

SPLC REPORT



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

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Millions of students 'mix it up' at lunch

Answering the call to break down social barriers in their schools, more than 4 million students swapped cafeteria seats on Nov. 16 for the Center's third annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

The project, a joint initiative of the Center's tolerance education programs and the Study Circles Resource Center, challenges students nationwide to identify and cross the boundaries that create divisions and misunderstandings in their schools.

Swapping seats in the cafeteria — widely viewed as the most segregated area of many schools — is a first step in building more welcoming schools.

"Mix It Up at Lunch Day is an opportunity for students to reach across the lines of style and appearance, the divisions of race and socioeconomic status, and meet new people in a safe and supportive environment," said Jennifer Holladay, director of the Center's tolerance programs.

This year, many schools made the day their own, hosting unique and energetic programs to reinforce the objectives of Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

In Nashville, Tenn., middle school students at East Literature Magnet School enjoyed a jazz performance during their Mix It Up lunch. As a five-person band strummed rhythm guitars, keyboards and bass drums, students ate, mingled and met new friends.

"This teaches us that it's OK to go up to somebody and just say, 'Hi, what's your name?'" said Jeremiah, a fifth-grader. "We all need to try and help each other and take care of our community."

At Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra, Calif., students carried



Student leaders organized Mix It Up at Honolulu's Farrington High School. The cards they hold represent the difference ethnicities that make up their school's diverse student body.

fabric markers on Mix Day and asked each new person they met to sign their T-shirts. (See story on page 5.)

And at Farrington High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, students held a scavenger hunt, with fel-

low classmates listed as items to "find." A local disc jockey joined the students, hosting a live remote show from the high school.

"I was thrilled to witness the commitment and creativity of

students and teachers across the country," said Lecia Brooks, director of the Mix It Up program. "Reports from school campuses validate how important it is for us to provide resources that encourage students and teachers to cross social boundaries."

In all, more than 9,000 schools nationwide participated in this year's Mix It Up at Lunch Day, with hundreds of schools receiving media coverage in their communities.

For many schools, Mix It Up at Lunch Day merely marks the kickoff of ongoing projects aimed at making lunchrooms, hallways and classrooms more welcoming for all students.

"It is gratifying to learn that many schools are planning to host additional Mix It Up at Lunch Days and other activities this school year," Brooks said. "Participating in Mix It Up at Lunch Day is a great first step toward encouraging more open and accepting schools."



The activism of Birmingham students in 1963 can inspire today's youth.

New film teaches students they have power for change

On May 2, 1963, the children of Birmingham, Ala., flooded the city's streets — and the city's jail — to challenge segregation. With dogs and fire hoses, police tried to stop them. Yet, in ways their parents could not, the children prevailed, defying the police intimidation that long had plagued Birmingham's black community.

More than 40 years later, this courageous story will be brought to life in classrooms across the country, thanks to an award-winning documentary from the Southern

Poverty Law Center, in conjunction with Tell the Truth Pictures.

Beginning in January, *Mighty Times: The Children's March* and its accompanying teacher's guide will be distributed to an estimated 50,000 schools. A longer version will air on HBO later in 2005.

"*The Children's March* is a beacon of hope for young people who see and experience social problems and feel disempowered," said Jennifer Holladay, director of the Center's tolerance programs. "Too often in this country, (continued on page 3)

Hate-music CDs target youth

In September, in an effort to recruit children, Panzerfaust Records, a Minnesota-based white-power record company, distributed the first of 100,000 hate-music CD samplers.

The record company, allied with the violent Hammerskin Nation skinhead group, claims to have distributed 20,000 samplers within two weeks, and by November it had begun a second wave of distribution.

According to its website, Panzerfaust aims not to just "entertain racist kids" but to "create them" by giving away thousands of the 35-cent CDs. Dubbed "Project Schoolyard USA," the mass distribution campaign targets white teens, ages 13-19.

To raise awareness about the campaign, and to make sure unsuspecting schools would know what they were dealing with, the Center's tolerance education programs worked with the Intelligence

Project to create a fact sheet about Panzerfaust Records and Project Schoolyard USA. The fact sheet was highlighted in an electronic news alert and remains available, as a PDF download, on the Center's Tolerance.org website.

Another Center resource, *Responding to Hate At School*, offers strategies and concrete steps for addressing hate at K-12 schools.



Panzerfaust's sampler CD

According to its website, Panzerfaust designed the CD with the "most mainstream appeal," hoping, in its own words, to fly under the radar in schools and communities. The CD targets white kids sick of what Panzerfaust calls the "failed social experiment of multiculturalism" or of living in "dirty, dangerous and foreign" neighborhoods.

The guitar-heavy 20-song CD includes racist, hate-filled lyrics like these:

Whiskey bottles
Baseball bats

Pickup trucks
And rebel flags
We're going on the town tonight
Hit and run
Let's have some fun
We've got jigaboos on the run
And they fear the setting sun.

— "Jigrun" by The Bully Boys

Damn the other races
Want to keep my country White.
— "Parasite" by Fortress

Already, the hate-music CDs have shown up on school campuses in California, Florida and West Virginia.

"White power music has proven to be the most effective recruiting mechanism devised by the radical right," said Mark Potok, director of the Center's Intelligence Project. "Time after time, people who have come out of this movement have said that this music was, by far, the single most important factor drawing them into the movement."

