

# SPLC REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2003  
VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3

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

## Center wins battle for religious tolerance

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — In a major affirmation of America's religious pluralism and the rule of law, state officials here obeyed a federal court order won by the Center and moved Alabama's controversial Ten Commandments monument from its prominent location in the state judicial building rotunda. The removal came August 27, a week after Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore blatantly defied a court order that he remove the monument.



Chief Justice Roy Moore

Moore supporters descended on Montgomery to rally for his cause, some camping for days on the judicial building steps, and drawing national media attention. They were joined by a gallery of hate groups and radical right extremists, who used the occasion to support Moore and promote their own causes.

Moore said he would ask the U. S. Supreme Court to reverse the court order.

A federal appellate court un-

animously affirmed U. S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson's November 18, 2002, decision that Moore's placement of the 5,280-pound monument in the courthouse was an "extreme case" and was unconstitutional. The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by the Center in cooperation with Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union.

In his opinion, Judge Thompson wrote: "The court does not hold that it is improper in all instances to display the Ten Commandments in government buildings; nor does the court hold that the Ten Commandments are not important, if not one of the most important, sources of American law. Rather the court's limited holding... is that the chief justice's actions and intentions in this case crossed the establishment clause line between the permissible and the impermissible."

In upholding the trial court's

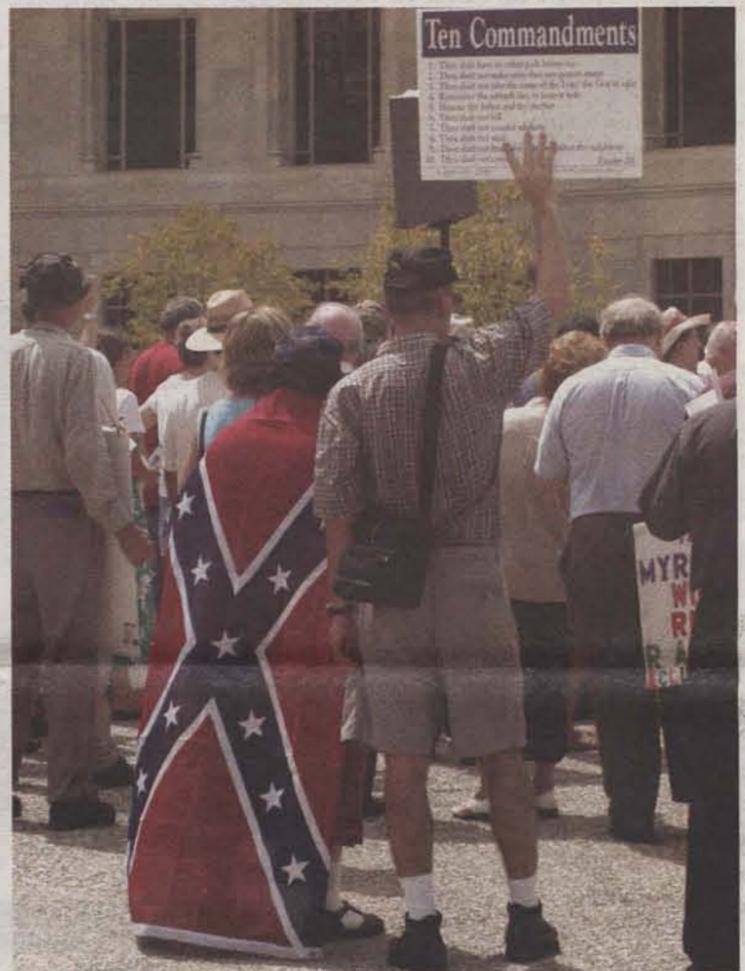
ruling, the federal appeals court said that "every government building could be topped with a cross, a menorah, or a statue of Buddha, depending on the views of the authority over the premises," if Moore's position prevailed.

### Monument secretly installed

Moore shocked the state in August 2001 when he installed the monument without consulting his fellow justices. Under the cover of night, he secretly hauled the granite sculpture into the building that houses Alabama's appellate courts and state law library. A video team from the Florida-based Coral Ridge Ministries, which raised money for Moore's defense in the case, was on hand that night to film the occasion. This exclusive installation video was sold by Moore's sponsors to fund his case.

Running for office as the "Ten Commandments judge," Moore stated that his purpose for placing the monument in the courthouse was to "acknowledge God's law and God's sovereignty over the affairs of men." His concept of God was an exclusive one; he admitted that he

(continued on page 3)



Protesters showed support for the Confederate flag as well as Judge Moore's Ten Commandments as they demonstrated in front of Montgomery's federal building, where they burned a copy of federal Judge Myron Thompson's order to remove the monument.

## New Center project fights hate on campus

No college or university advertises its hate crimes or bias incidents, and some even work to keep records and facts hidden from the public eye.

But every year, more than a half-million college students are targets of bias-driven slurs or physical assaults.

Every day, at least one hate crime occurs on a college campus.

And every minute, a college student somewhere sees or hears racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise biased words or images.

Those averages are based on numbers from the FBI, the U.S. Department of Education, and watchdog and advocacy groups that have studied campus violence.

How can student advocates — and administrators, parents, alumni and others — respond effectively to a campus hate crime or bias incident?

