

4th Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States in 1999

- **Cooperation**
- **Conflict**
- **Human Interest**
- **Shared Experiences**

Foreword by Hugh Price, *President*, The National Urban League

Introduction by Rabbi Marc Schneier, *President*, The Foundation For Ethnic Understanding

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The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding began in 1989 as a dream of Rabbi Marc Schneier and the late Joseph Papp committed to the belief that direct, face-to-face dialogue between ethnic communities is the most effective path towards the reduction of bigotry and the promotion of reconciliation and understanding.

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FOREWORD BY HUGH PRICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

I am honored to have once again been invited to provide a foreword for The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding's 4th Annual *"Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States"*. Much has happened during 1999 and this year's comprehensive study certainly attests to that fact. I was extremely pleased to learn that a new category "Shared Experiences" has been added to the Report.

As we begin the new millennium, there has been notable and noticeable progress in strengthening Black/Jewish relations. As this report proves, there is a new dynamic which has developed in Black/Jewish relations. Black/Jewish relations now has to do with common interests, rather than some new measure of interethnic understanding. This is truly a product of hard work from many different communities. Key dialogue has occurred at the national and local levels. I am proud of the contributions the Urban League Movement has made over the past year in creating a harmonious and inclusive society. Urban League affiliates have been deeply involved from New York to Los Angeles.

It was an honor to represent the National Urban League at the 1st Annual National Conference on Black/Jewish relations held by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding at Yeshiva University in March 1997. In 1999, the Foundation hosted the 3rd Annual Conference, which featured the Reverend Jesse Jackson as the keynote speaker. The title of the conference was "African-American and Jews: Economic Cooperation for the 21st Century." At the conference Reverend Jesse Jackson outlined the need as well as the benefits of greater economic cooperation between the African-American and Jewish communities as the next step in strengthening Black/Jewish relations.

As a result of this conference, The Foundation has launched New York's first Black/Jewish Economic Roundtable. The goal of the Roundtable is to strengthen relations between the African-American and Jewish communities by fostering and building business and economic relationships, as well as increasing and encouraging interactions and communications between African-American and Jewish business leaders. I applaud The Foundation on launching this landmark program, as economic cooperation and development in urban areas is a goal shared by both The National Urban League and The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. It is with much pride that I also mention that The Foundation's Roundtable was inspired in part by REAP, Real Estate Apprentice Program, a very successful joint venture between the American Jewish Committee's and National Urban League's Washington, DC chapters. REAP was conceived to confront the problem of minority under-representation in the real estate industry. Since its inception in 1997, REAP has successfully placed 25 individuals in property management positions.

The Foundation's Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States performs an indispensable public service by chronicling the arduous and effective work of people of good will, all across America, to repair the breach and rebuild trust. With the notable exception of fires, shootings and such, the utter normalcy of everyday life usually isn't news. But this important report recognizes that it should be because therein lie many of the clues about how Americans of all races actually do get along. Their stories hold many of the keys to promoting racial harmony. But this insightful compendium documents the positive

shift in Black/Jewish relations that has taken place over this past year. The roster of cooperative efforts and shared experiences offers welcome evidence of forward progress and helpful clues to best practice.

Nationally and locally, we Urban Leaguers have collaborated with allies like the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, the National Conference, the Anti-Defamation League, the World Jewish Congress, Dillard University and the American Jewish Committee, among many others, to help bring our respective communities closer together and to move America forward.

On behalf of the entire Urban League movement, I salute and thank Rabbi Marc Schneier and The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding for cataloguing the state of Black/Jewish relations in our country.

INTRODUCTION

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding is proud to present this year's 4th *Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States*. This comprehensive study shows that there is evidence of ever-increasing understanding and commitments to working together to achieve common goals.

It is these new developments that have prompted The Foundation to include a new section in this report. "Shared Experiences". While previous reports have shown cooperation has been the dominant theme between African –Americans and Jews, this new classification demonstrates there has been a profound movement toward the building of alliances and the sharing of common causes in the economic, political, community and religious arenas.

I am very encouraged by the response to my book **SHARED DREAMS: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Jewish Community**. In **SHARED DREAMS**, I strive to shed new light on the commitment and relationship between the African-American and Jewish communities during the civil rights era. This book calls attention to Dr. King's support of Jewish causes and concerns and challenges African-American and Jews to further this historic alliance. This book is not only a record of a shared past, but a road map for the future. The Foundation is in the process of developing a study guide to be distributed with **SHARED DREAMS** to students and teachers at Jewish Day Schools and Public High Schools throughout the country. The study guide will bring this inspiring story to both African-American and Jewish students in an effort to teach them our shared history and to encourage them to build bridges of understanding.

As the new millenium begins, African-Americans and Jews are standing together with the knowledge that they are united in heart and spirit by the richness of their history, the blessing of their strengths, and the promise of the future.

Rabbi Marc Schneier
President, The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding

OVERVIEW

THE STATE OF BLACK/JEWISH RELATIONS IN 1999

As in the previous two years, the current edition of the Report consists of items gleaned from national and regional publications and from African-American and Jewish agencies that responded to the Foundation's inquiries about their intergroup activities. The basis for inclusion—somewhat modified from previous years—is both African-American/Jewish interaction and the interaction of those two entities with the larger community. Interactions between individuals, heretofore omitted, are now included if they impact on their larger reference group.

The newest category is Shared Experiences, which refers to events in which Jews and African-Americans were both involved but not necessarily with each other. Unfortunately, in 1999, the largest number of such episodes arose from Jews and African-Americans constituting targets of violence and intimidation perpetrated by racist hate groups.

Human Interest is defined as anecdotes about persons having both Jewish and African-American connections; in some cases, individuals who are descended from both heritages. Cooperation includes not only the obvious but also instances of verbal discord as long as they took place within the context of bilaterally sponsored dialogue.

Black/Jewish relations, in 1999, continued to be overwhelmingly positive. Both at the local and national level, organizations and individuals reached out to one another, in increasing frequency to jointly observe and celebrate religious, historical and cultural functions. African-Americans and Jewish artists created concerts, recitals, and dramatic presentations that highlighted the aesthetic expressions of the two groups. Passover seders, attended by a growing number of African-American neighbors, were structured to emphasize the similarities of the slavery that had befallen both peoples; Jews and Jewish organizations joined in paying homage to the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. In Congress and various state houses, Jews and African-Americans joined a coalition of forces to fight for hate-crime legislation. Throughout the nation, African-Americans and Jews joined the larger community in efforts to honor the diversity of cultures that constitute and enrich the United States and to further educational and social programs that promote and respect such diversity.

Perhaps the most significant development of the year appeared on the economic front. Many Jewish businesspersons, so often excluded from boardrooms and executive suites in the past, mentored rising young African-American executives in their climbs up the career ladder. In addition, veteran African-American and Jewish business people established councils to provide advice to aspiring African-American businesses. Hopefully, such efforts will lead to greater economic cooperation between the African-American and Jewish communities.

On the downside of the Black/Jewish picture, there were several disputes about relocation of resources in several urban centers; none of these reached significant proportions. Farrakhan and his followers continued to defame Jews, among others, and a few Jewish fringe groups retorted with negative rhetoric against the Black community. Compared to the plethora of harmonious interactions between the Black and Jewish communities, these paltry, hateful incidents were as small as the individuals who created them. And if there were any in the Black or Jewish communities who still questioned the usefulness of cooperation, the frightening emergence of individuals and groups willing to maim and kill Blacks, Jews, Asians, homosexuals, and anyone who is “different” should serve as a reminder that if hatred is allowed to prevail, none of us is safe. The alliance of African-Americans and Jews, in consortium with all people of good will, is the best assurance of achieving the goal that the founders of this nation envisaged—the “more perfect union.”

Dr. Philip Freedman
Professor Emeritus
City University of New York

Director of Research, The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding

COOPERATION

January 10, 1999
Hollywood, California

The Congregation Kol Ami of West Hollywood sponsored a tour of the African-American Museum at Exposition Park. The event was to commemorate the birthday of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 13, 1999
Los Angeles, California

An interfaith prayer breakfast was held at Holman United Methodist Church in remembrance of Dr. King, Jr.'s birthday. Topics included the responsibilities of religious institutions in bringing about social change. The breakfast was co-sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

January 17-18, 1999
New York, New York

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day programs were held at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Themes of social justice made up a large part of the programs. High school and college students discussed community service projects in which they were involved and how King influenced them. Visitors to the museum toured exhibits such as Nazi Racist Ideology, The Righteous Work of Rescuers, and Social Activism, which includes the Civil Rights Movement.

January 18, 1999
New York, New York

Children from grades kindergarten to fourth took part in “Love thy Neighbor as Thyself” in honor of Rev. King, Jr. They traveled to the Museum of Jewish Heritage to explore exhibits on immigration. Children ages 4 and older attended another King Day program that afternoon, entitled “Rainbow Connection.” The concert was about American values and beliefs, inspired by children’s poems, stories, and pictures.

January 18, 1999
New York, New York

Volunteers served free soup at the Hebrew Union soup kitchen in memory of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Immediately following the occasion, a study and a celebration of Dr. King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, in honor of his *yahrzeit*, took place.

January 18, 1999
New York, New York

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding released its Third Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States, which again showed that relations are improving between the African American and Jewish communities. Although there were several local quarrels, no disputes occurred between mainstream Black and Jewish organizations. The report was sponsored by Philip Morris.

January 18, 1999
New York, New York

Television's CBS Channel 2 honored the co-founder and president of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, Rabbi Marc Schneier, at its annual "Fulfilling the Dream" luncheon. The event celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and Black History Month. Jonathan Klein, President of CBS Television Stations, presented the award to Schneier in recognition of his leadership in the field of Black/Jewish relations.

January 18, 1999
New York, New York

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding launched their campaign of interethnic cooperation on the Internet to coincide with Martin Luther King's birthday. On its site, www.ffeu.com, the Foundation provides Web connections to organizations that are supportive of its mission, such as the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League. At the same time, the site includes links to racist and extremist groups in order to increase the public's awareness of their presence on the Net. The Foundation believes that providing accurate information about at least one aspect of U.S. race relations, Black-Jewish relations, can be used to fight bigotry on the Web.

January 18, 1999
West Hartford/ Bloomfield, Connecticut

Members of Bethel AME Church in Bloomfield welcomed Beth Israel of West Hartford for services in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In an interview, Dr. Louis Schwartz said that the African-American and Jewish communities have the potential to understand problems between them and confront them together. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs said, "We have too much to learn, give to and share from one another."

January 23, 1999

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) co-sponsored its sixth Mission of Black College Presidents to Israel with the America-Israel Friendship League and the Office of Academic Affairs in the USA of the State of Israel. The mission involved an extensive tour of Israel in which UNCF President and CEO William H. Gray III and five of the nation's leading Black college presidents met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Israeli university officials. Since 1988, UNCF has had a joint program of student, faculty, and cultural exchange. The mission's purpose is to broaden and further develop relations between American Black colleges and Israeli institutions of higher education.

January 23, 1999
Kansas City, Missouri

A celebration of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday was held at Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy in Overland Park. Sidney L. Willens, a Jewish-American, spoke at the observance about the relationship between Jews and Dr. King and the victories of the civil rights movement. He recalled a life-changing experience in the late 1960's wherein he successfully prosecuted two police officers for the beating of an African-American man. Willens then became known in the Black community as "one of the White lawyers to go to if police abused you," and the community grew to love him. He added that the "power and endurance of King's vision and leadership" extended to all people, regardless of race, religion, creed, color or class.

January 26, 1999
Washington, DC

Martin Luther King III, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, presented Rabbi Marc Schneier with the 1999 Civil Rights Leadership Award during the 13th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration at the Israeli Embassy. Rabbi Schneier is the founder of The Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, and the co-founder and president of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. He was honored for this leadership in the field of Black-Jewish relations. The other awardee, Wade Henderson, is the executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. He has been a consistent proponent of enhanced hate crimes legislation. The program was co-sponsored by Embassy of Israel and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

February 9, 1999
Charleston, South Carolina

Retired educator Doris Coaxum is helping African-American and Jewish teens to bridge the gap between their communities. She directs Operation Understanding, a program that seeks to strengthen Black-Jewish relations by teaching the two groups about each other's cultures. Each summer, the students are taken to different areas of the country to learn Jewish and African-American history. They are then required to reach more than 500 people and teach them what they have learned.

February 22, 1999
New York, New York

In honor of Black History Month, Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation held a judicial-student dialogue and musical program. The program featured Rabbi Samuel Intrator of Carlebach Synagogue and students from Stuyvesant High School, Bedford-Stuyvesant Outreach Program, and A. Philip Randolph High School. Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation seeks to involve the legal profession in fighting prejudice.

February 23, 1999
Westchester, New York

The Westchester Holocaust Commission held a seminar on African-Americans, Jews, and the Holocaust at Manhattanville College. The panelists featured were Harry O. Bright, Jr., Executive Director of the Commission on Human Rights in White Plains, and Jonathan Rieder, Editor of Common Quest: The Magazine of Black-Jewish Relations.

February 24, 1999
Hamden, Connecticut

African-American Jazz pianist Warren Byrd and Jewish-American jazz bass player David Chevan brought a message of unity to the faculty and students of Hamden Hall Country Day School. The musicians acknowledge that the relationship between Blacks and Jews has been strained in recent years, and, in response, they created a musical program that brings their religious traditions together. Music from the duo includes works by Thomas Dorsey, the father of black gospel, and the title track of their CD, "Avadim Hayinu," a Passover song that means "Once We Were Slaves." Both the students and faculty of the day school gave the musicians a standing ovation.

February 25, 1999
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Middle school students were given a lesson in tolerance at the Lancaster Jewish Community Center. About 90 students from schools throughout the county attended the "Moral Courage and Common Ground" workshop, sponsored by the Social Action Committee of Temple Beth El. The students heard stories about Holocaust rescues along with bravery during the civil rights movement. They learned about what influences morals and how stereotypes bring about harm. The students were also urged to stand up for what is right by not judging others by their appearances and by getting to know other people and cultures.

March 6, 1999
Boston, Massachusetts

Boston's African-American and Jewish communities were brought together in the premiere of "The Moses Project" at the Emerson Majestic Theatre. Jewish rabbis, African-American ministers and lay leaders, children's and gospel choirs, and a step-dance group performed at the event. The project is a collaboration of African-American and Jews. It is based on the story of the biblical leader Moses leading his people out of slavery into the Promised Land. For Jews and Blacks, in particular, the Promised Land means a place where people are free to be who they are without persecution from others.

March 20, 1999
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dialogue Today, a group of African-American and Jewish women who aim to further understand one another, was started fifteen years ago. The aftermath of a 1984 conflict between the two communities, the group of 50 black women and 50 Jewish women meets six times a year. They agree to talk honestly during dinners, book-discussion groups, and visits to each other's churches and synagogues, with the goal of seeking freedom through understanding.

