

SPLC REPORT



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

DECEMBER 1999
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4

Hate groups reach out to a troubled generation

LOS ANGELES — Amid huge social changes, an underclass of white suburban youths is emerging that could shape the future of hate groups and hate crime in America. Angry young white men and a few women are fueling hate crime statistics, particularly here in California. They are the products of dysfunctional families and globalization, youths on the edge of the country and the economy and outside of the World Wide Web.

Randy Rojas, a 23-year-old former white supremacist gang member, is one of them. On November 4, Rojas was convicted of brutally murdering a homeless black man four years ago behind a McDonald's restaurant — a particularly grotesque killing that allegedly was followed by a 16-year old girl's boasts of having "played" with the man's eyeballs.



Randy Rojas

Rojas was one of several hate crime offenders in the jails of Southern California who were interviewed by a writer for the Center's *Intelligence Report*. His story is sadly similar to that of many other young people swept into hate.

His father, he says, was a white supremacist whose occupation was "going to prison, drugs, rock and roll." He rarely saw his father before he turned 17, when they finally became "real friends," and Rojas said they started doing drugs together.

His mother, a long-time victim of spousal abuse at the hands of another man, largely ignored him, he says.

"My father had a major influence on me. He had a lot of hatred inside him because my grandfather would get drunk and shoot at him with a gun to scare him. He had swastika tat-

toos and bolts. He always said he just didn't like niggers."

Randy Rojas, like many others, found a surrogate family in a gang. In his case it was the Nazi Low Riders (NLR), a prison gang that has considerable influence on the street and is involved in drugs and white supremacy. What started as a group of unsupervised, frustrated teenagers hanging out at a friend's house, listening to music and doing drugs, ended with a murder charge.

"A murder happened," said Rojas, choking up. "I was scared."

Rojas' is a tale like so many others. Some experts insist that it is a "gross stereotype" to depict all racist youth as coming from deprived circumstances. And indeed, many are alienated, middle-class kids who are led to neo-Nazism through Web hate sites or other propaganda. But a far larger — and, apparently, growing — crop of white supremacist youth has sprung from the soil of socioeconomic discontent.

Please turn to p. 3, "Hate groups"



Center attorney Pete Tepley (right) reviews the deed with Macedonia church officials Albert Canty and Jessie Young. Tepley took the two to view the former Klan property for the first time on November 5. The former Klan headquarter building is behind them.

Klan property deeded to Macedonia Baptist Church

PELION, S.C. — A black Baptist congregation now owns the headquarters of a Klan group whose members burned down the congregation's church.

The deed to seven acres and the headquarters of the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was recently turned over to Macedonia Baptist Church officials.

The transfer of the property is another milestone in the Center's civil lawsuit against the Klan. In July 1998, a Clarendon County jury awarded Macedonia Baptist Church a \$37.8 million judgment against Klan defendants, including its Grand Dragon, Horace King. A judge later reduced that amount — the largest ever awarded against a hate group — to \$21.8 million.

Four former Klansmen pleaded guilty in connection with the June 1995 arson of Macedonia Baptist Church and are serving prison sentences. Though King was not criminally charged, a jury found him liable for damages for his role in conspiring with other Klansmen to burn the church.

King regularly held Klan rallies in the field next to the headquarters. Knowing that Macedonia was about to seize the property, King abandoned it several months ago, leaving behind his white van painted with red KKK letters.

Lexington County sheriff James Metts executed against the property last March to partially satisfy the court's judgment. He held a public sale of the property

on September 7, and Macedonia's bid of \$100,000 was the highest submitted. That amount will be subtracted from the \$21.8 million due the Church under the judgment.

"We know the Klan does not have millions of dollars," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "But it is important that we collect everything that we can to make sure the Christian Knights are never again in a position to terrorize a community."

Lawsuit about 'principle'

The Rev. Jonathan Mouzon, Macedonia's pastor, said the church would sell the property and use the proceeds for something that benefits the community. "The lawsuit was never about money; it was about principle," he said. The Center will assist the church in getting the best price for the land, located in a semi-rural area near Columbia, the state capitol. Center attorneys are also continuing their efforts to collect what they can of judgments against other defendants in the case.

The South Carolina verdict was the latest in a series of Center victories that stripped white supremacist groups of their assets. In the Michael Donald lynching case, the Center used a court judgment to seize the national headquarters of the United Klans of America. The proceeds in that case were used to buy a home for Donald's mother.

New tools for tolerance generate tremendous community response

Educators and community leaders throughout the country are requesting thousands of copies of the Center's newest free publications, *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* and *Responding to Hate at School*. In September, the two handbooks were mailed to every principal in America. At the same time, nearly a million copies of *Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide* were sent to activists, law enforcement personnel and public officials throughout the country. As word spread, groups and individuals not on the original mailing lists requested their own copies.

Both publications advise citizens how to fight the kinds of hate-motivated violence that have shocked the nation in

recent months. The 64-page *Responding to Hate at School* offers concrete steps for dealing with prejudice and hatred in school. The 28-page *Ten Ways* provides ten fundamental principles of fighting hate and examples of how local communities have used these to deal with hate incidents. Both books include a long list of resources.

"Another outstanding publication," wrote Stephen W. Busch, executive director of the York, Pennsylvania, City Human Relations Commission when he ordered additional copies of *Ten Ways*. "I am consistently amazed

at the quality and informational value of your work. ... This one is special."



"You are doing a great service to students and educators everywhere by providing this book free of charge," said a Virginia 7th grade teacher when he ordered his copy of *Responding to Hate at School*.

Both publications were prominently featured in stories published September 17 in *USA Today* and September 21 in *The New York Times*. Numerous radio and television broadcasts also touted the new handbooks.

Please turn to p. 3, "New tools..."

