

Law Report

A publication of the Southern Poverty Law Center and its Klanwatch Project

April 1989

Skinheads Lead Sharp Upswing In Racial Violence

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Klanwatch has issued a special report detailing an alarming rise in racial violence in 1988. The report also reveals an alarming revitalization of the white supremacist movement. Both trends are a direct result of the spread of violent racist Skinhead gangs around the country.

Skinhead Violence Increasing

The Klanwatch report notes that Skinheads were linked with four murders and two-thirds of the racial assaults documented by Klanwatch last year. (Since no national data collection system exists, all statistics on hate crimes are incomplete).

Hate crimes by other organized white supremacists and bigoted individuals continue to be a problem, but the Klanwatch report states that Skinheads "represent a unique and frightening phenomenon in the history of white supremacy in America."

Older White Supremacists Manipulate Skinhead Gangs

The Skinheads began as spontaneous teen gangs, but they are now being organized into a national network by older white supremacists, such as Tom Metzger of the White Aryan Resistance and Richard Butler of the Aryan Nations.

According to Klanwatch, Skinheads are valued by older white supremacists because of their tendency toward violence. The report asserts "Not since the height of Klan activity during the civil rights era has there been a white supremacist group so obsessed with violence or so reckless in its disregard for the law."

The victims of Skinhead violence include Asians, Indians, His-



Rex Perry/Nashville Banner

Skinheads give the Nazi salute as they gather at a rally in Pulaski, Tenn., the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan. Racist Skinheads like these were responsible for 193 incidents of hate crimes in 1988.

panics and gays as well as blacks and Jews. Klanwatch's report lists 193 incidents of hate crimes occurring in 35 states last year. Two of the incidents include:

- the murder of black men in Reno, Nev., and Portland, Ore., by Skinheads who apparently picked their victims at random.

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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

Monument to serve as history lesson as well as shrine to those killed...

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Workers have removed the front stairs of the Southern Poverty Law Center as the first step in the construction of the Civil Rights Memorial. The monument will be made of black granite, flowing water, and concrete. The architect of the Civil Rights Memorial is Maya Lin, who also designed the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in

Washington, D.C.

Monument Location Is Rich in History

The project was conceived by Center Chief Trial Counsel and Executive Director Morris Dees as both a memorial and a historical lesson on the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. "The memorial will be right in the heart of down-

town Montgomery," said Dees. "I cannot think of a better location for a monument to civil rights than right here where the movement began."

The Civil Rights Memorial will be a stone's throw from the First White House of the Confederacy, Alabama's Capitol, where the Confederate battle flag still flies, and the Dexter Avenue King

Memorial Baptist Church, where many believe the civil rights movement was born.

"Nowhere in the United States is there a monument to honor those who died for the cause of civil rights," Dees continued. "I saw the need for such a shrine as a way to make future generations aware of the importance of the movement."

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Racist Violence

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- the destruction of the inside of a temple by Brooklyn youths, who also set fire to the Torah.

Some legislators and prosecutors have begun to crack down on perpetrators of hate crimes. In Dallas, for example, a Skinhead was given the maximum prison term, ten years, for the October 1988 vandalism of a temple.

Klanwatch Director Calls for Hate Crime Reporting Law

According to Klanwatch Director Pat Clark, the lack of complete data on racial violence has tended to conceal the true magnitude of the problem. "But," says Ms. Clark, "the tremendous rise in Skinhead crime, as well as the evidence from states who do have data collection laws, clearly shows hate crime is a bigger problem than we ever suspected."

Ms. Clark urged passage of a national bill to require reporting on hate crimes, and said continued vigilance on the part of law enforcement will be key to curbing the rise in Skinhead crime.

Civil Rights Memorial

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This memorial is an expression of the sacrifice of those who gave their lives on the battlefield of human rights."

Measuring approximately 60 feet by 68 feet, the memorial will feature an upper plaza and a pool from which water will flow over a 40-foot-wide, 9-foot-high black granite wall. On the wall will be engraved the biblical phrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used in his "I Have A Dream" speech: "We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

"Time Line" Chronicles Key Civil Rights Events

A "time line" will chronicle the key events of the civil rights move-



As a first step in building the Civil Rights Memorial, workers removed the front steps of the Southern Poverty Law Center. A black granite wall inscribed with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will replace the steps. The Memorial will be located in an historic part of Montgomery, as evidenced by the columned Southern mansion in the background.

ment and list the names of the 40 people killed during the struggle. Major events to be noted include the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling that outlawed school segregation; the arrest of Rosa Parks, which led to the integration of Montgomery city buses; and the 1965 civil rights

march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery.

No funds will be raised to build the memorial. The cost of building the memorial will be defrayed by money from the sale of property adjacent to the Center's headquarters in Montgomery.

