

# SPLC REPORT



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

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## White supremacists target Jews in new alliance

NEW ORLEANS — Over the Memorial Day weekend, leaders of major hate groups from three countries gathered here and established a dangerous new alliance. Overlooked by the mainstream media, they signed on to a historic plan to work in concert to more effectively infect society with their neo-Nazi, white supremacist beliefs.

The agreement to band together in promoting their hate agenda was reached at an assembly of more than 300 white supremacists. They came together on May 29 to celebrate the recent return of David Duke, one of the most notorious leaders of America's hate movement, who was released from federal prison last month after serving time for fraud.

"The New Orleans Protocol," written by Duke, is a pledge by groups to work together to support the hate movement. It requires groups to aim their hate at their real targets, not at each other, and to advance in unity their vision: a nation for white people.

### Volunteering is tactic

Some of the tactics discussed during a strategy session at the gathering included volunteering as Little League coaches, providing access to impressionable young children, and joining the Red Cross to gain credibility for their ideas.

"The Protocol is nothing more than a smokescreen to legitimize their white supremacy. It's an attempt to unify and sanitize their

efforts to infiltrate the fabric of our society," said Joe Roy, director of the Center's Intelligence Project, which monitored the gathering.

Among those signing the Protocol at the meeting were:

- Duke, former Klansman and now leader of European-American Unity and Rights Organization (EURO);
  - Don Black, a former Klan leader and the creator of Stormfront, the Internet's first and most influential hate website;
  - Willis Carto, a primary architect of the Holocaust denial movement in this country;
  - Kevin Strom and David Pringle of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, the organization whose founder inspired the Oklahoma City bombing;
  - Paul Fromm, head of the Canadian Association of Free Expression, a vehemently anti-immigrant organization.
- attorney Sam G. Dickson of the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC); and John Tyndall, founder of the racist British National Party.

During the meeting, Duke singled out Jews as the source of the world's problems. While there was also much hostility toward minorities, most of conference participants' ire was directed at what they consider to be a worldwide Jewish conspiracy to destroy the white race through immigration and miscegenation.

"Anything that strikes out and

weakens that Jewish supremacist power is good for us," Duke said.

Duke's *Jewish Supremacism*, an excerpt of his autobiography *My Awakening*, reportedly has sold more than 580,000 copies worldwide and is about to be translated into Arabic. It is also available on his website.

### Duke has successful record

Duke has a surprisingly successful tract record, and his influence should not be underestimated. In 1989, he won a seat in the Louisiana legislature. When he ran for the U.S. Senate, he won 607,391 votes, almost 60 percent of the white vote, but not enough to win a primary runoff. In the early 1990s, the annual Dukefests — offering free barbecue and music for Duke supporters — drew more than 10,000 people each year.

Throughout the weekend conference, various leaders of the hate movement railed against the Center and its work to expose their agenda and promote tolerance.



Supporters wave old campaign posters as they welcome neo-Nazi David Duke to a gathering in honor of his recent release from prison. Duke helped organize a new coalition of hate groups at the New Orleans meeting.

## Tolerance work wins honors

ALEXANDRIA, VA. — The Center's achievements in promoting tolerance and respect in the classroom and beyond were recently recognized with prestigious awards.

The Association of Educational Publishers (AEP, formerly EdPress) honored the Center for its college-based anti-bias initiative by giving its publication for higher education, *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus*, the AEP Distinguished Achievement Award in the special publications category. Released in September 2003, more than 50,000 copies have been distributed at no charge to colleges and universities across the nation.

Tolerance.org, the Center's Internet-based project that seeks to awaken all people to the problems of hate and prompt them to action, won the 2004 Webby Award in the activism category when the awards were announced on May 12.

"We Don't Use that Language Anymore," from the Spring 2003 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, was also honored with a Distinguished Achievement Award for its design excellence.

The Distinguished Achievement Award is among the highest honors in the field of educational publishing. Entries are first reviewed by screening judges, with a final judging panel then selecting up to four finalists per category. Judges are chosen from a national pool of educational publishing professionals, including writers, editors, designers, educators, curriculum specialists, product developers and marketing directors.

Hailed as "the online Oscars" by *Time Magazine*, The Webby Awards is the leading international

honor for websites. The awards are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a global organization that includes over 480 members, an intellectually diverse group made up of musicians, Internet leaders, political columnists and CEOs.

"These are exciting honors for not only for the Center, but also for everyone who works tirelessly to raise the consciousness of our society," said Jennifer Smith-Holladay, interim director of the Center's tolerance education programs.

### Center won other awards

The Center has won several Distinguished Achievement Awards in the past for articles, editorials, design, publications and video-and-text kits, including the 2003 Distinguished Achievement Award for its video *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*. Its Tolerance.org also won the Webby in 2002.

In 1995, *Teaching Tolerance* magazine received AEP's top honor, the Golden Lamp Award for Excellence in Educational Journalism.

Accepting the AEP awards on behalf of the Center at the Educational Publishing Summit here on June 8 was Janel Bell, director of marketing and public relations for the Center's tolerance programs.

"Our hope is to teach America's young people to respect and understand one another," she said. "We are humbled that our peers in the educational press have honored our mission — and the high quality of our materials."



