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LAW REPORT

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

October 1991

Metzger's House Sold At Auction

Estate Of Murdered Black Man Controls White Supremacist's House

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — On August 28, the house of white supremacist Tom Metzger was sold at an auction as partial satisfaction of the \$12.5 million civil judgment obtained by Center lawyers on behalf of the family of Mulugeta Seraw. The judgment was obtained against Metzger and his followers for the beating death of Mulugeta Seraw by neo-Nazi Skinheads in Portland, Oregon.

The only bidder for the house was Center volunteer attorney James McElroy, who was acting for Mr. Seraw's family. He bid the minimum amount allowable, \$121,500. McElroy stated that once Metzger moves out of the house, and some repair work is completed, the house will be sold through a real estate agent. It is expected to bring \$155,000. This money will be subtracted from the judgment that Metzger owes to Mr. Seraw's family.

Metzger, who is being tried in Los Angeles in connection with a 1988 cross burning (see sidebar at right), did not come to the auction. A sergeant with the San Diego County marshal's office conducted the auction outside the Vista courthouse.

On October 22, 1990, a Portland jury found that Tom Metzger, (continued on page 2)



Photo by Rob Gauthier, San Diego Union

The House on Sunbeam Lane

Located on Sunbeam Lane in Fallbrook, Calif., the house of white supremacist Tom Metzger was sold at a marshal's auction on August 28 to partially pay the multi-million dollar judgment that Metzger owes to the family of the murdered Mulugeta Seraw.



Photo by Tony Doubek, San Diego Tribune

The Winning Bid

Center volunteer attorney James McElroy (standing just left of center) submitted the winning bid for Tom Metzger's house on behalf of the Seraw family.

Center Launches Major New Educational Project

Aim Is To Promote The Teaching Of Tolerance In Schools

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — All over the country, teachers are "thirsty for information" dealing with fairness and diver-

sity, the president of the National Association of State Boards of Education recently said.

With its new magazine, *Teaching Tolerance*, the Law Center aims to quench that thirst. Months before the first issue is due out, teachers are already responding enthusiastically to the project:

"I am delighted with your focus on education," wrote an early childhood educator in California.

"It pleases me that you are publishing a guide for teaching

tolerance and fairness. It will be welcome by many teachers," a North Carolina high school teacher wrote.

"Your project has a lot of potential for making a very positive impact," said a PTA president from Virginia.

Teaching Tolerance will be the first national forum for teachers to share techniques and explore new ideas in the areas of tolerance and diversity. Through features, resource

Metzger On Trial For Cross Burning

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — White supremacist Tom Metzger is now on trial along with three others who are charged with burning a cross in a predominantly black neighborhood in 1983. Metzger testified on September 10 that he was invited to attend the cross burning by Frank Silva, a former Ku Klux Klan leader. Silva is now serving 40 years in federal prison for racketeering convictions. Metzger further testified that the purpose in burning the cross was to memorialize a Los Angeles police officer who had been killed by a robbery suspect.

Claiming he was reluctant to attend the cross burning, Metzger testified that he told Klan leader Silva that he would come only if he could give a speech "detailing about [how] I feel there's a more modern way to go about things, that cross-lightings are kind of passé and they tend to attract attention."

Metzger, along with two of his co-defendants, has been charged with one felony count of conspiracy to commit unlawful burning and two misdemeanor counts of unlawful burning and unlawful assembly.

If convicted, Metzger faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison.

summaries, and activity guides, *Teaching Tolerance* will expose educators to programs that have proven successful and offer practical activities that can be easily reproduced for the classroom.

The first issue of *Teaching Tolerance*, scheduled for publication in December 1991, will (continued on page 2)



The Center's new biannual *Teaching Tolerance* magazine is designed to help teachers introduce the teaching of tolerance into their classrooms.



SPLC Mailbox

I am so glad you won the case against Tom Metzger. I will be praying you will get a buyer for his home soon (see story on page 1). It's wonderful to have someone like attorney McElroy to help you. I am so glad Seraw's son will be taken care of, but so sad he had to lose his father for no reason at all.

— N. Blumenau
New York

We think the monument you had designed and put in place to commemorate the civil rights movement is particularly beautiful and appropriate. The work you are doing is most commendable. We are glad to contribute in furtherance of this effort.

— M. Hall
Colorado

I have been a victim of racial harassment for nearly 2 years now. Yesterday I was granted an injunction against my harasser. The papers were served today. I hope there will be no violent repercussions.

The struggle against racism is a long, hard road. But I feel that justice for the victims of racial harassment can only happen if we all work together for human and civil rights. Please keep up the good fight.

— P. Sullivan
Arizona

LAW REPORT

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a publication of the
Southern Poverty Law Center

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Montgomery, AL 36104

The September issue of Smithsonian Magazine featured a cover story about the Civil Rights Memorial.

I just wanted to tell you that I was very pleased when I received my September issue of *Smithsonian*, and saw the cover portraying the Civil Rights Memorial. I was proud to be a part of this great tribute to the men and women who fought for their rights and died for the cause.

— B. Regnatto
New York

Bravo! for the wonderful article in *Smithsonian* magazine. The story of the Civil Rights Memorial was so moving — I was in tears. I hope to visit the Memorial some day. Until then, best of luck.

