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Keenans take Aryan Nations compound

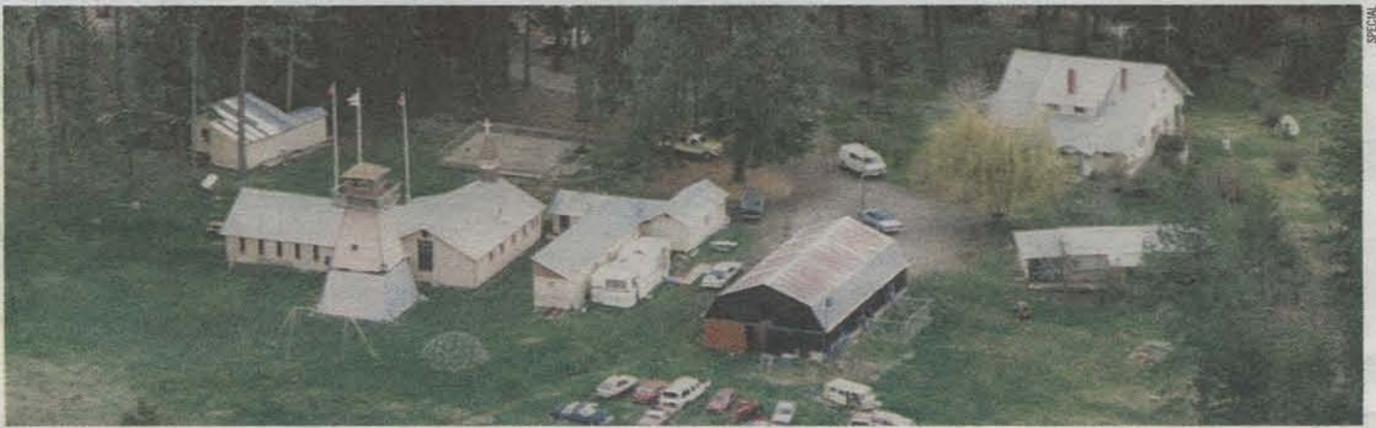
COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler, one of the nation's most notorious hatemongers, has been forced to hand over his 20-acre compound to a mother and son who successfully sued him last year.

Victoria and Jason Keenan, represented by the Center's legal team, won a \$6.3 million jury verdict after a weeklong trial in early September. They were chased and shot at by Aryan Nations security guards near the compound in 1998. A jury ruled that Butler and his organization were grossly negligent in selecting and supervising the guards and awarded compensatory and punitive damages to the Keenans.

After the judge in the case denied Butler's bid for a new trial or a reduction in the verdict, Butler attempted to avoid collection by filing for bankruptcy last fall. But the move only delayed the end for him by a few months. The bankruptcy court authorized the sale of the compound property to the Keenans in February and allowed them to use a portion of their judgment as the principal payment for the compound.

The property, located near Hayden Lake, contains several buildings, printing presses, computers and other items.

Butler failed in a last-minute attempt to have the bankruptcy judge postpone the sale. He sat glumly in the back row of the bankruptcy courtroom during the sale proceedings and said nothing. Butler now lives in a Hayden neighborhood in a house bought for him by a friend.



The 20-acre Aryan Nations compound contains a variety of buildings once occupied by Richard Butler and his followers. Butler's house is top right. A guard tower (left) is adjacent to the official "Aryan Hall," with a ceremonial platform located behind it. Buildings for book storage, printing and shipping are between the hall and the black storage barn.

Outside the courtroom, Butler angrily commented: "The whole system is controlled by Jews."

"I'm very happy this is coming to an end," said Victoria Keenan after the sale. "I feel very good — very, very good."

The Aryan Nations compound has long been the home of a who's who of violent white supremacists. Its associates have been convicted of bank robberies, bombings and murders. Until now, Butler has escaped unscathed. The verdict and seizure of the compound have debilitated Butler's operation and sent a powerful message to other hate groups.

After the jury verdict, the Keenans visited the property.

"They experienced the same kind of disbelief that overcomes a lot of people who go up there," said Coeur d'Alene attorney Norm Gissell, who worked with the Center on the Keenans' lawsuit. "They were amazed that such a beautiful setting would have generated so much hate over the years."

Jason Keenan, 21, said he is glad he and his mother pursued the lawsuit. "This was pretty much a mark in history, a mark in time," he said.

The Keenans indicated they would sell the compound property to a philanthropist, who plans to create a center for tolerance on the property.

The Aryan Nations case 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, Oregon. 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.

Although hate groups like the Klan do not have millions of dollars, Center lawyers seize the assets that are available in an effort to make the groups feel the sting of the jury's verdict and to put them out of business. The Center never accepts a fee from those it represents. (See related story on page 8.)



Dees says Idaho delivered justice

Center co-founder and chief trial counsel Morris Dees chats with people attending the April 6 Human Rights Victory Banquet in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was the keynote speaker at the event, attended by 544 supporters while Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler stood outside and vilified those who came to the banquet. Dees deflected praise for bankrupting the Aryan Nations, saying local human rights leaders planted the seed that grew into justice.

Center lawsuit helps transform community

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — After a quarter-century struggle with hatred, Idahoans are declaring victory, and many credit the Center's successful lawsuit against the Aryan Nations as the crowning achievement in the long battle against bigotry.

"My wife and I joined the Kootenai County Human Rights Task Force when we moved here three years ago," said John Wade. "But it took an action such as the Keenan trial to push this cart over the hill. We could not have done this without the Center's help and intervention."

