supporter. "There is entirely too much hate speech available on the WWW, and your site is a welcome counter to it. I particularly liked the information on 10 ways to counter hate. Thanks for the tips."

The Center site is located at [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org).

## Partners for the Future

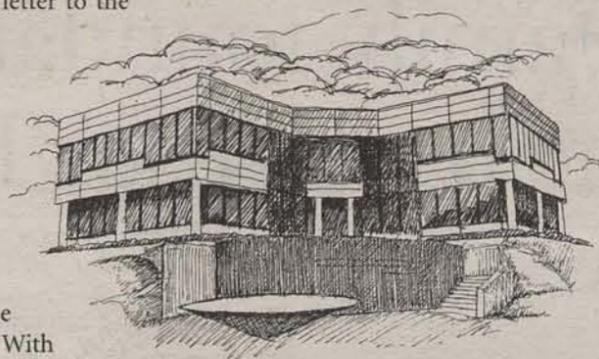
### A Way to Help More Than You Thought You Could

The Southern Poverty Law Center has established a planned giving program called Partners for the Future. By participating in Partners for the Future through wills and other special gifts, Center donors can extend their support for equality and justice beyond their lifetimes.

If you plan to or have already remembered the Center in your will or estate plans, please help the Center update its records by sending a letter to the address below.

With the goal of eventually freeing itself from the uncertainties of fundraising, the Center established a permanent endowment in 1974. The Center's goal is to have an endowment large enough to sustain its current level of activities, to fund new projects and lawsuits as the need arises, and to protect the Center from inflation. The Endowment now stands at \$77 million. With your help through Partners for the Future, the Center will reach its goal of self sufficiency.

The Endowment Fund is a "pact with future generations" that will help ensure resources for the Center's work well into the 21st century.



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\$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  Securities (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) Cost Basis

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Partners for the Future • The Southern Poverty Law Center • P.O. Box 548 • Montgomery AL 36101-0548

## IN MEMORIAM

### Hendrik J. Oorthuys (1909-1996)

Hendrik J. Oorthuys, social activist and Center supporter for many years, died at the age of 87 in Corvallis, Oregon, on July 22, 1996. Mr. Oorthuys held undergraduate and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Oregon State University and, after 30 years of teaching, was named Professor Emeritus in 1975 by his alma mater.

In addition to his tenure at Oregon State University, Mr. Oorthuys taught at the Oregon State Prison for more than 10 years. Through contact with his inmate-students, he became interested and involved with prisoner issues. He attended hearings and testified before government agencies in support of humane treatment and rehabilitation opportunities for those incarcerated.

Mr. Oorthuys held a strong belief that people affected by injustice should not be held at arm's length and opened his home to people in need, including the homeless and people transitioning from incarceration into the community. He served as treasurer of Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) and was the secretary for the

Corvallis chapter of the NAACP.

According to his son, "My dad's support of justice and civil rights issues extended to SPLC activities. He was particularly impressed with the effectiveness of SPLC legal actions. When hate hit close to home with the murder of an Ethiopian college student in Portland, he was proud to find Law Center attorneys successfully bat-

tling the neo-Nazi skinhead group, White Aryan Resistance, for its role in the murder."

Although much of his time was spent battling social injustice, Mr. Oorthuys also found time to relax with his family through camping, canoeing, and fishing. His favorite pastime was bicycling. Twice during his 70s, he bicycled with a group from Corvallis to San Francisco, and, at the age of 80, he conquered Washington State's Olympic Peninsula.

The Oorthuys family asked that friends make gifts to the Center in Mr. Oorthuys' memory. We pay tribute to Mr. Oorthuys' lifetime of service. All can learn from his example. "Dad taught us to treat people with respect," his son said.