— J. Emery
Massachusetts

I read the stunning article about the Center in *Smithsonian* magazine. Now I know how valuable my small contribution is.

— J. Jones
California

I was deeply touched by the article on the monument in front of the Center which appeared in the *Smithsonian* magazine. I felt proud to be even a very small contributor to such a visionary project.

Thank all of you for the work you do and the risks you take.

— J. Tanaha
Pennsylvania

I received *Smithsonian* magazine with an article about the Center. I am more convinced than ever that your work is essential. I am continually amazed that those who preach hate have the gall to wrap themselves in the flag and the cross. Their message has nothing to do with either one. Please know that you have both my heartfelt thanks and support in your important and ongoing work.

— L. Grim
Iowa

Being from the Northwest I long thought that somehow we were different and somehow we were not affected by KKK activities (or those of their ilk). Recent years have shown scores of such activities arise in our area and have underscored how wrong my thinking was. (See story on page 3). As a new father my concerns for the future of our society are magnified. Thank you all for taking a concerted but level-headed approach to dealing with these hateful groups.

— R. Gerry
Washington

I recently had the opportunity

Metzger's House Sold

(continued from page 1)

his son John, and their White Aryan Resistance group had incited Skinhead followers to commit the baseball bat murder of Mulugeta Seraw. Mr. Seraw, an Ethiopian, lived in Portland and planned to continue his education. He had one son, 9-year-old Henok, who, since the trial, has come to live with his uncle in America. Center volunteer attor-

ney McElroy has worked hundreds of hours in his efforts to seize Metzger's assets to pay the judgment Metzger owes to the Seraw family. This has included taking steps to insure that contributions sent to Metzger's White Aryan Resistance go toward paying the judgment. Attorney McElroy also seized items from Metzger's television repair business and a house trailer that Metzger used for meetings with his white supremacist followers.

to speak with Morris Dees at the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association at Hilton Head. (See story on page 7). I work part-time at a law firm in Aiken, South Carolina and am in school full-time. I plan to become an attorney and shall start law school in August of next year.

Listening to Mr. Dees speak made me proud of the profession of which I soon hope to become a part. His words were from the heart. It is reassuring that idealistic people can make their hopes come true as he has done.

— A. McGree
South Carolina

So very good to hear of your steady stream of victories. I heartily agree that education is the answer. As a young boy, privileged to attend school and grow up with many ethnic mixtures of children, we at least accepted each other.

Teaching Tolerance

(continued from page 1)

include an interview with author Robert Coles, features on model "tolerance" projects in New York and Miami, essays by teachers in Oregon and North Carolina, and pages of educational resources.

The magazine will be sent free twice a year to approximately 150,000 teachers and school administrators around the country.

America's strength and progress has its roots in our Rainbow Population. The ideas and ingenuity contributed by all races is the very foundation of our country. Keep up the good work and know all of you at the Southern Poverty Law Center that you are in our prayers for your safety and success.

— V. Dios and L. Harris
Connecticut

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE

Helping The Center's Long-Term Struggle
Against Racism and Injustice

The Southern Poverty Law Center has developed a planned giving program called PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE. By participating in PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE through their wills and other means of planned giving, Center donors can extend their support for equality and justice beyond their own lifetimes — into a future when concerned people like them may be all too rare.

Because the number of people willing to stand up for justice seems to be gradually dwindling, the Center has decided that it must establish a permanent endowment large enough to sustain the Center's operations for many years to come.

Through wills, trusts and other arrangements, Center supporters can help insure that the Center is there to help the victims of injustice and

racial violence well into the next century.

If you would like more information about planned giving, please write the Center at:

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE
The Southern Poverty Law
Center
P.O. Box 548
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

Please specify if you are interested in information about wills, revocable trusts, life income trusts, real estate gifts, retirement plans, charitable remainder trusts, insurance policies, or securities.

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

Northwest Skinheads Arming for Race War

Neo-Nazi American Front Joins Forces with Aryan Nations

PORTLAND, ORE. — Skinheads in the Northwest are becoming less visible and more dangerous, say police and human rights groups. Once easily identified by their shaved heads, members of the violence-prone, racist gangs are growing hair and trading their traditional baseball bats and brass knuckles for guns. These developments increase their potential for violence and make tracking their activities more difficult.

Police investigator Larry Siewert says Portland Skinheads are stronger and better organized than they have been since 1988, when the movement was at its peak and Ethiopian emigre Mulugeta Seraw was beaten to death by three Skinheads with baseball bats.

Skinheads Becoming Politically Active

The Center's successful lawsuit

against Skinheads involved in that murder and white supremacist Tom Metzger may have convinced some Skinheads that random violence does little to advance their cause. They are advocating political activism instead. The neo-Nazi American Front, for example, now urges members to attend neighborhood meetings, organize events such as the "Free Tom Metzger" rally in Portland, and demand other platforms for their racist views. But, even as they preach non-violence and political commitment, American Front members are accumulating guns, preparing for the race war they believe is inevitable.