### White supremacists protest integration

White supremacists protest the Brown vs. Board Supreme Court decision in a demonstration in Topeka, Kan., on May 15. About 50 protesters rallied near the site of the Monroe School, now a national historic site and museum, which was the subject of the case that desegregated America's public schools. The protest was sponsored by the neo-Nazi group White Revolution, headed by Billy Roper (center), who also organized a rally in front of the Center's office last year.

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include Teaching Tolerance, Tolerance.org and the Intelligence Project. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which celebrates the memory of individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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## MAILBOX

### Resources help teacher confront issues of race

Helen McLeod, who teaches 8th grade social studies at the Durham School of the Arts in Durham, North Carolina, recently wrote this letter to the Center.

I just wanted to let you know how valuable your organization is to me. Since I have been in contact with your group, I have been made aware of resources and materials that highly interest and inspire my students.

Not only have they grown in their attitudes and awareness of the acceptance of differences, but I have also. As a middle-aged, white Southerner, who grew up during the Civil Rights era, I have found your materials profound and instrumental in my own evaluation of my convictions about this time.

I grew up in a home that promoted racism. Your materials and information have aided me in my evaluation and

reflection into my own prejudices. Your organization has provided support for me to deal with those and also assist in the education of my students on how to address and confront those issues. I have made significant changes in my attitude, perceptions and actions.

As adviser to the school newspaper, I have introduced my students to your articles and website. Since the newspaper is a voice of the students, this information has been essential in promoting tolerance and understanding. We have, and will in the future, continue to use your organization as a source for ideas, information and inspiration to fight the injustices around us.



Helen McLeod

I send deep gratitude for the free songbook *I Will Be Your Friend*. I provide mental health services to children in a very needy public school where I see children who are depressed, violent and in need of so much loving care. I used the Guy Davis song one day and taught it to my children in a group session. Suddenly, children who had disclosed violent leanings, suicidal tendencies and racist remarks were now singing, "I will be your friend." I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help in their transformation from a view of no hope to one of openness and possibility.

D. M.  
Riverside, California

As a member of the Sierra Club, I would like to thank Morris Dees for presenting himself as a candidate for the Club's board of directors. I had heard about the attempt by anti-immigration candidates to become board members but did not know their names. (See story on page 3.)

Thanks for providing the needed information; so simple, and so effective. Another reason I support the Center.

K. C.  
San Luis Obispo, California

I am a 15-year-old high school student, and I'm very interested in the Center. As an African American, I just wanted to write you all and say thanks for making good examples for teenagers like me.

E. M.  
Amite, Louisiana

When I got the spring issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, I opened it immediately, not knowing it was *Teaching Tolerance* because the [newly designed] cover grabbed my attention. The art was something I would hang on my wall. It looked like something everyone would want to read — not just a scholastic journal.

L. M.  
Chicago, Illinois

Thanks for your incredible *Tolerance.org* resources. As an educational equity specialist at a state department of education, I always find many useful and timely articles to share with networks working for tolerance, equity and social justice.

L.S.  
Baltimore, Maryland

I recently received your documentary on Rosa Parks [*Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*], and I viewed it with my 9th grade English students. Often, it is difficult to keep their attention for any period of time. However, they were absolutely mesmerized by the power of this film. Thank you so much for this gift. You have made a real impact.

C. D.  
Plaquemine, Louisiana

I just saw a History Channel overview of the Klan with Morris Dees' commentary. You folks do not get enough thanks for the continuing work you do when most people think society has eradicated segregation, racism and various forms of bigotry.

M. C.  
Winnetka, Illinois



### Donor brings grandchildren to Center

Jane Donahue (left) of Macon, Ga., brought her grandchildren, Mandi Mathis, 16, and Akangbe Assongba (right), 14, when she visited the Center in May. Wendy Via (second from right), manager of the Friends of the Center program, took time to greet Donahue, who makes monthly donations as a Center Friend.

### Lawyers' work with Center earns professional awards

Two lawyers with close ties to the Center were recognized this spring with top awards from their respective bar associations. The Louisiana Bar Foundation named David Utter, director of the Center-supported Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL) the 2003 Distinguished Attorney, and the San Diego County Bar Association selected Center board of directors chairman James E. McElroy as its Outstanding Attorney of the Year.

Starting with a staff of four and building to a staff of 16 in just six years, Utter and JJPL have driven Louisiana's debate for juvenile justice reform. He and his staff have defined advocacy in broad terms, utilizing class action litigation in federal court, individual representation on behalf of children in juvenile court, media advocacy, legislative education and grass-roots efforts to raise public awareness and change public policy.

Last year, Utter's work culminated with the passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003, legislation that is nationally recognized as the most progressive and comprehensive juvenile justice legislation to pass any state in years. The Center's legal staff is attempting to replicate his success with their own juvenile justice efforts in Mississippi (See story on page 4).

JJPL opened its doors in New Orleans in January 1998 after the Center awarded it a \$145,000 grant. The Center has continued its financial support of JJPL's work, and its attorneys have collaborated with Utter and his staff on litigation strategies.

Utter is a graduate of Emory University and the University of Florida Law School. He has spent his entire legal career in the pub-

lic interest field, representing indigent individuals throughout the South. In 1993, he helped open the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center to address the predicament of indigent persons facing the death penalty.

Utter received his honor at the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 18th annual Fellows dinner on April 16 in New Orleans.

The San Diego Bar Association recognized Jim McElroy for his service work during its Law Week luncheon on May 7. "One of the things they considered, of course, was my work with the Center," he said.

