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SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER  
400 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36195

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# LAW REPORT

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

June 1991

## Metzger Losing Collection Battle

*Threatens violence in wake of failing efforts to evade payment of Portland verdict*

■ "Mathews Hall," where Metzger once gave hate lectures to Skinheads, is latest asset to be seized.

FALLBROOK, Calif. — His bank accounts frozen and his home up for auction, Tom Metzger has adopted the Skinhead attitude of "No Remorse." He has hardened his violently racist message in the wake of a multimillion-dollar verdict against him and his White Aryan Resistance organization.

Last October, Metzger was found liable for the 1988 Skinhead murder of an Ethiopian student in Portland, Oregon. Since then, he has proven unrepentant and determined to evade the \$12.5 million judgment against him, his White Aryan Resistance organization, his son John and two Skinheads.

The day after the ruling, Metzger announced in a recorded message that "we will put blood on the streets like you've never seen and



**Going...**  
A San Diego County marshal enters "Mathews Hall," a trailer Tom Metzger named in honor of dead white supremacist Robert Mathews.



**Going...**  
The lectern from which Tom Metzger delivered his messages of racial hatred to paying audiences of Skinheads.



**Gone**  
Marshals haul away "Mathews Hall," which will be sold to partially satisfy the multimillion-dollar verdict that Tom Metzger owes to the family of the murdered Mulugeta Seraw.

*Photos by Allen Rider*

advocate more violence than both world wars put together." He issued an anonymous warning: "We have a new set of targets to play with. So

if you're white and work for the system, watch your step. Whether you be a system cop, a controlled judge or a crooked lawyer, your ass

is grass."

One of Metzger's "new targets" is the lawyer trying to enforce the

*(continued on page 3)*

## Murder Victim's Young Son Adjusting to Life in America

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. — You may recall their faces from courtroom photographs of the Metzger trial: the furrowed brow of an older man, the curiosity of a young boy dressed in traditional Ethiopian garb.

They are Tekunah and Henok Seraw, father and son of Mulugeta Seraw, the Ethiopian student killed by Oregon Skinheads in 1988 under the direction of White Aryan Resistance leader Tom Metzger.

Shielded from trial publicity for security reasons, their story took a welcome back seat to the courtroom drama. Yet so many *Law Report* readers have inquired about the pair's welfare, that the Center felt obliged to offer this

*(continued on page 2)*



*Photo by Michael Lloyd/The Oregonian*

**Henok Seraw with Grandfather**  
Seen here during the trial against the Metzgers in Portland, Henok Seraw is now living with his great uncle in San Francisco. His grandfather, Tekunah, has returned to Ethiopia.

## Klanwatch Director Addresses Law Enforcement Meeting

BALTIMORE — On May 13, Klanwatch Director Danny Welch urged police to share information on organized white supremacist groups at a conference of the Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network.

Speaking to more than 600 people from approximately 100 law enforcement jurisdictions, Welch urged agencies to help each other monitor white supremacist groups on a nationwide basis.

"We've seen an increase in hate crime in the past few years, and

it's apparent that the problem is cross-jurisdictional. The most infamous example is the Order, whose members

traveled all over the country passing counterfeit money and committing violent crimes. Just last year, we saw Aryan Nations

*(continued on page 7)*



*Photo by Paul Robertson*  
**Klanwatch Director Danny Welch**

**Center Marks Twentieth Anniversary**

See story on pages 4 and 5



## SPLC Mailbox

My parents immigrated from Germany and believed in the American Dream. At an early age when I came home from school, crying, and told my father about the awful behavior of some children toward a black boy, my father began my education about intolerance and prejudice.

I am fortunate that my children and grandchildren listened to me and learned as I did from my father. They are sensitive and caring people. May you continue your most difficult work in strength and in good health.

— M. Gordon  
New York

Many supporters watched the May broadcast of "The Phil Donahue Show" that featured Center co-founder and Executive Director Morris Dees, two former white supremacists, Cynthia Mitchell, the sister of Michael Donald and Henok Seraw, son of the man who was murdered by Skinheads in Portland (see story on page 1). Here are some of their comments:

I recently saw Morris Dees and some former white supremacists on the "Donahue Show." It was inspiring to hear of their change of heart and the work that the Southern Poverty Law Center is accomplishing. My prayers are with all of you who try to bring about the equality our constitution boasts about.

## LAW REPORT

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a publication of the  
Southern Poverty Law  
Center

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Administrator/Sec.-Treas.

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Montgomery, AL 36104

## Henok Seraw

(continued from page 1)

update:

Although the elder Mr. Seraw returned to his family in Ethiopia shortly after the trial, young Henok remained in this country. He plans to grow up in America.

Following the verdict, Henok was welcomed into the home of his great uncle Engedaw Berhanu, a Bay Area social worker and the plaintiff in the Portland trial.

By all accounts, he appears to be flourishing in his new American life.

A third grader, Henok was enrolled in the same private school as his 6-year-old cousin, Hebstie.

— D. Tirschman  
Maryland

I saw the "Phil Donahue Show" when Morris Dees was on it. It made me realize how very serious this white supremacist movement is. Thank you for the work you are doing. I receive so many requests for donations and it is hard to know whether these organizations are really helping the people they are supposed to. Now I know Klanwatch is truly helping.