THE LAW CENTER FUND

If you have ever wished you could do even more to advance the Center's work, but didn't think you had the means, there is something you should consider. You *do* have it within your power to play an important part in assuring the Center's ability to fight injustice for years to come.

You can do it by remembering the Center in your will.

Bequests in wills help to assure the Center's long-term financial stability, and that is a key to success in our legal efforts, which often last for years and can cost thousands of dollars to conduct.

Through your will, you can help pass on the torch of equal justice to future generations. If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider the lasting good you can do by participating in the Law Center Fund.

For More Information...

If you would like to know more about helping the Center in your will, please write:

The Law Center Fund
Attn: JoAnn Chancellor
Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36195



SPLC Mailbox

"During World War II, my last assignment was helping to clear out the Belsen concentration camp just after it was liberated by the British in April 1945. I need hardly tell you that the shock and horror of what I was has not worn off or dimmed through the years. The Nazis were the 'skin heads' of the 1930s and '40s; I only hope that through efforts such as yours their blasphemy against humanity can be stamped out forever."

-- Thomas Hale
Massachusetts

"I do want the Southern Poverty Law Center to know that the Center is named in my will to receive a part of my estate in the event of my death. I know it doesn't help now, but I hope it will help someday in the future — the far off future, I do hope."

— Carol A. Wahlgren
Colorado

"I wish I had \$1,000 that I might send to you. I am a sick, low income individual but feel compelled to say "Thank you and God bless and surround you with His

Supporters write the Center and its Klanwatch Project

support." My father was a slave and I'm fearful for my race."

— Annie B. Rose
Virginia

"As the son of a humble illiterate immigrant, who has achieved a modest success, I grew up in the 1920s and through the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Klan made itself felt even in our working class neighborhood. We owe a great deal to people like you. We need you now, and if we have another depression, we will need many more to help you as economic despair multiplies the recruits to white supremacist groups."

— Owen Belmont
Pennsylvania

"I'm very interested in the work you do! Our teacher showed us a film that you sent to her. I'm 11 years old and my only income is my allowance but it it will help a little I will send \$2.00 a month. If this is all right please send me a letter."

— Jennifer D. Larsen
Kansas

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Klanwatch Project Works to Expose Racism of David Duke

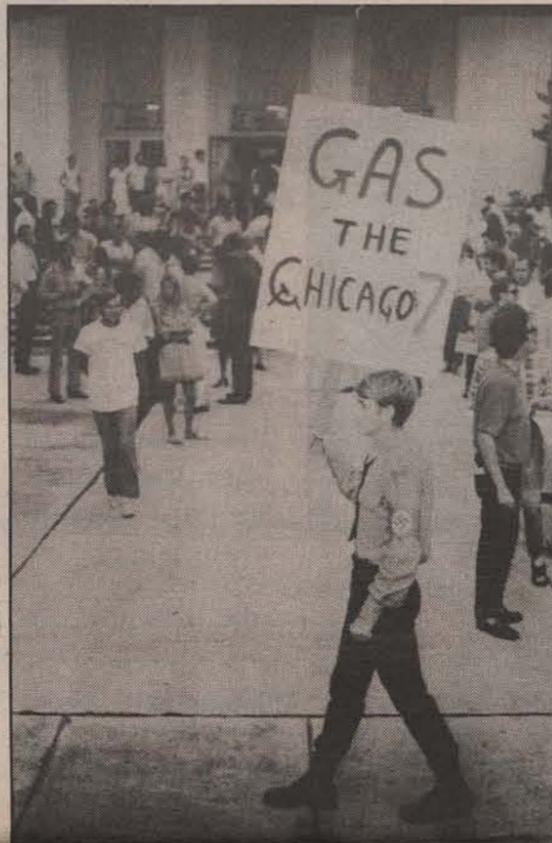
METAIRIE, La. — On February 18, 1989, David Duke, the former Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was elected to the Louisiana State Legislature. Duke's past affiliation with the Ku Klux Klan caused intense media interest in his election. On television interview shows such as "Crossfire", "Nightline" and "The Today Show", he fended off questions about his racist past by claiming that his college fascination with Adolph Hitler and his Klan leadership role were misguided ventures of his youth. He has repeatedly denied holding any hatred for blacks and Jews.

Klanwatch Finds Evidence Of Duke's Continuing Racism

Klanwatch Project researchers and investigators are finding ample evidence that Duke remains a dedicated racist, and Klanwatch is in the process of distributing this information to the media across the nation.

Duke has spent nearly half of his 38 years as a major white supremacist leader. He first came to national attention in 1971 when, at the age of 17, he donned a Nazi uniform and held a sign saying "Gas the Chicago 7" while staging a one-man protest march at Louisi-

ana State University. Four years later, Duke formed the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and became its



Photographed in 1971 in a Nazi uniform, David Duke has been an avid white supremacist all his adult life.

