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SPLC REPORT

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A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
KLANWATCH • TEACHING TOLERANCE

Center Increases Pressure on the Invisible Empire

■ In a move that may help put an end to the violent history of the Invisible Empire, Center attorneys have stepped up their aggressive campaign to enforce a 1988

judgment against the organization and its leader.

The judgment stems from a lawsuit filed on behalf of an interracial group that marched through all-white Forsyth County in 1987 to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday. Although the marchers came in the name of brotherhood, they were pelted with rocks and bottles by members and sympathizers of two Klan organizations, the Invisible Empire and the Southern White Knights. Because the marchers could not be protected from the Klan onslaught, they were forced to

abandon their commemorative walk. The Klan groups claimed victory and encouraged other white racists to follow their violent ways.

To vindicate the marchers' rights to assemble peacefully and to observe the King holiday, Center attorneys filed a lawsuit against the two Klan groups and ten individuals involved in the attack. At the time the lawsuit was filed, the Invisible Empire was incorporated in Louisiana. After hearing the evidence, a Georgia jury returned a verdict of almost one million dollars in favor of the marchers. The verdict against the Invisible Empire exceeded \$350,000.

Collection Efforts

Since the verdict was rendered, Center attorneys

(continued on page 2)



Farrands



PHOTO: BERNARD TRONCALE/BIRMINGHAM NEWS

Bill Riccio, right, and an ATF agent following the August arrests

Bill Riccio, Longtime White Supremacist, Arrested For Weapons Violations

BIRMINGHAM — Skinhead organizer Bill Riccio and eight other white supremacists from several states were arrested in Alabama in August on a variety of charges, including federal weapons violations. Among the weapons seized in a federal raid in Georgia were 50 stolen military M-16s, military explosives, ammunition and machine guns. A Skinhead member of Riccio's Aryan National Front and Riccio's alleged bodyguard were also arrested.

Riccio first became known to the Center in 1979 as one of the Klansmen involved in an attack on civil rights marchers in Decatur, Ala. That attack led to the founding of Klanwatch and the beginning of the Center's civil rights litigation against violent white supremacists.

When members of the Order targeted Center Director Morris Dees for assassination in the mid-1980s, they turned to Riccio for information on Dees' activities. The Order, a revolutionary white supremacist gang, was responsible for several armored car robberies and the June 1984 murder of Denver Jewish radio talk show host Alan Berg. Dees was next behind Berg on the Order's hit list of Jews and "race traitors."

Riccio himself has publicly acknowledged that Dees, whom he called "the most formidable opponent I've ever faced," is a likely target of Klan reprisals. "If I was Morris Dees ... I'd find a big rock and crawl under it," he once suggested.

Riccio served three

(continued on page 2)

Teaching Tolerance: The First Year

■ The Center's education project, *Teaching Tolerance*, recently marked the end of a successful first year in operation and introduced plans for a major new series of educational packages. Director Sara Bullard recaps the first year of operation for the Center's educational initiative.

By Sara Bullard

A little over a year ago, *Teaching Tolerance* consisted of two very busy people in a rented office that came with no heat and with one especially memorable rat. Now we have a staff of six and stacks of research materials tucked into all available nooks and crannies of the

Law Center, and we have run out of room. For the past few months, as we wrapped up the second issue of *Teaching Tolerance*, we have also been watching the renovation of a 100-year-old building near the Center and the Civil Rights Memorial. This winter, it will be our new home.

The new space was made necessary by a successful first year of operation for *Teaching Tolerance*, the Center's nationwide education project. Since its beginning in mid-summer 1991, the project has distributed free to schools nearly half a million *Teaching Tolerance* magazines and more than 23,000 *America's Civil Rights Movement* teaching kits. The film

(continued on page 4)

Mr. Dees, we admire your courage and hope to help you with your wonderful project to teach youth to think straight before trouble begins.

— C. Newell
Spring Hill, Fla.

Although I strongly support the goals of your organization, I have never before responded to your appeals for contributions because we receive such appeals from too many worthy organizations to respond to them all, at our income level.

However, the description of your Teaching Tolerance Project really touched my heart and mind. Somehow, I still hope that if young people are reached early enough, there is the possibility for them to see the world differently and to experience a change in their value systems. Perhaps tolerance

can be taught and acceptance, and the ability to see similarities rather than differences in people, and peaceful conflict solving, and maybe even love. If we concentrate on teaching these things on a widespread basis, maybe there is hope left for the world. Please keep up your good work.

— C. Bienenfeld
Brooklyn, N.Y.

As the victims of apartheid, our pupils are familiar with the struggle for liberation and justice, and your materials on the liberation struggle in America find a comfortable echo in the experience of our own pupils.

— G. Jacobs
Republic of South Africa

You are a model for me on how to rightly fight against attitudes and conduct like Tom Metzger's. I hope to follow your lead also as I teach my children.

— L. Haynes Diviney
Newton, Mass.

I have seen one issue of *Teaching Tolerance* and have used ideas from it often. It's one of the best things I've seen.

— J. Breger
Santa Monica, Calif.

I think it is wonderful that your organization is offering this opportunity to educators! Thank you for helping to re-shape and re-direct what our children and young adults learn.

— R. Hayes
Roxbury, Mass.

