

SPLC REPORT

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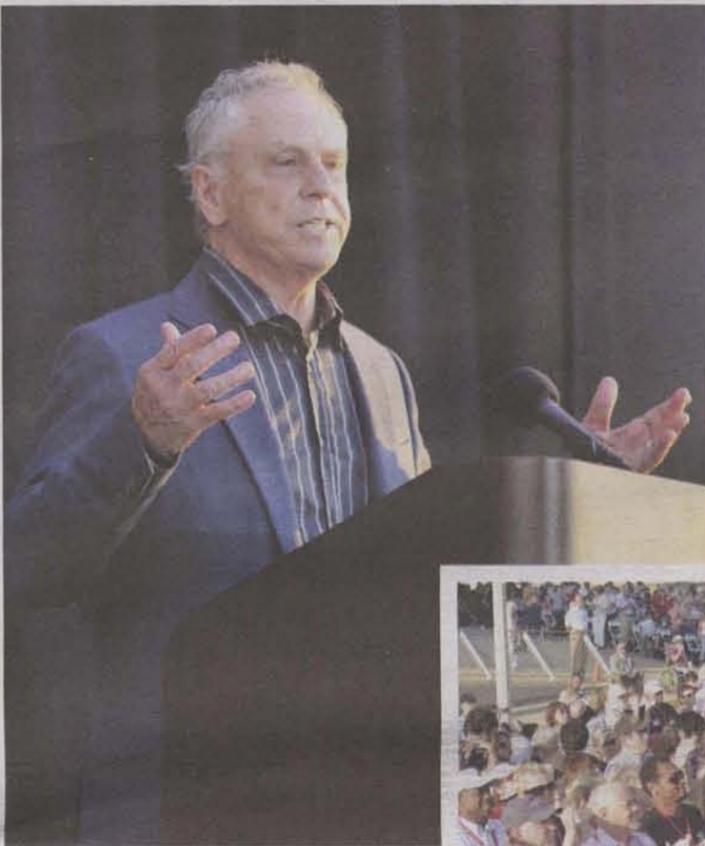
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DAVID BUNDY



Hundreds of SPLC supporters stand and applaud as founder Morris Dees thanks them for making the SPLC's success possible.

SPLC members celebrate 40 years of achievements

Forty years may have passed since the founding of the Southern Poverty Law Center, but for Evelyn Green-Frierson — a descendant of legendary abolitionist Harriet Tubman — its work is as vital as ever.

"It is very disturbing that we live in a country today where we have freedom but still there are individuals [and] hate groups

that are trying to hold different groups back, because of race, because of class, because of gender," said Green-Frierson, a school counselor in Camden, N.J. "It is unbelievable."

Fight for justice continues

"So, we need organizations like the SPLC to fight for our cause and to continue what Dr. Martin Luther King fought for so long — for us to have freedom."

That cause — that continuing fight for justice — was what drew some 1,500 passionate supporters to the SPLC's 40th anniversary celebration in Montgomery, Ala., on April 29-30.

They traveled from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii, and many had supported the SPLC for decades. They packed into local churches and other venues to learn about the organization's landmark achievements and hear about the challenges that

lie ahead. They exchanged ideas with SPLC lawyers on the cutting edge of social justice litigation. They sat in reverence in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where King in the 1950s helped launch the Montgomery Bus Boycott that sparked the modern-day civil rights movement. They shook hands with civil rights icons like Julian Bond, the SPLC's first president and current board member.

And they shared moments of laughter and tears, a community of people united in their commitment to the ideals of equality and justice, and dedicated to pursuing those ideals in their own lives.

For many, the anniversary was not only an opportunity to honor the SPLC's history but also a time to reflect on the challenges of the future. Jim Fisher, who came from Chicago with

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RYAN KING

KEY ANALYSIS UNIT EVISCERATED

SPLC exposes DHS decision to dismantle domestic terrorism unit, urges reassessment

In an explosive interview with the SPLC, a former key terrorism analyst for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has revealed that the department gutted the unit that investigated non-Islamic domestic terrorism following conservatives' criticism of a 2009 DHS report on right-wing extremists.

SPLC President Richard Cohen, in response, urged Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to reassess the resources it devotes to domestic extremists.

"The department's work should never be compromised by misguided criticism from any quarter," Cohen wrote in a June 3 letter to Napolitano.

No reports for law enforcement
Daryl Johnson, the former lead domestic terrorism analyst for DHS, told the SPLC's *Intelligence Report* in an interview for the Summer issue that the department no longer produces reports

on domestic terrorism for law enforcement. There were six analysts; now there is one.

Johnson was the principal author of the April 7, 2009 report, "Right-wing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment." The report — intended for law enforcement only — was quickly leaked and caused a firestorm among some on the political right who falsely accused DHS of painting all conservatives as potential domestic terrorists.

Investigative unit gutted

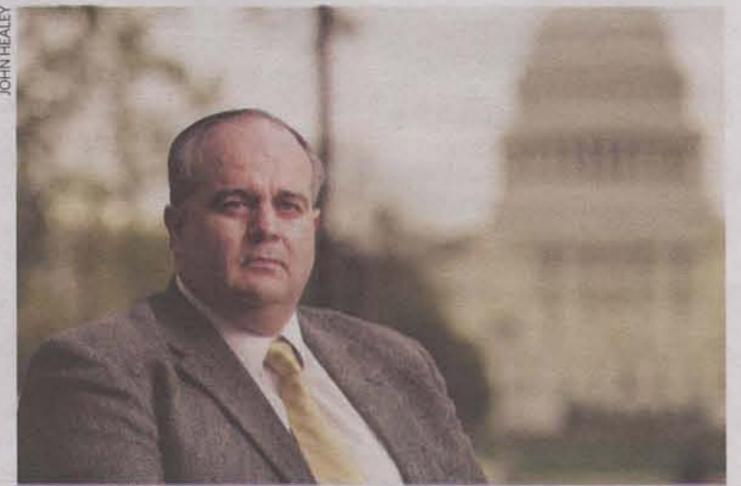
"It created an environment where my analysts and I couldn't get our work done," Johnson said of his superiors' reaction to the criticism. "Eventually, they ended up gutting my unit. All of this happened within six to nine months after the furor over the report."

The bottom line, according to Johnson: "We are more vulnerable."

In fact, the report was accurate. In addition to warning of growing right-wing extremism, it pointed out that some domestic extremists focused on single issues like immigration and abortion. It also noted that extremists were interested in recruiting military veterans who were returning from

Iraq and Afghanistan. Its analysis of the causes of the surge of right-wing radicalism, including the election of the nation's first black president and the troubled economy, still appears accurate and in line with similar findings by the SPLC.

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Daryl Johnson, former lead domestic terrorism analyst for the Department of Homeland Security, authored a report on right-wing extremism. Although his research confirmed the SPLC's findings, it was pilloried by the political right.

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SPLC looks forward
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SPLC REPORT

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality. The SPLC also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which honors the memory of individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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A MESSAGE FROM SPLC PRESIDENT RICHARD COHEN

Members provide strength, inspiration

Our 40th anniversary celebration in April was an incredible event. We came together to celebrate a record of success, affirm our commitment to justice and chart a course for the future.

What was particularly thrilling for all of us here was to be enveloped in the energy of like-minded people from all over the country. We draw our strength and inspiration from friends like you and loved having so many of you here.

People share ideals, commitment

We met so many wonderful people who share our ideals and who are living their commitment every day. It was moving to hear so many stories of people doing great things in their communities.

We often hear of the “ordinary” people — the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement — who courageously marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or who risked their lives in sit-ins at “whites only” restaurants, or who boarded the Freedom Ride buses knowing they would face angry mobs, or who stood up against police dogs and fire hoses in the streets of Birmingham.

These people, standing together in the face of great odds, changed the course of history.

But the truth is, they weren’t ordinary at all. There are no “ordinary” people.

There are only people who answer the call for justice and those who do not.

All those who answer the call are extraordinary people.

That description applies not only to those who joined us at our anniversary celebration, but to everyone who has stood with us through our many battles.

Throughout our 40-year history, the impact of our work fighting hate, teaching tolerance and seeking justice has been felt by millions of people across the nation. We’ve fought institutional racism in the South, bankrupted violent hate groups and won justice for those who have no other champion. We’ve created teaching tools to nurture respect, empathy and tolerance in the next generation.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the support of people dedicated to our mission — a community of people who share our passion for justice.

Different people. Different life experiences. A shared commitment.

Throughout the anniversary celebration, many of you expressed to me your admiration for the SPLC’s work. But ours is *your* work. These are *your* accomplishments. We’re proud to serve as your lawyers in the pursuit of justice.

But, as you already know, our work is not done.

In the pages of this issue of *SPLC Report*, you can read inspiring stories from the anniversary event and a timeline of the many landmark victories your support has made possible.

