

SPLC REPORT



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

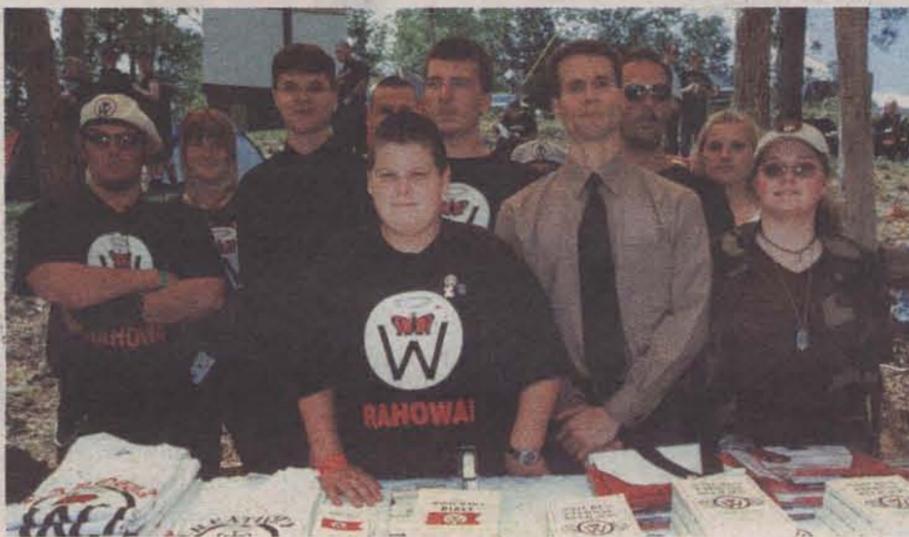
SEPTEMBER 2004
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Hate among youth becomes widespread

More than in generations past, young Americans are being taught to accept differences and embrace diversity. But as the Center's Intelligence Project reported this summer, there's a disturbing counter-trend: Hate activity among kids has probably never been more widespread, or more violent.

Racist graffiti, Confederate flag T-shirts, swastika tattoos and homophobic slurs in high-school hallways are only the tip of the iceberg. While hate crimes by youngsters plummeted during the Clinton years, the number has risen sharply since 9/11 — and the crimes appear to be more brutal than ever. "What we're seeing," says Eric Ward, a long-time observer of extremist youth who works at Chicago's Center for New Community, "is a more militant, street-fighter culture."

The targets of this militancy have multiplied — and so have the perpetrators. After 9/11, a disproportionate number of assaults on Muslim-Americans were committed by teenagers. The same appears to be true for attacks against sexual and gender minorities, Hispanics and the homeless. And hate activity is no longer the province of white boys, though they are still the main offend-



Impressable youth are recruited at rallies and other events, such as this one sponsored by the World Church of the Creator. "Rahowa" stands for "Racial Holy War."

ers. Not only are more Hispanic and African-American kids getting involved in hate, but more girls as well. Social ecologist Ronald Huff, a longtime student of both street and racist youth gangs estimates that "anywhere from a third to 50 percent of gang members are girls."

In another demographic shift, the bulk of hate activity now bubbles up in the suburbs — among reasonably well-off youth. "Twenty years ago, big cities were hotbeds of hate," says Jack Levin, director of Northeastern University's Brudnick Center and co-author of the new book *Why We Hate*.

"But as more and more minority families have moved into suburban areas, the prevalence of hate attacks has also increased there. These kids aren't prepared for people who are different. They see them as a threat. They come home in the afternoon to their empty houses, log onto the Internet, visit hate sites, chat rooms, bulletin boards and get ideas."

A special summer issue of the Center's *Intelligence Report* profiled neo-Nazi outfits like the National Socialist Movement and Aryan Nations, which still work hard to recruit youngsters into the fold. But since much of the new racist activity is springing up from the grassroots, the issue also reported on start-up groups like the Connecticut White Wolves and Agnostic Neo-Nazis, both of which drew their inspiration from Internet hate sites — and ran with it.

"I don't know what's more frightening," says Ward, "kids joining organized hate groups, or the way hate is rising up spontaneously among kids who feel it's OK to terrorize and assault people because of their race or religion or sexual orientation. What does that say about where our society's headed?"

Mix It Up at Lunch program encourages student activism

Students across the country are gearing up for the third annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day, which takes place this year on November 16.

Sponsored by Tolerance.org and Teaching Tolerance in collaboration with Study Circles Resource Center, Mix It Up at Lunch Day encourages students to swap seats in the school cafeteria as an effort to cross social boundaries.

Last year about 2 million students at more than 7,000 schools across the country participated in the event. With an increased focus on youth activism, this year's event is expected to be an even bigger success.

"We want to make Mix It Up at Lunch Day even more of a student-driven youth initiative," said Lecia Brooks, Mix It Up director. "We want youth to see that this is activism, and it can lead them to creating real, sustained change on their school campuses."

In past years, some students' participation in Mix It Up at

Lunch Day has been teacher-driven, as many teachers assign the event as a class activity.

"It's one thing for youth to do this because it's assigned. But when we empower youth to take charge of this activity and really organize it on their own, it's so much more meaningful," Brooks said. "It's important for students to see that they can take charge and take responsibility for their school environments, and that adults can support them."

The Mix It Up project is reaching out to student leaders with some exciting new features on the Mix It Up website. A section titled Youth Activism 101 offers suggestions and guidance for student activists while another section provides links to existing youth activism organizations.

