

SPLC REPORT



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MONITORING HATE • TEACHING TOLERANCE • SEEKING JUSTICE

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Immigration fervor fuels racist extremism

The raging national debate over immigration is stoking the fires of racist extremism across the country. Neo-Nazis and other white supremacists are ratcheting up the intensity of their blood-thirsty “race war” rhetoric, and violent hate crimes against Hispanics, regardless of their immigration status, appear to be on the rise.

“The immigration furor has been critical to the growth we’ve seen in hate groups over the last several years,” said Mark Potok, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Intelligence Project, which recently reported a 33 percent growth in hate groups over a five-year period — from 602 in 2000 to 803 in 2005.

“Hate groups think they’ve found an issue with racial overtones and a real resonance with the American public, and they are exploiting it as effectively as they can,” he said. “They’re trying to generate a hostile social climate that fosters bigotry and violence towards all

Hispanics, whether they’re in the country illegally or not.”

Recent alarming events include:

- On May 6, the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan held an anti-immigration rally in Russellville, Alabama, that drew more than 300 Klansmen and Klan supporters, including members of the neo-Nazi hate group Aryan Nations. At the rally, robed Klansmen burned a 22-foot-high cross and yelled, “Let’s get rid of the Mexicans!”

- Also on May 6, when Hispanic families in Tucson gathered in a park to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, anti-immigration extremist Roy Warden arrived, armed with a pistol, and led a demonstration. “Listen up, Mexican invaders,” Warden said. “We will not permit you, the ignorant, the savage, the unwashed, to overrun us, as happened in Rome... Land must be paid for in blood. If any invader tries to take this land from us we will wash this land and nurture our

soil with oceans of their blood!”

Warden later e-mailed a death threat to Isabel Garcia, a Tucson public defender who co-chairs the human rights group Derechos Humanos. The e-mail was titled, “Warden to Isabel Garcia: I will blow your freakin’ head off!”

- On April 29, a neo-Nazi in East Hampton, New York, was arrested for threatening two Hispanic teenagers with a machete and chainsaw, holding the blade to the throat of one while threatening to kill them.

- On April 22, a 17-year-old Hispanic high school football play-

er was dragged from a suburban house party in Texas and savagely attacked by two white assailants, one of them a neo-Nazi skinhead, according to Harris County law enforcement officials.

Police said the attackers, Keith Robert Turner, 17, and David Henry Tuck, 18, apparently were enraged because the victim tried to kiss a young Hispanic girl they believed to be Caucasian. (continued on page 3)



Russ Dove (right), a member of the Tucson-based Border Guardians, holds a burning Mexican flag during a rally on April 10. Fellow member Laine Lawless (center) a week earlier urged neo-Nazi leaders to launch a campaign of violence against undocumented immigrants.

Center exposes widespread human rights abuses

Armenio Pablo-Calmo traveled from his home in Guatemala to work in the United States, hoping to earn enough money to provide a better life for his family back home. Like thousands of other “guest workers,” he performed back-breaking, often dangerous forestry work in the pinelands across the South.

Pablo was part of a small army of Latino men — known as *los pineros*, or men of the pines — who make up the unseen, unheard labor force behind the paper products that Americans use every day. Six days a week, these men trudge through national forests and huge commercial tracts owned by major U.S. forestry companies to thin brush, plant seedlings and spray herbicides. Often transported in overcrowded vans, they go home each night to nondescript, out-of-the-way motels to rest until a new day begins.

Although they are “guests” of U.S. businesses, lured here by the promise of opportunity, they are routinely denied basic human and civil rights once they arrive in this country. They are systematically underpaid and abused by unscrupulous employers who treat them as virtual indentured servants. Some have even been forced to leave



Armenio Pablo-Calmo and his granddaughter

the deeds to their homes or their passports with their employers. They risk retaliation if they dare to complain about working conditions. And because they are considered non-agricultural guest workers, they are not eligible for federally funded legal services to protect their rights.

Pablo now lives back in Guatemala. He suffered a debilitating injury in 2005, his sixth year of planting, when he was poked

in the eye with a branch.

“I cannot see well,” he said. “Everything is blurry. I cannot work. We are left to suffer while the company is making their money. I have the desire to return to work but I cannot because of what happened.”

“To plant trees, you suffer. The land plots are full of brush and thorns. It is dangerous. If I had been wearing protective glasses that day, at best, I would still be able to work today. Who knows where I would be now.”

As the nation debates immigration policy, there are proposals — including provisions contained in legislation passed by the U.S. Senate in May — that would add up to 200,000 people to the guest worker program. But this will only lead to more abuse of these vulnerable workers unless the government vigorously protects their rights. That has not been the case.

The Center’s Immigrant Justice Project (IJP) has documented the widespread exploitation of forestry workers and is pressing for reform of this broken system. As part of the campaign to bring the plight of abused workers to public attention, the IJP recently published “Beneath the Pines: Stories of Migrant Tree Planters.” This report,

which was mailed to members of Congress and journalists across the country, tells the story of Pablo and other forestry workers, all of whom are plaintiffs in a series of lawsuits filed by the IJP against forestry companies. The IJP also held a briefing in Washington for members of Congress and their staffs.

Some workers involved in the Center’s lawsuits have faced subsequent harassment. In late May, a federal judge in Tennessee issued an emergency protective order against Superior Forestry Service Inc. after its agent threatened to have two Mexican workers deported in retaliation for their participation in the Center’s lawsuit. Last fall, a federal court in New Orleans issued a similar order on behalf of Guatemalan workers whose families endured a campaign of threats and coercion.

“The fact that this industry routinely and predictably illegally retaliates against the most vulnerable workers in our nation underscores the courage of those workers who have dared to stand up for improved conditions and basic dignity,” said IJP attorney Andrew Turner.

The full text of “Beneath the Pines” is available at www.splcenter.org.

AP WIDE WORLD

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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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Law school, law firm establish Dees Award

A renowned international law firm has partnered with the University of Alabama School of Law to establish the Morris Dees Justice Award.

Dees, who founded the Southern Poverty Law Center with Joe Levin in 1971, graduated from the law school in 1960.

"We consider Morris Dees to be one of our most distinguished law graduates," said Dean Kenneth C. Randall. "His career has been a driving force in our state's and nation's pursuit of justice and equality for all people."

