

SPLO REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TEACHING TOLERANCE · INTELLIGENCE PROJECT · LITIGATION

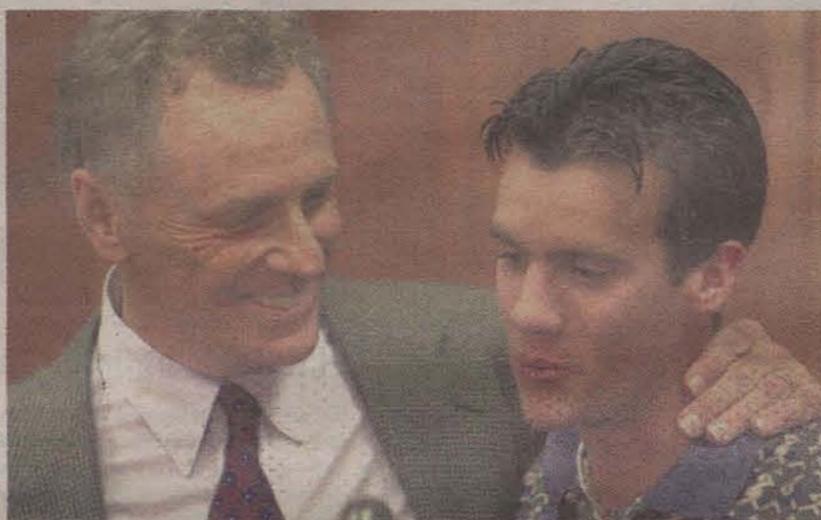
SEPTEMBER 2000
VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3

Aryan Nations hit with \$6 million verdict

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — Center attorneys immediately began steps to seize the Aryan Nations' assets after a jury here on September 7 returned a \$6.3 million verdict against the notorious hate group, its leader, Richard Butler, and three former members. The Aryan Nations does not have millions of dollars, but chief trial counsel Morris Dees vowed to take the group's 20-acre Hayden Lake compound and "every desk, typewriter and computer" in it for the victims of the hate group's violence.

"For too long, the Aryan Nations compound has been a haven for violent racists," Dees said. "The jury's verdict should put an end to it."

Butler formed the Aryan Nations in 1977, after he retired from the aerospace industry in California and settled a few miles north of here. The group teaches that white Aryans are the Biblical chosen people and that Jews and people of color must be annihilated or removed from contact with them. Over the years, the Aryan Nations compound has been the home of a who's who of violent white supremacists. Its



Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees congratulates plaintiff Jason Keenan after the verdict.

associates have been convicted of bank robberies, bombings and murders. Until now, Butler has escaped unscathed. The verdict should cripple the Aryan Nations and send a powerful message to other hate groups.

The jury determined Butler and his organization were guilty of gross negligence in appointing and supervising security guards who assaulted Victoria Keenan and her son Jason as they drove past the Aryan Nations compound on a July

night in 1998. Mistakenly believing the Keenans were part of a Jewish conspiracy that had targeted the Aryan Nations, a truckload of guards, including Jesse Warfield, John Yeager and Shane Wright, roared out of the Aryan Nations compound. They chased the Keenans for two miles down a country road, firing at them until hitting a tire and forcing the car into a ditch. Victoria Keenan was struck with the butt of a gun and pulled by her hair while her son was menaced by guards who

shouted, "Don't f... with the Aryans!" and threatened to kill them both. Warfield, 44, and Yeager, 22, are serving prison terms for the assault. Wright is a fugitive. Dees told the jury that Victoria Keenan is tortured by the memory of Warfield's face, and a psychiatrist testified that both Keenans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder because of the attack. Butler's lawyer, Edgar

Steele, argued that the guards were drunk and acted on their own when they attacked the Keenans. But evidence presented by the Center's legal team convinced the jury that Butler and his chief of staff, Michael Teague, were responsible for the actions of their security force. "We proved the Aryan Nations guards were unfit, untrained and unsupervised and

were nurtured in an atmosphere that promoted violence," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. The jury awarded \$330,000 in compensatory damages and a total of \$6 million in punitive damages. The lion's share of damages — \$4.8 million — was awarded against Butler, the Aryan Nations and its corporate entity, Sapphire Inc.

The verdict brought praise from community leaders. "This verdict, by a jury of peers, represents a clear victory for the values of Idaho," said Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne. "We are law-abiding citizens who do not condone the violence and antics of a small group of hate-mongers."

Dees commended the Keenans for their courage in bringing the lawsuit. "This has been an extremely traumatic event for Victoria Keenan and her son, Jason, and she is very grateful for the verdict," he said. "But she didn't

bring this suit just for herself. She brought it for those other people who have suffered at the hands of Butler — people like the Jewish children out in Los Angeles, who were shot by former Aryan Nations security guard Buford Furrow, and Alan Berg, the Denver talk show host murdered by a man connected to the Aryan Nations."

Butler indicated he would ask for a new trial. And he remained defiant. The morning after the verdict he applied for a permit to hold an October 28 march in downtown Coeur d'Alene and vowed he would never leave the area. "I'm not going to leave like a whipped dog," Butler said. "Period."

The victory was the latest in a series of Center legal triumphs over hate groups in the past two decades. In 1986, the Center won \$7 million for the mother of a black teenager lynched in Mobile, Alabama. In 1991, a jury awarded \$12.5 million to the family of an Ethiopian student murdered by skinheads in Portland. In 1998, the Center won a record verdict against the Ku Klux Klan for its role in the burning of a black church in South Carolina.



Victoria Keenan

HBO, Center document hate on Net

NEW YORK — A new Home Box Office (HBO) documentary, made in association with the Center's Intelligence Project, takes a hard look at the growing hate movement and those who preach its message online. Narrated by Center co-founder Morris Dees, *HATE.COM: Extremists on the Internet* will premiere on October 23.

There are now over 250 million people on the World Wide Web with 150,000 more signing up every day. Increasingly, what they find when they log on, is hate. The gospel of hate is being projected worldwide, more cheaply and effectively than ever before, and it is attracting a new demographic of youthful followers to the neo-Nazi movement. The Cen-

ter currently tracks over 350 hate sites, including some targeted specifically at children and women.