American Front Leaders Meet With Other White Supremacists

American Front leaders Robert Heick and Elizabeth Bullis recently moved to Portland, where they met with representatives of other mili-

tant white supremacist groups, including Richard Butler's Aryan Nations and the remnants of Tom Metzger's White Aryan Resistance. (Bullis has since moved to Salt Lake City, Utah). Former American Front East Coast director David Lynch recently moved to Sacramento, California, where he set up a hotline. Lynch also was seen this summer in Portland. At least one expert says this may mean that Heick, Bullis and Lynch

(continued on page 6)



Photo by Dean Guennsey

Some Skinheads are advocating political activism instead of violence, and they are organizing demonstrations, like this one in Portland for Tom Metzger.

Poindexter Memorial Gift Received By Law Center

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — The Law Center recently received a memorial gift from longtime supporter June Hunzinger. It was accompanied by the following statement: "I am sending you \$1,000 in remembrance of my precious son, David Poindexter, whom I lost earlier this year. He spent his entire life fighting the ugliness of hatred and discrimination, and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute."

The Center called to thank Ms. Hunzinger and find out more about Mr. Poindexter's life. His mother remarked that David, born in Chicago in 1933, faced racism from birth as a child whose mother was white and whose father was black. As Ms. Hunzinger said, life was "no picnic" for a biracial child.

In addition to living in Chicago, David also lived in New York City and Buffalo and spent the last 10 years of his life with his mother in Key West. He enjoyed a variety of occupations. During one period, Mr. Poindexter bought dilapidated houses and renovated them for resale. Toward the end of his life, he became a computer expert and used these talents professionally.

Although he did not graduate from high school, David Rudolph Poindexter III was extremely knowledgeable about many subjects and, according to his mother, was "a self-taught man." A voracious reader, particularly interested in Shakespeare, literature, and drama, Mr. Poindexter added a

room to his house to shelve his books.

"Whatever David did, he did well," stated Ms. Hunzinger. He was quite an athlete, particularly adept at swimming, diving and ice skating, as well as a championship chess player.

David Poindexter worked for racial justice and equality throughout his life. As a small child, he found his place on the picket lines with his mother who spent many years as an advocate of the "nine Scottsboro boys," unjustly accused of rape in Alabama in the 1930's.

Poindexter rallied against any form of racial discrimination, particularly housing and employment inequities. Although never actively engaged in politics, he worked hard behind the scenes in the political arena. Ms. Hunzinger remarked that city officials in Buffalo consulted him about race relations in that city.

David Poindexter died on January 19, 1991, after a long bout with emphysema. In addition to his mother, he leaves 2 sons, both musicians who develop movie soundtracks in California, and several grandchildren.

The Center was most grateful to have been selected by Ms. Hunzinger as the recipient of this gift in memory of her son. Such gifts are put to work in the struggle for the ideals of equality and justice that are so important to the Center's staff and to those named in the memorial gift.

Longtime Supporters Visit Law Center

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — The Law Center was honored recently when Mary and Edsel Ruddiman of Ocean Springs, Mississippi paid a visit to Center headquarters and the Civil Rights Memorial. Longtime supporters of the Center's work, the Ruddimans have contributed monthly through the Friends of the Center program since

current education project aimed at teaching tolerance in the classroom. (See story on page 1).

Edsel Ruddiman is a longtime proponent of justice and human rights also. As an engineer with Ingalls Shipbuilders in Pascagoula, Mississippi, he felt fortunate to have been in the department when the first black engineer was hired by Ingalls in the late sixties. Mr. Ruddiman stated that he is an admirer of the Center's work, courage, and philosophy.

The Ruddimans are among a number of special guests who have visited the Center in the past few months. In April, longtime supporter and prize-winning novelist Alice Walk-



Executive Director Morris Dees, Mary Ruddiman, Edsel Ruddiman, and Center Legal Director Richard Cohen. The Ruddimans have helped support the work of the Center through a monthly pledge since 1972.

er, in Montgomery for a book-signing event, paid a visit to the Center. Then-Attorney-General Dick Thornburg came by to see Morris Dees and Center headquarters in May while in Alabama on official business.

Other special visitors to the Center during the summer included: — Mrs. Sarah B. Sims, faithful supporter since 1983, and her friend, Mrs. Addye Lightner, both of the greater Denver area, returning home after visits to Savannah

April 1972, just a few months after the Center began. Mr. and Mrs. Ruddiman first heard of the Center through the mail. The Ruddimans chose to support the Center because of their ardent belief in the Center's work to provide free legal representation for victims of injustice. Always a strong advocate of civil rights, Mrs. Ruddiman first become involved with the civil rights movement in the 1960s in Michigan. A retired high school social studies teacher, she is especially excited about the Center's

er, in Montgomery for a book-signing event, paid a visit to the Center. Then-Attorney-General Dick Thornburg came by to see Morris Dees and Center headquarters in May while in Alabama on official business.

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(continued on page 6)

New Additions To Center's Staff

Jan Crawford Law Student

Jan Crawford is a native Alabamian and a reporter for *The Chicago Tribune*. She is also a second-year student at the University of Chicago Law School. *The Tribune* allowed Ms. Crawford a brief leave of absence to work with Center attorneys for a few weeks before returning to law school and her job at the newspaper. She is currently working on the Center's Voting Rights Case.