That's what a new Center initiative is all about. Its first step was publication of a groundbreaking handbook.

Launched on September 15, *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus: A Response Guide for College Activists* provides a road map for responding to hate crimes and bias incidents on college campuses.

This guide is modeled after previously successful Center publications: *Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide* and *Responding to Hate at School: A Guide for Teachers, Counselors and Administrators*.

The Center's *Intelligence Report* exposed the prevalence of hate crimes on college campuses in its Spring 2000 issue, "Hate Goes to School."

Tolerance.org, the Center's Web-based activism project, continued the crusade, with extensive coverage of fraternity-driven cam-

pus bias dominated by blackface Halloween parties and mock lynchings.

"In our examination of the issue — studying hundreds of incidents involving thousands of students — we found students frustrated by seeming or actual administrative inaction, wondering what they could do, how they could respond, how they could balance hate with tolerance, bias with acceptance, narrow-mindedness with understanding," said Brian Willoughby, who wrote the new guide.

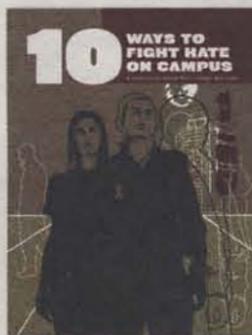
Produced by Tolerance.org, the handbook is the Center's first guide designed specifically for higher education. It also is the first one aimed directly at students. Why?

- Because school campuses are the third most common venue for hate crimes in the United States, behind homes and public streets and roadways.
- Because one out of four minority college students and up to five percent of white students are victims of hate crimes or bias-driven threats or slurs every year.

- Because hate crimes and bias incidents go un- and under-reported.
- Because campus administrators and police departments continue to do a poor job of reporting and investigating such crimes and incidents.
- Because things improve only when people take action.
- And because apathy, in some ways, is as dangerous as hate.

Copies of *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* will be given free to colleges across the nation. Two organizations, the American Association of Colleges and Universities and the Association of College Unions International, have partnered with the Center to put the book into as many hands as possible.

The book is also available online, at [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org). A Spanish version will also soon be available online. The Center's three other anti-bias handbooks, *Ten Ways to Fight Hate*, *Responding to Hate at School*, and *101 Tools for Tolerance*, are now available in Spanish as well as English.



New guide is free to colleges

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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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## Why did Center sue Judge Moore?

by Morris Dees

We brought our case against Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore because it is important to stop religious bigotry, even if our lawsuit places the Center in the eye of a political storm.

In a recent poll, 77 percent of those surveyed said they favored keeping the Ten Commandments monument in the Alabama Judicial Building. We know that public opinion is against us on this issue, but we know that standing up for the Constitution and democratic values are vital to our future. In the long run, most people will realize that this is necessary for the protection of religious freedom in this country.

Many people misunderstand the Center's lawsuit. Our case is not an attack on religion. Instead, it is a case designed to vindicate the principles of religious freedom and tolerance.

The First Amendment requires our government to be neutral on religious questions. What Justice Moore did was extremely damaging to this fundamental Constitutional principle. He insists that it is his duty to promote his own brand of religion. "We are not a nation founded upon the Hindu god or Buddha," he says.

But Justice Moore misses the point. Whether one prays to God as understood by Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus or Buddhists,

or no god at all, everyone in our country is entitled to a government that is neutral on religious issues. When it is the court system — the branch of government responsible for interpreting the law — that takes sides on religious questions, a cloud is cast over the very idea of equal justice under law.

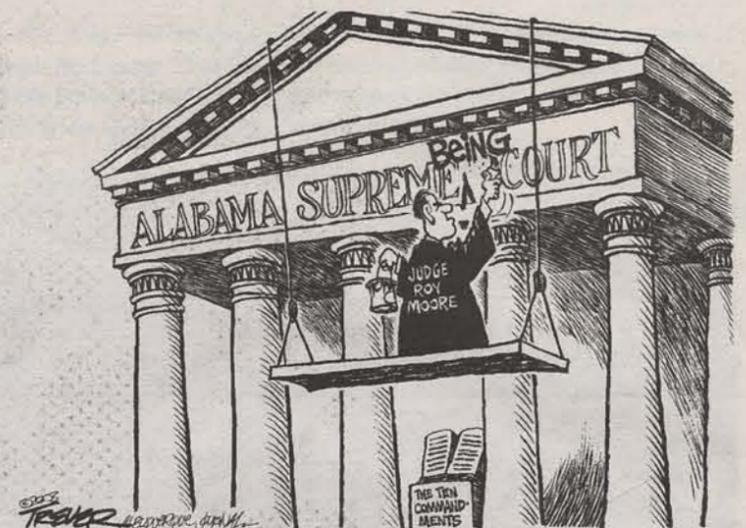
If America were a Christian theocracy, of course, this would be different. But we are a nation founded on the principle of tolerance for all. Everyone is free to practice their religion anywhere — at home, at school, in public buildings. But the government — and Chief Justice Moore is an elected government official — cannot take sides on religious matters.



Morris Dees

History shows that state-sponsored religion spawns oppression. Real religious freedom flourishes when the government keeps its distance. Because many colonists came to America's shores to escape the yoke of religious zealots, our nation's founders erected a solid wall between church and state. This wall has withstood numerous assaults by those who would substitute their theocracy for our democracy.

