

SPLC REPORT



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MILITIA TASK FORCE · KLANWATCH · TEACHING TOLERANCE

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JOHN L. RUSSELL/AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



Dorothy and Willie Kye promote diversity in Traverse City.

With help from Klanwatch, Michigan town fights hate

TRAVERSE CITY, MI — When Dorothy Kye learned the Klan was coming to town last summer, she picked up the phone and sought help from those she considers experts on hate — the staff of the Center's Klanwatch project.

Prompting her call was news that former Ku Klux Klan leader David Neumann planned a "NordicFest" rock concert near here over the Fourth of July weekend. He announced that a half-dozen "racialist" bands with names like "Blue-Eyed Devils" and "Intimidation One" would perform.

As a white woman married to one of the town's few black citizens, Kye had long wanted to promote racial diversity in her nearly all-white community. News of the NordicFest spurred her to action.

Ten Ways to Fight Hate

Responding to her plea for help, Klanwatch research analyst Michelle Bramblett sent Kye detailed information about Neumann and a copy of the Center's publication, *Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide to Hate Crime and Hate Groups*. "Michelle was very, very helpful. I talked to her on many occasions," Kye said.

Kye took the material to a meeting of the community's Human Rights Commission. "We read it out loud right there on the spot," she said. "Someone said, 'Let's pick something to do,' and everybody else said, 'Let's do

it all.'" The result was the creation of a new organization, Hate-Free TC, and plans for a UnityFest on the Fourth weekend as an alternative to NordicFest. UnityFest offered more than 50 acts, including music, poetry, dance, visual arts and theater. About 1,000 people attended.

"This thing just mushroomed," said Kye. Each of the 14 commission members chose a different activity. One young man organized a concert. A lawyer started a unity ribbon campaign. A Unitarian minister designed T-shirts.

Key to their efforts was *Ten Ways to Fight Hate*. "It was the only help we could get," Kye said. "We went through it all and used it to plan our strategy." Their strategy succeeded, and NordicFest fizzled; Neumann canceled it at the last minute. The local sheriff credited Hate-Free TC with driving the Klan out of the area.

A positive community influence

Hate-Free TC continues to be a positive force here. Its Web site provides a calendar of programs and events that promote unity. In October — in response to hate graffiti at the home of a black family new to town — it sponsored a community forum on hate crimes, bias crimes and ethnic intimidation. The meeting drew more than 100 people. "The consensus at the forum was to start with young

Please turn to p. 3, "With help from..."

Center expands legal work with new litigation project

ATLANTA — The Center recently launched its newest initiative — an innovative project designed to promote poverty law and civil rights litigation and advocacy efforts.

"Our goal is to support significant cases that otherwise might not be brought," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "The SPLC Georgia Litigation Project will fill some of the gap created by harsh funding cuts and severe restrictions recently imposed on Legal Services programs. It also will support important public education efforts regarding civil rights issues."

In recent years, Congress has reduced its funding of local Legal Services programs, which provide free legal assis-

tance to poor people in civil matters. It also changed the rules for Legal Services



Legal director Richard Cohen

lawyers, tying their hands on welfare reform issues and totally banning class actions

on behalf of their low-income clients.

The Center invited a trio of experienced public-interest lawyers who practice in the Atlanta area to serve as an oversight committee responsible for administering the Georgia Litigation Project. "All three share our commitment to justice and our vision of the law as an engine of social change," Cohen said. "We will rely on their familiarity with the problems in Georgia and their sense of where assistance is most needed and would be most useful."

The committee's priorities for the next 12 months are welfare reform matters, access to health care, public education, police misconduct, and cases affecting

Please turn to p. 4, "Center expands..."

Children dance their way to appreciation for their heritage

UVALDE, Texas — A temperature of 100 degrees in the shade did not discourage the 1st-graders dancing on the covered plaza outside Anthon Elementary School last May. With the guidance of their teacher, Sherry Reddick, the children eagerly practiced traditional Mexican dances as part of a new program funded by a Teaching Tolerance grant.

Reddick organized the Ballet Folklorico Dance Institute to

help preserve the culture of the students in the predominantly Hispanic school. After receiving the grant funds, she and several colleagues made a trip to Mexico to buy serapes, ponchos, ribbons and lace so that they could create authentic costumes representative of the Jalisco region of Mexico.

"The project was not just great fun," Reddick said. "It gave our children a glimpse of their history and planted a seed inside

them to continue to learn about and express their heritage with pride and respect."

The project involved parents, the entire school and the community. In social studies and reading classes, the children studied Hispanic history, literature and music. An instructor was brought in from the local junior college to teach the Mexican dances. Several public performances brought the Uvalde community together to see the troupe dance.

"The swirling colors, the lively rhythms, the passionate music and stories stimulated every imagination and heart,"



Children at a Texas elementary school came to appreciate their culture by learning traditional Mexican dances in a project funded by a Teaching Tolerance grant.

Please turn to p. 5, "Children dance..."

MAILBOX

I am happy to announce that my wife and I are once again in a financial position to ask that you re-enroll us as Friends of the Center. We very much appreciate everything for which the Center stands. As teachers, we have, on several occasions, been the beneficiaries of the free teaching materials provided by the Center. It greatly enhances our abilities to bring an important message to a small part of our nation's students.

Please keep the message moving forward. We are behind you as much as we can be.

B. P.
Clear Lake, Iowa

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We just received your poster set and wanted to rush a note of gratitude to let you know how beautiful and powerful they are. We are a small, culturally/ethnically un-diverse rural community. As such, our kids will greatly benefit from the materials, posters and lesson plan. What a vision you have given us; what a message we will now pass on to our children.

S.B.
Red Lodge, Montana

A special thanks for all that you've done, and all the care, time, and support that you've given in the past. Without your help, no changes would've come as they did. You're a very special group of people and deserve the best that life has to offer. Thank you for your devotion.

