

LAW REPORT

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

January 1990

Thousands Attend Historic Dedication

Leaders and family members honor new Civil Rights Memorial

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An estimated 5,000 to 7,000 people gathered in Montgomery on November 5th to witness the dedication of the new Civil Rights Memorial.

Located in front of the offices of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which built the Memorial, it honors 40 men, women and children who gave their lives during the civil rights movement.

Former Center President Julian Bond acted as master of ceremonies and gave the keynote address (see story on page 6). Other speakers included Martin Luther King III, Rosa Parks, Rita Schwerner Bender, widow of Michael Schwerner, Mamie Till Mobley, mother of civil rights martyr Em-

mett Till, Chris McNair, father of civil rights martyr Denise McNair, Merlie Evers, widow of Medgar Evers, and Rabbi Aaron Krupnik, who gave the invocation.

Appearing on the podium but not speaking were Maya Lin, who designed the Civil Rights Memorial, and Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, widow of Robert Kennedy.

The ceremony ended with a recitation of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech which, to the amazement of the spectators, was recited by 6-year-old Ayinde Jean-Baptiste (see story on page 7).

For more stories and photographs about the Civil Rights Memorial dedication, see pages 4 through 7.



Thomas S. England/People Weekly © 1989 The Time Inc. Magazine Co. All rights reserved.

Little Kimberly Robinson never knew her grandfather, Herbert Lee, but she knows he was a hero. Kimberly is pictured here touching her grandfather's name, which is inscribed on the Civil Rights Memorial. He was murdered in Liberty, Mississippi, in 1961 for registering black voters.



Murder Victim

Mulegeta Seraw, a 27-year-old from Ethiopia, was murdered in Portland, Oregon, by a racist Skinhead wielding a baseball bat.

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Southern Poverty Law Center, joined by the Anti-Defamation

Center Files Major Lawsuit Against Skinheads and Nation's Most Militant White Supremacist Group

League of B'nai B'rith, has filed a lawsuit that accuses White Aryan Resistance (WAR) leader Tom Metzger and his son, John, of inciting Skinheads to brutally murder Ethiopian Mulegeta Seraw in Portland, Ore., in November 1988.

WAR and Skinheads Kenneth "Ken Death" Mieske and Kyle Brewster are also named as defendants in the lawsuit, filed in the Circuit Court of Multnomah County, Ore., on behalf of Seraw's estate and statutory heirs.

Mieske, Brewster and Steven Strasser, also a member of East Side White Pride, have pleaded guilty to killing Seraw.

SPLC Executive Director Morris Dees believes the Metzgers are responsible for Seraw's death because their agents incited the Skinheads to assault and harm innocent victims solely because of their race. These agents also rendered substantial assistance to the Skinheads to carry out their violent, racist goals.

"The evidence will show

Seraw's death resulted from Tom and John Metzger's efforts to win impressionable, young converts to WAR and its white supremacist cause," Dees said.

Seraw, a 27-year-old shuttle bus driver for Avis Rent-A-Car at Portland International Airport, was standing outside his apartment about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, 1988. Two friends had dropped him off, and they were saying goodbye when they were spotted by the three East Side White Pride members. The

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SPLC
 **Mailbox**

I'm so grateful to you for having made it possible to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for lack of civil rights.

I love thinking of future generations viewing Maya Lin's stirring tribute and understanding the courage that inspired it and the cleansing spirit of the water that washes away the iniquity and permits a fresh start free of bitterness.

I was honored to be a part of it.

— *Mrs. Robert Kennedy*
Virginia

P.S. If Teddy ever runs again, I hope it's not against Ayinde Jean Baptiste (*see story on page 4*).

The dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial was so moving and impressive. Montgomery, the birthplace of the modern day Civil Rights Movement, is the perfect site for this eloquent tribute. In addition, the Memorial is in the proper location, so close to the State Capitol and Dexter Avenue Church.

We are all grateful to the Poverty Law Center for paying homage to these victims of our struggle. Thank you again for all your dedication and hard work.

— *John Lewis*
Member of Congress

On behalf of the members of my family who are relatives of the family of Carole Robertson, one of the young girls killed in

the Birmingham church bombing, I wish to thank you and the Memorial Committee for the inspirational dedication activities and tributes honoring the forty martyrs of the Civil Rights struggle. We are honored to be included in this historic event.

The beauty of the monument itself evokes indescribable feelings of awe, reverence, and calmness. It is truly as Maya Lin said "a contemplative area."

We, and many others, will be eternally grateful to you for this lasting memorial which no one else dared venture to build in memory of so many who died during the struggle. We commend your determination. We thank you for remembering.

— *Thomas E. Wood, Jr.*
and family
Georgia

Five of us motored to Montgomery, Alabama, and we attended the Memorial Dedication on November 5th. It was a most memorable experience that each one of us will forever treasure. Everything was beautifully, perfectly organized. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

— *Addie W. Roebuck*
Pennsylvania

The monument is very inspiring — what good TV coverage! I'm glad to consider myself part of your efforts.

— *Mr. & Mrs. Max Klapperman*
California

I was very happy to read in the Law Report of the final settlement of the Loyal Garner case in a satisfactory manner and the family will be provided for adequately. I became interested in the work of the Center as a result of the report about the Garner case, which touched me very deeply. Also, the other cases that you work on are very important.