In Afghanistan, our troops defeated the Taliban who used strict religious doctrine to enforce their twisted values. Executions were the order of the day for offenses ranging from homosexuality to blasphemy. Americans were shocked at this cruelty committed



Newspapers across the country, including The New York Times, wrote editorials against Moore's position. This cartoon ran in the Albuquerque Journal.

in the name of religion.

"People who govern in the name of God attribute their own personal preferences to God," said a courageous Alabama justice, Douglas Johnstone, about Moore's placement of his monument, "and therefore recognize no limit in imposing those preferences on other people."

He could have said the same thing about the Taliban.

After he assumed office, Justice Moore began his own inquisition. He drafted an opinion in a child custody case blasting gay and lesbian parents who just want to be with their children. In his decision, which quotes the Bible several times, Moore asserted that homosexuality is "detestable and an abominable sin." Even more alarmingly, he wrote that the state must use "the power of the sword" — including the power of "execution" — to stop gays and lesbians

from influencing our youth.

From the Taliban, we might expect words like these. From a public official who wields power in the name of all people — whether they be believers or non-believers, straight or gay — they are shocking.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil," wrote Edmund Burke, the British statesman who pleaded the cause of the American colonists in Parliament, "is for good men to do nothing."

The next time an elected official seeks political power by wrapping himself in religion or demonizing unpopular groups, I hope men and women of good conscience will rise up in indignation. And I also hope that our donors, who believe in the Center's mission of promoting tolerance and seeking justice, will understand and support our efforts in this case.

### MAILBOX

I have been following the Alabama Ten Commandments story, and I thank you for being a voice for reason and tolerance. Your courage is commendable.

L. L.  
Niagara Falls, New York

Thank you for your efforts toward correcting the illegal situation in Alabama. Religion has no place in our government buildings. Keep up the good work! I am proud to be a member of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

E. K. G.  
Palm Desert, California

I wholeheartedly support your position regarding the Ten Commandments. Never before have I seen such a twisted use of our Constitution to try and make an argument for religious rights. . . . I thank your organization for staying vigilant to these things so I don't have to keep watch over my shoulder.

M. S.  
Broomfield, Colorado

I applaud your efforts with respect to the Ten Commandments monument and really appreciate your standing up for those who clearly understand the difference between church and state and why they must be kept separate. Too often those of a specific religion get tunnel vision in their beliefs and think

that the removal of state-sponsored religious items is an affront to them. What they fail to recognize is that state sponsorship of any religion lends credence to that religion and endorses it as the "true" faith. This is something we cannot tolerate. I wonder how the folks who are so against the removal would feel if the monument in the judicial building had been a copy of the Koran.

J. W.  
Kansas City, Missouri

Thanks for fighting those religious zealots who believe that they do not have to separate government and religious ideologies. In some ways they are as frightening as those in the Middle East, who continue to kill innocent people everyday.

This is where the line gets drawn before it gets out of hand, like it is in the Middle East. These zealots do not understand that many of us do not want their brand of religious fundamentalism, and that this nation was founded on the freedom for all of us to worship as we wish.

Thanks to the Center. I made my donation today in your honor and in honor of those who died yesterday at the hands of religious zealots. It's only a matter of degree. Hold the line for us.

D. H.  
Amarillo, Texas

I am a Southern Baptist minister and a native Alabamian. I heard what Mr. Dees said on the "Today Show" this morning regarding Roy Moore. All I have to say is AMEN! As a Baptist, I believe strongly in separation of church and state. I appreciate your continued support of this important tenet on which our country was founded, and I appreciate all the good work you do.

M. S.  
Montgomery, Alabama

I feel that Chief Justice Roy Moore is on a misguided personal crusade and is not serving the state of Alabama. Religion is very important to a great number of people, but the monument to the Ten Commandments belongs in its proper environment.

N. M.  
Oak Park, Illinois

Bravo for your recent stand concerning the Ten Commandments in Alabama! The Ten Commandments are clearly a Judeo-Christian symbol and have no place in our city, state, county and federal buildings. This is just another example of right-wing Christian zealots trying to ram a certain religious belief down our throats. I applaud your efforts with this matter!

H. W.  
Carmel, Indiana

# Center wins battle for tolerance

(continued from page 1)

was referring only to the Judeo-Christian God that he worshiped. He later refused to allow a plaque containing Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech to be placed nearby. "The placement of a speech of any man alongside the revealed law of God would tend in consequence to diminish the very purpose of the Ten Commandments monument," he said.

## Moore is defiant

Moore remained defiant after the monument was moved. In a series of speeches and national television appearances, he declared separation of church and state to be a "fable." He described the federal judicial decision as "tyranny" and continued to argue that federal courts have no authority over him.

"In the regime [Moore] champions," said the Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit, "each high government official can decide whether the Constitution requires or permits a federal court order and can act accordingly. That, of course, is the same position taken by those southern governors [like George Wallace] who attempted to defy federal court orders during an earlier era."