You’ll also see stories about the cutting-edge work we’re doing right now. We’re tracking more than 2,000 hate and extremist groups and working

with law enforcement at every level to combat potential domestic terrorists. We’re taking on entrenched bureaucracies across the Deep South to protect children who are being abused in barbaric detention centers, neglected in mental health facilities and criminalized in our schools. We’re exposing the despicable abuse of foreign workers who are lured to jobs in our country only to be cheated by unscrupulous employers. And we’re helping educators build school communities where equality and justice are not just taught, but lived.

You’re a vital partner in this work.

Power of committed people

Our belief in the power of extraordinary people committed to justice, standing together, has never wavered during our 40-year history. You have stood with us shoulder-to-shoulder at every turn, at every challenge and at every victory. Together, we have made history. Together, we will meet the challenges ahead. And together, the march for justice will continue.



Richard Cohen

MICHELE LELAND

MAILBOX

It always amazes me, as I read the *SPLC Report*, how busy you folks are. The average American doesn’t realize how much injustice there is in the “greatest country in the world.” The voiceless underdogs in America owe you a huge debt.

M.P.

Northfield, Illinois

I knew of your center’s works only through the news until one of my young officers began receiving your *Intelligence Report*. I initially looked a bit askance, as such things are normally not within our purview. The officer noticed my looking at it and invited me to read it. We made it an office fixture, right up with our reports for the commander. Your reports are of great value to law enforcement and the military. Keep up the excellent work!

S.V.

Ridley Park, Pennsylvania

I want to thank the writers of *Teaching Tolerance* for the outstanding work they do for teachers. I used your magazine with the lessons, stories and activities for years, and now that I am retired, I am passing on the word to other teachers. You are doing such a service to the teachers and children of our country. We thank you profusely for your good work

and express our gratitude for the generous donors who enable you to provide the magazine without cost to us. You all get A+’s and gold stars!

G.K.

Batavia, Illinois

I made our donation online. The work of the SPLC gives us hope.

S.D.

Tucson, Arizona

Thank you for doing what you do. The most effective tool in combating racism is to shine a light on it. I know. I was in the “movement” for nine years. I have no doubt that you have a file on me. While my activism was 99.9 percent Internet-based, that does not diminish the shame and embarrassment I feel to this day for getting involved in “that world.”

I converted to Catholicism about a year ago and now live my life by the example set by Jesus Christ. Or at least I try to. You may, if you wish, close the file on me. God bless you!

D.C.

Tallahassee, Florida

This year I’ll be 80 years old. I remember growing up during the Depression and World War II. In my hometown, the main minority was Spanish-speaking.

One summer I learned that bean pickers were needed. A flatbed truck was parked

in front of the post office to transport us to the fields. I was probably about 12 or 13. I lasted two days doing stoop labor. Most of the workers were Hispanic — they worked twice as fast as I could.

It was a lesson I’ll never forget. It’s really hard work and a tough way to make a living. My heart goes out to farm workers. They certainly deserve much better treatment.

J.H.

Sebastopol, California

Bigotry is a beast that just will not die. I can’t believe the amount of racism, anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry coming up in casual conversation. Not only am I hearing the traditional slurs, but I am also hearing a lot of hatred toward whites who oppose bigotry.

Thank God for organizations like the SPLC. Without you, hate would grow into a malignant cancer on the soul of America.

W.B.

Cicero, Illinois

As a trained school counselor, I was moved when I read the recent story of the Minnesota high school royalty case (Spring 2011 *SPLC Report*). I see bullying too often in schools, and more needs to be done to support all stu-

dents. Student bullying and harassment should never be tolerated, especially from a school system.

I appreciate your work and commitment to helping those in need, and helping educate as many people as possible about the horrible thing we call bullying.

Thank you for your work supporting those who need it most. May tolerance and justice for all people be what leads us into the next century.

K.R.H.

Spokane, Washington

I’ve been a supporter of the SPLC for the last 36 years. I had hoped to come to Alabama for your 40th anniversary event to thank the staff in person for your incredible courage and advocacy, but because of conflicts was unable to attend.

I have admired your work and your staff since I first joined the retainer program [Friends of the Center] when then a medical student. I just now retired from being a physician and still continue to admire your staff. I’m sorry I cannot thank you in person. Please pass on my praise to your entire staff.

I know you receive much hate mail and threats, and I wanted to send you this mail of respect and admiration.

D.B.

Evanston, Illinois

SPLC president testifies about increase in anti-Muslim bias

Controversy over a proposed Islamic cultural center in New York City has stoked an increase in hate crimes and other bias incidents directed at Muslims in America, SPLC President Richard Cohen told a congressional panel in March.

In written testimony, Cohen told the Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights that political leaders should condemn hate speech directed at Muslims and that schools must combat prejudice by fostering an understanding of Islamic culture.

Important to speak out

"Today's political leaders have an important role in speaking out against anti-Muslim hate and bigotry," Cohen said. "They must follow the example set by President Bush in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and remind the American public we are not at war with Muslims. At the same time, the government must ensure that hate crimes are vigorously prosecuted so that the Muslim community knows the government is on their side."

The FBI has yet to release hate crime statistics for 2010, but news reports suggest there has been a recent spike in anti-Muslim incidents. The last such

spike occurred in 2001 following the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Of the 156 anti-Muslim hate crimes and bias incidents collected by the SPLC from news reports since 9/11, about one-third occurred within a year of those attacks. But nearly one-fifth have

"These attacks touch more than their victims."

—RICHARD COHEN, SPLC PRESIDENT

occurred since May 2010, when controversy over the Islamic center in New York City erupted.

In August 2010, for example, a New York City taxi driver was slashed in the neck and face after his fare discovered he was Muslim. Also in August, a piece of construction equipment was set afire and gasoline poured over other pieces of equipment at the future site of an Islamic center in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

"These attacks touch more than their victims," Cohen said. "They tear at the fabric of our society and instill fear in entire communities."

This toxic atmosphere has also entered schools. It has manifested itself in the harassment of Muslim students and teach-

ers and attempts to limit how the history and culture of Islam is taught.

This past October, for instance, four high school students in Staten Island, New York, were charged with a hate crime after spending more than a year bullying a Muslim classmate, occasionally beating him and calling him a terrorist.

Sikhs in Queens, N.Y., have complained about harassment and bullying of their children in schools. Sikh boys are often threatened with having their turbans pulled off, in addition to being called "terrorists."

Cohen's testimony was submitted as Sen. Dick Durbin began a series of hearings on the civil rights of Muslims in response to recent Koran burnings, restrictions on mosque construction, hate crimes, hate speech and other forms of discrimination.

Cohen also noted the introduction of bills in numerous state legislatures to ban the use of Islamic Shariah law in U.S. courts. The bills are based on a completely unfounded fear and are little more than political stunts designed to pander to the growing anti-Muslim sentiment, he said.

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

'60 Minutes' looks at 'sovereign citizen' movement

On May 15, CBS' "60 Minutes" ran a segment on antigovernment "sovereign citizens" that largely reprised the SPLC's findings, describing a movement whose adherents believe that they are immune to taxes, most laws and requirements for driver's licenses, registration and insurance. The piece contained many of the same elements as the SPLC officer-safety video "Understanding the Threat: 'Sovereign Citizens' and Law Enforcement."

Like the SPLC video, which has been distributed to about 75,000 law enforcement officials, the "60 Minutes" piece focused on West Memphis, Ark., police chief Bob Paudert, whose son Brandon was one of two officers murdered by a father-son team of sovereign citizens in May 2010.

Racist lawyer guilty in plot to murder wife

BOISE, Idaho — After a week-long trial before a federal jury, Edgar Steele, a north Idaho lawyer who is an anti-Semitic icon and lecturer, was convicted May 5 of trying to hire someone to murder his wife and her mother.

The 65-year-old UCLA law school graduate, who unsuccessfully represented Richard Butler and the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations in an SPLC lawsuit in 2000, faces up to 30 years in prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced in August.

A former handyman who was hired to kill Steele's wife was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to firearm charges as part of an agreement with prosecutors. Larry Fairfax, 50, worked at Steele's ranch and testified that he was paid a \$10,000 down payment in silver coins to kill Steele's wife and mother-in-law. Fairfax tipped off federal agents about the scheme and secretly recorded conversations in which he and Steele discussed the plot.

Two Muslims charged in bomb plot

NEW YORK CITY — Two American Muslims have been charged with plotting to kill Jews by blowing up synagogues in Manhattan. Ahmed Ferhani, 26, and his accomplice, Mohamed Mamdouh, 20, were arrested May 11 after purchasing three semiautomatic pistols, 150 rounds of ammunition and a hand grenade from an undercover police officer.

They are charged under state law with conspiracy as a crime of terrorism, conspiracy as a hate crime and criminal possession of a weapon as a crime of terrorism.

New York law enforcement described the two men as "lone wolves" with no apparent connection to Al Qaeda or any other terrorist group.

Hate crime charges filed in attack on transgender woman

BALTIMORE — Two teenagers charged with brutally attacking a transgender woman in a Baltimore-area McDonald's restaurant on April 18 — a beating captured in a cell-phone video that went viral on the Internet — will be prosecuted as hate crime perpetrators.