Few eyebrows raised when Richard Butler, a retired aerospace engineer from California, bought 20 acres near Hayden

Lake, a few miles north, in 1974. He never hid his intention to build a haven for hate groups and a command center to bunker in during the hate war he planned to lead. The compound became a rallying site and headquarters for the Aryan Nations and other white supremacists.

Most area residents, while perhaps not agreeing with Butler's beliefs, turned a deaf ear to the hate-filled rhetoric. They took the position that Butler's supporters were "outsiders." Annual marches through downtown Coeur d'Alene were met with little resistance. Politicians wanted no part of a confrontation with Butler, and leaders feared "bad publicity."

But as Butler's numbers grew, rhetoric spilled outside the compound. An annual "Aryan Nations Congress" brought skinheads, neo-Nazis and outright criminals to Idaho.

"There were times, particularly during the Aryan Congress, that the Nazis would try to intimidate people on the street," said Doug Cresswell of the Kootenai County Human Rights Task Force.

Few residents challenged them for fear of reprisal.

But the hate speech evolved into hate crimes. A swastika was scrawled on a Jewish-owned restaurant. Biracial children were threatened. The home of a priest on the human rights task force

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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, Tolerance.org and the Intelligence Project. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which celebrates the memory of individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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MAILBOX

Center donor praises efforts to help mentally ill inmates

The following letter was written by Christopher C. Babbitt, a Wisconsin and Minnesota licensed psychologist who has been a Center donor since 1998.

Congratulations on your recent victory in your battle for the rights of mentally ill inmates in Alabama prisons ["Center wins agreement to help mentally ill inmates" in January 2001 *SPLC Report*]. This is a critically important issue, among many others, as we try and move in this country toward humane treatment of the mentally ill at all levels.

As a clinical psychologist and member of the Center, I was particularly pleased to read about your work on this case. We have such a very long way to go when it comes to helping institutions such as prisons understand the

nature of the problem, not to mention to come up with solutions to it. Mentally ill individuals have never been treated well in this nation.

I specialize in work with children and adolescents in an outpatient setting, and in this mostly rural, and largely white, part of Wisconsin, trying to get good services, such as psychiatric support, inpatient care, etc., for the most disturbed of my clients is a daily challenge. Thanks for all your work on behalf of the under-served, misunderstood, and mistreated members of our society. I am very proud to be a contributor to the process.



Chris Babbitt

It has been my pleasure for a number of years to contribute to the work of the Center — both through annual donations and through my recent charitable annuity to Partners for the Future, which will benefit us both. I strongly support the work of the Center, which, more than any other organization of which I am aware, makes a real difference in the fight for equal rights and against intolerance and injustice.

M. K.
Edmonds, Washington

I recently read your handbook *Responding to Hate at School*. It is wonderful! Thank you for creating this. It fills a need. The sample policies are particularly helpful. Every school in the country should implement these.

K. A.
Washington, D.C.

I receive *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and have enjoyed many of its articles. It is a terrific tool for stimulating thought and possible solutions to many of the issues that divide us as we are trying to bring all peoples together. Thank you so much for all of the work that you do!

D. H.
Nashville, Tennessee

I have just finished viewing my copy of *A Place at the Table* [Teaching Tolerance's newest free video-and-text teaching kit], and I have been moved — in waves! This teacher can not wait

to share the video with her students. This is your finest work ever! You should be very proud, as I am very proud, to be a Center supporter.

M. W. B.
Grantsburg, Illinois

As a Ph.D. student and former teacher of young children, I've found *Teaching Tolerance* magazine to be a valuable resource and reference to my research and scholarship. I have recommended this periodical to colleagues and friends, and they, too, have found it to be an excellent tool to assist them in their work to break down racial barriers in the classroom. Thank you, Teaching Tolerance, for your work and commitment to race, equity and the celebration of diversity in America's schools.

B.W.
Medford, Massachusetts

I applaud your effort to fight hate at every avenue possible. I am an educator in Iowa and have downloaded your resources and ordered other materials that I can use. I just want to make a difference in my small corner of the world.

Thank you so much for your diligent efforts and unwavering support of justice and fairness to every human being. We are all a part of one race, and once each member of that race opens his and her eyes and heart, then we can all begin to live as one.

L. G.
Tama, Iowa



Congressman leads pilgrimage to Memorial

Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.) and an aide visit the Civil Rights Memorial on a rainy March 3. For the fourth consecutive year, Lewis led a bipartisan Congressional delegation on a civil rights pilgrimage that included the Memorial. Lewis, himself a hero of the Civil Rights Movement, recalls his experiences in his memoirs, *Walking With the Wind*.

Center lawsuit helps transform community

Continued from p. 1

was firebombed. And there were explosions at a federal building and a local business.

"It's difficult to quantify the amount of the impact," said Jonathan Coe, president of the local Chamber of Commerce. "But I can tell you for a fact, we lost business because of them. Some vacationers didn't visit, businesses didn't locate here, and people chose not to retire here."

The local economy was not Butler's only victim. With news accounts of the Aryans' criminal activity and harassment receiving nationwide coverage, Idaho's image was sullied.

Aryan Nations verdict a milestone

But the \$6 million verdict against Butler and the Aryan Nations on September 7 was a milestone.

