

Transformation

Vol. 15 Issue 3
Summer 2000

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Watchcare
Network Log

1999 Bias Violence in Arkansas

Judy Matsuoka
& Vedisia Green

In the mid-1980s, the Women's Project became concerned by the presence of extremist groups in Arkansas, particularly the KKK, the Posse Comitatus, and the Covenant, Sword and the Arm of the Lord. We were impressed with the anti-Klan work of the Center for Democratic Renewal in Atlanta, and we affiliated with them to begin sharing information and to receive training. But as we began to work, we realized that the majority of people, though threatened by the extremist right, do not feel its impact as much as they do the ordinary and daily vicious acts of racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, anti-Semitism, and ageism. So in 1988, we began the Women's Watchcare Network as a vehicle for community organizing and education that would lead to raised consciousness and policy change.

The Women's Watchcare Network is largely a project to document incidents of bias violence committed by individuals and organized hate groups, and to work with people in their communities to develop responses to intolerance and bias crimes. We focus on violence against women, people of color, religious minorities (Jews, Catholics, Mus-

lims, Pagans, etc.), lesbians and gay men, people with disabilities, and aging persons. Our work to elevate violence against women to the same status as other hate crimes initially set us apart from other national and statewide organizations committed to eradicating bias crimes. Our major goals continue to be:

- To create, through community directed actions that challenge such violence, a climate in which bias violence is unacceptable
- To work with women and men to develop their understanding of how bias violence affects all of us;
- To build a community of diverse people to do social justice work with the hope of transforming Arkansas into a state free of violence and discrimination;
- To monitor the activities of white supremacist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the activities of extremist groups, and individual acts of racist, religious, sexist, homophobic, and ableist violence.

We continue to focus on hate crimes both as an indicator of the climate of intolerance which says that some

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people are inferior to others, and for their powerful impact on a community. Hate crimes begin in simple acts of intolerance. Intolerance helps create a climate in which people engage in hate violence. Factors which help fuel intolerance include hate-filled talk on radio and in political advertisements, racial and sexual stereotypes in the media, poor economic conditions, the use of racialized code words such as "welfare mothers" and "inner city crime," and people's individual experiences with individual members of minority groups. Once a climate of intolerance is created, a single incident can trigger a single hate crime or a wave of hate crimes.

Hate crimes not only victimize the individual who is the immediate target, but they also victimize every member of the group that the individual represents. A single hate crime has the power to send fear across a community. A swastika painted on a synagogue is not merely an act of vandalism; it is a message of religious intolerance to everyone in eye-shot and a symbol which invokes memories of the Holocaust. A burnt cross on the lawn of an African American family is not just harassment, but a racial message to everyone, black or white. It is an act that invokes memories of lynching, hooded Klansmen and Jim Crow. A seemingly random rape of a woman is not just a sexual assault, it is a message to women throughout the community that they are not safe, that there is no "proper" kind of woman whose behavior exempts her, that there is no fully protected woman. Since 1988, the Network has continuously monitored the local and statewide newspapers about the activities of hate

groups, the accounts of bias crimes committed by individuals, propaganda distributed by hate groups, and other verifiable information to track the climate of intolerance in Arkansas. Supportive members of the Arkansas community send us articles from local newspapers reporting these activities and crimes. We occasionally use individual witnesses particularly in cases of homophobic and anti-Semitic violence which are rarely reported in the press.

The information that we gain is used in several ways. The major piece at the center of this project is an annotated log, published annually since 1989, that reports all the acts of bias violence we can verify and, in the case of women, just the murders because we do not have the capacity for documenting all the acts of rape, battering, incest, etc. (It is important to remember that not all sexist, racist, anti-religious, or anti-gay violence is reported to the police, media or the Women's Project so the log is more accurately a sampling of the violence that occurs in the state.) We use this log to develop the awareness and conscience of our community and to encourage officials to make policy change. This information is also available for research and is shared with other anti-violence projects but, more importantly, it puts a human face on the victim. Even if we never are successful in bringing about policy changes or an end to this horrific violence, we can stand witness to say that this violence happened.

The information about bias violence is also used in other ways: to identify communities where actions against or responses to intolerance or bias violence are needed and to plan proactive community events. Supporters of Watchcare have helped us to organize local responses to violence or hate group ac-

tivity in their community. Some of these responses have been letter writing or telephone campaigns; others have been silent vigils at Klan rallies, meetings with police, demonstrations and teach-ins.

And now in 2000, twelve years after its founding, the Women's Watchcare Network is ready to launch a major media campaign as part of its new three-year campaign to establish a statewide network of anti-violence coalitions. It is our goal through this new community organizing to establish local groups in each of the five regions of Arkansas to help document and respond to hate crimes; work with law enforcement to recognize and appropriately respond to hate crime victims; and to work proactively against the intertwined oppressions of racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, ageism and religious intolerance from which the following violent acts arose.

2000 Log of Bias Violence

Murdered Women

In 1999, there was a decrease in violent crimes in Arkansas consistent with the decline in violent crimes across the nation. But as in previous years, women in Arkansas who died were most at risk from people they knew. Of the 30 murders recorded this year, 53% were committed by a boyfriend, husband or other family member. Of these domestic homicides, 63% were committed by a husband or ex-husband and 31% were committed by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. The women most at-risk for domestic homicide were in the 30-39 year age range (63% of all domestic homicides vs. 43% of all homicides); the overall age range was 18-72.