A new artists' space on the Mix

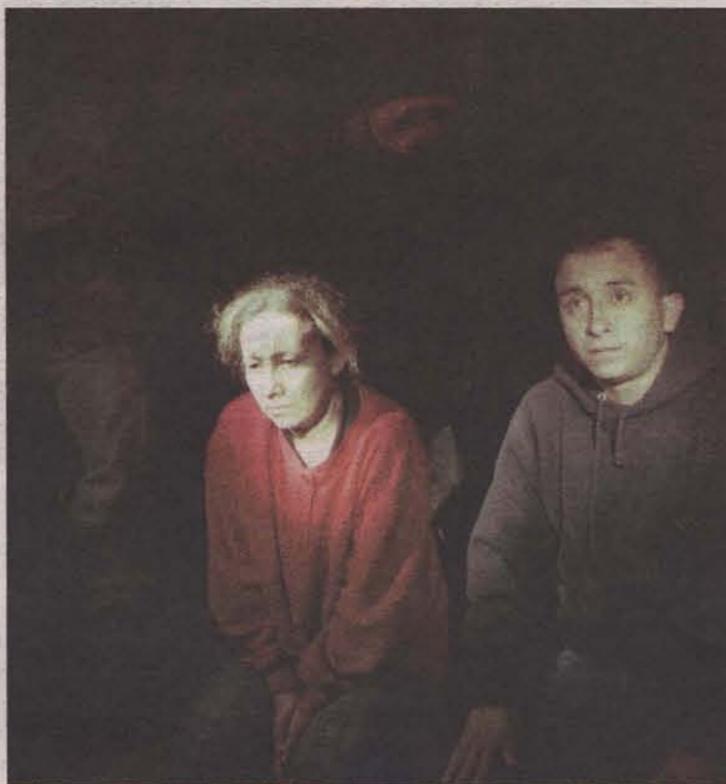
It Up website is planned for 2005, giving youth activists an arena to express their views on social boundaries through poetry and art.

Mix It Up moves outside the lunchroom this year, too, with Mix It Up Dialogue Groups, which help students talk openly and honestly about social boundaries, and Mix It Up Grants, which provide up to \$250 for youth-directed projects aimed at addressing school climate and boundaries.

"We are excited and optimistic about this year's Mix It Up at Lunch Day," said Jennifer Smith-Holladay, interim director of the Center's tolerance education programs. "This event is a great way to get students involved in questioning, challenging and changing the boundaries that define their schools and communities."



Lecia Brooks



CONTRIBUTED

Center wins judgment

Center lawyers on September 2 obtained a \$350,000 judgment for Fatima Leiva (left), who sued the vigilante paramilitary group Ranch Rescue after its members captured and assaulted her and a companion on a Texas ranch. The award was against Casey Nethercott, one of the defendants in the case. In this photo, Leiva and Edwin Mancía, both of El Salvador, kneel on the ground while held captive during the March 2003 incident. The Center filed suit on behalf of the undocumented immigrants, claiming that Ranch Rescue, several of its members and the ranch owner violently assaulted and falsely imprisoned the two Salvadorans. Mancía's case is scheduled for trial in January. (See related Intelligence Brief 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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www.splcenter.org
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MAILBOX

Center lawsuit changes former racist's life

In 1988, several members of a Portland, Ore., Skinhead gang brutally beat and murdered Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw. The three Skinheads involved in the attack all pled guilty to the assault and received lengthy prison sentences.

The case did not end with their conviction, however. In 1990, the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a civil suit against Tom Metzger and his son John, founders of White Aryan Resistance (WAR). In the ensuing trial the Center argued that the Metzgers, who had sent a recruiter to train the Portland Skinheads in WAR's methods, were also responsible for Seraw's murder. The jury agreed, awarding \$12.5 million in damages to Seraw's family. The decision effectively bankrupted WAR and collapsed one of the nation's most powerful neo-Nazi groups.

While the case ended in a positive outcome for Seraw's family, it also had a ripple effect. Bob Seaver, an active participant in Portland's neo-Nazi community at the time of the assault, attended the trial to catch a glimpse of his heroes, the Metzgers. His experience at the trial would change him forever. He recently wrote the following letter to Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees, who argued the Portland case.

I was pleased to receive the Wall of Tolerance information from the Southern Poverty Law Center through the mail. It really struck a nerve when I got it, so much so that I wanted to respond to you personally.

This may sound strange, but as a young man, I became something of a neo-Nazi. My parents had divorced and things were hard at home. In looking back I see how vulnerable and foolish I was getting mixed up in it all. I never joined a group, and I never assaulted anyone. However, over a number of years I adopted a racist, Nazi point of view and associated with some others who did the same. This way of looking at other people and the world was very hateful and in the end, self-destructive.

This all began to change back in 1990. I went to the trial

because I wanted to see Tom and John Metzger in person, as they seemed to be the most visible and successful neo-Nazis at that time, and I agreed with their message.

However, seeing the Metzgers in person and their bullying, inappropriate tactics in court really made me question why I would want to follow people like them, and even worse – that I could turn into the same sort of person one day.

And Mr. Dees, you were brilliant in that trial. You were very articulate, and the things you said about no one in that courtroom being "sludge" (as Tom Metzger put it), that we're

all human beings and deserving of equal value – I remembered that. It really resonated with me. I videotaped your closing argument, and later, when I would sort of backslide into racism again, I would watch it. Your closing reminded me of what was right. It really touched me.

It has taken many years, but I am finally free of racism and neo-Nazism. It took that long to get more life experience, meet other kinds of people, and unlearn the harmful, prejudiced outlooks that can be so appealing to people in trouble like I was.

I had to choose, and what I chose was to take a stand for what

was right – in my own small way, like it says in the literature about justice and the Wall of Tolerance that your organization sent me. I also practice tolerance in my daily life, and I certainly support the work you and the Center do. Something else – deep down, I feel really terrible about once holding such hateful, prejudiced points of view. In supporting the Center and the Wall of Tolerance project, it helps me to make something positive out of something so negative.

My experience is a good example of how the work of your organization can touch people in positive ways, even ways you may have been unaware of. My heart goes out to all of you involved in the Center's work. You are truly making a difference. And thanks for the opportunity to support your work.