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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

'Evil can only flourish where good men do nothing'

The following letter was written to Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees by Thomas C. Doyle, operations lieutenant with the Eastlake Police Department in Eastlake, Ohio.

For several years, I have been aware of your organization and its work, and I have been a recipient of your *Intelligence Report*. I have seen you occasionally on television talk shows and recently saw the movie *Mississippi Burning*. I am 51 years old and vividly remember television and newspaper coverage of historic events in the 1960s and early 1970s regarding developments in race relations. My employment as a police officer and as a college instructor causes me to be acutely aware of intolerance, hatred and criminal behavior involving prejudice.



Thomas C. Doyle

With this background, I wish to commend you, your staff and their efforts. Evil can only flourish where good men do nothing. You have made and do make a difference. I am sure that you are aware of that fact, but sometimes you need to hear it from an outsider. Know that you have my personal praise and support, and as a lieutenant with the Eastlake Police Department, if ever needed, you have our support and resources also.

Keep up the good work and please exercise care.

Your article on the Wings of Witness project [in the Fall 1999 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine] moved me as few things I have read in recent years.

As a retired teacher living on a modest pension, it delights me to be a sponsor of the Center and all its great projects. I feel I could not have found a more worthwhile way to share what little in excess funds I have with the national community.

S. G.

San Francisco, California

As headmaster of a church school, I received your publications, *Responding to Hate at School* and *Ten Ways to Fight Hate*. I want to commend you both for your work through Teaching Tolerance and generally for all that you do in a variety of areas through the Center. I am in your debt for your forthright commitment to equality and justice. Thank you for leading.

J. L.

Rancho Santa Margarita, California

I am 18 years old, and I have just graduated from high school. In my last semester, I took a research writing class. The subject that I chose to research was your organization. Before the class I had never heard of the Center. In fact, it was just by chance that I happened upon your Web site.

The reason that I am taking the time to write this message is to express my gratitude for what it is that you are doing — not only your work fighting racism in schools, but your fighting racism outside of school. I

believe that you deserve much more praise than you may ever receive.

A.P.

Portland, Oregon

Thanks for your work. I was in the train-the-trainer program presented by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in San Antonio recently, and one of your folks presented, reminding me of the value of the intelligence work you do and the destructiveness of some of the groups you watch. Information, intelligence and education are our best tools in repairing the tear in the social fabric fostered by the groups you monitor. Your efforts are basic to solving the problem of hate in our country. Thanks.

M. M.

San Antonio, Texas

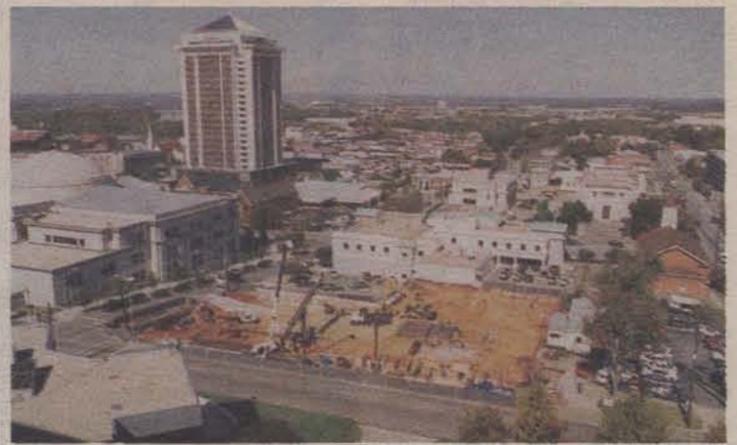
I am a teacher who has long appreciated the high-quality curriculum materials you have provided. This year I am helping my new school, an alternative high school serving mostly minority, inner-city youth, develop tolerance-based lessons which will be used by all teaching staff.

Right now, the whole school is using *Us and Them* from *The Shadow of Hate* package. The students are responding very well to the materials.

We are a small school — about 160 students — but the needs are great. Thank you for supporting teachers who want to see the world become a better place for all of us.

E. L.

Wichita, Kansas



Construction begins on new office

Construction is now underway on the Center's new six-story office building. The site is located across the street from the Center's current building (bottom left). The new building, will bring under one roof all of the Center's employees for the first time in years and will also provide space for future Center projects. The site is on the same block as Dr. Martin Luther King's Montgomery church, the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church (right).

Two devote 25 years in service to Center

This month, Center administrator JoAnn Chancellor achieves a major milestone — she celebrates 25 years as a Center employee. 1999 also marks the 25th anniversary for Rufus Huffman's tenure as a Center board member.



JoAnn Chancellor

Chancellor came to the Center as its director of operations on December 23, 1974, after 10 years at Fuller and Dees Marketing Group — the company established by Center co-founder Morris Dees and Millard Fuller, who went on to establish Habitat for Humanity. She has served as administrator and board secretary since 1978.

"The most rewarding experience for me in all these years has been to see the Center finally receive long-overdue recognition and honor for its work," Chancellor said.

Huffman, an educator who was a pioneer in Alabama's civil rights movement, joined the Center's board of directors in 1974. Three years later, he

became Bullock County probate judge, a position he held for 18 years. Huffman was the second

black to be elected probate judge in Alabama. In an effort to strip him of his power and force him out of office, the majority-white county commission refused to allocate his office a normal operating budget. The Center filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Huffman, and the court ordered the commission to provide the necessary funds.

"I knew about Morris and Joe's legal work even before I was asked to be a director — when I was asked, I was thrilled," Huffman said. At the time, he was working on school desegregation issues for the NAACP in 14 southeastern states. "My enthusiasm has only increased through the years as I have seen the cases and projects the Center has undertaken."

Huffman, who lives in Union Springs, Alabama, is retired.



