

SPLC REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
PROMOTING TOLERANCE · MONITORING HATE · SEEKING JUSTICE

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VOLUME 33, NUMBER 2

Migrants sue vigilantes for violent assaults

HEBRONVILLE, TEXAS — Six migrants assaulted in south Texas have filed a civil suit in state court here against Ranch Rescue, a vigilante group notorious for its paramilitary operations along the border.

"The actions of Ranch Rescue and its volunteers are very similar to those of hate groups that we have sued in the past," said Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees. "This is an important case intended to stop violent paramilitary activity along our border with Mexico. If these groups and the ranchers who conspire with them have to pay for their actions, they will think twice before attacking peaceful migrants seeking a better life."

Joe Sutton, one of the suit's five defendants, is a Jim Hogg County rancher who this spring invited armed Ranch Rescue volunteers to repel Latinos who regularly cross his property. The plaintiffs — four from Mexico and two from El Salvador —

claim that they were violently assaulted, falsely imprisoned, robbed at gunpoint and threatened with death in two March incidents on the Sutton ranch.

Center documented extreme tactics

Based in Abilene, Ranch Rescue has conducted similar "operations" in other locations along the U.S. southern border. The Center documented its vigilante tactics in Arizona in "Open Season" in the spring issue of the *Intelligence Report*. (See related story on page 3.) Local law enforcement officials have denounced Ranch Rescue's extreme actions, and two of the lawsuit's defendants face serious criminal charges in connection with the March assault.

The suit claims one of the Salvadorans seized by Ranch Rescue was pistol-whipped. The Mexicans caught crossing Sutton's ranch were forced to walk barefoot through rough terrain after having their shoes confiscated.

Money hidden in a shoe was stolen.

After their assault, the plaintiffs sought the assistance of the Mexican consulate in Laredo, which referred them to Ricardo de Anda, a local attorney. De Anda then contacted the Center for assistance.

Ranch Rescue president and national spokesman Jack Foote, who helped lead the attacks, is also named as a defendant in the lawsuit. Foote has described Mexicans as "dog turds" who are "ignorant, uneducated and desperate for a life in a decent nation because the one [they] live in is nothing but a pile of dog [excrement] made up of millions of little dog turds..."

The lawsuit, *Leiva vs. Ranch Rescue*, was filed May 29 by the



A landowner guides a Ranch Rescue volunteer on his property in this photograph taken from Ranch Rescue's Web site. A story on page three describes the vigilante violence that immigrants face.

Southern Poverty Law Center, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), de Anda and John Judge, a lawyer in Austin. It seeks monetary damages.

MALDEF is a national nonprofit organization that promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through advocacy, community education, leadership development and litigation.

Awards honor tolerance work

Teaching Tolerance's newest multimedia teaching kit, *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, recently received the 2003 Distinguished Achievement Award for Instructional Material from the Association of Educational Publishers (EdPress). The recognition is one of the highest honors in the field of educational publishing.

The award comes on the heels of *Mighty Times'* 2002 Oscar nomination and its recent first place "Golden Camera" award from the U.S. International Film and Video Festival.

Teaching Tolerance's acclaimed semi-annual magazine also garnered finalist status in three other categories this year.

Teaching Tolerance articles that reached finalist status for the Distinguished Achievement Award were "A Teacher Without Borders" from the Fall 2002 issue for Best Editorial; "A Fragile Peace" from the same issue for Best Feature Article; and "The World Was Silent" from the same issue for Best Article Design.

The new Mix It Up youth activism initiative, a collaborative project between Teaching Tolerance and the Center's Web-based activism project, *Tolerance.org*, was also nominated for the new Beacon Award for Best Integrated Marketing Campaign.

Cynthia Pon, Teaching Tolerance research editor, represented the Center at the awards ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on June 4.

"It was very rewarding to see our work honored along with some of the best in the field," Pon said. "These awards are a recognition of the high quality and impact of our free educational products."

Since 1895, EdPress, a national nonprofit organization for educational publishers, has fostered excellence through professional development and recognition programs. Its annual awards ceremony has honored the best in supplemental educational publishing for 40 years.

Education award is top honor

Those honored for the EdPress Distinguished Achievement Award set the industry standard to which others aspire. All entries, received from companies and organizations nationwide, first go through a demanding screening process. From these entries, a final judging panel may pick up to four finalists per category. Judging panels are drawn from a national pool of writing, publishing and design experts in print and technology; education writers; educators, and curriculum experts.

Teaching Tolerance has won several Distinguished Achievement Awards in the past for articles, editorials, design, texts and video-and-text kits. In 1995, Teaching Tolerance magazine received EdPress' top honor, the Golden Lamp Award for Excellence in Educational Journalism.



Dees awarded education medal

Center co-founder and chief trial counsel Morris Dees (left) walks with noted filmmaker Ken Burns during an awards ceremony May 20 at the International House in New York City. The two were among five recipients of Columbia University's Teachers College Medal for Distinguished Service to Education. Others were Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Pete Seeger and the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr. Dees credited Center employees for their commitment and dedication as key to the success and recognition of the Center's work. "While I am deeply grateful for this award, the honor really belongs to the entire staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center," he said.

