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SPLC REPORT

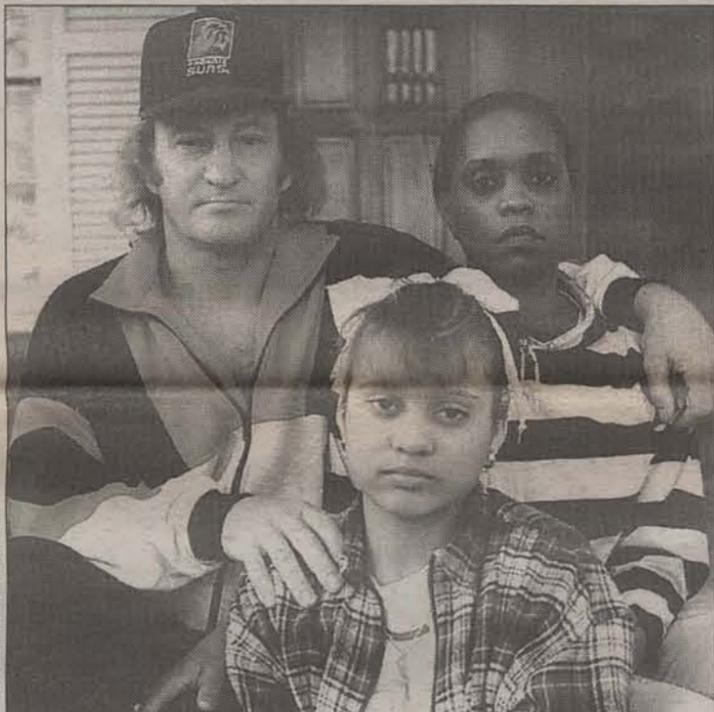
VOL. 24
NO. 3



JULY
1994

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

Center Sues Principal and School Board for Violation of Student's Civil Rights



Revonda Bowen with her parents, Wayne and Dorothy. The Center is suing the principal of Randolph Co. High School in Wedowee, Ala., for violating Ms. Bowen's civil rights when he said her parents, an interracial couple, had made a "mistake" by having her.

■ WEDOWEE, Ala. — A complaint filed by Center attorneys on behalf of Revonda Bowen, the child of an interracial marriage, claims that an East Alabama high school principal violated her civil rights when he threatened to cancel the school prom if interracial couples planned to attend and called her parents' marriage "a mistake."

Ms. Bowen was the junior class president at Randolph County High School in Wedowee, Ala., where, as chairperson of the prom committee, she had helped raise \$7,000 for the event.

According to the complaint, Principal Hulond Humphries called an assembly on February 24 and asked
(continued on page 6)



Kentucky coal companies reaped millions in profits without paying taxes on mineral reserves prior to Center lawsuit.

Coal Taxes Bring Revenue for Poor Kentucky Counties

by Diana Taylor

Editor's Note: Many Center lawsuits extend over long periods of time and provide benefits years after judgment. Some of these precedent-setting cases result in dramatic and positive changes in the lives and welfare of people and their communities. A good example is the Center's Kentucky coal-tax litigation.

■ FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky's Appalachian counties are beginning to reap the benefits of an equitable system of taxing unmined coal reserves that lay for years beneath their mountains and valleys as an untapped financial resource.

The change in the state's tax policy came about as a result of legal proceedings by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of a citizen's group, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. The liti-

gation began a decade ago, its objective to force state and local tax assessors to appraise unmined coal at fair value. The standard unmined minerals assessment at the time was so low that it was unprofitable for the state to collect the tax.

Court rulings in favor of the Center's position started the state on the road to equity in 1988, and while the assessment and collection program has had its share of "fits and starts," the dollars are now making a vital difference for schools and local governments in the affected counties, many of them among Kentucky's poorest.

In one case, the promise of unmined minerals revenue helped Pike County, Kentucky's largest county, make a major economic development investment. The proposed 15-acre Mossy Bottom Industrial Park will
(continued on page 4)

Teaching Tolerance Wins National Awards

■ The Teaching Tolerance project's semiannual magazine *Teaching Tolerance* is the winner of several national awards for excellence.

The Fall '93 issue garnered three Distinguished Achievement Awards from the Educational Press Association (EdPress), an independent association of some 700 educational periodicals.

Sara Bullard, the editor of the magazine, was recognized for her feature article, "Where the Heart Is," about a



Sara Bullard, Editor Teaching Tolerance

school for homeless children in Seattle, Washington. She received a second award for

her editorial "Praise Chaos."

Joseph Hawkins, a former Teaching Tolerance research fellow, won in the Department category for "Teaching Tools." This regular column, a review of multicultural books and videos for educators, has proven to be the most popular section of the magazine.

This marks the second time since its inception that *Teaching Tolerance* has won recognition from EdPress. In 1992, the magazine won an
(continued on page 6)

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD/SABA

COURTESY OF APPALSHOP/PITTSBURGH PRESS

Congratulations on your piece on Kahlid Abdul Muhammad and Farrakhan. We are dismayed at the attraction they have for black youth, even in the colleges and universities. Thanks for speaking out! I am definitely renewing my membership and even doubling my last year's contribution.

