

SPLC REPORT



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

MARCH 2004
VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

Center responds to hate and bias on campuses

Creating a guidebook to help college students deal with hate crimes and bias incidents on their campuses in one thing. Putting it to work is a challenge.

That's Brandon Wilson's task as an outreach associate with the Center's website-based activism project, Tolerance.org.

Wilson is charged with helping college and university communities turn the ideas presented in *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* into reality, bringing on-the-ground changes to campuses scarred by hate.

Students often fail to respond

"When students are victimized, or when they are witnesses, many fail to respond appropriately, if they respond at all," Wilson said. "*10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* helps students rise up to hate and seize it as a learning opportunity."

The Center launched *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* last fall. Wilson began his outreach efforts simultaneously with the handbook's publication, inviting interested campuses to receive free copies of it and offering his services to campuses in the midst or aftermath of bias incidents.

The Center knew the need was there. FBI and U.S. Department of Education statistics indicate that every day a hate crime occurs on a college campus. And ongoing studies show that every year at least 500,000 college students are targets of bias-driven slurs or physical assaults. Examples of bias on campuses occur across the country:

- In New York, at Columbia University, a cartoon in "The Fed" newspaper during Black History Month had panels with captions including, "Black people were invented in the 1700s as a

form of cheap labor."

- Groups at universities in Washington, Utah, Colorado, Texas and New York — among other states — have held divisive so-called "Affirmative Action Bake Sales," with prices tied to race, ethnicity and religion. Protests and ill will followed many such sales.
- A decision by the College Republicans group at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island to offer a "whites-only" scholarship created similar tensions and divisiveness.
- A January frat party blackface incident at Georgia State University prompted a March meeting to discuss racism on campus.
- Hundreds of Georgetown University students have been



Outreach associate Brandon Wilson speaks in Idaho.

speaking out against racism following a slur-filled email sent to the Black Students Alliance.

- Someone scrawled racist graffiti on the NAACP office door at the University of Alabama.

Wilson and others were surprised at the rapid and massive response to the new guidebook. Requests poured in. By March, all the initial inventory — 50,000 copies — had been shipped to students and adminis-

(continued on page 5)



DAVE MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congressmen visit Civil Rights Memorial

A Congressional delegation visited the Civil Rights Memorial on Feb. 13 as part a three-day tour of southern sites important to the Civil Rights Movement. They placed a floral wreath on the Memorial's table, held hands and sang the Movement anthem, "We Shall Overcome." Leading the group were Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) and Senate Majority Leader Dr. Bill Frist. Sponsored by the Center, the Memorial was designed by noted architect and artist Maya Lin and honors those killed in the fight for racial justice in America. The building behind the Memorial, the Center's former office, will be home to the Wall of Tolerance, scheduled for unveiling in 2005.

Hate groups, militias on rise as extremists stage comeback

Buoyed by rising numbers of Skinhead and Klan groups, the American radical right staged something of a comeback last year. The Center's Intelligence Project counted 751 group chapters in 2003, up 6 percent from the 708 that were active the year before, a gain partly accounted for by improved tallies of black separatist groups. Hate websites rose from 443 in 2002 to 497 last year, a 12 percent increase.

Key sectors of the hate movement were particularly dynamic in 2003. The number of racist Skinhead groups doubled over the prior year, and several new Klan groups appeared.

But there were also spectacular failures. The organization formerly known as the World Church of the Creator, for many years a leading neo-Nazi group, virtually disappeared following the jailing of its leader Matt Hale, who stands

trial this spring for allegedly soliciting the murder of a federal judge. The National Alliance, once the most important hate group in America, was reduced to about half its former size.

"Patriot" groups — antigovernment groups like militias that are animated more by conspiracy theories than racial hatred — surged for the first time in years, jumping 20 percent from 143 groups in 2002 to 171 last year. Patriot websites also rose, from 152 sites in 2002 to 162 last year. And Patriots have become more militant. At a heavily attended January Patriot event, speaker after speaker called for revolutionary violence.

Terrorist threats uncovered

Several frightening events served as a reminder that not all terrorists come from faraway places. In Texas, a man and his common-law wife were found

with an arsenal including half a million rounds of ammunition, more than 60 pipe bombs, silencers, remote-control briefcase bombs and the parts needed to make a sodium cyanide bomb capable of killing hundreds.

In South Carolina, antigovernment extremists allegedly murdered two law enforcement officers in a massive shootout. A religious zealot and former Army Ranger was arrested after allegedly plotting to bomb abortion clinics, churches and gay bars. And an arsonist destroyed an Indiana Holocaust memorial museum.

Here are snapshots depicting 2003 trends on the radical right.

Racist Skinheads: The number of Skinhead groups more than doubled, from 18 chapters in 2002 to 39 chapters in 2003. In part, this growth resulted from Skinhead activity in New Jersey, where a third of (continued on page 3)

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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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Southern Poverty Law Center

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MAILBOX

Supporter thanks Center for its work against hate

In January, Center donor Crystal Cheryl Bell of Culver City, California, wrote this letter addressed to Center co-founder Morris Dees, president Richard Cohen and all the staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

I read in your December newspaper that you have received a great deal of hate mail for your work regarding the Ten Commandments monument and the removal of Chief Justice Roy Moore.

