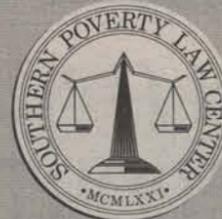


SPLC REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TEACHING TOLERANCE · INTELLIGENCE PROJECT · LITIGATION

MARCH 1998
VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1

FBI charges men in plot to bomb Center, kill Dees

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — White supremacists deemed too dangerous for bail were held by federal authorities here after an FBI agent testified the group planned to blow up the Southern Poverty Law Center and assassinate its co-founder and chief trial counsel, Morris Dees. The men also targeted a federal courthouse and other facilities, prosecutors said.

Calling themselves "The New Order," the men planned to rob banks and armored cars to finance the plot, said FBI special agent Jason Thompson at a detention hearing for three of the men on March 6. Their conspiracy included poisoning a municipal water supply with cyanide as a diversionary tactic while they carried out the bombing in Alabama, he said.

The plot is the latest in a series of threats against the

Center and Dees, beginning in 1981. (See story on page three.)

Federal agents who raided the men's homes in late February found numerous guns, including a fully automatic machine gun, a pipe bomb, hand grenades and 30 pounds of explosive powder, Thompson testified.

Four indicted

Indicted for conspiracy to receive and possess unregistered firearms and conspiracy to make illegal firearms were three southern Illinois men:

- Dennis Michael McGiffen, 35, of Wood River, a pipefitter and former regional leader of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan;
- Wallace Scott Weicherding, 64, of Salem, who was fired from his job as a prison guard in 1993 for giving Klan literature to fellow employees; and
- Ralph P. Bock, 27, of Brighton, a construction worker.

A fourth Illinois man — Glenn LeVelle Lowtharp, 50, of Rockford — was also indicted and held without bail after a hearing March 10. Prosecutors said he turned rifles into automatic weapons for the group and that he had a prior conviction for similar crimes.

U.S. Attorney Norman Smith said other charges could be filed against the men in custody, and more individuals may be charged in connection with the conspiracy. Their trial is scheduled for April 27. "They were a serious, serious danger to the community," Smith said.

Weicherding attended a January 22 speech Dees gave at Southern Illinois University, according to Thompson's testimony. He was armed with a gun and apparently planned to kill Dees then, but turned around before going through metal detectors, according to testimony. Weicherding

Please turn to p. 3, "FBI charges men..."

BENTON EVENING NEWS



Illinois Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon Dennis McGiffen, charged with plotting to bomb the Center, rages against minorities, gays and Klan opponents at an April 1995 rally in Benton, Illinois.

Starting Small's skin-painting session teaches 1st-graders lesson in tolerance

SAN ANTONIO — When Teacher Karen Shebaro saw one of her 1st-graders distraught because an older black child accused her of being "too black," she reached for her copy of *Starting Small: Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades*, the third video-and-text

kit produced by the Center's Teaching Tolerance project.

"If I had not already reviewed *Starting Small*, I'm not sure I would have had the appropriate educational tools to handle the

situation. Thankfully, I had reviewed it," Shebaro said.

Using a lesson from the video and first chapter of the book in the kit, Shebaro planned a lesson exploring skin color for her class at Crestview Elementary School. She gathered six different colors of tempera paint and helped each student mix the paints until a hue was found that matched his or her skin color. The entire class was involved in the "experiment," and the children themselves decided which colors to begin with on each student.

"I was 'color tested,' too," said Shebaro, "and the children were impressed to discover that all of us in the room — a pretty even mix of white, Hispanic and black — needed the same three base colors — white, brown and black — as a beginning for each person's

Please turn to p. 4, "Starting Small..."



Mixing paint colors taught Karen Shebaro's students that no one's skin color is simply black, brown or white.

Intelligence Project documents big growth in hate groups

The number of hate groups in the United States rose significantly in 1997, a year in which the organizations wielded more influence in mainstream society through the Internet and racist rock music. The Intelligence Project documented 474 hate groups involved in racist behavior last year.

The number, though tallied using different methodology than in the past, indicated a real rise of 20 percent. The jump reflects continued growth of racially based separatism, religion and hate, along with fervor produced by the approaching millennium.

"The tentacles of the hate movement are reaching places where they've never been before," says Joe Roy, director of the Intelligence Project. "Mainstream America is being

targeted in a way that this country hasn't seen in decades."

As the year 2000 nears, says Jack Levin of Boston's Northeastern University, "There are a growing number of apocalyptic thinkers, and the problem is they're creating their own apocalypse. Some are committing suicide, others are blowing up federal buildings or trying to initiate a race war that will lead to apocalypse."

The count covers organizations and their chapters that participated in hate crimes, marches, rallies, leafleting or publishing literature. Individual hate activists are not included.

The Intelligence Project (formerly Klanwatch) has published an annual list since 1990. Researchers study publi-

Please turn to p. 3, "Intelligence Project..."

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is a non-profit organization that combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include Teaching Tolerance and the Intelligence Project, which incorporates Klanwatch and the Militia Task Force. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial which celebrates the memory of 40 individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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MAILBOX

'Important message'

The following letter, sent via the Center's Web site, is from Thomas J. Scanlon, deputy chief of police at the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Police Department. He teaches ethics to law enforcement officers, and his department is the nation's only law enforcement agency that belongs to the national CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, an alliance of nonprofit organizations dedicated to strengthening the character of America's young people with a consistent set of ethical values.

I am an ethics instructor within my own profession, and I cannot separate teaching ethics from diversity and tolerance, in that ethics is all-encompassing. The mission of our CHARACTER COUNTS! program goes hand-in-hand with what the SPLC is doing regarding tolerance education.



Thomas J. Scanlon

Teaching tolerance is an extremely important message to teach our young citizens. This is a basic issue of caring and respect for others. Tolerance should not only be taught

to children — most adults often have to be reminded.