Your work has become an inspiration to a great many lawyers in this country who believe in the principles of equality.

— P. Bowen
Los Angeles, Calif.

Keep up the great work. This country needs you to do this. I need you to do this.

— S. Blackburn
Kansas City, Mo.

SPLC has courageously attacked racism on many fronts and this new educational project will confront it in yet another manner.

— J. Gundersen
Kingston, N.Y.

Center Increases the Pressure on Invisible Empire

(continued from page 1)

and investigators have doggedly pursued collection efforts. They recently have discovered that, after the Center lawsuit was filed, the Imperial Wizard, or head, of the Invisible Empire transferred all the property of the Louisiana Klan group to a newly formed Klan organization incorporated in Connecticut under the Invisible Empire banner.

Center investigators also have discovered that the Imperial Wizard, James Farrands, has been operating the Klan organization as if it were his personal business, rather than as a corporation. As a result of uncovering these facts, the Center is now going after the assets of the Connecticut organization as well as the personal assets of the Imperial Wizard.

Farrands' Assets

Farrands is not a penniless Klansman. In 1990, he sold his Connecticut property for approximately \$484,000. When he moved to North Carolina, he used the money to buy an 85-acre farm for \$375,000. In an effort to put his assets beyond the reach of the Center's collection efforts, Farrands recorded the North Carolina property in his wife's name only.

Center attorneys will ask the court to rule that the Farrands farm is subject to the Center's collection efforts because putting the property in the name of his wife was an obvious ploy designed to defraud creditors.

With active chapters or "realms" in 22 states, the Invisible Empire is the largest

lent activities. In 1991, a North Carolina Invisible Empire member was convicted of possessing a homemade bomb, and in 1992, Louisiana Invisible Empire members were convicted for a series of cross burnings designed to intimidate minorities.

"If we can seize the assets of the Invisible Empire



Arrests during the 1987 Forsyth County march

Klan group in the country. Its members have a long history of violence that has continued to the present time. In 1990, the Grand Dragon of the Invisible Empire's New Jersey realm and two Klan members were arrested for conspiring to engage in vio-

and Mr. Farrands," observed Morris Dees, the Center's Chief Trial Counsel, "we'll make it that much harder for the organization to continue to engage in racial violence, and we'll make others think twice before picking up the Invisible Empire mantle."

Riccio Arrested on Weapons Charges

(continued from page 1)

years in prison for a 1979 federal firearms violation, and was convicted again in 1985 on similar charges. In 1989 he pleaded guilty to participating in the 1979 Klan attack on civil rights marchers in Decatur, Ala., and was sentenced to two years in prison.

After his latest prison release, Riccio turned to Skinhead organizing in Birmingham, 100 miles north of Montgomery. Members of his group, the Aryan National Front, have been implicated in area hate crimes.

Evidence uncovered in the recent arrests suggests that area white supremacists may be contemplating a return to the more militant methods of the Order. The federal

raid in Georgia netted 50 stolen M-16 barrels, more than a pound of military explosives, a large supply of military ammunition and four machine guns. A Chinese assault rifle was seized in Birmingham. Three Fort Benning soldiers are suspected of working with Riccio and other Birmingham Skinhead leaders.

"The movement has increased its violent rhetoric and we're seeing more and more sophisticated weaponry," said Klanwatch Chief Investigator Joe Roy. "People like Riccio who are very aggressive are enjoying more recruitment successes. This aggressiveness combined with the fact that the multiple arrests have frustrated them increases their threat to the Center and makes vigilance on our part a top priority."



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Center Attorney To Join U. S. Justice Department

Center attorney Elizabeth Johnson has accepted a position with the voting rights section of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth came to the Center five years ago under its legal fellowship program. Her commitment to fighting social injustice and her outstanding legal skills quickly made her a valuable asset to the Center's legal department.

"Working at the Center has been a dream come true," Elizabeth said as she reflected on the past five years. "I am grateful to have had the chance to work with some of the most dedicated and skilled attorneys in the country. The opportunity to work at the Justice Department is another challenging opportunity that I am anxious to meet."

One of Elizabeth's most important contributions to the Center's work was in *SCLC v. Evans*, a class action lawsuit challenging the method of election for



Elizabeth Johnson

Alabama trial court judges under the voting rights act.

Elizabeth worked on a wide variety of cases including a challenge to Alabama's foster care system and several cases against white supremacist organizations.

"Elizabeth's compassion for her clients and her warmth and sensitivity toward her fellow employees will be sorely missed," said Morris Dees, the Center's Chief Trial Counsel. "Her talents will be a great asset to the Justice Department."

Mamie Jackson Honored for 20 Years of Service

On August 25, Mamie Jackson, Director of Mail Operations, was honored for 20 years of faithful service to the Center. During a special ceremony, Morris Dees recalled the first days of the Center when he and Mamie were the only employees. "The first thing Mamie bought was a letter opener. We didn't even have anything to open the mail with!"

This is quite a contrast to Mail Operations today, with 10 employees and sophisticated computer equipment to handle the huge volume of mail the Center receives. Morris praised Mamie for her loyalty and hard work during the years of the Center's growth. When he asked her what had made her stay through all the tough times, Mamie replied, "I'm an educator at heart, and at times I miss being in the classroom, but I've stayed because I believe in the cause ... the cause is what kept me here."