— *Marsha S. Rifkin*
New York

I've been a supporter of the Center for years, have followed your battles, felt your anger and shared your tears. Someday I'll make it to Montgomery, now for sure, to see the beautiful Civil Rights Memorial. But now I find that you will be coming to Portland.

Mulegeta Seraw should not be forgotten and those lost young men that murdered him should not be the only ones punished (*see story on page 1*). Perhaps the fact that the Center is becoming involved will help the Northwest deal with the ugly and destructive racism that

Assistant Administrator Plays Crucial Role in Efficient Operation of Center

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Betty Powell has been assistant administrator of the Southern Poverty Law Center since 1984.



Betty Powell

One of her most important responsibilities is purchasing items and services for the Center at the best price possible. Because the Center is a nonprofit organization, wise purchasing is not only essential to the Center's efficient operation but also a responsibility to those who support the Center's work.

In addition to purchasing office equipment and supplies, Ms. Powell's duties include supervising maintenance of the Center's office building, furnishings and equipment.

One of the most important aspects of Ms. Powell's job is overseeing the production of all the Center's printed material. In addition to producing educational materials for the Center and its Klanwatch Project, the Center also mails out information to its supporters, and prospective supporters, on a regular basis. Ms. Powell gets bids from printers all over the United States in order to find the best quality at the lowest price, and she also must work closely with postal employees to make sure Center mailings meet postal requirements.

"We're in the mail constantly

to spread the word about our work at the Center," she said.

For example, the Center's Klanwatch Project publishes the bimonthly *Intelligence Report* that goes out to more than 5,000 law enforcement agencies in the country. At different times during the year, the fundraising department produces mailings to promote the work of the Center and increase support. Ms. Powell is the person these departments rely on to make the right choices for the paper, printing, and mailing.

"I have to make sure that everything gets into the mail on time at the best possible savings," Ms. Powell said.

Shopping around is a factor in her purchases, often working with salesmen as far as away as Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Norwalk, Conn. "You have to deal with reputable people you trust and who can meet deadlines," she said.

This year, Betty Powell took on an additional duty as pre-production manager for *Free At Last*, the civil rights book produced in conjunction with the Civil Rights Memorial (*see story on page 4*). She spent countless hours getting different proposals for the book. It was printed in Dallas, Texas. Her determination to get the best price paid off, saving \$20,000.

Ms. Powell, a native of Tallahassee, Ala., began her career in Montgomery at Fuller & Dees. Originally employed in the mail department, she went on to work in accounts receivables, became secretary in the purchasing department and director of purchasing before leaving in 1976.

Ms. Powell was also employed at Algernon Blair, a Montgomery contracting firm, as secretary to the vice president of marketing, and at Montgomery-based Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, as director of purchasing.

it pretends does not exist.

— *Susan Hyde*
Oregon

In addition to a contribution I felt compelled to include my own note of thanks to you folks for the work that you do. It is reassuring to know that there remain people who still fight the evils of our society because it is the decent

thing to do, not because there's a buck to be made.

As a high school history teacher I also appreciate some of the materials you have sent to me. I have found them to be excellent sources of information for students to be exposed to. Thank you.

— *Mike Harris*
New Jersey

LAW REPORT

Vol. 19, No. 1 Jan. 1990

a publication of the
 Southern Poverty Law Center

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The Law Report is published
 by the Southern Poverty Law
 Center, 400 Washington Ave.,
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New Center Lawsuit

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Skinheads confronted the blacks and savagely beat and kicked Seraw and his friends.

Seraw's friends escaped with minor injuries, but, according to police, Seraw was struck with a baseball bat with such force that it split the bat and fractured Seraw's skull.

Mieske was sentenced to life in prison with a 20-year minimum; Brewster to 10 to 20 years, and Strasser to 20 years in prison with a nine-year minimum.

WAR among most active white supremacist groups

A 51-year-old television repairman from Fallbrook, Calif., Tom Metzger is one of the most openly revolutionary leaders of today's white supremacist movement. He praises violence, making fiery speeches through WAR,

his telephone hotline and personal appearances. His son, John, heads the Aryan Youth Movement, also known as the White Student Union. In recent years, the Metzgers have increased recruitment efforts among neo-Nazi Skinheads, calling them the "front-line warriors" of the future of the white supremacist movement.

According to the lawsuit, the Metzgers established communications in 1988 with members of East Side White Pride members. The suit then alleges that John Metzger — acting on behalf of WAR and his father — contacted the East Side White Pride and sent agents to Portland to organize the Skinheads in pursuing the policies of WAR.

Through their agents, WAR provided the members of East Side White Pride with racist

materials that incited violence against blacks and Jews. The materials specifically encouraged the Skinheads to use baseball bats, steel-toed boots and other weapons.

While in Portland, the agents reported directly to the Metzgers and even urged the Oregon defendants to call the WAR hotline to receive aid, encouragement and direction in carrying out white supremacist goals, according to the lawsuit. At a meeting prior to Seraw's death, the agents of WAR encouraged members of East Side White



One of the Skinhead defendants in the Center's new lawsuit, Ken "Ken Death" Mieske is now serving a life term for the murder of Mulegeta Seraw.

Pride to commit violent acts against blacks and others to promote white supremacy.