To counteract some of that mail, I'd like to just take a moment to thank

you very much for all the work you do. Those who are vociferously on the side of hate always seem to have so much to say. I don't have much to offer than to simply say thanks.

You all do wonderful work. You make my day and give me hope. Thank you for your energy, your commitment and your hard work. Thank you for

being there everyday.

You are not alone. There are millions and millions of us "little people" who believe

"You make my day and give me hope."

in what you believe in and who appreciate truth, justice and fair treatment — not just as an ideal but also as an everyday reality. This is the world I want to create and to have created with me by those around me — a world that my grandchildren can live in without fear.

Don't lose heart. You're on the side of the good guys. Just keep doing what you're doing. Heaven has a place for you, and if you believe in God, God is on the side of love. Keep on loving and never give up.

After reading about the torrent of hate mail directed toward the Center for its role in removing the Ten Commandments, I decided to double my usual annual contribution.

D. S.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Every year as I show *A Place at the Table* I am reminded of how much good you do for students. I teach in a community of much prejudice and very few minorities. The students really watch and discuss this video. Please keep up the good work.

J. G.

Marshall, Illinois

This is a quick note to tell you how much our school has benefited from your programs this year. Our principal shared the Rosa Parks video [*Mighty Times*] with his history class and then shared it with several teachers, who, in turn, shared it with their students. The Teaching Tolerance CD [*I Will Be Your Friend*] with music from various countries was a huge hit with our music teacher and others who had been searching for a song that was included in that selection. We participated in Mix It Up at Lunch Day, and an aide in charge of lunch for our K-4 and 5-6 groups has continued Mix It Up weekly throughout the year.

Thank you for the wonderful materials!

S. H.

South Hero, Vermont

I just saw the item on your website concerning extremists trying to take over the Sierra Club

(see story on page 3). As a former Club member, I am alarmed and disgusted. Thank you so much for bringing this issue to public attention. I have long admired the Center for fighting intolerance of any kind, no matter where it rears its ugly head.

L. S.

Bloomington, Minnesota

It is not easy to put into words my thoughts about your work. Every month as I write the check to the Center, I pause and attempt to grasp your incredible accomplishments and the years you have devoted to make this a better world.

G. M.

San Mateo, California

How shameful that people who call themselves Christians could write such disgusting hate mail [December 2003 *SPLC Report*]. They obviously have no idea of what it really means to be a Christian or an American. God must surely be grieved by their actions in his name. He does not need us to worship Ten Commandments monuments, for he said, "I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." (Hebrew 10:16)

I had the pleasure of hearing Morris Dees speak here recently, and I'm sending my 2004 renewal to further your great work.

N. A.

Anderson, Indiana

You all do such admirable and professional work. You make me a better teacher! Thanks.

J. K.

Minnetonka, Minnesota



Retired pastor and wife visit Center

Betty and John Dodson of Charleston, Illinois, stopped by the Center when they were traveling through Montgomery last year. Center co-founder Morris Dees (center) took a minute to chat with the couple, who began contributing to the Center's work in 2002. John Dodson is a retired Presbyterian minister who participated in the Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights in 1965.

Center supports bill to restore civil rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Center president Richard Cohen joined other civil rights advocates for a February 10 ceremony on Capitol Hill to announce the introduction of Fairness: The Civil Rights Act of 2004.

The bill, an affirmative response to the significant erosion of rights by U. S. Supreme Court decisions over recent years, has the support of a myriad of civil rights and social justice organizations, including the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"The Supreme Court has turned back the clock on civil rights," said Cohen. "That's why we're urging all our supporters to get behind this legislation."

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the civil rights coalition that has coordinated the national legislative campaign on behalf of every major civil rights law since 1957, spearheaded the advocacy efforts that culminated in the introduction of the new bill. The organization's work was supported by modest grants from the Center.

Center's help is critical

"The Center and its support were critical to the development of the bill, and we really thank you for it," said Wade Henderson, LCCR executive director.

One Supreme Court decision that substantially limited civil rights protections came in a Center case, *Alexander vs. Sandoval*. "In *Sandoval*, the Supreme Court ignored an unbroken quarter-

century line of precedent," said Cohen. "At this point, we can't restore civil rights protections without Congressional action."

The new act seeks to address the inequities created in decisions like *Sandoval* and also give victims of discrimination based on age, sex, disability or religion the same rights and remedies available for other forms of unlawful discrimination.

The last sweeping civil rights legislation to pass Congress was in 1991, when the Civil Rights Act of 1991 reversed the Supreme Court's 1989 decisions that narrowly interpreted job discrimination laws. That act provided, for the first time, money damages to compensate victims of intentional job discrimination and to deter future employer wrongdoing.

The Fairness Act is sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Representatives John Lewis (D-Ga.), George Miller (D-Calif.), and John Conyers (D-Mich.). Although its passage presents a challenge in this political year, he bill's mere introduction gets the erosion of civil rights on the public agenda. Hearings on its merit will draw further attention to these issues.

"By enacting the Fairness Act, Congress can take a step forward toward ensuring equal justice for all," said Cohen. "We encourage Center supporters across the country to contact their representatives in Washington and urge them to support this bill."

Center exposes threat to Sierra Club

Center officials recently helped expose stealth efforts by anti-immigration leaders to seize control of the environmentalist Sierra Club, prodding Club activists to defend the Club from the "hostile takeover attempt."