Teonna Brown, 18, was indicted May 16 on state assault and hate crime charges in the beating of Chrissy Lee Polis, 22. Brown is also charged with assaulting a customer and a McDonald's employee who tried to intervene. A 14-year-old girl, whose identity was not released because of her age, is facing the same charges in juvenile court.

Polis was attacked when she emerged from the bathroom of the restaurant.

The SPLC reported last fall in its *Intelligence Report* that members of the LGBT community are vastly more likely to be attacked in a violent hate crime than any other minority group, as shown by an analysis of 14 years of FBI hate crime data.

Neo-Nazi's son charged with his murder

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A 10-year-old boy charged with murdering his father at their home here was being exposed to his father's extreme neo-Nazi ideology of racism and violence at the time he allegedly turned a gun against him.

Evidence is mounting that Jeff Hall, 32, a white supremacist leader of the National Socialist Movement (NSM), was involving his son in neo-Nazi activities before his death on May 1. Police, called to the home in early morning hours, found Hall dead on a sofa, shot with the family handgun. The *Los Angeles Times* also reported, after reviewing court files and police reports, that Hall appears to have physically abused his son.

A reporter for *The New York Times* witnessed Hall preaching race hatred at a meeting in front of the boy, the eldest of five children, a day before the shooting.

A need to track domestic terrorists

From Page 1

In the SPLC interview, Johnson said the research that led to the report began after DHS received a phone call from the U.S. Capitol police in 2007. Then-Sen. Barack Obama was announcing his presidential candidacy, and the Capitol police wanted an assessment of security threats.

"I started thinking, 'What if the U.S. elects a black president? What impact will this have on extremism in this country?'" Johnson said. "It seemed pretty clear to me that it would lead to a radicalization and recruitment boom by white supremacists, militias and other right-wing extremists, because this is what they fear the most — a black president, the ultimate symbol of a minority population's integration into U.S. society."

Conservatives attacked report

Later, three months into the Obama Administration, Napolitano asked a series of questions about right-wing extremism, and Johnson was directed to write an assessment that would help state and local police prepare for "an

anticipated change in the domestic threat environment."

The report was drafted, and Johnson said Napolitano was briefed on it. He even met with her to answer questions the day after it was released. She seemed pleased, he said. But someone leaked the report, and conservative columnists and groups quickly attacked it. It was described as Obama's "hit job" on conservatives, Johnson recalled.

Though the report was initially defended by DHS, the agency ultimately withdrew it. Johnson said a DHS spokesman "came up with this story" that the report was unauthorized and orchestrated by a rogue group of analysts.

"I felt as if I had been betrayed," he said. "I had been the recipient of numerous awards at DHS. Our team was considered to be a very productive team that knew its customers. Our co-workers, field representatives and law enforcement counterparts respected us. Many thought we were doing great work."

Mark Potok, director of the SPLC's Intelligence Project, said Johnson's report was wrongly maligned and falsely characterized by conservative pundits.

"The fact is, the DHS report accurately predicted the sort of radical-right terrorism that we're now seeing across the country," Potok said. "It's troubling that the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security would bow to unfounded criticism from the political right."

Domestic terrorism continues

In its letter to Napolitano, the SPLC cited a number of recent murders and terrorist acts committed by right-wing extremists since the report was issued: from the murder of Dr. George Tiller by an anti-abortion zealot in May 2009 to the arrests of neo-Nazis in two separate plots this year. The spate of attacks concerns Johnson.

"These incidents are starting to add up," he said. "Yet our legislators, politicians and national leaders don't appear too concerned about this. So, my greatest fear is that domestic extremists in this country will somehow become emboldened to the point of carrying out a mass-casualty attack, because they perceive that no one is being vigilant about the threat from within. That is what keeps me up at night."

SPLC board member leads campaign to oust Fox commentator Glenn Beck

When Fox News host Glenn Beck announced his television program would end later this year, the controversial commentator's show had already lost some 300 advertisers, thanks to a campaign mounted by a group led by an SPLC board member.

The campaign was launched by ColorOfChange.org, whose board chairman and co-founder is James Rucker, an SPLC board member for the past two years. With more than 750,000 members, the organization is the nation's largest African-American online political organization. Since its founding in 2005, Color of Change has had a powerful impact by holding news personalities and others accountable for divisive and demonizing rhetoric. It also has drawn attention to social justice issues, such as the Jena Six case.

Its campaign against Beck began in July 2009, the same month the news commentator appeared on "Fox & Friends" and said President Obama was a "racist" with "a deep-seated hatred for white people." Color of Change and its members contacted Beck's advertisers about the divisive message they were sponsoring. By August 2009, Beck had lost 12 major advertisers, a feat that led *The New York Times* to report on the "unusually successful" campaign. But that was only the beginning, as the program continued to lose sponsors.

"We always knew that we could reduce Beck's influence and push him to the margins

of political discourse where he belongs," said Rucker, who was serving as Color of Change's executive director during the campaign. "The media coverage of our campaign helped expose Beck for what he is — someone who twists the truth, stokes racial fear and tension for political and personal gain."

Rucker said the strategy was to make Beck an economic liability for Fox News. Color of Change and its members reached out to Beck advertisers as a partner — not as an adversary.

"Our goal was to ask a company like Clorox or Lowe's or Men's Wearhouse, 'Do you feel comfortable with your brand being associated with essentially underwriting this kind of rhetoric that Beck is putting out?'" he said. "We said this is not a left-right issue. It's about decency. It's about not race baiting. It's about being responsible as a news organization."

It seemed a daunting task. Beck's program was highly rated, and the conventional wisdom was that ratings mean everything. But Rucker said something else happened.

As Color of Change persuaded more and more companies to stop advertising on Beck's show, the program had a glut of advertising time to fill. Because the demand for advertising time was low and the supply was great, Fox couldn't justify premium ad pricing, he said. Commercial breaks on Beck's show became a marketplace for companies hawking gold coins and exercise machines.

In April, a statement from Fox News and Beck's production company announced that Beck would "transition off" his daily program later this year to pursue other projects.

"The strategy from the very beginning was to make Beck a financial liability for Fox News," Rucker said. "And it's clear that was a driving factor in his departure from Fox."

Jena Six success

Color of Change's efforts haven't been limited to Glenn Beck. It also called for Lou Dobbs' ouster for questioning President Obama's citizenship and stoking anti-Latino sentiment. And in 2007, the group brought national attention to the Jena Six case, named for the town in Louisiana where six black teens faced attempted murder charges for a high school fight with a white student who suffered only relatively minor injuries. The case came to symbolize the unfairness faced by children of color in the criminal justice system.

The SPLC was also working on the case at the time, playing a key role in coordinating the defense for five of the six youths, who ultimately ended up pleading no contest to a lesser charge.

"James and Color of Change are the unsung heroes of the Jena Six case," said SPLC President Richard Cohen. "They brought enormous public attention to the plight of the teens who were unfairly charged, raised money for their defense, and were instrumental in mobilizing thousands of people from across the country to go to Jena to demonstrate their support of the youths."



James Rucker

PENNY WEAVER

ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS SPLC'S FUTURE WORK

The SPLC's work would not be possible without the financial and moral support of caring individuals across the nation. Because so many have stood with us, the SPLC has enjoyed great success in fighting for justice in the courts, tracking hate groups and teaching tolerance in classrooms across America.

But the SPLC has long been convinced that the day will come when nonprofit groups will no longer be able to afford to garner support through the mail. That's why, in 1974, our board of directors began setting aside a certain amount each year to build an endowment. Today, the endowment stands at \$216 million.

Saving for the future

The SPLC was one of the first advocacy organizations to recognize the importance of saving for the future. Although colleges have long understood the wisdom behind building endowments, most organizations like the SPLC — groups that often touch many more lives than the typical college — have not. As a result, some

groups have not been able to sustain themselves and continue their valuable work.

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

Endowment helps meet future challenges

In this new century, America remains a nation of great promise. In communities across the country, thousands of people are seeking to tear down racial, social and economic barriers that still sometimes divide us. But there are others who try to use those same divisions to sow seeds of hatred. And there are many more whose apathy in the face of intolerance allows hatred to grow.

As the nation's diversity increases in the coming years, so will the challenges of promoting tolerance and acceptance. An endowment will help ensure that we will be ready to meet those challenges.



Foreign guestworkers, exploited by shipyard company Signal, rest following a press conference about their SPLC lawsuit.

GUESTWORKERS EXPLOITED

EEOC action in trafficking case reinforces SPLC claims of abuse

Three years after the SPLC filed suit against Signal International LLC, accusing the company of abusing hundreds of foreign guestworkers lured to work in Gulf Coast shipyards, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has also sued the company, reinforcing the SPLC's original claims.

The EEOC's lawsuit, filed in April, charges that Signal engaged in human trafficking and discriminated against hundreds of Indian guestworkers in Pascagoula, Miss., and Orange, Texas. The guestworkers, who are represented by the SPLC and other attorneys, have asked the court to allow them to join the EEOC's case as plaintiffs.