Rufus Huffman



Collaboration plans underway

Ed Zlotkowski (left) of Boston, a representative of the American Association of Higher Education, listens as Morris Dees discusses plans for college communication departments to partner with the Center to promote Teaching Tolerance in local schools and community groups. He and Jim Applegate (second from right) of Lexington, Kentucky, president of the National Communication Association, visited the Center in October to discuss their ideas with Morris Dees and Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes (right).

Hate groups reach out to a troubled generation

Continued from page 1

"There's a lot of gangs, groups forming out there among the young," says Rojas. "It's spreading. Even [graffiti] taggers are evolving into gangs. It is escalating."

These youths inhabit a bleak suburban world — the so-called "edge cities" — of aging strip malls and fast food restaurants. They come mainly from one-parent or dysfunctional families that are struggling to remain in the lower middle class.

"Edge cities are where hate crimes happen," says Jack Levin, a hate crimes expert at Northeastern University. "There are more hate crimes in the suburbs than in the city and it's much more likely to happen where there's an influx of minorities. But it doesn't have to be the neighbor down the block. It could be the first Latino student in a dormitory, or a gay at a party, or the first Asian in the office. It's happening in schools and workplaces. There are simply more threats and challenges to the advantages of white people."

Recent social indicators tell much of the story.

Suburban child poverty increases

While child poverty has been dropping in inner city and rural areas, it jumped 52 percent between 1975 and 1993 in the suburbs. (In 1999, 19 percent of American children live in poverty, for the worst rate in the developed world.) Income inequality — which one study found is particularly marked in California — has grown to levels not seen since the Depression, with the top 2.7 million people enjoying as much income as the bottom 100 million. (Executives made 419 times what factory workers did in 1992; in 1980, they made 42 times as much). Between 1973 and 1992, median income plunged by 47 percent for young families with children headed by a high school dropout. In the last 30 years,

white male manufacturing workers with no college have seen a 10 percent to 20 percent drop in their buying power.

Family structure is weakening, too. The U.S. divorce rate has doubled since 1960, with half of all marriages ending in divorce. During the same period, the number of children living without a father present went from nine percent to 28 percent. Even children with two parents probably do not see much of them, as everyone works more. In the past 20 years, Americans have added 335 hours a year to their workload — meaning they work 350 hours a year more than Europeans and 70 hours more than the Japanese.

Drugs play role

While overall drug use has been declining, the use of methamphetamine — a powerful drug that can stimulate violent tendencies — seems to have been growing among whites, particularly those in lower-middle-class suburbs. This has helped draw increasing numbers of youths

into the criminal underworld and, in many cases, prison.

The world these youths inhabit — and the gangs they go on to create — is probably seen most clearly in California, a state that has historically set trends for many others. Next year, California whites will become a minority for the first time in over a century — a pattern other states will follow between now and 2050.

Already, similar white supremacist youth scenes — and the kind of socioeconomic conditions that have helped to spawn them — have appeared in the suburbs of south Florida, around Boston, in Portland, Oregon, and Salt Lake City.

And more will likely be created.

"California is where everything starts, including the Church of Jesus Christ Christian," Spokane's Sgt. Greg Harshman says of the neo-Nazi group now based in Hayden Lake, Idaho. "It got its anti-Jewish twist in California — just like surfboards, mopeds and bikinis were first there. It's the trendsetter, especially west of the Mississippi."



An underclass of white, working- and middle-class youths, in many cases buffeted by the winds of huge social changes, is altering the face of America.

New tools for tolerance generate response

Continued from page 1

Although *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* was conceived as a tool for community use, many educators — at both the high school and college levels — are integrating it into their classroom curriculums. "My teachers are eager to use it with classes," wrote an assistant superintendent in Skokie, Illinois, when she asked for additional copies for use in the classroom. "My district is a high school district of two out-

standing schools with kids from all religions and ethnic backgrounds. We work hard on respect issues, and this resource will help us a lot."

Many groups have ordered multiple copies for distribution at conferences, unity rallies and public forums. Churches, synagogues and schools throughout the country are seeking copies. The requests also come from a broad range of community agencies and organizations.

Through the generosity of Center supporters, both handbooks are available free to individuals or groups upon written request by fax (334/264-7310) or mail (Order Department, SPLC, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, Ala. 36104). Both guides are available on the Center's Web site (www.splcenter.org); *Responding to Hate* is located in the Teaching Tolerance section, and *Ten Ways* is posted in the Intelligence Project section.

Intelligence Briefs

TRACKING EXTREMIST ACTIVITY

Embalmer indicted in university bombing

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. — LAWRENCE Michael Lombardi, a 41-year-old licensed embalmer and unemployed father of two, was indicted October 26 in connection with two small bomb blasts that went off in men's rooms at historically black Florida A&M University. Both attacks were followed by anonymous, racist calls to a local television station, and the last one included a warning that the two blasts "were just the beginning." No one was injured in the blasts, but they prompted increased security and widespread fears among students and parents.

Lombardi is charged in two counts of setting off pipe bombs and two counts of possession of a pipe bomb during the commission of a crime.

Swastika suspect sent back to jail

CHICAGO — A MAN AWAITING trial for allegedly spray painting swastikas here in 1997 was ordered back to jail in November on a charge that he carved the Nazi symbol into his girlfriend's ankle. Patrick Langballe, 23, had been under house arrest after posting a \$300,000 bond on the hate crime charges. A judge ordered him held without bail on a charge of aggravated battery after police accused him of using a kitchen knife to carve the symbol on his 18-year-old girlfriend on October 22.

Langballe was an acquaintance of white supremacist Benjamin Smith, who killed himself after killing two people and injuring nine in a July shooting spree. Langballe is also charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors and compelling membership in a gang by recruiting for a neo-Nazi group.