— A. Kirby  
Texas

"The Donahue Show" was very touching and I hope impacted some viewers. I am sure many were informed of things they find hard to believe. I hope enough were open-minded enough to make some changes and offer support to the Center.

— K. Anderson  
Florida

I am Southern born, 79 years old, so naturally I grew up in a segregated society. I feel I was very fortunate that my father became a charter member of a Unitarian group and so I was taught to treat all blacks with respect. Morris Dees' description of his father's attitudes on "The Donahue Show" reminded me so much of my father. With much appreciation for the work you and Klanwatch are doing.

— M. Seaman  
Georgia

I watched Morris Dees' appearance on "The Phil Donahue Show" and was so happy to hear what he had to say concerning Mulugeta Seraw, murdered by Skinheads for no reason at all except that he was black. The Center is doing wonderful work, and may God bless all of you in your organization

— C. Hood  
Texas

Professional reviewers have given Center Executive Director Morris Dees' autobiography, *A Season For Justice*, rave reviews (see

Although the language barrier proved a problem initially, classes in English as a second language gave him the boost he needed. His bilingual cousin helped, too, playing spelling games with him at home and providing translations when necessary at school. Now, after only seven months, Henok speaks fluent English.

Math is a favorite subject. And Henok has proven a favorite teammate in school sports. An accomplished soccer player in Ethiopia, he has taken readily to basketball and baseball. On his 10th birthday in April, he received his first bicycle.

Like most kids his age, Henok

enjoys pizza and hot dogs. But he also looks forward to eating traditional Ethiopian food at home several times a week.

"He has been very quick to adapt and is a wonderful addition to our family," said Berhanu. "He calls me Dad and calls my wife Mom."

At times Henok appears perhaps too eager to Americanize. "He came home from school one day and said he wanted to change his name to 'Mike,'" laughs Berhanu. "I told him no, it would be best to keep his Ethiopian name. We want him to enjoy his life in America, but not lose his heritage, his name, his language. In time, I'm sure he will understand."

story on page 8). Many supporters and friends of the Southern Poverty Law Center have also now had a chance to read the book. Following are five of their "reviews":

*A Season for Justice* has helped me to understand not only your own grass-roots efforts to create a better world but also has given me a much fuller and direct sense of the South. The book reveals the realistic down-to-earth struggle for justice which started not from the top but from plain and decent people who had no special privileges.

— J. Townsend  
California

*A Season for Justice* is one of the most inspirational books that I've ever read. It is so very refreshing to learn that equity, idealism, and advocacy still retain a place in our ailing society.

— K. Ashley  
Alabama

The book *A Season for Justice* arrived last week. I can hardly put it down in order to do my routine jobs

at home. I also saw Phil Donahue's program when Morris Dees and others were on. I admire all of you for your continued efforts to help the less fortunate gain their civil rights.

— H. Denslow  
New Jersey

I have just finished reading *A Season for Justice*; finding adjectives to adequately describe it is difficult. I'll have to settle on spell-binding, as I found it nearly impossible to put down. I read the entire book this past weekend. I have worked in a law office for 18 years. In all that time, however, I've never seen an attorney who is as dedicated to a cause as Mr. Dees. Reading the details of his efforts on behalf of others made me proud to help in some small way by being a Center supporter.

— S. Hooper  
Connecticut

Mr. Dees' book, *A Season for Justice*, should be a text book for our schools.

— Sister P. Cook  
Ohio

## THE LAW CENTER FUND

*A Way to Help  
More Than You Thought You Could*

If you have ever wished you could do even more to advance the Center's work, but didn't think you had the means, there is something you should consider. You do have it within your power to play an important part in assuring the Center's ability to fight injustice for years to come.

You can do it by remembering the Center in your will.

Bequests in wills help to assure the Center's long-term financial stability, and that is a key to success in our legal efforts, which often last for years and can cost thousands of dollars to conduct.

A bequest to the Center through a will can help to reduce

an estate for federal tax purposes and it can also provide the satisfaction of knowing that you are not only benefiting the victims of injustice but all Americans by making our country a better place to live.

Through your will, you can help pass on the torch of equal justice to future generations. If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider the lasting good you can do by participating in the Law Center Fund.

**For More Information...**

The Law Center Fund  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Attn: Amelia Montjoy  
400 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

## Collection Efforts

(continued from page 1)

judgment against him. In a message to his Skinhead followers, Metzger broadcast the name and address of San Diego attorney James McElroy. McElroy, a volunteer attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center, has since received death threats.

Metzger now claims to have an underground cadre of followers trained to do violence. In a recent issue of his WAR newspaper, he reminds members of the "Aryan Invisible Underground" not to talk to police after they have committed crimes. "Being in the AIU...will call for you to commit acts that in the eyes of our enemy are crimes against the U.S. government, so you must operate as though you are in a state of war." Another article insists: "We have every right to use force in self defense, in retaliation, and in preemptive strikes against those who openly threaten our freedom."

### Public Martyr,

### Private WARmonger

Casting himself publicly as a martyr, Metzger has attempted to capitalize on his legal predicament at every turn. He has courted the press, allied himself with white supremacists he once shunned, and called on supporters to contribute the cash necessary for an appeal.