Consistent with previous data and with

national statistics, the most frequent cause of death for murdered women was a wound from a gun (63%), typically a handgun. Women killed in domestic homicides were more likely to die from a gunshot wound than other women (69% vs. 57%). Other known causes of death included blunt force, strangulation, burning, slashing and being run over or pushed from a vehicle.

The domestic homicides were more likely to include multiple victims: in 19% of the cases, the perpetrator killed the woman's child, committed the murder in view of the child, or the child found the woman's body. A boyfriend or husband was killed in 19% of the cases. And 38% of the women died in murder-suicide attempts; in only 50% of the cases was the perpetrator successful in killing himself.

We know that only a small number of the incidents of domestic violence result in fatalities. According to domestic violence service providers, domestic violence is committed, on average, once every 15 seconds in America and that women are nine times more likely to be assaulted in their homes than on the street.

Despite the widespread nature of domestic violence, we do not usually see incidents reported in the media unless the crime resulted in a fatality, was exceptionally brutal or involved a prominent figure.

Curbing the incidents of domestic violence would curtail a long list of crimes including the homicides of men. In 1999, domestic violence claimed the lives of several Arkansas men including some killed by the woman he was abusing or by her relatives, some killed by a woman who was an abuser, and at least one killed by his same-sex partner.

Domestic violence includes not only battery and homicide, but also rape. Of the rapes reported to the Arkansas Center for Crime Statistics in 1999, there were numerous cases of women raped by their intimate partners. Finally, curbing domestic violence today may prevent domestic violence tomorrow since children who witness their mothers being battered are more likely to become batterers or to tolerate battering in adulthood.

This year, as in the past, we have recorded the murders of women who did not die in domestic homicides. We included those women whom we believe were murdered because they were women and therefore seen as more vulnerable, less likely to resist, less powerful, and more expendable.

And this year, as in the past, we do not have the space or resources to report the incidences of rape and sexual assault unless they resulted in the death of the victim. But again this year, we must make the observation that it is the "unusual" rapes such as the rape of Boy Scouts by a Scoutmaster that makes the front pages, not the everyday and therefore seemingly inconsequential rapes of girls or women at home, school, work or recreation. It is apparent that women are not equally valued when these assaults are seen as "ordinary."

Racist Violence

The big story for 1999 was the federal trial of Chevie Kehoe and Danny Lee, white supremacists charged in the 1996 murders of William and Nancy Mueller and her 8-year-old daughter, Sarah Powell. During the trial, it was revealed that the murders were committed to obtain guns and money to help finance the establishment of the Aryan People's

Republic, an exclusively white enclave in the Pacific Northwest. Also, according to testimony, Kehoe and his brother were raised as white supremacists and were followers of the Christian Identity movement in which women are seen as subservient, Jews are portrayed as the seed of Satan, and people of color are considered to be sub-human "mud" people—showing the intertwining of sexist, racist and anti-Semitic beliefs to uphold white supremacy. During 1999, the Klan and a neo-Nazi group were active in Arkansas distributing literature and holding a rally.

There are only four incidents of racist violence recorded in the log but each one illuminates a different aspect of hate violence. On September 4th, a predominantly black church was burned and thus was added to the list of over 1000 churches, synagogues and

(continued on page 4)



Yes, I would like to join the Women's Project.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone/day _____

Phone/evening _____

E-mail _____

\$15 \$25* \$35 \$50 \$100

**regular amount*

I'd like to pay by check mastercard

Visa Mastercard _____

Account No. _____

Exp. date _____

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Women's Project

2224 Main Street

Little Rock, AR 72206

temples burned in the last six years across the country. According to the National Coalition of Burned Churches, the houses of worship more likely to be burned are those whose congregations are African American, non-Christian, racially mixed, include gay or lesbian worshippers, or are led by women ministers.

On October 28th, a building holding a planned business owned by an African American couple was burned. The business was located in all-white community. Nation-wide, hate crimes often occur when people feel an economic threat: perceived loss of business or jobs to people of color, immigrants or international corporations; the perceived loss of a standard of living compared to people of color (“Why is that black woman driving a Cadillac when I’ve worked hard all my life?”), or the perceived loss of property value because of the presence of people of color.

On November 10th, a fight in which a group of white students attacked a black student escalated into vandalism (racial slurs, rebel flags, profanity), several fights, and community fears of black gangs. This illustrates how a single incident can trigger a wave of bias violence when there is an underlying climate of intolerance in the community.

On November 11th, the body of an African American man was found hanging from a tree. The man was also reputedly gay, sparking questions of whether the death was a racially motivated murder or was related to his sexual orientation. The incident points out the multiple oppressions that any one person can experience and the difficulty in determining whether a hate crime was motivated by a single characteristic of

the victim. For instance, it is difficult to classify a hate crime in which a short-haired Latina woman is beaten and raped by an attacker who uses anti-woman, anti-Mexican and anti-lesbian epithets. These instances also points out the holes in the federal hate crimes statutes. The federal law, as written, can be used to help prosecutors in a case in which the crime was motivated by racial, ethnic, or religious hatred. The federal law, however, does not cover crimes that may be motivated by bias against the victim’s gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.

