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SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
400 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, Alabama 36104

SPLC REPORT

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NO. 1



JANUARY
1993

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

Teaching Tolerance Sends Representative to U.S. Department of Education Roundtable on Civil Rights

■ Teaching Tolerance Research Fellow Carol Heller was among 20 teachers and other experts in the fields of conflict resolution and prejudice reduction to meet in Washington, D.C., on September 14.

The occasion was an unprecedented session convened by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to exchange ideas about current programs that address racial and ethnic conflict in the nation's elementary schools.

The Roundtable was the brainchild of Michael J. Williams, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, who has made racial harassment a high priority issue for the Office.

"Equipping youngsters with the interpersonal skills to effectively resolve disputes of a racial nature will become increasingly important as the country becomes more racially diverse," said Williams.

Roundtable participants agreed. Preadolescents are vulnerable to the racial and ethnic strife experienced by their parents but young



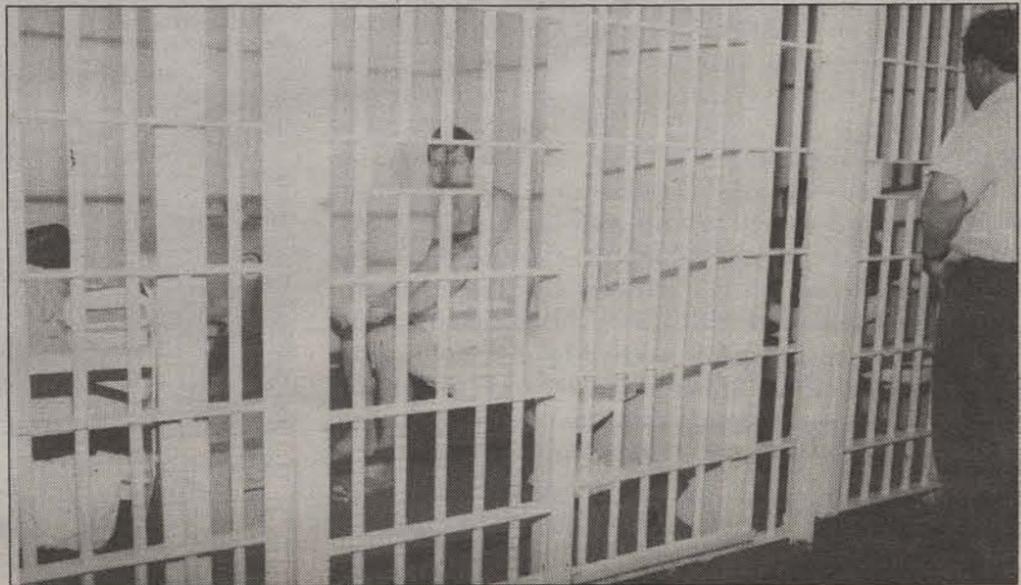
Carol Heller

enough to be open to alternatives to violence.

Two administrators from multicultural school districts in Texas and California reported that programs to promote racial and ethnic harmony and prevent hateful behavior can and should begin the moment children enter school.

A wide range of prejudice reduction curricula, conflict resolution, and peer mediation strategies were described during the day-long meeting.

Among the programs discussed were those established by Educators for Social Responsibility, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai
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Cramped and dangerous prison conditions will be addressed by court-ordered study.

Prison Reforms Ordered

Center challenged constitutionality of conditions

■ Prisoners at Kilby Correctional Facility, a medium-sized penal institution near Montgomery, Ala., may finally get some relief from the cramped, filthy and depressing conditions in which they live. Housed in tiny, bare cages for more than 23 hours a day, exercised in handcuffs and leg irons, subjected to the incessant wails of psychotic inmates, forced to contend with an infestation of rats, roaches, and ants, deprived of reading material or any activities to relieve boredom and fear, the inmates at Kilby suffer daily assaults on their dignity and their health.