If the CD campaign reaches your community, visit www.tolerance.org for information about how to respond.

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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

Finding common ground is goal of Center supporter

Davina Rubin of Napa, California, who taught middle school English, language arts and drama for 38 years before her recent retirement, wrote to the Center in October. She has been a Center donor since 2000.

I was not at all surprised by your front-page story, "Hate Among Youth Becomes Widespread" in the September issue of the *SPLC Report*. This circumstance is an expected outcome of our culture at this time.

We spend so much time in this country trying to show how different everyone is. No one is just human. Everyone must be labeled in some way, to assure that there is a distinction. There are African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Italian-Americans, and so on. Which means there is always going to be an "Us" and a "Them." Rather than bringing people together, this frequently isolates each group by pointing out differences.

I was brought up by a parent who taught me if you scratch someone's skin, they will still bleed red. If you look beyond religious ritual and costume, beyond economic circumstance, you will usually find one fundamental ideal: that we are all the same, we all come from the same place.

The more we continue down a road of demanding differences, rather than finding common ground, the more we will see violence and hatred. The news and movies exacerbate the problem, with violence a big seller at the box office,

and a big draw for television viewers and sponsors. (A while back, I remember reading an article in *U. S. News & World Report* that stated that violent crimes among youth dropped significantly in 2002, but television reporting of violent crimes by youth went up significantly.)

If we want to change the culture, we will have to change the messages we send out. Right now, the message is one of difference, distinction and disassociation rather than similarity, affinity and association. The opposite of affinity is hate, which is bred by a lack of understanding. So, instead of continually showing youth how different they are from one another, we need to take the time to communicate their likenesses, their common ground. Your *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and the Mix-It-Up at Lunch program are powerful tools to this end. I used the magazine for years as a middle school teacher, and as a mentor, I passed it on to others, with lesson ideas and connections to our literature.

First graders have no trouble with these concepts. But then, they haven't been told yet that they are different, so they all play together. Let's take a message from them and pass it on.

On behalf of the United States Attorney's Office and the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council for the Eastern District of Tennessee, I want to express our deepest appreciation to [Intelligence Project chief investigator] Joe Roy for his presentation at our recent training. His experience, specialized knowledge and keen insights have greatly benefited our efforts to train our law enforcement officers and protect the citizens of our area.

I learned about Mix It Up at a teacher's convention and have been doing it ever since. We are a small community where most of the kids have grown up together, but social boundaries still exist in our school. Mix It Up is a very useful tool to help cross those boundaries and get to know someone new. Thanks for the great idea.

Thank you for your information to the radicals who are taking over the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). I regret to say that I must surrender my SCV membership because I can't be even loosely associated with these radicals.

The Teaching Tolerance materials are becoming an integral part of my high school diploma program. Thank you!



Davina Rubin



Construction underway

The gutted interior of the Center's former office space is seen in a view of the back of the building, where construction of a new Civil Rights Memorial Center (CRMC) is now underway. The CRMC—scheduled to open next fall—will enhance a visitor's experience at the Maya Lin-designed Civil Rights Memorial, located in an open plaza at the front of the building. The two-story vertical steel columns frame a new addition to the structure that will house the Center's Wall of Tolerance.

Lawyer's commitment honored with award

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — A lawyer whose work against the death penalty receives the Center's financial support was recently recognized by a national legal organization. Bryan Stevenson, director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) of Alabama, was honored October 23 for his commitment to justice and the struggle for equality. The National Lawyers Guild, holding its annual conference here, gave him its Law for the People Award.

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) of Alabama is a private, nonprofit organization that provides legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system.

It litigates on behalf of condemned prisoners, juvenile offenders, innocent people wrongly convicted or charged with violent crimes, poor people denied effective representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct. EJI works with communities that have been marginalized by poverty and discouraged by unequal treatment. EJI also prepares reports,

newsletters and manuals to assist advocates and policymakers in the critically important work of reforming the administration of criminal justice.

Introducing Stevenson to the 400 conference participants was Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein. The Center supports EJI's work with a substantial yearly grant.

"Because of his efforts, six innocent men have walked free from Alabama's death row and dozens of others have had their capital cases and death sentences overturned," Brownstein told the crowd.

Stevenson, who also serves as a clinical law professor at New York University School of Law, is considered one of the top public interest attorneys in the United States. Among his other awards are the MacArthur Foundation's "Genius Award," the ACLU's National Medal of Liberty, the Thurgood Marshall Medal of Justice and the American Bar Association's Wisdom Ward for Public Service.

Stevenson is a 1985 graduate of Harvard, with both a master's in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a J.D. from its law school.



Bryan Stevenson

K.P.

Anson, Texas

H.M.

Knoxville, Tennessee

J.L.

Prattville, Alabama

B.K.

Tulare, California

Hate group protests Center at Civil Rights Memorial

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — About 50 demonstrators, here for a national meeting of the League of the South, lined up October 21 and 22 in front of the Civil Rights Memorial to protest the Southern Poverty Law Center. Its office is directly across the street from the Memorial.