"I was extremely proud of the message Idahoans sent to the world with that verdict," said Idaho Governor Kirk Kempthorne. "The unanimous decision by a jury of 12 very courageous citizens represented a clear victory for the true values of Idaho. It sent a loud and clear message to the nation and the world that we take civil and human rights issues seriously, and that we have zero tolerance for hatred."

And there are other signs of progress:

- The establishment of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center in Boise;
- The Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise, which will feature a 175-foot granite wall inscribed with quotes from Nelson Mandela,

Martin Luther King Jr. and Margaret Mead.

- The Hispanic Cultural Center, which has launched a capital campaign and hopes to break ground this year in Boise; and
- A marketing campaign that produced the slogan "Idaho, the Human Rights State," and an effort to have this slogan on all state vehicle tags.

On April 6, hundreds of citizens gathered here to celebrate the fourth annual Kootenai County Human Rights Task Force banquet, where Center co-founder and chief trial counsel Morris Dees was keynote speaker. The next night in Boise, an even larger crowd packed the First Presbyterian Church to hear Dees talk about the need for tolerance, fairness and equality.

Citizens praised for supporting Dees

An editorial writer for *The Idaho Statesman* praised Idaho citizens for their impressive turnout for Dees' speech: "The basic message is self-evident, but it bears repeating. Despite Idaho's reputation nationally, many more Idahoans think like Morris Dees than think like the white-supremacist group he defeated in court.

"But for Idahoans, the challenge of embracing equal rights goes beyond simply rejecting the blatant hatred of the Aryan Nations. We have done this, as Saturday's turnout reflects. Now, Idaho's human rights challenge moves to a more subtle but no less important area: rejecting prejudice in all forms — not just those based on color and creed, but also those based on economics and sexual orientation."

Hate group numbers rise

The number of hate groups in the United States jumped by approximately 10 percent last year, fueled by white power rock, racist neo-Paganism and the ethnic nationalism that is growing in places from the deep South to the nation's inner cities.

Around the country, white supremacist groups were increasingly Nazified, while fewer clung to specifically American forms of hate like the Klan and the anti-Semitic Christian Identity religion. Racist forms of pre-Christian religions like Asatru and Odinism made major inroads among the young, while the "hatecore" music scene continued to swell within the same demographic. Forms of ethnic nationalism — from hatred of non-white immigrants to separatist tendencies among whites, blacks and others — flourished in America and much of Europe, too.

In its annual count, the Center's Intelligence Project identified 602 hate groups operating in 48 states and the District of Columbia in 2000, up from 457 the year before. (No hate groups were identified in Rhode Island and Vermont.) The addition to the list of nearly 90 "neo-Confederate" groups — groups that operated prior to 2000, but whose ideology was not exposed until last year in the *Intelligence Report* — accounted for the major portion of the increase. If this new category had not been included, the net gain would have been 57 groups, a 12.4 percent increase.

'Hard times make things worse'

Because the nation is heading into an apparent downturn, hate may heat up. "If the economy goes sour, we can expect more scapegoating violence, especially against immigrants," says Joe Roy, director of the Intelligence Project. "Hard times have a way of making things worse."

William Pierce, leader of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, agrees. "[T]he rise in membership numbers that began two years ago continues, and a recession next year should cause membership to rise even more rapidly," he wrote in November. "The recruiting machinery we have built is in place and functioning."

There were several factors behind the increase in the number of hate groups, some of them coincidental. But three reasons, in particular, stood out:

- **White power music.** Although difficult to quantify, so-called "white noise" continued to grow in popularity and availability last year, clearly helping to draw new youths into the world of organized hate. The principal purveyor of this music, Pierce's Resistance Records, has managed to get large



Klan membership dropped while neo-Nazi numbers jumped.

amounts of publicity as white power rock concerts grow larger and more frequent.

- **Neo-Paganism.** Alternative religions, in particular racist forms of Odinism and Asatru, continued to make strides among young white supremacists — to the point where one leading expert says that more than half of young people now entering the movement consider themselves pagans.

- **Ethnic nationalism.** As globalization and other forms of integration proceed, race-based nationalism is on the upswing throughout the Western hemisphere. In the United States, this is particularly obvious among the groups of the so-called "neo-Confederate" movement, which have taken to describing Southern culture as fundamentally white and Christian and increasingly write in bitter terms of blacks, gays and others seen as enemies. It is equally obvious in the racist separatism of black groups like the New Black Panther Party.

By using the Internet, hate groups reached out electronically to a potential audience of millions of people. The number of hate sites on the Web early this year was 366, up 20 percent from the 305 counted a year earlier. Some experts say these sites have not helped recruiting much. Others believe that the sites have the insidious effect of cultivating sympathizers even if they do not swell hate group membership rolls.

There were other developments as well.

Hate moved south, largely driven by the rise of the neo-Confederate movement over the last few years. In 2000, Alabama and Florida led the nation with 39 active hate groups apiece; Texas came in second with 38. This trend intensified as groups supporting the Confederate battle flag, increasingly frustrated by defeats in South Carolina and Georgia, grew more radical and hostile to blacks.

The Klan continued a long decline, dropping from 138 groups in 1999 to 110 in 2000. Neo-Nazi groups, on the other hand, saw tremendous growth, adding 50 groups to the 130 counted in 1999.

Center honors retiring staffers

Center co-founders Joe Levin (center left) and Morris Dees (center right) were on hand at a January 17 reception honoring two longtime employees who recently retired. JoAnn Chancellor (left) served as the Center's administrator from 1974 until the end of 2000. Jo Brazell had been bookkeeper since 1986.



Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

Neo-Nazi pleads guilty to conspiracy charges

SAN DIEGO — WHITE SUPREMACIST Alex Curtis pleaded guilty in March to three conspiracy charges, admitting that he had harassed a Jewish congressman with racist messages, defaced two synagogues, and left a dummy grenade for a Latino mayor. Curtis, indicted in November, had promised that he would never cooperate with the government.

But in exchange for a sentencing recommendation of three years (he had faced 10 or more), Curtis agreed to apologize for the crimes and to refrain from promoting racism for three years after his release. He also promised during that period not to associate with any of a list of 138 "known" white supremacists — including White Aryan Resistance founder Tom Metzger, an ally who had raised money for Curtis' legal defense.

Curtis, who used his *Nationalist Observer* on-line newsletter to promote "lone wolf" violence against the government, allegedly was part of a small cell of racist activists arrested on related charges. One pleaded guilty and has been sentenced to a year in prison; two others await trial.

Florida 'church' leaders found guilty in scam

TAMPA — FIVE LEADERS OF THE Greater Ministries International Church were found guilty in March of running a massive Ponzi scheme that took close to a half-billion dollars from over 18,000 victims — people who were promised that God would double their money in less than two years. The church leaders used the language of the "Patriot" movement and often victimized fellow antigovernment zealots.

Greater Ministries head Gerald Payne was convicted on 19 charges, including various counts of conspiracy, mail and wire fraud, and money laundering. His wife, Betty, and two others were guilty on 16 charges; a fifth man was guilty on five. All are awaiting sentencing.

White supremacist gets life for 1999 rampage

LOS ANGELES — BUFORD O. Furrow, the white supremacist whose 1999 one-day rampage wounded children at a Jewish community center here and left one man dead was sentenced to

life in prison on March 26. He was also ordered to pay \$690,294 in restitution.

At the hearing, Furrow apologized and blamed mental illness for the shooting spree. He also claimed that he didn't "harbor ill feelings toward people of any race, color, creed, religion or sexual orientation." But Judge Nora Manella called Furrow's actions "a stark reminder that bigotry is alive."

As law enforcement sought a motive for the August 10, 1999, attack, the Center revealed Furrow's past membership in the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations and produced a photo of him dressed in an Aryan Nations security guard uniform at the hate group's headquarters in Idaho.

National Alliance holds anti-immigration rally

GAINESVILLE, GA. — A MARCH 31 rally against immigration staged here by the neo-Nazi National Alliance drew about 40 participants. Counterprotesters were encouraged to steer clear of the event. But immigration advocates and watchdogs of hate groups expect more encounters over differing views on immigration.

"Right-wing groups are appalled at the projected loss of a white majority in America," said Mark Potok, editor of the Center's *Intelligence Report*. "Now, a number of them are working to exploit resentment of immigrants, and violence could easily result."

Racial tensions plague Maryland town

BOWIE, MD. — A RACIAL SLUR AND "KKK" were spray-painted on the exterior wall of a new gym here in late March. Officials of the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission said it was the 20th hate crime reported in the past four years. Police said they suspect that teenage pranksters were to blame for the latest incident. But officials and residents of the city of 50,000 — 40 percent minority — said it is a reminder of racial tensions that have beset the community.

Last summer, someone spray-painted "KKK" in four-foot-high red letters on a garage. In August, a racial slur was painted in a subdivision, and in October, someone painted "White Power" on the side of a building. Also in the fall, three black girls were charged with assault and a hate crime in the beating of a white boy.

Klansman ordered to pay journalists

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Jeff Berry, the leader of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, has been ordered to pay \$120,000 in damages to two journalists held captive at his home in November 1999. In addition, his motions to set aside the judgment and dismiss a fraudulent conveyance lawsuit against him were denied.

Television reporter George Sells and camerawoman Heidi Thiel testified that they feared for their lives when Berry became angry at the end of an interview at his home and demanded their interview tapes. When they refused to hand them over, Berry ordered his followers to block the exits and would not let them leave. After another Klansman entered the room with a shotgun and pumped the weapon, the terrified journalists relinquished the tapes.

Klansman has reputation

"Jeff Berry has a reputation of bullying people to get his way," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "We are glad that we could convince the court to put a stop to it."

Center attorneys filed a lawsuit on the journalists' behalf in January 2000.

To compensate Sells and Thiel — and to punish Berry — a federal judge ordered Berry to pay each \$20,000 in compensatory damages and \$40,000 in punitive damages, a total of \$120,000. "As a result of being confined and assaulted by Berry

and his accomplices, Sells and Thiel were terrified and suffered mental distress and trauma," noted the judge in his December 22 ruling.

Sells and Thiel said they were shaking uncontrollably after their ordeal and that they have been plagued by feelings of fear, nervousness and paranoia in the months following the incident. Thiel reported that she was unable to be alone in her own home for more than a week after the assault.