In an April appearance on "The Phil Donahue Show," Metzger threatened, "If I have to quit publishing my paper, I promise violence. You're really asking for it and you're going to get it."

Metzger is playing the role of the martyr in an attempt to win respect from other white supremacists — many of whom he has offended in the past. He appeared at a Klan rally in Meridian, Miss., in May and has since offered his support to other factions of the white supremacist movement. In a May recorded message, Metzger said he was ready to go "full-time as a Resistance movement spokesman."

Throughout it all, Metzger has kept up a well-honed campaign of poor-mouthing. This strategy once brought him thousands of dollars in donations from WAR supporters but it has proven less effective since the trial.

### Reeling from the Judgment

Although Metzger may be gaining admiration from his followers, he has lost his major source of income — donations from WAR members. After the verdict, attorneys acted quickly to seize bank accounts used to collect money for Metzger, and WAR donations dropped off accordingly. Metzger's post office box in Fallbrook, Calif., was put into receivership, assuring that any money coming to it will go toward satisfaction of the



### James McElroy...

...a volunteer attorney for the Law Center, has led legal efforts to collect the verdict rendered against white supremacist Tom Metzger. Mr. McElroy, whose offices are in San Diego, has received death threats because of his work against Metzger.

judgment. The developments were a hard blow to Metzger, who for years had made a tidy living off his mail-order hate business.

Metzger retaliated by increasing his fundraising efforts, suing Skinheads who turned against him, and appealing the Portland verdict.

So far, his evasive tactics have failed. Metzger's countersuit against the Skinheads was thrown out of court. Metzger has had difficulty raising money to obtain a trial transcript necessary for his appeal. He is now urging his contributors to send legal defense do-

nations to Kirk Lyons' Patriots Defense Foundation in Texas. But Metzger tells his followers to "hold all orders for books or tapes until further notice."

The property seizure began on April 30, when San Diego County Marshals took Metzger's meeting hall, along with video equipment, a personal computer, printer and fax machine. The meeting hall, a mobile home, was dubbed "Mathews Hall" in honor of dead Order member Robert Mathews.

Metzger responded to the seizure by applying for welfare, and received his first \$960 check several days later.

Attorney James McElroy called Metzger's welfare application "a political trick." McElroy said, "He's been scamming his supporters for years and now he's scamming the taxpayers....He should just get a job like other hard-working Americans."

The hardest blow is yet to come. This summer, Metzger's home and Mathews Hall will be auctioned to help satisfy the judgment. Metzger lost a court battle to keep \$75,000 from the sale of the home. Instead, he will be allowed to keep only \$45,000.

All proceeds from the sales will go to the relatives of Mulugeta Seraw, the man killed by Skinheads under Metzger's direction.

## Long-time Supporter Leaves Center Unusually Generous Gift

COATESVILLE, PA. — Richard M. Rennard, Jr. was born in a small suburban area near Philadelphia in 1904. He lived on a farm through his teenage years and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, where he obtained a degree in engineering. Following the depression, Mr. Rennard was employed by Western Electric where he worked as an equipment engineer until his retirement in 1964.

Mr. Rennard died on October 30, 1988. He was preceded in death by his wife, a composer, teacher and musician. The Rennards had no children. In his will, Mr. Rennard included a percentage bequest to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The Center received the final distribution of his estate in April 1991, bringing the total of Mr. Rennard's gift to over \$102,000.

Mr. Rennard was introduced to the Center's work by his sister, Genevieve R. Timm, a long-time supporter and Friend of the Center. According to Mrs. Timm, shortly after his retirement her brother began to think about how he wanted to distribute his property. She told him about the Center's work and accomplishments. Mrs. Timms

stated: "He joined my feelings in appreciating the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center. My brother was a man very interested in world events, justice and human rights."

In his latter years, Mr. Rennard, another sister, and Mr. and Mrs. Timm bought a large old house in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. As Mrs. Timm said, "We had our very own retirement home." During his retirement years, Mr. Rennard became very interested in woodworking and making furniture.

### Deeply committed to human rights

The beneficiaries of Mr. Rennard's generosity attest to his commitment to humanity and the environment. In addition to his tribute to the Center, Rennard made bequests honoring the Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, the Christian Appalachian Project and the American Indian Fund, among others. Mr. Rennard also generously remembered his alma mater, Rensselaer.

Mr. Rennard will be forever remembered by the Center as his generous final gift continues to be used to promote tolerance and justice and eradicate racism.

## Center Supporter Wins Philanthropy Award

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. — A loyal supporter of the Law Center throughout the past decade, Mrs. Ethel Hawkins of Pine Bluff, Ark., was honored in March as the 1991 Outstanding Philanthropist in the United States. Mrs. Hawkins received this award from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives at their annual convention.

This award is presented annually to the individual "whose deeds have enhanced philanthropy and created ripples of good deeds that are felt throughout their communities and the nation." Mrs. Hawkins, a former teacher and widow of a Presbyterian minister, was nominated by the Arkansas chapter of NSFRE. In their nomination the chapter stated: "Ethel Hawkins' name will not be found listed prominently among the leading persons of wealth or as having made the largest contributions to philanthropy in any given year, but, over the years, she has demonstrated outstanding leadership in giving."