Men, women and children brandished Confederate and southern state flags and held up signs denouncing the Center and its co-founder Morris Dees. One man held placards in each hand, one declaring "The SPLC is a hate group" and the other "Morris Dees is a scalawag." "Scalawag" is the derogatory term for white southerners who supported the Reconstruction governments after the American Civil War.

A teenaged girl holding a pair of Confederate flags raced up and down the sidewalk in front of the Memorial's solemn black wall. On a street corner, League supporters placed a pink toilet with jeans-clad legs protruding from its bowl. An adjacent sign read, "Flush the SPLC."

Among the protestors was Michael Tubbs, a former Green Beret demolitions expert who served time for conspiracy and stealing military weapons. He is an avowed Aryan revolutionary who officials say had drawn up lists targeting newspapers, television stations and businesses owned by blacks and Jews.

Four years ago, the Center's *Intelligence Report*



Protesters brandish a variety of signs castigating the Center for its exposé of the League of the South's racist ideology.

exposed the League as increasingly rife with white supremacists and racist ideology. Since then, the magazine has continued to report on the neo-Confederate movement's growing influence. Its Fall 2004 issue links many Southern politicians to hate groups like the League and the Council of Conservative Citizens.



League of the South members brought young children to Montgomery to wave Confederate flags in front of the Civil Rights Memorial.

Film teaches students their power for change

(continued from page 1) we talk about activism and social change as venues for adults. But the children of Birmingham brought segregation to its knees, and today's young people possess that same power — the powers of resistance, rebellion and love for humanity."

The 30-page teacher's guide accompanying the film represents "where we want to take curriculum here at the Center," said Jeff Sapp, Center curriculum specialist. With activities that utilize music, art, civics and social studies, the teacher's guide encourages students to think critically about the world around them, in a cross-curricular, participatory way.

"Since the film is about youth activism, we thought it would be interesting to focus on sustainabil-

ity," Sapp said. "What keeps you going in the face of adversity? What sustains you from childhood on?"

The Children's March already has received critical acclaim, earning top honors from the International Documentary Association as the best short film of 2004.

Co-directors Robert Hudson and Bobby Houston began making the film almost two years ago. Hudson and Houston's previous collaboration with the Center includes the documentaries *A Place at the Table* and *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2003.

The Children's March also represents the Center's fourth collaboration with HBO. The cable network aired *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks* in 2003;

worked with Tolerance.org on the 2002 film, *The Laramie Project*; and co-produced with the Center a program called *Hate.com*, featuring Center co-founder Morris Dees and the Intelligence Project's Mark Potok, in 2001.

The classroom version of the film marks the first time the Center will offer a documentary in both DVD and VHS format. Like all Center classroom materials, *The Children's March* and its teacher's guide will be provided to educators at no cost. A sample from the teacher's guide appears in the Spring 2005 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine.

"*The Children's March* reminds each of us, young and old, that youth have the power to change the world," Holladay said.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

Neo-Confederate named to state education board

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The recent appointment to the state Board of Education of a neo-Confederate leader who once sold anti-Semitic books has caused an uproar with civil rights groups and education officials.

"This should send chills down the spine of all South Carolinians," said Mark Potok, director of the Center's Intelligence Project.

Ron Wilson, a former commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, ran unsuccessfully for state Senate this year but was selected to the education panel by a 4-3 vote of state legislators from Anderson County's delegation to replace John Hostetler, a former high school principal who is retiring.

Wilson once sold textbooks to parents who home-school their children, including the viciously anti-Semitic *Barbarians Inside the Gates*, which touts a discredited theory that Jews are working toward world domination.

The new post puts Wilson in the role of approving textbooks, settling teacher grievances and working with the education superintendent's office on policy.

When Wilson led the national Sons of Confederate Veterans from 2002 to 2004, he was accused of purging more than 300 politically moderate members. "He led the attempted takeover of the SCV by extremists and is a very important player in the radicalization of that group," Potok said.

FBI: Ex-guardsmen planned to kill Jews

KNOXVILLE, TENN. — Twenty-year-old Ivan Duane Braden, a discharged National Guard soldier with neo-Nazi leanings who'd taken to calling himself the "pimpin' aryan assassin," stuffed his backpack on Oct. 12 with large knives and materials for a homemade grenade, police say. Braden allegedly left his parents' home here that day planning to commit murder.

But instead of driving to the local National Guard Armory, where police say Braden had a detailed plan to take hostages, murder them and set off explosives, Braden took himself to an outpatient mental health facility his family had recommended. There he told staff that he had "thoughts of killing people."

Federal authorities were contacted after a search of Braden's home and vehicle turned up additional bomb-making materials and weapons, detailed sketches of the armory, and plans to suicide-bomb a local synagogue. The FBI says that Braden told agents he'd planned to wear a trench coat stuffed with explosives and position himself "as close to children and the rabbi

as possible to cause the greatest amount of damage possible."

Braden had neo-Nazi paraphernalia in his room, including a swastika flag and videos with such titles as "Nazi America" and "KKK History." In the federal complaint against Braden, an FBI agent wrote that Braden had held racist views since he was a 7th-grader. An FBI agent later told a reporter that Braden is the most difficult type of terrorist to catch because he is not active in any identifiable group.