Moore's actions resulted in his suspension by the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission on August 22, and he now faces ethics charges that could get



Judge Moore's supporters expressed opinions on a variety of issues.

him permanently removed as an Alabama Supreme Court justice. In an effort to save the state court-ordered fines for contempt,

Alabama's eight other Supreme Court justices braved popular support for Moore and unanimously voted to overrule him and to have the monument removed.

"We sued Judge Moore," said Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees, "because he used his public position to promote his private religious beliefs. Rather than remaining neutral on religious questions, he said that his God was sovereign over the state."

## Alabama's display is different

The Alabama display of the Ten Commandments was substantially different from that in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Alabama version was purposely placed to promote religion. In the nation's top court, the Ten Commandments are displayed as a history lesson. Secular and spiritual leaders from B.C. to A.D. — including Confucius, Napoleon and the prophet Muhammad — offset Moses and his tablet in the high court's building.

Judge Thompson wrote in his order that the Alabama "monument and its immediate surroundings are, in essence, a consecrated place, a religious sanctuary, within the walls of a courthouse."

"The Center did not take this case to promote or discourage any religious views," said Center president Joe Levin. He said combating religious intolerance, both at home and abroad, is inseparable from fighting racial and other prejudices.



Members of the neo-Confederate hate group, the League of the South, joined Moore supporters on the steps of the state judicial building.



U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson views the Ten Commandments monument in the Alabama Judicial Building last fall, prior to issuing his November 18, 2002, order to remove it.

# Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

## Racist gang faces criminal charges

LAS VEGAS — Six teens who prosecutors say were members of a middle-class youth gang known as the "311 Boyz" entered innocent pleas on September 16 to more than a dozen criminal charges stemming from a July attack on a 17-year-old high school student. Three others were expected to plead later.

Their indictment charged the group with a rock attack that left the student with a broken arm and several titanium plates in his face. Prosecutors released videotapes showing members of "311 Boyz" involved in several beatings. Authorities consider the group a gang, and police are investigating white supremacist ties, given the name of the group — "K" is the 11<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet.

## Anti-immigration, white supremacist ties uncovered

LOS ANGELES — Last month, the Intelligence Project uncovered ties between the anti-immigration group U.S. English and a longtime white supremacist. U.S. English hired James Lubinkas as its director of communications last spring. Lubinkas has a long history of working with hate groups, having spoken several times to the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens and serving as an editor for the academic racist hate publication, *American Renaissance*.

After Lubinkas' ties to *American Renaissance* were made public in a *Washington Post* article that investigated the relationship between Arnold Schwarzenegger and U.S. English, on whose board he serves, a notable member of that board, David Horowitz, resigned, as did Lubinkas.

## Controversial talk show host fired

NEW YORK, N.Y. — In early July, MSNBC fired talk show host Michael Savage after airing his controversial talk show, "The Savage Nation," for four months. Savage's career was ended after he referred to a caller as a "sodomite." Savage then told the caller, "You should only get AIDS and die, you pig."

MSNBC's decision to hire Savage had been highly controversial. MSNBC hired Savage as part of an effort by executives to broaden the network's appeal to those cable news viewers who are to the right of the political center. In his radio shows, Savage routinely used slurs against gays, immigrants and Jews. He was particularly well known

for referring to immigrants as coming from the "Turd World." Several organizations, including the National Organization for Women and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, called for MSNBC to reverse its decision. MSNBC ignored the complaints and, in the show's opener, the network called Savage a "best selling author and one of America's most popular radio personalities."

## Anti-immigrant leader arrested

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZ. — In early August, Glenn Spencer, leader of the anti-immigrant hate group American Patrol, was arrested on three felony counts of disorderly conduct with a weapon, one felony count of endangerment and one count of misdemeanor criminal damage. One of Spencer's neighbors called law enforcement officials after she heard two shots and the cocking of a weapon near her home. The next morning, law enforcement found that shots had been fired into Spencer's neighbors' houses, allegedly from Spencer's home.

On the advice of his lawyers, Spencer refused to speak about his arrest. He did say that he is looking for a new ranch to run his border surveillance operations out of after allegedly receiving death threats and being burgled.

Also in August, another Arizona anti-immigrant vigilante group told the press that it planned to expand its operations. Chris Simcox, president of the Tombstone-based Civil Homeland Defense, said he plans to meet with 12 Yuma-area residents interested in patrolling the border. According to Simcox, every member of his patrol plans to carry firearms and have a permit for a concealed weapon — even though Simcox currently faces a criminal trial for a weapons violation.

## Charges filed against anti-abortionist activist

MILTON, FLA. — John Burt, the longtime anti-abortion activist who has ties to gunmen and bombers convicted of abortion clinic violence in nearby Pensacola, was arrested in June for allegedly molesting girls living at his home for troubled girls, Our Father's House. Burt prayed with an anti-abortion killer, Michael Griffin, a volunteer at Our Father's House, three days before Griffin shot and killed a doctor at a clinic in 1993. He was with another killer, Paul Hill, when Hill photographed a physician he later fatally shot at a second clinic in 1994.

The unrepentant Hill was executed September 3.

# Schools to Mix It Up at Lunch on November 18

Students across the country are once again preparing to shake things up in their school cafeterias as the second Mix It Up at Lunch Day draws near.