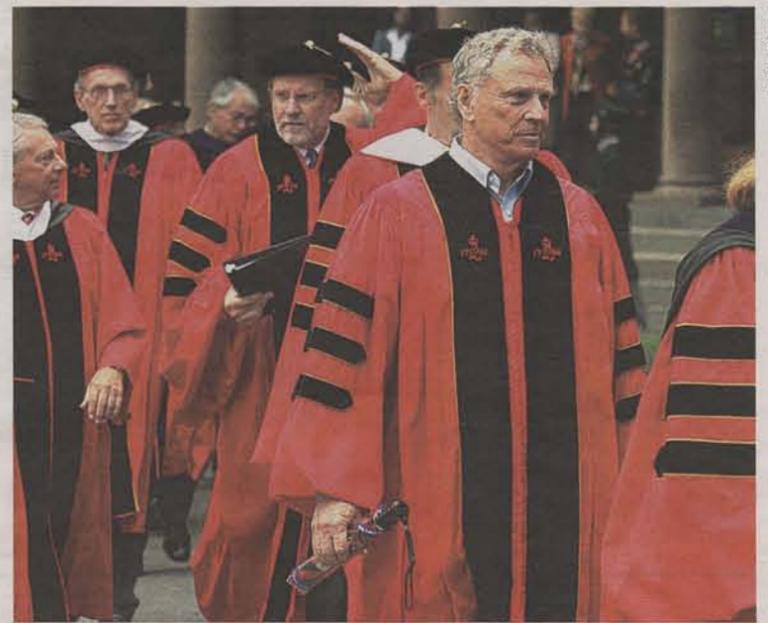
The law firm, Skadden Arps Meagher & Flom, is known for its premier corporate practice in New York and around the globe as

well as its support of public interest law and service.

The Morris Dees Justice Award will recognize a lawyer who has devoted himself or herself to justice and the public service of others and whose work has brought about positive change in the community, state or nation.

"Mr. Dees' career has inspired generations of lawyers to courageously seek justice," Randall said. "By creating an award in his name for lawyers emulating his commitment, Skadden and the Alabama Law School recognize and honor the role model he has been."

The deadline for nominations is September 15. The nomination form is available online at



Center founder Morris Dees walks in Rutgers' graduation procession during the university's 240th anniversary commencement ceremony. The New Jersey school awarded him an honorary degree at the May 17 event.

www.MorrisDeesAward.com. A distinguished committee will select the winner. The first award

will be presented in New York City on November 16; it will be awarded annually for five years.

Mistreatment of workers troubles Center donor

Center supporter Suzanne Taichert, an early childhood music teacher and songwriter in Albuquerque, New Mexico, expressed her support of the Center's lawsuits on behalf of exploited migrant workers in New Orleans in the following e-mail.

I woke up today feeling rotten about the way Katrina workers are being exploited. I heard many of them, after being cheated of their wages, are simply rounded up by Immigration and taken on buses back to the border!

This lack of compassion and gratitude by administrations of companies like Belfor and LVI and their "subcontractors" continues the amoral capitalism that

is ruining the world. It appears to be based on the Chinese slave labor model — work seven days a week, 12 hours a day, in appalling conditions, with no health care. In addition to creating bad karma by adding to human misery, these companies continue to ruin America's reputation: It's the land of the unfair, home of the robber baron.

Since the "leaders" of these corrupt companies appear unable to grow a conscience, I appreciate the Center's efforts to protect this vulnerable underclass. How will we ever know just how many migrants have been deported, after being cheated? They will never get their money.

I would like to see the govern-

ments of Mexico, El Salvador, etc., countries of origin for these undocumented workers, get their economic act together. But I fear globalization is making it much harder for them. A trucker in Mexico used to be able to feed his family on his weekly wages — no more, thanks to almighty "globalization."

Recently here in New Mexico, our law enforcement had to use their own money to pay the bail of a man who had killed a policeman and fled to Mexico. Mexican officials would not just hand him over — they wanted the bail paid by whoever got there first. Mexico's corruption is believed by many Mexicans to be so bad that

it will never get better — hence they take their chances over here.

I want to see American laborers able to get jobs at decent wages, with proper time off for rest, with health care, etc. How many Americans are homeless because of labor pressure? I continue to blame Reagan's philosophies for much of the labor abuses of today. And the idea of controlling immigration by telling me who I can or cannot help — it's just another infuriating example of a fascist agenda!

Thank you for letting me vent my frustration, and for your efforts.

I renewed my membership by mail yesterday.

MAILBOX

Thank you for your exposure of the Minuteman Project for what it is: wrong.

I was recently speaking with my mother about immigration reform when she started to comment on how the Minuteman Project was doing good things for Americans. Unfortunately, I believe she had been watching too much Lou Dobbs.

With the Center's resources, I was able to show her the ties this group has with white supremacists and neo-Nazi organizations. My mother is from Switzerland and spent the first 10 years of her life living in fear of Nazis. She did not know of this group's ties to the hate groups, but she does now. Once again, thank you. You will always have my support until the day I die.

S. H.
Denton, Texas

Speak Up! [the Center's anti-bias handbook] is great and fits in perfectly with the equity training we are doing in our middle school. As a staff developer, I use your materials frequently and re-

fer teachers to your website. Our social studies and language arts teacher have found your videos, DVDs and supplemental materials invaluable. Plus, the Teaching Tolerance website resources and links are a commonly used teaching tool.

Thank you for all your hard, quality work. At a time when budgets don't allow us to purchase materials we would love to have, we have you!

P. S.
Parker, Colorado

Your teaching materials are excellent beyond comparison. I thank you so much for this amazing and transformative contribution to American education. I am currently teaching on Saint Paul Island, way out in the Bering Sea off of Alaska's Aleutian chain. My Aleut students feel disconnected from the issues of tolerance, but they were spellbound and deeply moved by your videos. Next year, I will be transferring to another very remote school in Alaska for Yupik students, and I hope to use these

materials for that school, too.

S. C.
Anchorage, Alaska

I just recently attended a class where [Intelligence Project trainers] Joe Roy and Michelle Bramblett spoke at Brookdale Community College in New Jersey. Thank you for the great work these folks are doing. It was one of the best seminars I have attended, and the information given out to our law enforcement community was priceless.

D. H.
Freehold, New Jersey

Thank you so much for the materials that were sent to me. I work with at-risk students in a GED and job preparedness program. The students were shown your video *A Place at the Table*, and they loved it. They wrote their feelings after seeing the film and said they would love to continue to learn about the different cultures and hear all the teens' stories. It is very rare that our students become so captivated with a video, and I wanted to express

my continued appreciation and admiration for the work that is done at Teaching Tolerance.