Killer laughed at verdict, deputy says

LARAMIE, WYO. — TWENTY minutes after he was convicted of murdering gay college student Matthew Shepard, Aaron McKinney was back in jail, smiling, laughing and watching himself on television, a sheriff's deputy reported. Jail officials are worried that McKinney is becoming a celebrity among younger inmates, said Sgt. Rob DeBree, a detective in the Albany County sheriff's department.

Cop-killer gets maximum sentence

BASTROP, TEX. — ON SEPTEMBER 16, North Carolina Klansman Jimmy Ray Shelton was convicted

here on two counts of attempted capital murder, after leading police on a methamphetamine-fueled, high-speed chase in which passenger Eddie Melvin Bradley allegedly riddled pursuing patrol cars with 14 bullets. Found in the pickup driven by Shelton were methamphetamines, semi-automatic rifles, handguns, knives, night-vision goggles, detonation cord and Klan literature.

After testimony on Shelton's and Bradley's Klan affiliations from Joe Roy, director of the Center's Intelligence Project, jurors sentenced Shelton to a maximum term of 99 years. Bradley was also convicted in connection with the assault and was sentenced to 12 years.

Shelton once served as national security chief for the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Furrow charged with murder

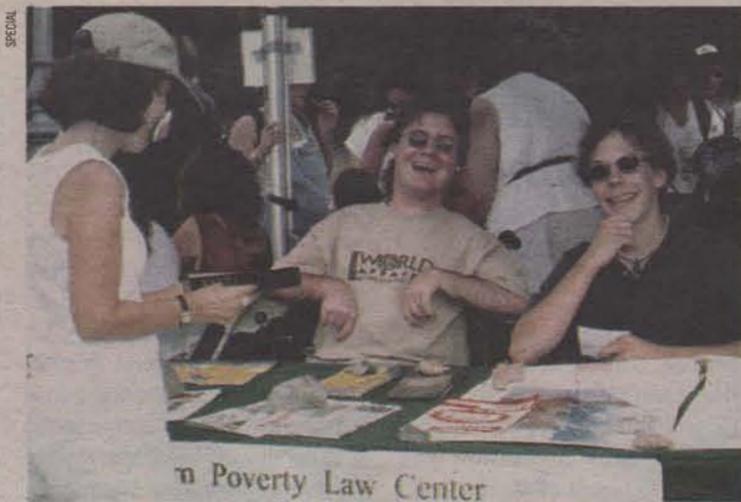
LOS ANGELES — BUFORD O'NEAL Furrow, Jr., arrested in August after allegedly shooting three children and two adults at the North Valley Jewish Community Center and then slaying postal worker Joseph Santos Iletto, now faces a federal murder charge and five state attempted murder charges. Furrow reportedly told officials that his alleged attacks were "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

The day after his surrender, the Southern Poverty Law Center revealed that Furrow had been, in 1995, a security official for the Idaho-based neo-Nazi group Aryan Nations.

Common-law court founder charged in scam

FRANKLIN, N.C. — THE FOUNDER of a North Carolina "common-law court," Peter Kay Stern, has been indicted on federal charges of conspiring to defraud the IRS and harass its agents. Stern once tried to overpay his local property taxes with a phony \$1 million check in order to obtain a huge refund.

According to the indictment, Stern went to Bozeman, Montana, in November 1995 and acquired bogus "comptroller warrants" from LeRoy Schweitzer, a Montana Freemen leader who traveled the country spreading common-law ideology. Stern allegedly used these warrants to try to pay off various debts and obtain refunds for overpayments. When officials searched Stern's home here after his September 13 indictment, they found an arsenal of gas masks, rifles, shotguns and handguns as well as loaded weapons positioned at every door and window.



Michael Neil (left) and friend Jacob Lowenstein promoted the Center at this summer's Lilith Fair concert in Denver.

Student touts Center at Colorado concert

PARKER, Colo. — Last April, the tragedy at Columbine High School sent shock waves across the country. For residents of this Denver suburb, only miles from the site of the school shootings, the incident struck just a little too close to home.

In late July, Michael Neil, then a high school student, wanted to take action against violence and wrote a letter to the Center's Teaching Tolerance program. "My friends and I, all of whom were touched by the disaster at Columbine, want to promote tolerance and make people aware of the Southern Poverty Law Center," wrote Neil. "In order to do this, we would like to distribute your literature at the Lilith Fair site this summer."

A music tour featuring female artists, Lilith Fair is a "concert with a conscience." In addition to enjoying the show's musical offerings, attendees are exposed to the work of various social jus-

tice organizations through informational booths set up on the concert grounds.

On August 28, Neil and a group of his friends not only attended Lilith Fair but also made use of an "outreach package" provided by Teaching Tolerance. The students' "Southern Poverty Law Center Information Booth" was a huge success.

"I was overwhelmed by the number of people who approached our booth to thank us for raising awareness of the Center and Teaching Tolerance," said Neil. Best of all were visits from educators who use Teaching Tolerance magazine and the program's other resources. "The teachers were so very grateful for materials," he said.

"The Center is impressed by this young man's efforts," said Center co-founder Morris Dees. "Michael responded to a terrible incident in our national history by taking action."

Court settlement calls for education improvements in juvenile prisons

TALLULAH, La. — Critical improvements in the education of youth held in Louisiana's notorious juvenile correctional facilities have begun under a recent court settlement. The agreement applies to all of the state's juvenile facilities, including the formerly private, for-profit Tallulah Correctional Center for Youth (TCCY) here.

"This agreement is an essential first step in the state's efforts to address longstanding deficiencies in education, special education and rehabilitation for incarcerated youth," said David J. Utter, director of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL).