R.H.
Alabama prison system

I have heard about your [Teaching Tolerance] program and would like to receive your magazine. I am a 6th grade teacher in a culturally diverse, yet gang-ridden, area of San Jose. As a staff, we have been teaching tolerance since the school opened 11 years ago, but the pressures from the community are beginning to have more effect than we are. Daily I deal with children going beyond adolescent name-calling to racial slurs. The violence that is erupting at our K-8 school is at an all-time high, and we are desperate to find a solution before the problem becomes uncontrollable.

A.V.
San Jose, California

I can't begin to tell you how proud it makes me feel to support all your good work — I only wish it could be more. . . . I have passed along Teaching Tolerance materials to my son's teacher and have told the primary school about your *Starting Small* teaching kit in hopes it will follow-up and request these marvelous materials from you. In writing my check, I couldn't just send it off without taking an opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all of you for the extremely important work you are doing. Glad to find your Internet site.

S.W.
Scituate, Maine

I wish to commend you for your splendid public-spirited activity. Intolerance by white youths is not only despicable, but it is also un-American and totally unacceptable under all American constitutional provisions and established American customs of decency. I wish you much success.

P.H.
Lynchburg, Virginia

New film is memorial to girls killed by Klan in bombing

BIRMINGHAM — In September, *SPLC Report* editor Penny Weaver represented the Center at a special premiere here of *4 Little Girls*, moviemaker Spike Lee's first documentary. The film is a moving memorial to the children killed on Sunday morning, September 15, 1963, when a Ku Klux Klan bomb exploded in Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church. The names of Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Addie Mae Collins and Carole Robertson are included in the listing of 40 martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement inscribed in the Civil Rights Memorial in front of the Center's headquarters building.

4 Little Girls brings to the screen a riveting account of a dawning in America. Told through the eyes of people who were there — survivors, witnesses, defenders and prosecutors, the film is much more than a reminder of a tragic moment



Filmmaker Spike Lee (left) collaborated with Chris McNair and other relatives of the murdered children to produce his moving documentary.



in Birmingham and civil rights history. Its poignant story, lovingly presented by Lee, holds great potential for healing and generating new dialogue about tolerance, an issue that requires ongoing attention in today's society.

At a press conference the day of the premiere, Chris McNair, father of Denise, expressed hope

that people will see the film and have a sense of renewal. "Nobody is an island, and none of us can live alone," he said. "Even though it happened 34 years ago, it could happen again. We hope viewers come away with a feeling of concern for humankind and life."

Home Box Office, which financed the production of the film, will air *4 Little Girls* in late February.

Second Man gets media attention

A special Militia Task Force report on the extremist background of accused Oklahoma bomber Terry Nichols drew widespread media attention when it was released in September. Entitled *The Second Man: Terry Nichols and the Oklahoma City Bombing*, the 24-page report found that Nichols had been deeply influenced by the ideology of the Posse Comitatus, a virulently anti-Semitic group involved in

a series of deadly clashes with law enforcement during the 1980s.

Second Man reported that Nichols employed strategies popularized by the Posse: using a phony check to pay off debts, renouncing his citizenship and claiming exemption from income taxes. It also reported that common-law courts and related organizations — outgrowths of the same "sovereignty" movement

that inspired Nichols — were the fastest-growing part of today's antigovernment movement. The Militia Task Force counted 137 common-law courts in 35 states since 1996, up about 40 percent from 1995.

Although Nichols' lawyer denounced the report, it was covered by CNN, CBS News, ABC Radio, The Associated Press, the Knight-Ridder news service, *The Village Voice* and many others.

Grant enables classroom to reach across the sea

On behalf of my students, my school and myself, I thank you and the Teaching Tolerance grant program for your most generous grant which supports our Kenya Exchange program. My students have already started writing to the children in Kenya, and we are collecting books that we will send and which will be put to very good use by the children in Kenya.

At this point, each of my students already has a Kenyan pen pal, and we have started singing our Kenyan songs. Your grant will certainly make my "Bridging the Rift" project a reality, and I am so thankful for that.

I have been using your Teaching Tolerance magazine and materials for many years, and every time that I receive your magazine, I am encouraged by the work you are

doing to make our world a more tolerant and accepting place. Rest assured that your grant will be put to very good use, in the tradition of the Southern Poverty Law Center. I am truly honored to have been given the grant by you. Your work and your vision have always been an inspiration to me, and I am thrilled to be a part of your mission.

G. D., Teacher
Fresh Meadows, New York

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Judges look to Center for help in coping with common-law courts

As common-law courts continue to proliferate, judges throughout the nation are looking to the Center's Militia Task Force project for help in counteracting a movement that has no regard for judges, lawyers or traditional courts.

"I don't see abatement in this movement at all," said Mike Reynolds, the Center's expert on extremist groups, who spoke to a committee of chief justices of the nation's state supreme courts last summer. The justices are studying ways to keep judges and court clerks safe from harassment and even physical harm. They hope to develop model legislation that states can use to block extremists from filing bogus liens and frivolous lawsuits against public officials and from impersonating court officers.

Common-law courts are quasi-judicial bodies that claim the power to issue legal rulings such as liens and arrest warrants. The Militia Task Force has identified 137 common-law courts in 35 states since 1996. People from a variety of backgrounds are involved in the courts, and the most dangerous are those whose common-law interest is

based on racism or religion, Reynolds said. These individuals are more likely to carry their antigovernment campaign beyond "paper terrorism."

"I was fascinated to learn the breadth and scope of this movement. This is something that concerns all of us."

In mid-October, Reynolds took his message to San Diego, where the American Bar Association held its 18th annual chief judges seminar. The week-long event focused on court administration issues and was attended by chief judges from the states' intermediate appellate courts. At the meeting, Judge Clinton Peterson of the California Court of Appeals suggested the Center's information should be sent to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to generate interest in federal legislation to curb the actions of common-law courts. "That kind of conduct needs to be

criminalized in all states," he said.