J. H.
Everett, Washington

As a teacher of emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disordered teens, I cannot tell you how much your publications have improved my ability to open debate and spark dialogue among my students. Keep up the great work.

L. L.
Maumelle, Arkansas

I am a police sergeant in the Dothan, Alabama, Police Department, and your Intelligence Project magazines are a hot item around here.

S. R.
Dothan, Alabama

Thank you for providing such a wonderful service and resources. The materials you have made available make a huge difference in my history classes. They are opening minds and hearts.

E. S.
Tremonton, Utah

National Socialist Movement increases neo-Nazi activity

The National Socialist Movement (NSM), a long-time bit player among U.S. hate groups, has surged to become the largest, highest-profile and by far most active neo-Nazi organization in the country.

For nearly three decades after it was founded in 1974, the NSM was overshadowed by the National Alliance and Aryan Nations, and later by the World Church of the Creator. But while those groups have imploded since 2004 following the deaths or imprisonment of their leaders, the NSM has thrived. Propelled by a strategy of shrewdly promoted media

("88" is neo-Nazi code for "Heil Hitler," since "H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet).

The NSM has rapidly outpaced neo-Nazi upstart White Revolution in the post-National Alliance era by increasing the frequency and aggression of its highly theatrical street actions and by extending a standing invitation to "all white nationalists" to share the stage at NSM events.

Last October 15, the NSM scored a huge publicity victory when a planned march by its uniformed neo-Nazi members through a mostly black neighborhood in Toledo, Ohio, sparked rioting. Millions of television screens across the country that night and the next day filled with images of black youths battling with police, throwing rocks and setting fires, juxtaposed with NSM members giving "Seig Heil" salutes and talking about "Negroid beasts victimizing white citizens."

At their rallies and marches, NSM members typically wear outlandish Third Reich costumes, including jack-boots, stormtrooper brown shirts and swastika armbands. While NSM members profess extreme hatred for all non-whites, they declare "the filthy Jew" to be their principal enemy and trace all social problems to a global Jewish conspiracy they believe controls governments, financial institutions and the media.

The NSM openly worships Adolf Hitler, whom members refer to as "Holy Father

Hitler," and is focused on the revolutionary creation of a fascist political state, or "Fourth Reich," in America. It advocates laws stripping all non-white citizens of their constitutional rights and calls for the forced deportation of all non-white immigrants, regardless of legal status.

The most recent major NSM action occurred April 22 in Lansing, Michigan, where about 75 NSM members rallied on the steps of the state Capitol. The event drew about 300 counter-demonstrators, and police arrested 16 anti-racists for scuffling with NSM supporters and throwing rocks at the neo-Nazis.

A city-sponsored diversity rally held simultaneously in a different location attracted a crowd of 700. "We wanted them talking to empty streets," said Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. "We needed to beat them at their own game and be unified that day."



Members of the National Socialist Movement arrive at the state Capitol in Lansing, Mich., for an April 22 rally.

stunts, big-tent recruiting and violent rhetoric, the NSM is salvaging and reassembling the shards of America's recently shattered neo-Nazi movement.

"The growth of the National Socialist Movement over the last couple of years has been remarkable," said Mark Potok, director of the Center's Intelligence Project. "It also signals the rise of a particularly violence-prone sector of the radical right."

The Intelligence Project reports that the NSM has added 26 local chapters in the past eight months, for a total of 60 units spread across 35 states. Additionally, the NSM has launched its own "hate rock" music label and distribution business, NSM88 Records, and set up 88PAC, a federally registered political action committee designed to raise money for "pro-White" politicians, including NSM protest candidates for president and vice president in 2008

Immigration fervor fuels racist extremism

(continued from page 1) After forcing the Hispanic youth into a backyard, Turner and Tuck burned his neck with cigarettes, stomped his head with steel-toed boots, slashed his chest with a knife, all while shouting racial slurs. They then stripped him naked and sodomized him with a patio umbrella pole.

Tuck, the skinhead, kicked the pole repeatedly.

"I don't mean just a little bit," said Harris County prosecutor Mike Trent. "He kicked it in and shoved it so far in that he has caused major organ damage. It looks like they were really trying to kill him and torture him any way they could."

The victim remains in critical condition.

• On April 3, a prominent anti-immigration leader in Arizona secretly contacted the nation's largest neo-Nazi organization to urge its leaders to launch a campaign of violence and ha-

arrassment against undocumented immigrants. Border Guardians founder Laine Lawless, who has been interviewed on CNN and Fox News, sent an e-mail to Mark Martin, commander of the Western Ohio unit of the National Socialist Movement. The e-mail was titled, "How to GET RID OF THEM" and detailed 11 suggestions for ways to terrorize immigrants. "Maybe some of your warriors for the race would be the kind of people willing to implement these ideas," Lawless wrote.

Lawless' suggestions included: "Steal the money from any illegal walking into a bank or check cashing place," "Make every illegal alien feel the heat of being a person without status...I hear the rednecks in the South are beating up illegals as the textile mills have closed. Use your imagination," and "Discourage Spanish-speak-

ing children from going to school. Be creative."

• On March 27, New Jersey-based neo-Nazi radio host Hal Turner called for the mass murder of Hispanics and the assassination of U.S. senators who support guest worker programs. "All of you who think there's a peaceful solution to these invaders are wrong. We're going to have to start killing these people," Turner said. "I advocate using extreme violence against illegal aliens. Clean your guns. Have plenty of ammunition. Find out where the largest gathering of illegal aliens will be near you. Go to the area well in advance, scope out several places to position yourself and then do what has to be done." Turner directed his listeners to a website that provides detailed instructions on constructing pipe bombs, ammonium nitrate "fertilizer bombs" and car bombs.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

Klan leader's house sold to compensate clients

Two television journalists who were held at gunpoint by officials of what was then the nation's largest and most aggressive Klan group have received compensation from the sale of the Klan leader's house, concluding a six-year legal battle waged by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"The goal of our lawsuit was to get compensation for our clients and put Jeff Berry out of business, and it succeeded," said Center Legal Director Rhonda Brownstein. "Berry went to prison, and his Klan organization was dismantled."

When the lawsuit was filed in January 2000, Berry's group, the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, had 27 chapters in 13 states. Today, there are none.

The journalists, George Sells IV and Heidi Thiel, were covering Klan activity for Louisville television station WHAS in November 1999 when they went to Berry's Butler, Ind., home to interview him about an upcoming rally. Berry became enraged when he learned the pair intended to also interview a former Klan member who had renounced racism, and several followers forcibly detained the journalists and brandished a shotgun until they surrendered their videotapes.

