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SPLC REPORT

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A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
KLANWATCH • TEACHING TOLERANCE

Law Center Welcomes New Executive Director Ashworth

Edward Ashworth assumes administrative duties; Dees to focus on Center's legal, education projects

■ On April 18, 1992, the Southern Poverty Law Center Board of Directors voted to name Edward Ashworth Executive Director. The appointment was made at the request of former Executive Director Morris Dees, who will remain as Chief Trial Counsel and who will shape the Center's overall direction. The change will benefit the Center by allowing Morris to concentrate on legal and education planning, while a fulltime professional administrator supervises the Center's continually expanding work. Here, Morris introduces Eddie and explains the decision.

By MORRIS DEES

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Edward Ashworth as the Center's new Executive Director. Before he officially takes over the job in September, he will spend several months working in each of the Center's departments and learning their operations.

When the Center was smaller, back in the 1970s, co-founder Joe Levin and I managed its affairs on an informal basis. We had no single managing executive. But as our trial and educational work grew, our Board decided that we could operate more efficiently if one person had the



Edward Ashworth

responsibility for all operational decisions. I reluctantly took the position.

My real interest is in

courtroom litigation and in providing overall direction to the Center's Klanwatch and Teaching Tolerance projects. As Executive Director, my day-to-day administrative duties cut deeply into the time I can spend on litigation and on new projects for the Center. Now I hope to devote all my efforts to these tasks.

Ashworth Background

Eddie is no stranger to the Center or Montgomery. Raised in Childersburg, Ala., Eddie has spent most of his 44 years in the South. After earning his law degree from the University of Alabama, Eddie clerked for Hon. Frank M. Johnson, Jr., the famous and

courageous federal district judge who ruled on most of the civil rights cases in Alabama. With the encouragement of Judge Johnson, Eddie moved on to Washington D.C., where he spent seven years practicing law with Charles Morgan, Jr. In 1984 Eddie turned his talents to the natural resources field.

Since 1987, Eddie has been one of the more active members of the Center's board. He has played a major role in managing the Center's endowment and was an early proponent of the new education project. When we decided to build the Civil Rights Memorial, it was Eddie who

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Violence on Rise In America's Schools

■ The Rodney King verdict and its violent aftermath forced a nation to confront its own racial crisis and to recognize that education in tolerance and diversity is essential to defuse racial tensions among our young people.

Unfortunately, the events in Los Angeles and across the country following the King verdict represent only a portion of the nationwide increase in hate violence among youth. During the 1991-1992 academic year, the Klanwatch and Education projects of the Law Center monitored an alarm-

ing rise in violence on school grounds — from swastikas on lockers and anti-Semitic slurs on the playground, to violent clashes between blacks and whites.

School Incidents

Here are a few examples from the hundreds of incidents that have occurred in U.S. schools since September 1991:

- At a Chicago school, blacks and Latinos engaged in gang warfare, leaving 13 students and one teacher injured.

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Four Years After Forsyth, Collection Efforts Continue

■ Almost four years after a jury ordered Klansmen to pay nearly a million dollars to injured marchers in Forsyth County, Georgia, one Klan group steadfastly refuses to pay its bill. Center attorneys have mounted a new legal challenge in an attempt to collect that judgment.

In 1987, the Center sued two Klan groups — the Invisible Empire and the Southern White Knights — as well as 11 individuals for a violent attack on civil rights marchers in all-white Forsyth County. The jury ordered the Invisible Empire to pay more than \$350,000 to the victims and the remaining defendants to pay approximately \$600,000. Although the Center has collected a portion of the judgment from the other defendants, it has been unable to collect any of the money owed by the Invisible Empire.



James Farrands (l) with Grand Dragon Wayne Pierce.

Earlier this year, Center investigators were able to track down assets held by the Invisible Empire in a small North Carolina bank. Attor-

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In a single-minded way SPLC successfully legally confronts organized hatred. Just as importantly it directs resources to the benefit of future generations by providing educational hate prevention and hate lessening activities. The spin-offs of these activities are immeasurably productive.

—M. Howard
North Carolina

I applaud your efforts toward eliminating racial discrimination in our country. In this age of conservatism and economic uncertainty, we need organizations such as the Southern Poverty Law Center more than ever.

—B. Powell
California

Through my grampa I have learned of your organization and loved what I've heard. Then he sent me his copy of *Teaching Tolerance* and now I love you for what I've seen! The magazine and resources seem like such a

great balance to the law work you do. I can see how the classes I'll teach can (and will) incorporate the lessons, styles of approach, and goals that are included. I have been teaching kids for 4 years and your magazine reflects the hope I feel.

—Z. Wolf
Minnesota

It is sobering and disheartening to know that so much hatred and human mistreatment of one another exists in our country today. But it is gratifying to realize that an activity such as yours exists to counter both.