Despite a number of lawsuits filed by various prisoners between 1986 and 1989 seeking to redress such conditions at Kilby, nothing was done until late 1989

when the federal district court asked lawyers from the Law Center to represent a large class of inmates who claimed their constitutional rights were being violated.

Previous Center litigation on behalf of inmates resulted in several landmark court orders to bring the operation of Alabama's prisons into compliance with the U.S. Constitution. The repeated failure of state corrections officials to obey those orders eventually resulted in the Kilby case.

In this case, Center attorneys crafted a novel legal settlement in which an independent consultant will evaluate policies, practices, and conditions at Kilby and make recommendations for change.

(continued on page 3)

1992: A Year of Old Battles and New Initiatives at SPLC

■ Never before have Americans been more aware of the marked increase in the level of racial violence in our country than in 1992, and never before has the Center's mission been more vital.

Through the innovative new Teaching Tolerance education project, the Klanwatch Project, and its victories in the courtroom, the Center continues its effort to educate the

American public about racism and intolerance, track white supremacy groups and hate crimes and fight injustice.

**By Edward Ashworth
Executive Director**

Since its beginning in mid-summer 1991, the Teaching Tolerance education project has distribut-

ed free to schools more than 400,000 Teaching Tolerance magazines and more than 26,000 America's Civil Rights Movement teaching kits. Teaching Tolerance has been recognized among educators and in the press as a leader in the national movement to teach fairness, justice and equality to students. The film, *A Time for Justice*, that is part of the teaching kit has won three major

international awards, and Teaching Tolerance has earned a national magazine award. Five more video-and-text packages are planned over the next five years.

The Center's Klanwatch Project continues to monitor white supremacist activity and update law enforcement agencies on hate crimes in its bimonthly publication,

(continued on page 3)

Mr. Dees, I am writing to you to respond to your wonderful book *A Season for Justice*. I was extremely impressed by your response to the hatred that exists in America and the accounts of the trials that the Center has fought. It seems to me that you picked up where Dr. King left off. You are fighting the worst evil on earth, hatred.

— Joel F. High
Terre Haute, Ind.

Pass along my thanks to your private donors who enable you to provide [*Teaching Tolerance*] free of charge. I hope every educator in our country will open their minds and hearts to the very great challenges that our country, our world, face today. Thank you for working toward being a part of the solution.

— Jocelyn D. Snyder
Eugene, Ore.

I watched your organi-

zation's video, and I experienced both horror and hope — hope due to your efforts to bring race-haters to justice and to prevent race-hate from corrupting our country's youth. Few people put their lives on the line for what they believe in. You and your staff deserve the thanks and support of all people who believe in the dignity of all human beings. I will continue to support your organization as long as its mission remains unfulfilled.

— Kenneth J. Treece
Tulsa, Okla.

Thank you very much for sending me a free copy of *America's Civil Rights Movement*. The Southern Poverty Law Center is providing an enormous public service by distributing the materials free to schools and other teaching institutions. You and your co-workers are to be commended for your efforts to teach tolerance and understanding in our society of tremendous diversity.

— Betsy Barnhart
Marymount College
Palos Verdes, Calif.

I was very excited when I received your Spring 1992 edition of *Teaching Tolerance*. It contained a lot of good ideas, and I was excited to know that you were undertaking to provide a continuing forum for the sharing of these ideas.

— Paul R. Sheridan
Sr. Asst. Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Charleston, W. Va.

We are a father and son who read the Spring 1992 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* and applaud you for the fine contribution the magazine makes. We read it from cover to cover and want to be sure that you continue to forward us future issues. *Teaching Tolerance* is an excellent example of what committed people can do to combat the mentality that breeds prejudice.

Gregory and Stephen Halpern
Buffalo, N.Y.

We welcome letters from all SPLC supporters. Send your comments and suggestions to:

SPLC Mailbox
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104

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Leopold Sipe

Late Center Supporter Founded St. Paul Orchestra

Melvin Leopold Sipe, Center supporter and founder of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, died at his home in Charlotte, N.C., in October. Before his death, Sipe recalled the experiences of his colorful life and career for his two grandchildren, with the limited publication of his autobiography, *To Kill or Not to Kill*. On the dust

jacket of Sipe's book are words which serve as a final tribute to a talented and witty man: "He reveals a love for life and all things beautiful, demonstrating that in spite of adversity the wounded ones can be triumphant." Leopold Sipe will be missed by the musical world, his family and all of his friends at the Law Center.