Center lawyers won a \$120,000 default judgment in the lawsuit, which claimed Berry falsely imprisoned and threatened the two journalists.

Although Berry had few assets, the Center pursued all avenues for collecting the judgment to ensure he would feel its full sting.

Center lawyers ultimately prevailed. In early April, the house was sold, and the journalists each received \$6,500 from the sale.

Neo-Nazi leader indicted in civil rights conspiracy

A federal grand jury has indicted the top leader of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, once the most feared hate group in America, and charged him and two subordinates with conspiring to deprive non-white people in Salt Lake City of their civil rights.

Alliance Chairman Shaun A. Walker, 38, was arrested at the West Virginia headquarters of the group on June 8. On the same day, Travis D. Massey, 29, the Alliance's Salt Lake City unit coordinator, and Eric G. Egbert, 21, of Salt Lake City were arrested in Utah. Each man is charged with one count of conspiracy to interfere with civil rights and one count of interference with a federally protected activity.

"These arrests may mark the final stage in what has been a long decline in the National Alliance," said Mark Potok, direc-

tor of the Center's Intelligence Project, which has monitored the Alliance since the 1980s. "What was once the most important hate group in America may soon be just a memory."

Prosecutors allege that the three engaged in a conspiracy between December 2002 and March 2003 to provoke fights with non-white persons "in order to make them afraid to appear in public, work and live" in Salt Lake City. If the men are convicted, they each could face up to 20 years in prison.

The National Alliance is a group that has produced a huge number of criminals, including men who have engaged in shoot-outs with police, robbed banks, carried out assassinations and bombings, and killed suspected informers. Its founder and long-time leader, William Pierce, wrote a novel called *The Turner Diaries*, which has inspired terrorists including the 1995 Oklahoma City bombers.

Pierce died in 2002, and the Alliance has been in decline ever since. At the time of Pierce's death, the group had more than 1,400 members and 17 full-time, paid staffers, and was grossing about \$1 million a year. Today, the group has fewer than 200 members, a small handful of staffers, and a money-losing operation.

Anti-Semitic activity surges in Connecticut

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. — Hundreds of copies of the anti-Semitic, Holocaust denial newspaper *Truth at Last* were distributed in May in the same neighborhood where a synagogue's Holocaust memorial was spray-painted twice with swastikas during the Passover holiday.

"We were very hurt by it," Rabbi Joseph Goden said of the vandalism. "It was a tremendous assault on the community, on the Holocaust memorial and on the Holocaust survivors."

Lt. Steven Estes of the West Hartford Police Department said police are investigating possible links between the defacement of the Holocaust memorial and the distribution of the anti-Semitic newspaper, which Lt. Estes said law enforcement officials considered a hate crime.

Lt. Estes also reported several other recent instances of anti-Semitic harassment and vandalism in the West Hartford area. "We had some swastika stuff delivered to a teacher, a different case but in the same vein. And there were swastikas painted on [a local high school] a month, month and a half ago."

Rabbi Gopin said he's concerned about the sudden rash of anti-Semitic activity. "The worry is that something is going on that we don't know about."



Russell Estes (from left), Valerie Downes, Brian Willoughby and Jeff Sapp display the Center's nine EdPress awards.

Tolerance work wins honors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Center's achievements in promoting tolerance and respect in the classroom and beyond were recognized when the Association of Education Publishers (EdPress) awarded the Center an unprecedented nine awards at its annual banquet here June 9.

"This represents the fine work of many talented people," said Brian Willoughby, managing editor of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, which is sent free to 600,000 educators.

"Our curriculum specialists, our writers and our incredible design team all work together to provide teachers with the tools to reduce prejudice and improve inter-group relations in the nation's schools and classrooms."

Teaching Tolerance magazine was named periodical of the year, vying against industry leaders such as *Educational Leadership*, published by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and *American School Board Journal*, published by the National School Boards Association.

The semiannual magazine also was named most improved periodical, based on its recent redesign.

Nominations for the awards were announced in April. *Teaching Tolerance*, along with the Center's design and web services departments, earned 18 nominations, including one for the Golden Lamp, EdPress' highest honor.

Teaching Tolerance magazine won the Golden Lamp in 1995.

Representing the Center at the awards banquet at the J.W. Marriott Hotel were Willoughby; Russell Estes, Center design director; Valerie Downes, Center senior designer; and Jeff Sapp, curriculum specialist and writer for *Teaching Tolerance*.

Other 2006 EdPress awards for *Teaching Tolerance* are:

- *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, an educational kit recounting the nonviolent uprising of Birmingham's youth to challenge segregation, was named the best comprehensive curriculum package. The kit includes a teacher's guide and a classroom version of the Academy Award-winning documentary film.
- *Speak Up! Responding to Everyday Bigotry* won two awards. The publication was named best instructional booklet overall and also was honored in the design category as best whole publication.

- The Center's design team won three other awards: best magazine cover for the Fall 2005 issue, "Bully on the Bus"; best magazine article design, for "GameFace"; and best magazine illustration for "Caroline is a Boy," a story about transgender students.

- And Willoughby won the best magazine editorial award for "Lessons of Tolerance," from the Fall 2005 issue of the magazine.

The winners were chosen from more than 1,300 entries from organizations such as *Weekly Reader*, *National Geographic*, *Time* magazine's student edition, the *Smithsonian*, *NEA* and many other highly regarded educational publishers. The only organization to win more awards than the Center was Scholastic, an educational publisher with thousands of employees that garnered 12 awards.

Due to the generosity of the Center's donors, *Teaching Tolerance* is able to offer its magazine and other educational materials — including its film-based curriculum kits — free to educators across the nation.

In 2005, *Teaching Tolerance* earned five EdPress nominations and won two awards.

Food giant sued for worker mistreatment

MIAMI — As part of its efforts to ensure the fair treatment of vulnerable migrant workers, the Center filed a class action lawsuit in April that accuses food giant Del Monte of using subcontractors to avoid taking responsibility for the exploitation of farmworkers who plant and harvest its fields.

Plaintiffs in the suit, filed by the Center's Immigrant Justice Project (IJP), are Mexican "guest workers" and domestic migrant farmworkers who were recruited to work for Del Monte in two Georgia counties from 2003 through the current season. The suit says workers were underpaid by Del Monte subsidiaries.