Bob Seaver

I've known of the Southern Poverty Law Center for some years, but recently read a couple of books on the Center and specifically the Intelligence Project, and want to express my appreciation for your work. There are many evils in the world, of course, but one of the worst – and certainly one of the most irrational – is bigotry based on skin color, ethnic background, or national origin. I applaud your efforts to redress the wrongs such bigotry creates, and wish you continued success in those efforts.

R.M.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

I am a principal of a primary school in South Africa. I saw your magazine while I was in the states last year. It is fantastic! We have such a need of tolerance material here in this troubled country of ours.

L.R.

South Africa

I want you and your workers to know how proud I am of you and your work for civil rights and against hate groups. I applaud you completely. I love to see someone helping the poor and hated.

M.W.

Gulfport, Mississippi

I subscribe to your e-newsletter, "Hatewatch," and find it an invaluable resource. In addition to serving as a campus minister at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, I teach a

series of interdisciplinary seminars on the concept of evil in America, and I often have my students use your website to research hate groups.

S. C.

Kansas City, Missouri

I love reading your publications and think it is so wonderful that you have so much to offer teachers for free. Tolerance and diversity are vital topics that need to be taught in all schools, and you are making that possible. Thank you so much.

J.P.

Grand Junction, Colorado

I just want to thank and encourage you to keep on telling it like it "really" is despite how insensitive and distant so many of us have become. The struggle for truth, justice, freedom and equality will always continue.

A.L.

Wayne, New Jersey

I have used your resources and have been very grateful for the free quality products. *Us and Them* is crucial for my United States history classes. I have also used the Rosa Parks video [*Mighty Times*] and the Mix It Up resources.

When I taught middle school, the folk literature at the back of the *Teaching Tolerance* magazine was used extensively.

Thank you so much for the work you do.

S. R.

Aurora, Colorado

College outreach program produces positive results

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — When Center outreach associate Brandon Wilson took to the podium to greet the incoming class of African American students at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in August, he offered more than the typical welcome speech. He provided a moment of truth.

"There will be challenges during your tenure at UAB," he said. "Hate crimes and incidents will happen."

Bias is a reality on college campuses across the country, not just at UAB. Every year, more than a million students are the targets of bias-driven slurs or physical assaults. Every day, a hate crime occurs on a college campus.

Outreach includes training

To help students and campus communities prepare for and respond effectively to such challenges, the Center launched a pilot program, the 10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus Outreach Program, during the 2003-2004 school year. The program offered two components — a free guidebook titled *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* and on-site trainings.

During the pilot year, the Center distributed more than 50,000 copies of *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* to members of college communities. In a survey of recipients, 100 percent of re-

spondents said that the handbook raised awareness on their campuses, and 84 percent reported that their campuses were better equipped to deal with bias crimes and incidents having received the guidebook. Further, 21 percent used the recommendations provided in *10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus* to respond to a hate incident at their schools.

In addition to distribution of the publication, the Center provided free anti-hate training on 21 college campuses, home to more than 230,000 college students. In phone interviews, 100 percent of campus organizers said that they would recommend the 10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus trainings to other schools. Outcomes from the trainings included the initiation of a bias response team at Hastings College and the addition of anti-hate materials into the core curriculum at Fort Lewis College. At the University of Alabama, the first African American in the history of the school was named vice president.

"This program has had a clear impact on college communities," said Wilson. "I look forward to continuing its success during the 2004-2005 academic year."

Wilson already has scheduled visits to 11 campuses in the coming school year. To learn more, visit www.tolerance.org/campus/.



Supporters tour Center

Posing with Teaching Tolerance grants administrator Annie Bolling (left) are Center supporters Richard Boyce Jr. and his wife, Shannon, with their son, Collins. Donors since 1997, the couple — both involved with opera in New York City — are members of the Center's Leadership Council and recently signed up to be monthly givers as Friends of the Center. A native of Montgomery, Shannon Boyce had Bolling as her middle school English teacher. The Boyces visited on August 9.

Center report exposes links between hate group, lawmakers

In 1998, an Intelligence Project exposé uncovered the white supremacist views of the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC), a hate group with 15,000 members that routinely denigrated blacks as “genetically inferior,” complained about “Jewish power brokers,” and accused immigrants of turning America into a “slimy brown mass of glop.” The investigation revealed that then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi had spoken to the group five times, once telling its members they “stand for the right principles and the right philosophy.”

Embarrassed conservatives immediately denounced the group. Peggy Noonan, Ronald Reagan's former speechwriter, said that anyone associated with a group like the CCC “doesn't belong in a leadership position in America.” As evidence of widespread association between Southern GOP officeholders and the CCC mounted, Republican National Committee chairman Jim Nicholson took the unusual step of asking party members to resign from the group because of its “racist views.”

Scores of Southern lawmakers have ignored Nicholson's advice to distance themselves from the racist CCC, according to a new Intelligence Project report. Since 2000, no fewer than 38 federal,

state and local elected officials who are still in office today have attended CCC events, most of them giving speeches to local chapters of the hate group. Another 38 former elected officials and candidates for office have addressed CCC chapters during the past four years. Of the current 38 office-holders who've attended CCC events, 26 are state lawmakers — most of them, 23, from Lott's home state of Mississippi.

No lawmakers reprimanded

Though the vast majority of these politicians are Republicans — 23 of the 26 current state lawmakers — the Republican National Committee, so forthright five years ago, now declines to condemn the CCC. But Jim Herring, state Republican chairman for Mississippi, is eager to put some distance between the party and the hate group. Without mentioning the CCC by name, Herring said that the Mississippi GOP would “denounce any group that holds racist views.” No member of either party has been sanctioned or reprimanded for maintaining ties to the Council.

The CCC still wields a big political stick in Mississippi, where it claims some 5,000 members. Such leaders as Mississippi's governor, Haley Barbour, and the presiding

justice of the state Supreme Court, Kay Cobb, have spoken at CCC events. During the 2003 Mississippi gubernatorial campaign, the CCC website ran a photograph of Republican candidate Barbour posing with Council luminaries at the Black Hawk Barbecue, a CCC fundraiser for private school buses.

