

LAW REPORT

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

August 1990

Center Investigators To Be Portrayed In Motion Pictures

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — One of the "secrets" of the Law Center's success in its efforts to stop racial violence has been the extraordinary skill of the Klanwatch Project's investigative staff. Klanwatch Chief In-



JoAnn Chancellor

Danny Welch (left), Chief Investigator of the Klanwatch Project, and Klanwatch investigator Joe Roy

vestigator Danny worked on the Center's successful lawsuit on behalf of Beulah Mae Donald, whose son Michael was lynched by Klansmen near Mobile, Ala.

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Trial Date Nears In Skinhead Murder Case

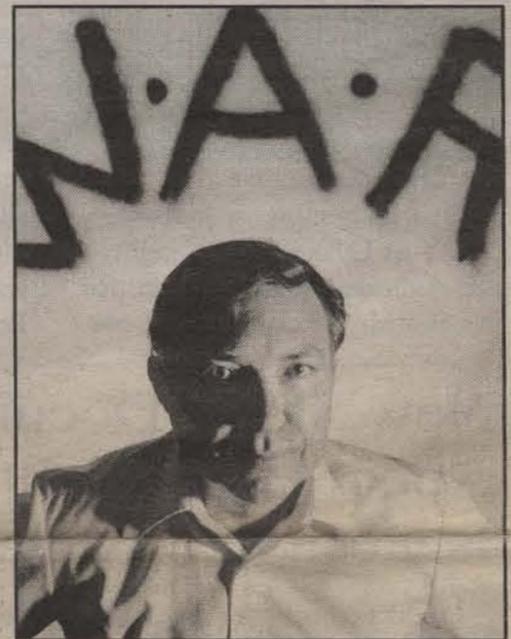
PORTLAND, Ore. — Center lawyers and investigators are working feverishly to prepare for the October 8th trial of the lawsuit against two Skinheads, white supremacists Tom and John Metzger, and their White Aryan Resistance organization. The Center intends to prove in court that agents of the Metzgers and W.A.R. encouraged the Portland Skinheads to commit acts of violence against minorities, and that Mulegeta Seraw, a student from Ethiopia, was murdered as a consequence of this encouragement.

Seraw was standing outside his apartment about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, 1989 saying goodbye to two friends who had just dropped him off. They were spotted by members of the East Side White Pride, a Skinhead group, that proceeded to savagely beat and kick Seraw and his friends. The friends escaped, but Seraw was struck and killed by a baseball bat wielded by Skinhead Ken "Ken Death" Mieske, who is now serving a life term for murder.

According to the lawsuit, the



The Center has filed a lawsuit against Skinhead Ken "Ken Death" Mieske (above), another Portland Skinhead, John (right) and Tom Metzger and their White Aryan Resistance group. The suit alleges that agents of the Metzgers and W.A.R. encouraged the Portland Skinheads to commit acts of violence against minorities. Mieske is serving a life term for the murder of a black man.



Brian Smale

Metzgers, through their agents, established communications in 1988 with members of the East

Side White Pride. The suit alleges that John Metzger — acting on (continued on page 3)

Three Aryan Nations Members Indicted For Planning Bombings

BOISE, Idaho — Three Aryan Nations members were indicted

May 17 for allegedly planning to bomb a gay bar, Jewish synagogues, and Korean businesses in Seattle.



Jeff Green

Entrance to the Aryan Nations compound in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Three members have been indicted for planning to bomb a gay bar, Jewish synagogues and Korean businesses in Seattle.

The suspects — Robert Winslow, 29, of Laclede, Idaho; Steven Nelson, 34, of Hayden Lake, Idaho; and Proctor Baker, 57, of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho — were each charged with one count of conspiracy to bomb, one count of knowingly making,

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Center's Executive Director and Klanwatch Receive NEA Award for Educational Work

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Education Association established its Annual Human and



National Education Association officials present Center Executive Director Morris Dees (right) with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Award.