Mamie Jackson & Morris Dees

Church of the Creator Member Convicted in Sailor's Slaying

JACKSONVILLE, FL - A follower of the violent white supremacist organization the Church of the Creator was convicted in July and sentenced to life in prison for the 1991 hate-inspired murder of a black sailor who had just returned from the Persian Gulf War.

George David Loeb, a Church of the Creator "reverend," fled Florida with his wife shortly after he shot *USS Saratoga* petty officer Harold Mansfield to death on May 17, 1991, in a Neptune Beach parking lot. The pair, whose flight sparked a nationwide search, was arrested in New York about a month later after attempting to steal groceries.

Klanwatch, which has long been following the activities of the Church of the Creator (COTC), monitored Loeb's trial.

The COTC, which claims members in at least 20 states and eight foreign countries, includes a large number of Skinheads and convicted criminals. COTC leadership includes a security chief who trains members in the use of weapons and police communications. Followers advocate a "Racial Holy War" to rid the world of minorities through "murder, treachery, lying, deceit, mass killing, whatever it takes to win."

In 1988 the COTC published the name and address of SPLC Director Morris Dees as a target for retribution, adding, "Maybe we have a few readers who are willing to infiltrate and destroy this White race hater."

Loeb, whose dedication to the COTC beliefs won him the "reverend" status, was unrepentant and defiant even as he received the life sentence without possibility of parole for 25 years.

Despite his protestations of innocence, the trial evidence showed Loeb to be violent and intent on provoking racial conflict, said Klanwatch Director Danny Welch, who monitored the eight-day trial. Loeb's writings, seized from his apartment by investigators and entered as evidence, revealed that he routinely advocated the use of racial slurs to provoke confrontations that could lead to the murder of African-Americans.

Following Mansfield's death, an article in the debut issue of the SPLC's new *Teaching Tolerance* magazine gave a special glimpse of Harold Mansfield through the eyes of some Oklahoma



Harold Mansfield



George David Loeb

City fourth-graders and their teacher.

Mansfield had been "adopted" as a special friend of the students during his stint in the Persian Gulf War. When he returned safely, the class gave a party in his honor. Mansfield told the children that "everyone can be a hero."

Three weeks later, the students learned their hero had been killed by a white supremacist.

The children then directed their letters to Mansfield's killer. "George (Loeb), you don't know what you did to us," one child wrote. "You broke our hearts with a gun like you did to Harold one of my best sailor friend."

Teaching Tolerance Staff Grows



From left: Joseph Hawkins, Elsie Williams, Carol Heller and Gale Hill

Recently, Teaching Tolerance gained four new staff members to help meet the growing editorial and organizational needs of the project.

Carol Heller got her introduction to Teaching Tolerance the hard way. Carol recalls, "When Sara Bullard, the editor of *Teaching Tolerance*, called to offer me a research fellowship, before I could say 'yes,' she asked me to write an article for the second issue of *Teaching Tolerance*."

Carol went on to write the article. She fondly remembers this story because in her mind it reinforced how serious the Center was about "challenging" her and the contribution she could make to the work of Teaching Tolerance.

Carol admits that after having just earned an Ed.D. in Language and Literacy from the University of California at Berkeley, Teaching Tolerance was the ideal place to work and write. "I've always admired the Law Center's work. I'm here because I

know we make an impact on the field of education, and the center's battles against racism are phenomenal." As a child of Holocaust survivors, Carol says the struggles against prejudice and hatred "are serious and personal ones" that must be fought.

Carol's background in writing is a varied one. She has taught Writing and Humanities at Project Bridge, an inner-city college re-entry program at Laney College in Oakland, Calif. She also taught in the Writing Department at UC Berkeley and the Reading Education Department in the School of Education, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, Calif. Her own research on a community writing group in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco will appear (fall 1993) as a chapter in the book *The Need for Story: Cultural Diversity in the Classroom and Community*.

Elsie Williams came to the staff of Teaching Tolerance with years of experience as a teacher and secretary. She earned her M.S. in Secondary

Education from Troy State University and taught English and secretarial science for seven years. As a writer Elsie has had several articles published and has won awards in many poetry contests.

It is no wonder that when Teaching Tolerance advertised for its first education secretary, Elsie was scooped up!

"We realized right away that Elsie had qualities well beyond those that could be utilized in the role of secretary," said Sara Bullard. "We began to rely on her for proofreading manuscripts, public speaking, and talking with freelance writers." Within six months, Elsie was promoted to editorial assistant, her present job, where her writing and editing skills can be more fully utilized.

While her professional life has prepared Elsie in unique ways for her role at Teaching Tolerance, her caring heart would appear to have guided her to her new job as well. "I've always considered myself a peacemaker," says Elsie. "I feel strongly for

all of life's victims for I, too, have been there. So, while this job combines my three great professional loves — writing, education, and business — it is the ideals of the Southern Poverty Law Center that really make me feel I belong here."

Joseph Hawkins is taking a one-year leave of absence from his job as educational researcher with the Montgomery County (Md.) Public School System to bring many years of research skills to the Teaching Tolerance project. Joe received his B.S. in Anthropology from Boston University and his M.A. in Education from Howard University. After completing his undergraduate studies, he joined the Peace Corps and served as an elementary school teacher in Liberia, West Africa.