J.B.G.
Amherst, Mass.

I wanted to thank the Center for filing suit in the Revonda Bowen case. Besides being a claim for vindication of protected rights, your civil action is also a forceful plea for the need for tolerance and acceptance among people of different races. As someone of "mixed race," I am also personally pleased with your decision.

C.M.S.
Washington, D.C.

The latest *Teaching Tolerance* is the best ever. It is bursting with resource materials and innovative, practical ideas — a real inspiration. Thank you for your devotion to education and to human rights.

K.C.
Maple Plain, Minn.

I have just received the March 1994 edition of the *Intelligence Report*. As always, I am both immensely grateful to the Center for undertaking this work and appalled that it has to be done at all. The Special Year End Edition is another exceptionally fine piece of work, and the entire Klanwatch staff deserves enormous thanks.

M.L.
Owensboro, Ky.

Thank you for the opportunity to view the wonderful SPLC video [*Seeking Justice*] and to donate to the Center. I believe — nay, I know — the work you do is making differences in our lives and will continue to. We can make changes in attitudes by working together.

L.B.
Salida, Colo.

In a time when racial strife is prevalent, I am thankful that the SPLC sees the importance of addressing critical issues of racism and intolerance. Although we can talk metaphorically of tapestries and salads, the heart of the matter is that addressing these issues takes courage, conviction and patience.

S.K.F.
La Habra Heights, Calif.

[Regarding the Center's endowment], the strongest statement that I can make is that the SPLC should be perpetuated. Its fight for justice, its Klanwatch project, its Teaching Tolerance program and its legal assistance are all very much needed and are all invaluable.

Z. E.
Montgomery, Ala.

We welcome letters from all Southern Poverty Law Center supporters. Send your comments and suggestions to:

SPLC Mailbox
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104

A Special Letter



Center supporters Fred and Joanne Greene with sons Mikey (l) and Danny

and gave me yet another opportunity to teach my two sons about some of the more shameful things that continue to go on in our country.

They understand that while we live in the protected, liberal environment of the San Francisco Bay area, we must always be aware that racism and anti-Semitism continue to thrive. At ages 11 and 8, my sons identify with victims of hatred, and of that I am proud.

I've passed the materials on your Teaching Tolerance project on to our school principal. I'm showing the

videotape to friends and neighbors and will return it soon. Thanks once again for the work you do and for taking such good care of your supporters!

Sincerely,
Joanne Greene
San Rafael, Calif.

I thought that the Ku Klux Klan was over, and probably a lot of other people think the same thing. Your organization really tells that it's still going on. I think we need to stop racism, and I'm very glad that the SPLC is fighting it.

Danny Greene
Age 11

Donors Support Center in Creative Ways

Over the years, dedicated supporters have come up with a number of creative ways to help the Center's fight against intolerance and injustice. Here are a few of the individuals and groups that have worked to promote harmony and benefit the Center at the same time.

Project Lemonade — When the Klan marched the weekend before Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in Springfield, Ill., Lindy and Bill Seltzer decided to turn "lemons into lemonade." They urged citizens to pledge money for each minute the Klan members spoke on the capitol steps. The \$10,000 collected was divided between the Southern Poverty Law Center and two other nonprofit civil rights organizations.

Cents-ibility Campaign — In Nashua, N.H., 16-year-old Heather Sherry began a nationwide campaign to collect pennies and change to help the SPLC fight racism and hate crimes. The campaign is underway in five states where Heather has friends helping her raise at least \$1,000 to donate to the SPLC. "I've always felt it made no sense to hate people because of their race or the color of their skin or their religion," says Heather.

Cantata for Peace — The 3rd and 4th grades at Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York City raised \$455 by putting on a

offering workshops in racism and anti-Semitism, the group holds an annual spring rock concert and shares part of the proceeds with the SPLC.



Supporter Karen Arbasetti (center front) organized Walk for Harmony in Teaneck, N.J.

performance in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King and selling brownies afterwards. They chose to give the money to the SPLC's Teaching Tolerance project because "[we] agree with your goal to teach people to respect and enjoy each other. We will do our share to make the world a more peaceful place to live."

Rock Against Racism — College students at George Mason University fight discrimination and intolerance through SCAR, the Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. In addition to

Walk for Harmony — Proclaiming that "Hate is not our Fate," Center supporter Karen Arbasetti of Teaneck, N.J., sponsored a 10-kilometer walkathon last fall that raised \$1,500 which she donated to the Law Center.

These are just a few of the creative ways supporters contribute to our work. According to Planned Giving Director Amelia Montjoy, "The Center's work against intolerance and injustice is greatly enhanced by the commitment and generosity of these supporters."



