

SPIC REPORT

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PROMOTING TOLERANCE · MONITORING HATE · SEEKING JUSTICE

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Tolerance work garners prestigious awards

SAN FRANCISCO — The Center's newest Tolerance project, a Web initiative that seeks to awaken all people to the problems of hate and prompt them to action, recently won a 2002 Webby Award in the activism category. Tolerance.org bested four other finalists for the prestigious honor. The Sixth Annual Webby Awards, the leading international honor for Web sites, were presented here June 18.

The Webby Awards is a year-round effort measuring the best of the World Wide Web in 30 categories. Evaluated against six criteria, nominated sites undergo a rigorous six-month, three-tiered process to win the top prize, often called the "Oscars of the Web."

Just over a year old, Tolerance.org was in good company — other winners this year included powerhouses like the

British Broadcasting Company, *The Washington Post*, the Library of Congress and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Picking up the Webby Award for the Center was Tolerance.org producer Ashley Day. Winners' acceptance speeches — per custom — were again limited to five words or less. "Examine your hidden bias!" Day said when she received the award onstage at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. One of the Web site's most popular features is its hidden-bias tests, developed by scientists at Yale University and the University of Washington to measure unconscious prejudices.

The Center's work to promote tolerance was also recently honored in other arenas.

The high quality of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine was recognized by the

Association of Educational Publishers (EdPress) when it chose selections from several issues for finalist status for Distinguished Achievement Award. Since 1895, EdPress — the national, nonprofit organization for educational publishers — has fostered excellence through professional development and recognition programs. Presented June 5 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., its top award in the periodical illustration category went to the Center's design department for "Rock the Cradle," an article in the Spring 2001 issue of *Teaching Tolerance*. The magazine was a finalist in two other categories, and the Teaching Tolerance Web site, www.teachingtolerance.org, was a finalist in computer-based educational portals.

EdPress honorees set the standard

EdPress has honored the best in supplemental educational publishing for 39 years. Those nominated for its Distinguished Achievement Award set the industry standard to which others aspire. All entries, received from companies and organizations nationwide, first go through a demanding screening process. From these entries, a final judging panel may pick up to four finalists

per category. Judging panels are drawn from a national pool of writing, publishing and design experts in print and technology; education writers; educators; and curriculum experts.

Joe Hawkins of Bethesda, Maryland, a former Teaching Tolerance research fellow and current member of the Teaching Tolerance Advisory Council, represented the Center at the EdPress awards ceremony.

"Rock the Cradle," which describes schools and programs that provide a nurturing environment for teen parents, also won the 2002 Unity Award in Media. Lincoln University of Missouri gives the honor for excellent media coverage on issues affecting minorities and disabled persons.

In an effort to expand the scope of the Center's tolerance education projects, the Center launched Tolerance.org in April 2001. The site was named a Computerworld Honors Laureate for its visionary use of information technology on April 7.

"It is a great honor for Tolerance.org to be selected as best activist Web site," said Jennifer Holladay, director of the project. "We hope this recognition will help raise awareness — not only about our site, but also about the issues of hate and intolerance throughout the country."



Tolerance.org producer Ashley Day accepts the Webby Award for the Center.

Center seeks lawyers for incarcerated children

SPOKANE, WASH. — Dreams of a better life in America quickly turn into nightmares for thousands of immigrant children thrown into American jails and prisons each year. Alone, often unable to speak English, and sometimes warehoused with convicted criminals, they remain at the mercy of a government bureaucracy and complex immigration code.

Yet these children, many fleeing from poverty, prostitution, child smugglers, or other human rights abuses, are expected to plead their own cases for asylum when they go before the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) for a hearing, said Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein.

"Instead of offering them help, we throw them in jail until we can send them back to where they came from," she said. "Meanwhile, we pit them against a trained immigration lawyer and expect them to overcome legal and language barriers on their own. We should do better than this to protect defenseless children."

The denial of legal representation to indigent immigrant children is unconstitutional because it violates their Fifth Amendment right to due process, Brownstein said.

In February, the Center joined with lawyers from Columbia Legal Services and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and filed a groundbreaking lawsuit against the INS for refusing to provide court-appointed attorneys to represent indigent immigrant children in deportation proceedings. The named plaintiff (continued on pg. 7)



Refurbished Memorial draws visitors

Center co-founder Morris Dees poses with a class of elementary school students at the recently refurbished Civil Rights Memorial. For two weeks in April, the water that flows constantly over the black granite wall and table was turned off while workers replaced caulking in the wall and repainted lettering, on both the wall and the table. Designed by Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the monument honors martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement. It was dedicated in 1989.

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

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MAILBOX

Center helps supporter 'water garden' of change

Center donor Linda Taylor spent her youth in the state of New York. She now lives in San Jose, California. "I want my grandchildren to grow up in a country that respects all people," she said when she sent her comments, which are reprinted below.

I have been a Center supporter for some time now, and I feel very privileged to belong to an organization that actively wants to make change in the world.

The ideals of freedom and equality in the 1960s were taking the country in the right direction. But so many of us didn't do anything to keep these changes going. I assumed that they were just happening all by themselves.

I am a white, middle-class woman, and I was not faced with much discrimination, except for being a woman. I didn't face hate and violence the way others did. It wasn't until the late '80s that I realized that hate and repression still existed. I began to ask

people how they were treated by others, and I was saddened by what I would hear.