Years of work studying the far-right anti-immigration movement paid off for the Center's Intelligence Project last fall, when staffers realized that hard-liners within the Sierra Club were moving to elect directors to the board in an effort to get the Club to adopt a platform calling for cutbacks on immigration into America. At the same time, hate groups began calling on their members to join the Club in an effort to sway the board elections that will be settled by mail-in ballot this April 21.

Letter warns Sierra leadership

In October, *Intelligence Report* editor Mark Potok wrote a lengthy letter to Club president Larry Fahn, warning that long-time anti-immigration activist John Tanton had set his sights on the Club as far back as 1986, when he discussed the Club as a target in a secret memo to colleagues. Potok's letter stressed Tanton's ties to Club director Ben Zuckerman, a leader of the current takeover attempt. It also pointed out that

anti-immigration groups unconnected to the Club were asking their members to join the Club to vote for the anti-immigration board candidates.

The Club is important to anti-immigration activists because of its well-respected voice, its political pull on Capitol Hill, a budget of some \$83 million a year and its large membership. These activists believe their message would be taken more seriously if delivered by the Club.

Potok also reminded Fahn that forces allied with Zuckerman had attempted in 1998 to get a ballot proposition adopted that would have put the Club on record in favor of much-reduced immigration into the United States. That measure was ultimately defeated in a 60 percent to 40 percent vote, but only after a hard-fought battle.

The letter also pointed out that the Center has no position on the correct level of immigration. Instead, Potok wrote, "we do not believe that the debate should be controlled or shaped by bigoted activists and hateful ideology; rather, it should be discussed and decided by citizens within our democratic forums."

In January, the Center went a step further, with Center co-founder Morris Dees announcing

his candidacy for the Sierra Club's board of directors. Dees then used his candidate statement, which was mailed to all 750,000 members of the Club as part of the board ballot, to ask that Sierrans not vote for the leading three candidates from the anti-immigration bloc. He also asked that they not vote for him, as he was running for the sole purpose of trying to publicize the Club takeover attempt.

Club faces serious crisis

The next day, 10 former Club presidents wrote an open letter denouncing the takeover attempt and describing it as the biggest crisis in the 112-year history of the Sierra Club. In the next days, three more former Club presidents signed on.

In addition, a website called Groundswell Sierra, opposing the anti-immigration candidates, went up on the Internet. Since then, dozens of Club leaders have begun to work against the anti-immigration board candidates.

"It seems clear that mainstream Sierrans oppose this attempt to subvert the environmental mission of the Club," Potok said. "But in the last board election, just 8 percent of Sierrans voted. What's needed now is for members of the Sierra Club to make sure they vote."

Hate groups, militias on the rise

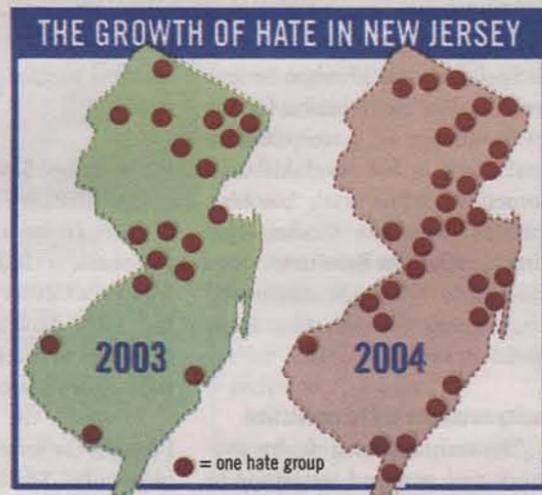
(continued from page 1) the active chapters are located. But it may also be related to the increasing challenge being posed to Hammerskin Nation, a confederation of Skinhead groups that had long been the dominant force on the scene. Toward the end of 2003, Hammerskin Nation was faced with several new upstart factions in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Neo-Nazis: This category showed a staggering decrease of 32 percent. The drop was attributable to the demise of the World Church of the Creator, the largest such group in 2002 with 88 chapters. But after Hale's arrest that December, the group now called The Creativity Movement began to collapse. Just six chapters limped into 2003.

The National Alliance, a neo-Nazi organization headquartered in West Virginia, has lost about half its membership since the 2002 death of its leader, William Pierce. Though there are signs that the group is stabilizing, it is increasingly held in disrepute by almost every other neo-Nazi organization, and its current leader, Erich Glibe, has seen no let-up in attacks on his character and management style. The Alliance's white power music operation, Resistance Records, is in a bitter battle with other racist labels, including its chief competitor, Minnesota-based Panzerfaust Records.

Meanwhile, White Revolution, the creation of former National Alliance official Billy Roper, came on strong. Roper solidified alliances with groups including Resistance rival Panzerfaust and many Klan and Skinhead groups, and he organized a major rally at the Center's offices in January 2003.

The Aryan Nations showed a surprising resurgence in 2003, doubling its chapters from 11 to 22, even though leader Richard Butler has lived in a suburban home in northern Idaho since a suit brought by the Center cost him his rural headquarters compound in 2000. This expansion may have been driven by Butler's extensive travels, including to Roper's Center protest. At the same time, a rival split-off group by



the same name, headed by ex-Butler loyalists August Kreis and Charles Juba, fell from 12 chapters to two.