Grand Wizard. During this period Duke allied himself with some of the nation's most radical white supremacists, including Louis Beam and Don Black. In Duke's warped view, Beam and Black are "some

of the very finest men America possesses."

After running unsuccessfully for the Louisiana Senate as a Klan candidate in 1975 and 1979, Duke decided to change his stripes. In 1980 he resigned from the Knights of the KKK and formed the National Association for the Advancement of White People (NAAWP). The name change, he admitted, was simply an effort to improve the image of the organization. "We don't have a record of violence. It's a perfect foil for me."

Duke's Newspaper Promotes Raw White Supremacist Views

Despite recent disclaimers, Duke continues to promote various brands of white supremacy in his newspaper, the *NAAWP News*.

Headlines such as ZIONIST CONTROL CONTINUES and THE BLACK PLAGUE are typical.

Anti-Semitism and virulent racism abound. Some of his recent published statements include:

"What makes this country great was the racial stock that came to America and built it."

"America is dominated to a great extent by Jews."

"People...by way of media brainwashing have become dedicated to the malevolent advancement of anti-Christian Jews, the most racist people on earth, and to the unbridled birthrates of the Third World masses with their tyranny, brutality, ignorance, and backwardness, and at the same time, to the destruction of your own white Christian flesh and blood."

"I question whether six million Jews actually died in Nazi death camps...The whole issue is a red herring. Jews have certain political ends that they are trying to achieve through the continued propagation of the Holocaust."

Duke also advertises "Racial Comedy" tapes comprised of "humorous songs about blacks and other 'minorities'" with titles like: "Cowboys and N_____".

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LAW CENTER ATTORNEY SPEAKS AT LAW SCHOOL

Law Fellow Cites Rise in Extremist Activity ...

TOPEKA, Kan. — SPLC attorney Kathleen Nicholson recently presented a program about about the Ku Klux Klan to students at Washburn University School of Law.

Ms. Nicholson stressed the importance of vigilance and alertness in fighting the Klan. "Every community needs to guard against the spread of racial violence by being aware of the tactics of the Klan and other extreme-right



Southern Poverty Law Center attorney Kathleen Nicholson

groups," she said. "Even the use of foul language against blacks, Jews and others who are not white Protestants can foreshadow violence."

She also told the students that while membership in the Klan is not increasing, their extremist activity — in-

cluding violence — is. "The severe hatred is something you can't comprehend," Ms. Nicholson said. "And that is what is growing." (See special report on hate-group violence on page 1.)

A participant in the Center's Fellowship program for outstanding law school graduates, Ms. Nicholson has worked on several Klan-related cases. One resulted in a nearly \$1-million judgment being levied against two KKK groups who attacked peaceful black marchers in all-white Forsyth County, Ga.

"That trial, more than any other experience, brought home to me just how large a part hatred plays in the Klan's world," Ms. Nicholson said.

Center Supporters Act as "News Hounds" for Klanwatch

Center supporters are providing a valuable supplement to the Klanwatch Project's normal sources of intelligence about white supremacist activity. Many of the facts in the *Klanwatch Intelligence Report* reach Klanwatch through clipping services, which are often 3 to 4 weeks late. A number of Center supporters have begun to mail in news clippings to Klanwatch on the day they appear in the paper.

Center supporters wishing to send in news clippings about racist activity should mail them to:

Klanwatch Monitoring Network
The Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36195

Senders of clippings should make sure that the name of the newspaper and the date of the article are on the clipping.

Center Welcomes New Staff Members

Rhonda Pines has been employed as a research associate by the Center's Klanwatch Project. Her duties will include researching



Rhonda Pines

and writing articles for Klanwatch publications such as the *Intelligence Report*, a newsletter distributed to law enforcement agencies across the nation to keep them informed about white supremacist activities.

Before coming to work at the Center Ms. Pines was a reporter for the *Montgomery Advertiser*, where she covered health, city and county government issues. A Montgomery native, she holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Alabama.

She says her recent in-depth exposure to the white-supremacist movement has taught her a great deal about hate groups. "Although

I had written articles on civil rights and Klan groups before I joined the Center, I was not aware of just how widespread the so-called 'splinter' groups are," Ms. Pines explains. "My concern about organizations such as the Skinheads and the Order is much greater now."

Coranetta (Nita) Bailey started work in March, when she replaced Sheila Pompey (see below) as the Center's receptionist.



Coranetta Bailey

Mrs. Bailey answers and directs all incoming calls, is responsible for screening visitors, greeting guests and operating the Center's security system.

She is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, where she lives with her husband Irving and their 4-month-old son Christopher. Mrs. Bailey is a graduate of Robert E. Lee high school and attended the University

of Alabama. She plans to return to college in the next few years to complete her degree in communications.