The seeds of change were planted in the '50s and '60s, but there were few who watered the garden. Hate was the weeds trying to choke off growth toward change. Ignorance

fueled this hate. I began to actively reach out and touch people who were being unjustly treated. My mission was to let people know that hate is not OK.

My efforts were small until I joined your organization. I am proud to share your literature and spread the works of Morris Dees and all the people at the Center. Thank you, and keep up the great work.



Linda Taylor and her granddaughter, Kaila

Thank you for the packet with information on your new Internet hate crime training course [see related story on page 4]. Yes, of course I wish to play a role in this project and am enclosing my check to help underwrite individual scholarships. I can't think of a more important course for police officers than what you are doing for them on the Internet. Hate crimes are a global problem, and we must find a way to respect each other and live in peace together. You have been a leader in this effort.

L. R.
Burbank, California

Every year, I renew my contribution to your organization proudly. I believe that the Center's work makes the world a better place, and I try my best to live a life free of bias — always open to learning about others. One thing I particularly enjoy is using the address labels that the Center sometimes sends me. They prompt people to ask me about the Teaching Tolerance program, and this gives me an opportunity to tell them about the work that you do.

H. P.
Lansing, Michigan

I have been following your work for many years, since I was in the 5th or 6th grade. I think what you do is absolutely wonderful. The 1950s and '60s may be long over, but I am well aware that racism, homophobia, etc., are still alive and well. It makes me sad and angry that we still

seemingly haven't learned much about tolerance in this country. I am especially sad to see the intolerance that has resulted from Sept. 11.

Your work is a bright beacon in a still dark night. You are all very courageous to do what you do.

L. S.
Marion, Iowa

I am a former teacher and a member of the National Council of Jewish Women. We are presenting the topic of teaching tolerance to our members and the larger community. I am very, very impressed with your organization and the unbelievable strides you have made in combating hate and injustice.

L. S.
West Bloomfield, Minnesota

The *Intelligence Report* is so full of information. I think I have read it cover to cover, which I never seem to have time to do with other periodicals. With our country at war with terrorism, I find the articles especially interesting and informational in helping me to sort out who and what is going on. This kind of information is not found in the mainstream media. More than anything, it has helped me to have information to combat the suspicion and hate that has resulted from 9/11.

Thank you so much for a great publication. You have motivated me to want to help more — and I will.

R. M.
Fairbanks, Alaska



Longtime donor visits Center

Julie Miller (right) of Salt Lake City and her friend Jan Harvey visited the Center on April 17 on their way to the NCAA gymnastic finals, held this year in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Center president Joe Levin welcomed them. Miller has made monthly contributions to the Center's work since 1987. "Last year, I was able to meet Mr. [Morris] Dees when he spoke at the University of Utah. I am so excited to finally see the Center and the Civil Rights Memorial," she said. "Keep up the great work."

Poet is first recipient of Rosa Parks award

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Nikki Giovanni, an internationally renowned poet and activist, received the inaugural Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award here on March 22.

Given by Troy State University Montgomery (TSUM), which houses the Rosa Parks Museum, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, the award went to Giovanni for her words, vision, courage, voice, her artistry, commitment to change, inspiration to others, and her distinguished career as a writer, teacher and leader.

"For almost 40 years, Ms. Giovanni has addressed the human condition, including issues of oppression and hope," said Center president Joe Levin in introductory remarks. "She has been characterized as a person whose focus is on the individual, believing that one can make a difference in oneself and, thus, in the lives of others."

A packed theater audience was spellbound by Giovanni's free-flowing comments following the award presentation. The petite poet read from some of her works and wowed the crowd with her brilliant verbal riffs, effervescent energy and lyrical eloquence.

The event was the first of the TSUM Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Lecture Series that the Center is sponsoring for five years. TSUM selected Giovanni from a list, compiled by the Center and TSUM, of outstanding women who have marked our culture with their bravery

and integrity. Giovanni is Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. She is also the recipient of the Langston Hughes Award, two



Center president Joe Levin seeks Nikki Giovanni's autograph at a reception in her honor.

NAACP Image Awards and the Virginia Governor's Award for the Arts 2000. Several magazines have named her Woman of the Year.

Rosa Parks co-chairs with Center co-founder Morris Dees the Center's National Campaign for Tolerance, a long-term initiative that seeks to mobilize Center supporters and others into a community of activists. One of the first efforts of the Campaign was the production of *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, a new video-and-viewer's-guide education kit about Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott that will be distributed by Teaching Tolerance to schools across the nation this fall.

Giovanni's forthcoming book of poetry, *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*, due out in November, includes a prose poem honoring Rosa Parks.

Effort to curb immigration is tainted with bigotry

A four-month investigation by the Center's *Intelligence Report*, conducted in the aftermath of the September terrorist attacks, found that the organized anti-immigration movement — a movement that has recently become closely allied with hate groups — is nothing more than a mirage with far fewer members than claimed and only a handful of financial backers. In fact, the vast majority of American anti-immigration groups — more than a dozen in all — were either formed, led, or in other ways made possible through the efforts of just one man, Michigan ophthalmologist John H. Tanton.

Even so, the fact that the movement is an empty shell in terms of members has not hurt its reception on Capitol Hill, where Tanton-linked groups are increasingly able to affect Congressional decision-making.