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit 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 textbook enhances students' understanding

A Place at the Table is one in a series of free video-and-text teaching kits Teaching Tolerance distributes free to schools throughout the country. Lincoln Brown, a teacher in Chicago's Bret Harte Elementary School, recently wrote about his use of the kit in his classroom.

I am writing to express my gratitude for your educational resource *A Place at the Table*. I am an eighth grade teacher in the inner city of Chicago in a predominantly African American school. I have had my students for two years, and I have always tried to encourage them to delve into the important issues of our society, and to realize that their opinions and actions are important and should be heard.

We spent an entire quarter reading and discussing the historical essays found in the Teaching Tolerance textbook *A Place at the Table*. As a class, my students — and I — have learned from it a great deal about the struggles of different groups to gain equality in our society. As a teacher in the inner city for 11 years, I have

always been a bit saddened by the overwhelming emphasis on teaching African American history. While recognizing the importance of this history, it always came at the expense of the rich multiculturalism of our country.

Your text not only addressed this problem in my curriculum, it actually enhanced my students' understanding of their own African American roots by allowing them to compare and contrast the many other groups in our country's history that have fought, and continue to fight, for "a place at the table." My students are writing a final essay, and I will send you copies so that you might witness the learning that has occurred.

Thank you for your materials and all the important work you do.



Lincoln Brown

We use *Ten Ways to Fight Hate*, *101 Tools for Tolerance* and *Responding to Hate at School* for our tolerance retreat weekend with high school students and find each resource very valuable. The youth find them easy to understand as well as helpful.

Thank you so much for the good work you are doing. It is so important today to get past differences and remain open to our common humanity. Your resources serve a very valuable purpose in our ministry to young people. Thank you, and continued blessings in your works!

H. W.
Phoenix, Arizona

The *Intelligence Report* is remarkably well done. I read it cover-to-cover and then pass it on to someone else. Exceptional reporting — not exaggerated, not overly emotional, but well researched and written. I'm impressed.

R. K.
Macon, Georgia

I am a junior at an enormous public high school in Westchester County. I'm president of our tolerance club, which receives little support, and we can use your free anti-bias handbooks. Your Web site (www.tolerance.org) is extremely useful to me, and it is comforting knowing that the cause my fellow classmates and I are fighting

for is recognized and supported. I hope with your handbooks we can become more organized and start educating others. Thanks.

R. M.
New Rochelle, New York

I am an elementary school counselor, working with grade levels Pre-K through 5, and I am ordering your teaching kits. My principal and I thank you for offering these things free. In this time of budget cuts, and with the economy down, it is wonderful knowing these educational materials are available at no cost to us. Thank you so much.

J. E.
Houston, Texas

I am so glad your organization is there. When I sometimes feel that all hope is lost for tolerance in this work, I hear about the good work of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Thank you.

J. F.
Vacaville, California

I teach in a small, rural, "white" school. My kids are seldom exposed to other racial or ethnic groups, and I struggle to "make real" the whole civil rights era. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for providing teachers with your excellent, high-quality teaching materials.

P. D.
Logan, Iowa



Police say thanks for training

Illinois State Police regional commander Bill Davis (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Intelligence Project director Joe Roy following his presentation at a Chicago conference in late April. Roy and other Intelligence Project staff regularly conduct training on extremist groups and hate crimes for federal, state and local law enforcement officers throughout the country.

Center board member begins rabbinical studies

NEW YORK — Howard Mandell, a longtime civil rights lawyer in Alabama and a Center board member since 1985, has given up his law practice and turned to religious studies in a quest for a more spiritual life. In September, he enrolled in the Jewish Theological Seminary here for a six-year program that includes a year's study in Israel during the fourth year



Howard Mandell

and culminates in his being ordained as a rabbi. He continues to serve on the Center's board of directors.

"The decision I made to go to rabbinical school was based on faith," Mandell said. "If anyone had told me 10 years ago that this is where I'd be today, I'd have said 'You're talking to the wrong person.' But I've learned to let life happen, not try to control it."

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Mandell came to Montgomery in 1970 to clerk for the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, then the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama and a legend throughout the nation for his courageous, landmark civil rights rulings.

When he ended his clerkship, Mandell began a 25-year law practice in Montgomery, specializing in Constitutional and civil rights law and general litigation. In 1977, he helped establish the federally funded Legal Services Corporation of Alabama and served as chairperson of its

board for five years. Active in county and state bar activities, Mandell also served on the board of a local children's home for 10 years.

After a four-year sabbatical from his law practice, Mandell was asked in 2000 by Montgomery's newly elected mayor to help him work to better community relations in the city. For the next two years, he served as

city attorney. "It was a unique opportunity to repay Montgomery for the gifts it gave me and also to make changes from the inside," he said. "In my role as a civil rights lawyer, I was used to seeking change from the outside."

In the latter part of the 1990s, Mandell began serious religious study and spent much time in Israel. Deciding to leave Montgomery, where he had lived and practiced law for almost 30 years, to undertake fulltime rabbinical studies was a difficult decision. "I really enjoyed working with the mayor and serving as city attorney," he said, "But there was a spiritual need I felt only full-time religious study could fill."