The EEOC complaint, like the SPLC complaint, alleges that Signal forced the workers to live in unsanitary and racially segregated labor camps. It also alleges the company subjected them to hostile treatment based on their race and national origin and that it retaliated against two workers for complaining about discriminatory treatment.

Lawsuit is federal agency first

The EEOC lawsuit is the first time a federal agency has taken legal action in support of the claims of these guestworkers. It's significant because the government is seeking to hold Signal — rather than labor recruiters or other "middlemen" — responsible for the abuses.

"We're pleased the EEOC has taken action in a case that illustrates in shocking detail the abuse occurring within the nation's guestworker program," said Dan Werner, SPLC deputy legal director. "These workers only wanted the American dream but instead were bound to an abusive employer, subjected to routine discrimination and forced to endure horrific conditions."

Signal, a marine and fabrication company with shipyards in Mississippi, Texas and Alabama, is a subcontractor

for multinational companies such as Northrop Grumman Corp., Transocean and BP. After Hurricane Katrina scattered its workforce, Signal used the U.S. government's guestworker program to import employees to work as welders, pipefitters, shipfitters and in other positions.

Between 2004 and 2006, hundreds of Indian men each paid Signal's recruiters as much as \$20,000 for travel, visa, recruitment and other fees after recruiters told them it would lead to good jobs, green cards

"These workers only wanted the American dream but instead were bound to an abusive employer ... and forced to endure horrific conditions."

—DAN WERNER, SPLC DEPUTY LEGAL DIRECTOR

and permanent U.S. residency. Many of the workers sold their houses and other valuables and took out high interest loans to come up with the money.

When the men arrived at Signal in late 2006 and early 2007, they discovered that they wouldn't receive the green cards as promised, but instead 10-month guestworker visas. Signal forced them to pay \$1,050 a month to live in crowded company housing in isolated, fenced labor camps, where as many as 24 men shared a trailer with only two toilets.

Visitors were not allowed into the camps. Company employees searched the workers' belongings. Workers who complained were threatened with deportation, which would be ruinous after mortgaging their futures to obtain the jobs.

Supporters' commitment reflected in SPLC's successes

Jamie Nabozny choked back tears — as did many members of his audience.

He was speaking to SPLC supporters who had just viewed the Teaching Tolerance film *Bullied* at the SPLC's 40th anniversary celebration. It chronicles the anti-gay abuse Nabozny suffered throughout his school years, as well as the landmark lawsuit that held school officials accountable for their failure to protect him.

Nabozny spoke about the impact the film has made, with more than 50,000 copies distributed to teachers and community groups nationwide. He spoke of meeting students across the country to talk about bullying. And he spoke about spending 15 to 20 hours a week responding to youths contacting him via Facebook about their own bullying.

Finally, he said, people were recognizing the seriousness of anti-LGBT bullying.

When Nabozny learned the SPLC had included several new anti-gay hate groups, including the prominent Family Research Council, in its 2010 hate group count, he recognized the impact the action would have in the country's debate over equal rights for LGBT people.

"At that moment, I knew that things were changing in this country," he said. "Because when a group like the SPLC has the courage to call hatred, hatred, and bigotry, bigotry — no matter who is using those things against a group of people — a momentous change has happened."

Nabozny said for people who have worked to raise awareness about anti-LGBT harassment, there have been dark times when they felt all alone in their efforts.

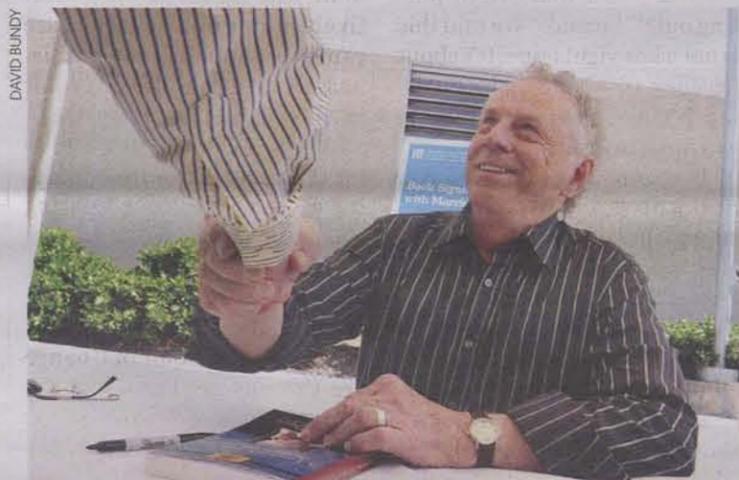
"We now know that's not true," he said. "We have an advocate in the SPLC."

The *Bullied* screening with Nabozny was just one of the events at the 40th anniversary

Chief Robert Paudert describes his police officer son's tragic encounter with "sovereign citizens." Jamie Nabozny (right) greets well-wishers following his presentation on bullying.



SPLC founder Morris Dees' topic was "Pursuing Justice Together" at the celebration's closing session. He greeted attendees and signed his autobiography earlier in the day.



SPLC 40 Celebrating a Record of Success Affirming our Commitment to Justice Charting a Course for the Future

celebration where supporters had an opportunity to not only learn about the SPLC's work but to meet the people doing the work and the people whose lives have been changed by it.

SPLC supporters attended a variety of presentations, including its monitoring of hate in the mainstream, led by Intelligence Project Director Mark Potok, and the work of Teaching Tolerance, conducted by the program's director, Maureen Costello. There were several sessions where attendees learned about the SPLC's historic and current legal work from the attorneys actually working on the cases.

Nabozny now travels the country full-time, speaking to students and others about the film and anti-LGBT bullying.

"It has changed my life, and it has changed the lives of countless kids around this country who will now not have to face what I had to face," he said.

A mission to save lives
SPLC supporters also had an opportunity to meet West

Memphis, Ark., Police Chief Robert Paudert, whose son, Brandon, was one of two West Memphis police officers killed during an encounter with a father-son pair of antigovernment "sovereign citizen" extremists in May 2010.

The police chief is featured in a law enforcement training video produced and distributed free of charge by the SPLC. The video examines the deadly West Memphis confrontation and instructs officers on how to detect sovereign citizens, people who

believe the law does not apply to them. Paudert and two SPLC staffers led a 45-minute presentation about investigating hate and extremist activity.

Before that presentation, Paudert spoke at the celebration's opening event, where he described his struggle, immediately after his son's murder, to find out more about sovereign citizens and warn officers about this threat.

"I had never heard of sovereign citizens in my life," he said. He added: "Nobody had heard of sovereign citizens with the exception of the Southern Poverty Law Center."

But when Paudert received a phone call from an SPLC staffer about making the video, he had his own preconceived notions about the SPLC to overcome. Living in the conservative Deep South, he had heard unflattering things about the organization.

"I said, 'You work with those Communists down there?'"

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

A Record of Winning Justice

Four decades. Each with unique challenges. Each with precedent-setting victories.

A staff dedicated to fighting hate, teaching tolerance and seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society.

A nationwide community of caring individuals committed to the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity — a community that makes the work possible.

Standing together, we have made history.

Standing together, we will meet the challenges in the decades ahead.



1970 A federal court rules that the Montgomery, Ala. YMCA must end its policy of racial discrimination. SPLC founder Morris Dees filed the case, *Smith v. YMCA*, after two black children were turned away from a YMCA summer camp.



1971 Morris Dees and Joe Levin formally incorporate the SPLC. Julian Bond is named as its first president.

1973 The U.S. Supreme Court rules that dependents of servicewomen must receive the same benefits as servicemen, upholding the SPLC's victory in the first successful sex discrimination case against the federal government, *Frontiero v. Richardson*.

1974 SPLC clients — known as the Tarboro Three — are freed from death row in North Carolina after ▶



being wrongfully charged with raping a white woman.

1977 The U.S. Supreme Court opens the door for women to fill law enforcement jobs traditionally held by men after ruling in favor of the SPLC in *Dothard v. Rawlinson*.

1977 A SPLC lawsuit stops federally funded forced sterilization.



JOHN VAN BEEKUM

1981 The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan's terror campaign against Vietnamese fishermen in Texas is shut down with an SPLC lawsuit.

1981 The SPLC creates Klan-watch to monitor Ku Klux Klan activity across the country. It is renamed the Intelligence Project in 1998 after expanding its mission to track extremist organizations.



SPLC

1983 The SPLC offices are fire-bombed on July 28. More than a year after the fire, three Klan members are charged with the arson.

1987 The SPLC wins an historic \$7 million verdict against the United Klans of America for the 1981 lynching of Michael Donald in Mobile, Ala. The United Klans bombed Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and murdered civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo in the 1960s.

1987 Alabama State Troopers integrate after the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of the SPLC lawsuit, *Paradise v. Allen*.