I praise your efforts because you are doing the right thing, and I hope you expand your horizons to include law enforcement as a target area for education. If you have any resource material that you would be able to share with me, I would greatly

appreciate it. You are on an important mission, and I thank you.

Thomas J. Scanlon
Deputy Chief of Police
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Thanks for reprinting Joseph Levin's column about Louis Farrakhan from *The Montgomery Advertiser* — you have proven to me that the SPLC is an equal opportunity anti-bigotry organization. Too often, the embarrassing problem of black anti-Semitism is hushed up in the interest of political correctness — so thanks for being brave enough to confront it.

J. S.
Palo Alto, California

Thank you for sending the Teaching Tolerance materials. I have been fortunate enough to use them with the same group of students for the past three years. The material has opened up their eyes to the extent of intolerance.

My students are all black. They were under the impression, three years ago, that black people were the only people who were picked on and put down. They were amazed at the different stories [in *Us and Them*], especially about the Irish. They never realized white people were victims of intolerance, also. . . . They are much more tolerant than they were before all these lessons.

Thank you for continuing to send the materials. I used them in social studies the first year, and for the past two years, I have used the information in my English classes.

Continue the good work. It is appreciated.

R. B.
Englewood, New Jersey

I have been using *Us and Them* in my classroom, and the kids love it. The stories are well-written and hold their attention. They would much rather read this type of resource than a text. Thank you for putting the time and effort into your materials for young people.

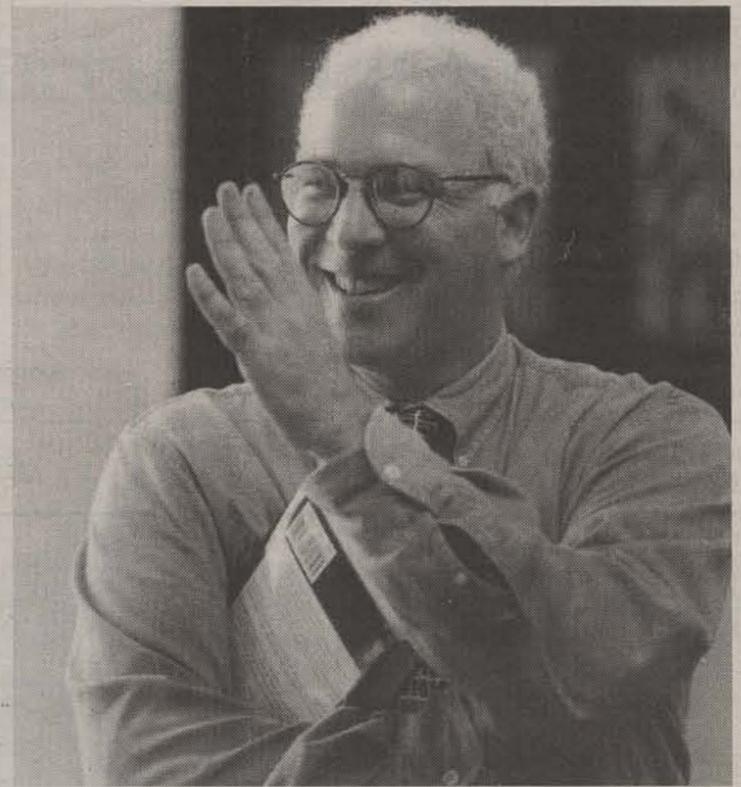
M. B.
Cloquet, Minnesota

When I graduated from college, my mother-in-law wanted to give me a gift that I would appreciate rather than some useless cooking appliance or the like. As a result, she donated money in my name to the Southern Poverty Law Center. She couldn't have given me a better gift. I feel honored to have been included in anything that will help the Center thrive.

S. G.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

I am a counselor at an elementary school and am continually impressed by the high quality of work that has been made available to me through your organization. I am not only constantly on the look-out for new and exciting ideas but also for the funds to finance them. I can't thank you enough for the opportunity to teach with the resources that you have provided in such a generous spirit. Thank you.

E. C.
Benzonia, Michigan



Inspired by Memorial

Author Jonathan Coleman read to Center staff from his new book, *Long Way to Go: Black & White in America*, when he visited Montgomery last fall. The 1989 Civil Rights Memorial dedication ceremony, which he covered for *Time* magazine, was his inspiration for writing the book.

Whites must recognize privileges they enjoy because of skin color

BY JULIAN BOND

Here is one thing — the most important thing — President Clinton's panel on race ought to do.

It ought to find a way to get Americans of European descent to acknowledge the privileges they enjoy because of their race.

Acknowledging and understanding white-skin privilege is the vital first step in any honest dialogue on race. A forthright, candid internal exchange among whites is a necessary first phase, the predicate to interracial conversation.

For years, blacks and some whites built a successful civil rights movement by contrasting black inequality with the national promise of justice for all. The stark divide between black and white life chances was a mighty fuel for the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

But what had been a black-led interracial movement in the 1960s has largely become a black-led black movement in the 1990s. For many, black life choices are assumed to account for diminished black life chances. Discussions of race focus entirely on the inadequacy or wrongness of existing remedies or on schemes of community uplift. For a variety of reasons,

white Americans today demonstrate little interest or involvement in narrowing the great racial divide.

The Race Initiative — and all of us — must find some way to engage whites in common struggle with blacks.

I despair that I cannot imagine how this is to be done —

perhaps through structured and informal education, public forums and neighborhood-level discussion groups. But who will come? Who will summon them?

It is remarkable to consider that the Promise Keepers are the only

predominantly white group I can think of who have achieving racial harmony as a core belief — even if they do not acknowledge that something is wrong in America — and have pledged to do something about it. Why do they stand almost alone?

This short essay by Julian Bond, the Center's President Emeritus and chairman of the NAACP, appeared in *Poverty & Race*, the newsletter of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council. A complete set of 27 short pieces offering advice by well-known activists and thinkers to the Advisory Board to the President's Race Initiative is available without charge from the PRRAC, 1711 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Provide a large self-addressed, stamped (\$1.47 in postage) envelope.