Florida Court of Appeals Judge Edward T. Barfield described Reynolds' presentation as "very explanatory and definitive." Although he was aware of common-law courts prior to the judges' conference, he wasn't aware of their extent. "I was fascinated to learn the breadth and scope of this movement," he said. "This is something that concerns all of us."

Later in October, Reynolds taught three classes on the common-law movement during a circuit judges workshop sponsored by the West Virginia Supreme Court.

"These West Virginia judges are getting hit with common-law documents throughout the rural counties of their state and need our help," Reynolds said. "A lot of them, especially the rural judges, don't know what they're getting hit with."

Reynolds also recently made presentations at a Stetson University College of Law seminar for law enforcement administrators in St. Petersburg, Florida; at a Nashville meeting of the Conference of State Court Administrators; and at a Vermont meeting of the Council of Appellate Staff Attorneys.

Center participates in Presidential initiative to counter racism, hate

WASHINGTON, DC — The Center is participating on two fronts in President Clinton's effort to combat racism and hate in America. Its Teaching Tolerance project is one of the "Promising Practices" highlighted by the President's Initiative on Race. And Center President Joseph J. Levin Jr. brought Center resources to the table when he joined the President in his all-out assault on hate crimes by attending the first-ever White House Conference on Hate Crimes on November 10.

"Promising Practices" are efforts that successfully bridge racial divides in communities across America. Teaching Tolerance was one of six national organizations and eight local groups first recognized by the President's Initiative in November.

The announcement of the first "Promising Practices" followed President Clinton's pledge to inform Americans about programs that promote racial reconciliation. They are part of several new features the Initiative on Race launched on its One America site on the World Wide Web (www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/OneAmerica), which links directly to the Center's home page on the Web.

The President's Initiative on Race was launched in June as a year-long effort to create a

stronger, more just, and more united American community.

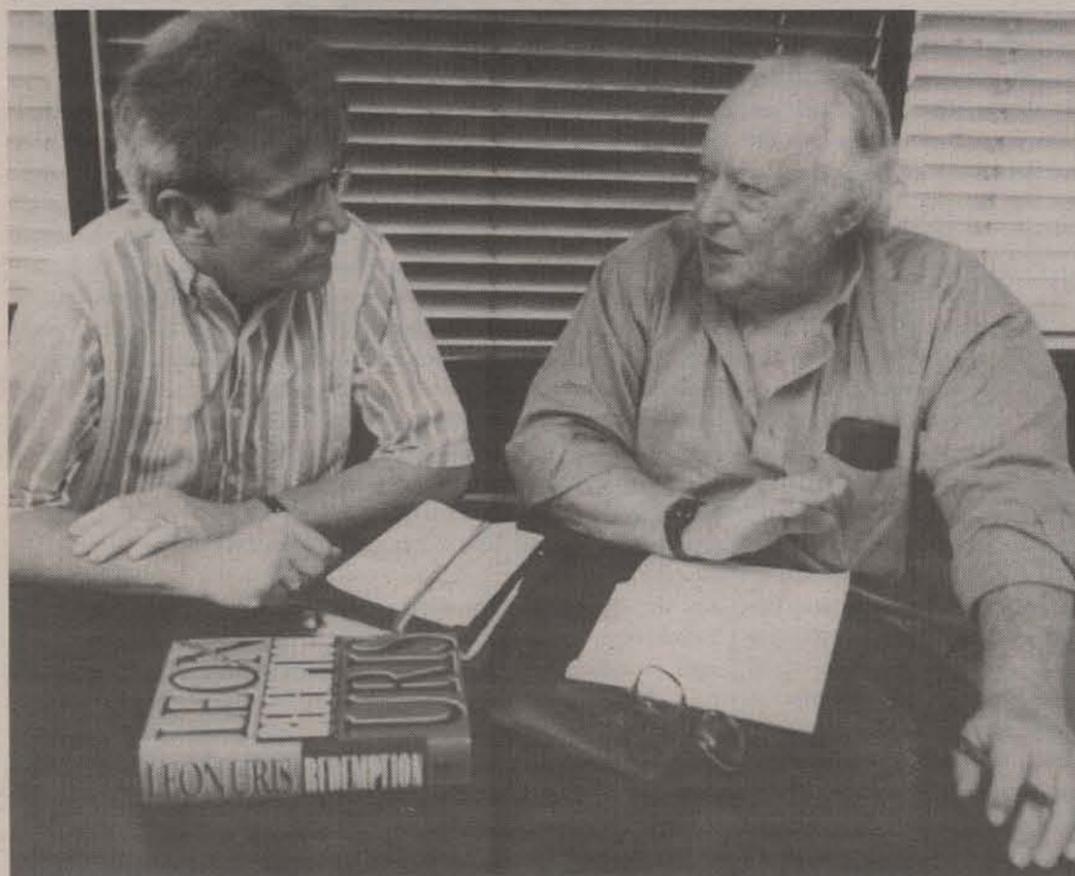
Getting tough on hate crimes

In connection with his focus on race, President Clinton announced at the White House Conference significant new law enforcement and prevention efforts to get tough on hate crimes. A hate crime is the embodiment of intolerance — an act of violence against a person or property based on the victim's race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

"It's important to begin to treat the issue of hate crimes with the seriousness that it deserves," said Center president Levin. "It was essential that the President make this a top priority."

President Clinton emphasized his commitment to fighting hate crimes by including Vice President Gore and top cabinet officials in the day-long conference. The day began with a welcoming breakfast at the White House, which Levin also attended.

In his remarks, President Clinton said it was vital to enforce hate-crime laws and to punish people who violate them. "The most important thing we can do is reach these kids while they're young enough to learn," he said. "Somebody is going to be trying to teach them to hate. We want to teach them a different way."