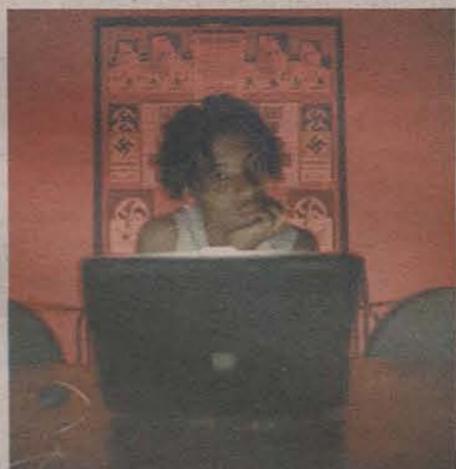
The new 42-minute documentary looks at some of the most menacing of these sites and their twisted creators, revealing how they may have deliberately inspired "lone wolf" vigilantes to commit some of the most heinous crimes of recent memory. Academy Award-winning filmmakers Vince DiPersio and William Guttentag gained access to the hate movement's most powerful leaders, who see the Internet as a way to advocate violent acts of racism without being held accountable. They also interviewed law enforcement officials and the movement's most deter-

mined adversaries, including Dees.

Eye-opening and disturbing, *HATE.COM* examines the growing use of the Internet as a primary platform by which preachers of hate — specifically white-supremacists groups — reach out to their small but dangerous constituency. Having outgrown the stereotypes that once defined them, hate groups now find their most significant activity taking place on the Web, a place without governance or accountability, where access is easy, blame is

elusive, and interdiction is nearly impossible.

In conjunction with the presentation of the documentary, HBO is developing on its Web site (www.hbo.com) a special cyber-campaign, "Hate Hurts" about the impact of hate.



Center research analyst Tafeni English daily tracks racist Web sites on the Internet.

Sept. 2000

DAKIN BAZAN

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is a non-profit organization that combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include Teaching Tolerance and the Intelligence Project, which incorporates Klanwatch and the Militia Task Force. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which celebrates the memory of 40 individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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MAILBOX

Aryan Nations lawsuit moves Montanan to support Center

The following letter was written by Brad Bergum of Sunnyvale, California. He is a senior tax analyst with an international communications company.

I was moved to donate to your organization upon reading about your lawsuit against the Aryan Nations in Idaho. I had been aware of your work and had much admiration for your cause from news items I had read regarding work done in the South, particularly in dealing with the Klan. However, your work in Idaho really hit home.



Brad Bergum

I grew up in Montana, a state similar to Idaho in that almost everyone there is very friendly and open to people of all backgrounds and ethnicities. However, as in Idaho, a small, vocal, bigoted minority has created enough negative publicity to lead people around the nation to assume that the prevailing attitude in those states is one of hate and racism. That pains me personally and only intensifies

the despair I feel about those people who do preach hatred. They not only disgrace themselves, but they disgrace me, both by claiming to represent me as a Montanan and also by claiming to represent me as a white person.

So, along with my donation, I urge you to continue to fight these worthless members of our society, starting with taking away that beautiful land in Northern Idaho and giving it to the victims of their crimes. That could be the first step in driving that element out of its hiding spot up there and giving the good people of that area a chance to live in peace once again. Besides, I love the irony that goes with the accountability for those crimes — the victim owning what was once a center for hate.

I just want to thank you for the wonderful work that you all do. The stories, ideas and examples that are contained in each Teaching Tolerance publication have really been useful and meaningful resources for me throughout the years.

Once again, I have made my donation — quite happily; I might add. The students that I work with, our school counselor and several staff members receive so much more from these materials than I can ever give in return. Hopefully, the return will come through students who have been educated, enlightened and steeped in the philosophy of the goodness of diversity.

A. M.

Kulpsville, Pennsylvania

I just watched the video [Seeking Justice] you sent me in the mail and was very impressed with what you folks are doing. Getting to young minds early is important in order to combat the hate which is put in their heads at an early age. Please consider me your friend and supporter in this fight! Thank you for educating me in your ongoing efforts to stop hate everywhere.

D. H.

Bothell, Washington

I am deeply grateful that you put Responding to Hate at School

online. I use Teaching Tolerance materials in my teaching and have all of my students at the University of North Florida subscribe, also, because they are future teachers. Thank you for all of your valuable work.

A. S.

Jacksonville, Florida

I am a marriage and family therapist and often use your organization to get people interested in giving to others. Many couples feel that they are alone in their problems; you help prove they are not. I believe what I learned in school: If I meet someone who is miserable, they are not giving. Help them to give to others, and I have helped them to live a happier life.

Thank you for the work you do. It is worth it to many you will never know.

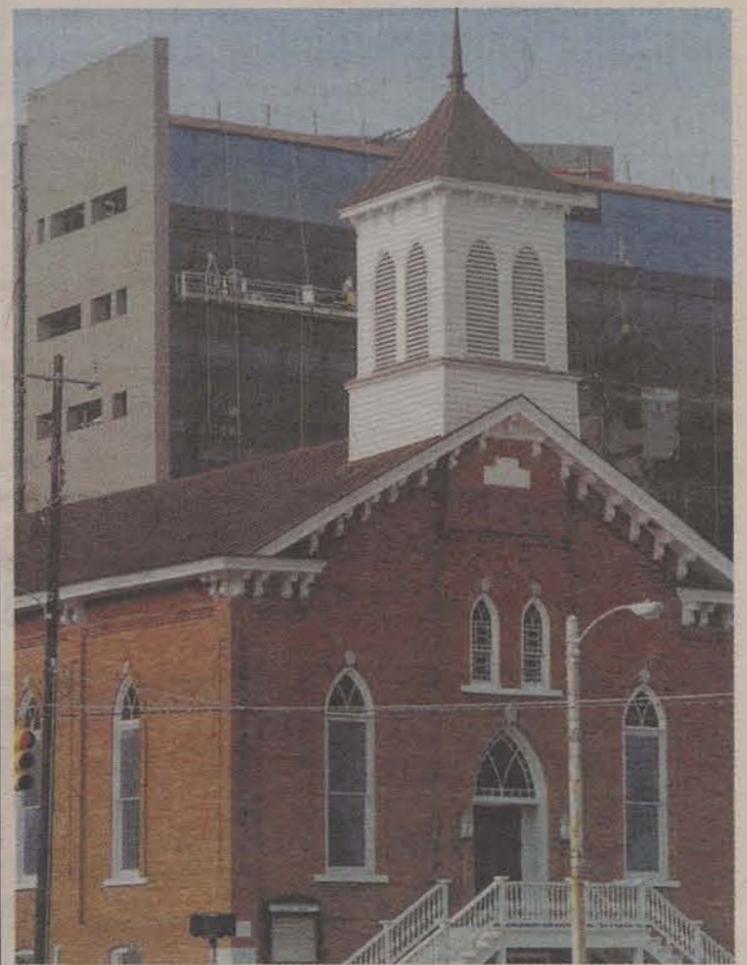
D. B.