During his 13 years with the 21st largest public school district in the nation, Joe managed large-scale research and evaluation projects in many areas including curriculum studies, new teacher training, and student discipline. He has

shared the results of his school research in many publications and has made presentations before national research groups.

Joe relates that he decided to join the Teaching Tolerance staff when he visited the Center and saw the pictures of the people involved in the many legal cases the Center had undertaken. "It became clear the kind of history the Center had been involved in, and I wanted to be a part of that."

Joe feels that his year as research fellow with Teaching Tolerance will not only sharpen his research skills but also energize him to be even more active in the community service activities he enjoys.

Gale Hill, the new secretary at Teaching Tolerance, was another fortunate find. She earned her M.A. in Spanish at Penn State University. While pursuing her doctoral studies at Penn State she taught undergraduate Spanish courses.

Gale got into politics in 1982 when her high school Spanish teacher asked her to volunteer for his mayoral campaign. Finding that she was in her element, she became staff assistant to a U.S. congressman in Syracuse, N. Y., where she served for three years. From there she moved to Washington, D.C., and worked for another three years as a caseworker for a U.S. congressman.

As an educator, Gale has always tried to work toward eliminating prejudice of all types. "I want to make a difference in people's lives, and Teaching Tolerance is the perfect way to do that. I love getting information about the project out to the school systems, and I'm impressed at how efficiently the Center is run."

Teaching Tolerance: The First Year

(continued from page 1)

A Time for Justice has won three major international awards, and the magazine *Teaching Tolerance* earned a national magazine award.

In addition, Teaching Tolerance has been recognized in the press and among educators as a leader in the national movement to teach fairness, justice and equality to students of all ages.

The project's success has been most evident in the thousands of letters and phone calls we've received from overworked teachers who took the time to say "thank you" and to pass along their students' responses.

Although we lost Lori Punske, who resumed her high school teaching career, we were especially fortunate this year to gain five thoughtful, creative and energetic coworkers. [See above] After the first issue of *Teaching Tolerance* was

published, we rushed to recruit freelance graphic designer Susan Hulme/Wright as a full-time Center employee. She has since put her talents to use for other Center departments.

Elsie Williams' organizational skills saved us from eminent chaos nine months ago. Now we rely on her editorial skills while Gale Hill keeps us organized. Joseph Hawkins and Carol Heller are two remarkable educators who were so enthusiastic about Teaching Tolerance that they were willing to leave their homes in Maryland and California, respectively, to join us as one-year research fellows.

We ended the first year of Teaching Tolerance with the conviction that we're on the right track but have a very long way to go in our efforts to build bridges between all people. We enter our second year with big hopes and big plans, and much gratitude to the dedicated Center supporters who make such hopes and plans possible.

Why Teach Tolerance?

■ In November 1989, a black man was beaten to death on the streets of Portland, Ore. When investigators with the Law Center began looking into the killing, they discovered that all of those involved in the brutal attack were teen-age Skinheads who loved violence and loved to hate. Their teachers: Tom Metzger, a middle-aged white supremacist leader and his 20-year-old son John.

The Law Center represented the family of the murder victim in a civil lawsuit and won a \$12.5 million verdict against the Metzgers and the killers.

Several major Klan organizations had been crippled by Center lawsuits, but the verdict against the Metzgers was the largest of its kind. In the national struggle against intolerance, however, the verdict was a small victory.

The Danger

By 1991, the Law Center was witnessing acts of intolerance among young people at an unprecedented level. Coinciding with growing ethnic diversity on school campuses and a demonstrable rise in all kinds of youthful violence, the trend toward intolerance was ominous:

- Nearly half of all hate crimes were committed by young people.
- Nearly four out of ten young people polled said they would participate in or silently support racial incidents.
- One out of five high school students carried weapons.
- There was a 27 percent increase in hate group membership during 1991, and most of the new members were young.
- The number of hate crimes tracked by the Law Center that occurred on school campuses in the first six months of 1992 was four times the number documented for the same period of 1991.

It became apparent to those at the Law Center, along with many other national observers, that more had to be done to help young people overcome the influences of violence and intolerance if we were to remain a society that respects diversity and honors democracy.

The Need

The classroom seemed a natural place to begin. In an increasingly diverse society, schools offer the greatest opportunity for racial and cultural interaction. Indeed, more than a third of all school pupils will be minorities by 1994.

The Law Center in 1991 initiated a six-month study to assess the resources and strategies available to teachers who were trying to combat prejudice and intergroup tensions. After reviewing the educational research, examining curricula and pedagogical literature, becoming acquainted with the work of various organizations, and conducting interviews with teachers, it became clear that there was an alarming deficiency in classroom resources to promote intergroup harmony. The multicultural debate had produced much antagonism, but few practical aids toward the development of a legitimate multicultural curriculum. Many good programs weren't being packaged, publicized or dis-



tributed in ways that made them accessible to the average teacher. And most disturbingly, there was no single resource to help teachers learn about materials and techniques designed to promote understanding.

What works?