Wal-Mart drops *Protocols*, leaves neo-Confederate tomes

BENTONVILLE, ARK. — Wal-Mart is vigilant about protecting consumers from products it deems offensive, refusing to sell CDs carrying parental warnings. But Wal-Mart's standards recently became an issue when customers and civil rights groups complained about its website selling *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, an infamous forgery that describes a vast Jewish conspiracy to rule the world. Others sell *The Protocols*, but with a disclaimer explaining it as a vicious anti-Semitic fraud.

WalMart.com is no longer selling *The Protocols*, but it is selling other extremist materials with eyebrow-raising descriptions. For example, the site describes an exercise in pro-Confederate historical revisionism, *Myths of American Slavery*, as "a sincere attempt to defeat the spread of misinterpretations that continue to bedevil race relations and contaminate America's political landscape."

Unlike other booksellers, Wal-Mart's book descriptions are lifted without vetting from materials provided by publishers, some of which are extremist.

Girl gang attacks Hispanic teen

NEW YORK — A wolf pack of seven girls beat and robbed a 13-year-old girl and taunted her with racial epithets after they followed her onto a city bus on the Upper West Side on December 1, authorities said. The victim, who is Hispanic, was going to an afternoon tutoring program when she was accosted by the girls, all of whom are black, according to the police.

One of the girls began shouting racial insults as the teen boarded the bus. The girls also got on board and all of them allegedly began yelling ethnic slurs as they kicked and punched the victim. Then they stole her school bag and jewelry. A witness rescued the victim and called 911. Police arrested all seven girls at the scene. The victim, who did not know her attackers, was treated for bruises and a contusion.

Quilts project helps students explore identities, own history

SIERRA MADRE, CALIF. — Third-graders at Sierra Madre Elementary School recently created “identity quilts” — a visual patchwork about themselves — in a special project that evoked stories from their past and present, weaving them into their future.

Motivated by her own interest in the many facets of identity, teacher Suzanne York applied for a Teaching Tolerance grant to offer her students a special opportunity to explore their own identities, past and present. With the funding, York was able to purchase the necessary fabric, notions and paint for the project.

York guided her students into an exploration of ideas, influences and symbols that helped to describe them, what their daily lives are like, the role they play as members of various communities and characteristics and traits that make them unique. Students then created “maps” to illustrate these various aspects of their lives.

“The children were really curious about

connecting who they are to past generations and what this means for their future,” York said.

In order to identify their ethnic and cultural heritage, students used world maps, resource books and personal investigations. “Students begin to develop an understanding of history and culture by exploring their own ethnic heritage and that of other cultural groups,” said York.

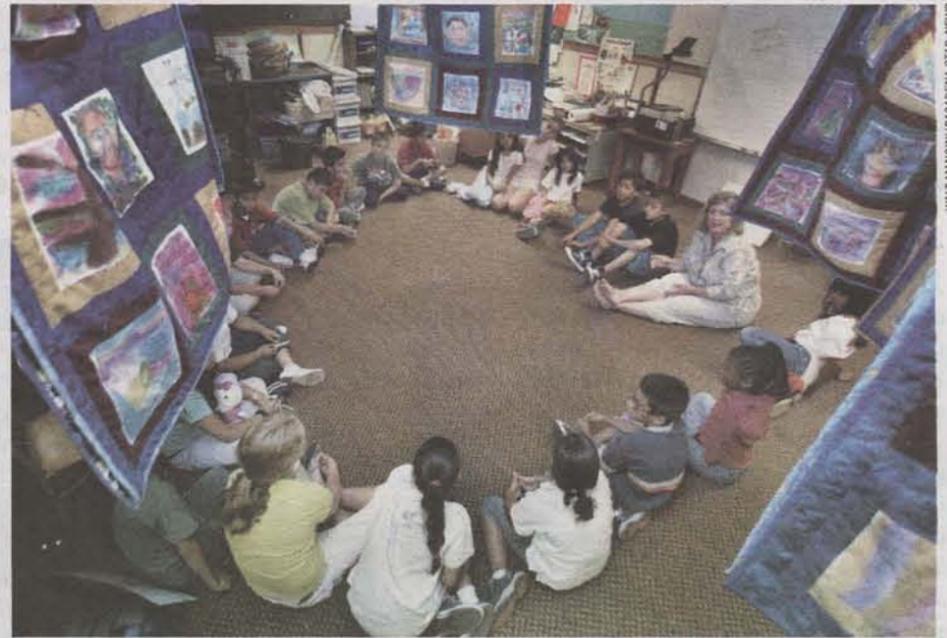
During the yearlong project, students wrote autobiographies and poems illustrating their family history, how they see themselves and their hopes for the future. They shared with their peers to gain insight and respect for their similarities and differences.

The 20 students each produced a 4-foot-square quilt with nine panels. Each quilt has pictures illustrating students’ legacies, their dreams for the world, a self-portrait, family tree and crest, a story about the day they were born and what they want to do as adults.

York pointed out that several students



Miriam Gonzalez, 9, displays a section of her quilt that describes the day she was born.



Third-grade teacher Suzanne York (upper right) used a Teaching Tolerance grant to help students explore their identities by making quilts.

wrote in their autobiographies about relatives who lost their lives in attempts to cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

One student wrote about fighting in Lebanon and how it prevented his mother from getting an education.

Denee Davis wrote beneath her self-portrait, “You are not the boss of me.” Her classmate wrote, “Girls Rule.”