Like the lawsuit filed by the Center in the Michael Donald lynching case, this suit will attempt to hold WAR legally responsible for the acts of its agents. If successful, the suit could virtually eliminate WAR as an effective participant in the white supremacist movement and it could help bring about a marked reduction in racist violence committed by Skinheads.

Legal Externs Spend Semester at Center

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Taking a break from classes, two top law students — Ken Wittenberg and Steve Phillips — spent a semester at the Center assisting the lawyers with many of the Center's cases, bringing with them fresh ideas to solve old problems.

Ken Wittenberg is in his third-year at the University of Michigan Law School. At Michigan, he is a Legal Writing and Advocacy Instructor for first year students and last year served as the chairperson of the Faculty Hiring Committee. Ken is looking forward to next year when he will be clerking for a federal district court judge in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"In my first year in law school, my friends and I talked about going down South to fight for civil rights and alleviate poverty. We had heard about idealistic 60's college students doing voter registration and saw ourselves as updated versions of them. So, when I got the opportunity to work at the Law Center, I jumped at it," said Ken.

Ken's strong background in politics and civil rights made him a prized candidate for the SPLC externship program. He worked for many years for the Democratic Party and in his sophomore year at the University of Michigan, he ran as the Party's nominee for County Commissioner. Ken spent his law school summers doing



photo by Danny Welch

Hands On Legal Training

Law students Ken Wittenberg (left) and Steve Phillips took a semester away from their respective law schools to work with the Center's attorneys.

death penalty work in South Carolina and clerking for law firms in Omaha, Nebraska and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"From the first day I arrived here", Ken recalls, "there has not been a dull moment. The cases the Law Center has been working on are fascinating. And the Center lawyers have involved us at every stage, from the beginning investigations all the way to court hearings and trials."

Ken considers his experiences at SPLC quite unique. During the Civil Rights Memorial Dedication ceremonies, Ken had the pleasure of driving Rosa Parks around Montgomery on a golf cart. Ken

spent several weeks doing research on various First Amendment issues. He also worked on the Decatur and Forsyth County Klan cases, as well as the recently filed neo-Nazi skinhead case. And at a recent hearing, a Judge called Ken up to the front of the courtroom to put some of his research on First Amendment issues into practice. The Judge was interested in hearing the opinions of "The Michigan Student," and asked Ken to respond to the City Attorney's arguments. Even though the Judge's request took him by surprise, Ken eloquently defended the Center's position.

Ken considers his stay in

Alabama as time he will never forget. "Everyone at the Center is tremendous, each excelling at what they do. But the work is what has made this such a valuable experience. People at the Law Center do not just sit around and talk about what a wonderful world it would be. They are changing the world."

Steve Phillips, a native of Washington, D.C., is a third-year student at Stanford Law School. At Stanford, Steve is a member of Law Review and is on the student steering committee for the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, an immigration and poverty law clinic founded by Stanford law students. Before law school, Steve graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Amherst College with a B.A. in History.

Steve spent his summers during law school working for the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the Washington, D.C. Public Defender Service, and a Washington law firm. As much as he enjoyed his summer experiences with criminal law, Steve hopes to pursue his interests in high school teaching, government service, and public interest law after a one-year clerkship with a federal district court judge in eastern Pennsylvania.

Steve first heard about SPLC from fellow Stanford student

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Maya Lin

Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and now the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, stands before her latest masterpiece just a few days before the dedication ceremonies.

Photo by Oz Bentmeester

Educators Praise *Free At Last*, New Center Educational Magazine Published in Conjunction with Memorial Dedication

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Just before the November 5th dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial, the Center published *Free At*



Free At Last, the Center's new educational magazine, tells the stories of the forty men, women and children whose names are on the Civil Rights Memorial, and gives an overview of the Civil Rights Movement.

Last, a new educational publication which tells the stories of the forty whose names appear on the Civil Rights Memorial and also gives a concise history of the civil rights movement.

The Center sent over 47,000 review copies to educators in junior and senior high schools

throughout the United States, and thousands have been ordered for classroom use.

The 104-page publication contains over 100 photographs and has been hailed by educators. Some of their comments include:

"*Free At Last* is a much needed integral piece in putting together for your young people...the real price of freedom. The magazine is exciting, informative, and challenging to our future genera-

tions. It should be, no, it must be utilized by every school system in the country. Freedom demands it."

— Normal Wilson
Principal, Salem High School, Salem, New Jersey

"I join...in applauding the publication of *Free At Last*. What the profiles in *Free At Last* tell us

Banquet Honors Families of Victims On Eve of Memorial Dedication

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — On Saturday, November 4th, the Southern Poverty Law Center hosted a banquet to honor over 600 family members and friends



Photo by Paul Robertson

Among the over 600 relatives attending the Civil Rights Memorial banquet was the daughter and granddaughter of George Lee, who was killed for leading a voter registration drive in Belzoni, Miss., in 1955.

of the 40 men, women and children whose names appear on the Civil Rights Memorial.

Julian Bond, civil rights activist, and George Wallace Jr., son of former Alabama Governor George

Wallace, gave welcoming remarks to those attending the occasion at the Montgomery Civic Center.

When asked by a Montgomery Journal reporter if he felt his presence at the banquet was unusual, Mr. Wallace was quoted as saying "I don't see anything ironic about



Photo by Paul Robertson

Mary Moore Birchard was one seven relatives of victims who spoke at the Family Members' Banquet. Her husband was slain in 1963 during a one-man march against segregation in Alabama.

that. All things change."