March 20, 1999
Tampa, Florida

True Faith International Baptist Church and Congregation Rodeph Sholom are reaching their goal of closer interfaith relations. The two congregations have met for concerts and are forming a deeper appreciation of each other's faiths. Their inspiration originated in an idea from Cantor Moshe Friedler of Rodeph Sholom, in which he thought to bring in an African-American gospel choir for the *selihot* service. The two congregations have strengthened their friendship by focusing on their similarities.

March 20, 1999
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Congregation Rodeph Sholom hosted a cabaret with jazz musicians Warren Byrd and David Chevan as part of its commitment to fostering unity between Blacks and Jews. The two communities gathered in an informal, social setting as the synagogue's Rabbi Israel Stein had hoped. He and Black leaders in Bridgeport have conducted interfaith services and other events to encourage cooperation between the two communities. Chevan is an Assistant Professor of Music at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, and is

the leader of his own jazz ensemble, Bassology. Byrd, a member of Bassology, is an accompanist for the School of Hartford Ballet, the Hartford Camerata, and the Greater Hartford Academy for the Performing Arts.

March 21, 1999

New York, New York

Seven weeks after the police killing of an unarmed man, West African immigrant Amadou Diallo, daily protests at Police Headquarters, headed by Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network, served to remind the nation of local tensions between police and minority communities. Prominent members of different communities, including Representative Charles Rangel of Harlem and former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, both from the black political elite, and members of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, volunteered to be arrested in the protests against police brutality and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's perceived insensitivity to the issues at hand. According to former Mayor Ed Koch, "Giuliani and his irrational actions are cementing new relationships and strengthening old ones."

March 24, 1999

Tacoma, Washington

More than 300 African-Americans and Jews united to celebrate their common backgrounds—escaping the chains of slavery and oppression. Food from both the Jewish and the Black Southern community were served together at the sixth annual African-American Passover Seder, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, Shiloh Baptist Church, and the Israel Congregation. Organizers of the event said that racial struggles around the country and the area enhance the need for such events.

March 28, 1999

New York, New York

Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, was interviewed on WNBC-TV's "News Forum" with Gabe Pressman. He said that in a study conducted by Kieran Mahoney and Associates, it was found that relationships between African-Americans and Jews have improved. Congressman/minister Floyd Flake, who was also interviewed, agreed and said that out of the Lent and Passover seasons, both group should unite with a new sense of commitment. Schneier added that the chains of indifference should be broken.

March 30, 1999

Seattle, Washington

Rabbi Scott Sperling of Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Reverend John Hunter of the first AME Church led the Third Annual Freedom Seder at the historic church. The ceremonial meal combines the structure of the Jewish Passover Seder with African-American culture. Nearly 350 African-Americans and Jews attended, sharing a semi-kosher meal, reflecting upon their common past and celebrating liberty. Sperling read from a special *haggadah*, a text for the Passover *seder*, and Hunter, in his speech, included a brief history of African-American slavery and notable Black Americans of the past and present.

April 9, 1999

Fall River, Massachusetts

The panel discussion “Strangers and Neighbors: Relations between Blacks and Jews in the U.S.” was held at Bristol Community College. John H. Bracey and Maurianne Adams discussed the past and present state of relations between Jews and African-Americans. Together, they have written a book with the same title as their lecture. Adams is a professor of education and chair of the social justice program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Bracey is a professor of Afro-American studies at the same institution.

April 10, 1999

New York, NY

Protests at Police Headquarters continued in the aftermath of the police shooting of West African immigrant Amadou Diallo. Reverend Al Sharpton’s National Action Network headed the demonstrations that included members of the Black political elite as well as members of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice. As resentment in Black and Hispanic neighborhoods grew against aggressive tactics upheld by the mayor and police commissioner, the American Jewish Committee and the New York Board of Rabbis criticized the city officials’ actions. Rabbi Robert Levine characterized New York as “a racially polarized city in which there are two standards of justice.”

April 13, 1999

New Orleans, Louisiana

Dillard University held its Tenth Annual National Conference on Black-Jewish Relations amid some changes from previous years. For example, while keynote speakers in the past have been renowned African-Americans and Jews, this year, Morris Dees, who is a non-Jewish White, headlined the conference. He is a civil rights attorney and founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The conference seeks to restore the unity forged between African and Jewish Americans during the civil rights struggles of the 1950’s and 60’s.

April 23, 1999
Washington, DC

Black and Jewish leaders began preparations to mark the 1960's Freedom Rides that united the two communities in the civil rights cause. The organizers of the event plan to have buses depart on June 16th for the "Freedom Ride 1999." College students will retrace the route of the original Freedom Riders to Philadelphia, Mississippi and will stop at sites that played a part in the civil rights movement. The event will also mark the 24th anniversary of the murders of James Chaney, an African-American, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, two New York Jews, during the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project. The NAACP, the Religious Action Center, and the Chaney Goodman Schwerner Unity Coalition are co-sponsoring the event.

April 30, 1999
Palm Beach, Florida

Kenneth Chenault and Harvey Golub are part of a success story that resulted from Golub's mentorship of Chenault. Chenault is a Harvard Law School graduate who, among other accomplishments, reversed American Express' struggling credit-card division. He will succeed Golub, the son of Jewish immigrants, as the corporation's chief executive in 2001. He was one of several senior black executives featured by The Wall Street Journal's Jonathan Kaufman in a front-page story in April 1998, about Black executives who have been mentored by senior Jewish executives. Kaufman says that the executives' ethnicities are less important than their shared historical experience of being outsiders.

May 7, 1999

Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation was invited to Students in Court to learn more about the criminal justice system. In an interview, Judge Shannon Taylor, the Executive Director of Students in Court, said that it is desirable for students to learn about each other and the criminal justice system.

May 13, 1999
New Hampshire

The Jewish-American and African-American communities of the University of New Hampshire were brought together to plan and enjoy the work "Avadim Hayinu," created by Warren Byrd and David Chevan. The program, which includes music from the heritages of Blacks and Jews, gave the students the opportunity to explore what the two communities have in common. The two underrepresented groups at the university were also able to make a visible, positive statement about unity.

May 18, 1999
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Jewish Foundation for Economic Opportunity has helped many black-owned businesses get started through its revolving loan fund. For example, Cere Huley was able to remodel his barbershop through a loan from the foundation. Its president, Max Samson, said that since 1993, 25 loans totaling \$400,000 have been made to central city businesses, the majority of them black-owned. He added that the foundation's work is an example of what can be accomplished when Blacks and Jews work together.

June 15, 1999
New York, New York

Over 800 Blacks and Jews gathered to celebrate the legacy of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, three young civil rights workers who were murdered in 1964. St. Bartholomew's Church hosted the program, "Advancing the Promise," which is a project of Central Synagogue's Social Action Committee, and a collaboration of Central Synagogue, Grace United Methodist Church and the New York Metropolitan Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolence. The event featured Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, a civil rights hero and activist, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and members of the Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner families. The focus of their speeches was to commit to the goal of equal rights that the young men died for. The evening included song and dance from the Central Synagogue and Grace United Methodist Church. At the program's conclusion, all who were present linked hands and sang an emotional "We Shall Overcome."

June 15, 1999
Washington, DC

Civil rights activists continued their plans to honor the memories of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner and to celebrate the advances made in the struggle for social justice by retracing the route of the Freedom Rides. In their focus on the sacrifice that Blacks and Jews made together in the name

of freedom, activists hope to renew the spirit of “Freedom Summer” and rebuild the historically strong ties between the two communities. They have also set a legislative agenda to address issues such as police brutality, hate crime prevention, sentencing disparity, and the disproportionate use of the death penalty against Blacks. At the end of Freedom Ride 1999 on June 21st, the riders will arrive at Chaney’s gravesite in Philadelphia, Mississippi, 35 years to the day after he and his companions were murdered. The goal of the journey is to inspire youths to continue working to promote civil rights and Black/Jewish understanding.

June 16, 1999
Washington, DC

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding held a historic meeting of African-American and Jewish Congressional and civil rights leaders to mark the 35th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides. The event was co-chaired by the NAACP, the World Jewish Congress, Senator Charles Schumer, Congressman Charles Rangel, and Congressman Benjamin Gilman. In memory of slain civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, Carolyn Goodman, Andrew’s mother, presented awards on The Foundation’s behalf to Congressman John R. Lewis, an African-American, and Congressman Bob Filner, a Jewish-American. The awardees had been beaten and arrested in the Freedom Rides. In the Congressional Record, Congressman Rangel commended the Foundation on its work in strengthening relations between Blacks and Jews.

June 16, 1999
New York, New York

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, with the sponsorship of Fleet Bank, held its annual “Bridges to Harmony” art program. The program was made to give students from grades 3-8 the chance to promote, through visual arts, their vision of New York City as a place of understanding and harmony. There were different ways in which the students were rewarded. Each winning student was invited to ride on The Foundation’s float in one of New York’s ethnic parades, such as the Salute to Israel Parade and the West Indian Day Parade. Students also had their work exhibited at a reception at the Museum of Natural History and were given a bond. In addition, a \$1000 contribution was made to their schools’ art programs. Fleet Bank’s Vice President of Community Relations, Steve Kerner, stressed the need to promote understanding among the city’s ethnic groups.

June 17, 1999
Brooklyn, New York

The YWCA of Brooklyn presented its 1999 Catherine D. Christy Award for Racial Justice to Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation. The award was presented to the group’s chairmen, Appellate Division Second Department Associate Justice William Thompson and former Criminal Court Judge Jerome

Hornblass at the YWCA's Power Luncheon Benefit at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Palm House on Washington Avenue.

June 18, 1999
Miami, Florida

Members of the Jewish and Muslim faiths gathered for Erev Shabbat services at the Temple of Greater Miami, where Imam W. Deen Muhammad, son of Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad, was warmly received. Unlike his father, a black separatist, W. Deen Muhammad has worked to support interfaith dialogue between Muslims, Christians, and Jews, and mend the rift between Black Muslims and Jews.

June 21, 1999
Selma, Alabama

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, a multiethnic group of people, including original Freedom Riders, traveled to the southern U.S. on Freedom Ride 1999. High school students like Betsy Blake learned about Freedom Summer 1964 when northern Jews traveled to the Deep South to fight racist laws that kept Blacks from voting. Problems in Black-Jewish relations were discussed as students struggled to understand them. The riders visited places where the 1964 participants had marched, and attended a Sabbath service where an African-American choir was invited to sing. Older riders encouraged the students to take a stand for others' and their own rights and the causes they support.

June, 1999
New York, New York

Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding was honored in a proclamation by Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields at "A Celebration of Jewish Heritage." The event was held at New York's City Hall. According to the proclamation, Rabbi Schneier was recognized as a "leader for interfaith and interracial dialogue and understanding."

July 12, 1999
Atlanta, Georgia

The Atlanta Black/Jewish Coalition held a "Summer Reunion" for the participants of the 1999 Project Understanding Young Leadership Retreat, the 1999 Black/Jewish Teen Retreat, and Retreat Planning Committees. The Middle Eastern dinner was also attended by Operation Understanding, a group of African-American and Jewish teens from Washington, D.C. that were visiting Atlanta as they traveled through the South. The American Jewish Committee sponsored the event.

July 29, 1999
Washington, DC

Lawrence Kopp, Executive Director of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, participated in a press conference condemning the outbreak of hate crimes that had taken place throughout the country. Congressmen Benjamin Gilman and Charles Rangel served as co-chairs of the conference, which was supported by 60 Congressional members as well as major African-American and Jewish organizations. In the Congressional statement, all Americans were called on to join in the demand for justice and to be vigilant against hate crimes in the future.

July, 1999
New York, New York

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding's President and co-founder Rabbi Marc Schneier delivered the opening invocation at the NAACP's 90th National Convention. The speech was given along with those of Congressman Charles Rangel, Julian Bond, Kweisi Mfume and Hugh Price.

August 15, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

The Reverend Jesse Jackson spoke at Temple Shalom's "Service of Healing and Unity." He remembered when Blacks and Jews united to lobby Congress for a bill to make lynching a federal crime. The service was held in response to a recent spree of hate crimes targeting Blacks, Jews, and other minorities, and called for stricter hate-crime laws, tougher gun control measures, and multicultural education. Jackson also urged presidential candidates to make hate crimes the center of the 2000 debate. Temple Shalom's Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski said that Black, Jewish, and other leaders should form a coalition to push for hate-crime laws.

September 1, 1999
New York, New York

In the Daily News, Howie Katz, director of the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) New York office, described his office's partnership with Borough President C. Virginia Fields on a plan to "replace stereotypes with knowledge." The collaboration began after the hate rhetoric of the 1998 Million Youth March. The partnership, ADL Harlem Initiative, fosters programs that bring together Jewish youth groups

and young people of color. Katz said that the program's name must soon change because it has grown to include neighborhoods throughout New York City.

September 5, 1999
New York, New York

At the Riverside Church in Manhattan, the Reverend Jesse Jackson condemned the actions of Khalid Abdul Muhammad the day after his Million Youth March took place. Although Muhammad spoke of Black empowerment and urged young people to keep away from drugs, he also made verbal attacks on Whites, Jews and Black politicians who publicly oppose him. Speaking out against the attacks, Jackson said, "The reality is, we should not use words to offend others."

November 20, 1999
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Celebrating their shared histories, African-Americans and Jews came together to honor Marty Stein, a Milwaukee philanthropist and business owner who has been vital in bridging the gap between the two communities. At America's Black Holocaust Museum, the Tenth Annual James Howard Baker Award, named in honor of a civil rights activist, was given to Stein for his consistent efforts to improve the quality of life for African-Americans. Among other things, Stein was honored for chairing the Operation Moses campaign, which rescued Ethiopian Jews and brought them to Israel, and for being a charter member of the Jewish Foundation for Economic Opportunity.

November 29, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

Affirmative action and the changing nature of Black-Jewish relations were two of the many issues debated at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)'s Eighty Second Annual National Commission meeting. ADL National Director Andrew H. Foxman, in a major address, gave the League's perspective on topics including tensions between Blacks and Jews and Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan's anti-Semitism and racism. A forum on affirmative action included Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page and NAACP Washington Director Wade Henderson.

November 30, 1999
Atlanta, Georgia

Renowned Black and Jewish comedians put a humorous spin on community and culture at an event hosted by ACCESS, Atlanta Inner Circle, and National Black MBA Association, Atlanta Chapter. “An Evening of Comedy and Conversation” featured performances by Professor Ray Grant of Spelman College and Dr. Neil Shulman of Emory University. Following the stand-up, Grant and Bobby Harris, an instructor of Comedy Workshop, moderated a discussion about Black and Jewish heritage and humor, among other topics. The event was sponsored by the American Jewish Committee.