SPLC REPORT

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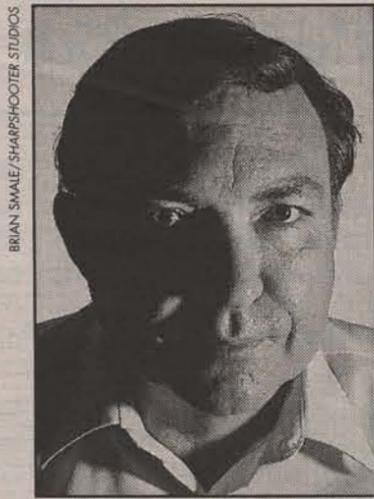
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U.S. Supreme Court Upholds \$12.5 Million Judgment Against Metzgers



Tom Metzger

BRIAN SMALE/SHARPSHOOTER STUDIOS

■ The Supreme Court has upheld a \$12.5 million judgment against White Aryan Resistance leader Tom Metzger and his son John for the 1988 murder of a black man by Skinheads in Portland, Ore. On May 23, the high court refused to review the case, ending four years of appeals by the Metzgers.

"Now we'll step up the collection phase of the case and go after Metzger full force," says Danny Welch, Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Klanwatch Project.

A two-year investigation by Klanwatch led to the Law Center's 1989 civil suit against Metzger and his WAR organization on behalf of the

family of Mulugeta Seraw. Seraw was beaten to death in 1988 by Skinheads associated with WAR.

In 1990, the jury found that the Metzgers sent their agent Dave Mazella to Portland to organize acts of violence against minorities, resulting in the death of Seraw, an Ethiopian citizen who was attending college in Oregon.

The jury ordered Tom Metzger to pay \$5 million; John Metzger, \$1 million; and WAR, \$3 million. Two of the convicted Oregon Skinheads were ordered to pay \$500,000 each, and an additional \$2.4 million in compensatory damages was awarded, making this the largest damage award ever levied in a civil lawsuit involving racial violence.

About \$100,000 from the sale of the Metzgers' house and other property has already been collected to help satisfy the judgment. The money has been held in a Seraw estate trust awaiting the outcome of appeals.

Now that the Metzgers' appeals are over, the funds will be distributed to Seraw's family. The verdict also allows Seraw's estate to collect part of the Metzgers' income for the next 20 years.

The Metzgers have lost "something far more important to them than money and property since the verdict," said Welch. "Tom Metzger has lost his clout in the white supremacist movement, particularly among neo-Nazi Skinheads."

New Faces in Fundraising



Calonda Brown (l) and Jeanine Wilson

■ Two new employees joined the Fundraising Department recently. Calonda Brown, a native of San Francisco, Calif., joined the staff as Fundraising Assistant in February. She provides support to Planned Giving Director Amelia Montjoy, acknowledges donor contributions and assists on special projects.

Jeanine Wilson replaced Glenda Valentine as Fundraising Secretary in March when Glenda moved to the Teaching Tolerance

department. A native of Detroit, Mich., Jeanine recently earned her B.S. degree in Computer Information Systems from Alabama State University in Montgomery. She serves as secretary to both Fundraising and Planned Giving and coordinates several gift programs.

Fundraising Director Dave Watson reports, "We're fortunate indeed to have two such fine employees join our staff. Calonda and Jeanine have already proven to be assets to our department."

Why Don't You Sue Farrakhan?

by Morris Dees
Co-founder and Chair,
Executive Committee

■ When three Skinheads in Portland, Ore., encouraged by an agent of Tom Metzger, murdered a black student in 1988, Center lawyers took Metzger and his White Aryan Resistance to court and won a large civil judgment.

Metzger's claim of free speech was no defense against the proof that he had encouraged actual violence. Many other innocent minorities have been injured by racists influenced by hate speech, but, without proof of specific incitement to commit violence, the speakers cannot be held liable.

A Center supporter recently wrote asking why we had not sued Khalid Muhammed and his spiritual leader, Louis Farrakhan. He

noted that Mr. Muhammed's anti-Semitic rhetoric, echoed by black students, had become increasingly mean-spirited. He mentioned the death of the Hasidic student who was killed by a gunman while crossing the Brooklyn Bridge in a school van.

I explained that the man arrested for the student's murder was a Lebanese immigrant, not a follower of Farrakhan. No connection to Farrakhan or Muhammed has even been suggested. I also explained that the murder of the rabbinical student stabbed in Crown Heights was not committed by an agent of Farrakhan or connected to any specific encouragement by Farrakhan to do violence.

Hate speech may cause an atmosphere that encourages hate crimes, but the First Amendment allows hate speech that does not encourage specific acts of violence.

The line is not always easy to draw. If Muhammed or Farrakhan step over the line and someone is injured because of their words, the Center would not hesitate to represent the victim. But in our disgust at the rise of racism and anti-Semitism pouring from the mouths of some African Americans, we should not be stampeded into trampling important freedoms. Most black Americans are just as disgusted with this divisive rhetoric as are Asians, Hispanics, Jews and others.