As a student at the University of Alabama and editor of *The Crimson White*, Ms. Crawford said she became interested in the Center's civil rights work. She plans to combine her journalism experience with a law degree and focus on First Amendment and civil rights issues.



Jan Crawford

Ms. Crawford has also worked as an intern for the *Dallas Morning News* and as a campus correspondent for *Newsweek*. After graduating with honors and a degree in journalism, she joined *The Tribune* in 1987 as a news reporter.

Arizona Teacher Begins Fellowship With Center's New Teaching Tolerance Project

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — When Lori Punske first heard about the Law Center, she eagerly asked if she could do summer volunteer work. After reviewing her credentials — a published writer with a master's degree in education and four years experience as a high school English teacher — the Center decided it wouldn't do to have her here for only part of the year. So Ms. Punske was asked to take a leave of absence from Flowing Wells High School in Tucson, Arizona



Lori Punske (center) tells about the Center's new Teaching Tolerance Project to exchange students who attend Alabama State University in Montgomery.

and begin a one-year fellowship with the Center's new education project, Teaching Tolerance. She will be producing a teacher's guide for the Center's upcoming new civil rights film and text package; gathering resource materials on tolerance; and writing articles for the new magazine, *Teaching Tolerance*. (See story on page 1).

"Lori has quickly become invaluable," said Teaching Tolerance Director Sara Bullard. "Her expertise in the classroom and her abundant creativity have brought

new depth and insight to our education efforts."

Although she expects to miss her students, Ms. Punske welcomed the chance to work for a purpose she deeply believes in. "This opportunity is truly a windfall," she said. "It incorporates my concern for social consciousness with the ability to make an impact on teaching nationwide. My volunteer experience with a free clinic for the indigent, and my students' projects on refugee resettlement led me here, where I have the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of people toward a most worthwhile goal."

Sonya Rudenstine College Student

Sonya Rudenstine is a political science major at Stanford Uni-



Sonya Rudenstine

versity. She is writing a thesis on the privatization of prisons and preparing for a career in prison reform and public interest law.

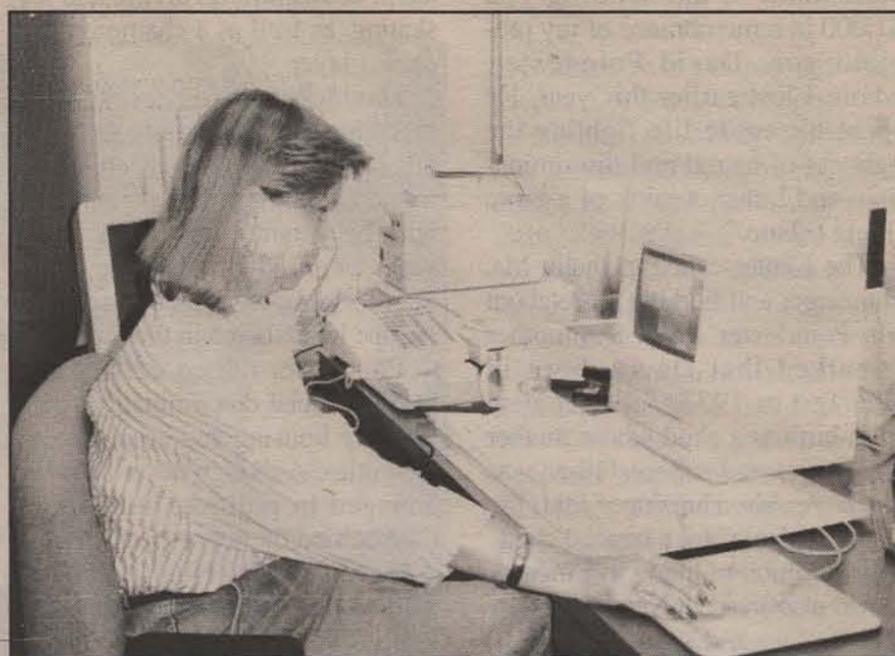
Ms. Rudenstine says she has followed the Center's civil rights work in the *Law Report* for about seven years. She wanted to come to the Center to gain experience in civil rights and poverty law.

Since her arrival, Ms. Rudenstine has helped conduct research on various aspects of the Center's voting rights case that challenges the way judges are elected in Alabama. Last summer she worked in the Bronx Court House as part of the Bronx Community Service Sentencing Project.

Angie Lowry Writer/Researcher Klanwatch Project

Award winning journalist Angie Lowry joined the Center's staff in July as a Writer/Researcher for the Klanwatch Pro-

Governor's Office as Assistant Press Secretary. In Alabama she served as Public Information Officer to the Alabama Senate and as a news and political reporter for several Alabama newspapers. She received the Associated Press Newswriting Award for her work



Angie Lowry

ject. She said she was attracted to the Center because of its high ideals and effectiveness.

"As an Alabamian living out of state for the past several years, it's given me a lot of pleasure to read about the Center's achievements. I'm excited to work here and have the opportunity to contribute in a small way to an effort that makes a difference in people's lives."

Ms. Lowry worked for several years as publications writer and editor for the Texas Senate. Before that she worked in the Texas

with *The Decatur Daily* and *The Tuscaloosa News*.