A graduate of the University of San Diego law school, McElroy has been in practice for 25 years. He was a volunteer member of the Center's legal team that successfully sued White Aryan Resistance leader Tom Metzger for encouraging racist Skinheads to murder an Ethiopian student in Portland in 1988. In 1990, a jury ordered Metzger, his son John, the WAR organization and two of its Skinhead followers to pay

\$12.5 million to the family of Mulugeta Seraw. McElroy has been responsible for seeing that proceeds from Metzger and his group are collected and turned over to Seraw's family.

In 2000, he successfully represented a black Camp Pendleton Marine who was brutally beaten and left a quadriplegic by white supremacists, winning a \$1.2 million settlement agreement for him. He has worked with Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics to protect patients, staff and doctors from violence.

In 1996, McElroy joined the Center's board of directors, and last year he became its chairman.



James McElroy



David Utter

# Anti-immigration candidates rejected in Sierra Club election

SAN FRANCISCO — On April 21, Sierra Club officials announced that club members overwhelmingly rejected anti-immigration candidates in voting for the environmental group's board of directors, a result greatly influenced by Center actions.

Club officials were first alerted to a possible anti-immigration takeover of the Club's board last October when Mark Potok, editor of the Center's *Intelligence Report*, wrote a letter detailing the threat.

The mail-in and Internet balloting, which took place between March 1 and April 21, was the culmination of a long battle between traditional environmentalists and anti-immigration forces inside and outside the Club that were attempting to turn the environmental powerhouse into an anti-immigration group. Club members strongly objected, and the three main anti-immigration candidates — former Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm, Cornell University entomologist David Pimentel and former Congressional Black Caucus Foundation adminis-

trator Frank Morris — were resoundingly defeated.

By margins of about 10-to-1, voters chose a slate endorsed by Groundswell Sierra, a rump group inside the Club that had opposed the anti-immigration takeover attempt. It instead believes that the Club should maintain focus on its longstanding environmental agenda. After a major press campaign by Groundswell, the Center and hundreds of concerned Sierra Club leaders, 171,000 of the Club's approximately 750,000 members voted — the highest levels of voting in the Club's history. The next largest turnout was in 1998 — another year when an anti-immigration effort was on the ballot — when 68,000 Club members voted.

### Center monitors struggle

Intelligence Project staffers have been monitoring anti-immigration attempts to gain control of the Sierra Club for several years. John Tanton, leader of the anti-immigrant hate group The Social Contract Press and architect of the

modern anti-immigration movement, has been strategizing to take over the Club since 1986. This year, several hate groups entered the debate, urging their members to join the Club so that they could vote for the anti-immigration candidates.

The danger to the Sierra Club was considered so serious that Center co-founder Morris Dees also ran for the board, but only so that he could produce a candidate's statement that would go out to all members suggesting that they not vote for Lamm, Pimentel or Morris. Dees specifically asked that members also not vote for him — and they didn't — as his only purpose was to warn of a hostile takeover attempt that was being aided by racist hate groups.

"I'm thrilled," said Robert Cox, a two-time former Club president and a founder of Groundswell Sierra. "Sierra Club members did what they do best. They talked with their neighbors, they e-mailed, they phoned. They have reclaimed their organization. There could be no greater rejection of the anti-immigration agenda than this."

# Longtime activist receives Woman of Courage Award

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Johnnie Carr, an activist who has worked for equal rights for a half-century, was honored March 18 when she received the third Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award.

The award is given annually by the Southern Poverty Law Center and Troy State University Montgomery as part of their Rosa Parks Woman of Courage lecture series, held at the Davis Theater for the Performing Arts.

Carr, 93, is an apt recipient of the award, as she was a close friend of Rosa Parks during the Montgomery Bus Boycott era and encouraged her to join the NAACP. Like hundreds of other black citizens in Montgomery, she and her husband, Arlam, helped in the boycott in every way they could. In addition to attending community meetings each Monday night to bolster enthusiasm for the boycott, she also was an active member of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), the organization created in 1955 to support it. Mrs. Carr has served as MIA president since 1967.

Johnnie Carr has diligently worked to improve Montgomery in a variety of ways. Her son, Arlam Carr Jr., was the plaintiff in a lawsuit brought to desegregate Montgomery schools. She took part in voter registration campaigns and served as a polling official. She has been active in One Montgomery, the Friendly Supper Club and Leadership Montgomery, all lo-



Community activist Johnnie Carr, recipient of this year's Woman of Courage Award, stands beside a commemorative plaque in front of her home.

cal groups seeking to bring black and white citizens together for the common goals that all people share — decent homes, good jobs, proper educations and a future for children that is free of fear and hate.

"Johnnie Carr is all about community, all about self-sacrifice, all about relationships among people," said Center legal counsel Joe Levin as he introduced this year's Woman of Courage. "She shows what one person can do when she knows she is right and needs no reassurance of the justness of her cause."

Previous recipients of the Woman of Courage Award were poet Nikki Giovanni and feminist Gloria Steinem.

## Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

### Vigilante to be retried on assault charge

HEBBRONVILLE, TEXAS — A member of a vigilante border patrol group who is accused of pistol-whipping an undocumented Salvadoran immigrant will be retried July 27. A jury here on June 17 convicted Casey Nethercott of felony gun possession but deadlocked on an assault charge.

Nethercott, a 37-year-old member of Ranch Rescue, could get up to 20 years in prison on the weapons offense.