Just because a few vocal blacks are openly racist should not be an excuse for people of otherwise good will to blame all blacks. When the Klan murdered African Americans during the civil rights movement, few blacks blamed the great majority of whites who were not Klansmen.

Over the past quarter

century, we at the Center have tried to be colorblind in choosing cases. In 1971, we successfully sued a black county board of education for discriminating against white school board employees. A few years later we sued a black university on behalf of white professors who were wrongly denied tenure. We were criticized at the time by black leaders.

America is great because of her diversity. Mr. Muhammed surely would not want to be without the medical advances of Jewish doctors like Jonas Salk (polio vaccine), Baruch Blumberg (hepatitis vaccine) or Bela Schick (diphtheria skin test), to name just a few. And Jews are equally proud of the military accomplishments of General Colin Powell; the technological advances of G.A. Morgan (the traffic signal and gas mask) and Dr. Charles Drew (the blood plas-

ma bank); and the literary achievements of Langston Hughes, Richard Wright and Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison.

Now is the time to promote understanding, not spread racial discord. The Center's Teaching Tolerance project reaches 50,000 schools with the teaching kit we provide at no charge. Hundreds of thousands of teachers receive our *Teaching Tolerance* magazine designed to foster racial and cultural harmony in the classroom.

The Center will continue to track and document all hate crimes, regardless of the race, gender, creed or sexual orientation of the perpetrators or the victims. We will represent victims and sue whoever the evidence shows is guilty. Most importantly, we will continue our efforts to teach love, tolerance and understanding.

Coal Taxes Bring Revenue for Poor Kentucky Counties

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provide hundreds of jobs for local citizens.

Current Kentucky Lt. Gov. Paul Patton was Pike County Judge-Executive in 1988, when plans for the park were begun. To close the deal, the county needed a bank loan of about \$800,000. The county's existing resources fell short of providing the collateral needed for the loan.

"We pledged our future minerals revenue to pay the debt," Patton said. "Without this new source of funds, we couldn't have convinced the bank to give us the loan."

The Pike County school system has also benefited sub-

stantially from the policy change. State Rep. Clayton Little of Virgie, who is also supervisor of vocational education and director of health and social services for the system, is a long-time proponent of the unmined minerals tax.

The tax "is the greatest thing since sliced bread," he said, adding that the schools in Pike County received \$1.3 million in unmined minerals revenue last year. In Pike and other counties, the extra money has become part of the general fund for school districts and local governments.

"The unmined minerals tax has meant, in a lot of instances, balancing the county budget," said Harlan

County Judge-Executive Delzenna Belcher.

Extra money in her county covers costs associated with solid waste collection, Belcher said. "It also means, not just whether we can pay for our solid waste program or not, but whether we can continue basic services."

Belcher and other officials noted that they still are unable to anticipate the actual revenue they will receive because the collection system is not yet current. The 1991 tax bills are now being sent to owners of unmined reserves in Harlan County and, with 100 percent collections, would bring in \$172,054 for the county government.

As a result of the Center's lawsuit, collections in the state

began with the 1988 tax bills, but they were inconsistent since many counties either had undervalued unmined coal or did not include it on their property tax rolls at all.

The Kentucky Revenue Cabinet started its own assessment program in 1989 and has now completed the process for 1990 and 1991. The state is still working on the 1992 assessments but expects to catch up over the next two to three years, said Dr. James Coffman, commissioner of property taxation.

State collections now total about \$8 million annually, with \$6 million being returned to the counties and \$2 million retained by the state.

While the counties may not include the revenue as they draft their budgets, they are finding it a welcome bonus.

"The money was not budgeted since it was uncertain when it would come in," said Ron Daley, publisher of *The Troublesome Creek Times* in Knott County. "This helps provide a better cushion."

Several counties in Eastern Kentucky will continue to benefit from the Center's suit as revenue from taxes on unmined coal reserves in Eastern Kentucky continues to be collected.

Diana Taylor is a freelance writer based in Frankfort, Ky.

New Edition of *Free at Last Well Received*

■ *Free at Last*, originally published by the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1989, was revised and reissued in hardcover edition by Oxford University Press in 1993.

The 104-page textbook, written by Teaching Tolerance Director Sara Bullard, surveys the civil rights movement and gives gripping accounts of the lives and deaths of the 40 people whose names appear on the Civil Rights Memorial.

The magazine version of *Free at Last*, which won the 1989 American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award, is included in the *America's Civil Rights Movement* teaching kit which has been distributed free to over 50,000 schools across the

nation by the SPLC.

Oxford University Press reports that the hardcover edition is selling well in the United States and Europe. A trade paperback edition will be available in August.

The new edition of *Free at Last* was chosen in 1993 as one of the notable books of the year for teenagers by the New York Public Library. It has received numerous favorable reviews, including the following:

"From the director of education at the Southern Poverty Law Center comes a sympathetic account that brings the martyrs of the Civil Rights

Movement vividly to life. ... Each lucid account, generously illustrated with black and white photos, describes the person's life and relationship to the movement with just the right amount of detail to sustain interest. An excellent photo documentary resource."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"What happened in the South during the 1950s and 1960s still affects our lives today. This insightful volume ... was developed as part of the Teaching Tolerance program. ... The narrative unveils the history [of the movement] clearly and poignantly."