He used the law to make the world a better place, and now he continues his efforts in a more spiritual way. "As for my own personal growth, I would like to become a more aware and humble person, one who can maintain and develop a meaningful and ongoing relationship with God," he said.

Immigrants face deadly threats as vigilante violence increases

TOMBSTONE, ARIZ. — Desperate to escape poverty, more than a million Latin American migrants make a perilous trek through the deadly desert every year. Hundreds die annually from heat and dehydration. And as the Center's *Intelligence Report* found in a six-month investigation published in its spring issue, migrants now face a growing threat from armed vigilantes and anti-immigration groups determined to halt what they call an "invasion" of the United States.

While thousands of migrants still cross through Texas and California, Arizona has been the most popular crossing point since the late 1990s. It is also the most dangerous. Local ranchers have a long-standing reputation for taking the law into their own hands, vigilante-style — especially when Hispanic people venture onto their land. "If I had my way," one rancher reportedly bellowed at a meeting with U.S. Border Patrol officials last summer, "I'd shoot every single one of 'em."

The *Intelligence Report* obtained documentation of nearly 40 incidents since 1999 in which citizens appear to have been illegally detained in just one Arizona county — Cochise, which sits in the southeast corner of the state. Some of the detentions were made at gunpoint. In at least five cases, migrants said they had been shot or beaten.

But migrants rarely report abuses, and law enforcement officials have been reluctant to crack down on vigilantism, despite pleas from human rights advocates and local elected officials. "If you don't prosecute these people for beating Mexican nationals or killing them," says Tombstone Mayor Dusty Escapule, "then it's kind of like open season."

Most dangerous is Ranch Rescue

The most dangerous group on the border is Ranch Rescue. Led by Jack Foote, who has referred to Mexicans as "dog turds," Ranch Rescue is a Texas-based paramilitary operation that boasts 250

international members, including several mercenary soldiers.

In October, 35 Ranch Rescuers conducted a heavily armed hunt for migrants in southern Arizona. They were investigated, but not charged, in connection with a migrant's execution-style murder near the tiny town of Red Rock, where a pair of masked gunmen opened fire on 12 migrants napping by a cattle pond.

The violence continues to escalate. In March, two Ranch Rescue members — this time in Texas — were arrested after an El Salvadoran migrant accused them of pistol-whipping him. (See related story on page 1.) And in just the first four months of this year, dozens of physical assaults against migrants were reported to Mexican consulates.

Two other anti-immigration groups — Voice of Citizens Together/American Patrol and Civil Homeland Defense — have also conducted armed patrols along the border.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

Center's research a boon to reporters covering Rudolph capture

The work of the Center proved invaluable to reporters across the nation after the capture of Christian Identity adherent and accused Olympic bomber Eric Rudolph in the early morning hours of May 31. Rudolph had been on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list since 1998, when he was spotted fleeing the scene of the bombing of the New Woman All Women abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, which left a security guard dead and a nurse severely injured.

In the hours after Rudolph's capture, hundreds of reporters accessed the Center's Web site to draw on the Intelligence Project's expertise on Eric Rudolph and his heretical Christian Identity religious beliefs. A favorite resource was the *Intelligence Report's* interview with Deborah Rudolph, Eric Rudolph's former sister-in-law, which gave details of his daily life and examples of his deep-seated anti-Semitism and racism. In all, articles on Rudolph that cited the Center ran in more than 250 newspapers, and Intelligence Project staff members were interviewed for dozens of television and radio programs.

Anti-abortion killer sentenced

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On March 18, anti-abortion activist James "Atomic Dog" Kopp was found guilty of second-degree murder in an unusual one-day non-jury trial. In 1998, Kopp shot Dr. Barnett Slepian in the chest with a high-powered rifle while he was in his kitchen with his wife and son. At trial, instead of hearing witness testimony, Judge Michael D'Amico was presented with a 35-page list of facts agreed to by both sides, including an admission by Kopp that he fired the shot that struck Slepian. On May 9, Kopp was sentenced to 25 years to life.

Kopp still faces a federal trial. He is the prime suspect in nonfatal sniper attacks on four other abortion providers, three in Canada, dating to 1994.

On April 15, abortion foes Loretta C. Marra and Dennis J. Malvasi accepted a plea deal in a New York City courtroom that guarantees they will spend no more than five years in prison for helping Kopp while he was a fugitive. Prosecutors contend that Marra and Malvasi were helping Kopp to secretly return to the United States and live with them

in a Brooklyn safe house after more than two years on the run in Mexico, Scotland, England, Ireland and France. Kopp fled the U.S. after shooting Slepian.

David Duke imprisoned for bilking supporters

BIG SPRING, TEXAS — On April 15, David Duke turned himself in to the Big Spring federal prison where he will serve a 15-month sentence. Duke, a former state representative in Louisiana who ran for governor and the U.S. Senate a decade ago, was sentenced in March to prison time and fined \$10,000 for bilking his supporters and cheating on his taxes. In an agreement with federal prosecutors finalized in December, Duke pleaded guilty to falsely reporting a gross income of \$18,831 in 1998, rather than the actual \$65,034. The mail fraud charge grew out of what prosecutors described as a six-year scheme between 1993 and 1999 to swindle thousands of his followers out of hundreds of thousands of dollars through a direct mail campaign.