Nethercott is accused of assaulting Edwin Alfredo Mancia Gonzales, 26, last year while armed Ranch Rescue members were patrolling a ranch near here. Ranch owner Joe Sutton invited the paramilitary group to his property.

Ranch Rescue, Nethercott and Sutton are defendants in a civil lawsuit brought by the Center on behalf of Mancia and a Salvadoran woman who were attacked on the ranch. That case is scheduled for trial later this year.

### White supremacist guilty of solicitation to murder

CHICAGO — On April 26, white supremacist leader Matthew Hale was found guilty of trying to have a federal judge killed. In 1996, Hale restarted the white supremacist World Church of the Creator, one of whose members, Benjamin Smith, went on a murderous shooting spree in 1999 targeting minorities in the Midwest. Hale, 32, was found guilty on four of the five charges against him, the most serious being solicitation of murder.

Prosecutors claimed Hale was furious after U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow ordered him to stop using the name World Church of the Creator for his organization because an Oregon-based multicultural religious group had trademarked it. Prosecutors claimed that Hale asked one of his followers, Anthony Evola, who was Hale's chief of security and an FBI informant, to murder Lefkow. During the trial, jurors heard more than a dozen tapes of Hale using racial slurs, including one in which he joked at Smith's rampage.

Solicitation of murder carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Hale is scheduled for sentencing in August.

### Islamic community seeks FBI help

MIAMI — Incidents of vandalism and threats against South Florida's Islamic community in early May have prompted the FBI to get involved. Altaf Ali, executive director of the Florida Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, asked the FBI to step in after three incidents at Islamic in-

stitutions in Miami-Dade County and Pembroke Pines.

An FBI spokeswoman said the bureau has agreed to investigate.

Over the May 8 weekend, the Masjid Ihsaan mosque in Perrine was broken into and ransacked. Three days later, a swastika and curse words were spray-painted at the Islamic School of Miami. And the next day, a note was found at the Darul Uloom Institute, an Islamic Center in Pembroke Pines. The note read, "Kill them all in the name of Allah."

### Judge Roy Moore speaks at extremist convention

VALLEY FORGE, PA. — Judge Roy Moore, 57, the recently ousted Alabama Supreme Court "Ten Commandments" Chief Justice, was to be featured as keynote speaker at the Constitution Party's national convention, held here June 26. The Party is courting Moore as a presidential candidate. Moore's attorney and friend, Herb Titus, ran for vice president on the Constitution Party (then U.S. Taxpayer Party) ticket in 1996.

The Constitution Party, which was on 41 state ballots in 2000, is an extremist anti-government political party that believes all abortions should be banned, the "homosexual agenda" expunged, all taxes abolished and all immigration ended.

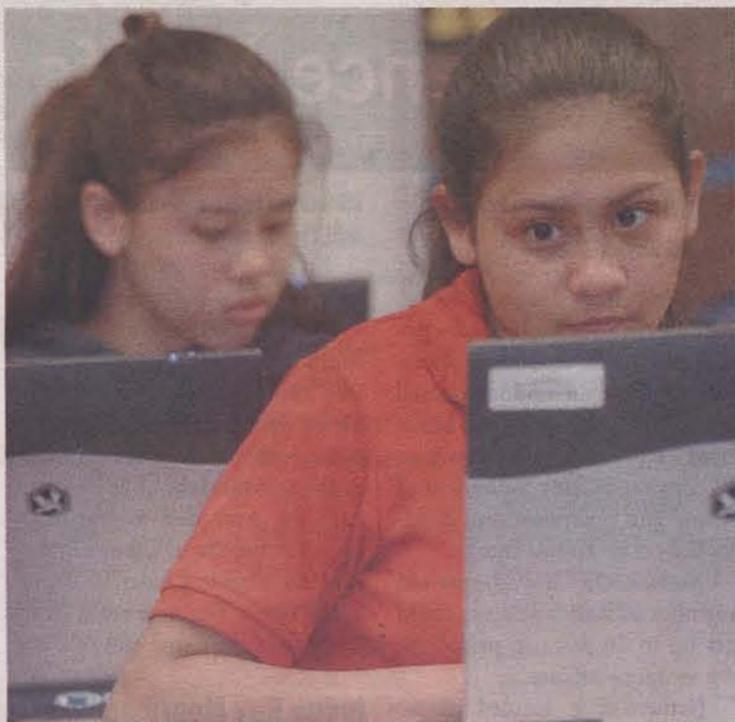
The party also advocates the application of "biblical law," meaning the creation of an essentially theocratic government that follows the Old Testament, something Moore agrees with. In May, Moore spoke to the Missouri chapter of the party, his sixth presentation in a series of speeches he plans to give to state chapters, according to the Constitution Party's website.

### Men arrested in grave desecration

JASPER, TEXAS — On May 10, two white teenagers were charged with criminal mischief for desecrating the grave of James Byrd Jr., the black man dragged to his death from the back of a pickup truck by three white supremacists in 1998. The men took Byrd to a country road, beat him, chained him to their truck by his ankles and dragged him more than two miles. Two of the men received the death penalty, and one was sentenced to life in prison.

Joshua Lee Talley, 19, of Jasper and John Matthew Fowler, 18, of Call, were each charged with one criminal mischief count related to the desecration. Racial slurs and profanities were etched into a steel plate on the vault of Byrd's grave, and his headstone was knocked over. The teens admitted vandalizing Byrd's grave and pushing over stones on the graves of two white people.