When asked how a person who does not possess great material wealth could make such generous gifts, Mrs. Hawkins replied that she



Center supporter Ethel Hawkins

lives modestly, does not own a car, has good health, and conserves her assets so she can share with others.

In presenting her with the 1991 Outstanding Philanthropist Award, Del Staecker, Chair of the NSFRE Board, stated that, "She exemplifies the impact an individual can make and the true spirit of giving."

In accepting her award, Mrs. Hawkins said, "I gratefully accept this award. I am pleased to receive the honor, but I'm even more pleased if I can challenge others to give of their assets and their lives as the Creator has given to them."

# Twenty Years of

*Since 1971, the Southern Poverty Law Center has established a*

## How the Center began

In the mid-Sixties, Morris Dees had been actively involved in defending the civil rights of Alabama citizens as a volunteer ACLU attorney. In 1970, he met Joseph J. Levin Jr., and the pair soon formed a law partnership, Levin and Dees. One of their first cases was a suit to integrate the Montgomery YMCA.

The two young white lawyers were an unlikely pair of mavericks. Dees had a successful publishing business. Levin was from a comfortable Montgomery Jewish background. However, both genuinely viewed the law as a vehicle for social change, and both wanted the economic freedom to fight injustice in the courts.

The idea of the Southern Poverty Law Center was the answer. In 1971, the Law Center was legally incorporated as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, operating out of the Levin and Dees offices. Dees asked Julian Bond of Georgia to serve as the President of the Law Center.

Others prominent in civil rights circles endorsed the concept of the Center and agreed to serve on a President's Advisory Council. These included Lucius Amerson, first black sheriff in Alabama since Reconstruction; Anthony G. Amsterdam, respected legal scholar; Hodding Carter III, journalist; Charles Evers, brother of the murdered Mississippi leader; Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, also of Mississippi, whose speech electrified the 1964 Democratic National Convention; John Lewis of SNCC, and Alabama expatriate Charles Morgan, ACLU lawyer.

The Center's first cases were adopted from suits that had already been filed or worked on by Dees and Levin. These included the reapportionment of the Alabama Legislature, and the desegregation of the Montgomery YMCAs.

The effects of the Center's legal work has gone far beyond the South. Today, its staff has grown to about 35. Morris Dees continues his pioneering work in the courts as the Center's Executive Director, and a talented young attorney from Washington, D.C., Richard Cohen, now serves as the Center's Legal Director.

The Center accomplishes its work without any government funds. In 1991, the SPLC efforts are made possible through the generosity of over 150,000 contributors from all fifty states and some foreign countries.

These pages show just a few of the major events in the Southern Poverty Law Center's twenty year history.



**PROBLEM:** There had never been a black state trooper in Alabama, and the all-white force had frequently been used to thwart efforts by blacks to achieve equality.

**SOLUTION:** The Center filed a lawsuit in 1972 that forced the state to integrate the troopers. This helped break employment barriers in more than just the highway patrol. Unfortunately, to this day, the Center has been forced to monitor the state's compliance with court orders to treat black troopers fairly.



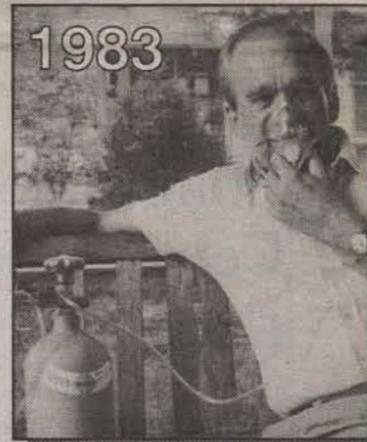
**PROBLEM:** Federal funds were being used to involuntarily sterilize poor women, including 12-year-old Mary Alice Relf and her 14-year-old sister Minnie (pictured on Morris Dees' left).

**SOLUTION:** As a result of a Center lawsuit, a federal judge ordered that HEW stop providing funds for the sterilization of minors or mental incompetents, and that new regulations be drafted to ensure that consent to be sterilized always be knowing, informed and free from coercion.



**PROBLEM:** Twenty-year-old Willie Ferguson could neither read, write, hear or talk. Although capable of learning, he received no special education and was frequently arrested by the police, who considered him a "behavior problem."

**SOLUTION:** Center attorneys filed a lawsuit that freed Willie Ferguson from police custody and won him enrollment at a special school in Texas. The lawsuit also committed the State of Alabama to develop a special education program for young people like Mr. Ferguson.



**PROBLEM:** Cotton mill workers suffer from "cotton dust" disease. But state laws made it impossible for them to receive compensation. Knowledge and study of this disease.

**SOLUTION:** The Center filed multiple class action suits against the mills.



**PROBLEM:** Klansmen attacked peaceful civil rights marchers in Decatur, Alabama.

**SOLUTION:** Center attorneys and investigators found evidence of a conspiracy to violate the marchers' civil rights. The evidence they uncovered led to criminal indictments of 10 top Alabama Klansmen. After a nearly 10-year struggle, the case was settled, and Klansmen were required to attend a race relations class.

This case led to the formation of the Klanwatch Project in 1981.