Madill, Oklahoma

I am a police officer and a recent subscriber to the [Center's] Intelligence Report. Although we are fortunate that we do not have a significant population of Klan or Skins in our area, I follow the topic as well as I can. Your Report is fantastic, and I wish I had accessed it much earlier. I have the utmost respect for your work and wish you Godspeed.

M. C.

Ventura, California



Center's building frames famous church

The graceful white steeple of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church is framed by the glass front of the Center's new building. The historic church, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. served as pastor during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, faces Dexter Avenue and the Alabama State Capitol. Construction on the Center's building is on schedule for completion by year-end.

Klan leader faces damages hearing; sanctions awarded

FT. WAYNE, Ind. — A recent court ruling set the stage for a hearing this fall to determine how much a Klan leader must pay to a television crew he terrorized in his home last year. In a case filed earlier this year by the Center, a federal judge here on June 8 refused to set aside an entry of default against Klan leader Jeff Berry. On October 10, the judge will decide the amount of damages Berry owes and issue a judgment against him.

The Center brought the lawsuit in January against Berry, the national head of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, on behalf of a Louisville, Kentucky, television reporter and camerawoman who went to Berry's Indiana home for an interview prior to a Klan rally. Berry became enraged when the pair told him that they also planned to interview a former Berry deputy who defected from the group. Berry allegedly demanded the journalists' videotape, and, when they refused, he and several followers — one with a shotgun — held them in the room where the Berry interview had been conducted.

Berry failed to respond to the journalists' court complaint, despite being granted a time extension by the court, and the default was entered. In addition to denying Berry's motion to set aside the default, the judge also denied his motion to dismiss the case and a request for a court-appointed lawyer.

"The judge's order means Berry's liability for his actions has been established," said Pete Tepley, Center staff attorney handling the case. "He can no longer argue that he and his henchmen didn't hold that TV crew at gunpoint."

In a related matter, the court on August 23 ordered Berry to pay \$2,400 in sanctions sought by the Center for his failure to appear at a June 13 deposition. The sum was the full amount asked for by Center attorneys.

The American Knights is one of the largest and most aggressive Klan groups in the country. Largely led by men with criminal records, the American Knights was once characterized by a Center spokesman as "the bully-boy Klan." (See related stories in Intelligence Briefs on page 3.)

Neo-Confederate groups rife with white supremacist beliefs

A neo-Confederate movement, increasingly rife with white supremacists and racist ideology, is growing across America. Numbering in the tens of thousands, these Southern partisans are enamored of the Old South — and many speak fondly of slavery and the fight for secession.

“They certainly want the revival of the principles of the Confederacy,” says Arizona State University historian Brooks Simpson, “and one of those principles would in fact be white supremacy, unquestioned and explicit. The racism that’s woven into their comments is often quite astonishing.”

Take, for instance, an unsigned editorial appearing on the Web site of the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC), a leading neo-Confederate group with some 15,000 members. “Spoleto is a multicultural mud bath,” the piece says of a music festival held annually in Charleston, S.C., “which attracts mostly queers and weidos [sic]. The streets teem with fag couples groping each other while greasy white yankee girls make sure everyone notices their lust for black men.”

Politicized groups like the CCC and the League of the South (LOS) — both categorized as hate groups by the Center’s Intelligence Project — are spouting such racist rhetoric with increasing confidence. Add seasoned white supremacists like David Duke and Kirk Lyons to the neo-Confederate mix and even traditionally heritage-oriented groups like the Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy have become



Neo-Confederates rallied for the battle flag on the Columbia, S.C., capitol steps.

more radicalized. Cross-memberships among different groups are increasingly common.

Neo-Confederates actually have been around since the end of the Civil War. But the contemporary neo-Confederate movement did not really take off until the LOS was founded in 1994. Thanks largely to its veneer as a respectable, non-racist organization led mainly by academics, LOS grew very rapidly, counting 4,000 members by 1998 and more than twice that number now.

Neo-Nazis join flag supporters

Today’s neo-Confederate movement, with LOS at the helm, has deployed around the besieged Confederate battle flag. On a brisk day this past January, some 8,000 people — mostly members of neo-Confederate groups, but also Klansmen, racist Skinheads, and neo-Nazis from the National Alliance — gathered on the steps of the

South Carolina Statehouse. They demanded that state officials refuse to bend to an NAACP boycott aimed at removing the flag from its place atop the dome.

Throughout the flag conflict, some of the sharpest aspersions have been directed at the NAACP, architect of the anti-flag boycott in South Carolina. The CCC regularly refers to the NAACP as “gangsters,” and the LOS has termed it a “hate group.”

But most white Southerners don’t subscribe to the view of the South propagated by racist neo-Confederates. Jim Riley, the white mayor of Charleston, S.C., led an anti-flag march from Charleston to Columbia earlier this year and found that scores of whites were lining the streets in support. “The interesting thing,” Riley says, “is that on the march, two-thirds of those who participated were white and about a third were black — about the racial makeup of our state.”