December 6, 1999
Providence, Rhode Island

For two years, the Black-Jewish Alliance of Brown University has been focusing on the two groups’ shared concerns. The alliance was started by Jennifer Sherling, a Jewish student, and Erica Taylor, a Black student, who were both frustrated by the lack of communication between their communities on campus. Three of the approximately 30 group members have created a project to start a new course in sociology which examines the images and myths applied to Blacks and Jews, focusing on the period from the civil rights movement to the present.

December 8, 1999
New York, NY

Martin Luther King III joined Rabbi Marc Schneier to mark the publication of Shared Dreams, published by Jewish Lights Publishing. One hundred fifty Jewish and African-American leaders attended the reception, which featured remarks by King III, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who wrote the forward to Schneier’s book, former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Darwin Davis, Vice President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, Lawrence Kopp, Executive Director of the Foundation, and Rabbi Schneier. In Shared Dreams, the unknown account of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s support for the Jewish community is brought to life.

CONFLICT

March 23, 1999
Goshen, New York

The former executive director of the Orange County Human Rights Commission filed a lawsuit against the agency. The former director, Ian M. Berkowitz, claimed that he was fired because he is Jewish and White. Although county leaders told him it was because of his job performance, Berkowitz said he was fired a year after he was hired because the county was unwilling to keep a White man in charge of the organization that investigates complaints of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. According to the lawsuit, the county initially wanted to hire a Black woman for the position. The County Attorney, Richard B. Golden, called the charges baseless and expects the case to be dismissed.

May 17, 1999
Brooklyn, New York

The pieces of a corruption scandal in School District 14 came together after a Brooklyn rabbi pleaded guilty to helping funnel \$6 million in public funding over 20 years to a girls' yeshiva by creating 59 no-show jobs. School investigators said that the former superintendent, William "Wild Bill" Rogers, and his successor promoted the scheme to get the support of the school board's Hasidic members. For 20 years until his retirement, Rogers' words were the law in the schools of Williamsburg and Greenpoint. He also bent the law to please the school board that retained him longer than any other superintendent in the history of school decentralization. Educators claim that Rogers and his successor played on the ethnic divisions of the roughly 6-square-mile neighborhood, which consisted of isolated and competitive villages of Hispanics, Hasidim, Blacks, Poles and Italians.

June 28, 1999

The music group Public Enemy has come under fire for a song on its recent album. In a letter sent to Public Enemy's record company, the Anti-Defamation League said that the lyrics of "Swindler's Lust" contain 'anti-Semitic code words.' MCA and CBS executive Al Teller, who launched PE's label, responded with a letter stating that the song had "no anti-Semitic references," and rapper Chuck D insisted that neither he nor the song is anti-Semitic: "The song is anti-music industry...Swindlers come in all shapes and sizes."

August 18, 1999
New York, New York

The executive director of the American Jewish Congress, Phil Baum, issued a statement to the press concerning the anti-Semitic remarks of Khalid Muhammad. He said that the speaker's vows to insult Jews among others at the second Million Youth March on September 4th, only three weeks after a murderous attack on a Jewish community center, would only serve to "produce revulsion in all people of good will, particularly in the African-American community." Baum asked that the Black community reject

Muhammad's hate. To white supremacists, he said, Blacks and Jews are both subhuman. The two groups have too much to lose to permit anyone to turn them against one another.

August 23, 1999

New York, New York

Organizers of the second Million Youth March, planned for September 4th in Harlem, hurled insults at Jews, Mayor Giuliani, the police, and others at a press conference outside the City Hall grounds. Although Police Commissioner Howard Safir had turned down their request for a permit, the organizers vowed to hold it anyway. They had applied to occupy 26 blocks of Malcolm X Boulevard for 12 hours, but the city stood by its offer to allow the event on only six blocks of the roadway, established by a court last year after the city denied a permit. March lawyer Malik Shabazz accused the "idiot" mayor and his likely opponent for the Senate race, Hillary Rodham Clinton, as pandering to Jews, whom he referred to as the "enemy." Mayor Giuliani told reporters that he would not speak about people who promote hate.

August 24, 1999

New York, New York

Amid a court battle with the city concerning a march permit, the organizers of the second Million Youth March demanded that Harlem subways be left open for the duration of the event. In 1998, Harlem residents who took no part in the rally complained that they were inconvenienced by the police tactic. Organizers also stressed that the number of police officers from the 1988 march must be reduced substantially, and that there must be a buffer zone between officers and protesters. March lawyer Malik Shabazz said that "doom and destruction" would follow any efforts to ruin the march. He went on to say that Mayor Giuliani wants to "get his points" with the Jewish community, but the march organizers do not care for any points with that community.

August 24, 1999

New York, New York

Leaders of the Harlem community condemned organizers of the second Million Youth March for threatening gang violence against police and making anti-Semitic statements. State Comptroller Carl McCall, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields and Harlem Community Board 10 Chairman Stanley Cleaton denounced the march. City Councilman Bill Perkins (D-Harlem), who also condemned the march, reported that Khalid Muhammad, the march leader, and several associates surrounded and threatened him after a political rally in Harlem. He was offered police protection by Police Commissioner Howard Safir. March lawyer Malik Shabazz said that, while no one threatened physical harm against Perkins, some youths did become angry with him. Shabazz called McCall, Fields, and Perkins puppets of the establishment.

August 25, 1999
New York, New York

During a news conference, Representative Charles B. Rangel, Harlem's most powerful political figure, called for a boycott of the second Million Youth March, due to last year's racially charged speeches and violent clashes with the police. As opposed to the period before last year's march, when there was hope that mobilizing young people would overcome the derogatory remarks of the organizers, the city's Black leaders are now urging residents to isolate Muhammad and his supporters by being absent from the event. Hours later, outside Harlem's Apollo Theater, as his supporters threatened white reporters and chanted "Black power," Muhammad and other march organizers said that the calls for a boycott do not reflect the views of most people in the community, and they accused black leaders of pandering to whites.

August 25, 1999
Brooklyn, New York

Tensions heightened in School District 17 after a new set of four Hasidic members of the board replaced the president with a Black ally. Some residents are angry about what they call a takeover by people whose children attend private yeshivas. Some Black residents, both on and off the school board, assert that the Hasidic members want to steer some of the public funding away from private pre-kindergartens to yeshivas. Members of the Hasidic bloc said that, while they would like to see more public funding for Jewish nursery schools, matters such as tuition vouchers for private schools are more urgent.

August 26, 1999
New York, New York

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told the Harlem community that the public would be kept safe whether or not the second Million Youth March took place. Khalid Muhammad and his aides asserted that they would hold the march whether or not the city granted them a permit, but Giuliani replied, "If it's illegal to march, there won't be a march." He condemned the organizers for threatening violence against police and making anti-Semitic remarks.

August 27, 1999
New York, New York

Daily News writer Karen Hunter urged Black readers in particular to skip the second Million Youth March and to denounce Khalid Muhammad and what he stands for. Muhammad may have claimed that black politicians' calls for a boycott do not mirror the views of most community residents, but Hunter says that it is Muhammad's views that do not reflect what the overwhelming majority of Blacks want. Muhammad plans to march down Malcolm X Boulevard to celebrate Black youth, but Hunter points out that Malcolm X, after

his Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, changed his message from one of hate to one of love. In his life, Malcolm X matured, but according to Hunter, Muhammad has far more to go.

August 27, 1999

New York, New York

In a series of interviews, Harlem residents who were involved in last year's efforts to support the Million Youth March said that they would not support the second March. They felt that the event's chief organizer, Khalid Muhammad, and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani are locked in a battle of words in which each scores political points at Harlem's expense. Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright said that it was most shameful that neither Muhammad nor Giuliani were on the scene a few minutes after the march was scheduled to end. The police advanced "with a cavalry and in full riot gear against community residents and march attendees. The mayor was safely downtown and Mr. Muhammad had fled the scene. However, both were responsible for a scene that rivaled the old civil rights conflicts of the South."

August 30, 1999

New York, New York

The arguments of the city's lawyer against granting a permit for the second Million Youth March were not fully accepted by a district judge. Judge Denny Chin of the United States District Court in Manhattan questioned the city Corporation Counsel, Michael D. Hess and wondered whether Mayor Giuliani denied a request for the rally because he opposes Khalid Muhammad's views. Although, at times, Chin seemed impatient with Hess' arguments and criticized police actions after the rally the year before, he also expressed doubts about allowing Muhammad to stage a rally on Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem.

August 31, 1999

New York, New York

U. S. District Court Judge Denny Chin overruled the city of New York's decision not to grant a permit for the second Million Youth March. The decision was in spite of the city's argument that the threats of Muhammad and his associates against Jews, Whites, Blacks who oppose them, and the police are likely to incite mob violence, as it did in 1998. According to Chin, the violence that occurred at the first rally may have been provoked by the "excessive number of police in riot gear" who embarked on the marchers at exactly 4 p.m., the time the rally was scheduled to end. The city appealed Chin's decision.

September 1, 1999

New York, New York

The New York Post's Eric Feltman criticized the city's Black leaders for their hesitation in denouncing Khalid Muhammad and the Second Million Youth March. He said that they should not have waited to condemn Muhammad until Councilman Bill Perkins, who had spoken out against him, was threatened by Muhammad's associates. Feltman added that Muhammad's anti-Semitic rhetoric was well known some years ago, and that those who were calling on Muhammad to call off the march should have done so in 1998. He also wondered why Reverend Al Sharpton still supported Muhammad and why Black leaders have not held him accountable for his actions.

September 1, 1999
Brooklyn, New York

Residents of the predominantly Jewish neighborhood of Borough Park taunted the Reverend Al Sharpton as he tried to protest the police shooting of Gidon Busch, a mentally ill man. His efforts to rally were also rejected by Assemblyman Dov Hikind, who called Sharpton an anti-Semite, although his condemnation of the shooting sounded much like that of the preacher. To defend his actions, Sharpton played two recordings that were left on his voicemail, one that was of a Jewish man, exhorting him to support the Jewish community. Sharpton said, "Blacks and Jews have our differences, but a man with a hammer needs medication, not murder."

September 1, 1999
New York, New York

The U. S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, upheld the decision of the U. S. District Court to grant the organizers of a youth rally a permit for the event. Referring to the second Million Youth March, the judges said that even "bigoted, hateful, violent and threatening" speech is protected by the First Amendment. The court also outlined the rules for both the march attendees and the police. The rally participants could only rally, not march, using six blocks over the course of 4 hours, and ending as close to 4 p.m. as possible. City police could not send thousands of riot officers to the scene, as they did in 1998, to break up the rally if it went beyond 4 p.m.

September 4, 1999
New York, New York

Entertainer Master P, owner of No Limit Records and a business empire based in Louisiana, refused to support the second Million Youth March. According to Barbara Pescosolido, vice president for marketing and public relations at No Limit Records, Master P, whose real name is Percy Miller, donated money to the 1998 march because he thought he was simply contributing to an event to educate and mobilize Black youths. Pescosolido added that Miller was not informed about Khalid Muhammad's views until after the event, when a photographer who was taking his picture for Rolling Stone magazine told him about

Muhammad's speech. He responded with shock and said that he did not know Muhammad and was not a racist.

September 5, 1999
New York, New York

The Million Youth March took place on Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem. Less than 2000 people attended the rally, wherein both positive and negative messages were given. For example, Khalid Muhammad spoke of Black empowerment and urged youths to keep away from drugs. He also condemned negative lyrics in music and called for the strengthening of the Black family. However, Muhammad did make remarks against Mayor Giuliani, Jews, Whites, and the Black leaders who had called for a boycott of the rally. Youths who decided not to attend said they did so because of its racist message and the potential for violence. The rally ended five minutes early and without incident.

October 30, 1999
New York, New York

Crowds that gathered to protest a Ku Klux Klan march turned on one another after feeling cheated out of a confrontation with the group. Some Blacks and Jews nearly came to blows as they harassed each other with racist and anti-Semitic epithets. The opposition began after Jewish protesters confronted black participants about placards they were carrying that blamed Jews for the Black Holocaust and opposing alliances with Whites. Hours earlier, they had locked arms in outrage at the Klan's presence.

November 10, 1999
New York, New York

Eric Feltman, staff writer for the New York Post, gave a commentary on a speech made by African-American leader Jesse Jackson at Yeshiva University. At the event, which was the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding's Third Annual Conference on Black-Jewish Relations, Jackson claimed that Black anti-Semitism "hardly exists." He insisted that the attention that is given to Black anti-Semite leaders is "almost an insult because it disrespects our capacity to think..." Feltman, however, believes that Black anti-Semitism is alive and well and that few Black leaders will refuse to disassociate from those who practice it. He also recalled Jackson's anti-Semitic remarks and concurrent apology, made in 1984. He said that most attempts to reconcile are made by Jews, and that the rift between the two communities will remain if Blacks "stick their heads in the sand and refuse to confront some basic realities."

November 17, 1999
New York, New York

Eric Fettmann's November 10th editorial on Jesse Jackson received a response from Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding who wrote in support of the Reverend. Speaking for the Foundation, Schneier said that Jackson "has proven his commitment to strengthening and repairing his relationship with the Jewish community." He pointed out that Fettman did not mention Jackson's recent efforts to do so, such as his condemnation of Khalid Muhammad's anti-Semitic remarks, his speech at the Jersey City memorial for Holocaust victims, his attempts to win the release of Iranian Jews, and his attempts to arrange a documentary film on Black GI's who liberated a German concentration camp, to be shown at Harlem's Apollo Theater.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

January 2, 1999
Arlington, Virginia

Congressional candidate David Duke sought donations from an audience sympathetic to his view that diversity is a destructive force. A former leader of the Ku Klux Klan, Duke believes that too many federal policies favor Blacks, Jews, and other minorities over Whites. Pitching the sale of his autobiography, My Awakening, he said, “If we can get just one person in Congress...it could change this country overnight.” He vowed to boldly defend the rights of Christian Whites. Duke was the first Republican to declare his candidacy for the House seat being vacated by Representative Robert Livingston of Louisiana.

January 4, 1999
Washington, DC

Republican Congressman Bob Barr and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott were revealed to have ties to a racist organization, the Mississippi-based Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC). The group preaches against racial intermarriage, that Jews have “turned spite into welfare billions for themselves,” and that President Bill Clinton’s beliefs “are actually a result of his inner black culture. Call him an Oreo turned inside out.” According to the head of the Conservative Political Action Conference, (CPAC), David Keene, the CPAC has barred the CCC from attendance because of their racist views. Barr gave a keynote address at a CCC gathering in 1998, and Lott, in 1992, told the group it “stands for the right principles and the right philosophy.” Both have renounced the CCC. They also say that they did not know about the organization’s views when they spoke, although the CCC says otherwise.