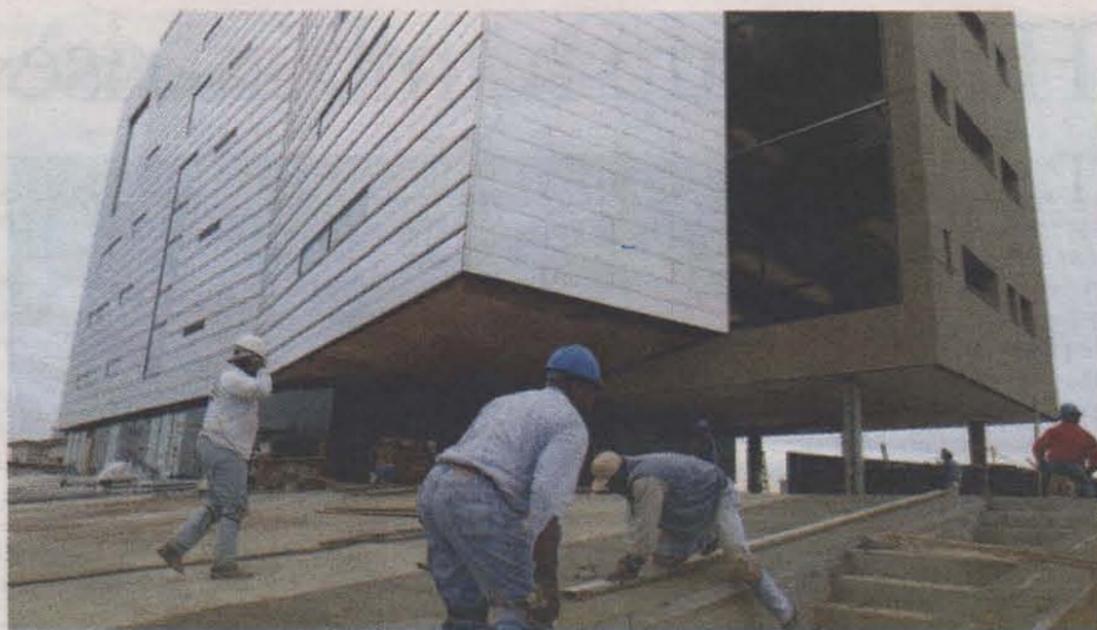
The Center's fraudulent conveyance lawsuit was filed after Berry sold his only substantial assets to his girlfriend and his father before Thiel's and Sells' claims could be decided. As soon as the fraudulent conveyance case was filed, the Center obtained a preliminary injunction that freezes the property in question — two houses in Newville, Indiana — until the case is decided.

Center lawyers have subpoenaed Berry's bank records and are asking the court to rule that Thiel and Sells can obtain the property that Berry transferred in order to satisfy their judgment against him.

Berry's American Knights is considered one of the country's most aggressive Klan groups. In 2000, the organization had 13 chapters in 12 states. After the Center filed its civil suit, Indiana officials filed criminal charges against Berry. He faces five felony charges.



Jeff Berry



Workers put finishing touches on the Center's new building exterior.

Center staff brought together in new building's open office

After years of working in separate office spaces, the Center's staff came together under one roof when they moved into a new building on April 6. Located in downtown Montgomery, the new six-story office overlooks the old main building and the Civil Rights Memorial, which is directly across the street.

"We found ourselves scattered in four different locations with no more room to put desks or people," said Center president Joe Levin. "Our new space not only brings us all together again, its efficient, open-office design also encourages a free flow of ideas and creates a synergy among our programs."

Space available for future growth

The new building's first floor houses a reception area, a conference room and a dining area for Center employees. Program and administrative staff occupy its fourth, fifth and sixth floors, leaving the second and third available for future program growth. "We were especially concerned that the needs of our future programs that emphasize issues of tolerance have adequate room to thrive in this new century," Levin said.

When the Center's former office was completed in 1985, only about 25 employees made up its staff. At that time, its Klan-watch program was in its fledgling years, and its Teaching Tolerance project — created in 1991 — wasn't even imagined. Today, the Center employs more than 90 people to operate its programs.

The Center began operation in 1971 in three small rooms rented in the Washington Building, just two blocks down the street from its present site. Its staff moved briefly into a two-story Victorian-era

house on McDonough Street. In 1974, a former dentist's office at 1001 S. Hull Street became the Center's home.

Three members of the Ku Klux Klan firebombed that building in 1983, and Center officials began to plan for a new, more secure structure. In the spring of 1984, ground was broken for a new building. Center staff moved into their new headquarters on May 24, 1985. The arson became an impetus for growth, and over the next 18 years, the Center's work expanded into new areas, and its staff more than doubled.

"The attack served to strengthen the commitment of the Center's staff and its supporters," Levin said.

Security concerns also influenced the Center's most recent decision to build a new office. Over the years, its aggressive and highly visible response to hate crime earned it a top spot on the enemies list of militant white supremacists. Protecting employees working in separate sites strained its strict security procedures.

The south wall of the new building is covered in polished

stainless steel. The east and west walls are precast concrete, and the north wall is made entirely of glass. Special steel trusses create a cantilever, enabling visitors to the Civil Rights Memorial to have an unobstructed view of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, which abuts the building at its northeast corner. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor there during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and, like the Memorial, it is an important stop on a tour of civil rights sites.