When the photo caused a stir, Barbour was quick to call the CCC's segregationist views “indefensible.” But he refused to ask that his picture be taken down from the website. It was a matter of principle, Barbour, who went on to win, explained. “Once you start down the slippery slope of saying, ‘That person can't be for me,’ then where do you stop?” he asked. “Old segregationists? Former Ku Klux Klan?”

That politicians would consider consorting with the CCC today is particularly worrying as the group is even more extreme than it was five years ago. This spring, national officer Sam Dickson, an attorney, represented the Council at neo-Nazi David Duke's prison-release party in New Orleans. Along with leaders of America's neo-Nazi and Holocaust-denial movements, Dickson signed Duke's “New Orleans Protocol,” pledging to work with other hate groups to achieve their collective dream of a white America.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

FBI arrests vigilante

DOUGLAS, ARIZ. — Casey Nethercott, a defendant in the Center's lawsuit against the vigilante group Ranch Rescue, was arrested here on September 15 by FBI agents in connection with a tense confrontation with Border Patrol agents at his nearby ranch. He is charged with assaulting a federal officer during an incident that happened there on August 31.

Nethercott was convicted on a federal weapons charge last summer in connection with an assault on two undocumented immigrants on a Texas ranch. Nethercott, 37, is accused of pistol-whipping Edwin Alfredo Mancia Gonzales last year while armed Ranch Rescue members were patrolling a ranch near Hebronville. Ranch owner Joe Sutton invited the paramilitary group to his property.

Ranch Rescue, Nethercott and Sutton are defendants in a civil case brought by the Center on behalf of Mancia and a Salvadoran woman who were attacked on the ranch. The case is set for trial in January. (See related picture on page 1.)



Casey Nethercott

Richard Butler dies

HAYDEN, IDAHO — Richard Girnt Butler, founder of the white supremacist and anti-Semitic Aryan Nations and the Church of Jesus Christ Christian, died September 8 at the age of 86. Long suffering from congestive heart failure, Butler reportedly died peacefully in his sleep at home.

For more than three decades, Butler preached his anti-Semitic and racist ideas from his Aryan Nations compound based near Hayden Lake, Idaho. Members or former members of his group were convicted of numerous violent crimes across the country — from assassination to armed robberies, bombings, counterfeiting and racial assaults.

At the 20-acre compound, where a sign warned “Whites Only,” the principal leaders and terrorists of the racist right gathered annually for the Aryan Nations Congresses. But Butler lost

his 20-acre compound and much of his influence when a jury in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, ruled against him in October 2000 in a lawsuit filed by the Center. Butler and a small group of supporters moved into a house bought by a supporter in nearby Hayden, Idaho.

Latinos indicted in hate crime

LOS ANGELES — Four alleged members of a Latino street gang that waged a campaign of terror against African Americans in Highland Park have been indicted on federal weapons and civil rights charges, including the racially motivated slaying of a black motorist, the U.S. attorney's office announced on August 20.

Prosecutors said the four, who could face the death penalty if convicted, are members of a clique of the Avenues street gang, which has been a fixture on the east side of Los Angeles for 50 years.

All four defendants are accused of taking part in the killing of Kenneth Kurry Wilson, 38, a black man who was gunned down April 18, 1999, while parking his car on a street claimed by the gang.

Radio station hosts neo-Nazis

St. Louis — Local station SWGNU knowingly hosts racist and anti-Semitic programming on a weekly basis. On Fridays, “The Couch Potato,” takes to the airwaves for two hours at St. Louis' WGNU-AM radio station. “Couchie” offers up “family radio for concerned white people.” The Couch Potato's real name is Frank Weltner, and he is a member of the National Alliance, the country's best-organized neo-Nazi organization. Weltner also runs Jew Watch, an anti-Semitic website that carries archives of conspiracy theories about Jews.

WGNU officials know about Weltner's Alliance membership, his Jew Watch site, even the radio show he does for National Vanguard, a branch of the National Alliance, and they know his real name. But general manager Esther Wright says Weltner can say what he likes, “as long as he stays within the guidelines.”

The guidelines are unclear. Another WGNU program host who is the local leader of the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens was “called on the carpet” but not kicked off the air for attacking an antiracist as a “n***** lover” in an e-mail later made public. Wright says that both Weltner and the other host were reprimanded.



Company dedicated to diversity

One of the world's biggest names in sports and leisure apparel, Russell is a corporate leader in its commitment to diversity as a core value. On July 14, members of Russell Corporation's Diversity Leadership Team conducted one of its monthly meetings in the Center's conference room, and its executives met with Center leaders to explore the possibility of working together to promote the Center's Teaching Tolerance program. Pictured are Center president Richard Cohen (center foreground) and Center human resources director Sam Whalum (second from right) with Russell Corp. CEO Jack Ward (right) and other Russell executives Kevin Clayton (from left), Nancy Young and Ed Flowers.



Center intern is 'Point of Light'

Cierra Johnson, a Huntingdon College senior who interns in the Center's Teaching Tolerance program, was selected as the national Volunteer of the Day and the Daily Point of Light for September 13 for her volunteer work promoting tolerance to youth. Johnson competes in the Miss America Scholarship program, using tolerance as her platform. She won the Miss Sylacauga competition and was in the top 10 in this year's Miss Alabama contest. "Cierra is an incredibly talented young woman who believes passionately in the issue of civil rights," said Jennifer Smith-Holladay, interim director of the Center's tolerance programs.

Sick inmates get health care under lawsuit settlement

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — Chronically sick inmates who were routinely denied basic medical attention are now beginning to receive the care they need as a result of a lawsuit settlement agreement with the Alabama Department of Corrections (DOC).