KIM CRAFT/GAINESVILLE TIMES



Shari Nguyen Huynh (left) and Marisol Leal work on laptop computers as they document their cultural history. A Teaching Tolerance grant funded the project.

## Grant helps students learn they're more alike than different

GAINESVILLE, GA. — Students at Gainesville Middle School learned as much about themselves as they did their community when they created a book examining local cultural history with the help of a Teaching Tolerance grant.

The book, *Gainesville Voices: Three Roads Converge*, is a collection of student stories, poems, historical perspectives and photographs, along with family recipes and folk tales.

Students in Renee Morris' 8th grade English class produce a publication each year. Morris said the school's diverse racial and ethnic population and the city's rich history sparked her interest in this year's book project, and she sought funding from the Teaching Tolerance grants program to bring her ideas to fruition.

Gainesville Middle School students are 45 percent Latino, 28 percent African American, 23 percent European American and 4 percent Asian American.

"Our goal this year was to celebrate diversity by writing it down and showing that we are all important," Morris said.

### Students recorded untold stories

The project offered students an opportunity to interview family or community members and record untold stories. The Teaching Tolerance grant enabled Morris to purchase film, disposable cameras and notebooks for students to use during interviews.

In conjunction with the 8th-grade Georgia history curriculum, students studied civil rights issues and wrote about the experiences of their family members.

One student shared the story of his grandmother, one of the

first black students to integrate Gainesville Middle School. Two other students wrote retold their family's journey on the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

"Our stories are important," said Morris. "It is something I want my students to record before it is lost."

Shari Nguyen, an 8th grader, understands Morris' concept. "Sometimes people don't cherish things right in front of them," she said.

### Project is teaching tool

Rayanna Jones, the student who suggested to Morris that students should write individual books, sees the project as a teaching tool. "In life, there are always problems. Maybe people in similar situations can learn from it," she said.

Other students have highly praised the publication and its capacity to help them learn new things about each other.

Student Nancy Sanchez views the project as a way to promote unity. "We have to respect the feelings of other people so that we don't make fun of them," she said.

The project has been a group effort with students collaborating on writing and editing their stories.

The students conducted original research, documented family stories and preserved a part of their own culture and history during the process. In doing so, they found a voice that will be heard for years to come.

"We have learned from each other," Morris said. "Perhaps we can learn that, with all our differences, we are still more alike than different."

Since its inception in 1997, Teaching Tolerance has awarded more than 900 grants to educators nationwide.

# Suit seeks court access for imprisoned youth

JACKSON, MISS. — In another action to overhaul Mississippi's brutal juvenile justice system, Center attorneys on April 13 filed a new lawsuit, asking a federal court to order a Mississippi juvenile prison to open its doors to advocates wanting to help its young inmates.

Even after the U. S. Department of Justice found pervasive abuse at both of Mississippi's juvenile facilities, Columbia Training School continued to conceal its illegal and inhumane treatment of children by making it impossible for them to speak with lawyers. This practice effectively denies Columbia's youth any access to courts to protest the conditions of their confinement.

"Because of this unconstitutional policy, staff members at Columbia are free to abuse their young prisoners with no fear of accountability," said Center lawyer Danielle Lipow.

Filing the case was another arrow in the Center's quiver of reform efforts. On the ground in Mississippi since last fall is Center law fellow Sheila Bedi, who is using a variety of strategies to improve the state's juvenile justice system.

"We're representing children in state courts, we're organizing in the grassroots community, and we're working with the state legislature. And with the new lawsuit, we're using the federal courts to seek improvements," she said. "Attacking the state on all fronts is the only way to achieve real reform."

### Center lawyer works with legislators

Largely through Bedi's efforts, the Mississippi House of Representatives on March 17 voted to establish a juvenile justice task force and advisory board. "While the bill failed to pass the Senate before the legislature adjourned this spring, House members are proceeding with fact finding, holding community meetings and issuing recommendations," said Bedi, who is working closely with the legislators.

Bedi joined the Center in October after completing a two-year civil rights fellowship at the Georgetown University Law Center. She graduated *cum*

*laude* from American University's Washington College of Law after earning an undergraduate degree at Michigan State University James Madison College. She is deeply committed to public interest law and has a special passion for prisoners' rights work.

The new class action, *K.L.W. vs. James*, was brought on behalf of a developmentally disabled 14-year old accused of stealing a cell phone. He was adjudicated delinquent after a five-minute hearing in February. During a March visit, his mother was alarmed to see

dark bruises circling her son's neck and wrists. Fearfully, K.L.W. told her that a security guard had choked him, tightly handcuffed him and threatened to increase his sentence if he told anyone.

Recent investigations by the federal government and the Mississippi legislature have shown that K.L.W. is not the only child at risk of harm at Columbia. More than 100 other children share his plight, some as young as 11.

"These are society's most vulnerable kids," said Lipow. "A recent study found

that as many as 85 percent of children incarcerated in Mississippi suffer from a mental disorder, compared to fewer than 20 percent of youth in the general population."

Although only 36 percent of Mississippi's population is black, African Americans account for 80 percent of children incarcerated at Columbia.

Lipow and Bedi are working with the newly established Mississippi Center for Justice and a broad coalition of community groups in their juvenile justice reform efforts. In addition to the new case, Center attorneys and attorneys with the Mississippi Center for Justice are representing children in *Morgan vs. Sproat*, another federal lawsuit seeking comprehensive reforms.