— *Booklist*

"The story of the modern civil rights movement is one of the most moving, powerful, and significant of 20th century American experience. ... Today's children may not understand how life was for Black people only three decades ago. They may not know how far we have come,

"Today's children may not understand how life was for Black people only three decades ago. They may not know how far we have come, and what we have sacrificed along the way. That is why the publication of *Free At Last* is especially important to today's teachers, librarians, and parents."

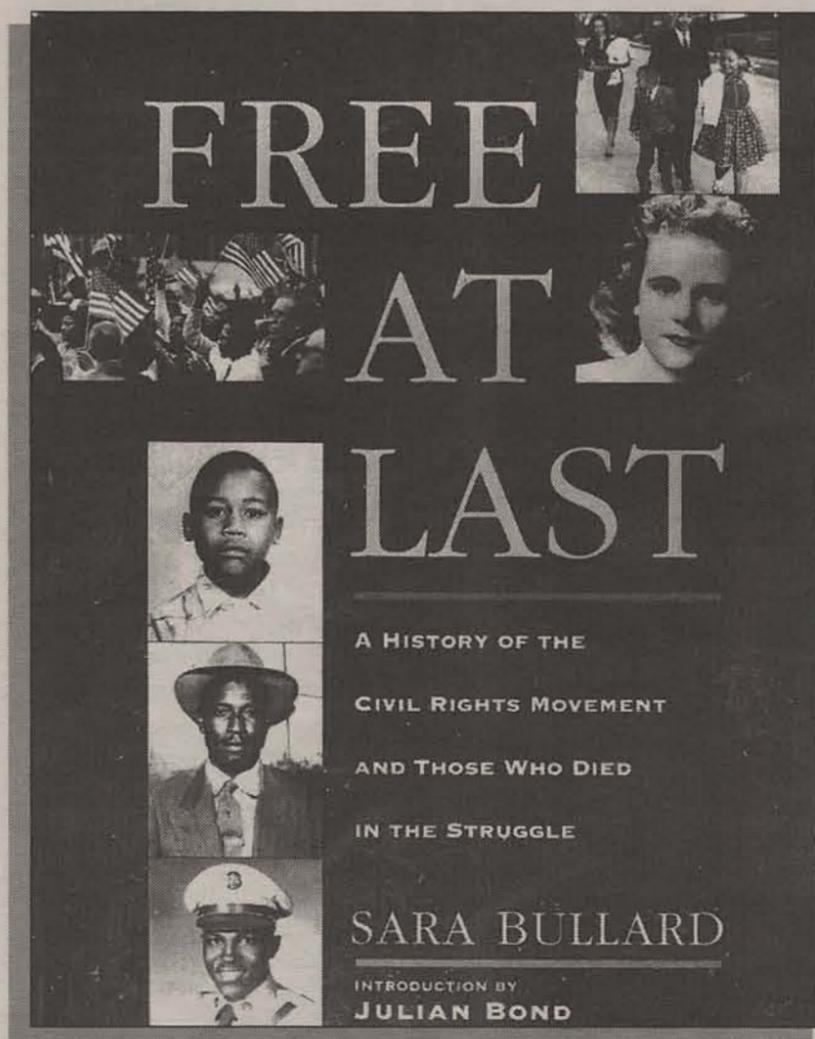
and what we have sacrificed along the way. That is why the publication of *Free At Last* is especially important to today's teachers, librarians, and parents. ... This tribute to the courage of those who died in the struggle for equality ends with ... a stirring call to accept responsibility to build upon the legacy left by the brave men, women, girls and boys profiled here."

— *National Black Review*

"I grew up in Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement. I remember the hope that the civil rights struggle gave me. This is a hope we badly need to rekindle. ... *Free at Last* is a book for educators who, like me, still have their eyes on that prize."

— *Bookfile*

Free at Last is available in hardcover from Oxford University Press at (800) 451-7556. The paperback edition will soon be available in bookstores or from Oxford.



Center's Teaching Tolerance Staff Grows

■ Sara Bullard, Teaching Tolerance Director, is pleased to announce several changes and additions to the department's staff.

David Aronson was promoted in March to Assistant Editor of *Teaching Tolerance* and Assistant Director of the department. David, who earned his Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Florida, will provide editorial assistance on the magazine and curriculum kits as well as offer administrative support on departmental matters.

Houston Roberson will be joining the staff in August as a one-year Research Fellow. Houston is a former high school history teacher and winner of a Presidential Teacher Award. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in U.S. history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and is writing his dissertation on the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery.

Houston will do research and writing for both the magazine and the *Shadow of Hate* video-and-text kit scheduled for distribution in the spring of 1995.