Ku Klux Klan: Klan groups, which had been relatively unimportant on the radical right, seemed to surge. There was a large number of Klan rallies, cross-burnings, and other events. Several new groups appeared on the scene. The Orion (for "our race is our nation") Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, based in Alabama, was started in early 2003 and was highly successful in building up membership, particularly in Florida. In North Carolina, the Cleveland Knights of the Ku Klux Klan started operations last summer. And the Georgia-based Southern White Knights was restarted last November and grew rapidly.

Other: This category includes a hodgepodge of groups espousing hateful doctrines. The largest of these groups, the 15,000-member, white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens, continued to drift further to the right, adding anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial items to its website. Holocaust denial groups seemed to be doing well. The Institute for Historical Review, based in California, held two high-profile events last year and revamped its website.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

Black supremacist guilty of child molestation

ATLANTA, GA. — On January 23, after nearly four decades of leading quasi-religious "black power" cults in New York and rural Georgia — and systematically sexually abusing members' children as young as age 5 — Dwight York, the leader of the United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors, was found guilty on six counts of sexually abusing children and four counts of evading taxes. He could serve as many as 30 years in prison on these federal charges.

York still awaits sentencing on 77 state molestation charges to which he pleaded guilty last year. Another hearing will be held to determine whether the government can seize the Nuwaubians' 467-acre compound in Putnam County, Ga.

National Alliance leader takes donations, then pleads guilty

DAHLONEGA, GA. — When Georgia's National Alliance leader, Chester Doles, was arrested for illegal weapons possession last year, leaders of the fractured white-nationalist movement saw a golden opportunity to promote solidarity in the ranks. Instead, they ended up even more divided.

A fundraising campaign to "free Chester Doles" managed to raise nearly \$80,000 online for a lawyer to represent the former Klan leader, who has been arrested for assault a dozen times and once nearly beat a black man to death.

The campaign seemed like a welcome success for the troubled white supremacist movement until Doles pleaded guilty in January. That left many donors feeling betrayed — and wondering what Doles did with all those donations. In late March, Doles was sentenced to five years and 10 months in prison.

Tennessee man gets 10 years on weapons charge

NASHVILLE, TENN. — A federal judge on March 17 sentenced former paramedic Michael Smith to 10 years in prison for weapons violations, rejecting defense claims of mental illness.

Smith had earlier pleaded guilty to possession of a weapon in a school zone and three counts of possession of destructive devices after being spotted in January 2002 with assault weapons, parked by a Jewish preschool. When police later arrested him, they found large caches of lethal explosives; virulent hate literature; computer evidence that Smith had researched Jewish schools and synagogues here and in Atlanta, and sniper equipment.

Other evidence showed Smith was a card-carrying member of the white supremacist National Alliance and had sent e-mails saying Jews should be baked in ovens.

Racist financial advisor convicted of fraud

SPOONER, WISC. — Christian Identity adherent Chris Temple, who was indicted for running a million dollar scam last year, pleaded guilty in February to mail fraud and money laundering charges. He was to be sentenced in March.

Temple's investment company, National Investor Publishing, had been widely touted in both antigovernment and mainstream publications — but was apparently a facade for an elaborate scheme Temple hid from investors with humble "Christian" charm. Investigators allege that Temple stole \$1.6 million from investors between 1998 and 2003, using the money to publish antigovernment literature, remodel his home, and pay off earlier investors. Temple faces a maximum sentence of 40 years without parole.

Temple is the former co-owner and associate editor of *Media Bypass*, an antigovernment magazine that featured articles written by prominent neo-Nazis after Temple purchased it along with fellow Identity adherent Paul Hall. Due to the fraud charges against him, Temple lost his share of *Media Bypass* last summer. But he wasn't put out of business as a financial adviser. CBS MarketWatch.com quoted Temple's advice as late as November. In February, the respected *Hulbert Financial Digest* was still tracking National Investor, and Temple's online newsletter remained current.

EURO chief quits white supremacist movement

METAIRIE, LA. — Aspiring porn king Bruce Alan "Vince" Breeding quit his job as national director of David Duke's European-American Rights Organization (EURO) late last year in the wake of an *Intelligence Report* exposé. The story exposed Breeding's New Orleans-based porn site and its companion magazine.

Breeding claims that he has now left the white supremacist movement for good. Before EURO, he held a leadership position in the National Alliance, which has traditionally inveighed against pornography as a Satanic invention of "the Jews." Fifty-four-year-old Kenny Knight, former leader in Duke's National Association for the Advancement of White People and current member of the Council of Conservative Citizens hate group, has been named Breeding's replacement at the helm of EURO.

New resources help teach *Brown vs. Board*

Some Supreme Court decisions change more than just the law; a few change our nation.

The Spring 2004 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine commemorated the 50th anniversary of one such ruling, the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision striking down segregation and initiating the modern Civil Rights Movement, with a special 30-page classroom section.

"Our staff did a tremendous job creating an amazing resource for educators," said Jennifer Holladay, acting director of Teaching Tolerance. "It was an ambitious project, and the entire Center staff contributed. It was a total team effort."

Teacher response was positive: "Having taught social studies for 30 years, I can honestly say that the Spring 2004 edition of *Teaching Tolerance* is best single reference for teaching government or civil rights that I have come across," wrote Rex Scott of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Students and teachers weren't the only ones affected by the *Brown* coverage.