Homophobic Violence

As is usual, there was little media coverage of crimes that may arise from homophobia, often because the victims do not report the incidents to the police for fear of retribution. In 1999, the Women’s Project received reports of harassment and violence including complaints by a transgendered woman of being harassed on her job, another transgendered woman being harassed by Sheriff’s deputies, a transgendered lesbian being accosted at a bus stop, the murder of a man for allegedly “making a pass” at another man, a lesbian being run off the road in her car, a lesbian who found her car vandalized, and several complaints of youth being harassed in high schools for being or “acting” gay or lesbian. We do not report the details of the homophobic violence in our log without permission of the victims due to their fear of further violence or discrimination against themselves or families.

In many cases, the basis for the harassment is that the individual crossed the boundaries of gender norms. A short-haired woman who was stalked and

called “faggot” was harassed not because she is known to be a lesbian by her attackers, but because she doesn’t conform to the social rules for feminine dress and appearance. A conventionally feminine transgendered woman who was harassed by co-workers’ rumors, snide comments and ostracism was not targeted for this treatment because her transsexuality was known to her attackers but because she was perceived to be too tall, too big boned, and too flat-chested to be a “real” woman. A gay youth was harassed by classmates and questioned by school administrators again not because his sexual orientation was known, but he was not perceived to “act like a man.” Our belief that sexism underlies homophobic discrimination and violence is supported by the number of complaints we hear from heterosexuals who are exposed to homophobic harassment because they do not conform in behavior or appearance to the social expectations for their gender.

Religious Intolerance

In Arkansas, the most commonly reported incidents target pagans, Catholics and Jews. In 1999, along with several reported distributions of religious tracts denouncing Roman Catholicism as a false religion and Judaism as part of a global Zionist movement to impose a new world order, a store catering to pagans was closed after the building’s owner received death threats targeting his family if he did not evict the pagan business. Additionally, a Jewish woman, who is a law student, received a swastika painted onto a paper placed in her student mailbox.

Violence Against People with Disabilities and Aging Persons

This category was added to the log several years ago out of an awareness that ableism is based on the same beliefs and misconceptions as is sexism—that people with disabilities and old people are like women in that they are seen as different, less able, less capable, less competent and more in need of control by others. The U.S. Department of Justice reports that violence against women and violence against people with disabilities are the most under-reported crimes. And they are overlapping crimes since the majority of people with disabilities are women as are the majority of old people.

This year's log includes a sampling of the types of crimes we see each year: old persons being marked as easy targets for rape and robbery, and people with disabilities of all ages being physically and sexually abused by their caregivers at home or in care facilities.

Final Words

Because of the pervasiveness of violence and the threat it poses to the health, safety and stability of our communities, the Women's Project is strengthening its commitment to anti-violence work. Violence against women has always been woven through our work and as we move forward with our plans for statewide Women's Watchcare Network organizing, it will be a unifying thread.

We are excited to announce that the Women's Project is launching a three-year "Hate-Free Arkansas" campaign to organize a statewide network of anti-violence activists and groups. This year,

in 2000, we will begin working in each of the five regions of the state to organize community groups of people interested in struggling together for a world free of violence and discrimination. To launch this campaign in each region, we have a traveling exhibit, "Witness to Hatred," of nearly 300 powerful banners commemorating those who have been hurt or killed by biased violence. This powerful exhibit was prepared for us by Ya/Ya, Inc. an internationally renowned group of teen artists, 20 young African American men, from New Orleans. We feel this collaboration is particularly fitting in the light of the fact that nationwide, youth are more likely to be the victims and perpetrators of hate violence.

As we move forward in the 21st century, we invite others to join us in working against violence of all forms: domestic violence and other violence against women and girls, hate crimes, youth violence, violence against people with disabilities, prison violence, the death penalty and other manifestations of violence. We do this work with the knowledge that violence against anyone diminishes each and every one of us. ■

Transformation

Published four times a year
by the Women's Project,
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Arkansas, 72206.
Phone: 501-372-5113

Letters to the editor are welcome.

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The 1999 Women's Watchcare Network Log

*A documentation of sexist, racist,
homophobic and religious violence, and
the activities of organized hate groups
in Arkansas.*

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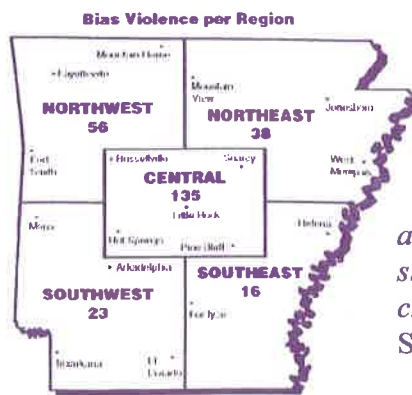
Bias Violence in Arkansas

Women's Watchcare Network Log Statistics: 1994-1999

Benton, June 29, 1995

A woman was shot to death by her husband with a 12-gauge shotgun. The man then took his own life with the same weapon. The couple's five children were at home during the shooting. Police officers had responded to a domestic disturbance call from the wife two nights before her death. The husband was arrested at that time and released after posting bond.

Source: Arkansas Democrat Gazette



North Little Rock, June 18, 1997

A nine year-old boy was shot in the neck and foot while he and three friends were riding their bicycles in a field. The owner of the property drove up in a pickup with the lights off. The owner, a white male, then yelled, "I'm going to kill all you niggers." before firing a shotgun at the African-American children, wounding the boy.