Those seated at the front table along with Mr. Bond and Mr. Wallace included Merlie Evers, widow of slain civil rights activist Medgar Evers, Law Center Executive Director Morris Dees, Maya Lin, designer of the Civil Rights Memorial, and Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the person who gave the main address of the evening.

The Rev. F.D. Reese delivered the invocation. Rev. Reese is recognized as the person who asked Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to come to Selma to lead the voting rights march.



Photo by Paul Robertson

Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was the main speaker at the Family Members' Banquet.

is that these people's struggle is also our struggle, that the quest for equality never ends."

— Mary Hatwood Futrell,
Former President, National Education Association

"This exciting publication...will be, I deeply believe, one of the most essential teaching tools...available in the immediate years

ahead in high schools through the entire country."

— Arthur Kinoy
Professor of Constitutional Law, Rutgers University School of Law

"This concise, dramatic history captures for today's students the idealistic courage that sustained

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Civil Rights Memorial Evokes Comments from Across the Nation

Newspapers and magazines in all parts of the United States have recognized the Civil Rights Memorial as a monument of national importance. Following are excerpts from some of the commentaries made in these publications:

People Magazine — 11/20/89

It was nine years ago that [Maya] Lin, then an unheralded senior at Yale University, submitted the winning design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C....

Now, with her new Civil Rights Memorial,

which similarly compels visitors to trace out names with their fingertips, Lin, 30, has once again created an architectural masterpiece that evokes the pain and pride of one of the nation's most tumultuous passages.

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Civil Rights Memories in Black Granite

The following story, excerpted here, appeared on the front page of the Nov. 6, 1989, final edition of the Washington Post and is reprinted with permission.

By Steve Twomey
Washington Post Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 5 — Not until today did Thomas Moore know for certain his brother belonged in the company of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Not until today did Sarah Edwards Salter see the proof her husband had not been forgotten over these last 32 years.

Because not until today was there a memorial anywhere to those who died in the movement for civil rights, to those lynched, beaten, bombed or shot because they were black or because they were white and helping blacks, to those whose killers in most cases never went to jail.

On a day of tears and memories in a city forever linked to both civil war and civil rights, 600 family members and thousands of others filled Washington Street outside the Southern Poverty Law Center to remember 40 men, women and children chosen by the center to represent all those killed in the violence from 1954 to 1968, the years from the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* to King's assassination in Memphis.

Carved in the black granite dedicated today are the names of the famous: King and Medgar Evers; the four young girls killed in the bombing of a Birmingham church; the three civil rights workers murdered in Philadelphia, Miss.

And carved, too, are the names of those long forgotten, names only their families had kept alive until center researchers dug them out of the past.

Like Charles Moore, a 20-year-old student, whose mutilated body was found in the Mississippi River 25 years ago. Like Willie Edwards, a Montgomery grocery worker taken out by the Klan one night in 1955 and forced to jump into the Alabama River. And like Cpl. Roman Ducksworth, shot to

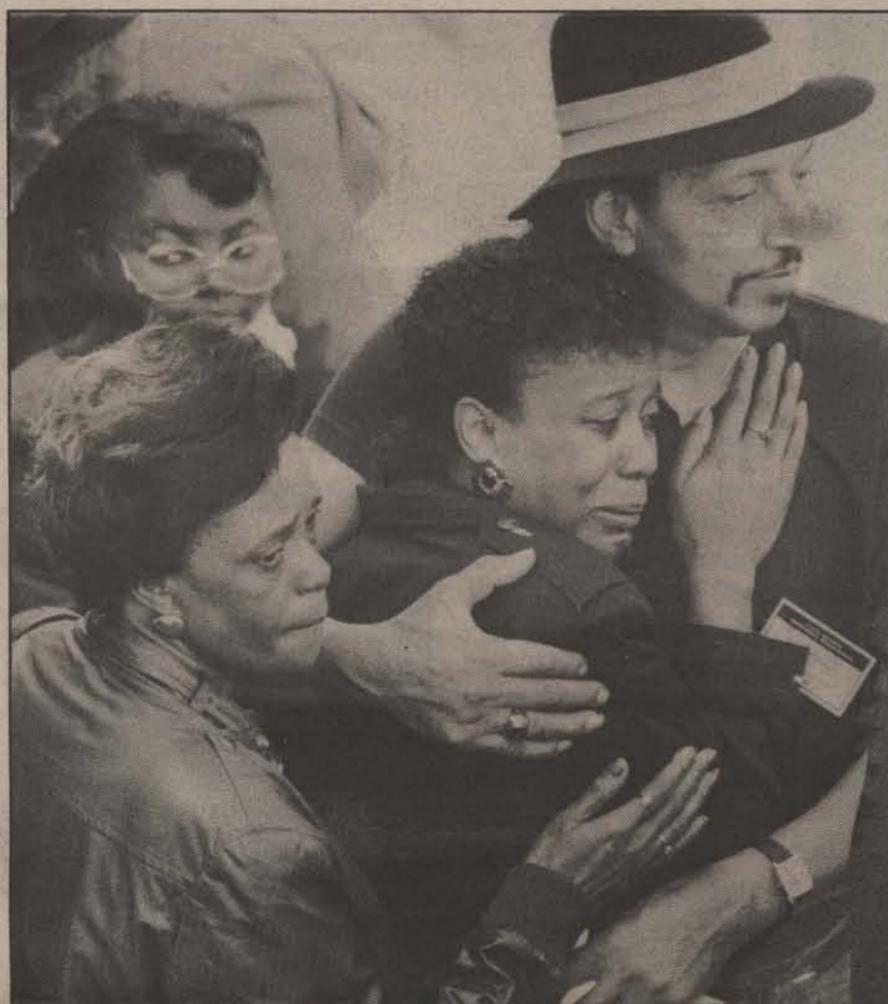
death on a Mississippi bus by a police officer in 1962.