Leon Uris seeks Center's help

Leon Uris (right) sought information from Klanwatch director Joe Roy in September when he visited the Center for several days in the course of his research for his newest novel. Uris, one of the world's best-selling novelists, is the author of such books as *Exodus*, *Battle Cry*, *QB VII*, *Redemption*, and *Trinity*.

With help from Klanwatch, Michigan town fights hate

Continued from page 1

children," said Kye. Conducting a similar forum for high school students was also suggested.

"Our Human Rights Commission and Hate-Free TC are outlining plans to get the Center's Teaching Tolerance program in our school system," Kye said. "And more forums dealing with hate, hate groups and community response will follow."

"UnityFest was only the beginning," Kye said. "We're going to make long-range plans for how we can keep this a place where we celebrate unity and diversity."

Klanwatch's Bramblett, who advised Kye by phone several times, will travel here in January to speak at the community's Martin Luther King Day celebration.

Whoopstock Unity Festival in Texas

Center materials designed to counter hate groups have proved inspirational in other parts of

the country, too. In April, Texas A&M University held its fifth annual Whoopstock Unity Festival, a community-wide event begun in 1993 as an alternative to a Ku Klux Klan rally. Sheri Schmidt, the university's coordinator of diversity education, credited an October 1991 *SPLC Report* article, "When the Klan Comes to Town," for providing the idea for the alternative event.

"After deciding to do it, we had to get the [university] president's permission," Schmidt said. "At first he was reluctant. Then he read the article and was convinced it was a good idea."

Whoopstock features performances, sports activities, face-painting and sidewalk art reflecting a variety of cultures — all with the purpose of unifying a diverse community. "No one feels left out at this festival," said Karen Collymore, coordinator of this year's event. "No one feels like a minority."

New law fellow plans career helping others over obstacles

Mary Beth Schultz, a 1996 *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School, is the Center's current law fellow. Schultz joined the Center in September after a year's clerkship in Kansas City, Missouri, with Judge John R. Gibson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

Schultz hails from Oxford, Nebraska, where she grew up on a farm and exhibited cattle to help finance her education. She attended the University of Nebraska and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and speech communication. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1993.

At Harvard, Schultz served as the president of the Harvard Civil Liberties Union and was active with the Battered Women's Advocacy Project. She also served as an editor of the *Harvard Women's Law Journal* and the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

"We're lucky to have Mary Beth with us this year," said Center legal director Richard



Mary Beth Schultz

Cohen. "She's a very capable lawyer."

During internships with the Missouri civil rights firm Arthur Benson & Associates, Schultz worked on the well-known Kansas City school desegregation case. At the U.S. Attorneys' Office in Lincoln, Nebraska, she prepared indictments for and worked on arraignments with federal prosecutors. Other legal experience includes working on environmental regulation issues for a

private firm in Washington, D.C., and counseling family law clients at the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Clinic in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

Schultz was inspired to become a lawyer while in high school. In college, she determined to take up civil rights law after observing "a lot of sexism," she said. "It made me sensitive to the obstacles many people face, and there's often nobody there to help them," Schultz said.

She was attracted to the Center because "it's so well known for its representation of people who never had a real chance in their lives," Schultz said.

In the months since joining the Center, Schultz has worked on a variety of cases — from Medicaid issues to an appeal of a wrongful murder conviction. "I've learned so much," she said. "And it's inspiring to work around so many motivated people." She plans to continue a career in civil rights law when she completes her year's fellowship.



Center board of directors

All members of the Center's board were present for October's quarterly meeting. Directors are Patricia Clark (from left) of Philadelphia; James E. McElroy of San Diego; Judge Rufus Huffman of Union Springs, Alabama; Frances M. Green of Boulder; Joseph J. Levin Jr., board president; and Howard Mandell of Montgomery.

Mentally ill inmate dies when treatment is denied

Calvin Moore checked into Kilby Correctional Facility in January 1996 to begin serving four months of a two-year sentence for non-violent property crimes. At 18, he weighed 160 pounds and was "healthy, able-bodied, mentally and emotionally sound," according to a lawsuit filed by the Center.

Less than a month later, Moore's wasted and dehydrated body lay immobile in a pool of urine on the concrete floor of his cell. During 26 days of incarceration, he stopped eating and drinking, lost one-third of his body weight, was diagnosed as "acutely psychotic," and was observed drinking his own urine. As his condition deteriorated, his vital signs were checked only once in the nine days preceding his death on February 21, 1996.

Wrongful death lawsuit

On behalf of Moore's family, the Center has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Correctional Medical Services, the private company hired to provide medical and mental health services to prisoners in Alabama. The lawsuit alleges CMS doctors and nurses caused Moore's death by failing to provide basic emergency and mental health treatment. The lawsuit also alleges that policies implemented to curtail the amount and quality of psychiatric and psychological care, including medication, given to mentally ill inmates at Kilby contributed to Moore's death.

"Moore's death is a tragic example of what can go wrong when private health care companies put profits ahead of the sick people they are supposed to care for," said Center senior staff attorney Rhonda Brownstein. "Calvin Moore was unable to move or ask for help, and he died as a result of the indiffer-

ence and negligence of CMS doctors and nurses." CMS is a private prison health care company based in Missouri.

'Fearful, trembling and confused'

According to the complaint, medical administrators were repeatedly notified that Moore was not eating food or drinking fluids and that he was in an unresponsive state. Two weeks before his death, Moore reported he had been or was afraid he would be raped by other prisoners. Guards noted Moore, who had never been in prison before, was "fearful, trembling and confused" when he made the report. Fellow inmates reported Moore was so afraid he stopped going to meals. A mental health assessment warned that Moore was psychotic and possibly suicidal.

"A CMS psychiatrist, psychologist and nursing director observed Moore the day before he died," said Brownstein. "He was catatonic, immobile and wasted. His mouth and nose oozed mucus. They knew he needed help, but no one bothered to give him basic emergency treatment or follow their own procedures for treating inmates who refuse or cannot take food or liquids," she said.