Julian Bond

Intelligence Project documents significant increase in hate groups

Continued from page 1

cations and Internet sites, consult law enforcement officials and monitor news.

In order to provide more information, the Intelligence Project this year listed 911 chapters of hate groups. The count includes racist Christian Identity ministries (which likely existed before but were just identified in the 1997 tally). It includes black separatists with racist platforms, including the Nation of Islam.

Numbers increase 20 percent

In 1996 the Intelligence Project counted 241 hate groups. If the 1997 count had been undertaken using the 1996 methodology and had excluded Identity ministries, it would have come to 290 groups — a rise of about 20 percent over 1996.

The Intelligence Project doesn't include "Patriot" organizations in its hate group count, although some may engage in racist or anti-Semitic behavior. A report on the "Patriots" will be issued in May.

Key points emerged last year: After years of decline, the Klan gained speed. This was driven by growth of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which grew from one chapter in 1996 to 12 in 1997. The group held rallies in scores of cities and recruited in schools and elsewhere.

- Another Klan group, an offshoot of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan that goes by the same name, mushroomed. From two chapters in 1996, it grew to 17 chapters. The original group continued a slow decline, from five chapters to four.

- The National Association for the Advancement of White People quadrupled in size, from 18 chapters in 1996 to 79. The NAAWP shares racist doctrines of the Klan, but eschews its rituals.

- The neo-Nazi World Church of the Creator more than doubled in size. Under the leadership of Illinois law student Matt Hale, WCOTC grew from 14 chapters in 1996 to 33 chapters last year.

- The leading neo-Nazi group, the National Alliance, opened several chapters in 1997, bringing the total to 22.

- Another key player in the neo-Nazi movement, the Aryan Nations, lost influence. Led by the aging Richard Butler, Aryan Nations lost more than half its chapters in 1997, retaining 13.

- Racist Skinheads remained strong after recovering from a law enforcement crackdown in the early 1990s. They burst into view in Denver last November, when one Skinhead killed a police officer and another killed a black man at a bus stop. Skinhead activity picked up in several cities in Oregon and the Los Angeles area.

"We've seen a resurgence of activity along the I-5 corridor, from Vancouver [British Columbia] to Eugene [Oregon], and in northern Idaho," said Bill Wassmuth, executive director for the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. Underlying the racist movement are religions like Christian Identity, which identifies whites as God's chosen people and Jews as Satanic. There are some 50,000 Identity followers in North America, and the theology is spreading. Another religion being adopted by Skinheads and others is Asatru, in which Norse Gods are worshipped. However, only about 15 percent of adherents are racist.

The hate movement made other strides.

With 163 hate sites on the Internet and the increasing popularity of white power rock, racist organizers are reaching more young people. They're not limited to working-class teenagers — increasingly, upper-middle class youths are joining.

Despite the growing number of hate groups documented by the Intelligence Project, experts generally are less worried about statistics than impact.

"Thirty years ago, hate groups couldn't inflict the damage they can now, because they've gone high-tech," says Jack Levin. "And extremists are more dangerous. They're using more bombs. The body count is higher."



Three Klansmen went to prison for burning the Center's offices in 1983.

Center a longtime target; threats began in early '80s

For 17 years, employees of the Southern Poverty Law Center have lived with the threat of extremist attacks. In the years since Texas Klansman Louis Beam threatened to kill Center co-founder Morris Dees in 1981, white supremacists have torched the Center's offices, put Dees at the top of a national assassination list and plotted to blow up the Center's offices.

Now, authorities have thwarted yet another plot. U.S. prosecutors in East St. Louis, Illinois, allege that Klansmen and others planned to assassinate Dees and blow up the Center (see story page one).

Dozens made threats

Over the years, more than a dozen people have been involved in plots to attack the Center and Dees, and many are still serving prison sentences as a result. Here is a brief history of some of these threats:

- In July 1983, members of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan set fire to the Center's former offices. The arsonists — Klan leader Joe Garner, who masterminded the plot, and Klan members Tommy Downs and Charles Bailey, the two men who set the fire — were sentenced to prison. Before the blaze, Garner tried to recruit Bailey to kill Dees at his home.

- In 1984, Robert Mathews, leader of The Order, a neo-Nazi group that robbed \$3.8 million from armored cars and machine-gunned Denver radio talk show host Alan Berg to death, plotted to assassinate Dees. Dees was at the top of The Order's hit list, which also included Berg and television producer Norman Lear.

- Security guards spotted two armed and camouflaged intruders prowling late at night on Dees' ranch in 1984. Dees was unhurt, and the men escaped.

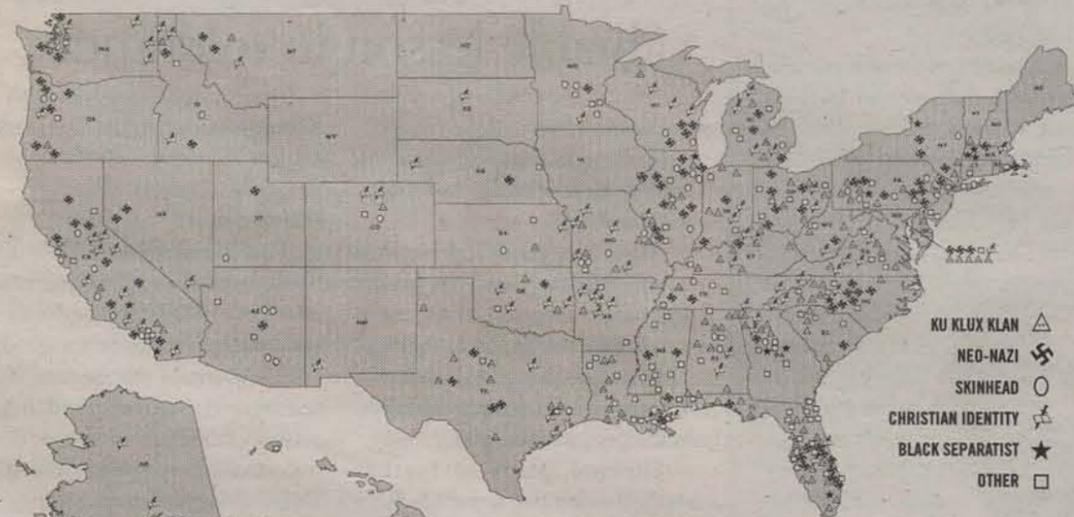
- In 1987, North Carolina Klansman Glenn Miller went underground and encouraged his followers to assassinate Dees in retribution for a Center lawsuit that resulted in a court order prohibiting the Klan group's paramilitary training. He and three followers were captured later that month in Missouri, armed with explosives and a stockpile of illegal weapons. In 1988, Miller was sentenced to prison but struck a plea bargain reducing his term in return for testifying against other extremists.