Another wrote, “I dream of a world where everybody has money and homes and healthy food to eat.”

In describing his future aspirations, Hayden Rettig wrote, “I just want to be a regular dad and be as confident as I can be.”

York was pleased with the level of involvement of her students. “They really took ownership of it and were very

excited to connect who they are to past generations,” she said.

The 4-foot-square quilts were made into an art exhibit and displayed at the local city hall where they were seen by hundreds of visitors. “What the students accomplished simply takes my breath away,” one observer said. “They show their personalities and make the kids come alive. I have never seen such an inspired piece of education.”

A member of the local arts commission added, “The quilts are delightful and their artwork very accomplished. The personalized ‘I am’ posters truly inspired.”

Since its inception in 1997, the Teaching Tolerance grants program has awarded 976 grants — totaling \$982,000 — to educators nationwide.

Investigative skills help lawyer find injustices in care of poor

For seven years, Rebekah Young dug up news stories as an associate producer for CNN and ABC. Now, as a legal fellow for the Southern Poverty Law Center, she is using those same skills to research potential cases and have an even stronger impact on society.

A graduate of the University of California at Davis School of Law and a former law clerk for a judge on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, Young is researching how well states across the country are living up to their bargain with the federal government to provide medical care to poor children.

Currently, all states receive federal aid to provide preventative health care services to children. Not all states, however, implement those programs in a meaningful way.

In 1994 the Center filed a suit similar to the one Young is investigating. In *Harris vs. James*, the Center challenged Alabama’s failure to provide Medicaid recipients with medically

necessary transportation, as mandated by federal law. That suit, however, focused on a particular Medicaid regulation while Young’s research addresses an entire Medicaid program.

“Every state has the Medicaid program, and every state does a poor job of implementing it,” said Young, the Center’s newest legal fellow. “But some are worse than others.”

Young, who joined the Center in August, began researching the Medicaid project as part of the legal fellows program. She said the “unbridled freedom” of the fellowship is “great because it gets you thinking, and the whole world is yours to investigate. Wherever you think there is injustice, you can go there.”

Expertise helps legal research

Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein said Young’s experience in investigative journalism has been particularly valuable in her legal research.

“Not only is she a very talented attorney,” said Brownstein,

“but her background as a news producer makes her particularly valuable because so much of what we do is based on research and investigation into the area where we can make a difference in the lives of the poor and powerless.”

Young, who worked for the *Special Assignment* unit of CNN and investigated waste, fraud and abuse in the federal government for *World News Tonight* on ABC, ultimately left the field in part because she couldn’t shake the feeling that she was an outsider.

“You’re an observer,” said Young. “I loved the job, but you’re on the outside writing about great things other people are doing.”

Despite the prestige of working as an associate producer for major media, Young felt she could have a larger impact with a career in law.

“I wanted to be doing the things I was reporting about,” she said, adding that the long hours and stress of constantly trying to dig up new stories ultimately pushed her out of news — and into law and work with the Center.

“I wanted to have a direct link between what I was doing and change,” said Young. “And that was exactly the kind of work the Center was doing.”



Rebekah Young



Holocaust survivor visits Center

Center president Richard Cohen and Gerda Weissman Klein of Scottsdale, Arizona, one of the few Polish Jews to survive the Holocaust, examine the Civil Rights Memorial during her visit to the Center on September 29. Klein’s amazing story is the subject of *One Survivor Remembers*, a documentary that won the 1995 Academy Award for best documentary short film. She and her late husband, Kurt, established a foundation that focuses on promoting positive action for youth.

Center’s website wins design contest

The Center’s website SPLCenter.org will be featured in an online gallery and in a New York City exhibition after taking a top prize in the first annual Idealist Nonprofit Design Contest.

The competition, held by Idealist.org and its parent organization, Action Without Borders, promoted excellence in design in the nonprofit sector in three categories: Web, print and multimedia. Its purpose was to acknowledge and reward those designers who moved beyond limitations to create works that are functional and aesthetically powerful while also promoting social impact. The Center’s website won the Gold award in the Web division.

“It’s amazing and humbling to be recognized by Idealist, an organization that has revolutionized how activists and nonprofits use the Web,” said Laura Maschal, the Center’s technology producer.

Idealist.org connects more than 40,000 nonprofits and community organizations in 165 countries. It provides thousands of volunteer opportunities and offers a highly popular nonprofit career center on the Web, listing hundreds of jobs and internships.

New legal project will protect society's most vulnerable

The Center recently launched one of the boldest initiatives in its history, the Immigrant Justice Project (IJP), created to ensure that the rights of immigrant workers are protected in the southeastern states.

The initiative, which officially began November 1, will focus on the rights of a population routinely exploited and for whom few legal resources are available.

"The project is a natural for the Center," said Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein. "Migrant workers are the sharecroppers of the 21st century. They are the victims of a wide range of abusive practices and have few legal resources at their disposal."

While the IJP falls under the Center's legal arm, it will operate as a separate project headed by Mary Bauer. Bauer is the former legal director of the Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers and the former legal director of the Virginia ACLU.



Mary Bauer

exclude farmworker children from compulsory education laws.