"In researching *Brown vs. Board*, I found myself moved time and again by the bravery of individuals and the collective bravery — and vision — of large groups of people who refused to let educational inequality last a moment longer in this nation," said Brian

Willoughby, senior writer and editor for Tolerance.org and author of the teaching section's feature article, "An American Legacy." "Their work is a lesson for us all about the power and possibility of change."

In addition to the usual circulation to 600,000 thousand teachers, thousands of additional copies of the magazine have been requested by community, faith and university leaders. The *Brown vs. Board* resources are also available online.

The Spring 2004 edition of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine was also the debut of a new look for the 12-year-old publication.

Focus group feedback early last year pointed to a need for a different approach to presentation of the magazine's content, as well as an overhaul of the magazine's original cover design. The new cover includes headlines highlighting the major features inside. The magazine also returned to its original, larger size. In addition, seven different typefaces used in the old magazine was pared to two, creating an airy, lighter and easier-to-read publication.

"I listened to our readers and decided design improvements were critical," said Center design director Russell Estes, who did most of the work on the new look. "Judging from the favorable comments we've gotten on the spring issue, we've succeeded."

Curriculum spotlights Vietnamese Americans

Vietnam — a word that evokes so many images: a war, a homeland, an exodus, a past, a foreign place.

Vietnamese American. Not one or the other, but both Vietnamese and American. Two worlds intertwined.

Released in February, a new online curriculum from Teaching Tolerance and the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) is helping teachers nationwide shed light on this unique identity group.

High school teacher Rocky Parker is among thousands of teachers who have accessed "Vietnamese Americans: Lessons in American History" online.

"Your lesson plans on the Vietnamese immigration experience are terrific," wrote Parker. "I used the one on 'Immigration and Refugees' for my AP Human Geography class. The students really liked it!"

First developed by OCAPICA in a print format and published in the Spring 2004 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, the Center wanted to make the curriculum accessible to everyone via its website.

"OCAPICA had developed an expansive resource, but its distri-

bution had been limited mainly to the areas surrounding Orange County, California," said Ashley Day, the Center's website production manager. "By putting the curriculum on our website, the Center had an opportunity to



Vietnamese American curriculum online get this wonderful curriculum to many more people."

And those "many more people" are coming. In just four weeks, more than 6,000 lesson plans were downloaded.

"Your organization has been one of our biggest supporters," said Diep Tran, program officer with OCAPICA. "We are deeply appreciative of the Center's support."

Visit "Vietnamese Americans: Lesson in American History" online at www.teachingtolerance.org/vietnamese.



John Spellman in front of the U.S. Courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama

Innocent man freed after dogged legal work

It took nearly a decade for Center attorneys to prove that police coercion, false testimony and suppressed evidence led to a wrongful murder conviction for John Charles Spellman.

Those years of hard work paid off in January, when the state of Alabama dropped its appeal of a federal court order that freed a man who spent 18 years — over half his life — in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

Spellman was 17 when he was sentenced to life in prison for the 1985 murder of a convenience store clerk in his rural Alabama hometown. His trial, however, was far from fair. Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein was shocked at what she uncovered when going through files from Spellman's original trial.

Faulty evidence led to conviction

"Prosecutors used faulty evidence and perjured testimony to secure a conviction," Brownstein said. "The state's key witness later recanted his testimony and admitted that the police made a secret 'deal' with him in exchange for his testimony against Spellman."

In addition, Brownstein found that key evidence, such as the fact that Spellman's footprint did not match that of the murderer, had not been shared with the defense as mandated by law. Spellman was convicted solely on the basis of circumstantial evidence, which could have been refuted by the physical evidence that was denied to his attorneys.

Brownstein first met the former inmate in 1995 during preparations for a lawsuit to ban the use of chain gangs and hitching posts in Alabama's prisons. While incarcerated, Spellman actively worked to improve the injustices he saw

in the prison system, and he was eager to help with the case. He testified at trial that he had suffered severe pain while chained to a hitching post in the hot sun for several days. The case, *Austin vs. Hopper*, was ultimately successful, ending Alabama's notorious chain gangs and hitching posts.

A companion case, *Hope vs. Pelzer*, went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which held that hitching posts are cruel and unusual punishment banned by the U.S. Constitution.

Inmate helped Center lawsuits

Spellman was involved in other cases concerning the rights of prisoners, including *Spellman vs. Hopper*, a Center suit that secured the First Amendment right of prisoners to receive reading materials while incarcerated.

"I wasn't the typical prisoner. I fought the guards, mentally and physically," Spellman said, citing one instance where he went on a hunger strike for 60 days.

By the time he got involved with the Center, Spellman was focused more on improving prison conditions than on proving his innocence.

"I had given up on getting out," he said. "There're only so many times you can tell people you didn't do it."

But after hearing his story, Brownstein felt she could find a way to help him.

"Rhonda took it upon herself to find the truth," he said.

In 1996, Center attorneys brought a post-conviction appeal on Spellman's behalf, citing the numerous procedural and constitutional violations that Brownstein found had occurred in his original trial. As part of the appeal, the Center sought to

obtain evidence from the crime scene for DNA testing. (Spellman had been convicted before DNA testing was widely available.) But state authorities refused to release evidence for testing.