Intelligence Briefs

TRACKING EXTREMIST ACTIVITY

White supremacist must pay for threat

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A FEDERAL administrative law judge on July 19 ordered a white supremacist to pay \$1.1 million in damages to fair housing advocate Bonnie Jouhari and her daughter. The two fled Pennsylvania after Ryan Wilson of Philadelphia posted death threats aimed at Jouhari on his neo-Nazi ALPA HQ Web site in 1998. The award includes the largest emotional distress award by a court to a single victim in a federal fair housing case.

“I would hope it serves as a deterrent and gives some hope to those who are being victimized by these hatemongers,” Jouhari said. “This says that no one has a right on the Internet to threaten to kill people.”

Center attorney Liz Kleinberg represented Jouhari and her daughter in the Wilson case and in a related matter (see June 2000 issue of the SPLC Report).

Klan leader Berry arrested

HAZARD, KY. — JEFF BERRY, leader of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested August 12 following a confrontation with a black man, Kentucky State Police said. Berry, 48, of Butler, Indiana, is accused of ramming his van into the car of a black man on a highway near here after a Klan rally at the county courthouse. He was charged with felony first-degree wanton endangerment, felony first-degree criminal mischief and terroristic threatening.

Militia leader sentenced for terrorist plots

TAMPA, FLA. — DONALD BEAUREGARD, 32, was sentenced to five years in prison on July 28 for plotting terrorist attacks on power plants and government offices. He was given the maximum sentence for his March 10 guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to degrade government property, destroy energy plants and provide material support for terrorists.

Beauregard, a “general” in a group called the Southeastern States Alliance, planned domestic terrorism — stealing explosives from a National Guard armory in Haines City and blowing up power plants, paralyzing central Florida and Atlanta with blackouts.

“He was clearly contemplating crimes of terrorism,” said U.S. District Judge Richard Lazzara. “There is no question he was engaged in activity that posed a serious threat of violence.”

Hate group leader denied law license

WASHINGTON, D.C. — THE U.S. Supreme Court, acting without comment on June 26, rejected Matthew Hale’s appeal of the Illinois State Bar Association’s decision not to grant him a law license. As a result, Hale, head of the white supremacist World Church of the Creator, will not be allowed to practice law in Illinois even though he has a law degree and passing marks on the state’s bar exam.

Protesters confront Klan at rally

SILOAM SPRINGS, ARK. — POLICE outnumbered protesters and Klan members at a short-lived rally here in early August. Hundreds of police officers lined the streets as members of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and protesters squared off on opposite sides of the lawn. Klan supporters numbered 51 at their peak, with six of them hooded and robed. They were led by Jeff Berry of Indiana, who wore a red robe and proclaimed himself grand wizard. Counter-protesters numbered about 75 people. Many carried signs with messages such as “Hate is not a family value” and “Your mamas are ashamed of you.”

Earlier in the week, dozens of people walked the streets in silent prayer in quiet protest of the upcoming Klan rally. Religious leaders here encouraged churchgoers to demonstrate in a non-confrontational manner.

Sale of racist CDs benefits Aryan Nations

COEUR D’ALENE, ID. — SIX MAJOR distributors of skinhead music are donating proceeds from sales of their compact discs to help pay for the Aryan Nations’ defense in a lawsuit brought against it by the Center (see page 1). The CD sales campaign for the Aryan Nations’ legal defense fund was announced on white supremacy Internet sites, including those of the Posse Comitatus and Vinland Records. Other distributors involved in the fundraiser are Panzerfaust, Tri-State Terror, Imperium, Thule Publications, and Resistance Records.

The entire \$15 purchase price for such CDs as “Murder Squad,” “Holocaust 2000,” “Too White for You” and “Bullet to the Head” was to go to the Aryan Nations legal fund during the month of August. Skinhead music, which is laced with anti-Semitic, racist and homophobic verses, has become a leading recruitment tool for white supremacists.

New Intelligence Project staff track hate, compile updates

The Center’s Intelligence Project recently expanded its full-time research staff. Angela Freeman and Karmetriya Jackson, both temporary employees of the Center since November, assumed newly created data specialist positions in June.

Data specialists are responsible for sorting and processing news clips, compiling weekly updates, performing Internet searches, reviewing hate group literature and maintaining the Intelligence Project archives.

Freeman, originally from Hope Hull, Alabama, formerly worked as a secretary for American Bodybuilding. With an asso-



Angela Freeman

ciate degree in computer information systems from Patterson State Technical College, she is well-equipped to use the Internet and the Intelligence Project’s database. Freeman says

she enjoys working at the Center and is impressed with the “passion and commitment” displayed by her colleagues.

Jackson, a Montgomery native, brings administrative experience to the Intelligence Project. A ticket reservations agent for Delta Airlines before coming to the Center, she

received her associate’s degree in occupational technology from Patterson State just prior to her hiring. Jackson has found her work tracking extremist activity challenging but rewarding. “I really love to fight hate,” she says. “I can’t think of a better cause.”

Two other Intelligence Project employees recently were promoted. Tamara Cobb, who worked for two years as a research and clerical assistant, joins Freeman and Jackson as a data specialist. Latonya Penn, the Intelligence Project secretary for nearly a year, now

holds the title of administrative assistant.



Karmetriya Jackson

Seed money nurtures greenhouse classroom

LANCASTER, S.C. — The Greenhouse at Buford High School was no longer in use and in danger of demolition. So special education teacher Jenny Canty, with help from the Center's Teaching Tolerance grants program, "adopted" it for her own students.

Canty teaches vocational skills to a special education class for students with learning disabilities in grades 9 through 12. She feels a real responsibility to enlarge the scope of her students' learning environment by integrating traditional classroom instruction with real-life experience and survival skills to promote successful transition into the working world after they leave school.

Since there are several commercial greenhouses in the Lancaster area, Canty felt her students could learn valuable job skills leading to employment. "I'm hoping that, since most of my students will never drive, they can get jobs in one of the local greenhouses, or maybe we can teach them to raise their own garden," she said.

Getting the project started was difficult. "Our initial efforts were directed at general cleaning up and renovation during our Greenhouse Clean-Up Day," said Canty. "We had water and we had electricity, but we needed everything else."