Tanton has history of bigoted comments

Tanton has a history of making bigoted comments about Hispanics. In 1988, private memos written by Tanton became public. They were replete with derogatory references to Latinos, reflecting a kind of entrenched bigotry that had only been suspected before. They complained mightily of the high Hispanic birth rate, suggested that Latin American immigrants would bring political corruption to the United States, and included a punch-line that depicted Hispanics as hyperactive breeders and revolted many readers: "[P]erhaps this is the first instance in which those with their pants up are going to get caught by those with their pants down."

As Tanton's network of anti-immigration groups are courting increasing numbers of national politicians in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the *Report's* investigation also revealed that they are moving in large numbers into the arms of hate groups like the Council of Conservative Citizens — a 15,000-member organization whose Web site recently described blacks as "a retrograde species of humanity." In fact, many anti-immigration groups have been growing harder-line since 1998, when they first began working together openly with white supremacists. Today, many of their leading officials have joined racist organizations.

And now they are attempting to influence Congress. A February lobbying trip sponsored by NumbersUSA, a project of Tanton's U.S. Inc., featured a morning meeting with U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R.-Colo.), the harshest immigration critic in Congress and head of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus.

During the meeting, Tancredo warned of a global plot to erode American sovereignty. Reenergized by Tancredo's words and the September 11 attacks that boosted xenophobic fears among Americans, the activists went on to lobby a large number of both congressmen and senators.

Just after the event, the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens boasted in its newsletter about how its "members were welcomed ... and made a number of stops" during the lobbying trip. Both congressmen and senators were offered copies of the Council's *Citizens Informer*, the group's newspaper reported. Several of the anti-immigration activists who participated in the lobbying event later claimed that the Tancredo caucus had grown in size specifically because of their lobbying efforts — the caucus had just 10 members prior to the terrorist strikes, but had reached a total of 59 by May.

Racist right propaganda is threat

There is a real threat that members of Congress — many of whom are rushing to become involved in immigration issues in the wake of the September 11 attacks — may be taken in by the propagandists of the racist right. Opinion polls consistently show that a majority of Americans believe that immigration needs to be cut below current levels, although that does not imply that they support the ideas of white supremacists or other bigots. Certainly, the lobbyists who visited in February were taken seriously by many of those they visited — today, the Web page of Tancredo's Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus carries links to the pages of a whole array of Tanton-associated groups and the hate group American Patrol.

The danger is not that immigration levels are debated by Americans, but that the debate is controlled by bigots and extremists whose views are an anathema to this country's ideals.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

'Patriot' movement continues its decline

EIGHT YEARS AFTER IT BEGAN, the Patriot movement — characterized by armed militias, wild conspiracy theories, a hatred of the federal government and government regulation, an overarching love for guns, and an occasionally strong dose of racism — is less than a fifth the size that it was at its peak, in 1996. Battered by arrests, defections, and promises of a revolution that never seems to materialize, the movement today seems nearly moribund.

In its annual count, the Center's Intelligence Project identified just 158 antigovernment Patriot groups that were active in 2001. That is down 19 percent from the year before, when there were 194 such groups, and the fifth consecutive decline since the movement peaked with 858 groups in 1996. And even the current numbers seem to overstate Patriot activity, which for several years has been anemic at best.

At the same time that the number of groups fell, the number of Patriot Web sites went up, from 155 in 2000 to 175 in 2001. But that may have reflected a retreat to cyberspace rather than an increase in propaganda efforts. For one thing, fewer sites were connected to actual groups in 2001 than in 2000 (75, as opposed to 85), despite the fact that there were more sites overall in the later year. What's more, the longer-term trend has been one of steady decline: There were 263 Patriot Web sites in 1999, which is still significantly more than the number recorded in 2001.

Music manufacturer boots Resistance Records

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. — A major entertainment company responsible for manufacturing thousands of racist products sold by Resistance Records — the white power label owned by the neo-Nazi National Alliance — has dropped the client after being questioned by the Center's *Intelligence Report*.

Rainbo Records presses compact discs for artists ranging from Lawrence Welk to Elvis Presley to Madonna. Its past clients have included corporate giants like Disney. Since at least 1999, Rainbo has also replicated CDs filled with white power. Most recently, Rainbo shipped thousands of copies of Resistance's grotesque "Ethnic Cleansing" video game.

Steve Sheldon, Rainbo's general manager, told the *Intelligence Report* that he had not known the nature of Resistance Records. "They are no longer a client," he said after being told that America's premier neo-Nazi group runs and is largely funded by Resistance's CD sales. "We are gathering all of their components and are going to return them."

Leader of black separatist sect arrested in raid

EATONTON, GA. — A LONG-simmering conflict between government officials and an Egyptian-styled black separatist sect came to a head when authorities arrested its leading figure on May 8.

Dwight York, the 56-year-old leader of the United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors, was charged with three counts of knowingly transporting children with the intent of having the minors engage in sexual activity. York's longtime associate, Kathy Johnson, faces a similar charge. On conviction, each felony count could result in a maximum of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