Center seeks reform

The Center's wrongful death claim is part of an effort to reform Alabama's system of delivering health care to prison inmates with medical and mental health problems. In March, a federal magistrate ruled in a case supported by the Center and filed by Birmingham lawyer Gayle Gear that Alabama's system of delivering mental health services to acutely mentally ill inmates should be declared unconstitutional. The ruling is under review by the federal district judge.

Center expands legal work

Continued from page 1

the rights of women, minorities and children. Cases that broadly affect the rights of Georgians will receive preference.

"We're thrilled," said Lisa Krisher, litigation director for Georgia Legal Services and one of the three oversight committee members. "There's such a dearth of representation in poverty and civil rights cases here in Georgia. Having this project will enable more people to get quality legal help in important, high-impact cases."

Other committee members are veteran Atlanta civil rights lawyers Elizabeth Appley and Brian Spears. Appley serves on the board of the Georgia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Spears has worked with the Center on Klan-related cases since 1982.

Appley, who practices alone, knows firsthand the difficulty of bringing and maintaining a major civil rights case. It has become even harder as the courts have become increasingly more conservative, she said. "These cases are more and more difficult to win, and the ability to recover reasonable costs is getting worse," she said.

The Georgia Litigation Project will enable Krisher and her Legal Services colleagues to refer important cases they are now prohibited from handling to experienced and committed lawyers who will provide high quality representation for their poor clients.

"A lot of lawyers are willing to donate their time," Krisher said,

"We're thrilled. ... Having this project will enable more people to get quality legal help in important, high impact cases."

"but the out-of-pocket expenses involved in civil rights issues make it prohibitive to take on a major case. It makes it difficult for us to find someone to take our referrals." The problem is particularly acute in the small towns and rural areas that make up most of the 154 counties served by Georgia Legal Services.

E. Ed Martin Jr., chairman of the Individual Rights Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia, said there is a "crying need" for

the Center's new project. He said he hears about civil rights violations every day — most outside of the urban Atlanta area — that should be litigated but are not because of lack of money.

"This initiative by the Southern Poverty Law Center will provide a way to fund, not just the big cases, but a lot of the needs of individuals," Martin said.

The Center will fund the new project at \$100,000 each year for a three-year period. At least 80 percent of the funds will support out-of-pocket litigation expenses in selected cases, including costs for research, investigation and expert witnesses. Grant funds will not be a substitute for attorney

fees. Lawyers who eventually prevail and receive a court award for their expenses will reimburse the project. The remaining 20 percent of the project's funds will be available for public education activities, such as conferences for civil rights advocates or the production of advocacy manuals on a specific topic.

"If the project is successful in Georgia," says Center legal director Cohen, "we plan to expand the effort to other states."

New teaching kit draws record-breaking response

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Within six weeks of its release, the Southern Poverty Law Center's third video-and-text kit, *Starting Small: Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades*, was requested by more than 14,000 schools and organizations. This strong response was 50 percent higher than that for the first two Teaching Tolerance curriculum packages, *America's Civil Rights Movement* and *The Shadow of Hate*, during comparable time periods.

The *Starting Small* package, which contains a 58-minute video and five copies of a 250-page book, is a teacher-training tool sent free by the Center to day-care centers, elementary schools and teacher-education programs nationwide. Evaluation forms included in the kit are being returned by educators, who indicate the package is a welcome resource.

A 3rd-grade teacher in Illinois who used the kit in a teacher-training institute said on her form: "I think your organization is fantastic! I teach in a

very diverse school. Your publications cater to our needs most effectively. Thank you!"

After reading the book in the kit, the principal of an elementary school in Miami was so impressed he ordered 10 copies for his staff. On his request he noted: "I found your book of great interest with far-reaching implications. In a diverse culture such as exists in Miami, this book appears to have a strong grasp of what is needed to create a tolerance environment."

Teacher-education training tool

The video-and-text kit is proving very popular with professors of education at teacher-training institutions.

Colleges of education in almost every state in the nation — from the University of Massachusetts to the University of Texas and Oregon State Uni-

versity — have received *Starting Small*.

A typical response is one from Dr. Beth Graue at the



that is meaningful. Most focus on food celebrations or imaginary 'visits' to far-off lands. I think I have finally found a tool that can provide new ways of thinking in *Starting Small*. Working from strong research foundations, this small book and video show how tolerance-oriented teaching is possible in a variety of settings, with diverse and not-so-diverse populations."

Before its release in early September, 23,500 copies of the *Starting Small* book were ordered by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to be sent in a special mailing to a portion of its membership. In a letter

accompanying the book, NAEYC executive director Marilyn Smith told the members: "We are pleased to send you...a book we feel makes an outstanding contribution to the teaching of tol-

erance and appreciation of diversity. ...We believe the book will be highly valued by teachers, administrators, teacher educators and others struggling to make schools and classrooms safer, kinder, and more equitable places for children."

Two free kits available

The first two Teaching Tolerance video-and-text kits are in use in more than 55,000 schools and organizations nationwide. *The Shadow of Hate* kit was re-released in September and is available free, one per school, community organization or university department upon written request of the principal, director or department chair. The *America's Civil Rights Movement* kit is not available at this time but is scheduled for re-release in the fall of 1998.

The *Starting Small* kit is available one per elementary school, child-care center or teacher education program upon written request from the principal, director or department chair. Orders on school letterhead may be faxed to (334) 264-7310.

Founding designer returns to *Teaching Tolerance* magazine

Susan Hulme, who worked with Teaching Tolerance founding director Sara Bullard to design the project's first educational materials, has rejoined the staff as a contributing designer. Hulme was hired as a



Susan Hulme

freelancer in 1991 and became part of the project's regular staff in January 1992. Her design work for *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and *America's Civil Rights Movement*, the project's first curriculum kit, earned her two awards from the Educational Press Association.