- Also in 1987, Miller's second-in-command, Stephen Miller (no relation) and three others were convicted for plotting to use an anti-tank missile to blow up the Center and kill Dees. Miller and two others were sentenced to federal prison for conspiring to commit a robbery to finance the missile attack.

- In 1991, Mark Somes, who was linked to the white supremacist White Aryan Resistance (WAR), was convicted in San Diego of threatening Dees with death. Somes mailed the threat in 1990, after the Center sued WAR and its leader in the beating death of an Ethiopian man in Oregon. Somes' letter demanded Dees drop the Center suit or be physically harmed.

- In 1992, Dees received yet another serious threat, this one from Georgia Klansman Gregory Shaun Boyd. Boyd later was sentenced to federal prison.

- 1996, Oklahoma Constitutional Militia members Willie Ray Lampley, his wife Cecilia and an accomplice were sentenced to federal prison by an Oklahoma federal court in connection with a plot to destroy Center offices with an ammonium nitrate bomb. Law enforcement officials thwarted the conspiracy after the Lampleys already had begun building a bomb. The group allegedly planned to test the bomb at Elohim City, a white supremacist compound in southeastern Oklahoma.



The Intelligence Project documented 474 hate groups throughout the United States last year.

FBI charges men

Continued from page 1

also traveled to Montgomery and staked out the Center offices while wearing a disguise, Thompson said.

"Everyone here is resting easier because of the great work of the FBI and other federal law enforcement officials," said Dees. "The people at the Center risk their lives every day fighting

hatred and injustice. We're grateful the authorities have been so vigilant."

"The New Order" fashioned itself after an underground terrorist group, active in the 1980s, called "The Order," which robbed banks and armored cars to finance white supremacist and antigovernment activities.

INTELLIGENCE PROJECT

The Center's monitoring of hate and antigovernment groups is part of its newly designated Intelligence Project. Klanwatch was created in 1981 to monitor the Ku Klux Klan and related white supremacist groups. In 1994, the Center established the Militia Task Force to monitor the emerging antigovernment "Patriot" movement. Now the Center has established its Intelligence Project as an umbrella for both Klanwatch and the Militia Task Force and to address radical right groups that may not fit neatly into either category.

Civil Rights Memorial is 'a place I needed to go'

BY CATHERINA AGRELLA

I almost didn't go. Out the window of the motel, it is a bleak, raining Saturday in Montgomery, Alabama. We have paused here after a holiday visit to relatives in Texas. One of my daughters is coughing and feverish, and all we really want to do is get home as soon as possible.

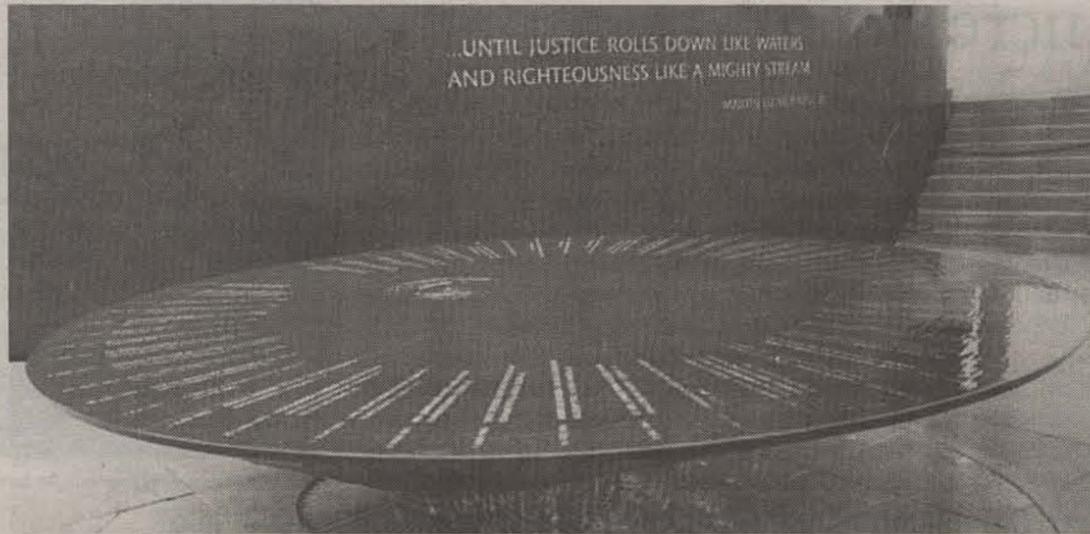
But here we are now, and I want to find the Civil Rights Memorial and touch the names immortalized there in a circular piece of black granite.

In the 1960s, I was a little white girl growing up in still-segregated Tennessee. The town where I lived didn't even have a school for African-Americans that went past 8th grade. Kids I played with used the n-word when they sang "eenie-meenie-miney-moe" to choose who was "it" in games.

This was my legacy, and the Memorial was a place I needed to go. "Can you hang in there?" I asked the sick daughter.

She nods yes. At the college she attends, there are minority students, but the housekeeping staff is almost entirely black.