• • •

"I'm so relieved that some-

show where we've been and how far we have to go."

They could not list all those killed by racism. "You may be talk-



Sarah Edwards Salter, left, comforts daughter as family views new memorial.

Wide World Photos, Inc.

thing has been done," said Melva Ducksworth, 50, Roman's widow. "He has been remembered, not only by us, but by the people here in Montgomery, Alabama. People all over the world will know."

Knowledge is what Morris Dees had in mind.

Dees, who is white and the executive director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, developed the idea after his young daughter asked why her classmates did not seem to understand blacks and after he gave a speech in 1987 in which he listed the names of several people who had been killed in the civil rights movement.

"And an 18-year-old black kid came afterward and said, 'Who is this Medgar Evers?'" said Dees. "I came up in my mind with an answer to my daughter's question and the young black man's question. We needed something to

ing about a thousand people across the South," Dees said. Instead, they picked only those killed because they were active and visible in civil rights, like King; those who weren't involved in civil rights but whose deaths caused national outrage, like Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old boy killed in 1955 for talking to a white woman; and those who were killed by white supremacist groups, whether or not their deaths became widely known, like Edwards.

The center wanted only one person to design the memorial: Maya Lin, 30, the daughter of Chinese immigrants who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. What she drew, said Carolyn Goodman, mother of a civil rights worker slain in Philadelphia, Miss., "is poetry in granite."

In a small plaza of white stone at the Law Center, just blocks from where Jefferson Davis was inaugu-

rated as president of the Confederacy and King preached at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Lin set a round table of black Canadian granite, more than 11 feet in diameter, with its pedestal tapering to a narrow base. The names of the 40 are carved on the table-top like wheel spokes and are interspersed with dates from the civil rights movement. Water bubbles from the center, flows gently over the names and then down the sides.

Behind the black table is a large, curved wall of black granite, etched with King's vow that his struggle would continue "until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Water flows evenly down the face of the wall.

• • •

Over and over, before the formal ceremonies, family members moved to the table-top, to reach through the thin curtain of water to touch the names of their husbands, sons, children, uncles, aunts. They took pictures. They cried. They were thankful someone remembered after all.

"It was a dead issue," said Thomas Moore. "We were poor people. We didn't have a dream like this. And now it's a reality. I called my wife last night, and we talked for two hours about what this means for the millions who will come here. I'm a strong man, but I woke up at 5:30 this morning a little glassy-eyed."

And over and over, families and speakers said they hope the memorial will show the young that a price was paid for the gains of today and that it will renew the energy of the civil rights movement. There is much to be done, they said.

Several Georgia Ku Klux Klan members tried unsuccessfully to get a permit for a protest today, "screaming this is a desecration to the city of Montgomery," Dees said.

"I think the message, especially for black people, is you can't become complacent," said Ameal Moore, 55, whose brother, a Louisiana police officer, was ambushed 24 years ago. "These evils are still out there. And can come back again."

Comments About Memorial

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San Francisco Examiner — 11/15/89

It was good to see the monument dedicated the other day, with many survivors of people slain in the struggle on hand to witness the tributes paid their martyred husbands, wives, sons and daughters. Amazingly, this is the

first memorial to all those who died in the effort, at the hands of segregationist mobs or racist assassins. As we look at other countries today, in which human rights take a beating as they emerge slowly or not at all, we need to recall that this country had to contend with its own repressive hit teams not so long ago.

This is a place for Americans who care about our heritage to visit, reflecting there

upon the engraved truth that our rights did not come cheap.

Dan Carpenter in the Indianapolis Star — 11/7/89

These heroes died on American soil at the hands of everybody's enemy — racism.

The enemy's still out there, which makes

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Julian Bond Delivers Keynote Address at Civil Rights Memorial Dedication



Photo by Paul Robertson

Civil rights leader and former Center President Julian Bond at the November 5th, 1989, dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial.

might be free. As we do so, let us rededicate ourselves to freedom's fight. Let us gather, not in recrimination, but in reconciliation, remembrance, and renewed resolve.

Once this cradle rocked with the violence of our opponents; today it is soothed by the waters of this monument. A monument which, like the movement it honors, is majestic in its simplicity, overwhelming in its power. It bears the names of forty men, women, and children who gave their lives for freedom. It recalls their individual sacrifice. And it summons us to continue their collective cause.

Most of the freedom forty were ordinary people. Long before they died, some had already surrendered their lives to service to others; for some, service competed with job and family; for too many more, death came not because of what they did but because of who and where they were at a horrible moment that made them martyrs.

Virgil Ware was riding on the handle bars of his brother's bike when death struck. He was thirteen years old — a threat to no one, but his skin color marked him for murder, and they cut him down.