The accomplished writer and editor will now be putting her skills and talents to use as part of the Klanwatch team of investigators and writers that monitor white supremacist activities and publish intelligence and education reports.

Ms. Lowry received a B.A. in journalism and English from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Her other interests include politics and women's rights issues.

Continue Tradition of Excellence

Sidney Hill Administrative Assistant Klanwatch Project

Sidney Hill came to the Center a year ago to help in collecting data for the Center's voting rights case that challenges the way judges are elected in Alabama. After working as a research assistant to staff attorneys, Mr. Hill was promoted to a full-time position as an Administrative Assistant with the Klanwatch Project. His new responsibilities include collecting, processing, and inputting data from photographs relating to the Klan and other hate group activities.

The native Montgomerian stated that it is important to keep track of hate groups such as the Klan because they pose a serious threat to society.

Mr. Hill studied political sci-



Sidney Hill

ence at Tuskegee Institute and Central Texas College before serving in the U.S. Army for three years. From 1982 until 1990 he worked as a funeral director at Phillips-Riley Funeral Home in Montgomery.

Paul Roskin Law Student

Paul Roskin, a former Peace Corps Volunteer, is a third-year



Paul Roskin

law student at Northeastern University School of Law. He said he was attracted to the Center be-

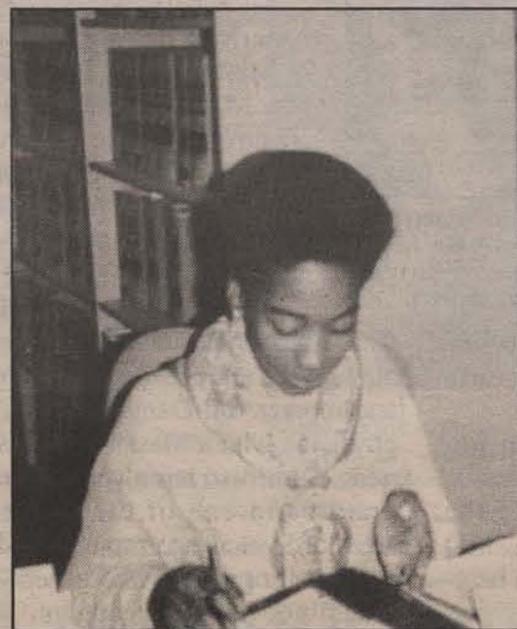
cause of his interest in constitutional litigation and civil rights.

Mr. Roskin's legal experiences include an internship with a Massachusetts' trial court judge and a clerkship with a Boston firm that specializes in labor law and employment discrimination. He has also served as a student advocate in the immigration unit of Northeastern's legal services clinic.

Mr. Roskin earned his A.B. degree in economics from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. As a Peace Corps Volunteer he taught English and mathematics to secondary school students in the Fiji Islands.

Ginette Estelle Mayas Law Student

Ginette Estelle Mayas comes to the Center as an intern from Northeastern University School of Law.



Ginette Estelle Mayas

She holds a B.A. in French from Drew University in New Jersey, an M.A. in French from Middlebury College in Vermont and Paris X-Nanterre in France, and a Diplome Superieur de

Francais des Affaires from Chambre De Commerce Et D'Industrie De Paris in France. Ms. Mayas expects to receive her J.D. in May 1992.

Her previous legal experience includes a clerkship in the office of the General Counsel for National Public Radio and an internship with U. S. District Judge Shane Devine of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

Among Ms. Mayas' other accomplishments are her service as a research assistant for an international law professor at Northeastern; personal assistant to executive producer of the news and documentary series Frontline/WGBH Television; and teaching assistant at Ecole Commercial De La Chambre Et D'Industrie De Paris.

Upon her return to Northeastern, Ms. Mayas will serve as a teaching assistant to first-year law students. While at the Center she will work with staff attorneys on a variety of projects.

Kelly Dallmeyer Paralegal

Kelly Dallmeyer graduated in May from Hollins College, in Roanoke, Virginia with a B.A. in political science. She interned at the Center last January but returned this summer as a full time member of the Legal Department. She landed the position of paralegal after assisting Center attorneys last winter on several projects.

While a student at Hollins, she participated in several community service projects, including a half way house for juveniles. She also served as Student Investigator on landlord/tenant cases with the D.C. Law Students in Court Project.



Kelly Dallmeyer

She has joined the Family Selection Committee of Montgomery's Habitat for Humanity group and looks forward to getting involved with other projects. She is originally from York, Pennsylvania.

ATTENTION: Law Students, and Family And Friends of Law Students

The Southern Poverty Law Center offers both summer internships and externships during the school year for law students interested in civil rights law. Our programs involve a fair amount of legal writing and research. For students on the externship program, we usually coordinate a special project with each student, perhaps a memo or appeals brief on a topic that is of interest to the student and that enables them to write a paper to fulfill their course requirements. We also try to expose each student to the various phases of litigation — depositions, trials, etc. And we usually involve students in nonlitigation projects. (The Law Center does more than litigate; we also try to educate the public about poverty issues, civil rights, and racial violence.)

Students will have an oppor-

tunity to work closely with each of the attorneys on a variety of legal matters. Students have fairly close supervision from attorneys at all times. We keep in regular contact with students about their assignments, and we give regular feedback about the work they do.