Settlement of the class action, filed by the Center on behalf of seriously ill inmates at St. Clair Correctional facility, requires the DOC to improve nearly all aspects of medical care at the facility. It also forces the state, for the first time, to test and treat inmates at all DOC facilities for Hepatitis C, a deadly disease that severely damages the liver and affects between 16 and 41 percent of the prison population and is curable in many cases.

The settlement in *Baker vs. Campbell* provides for a full-time physician and additional nurses on staff and requires the DOC to develop guidelines for treating hypertension, asthma, HIV and tuberculosis that are reasonably consistent with nationally accepted guidelines for treatment.

"This settlement means that

suffering for some people will finally end," said Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein. "It also means lives will be saved. The inmates who died could have received much better medical care from the Department of Corrections."

Just two days after the suit was filed, the lead plaintiff in the case, Jerry Baker, 63, died in his cell from an untreated breathing problem. Baker, an inmate at the facility for 14 years, lost 40 pounds in the year before his death. This was due in part to the fact that a denture plate he had been given five years ago, and repaired by the prison infirmary with crazy glue, had broken, making eating extremely difficult.

A CT scan on January 30, 2003, revealed that inmate Darrell Mullins' testicular cancer had metastasized into his lymph nodes. But he did not receive chemotherapy until nearly three months later, a delay that likely will cost his life. Since the settlement agreement, he is receiving appropriate and prompt treatment for the cancer, which is now in his abdomen and lower back. He also now receives

medication to alleviate his pain and suffering.

When the lawsuit was filed, plaintiff James Freeman used a colostomy bag to collect his bodily waste. Rather than provide him with a fresh bag on a daily basis, the DOC forced him and the other inmates with colostomies to use the same bag over and over for weeks at a time. They had to wash their bags in the sinks in their cells, without disinfectants or gloves. Because of the settlement agreement, Freeman's colostomy has been surgically reversed.

Another inmate, a hemophiliac, was repeatedly denied necessary blood infusions and blood pressure medication before the lawsuit.

"The inmates at St. Clair were denied essential medical care that they needed, in some cases, to survive," said Brownstein.

An outside physician will monitor St. Clair's compliance with the agreement.

Alabama currently ranks high in the country in inmate death rates and is at the bottom in per-inmate spending on health care. Center attorneys hope that through this and other similar lawsuits the state will extend the medical services guaranteed in the *Baker* settlement to the state's other inmate facilities.



Rhonda Brownstein

Work at Center motivates law students to pursue goals

Ten years after school officials refused to address her concerns that her son was not getting the education he needed, Ridgely Jackson is finally realizing her goal of helping other parents in the same position.

Jackson, one of three legal interns at the Center this summer, can trace her legal career back to a meeting that never happened with her son's school counselors.

"I worked as a legal secretary, possessed only a high school education, was desperate to help my child, but had no idea how to do it," Jackson wrote in her application letter to the Center. With the help of a lawyer at the firm where she worked, Jackson eventually got her son the help he needed. Encouraged by her success, she set out to pursue a career in law.

Jackson is now entering year nine of a 10-year plan that included earning a bachelor's degree at Northwestern University, where she graduated *summa cum laude*, and is now earning her law degree at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Her earlier experience proved valuable this summer in her work with Center attorneys battling a Louisiana school district that has failed to provide at-risk children with appropriate specialized instruction and other services mandated by law.

"I was sad that nothing has happened in 10 years, but I was grateful that the Center has seized upon it as an important issue," said Jackson. "I'm grateful that I could participate and that some-

Palmer, a third-year student at the Seattle University School of Law once spent 10 hours undercover as a female inmate in a county jail as part of a research project. She celebrated her 28th

Palmer said the experience she got working on that case, which involved a man serving 20 years in prison for escaping from a city jail where he was serving a 90-day sentence, as well as other Center cases, helped her realize the possibilities of a public interest law career.

"I've been learning so much, it's really motivating," said Palmer. "I knew I wanted to participate in public interest law, and this job has made me realize that law really is the best way to create change in society."

Needham agreed with Palmer, adding that the trust staff attorneys placed in the summer interns throughout the summer helped build her belief in her ability to practice law.

"We have that confidence now," said Needham, who also wants to pursue a career in public interest and civil rights law.

"This is a place trying to change people's views of others and changing people's lives, especially on behalf of those who aren't in the position to make those changes themselves. I'm glad they're doing it because no one else is," Needham said.

While Jackson, Palmer and Needham spent their summer in Montgomery working directly at the Center, Damien Jackson worked at the Southern Disability Law Center, based in Bay St.



Damien Jackson

Louis, Mississippi, as a legal intern funded by the Center. While the other interns worked on a number of issues during their summer, Jackson focused almost entirely on the same Louisiana school case, doing research for Center lawyers and talking to affected parents.

"I never even imagined that some of the schools could have conditions that are so horrific for their students. We're supposed to strive to have the best public education possible but clearly we have not been doing that," said Jackson.

"I strongly feel this is my calling. I can't see myself sitting in a regular law firm," Jackson added. "I know the only way I can deal with the rigorous hours of a lawyer is by doing something I have a passion for. At the end of the day I know I can make a difference and that the people doing this are not in it for the money, they are in it for the cause."



Ridgely Jackson (from left), Karen Palmer and Abigail Needham

thing might happen as a result."

Joining Jackson in the Montgomery offices of the Center were Karen Palmer and Abigail Needham. Palmer and Needham said their summer experience has reinforced their desire to pursue careers in public interest law.

birthday during her first week at the Center and got a unique gift from Rhonda Brownstein, the Center's legal director.

"It was a letter from a man in prison who was writing about his friend," recalled Palmer. "Rhonda said 'Here, get this innocent guy out of prison.'"



Ride for Justice visits Memorial

Ben Chaney (right), brother of civil rights movement martyr James Earl Chaney, visited the Civil Rights Memorial on June 17 as part of the Freedom Summer 2004 Ride for Justice. Chaney, who heads a New York City-based nonprofit foundation that bears his brother's name, led a busload of youth through the South on a voter registration drive and to advocate for the reopening of his brother's murder investigation. Civil rights workers James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were slain June 21, 1964, by Klansmen in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

Civil rights teaching kit updated and re-issued

One of Teaching Tolerance's most effective and popular curriculum kits, *America's Civil Rights Movement*, has been updated with 10 new lessons plans for an October re-release.