**PROBLEM:** Respected family man Loyal Garner Jr. was beaten to death in the Hemphill, Texas, jail by white jailers.

**SOLUTION:** The Center filed a lawsuit for Mrs. Garner and her six children. The City of Hemphill settled the case, and evidence gathered by Center investigators later led to murder convictions of the lawmen who beat Mr. Garner.



**PROBLEM:** Skinhead followers of the White Aryan Resistance (W.A.R.) murdered a black man in Portland, Oregon.

**SOLUTION:** Center attorneys won a record \$12.5-million verdict for the family of the murdered man against Tom and John Metzger, and their W.A.R. group.

# Seeking Justice

*unprecedented record of legal victories for the victims of injustice*



1975

Photo by Jill Kremenitz

**PROBLEM:** The State of North Carolina sought the death penalty for 21-year-old JoAnne Little, who killed a white guard while he was attempting to rape her.

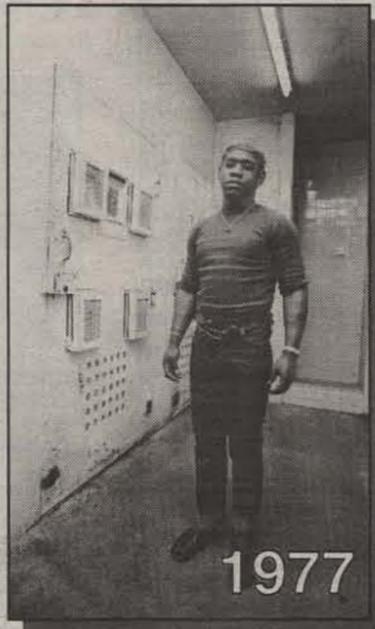
**SOLUTION:** Center attorneys joined JoAnne Little's defense team. A jury found that she acted in self-defense and was acquitted of murder.



1975

**PROBLEM:** Decorated Marine Sergeant Roy Patterson was wrongfully sentenced to life in prison after killing two white Georgia policemen who were attacking his wife and infant son.

**SOLUTION:** The Center appealed his conviction. After a 13-year legal struggle, Roy Patterson was finally given the freedom he deserved.



1977

**PROBLEM:** Johnny Ross was imprisoned in Louisiana at 15 and sentenced to death at 16 for a rape he did not commit.

**SOLUTION:** The Center began a seven-year legal and investigative struggle that eventually won freedom for Ross.



1978

**PROBLEM:** The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) supplemental food program was failing to serve malnourished poor women and children who desperately needed and were entitled to its help.

**SOLUTION:** Center attorneys fought for reform of the WIC program in Alabama so that it was administered in accordance with federal regulations.



...who breathe develop "brown" ... it virtually compensation, suppress the ... pling disease.

...i-million dollar ... inst two textile ... companies alleg- ... g that they in- ... tionally ex- ... posed workers to ... e disease. ... ventually, the ... enter won out- ... f-court settle- ... ents for six ... otton mill ex- ... orkers. The li- ... tigation put the ... xtile industry ... n notice that it ... ould not cava- ... erly disregard ... e health and ... afety of its ... orkers.



1983

Photo by Paul Robertson

**PROBLEM:** Klansmen tried to stop the Center's work by torching its offices.

**SOLUTION:** The Center's staff resumed work at a temporary headquarters just a few days later. Center investigators helped law enforcement track down the Klan arsonists. A new, secure Center headquarters was built, and the work against the Klan continues stronger than ever.



1984

Photo by Grilles Peress

**PROBLEM:** The Klan tried to intimidate blacks from serving on juries by lynching Michael Donald, a young black man.

**SOLUTION:** The Center won a \$7 million judgment against the United Klans of America for Michael's mother (above). She eventually is given the key to the Klan headquarters in partial payment of the judgment. The United Klans was bankrupted.



1987

**PROBLEM:** A Klan led mob in all-white Forsyth County, Ga., attacked civil rights marchers who were observing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

**SOLUTION:** The Center sued the attacking Klansmen and won a nearly \$1 million judgment for the civil rights marchers. Georgia Klan leader Dave Holland received the largest individual fine, \$50,000. He has since been indicted on charges of perjury for lying in depositions during the Forsyth County investigations.



1991

Eric Everson/The Evergreen

Aryan Nations official and Skinheads enact the baseball bat beating and lynching of a rival Skinhead.

## The next 20 years...

...will be difficult ones for race relations in America. In alarming numbers, disaffected youth are joining the ranks of white supremacist groups.

Even young people not involved in organized racism are committing terrible racial crimes. Recently, a gang of five white youths beat a black youth unconscious with baseball bats in Atlantic Beach, New York.

The attorneys and staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center are determined to keep fighting racial violence in the courtroom.

But, because of the number of young people involved in racial violence, they are convinced that education for tolerance has a crucial role to play in steering the young away from racism. In the years ahead, educational programs will play an increasingly important role in the Center's struggle to stop racial violence. If white supremacists cannot recruit the young, their philosophy of hate will wither and die.



1991

Eric Everson/The Evergreen

A ceremonial swastika burning at the Aryan Nations compound on April 20 to mark the 102nd birthday of Hitler.

# Free at Last Is a Classroom Success

STUDENTS around the country have responded enthusiastically to *Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle*, a 104-page Center publication designed for secondary school use. In 1989, one book was mailed free to every secondary school in the country. Since then, more than 125,000 copies have been sold at cost.