January 13, 1999
Annapolis, Maryland

The opening of the Four Hundred Thirteenth session of the General Assembly was a special occasion for lawmakers. The first Black decisionmaker from the Eastern Shore, Rudolph Cane, took his seat in the House of Delegates. The Democrat from Salisbury said that he was looking forward to the opportunity, but that it should not have come that late in the Twentieth Century. Maryland became known as the “free state” because its Act of Toleration, approved 350 years ago, protected Catholics from religious persecution. In 1826, the state approved a law that made it possible for Jews to get elected to the General Assembly. House Speaker Casper Taylor opened the legislature’s session by urging a greater toleration of diversity.

January 15, 1999
Raleigh, North Carolina

Yonat Shimron, Staff Writer for The News and Observer, answered a question of one of his readers, which read, “Why did the KKK burn crosses, and is the organization considered Christian?” Shimron replied that the group has identified itself as Christian, predominantly Protestant, and has made use of the cross as part of a ritual, usually planted in someone’s yard and lit on fire. According to the Klan Web page, www.kkk.com, the lighting of the cross is not meant to be a desecration but a symbol of light, truth, and obedience to God.

He added that in the 1920s, the Klan directed its hate towards immigrant groups and those they perceived as breaking down small-town America. Jews and the Roman Catholic Church were then as much the focus of its hatred as Blacks.

January 15, 1999
Dulles, Virginia

America Online and the Merriam-Webster Inc. Web site removed a thesaurus that listed synonyms that were derogatory to homosexuals. Deborah Burns, Merriam-Webster's director of marketing, said the company decided to remove all synonyms for 'homosexual' in order to conform with a 25-year-old policy to exclude entries for racial or ethnic groups such as Jews, Blacks, or Hispanics. Merriam-Webster, a leading publisher of dictionaries and language reference books, also began to check for other disparaging entries in its Collegiate Thesaurus.

January 23, 1999
Louisville, Kentucky

Columnist Keith L. Runyon of the Courier-Journal wrote about what the musical adds to our lives. He said that other than jazz, there is no more 'American' art form than the Broadway musical. The two art forms are closely linked, and reflect America's diversity. Jazz traces its roots directly to African-American musicians, while the musical, for the most part, is the product of immigrant European Jews. The best musicals, he said, owe much more to jazz than they do to any other musical form.

January 28, 1999

The Jewish Defense Organization called for a boycott against Barnes and Noble bookstores. The chain sells a book entitled "My Awakening," an autobiography by former Klan leader and congressional candidate David Duke. The organization claims that the book is packed with racist and hateful statements about Jews and Blacks. The profits he makes from sales, they say, will be used for his campaign for Representative Bob Livingston's seat in Congress and for fostering racism.

January 29, 1999
Washington, DC

Jim Nicholson, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, called for party members to resign from the Council of Conservative Citizens. Its leadership claimed that it is not a hate group, but according to reports, it is against Blacks, Jews, and other minorities. The group claims members such as North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice, Georgia Rep. Robert Barr, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. Barr and Lott have said that they knew nothing of the council's extreme views. However, Barr

spoke at a meeting in 1998 and sat through a panel discussion that explicitly explained the group's beliefs. Lott has spoken before gatherings of the CCC, and its newsletter publishes a column he writes. Another politician associated with the group, South Carolina state legislator Charles Sharpe, did not profess ignorance, however.

February 5, 1999
Bellevue, Washington

Racist literature began to appear in a growing area of the Seattle suburbs east of Lake Washington. Police and postal inspectors told residents that they could not do much about the matter. The literature, which targeted Blacks and Jews, was produced by the European American Educational Association of Eastpointe, Michigan. Residents in Michigan and California reported finding similar literature in recent years. According to James Bordenet, a Postal Service inspector in Seattle, people may be disturbed by the literature but its contents may not be against the law unless there is some sort of threat included. Police said that unless a victim has been targeted for harassment, law enforcement can only record the cases.

February 10, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

A panel voted to exclude Matthew F. Hale, a law school graduate, from the state bar because it believed he lacked moral character, and that his white supremacist views would infringe upon his ability to uphold the law. Hale, who uses an Israeli flag as a doormat, is the leader of the World Church of the Creator, a group that proclaims hatred against Jews and people of color, particularly Blacks. He runs the church from his parents' home. Hale said that he would contest the ruling.

February 15, 1999
Akron, Ohio

Flyers opposed to Black History Month that attacked Blacks, Jews, and homosexuals were left on cars, houses, and utility poles on both the east and west sides of the town. The Church of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan claimed responsibility. KKK's Imperial Wizard, Jeffrey Berry, of Indiana said that the flyers were part of an ongoing campaign of the KKK. The most graphic flyers were found on the campus of the University of Akron, where President Clinton had begun his Dialogue on Race in 1997.

February 22, 1999
Louisville, Kentucky

An insurance company cancelled a meeting at the Pendennis Club after Reverend Louis Coleman, head of the Justice Resource Center, threatened to picket the gathering. Liberty Mutual Group had backed out after

receiving a letter from Coleman. The reverend said that the club excludes Blacks, Jews, and women. The club, which has at least one Black member, claimed that it does not discriminate, and did not comment further. John Cusolito, an assistant Vice President of Liberty Mutual, said that the company was “unaware of that their practices are. Obviously we seek to offend no one and are seeking an alternative site.”

February 23, 1999

Jasper, Texas

John William King, a white supremacist, was convicted yesterday of capital murder and kidnapping for dragging 49-year-old James Byrd, Jr., a Black man, to his death behind a pickup truck in June 1998. The jury of 11 whites and one Black took less than three hours to deliver the verdict. King’s lawyers, who are trying to save their client’s life, plan to argue that King is a victim of the criminal justice system, and that he learned to hate Blacks and Jews the first time he was incarcerated.

March 1, 1999

Little Rock, Arkansas

Chevie Kehoe of Colville, Washington, and Danny Lee of Yukon, Oklahoma were tried on a five-count indictment alleging racketeering, conspiracy, and murder. According to federal prosecutors, the defendants were part of a band of young White men who had planned to overthrow the U. S. government and establish, with the exclusion of Jews, Blacks, and other minorities, an Aryan nation through polygamy. On the way, they stocked up on military-style weapons and robbed and murdered several people, including an Arkansas couple and their young daughter. Kehoe, whose father and uncle described him as the instigator of most of the trouble, associates himself with Christian Identity, a white supremacist movement. Prosecutors also say that Kehoe is tied to other murders as well, and became an outlaw with his younger brother, Cheyne.

March 9, 1999

Little Rock, Arkansas

Chevie Kehoe, a white supremacist charged as the mastermind of a plot to create an all-white nation, advocated killing judges as a way to initiate a revolt, according to the testimony of one of his former associates in the white supremacist movement. In their case against Kehoe, prosecutors used the testimony of John Shults, a former white supremacist who is a prison convict in the federal witness protection program. Shults said that he and Kehoe believed that if the judicial system were to be shut down, that would be another way the White man could take over. Under cross-examination, Shults said that Kehoe never attained leadership of any movement. Shults’ ex-wife, Georganna Williams, testified that the two men once set out to determine whether Kehoe’s wife was part Cherokee Indian. If she was, Kehoe would kill her and

the children.

March 19, 1999

Mays Landing, New Jersey

A judge delivered a sentence to a teenager who had painted swastikas, scrawled graffiti and threats against Jews and Blacks, and damaged equipment at a sports complex. Superior Court Judge James Isman ordered James Carmen, 18, to write letters of apology to the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League, as well as to a school superintendent he also targeted. Carmen was also directed to spend 40 hours working with custodians, so that he could experience what it was like for them to clean up his hate graffiti. Citing Carmen's hate crimes as a juvenile, assistant prosecutor Janet Gravitz urged jail time. However, Isman ordered, among other things, three years probation, community service, counseling on religious and racial tolerance, and time in a special jail program.

March 20, 1999

Minneapolis, Minnesota

In years past, covenants, or residential contracts, would keep Blacks and Jews from residing in the community. One of them was made in the north Minneapolis neighborhood of Homewood. Plotted in 1908, it was designed to be an "exclusive" neighborhood. It was marked by stone entrance monuments and kept out Blacks and Jews before this practice was outlawed. The neighborhood's ethnic character has varied through the years, but its architecturally interesting and now affordable homes have remained largely intact.

March 23, 1999

Washington, DC

In 1994, both houses of Congress passed resolutions in condemnation of then Nation of Islam official Khalid Muhammad for his verbal attacks on Jews, Whites, and Black politicians who spoke out against him. Five years later, however, Congress did not repeat its actions when faced with a white supremacist group called the Council of Conservative Citizens. The group, similar to the segregationist citizens councils of decades past, has spokesmen who claim that the nation took a bad turn at the time of the Civil War, refer to the "Civil Rights War in the 1960s," and denounce Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In recent years, the council has become more well known by hosting leading political figures, such as Rep. Bob Barr, R-Georgia, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, at its events.

March 24, 1999

The Aryan Nation Church of Jesus Christ sent out advertisements for Easter Services for Whites only. In its teachings, the church uses selected Bible passages to argue that Jews are the children of the devil and that people of color are from a different species. Bill Handel, a radio talk show host, interviewed Lutheran

Reverend Paul Black about his take on the issue. The minister declared that the church is not a real Christian church. "It is gross to say that Christ died only for Whites," he added.

March 25, 1999
Los Angeles, California

The Simon Weisenthal Center produced a CD-ROM guide to hate groups around the country. Its main purpose is to help law enforcement agencies keep track of groups' online activities. The Center has 80 percent of its research backing on the Internet, worldwide, on a daily basis. According to Rabbi Abraham Cooper, more than 1500 extremist groups have Internet presence, and radical web sites attract children with music and games.

March 29, 1999

Hate groups' online activities were the topic of discussion on CNBC's "Rivera Live." Websites were shown that spewed hatred against homosexuals, Jews, and people of color. Also shown was Louisiana Congressional Candidate David Duke's appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," when he promoted his hate site. While Bruce Taylor, an attorney and anti-obscenity activist, spoke about whether or not hate speech may incite violence, Brian Levin, a criminal justice professor, said that some things should not be criminalized just because they are offensive. First Amendment Attorney Martin Garbus spoke about attempted regulation of such sites.

April 6, 1999
Inglewood, California

As disc jockeys "Tim and Neil" stood in for Bill Handel on his morning radio show, they discussed a flyer that was circulating around the community. Amid mayoral and city council elections, the flyer mentioned politicians such as Councilman Garland Hardiman, Jerome Horton, and Roosevelt Dorn. Drawings on the flyer included one that portrayed a Jewish man as an ape, and another that portrayed a Black man in the same manner.

April 7, 1999
Connecticut

The Connecticut Supreme Court went beyond the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the Constitution prohibits striking a juror from a panel on the basis on religion. A divided panel in *State v. Hodge* extended the case of *Batson v. Kentucky*, which outlawed race-based challenges in 1986, and *J.E.B. v. Alabama ex rel T.B.*, a semi-criminal paternity and support case in 1994, which built on the *Batson* doctrine to prohibit

strikes based on gender. Trial lawyer F. Lee Bailey, made famous by the O. J. Simpson “Dream Team,” commended the decision and called it a bold step. He added, however, that designing fair procedures to enforce challenges to Batson for different categories will not be a simple task.

April 8, 1999

Florida

Florida Representative Frederica Wilson publicized her plans to kill her school textbook bill. Before she decided to kill the measure, Wilson had changed the bill to eliminate a long list of subjects from those that are required to be taught in state schools. The list included the Constitution, the Holocaust, and Black history.

April 10, 1999

Chicago, Illinois

Matthew F. Hale, an openly racist man, presented a state panel with arguments stating his right and ability to practice law. His application for a law license had been turned down in February because the panel that heard his case believed that his white supremacist views would interfere with his willingness to uphold the law. Attorney Adam Bourgeois says that Hale’s aim is to destroy the profession, and that racism and the law do not mix. Although they do not agree with his views, the Anti-Defamation League and Attorney Alan Dershowitz support Hale’s case. The League’s Richard Hirschhaut says that the First Amendment guarantees rights for “even the most unpopular, obnoxious positions to have their day in court.”

April 20, 1999

Littleton, Colorado

Police evacuated Columbine High School as two young boys went on a shooting rampage. Dylan Klebold, 17, and Eric Harris, 18, who were known for their hatred of Blacks, Jews, Hispanics, and athletes, roamed through the school, shooting randomly and laughing psychotically as they gunned down their targets and threw bombs. Witnesses said that the boys stood over Isaiah Shoels, whom they had fatally shot because he was Black, and admired the destruction they had caused. A few students were shot because they were athletes. The gunmen also fatally shot a student, Cassie Bernall, because when they asked if she believed in God, she answered, “Yes.” In all, twelve students and one teacher were killed, and many more injured. Klebold and Harris then turned their guns on themselves.

April 21, 1999

Littleton, Colorado

The shootings at Columbine High prompted investigations into the lives of the gunmen, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris. The boys had planned the massacre for Hitler’s birthday which, before the massacre, they had

made references to. The pair was part of a band of outcasts called the Trenchcoat Mafia, whose members posed for a yearbook photo in 1998. The group wore black trench coats all year round, and berets with Nazi crosses. Members spoke constantly of war and guns, and Harris made a video at school in which he bragged about his new guns. The group's behavior, however, did not alarm students, teachers, and parents enough for them to act on their concerns.

April 22, 1999
Littleton, Colorado

Columbine gunmen Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris had arrest records, but they passed under the radar of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The friends were arrested in 1998 for breaking into a car and completed their probation in January 1999. Both the police department and school officials claimed that they did not notice the boys' group, the Trenchcoat Mafia. School officials said they'd had no discipline problems with Klebold or Harris, although the Trenchcoats and the school's jocks planned, but never carried out, a fight in February. Choir leader Lee Andres remembered Klebold as a smart kid who ran the sound for one of the school musicals. Andres said that the boys were "extremely bright, but not good students. They did not like to be told what to do."

April 23, 1999
Littleton, Colorado

Dylan Klebold, one of the Columbine High School gunmen who classmates said openly admired Adolph Hitler, was the great-grandson of a renowned Jewish philanthropist. Long before their murderous rampage, Klebold, 17, and fellow gunman Eric Harris, 18, would speak German in the hallways and spew insults at Jews, Blacks, and Hispanics. Klebold's mother, Susan, is the granddaughter of the late Leo Yassenoff, a wealthy commercial real estate developer and prominent figure in the Jewish community of Columbus, Ohio.