In September 2001, a U.S. magistrate judge recommended that the Center's *habeas corpus* petition be granted, that DNA testing be allowed, and that Spellman should be released from prison. He found that "the state's conduct in this case, suppressing the evidence, allowing false testimony to go uncorrected, and then arguing that false testimony to the jury borders on prosecutorial misconduct and is 'a corruption of the truth-seeking function of the trial.'"

Spellman was finally able to leave prison in 2002 when a U.S. district court judge affirmed the magistrate's recommendation. But because the state had appealed, he still lived under the threat of having the ruling struck down and being sent back to prison. When the results of the DNA tests came back negative in late 2003, clearing him of involvement in the murder, the state dropped its appeal.

Spellman wasted no time in putting his life back on track. Within 18 months of being released, he had purchased his own home and had become a partner in a successful computer network integration company. He is now married and the father of a three-month-old baby boy.

"While we are proud that our work freed an innocent man in this case, we also recognize that Spellman's situation is only one example of the many injustices that exist in America's criminal justice system," Brownstein said. "How many other innocent people are in prison — even on death row?"

Conference addresses hate studies program

SPOKANE, WASH. — Scholars gathered there March 18-20 for a conference designed to establish the nation's first academic program of hate studies.

Hosted by the Gonzaga Institute for Action Against Hate, the groundbreaking conference was held at Gonzaga University's campus.

The Center was a sponsor of the International Conference to Establish the Field of Hate Studies, and its co-founder and chief legal counsel, Morris Dees, was the keynote speaker at the conference's closing banquet. He offered encouragement and hope to an audience of more than 200. "It is so important that we make this a nation for all our people," he said.

Other conference sponsors were the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Kootenai County (Idaho) Task Force on Race Relations, and the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Center in Canada.

Specialists from a variety of disciplines, including sociology, journalism, law and education, attended the meeting. They provided their expertise in developing curricula for colleges and universities that adopt hate studies programs.

"An academic program is desperately needed to study why hatred has been a



Center co-founder Morris Dees greets guests at a banquet held by the Institute for Action Against Hate at Gonzaga University, where he gave a keynote address. The dinner concluded a three-day conference, co-sponsored by the Center, on hate crime studies.

common human experience," said Ken Stern, a member of the Institute's board and a specialist on anti-Semitism and extremism with the AJC. Stern was the keynote speaker on March 19.

"While various academic disciplines have important things to say about hate, they are all prisoners of their own methodology, and each looks at the phenomenon in frustrating

isolation," Stern said. "Hate, however, doesn't work in such a piecemeal fashion. It impacts all of our lives. It's not just a hate group here, a discriminatory practice there. Hate informs hundreds of wide-ranging concerns, among them how we prepare our children to live in an increasingly diverse nation, how we train our police, and how America will be viewed by friends and foes around the globe.

An interdisciplinary approach is needed."

The Center has used the judicial system to effectively bankrupt organized hate groups, and it developed pioneering tolerance education programs to stem the growth of hate in future generations.

Dees and the Center were appropriate partners for the event, having used legal tactics to fight hate in Gonzaga University's backyard. In 2000, the Center successfully sued the notorious neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, shutting down its compound in northern Idaho. The compound had turned the northwest region into a gathering place for some of the most dangerous white supremacists in the country.

The Gonzaga Institute for Action Against Hate was founded in 1997 with the goal of combating hate through research, education and advocacy. Laurie Wood, senior intelligence analyst and law enforcement training coordinator for the Center's Intelligence Project, serves on the Institute's board and was a member of the conference steering committee.

"The conference was a great first step toward establishing a core curriculum of hate studies," Wood said. "The Center is fortunate to connect with a wide range of experts in this field and to play a role in building a model program at Gonzaga University."



Promoting tolerance education

Center staffers Kelvin Datcher (from right) and Anna Geismar-Bowman helped spread the word about Teaching Tolerance when they displayed an array of its resources at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza, an Hispanic advocacy group, last year in Austin.

Center takes '10 Ways' project to college campuses

(continued from page 1) trators on campuses across the country.

And by March, Wilson had booked campus visits across the country. In February alone, Wilson visited campuses in Alabama, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York.

Wilson is also coordinating a media outreach campaign, including posters, newspaper advertisements and public service announcements for campus radio stations throughout the nation. He is also appearing as a guest on radio and TV programs, discussing campus hate crimes and bias incidents in a variety of locations.

Wilson brings a personal, as well as professional, level of ex-

pertise to his work.

A 2002 graduate of Auburn University in Alabama, he was part of that campus community during and after two incidents involving fraternity members wearing blackface and other racially offensive costumes to Halloween parties.

Armed with those firsthand lessons, and the new guidebook, Wilson hopes to help students and others rise up against hate and intolerance in effective, long-lasting ways.

"Everybody has experienced hate," Wilson said. "However, not everybody knows how to respond to hate."

The new handbook can be found on the Center's website at www.tolerance.org/campus.

Grant helps Louisiana students learn tolerance after racial slurs

LAFAYETTE, LA. — A brawl and racial slurs following a Northside High School football game here shocked the school and its community and served as a call to action for journalism teacher Ellen Bayless.

Students from St. Thomas More, a predominantly white Catholic school on the south side of town, were accused of referring to public Northside High School students as "porch monkeys" and their community as a "welfare recipient's paradise."