Source: Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Fayetteville, December 2, 1996

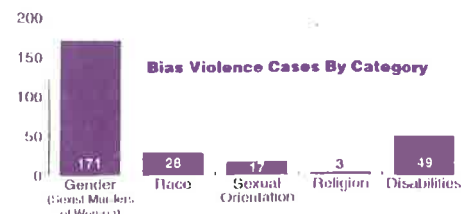
While waiting to eat lunch off campus, a 10th-grader at Fayetteville High School was attacked by two car loads of young men. Witnesses report that, without provocation, the young men separated the victim, who is gay, from his friends, and beat and kicked him, calling him homophobic names and yelling "this is what you deserve."

Source: North Arkansas Times, Ozark Gazette, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, victim's statement

Mountain Home, February 22, 1998

Police were called to Good Samaritan Nursing Home because two elderly residents, ages 92 and 99, were assaulted by a nursing home worker. The two victims suffered cuts and bruises. One was treated and released from a local hospital after being struck repeatedly on the head with her own comb.

Source: Arkansas Democrat Gazette



Sexist Murders of Women

This log may contain cases of rape, incest, abduction, battering or terroristic threatening of women that resulted in the death of a woman. We do not document murders of women where robbery or drugs were the precipitating factors in the death of the victim.

January 8, Jacksonville

A private residence in northern Pulaski County was the crime scene for victim **Julie Irmer**, a 27-year-old wife and mother of two. Irmer was found dead in her bathroom as a result of "strangulation wounds and blunt force trauma of the head," reported Dr. Frank Peretti, an assistant state medical examiner.

Police were called to the residence after Lance Branscum assaulted Irmer's husband Mark with a knife as he returned home from work early Thursday morning. Reports indicate that Branscum lived in a travel trailer next door to the Irmer residence. Branscum was captured in Shawnee, Oklahoma after a news story aired about the crime incident.

Branscum was tried later the same year and convicted of capital murder in the death of Julie Irmer. "Irmer's death was caused by consensual rough sex," was the story Branscum delivered to investigators. During the trial, the prosecution showed evidence of the bruises that were suffered by the victim, which contradicted his consent defense. According to the state Crime Laboratory, no evidence of rape was produced but Branscum's DNA matched that of saliva that was found on Irmer's breast.

Branscum was sentenced in December 1999 to life in prison without parole.

ADG: 1/8, 1/13, 12/1, 12/2

January 8, Fort Smith

Leena Nelson, 34, was killed when her boyfriend, Jimmy Strickland, pushed her from a moving truck. The two were reportedly arguing about her dancing with another man at a bar when Strickland claimed that Nelson jumped from the vehicle traveling about 30 mph. However, Strickland's mother and brother both gave statements that Strickland told them he pushed Nelson from the truck, according to detective Sgt. Mark Hallum. They later recanted their statements during testimony at the trial.

Jimmy Strickland was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

ADG: 2/16/00

January 11, Brookland

A 6-year-old found the body of his mother, **Gloria Jean DeBoard**, 37, shot twice in the head at her residence shared by boyfriend, Michael Priller, 23. The couple was divorced but DeBoard moved back into the home where Priller shot and killed her.

Priller was spotted in Texas and was advised by a friend to return home and surrender. He later fled to Mexico and was captured in Laredo, Texas by U.S. Customs Service officials after attempting to re-enter the country. He was arrested and returned to Jonesboro to face first-degree murder charges.

Priller plead guilty and received a 25-year prison sentence.

ADG: 1/11, 1/16, 2/5, 6/24

January 14, College Station

Donnell Dinwiddie attempted to take his life after he shot and killed his ex-wife, **Renea McDonald**, 40, at his home in College Station. In addition to the three gunshot wounds to the head, reports indicate that the victim's body was slashed twice with a straight razor.

The couple divorced in 1996 just after Dinwiddie was accused of and arrested for the kidnapping and raping of his wife. According to Pulaski County courthouse records, McDonald had also filed two protective orders against her husband while they were married.

Dinwiddie told authorities that after he served jail time for the rape and kidnapping charges, his ex-wife "began coming around smoking crack and having sex with him." A family member contacted the police after hearing the couple arguing and shots fired. They were found lying face down in the bedroom next to a .22-caliber revolver.

Dinwiddie was taken to University Hospital where he was treated for a self-inflicted head wound and released into police custody.

ADG: 1/16

January 30, Camden

Jackie Bunn, 30, was set on fire and burned to death by her ex-boyfriend, Freddie Joe Smith. Smith originally told police that Bunn set herself afire due to their break-up.

He told authorities that Bunn poured gasoline onto a blanket and wrapped herself in it before igniting the blanket. Both the Camden Police and Fire departments were investigating the incident along with the Arkansas State Police. They concluded that Smith intentionally set his ex-girlfriend on fire.

Smith is charged with capital murder.

ADG: 2/5

February 13, Benton

Larry Scroggins, 37, who prosecutors charged with manslaughter, was convicted of a lesser offense, negligent homicide, after killing his estranged wife, **Barbara Scroggins**, 33, by running over her with a tractor-trailer cab. Barbara Scroggins' six-year-old daughter and the Scroggins' two infant sons were in their mother's car parked in Larry Scroggins' driveway at the time of the assault.