The Center helped establish the JJPL in early 1998. The project's goal is to improve the state's badly broken juvenile justice system, often called the worst in the nation. Louisiana, with 582 incarcerated juveniles per 100,000 youth, has the highest "kids in custody" rate in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. The national average is 368 per 100,000.

The JJPL, with the Center's help, sued TCCY in July 1998 for a wide range of dramatic deficiencies and abuses. Juvenile advocates say that TCCY — located in this economically depressed town of 8,500 about 180 miles north of New Orleans

— is one of the worst in the country. It houses about 600 boys and young men under age 20. A federal judge consolidated the suit against TCCY with two other actions against the state. As a result, the JJPL is co-counsel for incarcerated children in all five of Louisiana's juvenile prisons — a total of almost 2,000.

Plaintiffs continue to negotiate the remaining issues in the lawsuit, including abuse and excessive force; unconstitutionally inadequate mental health and medical care; inadequate treatment and rehabilitation opportunities for children, and access to courts.

Teacher numbers double

Highlights of the recent education agreement, which apply to all five institutions, include:

- Doubling the number of special education teachers throughout the system — at TCCY, the number will triple, from four to 12 — and nearly doubling the number of vocational instructors.
- Implementing a full day of instruction at TCCY. Before the suit, youth here got as little as an hour of classroom work.
- Hiring additional teachers and a state director of education to oversee education programs throughout the juvenile system.
- Providing support services, including a school psychologist, speech therapist and a social worker.



David Utter

- Providing sufficient library and reading materials in each dormitory.
- Developing a plan to promote parental involvement.
- Ensuring that female youth receive academic and vocational education equivalent to that provided to male youth.

The agreement also provides for enforcement and monitoring.

"We are cautiously hopeful about the agreement," said Utter. "The ball is now in the state's court to show that it will do everything in its power to implement these provisions. The real success will be felt when an educational and vocational system is in place that trains and prepares our youth to return to their communities with skills and a chance to flourish."

The JJPL has three key objectives:

- ensuring that children receive effective representation;
- alleviating unconstitutional conditions of confinement for juveniles, both before and after they are adjudicated delinquent; and
- collaborating with other organizations to develop and expand rehabilitation efforts and alternatives to incarceration for juveniles.

Center legal director Richard Cohen and senior staff attorney Rhonda Brownstein provide strategic advice to the JJPL in the litigation. Cohen and Center board member Pat Clark also serve on the JJPL's board of directors.

New education initiative helps homeless children

COVINGTON, Ken. — The Center's legal efforts over the past two years to ensure that Alabama's homeless children receive the same educational opportunities as other children are beginning to have an impact elsewhere in the South. Employing the Center's materials and methods, the Children's Law Center here recently conducted a study and found that Kentucky's homeless children were also underserved by their schools. The results were published in September in a 15-page report that was distributed to school districts throughout Kentucky to raise awareness about the special needs of homeless children and how they are not being met.

Entitled *No Place to Call School: A Report on Educating Kentucky's Homeless Children*, the report assessed the state of

educational services provided to Kentucky's 7,270 homeless children. It gauged how well schools have complied with the 1987 Stuart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, a federal law designed to ensure homeless children equal access to public schools. The Act provides funding and programs for homeless children and requires school districts to offer them special services, including counseling and transportation from shelters to the child's school district.

Failings documented, improvements recommended

The report documents the failings of the Kentucky system and offers recommendations for improvement. "Homeless children are not receiving the same quality of education as

other children in this state, in spite of the protection the law affords them," said Kim Brooks, executive director of the Children's Law Center and policy coordinator for the report. "Our local and state education agencies must renew their commitment to serving homeless children in a meaningful way if we ever intend to help them reach academic success." The Children's Law Center now intends to use the report's conclusions as the basis of an advocacy campaign on behalf of Kentucky's homeless children.

The Kentucky efforts sprang from a larger initiative spearheaded by the Southern Poverty Law Center. In the spring of 1998, the Center developed a model survey instrument that documented widespread evidence of McKinney Act violations in Alabama. In October

1998, the Center sued the state to secure the right for an Alabama teenager — housed in a shelter after she lost a foster home placement — to attend the same high school that other children living in the area attended. Shortly after the suit was filed, the girl was enrolled in the school on an interim basis pending the outcome of the case.

New policies in Alabama

As part of a recent settlement in the lawsuit, the Alabama State Board of Education implemented a new policy to ensure that local schools throughout the state comply with the requirements of the McKinney Act, including quick enrollment of homeless children. The rules require school officials to admit homeless students even if they don't have

transcripts, immunization records or birth certificates. Instead, school officials must work with the health department and other agencies to develop the missing records while the homeless children are attending classes.

The Center is working to extend elements of the Alabama settlement to other states. As part of its initiative, the Center provided the Children's Law Center with a grant to coordinate and distribute its study. The Children's Law Center relied on the advice of the Center's legal staff and on the survey instrument developed to measure Alabama's compliance with the McKinney Act.

In cooperation with the National Center on Homelessness and the Law, the Center is currently looking for partners in other states to work on this issue.



Journalist's books donated

Martha Hunt Huie of Memphis, a Center donor and widow of prominent journalist William Bradford Huie, visited the Center on October 27. She presented Center co-founder Morris Dees copies of some of her late husband's books. William Bradford Huie wrote novels and non-fiction, including *The Execution of Private Slovik*, *The Americanization of Emily*, and *Three Lives for Mississippi*. But he is best known for his hard-hitting exposés: In the 1950s, he paid Emmett Till's killers for their confessions in that murder, and his 1968 *He Slew the Dreamer* provided hard evidence that James Earl Ray acted alone when he shot Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

New employees provide support for Center's work

Three new employees recently joined the Center's staff. Lisa Morrison and LaTonya Penn came on board in August, and Dana Williams started in September.