From I-85 we turn onto Union Street and enter a complex of buildings dedicated to the business of the State of Alabama. We slide past the Capitol with its tall columns, inverted



The Civil Rights Memorial draws thousands of visitors.

teacup dome, and its white flag with the red X.

The streets are eerily deserted. Not a car, not a soul is in sight. We drive slowly, feeling like lone survivors at the beginning of the end of a science fiction movie.

Finally, we turn down Dexter Avenue and there is a flash of red brick. "Oh," I say, stopping. "This is something we have to see, too."

The Dexter Avenue Baptist Church fronts the street with great dignity. We take a good long look. It is where, on December 5, 1955, the Montgomery bus boycott began after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man.

"Come here, you've got to see this," my younger daughter calls.

She is reading a marble marker nearby. Erected in 1942, it commemorates the inauguration parade of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The stone tells us that on this occasion the Southern anthem "Dixie" was played for the first time.

"The map says the Civil Rights Memorial is one block up, at the Southern Poverty Law Center," I say. "Let's go."

As we approach the memorial, we finally see someone. A security guard, dressed in a SWAT-style jacket and cap, retreats to one side. We realize with a start that he is here to protect the stones from harm — even, perhaps, from us.

I hear the sound of flowing water. It falls over a curved black granite wall bearing Martin Luther King Jr.'s paraphrase of the prophet Amos: "... until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

This is not a tourist attraction, not like the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, which was also designed by Maya Lin. It's a small, quiet place. Despite the cold and the wind, we linger.

Next to the water well, a circular stone table chronicles 40 lives — men, women, and children — black and white — lost in the struggle over civil rights freedoms.

A satin skin of water runs over this stone. I place my fingers

through the water and into the grooves of Emmett Till's name.

I know his story well. Emmett, while visiting Mississippi, flirted with a pretty white cashier in a store. Later, he was kidnapped, shot, and his body dumped into a river. Emmett Till was 14 years old.

I touch another name. Rev. James Reeb. This minister was beaten to death for daring to support the freedom march from Selma to Montgomery.

I honor each life as I move around the circle. Each death is painful, shameful. But the water speaks most — it moves in its clear steady course and asks each visitor to dip a hand here.

An icy rain starts and we run back to the car. The security guard watches our departure. We head back to the interstate through a residential neighborhood.

"Are you warm enough?" I ask the girls. The sick one smiles a little. "We'll be just fine," she says, shivering.

It is winter in Montgomery, like everywhere else. Still, there is one more thing we notice as we go on. On sheltered porches and in the windows of many homes, there are green things growing.

Catherina Agrella, a retired English literature teacher, writes occasional articles about art and travel for the Asheville Citizen-Times. This commentary ran January 18 and is reprinted with permission.

New staff help Center work efficiently

Three new employees who recently came on board bring skills that contribute to the efficiency of the Center's administrative and mail operations.

Hired for the new position of assistant to the purchasing director, Robin Burns has years of related experience. He was a buyer in a California hospital for six years and most recently was a purchasing agent at KinderCare Learning Centers, the nation's largest child-care provider. Burns also worked for United Parcel Service for five years.

Burns serves as a "right hand" to Betty Powell, the Center's assistant administrator and purchasing director. He is helping her standardize and streamline ordering procedures. Burns



Robin Burns

brings energy and enthusiasm to his work, and he is pleased to be a part of the Center's environment. "I've always been for the underdog, and that's who the Center represents," Burns said.

Becky Pangaro is a new clerical assistant in the Center's administrative department, but she is not new to the Center. For the past two years she was stationed at the Center while



Becky Pangaro

working as a security guard for Don Terry & Associates. Prior to moving from New Jersey to Alabama in 1995, Pangaro worked as a bank teller and travel agent. In her role as clerical assistant, she helps administrator JoAnn Chancellor with a variety of tasks, including serving as back-up to the switchboard operator, run-

ning errands and delivering supplies.

Anna Marie Street graduated with a degree in business administration from State University of New York at Oswego — her hometown — in December 1996 and moved to Mont-



Anna Marie Street

gomery because friends had located here. She joined the Center's mail operations in April as a temporary employee and became part of the permanent staff in August. Her duties include sorting and delivering mail, opening mail and processing donations and other clerical assignments designated by mail operations director Mamie Jackson.

Street said she was unfamiliar with the Center when she joined the staff and only recently realized its national impact. "I see all the educational materials that go through our department, and I'm really impressed," she said.

Starting Small's skin-painting session teaches 1st-graders valuable lesson in tolerance

Continued from page 1

color. We all learned that you cannot be too black, too white, too anything."

The skin-painting session comforted the teased 1st-grader and taught everyone in the room a valuable lesson, said Shebaro. "They were delighted with the activity and profoundly involved in the process," she said.

Shebaro plans to further study the *Starting Small* teaching kit and to incorporate its information into additional lessons designed to encourage racial, religious and gender tolerance. "I do believe that these are the most valuable lessons I can give my students," she said.

Shebaro regularly uses other Teaching Tolerance materials in her classroom. Last year while teaching the 6th grade, she used the "One World" poster series in a unit on the Holocaust. "The teacher's guide for these posters was so valuable. It was jam-packed full of the most important teaching points, the best books for further reading, and the most insightful historical footnotes.

Thank you for another fine teaching tool," she said.

Film wins award

The *Starting Small* kit has been sent free to more than 30,000 early childhood educators and teacher trainers across the nation since its release last September. It has received high acclaim from prominent educators, including master teacher Vivian Paley (see story next page).

In December, the video component of the kit received a Golden Eagle Award from the Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE). This Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization was established in 1957 to recognize excellence in American noncommercial filmmaking. The *Starting Small* video was produced by San Francisco filmmaker Margie McGovern.

The *Starting Small* kit is available free, one per institution, to early childhood principals or directors and to teacher education department chairs upon letterhead request to Teaching Tolerance.



Wisconsin 5th-graders Chandice O'Bannon and Ben Sebers work on a CD-ROM about homelessness in a project funded by a Teaching Tolerance grant.