Glenda Valentine, former Fundraising Secretary, joined Teaching Tolerance in April as Research Associate. A native of California, Glenda recently completed her master's degree in Counseling and Human Development at Troy State University/Montgomery. Her experience in counseling students of diverse backgrounds and abilities will be a positive addition to the Teaching Tolerance project.

Rodney Diaz joined the staff in May as Graphic Designer. Rodney earned his B.A. in Fine Art from Auburn University at Montgomery and worked several years as a designer in the advertising field. He will assist SPLC Creative Director Paul F. Newman on *Teaching Tolerance*, the *SPLC Report* and other Center publications.

Sophia Seals also joined Teaching Tolerance in May as Education Secretary. Sophia holds a B.A. in Public Relations from the University of Alabama where she was on the Student Advisory

Committee of the President's Leadership Council.

Sophia replaces Gale Hill who served as secretary for two years. Gale is relocating to the Washington, D.C., area where her husband, Col. Robert Hill, will be assuming command of the 11th Operations Group at Bolling A.F.B.

Director Bullard observes, "Teaching Tolerance has grown quickly in a very short time. We're fortunate to have such a committed staff who work together so well on all our projects."



Teaching Tolerance employees in new positions include (l to r): Rodney Diaz, Graphic Designer; Glenda Valentine, Research Associate; David Aronson, Assistant Editor; Houston Roberson, Research Fellow; and Sophia Seals, Education Secretary.

Studies Reveal Need for Tolerance Education

■ Two recent independent studies on the racial attitudes of Americans clearly indicate the need for continuing the Center's work to combat racism and promote tolerance.

A Gallup Poll and a study by The National Conference indicate that America is a divided nation. According to the surveys, white Americans and people of color are poles apart in their perceptions about racial equality.

On a more encouraging note, the National Conference study found that nearly nine out of 10 respondents endorse the teaching of cultural diversity in schools as a way to improve race relations.

"The Center's work to promote racial harmony," said Morris Dees, Center co-

founder, "is a much-needed response to these troubling findings." More than 300,000 *Teaching Tolerance* magazines will be sent free to teachers nationwide this fall.

Significant findings from the polls include:

- Both studies indicate that a majority of whites believe equal job, housing and educational opportunities abound for people of color despite persistent statistical evidence of inequity.

- In contrast, people of color feel discriminated against by a white-controlled economy and educational system and feel that whites are blind to the existence of discrimination and its impact on the daily lives of minorities.

- A negative view of white Americans is shared by a

majority of African, Asian and Latino Americans. Whites are seen as insensitive, bossy and unwilling to share power and wealth. In fact, a majority of African and Latino Americans

"The further splintering of America into bickering ethnic, racial and religious camps is a very real danger."

reportedly believe that "the chief obstacle to better race relations in America is the

presence of so many racist white people."

- Although many people of color share feelings about discrimination and negative views of whites, they also harbor strong negative prejudices toward each other. One study found that "minorities are more likely than whites to agree to negative stereotypes about other minority groups." Common stereotypes include: "Asian Americans are unscrupulous, crafty and devious in business," "Latino Americans tend to have bigger families than they are able to support" and "African Americans want to live on welfare."

In addition to stressing the importance of multicultural education programs, the studies suggest that the various groups must work to close

the perception gap about discrimination. White Americans must face the fact that they are perceived by many minorities as insensitive and bossy, people of color have to move beyond negative stereotyping, and all must make a closer examination of their own prejudices.

Even with these suggestions, the outlook for race relations in America is guarded. The Gallup Poll cites the disheartening finding that 52 percent of blacks (and 33 percent of whites) surveyed believe America is moving toward two societies — separate and unequal. The National Conference study warns that "the further splintering of America into bickering ethnic, racial and religious camps is a very real danger."

Center Sues Principal and School Board for Violation of Student's Civil Rights

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if any of the students planned to bring a date of another race to the prom. He then informed them that if interracial couples planned to attend, there would be no prom.

The complaint states that when Ms. Bowen, whose mother is black and father is white, asked who she was supposed to take to the prom, Humphries told her that her parents had made a "mistake" and that he wanted to prevent others from making the same "mistake." The 16-year-old student burst into tears and was surrounded by black and white friends who tried to comfort her.

Center attorneys claim that the principal's comments and illegal policy of discouraging interracial relationships among students created a hostile environment for Ms. Bowen, violated her right to be free from discrimination and caused her to endure extreme embarrassment and humiliation.

"Our nation's schools must teach tolerance and respect for our country's

diversity," said Morris Dees, Chief Trial Counsel for the Law Center. "No school official should be allowed to infect young minds with this kind of bigotry."

The Randolph County Board of Education is also named in the suit. The complaint states that the board knew that the principal had a history of engaging in racially discriminatory conduct but retained him anyway. Humphries had been cited by the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights in 1989 for permitting students to ride segregated buses and for disciplining blacks more harshly than whites. In 1982 parents complained that he had allowed a segregated Key Club to operate in the school and treated black students unfairly.