Morrison is a clerical assistant in the Center's administration and finance department, where she helps the staff with a variety of tasks, including file maintenance, purchasing, and managing supply orders. Morrison also serves as back-up to the Center's switchboard operator.

A Montgomery native, Morrison previously worked for Action In Mailing, where she served as a warehouse receiving clerk. On her experiences at the Center, Morrison said: "I like working here because the people are so friendly and the work the organization does is great."

Penn is the new secretary for the Intelligence Project, where she provides clerical support to her colleagues. Penn maintains the *Intelligence Report's* mailing list and processes literature requests. She also provides supplementary materials for presentations made by the project's staff. She replaces Audrey Moore, who resigned to take a position in the development office at Alabama State University.



Lisa Morrison



LaTonya Penn



Dana Williams

Before coming to the Center, Penn was a secretary for Highland Village Apartments, Inc. She is currently a student at John Patterson State Technical College where she majors in office technology. After completing her current course of study, Penn plans to attend Auburn University at

Montgomery to pursue a career as a paralegal. "I enjoy working for the Center," Penn said. "It feels so good to be making a difference in the quality of people's lives."

Williams is the Center's new development coordinator in its fundraising department, where she processes major gifts, cultivates major donors and handles stock gifts. In addition, she develops proposals requesting funds for Center programs from grant-making agencies and foundations.

Williams is a Montgomery native and graduate of Alabama State University, where she studied communications with a concentration in print journalism. "I have found working here exciting, and I learn something new every day," she said. "It's nice to get up each day and feel that you are working for a great cause."

Congress looks to Center for advice on Internet hate

Washington, D.C. — For the second time in less than six months, a Center representative was asked to provide expert testimony on hate on the Internet to a Congressional committee here. Intelligence Project director Joe Roy was one of five experts who testified September 14 before the Senate



Joe Roy

Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). The hearing was convened to investigate what measures — legal or otherwise — can be taken by the federal government, communities and families to minimize these groups' negative impact, especially on children. Mark Potok, editor of the Center's quarterly *Intelligence Report*, provided similar testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation in May.

Roy began his testimony before Sen. Hatch's committee by noting that Internet technology has been adopted wholesale by hate groups and is being used effectively to recruit young peo-

ple into the movement. He pointed out that for about a \$50 investment, a "Klansman can put up a slickly produced Web site with a potential audience in the millions." The result has been a 60 percent jump in the number of hate sites on the World Wide Web in the last year.

Roy emphasized that hate groups work hard to make their sites attractive to children. He pointed out that the "Creativity for Children" Web site put up by Matt Hale's World Church of the Creator has a title page written in child-like handwriting. Another site has a computer program called "Sieg Heil" where children play Aryan heroes battling against the creation of a "cross-bred" race.

Family communication is key

In response to the Judiciary Committee's interest in appropriate responses to such sites, Roy cited communication, especially within families, and the teaching of tolerance. "History

shows us that ignoring ugly social problems like racism does not make them go away," Roy said. "Burying one's head in the sand is a sure way to guarantee the spread of hate."

Roy is often asked to share his expertise on hate groups with organizations. In October, he spoke about the subject to more than 100 law enforcement officers in Nashville. Jim Cavanaugh, the Division Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms there said that Roy was "our most impressive speaker."

Officers praise Roy's presentations

"I received so many favorable comments from law enforcement officers about the information he provided," said Cavanaugh, "Joe's manner, method and integrity really sensitize law enforcement officers to the importance of hate crimes and hate groups."

During the past few months, Roy has also participated in several other similar events. He served on the panel of a One America Town Meeting, made presentations to police and district attorney associations, and participated in a variety of conferences on hate crimes.

New law fellow brings Center rich range of legal, research experience

Elizabeth "Liz" Kleinberg, a former law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Ira DeMent and an international law fellow for a human rights organization in Jerusalem, was named as the Center's newest law fellow in August.

"I'm incredibly excited to be here," Kleinberg said. "I've known about and admired the Center's work for many years. It's a dream come true to be a part of it."

Kleinberg's two-year fellowship position is sponsored by longtime Center supporter Joseph W. Cotchett. A trial lawyer with Cotchett, Pitre & Simon in Burlingame, California, Cotchett was honored by *The National Law Journal* in 1997 as one of the country's most influential lawyers and "a clear champion for the underdog." He is the author of several books and law review articles and serves on the board of directors of numerous public interest groups.

Kleinberg earned a law degree in 1997 from Columbia Univer-

sity and a Masters of International Affairs in 1998 from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. She also holds a dual degree in government and Near Eastern studies from Cornell University.



Elizabeth Kleinberg

Kleinberg is a former editor of Columbia's *Human Rights Law Review*, founder and chairperson of the Columbia chapter of the ACLU and a former member of the board of the Law Women's Association.

Kleinberg studied rights abuses

From 1995 to 1997, she interned at the New York Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU in New York and Columbia's University Fair Housing Clinic. She worked as a public policy intern for NOW Legal Defense & Educational Fund in 1993. In 1992, she researched human rights abuses in Kenya and Gaza as an intern with the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights. That same year she investigated abuses against Palestinians as a fellow for B'Tselem, a human

rights organization in Jerusalem. She also studied for a semester at Tel Aviv University in 1990.

Before clerking for Judge DeMent, Kleinberg joined the New York law firm Anderson Kill & Olick, P.C., where she worked on death penalty and domestic abuse cases, in addition to the firm's commercial litigation. Since joining the Center, Kleinberg has worked on several projects, including the Center's lawsuit against the Aryan Nations and actions to aid homeless schoolchildren and residents of nursing homes.