—J. McLarnon Jr.
Pennsylvania

I'm very encouraged by your Teaching Tolerance project, because I believe that one way to break the chain of racism, oppression and other escalating social problems is through educational projects such as yours.

—E. Silverstein
California

Center Awarded for Strides in Civil Rights Law

LOS ANGELES — Center Director Morris Dees accepted the prestigious William O. Douglas Award on behalf of the Law Center at a March 26 dinner attended by a record 1,200 people.

The award, sponsored by Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm, recognizes leaders in civil rights law. The Law Center was honored because it "exemplifies the principles for which Justice Douglas stood: equal access to justice, freedom of expression and equal rights."

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley said, "Morris Dees is one of the most courageous individuals in our nation, having stood up all of his career



Morris Dees (l) with Public Counsel Executive Director Steve Nissen

to injustice, inequality and the pernicious existence of hate groups."

Past Douglas award recipi-

ents include Archibald Cox, Norman Lear, Gloria Steinem, Barbara Jordan, and Alex Haley.



SPLC REPORT

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Violence on Rise in America's Schools

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Sixty teen-agers were arrested.

- At a high school in North Carolina, two

black teenagers were killed after being stabbed by a white student during a racial fight that erupted following a football game.

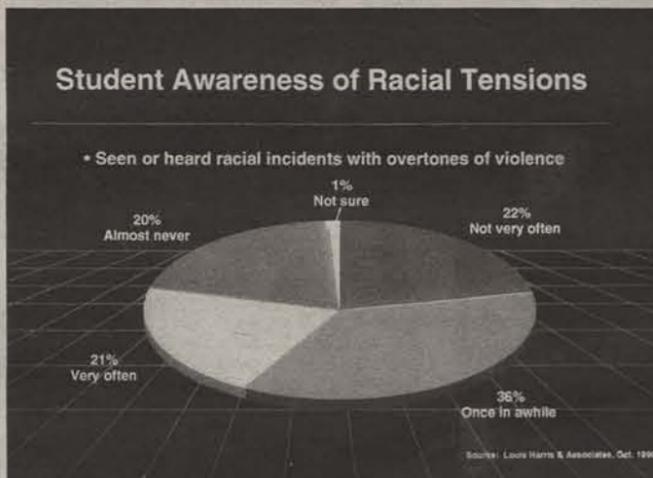
- In New York, six youths were sent to the hospital following a fight between whites and Hispanics at a high school.
- In Florida, racial slurs were painted on the walls of a black teacher's classroom.
- In California, swastikas and "KKK"

white students opposing racism were attacked by Skinheads.

Hopeful Signs

There are some hopeful signs in an otherwise gloomy outlook for racial and ethnic harmony in the classroom. Schools throughout the country are conducting conflict resolution training, encouraging open discussion of racial issues, and emphasizing equity and minority issues in the curriculum. Students themselves are organizing pro-diversity rallies.

Schools nationwide also have responded enthusiastically to the Center's Teaching Tolerance education project, which provides teachers at all grade levels with resources and ideas for promoting understanding in the classroom. *Teaching Tolerance* magazines are in the hands of 185,000 teachers, and more than 18,000 curriculum kits on the civil rights movement have been ordered.



Source: Louis Harris & Associates, Oct. 1990.

Forsyth Collection Efforts Continue

(continued from page 1)

neys for the Invisible Empire claim that the funds belong to a different Invisible Empire, not the one ordered by the federal court to pay over \$350,000. In retaliation for the Center's efforts to collect the judgment, the Invisible Empire is seeking monetary sanctions against Center attorneys, alleging that the North Carolina

account was illegally seized.

Center attorneys have now gone back to federal court in Atlanta alleging that the Invisible Empire that owns the North Carolina account is the same Invisible Empire found liable for the Forsyth attack. Center attorneys are now in the midst of formal discovery proceedings, gathering evidence to prove that the two Invisible Empires are the same. A hearing is expected

to be held early in the fall.

History of Violence

The Invisible Empire, the nation's largest Klan group, has a long and sordid record of violence.

In 1979, its members assaulted peaceful civil rights advocates in Decatur, Alabama, leaving two marchers with gunshot wounds to the head. (As a result of the Center's investigative work in the case, the federal government obtained criminal con-

victions against 10 Klansmen.)

In 1984, four Invisible Empire members from Georgia were convicted of attacking an interracial couple.

In 1986, Daniel Carver, a high-ranking Invisible Empire official and a defendant in the Forsyth case, was convicted of threatening a black man.

In 1992, 13 Louisiana Invisible Empire members were convicted of a cross burning spree in Shreveport.