THOMAS ENGLAND

1989 The SPLC unveils the Civil Rights Memorial, designed by Maya Lin, honoring the achievements and memory of those who died during the Civil Rights Movement. ▶

Supporters celebrate SPLC's achievements



From Page 1

wife, Gail Brown, said that though strides have been made for equality, there is still much work to be done. He said he was particularly upset that more than two years into President Obama's term, the nation's first black president felt the need to produce his birth certificate to prove his legitimacy to hold office.

"I'm very saddened by it, and that's one of the many reasons I'm here," he said. "I just feel it's necessary to stand up."

Bill Norton and his daughter, Therese, traveled from Seattle to the event as a way to celebrate her passing the bar exam, a milestone in a future law career inspired by her passion for social justice and the work of the SPLC.

Verdell Beasley of Huntsville, Ala., attended the event with family members. As a black woman married to a white man, she feels a deep personal connection to the SPLC's fight against bigotry. "I probably would have never been able to marry my husband [without a more tolerant society]," she said.

Life-changing impact

The life-changing impact of the SPLC's work was vividly demonstrated during a presentation about the organization's 1990 courtroom victory over White Aryan Resistance (WAR). A jury determined the hate group and its leadership were responsible for training the racist skinheads who killed Ethiopian college student Mulugeta Seraw. The student's son, Henock, was later adopted by an attorney who worked on the case, Jim McElroy, who continued to work with the SPLC and became chairman of its board of directors. The youth used money from the \$12.5 million verdict against WAR to pay for college and after graduation, for flying lessons.

Now a grown man and a successful airline pilot, he thanked the audience of SPLC supporters at the celebration's opening event.

"The SPLC touches people's lives in such a profound way," he said.

Reflecting on the past, looking to the future

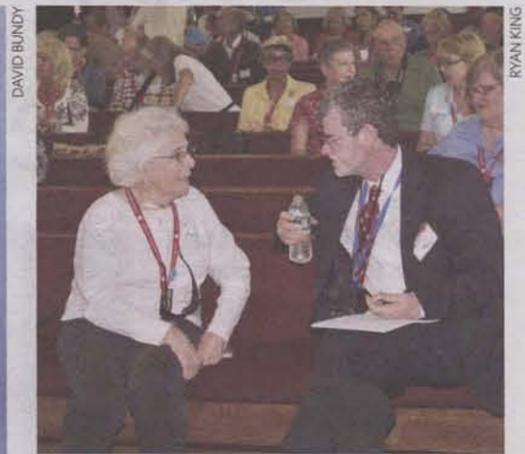
Speaking to a crowd facing the Civil Rights Memorial with the SPLC's office building at their backs, SPLC founder Morris Dees reflected on starting the organization with Joe Levin in 1971 and its success over four decades.

"Never would we have dreamed, when we started the Southern Poverty Law Center in a small office down the street — the two of us and a secretary — that I'd be standing here today with programs that reach all across the United States and the world, with you sitting here who have all made it possible," Dees said. "Thank you so very much."

Since its founding, the SPLC has shut down some of the nation's most dangerous hate groups by winning multimillion-dollar jury verdicts on behalf of victims of their violence. It has dismantled institutional racism in the South, reformed juvenile justice practices, shattered barriers to equality for women, children and the disabled, and protected low-wage immigrant workers from abuse. It has reached out to the next generation with

"The SPLC touches people's lives in such a profound way."

—HENOCK MCELROY MULAGETA



DAVID BUNDY

RYAN KING

SPLC President Richard Cohen (left) speaks during the celebration's opening session at Montgomery's First Baptist Church. Intelligence Project Director Mark Potok (above) describes his work to a supporter following his presentation.

Teaching Tolerance, a program that provides educators with free classroom materials that teach students to respect others.

The landmark legal work was part of a promise Dees and Levin made to their earliest supporters in 1971: They would bring cases that transform society.

"I like to think that when we made that commitment so long ago that we not only met your expectations but exceeded them," Levin told supporters. "What's happened has certainly exceeded mine."

The event also focused on the work ahead. As the changing demographics of the country fuel xenophobia and the growth of hate groups, the SPLC remains dedicated to pursuing social justice, said SPLC President Richard Cohen. As he spoke to supporters who gathered for the opening presentation, Cohen issued a pledge that echoed King's famous paraphrase of Amos 5:24, which is etched in the black granite of the Civil Rights Memorial built by the SPLC at its Montgomery office.

"I promise you that when people cross that line between hate and hurt, when there are people out there who have no other champions, we will be there for them," Cohen said. "And no matter what the risk to Morris — no matter what the risk to any of us — with your help, standing together, we will be there until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."



DAVID BUNDY

DAVID BUNDY

Doris Crenshaw (top left, clockwise) and others applaud following a presentation. SPLC Outreach Director Lecia Brooks welcomes attendees. SPLC youth advocate Monique Gillum helps New Yorker Don McGrath with directions.



DAVID BUNDY



DAVID BUNDY

Founder Joe Levin (above, clockwise) listens to a panel discussion during his session on gender discrimination cases. Founder Morris Dees embraces board member James McElroy as his adopted son, Henock, is introduced. Henock was a young boy when the SPLC won a lawsuit after his father was murdered by skinheads (see story page 6, timeline this page). Board member Julian Bond talks with a supporter; he presented on music and the Civil Rights Movement. Dees has a quiet moment during a celebration break. SPLC President Richard Cohen reviews the SPLC's history at the opening session.



DAVID BUNDY



DAVID BUNDY



DAVID BUNDY



MICHAEL LLOYD/THE OREGONIAN

1990 The SPLC wins a \$12.5 million judgment against Tom and John Metzger and their hate group, White Aryan Resistance, for their role in the murder of Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw by racist skinheads in Portland, Ore.

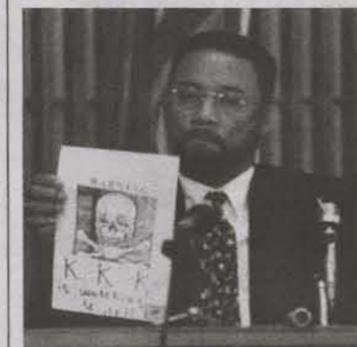
1991 The SPLC launches Teaching Tolerance, a program to provide teachers with free classroom materials that promote understanding and diversity.

1994 The SPLC begins investigating white supremacist activity within the antigovernment militia movement. Six months before the April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people, Morris Dees writes a letter warning U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno of the danger posed by militias.

1994 The SPLC wins a \$1 million default judgment against the Church of the Creator in the 1991 slaying of a black sailor, Harold Mansfield, by one of the group's "reverends."

1996 Alabama prisons are forced to abandon the use of brutal prison chain gangs following an SPLC lawsuit, *Austin v. James*.

1996 Teaching Tolerance releases the film *A Time for Justice*, its first Academy Award®-winner, which reveals the heroism of individuals who risked their lives for the cause of freedom and equality.



KEITH GEDAWKE/THE ITEM

1998 A South Carolina jury awards the largest judgment ever against a hate group in *Macedonia v. Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan*. The Christian Knights, its state leader, and four other Klansmen are ordered to pay \$37.8 million (later reduced to \$21.5 million) for conspiring to burn Macedonia Baptist Church, an African-American church.

1999 Klansman Wallace Weicherding and New Order leader Dennis McGiffen are sent to prison for conspiracy in connection with a plot to kill Morris Dees by bombing the SPLC office. ▶

Reflections on 40th celebration

How very proud I am to be affiliated with such an outstanding progressive organization. And how grateful I am that you are all doing the work and fighting the battles that are so critically important to the integrity of American society. Thank you for extending my own compassion and desire for a just society through the efforts of the many people at SPLC. Every other attendee I spoke with during the celebration was equally moved. Thank you for reassuring me that the battle for justice and civil rights in America has not ended.

L.B.
Baltimore, Maryland

I want you to know how much I enjoyed the whole two days. It was gratifying to see that so many people had traveled so far to celebrate SPLC's 40th anniversary. I made new friends and learned many things.

C.B.
Dallas, Texas

The presentations by the chief of police from West Memphis, Joe Roy and Mark Potok were particularly amazing. We would actually have felt extremely fortunate and blessed if we had come from Washington state just for one of either of the following: Richard's brilliant summary of the SPLC history on Saturday morning, Morris' powerful sermon on Saturday afternoon, or the church service on Sunday morning.

C.B.
Wenatchee, Washington

The event at the SPLC was such a highlight and far exceeded our expectations! Two words sum up the weekend — passion and courage! We were re-energized, inspired and motivated. There's much to do, and we thank you so much for the most exceptional experience. So rewarding to be with like-minded people. Thanks for what you do!

A.H.
Alexandria, Minnesota

2000 The SPLC wins a \$6.3 million verdict against the Aryan Nations and its leader, Richard Butler, for terrorizing a woman and her son. The 20-acre compound that is home to the nation's most violent white supremacists is turned into a peace park.



2002 Teaching Tolerance launches the first Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a nationwide program that has allowed millions of students to break social and racial boundaries.

2003 The SPLC wins a lawsuit against Alabama's Supreme Court chief justice, enforcing the constitutional separation of church and state and removing a three-ton Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building.