In addition, Kleinberg successfully represented Center writer Trish O'Kane before California Judge Lance Ito in a dispute over interview notes and tapes compiled in connection with a story in the fall issue of the *Intelligence Report*. Judge Ito ruled that Center reporters were entitled to the First Amendment protection and did not require O'Kane to testify or turn over her notes to the prosecution or defense in a pending criminal case.

"Liz is a talented and committed attorney," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "We're lucky to have her on our team."

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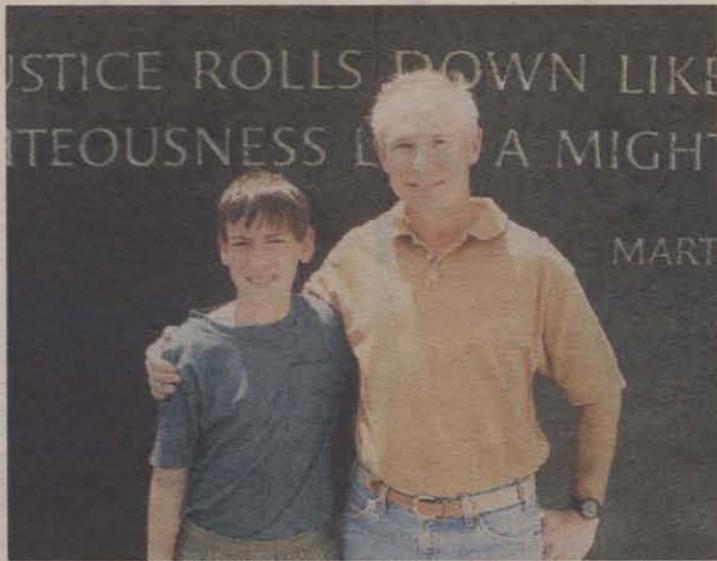
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Student's essay wins Center a donation

An essay about the Center's programs, penned by 11-year-old Alistair Spatz of Allison Park, Pennsylvania, won a \$500 gift to the Center from Paper Mate. The company sponsored a "Do the Write Thing" contest to promote its belief in the power of the written word to persuade, motivate, inspire and change the world for the better. "I think that the SPLC has done so much to help bring down racist hate groups that they deserve the prize," concluded Spatz's essay. He is pictured above with Center co-founder Joe Levin on a visit to the Center last spring.

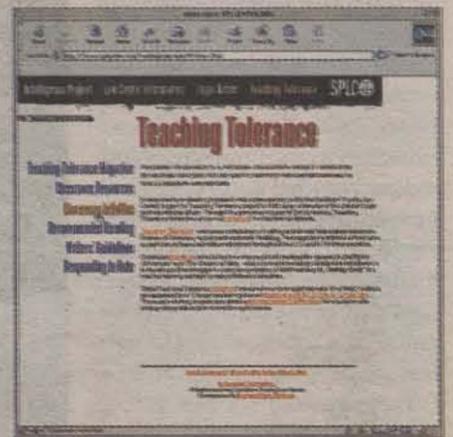
Web site offers activities for classroom teachers

Educators across the country are catching on to yet another anti-bias tool offered by the Center's Teaching Tolerance project. "Family Ties and Fabric Tales," "You Said Sappho's a She!" and "Restoring the Lost Pages: The History Behind Black History Month" are just a few of the titles available from the Classroom Activities section of www.teachingtolerance.org.

During each month of the school year, the staff of Teaching Tolerance develops new lesson plans that offer educators interesting ways to incorporate diversity and differences into their curriculums. With more than 25 entries to date, the Web site highlights everything from the African roots of algebra to the role of the monarch butterfly in the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead.

"In the coming months, Teaching Tolerance will take steps to publicize the on-line availability of the activities," says program coordinator Jennifer Holladay. "And we hope that Center supporters will help us by sharing the news with teachers in their communities."

Through a telephone survey conducted last spring (see June 1999 *SPLC Report*), Teaching Tolerance discovered that 80 percent of the educators who use the program's printed materials have access to the Internet in their schools and classrooms. "In response to that finding—and to consistent requests for more classroom activities—



Teaching Tolerance will continue to post new lesson plans at www.teachingtolerance.org each month," says Holladay. "We also will explore ways to expand our on-line offerings—a multicultural calendar, a question-and-answer forum or perhaps a guest column."

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 October 1, 1998, through October 31, 1999.

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Recent graduates join Center in new fellowship program

In September, Heidi Beirich and Sanjay Pinto joined the Intelligence Project as writing fellows, a new one-year fellowship program designed for recent college graduates with excellent writing and research skills. The fellows provide research assistance to the Intelligence Project staff and write for its quarterly journal, the *Intelligence Report*.

Beirich, a native of Palm Springs, California, recently received her Ph. D. in political science from Purdue University, completing a dissertation entitled "The Role of the Constitutional Tribunal in Spanish Politics." She also earned an M.A. in economics at the University of California, Riverside, while on a special fellowship, and received her undergraduate degree, with honors, from the University of California at Berkeley.

While at Purdue, Beirich taught courses ranging from comparative politics to international relations, and worked as a graduate assistant in the Liberal Arts Development Office, writing for the alumni publication *Liberal Arts Magazine*.

In the Lafayette, Indiana, community, she served on the editorial committee for a progressive newspaper called *Community Times*. In recent years, Beirich has published articles in journals such as *West European Politics* and *The Journal of Iberian Studies*, and has given talks to numerous audiences, including the American Political Science Association, the Latin



Sanjay Pinto and Heidi Beirich bring impressive research skills to the Center.

American Studies Association, and the International Studies Association. She also has worked as a research assistant for Food First and remains a Country Representative for Amnesty International.

"It's exciting to work at a place so lively intellectually."

"I have long admired the Center's invaluable efforts to seek justice and to protect our civil rights," Beirich said. "It is such an incredible honor for me to be able to contribute to this work and to have as colleagues people who have devoted their lives to this commendable and absolutely essential undertaking."