Grants fund innovative school tolerance projects

"I can't tell you how thrilled and delighted I was to receive notification of your awarding us a grant to be spent for multicultural books and materials to enrich our library," wrote Launa Carlson, librarian at Santa Teresa High School in San Jose, California. Carlson's response is typical of the many letters of appreciation the Teaching Tolerance office has received since instituting its grants program in January 1997.

More than \$180,000 has been awarded to 150 teachers across the nation, enabling them to implement special tolerance projects in their schools. "The wide variety of projects we fund reflects the innovative strategies teachers come up with to engage their students in anti-bias education and peace-making," said *Teaching Tolerance* managing editor Elsie Williams. "It's comforting to see this kind of commitment."

Holocaust education

In Springdale, Arkansas, English teacher Paul Clark developed a full semester elective class on the Holocaust, genocide and tolerance. He brought in Dr. Samuel Totten, a professor at the University of Arkansas whose area of research is genocide, to help teach the course. Clark used Teaching Tolerance grant funds to purchase textbooks, reference books and films about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. He and Totten also invited guest speakers from the university.

"All of the speakers were Jewish. None of the students in the class were, and they had almost no knowledge of Jewish culture and traditions," said Clark. "This was an extraordinary opportunity to expose our students to survivors and scholars who have firsthand knowledge of the Holocaust, Judaism and racism."

At the end of the class—which 48 students eagerly registered for even though it required a major research project—Clark gathered comments from the participants. The following responses were typical:

• This class has helped open my mind to different cultures and made me rethink the way I feel about different people. It has made me check myself before I talk about anyone who is different.

• The class has definitely given me a better understanding of racism and bigotry. By studying those who are racist and looking at their actions, I am now more aware of what racism deals with and I hate it.

Understanding homelessness

In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 5th grade teacher Kim Reed used a Teaching Tolerance grant to fund a student-developed CD-ROM entitled "Understanding Homelessness." The students gathered information on homelessness from encyclopedias and the Internet, as well as from interviews with individuals, and prepared the CD using a laptop computer. The end result is a graphically appealing resource that includes stories, artwork, and listings of local, state, national and international agencies that assist the homeless.

"The focus for the CD was two-fold," said Reed. "To educate people about homelessness and to create a database for those who might find themselves homeless." In fact, during the development of the resource, Reed's 5th graders got firsthand experience with homelessness when one of his students lost his home to a fire. The 10-year-old shared his family's experience on the CD-ROM. "[After the fire,] I didn't have a real home," he said. "People need to think that if it was them, how would they feel?"

The class is working now to raise enough money to reproduce the CD and distribute it to schools and agencies.

Reed's gratitude for the Teaching Tolerance grant is echoed by many other educators, including an elementary principal in Wisconsin: "Our thanks to you and to the many donors who support the Southern Poverty Law Center for this opportunity to reach and teach all our students and families."

'How could we help but love them all?'

Vivian Gussin Paley, one of the nation's foremost experts on early childhood education, wrote the foreword to *Starting Small: Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades*, the book component of the Starting Small video-and-text kit. Paley taught young children for 37 years in New Orleans, New York and Chicago. Her acclaimed books include *White Teacher; You Can't Say You Can't Play; Kwanzaa and Me*; and, most recently, *The Girl with the Brown Crayon* (all Harvard University Press).

Teaching Tolerance received the following letter from Paley

after she had reviewed the early childhood kit:

Thank you for the Starting Small film and book. Both are quite lovely. I am happy to have been part of this important Teaching Tolerance project.

The wide variety of beautiful children in the world certainly comes across in every frame [of the video]. How could we help but love them all and take care of them properly? Perhaps Starting Small will get people thinking and talking about such matters.

In the foreword to the book, Paley stresses the importance of educators' helping young people to develop empathy for others. "The

teachers of young children who speak to us so earnestly in [these] stories work in different communities but share a common vision: that children can learn to care about every other person's feelings, beliefs and welfare. ...

"In so doing, they give credence to our ultimate goal as teachers in a democratic society: helping children become kind and caring participants in a world that includes everyone. These wise and compassionate teachers who are 'starting small' will uncover and model for us the amazingly large moral dimensions of the classroom."

Classrooms reap benefits from Teaching Tolerance Institute

How are the teachers who attended the first Teaching Tolerance Institute at the University of Washington in Seattle last July transferring what they learned to their classrooms? In a variety of creative ways, according to the written reports and videotapes now arriving at Teaching Tolerance.

Melody Mann of Colony High School in Palmer, Alaska, chose to start by incorporating some Institute activities into a teacher training session during the fall and found the staff very receptive to the material she presented. "I believe this whetted their appetites to learn more about how to effectively teach tolerance. I've been asked to prepare more material for future in-services," Mann reports.

Others focused on students

Other teachers, like Michael Koren of Maple Dale Middle School in Milwaukee, focused on students first rather than fellow teachers. Koren engaged his 6th-grade social studies students in a lesson on discrimination. "When I began my lesson, the students had a carefree attitude. They quickly realized this was a very serious lesson and topic. I think it got students thinking about how discrimination fits into their life."

Katy Gallagher, a teacher at Reavis High School in Oak Park, Illinois, decided to teach about the concept of "ethnic groups" in her 12th-grade government and civics course. "This was a very ambitious concept to teach, yet I felt it was an important one. The lesson ... certainly left my stu-

dents thinking about their own ethnic identities. Many of them had never given that subject much thought, let alone discussed it. So, in the sense that it provoked thought, it was very successful."

Kamal Chatman's lesson on social protest provoked his students at West Junior High School in Ashtabula, Ohio, to think and act. Chatman says: "They loved it! My students liked the lesson so much that they wanted to do some research on their own. Some of my students got together and formed a protest march against the use of drugs and alcohol in our city. About 40 students walked through the streets shouting, 'We are proud to be drug-free!'"