Teaching Tolerance awarded grant

The special education teacher applied for and got a grant from Teaching Tolerance. It enabled her to purchase not only the necessary plants, soil, fertilizer and a variety of hand tools, but also a wealth of classroom



With help from the Center, Buford High School students transformed an abandoned greenhouse into an innovative classroom.

resources, including curriculum materials and a "grow-lab" to enhance student learning and prompt additional activities.

Canty recognized the range of educational opportunities the greenhouse project offered. It readily lends itself to investigative activities integrating science, agriculture and environmental themes to demonstrate how all living things are interconnected. Further, the project is expandable in direct proportion to stu-

dent ability and interests as it cultivates environmental awareness and promotes stewardship of all living things.

In addition to teaching a lot about plant care and boosting students' self-esteem, the project also served the community by increasing awareness and support for individuals with disabilities.

The students took on two ongoing service learning projects. During the first semester, they planted and nurtured over 100 plants and donated them to area nursing homes.

During the second semester, students grew another 400 plants and took orders from nearby elementary and middle schools for Mother's Day gifts. The \$300 profit from plant sales will go toward the purchase of supplies for next year's projects.

"The main purpose was not to earn a profit, but to learn from the experience," Canty said.

"Because of the generous support of the Center's donors, our grants program has provided hundreds of educators the opportunity to successfully implement tolerance-related programs in their schools and communities," said Annie Bolling, Teaching Tolerance's grants administrator. The grants program enables the Center to identify and nurture promising programs and share the results of the best of these with a half-million teachers through *Teaching Tolerance* magazine.



Moving in the Spirit

Dancers, ages 13 to 15, with the Atlanta dance troupe *Moving in the Spirit* (MITS) performed for Center employees on July 13 as they headed home after a tour out West. MITS is a nonprofit organization that operates arts and education programs for youth in Atlanta's inner-city shelters, schools, public housing and community centers. It has used the Center's Teaching Tolerance materials for years in creating performances that celebrate diversity. For their appearance at the Center, the dancers chose "Frayed Glory," inspired by the Center's book *Us and Them: A History of Intolerance in America*. Visiting the Center was "the highlight of the summer," said MITS director Dana Phelps Marschalk. For information about the troupe, go to www.mitsdance.org.

Summer law clerks help lawyers with major cases

Three talented law clerks helped Center attorneys prepare major cases this summer. They were Darius Charney, Tina Matsuoka and Damon Smith.

The clerks worked on cases concerning hate on the Internet, white supremacist activity in Idaho and Indiana, and Eighth Amendment violations in state prisons. They also investigated housing discrimination and helped research a brief for the U.S. Supreme Court.

"My experience has taught me a lot about being a public interest lawyer and helped reinvigorate me as I prepare to enter the legal profession," said Charney, a third-year student at law school at Boat Hall, the University of California, Berkeley.

A *cum laude* graduate of Duke University, he taught mentally disabled teens as part of the Teach for America program before going to law school.

When he receives his law degree, Charney will also receive a Master of Social Work from the Berkeley School of Social Welfare.

Matsuoka, an American University graduate, is a Stein Scholar in Public Interest Law and Ethics at Fordham University School of Law in New York.

"The legal work of the Center is fascinating," said Matsuoka.

"My projects required a great combination of substantive and procedural research, which allowed me to learn more about specific areas of civil rights law, while also gaining knowledge about the general practice of law. This was an amazing opportunity!"



Darius Charney

Matsuoka clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Denny Chin in New York and interned at the New York Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

While an undergraduate, she worked as a dancer and choreographer.

Smith is a second-year law student at the Harvard School of Law and an urban planner. He wants to combine urban planning and legal training to help communities solve critical social, economic and legal problems.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working at the Center," Smith said. "I am undoubtedly a better legal researcher and writer, thanks to my Center experience."



Tina Matsuoka



Damon Smith

Smith is a member of the Harvard Law School Council and the Black Law Student Association. Smith expects to receive his law degree in 2002.

Smith obtained a bachelor's degree in 1993 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Urban Planning in 1995. Since then, he has worked as a director, planner, researcher and instructor at various urban planning agencies.



Miss Chicago promotes tolerance

Deanna Riddle (right), Miss Chicago 2000, chats with *Teaching Tolerance* magazine managing editor Elsie Williams during a visit to the Center on June 21. Riddle, a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, used Center materials provided by Williams to help her prepare for the judges' interview during the beauty pageant. "Diversity Awareness" is Riddle's platform, and she promotes the Center's Teaching Tolerance program in her speeches and public appearances. "Thanks for helping me achieve my dreams and promote unity and understanding among our nation's diverse groups," Riddle wrote in a letter to the Center.

New staff bring to Center years of job experience

The Center recently brought on board three new employees with years of experience in their respective fields. In early July, LaVarda Pierce Collins was hired as human resources administrative assistant. In June, Elizabeth McEntyre and Andrew "Andy" Svenson Jr. joined the Center — McEntyre as fundraising assistant and Svenson as senior marketing coordinator.



LaVarda Pierce Collins

A Montgomery native, Collins worked in the human resources field for many years in upstate New York. From 1981 through 1997, she was with General Electric — first in Schenectady and most recently in a Burkeville, Alabama, plastics plant. In addition to human resources administration, her experience includes office management, benefits administration and event planning.



Elizabeth McEntyre

"LaVarda's professional achievements are impressive," said human resources director B. T. Durham. "Plus, she has outstanding personal integrity, a

great sense of humor and is dedicated to teamwork. We are extremely fortunate to have her."

McEntyre, also a Montgomery native, came to the Center from Regions Bank, where she held a variety of positions since 1992. She was a senior teller, a customer service representative, an administrative assistant to a regional financial officer, and a loan support administrator. McEntyre earned a degree in psychology from Troy State University at Montgomery in 1998 and is currently working on a master's in business administration.

"Elizabeth brings a wide range of skills to her job," said development director Alison Collman. "Additionally, she is a highly motivated individual with lots of energy and focus. Elizabeth is a real asset to our department."



Andrew Svenson Jr.