Much of the money Duke took from his supporters was spent in casinos in Biloxi, Miss., and Las Vegas, Nev. When Duke became aware that he was under investigation in 2000, he fled the country. For more than two years, Duke lived in Russia and traveled throughout Europe, peddling his racist, anti-Semitic works to like-minded European extremists.

World Church of the Creator faces major fines

CHICAGO — A federal judge has ruled that a group headed by white supremacist Matt Hale, who is in jail awaiting trial, should be fined \$1,000 a day until it stops calling itself the World Church of the Creator (WCOTC). U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow ruled April 24 that WCOTC had failed to comply with an order to stop using its name and was therefore in contempt of court. Lefkow also ordered that The Creativity Movement (the "new" name for the WCOTC) Web site be shut down and ordered the white-supremacist group to turn over its membership list.

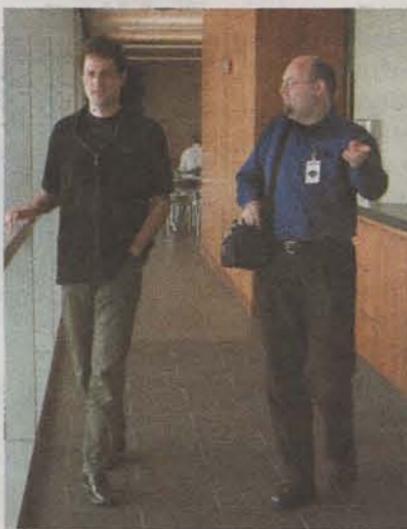
WCOTC and its leader Hale were sued three years ago by the Oregon-based TE-TE-MA Truth Foundation, which also calls itself Church of the Creator, for a trademark violation. In December, Lefkow ordered Hale and his organization to stop using the name. The group did not comply, and Hale was arrested for allegedly soliciting Lefkow's murder.

Center, experts collaborate on international extremism

During the final week of April, eight Europeans and three Americans traveled to Montgomery for an intensive three-day conference on "Right-Wing Extremism in a Transatlantic Perspective." Hosted by the Intelligence Project, the meeting was the third in a series conceived of by the Berlin-based Center for Democratic Culture (CDC) that began last year with a three-day event at the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) headquarters in New York, followed by three more days of discussion at the Anne Frank House in Berlin.

The CDC is a non-governmental organization that tracks hate groups in Germany and promotes tolerance work. Last year, the CDC decided to seek advice from American civil rights organizations on how to counter a rising tide of hate and anti-Semitism in Eastern Germany that is being promoted by a growing nationalist movement. The conferences serve as forums to share knowledge about the extreme right-wing in the U.S. and Europe and to formulate joint strategies aimed at strengthening civil society and combating extremists.

European participants included Board of Deputies of British Jews director Mike Whine; Free University of Berlin professors Thomas Greven, Thomas Grumke and Albert Sharenberg; University of Bremen professor Brigitte Brueck; Center for Democratic Culture program directors Lorenz Korgel and Herbert Weber; and Dieter Dettke,



Germans Lorenz Korgel (left) and Thomas Grumke took part in Center-hosted international conference.

executive director of the Washington office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

American participants included the ADL's director of fact finding, Mark Pitcavage, and associate director of fact finding, Marilyn Mayo, and Mark Weitzman, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Task Force Against Hate.

The first day of the conference was devoted to updates on the radical right scene in the United Kingdom, Germany and the U.S. The second day concentrated on tactics and

strategies for combating extremists. *Intelligence Report* editor Mark Potok and Intelligence Project director Joe Roy explained how the Center uses publications and publicity as a tactic in countering hate groups' effectiveness.

Pitcavage and Roy described how the ADL and the Center work with law enforcement to counter hate groups. Center vice president of programs Richard Cohen gave a presentation on the differences between European and American legal strategies. Cohen made several suggestions on how law can be used to counter hate groups in Europe.

The conference's last day was devoted to immigration issues, globalization and a discussion of German-American cooperation in the fight against hate. The next conference is tentatively set for next spring, most likely somewhere in Eastern Germany.



Children enjoy a Middle Eastern dance as part of a human rights education program funded by a Teaching Tolerance grant.

Grant helps students celebrate diversity

MADISON, ALA. — An innovative program at Country Day School is broadening students' horizons. This international K-8th grade school is part of The Cross Border Primary Human Rights Education Initiative, which links schools through human rights activities and offers young people from different cultures a chance to develop friendships and exchange ideas.

"It is our hope," said Peggy Good, a 2nd grade teacher and coordinator of all diversity training and outreach campaigns at the school, "that when we expose young people from different cultures to each other and provide them with the means to communicate and make friends, the walls of intolerance will dissolve."

Teaching Tolerance helps

With the support of a Teaching Tolerance grant, Good was able to implement a yearlong interdisciplinary approach to human rights education. Grant funds were used to purchase select books, music, art supplies, props and costumes. "What the grant provided me with is the ability to bring the world closer to my students," said Good.

The school has an extended program of human rights activities. Students in grades 2-8 study the Holocaust and the American Civil Rights Movement and also participate in global unity, tolerance and peace education programs.