Determined to fill that void, the Center founded Teaching Tolerance to develop and distribute top-quality, free educational materials to hundreds

of thousands of teachers.

Teaching Tolerance materials are based on lessons learned from many years of research in the area of human relations education, which show that a wide variety of strategies can be successful in teaching tolerance, and the best share some important characteristics:

- They depend upon teacher commitment and knowledge.
- They leave students with things to think about, things to talk about, and things to do.
- They must be applied across the curriculum and across age groups.
- They are rooted in shared values of democracy, fairness and respect for individual worth.
- They do not attempt to indoctrinate.
- They are modeled by the teacher's personal demonstration of tolerance and fairness.
- They are accessible, affordable and practical.

A Collection of Strategies

In January 1992, the semiannual magazine *Teaching Tolerance* began to fill the resource gap for individual teachers — showing them the wide variety of approaches that are working in American classrooms, and providing them with a forum for exchanging ideas.

"Teaching tolerance is not a new endeavor," wrote editor Sara Bullard in the first issue of *Teaching Tolerance*. "Every teacher with more than one student has striven for harmony in the classroom. Certainly this task becomes more complicated as the nation and the classroom grow more diverse. But the basic goal remains the same: to care about all of our children, and to help them care about each other."

The magazine *Teaching Tolerance* now goes out biannually to more than 200,000 educators. The teaching kit *America's Civil Rights Movement* is used in well over 20,000 schools. Through continued publication of its magazine and the production of a new series of educational video-and-text kits, Teaching Tolerance will maintain its commitment to develop accessible curriculum and training materials for the classroom teacher.

Tools for Change

Proposed Video-and-Text Teaching Packages

■ Change comes only through understanding and action. If we are to make America a society in which prejudice and hatred are unacceptable, we must first understand the great damage wrought by intolerance, and then we must act in ways that promote harmony.

In the next five years, Teaching Tolerance plans to produce five new video-and-text packages aimed at these essential goals.

The video-and-text

packages, like all Teaching Tolerance materials, will be made available free to schools. The complete series is expected to cost about \$7.3 million. This major new initiative will be made possible largely through the continued generosity of Center supporters.

The Faces of Hate

In its first video-and-text kit, *America's Civil Rights Movement*, Teaching Tolerance provided teachers with a dramatic tool to educate

students about our country's history of racial oppression and the ordinary people who dismantled the structure of segregation.

That lesson will continue with *The Faces of Hate*, a deeper look at historic and contemporary forms of extreme bigotry — from the vigilantism of the Ku Klux Klan in 1865 to race-related gang violence in the 1990s.

In a film appropriate for secondary school and adult audiences, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Charles Guggenheim will use historical photographs and dramatic news footage to illustrate the dangers of hatred, and will examine the recent rise in hate crime through the stories of vic-

tims and their communities.

Accompanying the video will be a detailed illustrated history of hate violence in America, along with suggestions for how students themselves can help combat bigotry.

Tools for Tolerance Video Series

America's Civil Rights Movement and *The Faces of Hate* will offer students dramatic, factual evidence of the harm done by hatred. They will help form the knowledge base that is essential to understanding our history and future as a society.

But knowledge is only the beginning. Translating knowledge into action is the greater challenge, and one

that is the ultimate objective of Teaching Tolerance.

Tools for Tolerance is a series of four video-and-text packages designed to provide citizens and educators with in-depth looks at school programs that promote tolerance.

Proposed titles for the video series include:

- *Sharing, Caring, and Fair-playing*: anti-bias education for young children.
- *Keeping the Peace*: violence prevention and conflict resolution techniques at work.
- *Teamwork*: a new way of learning where cooperation is key.
- *To Renew the Dream*: students promote understanding and reduce prejudice.

Lawyers, Friends Pay Tribute to 'Cat'

■ *Cathy Bennett, one of the nation's leading jury experts, donated her time to help the Center in its cases against violent white supremacists. She died last June. Morris Dees remembers her talent and her spirit in this tribute, reprinted with permission of The National Law Journal. © 1992, The New York Law Publishing Company.*

By John E. Ackerman
and Morris Dees

On June 12 at the beautiful Rothko Chapel in Houston, lawyers, paralegals, friends and loved ones mourned the passing of Cathy E. Bennett. Thousands of others across our country who have been touched by Cathy's unique talents stopped their daily work to pay silent tribute to this one-of-a-kind young woman.

In the fall of 1991, Cat, as she was affectionately known, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, an unusual honor for a person only 40 years old and the first such award ever given to a non-lawyer. Everyone in the audience knew she was losing her five-year battle with cancer. Few eyes were dry when she urged those in our legal system fighting the daily battles for justice to "love, respect and support one another."

Cat loved justice more than life. She left her hospital bed to help Roy Black select the jury for William Kennedy Smith, accused of rape. During jury selection, she took one day off to go to New Orleans to accept the criminal defense association award. "We truly have an innocent man on trial in Miami," she told the audience. "Please send up a quiet moment of prayerful inspiration for him." Will Smith and hundreds who found themselves at the bar of justice owe their freedom, often their lives, and sometimes their fortune, to this special young woman who single-handedly changed the way modern trials are conducted.