On March 14, 1994, after weeks of protests by parents and students, the board suspended the principal with pay pending an investigation. The board reinstated him on March 31, despite the superintendent's recommendation that a hearing be held about the principal's conduct. More

than 100 students boycotted classes after the principal was reinstated and demanded his removal.

The U.S. Department of Justice, following its own investigation of the school district, filed a motion to require the district to explain why the principal should not be terminated or reassigned to duties that would not bring him into direct contact with students. In addition to the incident concerning Ms. Bowen, the Justice Department found the district in violation of two existing court orders and cited it for failing to recruit black teachers and staff and for disciplining black students more harshly than whites.

"This case is not about one man who made a derogatory remark, but an entire school system that we believe has allowed an atmosphere of discrimination to persist," said Patrick L. Deval, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

The Center is seeking damages for Ms. Bowen and an injunction against similar discriminatory practices.

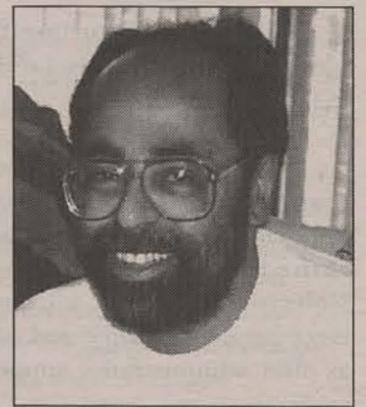
Teaching Tolerance Wins National Awards

(continued from page 1)
award for the quality of its graphic art and layout.

The Fall '93 issue also won two Honorable Mentions from the Benjamin Fine Awards for Outstanding Education Reporting, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Teaching Tolerance was also one of six books and publications awarded the 1994 *Shipping Stones* Honor Award for exceptional multicultural children's publications.

Teaching Tolerance is distributed free of charge to 300,000 educators nationwide. It provides teachers at all levels with resources and ideas for promoting interracial and intercultural under-



Joseph Hawkins, former Research Fellow standing in the classroom.

"It's a real pleasure to be recognized for excellence by one's peers," says Editor Sara Bullard. "But even more gratifying are the responses we've received from educators across the country. They're the ones who really let us know we're doing a vital job."

Baby Quilts Still Available

■ We were pleased with the response to a previous article about donor Sylvia Marlowe's handmade baby quilts. She has made and sold 76 quilts and donated the entire proceeds to the SPLC. Quilts are still available at \$75 each. Write Mrs. Marlowe for more information at P.O. Box 211, San Rafael, CA 94915.

■
*Would you like to help
the Southern Poverty
Law Center continue its
valuable work into the
next century?*

*You can! Become a
"Partner for the Future."
Mail the form on page 8
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the latest information
on planned giving
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■

Center Visitors



■ In April, members of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Assistance to Military Personnel were briefed by Center staff on the history and work of the SPLC.

The visitors included

William K. Suter, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States.

After their visit, the Center received a letter from Col. Robert Sutemeier of Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery stating that

the visitors "were particularly impressed by the depth and breadth of the Center's mission" and that their visit "provided real insight into the Center's complex and ever-evolving efforts."

Memorial and Honorary Gifts Received by the Law Center since March 1994

IN MEMORY OF

Eric Adler
John P. Axtell
Robert Bastian
Bertha Debra Bayla
Ida Sper Baym
Maurine Bell
H. Frank Belts
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Civil Rights Kit Used to Teach English to Japanese Students

Center supporter Elizabeth Lyons Holmes uses the *America's Civil Rights Movement* curriculum kit in a unit she teaches on African Americans at The Putney School in Putney, Vt. What makes her use of the Teaching Tolerance video-and-text kit unusual is that her class consists entirely of Japanese students with limited English-language skills.

The unit, which traces the experiences of African Americans from West Africa through slavery to the present time, is part of the students' "sheltered" social studies course, a high-school course designed with age-appropriate content but simplified, controlled language level.

After the class has studied segregation, Jim Crow laws and discrimination, Ms. Holmes presents passages from the text in the kit, *Free at Last*, rewritten in simplified form. The students read this material before watching the video *A Time for Justice*.

When Ms. Holmes wrote to thank us for the teaching kit, she included letters written by her students in response to the text and film. Kiyomi wrote:

I feel, Civil Rights movement is very important. We have to remember and tell to small children to say we don't have these things anymore.

I imagined these happenings but I saw a video. I feel more horrible than I imagined. Still now many people are racist. We must stop that.

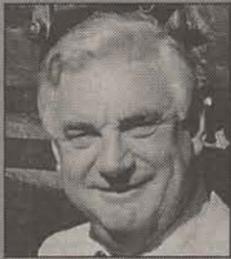
Mizuho shared these thoughts:

More many people were killed and more many people had to feel sad, angry and lonely. The women were [treated] same as the men, I thought. When the police used the water hoses, many men and women fell down. How terrible!