"I am very happy working here at the Center," McEntyre said. "I'm constantly learning new things and am challenged to come up with new ideas. The pace is non-stop."

For more than 20 years, Andy Svenson was an independent marketing consultant whose clients included the country's largest book, magazine and newspaper publishers as well as other major national and international corporations.

Svenson has also been involved in the work of a number of nonprofit organizations, both as a volunteer and as a consultant. He has served for many years on regional Hospice boards and was president of a state affiliate of the National Society to Prevent Blindness.

As the Center's senior marketing coordinator, Svenson will serve as an in-house consultant, working for the advancement of all of the Center's programs. He moved to Montgomery from Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

"Andy brings a special talent and experience to our staff," said Center president Joe Levin. "We are lucky to have him."



Brown vs. Board of Education visitors

Morris Dees (right) met with Cheryl Brown Henderson and Steve Adams when they visited the Center on July 28 to plan for a teacher workshop that includes a bus tour to the Civil Rights Memorial. Henderson, younger sister of plaintiff Linda Brown in the landmark lawsuit *Brown vs. Board of Education*, is executive director of the Brown Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. Adams is the National Parks Service superintendent at the *Brown vs. Board of Education* National Historic Site in Topeka. The site, currently under development, will be located at Monroe Elementary School, the all-black elementary school Linda Brown attended when the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed school desegregation in its May 17, 1954, ruling.

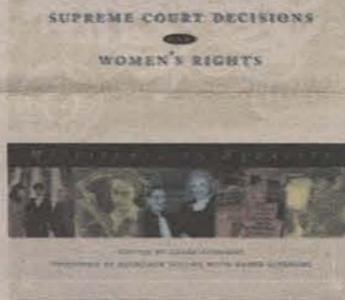
New book highlights Center's pioneering women's rights cases

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new book about women's issues in the U.S. Supreme Court highlights two of the Center's early landmark lawsuits. *Supreme Court Decisions and Women's Rights: Milestones to Equality*, co-published this month by CQ Press and the Supreme Court Historical Society, includes in its discussion of 75 important cases two of the Center's pioneering women's rights cases, *Frontiero vs. Richardson* and *Dothard vs. Rawlinson*.

In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in *Frontiero* that women in the uniformed services must be paid the same and given the same benefits as men. It was the first successful sex discrimination lawsuit against the federal government and the first to relate to the economic welfare of women. In a 1977 decision in the *Rawlinson* case, the court threw out height and weight requirements that effectively denied women jobs in Alabama prisons.

Sharron Frontiero was working as a physical therapist at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, when she charged the Air Force with sex discrimination. Although married servicemen received on-base housing, Lt. Frontiero was required to live off-base at her own expense, and her husband, Joseph, a college student, was not entitled to medical facilities routinely available to wives of servicemen.

After losing at the trial level, Center co-founder Joe Levin was confident the Supreme Court would hear the case and reverse the lower court's decision. When the issue was decided, the Court ruled eight-to-one in favor of the Center's position that Defense Department regulations



which granted higher compensation to servicemen than women were unconstitutional.

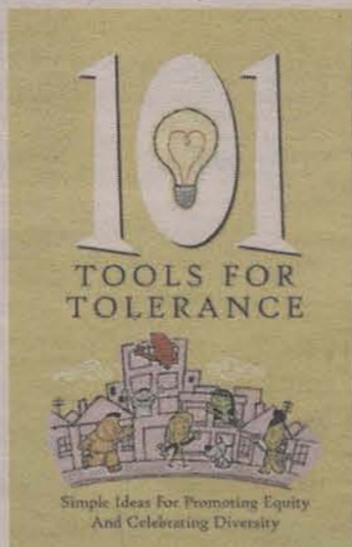
A recent college graduate with a degree in correctional psychology, petite Kim Rawlinson was shampooing hair in a Montgomery salon in the mid-1970s because Alabama's height and weight requirements prevented her from even applying for a prison guard position. Center attorney Pamela Horowitz won her case at the federal district court level, but the state took an appeal directly to the Supreme Court. Again ruling eight-to-one, the Court held that height and weight requirements were discriminatory.

The *Rawlinson* case had widespread impact because it struck down a criterion that was used in many occupations to exclude women. For decades, height and weight requirements had kept women from becoming police officers, firefighters and prison guards — all traditional pathways to advancement for working men because they provided a good salary, a pension, and job stability.

The book is edited by Clare Cushman. For ordering information, call 1-800-638-1710.

101 Tools for Tolerance enthusiastically received

The Center's latest publication designed to promote better human relations, *101 Tools for Tolerance*, has generated enthusiastic response across the country. In May, the Center released the 16-page compendium of "simple ideas for promoting equity and celebrating diversity" as a component of the Citizen's Action Kit, distributed to individuals as part of the Center's National Campaign for Tolerance (NCT). Since then, thousands of copies have been requested for use in schools, colleges and communities throughout the nation.



Copies of the guide are free upon request.

While the Center's earlier publications *Responding to Hate at School* and *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* focused on combating hate-related incidents, *101 Tools for Tolerance* issues a broader call to action to Center supporters.

"The NCT and materials such as *101 Tools for Tolerance* expand the Center's outlook," said Teaching Tolerance staffer Jennifer Holladay, who helped

compile the booklet. "We need guides like *Ten Ways* and *Responding* to deal with racism and hate groups. But *101 Tools for Tolerance* goes further by promoting diversity and equity and lays out ideas that individuals can use as benchmarks to determine whether their community is a bias-free zone."

The handbooks are being used in a variety of ways:

- The Chicago-based Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, the nation's largest and most comprehensive fair housing organization, will distribute copies to participants at its conference
- The Schuylkill County [Pennsylvania] Unity Coalition will provide them at its annual Unity Day.
- A Nashville interfaith group, which meets monthly to study faith in action, ordered copies for each member.
- In Grand Rapids, Michigan, *101 Tools for Tolerance* was given to "youth ambassadors," a group of 110 students from nine high schools working toward tolerance, healing racism and making a difference in their schools.