Lieutenant Colonel Lemuel Penn meant no harm. He was driving home after performing his duty as a soldier, but his color marked him for extinction, and they cut him down.

They told Ben Chester White, who wouldn't say no to integrated schools, that he was needed to help find a lost dog, and they cut him down.

They didn't believe that service in his country's army entitled Corporal Roman Ducksworth, Jr., to a front seat on the bus, and they cut him down.

They were looking for three

other bodies when they found Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee. Only their color qualified them for death, and they cut them down.

These names and others now join their more celebrated brothers and sisters as the roll of sacrifice is called. They gave an equal measure of devotion so that all of us might be free.

Buried with each is a bit of American apartheid, for their deaths kept the movement marching on. That is why we honor them



Photos by Paul Robertson

Martin Luther King III, son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat to a white man sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, were among several civil rights leaders who spoke at the dedication.

today not in sorrow, but in celebration.

There are those gathered here today who cannot remember the period when these sacrifices began, with its small cruelties and monstrous injustices, its petty indignities and its death-dealing inequities. There are many too young to remember that from that seeming hopelessness there arose a mighty movement, simple in its tactics, overwhelming in its impact.

That movement had its beginnings in Montgomery when a people chose to walk in dignity rather than sit in segregated despair. From this city, the movement and its method spread throughout the land.

...

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled against segregation's legality. Soon a movement arose to challenge its morality as well.

There had been protests before against this evil system, in the courts and in the streets, but after Montgomery the protests swelled to a collective force.

College students adopted the techniques of Montgomery and began accepting jail without bail when they sat down to stand up for their rights.

They soon attacked segregated

interstate travel with their bodies and segregated ballot boxes across the South as well.

Through all this period, the federal government helped only when it had to, when white lives or property were under attack.

The state and local governments worked in active concert with white terrorists, and the movement's people had few allies beyond themselves.

From its inception, it was a people's movement. The cumulative effect of individual acts of passive resistance brought about modern democracy's finest hour. By 1965, Jim Crow was legally dead.

Most of those who made the movement weren't the famous;

(continued on next page)

Following are excerpts from the keynote address given by civil rights leader Julian Bond at the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial on November 5th.

This memorial sits only a few blocks west of the first capitol of the Confederacy, the spot where Jefferson Davis took the oath of office to become President of the Confederate States. From Court Square to the north and west of this site the order was sent in 1861 to "reduce" Fort Sumter, beginning the Civil War. Ninety-four years later, on a December evening, Mrs. Rosa Parks began a historic bus ride from Court Square. East of us is the Dexter

"Let us rededicate ourselves to freedom's fight."

Avenue (King Memorial) Baptist Church, where a young pastor named Martin Luther King Jr. led the movement Mrs. Parks began.

We are gathered in the cradle of the Confederacy to dedicate a monument to those who died so all

Comments About Memorial

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the Civil Rights Memorial one of our more useful monuments to patriotic sacrifice.

It is especially useful that the memorial is designed by Maya Lin, architect of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

Having revolutionized the art of war

remembrance by creating a public sculpture based on war's futility rather than its glory, Lin now has helped broaden the definition of valor beyond military service.

Equating patriotism with arms is an unfair and dangerous tradition....Service/ Sacrifice? Has anyone, anywhere, given more for his country than a semiliterate sharecropper in Mississippi who gets shot dead for registering to vote?

He didn't give just to his country: he gave to the world.

Charlotte Observer — 11/5/89

Montgomery, the city where blacks boycotted city buses for 381 days in 1955 after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man, has rightfully welcomed the memo-

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“I Have A Dream”

6-year-old Moves and Delights Dedication Audience With Recitation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Speech

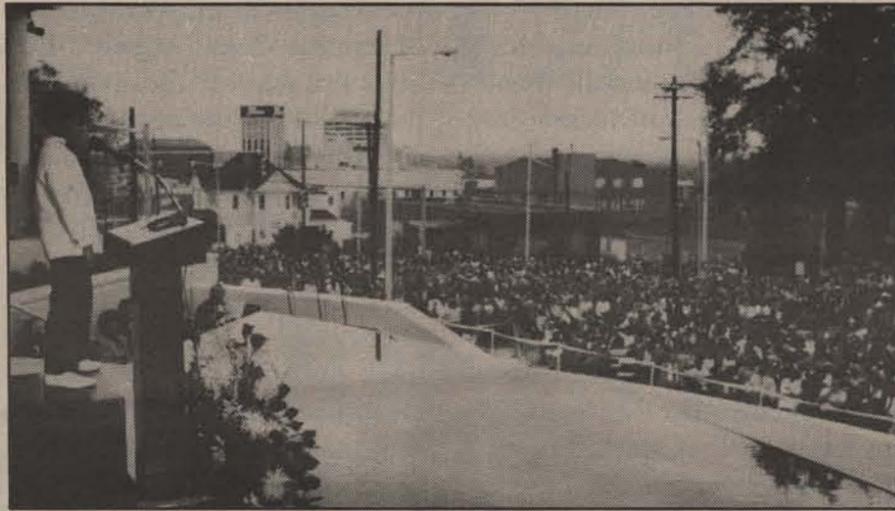


Photo by Paul Robertson

Standing before a crowd of 7,000 people, 6-year-old Ayinde Jean-Baptiste delivers Dr. King's famous “I Have A Dream” speech at the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Although he is only 6 years old, Ayinde Jean-Baptiste is currently in the 3rd grade at Marva Collin's Westside Preparatory School in Chicago. He tests above the 6th grade level and even above the 8th grade level in some categories, and he is an avid reader of novels, Greek mythology and Shakespeare.