Design won architectural award

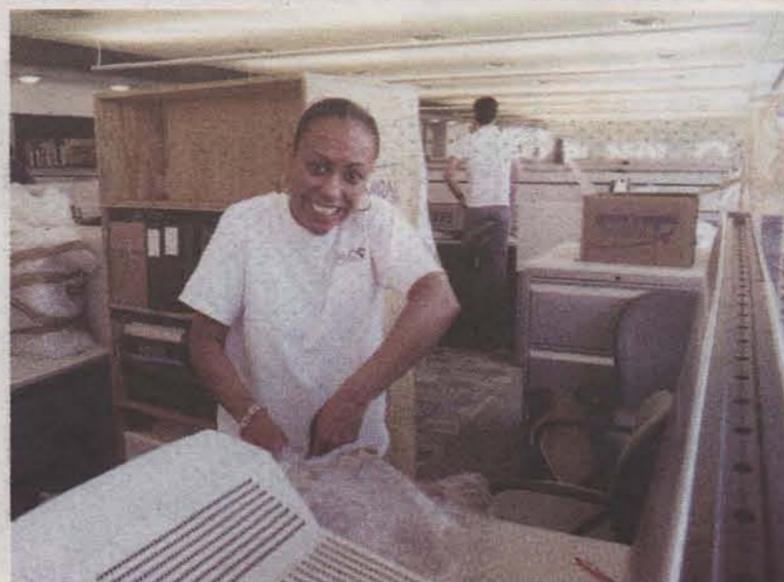
The new building was designed by Erdy McHenry Architecture of Haddonfield, N.J., and The Hillier Group of Princeton, N.J. The Philadelphia branch of the American Institute of Architects gave the design an excellence award in its "Public Architecture for the Common Good" category.

The Center's former building will eventually be developed into a visitors' center that will provide greater understanding of the significance of the martyrs named and events depicted on the Memorial.



Martyr's son visits Memorial

Henry Crawford "Hank" Allen (right) of Wilson, Louisiana, and his wife, Earline, talk with Center president Joe Levin by the wall of the Civil Rights Memorial on a recent visit to Montgomery. Allen was 17 when his father, Louis Allen, was assassinated on January 31, 1964, because he had witnessed the murder of civil rights worker Herbert Lee. Both Lee and Louis Allen are included in the list of martyrs engraved on the Memorial.



Teaching Tolerance program coordinator Bayinaah Jones unpacks her computer in the new open office. Center staff are enjoying easy access to each other.

Teaching Tolerance article inspires school book drive

LOMITA, Calif. — A family reading project in an Alabama prison received a surprise boost from a California elementary school, thanks to an article in the Fall 2000 *Teaching Tolerance* magazine. The story, "A Mother's Voice," inspired librarian Sheri Russie Jameson of Eshelman Avenue Elementary here to organize a school-wide children's book drive for the program.

The Grant Spotlight article, which has generated inquiries from communities around the nation seeking to create similar programs, addresses the impact of separation on the children of incarcerated parents. Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM), modeled after the successful Boston program Aid to Incarcerated Mothers, provides a variety of services to Alabama's imprisoned women and their children.

The Storybook Project, one of AIM's 20 programs, offers inmate moms an opportunity to record bedtime stories and short messages for their youngsters at home. AIM volunteers then deliver the tape and book to the child. The comfort of a mother's voice at bedtime is a need with which the Eshelman students readily identified, reports Jameson.

In response to the article, Jameson chose to honor the National Day of Tolerance, National

Children's Book Week and Make a Difference Day with a book drive in October. Her students at Eshelman — most of whom qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches — collected more than 400 books for AIM.

The event prompted individual class activities, as well. One 3rd grade class, for example, used charts and graphs to record the number of books donated by their class to the whole-school project. Following the drive, two 5th graders donated 27 additional hours to repair the "best-loved" volumes.

The success of the drive posed a new challenge — delivering 15 boxes of books cross-country. Upon hearing of the need, Barbara White and the Torrance, California, Junior Women's Club graciously offered to pay for the shipment to Alabama.

In Sheri Jameson's view, the storybook drive owes its success to AIM's universal appeal. "Children suffer when their parents have problems," she says. "No matter why a mother is in prison, she is still a mother and a human being."

For more information on the Storybook Project or on Aid to Inmate Mothers, call 334/262-2245, send an e-mail to inmatemoms@mindspring.com, or visit www.inmatemoms.org.



Trudy Moss is reorganizing the Teaching Tolerance library.

Research fellow improves Center's resource library

In January, Teaching Tolerance research fellow Trudy Moss began the process of automating the program's 5,000-item resource library. Moss came to the Center from a position as an elementary school media specialist in Boone, North Carolina. She has worked in North Carolina's public school system for 12 years and holds an Ed.S. in library and information sciences and a master's degree in folk studies.

"Teaching Tolerance has an incredible array of professional and classroom resources," Moss says. "This is an opportunity to organize these materials for optimum access. An online catalog and circulation system will enable the users of this collection to see quickly just what the library has to offer on any subject and what materials are available at any given time. There is also the potential to generate bibliographies for more general use. I think the Center commu-

nity — staff, supporters and the public — will benefit from this new system."

In addition to serving as Teaching Tolerance's temporary librarian, Moss is also working on a number of other projects, including preliminary research for a survey article on folklore resources for teachers and development of Web-based and print publications.

"Librarians, or media specialists, as we are often called now in schools, are trained to help people access information," says Moss. "This has been a unique opportunity for me to serve as a resource person for an organization I hold in the highest regard and to have the occasion to work with a very special collection of materials. This experience will have an impact on all of the educators and students I work with in the future."

Moss will complete her work with the Center in June.

Grant helps Hawaiian students establish bonds with their elders

WAIMANALO, Hawaii — When kindergarten teacher Diane Chinen observed that many of her students were uncomfortable with elders outside their own families, she planned an intergenerational exchange project with support from a Teaching Tolerance grant.

The project started with the elders from Aloha Nursing Home visiting the kindergarten classroom once a month, meeting the children and singing songs with them. "This really unified them," Chinen said.