Wounded Knee

It all started when Cat was 22. She was attracted to the cause of the Oglala Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee in 1973, as exemplified by Russell Means, who was accused of murder. Educated as a psychologist and working at the time for the Georgia Department of Education, training teachers in listening and interview skills, she decided to leave her job and assist Mr. Means at his trial in Rapid City, S.D. Over the next 2 1/2 weeks, she displayed an amazing ability to know what jurors were about, to know the right questions to ask, and to know how to impanel a jury that would give Mr. Means a



Cathy Bennett

fair trial. The results were astonishing. No one expected the acquittal that followed.

Her successes over the next 19 years have been more than astonishing. In some of the most celebrated cases of our times, working alone at first, and then with her husband, Robert B. Hirschhorn, she taught lawyers and judges the importance of good *voir dire* interview skills, of presenting cases in real-life terms that reached jurors, and of being caring, feeling advocates. Her efforts helped John DeLorean, the Howard Hughes Estate, Christian Brando and Beulah Mae Donald, the black woman who sued the Ku Klux Klan for lynching her son. More important, she helped the unknown, accused in small towns across America, most often without pay — over 800 cases in all. Her success rate was very high.

Growing Influence

Cat Bennett occupies a special place in the hearts of thousands of lawyers who have attended the National Criminal Defense College in Houston and Macon, Ga., since 1977. More have seen her in seminars. Like ripples from a pebble tossed into a placid pond, her influence will continue to grow. Few people have had so great an impact on the way lawyers try cases. Her soon-to-be-published book on jury selection and trial dynamics will undoubtedly become the bible for future trial lawyers when it is issued by West Publishing Co.

This attractive, vivacious, loving young woman will always have a place in the hearts of all of us who seek daily to do justice. She has been called "the mother of the way modern trial law is practiced." She lived life fast, flat out, to the limit. She danced, she laughed, she cried. Her energy was boundless, her enthusiasm unmatched.

"My goal," she once said, "has always been to be a loving person and to give people their flowers in this lifetime." Our hearts are filled with Cat's flowers. We love you, Cat. Thank you for sharing yourself with us.

Mr. Ackerman practices trial law in Houston and is the former dean of the National Criminal Defense College and a past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Mr. Dees is the chief trial counsel of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala.

Serbian Immigrant Leaves Bequest to Center

■ When Rakila Kachansky died in the fall of 1991, she specified that her assets be divided among human rights organizations in the United States and what was formerly Yugoslavia to help continue the battles for human and civil rights, peace, and the rights of women and labor. In keeping with her wishes, a generous contribution from Mrs. Kachansky's estate was donated to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Margaret Fishman, personal representative of the estate, said that Mrs. Kachansky had long admired the work of the Law Center in exposing and fighting racist activities. Mrs. Kachansky, she said, was a woman who lived humbly and modestly all of her life. A hard worker, she dedicated much time, energy and money to further the cause of justice and tolerance.

"As an immigrant from Yugoslavia (then Austria-Hungary)," Mrs. Fishman recalled, "Rakila Kachansky felt keenly the discrimination of the early years of this century when the Klan was very active." Mrs. Kachansky, who

was Serbian, came to this country at the age of 16. In Detroit, where she lived the remainder of her life, Rakila learned the art of dressmaking from her mother whom she assisted as a seamstress until her marriage to Trivo Kachansky, a tailor. The Kachanskys worked as partners until his death some years ago.

Committed to the eradication of discrimination and violence, Mrs. Kachansky was an activist in the United States Serbian community for the elimination of racism. As a leader of the Serbo-American war efforts during World War II, she worked to promote relief for Serbians and Russians.

Mrs. Kachansky returned to Yugoslavia in 1990. During this visit she experienced the hatred that was coming to the surface and was severely disillusioned by the deplorable state of human rights in her native land.

In her bequest to the Center, Mrs. Kachansky has also left a gift to future generations who will benefit from our continuing struggle for human rights and justice.

20-Year Supporter



Ms. Dorothea Kelsey of Seal Beach, Calif., visited the Center in June and enjoyed sharing memories of the Center's growth. Ms. Kelsey has been a faithful Center supporter since January 1972.

Interns Join Legal Department

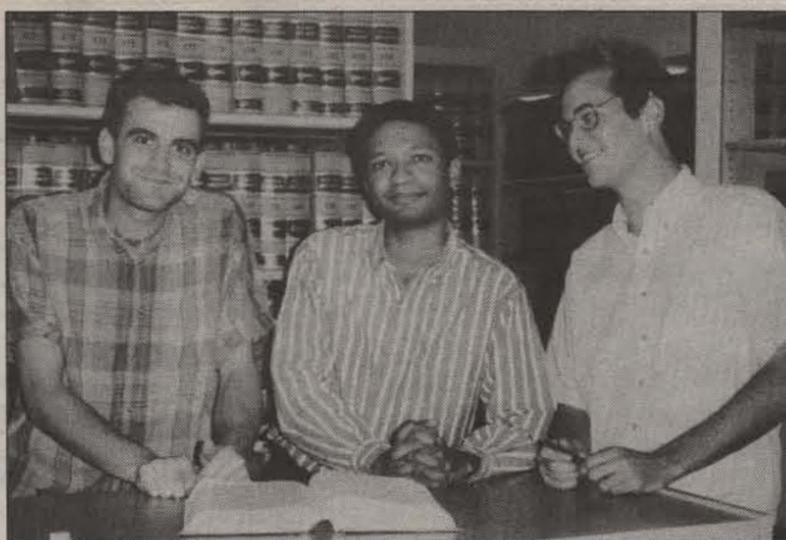
Artur Davis was born in Montgomery and attended Jefferson Davis High School. After an exceptional high school career, Artur enrolled in Harvard University where he graduated magna cum laude in 1990. Artur stayed in Boston after graduation to attend Harvard Law School, where he is entering his third year this fall.