Scroggins told investigators that his estranged wife "jumped on the running board of his rig to try and tell him something as he was driving away and that she slipped under the tractor and was crushed by the tires." However, reports indicate that Barbara Scroggins' 6-year-old daughter told investigators "the couple was arguing and that her mother climbed on the truck while it was stopped."

Scroggins was sentenced to a year in prison and will be tried at a later date on two counts of terroristic threatening and single counts of aggravated assault of a family member and domestic battery.

ADG: 2/17, 4/14, 6/8, 12/1, 12/4

February, El Dorado

Mary London, 40, was strangled to death. Bernard Talley was charged with first-degree murder for strangling London after a quarrel between the two. She was found dead in her home in February.

ADG: 3/20

March 20, Lead Hill

The body of **Bettine Reisky deDubnic**, 54, was found in her bedroom by a friend. She was shot two or three times and died of a gunshot wound to the head. There was no sign of forced entry to the house and robbery was not believed to be the motive.

There has not been an arrest in the case, but authorities are hoping something conclusive will emerge as evidence is being tested at the FBI crime laboratory in Washington.

ADG: 3/25, 3/27

March 25, Pine Bluff

Gloria Brunson, 39, and Frank Shaw were shot and killed by Brunson's estranged husband, Larry Darnell Brunson. The two were found shot to death outside of Shaw's home.

Gloria Brunson's mother reported that her daughter and

Shaw were "just friends."

Larry Brunson is being charged with first-degree murder.

ADG: 5/19

April 1, Pulaski County

Resa Turner, 39, was found dead in her home alongside her husband, John Turner, Jr. Investigators have determined that the incident was a murder-suicide because the house was secured from the inside and there was no evidence of a forced entry.

Mrs. Turner had failed to show up for work prompting authorities at John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital, her place of employment, to contact deputies. A sheriff's deputy checked the home but did not enter it. Hospital employees informed deputies the next day that Mrs. Turner failed to show up for work a second day. A relative was contacted by deputies and went to the home to unlock the door. Police had to cut a chain lock from the door in order to enter the home. There, police found the dead couple and a handgun that was used in the shootings.

Mr. Turner had been unemployed for the past year and the couple was married for a year and a half.

ADG: 4/7

April 15, West Memphis

Fishermen near the Interstate 55 overpass found the decomposed body of **Wendy Tucker**, 32. County Coroner Kent Hale said the victim had been dead for up to two weeks.

The Crittenden County sheriff's office has asked the Arkansas State Police to assist with the investigation.

ADG: 4/15

April 23, Fouke

Larry D. Bellew, 46, is charged with the shooting deaths of his wife, **Janie Bellew**, 44, and his son, **Miki Bellew**, 15.

After firing several shots at both victims, Bellew contacted authorities to report the crime. According to sources, the family was well known and established in the area for years.

At the last report, Bellew was being held in the Miller County jail in lieu of \$2 million bail.

ADG: 4/23, 4/24

April 28, Little Rock

Carson Prince, 19, was either pushed or fell from a pickup southbound on the I-430 bridge over the Arkansas River. Investigators located her abandoned vehicle along the northbound I-430 off-ramp leading to Arkansas 100.

Witnesses reported seeing Prince struggling with a white man driving the pickup just before Prince fell from the moving vehicle.

No suspect was arrested at the time of the report.

ADG: 5/4, 6/15, 9/17

May 1, Fayetteville

Paul Edward Mills was arrested on first-degree murder charges for the shooting death of a Fayetteville woman.

Police did not identify the victim and her body was sent to the state Crime Lab for further investigation.

ADG: 5/3

May 3, Fayetteville

"There are still some odd things that we'd like to have answers to," said Terry Jones, Washington County Prosecuting Attorney regarding the death of **Kimberly Liegge**, 33.

Liegge suffered two head wounds from the same .38-caliber bullet—one above her left eye and one behind her right ear. Paul E. Mills called 911 to report that Liegge had just shot herself in his apartment. Police arrested Mills but later released him after autopsy reports showed that Liegge's bullet wounds were consistent with suicide.

May 3, Adona

"**Angela Grady**, 30, was found in her bed face down with a gunshot wound in her head," reported Sheriff Ray Byrd. Robert Wayne Grady called authorities and reported that he "had just killed his wife." Grady was also charged with arson after setting his house on fire soon after the shooting.

Allegedly, Grady was trying to get his wife out of a religious cult to which the couple both belonged. Authorities were still investigating the Gradys' affiliation with a cult.

Grady is charged with capital murder in addition to the arson charge.

May 13, Rogers

Jennifer LeAnn Taylor, 20, who had been missing since May 2, was found dead in a car parked on a bluff in Adair County, Oklahoma. Taylor died as result of a gunshot wound.

Her body was recovered May 13. The Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation and Rogers police were continuing the investigation of the murder at the time of the report.

Northwest Arkansas Times: 5/21

May 21, West Helena

Tracy Fuller, 27, was found dead near a mobile home next to her crying two-year-old son. Her boyfriend, Kevin Kinsey, 22, was found seriously wounded in the street, but died later.

Captain Bill Williams suspected that the victims knew the assailant. He reported that the "victims and the suspect apparently had driven together in Kinsey's care to where he was later found lying in the street."

Police arrested two 18-year-olds in New Jersey, suspected in the murders. One of the suspects, Wilson McKinney, was later released and a 16-year-old West Helena boy was arrested and charged with capital murder.

Authorities had not determined a motive.