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 remember the Center in your will or have 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 21st century.

Please send information about Partners for the Future to:

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Check one or more 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



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400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104

Year in Review

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the *Intelligence Report*. Klanwatch continues to be a primary source of information on the white supremacist movement, with over 5,000 law enforcement agencies receiving the *Intelligence Report*.

As part of the Klanwatch monitoring effort, a record number of 346 different white supremacist groups were identified in 1991. This information was published in the Special 1991 Year End Edition of the *Intelligence Report*. Numerous press sources published stories about the report.

As part of an ongoing educational process, Klanwatch personnel are constantly conducting training sessions for police and human relations groups across the country. For example, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the largest law enforcement training facility in the United States, invited Klanwatch Director Danny Welch to participate in a conference to develop a training program to improve reporting, investigating and preparation for the prosecution of hate crimes. Mr. Welch also was called upon to offer expert testimony at a U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearing examining racial tensions in America on May 21, 1991, in Washington, D.C.

Hate Violence Litigation

Since its founding in 1971, the Center has established an outstanding record of precedent-setting litigation brought on behalf of victims of injustice. Both new cases and ongoing litigation made up the Center's caseload in 1992. The Center prides itself on handling pioneering lawsuits, some taking years to complete.

Efforts to collect the \$12.5 million judgment against the California-based White Aryan Resistance and its leaders Tom and John Metzger for the gruesome beating death of an Ethiopian student in Portland, Ore., continue. In addition, Center attorneys are working to preserve their courtroom victory in the Oregon appellate courts.

In the process of collecting the judgment stemming from a lawsuit filed on behalf of an interracial group that was attacked by Klansmen during a march through all-white Forsyth County, Georgia, Center investigators discovered that Imperial Wizard James Farrands had transferred the Klan's assets to a new corporation and was using them as if they were his personal property. The Center is now attempting to seize the assets of the new corporation as well as Farrands' personal assets.

Civil Rights Law

In addition to working on behalf of the victims of racial violence, Center attorneys continue to be active in civil rights litigation ranging from voting rights work to cases aimed at halting discriminatory employment practices. In *Williams v. Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society*, for example, the Center signed an agreement with a nationwide insurance company mandating an affirmative action plan for company employees as well as a policy requiring equal treatment of policy holders.

With the help of our supporters, the Center will continue to play a leading role in the struggle against racial violence, injustice and intolerance.

Prison Reforms

(continued from page 1)

Department of Corrections officials agreed to abide by the consultant's recommendations or to propose alternatives that will address the underlying problems.

For the many men who have complained about the deplorable living conditions at Kilby, for the many whose mental health has deteriorated because of such conditions, for the many who have given up hope of ever seeing change in the institution's policies and practices, this settlement agreement represents hope. Attorneys at the Center will do their best to ensure that the agreement translates that hope into more humane and decent living conditions.

Happy New Year



From the staff of the
Southern Poverty Law Center

Ambitious Teen Spent Summer as Intern

■ At any given moment in the bustling work life of the Law Center this past summer, one might have encountered an impeccably dressed, exuberant young man encoding data, poring through books, standing over a photocopier, or deeply engrossed in conversation with a staff attorney. This whirlwind of activity was Jake Halpern, who, at 17, was one of the youngest summer interns ever to work at the Law Center.

Last spring, Jake wrote a letter to the Center asking for the chance to work as a summer intern. With an eloquence that belied his youth, Jake wrote:

"I would simply like you to know that I greatly



Jake Halpern

admire all the people at the Southern Poverty Law Center who have struggled to help the underprivileged and the oppressed.