"Susan's creative energy and collaborative spirit have distinguished our publications from the start," said Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes. "We're honored to have her back on the project."

Hulme left Teaching Tolerance in 1993 to return to Tennessee, where she started her own design studio. Much of her work is for the music industry centered in Nashville.

Hulme attended the University of Tennessee and O'More School of Design.

As a freelancer in New York and Nashville, she designed many popular magazines, including *American Heritage*.

The January 1998 issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine will feature two articles

designed by Hulme. She will work with senior designer Rodney Diaz on several stories in each future issue of the magazine.

"I'm delighted to be working with Teaching Tolerance again," Hulme said. "This is like coming home for me: I get to work with some of my old friends as well as contribute to

this wonderful publication for teachers. My own two children are in school now, and I'm realizing more than ever the importance of teaching equity and acceptance."

Hulme serves on the board of directors of Tennessee Voices for Children, a non-

profit advocacy group founded by Tipper Gore that works to promote the well-being of children.

New clerical assistant

In another staff change, LaTonya Jackson joined Teaching Tolerance in July as library and file clerk. She replaced Tafeni English, who moved to a research information specialist position with Klanwatch.

Jackson graduated from Central High School in Hayneville, Alabama, and attends Auburn University at Montgomery, where she is majoring in mass communications. She maintains the Teaching Tolerance library and filing system and helps process the hundreds of requests for educational materials that the project receives each week.

"I've always wanted to help others," Jackson said, "and now, by working with Teaching Tolerance, I can be part of the important task of fighting racism and helping young people be more tolerant of each other."



LaTonya Jackson

Children dance their way to new appreciation for culture and heritage

Continued from page 1

Reddick observed. "In our own way, we are promoting tolerance and accord among our students and in our community."

Although a limited number of children participated in the pilot program, the Institute will be expanded each year until all grades, one through four, have a dance troupe that specializes in a different regional dance. "We will always be grateful to Teaching Tolerance and the SPLC for your kind assistance and encouragement," Reddick said. "Without you, this institute would never have been established. ¡Muchisimas gracias a todos!"

Grant proposals pour in

The Teaching Tolerance grants program, which awards up to \$2,000 for K-12 teachers to implement tolerance projects in their schools, was announced in January 1997; Reddick's was one of the first grants awarded in March. By the end of the summer, 48 projects had been funded for a total of \$67,000. After the current school year began, the grants review committee received and processed an average of 25 proposals per week. By October 15, a total of more than

\$100,000 had been distributed to 80 teachers in 33 states.

Grant recipients have enthusiastically expressed their appreciation for the awards:

"We have received your grant and wish to thank you with heartfelt appreciation. The materials this will allow us to buy will greatly enhance our ability to teach the Holocaust with appropriate texts and reference materials."

—Arkansas teacher

"I would like to thank you and your organization for believing in our organization SPIRIT (Students Promoting Integration & Respect, Inspiring Tomorrow) by awarding us a grant. We are truly appreciative."

—Chicago school counselor

"Thank you for your generous grant that enables us to create tri-language videos for our families who speak Vietnamese and Spanish. These videos will enable families to more fully participate in our ever-expanding multicultural community."

—California teacher

Projects funded by Teaching Tolerance grants will be featured in future issues of the SPLC Report as well as in *Teaching Tolerance* magazine.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

Received by the Law Center from July to September 1997

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Farrakhan travels with a long history of hate

Louis Farrakhan's visit to Alabama in September prompted The Montgomery Advertiser to solicit commentary from the Center. Following is an adaptation of President Joseph J. Levin Jr.'s remarks.

The August 26 issue of *The Final Call*, the Nation of Islam's weekly publication, reports that Minister Louis Farrakhan is on a "grueling ... 80-city National Revival Tour spreading the gospel of atonement and reconciliation." "Minister Farrakhan storms the East Coast," the headline proclaims. Selma and Montgomery recently experienced the remnants of that storm.

Candor was not much in evidence. Louis Farrakhan and his roving band of ministers frequently lapse into conciliatory rhetoric when it suits their purpose, and it typically suits their purpose when an event is well-covered and where some controversy surrounds his appearance. Those who attended heard a great deal about reconciliation, peace and brotherhood. Of course, Minister Farrakhan qualifies as a practitioner in none of these arenas. Regardless of his words of the moment, he always carries with him a long history of hate. He is an experienced purveyor of separatism, racism, homophobia, anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism.

View words in context

Many supporters of Louis Farrakhan, and others who consider themselves objective observers, would point to those occasions on which he preaches peace and seeks dialogue as evidence of an open mind, an appeasing presence. They would be dead wrong. A person's public words must be viewed in context, and the more accurate reflection of Farrakhan's message is found in his cumulative behavior. That behavior is unrepentantly ugly.

To hang on Farrakhan's every word is to play his game. Opening a dialogue with someone so willing to talk out of both sides of his mouth is pointless.

Most of us are familiar with Farrakhan's characterizations of Judaism as a "gutter religion" and Jews as "bloodsuckers," but these commonly known slanders do not stand alone. Despite his talk of atonement and reconciliation since the Million Man March in 1995, his themes of bigotry persist:

- Every issue of *The Final Call* ends with a statement of what the Nation of Islam wants: the establishment of "a separate state or territory" for black America, a "demand for complete separation."

- The Nation of Islam still sells such titles as *Jews and Their Lies* and *The Secret Relationship*



Louis Farrakhan at Montgomery press conference

Between Blacks and Jews, a Nation of Islam creation that makes the absurd claim that Jews dominated the slave trade.

- In April, Farrakhan blamed Catholics for a series of racial attacks in Connecticut, continuing a theme from a 1994 speech in which he said Catholicism "has been by white people, for white people to subject black people to a white kind of theology that strips us of ourselves." One of his disciples has called the Pope an "anti-Christ" and a "cracker."