ADG: 5/24, 5/25, 6/12, 6/19

July 1, Malvern

James Haynes, 50, of Malvern shot and killed his niece, 18-year-old **Shamone Haynes** before failing in an attempt to kill himself. Shamone Haynes was pronounced dead at the scene; her uncle was transferred to University Hospital and placed in the intensive care unit.

Malvern authorities responded to a 911 call in which the caller explained, "that two individuals were passed out in the home." No motive has been determined, but statements taken from James Haynes indicate that the fatal episode was a murder-suicide attempt.

ADG: 7/2

July 4, Little Rock

Lisa Peterson, 33, was slain by her ex-husband, J.M. Peterson, just before he attempted to take his own life. J.M. Peterson was released from the hospital into police custody after being treated for a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest.

The Petersons' eight-year marriage ended in March, a month before J.M. Peterson remarried. During their marriage, Lisa Peterson filed for protective orders on two separate occasions. In January, she received a restraining order against her husband after a 1998 assault resulting in a burst eardrum. She indicated in her petition that J.M. would kill her and that he had grabbed and threatened her several times before.

According to Ms. Peterson's co-workers, two days before her death J.M. Peterson kidnapped his ex-wife at gunpoint and held her for two hours. She did not report it to the police. Neighbors contacted police on July 4 after seeing J.M. Peterson "dragging his ex-wife's limp body into her central Little Rock home after hearing several shots."

Members of the SWAT team surrounded the home and entered it two hours later, after which four more shots were fired. The Petersons' bodies were found lying on the bedroom floor.

ADG: 7/5, 7/6, 7/7, 7/14, 7/15

July 26, Magnolia

The body of 36-year-old **Vickie Anna Lindsay** was discovered in her home after deputies responded to a 911 call leading them to the residence.

Cause of death was undetermined.

ADG: 7/29

August 31, Camden

Connie Smith, 38, was found face down on a bed at her Camden residence. She was shot once in the head and held a pistol in her right hand.

Her death was no longer considered a suicide after evidence at the scene proved inconsistent with that of a suicide attempt. Charles Johnson was arrested in the shooting death. He told authorities that he went to Smith's house to "go for a ride with Smith."

ADG: 9/16

October 4, Bentonville

Shelly Hartman, 27, was one of the victims in a murder-suicide perpetrated by her ex-husband, Merle Hartman, 68. Hartman called 911 to report to authorities that he had just killed his former wife and he was preparing to kill himself. Once the investigators entered the home, they found Merle Hartman dead in a recliner and discovered Shelly Hartman's body in a bedroom upstairs. The two shared a townhouse, but were living in separate bedrooms.

A property manager for Janegate Townhomes claimed that Shelly Hartman was the daughter of Merle Hartman who was once married to Shelly's mother. Reports suggested that Merle Hartman was once married to his own daughter, Shelly Hartman.

Mr. Hartman told the dispatcher that he suspected that Shelly Hartman was seeing another man. "Investigators believe that Hartman shot his former wife in the head while she slept," reported Police Chief James Allen.

ADG: 10/5

October 15, South Side

Ronald C. Haynes set his mobile home on fire after placing a 911 call to authorities. Investigators recovered the bodies of Haynes and his wife, **Dianne Marilyn**

Haynes, 52, after firefighters worked an hour to put out the blaze.

Detective Lt. Danny Ramsey reported that the 911 tape revealed a woman "pleading with a man not to start a fire and yelling 'Don't.' The man told dispatchers he poured gasoline on the home."

Ramsey also reported that officers had been called to the home in the past due to domestic disturbances.

ADG: 10/19

October 30, Pea Ridge

JoAnne Kneece, 38, and her ex-husband, James Floyd Suggs, with whom she was living, were killed and their bodies dumped in a remote area of Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. Kneece's estranged husband, Etheridge Kneece was arrested in South Carolina and charged with two counts of capital murder. According to Benton County authorities, Kneece is accused of paying a relative and her boyfriend to travel to Arkansas and kill JoAnne Kneece in order to prevent her from testifying against him in a child sexual abuse hearing in South Carolina.

South Carolina FBI agents received an anonymous tip that "an area man was trying to hire someone to kill his estranged wife," according to court records. Although FBI agents claimed that they attempted to locate Kneece, she was never contacted.

Kneece was shot, Suggs, her ex-husband, was stabbed, and their bodies were discovered on a hillside on November 2.

ADG: 11/2, 11/3, 11/4, 11/6, 11/9, 12/2, 12/11

November 2, Jacksonville

An unidentified Jacksonville woman was found dead at an area residence. Police were called to 7 Melba Drive where the body was found. No cause of death has been determined.

ADG: 11/2

November 5, Little Rock

Lisa Richards, 37, was found dead in her bedroom by her estranged husband, John Richards. Richards went to her home and found "his wife face down and unresponsive."

There were no immediate signs of foul play at the time of her death.

ADG: 11/6

December 16, Pine Bluff

Annette Shaw, 39, of Pine Bluff was shot and killed by a parolee, Darrell Powell, 28. Shaw's body was found by police officers who were responding to a hit-and-run accident. She had a gunshot wound in her head and died two days later.

Powell was taken to the Jefferson County jail and charged with first-degree murder.

ADG: 12/23,1/1

December 20, Fox

Gloria Bonds, 54, and her niece, **Rachel Bonds**, 16, died as a result of shotgun wounds at Gloria Bonds' home in Stone County.