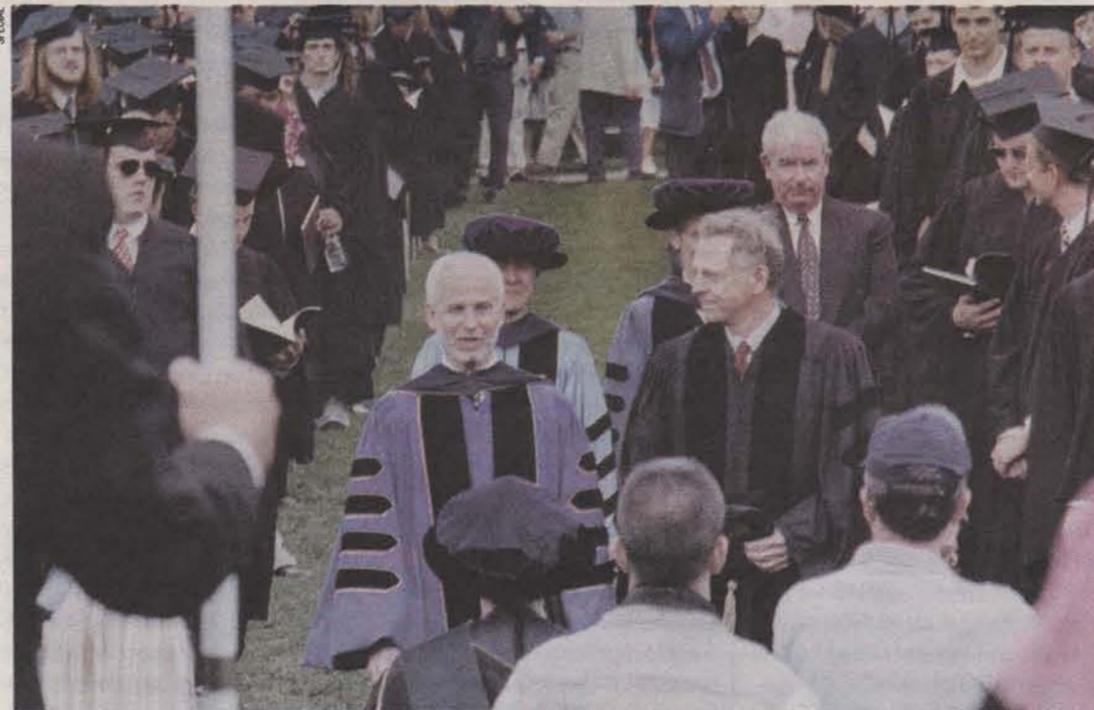
York's group has been in Putnam County, Georgia, since 1993.

National Alliance holds rally in nation's capital

WASHINGTON, D.C. — ABOUT 250 neo-Nazis and white separatists rallied outside the Israeli Embassy on May 11, exchanging angry rhetoric with about 150 counter-demonstrators across the street. Police officers and Secret Service agents — many in riot gear — were needed to keep the two groups separated.

The white supremacists, from states including Ohio, Florida and Georgia, gathered outside the embassy in northwest Washington to protest U.S. support for Israel. Amid "Sieg Heil" chants and stiff-armed salutes, the white supremacists also voiced support for Palestinians, waving Palestinian flags and chanting, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want your Jewish state."

The white supremacist rally was sponsored by the neo-Nazi National Alliance, headed by Dr. William Pierce and based in West Virginia. The rally brought together members from several white supremacist groups, such as the World Church of the Creator and Skinhead organizations, for one of the largest rallies ever staged by the National Alliance in terms of attendees.



Dees is commencement speaker

Williams College president Morton Shapiro (left) escorts Center co-founder Morris Dees during graduation ceremonies at the college on June 2. During a four-week period, Dees delivered the commencement address at Williams and three other prestigious colleges — Penn State University, Berea College and Santa Clara University. Each school also awarded him an honorary degree. Over the years, Dees has received at least 25 such honors. "The recognition goes not only to me, personally, but to all the people at the Southern Poverty Law Center who make our work possible," he said.

Mentally ill inmates get help after Center secures settlement

A settlement agreement secured by Center attorneys two years ago has brought stark improvements in the health care that Alabama's mentally ill prison inmates receive.

Before the far-reaching agreement, inmates like Tommy Bradley, a paranoid schizophrenic who suffers from delusions and hallucinations, were simply warehoused — banished to isolation cells for 22 hours a day and offered little or no treatment, therapy, or counseling. Since the agreement, Bradley and others like him are receiving mental health services and are allowed to interact with other inmates outside of their cells for up to 18 hours a day.

"Things are not perfect for Alabama's seriously mentally ill inmates, but they are far, far better since the implementation of the settlement agreement," said Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein. "The state has greatly improved staffing levels of all mental health professionals, from psychiatric nurses to social workers to psychiatrists."

The Department of Corrections has also begun to offer many more activities, programs, counseling, and therapy for inmates and has opened a new 80-bed residential mental health unit.

The agreement in *Bradley vs. Haley* ended many years of contentious litigation.

"It took a long time — more than eight years of litigation — to get the Department of Correc-

tions to do the right thing for these inmates, but they seem to be on track now," Brownstein said. In Alabama, about 2,000 of its 26,000 inmates are mentally ill.