Good's classes participated in monthly activities, beginning with an in-depth study of the

history of Ireland and its continued struggle with political unrest. They then constructed a 15-foot mural timeline comparing the situation in Ireland with the American Civil Rights Movement. To bring the study to life, Good's class traveled to Selma and Montgomery. They crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma to reenact the Voting Rights March of 1965 and contemplated the Movement at the Civil Rights Memorial.

The school scheduled its annual international week to coincide with the Department of Education's International Education Week. Students at Country Day celebrated with foods from eight different countries, music and dance. With 17 nationalities represented at the school, they were able to draw many participants from the community. After the festivities and food, parents shared information about life in their native countries.

"The message for students," Good said, "is that peace comes from knowing each other, and people are much less likely to be violent when there's a face to the philosophy."

To extend student's experiences even further, Country Day partnered with one school in Northern Ireland and another in the Republic of Ireland. Students corresponded via the Internet and exchanged creative writing samples.

Teaching Tolerance grants have funded more than 800 innovative projects for educators nationwide.

Lawsuits seek adequate health care for inmates

Just two days after Center attorneys filed a new lawsuit seeking adequate medical care for Alabama's sick inmates, their lead plaintiff died, apparently from an untreated breathing problem he had endured for years. Jerry Baker, 63, was found dead in his cell at St. Clair Correctional Facility, where a gross lack of adequate medical care has caused inmates to suffer serious harm.

"I'm not surprised, but I am upset," said Rhonda Brownstein, the Center's legal director. "We had seen Mr. Baker just a week before his death, and he was wasting away. He would not have been in such bad shape had he been receiving proper treatment." Baker lost 40 pounds last year, and the cause of his weight loss wasn't investigated.

Baker vs. Campbell, filed in federal court on May 13, is a class action on behalf of seriously ill inmates housed at St. Clair, the state prison designated to treat chronically sick inmates.

Dangerous lapses in the provision of necessary medication

and medical supplies at the facility have caused inmates to suffer severe pain. Cancer patients, for example, often receive pain medication sporadically or not at all. Inmates who need dentures must wait months and sometimes even years to receive them. Jerry Baker, the inmate who recently died, had been forced to live with only 12 teeth in his mouth — the dentures he wore had been broken for over a year.

Critical shortages harm inmates

The facility has a critical shortage of qualified medical personnel and long delays in proper diagnosis and treatment. Dying inmates unable to control their bowels sometimes go for hours without being changed or cleaned.

In Alabama, which far outranks most other states in inmate death rates and is last in the country in per-inmate spending on health care, St. Clair isn't the only prison with serious medical care problems.

Gaddis vs. Campbell, another class action suit filed in April by

the Center, addresses the inadequate care of diabetics in prisons across Alabama. Because of the state's indifference to their chronic illness, diabetic inmates have suffered serious complications, including blurred vision, amputations of the toes, possible kidney damage, dizziness and pain. While visiting prisons across the state, Center attorneys found that many diabetics had their blood sugar levels tested only once every few months, even though diabetics should have their sugar tested several times daily. There are no special diets provided to diabetic inmates.

"Diabetes is a complex and very serious illness that requires daily attention," Brownstein said. "When diabetics are not educated about their condition or given the attention they need, their health — and their lives — are put in serious jeopardy."

The two lawsuits reflect the Center legal staff's goal to protect society's most vulnerable members, including institutionalized persons.

Actor is film's ambassador

Actor Nick LaTour of Los Angeles, one of the narrators in the Teaching Tolerance film *Mighty Times* and the son of famed civil rights leader E.D. Nixon, visited the Center on April 2 and related his experiences promoting the documentary.

"*Mighty Times* still moves me every time I see it," said LaTour, whose stirring words on-screen lend the film dignity and authenticity.

The film is the fifth in a series of multimedia education kits produced by Teaching Tolerance and distributed free of charge to schools across the country. Since its release in October, *Mighty Times* has already reached over 15,000 schools and has garnered several prestigious awards, including an Academy Award nomination. The Center was informed in May that the film received the first place "Golden Camera" award from the U.S. International Film and Video Festival.

LaTour recently attended a screening of *Mighty Times* at a Boston film festival and described his experience there. "What was so moving was there were tears in the eyes of people all over the place. Next to me, people were sniffing," he said.

He noted that the group in Boston appreciated gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges facing African Americans in the South before and during the Civil Rights Movement, and particularly, what the black community in Montgomery did to make the bus boycott a success.

LaTour's observation has been echoed by viewers across the country, including Leslie Spears of Oklahoma City, who wrote: "I knew of the story [of the bus boycott] but I didn't really KNOW the story. Now I do."

His appearance in *Mighty Times* is certainly not



Center designer Valerie Downes chats with actor Nick LaTour during his visit to the Center. *Mighty Times* includes her photographs of him and other narrators.

LaTour's first brush with fame. His successful acting career has landed him roles in sitcoms such as "Seinfeld," "Married with Children," "Murder She Wrote" and "the Jamie Foxx Show." He has also appeared in several movies and on Broadway.

Growing up in Montgomery in the 1930s and '40s, LaTour says he knew he wanted to be an entertainer early on and cited famed singer Paul Robeson as his childhood idol.