The children were thrilled when they started to sing and the *kupuna* (elders) clapped along or sometimes even joined in.

"No matter what frustrations and conflicts emerged during the course of the school day, all was forgotten in the joy of singing together," noted Chinen. The teacher further pointed out that many of the children are sadly unaware of the beauty of their Hawaiian culture.

Thanks to funding from Teaching Tolerance, Chinen was able to design and structure many experiences for cultural enrichment to connect the two groups. Multicultural literature served to "open" children's worlds to a wider perspective. Appropriate picture books provided wonderful opportunities for discussion, role-playing and art activities.

The elders also taught the children about Hawaiian culture



A Teaching Tolerance grant helped Hawaiian kindergartners become friends with senior citizens *kupuna* Grace (from left), Sarah and Janice.

through songs and dances and instructed them in appropriate social skills, such as eye contact, smiling and shaking hands. The children made posters to present to their *kupuna* at monthly meetings.

"Together they wrote their class journal, and this became a valuable record of their growth as a group," said Chinen.

Kindergartners spent eight months paired with their *kupuna*. During their last visit, the class presented them with memory booklets filled with photos, letters and drawings. One student remarked, "We'll miss them." Another replied, "Yes, they look like grandmas — they look like good friends." *Kupuna* Grace added, "I felt

good with the young ones. It made me feel young again."

"Age does not have to be a barrier — the *kupuna* loved all the youthful faces and voices, while the *keiki* (children) found acceptance and joy in their elders' smiles and hugs," said Chinen. "Seeing past age or youth allows us to see into the heart."

Teaching Tolerance grants have funded more than 400 innovative classroom projects for educators nationwide. For more information, contact Teaching Tolerance grants administrator Annie Bolling, Teaching Tolerance, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104, or visit www.teachingtolerance.org.



Supreme Court hears Center case

Martha Sandoval (center), plaintiff in the Center's English-only class action lawsuit, answers reporters' questions following arguments January 16 before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Center's lawsuit forced the State of Alabama to offer its driver's license test to persons who are not fluent in English, enabling thousands of new immigrants to take and pass the exam. Alabama appealed the lower courts' ruling. Every other state in the nation voluntarily accommodates non-English speakers in some way in their testing. With Sandoval are Center legal director Richard Cohen (right); Eric Schnapper (left) of Seattle, who is assisting in the case; and Sandoval's friend, Floria Salazar of Mobile.

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Endowment provides for the future

Support for the Center's daily operations comes from the contributions of thousands of caring individuals living across the United States. Thanks to their loyalty and continuing generosity, the Center has enjoyed great success in funding its work.

But the Center has long been convinced that the day will come when nonprofit groups will no longer be able to afford to solicit support through the mail because of rising postage and printing costs. That's why, beginning in 1974, the Center began setting aside a certain amount each year to build an endowment.

Today, the endowment stands at \$104 million (as of mid-April).

The Center was one of the first social action organizations that recognized the importance of saving for the future. While colleges have long understood the wisdom of building endowments, most organizations like

the Center — groups that often touch the lives of many more people than the typical college — have not. As a result, some groups whose work was valuable have not been able to sustain themselves.

Programs must remain funded

Today, many organizations — including the ACLU, the Anti-Defamation League and the Sierra Club — have come to recognize what the Center has long known and have begun to build for the future. They, too, recognize the critical nature of their respective missions and the fact that programming commitments made today engender financial obligations for years to come.

As we enter a new century, America remains a nation of great promise. In communities across the country, there are thousands of people who are building bridges across the divides that still sometimes separate us. But there are others

who are trying to exploit these same divisions and sow the seeds of hatred. And there are many more whose apathy in the face of intolerance allows hatred to grow. As our nation's diversity increases in the coming years, so will the challenges we will face. To help ensure that the Center is ready to meet those challenges, the Center's board of directors has restricted the principal and income from the Center's endowment to cover the costs of future programs.

The Center's educational and legal efforts have affected the lives of millions of people. With the help of the Center's endowment, millions more will benefit in the future. The caring individuals who are helping the Center continue its crucial daily work are also helping to establish the Center as a permanent legacy for America's future, an organization ready to carry on the struggle for tolerance and justice for as long as it will be needed.

Bequests

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of its deceased supporters and gratefully acknowledges that the Center was included in their wills and other planned gifts. These bequests were received from February 1, 2000, through February 28, 2001.

Margaret Alsworth
Mollie August
Jean M. Batts
Juliette N. Begin
Nathan Bercovitz
Walter G. Bergman
Rose W. Blumberg
Irene E. Boothe
Schroeder Boulton
Arthur P. Butler
Lily Chaudhry
John T. Cornethan
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Vivian J. Davidson
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Beatrice H. Fairing
Blanche Sylvia Feit
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Stanley Geschwind
Katherine Gibson
David S. Ginsburg
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Wanda M. Wade
Donna R. Waterman
Marjory Weiss
Mary B. Wolman
Nancy C. Wood



Famous author visits Center

Popular author Stephen King may write frightening fiction, but his January 9 visit to the Center brought smiles to everyone. King (second from right), a Center donor since 1992, and his friend Warren Silver, a lawyer and Center donor since 1985, took a civil rights tour of the South and included the Center in their plans. Handling arrangements for their Center visit were staffers Dana Williams (left) and Sheila Cunningham.