A Teaching Tolerance grant enabled Bayless to develop a program on tolerance, racial prejudice and hate crimes to counter the damage the incident caused.

"I want to teach my students how to handle situations ethically, professionally and legally," she said. "Responses they learn from television and their peers are not usually appropriate."

Most students, Bayless said, believed they should have responded to the slurs with some sort of physical assault.

"The emotion from the game resulted in tension on the field, but that does not excuse what happened," said a Northside football player.

To help students deal with incidents like the football game brawl, Bayless conducted workshops on anger management, conflict

resolution and problem solving skills. She encouraged students to submit ideas and problems that could be addressed.

The teenagers used the school newspaper, newsletters and website to publish alternatives to violence. The monthly newsletter described solutions that focus on classroom behaviors, interpersonal relationships and real-life conflicts that students may face.

"I learned to acknowledge

necessary for everyone to show tolerance. They wrote, illustrated and published a related anthology for placement in each elementary and high school.

In sharing her concerns before the Committee to Rebuild Lafayette North, Bayless pointed out that bias exists against Lafayette's north side based on race and economics.

"Students should not be stereotyped because of where they go to school," she said.

She said that committee mem-



With help from a Teaching Tolerance grant, Lafayette teacher Ellen Bayless responded to a racial incident.

bers urged other teachers to apply for a Teaching Tolerance grant and offer racial tolerance training.

Since its inception in 1997, the Teaching Tolerance grants program, with the help of Center supporters, has funded nearly 900 innovative classroom projects for educators across the country.

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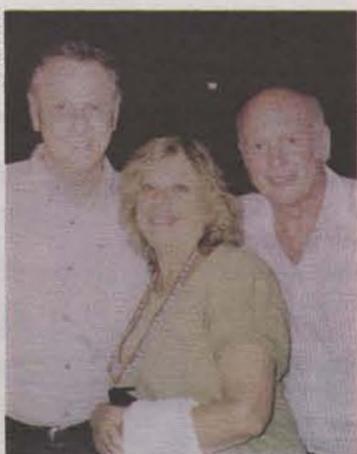
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Musical couple are committed Center supporters

Music has always been central to the lives of Center donors Mike and Corky Hale Stoller. Mike and his songwriting partner, Jerry Leiber, have produced some of the most famous tunes in history, including "Hound Dog," "Jailhouse Rock," "Stand By Me," and "Fools Fall in Love." Corky has performed harp, piano and vocals with celebrities such as Barbara Streisand, Tony Bennett and Billie Holiday.

But the two share more than just a passion for music—they also share a commitment to promoting justice and tolerance, which they have proven over the years through their loyal support of the Center's work. Recently, they chose to distribute a significant sum from the Stoller Family Charitable Lead Annuity Trust to the Center over a period of 20 years, supporting the Center's work to fight discrimination well into the future.

Mike Stoller was exposed mainly to Broadway and classical music in his childhood home, but discovered the sounds of boogie-



Morris Dees (left) and the Stollers

woogie music from African American children at an interracial summer camp he attended. As a teenager, he sought out that music at jazz clubs in Harlem and at Manhattan's famous 52nd Street.

Stoller and Leiber's first hit, "Hound Dog," was originally written for blues singer Big Mama Thornton. As it turned out, the song was made famous by newcomer Elvis Presley. "Hound Dog" ended up topping the charts, turning Elvis into a star and bringing

the sounds of boogie-woogie and the blues into the mainstream.

Stoller and Leiber continued their work, writing several other tunes for Elvis, all of the Coasters' hits, and songs for artists such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Little Richard, the Beach Boys, Barbara Streisand, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Eric Clapton and more. *Smoky Joe's Café: The Songs of Leiber & Stoller* opened on Broadway in 1995 and became the longest-running musical revue in Broadway history.

Mike's wife, Corky Hale Stoller, also boasts an impressive musical history. Considered to be one of the finest jazz harpists in the world, she had her first job at the age of seven, playing piano for the Horace Heidt band. She has played harp with Liberace, piano with Billie Holiday and Mel Torme, and was invited to the White House to perform with Tony Bennett. Since 2000, she has produced a star-studded show, "Corky Hale and Friends: From Tin Pan Alley to Beverly Hills," at

the Beverly Hills Civic Center.

She doesn't just limit herself to musical endeavors. For 17 years, she owned a successful clothing store in Beverly Hills. She also owned Corky's, a popular restaurant in New York City, appeared for three years on a successful TV show in Rome and produced several hit theatrical productions.

For all her successes in the entertainment industry, she is equally proud of her political and charitable work. She introduced to the city of Los Angeles the program Angel Harvest, which picks up leftover food from top restaurants and celebrity events and donates it to various shelters for battered women, indigent seniors

and the working poor. She has also been an avid supporter of the Coalition to Ban Gun Violence and Planned Parenthood.

The Center's work to promote justice and tolerance is important to Corky, who has a long history of supporting civil rights causes. As a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, she was one of the first white students to join the NAACP.

"What drew me to the Center is the fact that Morris Dees put the KKK and many hate groups out of business and that he continues to work hard to fight hate, despite the danger he faces," Corky said. "That is enough to convince me and my husband to support his work forever."

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 February 1, 2003, through February 29, 2004.