Civil Rights Award Dinner to honor men and women who are

leaders in the continuous struggle to ensure human and civil rights. This year, Center Executive Director and co-founder Morris Dees received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Award in recognition of the work that he and the Klanwatch Project have done to advance the cause of racial harmony through public education.

In recent times, the Center, through its new Civil Rights Education Project, has begun to place increasing emphasis on the importance of public education in its efforts to stop racial violence. Last year, in conjunction with the dedication of the new Civil Rights Memorial, the Center's Civil Rights Education Project produced *Free At Last*, an educational publication that tells the story

(continued on page 2)



SPLC Mailbox

I have tremendous admiration for you and the work that you do, and I pray that the good Lord will watch over you and keep you safe from harm. I feel privileged to be able to support you and the Center.

— Caesar Romero
California

We were thrilled to visit your Center in Montgomery, and to see the lovely yet sobering sculpture commemorating the slain civil rights workers. You and your staff were gracious to us, and we appreciate this under the circumstances which you work. When we arrived home that night, the mailing from Judge Huffman about a Security Fund made a lot more sense to us.

We as Quakers value highly a life dedicated to truth and justice. As people of conscience our-

selves, we struggle with our own personal contribution to many pressing causes. Sometimes all we can do is pray for people or send a little money, especially in the case of your courageous Center work. Seeing your [Civil Rights] Memorial was a renewing experience that hopefully will spur us into meaningful action in our lives.

— L. Harris
J. Cardarelli
North Carolina

Here in Hawaii we hear very little about Klansmen and Skinheads. I was born and raised here and have heard too many people deny the reality that such groups exist! I took part in the 1987 march in Forsyth County and will forever have that memory recorded in my heart and soul. I remember marching with great sadness as I heard the shouts and jeers of those who raised their fists and sneered hate toward us. Perhaps the sadness came in rec-

ognizing how much alike we are as God's creation, yet how far apart we stood from recognizing each other as "family" to one another. I pray for your safekeeping and for God's blessing on your mission.

— D. Kong
Hawaii

I learned about the Center (like so many others, I'm sure) through the article in *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*. Now it's wonderful that the TV movie is being made so that other people will learn about your work.

Thank you for all you do and good luck against those horrid Metzgers!

— K. Romine
California

My association with you over the years has been most rewarding. Your handling of the Michael Donald case was superb — strike where it is most effective — the pocket book!

I am looking forward to the [TV] movie. I pray it will open the eyes of our bigoted friends. May you never give up hope for a better tomorrow.

— C. Lytle
Ohio

As a survivor of two totalitarian regimes I deeply appreciate this country despite its existing inequalities and injustices. To know that each month I have the opportunity to sustain, no matter how modestly, the Center's continuous efforts to right wrongs and bring justice to those who otherwise would have no one to plead their cases, gives me a profound sense of satisfaction.

I have marked my calendar to remember October 8th [the date the Center's lawsuit against the Metzgers and the Skinheads begins]. May you achieve on this date the very important objective that will be before you.

— I. Pozdnjakoff
New York

New SPLC Documentary Film About Civil Rights Movement Is Designed For Classroom Use

Production is under way on the Law Center's second documentary, a 30-minute film on the civil rights movement. Tailored for use in classrooms, the film will be distributed on videocassette free to schools across the country.

Heading the project is

Academy Award-winning filmmaker Charles Guggenheim, whose work includes the documentaries *R.F.K. Remembered*, and *Johnstown Flood*, as well as films for the Ellis Island Museum and the Lyndon B. Johnson Library at the University of Texas at Austin. He also produced the Center's 1982 film *The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America*, which was nominated for an Academy Award and shown on PBS. It continues to be used by schools, community groups, and law enforcement education programs.

The new documentary represents the latest expansion of SPLC's educational mission. The film will be distributed in conjunction with the book, *Free At Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle*. The book and the film grew out of the Center's experience as sponsor of the Civil Rights Memorial, designed by Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin and dedicated here last year.