Intern salaries are competitive with the federal government and other public interest organizations. Students are encouraged to seek outside funding when available. Furnished housing is provided to all students.

Interested students should send a resume, writing sample, and the name and telephone number of three references to Elizabeth Johnson, P.O. Box 2087, Montgomery, Alabama 36102-2087. The Southern Poverty Law Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Supporters Visit Center

(continued from page 3)

and Atlanta. Mrs. Sims stated that she had become involved in the



Longtime supporter Mrs. Sarah Sims (right) from Aurora, Colo. visits the Center with her friend, Mrs. Addye Lightner (left). They are pictured with Center Executive Director Morris Dees.

Center's work as a result of increased Klan activity in the early '80s.

— Ms. Letty Baker, from Ireland, touring the United States as a World Vice President of the JAYCEES. An attorney, Ms. Baker was very interested in hearing about the Center's civil rights cases and plans to pursue the same approach in Ireland.

— Stephen Schwartz, Friend of the Center since 1979, stopped by the Center while travelling through Montgomery from his home in Florida.

— several groups of exchange students currently studying in Alabama, including law students from the University of Alabama and students from various colleges and universities currently in a program at Alabama State University.

— Chris Mantz, an American history teacher in Staffordshire, England. Mr. Mantz came to this country to retrace the civil rights movement geographically, starting with Montgomery where the movement began.

— Dr. Jennifer Daniels, Center supporter from Syracuse, New York, and her daughter, son, and mother. Dr. Daniels, a family physician with a Master's in Business Administration, has set up practice in one of the poorest areas of Syracuse to provide medical care for patients who generally would not receive treatment. Dr. Daniels is also "paying the way" for her youngest brother to finish

Northwest Skinheads

(continued from page 3)

have moved the group's national headquarters to Portland.

Aryan Nations World Congress
During this summer's 1991 Aryan Nations World Congress in Idaho, American Front leaders publicly declared their alliance with Aryan Nations — a group notorious for violence and extremism — and pledged their support in the struggle to establish a

law school in hopes that he will pursue a civil rights practice

— Polly and Robert Kempes, New Jersey natives currently residing in Florida. A retired Presbyterian minister, Rev. Kempes and his wife have supported Center efforts for 15 years.

The Law Center welcomes these and other supporters who make its work possible. Because of strict security regulations, however, no one can be admitted to the building without an appoint-

whites-only homeland in the Northwest.

For the time being, despite the growing Skinhead population and their new commitment to being armed for racial revolution, few criminal activities have been linked to the neo-Nazi youth. But anti-racist groups and law enforcement agencies continue their surveillance and their efforts to educate the communities where Skinheads congregate.



Stephen Schwartz (left), who has supported the Center's work since 1979 through a monthly pledge to the Friends of the Center, visits with Klanwatch Director Danny Welch

ment. Anyone planning to tour the Center is encouraged to write or call to schedule a visit prior to their arrival.

When The Klan Comes To Town

What Concerned Citizens Can Do When the Klan Marches In Their Community

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Many people have written the Center to ask what they can do when the Klan or other hate groups come to their town to stage a march or rally.

Klan's Greatest Allies — Apathy, Fear, Silence

While it's tempting to ignore the Klan's appearance in a community and hope it will just go away, experience shows this approach doesn't guarantee the desired result. In fact, a community's silence encourages the Klan, which interprets it as indifference or even approval. The Klan's greatest allies are apathy, fear, and silence, but its worst enemy is a community's unequivocal public rejection.

Countering the Klan's Message of Hate

Here, then, are some suggestions that many individuals and communities have used to counter the Klan's message of hate with one of goodwill and racial harmony.

•**Speak out.** The Klan and other hate groups use their First Amendment rights to march and rally in public. Individuals can use their First Amendment rights to write letters to local newspapers and they can encourage oth-



Photo by Jay Sailors

When the Klan stages a march or rally, there are a number of effective, non-violent steps that citizens can take to let the Klan know its presence is not welcome. Pictured here are Klan members marching in Montgomery, Ala. to protest the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center and its co-founder, Morris Dees.

ers to do so. The editors and news directors of the local media should be asked to editorialize against the Klan.

•**Send a message.** Urge elected officials, civic and religious leaders to take a firm, public stand against the Klan. Emphasize to them the importance of speaking out. Unequivocal public messages from local leaders are often enough to discourage Klan recruit-

ing in most towns. Petitions bearing the signatures of many local residents can be useful and persuasive tools if your local leaders need to be nudged into taking a public stand. On the other hand, petition drives to halt the planned rally or march are counterproductive. They give the Klan the opportunity to complain about efforts to trample their First Amendment rights. The most effective petitions

are those that simply tell hate groups they are not welcome.

•**Organize.** Many communities have organized racial unity rallies and celebrations to coincide with Klan events. Unity events are usually held on or near the day a Klan rally or march is scheduled. It's much better to participate in this event and stay away from the Klan function. The Klan thrives on confrontation and hopes to attract angry anti-Klan demonstrators to their public gatherings to gain public sympathy, support, and media coverage. A positive message delivered across town at a pro-unity rally is far more effective than squaring off with the Klan.