April 25, 1999
Littleton, Colorado

Liberal Christian, Black, and Jewish leaders expressed outrage over the evangelical tone of the memorial service for those killed at Columbine High School. In remarks before the Denver Interfaith Clergy Alliance, Rabbi Stephen Foster of Temple Emanuel said that the whole community was invited, but the service only related to those with evangelical beliefs. "The issue was one of insensitivity to the kind of statements being made that were exclusively directed to not just Christians, but fundamental Christians." None of the parents expressed objections about the service or its speakers, which included a rabbi. Several of the slain students were known for their born-again Christian faith, including Cassie Bernall, who proclaimed her faith in the face

of death.

May 3, 1999

Charleston, South Carolina

Kathleen Parker, a columnist for Tribune Media Services, criticized the protests against the Columbine service. Her article in The Post and Courier said that their complaints that the service was “too evangelical and too White” were highly inappropriate because they trivialized the “monumental loss of these families.” The complaints surfaced a few hours after some of the slain were buried. To refute the protesters’ claims that the service was not inclusive, Parker listed the people that were on the stage, including General Colin Powell, who is Black, Rabbi Fred Greenspahn, who is Jewish, Vice President Al Gore, an environmentalist, as well as various Christians. She added that many of the mourning families were evangelical Christians, and that the service was privately funded.

May 6, 1999

Littleton, Colorado

The organizers of the Columbine memorial service expressed dismay over complaints directed against it. Dick Wadhams, spokesman for Governor Bill Owens, whose office helped to arrange the event, recalled the various speakers to refute the protesters’ claims. However, Jonathan Shikes of the Denver Westword said that Jerry Nelson and Franklin Graham, two of the speakers, urged the mourners to become Christians. Although no state money went into the service, neither Wadhams nor Jefferson County Commission chair Patricia Holloway could say how the expenses were covered. Wadhams pointed out that the service was organized in 72 hours, right after a tragedy. Holloway said that all the speakers paid their own way. Representatives from the Jefferson County school district and the city of Littleton also organized the event.

May 10, 1999

Whitwell, Tennessee

Amid the nationwide shock over the events in Colorado, elementary school teacher Penny Webster faced a surprise of her own when she watched the report of a 20-year-old South Carolina racist who has hundreds of followers through the Internet. As a result, Webster wrote an editorial in the Chattanooga Times. She stressed her belief that freedom is a privilege, and in order for it to endure, it must be limited. For example, she said that no one should have access to bomb-making instructions or how to kill those whom you hate. Webster stressed that television executives, parents and teachers must, like Hollywood actors, take responsibility for events like school shootings. They should also be aware of what goes on in the lives of their children.

May 14, 1999
Austin, Texas

Texas governor George W. Bush's efforts to persuade Republicans to sign a hate crimes bill collapsed in the Texas senate, which killed the measure for that session. New wording for the bill could not resolve a partisan split over whether homosexuals and certain other groups should be offered specific protections under the measure. House Bill 938 had taken on a profound significance at the session. It had been named the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act in memory of a Black East Texas man who was chained to a pickup and dragged to his death in June 1998. His family has been lobbying for the new bill, along with African-American and Jewish groups and advocates for homosexuals and the disabled and elderly. After nine hours, Bush and Senate negotiators gave up.

May 26, 1999
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Roland F. Carey, in an editorial article of The Advocate, criticized the Republican Party for choosing and retaining Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, who has been claimed as a member by the Council for Conservative Citizens (CCC). As the majority party in the Senate, tolerating Lott's endorsement of racist attitudes towards Blacks and Jews reflects lack of "societal conscience," said Carey. He listed the labels used to identify groups like the CCC, such as Confederates, segregationists, White Citizens Councils, and Republicans. Carey then traced the history of Southern White voting patterns from the 1860's to the present, explaining the move from the Democratic to the Republican party, whose "racial posture had become more in line with the Southern pre-1960 racist philosophy." Through all the name-changing, anti-Black sentiment was the constant.

June 10, 1999
Marblehead, Ohio

Governor Bob Taft asked for an investigation prompted by racist flyers that were left on cars at a parking lot near Lake Erie. The fliers, which included derogatory cartoons and photos of Blacks and Jews, were distributed at a state-owned boating access point, which attracts people from around the country. Police learned about the fliers after Ray Brown, a Lucas County sheriff's sergeant, filed a complaint. Brown, who is Black, said he has no plans to return to the site, but was overjoyed to hear about the governor's action. Scott Milburn, Taft's spokesman, said that the governor asked the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to investigate and ensure that the occurrence does not repeat itself.

June 10, 1999
Miami, Florida

In a debate on the radio station La Poderosa (WWFE-AM 670), a guest attempted to persuade listeners of the reason he believes Cuba is suffering. Andrew Orta is the coordinator of Alianza National, an organization dedicated to liberating Cuba and preserving Christian values. He explains that the island's leaders are tied up in an international conspiracy led by wealthy and influential Jews, the true enemies of Cuba. Orta's opponent, a Jewish-Cuban named Miguel Angel Aldana, heard Alianza's anti-Semitic rhetoric on a previous program of the show, La Hora del Tranque, and demanded the debate. Orta also believes that ethnic groups should live separately. "Our Spanish heritage is gone. Cuba has been Africanized." The Anti-Defamation deems Alianza anti-Semitic, White supremacist, and militia-like.

June 13, 1999
Houston, Texas

When former Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott was suspended by Major League Baseball for her insulting remarks about Blacks and Jews, she claimed that if a male owner in baseball had said what she did, he would have received no discipline. Time proved her correct when Houston Astros owner, Drayton McLane, Jr. was not penalized for his remarks about Hispanics. During an interview with executives from Houston's Spanish-language TV station, he explained the difficulty of marketing the Astros to the Hispanic community. McLane said it was hard to reach Hispanics because baseball is complicated. He added that Hispanics buy the \$2 seats at games and do not read newspapers. Changing his story twice, he finally said that he meant the remarks to refer to all people. The TV executives said that no one from commissioner Bud Selig's office called about the incident. McLane told Selig that he was innocent, and no further action was taken.

June 15, 1999
Albany, New York

An assistant to Gov. George Pataki was accused of using derogatory terms for Blacks, women, and Jews. Hours later, state senators confirmed him as a trustee of the City University of New York. Jeffrey Wiesenfeld's confirmation hearing became a long debate about the reports of his conduct, dating back to 1995. Wiesenfeld, who serves as Pataki's assistant for New York City, was charged by Jewish activist Issac Abraham as referring to Blacks as "savages," Hasidic Jews as "thieves," and Pataki as a "dummy" in Yiddish. Wiesenfeld said that he would not respond to the allegations, claiming that his "20-year record speaks for itself."

June 16, 1999
Sacramento, California

After three synagogues were torched by hatemongers, Jews were reminded that anti-Semitism is not dead in the U. S. According to hate crimes statistics compiled by the FBI, the number of anti-Semitic incidents is second only to those against Blacks and far exceeds offenses against all other religious groups combined.

While most Jews are thankful for religious freedom and believe that anti-Semitism is not a major problem in America today, they believe that tomorrow, it could be.

June 30, 1999

Illinois

Matthew Hale's appeal for a law license was turned down by a state hearing board. In April, the law school graduate appealed the February decision of a panel which had declined his request for a license because they felt his character and White supremacist beliefs would infringe on his ability to practice law. The state hearing board rejected Hale's appeal for the same reasons.

July 3, 1999

Chicago, Illinois

The FBI joined local police in the search for a gunman who swept across three suburbs on the north end of the city, targeting minorities. From his vehicle, a four-door sedan, the gunman killed former Northwestern University Basketball Coach Ricky Byrdsong, an African-American, while he was walking with his children; wounded six Orthodox Jews walking home from temple, and fired shots into a car driven by an Asian-American couple, who escaped injury. Based on eyewitness accounts, the police prepared a composite drawing of the suspect, who is White.

July 3, 1999

Springfield/ Urbana, Illinois

A gunman fitting the same description as that of the suspect in the Chicago shootings fired at two Black men walking on a Springfield street, who were not hurt. About 12 hours later, in Urbana, the same gunman fired shots at a group of six Asian students who were walking near the University of Illinois campus. A 22-year-old man, a student at the university, was slightly wounded.

July 4, 1999

Bloomington, Indiana

A string of drive-by shootings continued as the suspect in the Illinois shootings fired into a crowd outside a Korean church, killing 26-year-old Won-Joon Yoon, a doctoral student at Indiana University. Bloomington police issued an arrest warrant for Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, 21, who had ties to a white supremacist organization. Respectively, Urbana and Bloomington are homes of the University of Illinois and Indiana University, both of which Smith attended before reportedly moving to Chicago in May.

July 4, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

A gunman's rampage against minorities was labeled as a hate crime by the Anti-Defamation League. Police said that the definition of a hate crime did not yet apply because the gunman was not heard to say anything about the race or religion of his victims, the legal standard for the classification. Justice Department officials in Washington said that they would review the case to see if the shootings might fall under federal hate-crime laws.

July 4, 1999

Marge Schott may have been proved right once again as Ted Turner's remarks against certain groups of people went unpunished. While Schott was forced to sell her controlling interests in the Cincinnati Reds because of her objectionable statements about Blacks and Jews, Ted Turner, owner of the Atlanta Braves and several media companies, insulted Christians and those who do not share his views, and no action was taken. Turner is on record as calling the Ten Commandments outdated and saying, "If you're going to have 10 rules, I don't know if adultery should be one of them." Although he has five children, Turner described those who disagree with his one-child-per-couple control plan as "dummies."

July 4, 1999
Enumclaw, Washington

The Zoffa Protocol, a group of about 10 teens, invited the Ku Klux Klan and other racist groups to gather to support "White pride." Although the Klan did not show up, about 250 anti-racism protesters did, and far outnumbered the approximately 20 White pride supporters. The teens say that the public misunderstands them, and while they support White pride, they do not want to oppress other groups and disapprove of racist violence.

July 4, 1999
Bloomington, Indiana

Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, the suspect in a shooting spree targeting Jews, Blacks, and Asians, told Indiana University's student newspaper in July 1998 that the American government favors minorities at the expense of White people. Smith, a criminal justice major, spoke to the newspaper after leaving white supremacist fliers on about 1,000 cars on campus. The fliers bore the mark of the Illinois-based group World Church of the Creator and contained a rambling history of the U.S., which it said was formed by heroic Whites.

July 4, 1999
Urbana, Illinois

An ex-girlfriend of the suspect in the drive-by shootings spoke to the University of Illinois student newspaper about the former student, Benjamin N. Smith. Elizabeth Sahr said that she did not know about Smith's racist views until the end of the relationship. In reference to the shootings, she said, "This is his Independence Day from the government, from everything. He is not going to stop until he is shot dead."

July 4, 1999
Peoria, Illinois

According to hate-group experts, the World Church of the Creator, which counted alleged gunman Benjamin Smith as one of its members, has a history of violence and is one of the fastest growing hate groups in the nation. The church has several hundred members, with 46 chapters, up from 8 in 1995. The church called for a "holy war" against Blacks, Jews, and immigrants, and says its goal is to create "an all-white nation, and, ultimately, an all-white world." The Anti-Defamation League's Gail Gans said that the group's leaflets were distributed in New York City last year. Matthew Hale, the church's leader, said Smith left the group in May.

July 4, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

Benjamin Smith, the suspected gunman in a two-state shooting spree, fatally shot himself during a police pursuit in rural southern Illinois. The vehicle in which he was driving crashed off the road and Smith was pronounced dead at a hospital. The body was found with two guns that were consistent with two of the shootings. Matthew Hale, the leader of the World Church of the Creator, said Smith was nonviolent, dedicated and coolheaded. However, in Smith's testimony on Hale's behalf at a hearing before the Illinois bar, he said that he had considered violence, but Hale had dissuaded him. Hale, who wanted to be a lawyer to advance his group's cause, also speculated that the rejection of his appeal might have triggered the shootings, which began a few hours later.

July 6, 1999
Peoria, Illinois

The man who sold weapons to Benjamin Smith confessed his illegal sale to authorities after reading about Smith's shooting spree. Donald R. Fiessinger said that Smith told him he was going to use the guns for hunting. He added that he had no knowledge of Smith's White supremacist beliefs or potential for violence. Fiessinger was taken to jail and faced charges of selling firearms without a license. Federal prosecutors said that they could not find any evidence that he had ties to extremist groups.

July 6, 1999
Peoria, Illinois

As a former member of the World Church of the Creator, Benjamin Smith was named the group's "1998 Creator of the Year" for his skill in attracting potential converts to the white supremacist group. Hate group watchers have linked the group's members to six hate crimes in the last few years, including the bombing of an NAACP office in Washington, the beating of a Black veteran in Florida, and a planned attack on synagogues in Oregon. Law enforcement officials in Sacramento, California have said that the group is among those whose followers are being looked at in connections with three synagogue arsons in the city a month earlier that totaled more than \$1 million in damages. Devin Burghart, of the Center for New Community, said, "Hale is trying to dissociate himself from the violence, but...it's the logical outcome of his hateful rhetoric."

July 7, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

According to police, Benjamin Smith received the weapons he used in a shooting rampage from an illegal dealer. Before going to the illegal dealer, he tried to make a purchase at a Peoria gun shop, where he was turned away. The shop had conducted a required background check, which showed that Smith's former girlfriend, Elizabeth Sahr, had filed an order of protection against him because she feared for her life. After being rejected, Smith bought two guns from Donald R. Fiessinger, an illegal dealer who was already being investigated by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, said Jerry Singer, an agent.

July 7, 1999
Florida

The World Church of the Creator, an Illinois-based white supremacist group, traces its start to Ben Klassen, a former Florida legislator and state chairman of George Wallace's 1968 American Independent Party presidential campaign. Since the release of his 1973 book, Nature's Eternal Religion, which revealed the doctrine of his group, there have been three instances of violent acts by his disciples in the state of Florida. Klassen, who had founded the church in Lighthouse Point, committed suicide in 1993 by heavily overdosing on sleeping pills. The future of the group was shaky after that but, in 1996, the church made a comeback under the leadership of Matt Hale.

July 7, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

When Matthew Hale discussed the shootings committed by Benjamin Smith and his concurrent suicide, he said that the only loss was the life of Smith. With exasperation, he explained that, obviously, the other victims did not count because they were subhuman. However, he said killing Blacks, Jews, Asians, and

homosexuals is a waste of time because “they’re so inferior that they’ll die off anyway, sooner or later.”

July 8, 1999

Seattle, Washington

An article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer discussed the recent surge in racial hate crimes and asked the candidates in the 2000 presidential race to address hate and the future demographic changes in our population. By the year 2050, the U. S. will have more Blacks, Latinos, Asian and Native Americans than Whites, which is feared by White supremacists because they believe that Whites will be crowded out of America. Farai Chideya, the author of the article, asks that the presidential candidates address such issues as the gap in educational quality between the races in the public school system, challenging Silicon Valley to “help develop the untapped talent in America’s urban schools,” and retaining and increasing America’s strength as the percentage of Whites diminishes and the percentage of nonwhites and religious minorities increases.