During last summer's Institute, each of the 30 teachers from around the country created a lesson plan on a tolerance-

related concept to take back to their classrooms. The teachers who taught their lessons in the fall are now submitting reports to Teaching Tolerance detailing how the lessons were received by students. Some of the teachers are also sending videotapes of themselves presenting their lessons. The teacher's reports are part of a year-long evaluation of the Institute's effectiveness being conducted by the Teaching Tolerance staff and Lauri Johnson, a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington.

Institute Coordinator Glenda Valentine explains the importance of monitoring the teachers' efforts: "Reading the reports and watching the videotapes gives us a more realistic picture of the challenges teachers experience when they attempt to incorporate multicultural concepts. This knowledge will help us develop successful teacher training programs in the future."



Glenda Valentine



Diaz named design director

Rodney Diaz, who joined the Center's staff as a designer in 1994, was named design director in December. He had been promoted to senior designer last June. In his new position, Diaz will supervise the design of all Center publications. He is currently updating the design of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine. In 1996, Diaz won an EdPress Distinguished Achievement Award for his work.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

Received by the Law Center from October to December 1997

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SPLC's endowment ensures stable and secure future

The Southern Poverty Law Center established an endowment in 1974 to ensure that its crucial educational and legal work would be funded in the future.

The long-term nature of the Center's work has made this kind of planning essential. The willingness of the public to support the Center's work through direct mail, which has become increasingly expensive, has ebbed and flowed in the past. Issues that are popular today may not be popular next year.

Work must continue

But the Center's work has to go on. To promote the acceptance of diversity, its Teaching Tolerance project must create educational materials and distribute them free to schools for generations of students yet to come. This will cost millions of dollars.

Some Center legal cases have cost more than \$500,000 and have remained in the courts for years, but the Center's legal department must be ready to act whenever justice and fairness are in jeopardy.

The Center's Intelligence Project must continue to investigate and expose the activities of white supremacists and antigovernment "Patriots" because there is every indication that this work will be necessary for decades to come.

Small amount set aside yearly

That is why the Center has set aside a small amount every year for the past 24 years to build an endowment. The goal is to one day free the Center from dependence on expensive direct-mail fundraising and allow it to operate from investment income. The policy of the Center's board is to operate the Center on current fundraising income and to restrict both the principal and interest from the endowment to future programs.

We are not alone in choosing to build an endowment. For example, the NAACP, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Sierra Club Centennial Fund have established

endowments, to name just three.

Colleges also have seen the need for endowments. Some small schools with fewer than 5,000 students have endowments of over \$300 million, and large ones like Harvard have several billion dollars in their endowments.

A few people have criticized the Center and other groups for accumulating endowments. They see colleges as unique institutions whose perpetual existence is taken for granted, but they see the Center as a charity that should live hand-to-mouth.

Other groups have failed

This view has led to the demise of many organizations with excellent programs. These organizations ceased to exist because they lacked long-term, reliable support. The same fate could befall the Center if it had no alternative to expensive direct-mail fundraising. The cost of a first-class stamp has risen over 530 percent since the Center began in 1971 — from 6 cents to 32 cents. And more increases have been proposed. Average gifts from Center supporters have grown less than 40 percent during this period, and printing and mailing costs have increased much faster than the average donation.

Supporters see wisdom

Fortunately, Center supporters have seen the wisdom of raising funds for the daily operations of the Center, its Teaching Tolerance program, legal programs and Intelligence Project while, at the same time, building the endowment.

The endowment now stands at \$93.7 million. By continuing to support the work of the Center, concerned individuals are establishing the legacy of a permanent organization that will litigate to protect the rights of the poor, continue to teach tolerance in our schools, and be poised to move quickly against violent antigovernment "Patriots" and hate groups.

Staff helps other non-profits

The work of the Center is challenging and demanding, but despite this, several of its staff take time to donate their energies and expertise to other non-profit organizations — at the national, regional, state and local levels.

Eddie Ashworth, the Center's director of operations since 1992, recently was elected vice chairman of the National Federation of Non-profits (NFN); he has served on its board since 1993. More than 200 organizations throughout the country — from the American Friends Service Committee to the World Wildlife Fund — belong to the NFN. The group was founded in 1982 to work on postal issues. It immediately expanded its role to include advocacy on behalf of its membership on other issues, such as freedom of speech, financial reporting, fundraising and government regulation.

Last fall, Center communications coordinator Penny Weaver was named to the board of the Southern Regional Council (SRC), a research and advocacy organization that works to pro-

mote racial justice, protect democratic rights and broaden civic participation. Founded in 1919 as the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, the SRC has engaged southern communities on issues of democracy and race for more than seven decades — promoting public education to end the all-white primary in the 1940s, establishing state human relations councils to keep the schools open in the 1950s, and founding the Voter Education Project in the 1960s and 1970s.

Weaver serves on the SRC's program committee, which is chaired by SRC vice president Julian Bond, the Center's president emeritus and newly elected chairman of the NAACP.

Senior staff attorney Rhonda Brownstein helped create the statewide Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM) program in 1986, while she was a law fellow at the Center. AIM coordinates volunteers

throughout Alabama who bring mothers and children together for prison visits. The program also educates and trains incarcerated mothers to develop stable homes and families and helps with employment, housing and social services when the mothers are released. When Brownstein returned to the Center in January 1995, she resumed her position on the AIM board; she serves on its fundraising committee.

"When we did our chain gang case, I did a lot of research into visitation as a part of rehabilitation, and every study demonstrated that visitation with family members is key to success when an inmate is released," Brownstein said. "It keeps that connection with those who care most for you and helps prevent recidivism."

On the local level, longtime Center administrator JoAnn Chancellor is vice president of the central Alabama chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives. She planned and coordinated the group's annual awards luncheon and celebration of National Philanthropy Day in November.



Eddie Ashworth



Rhonda Brownstein



Penny Weaver



JoAnn Chancellor

Bequests received by the Law Center from August 1, 1996, to December 31, 1997

The Center pays tribute to the memory of the following supporters and gratefully acknowledges their including the Center in their wills.