In addition to holding unity rallies, some communities have offered movie passes, free admission to amusement parks, and other recreational activities to discourage citizens from attending Klan rallies.

Finally, whatever individuals choose to do on their own or as part of a community effort, their actions are important and certainly not in vain. When communities speak with one voice against the Klan, the Klan eventually moves on.

Center's Legal And Klanwatch Staff Speak At Events Nationwide

IN KEEPING with the Center's goal to educate the public regarding civil rights issues and the activities of white supremacists and hate groups, Center staff members spoke at several seminars, banquets, and conferences around the nation during the last several months.

**KLAWATCH INVESTIGATOR
JOE ROY**

Klanwatch Investigator Joe Roy traveled to Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico to warn seminar participants about what white supremacy groups are doing at the national level. He described the activities and characteristics of groups like the Ku Klux Klan and the Skinheads.

The seminars and conferences at which Mr. Roy spoke are listed below:

May 9, 1991

Greely, Colo. — Extremists Groups Seminar. Campus Investigators' Association, University of Northern Colorado.

May 16, 1991

Austin, Tex. — Criminal Gangs



Joe Roy

Seminar. Texas Department of Public Safety, Homer Garrison, Jr. Memorial Law Enforcement Academy.

June 12, 1991

Albuquerque, N.M. — Conference on Hate Violence

Sponsored by the International Association of Police, Community Relations Office.

**KLAWATCH DIRECTOR
DANNY WELCH**

Klanwatch Director Danny Welch traveled this summer to Georgia, New York, and Arizona to deliver to law enforcement groups information about current trends in the white supremacist movement.

In addition to identifying movement leaders and outlining hate group philosophies, he explained the structural organization of hate groups and offered ideas about how to combat hate crime.

Mr. Welch gave extensive presentations at the following gatherings.



Klanwatch Director Danny Welch (standing, second from left) gave a talk about current trends in the white supremacist movement at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, N.M.

May 23, 1991

Marietta, Ga. — Chattahoochee Technical Institute & North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy.

June 19, 1991

New York City, N.Y. — Panel discussion on white supremacist movement. Simon Wiesenthal Center.

July 13, 1991

Tucson, Ariz. — Seminar sponsored by American Friends Service Committee.

July 14, 1991

Phoenix, Ariz. — Seminar sponsored by American Friends Service Committee.

**CENTER STAFF ATTORNEY
GLORIA BROWNE**

Center Staff Attorney Gloria Browne addressed two gatherings of civil rights workers.

At the Montgomery segment of the Unity Bike Tour, a nationally-televised commemoration of the 1961 Freedom Rides, Ms. Browne praised the efforts of student bikers to retrace the bus routes of the original Freedom Riders. The purpose of the tour was to remind the nation of the sacrifices made in 1961 to bring an end to segregated interstate travel.



Gloria Browne

The Montgomery segment was held on June 16, 1991.

On August 3, 1991, Ms. Browne spoke in Opelika, Alabama at the Annual NAACP Banquet. She urged NAACP elders to share with younger generations the wisdom

they gained through their struggles for human rights. The lessons they learned, she warned them, were too valuable to be lost because the struggle to secure human rights for all has not yet ended.

**LEGAL DIRECTOR
RICHARD COHEN**

On August 11, 1991, at the request of the American Bar Association Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, Center Legal Director Richard Cohen delivered a



Richard Cohen

presentation before the ABA Annual Convention in Atlanta.

Mr. Cohen's presentation highlighted the pervasiveness of racial violence in America, outlined various remedies to combat the problem of racial terror, and explained the manner in which the Center used these remedies in its successful litigation against Tom Metzger and White Aryan Resistance. Appearing on the panel with Mr. Cohen were the general counsel for Time-Warner, Inc., the general counsel to Georgetown University, and a member of the Ohio State Public Defender Office.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MORRIS DEES**

Executive Director Morris Dees was honored twice in the last several months.

On June 27, 1991, he received the Barbara Jordan Award for Political

Courage. In presenting the award, the Hollywood Women's Political Committee cited Mr. Dees' and the Center's successful 1987 civil suit on behalf of the mother of Michael Donald, a young black man who



Morris Dees

was lynched by Klansmen; and the 1990 judgement against Tom Metzger for his involvement in the beating death of an Ethiopian man by Skinheads.

This was only the third such award to be given by the HWPC.

On July 24, 1991, Mr. Dees was nominated for Trial Lawyer of the Year in Toronto, Canada by the Trial Lawyers for Public Service Association.

In addition to these honors, Mr. Dees was a featured speaker at several annual meetings. His remarks on these occasions focused on the continuing need to combat racism and hate violence by using the court system and the law as a weapon. These talks also included Mr. Dees' reminiscences about how he was inspired to become a lawyer after witnessing certain injustices being perpetrated against a poor black farmer.

Listed below are Mr. Dees' other recent speaking engagements.

June 16, 1991

N. Myrtle Beach, S.C. — Gave the keynote address at the Annual Convention of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers.

June 29, 1991

Miami, Flor. — Spoke at the opening session of the National Education Association Joint Conference on Concerns of Minorities & Women. Mr. Dees' remarks focused on the theme "The Challenge of Racism and Extremism: Inclusion for an Equitable Democracy."