The Civil Rights Education Project will be a key focus of the

NEA Award

(continued from page 1)

of the civil rights movement and those who died in the struggle. Over 100,000 copies have been distributed so far, and schools across the nation have purchased it at cost for classroom use.

The Civil Rights Education Project's next major project will be an educational documentary about the civil rights movement produced by Academy Award-winner Charles Guggenheim (see story at left).

The NEA's Martin Luther

King, Jr. Memorial Award is "presented for leadership and perseverance in applying the nonviolent philosophy and techniques of Martin Luther King, Jr. toward the achievement of human relations and civil rights goals." Through its award, the NEA has recognized the important role played by the Center's educational efforts in helping to advance peacefully toward the goal of greater human understanding between people of all races, colors and creeds.

Center in its third decade, according to Executive Director Morris

Dees. "The hundreds of schoolchildren we see visiting the memorial weekly, and the positive response *Free At Last* has enjoyed in the classroom has shown us that there is a tremendous need for accessible materials related to civil rights," said Dees. "If we can make young people question the roots of racist thinking, we have a chance to build a better future for all Americans."

As for Charles Guggenheim, conducting interviews with movement participants major and minor has proven an unforgettable experience. "I am constantly aware — and not a little awed — that I am talking face-to-face with history," he said, during a stop in Montgomery to interview participants of the 1955-56 bus boycott. "And it's a history told not only by the heroes, but by everyday people who did their part. There's a real sense of immediacy, a sense of the spirit of the movement. It's a spirit our children need to understand."

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Center

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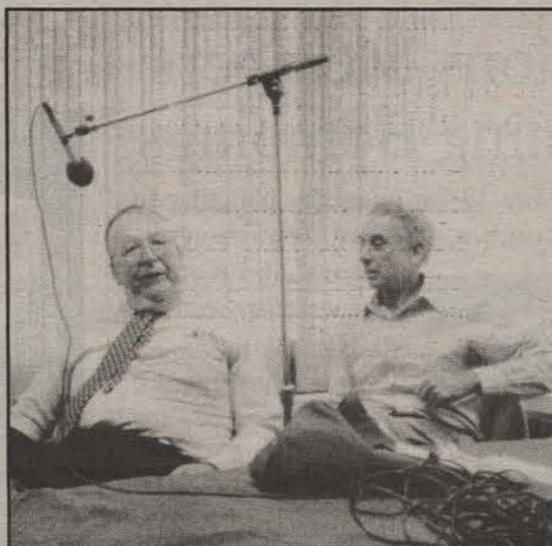
Morris S. Dees, Jr.
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Danny Welch
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Charles Guggenheim (right), Academy Award-winning filmmaker, records an interview for the new SPLC educational documentary. Joe Azbell (left), former city editor of *The Montgomery Advertiser*, wrote the first story about the Montgomery bus boycott.

Dees. "The hundreds of schoolchildren we see visiting the memorial weekly, and the positive

Skinhead Trial

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behalf of W.A.R. and his father — sent the agents to Portland to organize the Skinheads and persuade them to follow the white supremacist policies of W.A.R.

The Center has obtained a sworn affidavit from an ex-Skinhead leader in which he states that he and another Skinhead went to Portland to organize East Side White Pride, and that they were in contact almost daily with the Metzgers. The Skinhead leader's affidavit also says that both Tom and John Metzger encouraged him and other Skinheads to use violence against blacks and Jews.

The Metzgers have engaged in a number of tactics to stall the lawsuit or have it dismissed. John Metzger, in an attempt to escape liability, filed for protection under a little-used provision of the bankruptcy laws. All of these attempts have failed, and the October 8th trial date is firm.

Like the lawsuit filed by the Center in the Michael Donald lynching case, this suit will attempt to hold W.A.R. legally responsible for the acts of its agents. If successful, it could virtually eliminate W.A.R. as an ef-

Bomb Plot

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receiving or possessing pipe bombs, and one count of carrying firearms in relation to a crime of violence.