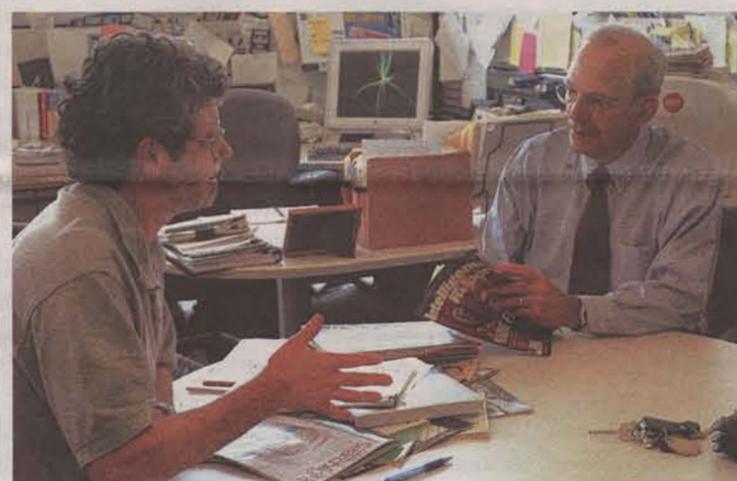
Guest workers are brought into the U.S. from other countries on special visas under the federal H-2A program that permit them to work only for the employer who requests them.

"This case is particularly significant because it aims to combat a disturbing trend by large corporate growers importing workers," said IJP Director Mary Bauer. "Increasingly, those corporations attempt to evade responsibility for their workers by having middlemen — generally penniless crew leaders — submit the applications for H-2A workers, instead of doing so themselves."

Workers were promised and were entitled to receive payment as prescribed by federal regulations, but they were consistently cheated out of the wages due them. The plaintiffs, who are indigent, left their homes and families and spent considerable sums of money to travel to Georgia to work for Del Monte.

"Del Monte and others turn a blind eye when workers are underpaid and abused, by claiming that the workers are solely the employees of the middlemen," Bauer said. "In fact, the workers labor on fields owned by Del Monte, live in housing provided by Del Monte, and are Del Monte's employees in every important respect."

The lawsuit, *Luna v. Del Monte Fresh Produce (Southeast), Inc.*, was filed in the U.S. District Court in Miami.



Former security adviser visits Center

Intelligence Project Director Mark Potok (left) describes how the Center monitors domestic extremism to Tony Lake, national security adviser in the Clinton administration. Lake visited the Center and the Civil Rights Memorial Center on May 23 while in Montgomery for a speaking engagement.

Harassment-free work environment is project's goal

The Center's Immigrant Justice Project (IJP) recently launched a new initiative that addresses gender discrimination of immigrant women in the workplace.

"For too long, immigrant women have been abused and exploited in this country," IJP director Mary Bauer said. "This project aims to challenge the systems that keep immigrant women in slavery-like conditions in the United States. It is shameful that the sexual abuse of poor immigrant women continues in this nation in the 21st century."

Mónica Ramírez, an expert on the issue who joined IJP as a law fellow in February, directs the project, dubbed *Esperanza: The Immigrant Women's Legal Initiative*.

The goals of *Esperanza*, which means "hope" in Spanish, include

informing the public about the gender discrimination faced by many immigrant women in the workplace, educating immigrant



Monica Ramirez directs new Center initiative.

women about their rights, and litigating gender discrimination cases against companies breaking the law.

"For a long time, no one was talking about this," Ramírez said.

"Women were too often afraid to come forward. No legal services program was focusing on this issue, and few organizations had expertise or resources to dedicate to it. But we need to know about it, and we need to be outraged. We want these women to have a voice, and we want these companies to pay for the illegal behavior that's being committed in their workplace.

"Every person deserves to go to work in a place that is free of harassment," she said. "We will not tolerate rape, discrimination or any form of harassment in the workplace or any place. We're living in a time when anti-immi-

grant sentiment runs high, and we need to band together to spread this message."

A study done for California State University found that 90 percent of farmworker women reported sexual harassment on the job as a major problem. Also in California, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that hundreds, if not thousands, of women were forced to have sex with their supervisors in order to get or keep jobs or put up with a constant barrage of grabbing and touching and propositions for sex by supervisors.

Project began in Florida

Ramírez founded *Esperanza* as a statewide project in Florida while working there as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. With Ramírez joining IJP, *Esperanza* becomes a na-

tional effort. It is the first project in the United States to specifically examine sexual harassment of immigrant women.

The Center's efforts will not be limited to farmworker women, but will address gender discrimination of low-wage immigrant women in other labor forces as well, including hotel and service industries and meat-packing plants.

Through *Esperanza*, the Center currently has one case in federal court. The Center represents four women at a tomato-packing plant in Florida. The complaint alleges that their supervisor subjected them to physical and verbal sexual harassment. He retaliated against them for rejecting his propositions or for complaining to the company.

Ramírez says *Esperanza's* work dovetails with the larger goals of the Center's Immigrant Justice Project.

New Katrina report reveals abuse of incarcerated youths

NEW ORLEANS — In the chaos after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans' broken juvenile justice system completely abandoned 150 children locked in the city's adult prison, according to a report by the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL).

Created in 1997 with the help of the Southern Poverty Law Center, JJPL is an advocacy organization dedicated to reforming Louisiana's juvenile justice system.

"Treated Like Trash: Juvenile Detention in New Orleans Before, During and After Hurricane Ka-

trina" documents the horrific conditions endured by incarcerated youths who were trapped in filthy floodwater and went without food and water for as long as five days.

"The water had feces and stuff floating around in it, but some people drank it anyway because they were so thirsty," 14-year-old Eddie Fenceroy told The Associated Press at a May 9 news conference held to introduce the report.

"I don't think my son should have gone without food or water," said Lynette Robertson, Fenceroy's mother. "I don't think he should

have been afraid that he would die. I don't think he should have had to go through any of this. No child or family should ever have to go through such a thing again."

The young prisoners were eventually evacuated, along with thousands of adult inmates, to a highway overpass. But not before they endured nightmarish conditions that left many with long-term psychological stress.

"Treated Like Trash" includes stories from incarcerated youths about their ordeal.

During their evacuation through

the floodwater, some of the teenagers saw food floating in the water. "We tried to catch and eat it. That's how hungry we were," said a 15-year-old identified as E.F. in the report.

"Kids were going crazy, shaking their cells for food and water," said T.G., 16.

"It was scary," said L.H., 14. "I didn't know what was going to happen or where my mom was. Kids were so weak from no food or water."