Although suffering from a cold, Ayinde gave a rousing recitation of Dr. King's “I Have A Dream” speech that won the admiration of every member of the dedication audience.

This was not the precocious youngster's first public appearance. Last January, he appeared on the “Oprah Winfrey Show” to celebrate Dr. King's birthday.

Other appearances include attendance of a Drum Major for Justice Awards Banquet sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta, and he has made speeches at several church events in the Chicago area.

Last June, he received the N.A.A.C.P. Presidential Award for community services at an event held at the Chicago Hilton Towers.

A Letter from Ayinde Jean-Baptiste

After returning to his home in Evanston, Illinois, Ayinde Jean-Baptiste wrote Center Executive Director Morris Dees to express his feelings about participating in the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial. Following are excerpts from his letter:

Dear Mr. Dees,

How are you doing? I am fine, and so is my family. My cold is much better. Thank you for bringing me out there to Alabama to speak at the Civil Rights Memorial.

I enjoyed being out there, especially meeting Martin Luther King III and Rosa Parks. When Martin spoke, his tone reminded me of his father, Dr. King, who is one of my heroes.

When I grow up I want to become a lawyer like you, and my father will become, to keep Freedom Fighters out of jail. I also want to become a scientist, a great leader like Dr. King, and the president of the United States. I will make sure that everyone has: Food, clothes, money, a house, and a good school to go to.

I was elated to be at the Civil Rights Memorial to send a message that even though some of us have fallen, the struggle is still not over!

Sincerely,
Ayinde Jean-Baptiste

Free At Last Magazine

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the civil rights movement a generation ago.”

— Taylor Branch
Author of Parting the Waters

“Free At Last will give young people throughout the United States a clear picture of what the Civil Rights Movement was, and the violence that confronted the struggle for freedom...This publication will show young people the reality of the Civil Rights Movement, and the ordinary people who did extraordinary things to make possible the freedom which they now enjoy.”

— Rickey Hill,
Associate Professor of Political Science and Chairperson, South Carolina State College

Free At Last is available to Center supporters at cost, but must be ordered in quantities of 10 or more. Prices are \$2.25 each for 10 to 19 copies; \$1.75 each for 20 to 99 copies and \$1.50 each for 100 copies or more. Prices include postage and handling, but rush orders and U.P.S. charges will be billed at cost.

To order 10 or more copies of Free At Last, write:

Civil Rights Education Project
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36177-9621

Keynote Address

(continued from previous page)

they were the faceless. They weren't the noted; they were the nameless—the marchers with tired feet, the protesters beaten back by billy clubs and fire hoses, the unknown women and men who risked job and home and life.

We honor all of them today.

...

Yesterday's movement succeeded — in part — because the victims became their own best champions. When Mrs. Parks refused to stand up, and when Dr. King stood up to preach, mass participation came to the movement for civil rights. We must continue to fight.

Next to those we honor today, we are called to give comparatively little — our time, our energy, our caring.

As Robert Kennedy once said:

“Few will have the greatness to

bend history itself,

but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of these acts will be written the

history of (each) generation. It is from numberless diverse acts of



Photo by Paul Robertson

“We Shall Overcome”

After the speeches, those on the podium at the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial and those in the audience joined hands to sing “We Shall Overcome.” Mrs. Robert Kennedy (right) did not speak, but was given a place of honor on the podium during the dedication ceremonies.

courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a

man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

May the waters of this monument create ripples of hope — now and forevermore.

Comments About Memorial

(continued from previous page)

rial...It is a monument that belongs in the city known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement and the Cradle of the Confederacy....

Many Americans are surely ready to visit a monument that signifies that time in our history and honors the dead of the civil rights

movement. Like the Vietnam Memorial, it can be a place of healing.

Vista, California, Press — 11/13/89

The most appealing aspect of the memorial, made possible by the efforts of the under-appreciated Southern Poverty Law Center, is that it reminds us the struggles for equality of the 1950s and 1960s were interracial and inter-denominational....

The 40 names inscribed on the civil rights sculpture, designed by Maya Lin, architect of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, represent Americans of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The presence of about 400 law enforcement officials at the dedication, inspired by expected nastiness from the Klan and other white extremists, served as a grim reminder that the struggle is far from over.

Washington Enlists Center for War on Bigotry

Faced with an alarming rise in the number of violent crimes motivated by bigotry and with increasing criticism of the federal government's response, the United States Civil Rights Commission sought the advice of the nation's top civil rights experts on the problem of hate crime in America on November 17, 1989.

Because of the Center's leading role and expertise in fighting racism and bigotry, the Commission invited SPLC Legal Director Richard Cohen to Washington, D.C. to testify before the Commission on the Justice Department's enforcement of federal civil rights statutes. Cohen was the first speaker of a three-person panel that included representatives from the Anti-Defamation League and Hogan & Hartson, a prominent Washington law firm.

Cohen began by praising the Criminal Section of the Justice

Department's Civil Rights Division for its determined efforts in investigating and prosecuting a record number of hate crimes this year with a vastly understaffed group of lawyers.