Aided by information from a wired FBI informant, federal authorities arrested Winslow and Nelson just hours before they planned to detonate a bomb at the gay club on May 12. A search of their vehicle revealed a 6-inch pipe with caps for both ends, smokeless gunpowder, a coil of primer fuse, a propane cylinder, a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, a .38-caliber revolver, a "stun gun," knives, and hate literature.

The third suspect, Baker, was arrested the same day at his mobile home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where authorities found three military assault rifles believed to have been illegally converted to fully automatic firing, as well as about 60 pounds of black powder. Bomb materials were found at another residence where Baker was in the process of moving.

Additional searches were executed by agents of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at the Aryan Nations Compound in Mayden Lake, and other locations in Idaho.

Secret Paramilitary Camp Trained Skinheads In The Use Of Firearms and Explosives

WHITEFISH, Mont. — Skinheads underwent firearms training and manufactured explosives at a paramilitary training camp near here for more than a year.

"Camp David," where about a dozen youths were indoctrinated, was run by Hitler devotee Karl V. David. He is believed to have ties to White Aryan Resistance leader Tom Metzger (see story on page 1). Investigators say David drove a van load of Skinheads to the 1989 Aryan Nations Congress.

Neighbors reported hearing automatic gunfire from the compound, and a visitor allegedly saw a munitions room stocked with 300 weapons. By the time authorities searched the camp in March, David and his recruits had fled. They may also have dismantled illegal explosives and taken weapons with them.

The camp was fortified with sandbags and surrounded with barbed wire. Investigators found several foxholes and rifle targets, electrical wires that could have been connected to a bomb, and



Milton Adams/Ft. Worth Star Telegram

Skinheads like these were being trained in the use of firearms and explosives at a secret paramilitary camp in Montana.

chemicals that could have been used to make plastic explosives.

Camp leader David was not charged with any crime but was being sought for questioning. "We know that he left here with a large cache of weapons," said D.W. "Bud" Biddle, Flathead County Undersheriff.

Center Investigators

(continued from page 1)

Through tireless determination and investigative know-how, Mr. Welch's colleague, investigator Joe Roy, found evidence in the Loyal Garner, Jr. case that recently led to the murder convictions of three Hemphill, Texas, lawmen.

The exceptional work of these investigators is now receiving well-deserved public recognition through portrayals in two motion pictures. Mr. Welch will be played by actor James Staley in *A Season for Justice: The Morris Dees Story*, an NBC made for television film scheduled to air this October. As reported in the May 1990 *Law Report*, actor Corbin Bernson of *L.A. Law* fame will play the part of Morris Dees, Center Executive Director.

Investigator Joe Roy's experiences in the Garner case is the proposed subject of a made for cable television movie to be broadcast some time next year. Center Legal Director J. Richard Cohen, whose expert legal work in the Garner case helped establish a solid groundwork for the later murder convictions of the

Texas lawmen, will also be portrayed in this film.

Danny Welch

Chief Investigator Welch joined the Center's Klanwatch Project in 1985. He brought with him a wealth of practical experience and training in the investigative field. He was a member of the Montgomery Police Department for 10 years and spent nine of those years as a detective. When he left the Montgomery Police Department, he was a shift commander for the robbery/homicide unit.

Mr. Welch has taken numerous courses in law enforcement and investigative techniques. He graduated from the Drug Enforcement Administration's school on narcotics and dangerous drugs as well as the bomb disposal school at Redstone Arsenal. He also completed classes on bombs and explosives at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and courses in homicide and major crime scene investigation at Northwestern University in Illinois.

Dealing with North Carolina's White Patriot Party (WPP) and its illegal paramilitary activity was Mr. Welch's first challenge when he joined Klanwatch. He discovered evidence

that the WPP was acquiring weapons stolen from military bases, and his work helped lead to the eventual disbandment of the WPP.

One of Mr. Welch's priorities at Klanwatch has been to see that law enforcement agencies are kept well informed about white supremacist activities and that they know how to deal with it. As part of this goal, he has taught numerous seminars to law enforcement agencies around the United States.