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Tuskegee alumnus visits Center

Center research assistant LaDonna Carpenter (left) hosted Dr. Conrad Pope and his wife, Carla, when they visited the Center on March 5. A professor of veterinary pathology at the University of Delaware, Dr. Pope traveled to Alabama to attend the 40th anniversary reunion of his Tuskegee University veterinary school classmates. A Center donor since 1992, Dr. Pope is also a Friend of the Center, making monthly contributions.

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The Center accepts gifts in memory of someone who has died or in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation. Donors may also give a gift just to say "Thank you." The Center will send a card to the person honored or the family of the deceased. Complete this form and mail it with your contribution.

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Idaho town tackles hate with help from Center

MOSCOW, IDAHO — Following recommendations offered in the Center's *Ten Ways to Fight Hate*, citizens here recently provided a textbook example of how a community should respond when hate rears its head.

They were concerned about local minister and religious extremist Doug Wilson,

who is infamous for co-authoring *Southern Slavery, As It Was*, a booklet providing a biblical defense of slavery. It presents slavery as "a relationship based on mutual affection."

Wilson presented his ideas at the University of Idaho during a three-day conference in February.

Concerned by Wilson's presence on campus, the University of Idaho's Office of Diversity and Human Rights worked with a coalition of community groups called EQUALITY and the Latah Human Rights Task Force to develop "A Community Responds," a campaign countering Wilson's rhetoric.

As a part of "A Community Responds," the university sponsored presentations by Tafeni English, outreach coordinator for the Center's Tolerance.org program, and Mark Potok, editor of the Center's *Intelligence Report*.

English visited Moscow in late January, during the city's weeklong celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She conducted workshops based on the Center's publication *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* with local

elected officials, community groups and the University of Idaho.

At Moscow High School, English held a workshop adapted from the Center's Mix It Up program, which challenges students to move outside their comfort zones and cross social boundaries. Students discussed the social boundaries faced in their school and the ways such boundaries create labels, division and misunderstanding.

Dialogue was 'painfully honest'

Many students were eager to take part in the discussion, English said, and some conversations were painfully honest. A student who moved to Moscow from Africa in 2002 had this to say: "When I first started school here, students were constantly saying things to me like, 'How did you learn to dress so well; I thought the people in Africa walked around naked all day.'"

Other students talked about feeling excluded because of their interests or clothing styles.

English said the students weren't the only ones who realized the power of the dialogue that took place during her visit. One teacher told English: "One of my students opened up with you much more than with anyone

before... To see her so willing to speak out in front of her peers was truly amazing."

In February, Potok was the keynote speaker at two forums held at the University of Idaho and Washington State University where he rebutted many of Wilson's ideas. His speech at the University of Idaho took place on the same weekend as Wilson's conference.

Joining Potok in countering the "scholarship" of Wilson and Wilkins were two Idaho history professors, Sean M. Quinlan and William L. Ramsey. The two wrote a rebuttal of Wilson's and

Wilkins' views on slavery entitled "Southern Slavery As It Wasn't: Professional Historians Respond to Neo-Confederate Misinformation." The professors said they did not want Wilson and Wilkins to have the opportunity to "whitewash" Southern history.

Those involved with the "A Community Responds" campaign were pleased with English and Potok's assistance and also with the results of their own efforts.

The campaign gathered more than 800 signatures from local residents for a petition rejecting "anyone who would distort history to assert that slavery was a benevolent institution, and that it is morally acceptable for one human being to own another."



Tafeni English



Intelligence Report editor Mark Potok was forum's keynote speaker.

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Civil Rights Memorial

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IN MEMORIAM

Christine Stagnaro (1953-2003)

Christine Stagnaro, restaurant manager and long-time supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center, died at age 50 on December 13.

Issues of bigotry and prejudice touched her at an early age, and Stagnaro committed herself to fighting all forms of intolerance.

"She always thought that the color of a person's skin shouldn't matter," said her husband, Frank.

Stagnaro moved to San Francisco to work as a chef and later as restaurant manager. She supported a number of political causes, campaigning for candidates willing to take a stand for equality and civil rights for all people.

Stagnaro was an early supporter of the Center. She began donating when she first

about the Center."

In 1999, Stagnaro and her husband made a special trip to Montgomery to visit the organization she supported so passionately. She met Center co-founder Morris Dees and other Center staff members, and visited Civil Rights landmarks, such as Dr. Martin Luther King's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the scene of "Bloody Sunday," when peaceful marchers were attacked by Alabama state troopers.

"As we walked over the bridge, I remember Christine stopped," Frank Stagnaro recalled. "And you could see her fill up with the spirits of the people who had put their lives on the line for a cause she was so passionate about."

Two weeks after returning to California, the couple decided to move to Montgomery to be closer to the Center and the area's civil rights history.

"Christine never lost sight of her mission," Frank Stagnaro said. "She knew a big part of her life was to do what she could to fight against bigotry and racism. Her real legacy starts with people like me, who are more tolerant, more aware, and more active because of her."



Christine Stagnaro

"She wasn't just sending money, though," Frank Stagnaro said. "She was all about making people aware of what the Center was doing. She passed out literature about Teaching Tolerance. She made copies of the *Intelligence Report* articles. Even when she got sick and her life became smaller geographically, she never stopped talking