"Dad wanted me to come back and be a lawyer because there was no black lawyer here at that time," he said. "When I announced I wanted to be a singer and actor like Paul Robeson, he forbid me to even talk about it, so I left."

At the age of 16, LaTour left Montgomery for New York and changed his name from E.D. Nixon Jr. to avoid disgracing his father. He planned to concentrate on singing but was offered a role in a play and poured his energy into acting.

The senior Nixon soon recognized his son's talent and the importance of his career. "He came to be proud of me, he supported me," LaTour said.

Gloria Steinem encourages activists to 'never give up'

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — On the eve of war with Iraq, with years of activism behind her, feminist icon Gloria Steinem had these words for frustrated, angry and discouraged peace activists: "Never give up."

Those three words are nothing new to Steinem, who was here on March 18 to receive the second Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award.

"Never, never, never give up," she said. "There's a great deal we can do."

The March honor was a tribute to Steinem's long career of proving just how much one person can do. That's a trait she shares with Rosa Parks, and one of the reasons she was chosen for the honor. Last year's Woman of Courage honoree was poet and college professor Nikki Giovanni. The award is presented by the Southern Poverty Law Center



Famed feminist Gloria Steinem poses with bust of Rosa Parks before receiving the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award, given by the Center and Troy State University Montgomery.

and Troy State University Montgomery (TSUM) as part of their Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Lecture Series.

About 300 people came to hear Steinem speak at the Davis Theater for the Performing Arts. Earlier in the evening, Steinem

fielded questions from the press and attended a reception in her honor at the Exhibit Hall in the Rosa Parks Museum on the TSUM campus.

"Thank you for bringing Gloria Steinem to Montgomery for your lecture series," wrote Amy Worthy of Troy, Alabama, the day after the event. "As a 23-year-old woman, I am truly grateful for her contributions to the women's movement. I thoroughly enjoyed her lecture, and I am so thankful that the Center and TSUM had the wisdom and insight to honor such an extraordinary woman. Keep up the good work!"

Steinem, 69, is best known as the co-founder of *Ms. Magazine* 30 years ago. A writer, activist and speaker, she remains one of the leading feminist leaders in the world. In accepting the award, she said it was an honor

"just to be mentioned in the same sentence as Rosa Parks."

Steinem spoke of the difficulty of sustained activism, urging peace activists not to give up, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. She also spoke of first-step activism, of choosing to speak up, or speak out, for the very first time, even if it feels uncomfortable.

"However hard that is, it's harder not to do it, not to speak out," she said. Harder because then we live with the "what-ifs" of our inaction.

"We do it because we care," she said of activism. "We think we might have an idea that can help," she said. She urged everyone to adopt such a mindset, to "help make the next day better for us and for those around us."

"Everything we do matters," Steinem said. "We each have enormous power."

Mix It Up grant aids 'Unity Day'

CHAPIN, S.C. — At the beginning of each year, students at Chapin High School chart the groups and cliques on their campus. Typically, it's a picture of divisions.

"We look at the drawings, and we see the ROTC group tends to stay to itself, and other groups stay to themselves," said Danielle Major, faculty adviser for the school's STOP club, which stands for Students Together Overcoming Prejudice.

What happens next is where things get exciting. "We pull the chart apart," Major said. "Our students ask themselves, 'What can we do this year that's going to help those people interact with these people?'"

The result: Unity Day, an annual gathering that

stand up more for what they think is right."

With that kind of track record, it's no surprise that Chapin High School's STOP club received the first-ever \$250 Mix It Up grant from the Center's education projects, Tolerance.org and Teaching Tolerance.

"That's what we're after: New and ongoing student-led activities seeking to cross social boundaries," said Jennifer Holladay, director of Tolerance.org. "What's happening at Chapin, we'd like to see happening at schools throughout the nation."

Mix It Up was launched last fall, calling on students to switch their seats in the cafeteria for one day, breaking down the social, racial and other boundaries that divided schools. On Nov. 21, more than 200,000 students at more than 3,000 schools took part in the first Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

To keep the momentum going, Mix It Up launched its spring After Lunch campaign, urging students to push boundary breaking a bit farther. To help with that effort, Mix It Up offered \$250 grants for suitable After Lunch projects.

Chapin High was awarded the first of 70 such grants. More grants are available.

Chapin used the \$250 to help defray the cost of Unity Day T-shirts and hire a DJ for a school-wide pep rally. Unity Day has been happening at Chapin for three years, but this year's event was the largest ever.

In addition to morning diversity workshops, Unity Day this year included a Mix It Up exercise at lunch. Students were given colored Lifesavers as they exited the lunch line, then asked to sit with people who had the same color of Lifesavers. The lunchroom theme, appropriately, was "So many colors, one great flavor."

After lunch, the pep rally drew all 920 students at the school.

Based on such success, Major said, the superintendent has asked that all high schools in the district create similar activities.

"We've been saying, 'Hey, we're here; look at what we're doing,' for almost four years, and now it's catching on," Major said.



Ana Privado, human resources manager at an Atlanta factory, brought a Declaration of Tolerance signed by plant employees to the Center.