The free teaching kit includes a video, the textbook *Free At Last*, and a teacher's guide.

First published in 1989, *America's Civil Rights Movement* tells the story of the struggle to end official apartheid in the United States. The film included in the kit, *A Time For Justice*, won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject. The kit also includes the book *Free At Last* and a teacher's guide.

More than 100,000 free copies have been distributed to educators across the country. Originally designed for middle school and high school classroom educators, the kit also is used by colleges and universities in numerous courses and orientation programs.

takes the right side. The poems are read from top to bottom with lines at the same level being read together. When it is read, the poem becomes a type of performance art.

Poem honors Rosa Parks

The model poem in the guide, "I Heard It on the Bus One Day," commemorates the day Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. The voice on the left side of the poem is a white bus driver; the voice on the right side is a black woman who witnessed what Rosa Parks did that day. Read together, the voices create a powerful cacophony.

Other lesson plans include a photo-essay project, a matrix that aids students in organizing information, an exercise exploring the concept of non-violence and a guide to "taking it to the streets" where students are encouraged to implement their own social justice campaigns.

The new kit arrives in time for 2005, the year that marks the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks' powerful act of civil disobedience that changed Montgomery, the nation and the world.

Kit's songs inspire hope for better community

Less than two years after the launch of its new music-based curriculum guide "I Will Be Your Friend," Teaching Tolerance has distributed nearly 40,000 of the free kits.

Winner of the 2003 Parents' Choice Silver Honor award, the 128-page activity book is being used in classrooms and community centers, reaching hundreds of thousands of children.

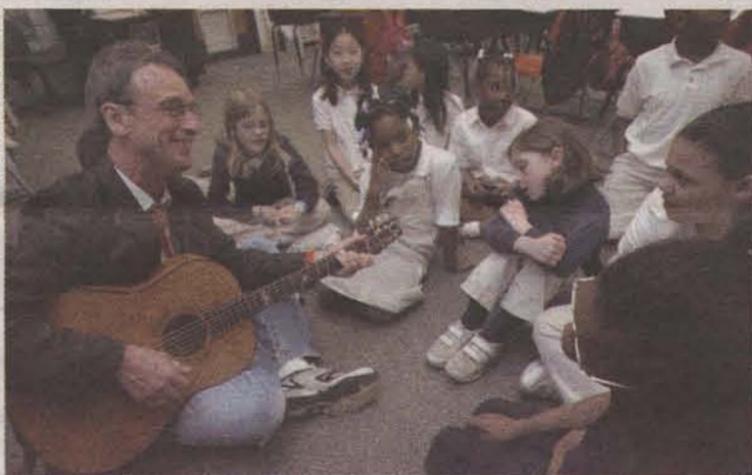
"I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peace Makers" is recommended for 2nd through 5th grades but is being taught from preschool to high school. The kit includes a 26-song CD and an activity book with musical notation for each song, artist and song profiles, classroom activities and resource recommendations.

According to hundreds of evaluations sent to Teaching Tolerance, teachers and students have thoroughly enjoyed learning about community, diversity and tolerance.

A teacher from Turner Falls, Mass., described the kit as an "excellent resource that I used to meet multiple development levels of special needs students."

"What a wonderful packet to teach our students about diversity. Through songs and activities, our future will be a better place," said an educator from Millbrae, Calif.

Another Californian who provides mental health



Tribadour Larry Long leads Minneapolis students in "Something for Me, Something for You," a song about mutual respect that he and J. D. Steele co-wrote for the Center's teaching kit "I Will Be Your Friend."

services to public school children in Riverside wrote about her experience with the songbook and CD: "I see children who are depressed, violent and in need of so much loving care. I taught one of the songs 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."

Producer Larry Long — who has been called "a true American troubadour" by author Studs Terkel — hopes "I Will Be Your Friend" will encourage students, teachers and parents to sing together, laugh together and write music together, building more joyful and peaceful communities in the process.

Songs on the CD represent an eclectic mix of cultures and traditions, echoing Long's commitment to the celebration of multifaceted American stories. Songs such as "Vem kan segla," "Somos El Barco" and "Eh-Un-Lan-Weh-Seh-Un-Lan," an Arabic greeting, teach children that love and friendship come in many different languages.

For more information, visit the website: www.teachingtolerance.org/teach/expand/songbook/.

Guide teaches empowerment

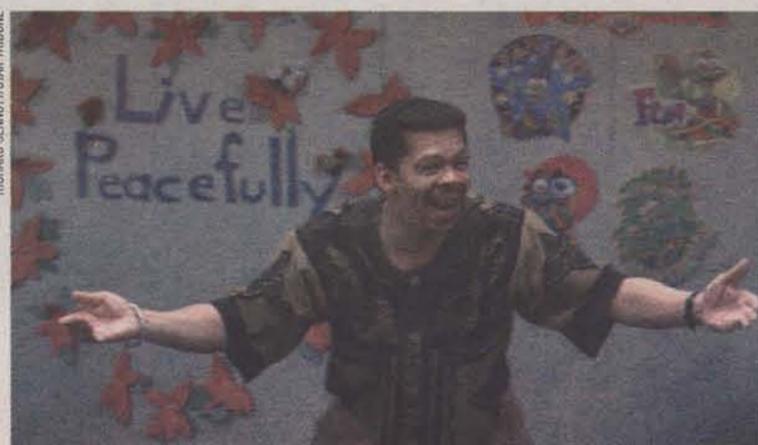
The updated teacher's guide is about empowering the powerless. The guide emphasizes language, both written and spoken, helping students understand the power of words to change the world. It is interdisciplinary and contains lessons for teachers in history, civics and language arts.