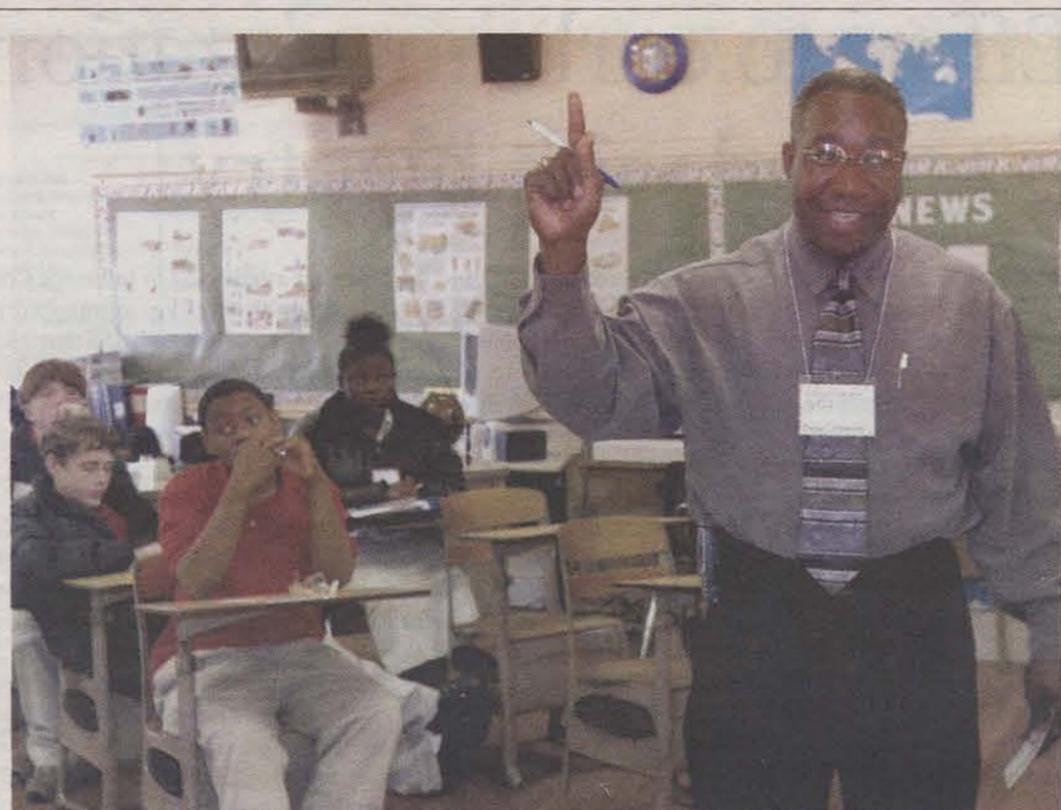
Mental health experts hired by the Center described conditions before the settlement as "horrific" and "primitive."

Conditions were 'primitive'

"Inmates with serious mental illness were locked-down under primitive conditions, and if thought suicidal, stripped and made to sleep on the floor on a thin plastic mat," experts Dr. Jane Haddad and Dr. Katherine Burns reported. They also found that mentally ill inmates were simply medicated, placed in isolation and left in the care of inadequately trained and under-qualified staff.

Brownstein is watching the state's progress towards complete compliance with the settlement. Dr. Haddad, who is now monitoring the state's compliance with the settlement agreement, reported recently that, although the state is behind schedule, "the Department of Corrections continues to demonstrate the commitment necessary to achieve compliance by September 2003." In addition to opening new mental health units and recruiting more mental health professionals, the state is required to adequately train correctional officers working with mentally ill inmates.

The class action *Bradley vs.*



Human resources director volunteers

Center human resources director Sam Whalum speaks to eighth graders at Capitol Heights Junior High about how choices they make today can affect the rest of their lives. Whalum, who retired from the U.S. Air Force as commandant of its Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, is an active community volunteer working to improve the quality of life for area citizens. He was co-leader of a public school strategic planning team and was recently selected to serve as president of Leadership Montgomery.

Haley began in 1992 with Center attorneys acting as consultants and providing funding and support to the attorneys handling the case. In 1997, a federal magistrate found that the state had taken no significant steps to remedy the problem.

Rather than seeking solutions to the violations exposed by the litigation, state officials fought the lawsuit, leaving the inmates to languish years longer without the help they needed. Then, in 1999, Center attorneys hired nationally known mental health experts to document the continuing abuse and neglect. Days before the trial was set to begin, corrections officials finally agreed to settle the case. The agreement was signed on September 28, 2000.

New Center legal manual gives advice to prisoners

A new manual recently published by the Southern Poverty Law Center helps incarcerated victims of assault, abuse, and other civil rights violations understand and enforce their health and safety rights while in prison.

Designed to help inmates who are not represented by an attorney, the manual explains the legal rights that inmates have regarding health and safety, including the right to receive medical care and the right to be free from inhumane treatment such as excessive force by prison guards. It also explains to inmates how they can enforce those rights when they are violated.

The manual is entitled *Protecting Your Health and Safety: A Litigation Guide for Inmates*.

"Our manual is a reference tool to help inmates navigate our legal system when they do not have a lawyer to help them," said Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein. "Although we have long been leaders in the fight to prohibit cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners, most inmates are on their own when they file civil rights cases against a prison system. We hope that this manual will help them find some relief."

Brownstein said that many private lawyers are reluctant to litigate prison-related cases because of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). The PLRA, passed by Congress in 1995, makes it more difficult for prison inmates to prevail at trial and reduces the amount of fees that attorneys can collect when they do prevail. But inmates

continue to suffer violations and often file their own petitions with the courts. In 1999, Brownstein said, inmates filed about 71 percent of all *pro se* petitions that were filed in the federal courts nationwide. Most of those were dismissed, usually on technical grounds, she said.

"Given the widespread problems in prison facilities and penal systems all over the country, the dismissal of so many *pro se* cases reflects the fact that most prisoners cannot protect their rights without legal assistance," Brownstein said. "This manual is designed to provide some of the legal assistance *pro se* litigants so desperately need."