A student at one of the top law schools in the country, Artur had his pick of jobs for the summer. Nevertheless, he chose to return to his hometown to work at the Southern Poverty Law Center because of his strong commitment to constitutional and

civil rights issues. As Artur explained, "I wanted the chance to make a small contribution to an institution which has represented some of my native state's more generous instincts."

After law school, Artur will serve as a law clerk to Judge Myron Thompson in the United States District Court in Montgomery. His future plans include the pursuit of a career in government or public service in Alabama.

Mark Sable came to the Center with a history of distinguished public service work to his credit. A native of Alabama, Mark worked as a community organizer and teacher for



From left: Townsend Myers, Artur Davis, Mark Sable, Nicole Sippial

the Blackbelt Cultural and Human Resources Center in Selma and received the Younger Scholars Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his study of women's contributions to the civil rights movement.

Mark has just completed his second year of law school at the University of Alabama, where he serves as the Developmental Editor of the *Alabama Law Review*.

Mark has a uniquely diverse academic background that includes the study of chemistry and philosophy at Brown University, as well as the study of physics and southern history at Swarthmore College, where he earned a degree in biology.

Nicole Sippial has just completed her first year of law

school at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. A Montgomery native, Nicole graduated from Montgomery Academy and went on to major in finance and economics at Baylor University, where she was a recipient of the Baylor National Merit Scholarship.

Before going to law school, Nicole worked as a Trust Operations Specialist at AmSouth Bank in Birmingham. Her knowledge of banking and finance was a help to the Center in its continuing efforts to collect judgments won by the Center against various white supremacist groups.

At Vanderbilt, Nicole is a member of the Black Law Students Association as well as the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International.

Townsend Myers will be entering his third year of law school at the University of Chicago in the fall. Born in Columbia, S. C., Townsend graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina with a degree in history.

Townsend spent the first half of this summer working full-time in Chicago as a student attorney at the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic. As a member of the criminal law section, his cases included a post-conviction death penalty appeal on behalf of an indigent client.

Before entering law school, Townsend held a number of interesting jobs including work as a chef, a delivery truck driver and an actor. Now Townsend dreams of running his own law firm, specializing in civil rights policy.

California Quilter Sews Support for Center

■ For nearly three years, 71-year-old Sylvia Marlowe of San Rafael, Calif., has been making exquisitely handcrafted baby quilts and quietly donating 100 percent of the proceeds she earns to the Center. A Center supporter since its founding, Marlowe began focusing all of her charitable efforts on the Center after the arson of Center headquarters in 1983.



Sylvia Marlowe

"It shook me up so. I consider Morris Dees my hero. I worry about him all the time. I'm so moved by his work. No other organization is doing what has to be done in quite the same way. I've spread my contributions out in many directions in the past. Now I'm focusing on one."

Since her first quilt sale in 1990, Marlowe has sold 25 baby quilts and has another 25 in storage ready to be purchased. "I take an in-progress quilt almost wherever I go. People start to chat with me about it, and I tell them why I do it. I don't even care if they buy.

I just want to tell about the good work of the Southern Poverty Law Center." Marlowe seeks out places to quilt that are peopled by those who wouldn't necessarily have their own links to the Center, such as her bank and dentist's office, where she made her most recent sale.

Marlowe does not endow her work with the least bit of self-importance. "It's a small thing to do. If everyone did what they love to do and made it count, it would make such a difference."

Soon Marlowe will hit the lecture circuit, sharing her collection of antique quilts and her knowledge of their history with groups across the country. And in keeping with her spirit, she will donate the earnings from her lectures to the Law Center.

As moved as Marlowe is by the work of the Center, the staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center is moved by the work of their dedicated friend in California.

Sylvia Marlowe has in storage 25 baby quilts — each unique in color and design — and each costing \$75. She will happily send color pictures of her collection to any interested buyer. If she receives more than 25 orders, she will make more quilts. You may write to Sylvia Marlowe at 50 Arguello Circle, San Rafael, CA 94901.

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE

A Way To Help More Than You Thought You Could

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

Through wills, trusts and other arrangements, Center supporters can help ensure that the Center is there to help the victims of injustice and racial violence well into the next century.

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 address below.

With the goal of eventually freeing itself from the uncertainties of fundraising, the Center decided to establish a permanent endowment large enough to sustain the Center's operations for many years to come.

The Center's goal for the Endowment Trust is \$100 million by the year 2000, nearly half of which has been attained. This will establish a dependable financial base that will allow the Center to cease the costly and often unreliable task of fundraising. The Endowment Trust is a "pact with future generations" that will help ensure resources for the Center's work well into the twenty-first century.