July 8, 1999

York, Pennsylvania

Donald Lee Smith, a Dover Area High School dropout, was accused of a plot to kill Blacks and Jews at the school. He pleaded no-contest to risking a catastrophe and was given five years of strictly monitored probation. Smith, 20, had been charged with three counts of solicitation and conspiracy to commit murder, aggravated assault, and ethnic intimidation. He said that he could not remember exactly what happened because of a mental illness. Under the plea agreement, Smith must undergo a psychological evaluation and go to any counseling the therapist recommends. He must also attend racial and religious sensitivity counseling.

July 9, 1999

Peoria, Illinois

The past of Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, 21, the suspected gunman who then killed himself during a police pursuit, is a source of interest for the police. In an interview with an Indiana University television station in October 1998, he stressed his belief that the White man’s days are numbered. Smith was closely associated with the World Church of the Creator, a group whose leader, Matthew F. Hale, promotes “White pride.” On its website, the group provides statements about nonwhites as subhuman and Jews as conspirators against the U.S. Although Hale claims no responsibility for Smith’s crimes, his website calls for a racial holy war. Smith may have acted alone, but his motivation came from extremist sites like that of the World Church of the Creator.

July 11, 1999
Redding, California

Two brothers came under investigation for their role in arsons at three Sacramento area synagogues and possible connections to nationwide racist groups. A search of the homes of Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, and James Tyler Williams, 29, turned up a notebook linking the men to the June synagogue fires and produced white supremacist propaganda, including materials related to the World Church of the Creator. The brothers had been jailed in connection with the shooting deaths of a gay couple. When they were arrested, their car was packed with weapons and ammunition.

July 11, 1999
Peoria, Illinois

Benjamin Nathaniel Smith received ammunition for his two-state shooting spree from a major supermarket, Wal-Mart. After paying cash for guns from an illegal dealer, he drove to a Wal-Mart store and stocked up on bullets. During his spree, he shot and killed two people and wounded nine, all of whom were African-Americans, Asians, or Jews. He had plenty of ammunition left when he committed suicide during a police pursuit.

July 11, 1999
Evanston, Illinois

The life of Northwestern University Basketball Coach Ricky Byrdsong, a victim of Benjamin Smith's racially motivated shooting spree, was celebrated at the First Presbyterian Church. During the funeral service, Byrdsong's widow, Sherialyn, called for an end to violence and a return to faith. Presidential Bill Clinton and Reverend Jesse Jackson called the family and offered their condolences. Byrdsong is also survived by three children.

July 11, 1999
Chicago, Illinois

A week after Benjamin Nathaniel Smith began his shooting rampage in West Rogers Park against Jews, Blacks, and Asians, approximately 250 people gathered for an interfaith-interracial vigil. The crowd included religious leaders, the mayor, and other public officials. Ephraim Wolfe, age 15, who had been shot in the foot, said that when he was asked to make remarks, he thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. "King went out to show everyone he was not afraid...I'm not going to hide in my house and be afraid."

July 13, 1999

In an appearance on famed African-American lawyer Johnnie Cochran's Court TV show, Matthew Hale left

the host dumbfounded during a clash of ideas about the shootings of Benjamin Nathaniel Smith. Cochran asked Hale why he was so understanding of a murderer and had no sympathy for his victims. Hale shot back, “You should talk about someone sticking up for murderers, Johnnie Cochran of O. J. Simpson fame?” Cochran, who helped acquit O. J. Simpson, believed by many to be guilty of murdering his ex-wife, said nothing.

July 15, 1999
Los Angeles, California

In a federal court trial, witnesses testified that a Glendale man used racial slurs and flashed white power hand signs in confrontations with an interracial family in his neighborhood. When questioned by his defense lawyer, Steven Alexander, 20, admitted having used a “Heil Hitler” salute and uttering racial slurs about Blacks to his friends, but denied harboring hatred toward Blacks, Latinos, Armenians, or Jews. Alexander, a school dropout who had been convicted of burglary, was tried with his brother, Philip, 22, on charges of violating the rights of Susan Shumate, who is White, and her two sons and boyfriend, who are Black.

July 19, 1999

Sara Baird, a former lawyer and civil rights aide, has completely different views than that of White supremacist Matthew F. Hale. However in his appeal for a law license, he brought up her name and those of others who, from the 1950’s to the 60’s, insisted that people’s political views should not be used to deny them what they would have otherwise received. Baird was denied a law license in 1968 because she did not tell the Arizona State Bar whether or not she was a communist. Before the Supreme Court, her then-husband, Peter, offered a hypothetical example of “a hard-core racist who disbelieves in the equal protection clause,” and argued that a person like that still deserves to practice law, because “you judge a man by his conduct.” Hale, the personification of that example, says he should be given a license because he has the character it takes to be a lawyer. Sara Baird believes that the principle that won her case should be applied to his.

July 20, 1999
Madison, Wisconsin

In an editorial in the Capital Times, the call was made to unite against racism. David E. Sharpe, chair of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Shirley M. Wickland, chair of the Wisconsin Conference Board of Church and Safety, said that the shootings by Benjamin Smith reminds us that racism is not dead. They added that the need for “people of faith and conscience to rise up for racial justice” is immediate. The pair called for public declarations of support and commitment to racial justice, understanding, love, and compassion.

July 23, 1999
Buffalo, New York

Carol C. Segal, M. D., president of the American Jewish Committee of Western New York, in an editorial in The Buffalo News, called upon every individual to take greater responsibility for fighting hatred in our lives. She said that the tragic events from the murder of a Texas Black man to Benjamin Smith's racially motivated rampage compel people to increase their efforts to combat racist and anti-Semitic groups and to stop them from increasing their following. Segal also advocates stronger hate crime laws. To teach tolerance and mutual respect among different groups, she recommended the AJC's "Hands Across the Campus" program, which is being used in dozens of schools nationwide.

July 24, 1999
Marion, Indiana

A handful of members of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan used the east side of the Grant County Courthouse to deliver a message of intolerance against Blacks and Jews. Along with its own distorted sound system, the speakers had to deal with jeers from opponents throughout the almost two-hour speech by various Klan members. The police officers that were sent to keep peace were referred to as "Communists" by one Klan member. The Klan's opponents made remarks such as, "Go home cowards," and "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want your racist hate." To deflect attention from the Klan's negative message, a rally was held at Matter Park, a few minutes from downtown.

July 25, 1999
Los Angeles, California

An article of the Los Angeles Times discussed the legacy of George Lincoln Rockwell, the founder of the American Nazi Party. His role in reviving racism and anti-Semitism is the subject of a biography by Frederick J. Simonelli, entitled American Fuehrer. Rockwell "Americanized" Hitler's philosophy of hate following WWII. He "opened the 'master race' to the working class and formed the White racist movement of today, according to Simonelli, an assistant professor of history at Mount St. Mary's College. Rockwell also managed to merge Nazism with Christianity, building the foundation for the churches that preach racism today. Even though he died over 30 years ago, his message, unfortunately, is still alive and well.

July 26, 1999
Hollywood, California

Police said that the World Church of the Creator was responsible for pamphlets targeting Jews and Blacks being left on cars and homes. A man linked to the group, Jules Fettu, was on trial for the beating of two men in Sunrise who refused to accept racist literature. The police continued to investigate.

July 29, 1999
Springfield, Illinois

White supremacist Matthew F. Hale petitioned the Illinois Supreme Court for a law license. In his petition, he cited the April testimony of Benjamin Smith to prove Hale's good moral character, but did not directly discuss Smith's shooting spree. Hale did insist, however, that he had no knowledge of Smith's violent plans. Hale's group, the World Church of the Creator, came under investigation by state and federal authorities.

July 30, 1999

Hate group monitors said that they are paying close attention to states in the Midwestern U. S., because that is where such groups have had the most growth. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 138 groups in seven Midwestern states, well over a quarter of the total amount of groups in the country. According to the Center for New Community, the Ku Klux Klan is not necessarily a Southern phenomenon. The fastest-growing and most active sector of the Klan is based in Butler, Indiana, and is called the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

August 10, 1999
Los Angeles, California

A lone gunman burst into the lobby of the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles and fired more than 70 bullets, wounding five people, including three young children. He then escaped in a van. About an hour later, the gunman shot a postal worker near the community center.

August 11, 1999
Las Vegas, Nevada

Buford O'Neal Furrow, Jr. turned himself in to the FBI and confessed to the Jewish community center shootings. He was also charged with federal murder in the slaying of Joseph Iletto, 39, an Asian postal worker who was shot nearby. Furrow, 37, whose friends said he had a mental condition, tried to have himself committed to a mental hospital in 1998. However, he changed his mind, attacked a nurse and was put on probation for second-degree assault and ordered to take prescription sedatives. Furrow told authorities that he was a racist who fantasized about committing a mass killing. At the time of the shootings, he was still barred from purchasing or owning firearms, but a gun and several rounds of ammunition were found in his abandoned van.

August 12, 1999
Las Vegas, Nevada

According to terrorist watchdog groups, Buford O'Neal Furrow, the suspect in the Los Angeles shootings, had ties to the White supremacist group Christian Identity. Along with ammunition, a pamphlet entitled "War Cycles, Peace Cycles," by Richard Kelly Hoskins, one of the group's ideologues, was found in Furrow's

van after he confessed to the shootings. Furrow was also an active member of the Aryan Nations, a group that hates Blacks and Jews, and taught new recruits hand-to-hand combat at its northern Idaho compound. He lived for a number of years with Debra Matthews, widow of Robert Matthews, the founder of the violent neo-Nazi group known as The Order.

August 12, 1999

Jewish leaders around the country heightened security measures and worried about copycat crimes after the attack of a white supremacist on a group of children in Los Angeles. The leaders said that most of their community centers and schools step up security when major crimes occur. Buford Furrow, who confessed to the shootings, told authorities he wanted the attack to be a “wake-up call to America to kill Jews.” He was an active member of the Aryan Nations, a group that is against Blacks and Jews.

August 12, 1999 New York, New York

Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, recalled the impact that the FBI list made on the actions of a hate group. In the 1980s, the League had successfully urged then Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to place neo-Nazi skinheads on FBI watch, resulting in a significant decrease in violence by that group. However, certain changes made since the Thornburgh era restricted the current attorney general, Janet Reno, from doing the same thing. The League and other organizations had monitored the activities and Web site of the World Church of the Creator, and after Benjamin Smith’s shooting rampage, they asked that an investigation be initiated. The Justice Department and the FBI, however, are unable to monitor individuals/ groups unless a crime has been committed. As a result, Foxman called for the breaking down of parameters that keep law enforcement from preventing crimes of hate.

August 13, 1999

Hate monitors and law enforcement specialists said that more hate crimes might occur as the country approaches the millennium, especially from groups that are religiously based. “Theologically based hate groups see the millennium as a time to ‘do the right thing,’” which, according to them, is to wipe out Jews, Blacks, and homosexuals, says Chip Berlet, senior analyst for Political Research Associates, an organization that studies hate groups. In addition, shooting suspect Buford Furrow may have acted according to Richard Kelly Hoskins’ doctrine of Phineas Priesthood, which requires members to kill a member of a hated race. The doctrine is based on the biblical Phineas, who deflected God’s wrath by killing an interracial couple.

August 13, 1999 St. Louis, Missouri

An article in the St. Louis Dispatch urged residents of the state of Missouri to denounce hate speech by

quickly contacting their House representative and urging the official to pass the Senate-approved hate-crimes legislation that would come up for a vote in the House. David Bohm and Emily Fink Bauman, the authors of the article, also commended the Missouri General Assembly for passing an enhanced hate-crime bill during its most recent session. The authors also asked Missouri to pray to “find the resolve to actively oppose hatred with peace and justice.”

August 15, 1999

CNN Cable show “Both Sides with Jesse Jackson” conducted an interview with Rabbi Steven Jacobs of Temple Kol Tikvah and Morris Dees, the founder of Southern Poverty Law Center. Dees said that the Centers’ intelligence project has on file 550 hate groups. Many of the groups have Web sites on the Internet, in which they discuss what they believe are threats to their jobs, e.g. affirmative action. He added that the groups use targets of hate as scapegoats for their own failures and problems, such as family split-ups. In addition, Rabbi Jacobs said that the Furrow shootings were hate crimes, and, like the Holocaust, were aimed at Jews and racial minorities. He added that if the country remains quiet, President Clinton would surrender in the fight against hatred.

August 13, 1999

Somerville, Massachusetts

Chip Berlet of the Political Research Associates revealed a pattern of beliefs among hate criminals in recent years. Producerism, a form of right-wing populism, sees a “middle class of hard-working producers being squeezed by secret elites above and lazy, sinful parasites below.” According to fascism, which is based on producerism and is used in the white supremacist group Christian Identity, Jews are the puppet-masters among the liberal secret elites, building a new world order; people of color are the lazy parasites gnawing at society from below, while homosexuals, feminists and abortion providers are the sinful parasites poisoning the moral order. Berlet also said that there are elements of producerism in the beliefs of some middle-class White men who sense that their economic and social status is waning.

August 15, 1999

Tampa, Florida

According to law enforcement and watchdog groups, individual terrorist attacks, such as the Furrow shootings, indicate a dangerous shift in hate group strategy. When an individual makes an attack, the public is unprepared. When the person is found to have ties to a hate group, the organization can separate itself from and not be held liable for the individual’s terrorist acts. For example, Alex Curtis, publisher of the San Diego-based National Observer, praised Buford O. Furrow, Jr.’s alleged attack and said, “The psychological effect of this technique is devastating to the system and its privileged classes.” He advised that all “illegal activity” be done “100 percent alone.”

August 15, 1999
San Diego, California

The issues that affect America in its fight to stop forces of hate were discussed in an article in the San Diego Union-Tribune. Richard D. Barton, chairman of the San Diego Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League and a partner at Higgs, Fletcher, and Mack, wrote about the difficulty in spotting individuals with the potential for violence, the availability of hate group propaganda on the Internet, and the apparently unlimited access to weaponry and ammunitions. In finding a way to combat hate, society has to deal with the limitations imposed by the First Amendment, which prevents attempts to regulate an organization's teachings for the purpose of eliminating ideology. Instead, Barton said, the war can be won through tolerance programs, "commitment to democratic ideals," and efficient use of the tools available through law enforcement and the criminal and civil justice systems.