The suspect, Troy Ackerman, fled the state in Gloria Bonds' truck. He was spotted and later chased by Indiana authorities who exchanged gunshots with Ackerman. Officers recovered Ackerman's body after he shot himself while under pursuit by Indiana police. Before fleeing local authorities, Ackerman assaulted an elderly Winamac, Indiana couple at their home and shot their 42-year-old daughter.

Reports indicate that Ackerman drove Rachel Bonds, her stepfather, and his brother, Jerry Ackerman, to Gloria Bonds' home the morning of the shooting. Ackerman's girlfriend, Janice Story, described a physical assault on her that her boyfriend perpetrated before the shootings occurred.

ADG: 12/20, 12/21, 12/22

December 22, North Little Rock

Boyfriend, Carlton Rendell Miller, threw **Carolyn Watson** (age unknown) into a headboard. North Little Rock police found Watson dead lying on the bed.

"Miller admitted that the two got into an altercation and the victim was thrown into the headboard," reported Sgt. Jim Scott.

Miller was taken to Pulaski County jail and charged with first-degree murder.

ADG: 12/24

December 22, Benton

Desiree McCormick Moody, 31, appeared to have committed suicide, but an investigation is underway. Ronnie E. Moody, Jr. found his wife "lying behind the door of the southwest bedroom with a black electrical cord around her neck, and the cord was pulled over the top of the door with the door shut on the cord." Moody's former wife, Carol Suzanne Moody, died in a very similar fashion just three years earlier.

Police noted some very unusual circumstances at the scene such as bloodstains on the floor and a bloody steak knife in the living room.

Police also investigated the similarities in the deaths of

Moody's wives. His description of the discovery of Desiree Moody's body was much like that of the description given to officers in the 1996 strangulation of Carol Moody. According to reports, both wives reportedly had suicidal tendencies prior to their deaths.

Two days before Desiree Moody's death, she received a temporary order of protection against her husband who her mother said, "was being very, very abusive." She suffered stab wounds on two different occasions, but Ronnie Moody claimed that the wounds were self-inflicted and the result of the intoxication of the victim.

Mrs. Moody's body was sent to the state Crime Laboratory where it was determined that she died of self-strangulation.

ADG: 12/29,1/26

December 26, White Hall

Joann Graves Manning, 42, was shot and killed outside the home of Tommy Manning. He was arrested in connection with the shooting.

Manning "barricaded himself inside his home and refused to come out for about eight hours," said Sgt. Eugene Butler of the Jefferson County sheriff's office.

Reports did not indicate any relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

ADG: 12/26

Hate Group Activity

April 17, Newport

Twenty members of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan held a rally.

Intelligence Report, Summer 1999, Issue 95

September 20, Keiser

Members of the International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan distributed literature.

Intelligence Report, Fall 1999, Issue 96

October 2, Russellville

Neo-Nazi Alliance literature was inserted into newspaper boxes.

www.splcenter.org (Southern Poverty Law Center)

Racist Violence

September 4, West Memphis

Pilgrim's Rest Missionary Baptist Church, a predominantly black church, was a subject of arson on September 1. The damage caused by the fire exceeded \$10,000.

Fire Chief Mac Holmes said the fire began in a large recycling bin at the back of the church just before 3:00 a.m. The blaze destroyed a kitchen and dining area and lightly damaged the sanctuary and roof. Traces of flammable materials were discovered in the bin by investigators.

ADG: 9/4

October 28, Johnstown

Six miles southeast of Newport, a building owned by Charles and Sylvialene Pruitt was burned in a fire that was suspected to be a hate crime. The couple planned to open a nightclub that was not welcomed by residents of the community. The day after the Pruitts were denied a liquor license for their club, it was burned. Hanging on a tree near the building was a sign that read, "No Nigers."

Residents in the all white community circulated a petition to stop the opening of the club. Community members claimed that the Pruitts' race had nothing to do with the petition.

"There's no question this is the work of an arsonist," stated Lt. Charles Vaughn of the Jackson County sheriff's office.

ADG: 10/28

November 10, Fordyce

Fordyce High School was the scene of a fight where "three white 10th graders were attacking an older black boy. And one of the white boys carried a metal pipe." According to a tipster, "a group of white boys was looking to start a fight with a different black student."

Authorities showed up on the campus to discover the fight in progress. They returned to the school the same night to find the campus vandalized and covered with racial slurs, graffiti drawings of rebel flags and profanity. This event sparked rumors of continued violence for some concerned students and parents. Several fights that were thought to be unrelated broke out the same week fueling more rumors of racial violence.

Police believed that the episode was the result of minor disagreements that "just escalated beyond proportion." Most students seemed to possess the same attitude as the police,

but parents and community members felt differently about the incident. One woman reported that her rental property had been damaged by what she believed to be a "black gang."

Several students were suspended and two were expelled following the school incident.

ADG: 11/10

November 11, Hope

Derrick Wayne Washington, 37, was found dead hanging from a tree in Hope. A couple jogging in a residential neighborhood discovered the body.

Captain James Singleton of the Hope Police Department suggested that although Washington was black, there was no evidence of a hate crime.

ADG: 10/11

Religious Intolerance

May 1, Brookland

Terry Riley, an ordained priest of witchcraft, opened Dagda's Cauldron Occult Shop in northeast Arkansas under protest by local citizens.