"In these trying times ... when racial tension is reaching a climax, we must learn to work together, we must promote brotherhood, not hate. In an age where violence and

hate seem inescapable, I find it reassuring that there are places like the Southern Poverty Law Center."

As the son of an attorney, Jake brought to the Center a deep commitment to justice. A junior at a public honors school in Buffalo, N.Y., Jake is a member of his debate team, captain of a model United Nations team, and contributor to the school paper. He is also active in student government and has worked at a local legal aid office.

Jake is among many young people who energize the Center with their enthusiasm and the belief that the best possibilities in people can triumph over the worst.

SPLC is Training Ground for Civil Rights Lawyers

■ As part of its regular internship program, the legal staff of the Center recently welcomed two new law students.

Brian Dunn, a third-year law student at the University of Michigan, is from Los Angeles, Calif., where he eventually plans to practice law. Brian will earn academic credits for his work this semester at both the Law Center and the Alabama Capital Representation Resource Center. He is currently researching First Amendment issues in law-

suits arising from hate crimes.

Karen O'Malley is a second-year law student at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Mass.

A committed activist, Karen has volunteered as a rape hotline counselor and as a fundraiser for AIDS research.

As a legal aid intern, Karen advocated for battered women, provided legal services for people with AIDS, and obtained child support for her clients.



Dunn



O'Malley

Through her experiences as an activist, Karen's commitment to studying the law has solidified. After completing her studies, Karen plans to practice in the areas of women's rights and civil rights.

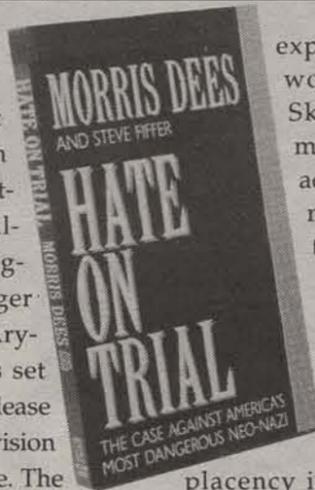
Hate on Trial: Tale of Metzger Case

Dees book recounts latest courtroom victory; other Center books reach wider audiences

■ *Hate on Trial*, Morris Dees' gripping account of the courtroom drama that resulted in a \$12.5 million judgment against Tom Metzger and the White Aryan Resistance, is set for a February release by the Villard Division of Random House. The book promises to be equally as successful as Dees' autobiography, *A Season for Justice*, released two years ago.

After the murder of Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw in Portland, Ore., in 1987 and the criminal conviction of two Skinheads, Dees and Center attorneys filed a civil suit on behalf of Seraw's relatives, claiming that the attack was the result of Metzger's actions in training and encouraging Skinheads to commit racial violence. The book traces the painstaking job of gathering evidence tying Metzger and his son John to the recruitment and training of Skinheads and finally to the death of Seraw.

Hate on Trial also



explores the inner workings of the Skinhead movement and the adult leaders who manipulate these troubled teens, often for financial gain.

Hate on Trial cautions Americans against complacency in dealing with violent racists. In the words of Tom Metzger following the verdict against him:

"We're imbedded now. ... We're in your colleges, we're in your armies, we're in your police force, we're in your technical areas, we're in your banks. Where do you think a lot of these skinheads disappeared to? ... We've planted the seeds. Stopping Tom Metzger is not gonna change what's going to happen in this country."

Dees urges his readers to challenge the influence of leaders like Metzger:

"Until that day when we learn to live in peace, we must remain vigilant against racial violence. ... We must learn to love one another,

truly care about our neighbors, and put aside blind prejudice. ... America can be a great nation and live up to its ideals of social, racial and economic justice. No goal is more important to our survival as a free society."

The 288-page *Hate on Trial* contains trial exhibits and photographs, many never before published. Center supporters who followed this landmark case will not want to miss Dees' firsthand account of the legal battle that may well end Metzger's grip on the Skinhead movement.

Books in Paperback

Two books based on Center experiences have been released in paperback after enjoying high sales in hardcover.