The report highlights a flawed juvenile justice system recognized

as one of the country's worst. Even before Katrina, JJPL had documented unsanitary conditions, inadequate education, poor medical services and violence from guards at the youth detention facilities. The storm magnified the problems.

"Problems with Orleans parish's detention centers and our juvenile justice system — made more pronounced by Katrina's damage — were neither created nor washed away by Katrina's impact," said Derwyn Bunton, JJPL associate director.

Parent turns to Center when child gets hate e-mail

HENDERSON, KY. — A Kentucky mother of four wasn't sure where to turn when her 12-year-old daughter received a racist, threatening e-mail at the middle school she attends here.

The message, which appeared to have been sent from a computer at a nearby high school, included racial slurs, references to the KKK and threats of violence against the 7th-grader and her older sisters.

Dissatisfied with the school's slow response, Carla Wood decided to look for ways to educate the school community and parents about the phenomenon of cyberbullying. The term refers to the use of technology, such as cell phones and the Internet, to degrade, harass or humiliate another person or group of people.

The problem of cyberbullying is not an uncommon one. According to a 2005 study conducted by researchers at Clemson University, nearly one in five students in 6th through 8th grades reported they had been cyberbullied at least once in the past two months.

"The school tried to sweep it under the rug," Wood said. "They didn't want to let anyone know. But people have to know; that's the only way we can know how to deal with this kind of thing."

Wood first spoke to her local media about the incident. Then a friend, familiar with the Center's efforts promoting tolerance and combating prejudice and discrimination, pointed her in the direction of the Intelligence Project and Teaching Tolerance programs.

Teaching Tolerance magazine, in fact, already had highlighted cyberbullying in its Spring 2006 edition.

After several phone interviews with Wood, the Center's Teaching Tolerance program compiled an online package for parents and educators about cyberbullying.

Wood said she was glad to know her daughter's story could be used to help others who may find themselves in similar situations.

"I would really like parents and administrators to be more proactive and responsible when it comes to securing our children's safety online," Wood said. "A couple of seconds of someone's foolishness can cause pain that may sometimes become irreversible."

Within just a few weeks of publishing the online cyberbullying package, Teaching Tolerance received nearly two dozen requests to reprint the material in other publications and websites, including many school newsletters.



Never too young to appreciate diversity: 21-month-old Elizabeth Boian admires art on the Respect Wall.

Grant-funded 'Respect Wall' unites school

LAFAYETTE, COLO. — At the Peak to Peak Charter School here, students had already spent several months reading, writing and talking about themes of tolerance.

But Peak staff and students — at a relatively new K-12 school that draws a wide array of students — wanted a way to take their efforts a step further.

Anecdotal evidence, coupled with the results of an annual survey of parents and guardians, identified a need to create a more welcoming and inclusive learning environment for the diverse student body.

So teachers at Peak to Peak applied for a \$2,000 Teaching Tolerance grant. With that financial assistance, students were able to turn their classroom discussions of tolerance into a true communitywide legacy.

First, students began with in-depth conversations about bullying, respect and diversity. Then, each student painted a 5-inch-by-5-inch ceramic tile with a scene representing the hope for a more tolerant, accepting world.

One 5th-grader's tile depicts three people of different skin tones holding above their heads one big, blue planet. The tile's title — "One World" — represents each person's responsibility to support and respect the human dignity of all the planet's people, the student said.

After the designing and painting process, all 1,250 tiles were

assembled into a massive "Respect Wall." Students, parents and community members worked together on the wall, creating a vivid message of tolerance for the entire school community.

"The wall is a visible reminder of the students' commitment to eliminating prejudice and increasing intercultural competence," said Teaching Tolerance Grants Coordinator Rhonda Thomason. "The project became a schoolwide movement celebrated with the community."

In awarding grants, Thomason said she looks for opportunities for students to work collaboratively and the chance for students to connect issues of tolerance to experiences from their own lives.

"We aren't interested in supplying resources so much as supporting movements where students are actively engaged in shared goals that affect attitudes and behaviors," Thomason said. "The Respect Wall was chosen because students throughout the school were encouraged to discuss and reflect about the values of respect, diversity and tolerance and represent the idea in a creative and personal fashion."

Since 1997, Teaching Tolerance has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to help K-12 educators implement innovative anti-bias projects in classrooms, schools and communities. For information, visit www.teachingtolerance.org, and click on "Grants."

Street renamed for Klan victim

Mobile, Ala., street was officially renamed Michael Donald Avenue in a May 16 ceremony in honor of the black teenager who was murdered by the Klan and left hanging from a tree there in 1981.

Donald was 19 when he was abducted as he walked to a convenience store. Members of the United Klans of America beat him, cut his throat and hung his body in a camphor tree. One Klansman was convicted of Donald's death and executed in 1997. Two others were sentenced to prison terms.

In 1984, the Southern Poverty Law Center sued the United Klans and two years later won a \$7 million jury verdict. The Klan had few assets but was forced to turn over its headquarters building to Donald's mother, Beulah Mae Donald. The award is widely credited for putting the Klan group, notorious for its violence in the 1960s, out of business.

Michael Donald's story is the introductory exhibit in the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery.

The Mobile City Council voted unanimously to rename Herndon

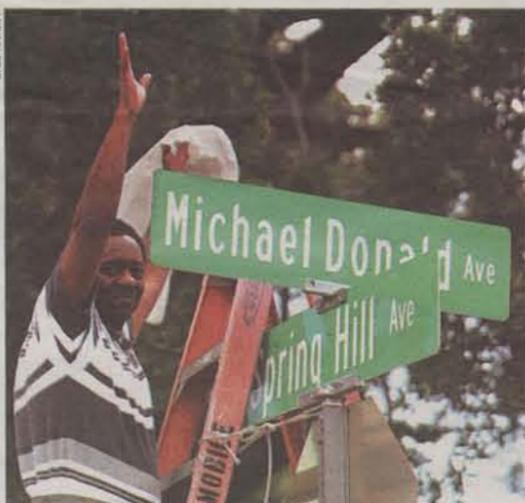
Avenue after Donald's family requested the change and a petition supporting the new name was signed by the street's residents. Michael Donald Avenue is a one-block street between Old Shell Road and Springhill Avenue, just west of downtown.

Donald's family said renaming Herndon Avenue in honor of Michael is an important step for them and the city.

"I'm glad it happened," Dennis Perry, Donald's brother-in-law, told the *Mobile Press Register*. "Now I can go down Spring Hill and see Michael Donald Avenue. [Before today], that was one street I did not go down."