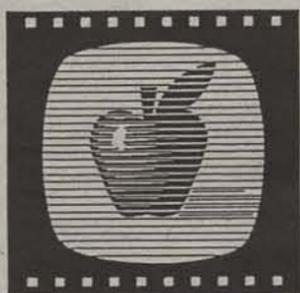
CINE Golden Eagle awarded to SPLC

Civil Rights Film Earns International Honors

■ *A Time For Justice*, the video component to Teaching Tolerance's free curriculum kit *America's Civil Rights Movement*, recently won two major international film awards. *A Time For Justice* won a Silver Award for best 4th-8th grade entry in the Birmingham International Educational Film Festival (BIEFF), and a Golden Eagle Award from the Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE).

BIEFF, the third largest educational film festival in the United States, reviewed 400 videos for this year's competition. *A Time For Justice* was a finalist in three categories and won overall as the best video for 4th-8th graders. Lori Punske, a research fellow in the Center's Teaching Tolerance project, accepted the

BIEFF statuette and a \$500 check for the Center. In her acceptance speech, Ms. Punske recalled Czelaw Milosz's poem



BIEFF

a film and video festival

In Warsaw, in which he refers to truth and justice as 'salvaged' words. "Here today we must thank the civil rights participants for salvaging those two words for us, and we must continue to salvage and imbue with meaning those words for our children."

The CINE Golden Eagle will be presented later this year to Charles Guggenheim, the producer of *A Time for Justice*. The Golden Eagle is recognized as one of the most prestigious film awards in the United States. CINE awards approve American films for foreign competitions and serve as a prerequisite to the Academy Award competition.

Ashworth Named New Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

single-handedly recruited Maya Lin to design the monument. He called every Lin in the New York phone book before finally reaching the artist and persuading her to take on the project.

Continuing a Tradition

The Center has grown into a large and increasingly active organization. Our legal staff is as busy as ever. The intelligence work of the Klanwatch Project has tripled in the past decade. The new Teaching Tolerance Project has produced some of the best educational materials for classroom teachers avail-

able. Managing all of this as well as the Center's fundraising effort is more than a fulltime task. With Eddie's help, I believe the Center will continue its tradition of excellence.

I will continue to serve as Chief Trial Counsel, work on new Center projects, and remain as a member of our senior management committee. But, thanks to Eddie, maybe I can get home at night before nine o'clock and enjoy more time with my wife and grandchildren.

I invite each of our supporters to visit Montgomery, see the Civil Rights Memorial that is located on the plaza in front of the Center, and allow me to introduce you to Eddie. Eddie will need your continued support to make his new job a success.

The SPLC Challenge

By EDWARD ASHWORTH

Growing up in the South and attending school during the 50s and 60s placed me squarely in the middle of the turmoil and transition of that period. In some ways, it was a very searing experience, but in other ways it was uplifting because it showed that no matter what their past, people have the ability to change and to

show compassion for their fellow human beings — and will do so when given a fair chance.

I also learned during that period that a single person can make a difference. Morris Dees is one of those people who has made a difference — a huge difference. It is an honor to be able to work with him at the Southern Poverty Law Center and to be a part of the Center's work.

During my time on the Board of Directors, the Center has grown dramatically. Managing the Center's day-to-day affairs is now a full-time job. My work as Executive Director will free Morris from those administrative tasks so he can concentrate on the Center's efforts to break down racial barriers, bring to justice those who commit hate crimes, and expand the Center's new Teaching Tolerance Project.

PARTNERS

• FOR THE FUTURE •

A Way To Help More Than You Thought You Could

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 means of planned giving, Center donors can extend their support for equality and justice beyond their own lifetimes.

With the goal of eventually freeing itself from the uncertainties of fundraising, the Center decided to establish a permanent endowment

large enough to sustain the Center's operations for many years to come.

Through wills, trusts and other arrangements, Center supporters can help ensure that the Center is there to help the victims of injustice and racial violence well into the next century.

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

Please send information about Partners for the Future to:

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P.O. Box 548 • 400 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104

"It would be many years before I understood why my father was different from most white men."

Father Remembered as Model of Tolerance

■ This line in Morris Dees' autobiography, *A Season for Justice*, prompted Carol Tinari and her daughter Kim to make a memorial gift to the Center recently in the name of Murphy Broussard, Ms. Tinari's father.

Ms. Tinari, a longtime supporter of the Law Center, remembers her father as "a poor farm boy from Louisiana who had not a bone of prejudice," an uncommon characteristic in the segregated south of the mid-twentieth century.

Education Advocate

Broussard was a strong advocate of education, although his formal education ended when he dropped out of school in the fourth grade to help support his mother. He

developed an instinct for fairness and justice while picking cotton alongside blacks and whites alike on Louisiana plantations.