Teachers and students say *Free at Last* offers a uniquely personal history of the movement, by focusing on forty people who gave their lives for freedom.

"My students were astonished that ordinary people were involved, and that many lost their lives," said Mike Reynolds, an American History teacher at Ruskin High School in Kansas

City, Mo. "I did a week-long unit using *Free at Last*, and I had probably the best response of any material I've introduced. They were very moved..."

Commenting on *Free at Last*, Concord, Michigan, history teacher Rod Pedersen said, "Students need to be taught a true background in civil rights so they have facts to make proper decisions concerning relationships. We need to teach and thoroughly explore values in order to promote progress in civil rights."

Sue Pedersen, who, like her husband, teaches history in Concord, said she plans to continue using *Free at Last* in her fifth grade introduction to American History because it was so well received by her students.

"My students were astonished that common, ordinary people were involved and that many people lost their lives."

Mike Reynolds, History Teacher,  
Ruskin High School,  
Kansas City, Missouri



Teacher Mike Reynolds (above) uses *Free at Last* in his high school American History class.



Michigan schoolteacher Sue Pedersen divided her 5th grade introductory American History class into groups to study *Free at Last* and report on individual martyrs of the civil rights movement.

"Student reaction to the reports in *Free at Last* was a mixture of surprise, admiration and amazement. They admired those people who willingly put their lives on the line to get their rights. 'You got to see what really happened,' said fifth grader Garrick Bush. 'It made me feel like I was really there because it explained everything so well,' said Meagan Luttenton, another student in my class.

"Their strongest reaction was to the ability of the protesters to retain reason and dignity when violence was all around them.

"I am excited about how nicely *Free at Last* lends itself to role playing, play writing, artistic depiction of events, and diary writing and will use these methods much more next year."

Sue Pedersen, History Teacher,  
Concord, Michigan

Educators are encouraged to write on their school's letterhead for a complimentary copy of *Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle*.

Send your request to:

*Free at Last*  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
400 Washington Ave.  
Montgomery, AL 36104

## Top Educators To Serve On Center Advisory Panel

THE Center will have the advice of international authorities as well as classroom teachers in developing its new education program. The Center's Education Project advisory board members include:

**Robert Coles**, Harvard child psychiatrist and author of *Children in Crisis*;

**John Hope Franklin**, Duke University authority on African-American history;

**Mary Hatwood Futrell**, president of the 6-million member World Confederation of the Teaching Profession, and past president of the National Education Association;

**Bill Honig**, Superintendent of California Department of Education, the nation's largest school system;

**John Lammel**, principal of Millard South High School in Omaha, Nebraska and past president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals;

**Gillian Sorensen**, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

"This is an outstanding board of educators who share our desire to bring the teaching of tolerance into America's classrooms," said Center Education Director Sara Bullard. "It's very gratifying and exciting to know we will have their advice as we pursue our educational goals."

Robert Coles, in accepting the invitation to serve on the board, wrote, "I've much admired your work for years, and would be glad to be of help."

## In Production: Civil Rights Film, Teachers' Guide

HUNDREDS of historical photos and many hours of interviews are now being shaped into a classroom-length video on the civil rights movement, to be sent free to schools in 1991-1992.

The film is being produced by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Charles Guggenheim, who has worked closely over the past year with Center staff to document the dramatic history of the movement. The result promises to be an evocative portrayal of the sacrifices made by ordinary people for the cause of freedom, as well as a unique tool for introducing civil rights history in the classroom.

The film will be part of a free educational package that also includes a teacher's guide, the publication *Free at Last: A History*

*of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle*, and an informative wall chart.

In developing the package, Center Education Director Sara Bullard has talked with teachers and curriculum experts around the country, researched a wide range of teaching tools and techniques, and developed contacts in leading educational organizations such as the National Education Association, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the National Council on the Social Studies.

"Our goal is to develop quality materials on civil rights and tolerance that pique students' interest and meet the classroom teachers' needs," said Bullard.

## Klanwatch Director

(continued from page 1)

members traveling from Idaho to Seattle for the purposes of bombing a gay bar. And Skinheads move around so much they're almost impossible to keep track of."

The Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network, made up of eight states and the District of Columbia, is part of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) program. RISS is a federally funded project that supports law enforcement efforts with intelligence and investigative support service, including a centralized database, technical assistance, confidential funds, special equipment loans, and data analysis services.

The RISS project serves more than 200,000 sworn officers in more than 2,700 jurisdictions nationwide. It was started in 1980 on the premise that "criminal justice agencies in various regions of the country need to communicate and coordinate to have success in

combatting crime committed by mobile criminals."

The Baltimore meeting was part of ongoing efforts to educate law enforcement professionals on current activities in the area of hate violence and organized white supremacists.

In his five-hour presentation, Welch also stressed the importance of civil litigation as an adjunct to police work in fighting hate crime. Cases such as the successful Klanwatch lawsuit against Tom Metzger and the White Aryan Resistance can cripple entire white supremacist organizations, discouraging further violence, Welch said.

"We're in a battle against hate crime, but none of us can fight it alone," Welch said. "It's essential that we coordinate our efforts and communicate with each other."