Protecting Your Health is overview

The manual provides an overview of the legal system, a glossary of legal terms and explains how to file and litigate *pro se* complaints in federal court. It also includes a list of federal courts and resource groups for prison inmates. It does not cover criminal matters.

Written in simple, straightforward language, the manual is being distributed free to prison librarians and prisoners' support groups that request it. Inmates may use the library copy or purchase their own copies for \$10. The manual is also available in PDF format on the Center's Web site, www.splcenter.org.

The manual was written by Washington lawyer Robert Toone, formerly with the Atlanta-based Southern Center for Human Rights, where he worked on prisoner-related cases.

'Every Victim Counts' is new campaign

ELKHART, IND. — There's little doubt that race hate fueled the murder of Sasezley Richardson, a 19-year-old black teenager shot dead on November 17, 1999, as he strolled back from a mall here with diapers for a friend's baby. Police called it a hate crime from the start. But today, he's missing from the FBI's hate crime statistics.

And Richardson wasn't the only forgotten victim. Although official numbers consistently have documented fewer than 10,000 hate crimes a year, an investigation by the Center's *Intelligence Report* found the true number is likely closer to 50,000. Center researchers found the FBI system riddled with errors, omissions and even outright falsification of data.

In an effort to raise awareness about hate crimes and the importance of accounting for them, The Center recently launched "Every Victim Counts," a Web-based campaign that encourages people to work for reform of hate crime reporting. It asks activists to advocate for:

- hate crime policies in every police department;
- hate crime training for every law enforcement officer; and
- hate crime reporting by every police department.

"Thousands of hate crime victims are forgotten each year," said Jennifer Holladay, director of Tolerance.org, the Center's project that fights hate and promotes tolerance through the Internet. "Accurate collection of hate crime data will equip communities with the information necessary to shape effective strategies to deal with and prevent hate crimes like the murder of Sasezley Richardson."

"Every Victim Counts," which can be found online at www.tolerance.org/evc, defines "hate crime," explains why the FBI's numbers are wrong, and offers a list of how-to-help suggestions. It also encourages hate crime victims to report incidents to the police.

"The issue is largely one of leadership," said Holladay. "Community activists must push police departments and governmental leaders to make hate crime reporting a priority."

To counter the lack of training that contributes to the undercounting of hate crime incidents, the Center's Intelligence Project offers an innovative online training course to law enforcement officers throughout the nation. About 160 officers completed the first two six-week sessions offered this year; a fall course begins August 19.



Sasezley Richardson

Center grant helps students discover peaceful solutions

MOSS POINT, MISS. — Piece by piece, the 240 students of Orange Lake Elementary School here assembled a floor-size "Puzzle for Peace."

The puzzle was part of a Teaching Tolerance grant awarded to reading facilitator Angela Broome that introduced cultural diversity and tolerance to the Orange Lake students. A survey taken at the school revealed that most students had little or no exposure to other cultures.

puzzle pieces that were assembled together into a huge peace puzzle. "I was pleased at the way the children were able to express their ideas succinctly, using drawings, words or both. The children took pride in adding their own pieces to the large puzzle and in viewing the final product," said Huntwork.

"The puzzle will be displayed in our cafeteria for students, faculty, parent and the community to enjoy," Broome said. "I want students to have a sense of how they can create peace among themselves and their friends, and maybe it will reflect in their daily lives as they grow older. I want this puzzle to be a visual reminder that there are peaceful solutions to everything."

Huntwork made sure that discussions were grade-appropriate. The lower grades discussed maintaining peace among themselves. With the upper grades, the focus was more global.

"Teachers took the unit work I developed and added their own twist to it in order to incorporate the new materials into their lesson planning," said Broome.

"We discussed the thought that even adults are frustrated about trying to make peace in the world and that each student has to start with himself and the contribution he can make toward peace," Huntwork added.

"You don't want to hit someone because it makes them feel bad," said a 3rd grader. "You don't want to call people names because they might turn around and make fun of you, and you wouldn't like that."

Principal Paulette Briscoe observed the children completing the activities building up to the peace puzzle. "I noticed a tremendous amount of character education being taught. The students learned so much more than the meaning of peace. They learned about diversity, getting along and cooperative learning skills," she said.

"I hope that the students will remember that even though we are all different, we can all work together and find peaceful solutions to our problems," Broome said.

Since its launch in 1997, the Teaching Tolerance grant program has funded more than 600 innovative projects. To ensure that these great ideas spread, each issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine tells thousands of teachers about the most successful grant projects.



Orange Lake Elementary School students Josh Wolverson (from left), Nicole Jarrell and Shellee Smith assemble a puzzle of peaceful solutions, part of a project funded by a Teaching Tolerance grant awarded to their school.

"After September 11, I thought about how we could do something on finding peaceful solutions and alternatives to wars and fighting," Broome said. "I had read about the grants program in a *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and thought this project would be a perfect way to promote appreciation of cultural diversity and peace."

Broome enlisted the help of school librarian Mary Huntwork, who helped students during their library time. "I had a chart I used where the children put up 'hateful' and 'peaceful' things," she said. "We made a list of things that really made them angry and caused trouble, such as name-calling, hitting and making fun of people who are different."

The next day, the children discussed ideas for peaceful solutions. "We went from hitting and punching to high fives and hugs," Huntwork said.