The *America's Civil Rights Movement* teaching kit has been sent free to over 50,000 schools across the nation. The Teaching Tolerance department has received thousands of letters of appreciation from teachers in middle schools, high schools and universities across the nation.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald Wilber (1925-1994)



The Law Center has received more than 50 contributions in memory of one of its loyal friends, Donald Wilber, of Hilton Head, S. C. Mr. Wilber, a Center contributor for many years, died on January 9 of pneumonia following surgery. He leaves his widow, Patricia Boyle Wilber, three daughters and one son.

her late husband in these words: "Don loved people and respected everyone's rights. He championed the poor and depressed. Fighting intolerance of all kinds was a big part of his life's work."

Mrs. Wilber stated that she and her husband became supporters of the Law Center in response to a letter from George McGovern. She recalls Don's response when he heard about the Center: "This group of young lawyers provides a much-needed service. Many people desperately need help to litigate against those who have violated their civil rights."

Mr. Wilber believed that every citizen should be involved in promoting brotherhood, peace and love. "We must use our talents to help others. We can make a difference. We can make the world a better place."

The Center pays tribute to the memory of Donald Wilber, a model of tolerance for all.

Mr. Wilber was born in Lincoln Park, Mich., on February 24, 1925. He served in World War II with the 43rd Bomb Group, 5th Air Force in the South Pacific. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1950 with a degree in Industrial Relations, he enjoyed a sales management career in the optical industry for 35 years.

Patricia Wilber described

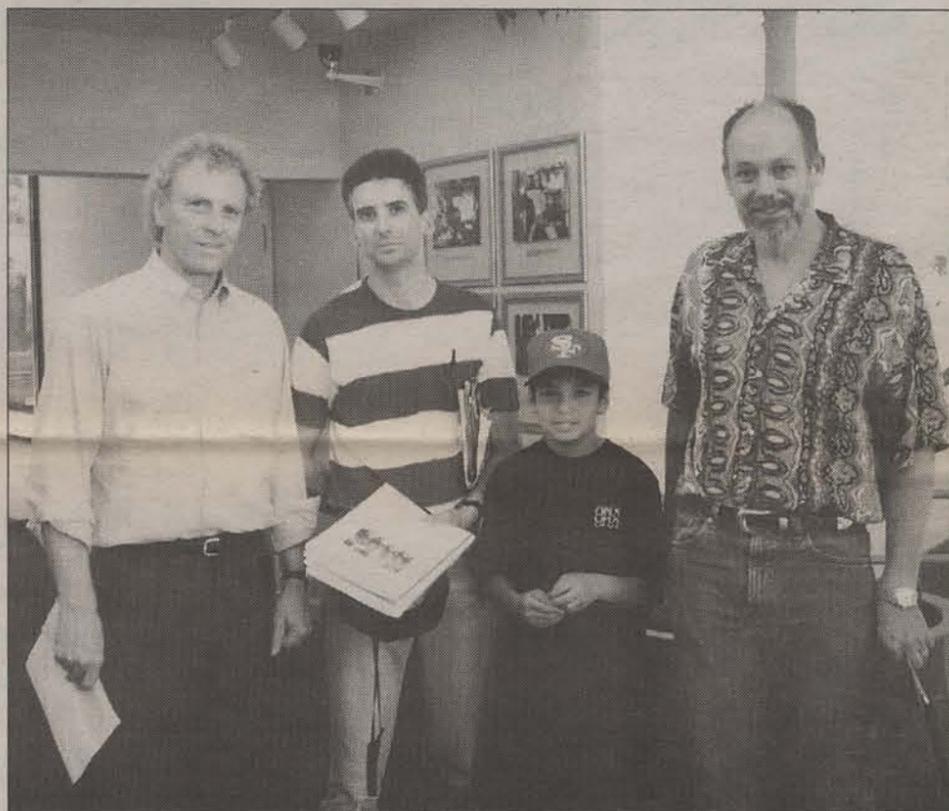
Valieant Joins Mail Operations



Cindy Valieant joined the permanent staff of the Mail Operations department in May. Cindy, a native of Mobile, Ala., earned her B.S. degree in math at Spring Hill College in Mobile in 1986. She assists Mail Operations Director Mamie Jackson in several areas, including handling incoming mail and posting donor donations.

"Cindy has proven to be a valuable employee, and we're happy to have her on our permanent staff," said Jackson.

Donors Visit SPLC



In April, Michael Kanter and son Gary visited from Chicago while Mrs. Kanter "vacationed" at home. SPLC co-founder Morris Dees (l) and Executive Director Eddie Ashworth welcomed the Kanters.

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 is \$100 million by the year 2000, half of which has been attained. This will establish a dependable financial base that will allow the Center to free itself from the uncertainties of direct-mail fundraising. The Endowment Fund is a "pact with future generations" that will help ensure resources for the Center's work well into the 21st century.

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Longtime Center supporters Mr. and Mrs. Leon Epstein of Lake Park, Fla., pictured here with Teaching Tolerance Education Secretary Sophia Seals (l), visited recently.