'Tools for Tolerance' essential in company's diversity efforts

ATLANTA — At the Owens Corning plant here, there used to be a lot of divisions.

"My staff is about half African American, half Hispanic, and it was a big struggle," said Ana Privado, the plant's human resources manager. "It was always separate in the break-room and separate when people helped each other on the line."

Two years ago, when Owens Corning mandated that every plant create a team to push diversity efforts, things began to change.

"Once we started getting to know each other more, the employees were glad to understand things about each other that they didn't before," Privado said.

Under its new policy, the company required diversity training for all new employees and also required that each plant have a committee to set diversity

goals for its workforce.

An integral tool in the plant's diversity education was the Center's handbook *101 Tools for Tolerance*. The handbook contains a variety of simple ideas for promoting equity and celebrating diversity at school, work, in the home and in the community. At the back of the handbook is the Declaration of Tolerance, a pledge that people can sign and mail in to the Center to show their commitment to promoting tolerance and valuing diversity.

To kick off their diversity efforts, employees made a poster of the Declaration of Tolerance and asked everyone in the plant to sign it. They also had the handbook translated into Spanish to accommodate their bilingual workforce. Each manager was asked to set a personal diversity goal, taken from one of the 101 suggestions in the handbook, and (continued on pg. 7)



South Carolina students "mix it up" during their Unity Day, a project funded by the Center's first Mix It Up grant.

includes diversity workshops and a pep rally. And while Unity Day is a single event, organizers see its effects throughout the year.

"I joined the STOP club because I'm open-minded and I wanted to encourage other people to be open-minded," said 16-year-old junior Caroline Nelson. After three years, she has felt the changes at the predominately white school in small-town South Carolina.

"Sometimes I hear people put other people down, and usually now somebody else steps up and defends the person," Nelson said. "People

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Endowment supports Center's future work

Support for the Center's daily operations would not be possible without the loyal contributions of caring individuals from across the nation. Because of their consistent generosity, the Center has enjoyed great success in funding Teaching Tolerance, the Intelligence Project and its legal work.

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

ment stands at \$111 million.

The Center was one of the first social action organizations to recognize the importance of saving for the future. While colleges have long understood the wisdom behind building endowments, most organizations like the Center — groups that often touch many more lives than the typical college — have not. As a result, some groups have not been able to sustain themselves and continue their valuable work.

In recent years, many public interest organizations have come to recognize the importance of building endowments to sustain their critical work over the long

term. Such groups include the ACLU, the Anti-Defamation League and the Sierra Club. They understand that programming commitments made today will create future financial obligations.

In this new century America remains a nation of great promise. In communities across the country, thousands of people are seeking to tear down social, economic and racial barriers that still sometimes separate us. But there are others who try to use those divisions to sow seeds of hatred. And there are many more whose apathy in the face of intolerance allows this hatred to grow.

As the nation's diversity increases in the coming years, so will the challenges to promote tolerance and acceptance. To help ensure that the Center is ready to meet those challenges, its board of directors has restricted the principal and income from the Center's endowment to cover the costs of future programs and operations.

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



Supporter visits during filming

Actor Steve Buscemi (second from left) and his wife, Jo Andres (far right), visited the Center while he was living in Montgomery during the making of the film *Big Fish*. Hosting their tour were Shannon Sanders (left) and Ashley Day. The couple's son, Lucien (center), accompanied his parents. Buscemi has appeared in many films, and his wife is a writer and director. Center donors since 1988, the couple lives in New York City.



Levin greets donors

Center president Joe Levin welcomed supporters Renee Sappington (left) and Connie Campbell of Jackson, Mississippi, when they visited the Center in April. Accompanying the two were pets Frankie and J.C.

'Tools for Tolerance' is essential

(continued from pg. 5) post it for all employees to see. Soon, other employees wanted to choose their own diversity goals and post them as well.

"We had a newsletter that went out each month announcing people's goals," Privado said. "One learned a foreign language, one went to a school and read books. Last year, mine was when somebody would say something inappropriate, I would try to stop them and not cooperate with them."

"We hold activities that allow us to learn more and care more about each other, to encourage inclusive behavior, and to learn that differences are not bad, they're just different," Privado said.

The company made diversity efforts such a high priority that in order for a plant to receive a "manufacturing excellence" award for the year, it had to meet its diversity goals. "A plant can have the best production and be the safest plant and not get 'manufacturing excellence' if they haven't met diversity goals," Privado said.

As part of the Atlanta plant's efforts, a trip to the Center for the diversity council members was arranged. The council visited the Civil Rights Memorial, learned more about the Center's work and presented Center staff with the Declaration of Tolerance poster signed by plant employees.

"Our recent trip made me realize how far we as a people still have to go and at the same time, how far we have come," said Andy Morgillo, a financial

analyst who visited the Center with the group. "I was surprised at the number of active hate groups that still exist in the U.S., and I was reminded of the oppression that existed in this country just half a century ago."

Companies order hundreds of handbooks

Each year, dozens of other employers order *101 Tools for Tolerance* as well. The Center receives requests from large international corporations such as Owens Corning, state and local government agencies and small business owners, all interested in promoting diversity efforts among their staffs.