To culminate this part of the project, the students colored their peaceful solutions onto large



Board member Bond greets students

Julian Bond explains a bit of history to Tallahassee, Alabama, elementary school students while they visit the Civil Rights Memorial. Bond, named to the Center's board of directors earlier this year, attended his first board meeting April 26 in Montgomery. Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1998, Bond has had a close relationship with the Center since its founding in 1971.

Supreme Court allows inmate to sue guards

In a Center case that is likely to have a significant impact on lawsuits to vindicate constitutional rights, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled on June 27 that an Alabama inmate who was handcuffed to a metal "hitching post" in a painful manner as a form of punishment could sue for money damages.

"The obvious cruelty inherent in this practice should have provided (the prison guards) with some notice that their alleged conduct violated constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the majority in a 6-3 decision in *Hope vs. Pelzer*. Stevens said the inmate "was treated in a way antithetical to human dignity — he was hitched to a post for an extended period of time in a position that was

painful, and under circumstances that were both degrading and dangerous."

In a 1998 Center case, a federal court ruled that Alabama's practice of using the hitching post to punish inmates was unconstitutional. The question before the Supreme Court in the latest case was whether inmates who had been hitched to the post before that ruling could sue for money damages.

State officials are immune from damage actions unless their conduct violates "clearly established" constitutional norms. Because no case prior to 1998 had ruled on the precise question of whether the hitching post was unconstitutional, Alabama officials argued that they were immune from suit.

The Supreme Court disagreed and ruled for the inmate.

Former Center intern pointed toward U.S. Congress

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — Ten years after he began his career as a Center legal intern, 34-year-old Artur Davis is headed to the U.S. Congress after handily defeating incumbent Earl F. Hilliard in a June 25 primary for the Democratic nomination in Alabama's District Seven. He faces no Republican opponent in this fall's election.

Hilliard, who made a controversial visit to Libya a few years ago, was seen as a critic of Israel. As a result, Davis received substantial support from the Jewish community, both inside and outside of Alabama. Davis accused Hilliard's supporters of circulating an anti-Semitic flier attacking Davis. The one-page sheet, entitled "Davis and the Jews, No Good for the Black Belt [a nickname for the area Hilliard repre-

sents]" attacked Davis for supporting Israel's "policy of complete domination."

Ultimately, voters chose Davis for his consistent attention to themes that most matter to people living in some of the nation's poorest counties: more and better education, health care and industry. He criticized Hilliard, Alabama's first black congressman since Reconstruction, for failing to do more for his district during his five terms in office.

Davis, a Montgomery native who graduated from Jefferson Davis High School, finished Harvard University and its law school with highest honors. He could have had his pick of jobs, but he chose to return to his hometown to work at the Cen-

ter in the summer of 1992 because of his strong commitment to constitutional and civil rights issues.

"I wanted the chance to make a small contribution to an institution which has represented some of my native state's more generous instincts," he said at the time.

Davis went on to clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson, one of the first black judges to serve on the federal bench. He served as an assistant U.S. attorney for four years and now has a private practice in civil and criminal defense work. He volunteers in the Birmingham public schools and has served as a legal and political commentator on a local television station.



Artur Davis

Center seeks lawyers for children

(continued from pg. 1) in the case is Marcos Gonzalez Machado, a 15-year-old Mexican orphan boy.

Marcos was living with an aunt and uncle, both U.S. citizens, in Seattle when he was kidnapped at gunpoint. When he later went to the police to report the crime and identify his assailants, he was

do not know how to defend themselves against the INS lawyers who are working to deport them. As an orphan and a victim of a violent crime, Marcos might have been able to obtain special status to stay in this country with his aunt and uncle. He has no parents to return to in Mexico. His father died when he was little, and his mother abandoned him soon after."

Brownstein said that the INS detains thousands of youths each year who arrive in this country unaccompanied by an adult. Some are reunited with relatives living in the United States. Others, like Marcos, are held in youth detention centers. Others that the INS does not believe are under age 18 are held in adult jails and prisons pending deportation.

"Despite all the obvious dangers of

holding vulnerable children in adult jails and prisons, the INS continues to put them at risk," Brownstein said. She said the agency uses unreliable age-testing methods, including x-rays of teeth and wrist joints, to try to determine the actual ages of the youths. The Center is working to gain relief for those immigrant youths as well, Brownstein said.

The litigation is part of the Center's emphasis on representing those most vulnerable in society — children, immigrants and institutionalized individuals. Center lawyers are appealing a federal court's June 17 decision to dismiss the lawsuit, *Gonzalez-Machado vs. Ashcroft*.



The INS has held Danny Zheng in a Georgia county jail since he was 15. Never charged with a crime, the youth was incarcerated for three years without legal representation.

turned over to the INS and placed in a maximum-security detention center. Instead of nabbing the kidnapers, authorities cuffed and shackled Marcos and put him in a facility with violent youthful offenders. Despite the fact that the boy did not have a lawyer, the INS began removal proceedings against him. After months of being locked up and isolated as a result of the language barrier, the teenager grew frustrated and angry and accepted the government's offer to return him to Mexico.

"This is an example of why kids like Marcos need lawyers and why the INS should change its policy," Brownstein said. "Marcos and the others



Dees meets donors

Robert and Ruth Matsuo of Flagstaff, Arizona, included a stop at the Center when they planned their itinerary for a long driving tour across the country. Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees (left) greeted them when they visited. Donors since 1992, the two are also Center "Partners for the Future." See page 8 for related story.

Bequests

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of its deceased supporters and gratefully acknowledges that the Center was included in their wills and other planned gifts. These bequests were received from June 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002.