2004 The SPLC creates the Immigrant Justice Project to address the abuse and exploitation of vulnerable immigrants.

2005 The SPLC launches the Juvenile Justice and Education Reform Project, which combats the systemic abuse of at-risk children throughout the Deep South.

2005 The SPLC dedicates the Wall of Tolerance with more than half a million names of those who have pledged to take a stand against hate and intolerance.

2005 Two SPLC documentaries about the Civil Rights Movement are honored. *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, wins an Academy Award® and *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, wins an Emmy®.



2007 A Texas jury awards \$9 million to Billy Ray Johnson, a mentally disabled black man who was beaten and dumped along a road by four white men in 2003.

2007 Based on its extensive research into deaths during the Civil Rights Movement, the SPLC assists the U.S. Justice Department in reopening civil rights-era cold cases.

2008 Mississippi announces it is closing the notoriously abusive Columbia Training School after an SPLC lawsuit highlights its brutal conditions. ▶

SPLC members share stories

From across the nation, SPLC supporters traveled to Montgomery to participate in an April 30 celebration of the organization's 40th anniversary. Passionate in their enthusiasm for the SPLC and committed to the fight for justice, many shared their stories and experiences with Jamie Kizzire, a writer and editor with SPLC's public affairs department. Here are a few.

Lovella Singer

Many supporters had the opportunity to meet and thank founder Morris Dees. Some hoped to get an autograph or ask a question or two. But few attendees had a request as unique as that of Lovella Singer of Perris, Calif. She wanted a pair of Dees' shoes.

Singer's parents founded the Dora Nelson African American Art and History Museum in Perris. Within the museum is the "Step Up & Be Counted Shoe Collection," which features shoes worn by individuals who have made "significant contributions in the area of human relations." Singer made the request on behalf of her 90-year-old mother, Alberta Mable Kearney.

"We would be honored if Morris Dees would consider adding his shoes to the collection," Singer said.

The SPLC sent a pair of Dees' black penny loafers to Singer after the event. They're destined to join a collection that includes a pair of shoes worn by civil rights activist Dorothy Height as she integrated YWCA facilities nationwide in the 1940s. The museum also has shoes worn by Camille Cosby, the producer and philanthropist wife of comedian Bill Cosby. Singer is also seeking a pair of Nelson Mandela's shoes.

Singer attended the anniversary celebration with her daughter, Sarah. She said it was important to her mother that Sarah, 16, attend and learn about the SPLC.

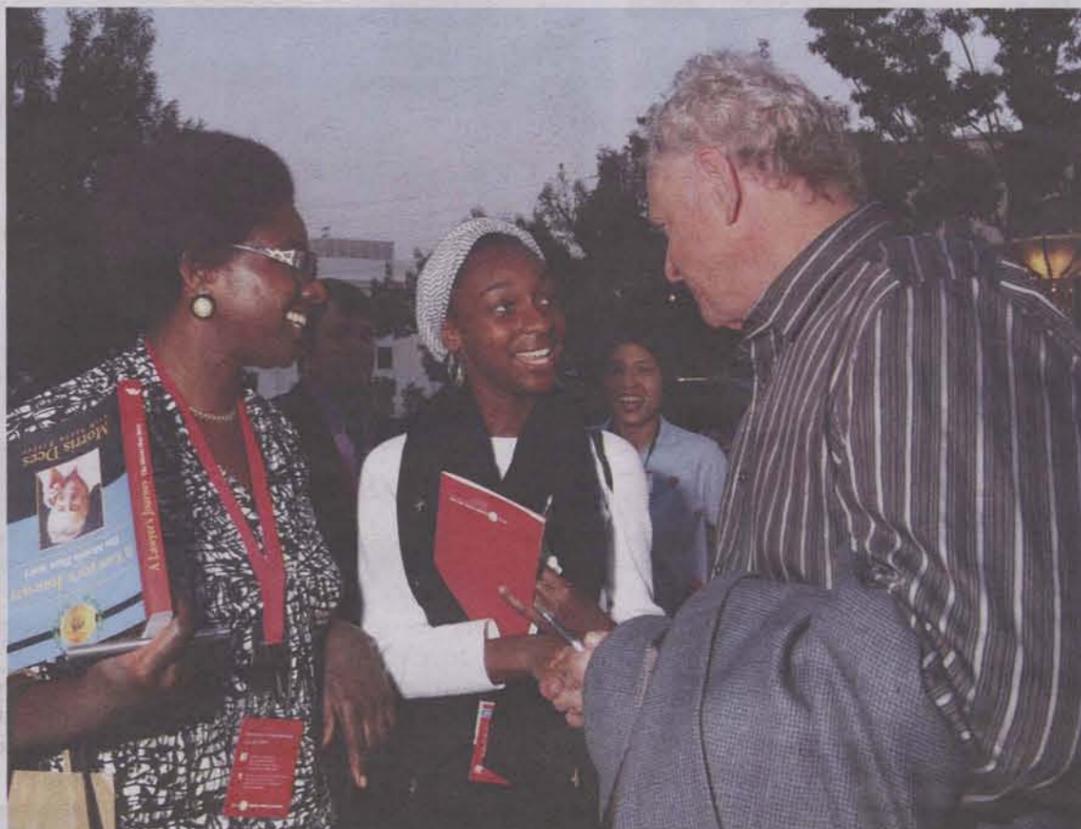
"You have made a very significant difference — not only in this local community and throughout the United States — but I would say around the world with the outreach that has occurred," the elder Singer said of the SPLC. "It is a very significant organization with a passion for justice and a passion for fairness, run by people who are willing to take a stand."

Her daughter said the event informed her about the injustices that occur today and her personal responsibility to the future.

"The fight for human and civil rights is clearly a problem that my generation must find the solution to," Sarah said. "It is my life's obligation to follow in the footsteps of Morris Dees and other civil rights activists of the past, and stand for the rights of my fellow citizen, my community, my country and my world."

Anton Schwartz

The anniversary celebration was compared to many things over the course of the event.



Morris Dees shakes hands with Sarah Singer, 16. She came to the anniversary celebration with her mother, Lovella Singer, from Perris, Calif.

For jazz musician Anton Schwartz of Seattle, there were moments where it was like powerful daytime TV. During the opening presentation, SPLC President Richard Cohen recounted the SPLC's victories, and some of the people whose lives have been altered by the organization's work took to the stage to tell their stories.

When Cohen recounted the SPLC's victory over White Aryan Resistance, the son of the slain Ethiopian college student at the center of the case spoke to the audience. And when Cohen spoke about the threat of anti-government sovereign citizens, a police chief whose son was killed in a confrontation with sovereign citizens shared his experience.

"The anecdotes are so powerful by having the people who are actually involved," said Schwartz. "I felt a bit like I was at a daytime talk show where they're describing a story and say, 'Here they are in the audience.' The fact is, it is really powerful."

Jim Carstensen

Jim Carstensen vividly remembers the terrible day in 1981 when he learned that Klansmen had hanged Michael Donald.

Donald's body was found hanging from a tree about six blocks from the Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Mobile, Ala., where Carstensen served as pastor at the time. Two members of the United Klans of America (UKA) random-

ly chose the 19-year-old black youth and murdered him after an interracial jury failed to convict a black man for killing a white police officer.

"I remember going to a Church's Chicken, and one of the people said, 'Did you know about the boy being hung?'" he said. "The gut reaction ... was devastation. You just shake your head."

Carstensen, who now lives in Raymond, Miss., reflected on the case at the SPLC's 40th anniversary celebration.

"Evil has to be resisted," he said. "The SPLC does it in a manner that reflects my own feelings of how to deal with it and resist it nonviolently."

The SPLC took the UKA to court and won a \$7 million verdict against the Klan group and all the Klansmen who played a part in the lynching. The verdict marked the end of the UKA — the same group whose members had beaten the Freedom Riders in 1961, murdered civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo in 1965, and bombed Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963, killing four young black girls.

The UKA was forced to turn over its headquarters to Donald's mother as a result of the verdict. Two additional Klansmen also were convicted of criminal charges. The lawsuit became a signature case for the SPLC, which would use the same legal strategy in the coming decades to destroy other violent hate groups.

Carstensen, who is now retired, said he recognized the courage demonstrated by the SPLC and founder Morris Dees. "I was more than willing to support him and the SPLC," he said.

Standing on the side of justice is important to Carstensen.

"Human evil is almost overpowering," he said. "Fear, anger, emotions go so hand-in-hand, and they demonstrate themselves in some pretty nasty ways. We're always going to have wars. We're always going to have racism. We're always going to have deep poverty in this world. But at least we can say that we are on the side of Jesus Christ and that we are on the side of justice. We're on the side of love. We're on the side of righteousness."

John King

The same year the SPLC was founded, John King was traveling through the Deep South with a black man.

Growing up white in Greensboro, N.C., he knew the face of segregation. But he was appalled at the bigotry and discrimination that still existed in the wake of the civil rights movement. It was an experience that would lead King to support the SPLC and attend its 40th anniversary celebration.