Please send information about Partners for the Future to:

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Check one of the following boxes for specific information:

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Mail to: Partners for the Future, The Southern Poverty Law Center
P.O. Box 548 • 400 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104

Racial Tensions Rising

Welch Testifies at U.S. Civil Rights Commission Hearing



■ *Klanwatch Director Danny Welch was among the experts invited to testify at a U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearing examining racial tensions in America. What follows is an excerpt from Welch's testimony, delivered May 21, 1991, in Washington, D.C.*

By Danny Welch

Compared with the overwhelming problems associated with the illegal drug epidemic and gang-related violence, hate crime may seem relatively insignificant at first glance. But more and more, we are becoming aware that crimes targeting people because of their race, religion or sexual orientation have the potential to disrupt entire communities and spark serious violence.

Hate crime has escalated dramatically over the past few years. For instance:

- The Anti-Defamation League audit of anti-Semitic hate crimes showed nearly 2,000 incidents reported during 1991, an 18 percent increase over 1990.

- In 1991, New York police reported 1,110 hate-motivated attacks against blacks and Jews.

- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute documented 1,822 crimes against gays and lesbians in five major cities during 1991.

- A 1990 Harris poll showed that 57 percent of high school students had witnessed or heard about a racial incident, while 25 percent said they had been targets of racial confrontations, and 40 percent admitted they held racial or religious prejudices.

A few years ago, hate crime was literally a black-and-white issue, usually involving white perpetrators and black victims. Today, black-on-white crime is becoming more common. Other contemporary conflicts reflect the growing friction generated by the increasing diversity of our society:

- Riots erupted in

Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood between Hasidic Jews and blacks.

- Longtime tensions between Korean grocers and black customers in Los Angeles turned to violence in 1991.

- Since 1989, 113 people have been wounded in the intense turf wars between Cambodians and Latinos in Long Beach, Calif. Ten people, including bystanders, have died.

Studies indicate that more than half of all hate crimes are committed by teenagers and young adults under age 25, almost always acting as informal groups. Most are fueled by ignorance about people from different cultural backgrounds.

Groups that have been monitoring hate crimes for years through informal reporting procedures have documented a significant rise in violence motivated by bias. But complete and accurate statistics will not be available until all states and police agencies comply with the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, the law that requires the federal government to collect data on hate crimes.

While this statute is an important step toward combat-

ing hate crime, it offers only a partial answer to a complex problem. The law is not backed by a budget or a mandate for compliance. That is, the Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting section is required to collect data from states, but the law does not require states to provide it. In 1991 only 11 states provided hate crime data to the FBI. Before implementation of the HCSA and some subsequent training, many police agencies had no idea how frequently hate crimes occurred within their jurisdiction, or even what constituted a hate crime.

We cannot think, however, that state compliance with the HCSA or strict hate crime

More than half of all hate crimes are committed by teenagers and young adults under age 25

laws will put an end to hate crime. The private sector of America must also do their part in using other avenues to aggressively address racism and hatred.

Klanwatch, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, has been gathering intelligence on the white supremacist movement since 1979. To assist police in identifying and monitoring hate groups, we

publish a bimonthly *Intelligence Report* for approximately 6,000 law enforcement agencies around the country. We have also been reporting hate crimes in the same publication with intentions of encouraging police departments to take these crimes seriously and to sensitize officials to the traumatic experience a victim of a bias crime suffers.

We also feel that children must learn to accept and appreciate people of other races, cultures, religious and ethnic backgrounds in order to become responsible and caring adults. The Teaching Tolerance project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, founded in 1991, works to provide teachers of all grade levels with ideas and resources for promoting interracial and intercultural understanding in the classroom. It is our hope that by reaching children at a young age, we will be able to stop racial and ethnic tensions before they start.

But police and teachers cannot tackle this problem alone. Political leaders representing all segments of society have a responsibility to speak out against racism and confront hate crime, rather than just pay lip service and cast blame. We should start building a foundation of understanding and brotherhood, through progressive and effective programs. Our country needs strong leadership in this area immediately!

Memorial and honorary gifts received by the Law Center since May 1992

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Rachel Swerdlow & Bruce Lesnick
Diane & Robert John Mushaben
Tina & Allen Johnson
Terry L. Simmons

David Webb, Klanwatch Writer/Researcher



Texas journalist David Webb joined the Law Center's staff in June as a writer/researcher for the Klanwatch Project.

Webb brings to the job a decade of reporting experience and a strong commitment to the Center's work.

"We live in an unbelievably scary time," he said. "The threat of violence is a way of life for millions of people because of their race, religion or sexual orientation. I believe very strongly in the mission of the Law Center and in the work that Klanwatch does to monitor hate crime and white supremacist activities."

The native Texan said his experience as a journalist heightened his awareness of hate crime and strengthened his commitment to look for solutions.

"As a journalist, I

couldn't continue to be exposed to it on a daily basis unless I was doing something to help improve the situation. A special interest is the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. That community is under siege from almost every quarter." A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Webb has been a staff writer with the *Dallas Times-Herald*, the *Dallas Observer*, the *Dallas-Fort Worth Suburban News* and the *Valley Morning Star* in Harlingen. He has also done freelance writing for several national gay and lesbian publications.