Sponsored by Tolerance.org, Teaching Tolerance and the Study Circles Resource Center, Mix It Up at Lunch Day takes place this year on November 18. The event challenges students to take a step toward bridging social boundaries by sitting somewhere new, with someone new, in their school cafeterias.

Last year, about 200,000 students at more than 3,000 schools across the country participated in the first Mix It Up at Lunch Day, held on November 21. From Montgomery, Ala., to Green Bay, Wis., to Seattle, Wash., students everywhere took on the challenge of identifying, questioning and crossing boundaries in their schools.

"Mix It Up was a huge success last year. We received tremendous feedback from the students and teachers who participated," said Jennifer Holladay, director of Tolerance.org. "We saw that when given an opportunity, there are many, many young people out there who are eager to make a difference by breaking those unwritten rules that continue to divide us."

Holladay says she expects this year's Mix It Up at Lunch Day to be an even bigger success than last year.

"This year, we are hoping to increase participation to 5,000 schools and more than 300,000 students," said Holladay.

Mix It Up at Lunch will move beyond the cafeteria this year, too, with some new activities designed to help students promote dialogue and activism.

Students can start Mix It Up dialogue groups (also called study circles), which help participants get to know each other and gain respect for different viewpoints. A handbook available on the Mix It Up Web site, [www.mixitup.org](http://www.mixitup.org), shows students how to start and sustain these groups in their schools.

Also this year, students can apply for Mix It Up Grants of up to \$250 to fund youth-directed projects aimed at crossing social boundaries in their schools and communities. Already, more than 90 grants totaling \$23,000 have been awarded.

Teaching Tolerance director



Sacramento's Discovery High School students meet their pen pals from Natomas Park Elementary on the first Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

Kelvin Datcher says Mix It Up at Lunch Day is much more than just an event.

"It's an ideal," said Datcher. "We want this day to serve as a

springboard to get kids excited and interested in breaking down barriers in their schools and communities each and every day of the year."

## Teaching Tolerance grant promotes literacy in a family environment

OGDEN, UTAH — With help from a Teaching Tolerance grant, Polk Elementary School here has a new program for kindergarten students targeting literacy and ethics. The school, which for many years housed only middle- to upper-income children, recently added students from Ogden's diverse low-income neighborhoods and was subsequently designated a high-impact school.

"This created an anxious atmosphere in the school, which the administration, faculty and staff are working diligently to turn into a caring and friendly community of learners," said Barbara DeBoer, a former Ogden School District teacher, now a graduate student at Utah State University.

DeBoer approached Cindy Winward and Jill Hislop, two Polk kindergarten teachers with the idea of a Family Literacy Bag (FLB) project. "This is a good

will greatly help our kindergarten students and their families." Hislop said. "For each bag the kindergartners bring home, their siblings will be able to share in the learning."

With the support of a grant from Teaching Tolerance, the two teachers each acquired 40 bags on a broad range of themes, such as celebration of diversity and individual worth, to rotate among their four half-day classes. Each bag contained books, audio models and follow-up activities, all in English and Spanish. They worked together to make sure each of their 100 students were able to take each bag home to share with their families for a few days throughout the school year.

"Family Literacy Bags give much needed help in building a partnership between school and family in helping the community become one of celebrated and shared diversity," DeBoer said.

The program is only in kindergarten classes in one school in Ogden, but DeBoer hopes that it will become a part of all schools in the district and that other school systems will adopt the idea.

Feedback from the project has been encouraging, DeBoer said. An evaluation from parents revealed that 75 percent of the families read all the books, and 24 percent read some of the books in each bag. Seventy-two

percent read some of the books more than once. Forty-six percent enjoyed all of the activities, with 43 percent enjoying some of the activities.

DeBoer summed up the FLB project this way: "We feel it was used to help many children and their families and will continue to do so through the years."

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



Teaching Tolerance fellow Emily Vickery enters responses from Center staff members during a game experiment.

## New Tolerance fellow will help kids examine 'choices'

Emily Vickery, the Center's new Teaching Tolerance research fellow, got right to work when she arrived in June, developing a game that teachers can play with their students to help them examine the choices they make.

The game, tentatively titled "Choices," asks students to examine a hypothetical situation in which they have the opportunity to make a positive impact. They list the possible actions that could be taken and rate those actions according to their negative and positive aspects.

Vickery tested the game on Center employees and found that it facilitates discussion and causes people to examine their decisions. "It's really a springboard for people to discuss their different perspectives," she said. "Even like-minded people have different shades of perception. Here at the Center, we all have the same mission, but all of the different viewpoints and perspectives that came up when we were testing the game were really fun to listen to."

Vickery was selected to come to the Center as a one-year Teach-

ing Tolerance research fellow. Each year, this position gives a different educator the chance to take a break from the classroom and build on their interest in tolerance education. It also gives the Teaching Tolerance staff new perspectives and helps them keep in touch with the issues teachers face today.

Vickery, who holds a master's degree in education, has been involved in many aspects of K-12 education, from classroom teaching to educational consulting. She was also instrumental in designing several magnet programs in Montgomery's public schools.

When she taught high school English, Vickery worked to expose students to different cultures and open their eyes to new perspectives. She believes this will become increasingly important in coming years.