In the NBC motion picture, Mr. Welch is portrayed at the Michael Donald trial and shown setting up a security team to protect Center Executive Director Morris Dees.

Joe Roy

Klanwatch investigator Joe Roy was a member of the Montgomery Police Department for seven years, and was a robbery/homicide detective when he left. In addition to the Drug Enforcement Administration's school in Washington, Mr. Roy attended a school at Eastman Kodak that taught how to reconstruct crime scenes from photographs. He also attended numerous advanced classes and seminars in investigative tech-

niques in Alabama.

After leaving the Montgomery Police Department, he started his own detective agency, which dealt exclusively with law firms as clients. One of his clients was the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Mr. Roy eventually sold his detective agency to a security consulting firm, and in 1986 he became a full-time investigator for the Center's Klanwatch Project. His investigative skills played a crucial role in winning freedom for Roy Patterson, a former black Marine Sergeant unjustly sentenced to life for the murder of a white Georgia policeman. Mr. Roy located witnesses, coordinated the testimony of ballistics experts, and, through a reconstruction of the crime scene, demonstrated that Roy Patterson was not a murderer.

In the Forsyth County case, he uncovered evidence of a conspiracy by Klansmen to stop the civil rights march, and he found witnesses who would testify against the Klan.

The made for cable film proposes to tell the story of how Mr. Roy came to the Klanwatch Project, and how he worked with Legal Director J. Richard Cohen in the Garner case.

White Supremacists Exploit Racial Tensions On College Campuses

White supremacists are taking advantage of rising racial tensions on college campuses by organizing white students and inflaming a strong undercurrent of racism. Their efforts have led to overt racial confrontations, acts of harassment and violence, and counter-organizing by angry black students.

The current trend of campus bigotry and violence began during the late 1980s. Between 1986 and 1989, the U.S. Justice Department reports, racial incidents on college campuses nearly tripled. In 1990 so far, Justice Department officials have gone to 29 schools to assess racial incidents.

U.S. Civil Rights Commission chair Arthur A. Fletcher said "there's serious concern — even alarm — about this trend."

During the past few months, it has become clear that white supremacists are trying to capitalize on racial tensions in order to gain white recruits.

- In Peoria, Ill., in February, Matt Hale, 18, began soliciting recruits at Bradley University for his American White Supremacist Party. Hale, a freshman political science student, has about 15 followers.

- In Gainesville, Fla., in March, The White Student Union led by Mark Wright won official University of Florida recognition.

- At Southeastern University in Hammond, La., members of the Kappa Delta Theta fraternity awarded white supremacist candidate David Duke an honorary membership. At Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, a Young Republicans club endorsed Duke even though the state Republican party supports a more moderate candidate.

The overt allegiance to racist

causes on campus has been accompanied by an increase in incidents of violence and harassment. Some examples:

- In Bloomington, Ind., in March, vandals painted swastikas, "Kill Jews," and "Kill niggers" on four walls. "Nigger fag" was written on the door of Dean of Students Michael Gordon.

- In Silver City, N.M., in May, black Western New Mexico University professor Matthew Hutcherson found a 7-foot cross burning in his yard. Hutcherson is the only black faculty member at the college.

The atmosphere of racism on predominantly white campuses is no secret.

In a recent national survey, one out of four college presidents admitted that racial tensions were a problem on their campus.

Some black students are fighting back. At the University of Florida, blacks organized a defense force whose members dress in fatigues and berets, in response to the creation of a White Student Union on campus.

At Bradley University in Illinois, a Minority Coalition encouraged black students to wear black armbands until the administration responded to racial problems. In Philadelphia in May, black Temple University students halted traffic with a sit-in after an incident in which white fraternity members chased three blacks with bats and sticks.

The surge in racial strife has administrators confounded. Many have begun requiring courses in ethnic diversity and sponsoring seminars on race relations. Yet most agree that real solutions to the problem will have to come from the students themselves.

regate the county school system.