"So far, we've been very successful in creating momentum around the issue of juvenile justice," Bedi said. "Our biggest challenge going into the next legislative session will be transforming that momentum into real action. As long as we keep working hand-in-hand with the community, we have a good chance of doing that."

VALERIE DOWNES



Sheila Bedi



## Grant makes *Brown* play available to students

The chamber of the Alabama Supreme Court was transformed into a stage when a play was performed there in early May to commemorate the 1954 historic Supreme Court decision ordering school desegregation. A Teaching Tolerance grant gave Montgomery, Alabama, students the opportunity to see *Cross That River: Brown vs. Board of Education and the People Who Lived It*, an original production designed to put a "human" face on the dramatic event. Starring as Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP lawyer who successfully argued against segregation, was Tim Wells (center) of South Carolina. All the other actors were local schoolchildren, lawyers and other citizens. Teacher Jane Garrett, one of the playwrights, used resources in the special *Brown vs. Board* issue of Teaching Tolerance magazine in her research for the play.

VALERIE DOWNES

# Mix It Up grant funds rural-urban exchange

**B**ALTIMORE — Shanae Peoples and the rest of her Stadium Middle School class here are crossing state borders in order to break down more difficult cultural ones.

Last spring, Peoples and her class participated in the second

part of an ongoing exchange between her Baltimore classmates and classes from the Orchard School and Vilas Middle School in rural Alstead, New Hampshire. The exchange, which began in 2002, is supported in part by a Mix It Up grant from the Center.

The idea for the interstate exchange, according to Peoples, was to give the New Hampshire students a taste of what life is like in an urban area such as Baltimore.

With the receipt of the Mix It Up grant, the students were indeed able to show their peers

what Baltimore life is like, a life that for the exchange participants included dancing, seafood, weekend home stays, a trip to the National Aquarium and diversity training. All those activities were designed to expose the New Hampshire students to experiences not readily available in New Hampshire.

Even ice-skating, something with which many New England 7th and 8th graders are intimately familiar, came with a twist. For Peoples, skating was less about being on the ice than about hearing “the music and (tasting) the food we like,” she said.

### Project benefits millions

The students who participated in the interstate exchange are just a few of the millions of students who have benefited from the Mix It Up program, which includes a popular Mix It Up Day — set this year for November 16 — the grants program and support of Mix It Up dialogue groups. An estimated 2,500 schools nationwide participated in the first Mix It Up Day in 2002, a number that nearly

tripled to almost 7,000 schools for the second Mix It Up Day a year later in November 2003.

The Center’s Mix It Up program supports student activists who want to take on the challenge of questioning, addressing and crossing social boundaries.

In addition to promoting Mix It Up Day, the Center also distributes grants to fund projects similar to that of the Baltimore-New Hampshire exchange. In 2003, the Center awarded 85 grants for a total of \$21,250. As of this month, 44 grants totaling \$11,000 have been awarded in 2004.

Jennifer Holladay, interim director of the Center’s tolerance programs, said Mix It Up is necessary because despite social gains of the past 50 years “many unspoken rules continue to divide people by color, religion, class, ability, appearance and other factors.”

Holladay said Mix It Up’s success was due in part to generosity of the Center’s donors who “had a direct impact on hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren.”

Additional information about the Mix It Up program can be found at [www.mixitup.org](http://www.mixitup.org).



A grant from the Center’s Mix It Up project helped New Hampshire and Baltimore middle school students understand each others’ culture. Both groups pose in front of Baltimore’s Stadium Middle School.

## Center joins Harvard in school diversity study

**I**n an effort to enhance and expand the effectiveness of the Center’s 13-year-old tolerance education program, the Center recently partnered with Harvard University’s Civil Rights Project in a new research venture.

In late April, the two issued a call for papers to elicit a series of new studies from scholars and educators across the country addressing how to create positive outcomes in interracial classrooms. The research will focus on identifying and understanding the factors necessary to create multiracial schools that meet the needs of children today and in the future.

### Racial diversity increasing

The new study comes at a critical time. Public school enrollment at the beginning of the 21st century is more racially diverse than ever before. Current research shows that white students comprise only 60 percent of that enrollment, compared with 80 percent during the civil rights era of the 1960s and 1970s. In only a few decades, fewer than half the students in our nation’s public schools will be white, a trend that is occurring especially rapidly in the West and the South.

But teachers are often unequipped to be effective in their changing classrooms. According to a National Center for Educa-

tion Statistics survey of teachers in 2000, only 32 percent of those sampled indicated they were very well prepared to teach in diverse setting.

Research shows that teachers who view cultural differences as problems to be remedied will generally not make accurate assessments of children’s strengths and limitations. An attitude that presumes children of color suffer automatic deficits invariably leads teachers to emphasize what students cannot do, rather than what they are capable of doing.

The new study will help school districts understand how to productively address the educational, social and personal issues that occur in schools undergoing racial transformations. Its results will also help the Center develop innovative new programming for classroom teachers.

“For the two decades following the *Brown vs. Board* decision, there was an emphasis on social science research about equity in education,” said Jennifer Holladay, interim director of the Center’s education programs, “That research died off as integration lost much of the public’s focus. The call to papers project we’ve initiated with Harvard is a first step in reinvigorating that field of research — a field that obviously has direct relevance to our programming.”