To combat these and other injustices faced by farmworkers, the IJP will target industries, crops and areas where abuses are most egregious through litigation and legislative advocacy to change some of the most oppressive laws. The project's first case against a major grower, alleging that farmworkers were defrauded of wages, resulted in a settlement.

In addition, the IJP will wage a campaign of public education to change the climate in which these abuses are permitted to flourish. The IJP will also take on civil rights cases that fight against government abuse and discrimination.

Nine states targeted

The IJP will serve immigrant workers in nine states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"The creation of the IJP will change the political and social environment for immigrants in the south," Bauer said. "Because no other entity is likely to take on such a politically sensitive and controversial project, the Center is in a position to make enormous social change and to fill a significant gap in services."

Joining Bauer on the staff of the IJP are Kelley Bruner, Sarah Reynolds and Andrew Turner.

Bruner has been a Center staff attorney for the past two years and was the lead counsel in the Center's lawsuit against Ranch Rescue, the paramilitary organization that terrorized and assaulted several Salvadoran immigrants in 2003.

Reynolds, who recently completed three years of work in the Peace Corps in Guatemala, joined the IJP as an outreach paralegal in November.

Andrew Turner, a former staff attorney for the Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers and a graduate of the New York University School of Law, will join the IJP in early 2005.

Workers are routinely abused

"Immigrant workers, especially undocumented workers, are routinely subjected to abuse and exploitation because of their immigrant status," said Bauer, who moved to Montgomery in November.

"Every day, each one of us accepts the benefits of their labor," said Bauer. "We should also accept the simple responsibility to make sure that people are treated lawfully and fairly."

Prior to the establishment of the IJP, there was limited legal representation for most immigrants in the South, even though the abuse of immigrants is one of the most significant current civil rights issues.

Those abuses are numerous. In many states, farm workers are excluded from state health and safety laws and are not entitled to overtime pay under federal law.

In addition, child labor laws often do not apply to farmworkers. Children as young as 10 may legally perform farmwork, and many states



Former missionaries visit Center

Darlene and Howard Goodrich of St. Louis, long-time supporters of the Center's work, share a laugh with Morris Dees during a visit on October 11. The two, still actively involved with church activities, formerly served as missionaries in Africa through the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ.

Curriculum spotlights language

In January, the Center's Teaching Tolerance program launches "The Power of Words," an online curriculum that explores common labels for ethnic groups, women and sexual minorities.

"Like almost nothing else, our language captures the multiethnic temper of our times," said Jennifer Holladay, director of the Center's tolerance programs. "Through this curriculum, we encourage students to examine how popular terminology reveals our nation's social landscape, indicating who's powerful, who's not, who's valued more, who's valued less."

Ten lesson plans provided

"The Power of Words" offers 10 lesson plans for use in high school language arts and social studies classrooms. Many of the activities can be adapted for lower grades and across subject areas.

Written by educators Janet Lockhart and Susan Shaw, the

curriculum is based on cultural anthropologist Phil Herbst's groundbreaking dictionaries, *The Color of Words: An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Ethnic Bias in the United States* and *Wimmin, Wimps and Wallflowers: An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Gender and Sexual Orientation Bias in the United States*.

"The Power of Words" represents a dynamic collaboration that blended the strengths of Teaching Tolerance, a leading anthropologist, a world-renowned publisher and two exceptional educators," said Holladay.

This is the second collaboration between Teaching Tolerance and Lockhart and Shaw, the authors of the highly popular "Writing for Change" curriculum, also available on the Teaching Tolerance website.

A preview of "The Power of Words" appears in the Spring 2005 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine. To learn more, visit www.teachingtolerance.org/words.

Teens work to build a better school — and future

ALHAMBRA, CALIF. — "We're taught that we should meet different people, but we all grew up right here in Monterey Park and have gone to school with each other since first grade," says Cindy Lam.

Cindy Lam, Andrea Teng and Min-Ling Li are all seniors at Mark Keppel High School here, where 72 percent of students are Asian and 22 percent Latino. Only a handful of white students are at the school, and there are no more than 10 African-American students.

As white residents in California shift from majority to minority, some educators have stopped referring to people of color as "minorities." Instead they choose a new and more accurate descriptor: "the world majority."

If ever this held true, it is in schools like Mark Keppel. The concern of Min-Ling, Andrea and Cindy is that they will not be prepared for a diverse world if they don't get outside of their comfort zones.

That is why the three teenagers joined 4 million others across the nation on Nov. 16, carrying out Mix It Up at Lunch Day at their school.

According to Giselle Castro, a teacher who is the school's Mix It Up adviser, Mark Keppel has the usual groups that don't always mingle



Mark Keppel High School students took turns signing each others' T-shirts on Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

well. "There're the athletes, the cheerleaders, the skaters and the Goths," she says.

But there are added dimensions as a result of being in the Los Angeles area, one of the largest and most diverse regions in the United States and long a port-of-entry for people around the world. Not everyone grew up right in Monterey Park and has gone to school together since first grade like Andrea, Min-Ling and Cindy.

"The problem here," says Principal Gary Gonzalez, "is often that different ethnicities don't interact well. Sure you may be Chinese, but do you speak Mandarin or Cantonese? Sure you might be from Vietnam, but are you Vietnamese or are you ethnic Chinese from Vietnam? For some kids here, those things matter."