- Also in April, in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Farrakhan reiterated his hostile views about Jews. Jews, he said, "exercise extraordinary control, and black people will never be free in this country until they are free of that kind of control, and I do intend, by the help of God, to break up that control."

- A flier promoting a May 21 speech by a Farrakhan disciple on a California college campus described the speaker as "The White Man's Worst Nightmare"; it advertised tickets as \$7 for students, \$10 for nonstudents and \$15 for "zionists, uncle toms and other white supremacists."

- Less than two years ago Farrakhan embarked on a whirlwind tour of some of the world's bloodiest, most anti-democratic nations. He lavished praise on their anti-Semitic, terrorist-supporting leaders and repeatedly denounced the American government, calling it—in Iran of all places—"the Great Satan."

A kindred spirit

While the public may have been confused by some of Farrakhan's recent conciliatory statements, other extremists know a kindred soul when they see one. William Pierce, the head of the largest neo-Nazi organization in the nation, the National Alliance, and the author of *The Turner Diaries*, a book that describes how a white supremacist group launches a race war that ends with the murders of Jews and minorities, is a case in

point. Pierce has emphasized that "both the Nation of Islam and the Alliance are racial-nationalist organizations, that both believe that the races must be geographically separated, and that both face a common enemy in the Jew."

Tom Metzger, head of the White Aryan Resistance, one of the most well-known hate group leaders in the country, pointed to Farrakhan's success in the Million

Man March, calling 1995 "a banner year for racial separatists."

As I was writing this piece, our Teaching Tolerance project received a telephone call from a young African American woman in Minnesota. She wanted to know what message we intended by including Farrakhan in our 1995 film, *The Shadow of Hate*. In it, speeches by David Duke and Louis Farrakhan are juxtaposed as illustrative of contemporary bigotry. The caller said that she had heard Farrakhan in person twice. She acknowledged his anti-Semitic and racist statements, but pointed out that Farrakhan insists to his listeners that these remarks have been misunderstood by his critics.

No apologies offered

I'll say here what was said to our caller: How can one misunderstand those remarks? They are clear and unequivocal. Farrakhan leaves those remarks on the table precisely because he knows exactly how they will be interpreted. He does not withdraw them, he does not apologize for them, he merely

attempts to rationalize them, just as Alabama's white, racist politicians did during the Civil Rights Movement. It's an old story with a sordid pedigree.

Those of us who were born and raised in the South, black and white alike, know what racial demagoguery is all about. We have seen it up close and personal. It has touched each of us in different ways. Apartheid and hate cannot be allowed to survive in a democratic society, because if it does, democracy will fail. It failed here in Alabama, and we are still recovering from its consequences.

By the year 2050, the majority of Americans will be non-white. Everyone will be a "minority," and "minorities" will be the majority. It will take all of our resolve and all of our goodwill to insure that our children and our grandchildren do not discover themselves thrust into a thoroughly balkanized society, the roots of which can be traced directly to world-class haters on both sides of the racial divide, like David Duke and Louis Farrakhan.

Novelist designates Center to receive honor society fee

NEW ORLEANS — Acclaimed writer and long-time Center supporter Ernest Gaines donated his speaker's fee to the Center after addressing the 100th anniversary convention of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi here last summer. The Society is the nation's oldest and largest honor society which recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all areas of higher education.

Gaines is best known for his novels *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Gathering of Old Men*, and *A Lesson Before Dying*, which earned him the 1994 National Book Award. His work has been translated into 12 languages, and three of his stories were made into movies. Born at False River, Louisiana, Gaines spent many years in California. He has been writer-in-residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette since 1983.

Many critics consider Gaines at the top of living American writers. His major theme is survival with dignity. Over and over, Gaines peoples his novels with individuals who display extraordinary courage and dig-



Ernest Gaines

nity in the face of great adversity. His work has been recognized by the MacArthur Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In closing his New Orleans speech, Gaines related his answer when pressed to define the audience he hopes to reach:

"I would probably say that I write for the black youth of the South, to let him know that his life is worth writing about—and maybe in that way I could help him find himself. ... I would say that I also write for the white youth of the South. To

let him know that unless he knows his neighbor of three hundred years, he knows only half of his own history."

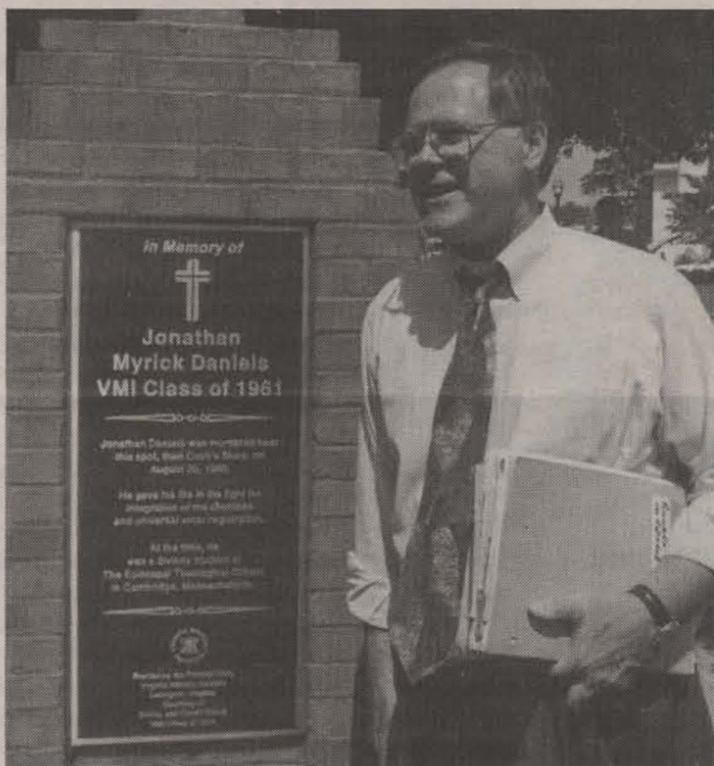
In keeping with its nonprofit ideals, Phi Kappa Phi offered to provide contributions to the charities or nonprofit organizations of its speakers' choices in lieu of payment of standard speakers' fees. "I speak for all members of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in saying congratulations to the Southern Poverty Law Center for its receipt of Mr. Gaines' contribution," said public relations director April Ravain.