Aryan Nations remnants a grim reminder of hate

In early March, two Center Intelligence Project researchers inventoried the contents of Richard Butler's Aryan Nations compound. (See related story on page 1.) Following are their first-person accounts of the "eerie" experience.



Michelle Bramblett:

No matter how many pictures or videos you may have seen on the Aryan Nations, nothing can prepare you for when you walk on the property. It was an eerie feeling.

We went through all of the buildings on the compound, which included Richard Butler's house, the office, the chapel, the barn, the guard shack, the guard tower and the publication trailer. There was a lot of literature to go through, and we were able to retrieve some useful articles. There were also flags, banners, signs, pictures and plaques.

The property is a great piece of land. The scenery takes your breath away. But when Butler left, he left everything right where it was. There was food in the refrigerators, dishes in the sink, trash in the trash cans and clothes in the closet. He just walked away. His car and van were still parked out front.

We asked about the demographics of the area and were told that it is 97 percent white and 3 percent other, with the majority of these being Indian. Out of 100,000 people in the area, there are approximately 200 African-Americans.

We were told that the local Indian tribe plans to "re-purify" the land the compound was built on.



Tafeni English:

First of all, let me say that I was not prepared for what I experienced.

Astonishment is what I felt from the moment we walked onto the compound. As we passed through the Aryan Hall, the church and Butler's home, the photos I had seen in the past began to come alive. Although the ground was covered with snow when we were there, I could picture the people at the annual Aryan Nations congress, which is usually held in the summer. I could see the people, young and old, feeding off of every word Butler uttered.

As we entered the place where the literature was stored, we saw photos of Hitler plastered all over the walls. I could not believe this room. It was frightening to see it filled with pictures of a man who



A Nazi swastika tops the compound building that served as kitchen and concession stand during Aryan Nations gatherings. A menu posted at the stand included "Nazi burgers (sauerkraut)" for \$1.25.

was so evil, a man that Butler and his followers looked to as their hero.

This was sacred ground to Butler and his followers. This was their holy ground because only Aryans (whites) had set foot

on the property. After the initial shock of it all, I began to experience a sense of satisfaction and gratification. I was not only a black female, but a black female working at the Center!

Leave a legacy through Partners for the Future

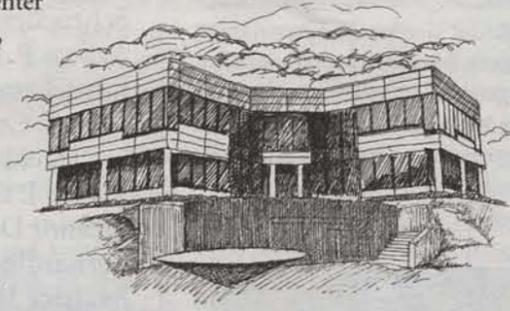
Dedicated supporters of the Southern Poverty Law Center who include the Center in their wills or estate plans are our "Partners for the Future." These special donors have decided to extend their support beyond their lifetimes and leave a legacy of tolerance and justice.

Writing a will and including a bequest to the Center allows you to choose where your estate will go and, in most cases, helps you to reduce taxes on your estate. Your bequest or planned gift — regardless of size — is a meaningful way to honor the Center's work and assure its future.

If you are interested in receiving information about wills, charitable gift annuities or other planned giving opportunities available at the Center — with no obligation — please contact the Center's planned giving department toll-free at 1-888-414-SPLC (1-888-414-7752) or complete and mail the form below. You can also send an e-mail to plannedgiving@splcenter.org.

If you have already included the Center in your will or estate plans, please contact us so we can update our records. We want to welcome you as a Partner for the Future.

The Center extends its appreciation to all of our Partners for the Future for their dedication and support.



- The Center is already included in my will or estate plans. Please welcome me as a Partner for the Future.
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Please send me information on the following specific planned giving opportunities:

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

IN MEMORIAM

Leland H. Rayson (1921-2001)

Leland H. Rayson, a passionate supporter of the Center for many years, died of cancer on January 8, 2001.

Rayson, who served six terms in the Illinois House of Representatives, was a strong advocate of civil rights and a staunch opponent of capital punishment.

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, on August 23, 1921, Leland Rayson lived a life devoted to family and social justice. While attending the University of Rochester in New York, Rayson enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In 1944, during small boat command training in Fort Pierce, Florida, he married Barbara Chandler, his wife of 56 years.

During World War II, Rayson led amphibious assault landings in the Phillipines and participated in the invasion of Okinawa. After the war, he completed his degree at Rochester and returned to Oak Park. He went on to graduate from Northwestern University Law School.

From 1946 to 1961, Rayson and his wife had seven children. He built a successful law practice that still bears his name today and also became active as a Democrat in poli-

tics. He served as both police magistrate and justice of the peace before winning a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served until retiring in 1977.

During his tenure in the legislature, Rayson sponsored bills to legalize abortion and reform drug laws. He introduced and saw passage of the state's first crime victim's compensation law. Rayson was also an avid conservationist who introduced legislation to reduce vehicle emissions and conserve water.

Rayson's activism was not confined to the legislative arena only. He joined the Civil Rights Movement in the early 1960s, traveling to Mississippi to help free arrested activists from jail. When the movement headed north, he brought his family to marches and rallies in Chicago and Milwaukee.

"He taught us how important it was to take a stand on important issues, and that had a huge impact on all of our lives," said his son, William.

In continuing his legacy of service and compassion, his family requested that donations in his memory be made to the Center.