• Morris Dees' autobiography *A Season for Justice* has been released in paperback as a Touchstone Book by Simon & Shuster (\$12). The book chronicles some of Dees' court cases that have made legal history, including the Michael Donald lynching case, and gives harrowing accounts of the dangers he and his family have faced as

a result of his work against Klansmen and other white supremacists.

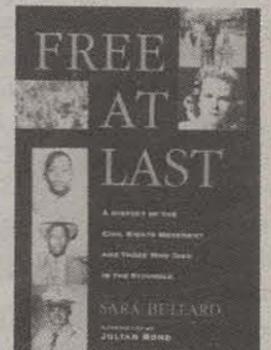
• Bill Stanton's book *Klanwatch*, originally published by Grove Weidenfield, was released in paperback in August 1992 as a Mentor book by the Penguin Group (\$5.99). *Klanwatch* is the compelling account of Stanton's years as SPLC investigator and *Klanwatch* director.



A *Washington Post* reviewer wrote: "Bill Stanton's quality journalism is a perfect match for social justice. The Klan won't be eliminated until we pay attention to the ideas and ideals found in *Klanwatch*."

Free at Last

Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle, will be available nationwide in hardcover from Oxford University Press (\$19.95).



The book chronicles the lives of 40 people whose names are on the Civil Rights Memorial and is part of the Center's curriculum kit, *America's Civil Rights Movement*. Originally published by the Center in 1989, *Free at Last* is the recipient of the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award.

To order the hardcover edition of *Free at Last*, contact: Oxford University Press Order Department, 20001 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513. Credit card orders may be phoned in to 800-451-7556.

Teaching Tolerance at U.S. Dept. of Education

(continued from page 1)

B'rith, the National Association for Mediation in Education, and the Princeton Center for Leadership Training.

Teaching Tolerance Praised

Teaching Tolerance was applauded as the only magazine in the country attempting to present to teachers the best anti-bias programs and curricula available. The premise of *Teaching Tolerance* was also the basis for the Washington conference: that children can be taught to get along.

Focusing future conflict management efforts toward racial and ethnic conflict at the elementary school level emerged as a clear goal, although the experts agreed that no single model offers a perfect solution.

Participants agreed to create a resource directory of programs that address racial and ethnic conflict and to work toward a national agenda to generate support for the issue.

The group will also work as an advocacy group, informing and advising the assistant secretary of education on the issue of racial and ethnic conflict among elementary school children. *Teaching Tolerance* will have continuing input into this forum and, hopefully, into some major educational decisions.

A complete report of the September roundtable can be obtained by writing to:

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202-1100

Legal Fees Awarded for Center Victory in State Trooper Case

■ In a precedent-setting decision, a federal court has ruled that the Center is entitled to attorneys' fees for its United States Supreme Court work on behalf of black Alabama state troopers.

The state trooper litigation has been one of the Center's longest and most complex cases. When it was filed in 1972, not a single black person served as a state trooper.

Regime of Racism

In addition to excluding black persons from its ranks, the troopers enforced a regime of racism throughout the State. It was club-wielding state troopers, for example, who led the infamous attack against the civil rights activists marching

from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 to protest discriminatory voting practices.

As a result of two decades of Center legal work, the Alabama trooper force is now the most heavily integrated in the nation. African-Americans make up approximately one-third of the arresting officers.

Supreme Court Victory

Black troopers would not have reached the upper echelons of the force were it not for the Center's 1987 victory before the Supreme Court. The decision marked the first time that the high court upheld an affirmative action order affecting promotions.

In a ruling issued late this summer, the federal dis-

trict court ruled that the Center was entitled to attorneys' fees and costs against the troopers for the Supreme Court victory despite the fact that it was the U. S. Justice Department, rather than the state troopers, that had prompted the high court to review the case.

Difficult Case

"I think the case's unusual procedural posture made it a difficult one for the court," remarked Center Legal Director Richard Cohen. "Because the troopers took an active role in the case, the court did not allow them to hide behind the fact that Reagan appointees at the Justice Department were championing their effort to block progress."