One innovative strategy for teachers is called "A Poem in Two Voices." These types of poems are designed to be read by two readers at the same time. One reader takes the left side of the poem, and the other reader



Family reunion draws Center donors

Sam Whalum (left), the Center's director of human resources, greets Center supporters Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jackson of Great Mills, Maryland, on June 17 when they stopped by Montgomery on their way to a family reunion in Atlanta. Jackson is retired from the aerospace company Pratt & Whitney in New Haven, Connecticut. He now teaches contract negotiation and other labor-related courses at the Winpisinger Center in Hollywood, Maryland, where members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers come for classes. The Jacksons have been Center supporters since 1999.



Musician J. D. Steele greets students at Longfellow Magnet School in Minneapolis. He and Larry Long collaborated on songs for "I Will Be Your Friend."

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Friends of the Center provide reliable support of vital work

As a Friend of the Center, Virginia Waller understands the importance of her role in providing a source of steady, dependable income to support the Southern Poverty Law Center's work for tolerance and justice.

A retired educator, Waller has always been an "adamant civil rights person."

Growing up in Oklahoma, she was appalled to hear people use "the n-word." She remained passionate about equality and justice as she worked as a teacher and guidance counselor during the beginnings of integration.

In 1984, Waller and her husband, Howard, moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, a "retirement location that spoke to both our souls." They enjoyed their new home there until they learned of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations compound only 50 miles away.

"I had hoped by now all those haters would have died off. But

they still exist, spreading their poison and fouling up our country," she said.

It was at this time Waller learned about the Center. Impressed by its fight against the same neo-Nazis who were infecting her hometown, she began supporting its work and immediately joined the Friends of the Center, a group of individuals who pledge to give monthly.

Through her regular donations, Waller was able to play a role in fighting the Aryan Nations she so passionately despised. In 1999, the Center sued on behalf of an Idaho mother and her son who were chased and shot at by members of the organization. The Center secured a \$6.3 million judgment against the Aryan Nations, and the hate group lost its Idaho compound. The property has since been turned into a peaceful outdoor laboratory for a local community college.

Virginia Waller's dedication — combined with that of thousands of other Friends — has also helped make possible each video education kit produced by Teaching Tolerance, each informative issue of the Intelligence Project's quarterly *Intelligence Report* and each groundbreaking legal victory for victims of injustice.

"Hate is rampant, and the Southern Poverty Law Center is the only hope I see," Waller said. "I don't see any other group working the way the Center does. And I know it has to maintain its budget year-round, which is why I give each month and encourage all Center donors to do the same.

"As a stroke patient, aware of the uncertainty of life, I count myself blessed for having discovered, supported, and claimed membership in the Friends of the Center. I'm thankful for the opportunities to contribute in my small way to the vital work carried on by the Center," Waller said.

Supporters who wish to join the Friends of the Center can sign up on the Center's website: www.SPLCenter.org/friends/.



Virginia Waller



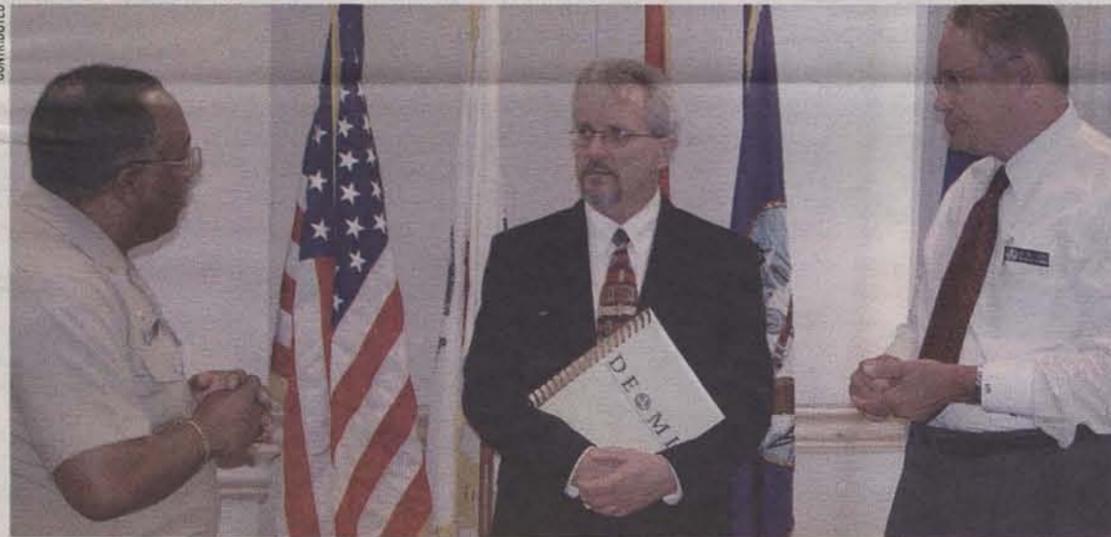
Rabbi pays visit

Rabbi Mark Kaiserman of Dallas got a tour of the Center when he visited in June. He has supported the Center's work since 1994. Hosting his visit was summer intern Emily Jackson, a recent graduate of the University of Alabama.

Bequests

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of supporters who included the Center in their wills and other planned gifts. The Center gratefully acknowledges the bequests received from August 1, 2003, through August 31, 2004.

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Military institute explores Center partnership

Intelligence Project chief investigator Joe Roy (center), at the request of Center donors, visited Patrick Air Force Base in Melbourne, Florida, on August 17 to explore a possible partnership with its Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. He met with Dr. Bill Yates (right), dean of the Institute, and with R. D. Watts (left), the base commandant. The Institute's mission is to enhance leadership and readiness in all five branches of the armed services in relation to equal opportunity, employment opportunity programs and human relations efforts by the military. About 4,000 students from military installations around the world complete the Institute's courses each year. "They address an array of issues, including sexual harassment, sexism, extremism, religious accommodations and anti-Semitism," Roy said.