"It changed our lives forever," said Donald's sister, Cecilia Perry.

"There's never really closure, but it gives us comfort in today's world that we could do something like



Stanley Donald raises his arm in celebration after unveiling a street sign bearing the name of his brother.

this in his honor."

"This is a reminder to put away our prejudices, to be inclusive to everyone and to love our neighbors," Councilman William Carroll said at the ceremony, the *Mobile Register* reported.

TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CENTER FROM MARCH 2006 THROUGH MAY 2006

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Center receives bequest from Partner for the Future

George Kern Richmond's life took him around the world, but it was at home in California working with youth that he was the happiest.

A beloved counselor at the College of San Mateo in California, Richmond continually sought ways to help others, including becoming one of the Center's "Partners for the Future."

Partners are special donors who include the Center in their wills or estate plans, thereby extending their support for the Center's work beyond their lifetimes.

His decision to become a partner, however, is not Richmond's only legacy. He also set up the Kern Richmond Scholarship fund for students returning or transferring to San Mateo, and a scholarship in political science at the University of California at Berkeley bears his name.

Both scholarships were designated by Richmond for "students pursuing teaching at the college level or careers in nonprofit and human rights organizations that promote and protect civil liberties and civil rights."

That the two scholarships would be designated for those dedicated to social justice is no surprise to those who knew Richmond as a political science teacher and counselor at San Mateo, where he was considered innovative in his desire to improve student services. He became the first counselor at the school to offer drop-in counseling.

Richmond taught political sci-

ence based on his years of military and government experience.

During World War II, Richmond served in the U.S. Army with assignments in the South Pacific and Japan and earned a Bronze Star. While in Japan, Richmond worked as an intelligence specialist on General Douglas MacArthur's staff.



Kern Richmond

After the war, he enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley where he earned his A.B. and M.A. in political science. From there he went to Washington, D.C., to work for the U.S. Department of State.

Richmond retired from 40 years of teaching in 1995. He spent his retirement years traveling with friends and attending the San Francisco Symphony, his other passion.

A Center supporter since 1989, he died in 2004.

His former colleagues remember him as "a true ambassador of counseling services."

Scroll of Remembrance

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of deceased supporters who included the Center in their Wills or other planned gifts. The Center gratefully acknowledges their bequests, received from May 1, 2005, through May 31, 2006.

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There are several ways to join Partners for the Future. You may include a bequest to the Southern Poverty Law Center in your will or living trust. You may

provide for the eventual distribution of assets, such as those held in retirement fund accounts or life insurance policies, potentially gaining tax or financial benefits.

After planning for the financial security of your family and loved ones, we hope you will consider joining Partners for the Future by making a planned gift to the Center.

For information about the many planned giving opportunities available at the Center — with no obligation — please contact our planned giving department by calling toll-free 1-888-414-7752 or by mailing the form below. You can also visit us online at www.SPLCenter.org/donate or e-mail us at

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Civil Rights Memorial

Supporters fund legal fellowship

Longtime fans of the Center, Larry and Sharon Malcolmson were looking for a new way to support its work.

"We just wanted to see what we could do to help more," said Larry Malcolmson. "I think the Center's approach is so creative — 'Let's use the law to beat intolerance.' Those civil suits are so creative, we just like to help."

So the Malcolmsons and Center staff came up with an idea: underwriting one of the Center's two-year legal fellowships. The prestigious program develops top young legal talent and expands the Center's capacity for new initiatives.

Their support is now being used to help reform Alabama's juvenile justice system. The fellowship was awarded to attorney Julia Lee, a University of Michigan Law School graduate who joined the Center in September.

"Working for kids in the juvenile justice system has been, and continues to be, a tremendously

rewarding and eye-opening experience," said Lee.

The Malcolmsons' generosity has already led to significant results. In one heart-rending case, Lee persuaded a judge to release a boy with mental health needs after he had been locked up for almost two months, despite state laws that prohibit extended detention. He not only missed his 10th birthday, but also Thanksgiving and his stepfather's funeral.

Because of the Center's intervention, the judge in the case adopted an alternative treatment plan allowing the child to receive necessary services in the community rather than be locked up at a distant residential facility.

The boy's mother said her son is now at home with her and doing well. "The only way for me to get him home was to find someone who knew the rules," she said. "The Center's lawyer knew the rules and got the judge to see he was only nine years old [at the time]."

The youth's case is not unique. Approximately 70 percent of children in the juvenile justice system have specialized mental health needs. In Mississippi, 85 percent of incarcerated youths have a diagnosable mental health condition.

"Thousands of kids in this country are confined in detention for weeks — even months — waiting for mental health services," said Lee. "But instead of receiving the treatment they need, they end up getting passed around from agency to agency in a game of 'not my kid.'"

The Malcolmsons named the fellowship after Larry's father. The David Malcolmson Fellowship is a tribute to the man who early on taught Larry the difference between right and wrong.

"My dad brought me and my brother, Ken, through the Deep South when we were kids," Larry recalled. "I remember seeing the separate water fountains. My father pointed to them and said simply, 'This will not do.'"

"He made us grow up in a transparent world and went out of his way to speak on why tolerance is important. He was just a great human being," Larry said.



Julia Lee

Young students learn tolerance with help from Center Mix grant

PITTSBURGH, PA. — How can you teach elementary students about the importance of multiculturalism? Sometimes, all you need is a box of markers and a couple of ingenious educators.

Meredith Lolla and Jennifer Tamiggi, who teach at Pivik Elementary School here, were looking for ways to instill in their students the values of tolerance and respect. With the help of a Mix It Up Grant awarded in February from the Center, the teachers were able to expand a program they call "People Colors."

The Center's Mix It Up program, launched in 2002, encourages students across the country to challenge social boundaries in their schools, bringing down the walls that lead to a segregated society.

"People Colors" parallels those goals, teaching students not to pre-judge physical differences such as skin color but rather focus on our commonalities.

"They need to learn to treat people who may have different skin colors with respect," Lolla told Pittsburgh's *Plum Advance Leader* in March. "Children need to learn these lessons at a young age because that is when they are the most impressionable, the most likely to form enduring views on such important issues."

Combining Lolla's 4th-grade class with Tamiggi's kindergartners, the teachers led discussions of the concepts of fairness and tolerance.

In pairs — one 4th-grader work-

ing with one kindergartner — they read books such as bell hooks' *Skin Again* and Karen Katz's *The Colors of Us*. Together, they discussed and identified tolerance-related themes in the literature.