101 Tools for Tolerance is posted in the How to Help section of the Center's Web site (www.spl-center.org). Copies may be ordered by faxing a request to 334/264-7310 or by using the Web site's Comment Form.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

Received by the Law Center from April to June 2000

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NAACP chairman Julian Bond visits Center

Morris Dees (left) and NAACP chairman Julian Bond, who served as the Center's first president, discuss the National Campaign for Tolerance during Bond's visit to the Center on May 31. The Center's new building, under construction across the street from its current office, can be seen on the left side of the photo.

Bequests

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of its deceased supporters listed below and gratefully acknowledges their including the Center in their wills and other planned gifts. This list includes bequests received from July 1, 1999, through July 31, 2000.

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Year-end gifts of stocks benefit donors as well as Center's work

As a result of the unprecedented bull market, many Center supporters own securities now worth much more than they paid for them. Unfortunately, such an "appreciation" in value translates into capital gains taxes owed if the stocks are sold. By giving appreciated stock as a gift to the Center, however, individuals can avoid these capital gains taxes. If the stock has been owned for more than 12 months, giving it as a gift to the Center enables supporters who itemize their deductions to completely bypass capital gains taxes.

Additionally, the person making the gift receives a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock (up to 30 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income in that year). If the fair market value of the gift is more than 30 percent of the supporter's adjusted gross income, he or she usually can carry over the excess deduction for up to five additional years.

For supporters who own more than one stock, a careful decision should be made about which stock to give. The Center strongly urges supporters to consult with their tax advisors and financial planners when

making a stock gift to the Center or any other charitable organization.

Appreciated stocks offer many tax advantages for supporters. Yet stocks that have

stocks to enjoy a higher return and shelter a portion of their payments with a charitable tax deduction. The most popular life-income gift at the Center is a charitable gift annuity. Hundreds of supporters have established charitable gift annuities with the Center to help ensure its long-term work. One supporter has enjoyed the benefits of this planned giving vehicle so much that she has eight charitable gift annuities with the Center.

For a free personalized, confidential Benefits Summary on life-income gifts, simply complete the form on page eight and return it to the Center's Planned Giving Department.

Whether you are interested in making a contribution in honor or in memory of someone, donating stock or establishing a life-income gift, the Center's Planned Giving Department will provide easy-to-read information on the benefits of making a charitable gift to the Center.

So as you begin planning for the holidays and next spring's tax season, keep the Center in mind. Take advantage of tax breaks, add meaning to gifts, and let others know where you stand in the fight for tolerance and justice.

Learn more about the benefits of giving by calling the Center at 334-264-0286.

In Honor/In Memory Gifts, contact Felecia Taylor, ext. 357

Stock or Mutual Fund Gifts, contact Dana Williams, ext. 382

Life-Income Gifts, contact Linda Stringer, ext. 359

decreased in value can also offer opportunity. If supporters hold stock that has depreciated in value, selling the stock first and then making a cash gift to the Center can be beneficial. In this case, supporters take a capital loss on their returns and generate a charitable deduction.

Many supporters have used both stock and cash gifts to establish a long-term legacy for the Center. Individuals age 60 or older can establish life-income gifts that provide a safeguard for the Center's future work. Such gifts furnish the donor and/or other named beneficiaries with income-in-return through payments for life. And a portion of this income can be tax-free.

Life-income gifts can enable supporters holding low-yielding

Journalists donate fees to Center

Two prominent journalists each chose the Center as recipient of a \$5,000 donation to charity made in return for their help in compiling a list of the most influential Southerners of the 20th Century. Roy Blount Jr. and Deborah Mathis were part of a group of 16 journalists and scholars who took part in the Southern Honors program, which was sponsored by Edge Marketing and Management of Charlotte, North Carolina.



Deborah Mathis

"I have been an admirer of yours for the longest and, as such, have yearned for an opportunity to somehow thank you for the courageous, unflinching and essential work you and the Center have done," wrote Mathis in a letter to Center co-founder Morris Dees. "I hope [the donation]

will help you in your unending fight for justice and fair play."

A journalist since 1971, Mathis began her career as a broadcast journalist in her native Little Rock, Arkansas. She is a nationally syndicated columnist who regu-

larly appears on a variety of television news and public affairs programs. Mathis was national correspondent for Gannett News Service in Washington, D.C., until recently, when she began a year-long study on the news media and the shaping of African-American imagery as a research fellow at Harvard University.

Mathis' first book, *Yet a Stranger: Why Black Americans*

Still Don't Feel at Home, will be published by Warner Books next year.

Blount, a former *Sports Illustrated* writer, mostly writes humor pieces. He has published several books, including *About Three Bricks Shy of a Load*, about the Pittsburgh Steelers; *Crackers*, about President Jimmy Carter and his family; and *What Men Don't Tell Women*. His latest is a memoir entitled *Be Sweet: A Conditional Love Story*. Reared in Decatur, Georgia, Blount graduated from Vanderbilt University and earned a master's degree from Harvard University. He now lives in Massachusetts and New York City.

Edge Marketing has indefinitely postponed the release of the Southern Honors list of the most influential Southerners.



Roy Blount Jr.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP THE CENTER

» If you are connected with or know of a foundation that might be interested in helping to secure justice, fairness and peace in our national community, please contact Dana Williams in the Center's development office. » 334-264-0286, ext. 382

Center helps low-income tenants fight for their housing rights

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Doris Hemby is not one to stand in the way of progress. Nor is she one to stand on the sidelines and let progress pass her by. Instead, she is an activist willing to fight for her community's share of a \$35 million grant intended to help low-income tenants.

Hemby lives in Metropolitan Gardens, a public housing community here that will be demolished to make way for the city's downtown revitalization. Unwilling to move quietly out of the way, she and other tenants formed the Metropolitan Gardens People's Movement to make sure that their rights are not trampled when the revitalization projects gets underway.

With help from the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Greater Birmingham Ministries organization, Hemby and the others challenged the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District (HABD).

"We asked the HABD and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be true to the promise of the fed-

eral HOPE VI program and give these residents the chance for a better life that the \$35 million grant offers," said Center staff attorney Peter Tepley. "Community revitalization is a good idea, but not if it is done at the expense of the people who should be the beneficiaries of program."