Museum includes Center in new exhibit

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The work of the Center gets significant recognition in a temporary exhibit at the International Spy Museum here, one of the newest and most popular attractions in the nation's capital.

"The Enemy Within: Terror in America 1776 to Today" provides a historical perspective on Americans terrorized within their own borders. It depicts how the government and public responded, illustrating the evolution of U.S. counterintelligence and homeland security measures and examines the challenge of protecting

the nation without compromising the civil liberties upon which it was founded.

The new exhibit uses the Michael Donald case as an example in its display of "Hate (1865 to present)." It includes a synopsis of the murder of the 19-year-old African American youth and relates how the Center successfully sued the Ku Klux Klan for its role in it. A photo of Morris Dees and Michael's mother, Beulah Mae Donald, standing in front of the house she was able to buy with proceeds from damages awarded to her in the suit, is featured.

The Intelligence Project's 2003 hate group map is also a part of the exhibit, which is drawing capacity crowds at the popular museum. It is prominently displayed in the "Extremism (1992 to present)" section. And the exhibit's concluding component, a short video addressing "Terrorism 1980 to present," contains two separate clips of Morris Dees commenting on threats today.

The exhibit, which opened in May, is scheduled to remain in place through March 2005. There will also be a traveling version next year.

Teaching Tolerance grant helps students respect differences

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — With the help of a grant from Teaching Tolerance, students at Covert Elementary School here learned what it is like to have a disability, and they developed a respect for those who may walk, talk or act differently than they do.

Special education teacher Mary Wood, who designed the project, teaches general education students and those with learning disabilities at Covert. Wood believes that not enough attention has been brought to the many abilities of individuals with disabilities.

"I wanted to teach our students about the people behind the disability," she said. "I wanted them to see how their peers with disabilities have so many strengths."

Wood used the Teaching Tolerance grant to purchase books and videos that focus on disabilities awareness. Throughout the school year students participated in community-building lessons that teach understanding and tolerance of others through cooperative learning. During one lesson, they worked in groups, drawing large pictures of T-shirts on which they listed things they



Patrick DelBello gets some help from a teacher's assistant as he negotiates a wheelchair obstacle course.

have in common. They also created a display for the school's main hallway that shows famous people with disabilities who turned their challenge into success.

Students were encouraged to expand their own comfort zones when dealing with differences and to become more comfortable in



Special education teacher Mary Wood helps student Jack Flatley with a game of charades as she helps her class understand differences.

interacting with each other.

"Students will hopefully treat others more kindly and show consideration and passion for one another," Wood said.

Students learned about a number of different disabilities, including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, dyslexia, arthritis and blindness. In order to experience what it would be like without some of their physical abilities, students

attempted tasks such as putting balls into a bucket without using their hands, buttoning a shirt wearing socks on their hands and walking with their eyes closed.

The yearlong project climaxed with the school's first Different Abilities Week. Events during the week included a program by the Guide Dog Foundation, workshops with the Long Island Children's Museum and an exhibition by a member of the wheelchair basketball team.

"I liked it when the men from the wheelchair basketball team came," said Meaghan Gocinski, a 5th-grader. "I learned that even though they have a disability, they could do a lot of things like I can do."

Brett Blomquist, a former Covert special education student who now plays on a sled hockey team, gave an excellent presentation on the sport. "Students were so impressed and thought he was cool," Wood said.

"Everybody is unique in a different way," added Katie Sorto, a 3rd-grader at the school.

School principal Daren Raymar said the project was a success, and a good fit for the school.

"Our students gained an even greater appreciation for individuals with differences," Raymar said. "Our school focuses on appreciating all individuals, as everyone is unique. The project was a wonderful way to show students that individuals with disabilities are shining stars."

Since its inception, Teaching Tolerance has awarded more than 900 grants — totaling more than \$900,000 — to educators nationwide.

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Civil Rights Memorial

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

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If you are interested in receiving information about wills, charitable gift annuities or other planned giving opportunities available at the Center — with no obligation — please contact the Center's planned giving department toll-free at 1-888-414-7752 or complete and mail the form below. You can also send an e-mail to plannedgiving@splcenter.org.

If you have already included the Center in your will or estate plans, please contact us so we can update our records. We want to welcome you as a Partner for the Future.

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IN MEMORIAM

Karon McCann (1937-2004)

Karon McCann, social activist and ardent supporter of the Center since 2002, died at age 66 on June 12.

McCann believed that racism and bigotry are on the rise — making the Center's work more important than ever, said Patrick McCann, her husband of 45 years.

In addition to financially supporting the Center's work, McCann championed tolerance and understanding to her family and community. When her daughter began teaching in a city with mostly Spanish-speaking students, McCann introduced her to the Center's Teaching Tolerance program.

"Karon was a doer," her husband said. "She liked the Center because it doesn't just talk about problems and theorize about solutions. The Center does something about it."

McCann saw the dramatic effects of racism and intolerance at an early age, when she attended a church with her grandfather. When a black woman entered the building, an usher removed her from her seat. McCann's grandfather followed the woman out the door, but she refused to return. McCann's grandfather's words, "Don't ever forget what you saw here," would stay

with her throughout her life.

This experience contributed to McCann's passion for tolerance and equality. While attending the University of Wisconsin, she joined the NAACP and petitioned for integrated campus housing.

In the mid-1970s, she served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Racial Integration in the San Diego Unified School District, working to achieve integration in the local schools. McCann also was active on the education committee of the Urban League.

Most recently, McCann worked with unwed teenage parents with the San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program. She also taught religious education at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego.

McCann also expressed her deeply held values through poetry.

McCann is survived by her husband, Patrick; her daughters, Leslie Jean and Lynn Carswell; a son, Michael, six grandchildren and a step-grandson.

The family requested donations be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center in her memory.

CONTRIBUTED



Karon McCann