Center donor Richard Morrisroe: Working for community

HAYNEVILLE, AL — Richard Morrisroe nearly died here 32 years ago in August when white deputy sheriff Tom Coleman gunned him down because he was a civil rights activist. His companion and fellow activist, Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels, took Coleman's first shotgun blast and fell dead by the Cash Store, pushing a black teenage girl out of danger as he was hit. Coleman was acquitted of murder by an all-white jury just weeks after the shooting — before Morrisroe's wounds had healed enough to allow him to testify.

In 1965, Morrisroe was a 26-year-old Catholic priest, the son of Irish immigrants who had lived all his life in Chicago. When Martin Luther King summoned clergy to Selma, Morrisroe responded, eventually joining Daniels in voter registration efforts in neighboring Lowndes County.

This past August, Morrisroe — now a lawyer for the Chicago Transit Authority — returned to the town square here for the



Center supporter Richard Morrisroe at Jonathan Daniels' memorial in Hayneville, Alabama

dedication of a memorial to Daniels. He was one of several speakers who honored the Civil Rights Movement martyr. He also visited the Center and its Civil Rights Memorial, which

includes Daniels in its list of slain Movement heroes.

Morrisroe left the priesthood in 1972; married a teacher; became a city planner, a lawyer and a teacher, and reared a son

and a daughter in a unique multicultural community in East Chicago, Indiana, where he and his wife live today. He says his entire family is committed to peace, social justice and the betterment of their community. That commitment is manifested both in the work Morrisroe and his family do for the community and in his financial support of the Center.

Morrisroe is near completion of a doctor of ministry degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; his focus is recruiting and training lay people to become effective ministers in the church and in a multicultural society. He also teaches night courses on peace and social justice and the history of religion in America at Calumet College in Hammond, Indiana.

A high school counselor for the past 12 years, Morrisroe's wife Sylvia — who grew up in Puerto Rico — works hard to help second-tier students, those who might otherwise get overlooked, get into quality colleges. On a volunteer basis, she choreographs and coordinates a Caribbean

folk-dancing troupe for community children, both elementary and high school. "It's an opportunity for kids to learn to perform and do something positive in their lives," Morrisroe said.

Last January, their daughter Sioban spent three weeks in Alabama volunteering as a tutor in a rural Lowndes County Catholic community center. Sioban is finishing her senior year at DePauw University where she is earning a degree in education. Her brother Richard Jonathan — named for Jonathan Daniels — graduated from Amherst and is a banking trainee in Buffalo, New York.

In their teaching roles, Richard, Sylvia and Sioban Morrisroe each have used the Center's Teaching Tolerance materials.

In August, Morrisroe said he was not reluctant to return to the scene of the violence that nearly claimed his life. Over the years, his assailant, Tom Coleman, said little publicly about the shootings — and he never offered any apologies. Coleman died in June of cancer. "I hope he found peace," said Morrisroe.

Partners for the Future

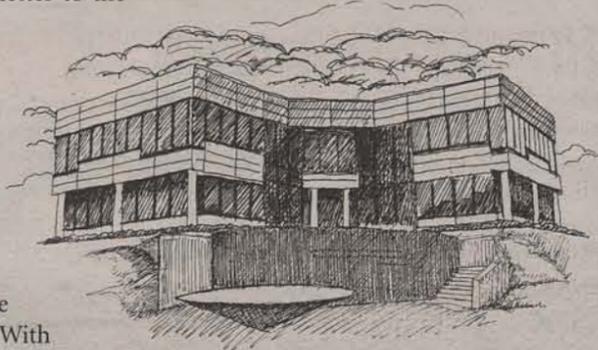
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The Southern Poverty Law Center has established a planned giving program called Partners for the Future. By participating in Partners for the Future through wills and other special gifts, Center donors can extend their support for equality and justice beyond their lifetimes.

If you plan to or have already remembered the Center in your will or estate plans, please help the Center update its records by sending a letter to the address below.

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IN MEMORIAM

Carol Ann Chandlee (1938-1997)

Longtime Center supporter Carol Chandlee died August 17 after a brief battle with lung cancer.

Chandlee considered it her mission to help those faced with special challenges, and throughout her life she worked as a public servant in three critical fields: education, mental health and corrections.

For the past 20 years, she taught behavioral sciences to students at LaVerne University and Ventura College in California. As an educator, she hoped to awaken students to the inequities in our society. "Carol imparted her belief in basic human dignity. She taught students to think and to be aware, and she fostered the development of tolerance, respect and acceptance," says Marianne Slaughter, her companion of 25 years.

Chandlee earlier worked as a social worker and program director at Camarillo State Hospital. She also was a parole agent and a treatment team supervisor for the California Youth Authority.

Chandlee was involved in a variety of political and social causes. She volunteered for the

Democratic Party, and she also donated her time to women's issues. In recent years, Chandlee focused her efforts on developing a new program to provide low-cost counseling services through the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Ventura County.

Chandlee earned her bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's in social work from Tulane University. She was a licensed clinical social worker.

Chandlee and Slaughter joined the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1976 after receiving information about the Center in the mail. "Last March, we fulfilled a dream when we were able to visit the Center," said Slaughter. "It was shortly thereafter that Carol's serious illness was diagnosed."

For her memorial service, it was requested that in lieu of flowers, friends and family make donations to the Center in Chandlee's memory. "I could not think of a more meaningful way to honor her memory than to continue our support of the Center," Slaughter said.