According to Hemby, a security guard who often walks to work, some residents want to stay at the doomed Metropolitan Gardens Housing Community because of its prime downtown location with easy access to jobs, stores, utilities and other services. But the convenience they enjoy is what makes the site attractive to developers. The plan calls for razing the 910-unit complex and replacing it with stylish townhouses occupied by tenants with mixed incomes. Less than half of the new units will be reserved for low-income tenants.

Concerned about possible civil rights and fair housing violations, the Center pressed HABD to disclose its plans to the residents and to deal with their concerns.



Doris Hemby fights for tenants' rights

Tepley said that one problem is that the plan exacerbates the existing shortage of affordable housing in the city. Another is that it discriminates against African American families with children. The plan reduces the number of children projected to live in the new community to 70, Tepley said. More than 730 children lived at the site when the new plan was approved last year.

At the Center's prodding, the HABD agreed to look for ways to increase the number of low-

income units in the new development and to work to ensure that families with children will have an equal opportunity to live in the new mixed-income community.

Hemby said that before the Center became involved, she and her neighbors got little help from the HABD. One mother said that she was given a voucher to look for alternative housing but was never told where it could be used or offered any assistance in relocating. Other tenants said that they were told to apply for transfers to other public housing, but were never told about options outside of areas with high concentrations of poverty.

Last March, the Center threatened to sue the HABD unless officials agreed to comply with all of the legal requirements of the HOPE VI program, including offering the public housing residents the chance to move away from impoverished and racially segregated areas, a major goal of the HOPE VI program. The HOPE VI program also provides transportation and childcare to assist relocating tenants.

Hemby said that since the Center became their "guiding light," HABD has been forced to give them information and services. Tepley added that the HABD agreed to spell out specific things it will do to help tenants find housing that is outside of high-poverty areas. HABD also agreed to recruit owners of rental properties to accept federal housing subsidy vouchers, allow tenants to hold onto their vouchers longer, and stop transferring residents out of Metropolitan Gardens until their relocation plan is approved by HUD.

Tepley said that HOPE VI grants fund various opportunities for public housing residents, including opportunities to improve their employment skills and boost their incomes, but that the housing officials had kept the tenants in the dark. He said that the Center will continue its efforts to ensure that Hemby and her neighbors are treated fairly.

This article was written by Center paralegal Lanita Crawford.

Partners for the Future

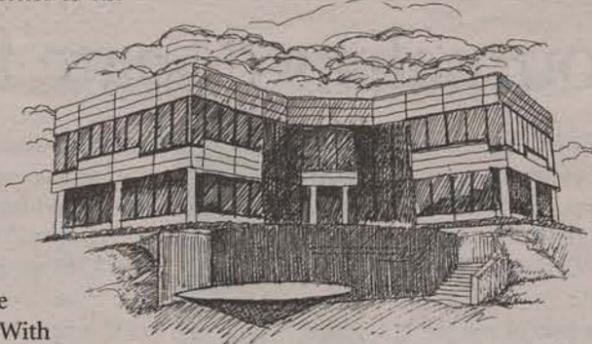
A Way to Help More Than You Thought You Could

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 special gifts, Center donors can extend their support for equality and justice beyond their lifetimes.

If you plan to or have already remembered the Center in your will or estate plans, 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 established a permanent endowment in 1974. The Center's goal is to have an endowment large enough to sustain its current level of activities, to fund new projects and lawsuits as the need arises, and to protect the Center from inflation. The Endowment now stands at \$117 million. With your help through Partners for the Future, the Center will reach its goal of self-sufficiency.

The Endowment Fund is a "pact with future generations" that will help ensure resources for the Center's work well into the 21st century.



I'm interested in becoming a Partner for the Future.

Please send me information on:

- Wills Charitable Remainder Trusts Retirement Plans
 Securities Charitable Lead Trusts Insurance Policies
 Charitable Gift Annuities/Fixed Income Option

Date(s) of Birth _____

\$ _____ Cash Securities (\$ _____) Cost Basis

The Center is already included in my will or estate plans. Please welcome me as a Partner for the Future.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please contact me at (_____) _____

Mail to: Partners for the Future • The Southern Poverty Law Center • P.O. Box 548 • Montgomery AL 36101-0548

IN MEMORIAM

Darby T. Coker (1946-2000)

Darby Trimble Coker, an enthusiastic supporter of the Center for several years, died June 16, 2000, from complications following surgery.

Born on March 21, 1946,

Mr. Coker was raised in East

Point, Georgia. He attended Georgia Military Academy (now Woodward Academy) and Georgia Tech and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia State University.

For many years,

Mr. Coker was a successful

advertising executive with

IBM. He began writing press

releases for the company in

the 1970s and quickly worked

his way up. He won the Amer-

ican Marketing Association's

Golden Effie award for his

introduction of IBM's PS/2

computer. He served as direc-

tor of advertising in IBM's

personal computer division in

Boca Raton, Florida, and also

at the company's headquarters

in New York.

In 1988, Mr. Coker left IBM

and returned to Georgia. He

became the owner and presi-

dent of Metaphor Inc., an

Atlanta-based advertising and

marketing firm.

Mr. Coker also served as

director of communications

for marketing of the 1996

Atlanta Centennial Olympic

Games. In this position, he

directed support programs in

advertising, press relations,

and research.

Aside from his success in

the business

world, "Darby

was a person

who lived his

beliefs in treat-

ing others with

respect and tol-

erance," said his

wife, Suzanne.

While

attending Geor-

gia Tech in the

1960s, Mr. Coker wrote a

weekly column for the student

newspaper, tackling the tough

subjects of prejudice and

injustice. More recently, he

supported the work of the

Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Net-

work. He always spoke out

when he heard others make

homophobic remarks or jokes.

Of all his accomplishments,

said his wife, the one that was

most important to him was

raising their 21-year old son,

Edward Andrew "Ned" Coker,

to be a thoughtful, empathetic

young man committed to

working against intolerance.

In honor of his compassion

and service, the family

requested that donations in

his memory be made to the

Center.