"The outreach to youth is at a critical juncture," she said. "Because of rapidly changing demographics, in the future we will be faced with racial and ethnic challenges that we can only guess at now."

ALAN MURRAY/STANDARD-EXAMINER



Parents Susan Seifert (left) and Jolynn Morris (back) spend time reading books with students in their children's kindergarten class at Polk Elementary School. The project was funded with a Teaching Tolerance grant.

way to get books on a broad range of topics into the hands of students who are not able to buy them and have them in their home," DeBoer said. "When anti-bias, multicultural literature is introduced to kindergarten children and their families, along with interactive discussion prompts and suggested activities, fears and misunderstandings of entire families can be resolved."

Winward and Hislop both welcomed the idea. "It



Lori Rifkin



Jesse Elison



Alayna Tolbert

## Interns exposed to civil rights law

The Center's three summer interns brought a variety of experiences and perspectives to their work, but all agreed on one thing: Their time at the Center helped them put a human face on the practice of civil rights law.

The interns saw first-hand what the work of a civil rights attorney is like as they worked alongside Center staff, conducting research, writing, and even meeting face-to-face with some of the Center's clients.

"It's clear that the Center's lawyers really have a passion about their work," said Alayna Tolbert, who recently began her third year at the University of Michigan School of Law. "Civil rights is their life, it's their job, it's who they are. That's the kind of lawyer I'd like to be."

Tolbert has been active in many clubs and projects at her university, including the Michigan Journal of Race and Law, the Black Law Students Alliance, the Family Law Project and Wolverine Street Law.

### Interns worked on medical care lawsuit

One of the cases that the interns worked on this summer was *Baker vs. Campbell*, a lawsuit filed by the Center to correct the inadequate medical care at Alabama's St. Clair Correctional Facility. The facility is designated to house all seriously ill inmates in the state, including those suffering from cancer and kidney failure. The interns traveled with Center lawyers to St. Clair and other prisons in the state to conduct research and depositions.

"I had never been to a correctional facility before, and the experience put a real human face on inmates for me," said Jesse Elison, a student at the University of Oregon Law School. "That visit to St. Clair is probably the one day I will not forget from my experience here."

A preliminary settlement agreement was reached in the case in June, requiring the state to make substantial improvements to the care inmates receive.

The facility, which had a part-time doctor on staff and only one registered nurse, must now hire a full-time doctor and several registered nurses to care for the inmates. It must also begin promptly providing inmates with the medical prescriptions and supplies they need to treat their illnesses and taking them to specialists when necessary.

"There was a sense of pride and hope when the St. Clair preliminary injunction was settled," said Tolbert. "The settlement signaled to me that Center attorneys are on the right path towards ensuring that the prisoners will permanently receive the health care that they need."

### Ten Commandments arguments a part of experience

The interns also got to sit in on oral arguments during the appeals hearing of the Center's Ten Commandments case (see story on page 1). Elison, a graduate of Brigham Young University and Harvard University's Divinity School, was especially interested in the oral arguments. "Having a background in religious studies, the Ten Commandments case was of particular interest to me," he said. "It was great to be able to have a live, First Amendment case going on while I was here."

The three students didn't just learn from the Center's legal department, but also absorbed the lessons of the Center's tolerance education work, the area's civil rights history and their own different backgrounds.

"One of the most positive experiences of the summer was interacting with the other two legal interns," said Lori Rifkin, who is beginning her third year at New York University School of Law. "We all come from very different backgrounds and had a lot of really interesting and challenging discussions that I think the environment of the Center fostered."

Rifkin is a graduate of Harvard University and has worked with the ACLU and a nonprofit community leadership service for low-income girls.

## Center's legal support closes unsafe prison

NEW ORLEANS —The Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL), founded with Center support in 1998, has long focused its efforts on the notoriously brutal conditions at the Tallulah youth prison. The Juvenile Justice Act of 2003, signed into law by Louisiana's governor in July, will finally solve the problem by shutting down the Tallulah facility, a move JJPL has advocated for years.

The legislation makes other much-needed changes, such as moving the jurisdiction over juveniles from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to a more appropriate child welfare state agency. It also requires the creation of substance abuse and education programs for juvenile offenders.

"This act is essentially adopting what JJPL has been saying for years: Louisiana's system is broken. We over utilize incarceration, and to achieve true reform we must include families and communities," said JJPL director David Utter.

The Louisiana juvenile justice system is one of the worst in the country, with an incarceration rate higher than that of 48 other states. The Tallulah facility, which must be closed in 18 months, according to the recently signed act, has consistently been the most glaring example of the state's faulty juvenile justice system.

In recent years, the U.S. Department of Justice found the conditions at Tallulah to be unconstitutional, and a human rights watchdog group declared it and Louisiana's other juvenile prisons to be in violation of inter-

national human rights standards. Both organizations found that Tallulah failed to provide a safe environment and reported that children suffered from broken bones, perforated eardrums and deep cuts as a result of violence from guards and other juveniles at the facility.

JJPL's efforts over the last five years have brought the issue of juvenile justice reform to the forefront in the state of Louisiana, getting the attention of state agency heads and lawmakers.