Students, teachers and administrators all agree that it is language use that most separates students at Mark Keppel.

One Chicana student says that she is scared to go over to where the Latino kids are at during lunch. She is fourth-generation American and doesn't speak fluent Spanish.

"Those Latinos yell at me in Spanish, and I just get scared," she says.

The names that students call each other seem to reflect this as well.

A Latino student could be called *paisa* which means "same place as me" if they're from the same country. If they are a recent immigrant and are an English learner, the slang name is less flattering. *Chuntz* means "a wild horse." In other words, they've not yet been broken into what it means to be an American teenager.

The Asian kids talk about the FOBIES,

slang for "fresh off the boat," meaning again that they are new immigrants.

At Mark Keppel, 32 percent of the students are limited in English proficiency, and fitting in is difficult. Those students who have already assimilated into American culture are considered "cooler," according to Andrea, who admitted that she has heard new immigrants referred to as "border hoppers."

The student organizers for Mark Keppel's Mix It Up are from Giselle Castro's conflict resolution class. They wore white T-shirts and carried permanent fabric makers with them Tuesday. Each time they met a new person, they asked that student to sign their shirt.

The 36 Mix It Up student organizers ended the day with hundreds of names written all over their T-shirts. One student had names up and down his arms, many from students he'd never spoken to before Tuesday.

One T-shirt message tells the story: "I never met this person until today."

Mark Keppel High School is in the midst of a large construction project, and the physical school grounds are torn up. That's why student leaders decided the school slogan would be one they learned from cartoon character Bob the Builder: "Can we fix it? Yes we can!"

TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CENTER FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER 2004

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

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Gift of real estate offers advantages

With interest rates low and the real estate market booming, many people are finding that their real estate holdings are becoming increasingly valuable. Other investments may be down, but real estate values are rising.

This has created an unusual opportunity for using a building, raw land or even a vacation property to fulfill one's philanthropic goals. For example, taxable property that has appreciated in value can be donated without incurring tax on the appreciation. Thus, the value of the gift may be substantially more than it might be were the property first sold and the after-tax proceeds then given to charity.

If you own appreciated real estate — especially property you no longer use — you may want to consider the benefits of using this asset to make a charitable gift to the Southern Poverty Law Center. There are several ways you can proceed; below are four possibilities.

Give the entire property

Since the Southern Poverty Law Center is a qualified charitable organization, it can sell real estate gifts without incurring tax on the appreciation. For example, in 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Jones purchased a piece of land for \$10,000. It was recently appraised at \$50,000. If they sell it, they will

have to pay tax on the appreciation. However, if they give the deed to the Center, they will be free of the tax and hassles of selling the property. In addition, they will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the appraised value of the property.

Give a portion of the property

Many people cannot afford to give their entire real estate, but they can give part of it. A good solution is to give an undivided interest in the property, for example, 50 percent. The Center then works with the donor to market and sell the property. Each party — the donor and the Center — then receives one-half of the proceeds from the sale. A bonus for the donor is that he or she can use the income tax deduction for the gift portion to help offset any taxes due on the other portion.

Give the property and obtain income

Some real estate owners need additional income. Yet they also want to make a major charitable gift to the Center. One possibility is to use real estate to establish a charitable trust. The trustee will then sell the property and invest the proceeds in a balanced portfolio that will provide income to the donors for as long as they live. After they are gone, whatever is left in the trust will go to the Center.

There are several advantages to

establishing a charitable trust with real estate. It may be just the thing if you have appreciated property, need additional income and want to help the Center in the process.

Give your house and continue to live there

Some donors want to make a major gift to the Center by giving their homes. However, if they still need a place to live, they can arrange what is called a life estate gift. This simply means that they give their residence to the Center, obtain a charitable income tax deduction and retain the right to live there as long as they want. This arrangement removes the property from their estate and relieves them or their personal representatives from having to dispose of the house later.

Free information

If you would like additional information on giving real estate to the Center, we have a free brochure we would be happy to send you. Also, Linda Stringer, our Director of Planned Giving, is available to talk with you confidentially and without obligation. She can help you understand the various options, and, if your gift meets the requirements of the Center's Gift Acceptance Policy, assist you in completing your gift. Please use the coupon on this page or call toll free 1-888-414-7752.



Longtime donor visits

Center legal secretary Lynn Tolerson (left) greets donor Virginia Taylor and Taylor's cousin, Ed Boyd, on their December 3 visit to the Center. Taylor, a minister who founded Heart Start Ministries in Detroit, is a Montgomery native who returns home once a year around Thanksgiving. For the past 20 years, she's included a visit to the Center in her Montgomery itinerary.

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 November 1, 2003, through November 30, 2004.

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RICHARD TERMINÉ



Othello benefits Center

New York City's Aguila Theatre chose the Center as beneficiary of 10 percent of ticket sales during its production of Othello last summer. Lloyd Notice (in both photos) played Othello, and Kathryn Merry and Anthony Cochrane also had starring roles. The play raised about \$5,000 for the Center.



Nation struggles to remain 'indivisible'

by Brian Willoughby

Every November for the past three years, the Southern Poverty Law Center's tolerance education programs have asked students across America to cross the lunchroom divide, sit with someone new and strike up a conversation.