"You would go into a restaurant, and they would ignore your existence," King, a counselor,

Continued on Page 12

SPLC works for better future

The SPLC is on the cutting edge of efforts to fight hate, teach tolerance and win justice for those who have no other champions. That means that it's not always possible to predict with certainty the type of work that the organization will be doing in future years. However, as part of its planning process, the SPLC regularly assesses the trends and challenges ahead that demand its attention. The following is a brief summary of some of the organization's top priorities and initiatives:

The antigovernment "Patriot" movement

This movement has exploded over the past two years — growing from 149 groups in 2008 to 824 by the end of 2010. The SPLC was the first to document this surge and will track it closely in the coming years, providing vital intelligence to law enforcement agencies and the public about the potential threat from armed militias, "sovereign citizens," conspiracy propagandists and others who view the government as their enemy.

Law enforcement safety

Later this year, the SPLC will release the second in a series of safety videos for law enforcement officers. The first video helps officers protect themselves when they encounter "sovereign citizens." The next video will offer advice to officers when hate groups stage rallies in their town. The SPLC also will continue to offer face-to-face training to law enforcement agencies; last year, more than 2,000 officers received such training.

Hate in the mainstream

The SPLC has been increasingly concerned about the impact of hate and extremist propaganda infiltrating mainstream dialogue. The organization will place a greater emphasis on exposing those in the mainstream who have links to or use demonizing propaganda from racist and extremist organizations. Findings will be published in the SPLC's quarterly journal, *Intelligence Report*.

LGBT rights

Discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people is one of the major civil rights issues of our time. The SPLC has

beefed up its staff of lawyers to take on cases that will advance LGBT rights. Early cases have involved the rights of LGBT students to participate fully in school events and to have a school learning environment free from violence, bullying and other forms of harassment.



The SPLC's publications reflect the wide range of its work. All are available online at www.splcenter.org.

Children's rights

Over the next several years, the SPLC will be deeply involved in litigation and grassroots campaigns that seek to transform public institutions and policies that are harming vulnerable children. These include harsh school discipline policies that lead to school dropout and needless arrests; barbaric detention facilities that criminalize children while failing to offer rehabilitative services; and mental health systems that remove children from their communities and do little to help them deal with serious mental illness.

Immigrant justice

Since 2004, the SPLC has been in the forefront of protecting immigrant workers from exploitation. That work will continue with a full docket of strategic lawsuits, including the largest human trafficking case in the U.S. history, a claim on behalf of defrauded Indian guestworkers. The SPLC is considering litigation to challenge state immigration-enforcement laws modeled after Arizona's discriminatory SB 1070, which has been enjoined by a federal court. The SPLC is also investigating and filing complaints to stop discrimination against Latino children in Southern schools.

Teacher professional development

As America's classrooms become more diverse, it's important that educators nurture strong school communities that encourage empathy, instill a passion for justice and welcome cultural, ethnic and racial diver-

sity. The Teaching Tolerance project is providing teachers with the strategies and tools to accomplish this. This professional development is a major, ongoing emphasis of the project's website at www.tolerance.org.

Civil rights history

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of many important episodes of the civil rights movement, Teaching Tolerance is beginning a study of the state of civil-rights-history education in the nation's schools. The goal is to inform programs and curricula that ensure historical accuracy in the face of pressure from far-right organizations to present schoolchildren with their ideological version of history.

Teaching kits

Classroom documentaries with social justice themes are Teaching Tolerance's signature products. They've been viewed by tens of millions of schoolchildren and won two Academy Awards. Teaching Tolerance is now beginning to explore ideas for its next film project. It is also planning to release, later this year, a digitally restored version of its Oscar-winning film, *A Time for Justice*.



CHRIS KENNING/THE COURIER-JOURNAL

2008 The SPLC wins a \$2.5 million jury verdict against leaders of the Imperial Klans of America for their role in the brutal beating of a Latino teenager in rural Kentucky. The SPLC is currently fighting to preserve the verdict on appeal.

2009 The SPLC exposes extremist activity among active-duty military personnel resulting in the Pentagon tightening its policies.

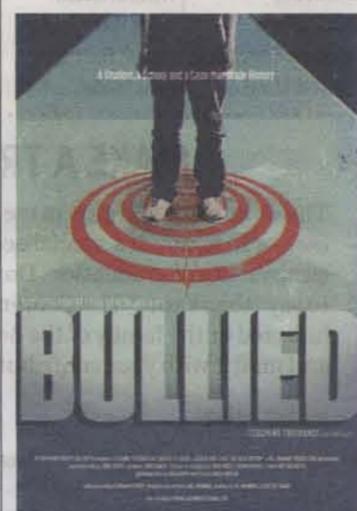
2010 Arkansas-based Superior Forestry Service Inc. agrees to pay \$2.75 million, the largest settlement of its kind, in an SPLC lawsuit filed on behalf of guestworkers who were systematically cheated.

2010 The SPLC ends the shockingly inhumane treatment of children and teens held at the Lauderdale Juvenile Detention Center in Meridian, Miss.



SHARON STEINWANN

2010 The town of Homer, La., settles an SPLC lawsuit filed on behalf of the widow of an elderly black man shot to death by a white police officer in 2009.



2010 Teaching Tolerance releases *Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History*. More than 30,000 copies of the documentary film and classroom teaching kit are sent to educators in the first three months — free of charge.

2010 A North Carolina company agrees to pay \$230,000 to settle an SPLC lawsuit on behalf of a Latina factory worker who, despite reporting his sexual harassment to company officials, was brutally assaulted by her plant manager.

2011 Less than 24 hours after the SPLC files suit, the Anoka-Hennepin School District in Minnesota restores the rights of two lesbians denied participation in a school function.

California supporter writes 'love' letter to SPLC following celebration



PENNY CASTLE

Many of the SPLC members who traveled to Alabama to help the SPLC celebrate its 40th anniversary took time to write their thoughts after returning home. Here's a message from Wendy Cohen, who works in the music publishing business in California.

Thank you all for affording me one of the most fulfilling experiences I've ever had. I'm here, in my SPLC T-shirt, trying to find the best way to put it into words.

It begins with visiting Alabama, a place I never expected to go. It "middles" with my discovering Montgomery — its architecture, its vivid and meaningful history, its warm and friendly people, and its being home to two of the most special places I've ever visited: the SPLC and the Civil Rights Memorial Center.

But the best was the 40th Anniversary Celebration and everything related to it. To be surrounded by 1,500 like-minded and "like-hearted" people for an entire day was unforgettable. I don't know what went on behind the scenes, but the day felt so well organized and went so smoothly, full of wonderful options and opportu-

nities. It was educational and informative — and also, as my friend said, "classy." The gift bags, the gala — all generous and lovely.

We were treated with kindness and patience at every turn. Finally, while I don't think my constitution would be up to that kind of emotional intensity on a regular basis, the combination of sorrow, anger, hope, inspiration and elation I felt on Saturday was cathartic. I was drained and yet filled by the stories, screenings and speeches I saw and heard.

And I was not alone. The "good vibes" emanating from the event were practically palpable. Everyone I met was so open and warm, and everybody seemed responsive, enthused and thrilled to be in the company of others who shared the same feelings and ideas.

The only flaw was my inability to articulate in person the awe and gratitude I felt and feel towards all of you. I tend to get tongue-tied around those I admire most. I thought writing might serve me better, but I find that I still feel inadequate in the "expressing myself" department. Morris, Richard, Joe, Julian, Mark and all of the staff and volunteers with whom I crossed paths are some of the finest, bravest individuals I've ever had the privilege of meeting, and, to boot, as charming as can be!

Sometimes we have to borrow from someone else to express what we, ourselves, feel deeply. So I'll borrow from Morris's closing speech: "I love you. I love you. I love you." It's as simple and as profound as that.

TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CENTER FROM JANUARY 2011 THROUGH APRIL 2011

In honor of

Lillian S. Abelow	Stan Elman	Patricia L. Horing	Kevin T. McAdam
Debbie Levisson & Steven Adelman	Mike Epstein	Emma Hudson	James E. McElroy
Helene Anderson	Carolyn Estes	Geoff Hughes	Carl Kaplan & Michael McGeady
Arizona Shooting	Bill Evans	William Hunt	George McGovern
Yvette Astrin	Mary S. Evans	Kerry Isham	Elizabeth E. Mego
Joe Bailey	Fran & Pat Federico	Ron Israel	Mary H. Michener
Hilvina Baiotto	Harold Feldman	Evan Jackson	Patricia S. Miller
Patricia Bartels	Miriam Fiduccia	Jerome Jacobson	Jane Mills
Gerald L. Bates	Nadia Finane	Chuck Jahn	Suzanne Minnis
Dolph Becker	Rachel E. Fish	Hope James	Maryse Mitchell-Brody
AnnaMaria Begemann	Ariana Fletcher-Bai	Pamela & Hal W. Jernigan	Melinda R. Molin
Barb Berg	Ron Ford	Robert E. Johnson	Mary Ann Moseley
Frederick Bergman	Mira G. Franzel	Leonard Jolly	Nathan Moseley
Henrik Bjarheim	Caroline L. French	Georgia T. Jones	Melanie Mowinski
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SPLC Partner's life reflected selflessness

Few in life step up to aid others again and again. One particularly devoted SPLC supporter embodied that selflessness throughout her life. Dr. Alice Wagstaff was an artist, a poet and an esteemed psychiatrist who helped countless people by sharing her energizing spirit and her compassion for those who were exploited.