Cohen noted, however, that the scope of the criminal civil rights statutes is often limited to prosecuting racial, ethnic, and religious violence that deprives an individual of a right protected by the U.S. Constitution or federal law.

"This limitation is important," Cohen elaborated, "because although there is a federal right to be free from assault in connection with voting or interstate travel there may be no federal right to be free from a simple assault that is motivated by racial animus. Most racial assaults do not take place in connection with a federally protected activity. Thus, even if the Justice Department were to prosecute every single case of

racial violence within its jurisdiction, the problem of racial violence would still be with us."

Part of the solution to hate crime, Cohen suggested, was to expand the reach of federal law and to encourage more states to pass and vigorously enforce anti-hate crime legislation. "Federal law could be expanded either by legislation or by judicial decision," Cohen explained.

At the state level, Cohen expressed optimism over the recent efforts of states to overcome their previous failures to protect the rights of minorities by passing and aggressively enforcing anti-hate crime legislation. State cooperation, Cohen insisted, is essential to a successful legal attack against hate crimes given the limited resources of the Justice Department.

In his closing remarks Cohen commented on the subtle sources

of the recent upsurge in hate crimes. Although rejecting a simple Reagan-bashing explanation of events, Cohen stated: "I do think that many of the civil rights policies of the past administration contributed to the atmosphere of racial polarization that exists in this country. That atmosphere, I believe, has contributed to the degree of racial violence we are witnessing. For this reason, I think we should urge the Justice Department to examine policies that may inadvertently lead to racial violence."

Cohen's remarks, along with those of the other panel members, were highly acclaimed by the members of the Commission. An appreciative Commissioner Mary Frances Berry remarked that the panel members' comments, "were among the best this Commission has received on this important subject."

Docket Update

Southern Christian Leadership Conference v. Siegelman

Trial preparations are under way in *Southern Christian Leadership Conference v. Siegelman*, the Law Center's case challenging the judicial election system in Alabama. U.S. District Judge Joel Dubina has set a trial date of May 14, 1990.

The State of Alabama employs a numbered place, at-large election system for use in judicial districts that have more than one district or circuit judge. Such systems historically have been found to discriminate against blacks and other minorities.

Alabama has had little black representation on its state court benches. The first black judge was not elected to office until 1978. Currently, of the 125 Alabama circuit court judges, only 4 are black. And of the 95 district court judges, there are only 5 black judges.

Center attorneys are in the midst of formal discovery procedures, gathering evidence to prove

that the State has intentionally selected the numbered place, at-large system to discriminate against blacks and that, regardless of whether it is intentionally used to do so, the election system has the effect of discriminating against Alabama's black electorate.

Selma Police Department

On Sunday March 7, 1965, white Alabama state troopers on horseback and wielding clubs beat peaceful black demonstrators on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. The violent attack on those marchers, who were protesting legal barriers to their right to vote, received national attention, and the resulting outcry sparked passage of landmark federal civil rights legislation, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Twenty-five years later, as a biracial committee of Southerners plans events commemorating "Bloody Sunday", racial discrimination still infects law enforcement in the City of Selma. While blacks have been hired in the

City's police force, City employment practices continue to bar most black officers from reaching upper-level or supervisory posts.

The Law Center recently filed suit against the City of Selma on behalf of a class of black officers in federal court in Mobile, Alabama, to change these practices. The suit challenges the City's use of a written examination for promotion to sergeant which eliminated all otherwise-qualified black candidates for promotion. The action requests the police department be ordered to adopt promotion procedures which are job-related and do not disproportionately exclude blacks.

The case is important not only because of Selma's historical significance to the civil rights movement and the need for racial integration at the upper levels of police departments in order to reduce police violence against minorities. In addition, the case will likely test the reach of recent United States Supreme Court decisions that drastically altered federal laws outlawing racial discrimination in employment.

Legal Interns

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Mary Erickson, who had just completed an internship at SPLC the summer before Steve began law school. "Listening to Mary recount her summer experience, the Center seemed like a very creative enterprise that was doing important work, and I thought it was a great idea for organizations to use law to promote positive change," recalls Steve.

While at SPLC, Steve worked on many of the Center's cases including a prison conditions suit, a Title VII employment discrimination case in Selma, Alabama, the Portland Skinhead case, and a First Amendment suit involving the Georgia Klan. Besides doing research, Steve attended court hearings and visited the Chambers County Jail and Kilby State Penitentiary to talk to prisoners and inspect living conditions.

All in all, Steve found working at SPLC and living in Montgomery for three months to be a tremendous experience. "I really enjoyed the work SPLC does and the experience of living in the South for the first time. The lawyers at SPLC are very good, and I learned a lot more law working with them than I would have back in the classroom. The entire SPLC staff treated me like family, and I am very appreciative of SPLC's generosity and kindness. It was especially nice to have been here for the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial."

The Law Center Fund

If you have ever wished you could do 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.

One New Jersey supporter left the Center nearly \$200,000 in his will, but philanthropy need not be limited to the well-to-do. Bequests of \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$5,000 are extremely important to the Center's future ability to fight for the ideals we all share.

A bequest to the Center through a will can help to reduce an estate for federal tax purposes and it can also

provide the satisfaction of knowing that you are not only benefiting the victims of injustice but all Americans by making our country a better place to live.

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

For More Information...

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Southern Poverty Law Center
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