"The workplace is one of the most common places where people interact with those different from themselves, so it's a good idea for employers to ensure that their staff members are understanding and respectful of each other while on the job," said Jennifer Holladay, co-editor of *101 Tools for Tolerance*. "We're very glad to know that our handbook is helping to promote more tolerance and equity in workplaces across the country."

For the staff at the Owens Corning plant in Atlanta, diversity awareness efforts yielded great results, and those results didn't go unnoticed. The plant did receive the company's "manufacturing excellence" award last year, recognizing not only their production rates but their commitment to a tolerant and diverse working environment as well.

Bequests

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of supporters who included the Center in their wills and other planned gifts.

The Center gratefully acknowledges the bequests received from May 1, 2002, through May 31, 2003.

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Former law fellow continues anti-hate battle as professor

HOUSTON — Backpacks and briefcases litter the floor and tables, and the students, some young and others a tad older, listen intently as their professor breaks down the differences between Klansmen and neo-Nazis.

The students attend the historically black Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University here, and their professor is Catherine E. Smith, the Center's 1998-2000 law fellow.

The course is "Extremism and the Law," a seminar Smith created based on her tenure at the Center.

"As a professor of color and a civil rights advocate, I have a responsibility to make these issues relevant to the next generation of attorneys," says Smith. "Today's anti-hate movement needs more lawyers in the courtroom — particularly lawyers of color."

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law graduates a majority of new black attorneys in Texas each year; its student body includes not just African Americans, but also Hispanics, Africans, Asian Americans and whites.

"Professor Smith has opened my eyes

to an entire facet of the law," said Tara White, an African American student enrolled in "Extremism and the Law." "If anyone ever burns a cross on my yard or my client's yard, I'll know what legal remedies are — and are not — at my disposal."



Catherine E. Smith

In April, Richard Cohen, the Center's vice president for programs and former legal director, lectured in Smith's class, discussing the Center's use of civil conspiracy law to bankrupt hate groups.

"The 'Extremism and the Law' course is one-of-a-kind," said Cohen. "Professor Smith's students are well versed in anti-hate advocacy and related civil rights issues."

Smith's work against domestic extremism doesn't end in her classroom, however. Her entrée into academic scholarship, for example, focused on the use of tort law against bias-motivated harassment on the Internet, or "cyberassment," as she calls it.

That article, "The Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress: An Old Arrow Targets the New Head of the Hate Hydra," was published as the lead article in the *Denver University Law Review* in 2002. It

included the story of Center client Bonnie Jouhari, a fair housing worker whom white supremacists targeted with online harassment. (See the June 2000 *SPLC Report*.)

"Professor Smith's scholarship makes an important contribution to the battle against hate and extremism," said Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees. "Both academics and practitioners can benefit from reading her work."

And that work continues. Smith will teach "Extremism and the Law" again next spring, and two new articles — one focusing on race-based conspiracies under the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 and another debunking nefarious ways white supremacists attempt to shield themselves from legal actions — will be ready for publication in the 2003-2004 academic year.

"I am grateful for the two years I spent



Richard Cohen (right) speaks at Smith's law school.

alongside the Center's pioneering legal team," said Smith. "Their ongoing work to dismantle white supremacy and discrimination serves as an inspiration to both my students and myself."

Smith is a 1996 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law and a former clerk for the late Chief Judge Henry A. Politz of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Shreveport, La. She also clerked for U.S. magistrate Judge William M. Catoe Jr. in Greenville, S.C. She earned her undergraduate degree from Wofford College.

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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 1-888-414-7752 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.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Alex T. Quenk (1929-2003)

Alex T. Quenk, well-known clinical psychologist and Jungian analyst and an ardent supporter of the Center since 1989, died at age 73 on January 3.

Quenk was born in Connecticut, the youngest of nine children. Growing up in New England, he had only heard about segregation and Jim Crow laws. While doing basic training for the U.S. Army in North Carolina, Quenk was appalled at the sight of "whites only" drinking fountains. The reality of racism

He had been writing a major book on suffering for five years, intended to help caregivers understand the best way to respond to their clients' particular way of suffering. As a cancer patient, he fully understood the need for individualized care. His wife plans to finish it.



Alex T. Quenk

had a profound and lasting effect on him as he served in the Korean War and later pursued a career in psychology.

Quenk earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1964. He completed his Jungian training in 1978.

He worked at a number of clinics in California and New Mexico. He was also an associate professor of psychology at the University of New Mexico Medical School and assistant clinical professor of medical psychology at the University of California Medical School.

Quenk published articles dealing with psychological types and psychotherapy. He also co-authored with his wife of 38 years, Naomi, two books, *Dream Thinking* and *True Loves*.

Quenk was recognized by his patients, colleagues, family, and friends for the depth and wisdom of his insights, his original thinking, and his ability to make complex ideas understandable and applicable in people's everyday lives. In his work and personal life, he respected every person's inherent value as a human being.

"We tried to discover and honor every person's uniqueness," Naomi said. "It upset him when he saw individuals categorized and labeled in any way that obliterated the essence of their individual humanity. He was a champion of diversity long before the term became popular."

The family requested donations be made to The Myers & Briggs Foundation, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, organizations that embody Quenk's commitment to valuing individuality.