August 17, 1999
East Peoria, Illinois

The white supremacist views of Matthew F. Hale, though once ignored, are now taken seriously by the predominantly White city of East Peoria. When a former member of Hale's extremist group, The World Church of the Creator, went on a shooting spree against Jews, Blacks, and Asians, the city took action. The city attorney, Dennis Triggs, contacted Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit civil rights organization. Dees sent Triggs and Mayor Charles Dobbelaire information on fighting hate and advised the leaders to make a stand immediately and form a broad-based coalition on race issues. As a result, the mayor appointed a Human Relations Commission to "guide us in combating hate and teaching tolerance."

August 18, 1999

White supremacists Ben Smith and Buford Furrow took their lessons from the same book—The Turner Diaries by William Pierce. Published in 1978 and set in the 1990s, the novel depicts Armageddon between select Whites and everyone else, such as Blacks, Jews, journalists, and the military. On this "Day of the Rope," tens of thousands of Blacks and Jews are exterminated, and liberalism and feminism are done away with. The novel states that in order to have a true Aryan society, all others must be wiped out. Pierce, aka Andrew Macdonald, holds a doctorate in physics and is a former professor. As the head of the Neo-Nazi National Alliance, he invites at least 100 members with what he calls "leadership potential" to a private workshop each year in which the main training manual is The Turner Diaries.

August 20, 1999
Monroe City/ Corydon, Indiana

Two communities which were forced to deal with the Ku Klux Klan did so in different ways. In Monroe City, organizers of a parade scheduled for September to celebrate a new community center opted to cancel it rather than allow Klan members to march and distribute literature. In Corydon, wherein a September 11 Klan rally was scheduled, no effort was made to stop it. A number of citizens, however, united and began an effort to get townspeople to ignore the rally.

August 20, 1999
Buffalo, New York

In an article in The Buffalo News, author Carl Rowan urged the nation to become aware of the magnitude of “racism and madness” in our society. In 1996, he published a book warning that America was endangered by White racists who threatened to kill Jews, Blacks, and anyone who stood in their way, and would eventually provoke a tragic race war. The book was branded “alarmist,” partially because of its title, The Coming Race War in America. With the emergence of the shootings in Los Angeles and the Midwest, however, Rowan’s work seemed more pertinent. He said that he became more alarmed when he heard Tom Metzger, the leader of White Aryan Resistance, declare, “Good hunting, lone wolves,” calling for a second civil war.

August 27, 1999
Hauppauge, New York

Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of The New York Board of Rabbis, donated \$1,800 on behalf of the NYBR to Temple Beth Chai, whose basement office was damaged in a firebombing the week before. The money came from the New York Board’s “From the Ashes Fund,” created by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding in 1996 to assist African-American churches that had been destroyed by arson.

September 3, 1999
Washington, DC

Officials of Jewish and civil rights organizations spoke out against terms used by animal rights activists to describe research on primates. Comparisons of primate research to the Holocaust, protests on behalf of apes to the civil rights movement, and the legal status of chimpanzees to the “abomination of human slavery” prompted strong objections from Hilary Shelton, the director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP Bureau and Diane Steinman of the American Jewish Committee. Shelton claimed that in comparing their efforts to the civil rights movement, animal rights activists have “gone over the top to the point of insulting an entire race of people.” Steinman said, “Given the magnitude and the depth of horror of the Holocaust, using such a comparison really is offensive...[it] robs the Holocaust of its true meaning.”

September 9, 1999
Peoria, Illinois

Officials of the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra said that White supremacist Matt Hale would not return as a violinist for the upcoming academic year. Hale was notified in early August of the decision made because of the views of his church. The notification came nearly a month after a former church member, Benjamin Smith, targeted Jews, Blacks, and Asians during a shooting spree before killing himself. Terry Bush, a university spokesman, said that Hale's organization "encourages violence," and its slogan "is an acronym for racial holy war and a call to action." Hale said that he plans to file a lawsuit and claimed that he had a valid contract for the next year, which Bush disputes. Hale added that his dismissal was discrimination against those with "politically incorrect views."

September 9, 1999
Springfield, Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court decided not to allow the opponents of Matthew Hale to seek out new evidence about Hale and the Ben Smith shooting spree. The justices did not say, however, whether they would completely ban any mention of the spree in Hale's appeal for a law license. Hale, who runs the White supremacist Church of the Creator, had been appealing the Illinois Bar's June decision to deny him a license because he lacked the required moral character and because of the potential for violence of his church. Smith's rampage began the same day the ruling was released. After the killings, Hale said he did not know about Smith's intentions, but suggested the shootings were sparked by the Bar's decision.

September 10, 1999
Atlanta, Georgia

H. Michael Henderson, a community involvement coordinator, addressed the issue of equal opportunity in an article in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution. He criticized a lawsuit against Atlanta's affirmative action program by saying that the problem is not the program, but how it is run. The U.S., Henderson said, "has never been fair to all of its citizenry, be they Native Americans, women, Jews, Asians, Hispanics, or Blacks." Affirmative action programs attempt to offer some amount of equal opportunity, so Atlanta's program is worth keeping, according to Henderson.

September 11, 1999
Los Angeles, California

Visitors to the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance learned to confront prejudice and learn understanding towards others. The museum includes a Tolerancenter wherein patrons learn to identify stereotypes and hate within themselves and how to take responsibility for what they say and do. The

Tolerancenter's maze of games and devices includes a POV Diner, where visitors can choose one of three filmed scenarios, and vote on issues such as whether regulating hate speech infringes on freedom of speech.

September 11, 1999
Columbus, Ohio

On the steps of the city hall, several Ku Klux Klan leaders spoke about White people's rights and blasted Jews, Blacks, Asians, Native Americans, and homosexuals. One speaker said that without racism, one has no pride. The next speaker was L. C. Winfrey of Virginia Beach, the grand dragon of the Virginia New Order Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He told the angry counter-demonstrators at the rally that they were "pathetic" and to "go home and watch your cartoons."

September 21, 1999
Boise, Idaho

Several years ago, the image of the state of Idaho as a home to White supremacist groups began to worry the staff at Hewlett-Packard. For three years, they have tried to insure that people they recruit and employ in Boise feel welcome at work and in the community. Members of the staff are now making efforts to organize an Idaho Inclusiveness Coalition, a group of major employers and human rights groups to celebrate diversity and promote tolerance.

September 22, 1999
Boyertown, Pennsylvania

The state's Human Relations Commission has helped over 50 communities set up groups to fight against hate. One group started in Boyertown, a historically White community northwest of Philadelphia, where the Ku Klux Klan handed out recruitment leaflets once a month. The group asked residents to pledge 5 to 50 cents for each minute the Klan spent in town. The money went to civil rights groups and helped arrange for the town's first rally to honor the Reverend King, Jr.

September 22, 1999
Colorado

Coloradans United Against Hatred has set up its own Web site as an alternative to those sponsored by hate groups. Formed after an African immigrant was murdered by a skinhead in 1997, the group is dedicated to fighting White supremacist ideas. The American Jewish Committee helped underwrite the project. Its

Colorado director, Anita Fricklas, said that it is hard to tell if these efforts are making a huge impact, but “an impact? Definitely.”

September 23, 1999
Montgomery, Alabama

The Southern Poverty Law Center updated their publication of “Ten Ways to Fight Hate,” which included experiences of communities that formed coalitions against intolerance. Jim Carrier, a former reporter for the Denver Post, compiled the stories. He said that the Center would distribute free copies of the booklet and a companion, “Responding to Hate at School,” to every school principal, police chief, and mayor around the nation, as well as to human rights groups, religious leaders, and interested citizens.

October 1, 1999
North Shore, Massachusetts

Civil rights leaders and North Shore clergy condemned pamphlets by the World Church of the Creator’s Matt Hale that were found on lawns. The pamphlets, found in Peabody, Lynn, and Swampscott, contained “bigoted lies about Jews, African-Americans, and immigrants,” said Leonard Zakim, director of the New England office of the Anti-Defamation League. He defended the rights of the World Church to publish its views, but taking into account the recent violence against Jews and minorities, Zakim said that the document, entitled “Facts the government and media don’t want you to know,” must be taken seriously.

October 3, 1999
Missouri

The state of Missouri appealed a judge’s decision to allow the Ku Klux Klan to adopt a highway. In April, U. S. District Judge Stephen Limbaugh ordered Missouri to let the Klan pick up litter along Interstate 55 and to post a sign announcing its participation in the highway program. He said that the state could not use its powers merely “to target the Klan’s unfortunate beliefs.” However, Steve Forsyth, the state spokesman for the Missouri Department of Transportation, said that the problem is not a philosophical dispute over White supremacy, but the fact “that the KKK had a history of violent, disruptive behavior.”

October 4, 1999
Washington, DC

As the Supreme Court convened its 1999-2000 session, interviews were conducted on the CNN Cable program “Burden of Proof.” Kweisi Mfume, President of the NAACP, said that the Supreme Court does not make jobs available to a diverse group of qualified law clerks. He added that there was never a Native American law clerk, Justices Scalia, Kennedy, and Souter have never had Black law clerks, and that Justice Rhenquist has never had a minority law clerk. Alan Dershowitz, a law professor and former law clerk, said that the Supreme Court regards itself as above the law. In his law clerk days, there were no women, Jews,

or Catholics.

October 5, 1999

Florida

Southern Poverty Law Center founder Morris Dees gave a free lecture at the University of South Florida about tolerance in the next generation. In a telephone interview with The Tampa Tribune, Dees said that acts of hatred occur virtually every day and can be stopped only by education. When groups are responsible or inspire individuals to commit hate crimes, Dees and the Law Center sue. He added, however, that "litigation is the smallest thing we can do." "Teaching Tolerance," an 8-year-old educational program, is sent to 75,000 schools annually. It seeks to build respect and interest among people of diverse backgrounds.

October 5, 1999

Michigan/ Indiana

Morley T. Feinstein, Rabbi of Temple Beth-El, urged the public to support a hate crimes bill without amendments. Under current law, he wrote in the South Bend Tribune, the government must prove that the crime occurred because of a person's membership in a protected group, such as race or religion, and because he/ she was enjoying a federally-protected activity. Federal prosecutors are left powerless otherwise. For example, the FBI got involved in the Furrow case only because he was accused of killing a federal employee, a postal worker. However, Feinstein says that the Hate Crimes Prevention act of 1999 would broaden the government's jurisdiction using Congress's full power under the Constitution.

October 12, 1999

Menlo Park, California

The Menlo Park Historical Association reversed its decision to stop the publication of a book that was rejected because of references to Jews, Blacks, and other ethnic groups. The author of the book, Michael Svanevik, a college professor, had been commissioned to write a history of the town of 30,000 people. In a statement, the association said, "The board recommends that the book print the truth about Menlo Park's past, be it favorable or unfavorable."

October 19, 1999

Residents in the Puyallup community gathered to discuss the issue of racism in their community after pamphlets targeting Blacks and Jews were anonymously distributed to households. Parents of a White Puyallup High School junior organized a community meeting to talk about other recent events such as a

blackface episode during a class photo and a death threat against Black students. Several Black parents attended classes with their children because they were worried about their children's safety. Odell Thomas, whose three sons have attended the high school, and 16 other Black families, filed a \$5 million dollar claim against the school district, saying it "tolerated and encouraged a racially hostile environment," and cited assaults on minority students and racist graffiti and slurs as proof.

October 19, 1999

Walt Disney Co. reversed its decision to ignore demands from civil rights groups to apologize for a radio promotion on "The Mark and Brian Show," during which 'Black Hoes'—black, plastic gardening tools—were distributed to listeners and advertisers in 1998. Disney apologized for its actions when civil rights groups asked the Federal Communications Commission to revoke the station's license and threatened to launch a national boycott. In addition, after an internal review uncovered 11 years of complaints against jokes about Jews, Asians, and Blacks aired on the show, Disney began to quietly settle the suits out of court. The company also met with civil rights leaders on how to improve the company's diversity and sensitivity training programs.

October 20, 1999

The National Archives released another 445 hours of White House tapes recorded in 1971 of former President Richard Nixon. In his private conversations, he expressed contempt for Jews, Catholics, Blacks, homosexuals, and liberals. After some government bureaucrats leaked unfavorable jobless figures to the media, Nixon told crooked aide Charles Colson that the bureaucrats must have been Jewish. He said that most Jews are disloyal except for three of his Jewish aides, Henry Kissinger, William Safire, and Leonard Garment. Nixon also called Justice Thurgood Marshall an "old fool and a Black fool."

October 23, 1999

New York, New York

A meager gathering of KKK members who came to rally in lower Manhattan was met with thousands of counter-demonstrators, some of which assaulted Klan members. Carl McCall, the New York State Comptroller, says the people the Klan hates are those who make New York City great. Jeffrey Berry, a KKK leader, said that the Klan is for White pride, "nothing against Blacks or Jews or Hispanics." Assemblyman Scott Stringer of Manhattan said that the crowd of counter-demonstrators showed that the Klan was rejected.

October 25, 1999

Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan joined the Reform Party. Real estate mogul Donald Trump said that he

was also considering a run. As Buchanan's potential opponent for the party nomination, Trump, on KDFW-TV's "Good Day Dallas," said that Buchanan loves Hitler and does not like Jews, Blacks, or homosexuals. In an interview, former President George Bush said that he likes Buchanan. According to analyst Charlie Cook, however, Buchanan might be a threat to the former president's son, Texas governor and presidential candidate George W. Bush.

October 29, 1999
Crystal River, Florida

An elementary school pulled the book One Fat Summer off the shelf after a parent complained that it contains masturbation references and derogatory terms for Blacks, Jews, and Italians. The book by Robert Lipsyte is listed as appropriate reading material at the fourth-grade level in the Accelerated Reading Program at Rock Crusher Elementary School. The school's principal, Nancy Simon, said it was not appropriate for elementary-aged children. The book's appropriateness had been questioned in other cases around the country. In one case in Levittown, New York, it was returned to shelves after anti-censorship groups talked to school officials.

October 31, 1999

In response to remarks made by Donald Trump, presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," said that he did not want to apologize to Jews, but that he did not mean to offend them because many work for him. He added that he would listen to the Black community in his run for presidential office.

November 11, 1999

Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, a former conservative, accepted the endorsement of his campaign by left-wing radical Lenora Fulani, an activist with the New Alliance Party. Both are known for their aversion toward Israel and some negative remarks about Jews. Fulani is also infamous for her statement criticizing other Blacks for "pandering" to Jews.

November 30, 1999
Springfield, Illinois

White supremacist Matthew Hale was featured on "One Eyed Jack," a morning talk show on WMAY-AM. One-Eye, whose real name is Donald Jackson, had Hale on for an hour, wherein he rarely criticized Hale's

statements about the “inferiority” of Blacks, Jews, Hispanics, and Asians to Whites. Although Hale said he does not believe in a deity, he called himself a reverend and says he is the director of the Creativity Movement. In order to form a White nation, he said, “We will enact legislation, and they [others] will be legally deported.” If deportation is resisted, “they will be punished.”