- | | |
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Supporter promotes Center, sports teams

Kirk Fairfield (back, center), a self-employed landscaper based in Towson, Maryland, decided he didn't need to advertise his business when he sponsored a series of local youth sports teams. Instead, he paid the sponsorship fee and used the Center's name for the teams' banners and uniforms. These nine- and 10-year-old basketball players, playing in the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council, won 14 games and lost 12 in "a very tough travel league in the Baltimore area where we proudly displayed that banner at every game," Fairfield said. He also sponsors a football team and a girls' softball team. "I'll probably coach youth ball for the rest of my life, and I will continue to promote the Center," he said.

Longtime supporter plans for future giving

SANTE FE, NEW MEXICO — Hilda Rush has been a Center supporter for almost 25 years. A victim of intolerance herself, she wanted to help the Center shape a kinder world for future generations.

With advice from the Center's planned giving department and her financial advisor, Rush set up two charitable gift annuities, one funded by stock. She also has named the Center as a beneficiary in her will through a charitable remainder trust.

"I can't do a lot. I don't have a lot of money," she said. "But I love the Center. There's no other organization like it. It stands alone. Everything the Center does is so extraordinary, and Morris Dees is one of my heroes. I'm proud when we win cases. I get excited about our victories."

Rush's personal history gives her special reason to appreciate the significance of the Center's work.

Born to wealthy Jewish parents in Berlin in 1912, Rush was pampered and prepared only for the life of a dutiful wife, schooled in the arts traditional Berlin society deemed fit for a young woman of her stature. Her life changed drastically under Hitler. By 1932, Jews were forbidden to go to school, and life in Germany became

oppressive and ominous. Her family blessed her decision to flee the mounting danger for a new life in South Africa. She never saw her parents again.

"You can imagine what it was like for me, a young girl with no training and little money. I took whatever jobs I could find, sales mostly. I went on because I had no choice. Strength just came. One day I got a letter from my father through the Red Cross, and I knew then that he was in a camp in Poland," she said.

After nearly 20 years, Rush left South Africa because of apartheid and its terrible effects. She moved to Manhattan, then Bergen County in New Jersey. Interested in everything, she read widely, followed the arts, and enjoyed music. She moved from job to job, learning new skills and embracing opportunities as she found them. Eventually, she settled in Santa Fe.



Hilda Rush, pictured with her cat, Micaela, is a Center "Partner for the Future."

Today, Rush lives a comfortable life, pouring her energies into the Unitarian Church, one of the most socially committed congregations here. "I'm nearly 90, and I'm happier than I've ever been in my life," she said. "But I'm worried about our country. People live tied to their television sets."

"I know a lot of individual good things are happening," she said, "but so much more needs to be done." By including the Center in her estate plans, Rush is extending her support for equality and justice beyond her own lifetime. Her support will help victims of intolerance well into the 21st century.

BECOME A CENTER 'PARTNER'

The Center's future financial strength will come largely from the planned gifts of committed supporters like Hilda Rush, who make a bequest to the Center in their will or take advantage of any one of the several gift planning opportunities. These special donors, the Center's Partners for the Future, have extended their support beyond their lifetimes and will leave a legacy of tolerance and justice.

If you are interested in receiving information about wills, charitable gift annuities or other gift planning opportunities available at the Center, please contact the Center's planned giving department toll-free at 888-414-7752 or complete and mail the form on this page. You can also e-mail staff plannedgiving@splcenter.org for more information. There is no cost or obligation.

Leave a legacy through Partners for the Future



Civil Rights Memorial

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

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.

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.

The Center is already included in my will or estate plans. Please welcome me as a Partner for the Future.

I'm interested in receiving general information about wills and planned giving.

Please send me information on the following specific planned giving opportunities:

- Wills Retirement Plans Charitable Gift Annuities
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My date(s) of birth is: _____

Yes, please contact me. My phone is: () _____

Name _____

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E-mail address _____

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

IN MEMORIAM

Leon Addison Hill (1909-2002)

Leon Addison Hill, a civil rights activist for more than 70 years and ardent supporter of the Center, died March 23 at the age of 93.

Hill focused his energies on breaking down barriers to social justice and opening doors to racial harmony. "My husband and I joked that we met on the picket line," said Celestine Hill, his wife of 56 years.

Reared in Wildwood, New Jersey, Leon Hill moved to Philadelphia in the 1930s to work in the home building trade. He joined the West Philadelphia Youth Civic League, an association that

was customary then for black patrons to change to a Jim Crow rail car during the Washington-to-Richmond leg of the trip. But Leon Hill refused to move, and he and his wife were allowed to keep their seats. On another occasion, the Hills and their two young daughters were seated in a theatre and were asked to move to another, less desirable area. Again, Hill stood up for his rights and refused.

Leon Hill attended the March on Washington in both 1963 and 1983.

The Hills' home for the past 45 years

has been in the Bryn Gweled Homesteads, an integrated, cooperative community in Lower Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Leon Hill served a term as president of the Homestead and was active in all of the community's affairs.

Leon Hill had a passion for life and all that it offered. His chosen charities were The Quaker School in Horsham, Pennsylvania, and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

He is survived by his wife, Celestine, his daughters, Noel and Susan, his son-in-law, C. Martin Harris, M.D. and his two grandsons, Jordan Harris and Evan Harris.



Leon Addison Hill

In 1945, a decade before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, the Hills were riding a train from Philadelphia to Richmond,