Dr. Wagstaff earned a doctorate at the University of Chicago and was a first-generation pioneer of "client-centered" therapy, which now dominates mental health practices in the Western world.

"My wife, Alice, had the gift of listening to others," said her husband, Roman Verostko. "She cared about the poor and

uneducated — the abused young girls who had been led into prostitution, Jewish colleagues who had experienced anti-Semitism, our black friends struggling for equality, and women who had suffered abuse."

A passion for SPLC's causes

For this reason, Dr. Wagstaff felt especially passionate about the causes the SPLC champions, and she appreciated the risks the organization is willing to take to achieve success.

"[The SPLC] does things that need to be done, things we could never do ourselves," Verostko said. "Their work requires an inner courage, risking even the experience of bodily harm or death. That is commitment beyond words and good intention."

Dr. Wagstaff's professional path carried her across the nation, introducing client-centered counseling to colleges and seminaries in the early 1960s before she took a teaching position at Saint Vincent Seminary — the first woman on the faculty there in more than 130 years. The archabbot of St. Vincent Communities, Douglas Nowicki, was her friend for more than 30 years.

"Alice was able to convey to each person she encountered that he or she was unique and irreplaceable," Father Nowicki said. "Alice loved life and [that] love knew no limits. She knew that love alone can transform that final and most impregnable fortress — the human heart."

Dr. Wagstaff's "life-giving presence" continues to live on through her family, friends and clients. It is also a legacy that remains at the SPLC, where she and Verostko created a shared gift annuity — a planned-giving vehicle that benefits both the annuitant through additional income for life and the recipient organization, which receives the remainder of the annuity after he or she passes.

After undergoing hip-replacement surgery in 2009, Dr. Wagstaff endured life-threatening conditions that resulted in around-the-clock care for the last year of her life. Despite her physical condition, she retained her wonderful personality and remained a strong, determined person up to the very end of her life on Dec. 7, 2009.



Dr. Alice Wagstaff

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Scroll of Remembrance

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Civil Rights Memorial



Wreath-laying ceremony at Memorial

SPLC President Richard Cohen speaks to a Congressional delegation, which included Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), after the group placed a wreath on the Civil Rights Memorial on March 5.

Supporters learn impact, importance of SPLC's work

From Page 5

Paudert said, recounting the phone conversation. "My friend told me they're a bunch of Communists."

His comment provided a light-hearted moment as a father described the heartbreak of losing a son and his efforts to find purpose in the aftermath of the tragedy. Ultimately, Paudert agreed to make the video.

"I cannot bear to think of another mother and father going

through what we went through," he said.

Approximately 75,000 copies of the video have been distributed at no cost to law enforcement agencies across the country. Paudert said he has been contacted by people from England, China, Australia and across the United States about the video.

"They said, 'We have learned. We've given it to our friends. We're saving lives,'" he said.

Paudert is also grateful the video is offered free, so that it

reaches as many officers as possible. He said he's on a mission with the SPLC to save the lives of officers. It's also a way to honor the memory of his son and Officer Bill Evans.

"I am carrying Brandon and Bill's legacy on," he said. "They did not die in vain."

As for Paudert's view of the SPLC, it has changed.

"They all are family, and I love every one of them here," he said. "It's given me a reason to get up in the morning."

With Internet help, 2nd graders share their work for better world

They couldn't make it to the 40th anniversary celebration, but a group of school children in Ohio helped kick off the weekend's festivities by using the Internet to deliver a special message and song for the SPLC.

Students in Wanda Dengel's 2nd grade class at Notre Dame Elementary in Portsmouth, Ohio, used Skype, an Internet video connection, to tell SPLC founder Joe Levin and a group of SPLC staffers how they are working to make the world a better place. From her classroom, Dengel thanked the SPLC's Teaching Tolerance program for producing educational materials that have helped her instill in her students a commitment to justice and tolerance.

SPLC materials help create young peacemakers

"We are so proud of all that you have done, not only in the vein of law but all the wonderful educational materials that you produce for all of us teachers all across America," she told the group assembled at the Civil Rights Memorial Center. "Those materials have helped us to create young peacemakers not only in our classrooms but in our schools, our families and our communities all across America. And so we are very thankful."

Each student took a moment to tell Levin and the others how they are trying to make the world a better place.

Some of these efforts were in the classroom. "Whenever someone needed a pencil, I gave them one of mine," a student said.

Students prompted to comfort classmates

Others comforted and helped hurt schoolmates.

"This year I helped a kindergartner by putting my arm around them when they were sad."

"I took a classmate up to the nurse when they got hurt."

Others helped make the world a better place by starting on the playground.

"I helped a classmate do the monkey bars," one student said.

The children also sang "It Could be a Wonderful World" from Teaching Tolerance's music project, *I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peacemakers*.

Before the event, the students created a banner decorated with messages to the SPLC. The artwork was delivered to Montgomery and displayed in the room where the SPLC staffers spoke to the students.

"Hopefully, you got the gist of how we create a positive atmosphere here at school by doing kind things for each other," Dengel said. "And we have one more thing we would like to say to you and to help you with your celebration this weekend."

And with that, the students wished the SPLC a happy 40th anniversary.

Lawsuit filed after video shows abuses at juvenile jail

At a juvenile detention center in Hattiesburg, Miss., a guard slams a youth against a wall. Another is hogtied.

These are among the abuses captured by security cameras at the Forrest County Juvenile Detention Center. The footage — broadcast by a local television station despite the county's effort to prevent it from being aired — revealed a facility where children are thrown onto tables, pulled, shoved and dragged by guards.

The Southern Poverty Law Center and Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS) filed a federal lawsuit against the county in March to force it to comply with federal law and provide the children at the detention center with access to lawyers and civil rights advocates. The lawsuit was filed after the county barred the organizations from having access to the children.

"This shocking footage exposes the horrific abuse children at this facility have already suffered and demonstrates the need for increased monitoring and accountability in the Forrest

County Juvenile Detention Center. Federal law requires no less," said Jody Owens, lead SPLC attorney in the case. "It's unfortunate that Forrest County would rather spend taxpayer money to mount a legal fight instead of following clearly established federal law, which requires the county to allow protection and advocacy services."

Confined in filthy cells

In addition to the abuse documented in the video, the detention center has regularly confined children in filthy, crowded cells for 23 hours a day, according to the lawsuit.

The SPLC and DRMS work throughout Mississippi to monitor the conditions at juvenile detention centers. They serve as advocates on behalf of these children when their rights are violated.

As a nonprofit agency with a federal mandate to protect the rights of people with disabilities, DRMS has a right to enter the facility, interview children, assess the conditions and work with the county to address violations.

Friends stand with SPLC

From Page 8

said of the 1971 trip. "That's the way they handled it."

Motels turned him down for rooms. One man even threw him out of a motel office.

"He grabbed me by the scruff of my T-shirt and shoved me out the door, saying, 'We don't want your kind around here. Get out of here!'"

"I got hot and I just got up in his face and said, 'Why don't you grow up?' At which point I thought I might get decked. That was the first real clue [that] this is a little different than I thought it might be."

A clerk calling to find a motel that would accept King and his companion was blunt when he spoke to another clerk.

"There's a guy here with a n---r, will you give him a room?" the clerk asked.

King's experience in the Deep South showed that despite the civil rights victories of the 1960s, there was still much work to be done to gain equality and social justice. Just as King realized the work that remained, attorneys Morris Dees and Joe Levin recognized the need for civil rights litigation and founded the SPLC to bring the fundamental changes needed in the South.

For King, that road trip from four decades ago left a lasting impression. It spurred him to contribute to causes that com-

bat discrimination and injustice, which led him to the SPLC.

"That [trip] gave me a personal, emotional, experiential base" with bigotry, he said.

Jerry Moja and Kim Roden

Jerry Moja and Kim Roden were on vacation about a year ago when they were reminded of the intolerance that persists in this country.

During a game of golf, the husband and wife were paired with a man who used a racial slur as they played.

"After he did it, I was like, 'Did he really say that?'" Roden said. "It was a reminder that, yes, we have these laws and we have a lot progress, but we still have intolerance. We still have racial bigotry."

The couple traveled from the Minneapolis suburb of Victoria to Montgomery for the SPLC's 40th anniversary celebration because they recognize much work remains. They waited in line with hundreds of other supporters outside the First Baptist Church, where SPLC President Richard Cohen kicked off the event with an overview of the SPLC's work.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to celebrate the 40th anniversary but also learn what's next, because we're not done yet," said Roden, who serves on Victoria's city council. "Some people think because we elected a black president everything's solved, but that's not true."