The Baltimore conference was co-sponsored by the Baltimore County Police Department, the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, the Maryland Commission on Human Relations, and Goucher College.

## San Francisco Proclaims "Southern Poverty Law Center Day" As Center Legal Director Speaks Before Asian Law Caucus

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. — Richard Cohen, Legal Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, was the keynote speaker at the Asian Law Caucus in March.

Cohen, who helped mastermind the Center's court victories against white supremacist groups in Alabama and Oregon, told the audience of civil rights lawyers and activists, "The key is getting a lucky investigative break. Being informed maximizes your chances."

Thorough investigation played a major role in the recent successful lawsuit against white supremacist Tom and John Metzger, their White Aryan Resistance group, and the Skinheads who murdered an Ethiopian man in Portland, Oregon (see stories on page 1).

Cohen told the group that it was common for hate groups to boast of their actions. "They're in competition with one another for new members. One way is to make themselves out to be more violent than the others."

The success of lawsuits against white supremacist groups also often depends on a member of the hate group turning informer, said Cohen. With the help of such informers,



After giving the keynote address at the Asian Law Caucus, Center Legal Director Richard Cohen (right) accepted a proclamation from Mayor Art Agnos (left) that declared March 16, 1991, "Southern Poverty Law Center Day" in San Francisco. The proclamation praised the Center for its "unequalled reputation for its effective legal response to the rising tide of hate motivated violence against low income racial and ethnic minorities."

the Center has been able to win multimillion-dollar judgments against white supremacists in Alabama and in Oregon.

One measure of the Center's success is that both Cohen and Center Executive Director Morris Dees are reportedly marked for assassination. "This is not work for the fainthearted," Cohen told the audience.

## Center Executive Director Receives Brandeis Award

LOUISVILLE, KY. — Center co-founder and Executive Director Morris Dees was awarded the Brandeis Medal from the University of Louisville School of Law on April 9, 1991. Louisville native Louis Brandeis was a U.S. Supreme Court justice from 1916 to 1939, and he was renowned for his work for economic, political and social justice.

The purpose of the award is to recognize those whose lives reflect Justice Brandeis' commitment to the ideals of individual liberty and concern for the disadvantaged. Dees has become nationally known for winning cases securing military benefits for women, employment and voting rights for minorities and winning substantial awards of damages for the victims of violence committed by hate groups.

In his acceptance speech, Dees told of an incident of injustice in 1952 that sparked his interest in law. At the age of 16, Dees was asked by his father to defend a black farm worker wrongfully accused of public drunkenness and assaulting a police officer. The young Dees was confident he could convince the justice of the peace of the man's innocence. But the judge fined the black



Center Co-Founder and Executive Director Morris Dees receiving the Brandeis Award from the University of Louisville School of Law.

man \$150 instead. Outraged, Dees complained to his father, who replied "If you don't like it, why don't you be a lawyer. Go to law school."

The rest is history.

Previous recipients of the Brandeis Medal include Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun and Senator Christopher Dodd. The program for the awards ceremony stated, "The Brandeis Scholars could think of no one today who more clearly stands for the principle of service than this year's recipient — Morris Dees."

## Garner Case Is Proposed Subject Of Made-for-cable-TV Movie

SEATTLE WASH. — Charles Johnson, Pollock Professor of English at the University of Washington in Seattle and National Book Award winner for *Middle Passage*, is preparing a screenplay about the Center's lawsuit on behalf of the family of Loyal Garner, Jr., a black man who was murdered while being held in the Hemphill, Tex., jail.

The Center won a settlement from the City of Hemphill for Mr. Garner's widow and six children. Thanks to evidence gathered by Center investigators, the lawmen involved in Mr. Garner's death were later convicted of murder.

The featured character in the screenplay will portray Joe Roy, the Center investigator who uncovered the evidence that convinced the City of Hemphill to settle, and that later led to the murder convictions of the lawmen who beat Mr. Garner to death.

When completed, Professor



Photo © copyright Jerry Bauer

Professor Charles Johnson... winner of the 1990 National Book Award in fiction, is writing a screenplay about the Center's lawsuit in the Loyal Garner, Jr. case.

Johnson's screenplay will be submitted to Home Box Office (HBO) for approval and production as a motion picture.

## Legal Department Aided for Summer By Two Outstanding Law Students

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Joining the Center's Legal Department this summer are Jeffery D. Toney and Sarah Saunders, two top notch legal talents.

### JEFF TONEY

Mr. Toney, a published writer and native Alabamian, is working



Jeff Toney

on the Center's Voting Rights case challenging the way judges are elected in Alabama, and also on the Tom Metzger case. He has just completed his second year of law school at Florida State University where he achieved the status of research assistant to one of the country's top agency and partnership law experts.

Mr. Toney said he was attracted to the Center because of its commitment to constitutional issues. The knowledge and experience gained while working on the Center's cases will be used to take up the challenge of securing civil rights for the poor and people of color, he said.

Before entering law school, Mr. Toney graduated cum laude with a dual degree in History and Political Science from Jackson State University. He holds membership

in the Phi Alpha Delta and Lambda Alpha Epsilon History and Social Science Honor Societies and is president of the Black Law Students Association at Florida State University. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

### SARAH SAUNDERS

Sarah Saunders is a second year law student at the University of Virginia School of Law. Ms. Saunders said she came to the Law Center to gain experience in civil rights and public interest law. She recently competed successfully for the opportunity to work on



Sarah Saunders

the Virginia Environmental Law Journal.