In addition to advocacy efforts in the community and the Legislature, JJPL has worked with Center lawyers to bring several legal cases seeking improvements at Tallulah and the state's other juvenile facilities. One of JJPL's first cases in 1998 succeeded in forcing Tallulah to stop automatically transferring juveniles to adult prisons when they turn 17. In January of this year, JJPL and Center lawyers negotiated a settlement agreement between the state of Louisiana and the federal government that requires the state to make significant improvements to all juvenile justice facilities.

"We could not have achieved these victories without the Southern Poverty Law Center," said Utter. "It truly was a collaboration. Richard Cohen and Danielle Lipow were with us literally shoulder to shoulder for the major litigation efforts against Tallulah in both state and federal court."

While Utter says the Juvenile Justice Act of 2003 is a "huge first step," JJPL still has critical follow-up work to do.



David Utter



## Mighty Times narrator earns scholarship

Jedidiah Harris (center), one of the youthful narrators in the Center's prize-winning film *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, recently began high school on a full scholarship at the prestigious Thacher School in Ojai, California. His role in the film brought the Montgomery, Alabama, youth to the attention of school officials. Speaking at a send-off reception for him were Center human resources director Sam Whalum (left) and Teaching Tolerance director Kelvin Datcher. Datcher recently replaced former Teaching Tolerance head Jim Carnes, who left the Center to become publications director for Alabama Arise, a grassroots advocacy organization.

## Redesigned website offers new features

The Center this month launched a completely overhauled, easy-to-navigate website at SPLCenter.org. It provides more in-depth and current information about the Center's work than the old site, offers greater options for online giving and introduces several new features.

"Our new site presents previously unavailable resources to our donors and to others wanting to learn about our work," said Penny Weaver, who managed the old website and edits the *SPLC Report*, the Center's donor newspaper. "All of the Center's publications, as well as an array of the Center's court documents, now can be accessed online."

The Center launched its original website in March 1997. In the spring of 2001, the Center began Tolerance.org, a principal online destination for people interested in dismantling bigotry and creating, in hate's stead, communities that value diversity.

Ashley Day, a Tolerance.org producer since its inception, and Laura Maschal, who joined the

Tolerance.org team in March, coordinated and worked on the redesign and rebuild of the Center's original site.



Laura Maschal

"When I analyzed our old website, I found that the Center's programs weren't fully represented online, and it was hard to update the site to let our supporters, readers, and the media know what was important right now," said Maschal. "The redesign of the site has simplified the update process and brought every aspect of the Center online."

Maschal cites the expanded and streamlined online donation process and the creation of e-newsletters as two of the most exciting improvements to the site. Visitors will also be able to sign up for a new Hatewatch e-newsletter to keep abreast of the latest hate incidents.

Other new features include a slideshow of photographs of the Civil Rights Memorial, an online case docket, a sorting system for viewing court cases, briefs and other documents, and e-cards that can be sent for In Honor and In Memoriam donations.

# TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CENTER FROM JUNE THROUGH AUGUST 2003

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# Center board member dies; new chairman is elected

**B**OULDER, COLO. — Center board member Frances M. “Kelley” Green, a prominent environmental lawyer, advocate and philanthropist, died on August 20 after a brief bout with cancer. She was 57.

A Georgia native, Green became familiar with the Center’s work in 1973, when she spent a

Commerce shortly thereafter. She left Washington in 1988 to teach environmental law at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She founded and was president of the Boulder-based Land and Water (LAW) Fund of the Rockies, which grew under her decade-long leadership to become an effective environmental law and

causes dear to her heart, including environmental projects, women and children’s concerns, and the education of women in Afghanistan.

“Environmental issues and social issues are not that far apart — both ultimately affect all people,” Green told the *SPLC Report* in 1996. “Serving on the Center’s board of directors has given me the opportunity to affect the quality of people’s lives at different levels.”

Green was a graduate of Wellesley College in Massachusetts and George Washington University Law School in Washington, D. C.

In other board related news, Center board members recently elected James McElroy, a lawyer in private practice in San Diego, as their new chairman. He replaces Joe Levin, who stepped down this summer after serving as board chair for 32 years. Levin remains on the board.

McElroy began his association with the Center in the early 1990s, when he volunteered his time to lead the Center’s legal efforts to collect the jury verdict rendered against white supremacist Tom Metzger for his role in the murder of Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw. In the 13 years since the trial, more than \$150,000 has been collected for Seraw’s family. McElroy became a board member in 1996.

Other Center board members are Julian Bond of Washington, D.C., Patricia Clark of Nyack, N.Y., Lloyd Hackley of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Howard Mandell of New York City.



Kelley Green (second from right) poses with fellow board members Jim McElroy (from left), Joe Levin, Howard Mandell and Pat Clark after an April 2001 board meeting.

year in Montgomery clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., a prominent judicial figure of the Civil Rights Movement. This began a life-long commitment to advocacy work, including her 15 years’ service on the Center’s board.

She was later hired by Center co-founder Joe Levin to work on the Carter Administration Department of Justice transition team and then served as a deputy associate U.S. Attorney General in 1977. Green became deputy general counsel at the Department of

advocacy organization for the Rocky Mountain West. In 1997, Green founded and was executive director of the Denver-based Earth Walk, an innovative environmental education program that teaches nature-centered life learning to inner city 4th through 6th graders through classes and wilderness camps.