Pinto, a native of Bowling Green, Ohio, recently graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in sociology from Amherst College. While at Amherst, Pinto

participated in student government, and served on various administrative committees and cultural and political organizations. He chaired a committee on student life, and was elected

to the executive boards of the Black Student Union, Asian Students Association, and the Diversity Task Force. He also was a frequent contributor to a number

of campus publications, and served as a writing tutor in the Amherst College Writing Center. "For quite a while I've admired from afar the Center's efforts to fight injustice, and now I'm finding it really exciting to work at a place that's so lively intellectually and effective politically," Pinto said.

In his senior year, Pinto wrote an honors thesis while on a fellowship. He was a Chollar Scholar at the Kettering Foundation in the summer of 1998.

Professors inspired to combat hate, bias

WAVERLY, Iowa — On a crisp fall day in September 1998, two first-year students at Wartburg College awoke in their residence hall and discovered racist and sexist epithets scrawled on a public message board. Although the African American women and school custodians reported the graffiti, campus security and local police were unable to identify the culprits. On many college campuses, the incident may have ended there, but a group of administrators and professors decided to use the bias crime as a catalyst for change.

"While horrible and especially chilling for the two freshly enrolled students, the incident provided faculty and staff with a clear incentive to focus on diversity and to combat its ugly counterpart — racism," said Lake Lambert, a professor of religion and philosophy at Wartburg.

That process of moving forward began just one week after the graffiti appeared, when Center co-founder Morris Dees lectured at the college. "Dees was



Wartburg College professors Lex Smith (from left), Mannie Holmes and Will Smith at the Civil Rights Memorial

an effective speaker," said Professor Lambert. "He told very personal stories of hate, tolerance and love. And the white majority of our student body was surprised to hear a white man talk about racism and how he had dedicated his life — at considerable risk — to its eradication."

Building on the groundwork laid by Dees' visit, Lambert met

with Wartburg's Global and Multicultural Studies Committee, which in the past had helped to fund faculty excursions to urban Chicago, a Lakota reservation and the African country of Tanzania. This time, Lambert proposed a civil rights tour of the South.

Wartburg College agreed to fund the trip, and, in May 1999, nine professors and staff mem-

bers began the long, hot journey to the Deep South. The week-long adventure included stops at the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta; Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Ala.; and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. "One of the highlights of our trip, of course, was visiting the Southern Poverty Law Center," said Lambert.

Jennifer Holladay, Teaching Tolerance's program coordinator, met with the group during their visit. "Professor Lambert wrote an article for the inaugural issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine in 1992," she said. "It was good for us to see him again and also to find that he and his colleagues are working so diligently to build equity at Wartburg."

When they returned home, the professors continued to discuss and reflect on their experience. "Word of the tour spread quickly after we returned to campus, and we are working now on ways to bring the lessons alive for the whole community." The group is considering a May-term course through which students would make the pilgrimage themselves.

"Our visit to the Center and the Civil Rights Memorial was a very meaningful part of our initial trip," said Professor Lambert. "I hope that we can one day bring young people to your Center so that they can see it for themselves."

Partners for the Future

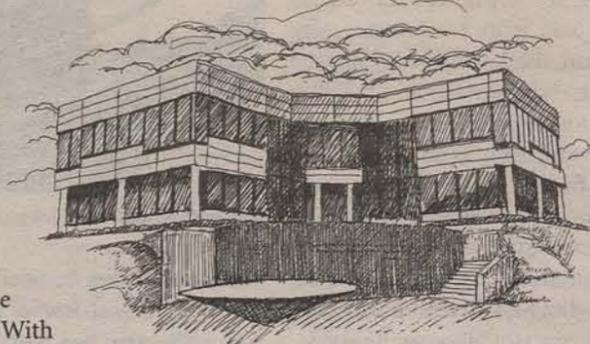
A Way to Help More Than You Thought You Could

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.

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IN MEMORIAM

Bernice S. Beckerman (1917-1999)

Bernice Smith Beckerman, Center supporter and award-winning journalist, died on March 1. Born in Fulton, S.D., Mrs. Beckerman dedicated her life to exposing the harsh realities of racial violence and to helping others.

A member of a humble Iowa pioneer family, Mrs. Beckerman was a determined and ambitious young woman who worked as a nanny and housekeeper to earn money for college. Recognizing her talent, a local family influenced the D.A.R. to sponsor her education. She went on to graduate from Dakota Wesleyan University and the University of South Florida. After marrying Milton B. Beckerman, she repaid the money out of her first earnings.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Mrs. Beckerman and her husband — married for 61 years — owned and operated award-winning weekly newspapers in Swainsboro and Evans County, Georgia. Through these newspapers, Mrs. Beckerman fought against the Ku Klux Klan and the rampant racial violence marking that period. Because of this willingness to speak out, the Beckerman family was often

the target of the Klan's terrorist tactics. In spite of cross burnings, threatened mob violence, hate phone calls and business boycotts, Mrs. Beckerman continued to oppose the Klan in her editorials.



For 27 years, Mrs. Beckerman served as president of a family-owned radio station brokerage firm. She was a member of three state press associations and was selected as a member of the

Society of Professional Journalists. The Beckermans moved to Florida in 1958 where she served as executive director of the St. Petersburg Merchants Association.

At South Dakota Wesleyan University, Mrs. Beckerman was responsible for establishing a scholarship fund that helped underprivileged students and aided the college journalism program. Before her death, the presidents of her alma maters presented her with honors for her generosity.

The Center pays tribute to Bernice Smith Beckerman and is grateful to Mr. Beckerman for his desire to continue to create a legacy for his wife through his ongoing support of the Center's work.