### Teachers promote tolerance

Mark and Cindy Kleinle (left) of Lockhaven, Pa., confer with Teaching Tolerance curriculum specialist Jeff Sapp while visiting the Center in March. Center donors since 1989, the couple was on a sabbatical from teaching school, traveling through several states to investigate innovative ways to teach tolerance.



## New program provides help to communities fighting hate

**S**tarting this summer, a new Center program aims to equip everyday citizens with resources and knowledge to stand together against hate.

The Ten Ways to Fight Hate Community Grants Program will offer workshops and grants of up to \$2,000 to help communities respond to local hate crimes or hate-group activity.

“It is vital that communities send a message that hate groups and hate activity are not welcome,” said Tafeni English, Center outreach coordinator.

“The workshops and grants available through this new program will help communities find appropriate ways to express their opposition to racism and bigotry.”

The trial program is available to community organizers in all parts of the country, and proposals for grants will be accepted through Sept. 30, 2004.

Communities have long used the Center guidebook *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* as a tool to respond to hate crimes and bias-related incidents. English says the new

program is a logical extension of the guidebook.

“The workshops can be tailored to communities’ specific needs, addressing incidents or problems that communities are facing,” English said. “They will offer communities a voice in combating the activities of hate groups.”

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a coalition of the nation’s leading civil rights groups, is helping promote the pilot Ten Ways grants program on its website and in its weekly newsletter.

TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CENTER FROM MARCH THROUGH MAY 2004

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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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# Center endowment provides future for today's commitments

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

But the Center has long been convinced that the day will come when nonprofit groups will no longer be able to support themselves solely through traditional direct mail programs. That's why, in 1974, the Center began setting aside a certain amount each year to build an endowment. Today the endowment stands at \$128.4 million.

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

organizations like the Center — groups that often touch many more lives than the typical college — have not. As a result, some groups have not been able to sustain themselves and continue their valuable work.

Today, many nonprofit organizations — including the ACLU, the Anti-Defamation League and the Sierra Club — have come to recognize the critical nature of their respective missions. They now understand that the programming commitments they make today will create future financial obligations.

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

And there are many more whose apathy in the face of intolerance allows this hatred to grow.

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

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



## Supporters visit Center

Noah Leavitt (right) and his wife, Helen Kim, meet Center co-founder Joe Levin (center) on an April visit. Leavitt, director of advocacy for the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago, and Kim, who is working on a doctorate degree in social work and sociology, have supported the Center's work since 1994.

# Supporter uses Chicago marathon as fundraising event for Center

CHICAGO — Investment banker Carolyn Kaiser put her financial skills and her athletic ability to work last year, raising over \$5,000 for the Center by encouraging people to sponsor her in the Chicago marathon.

"I'm not afraid to ask for money," Kaiser said. "I asked for donations by sending out e-mails, mailing letters and carrying flyers around with me. If you strike up a conversation about it, people usually get pretty interested."

Kaiser, her brother Kevin Kaiser, and friends Erik Kolacz, David Kroeger and Heather Weiss, formed "Team Tolerance" and decided to run together in the Chicago marathon on October 12, 2003, with the goal of raising awareness and financial support for the Center's work. Though Kaiser was injured and ended up not being able to participate, she continued her fundraising efforts to the end.

"The work that the Center is doing is so important, especially the Teaching Tolerance program. With everything that's going on, from the war in Iraq to the murder of Matthew Shepard, it's really important to get the right messages out to kids. That message will carry forward more if you can reach kids at younger ages," Kaiser said.

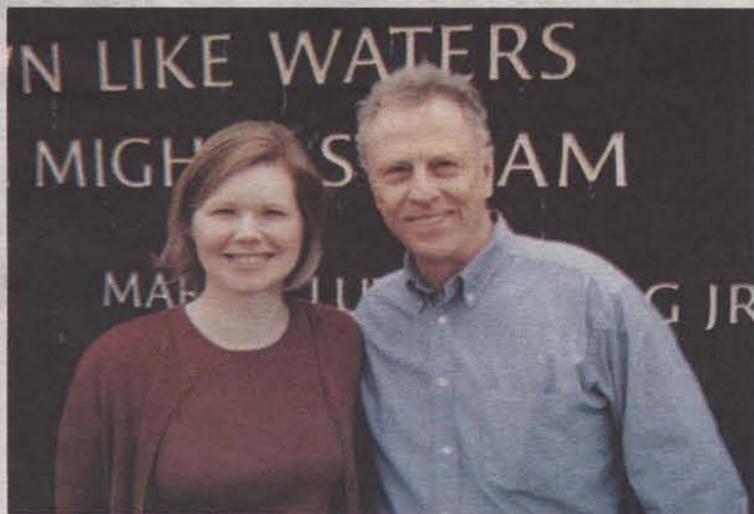
Kaiser has put the ideals of the Teaching Tolerance program to work in her own community by serving as a youth minister at Sacred Heart Church for the past six years. In her work with the teens, she's found the free resources provided by Teaching Tolerance to be especially helpful. "These are minority kids, so they've experienced some of the discrimination that's covered in the Teaching Tolerance material, and they can really relate to it," she said.

Kaiser ran her first two marathons with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training program, which provides participants with coaching for a marathon and asks them to raise money for the

organization in return. When she started to prepare for her third marathon, she decided to put her running and fundraising skills to use for a new cause.