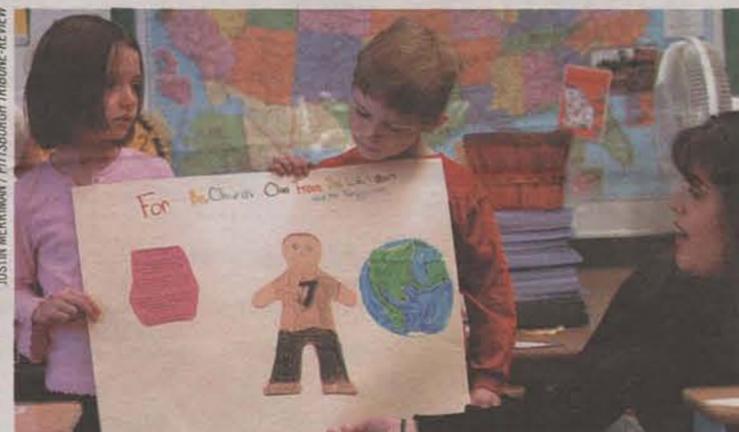
Next, each team made its own book and used Crayola's "People Colors" markers, which come in a rainbow of real-life skin tones, to illustrate the story.

At the end of the project, the

also emphasized service and contributing to the community. The impact went beyond the students involved in the program.

Other schools should consider using "People Colors" as a model, English said.

"Based on research, we know that children can learn prejudice as early as age 3. They understand the differences that exist among themselves. They learn from society that



Carmen Veltri (left) and Andrew Serakowski hold up a poster as teacher Jennifer Tamiggi reads from it.

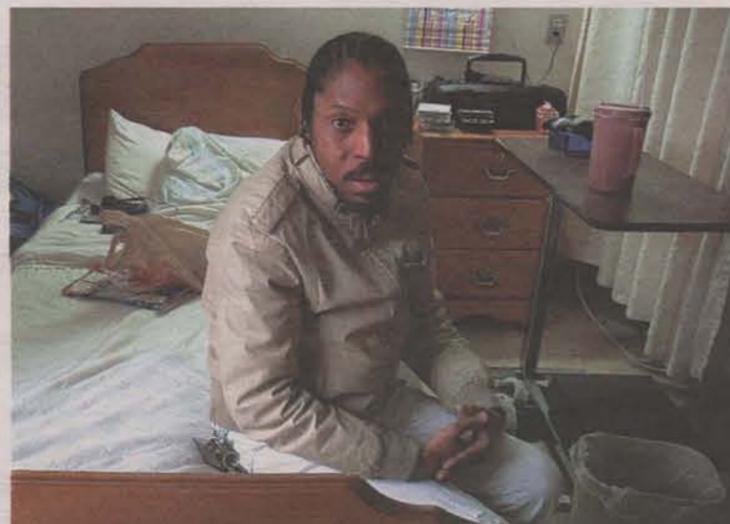
students gave presentations to other classrooms at Pivik on the importance of diversity.

It was that sense of giving back to the school community that caught the attention of Mix It Up Director Tafeni English.

"One of the things we look for when awarding grants is an increased awareness of a specific issue," English said. "This program, while it focused on race,

it's OK to exclude individuals because of those differences," English said. "So focusing on these issues in the early grades will help reduce prejudices in the long term."

Since 2002, Mix It Up has awarded more than \$60,000 in grants to support programs and projects that address social boundaries in schools or communities. For information, visit www.mixitup.org, and click on "Apply for a grant."



Center client awaits justice

Billy Ray Johnson, 45, sits on his bed in a Texarkana, Tex., nursing home. Center attorneys continue to work on his lawsuit seeking damages from four men who taunted him at a pasture party. One knocked him unconscious, inflicting permanent brain damage. The men failed to get Johnson medical care, instead abandoning him along a remote rural road. A trial in the case is tentatively set for March.

Center's lobbying work nets new reform law

JACKSON, MISS. — Following a major lobbying effort by the Center, the Mississippi legislature in March approved legislation that its sponsor, Rep. George Flagg, calls the most progressive juvenile justice law enacted anywhere in the United States.

"This new law establishes a framework for a model juvenile justice system," said Sheila Bedi, a Center attorney and co-director of the Center's Mississippi Youth Justice Project. "It makes critical improvements to every stage of the process. Troubled children now can get the help they need to be successful in life."

The legislation was a major priority in the Center's ongoing campaign to overhaul Mississippi's brutal juvenile justice system. When Governor Haley Barbour signed the bill into law, he handed his pen to Bedi in a symbolic gesture to acknowledge her vital role in getting the measure passed.

The law, passed on March 28, provides funding for community-based services for juvenile offenders and builds on the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2005, which represented a fundamental shift in the way Mississippi deals with juvenile offenders. That measure emphasized community-based rehabilitation and reduced punishment for first-time, non-violent offenders. But it did not provide funding.

The new law, the Mississippi Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act, mandates:

- a \$5 million grant program for community-based alternatives to incarceration so that training school and detention placement is reduced;
- comprehensive training requirements for court-appointed juve-

- nile public defenders;
- standards for community-based alternatives to incarceration;
- prohibition of detention for "status offenders," those guilty of offenses that would not be crimes if committed by adults; and,
- transitional planning for youths leaving the training schools and detention centers.

The Center began its push to reform Mississippi's long-troubled juvenile justice system in 2003. That same year, a report from the U.S. Department of Justice documented shockingly inhumane conditions at Columbia and Oakley training schools, the state's juvenile prisons.

Early last year, the Center initiated the Mississippi Youth Justice Project. Co-directed by Bedi and grassroots organizer Ellen Reddy, the project worked to pass last year's Juvenile Justice Reform Act. In addition to emphasizing community-based rehabilitation, the bill ensured that the Department of Public Safety would inspect the centers and training schools.

In February, however, a court-appointed monitor reported ongoing civil rights violations at the two schools, including assaults on children and inadequate medical care. The report revealed that more needs to be done to protect Mississippi's youth.

Bedi and Reddy coordinate their efforts with the Mississippi Coalition to Prevent Schoolhouse to Jailhouse, a group of about 40 community organizations, and the Mississippi Center for Justice. Their strategy to combine litigation with legislative advocacy is reaping results. Since the Center began its reform efforts, juvenile incarceration in Mississippi has dropped from more than 500 children in 2002 to about 300 today.



Sheila Bedi