The county school system is presently 55% black and 45% white. If Valley is allowed to form its own system, the result will be two separate systems — one overwhelmingly white (Valley's) and the other overwhelmingly black (the County's). Moreover, if Valley separates, it will take the superior facilities and equipment with it.

If Valley is successful, it is likely that other majority white Alabama's cities in the black-belt will follow suit. The move to create a separate school sys-

Center Summer Interns

For fifteen summers, the Center has sponsored a clerkship program for law students. Through it, students are given the chance to participate in the legal process and are exposed to a non-traditional practice in public interest law. This summer, the Center has employed three outstanding law students.

LAURIE PANTELL

Ms. Pantell did her undergraduate work at Brown University and is now a first year law student at Boalt Hall in

Berkeley, California. Her interest in Southern culture and commitment to civil rights attracted her to the Southern Poverty Law Center. To finance her summer experience here, Ms. Pantell received a grant from Boalt Hall's Student Funded Fellowships Program. She is working on the Center's case challenging the judicial election system in Alabama and she has researched issues for the Center's case challenging the indigent defense system in Chambers County, Alabama.

She plans to put her Law Center experience to good use in both her academic and political activities.

KIM SWEET

Kim Sweet came to the Law Center after her first year at Columbia Law School. She is one of sixty participants in the Human Rights Internship Program, a Columbia project that sends students to public interest organizations across the United States and to countries around world.

While she was an undergraduate at Brown University, she paid weekly visits to residents of a local retirement home and worked during the summer for a program providing legal and emotional counseling to victims and witnesses of crimes. After college, Ms. Sweet worked for

two years for the attorney general's office in Boston.



Kim Sweet, Laurie Pantell, Steven Weisbrod

In law school, she volunteered at a clinic for the homeless, and was active in the Columbia Law Women's Organization and the Public Interest Law Student's Association (PILSA). This year, she will participate in a fair housing clinic and develop a newsletter of public interest opportunities for Columbia law students in New York City.

While at the Center, Ms. Sweet has drafted an appellate brief in the Forsyth County case and is also working on the Chambers County indigent defense case.

STEPHEN WEISBROD

Stephen Weisbrod earned his B.A. from the University of Michigan and is entering his final year at Harvard Law School.

At Harvard, he is a member of the Prison Legal Assistance Project and an editor of the Civil Rights - Civil Liberties Law Review. After spending half his summer at a large New York law firm, Mr. Weisbrod came to the Southern Poverty Law Center because of his interest in public service. Mr. Weisbrod has spent his time at the Center researching issues for a prison conditions case and the Center's case challenging Alabama's judicial election system. After graduation, he will clerk for Justice Alan Handler on the New Jersey Supreme Court.

DOCKET UPDATE

LEE v. CHAMBERS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHAMBERS COUNTY, ALABAMA. Center attorneys, along with noted civil rights attorney Solomon Seay, Jr., and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund have filed objections in federal court to a proposal by the City of Valley, Alabama to form its own school system separate from the Chambers County school system. Center attorneys are objecting to the separation because of the negative impact it will have on efforts to deseg-

regate the county school system. In 1988, the first blacks were elected to the Chambers County Board of Education and the Chambers County Commission as a result of a 1985 law suit brought by the Center.

McKinney v.

Southern White Knights

ATLANTA, GEORGIA. Almost two years after a jury returned a verdict of nearly one million dollars for a group of peaceful marchers in Forsyth County, Georgia, the Klan defendants are petitioning the federal courts for a new trial. The

Klans' motion for a new trial, based on "newly discovered" evidence, was recently denied by the federal district court and is now pending in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Center attorneys are busy preparing briefs for the appeal.

Also pending is the criminal prosecution of David Holland — National Director of Southern White Knights and one of the key Forsyth County defendants — on perjury and obstruction of justice charges stemming from his attempts to evade the Center's collection efforts. Mr. Holland was indicted in March 1990 by a federal grand jury. No trial date has been set.