After her death, it was revealed that Green had also created and directed a Boulder-based private philanthropic foundation, the Green Fund, through which she anonymously supported many



## Student donor visits Center

Passing through Montgomery on her way to visit family in Louisiana, University of Michigan graduate student Rachel Richardson (right) stopped to see the Center in April. Human resources specialist Melanie Mulcahy was one of several employees that she met. Richardson, a donor since May 2002, is a Dartmouth graduate.

## 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 August 1, 2002, through August 31, 2003.

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## Longtime supporter meets Dees

Sacramento civil rights lawyer Douglas Greer (left), a Center supporter since 1983, was introduced to the Civil Rights Memorial by Center co-founder Morris Dees when he visited Montgomery on May 3.

**CORRECTION** The June 2003 issue misspelled the name of Lucian Buscemi, who was pictured on page 7 with his parents, Steve Buscemi and Jo Andres. In the March 2003 issue, the In Memoriam feature should have noted that Eli Glogow was a loyal Center supporter from 1981, not 2001 as printed, until his death in 2002 at the age of 78.

# Birthday inspires donor to bike for tolerance

EUGENE, OREGON — To celebrate her 50th birthday, Joan Cavin bicycled solo across America — to fulfill a long-held dream and also to support a cause she holds dear: tolerance education. She left Florence, Oregon, on June 14 and arrived in Yorktown, Virginia, on August 19.

Before leaving her home here, Cavin circulated a letter to friends and family, encouraging them to support her effort with donations to the Center. She has already forwarded over \$2,000 in contributions and says that since she's returned home, the checks continue to arrive.

Cavin, a high school art teacher and mother of two, is enthusiastic about the work of the Teaching Tolerance program. "There are a zillion causes that I could have chosen to support, but I wanted something that I really felt was personally part of my life," she said.

During the ride, Cavin typically spent seven hours cycling each day, covering 50 to 80 miles. She usually stayed in hotels but carried camping gear with her in case she couldn't find indoor accommodations. Overall, the journey was uneventful except

for some serious thunderstorms encountered in Oregon, Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia.

Riding at her own pace, Cavin took time to soak in the scenery, marvel at geological features and read historical roadside markers. But meeting new people along the way impressed her most of all.

"I ran into just the nicest people," she said. "Many said they didn't really know what tolerance was all about, so I got the chance to expose them to it."

In addition to the many conversations she had with individuals, she also spoke at a friend's church in Indiana and inspired them to raise money for the Center. Since she's gotten back from her trip, she has been flooded with requests to speak to groups about her trip and about the Center's programs. She requested copies of the Center's anti-bias handbook *101 Tools for Tolerance* to pass out at her speaking engagements.

Cavin said she focused on two things during her trip: patience and

perseverance. In this area, she received some inspiration from the Center. "For the people at the Southern Poverty Law Center, patience and steadfastness is your way of

life," she said. "You have taken on some of the hardest, nastiest challenges that we face, and somebody needs to show people how important that is."



Joan Cavin

JAN STEINMARK



DENNY CAVIN

Joan Cavin finished her 3,900-mile journey in Yorktown, Virginia, where she rode her bicycle into the Chesapeake Bay. "A number of people I asked for donations said they already contribute to the Center but would give another gift on behalf of my bike ride," she said.

## Leave a legacy through Partners for the Future



Civil Rights Memorial

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

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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](mailto:plannedgiving@splcenter.org).

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Sylvia Marlowe (1922-2002)

Sylvia J. Marlowe, a clinical psychologist and ardent supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center since its founding, died at age 80 on April 28, 2002.

Marlowe was deeply devoted to the Center's cause. In 1983, after the Ku Klux Klan fire-bombed its office, she focused all her charitable efforts on the Center's mission.

"I consider Morris Dees my hero," she once said. "I'm so moved by his work. No other organization is doing what has to be done in quite the same way."

In 1989, Marlowe combined her love for quilting with her love for the Center. She began selling her exquisitely hand-crafted baby quilts and donated 100 percent of the proceeds to the Center. Three years later, her national quilt sale raised approximately \$7,500 to support the Center's work for tolerance and justice.

Marlowe was always civic-minded, according to her husband, Melvin, with whom she celebrated 57 years of marriage on New Year's Eve of 2002. Part of her nature was to open her heart to the underprivileged, which compelled her to donate to the Center and other chari-

ties, he said.

Marlowe earned her bachelor of arts in art history and psychology, and later her master's in clinical psychology, from the University of Wisconsin. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and received the Mortar Board Award.



Sylvia Marlowe

Marlowe first worked as a clinical psychologist at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago.

When she and her husband moved to California, she served eight schools as a psychologist for the San Francisco Unified School District. After raising her children, she worked at the University of California San Francisco Hospital, as a family therapist at San Francisco's Children's Hospital, and finally as a psychologist for Marin's School for the Deaf, which included group therapy for parents of deaf children.

Marlowe is survived by her husband, Melvin; her two sons, Jonathon of San Rafael, and Christopher of Paris, France; two sisters, and a brother.

The family requested donations be made in her memory to the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Gilda Radner Cancer Registry.