He was a self-taught man of impeccable character, according to Ms. Tinari. At 16, Broussard became a carpenter and began to

build homes. Many plantation homes in the Rayne area stand as monuments to his artistic talent and ability. He joined the Navy and spent a great deal of time in Pennsylvania where he met his wife, and where Ms. Tinari still lives. In later years, Mr. Broussard used his carpentry talent for handcrafting clocks and tables from cypress wood.

Broussard

"Saw all humans as equal and worthy of dignity, respect and friendship."

Legacy of Tolerance

Ms. Tinari described her father as a caring man who shaped her understanding of humanity. When Broussard died in Rayne in 1987, she said, hundreds of people came to his funeral. "Judges, attorneys, tradespeople, black and white — everyone in the town turned out to pay their final

respects to a man who saw all humans as equal and worthy of dignity, respect and friendship."

The gift in Mr. Broussard's name will be used to spread the teaching of tolerance that characterized his life.

Court Rules Against Center Suit To Change Judicial Elections

MONTGOMERY — A federal judge decided to uphold the election system for Alabama trial court judges even though blacks are poorly represented in judicial offices. The March 18 decision came in a class-action suit filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and 16 individual black plaintiffs.

Judge Truman Hobbs ruled in the Alabama case that the current system is a "logical way to elect judges" and that any change in the system would be "a step back in black political influence." The judge also ruled against the plaintiffs' claim that the system for electing judges was racially inspired.

Center Will Appeal

Center attorneys are already busy working on the appeal. "The current system of electing judges does not offer black voters a fair and equal opportunity to elect judicial candidates of choice

in Alabama. We believed that we proved the point at trial," said Center Legal Director Richard Cohen.

The State of Alabama uses an election system that requires candidates to choose a numbered place and run at-large instead of by districts. Many commentators have described this system as one of the most racially discriminatory systems available. In similar challenges in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, black and Hispanic plaintiffs have prevailed at trial.

Few Black Judges

Alabama has had little black representation on its state court benches. The first black judge was not elected to office until 1976. Currently, of the 223 trial court judges, only 11, or less than 5 percent, are black. Blacks as a whole make up 25 percent of Alabama's population.

The case is expected to be heard in front of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta late this year.

Center Contributors Sponsor Memorial and Honor Gifts

Gifts made to the Center in memory of a deceased friend or relative or in honor of a special occasion have become popular among Center supporters. A person committed to the Center's work can name the Center to receive donations in honor of weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, or other special occasions. Families of deceased supporters often name the Center to receive memorial gifts. Many donors contribute to the Center in friends' names at holiday times.

The Center welcomes these contributions and uses them to further its work in civil rights litigation, white supremacist investi-

gation, and tolerance education. When the Center receives a memorial or honor gift, the person or family of the person in whose name the gift has been made is notified with an attractive card. Acknowledgment is also made to the donor.

The name of the person memorialized or honored, along with that of the donor, is entered in the Center's Book of Remembrance kept in the conference room at the Center. Beginning with this issue, the *SPLC Report* will print a list of all memorial and honor gifts received since the previous issue, by the name of the person remembered.

In Memory of . . .

Murphy Broussard
Arthur Saindon
Charles Garry
Dr. Marian I. Allman-Rollins
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Dr. Max Bond
Dr. Nancy Faires Conklin
Dwayne Hoskey
Francine Breslin Davis
Frieda Schivenkmeier
Harold Norris
Jesse Lewis Maury
J.C. Mardis
Evelyn B. Bouhan
Horace A. Berman
Morrey Goldman
Joseph C. Freamon
Leo Kurzberg
Leonard Zwaik
Lorna Johnson Marple
Marjorie Grosett
Margaret Read
Mark R. Flansburg
Michael Witsenhausen
Milton Morris Weiner
Joseph Belsey
Morrey Goldman
Ned Roseman
Stewart Paltrow
Jenney Parker
Natalie Dutra

Norman Segal
Sheldon H. Gorlick
Virginia and Thoral Mitchell
Ned Roseman
Mr. Harry Kaplowitz
Mitomi Mildred Suguki
Mrs. Samuel Werbel
Mr. Edward S. Taylor
Mr. William W. Gibbs
Anna J. Korn
Hamilton Nelson
Dr. Robert H. Barker

In Honor Of . . .

Walter Brooks Hossig
Robert Zinn
Malcolm Rosaw
Rose and Roy Lebowitz
Paul Davis
Joshua Segall
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Segal's great-grandchild
Alisa Sullivan and Jim McNamara
Ken and Dena Begun
Ross and Lisa Kastor
Marianne Menter
Emanuel Taylor
Matt Yosihida and Norma Foster
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kaplan
Nancy Reimer
Willard P. Mittelman
Calvin Jeter