Before earning her A.B. degree in English from Princeton University, Ms. Saunders spent one summer as a researcher for Greenpeace and another as an intern on Capitol Hill for the Senate Budget Committee. After graduation she gained additional experience as a paralegal with a Washington D.C. law firm.

Ms. Saunders is working with the Center's attorneys on the Tom Metzger appeal and on the prison conditions cases.

## New Writer/Researcher Joins Klanwatch Staff

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Lynn Duvall began a one-year fellowship as a writer and researcher for Klanwatch in early April. She comes to Klanwatch

from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Birmingham Museum of Art, *Birmingham Magazine* and *Southern Exposure*.

Previously Ms. Duvall

worked as a senior writer and editor for the University of Alabama at Birmingham and as Director of Public Information for the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Ms. Duvall works with the National Organization for Women, Sierra Club, and Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service.

"I've always been issues-oriented, even back



Lynn Duvall

from nearby Birmingham, where she ran a successful freelance writing and editing business.

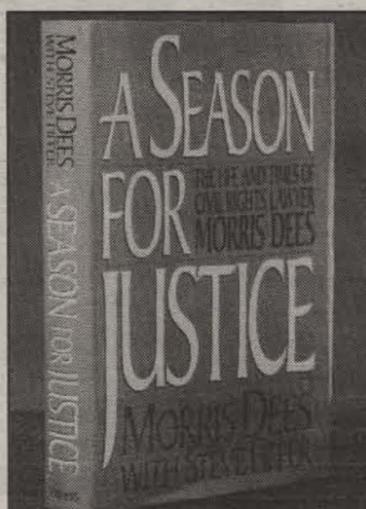
As a freelancer, Ms. Duvall utilized her education in art and anthropology in writing for numerous clients, including *The Birmingham News*, *The Birmingham Post-Herald*, the Alaba-

ma State Council on the Arts, Birmingham Museum of Art, *Birmingham Magazine* and *Southern Exposure*. Previously Ms. Duvall worked as a senior writer and editor for the University of Alabama at Birmingham and as Director of Public Information for the Birmingham Museum of Art. Ms. Duvall works with the National Organization for Women, Sierra Club, and Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service. "I've always been issues-oriented, even back when I was writing for my high school newspaper," said Duvall. "This job gives me a chance to learn more about some crucial issues, work with talented, committed people, and use my abilities doing something that matters to me." The Law Center's staff welcomes her to the Law Center.

## Reviewers Praise A Season for Justice

REVIEWERS, lawyers, authors and civil rights leaders are hailing *A Season for Justice*, Morris Dees' new autobiography. Dees, co-founder and Executive Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, relates fascinating behind-the-scenes facts about the crucial role he played in major Center legal victories, including the incredible story of the Michael Donald lynching case.

In the *American Bar Association Journal* review of *A Season for Justice*, Bill Blum writes, "Few lawyers have done as much as Morris Dees to change the legal landscape of America, and few deserve



Morris Dees new autobiography

as much praise for their service to the cause of justice."

*Los Angeles Times* reviewer Jonathan Kirsch wrote that *A Season for Justice* "reads like a treatment for a Hollywood epic, a Scott Turow novel that stood up and walked over to the nonfiction shelves."

Coretta Scott King called *A Season for Justice* "an

inspiring and moving memoir of a courageous white Southerner who has repeatedly risked his life in a lifelong struggle against racial violence, poverty and injustice. I highly recommend this important book."

*A Season for Justice* is now available in bookstores.

## Settlement of Center Foster Care Suit Is Model for the Nation

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Making the first step in transforming the Alabama foster care system, the Mental Health Law Project, the Civil Liberties Union of Alabama, and the Southern Poverty Law Center settled their 2 1/2-year-old federal lawsuit against the Alabama Department of Human Resources. The suit, *R.C. v. Hornsby*, challenges the services provided to emotionally disturbed children in the state's foster care system.

"We know that at least a third of the more than half-million children in foster care in this country have emotional or behavioral problems," said Ira Burnim, legal director of the Mental Health Law Project. "R.C. is the first case to acknowledge the child welfare system's crucial role in addressing their mental health care needs and to design a way for the system to fulfill its role."

The state has approximately 4,500 children in foster care. And of those children, approximately 2,600 of them have some sort of emotional or behavioral problem. Very little mental health treatment is provided to these children and very few are offered any in-home

treatment or services. But a recent study by the Alabama Department of Human Resources indicated that as many as 45% of all admissions into foster care could be avoided by providing early intervention with services in home-based or community-based settings. It is the goal of the settlement to provide such services.

The settlement stresses the importance of keeping children with their families, ensuring stability and appropriate care for children while in state custody, and developing home-based and community-based services. Its implementation requires initiatives in staff training, service development, and advocacy for the rights of emotionally disturbed children and their families.

Although it's estimated that implementation of the settlement will cost \$3 1/2 million, once the state gets effective preventative programs in place, the millions now spent on foster care could be shifted to other programs because fewer children would be removed from their homes.

The settlement is seen as a model for foster care systems throughout the nation.