August 11, 1991

Atlanta, Ga. — Spoke at the opening assembly of the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association.

August 12-17, 1991

Hilton Head Island, S.C. — Gave a featured presentation at the Annual Convention of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association.

Law Center Plays Unexpected Role In Improving Education In Montgomery's Public Schools

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — On August 26, 1991, a *Montgomery Advertiser/Journal* headline read "Teachers say 'Success for All' program works Miracles for Montgomery Children." Success for All is just one of the special education provisions that the Law Center advocated as part of its Montgomery County school desegregation consent decree.

Success for All is an innovative education program designed to help low achieving children. It involves the creation of family support teams that focus on school attendance, parental involvement, student behavior, and social services.

Success for All is truly living up to its name. School children in Montgomery County are making phenomenal progress under this new program. Joe Bivens of W.R. Harrison Elementary School finished second grade failing most

of his subjects, relates the *Advertiser*. Under Success for All, Joe completed third grade on the honor roll. He now tutors other students in his class.

The program was developed by Dr. Robert Slavin, Dr. Lawrence Dolan and their associates at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. To date, the program has been implemented at three Montgomery County schools. Soon, more than 2,000 students in the Montgomery County Public Schools System — almost all living at or below the poverty level — will participate in the Success for All program.

The Law Center is proud of the great strides made by Joe Bivens and all of the other Montgomery County school children benefiting from this program. At a time of high dropout rates and low test scores, Success for All is truly a success story.

After Three Years: Forsyth County Civil Rights Marchers Finally Receive Some Compensation

FORSYTH COUNTY, GA. — On January 18, 1987, over 100 Klansmen attacked a peaceful group of marchers in Forsyth County, Georgia. The march was held in this all-white county just 30 miles north of Atlanta to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

A stunned nation watched television coverage as the marchers were subjected to a bloody attack by Klansmen who threw rocks and bottles. Men, women, and children were injured. The next week, more than 25,000 people came from all over America to complete this now historic march.

Jury Awards Marchers Nearly \$830,000

The Center filed a lawsuit against two Klan groups and ten Klan leaders on behalf of 67 marchers who were attacked. The jury awarded the marchers over \$830,000. Although this sum was much more than the Klansmen had, it represented a stunning victory against those who engage in racial violence.

After nearly three years of efforts to collect at least some of the judgment due the marchers, the Center was finally able to make a distribution to the marchers.

The Center charges no fees to

those it helps, nor does it take part in monetary judgments, but one family that was attacked in the march decided to send the Center one of the checks they received from the award — a check for nearly \$550.

Along with this check, Bill and Nan Phillips and their daughter Rachel sent a letter to Center Executive Director Morris Dees and Legal Director Richard Cohen.

They wrote:

"Enclosed you will find one of the checks received by us as a result of our mutual efforts in the Forsyth County suit against the Klan.

"The check has been endorsed to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"We can think of no better way to spend this part of the money than to add to the resources you are already using so effectively. It is a small way to show a great deal of appreciation on our part for what you are doing.

"In the short time since the march and trial, your hard work in the late 1980's has already made a significant difference in the quality of life in Forsyth County.

Thanks,

Bill, Nan and Rachel Phillips"

DOCKET UPDATE

U.S. vs. Ballard: A Long And Winding Road

This year it came to the attention of the Southern Poverty Law Center that the State of Alabama may have been ignoring a court order for nearly ten years. This order made the state legally obligated to report whether black employees were being promoted the same as white employees.

The Center filed a motion on behalf of the Alabama State Conference of NAACP Branches to appear as amicus curiae or "friend of the court" in order to ask the court to investigate defendants' actions regarding the order.

It all began in 1968. The United States Department of Justice filed suit against the Alabama State Personnel Board alleging blatant acts of race discrimination in their hiring and promotion practices.

After extensive litigation, the United States District Court ordered the State of Alabama to eliminate race discrimination in hiring and to desegregate the workplace. The court order forced the state to promote black employees from the low-paying, menial jobs that had been designated as "black only." Until that time, black employees had been prohibited from taking certain promotional exams that lead to better paying positions.

The court then evaluated the employment tests used by the

state and found that the tests had an adverse or negative impact on black employees. The employment situation was so racially polarized that the State of Alabama was told that it could not give another written test without first seeking advance approval from the court. The court ordered the state to stop giving tests that allowed only white employees to be promoted.

By 1982, this system of reviewing every test given by every employer in state government became much too burdensome for the court. In a sign of trust, the court allowed the Justice Department to enter into a consent decree with the State of Alabama.

In the consent decree, the State promised to report any adverse impact against black employees to the Justice Department. Budget cuts, a recession and changes in civil rights litigation gave way to apathy and acquiescence by the U.S. government — apathy that black state workers can ill afford. Without pressure from the Justice Department, the defendants felt little obligation to comply.

But, due to the joint efforts of the Law Center and the NAACP, the defendants' failure to fulfill their obligations under the consent decree is now before the court. The Law Center's motion, asking the court to investigate the State of Alabama's actions regarding the consent decree, has been granted.



In 1987, Klansmen conspired to stop a peaceful civil rights march in then-all-white Forsyth County, Ga. The Center, representing the marchers in court, won a substantial judgment for the marchers.