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Shadow of Hate inspires Interfaith Task Force

BOHEMIA, N.Y. — *The Shadow of Hate* video-and-text kit, released by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance project in 1995, continues to provide schools, community organizations and religious groups with inspiration and ideas for teaching about the devastating effects of intolerance in our nation's history. One such group is the Interfaith Antibias Task Force of Oakdale/Bohemia, New York.

In 1996, the members of the Justice and Peace Committee of St. John's Nepomucene Roman Catholic Church in Bohemia decided to explore racism and how they might help combat it. Sister Phyllis Esposito, a supporter of the Center for 21 years, was familiar with its Teaching Tolerance materials and shared the video from *The Shadow of Hate* kit with the committee members.

The video motivated the committee to expand their antiracism mission to include religious intolerance, homophobia and other forms of prejudice.

Since St. John's already had a working relationship with the B'Nai Israel Reform Temple in nearby Oakdale, the group invited the Temple to join in its undertaking. A few months later, 50 people gathered to view the film and join a discussion led by Sister Phyllis and Rabbi Steve Moss, who is also a Center supporter.

One of the outcomes of this meeting was the formation of the Interfaith Antibias Task Force of Oakdale/Bohemia. Soon two other local houses of worship, St. John's Episcopal Church in Oakdale and Peace Christian Church in Bohemia, joined the effort to make theirs a bias-free community. Over the summer, task force members

were busy designing a logo and promotional materials, soliciting support from local businesses and organizations, and involving schoolchildren in designing

faith Thanksgiving service held at B'Nai Israel Temple. The ecumenical service featured music by a Hispanic music ministry, choirs from B'Nai Israel and St. John's, a group from the gay

and lesbian community, and 5th-graders from a local elementary school. The highlight of the service was the presentation of 500 anti-bias commitment forms signed by supporters.

"Sparked by the Center's letters, literature and videos, one community *did* decide to band together and take a stand against bias," wrote Sister Phyllis. "We thank you for your incredible dedication to justice and for providing these materials free of charge. We realize we are not totally 'bias-free,' so we remain committed to our mission: to break down the walls of bias and open doors of tolerance and understanding." During the first two years of its release, more than 50,000 *Shadow of Hate* kits were sent free to schools, community organizations, churches and synagogues across the nation. Since the package was re-released this past September, an additional 20,000 kits have been distributed. The kits are available one per school, organization or place of worship upon letterhead request by the principal, director or religious leader (Order fax #: 334-264-7310).

Educators continue to praise the *Shadow of Hate* materials. A high school social studies teacher from Virginia wrote, "This is one of the best resources I have acquired for my classes." A Maryland professor of multicultural education said, "Thank you for all you do in the area of helping us to be more aware of intolerance and to be sensitive to all people."



posters with the theme of "Keys to Unlock Bias."

Interfaith Thanksgiving service

In November, more than 500 people participated in an inter-

Partners for the Future

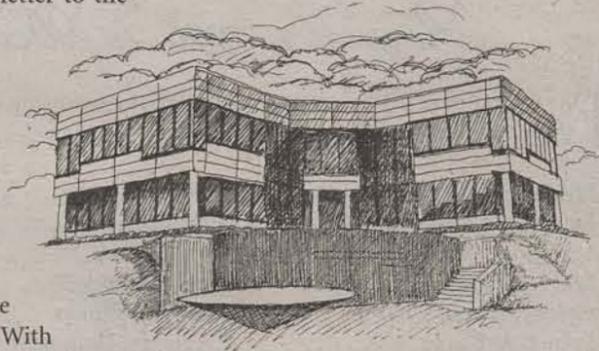
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If you plan to or have already remembered the Center in your will or estate plans, please help the Center update its records by sending a letter to the address below.

With the goal of eventually freeing itself from the uncertainties of fundraising, the Center established a permanent endowment in 1974. The Center's goal is to have an endowment large enough to sustain its current level of activities, to fund new projects and lawsuits as the need arises, and to protect the Center from inflation. The Endowment now stands at \$94 million. With your help through Partners for the Future, the Center will reach its goal of self-sufficiency.

The Endowment Fund is a "pact with future generations" that will help ensure resources for the Center's work well into the 21st century.



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IN MEMORIAM

Mary Louise Anderson (1921-1997)

Longtime social activist Mary Louise Wooldridge Anderson passed away in her Seal Beach, California, home on October 22, 1997. She dedicated almost 50 years of her life to political and civil rights causes.

Her activist career began in 1948 when she, along with her husband Burton, volunteered for Lyndon Johnson's Congressional campaign in Texas. Mrs. Anderson became widely known within the Democratic Party for her relentless stream of telephone calls and letters to elected representatives. "My mother made her soft voice heard," said her daughter Marjorie Kemper. "She once actually reached Lyndon Johnson at the White House — this was known in our family as 'The Time Mama Straightened Out Lyndon Johnson's Thinking.'"

In 1955, Mrs. Anderson and her husband moved to Hammond, Louisiana, where they joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and became crusaders for the Civil Rights Movement. The couple was instrumental in organizing black citizens to register to vote. "During that

time, we had many midnight telephone death threats and even had a cross burned on our lawn," said her daughter.

When the family moved to California in 1959, Mrs. Anderson joined the California Democratic Council, a liberal wing of the state's Democratic Party. This organization introduced Mrs. Anderson to the plight of migrant workers, and she soon found herself marching alongside Cesar Chavez during his early efforts to establish the United Farm Workers.

"My mother worked, marched, spoke and contributed her money toward the aim that all people should be full members of our society. Her conscience demanded it of her," said Kemper.

For her memorial service, in lieu of flowers, friends and family were asked to make donations to the Center in Mrs. Anderson's memory. "I am proud of my mother's efforts for justice and am pleased that her generous and rebellious spirit will continue through the Center's work," said Kemper. The Center, her family and friends pay tribute to Mrs. Anderson's lifetime of commitment.