December 4, 1999
Seattle, Washington

World Church of the Creator leader Matt Hale stunned local hate-watch groups by his appearance in Seattle. Hale was brought in by local White racists for a ceremony on Whidbey Island. The event commemorated the death of Robert Matthews, a neo-Nazi who died at his home in 1985 after a shootout with FBI agents.

HUMAN INTEREST

January 3, 1999

The Plain Dealer Publishing Company wrote a short history of Melvin Drimmer, a man inspired by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drimmer's belief in standing up for one's beliefs resulted in his arrest for taking part in a civil rights demonstration in Atlanta, Georgia in 1964. The preceding year, as a Jew, Drimmer became the first person to teach African-American history in that city. He died in 1992 in Cleveland, where he had served as the chairman of the state university's history department.

January 8, 1999**Houston, Texas**

Well-known members of Houston's African-American community made a call for peaceful demonstrations against the scheduled January 11 execution of convicted murderer Gary Graham, an African-American, and requested a retrial of his case. Among others, Mayor Pro Tem Don Boney, who is Jewish, and Grace Baptist Church pastor Chris Wright, who is Black, asked for nonviolent support for Graham's case. Boney said that supporters came out because "they believe that there is significant evidence of innocence which has not been fully and fairly considered before a trial court."

January 22, 1999**New York, New York**

In "The Last Days," a documentary by Steven Spielberg, the director tells the stories of individuals and families whose lives were changed by the Holocaust. One of the stories is of Paul Parks, an African-American who was among the U. S. liberation troops. He walked up to a German, who spat in his face. Now a doctor, he says that he killed the man so that he could never do that to anyone else.

January 22, 1999

Ahuva Gray is an Orthodox Jew residing in Jerusalem. Five years ago, however, she was Delores Gray, an ordained minister in a Protestant African-American church in California. Her childhood vacations with her grandmother introduced her to Christianity and prepared her to receive Shabbat by doing all work and preparing for church the night before. As she advanced in her career at Continental Airlines, Gray was ordained as minister in a non-denominational church. She was convinced by a Jewish couple to join a pilot tour to Israel and when she first saw Jerusalem, she felt that she had come home. She started her own travel agency and stopped practicing Christianity. Two years after her move to Jerusalem, Gray officially became Jewish. She says that her life-changing decision helped her find her way home.

February 4, 1999
Dallas, Texas

The Dallas Theater Center staged its version of Lorraine Hansberry's "Raisin in the Sun," a drama about the struggles of an African-American family for economic parity and first-class status. As a Black playwright and activist, Hansberry fought against the myths that are used to dominate others, such as Whites' superiority to Blacks, and Jews' pre-Christian savagery. Hansberry's brief marriage to Jewish intellectual Howard Nemiroff partially inspired her Greenwich Village morality play, "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window."

February 11, 1999
Oberlin, Ohio

In celebration of Black History Month, James McBride, author of The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, spoke at his alma mater, Oberlin College, and Oberlin Public Library. On February 12, the topic of his speech at the Library was "The Bond Between African-Americans and Jews." McBride, one of 11 siblings, is the son of a black minister and a Jewish woman who hid her identity from her children. The Color of Water gives an account of McBride's search for his own identity through a quest to learn about his mother's life. Also a graduate of Columbia University School of Journalism, he is a former staff writer for the Boston Globe, People Magazine and the Washington Post, and is a professional saxophonist and composer.

March 31, 1999
San Francisco, California

Thousands of Bay Area Jews broke unleavened bread at sundown to celebrate the beginning of Passover. The acceptance of these Jews, who are Jews of color, is important to Gary and Diane Tobin, leaders of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, who want the same for their sixth child, then 21-month-old Jonah. Jonah, who was adopted, is Black. He inspired a research project for the Institute, a non-profit organization "that looks at religious identity behavior, largely in the Jewish community," according to Gary Tobin. The project involved examining the Hispanic, Black, and Asian character of Jewish life, "which is not very often considered because most Jews in this country were of Central or Eastern European origin," Tobin said.

April 7, 1999
Washington, DC

A traveling photographic exhibit decorated the walls of the Smithsonian. Edward James Olmos, who developed the multimedia project documenting the diverse experience of the nation's Hispanics, said, "We're Black. We're White...We're Asian. We're Catholic. We're Jewish. We are everything that everyone is." The exhibit, "Americanos: Latino Life in the United States," opened at the Smithsonian's

National Museum of American History. The exhibit, which includes 120 photographs organized around themes such as family, community, and education, will become the largest traveling photo exhibit in the history of the museum. It is booked until the year 2003.

April 23, 1999
New York, New York

The Queens Jewish Community Council (QJCC) honored Jackie Ebron during its Third Annual Installation Breakfast at Shea Stadium's Diamond Club. Ebron, the director of crisis intervention services for the Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council), is the first African-American to receive the Chesed Award. Jane Blumenstein, family violence crisis specialist for Met Council, was also honored. According to Manny Behar, executive director of QJCC, the organization always gives the award to "someone who exemplifies *chesed*, which is Hebrew for acts of loving kindness." He added that on many occasions, he had seen the rare sensitivity and respect for people which Ebron brings to her work. Called "Mitzvah Mama" by her colleagues, Ebron began helping the elderly as a child and has assisted people in need for over 20 years.

Spring/Summer 1999

Jeffrey Melnick, author, gives an account of African-Americans, Jews, and popular song in [A Right to Sing the Blues](#). Melnick says that Black-Jewish relations have mostly been a way for American Jews to talk about their uncertain racial status. In his book, Melnick tells the stories of Jewish songwriters, composers, and performers who made "Black" music in the first few decades of the 20th century.

June 17, 1999
Greensboro, North Carolina

A multiethnic array of mourners filed into New Light Baptist Church to bid farewell to Ervin Brisbon. Brisbon, a passionate activist who, among other things, was a critic of county school redistricting and a youth advocate, died unexpectedly on June 13th at the age of 46. Community leaders, including a mayor and a police chief, along with people who only heard about Brisbon but never knew him, attended the service.

July 30, 1999
Houston, Texas

The NAACP held a rally at its Wheeler Street headquarters to protest the probationary sentence given a police officer convicted in the fatal shooting of his Black next-door neighbor. One of many protests over the trial outcome, the rally was joined by City Council members Carroll Robinson and Mayor Pro Tem Don Boney, who is Jewish, among others. The week before, an all-White jury gave former Officer Derrick Iozzio 10 years for the murder of Richard Davis. Evidence showed that Davis, who had a lengthy arrest record, and Iozzio, a 14-year police veteran, insulted and tormented each other persistently in the months leading up to the March 1997 shooting.

August 13, 1999

Bowie, MD

World middleweight boxing champion Keith Holmes has a staunch belief in the message of the Black Hebrews, a community of which lives in Dimona, Israel. According to the Chicago-based sect, their leader, Ben-Ammi Ben-Israel, led them out of urban bondage into Israel thirty years ago. Holmes' boxing record includes 22 knockouts. He lives in Maryland with his family, which he hopes to bring to Dimona so they can share in the peaceful lifestyle in what Ben-Ammi and his 2000 followers call "The Kingdom."

September 5, 1999

New York, New York

Suki John returned to Washington Irving High School to discuss with a dance class a performance its students had seen in May. They had viewed the American theater debut of "Sh'ma," John's 1990 dance drama "depicting unspeakable brutality" and the resulting quest for survival. John said that she was worried that the concept of the Jew as victim would seem foreign to a largely Black and Hispanic teen-age audience, or that the teens might be "saturated" with the Holocaust or view it as old news. However, John said that she found out that today's youth identify with the "underdog, the violated and the oppressed," and that they connect and respond to modern dance. "Sh'ma," the Hebrew imperative for "Hear" which alludes to a central prayer in the Jewish liturgy, teamed 15 professional dancers, actors and singers with a small crew of stagehands and dance students from the high school. The show was originally made in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, before the Bosnian War.

September 26, 1999

New York, New York

David Isay, a man of African descent, was raised a Christian on the Caribbean island of Montserrat. During his childhood, his family was particular about their actions, such as avoiding pork and eating challah bread on Friday nights. Isay moved to New York in 1923, when, as he says, Blacks were treated terribly. Five years after his migration to New York, he says, he found his right place in the Hebrew faith. He learned that he was from the lost house of Israel, and learned that the people of Montserrat were Hebrews who had been

taken as slaves from Ghana and carried to the island. Although Isay has experienced discrimination and doubt from some Semitic Jews, he remains committed to the Jewish faith.

September 30, 1999
New York, New York

An associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at Occidental College spoke of the need for greater unity between Blacks and Jews. Gabrielle Foreman, who characterizes herself as a “Nubian Jewess,” spoke from a unique perspective because she is both an African-American and an American Jew. She discussed the past and present relationship between Blacks and Jews and feels that they should unite on issues of the prison system and police brutality. The professor also believes that the many groups that constitute America must seek to understand one another so that coalitions can be made among them. According to her, those who care about this need for unity have to consider what is at stake and take the initiative to do what is necessary.

October 27, 1999
New York, New York

The third annual conference concerning the future of Black-Jewish relations in the United States was held at Yeshiva University and was organized by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. Jesse Jackson, the keynote speaker, emphasized that African-Americans and Jews must establish economic ties between each other. He spoke about an interethnic task force that will be formed to foster business relationships to benefit both New York communities. Jackson added that the relationship between the two groups is “solid, but we still have unfinished business.”

November 28, 1999

The managing editor of Ebony magazine published a memoir about his life as a young boy in Nazi Germany, Destined to Witness. The child of a German female nurse’s aide and the handsome but spoiled son of the Liberian consul, young Hans Jurgen Massaquoi was the only Black kid on his block, in his school, and, it seemed, the entire city of Hamburg where he grew up. Being different, however, was the least of his problems. According to the Nazi’s racial Nuremberg Laws, persons of African descent, like Jews, Gypsies, and other “undesirables” were classified as subhuman, to be enslaved, sterilized, or exterminated. Massaquoi met none of these fates, and managed to survive the war and emigrate to America and study journalism. Besides his work at Ebony, he is a husband and father.

December 2, 1999
New York, New York

After divisions between Blacks and Jews over Israel, the Black Power movement and affirmative action, some Black academics have dismissed the contributions of Jewish philanthropists as paternalistic and have said that it was not Jewish ancestry or religion, but secular radicalism that distinguished the white civil rights workers in the South. In recent years, many Jews have been deeply troubled that only a small amount of prominent Black leaders denounced anti-Semitism. By the late 1990's, many diverse Jewish historians concluded that the Black/ Jewish alliance was ready for burial. However, David Brion Davis of The New York Review said that a "clearer vision of how far both groups have come and how much they have overcome" would make us less skeptical of the past and more optimistic about the future.

Westport, Connecticut

Alan Helmreich and Paul Marcus are the editors of a collection of essays that examine the psychological motives, beliefs, and desires that cause conflict between African-Americans and American Jews. Blacks and Jews on the Couch: Psychoanalytic Reflections on Black-Jewish Conflict offers remedies for better Black-Jewish relations from a psychoanalytic perspective. Helmreich was a freelance journalist specializing in Black-Jewish relations, and Marcus is a psychoanalyst in private practice and a member of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis.

Princeton, New Jersey

Dr. Ephraim Isaac, director of the Institute of Semitic Studies, wrote an Afterword for Harold Brackman's Ministry of Lies: The Truth Behind the Nation of Islam's "The Secret Relations Between Blacks and Jews," which is featured on the Web site of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Isaac, an Ethiopian-born Jew, received his Ph.D. in 1969 from Harvard University where, besides doing advanced research in Semitic languages and literature, he was involved in founding the Afro-American Studies Department. In his Afterword, he refuted the claim that the Talmudic rabbis invented racism, and added that claims denying the tolerance of the Torah and Talmud will only play into the hands of racists who hate both Blacks and Jews.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE...

The richness of the African-American/Jewish interaction of the past few years points towards expansion in the variety and quality of associations between the two groups. Both have profited and grown through the numerous points of contact in religious functions, artistic expression, educational programs, and intervisitation both in this country and abroad. On the basis of what has been learned from these manifold activities, and from the observations of prominent leaders of the two communities, it would appear that major emphasis should be placed on the following areas:

- **Intervisitation:** Both theory and practice have demonstrated that face to face dialogue, in a variety of situations, is the most effective means of breaking down communication barriers and increasing mutual understanding and respect. Jews and African-Americans have followed this path; they should increase even further such evident things.
- **Economic cooperation:** An excellent start was made in 1999 in this realm. Jewish and Black business leaders assisting African-American enterprise and Jewish executives mentoring younger Black colleagues have made a contribution to correcting the massive injustices wrought by slavery and racism. These activities must be broadened and extended throughout the country.
- **Alliances with other communities:** African-Americans and Jews in partnership can achieve much that is worthwhile, but if a major improvement in the social, economic, and political climate of the country is to be achieved, all elements of our population must be involved. Blacks and Jews should reach out to other minority groups and to the decent, humane population of the majority White Christian community to join them in the struggle for the basic human rights to which our nation is committed. Only a coalition representing the wide range of cultures of the nation can persuade the American people to accept the far-reaching measures that are needed to bring our realities up to our ideals.

THE FOUNDATION FOR ETHNIC UNDERSTANDING
4TH ANNUAL REPORT ON BALCK/JEWISH
RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

EVALUATION FORM

Please assist us by completing the following

1. Please rate the overall quality of the Report:

_____ Excellent _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor

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	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
Introduction	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overview	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cooperation	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Human Interest	_____	_____	_____	_____
Shared Experiences	_____	_____	_____	_____
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6. Comments and suggestions:

Please return the completed form by mail or fax: The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
One East 93rd Street, Suite 1C, NY, NY 10128 Fax: 917-492-2560

2000 – THE 5TH ANNUAL REPORT ON BLACK/JEWISH RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Foundation will release *its 5th Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States* in January 2001. This report will chronicle events from January 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000. This will follow the enormously well received four previous reports. What is most striking about these Reports is that the facts indicate that there is a movement toward alliance and common cause. African-American and Jewish communities nationwide have engaged in programs to explore and rediscover shared values. Dialogues have been initiated at every level, including grassroots, students, clerical and organizational. Symposia, task forces, joint prayer services, study groups and conferences filled last year's calendar almost daily.

Organizations involved in Black/Jewish Relations, should contact The Foundation with information regarding their activities for inclusion in the 2000 5th Annual Report by December 1, 2000.

Approximately 5,000 copies of the 4th Annual Report will be mailed out across the country to African-American and Jewish leaders, organizations, elected officials, community groups, schools, churches and synagogues.

Materials should be sent to The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding at:

One East 93rd Street, Suite 1C

New York, New York 10128

Fax: 917-492-2560

For additional information please call 917-492-2538