"My inspiration came from an SPLC Report article about someone else who had done a marathon to raise support for the Center," she said. "I was trying to decide what other organization to raise money for, and then here was this newsletter with the answer right in front of me."

After the marathon, Kaiser and her parents, who are also Center donors, had the opportunity to travel to Montgomery, Alabama, to tour the Center's offices and meet Morris Dees. Kaiser was born in Ala-



Carolyn Kaiser poses with Center co-founder Morris Dees by the Civil Rights Memorial. She visited the Center after raising funds for its work.

bama while her father was working as a math professor at Tuskegee University, and the family enjoyed the chance to return to the area.

"I've always felt a strong connection to Alabama because of the Civil Rights Movement and the history there," Kaiser said. "Meeting Morris Dees was an amazing experience because I've read so much about him, and I idolize him and his work."

"Everyone here at the Center is so proud of Carolyn's success and appreciative of her efforts to support our work," said Dees. "She's made a personal commitment to promoting tolerance that has touched, and will continue to touch, many lives."

## Bequests

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

The Center gratefully acknowledges the bequests received from May 1, 2003, through May 31, 2004.

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# Teacher addresses violence using Center's resources

NEW ORLEANS — As a Center supporter and recipient of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, New Orleans elementary school teacher Kim Nance knows the importance of instilling values of tolerance and acceptance into her young students. So when a Vietnamese shop owner in her predominantly black neighborhood was murdered, she was prompted to use her knowledge to help the children understand issues of race and violence.

Several students at Bauduit Elementary knew the victim, and one child was related to the perpetrator, making it even more important to address the incident.

To educate her students on the Vietnamese culture and racial conflict, Nance invited a Vietnamese immigrant to speak to her class. Cyndi Nguyen, an activist among a contingent of community leaders who spoke out about the grocer's murder, shared memories with the students about the day she and her family fled Vietnam after the fall of Saigon 29 years ago. She told them about her family's struggles to make a better life in America, navigating new customs and a new language. And she shared pictures, food and examples of traditional Vietnamese clothing.

Although there was no mention of the murder during Nguyen's visit, Nance said students benefited from the opportunity to learn about people from different lands and cultures.



Center producer Ashley Day (second from right) joins students from New Orleans' Bauduit Elementary School at the Civil Rights Memorial. Day and the students conducted an online chat about how to fight hate and intolerance in their community.

"The kids were mesmerized," Nance said. "I had never seen these kids so attentive."

Nance also spent time teaching about the Center's work to fight hate and promote tolerance — focusing particularly on the Center's 1981 lawsuit against the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who terrorized peaceful Vietnamese fishermen on the Texas coast.

Nance also made contact with Ashley

Day, senior producer for the Center's activist website, Tolerance.org. They set up an online chat room, where the children could ask Day questions about what they can do to fight hate and intolerance in their school and community.

"One of the most rewarding things about working with the Center's tolerance projects is interacting with people in com-

munities across the country who work every day to make the world a better place," Day said. "The kids were just amazing."

Nance and her students met with Day and other Center staff members on May 27. They were able to secure a small grant from the New Orleans chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women to pay for a bus trip to the Center, where they presented staff a Declaration of Tolerance, signed by more than 200 students, teachers and community members.

While at the Center's office, students and staffers listened to songs and worked on activities from the Teaching Tolerance songbook kit, "I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peacemakers." Nance and other teachers from Bauduit Elementary were presented with complete sets of the Center's curriculum kits, including the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*.

Nance has already seen the positive effects of her work.

"Slowly the consciousness is starting to seep in," she said. "If somebody starts to put someone down, they now say 'Is that promoting tolerance?'"

Nance plans to continue the diversity programs when the children return to school in the fall, making tolerance education and conflict resolution as a permanent part of her curriculum.

## Leave a legacy through Partners for the Future

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

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



Civil Rights Memorial

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

### James Parker Lagano (1944-2002)

James Parker Lagano, accountant and ardent supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center since 1993 died at age 59 on March 6, 2002.

Lagano was raised in Culver City, California, where he was a child actor for MGM studios. He appeared in a number of movie and television productions, including *Black Hand* starring Gene Kelly, *Foxes of Harrow* with Maureen O'Hara and Rex Harrison, and *Forever Amber* with Linda Darnell and Cornel Wilde.



James Parker Lagano

After graduating with a degree in accounting from the University of California at Northridge, Lagano entered the Naval Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a naval aviator in 1968. He received an honorable discharge after two years in the service.

Lagano passed the CPA exam in 1975 and later started his own accounting practice in Incline Village, Nevada, where he served on the city's Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club and other community programs.

Lagano enjoyed skiing, riding motorcycles, camping and

running marathons.

Lagano was always interested in civil rights and very diligent in his quest to educate others, said Judy Lagano, his wife of 31 years. In addition to supporting the Center, he always encouraged people around him to be open-minded and strive to understand other opinions and beliefs. Lagano often played "devil's advocate" in order to foster intelligent communication with others, she said.

"As a naval officer, he was not to socialize with

enlisted personnel, which he thought was wrong and often took up their causes," Judy Lagano said. "Jim questioned everything, and if he didn't agree with someone, he let him or her know. He was soft-spoken, and was able to let others know how he thought and why, but in a non-confrontational manner."

Lagano particularly followed the Center's Intelligence Project updates on U.S. militia groups, and was especially concerned about the treatment of Muslims since the September 11 attacks.

He is survived by his wife, Judy, and a daughter, Sarah.