Mrs. Bailey says she enjoys working at the Center. "It's great to know there are people in the South who want to work for racial equality, and besides, the people here are extremely friendly and very dedicated to their beliefs."

Although she has only a amount of spare time, she enjoys traveling to Atlanta, New Orleans and other large cities. She also likes to write poetry and short stories.

Sheila L. Pompey has joined the fundraising department of the Center as Administrative Assistant. Ms. Pompey, who came to work at the Center in June 1988 as receptionist, assumed her new du-

ties last month.

Her many duties include corresponding with Center supporters and fulfilling their requests for information about SPLC activities.



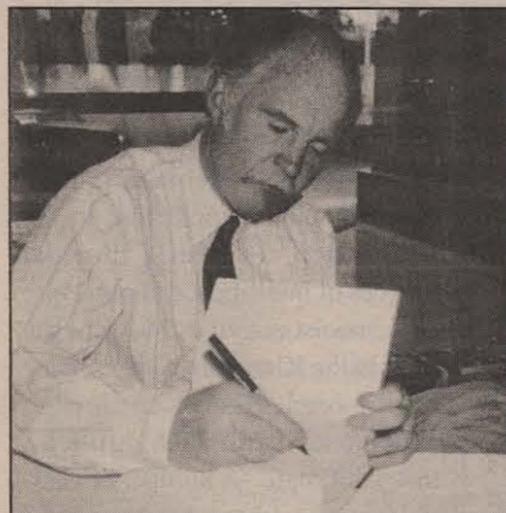
Sheila L. Pompey

Ms. Pompey never misses an opportunity to spread the word about the Center's work to her friends and family. "I am proud to be a part of an organization that has the courage and determination to continue the struggle for better human relations. It is important that young people be educated about the threat of racial violence. The work the Center is doing in this area is vital to the future of this country."

Ms. Pompey is a native of the Greater Eastern Shore, Fairhope, Ala., where she attended Faulkner State Junior College.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Visits Center

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — In February the Southern Poverty Law Center held a reception for Taylor Branch, author of *Parting*



Pulitzer Prize winner Taylor Branch autographs copies of his book *Parting The Waters* at SPLC reception.

The Waters: America in the King Years 1954-1963. The book uses the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to chronicle the civil rights movement. Local church officials, government representatives, members of the legal community and other Montgomery leaders were invited to attend.

Parting The Waters begins with the end of the Eisenhower era, tracing the rise of Dr. King as a civil rights leader. The key events of the movement — including the Montgomery bus boycott, Freedom Rides and lunch counter sit-ins — serve as a backdrop for the story, which ends with the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Branch's book has been praised by historians and civil rights leaders as an accurate, in-depth portrayal of modern America's most turbulent period. In addition to a National Book Critics Circle Award, *Parting The Waters* has won a place on several bestseller lists. But the book's most prestigious honor came in April, when it was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History.

A second volume in the *America In The King Years* series, *Pillar of Fire*, will recount the administration of Lyndon Johnson and the Vietnam War.

David Duke

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"Looking for a handout N_____, N_____, N_____", "Some N_____ Never Die", "N_____hating me", "In Coontown, Kajun Ku Klux Klan."

Through his newspaper and a book store he owns in New Orleans, Duke also continues to sell books espousing the white supremacist message:

Jews Must Live — Roth — A Jew reveals shady business practices of Jews.

The Hoax of the Twentieth Century — Butz — The most important refutation of the "Holocaust" ever written.

The Holy Book of Adolf Hitler — Battersby — National Socialism as a religion.

Perhaps the most notorious book Duke sells is *The Turner Diaries*, a blueprint for revolution that many regard as the white supremacists' bible. The book advocates the mass destruction of blacks, Jews, and "race traitors" — whites who have supposedly betrayed their race by associating with blacks or Jews.

Although Duke now publicly repudiates racism, his current rhetoric is a thin disguise for the

white supremacist ideology that has characterized his long career. Up until January 1989 the local phone book listed the same number for the Ku Klux Klan and David Duke. Off the record, Duke recently told one New Orleans area Republican that "Biologically, blacks are inferior to whites and they always will be."

Other White Supremacists Plan to Follow Duke's Lead

Groups such as the Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux, the League of Peace Amendment Advocates and the Nationalist Movement are beginning to follow Duke's lead by promoting their members for political offices.

Duke evidently views his new state representative's seat as only a stepping stone. He reportedly has told several people he might be interested in running against either U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston (D-La) and Rep. Bob Livingston (R-La), both of whom may prove to be vulnerable.

Klanwatch will be monitoring Duke's activities closely for the foreseeable future. As new evidence of his racism is uncovered, Klanwatch will keep its supporters and the media informed.