On Nov. 16, millions of students at nearly 8,000 schools took part in Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

But on another Tuesday in November, we mixed it up in a different way. A divided nation went to the polls to elect a man some see as a divisive president.

That raises the question: Are we asking more of our young people than we adults can muster? How often, and how well, do we Mix It Up in our own daily lives? Did the Red-vs.-Blue battle of Nov. 2 leave nothing more than a big purple bruise?

A Bush supporter, imagining a loss for his candidate, told newspaper reporters he would have awoken the day after the election thinking, "this country does not understand an honest man when they see one, does not understand morals when they see them."

A Kerry supporter, stunned by a real loss, did awake that day asking, "Is this my country?"

Where, then, is their common ground?

In recent years, the phrase "under God" from our Pledge of Allegiance has grabbed headlines. With the Bush-Kerry election tallied and done, "indivisible" is getting its due.

Are we, to borrow words from Webster, "incapable of being divided, separated or broken?" If so, why do so many people feel just the opposite, struggling for ways to repair the rifts?

The *Christian Science Monitor* refers to it as a "deep values clash." *The New York Times* calls it "a cultural chasm." And *The Washington Post* says we're speaking in "cultural code."

How, then, do we honor George W. Bush's victory-speech view of "one country, one Constitution and one future that binds us?" How do we reconcile Presi-

dent Bush's so-called "season of hope," from that same victory speech, with the statistical divides so evident in his victory?

How do we address the fact that 67 percent of white Protestants voted Republican, while 74 percent of all Jews voted Democrat?

That 58 percent of white voters voted Republican, while 88 percent of black voters voted for Democrats?

That 63 percent of those with family incomes below \$15,000 voted Democratic, while 63 percent of

those with family incomes above \$200,000 voted Republican?

That gay, lesbian and bisexual voters went for Democrats 77 percent of the time.

And that 79 percent of those who said they voted based on "moral values" chose George W. Bush?

Are Jewish, black, poor, gay or lesbian voters immoral? Do they lack values? How does one reconcile such statistics?

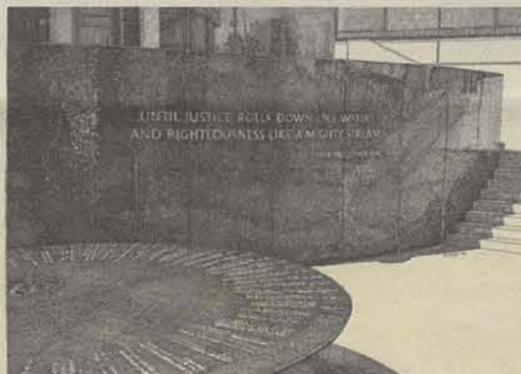


Brian Willoughby

Ask, and listen:

- What are your moral values? How are they different from those who vote differently than you? How are they the same? How have your moral values changed over the years?
- White Americans voted at a higher rate than their overall representation in the recent election — 77 percent of the electorate compared with 69 percent of the populace. Hispanic Americans were just the opposite, 6 percent of the electorate vs. more than 12 percent of the populace. Why do you think that is? And what does it mean?
- Tomorrow, you wake up something you're not: rich vs. poor, nonwhite vs. white, one faith vs. another, female vs. male, straight vs. lesbian or gay. Does your vote change? Why or why not? Too daunting to ask someone else? Then start by asking yourself. See what your own answers reveal, and how that might guide you to start the conversation with someone who shares your nation but not your views. *Brian Willoughby is managing editor of the Center's tolerance publications.*

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Civil Rights Memorial

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will also reduce the taxes on your estate.

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IN MEMORIAM

Douglas Robinson Greer (1916-2004)

Douglas Robinson Greer, legendary civil rights attorney and ardent supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center since 1983, died at age 88 on July 15, 2004.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Greer served with the U.S. Army at the Tuskegee Institute for two years. He then attended the University of California at Berkeley. He continued his studies at the University of San Francisco School of Law in order to fight the unemployment and housing discrimination that was prevalent for minorities in the 1940s and 1950s.

After graduating from law school in 1952, Greer opened his own office — becoming only the second African American to establish a full-time law practice in Sacramento.

Greer immediately began working to defend the civil rights and liberties of his clients, most of whom could only afford to pay meager fees, or none at all. Undaunted by the low income, Greer pressed forward, wanting nothing more than "to get into court and get fighting."

Greer worked hard as a strong defender of civil rights and liberties. In many of his

cases, he was successful in breaking down the barriers of discrimination and ridding his community of unfair treatment of minorities.

One of Greer's most memorable cases involved a black couple prevented from buying a house in Sacramento. Greer filed a malicious interference lawsuit on the basis of race, the first such suit ever filed in California.

Greer was also active in his community, serving as president of the Sacramento branch of the NAACP from 1953 to 1957. He also ran for the Sacramento city council. Not long ago, he was recognized as one of Sacramento's "African American Legends."

Greer became an icon of hope and courage for many blacks and other minorities entering the law profession. He always encouraged young lawyers to challenge unjust laws and racist systems. His quiet determination and genuine spirit inspired many.

Greer is survived by a niece, Leonie Craddock; a nephew, Gilbert Craddock; and three great nieces.

The family requested that donations made in Greer's name be given to the Southern Poverty Law Center.



Douglas Robinson Greer