Riley and 30 other pagans participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of his shop while protesters stood across the street holding signs, chanting Christian hymns and praying. One protester told reporters, "I feel we don't need this. We want the man out of town. We've got to watch out for our young'uns."

Local citizens circulated petitions to rid the town of the occult store and to pressure the mayor to resign for failing to stop the opening of the store. One area businessman told reporters that over 200 signatures were contained within the petitions.

Riley rented the building from a local electrician, Kirby Smith, who evicted Riley after the store's grand opening as a result of death threats made to Smith's family. The mayor stated, "Mr. Riley may operate a business in the city of Brookland so long as he complies with the city ordinances and state and federal laws. We see no adequate legal basis to interfere with his operation at this point." Riley stated, "They're trying to make it a religious issue. If people were more tolerant of other peoples' faith, I don't think this would have happened."

Riley attempted to open an occult shop in Jonesboro in 1993 when his landlord evicted him. Local ministers urged business owners not to rent to him.

ADG: 5/2, 5/11

June 24, Little Rock

Law student, Jenny Hirschowitz, 45, received in her student mailbox a folded sheet of notebook paper with a large swastika painted in black. "To a Jewish person, this message conveys one of death," according to Hirschowitz. The faculty passed a resolution condemning the incident. Hirschowitz was displeased by Law School Dean Rodney Smith's reaction.

ADG: 6/24

Violence Against People with Disabilities

May 1, Jonesboro

Paul DeFelicibus, 38, was arrested and charged with felony sexual abuse of an 18-year-old male patient at a Jonesboro center for mentally and physically handicapped people.

The victim told administrators that DeFelicibus fondled and raped him on May 1 during an outing. DeFelicibus denied all of the allegations. He admitted to the outing, but without foul play. The Department of Human Services said that outings are not unusual if the workers are approved and the parents of the patients agree. The patients must return to the center for the night.

DeFelicibus was fired from his job of five years as a life skills trainer for disabled patients. He had no record prior to the incident.

ADG: 6/18

May 7, Little Rock

A stranger told a blind elder, Harry Cole, that his yard was cut and he owed \$50 to the stranger. Cole, 89, did not believe his yard was cut but paid the man anyway.

The man returned a few days later demanding more money. "Cole retreated into his home, but the man followed and began to struggle with Cole, who fell and broke his left forearm and hurt his knee," police reported.

ADG: 5/7

Violence Against the Elderly

January 29, Little Rock

Ordained Baptist minister, Nebraska Droughter, 78, was beaten in an attempted robbery at his home. Droughter's neighbor, Cheri Gardner, 20, was found guilty to aiding the robbery.

Gardner knocked on Droughter's door offering him a message. When he refused the offer, two men rushed in with pellet guns demanding his money. They beat Droughter with the guns. Droughter was able to get a handgun and fired a shot that wounded one of his attackers in the buttocks. The attackers fled and were apprehended while receiving treatment for the wound at a local hospital.

Gardner received ten years in prison with a minimum of seven years before parole. Charles Bernard West, 20, was sentenced to 21 years in prison. Wallace Brent, 23, was awaiting a mental evaluation before sentencing.

ADG: 1/29

April 14, Pocahontas

Joy Carlew, 62, was found innocent of manslaughter after scuffling with her father, causing him to fall and break his hip. Cecil Casebier, 92, died as a result of pulmonary embolism after having surgery on his hip.

A forensic pathologist reported that Mr. Casebier's fall had nothing to do with his death. "He would have died whether or not he was in the hospital." However, paramedics and firemen observed an irate Carlew when they arrived at Carlew's home. They claimed that Carlew "smelled of alcohol and at times used profanity."

Carlew allegedly pushed her father in self-defense after he hit her and broke her glasses. The two were arguing over trash containers.

ADG: 10/11, 10/12, 10/13

April 30, Hot Springs

George Armstrong Boughton, 84, died of "blunt object trauma," determined by his autopsy. His son, William A. Boughton, 52, was arrested and charged with capital-murder in the death of his father.

Boughton told the maintenance supervisor at Cedar Crest Condominiums, where the father and son shared residence, that he found his father "on the floor with his head bashed in and a rope around his neck." No motive had been determined at the crime scene, but authorities said that evidence helped link the son to the murder. The younger Boughton

was questioned and taken into custody after investigators noted that Boughton's hair was wet and blood was found on the back of his leg.

ADG: 4/30

June 10, Benton

Authorities arrested a former nurse's aide at Regional Nursing Center of Bryant who has been charged with several offenses including the rape of an 85-year-old resident. Christopher K. Sims, 46, was accused by fellow employees of cleaning female patients "in an unusual way." They also said they saw Sims "kiss and touch patients improperly, as well as make unbecoming comments."

Evidence indicated that Sims's abuse dates back as early as late May when he was first seen hugging and kissing a patient as he placed her into bed.

The state's Office of Long Term Care ordered the firing of Sims. He pleaded innocent to felony counts of rape, second-degree sexual abuse, second-degree assault and harassment.

ADG: 10/7

August 23, Little Rock

A Jacksonville man was arrested on aggravated robbery charges after assaulting and robbing a 95-year-old Little Rock resident. Allen Clemons, 34, pushed the elderly woman to the ground and stole her purse. An eyewitness later identified Clemons as the assailant.

He was being held without bond in Pulaski County jail.

ADG: 9/29

November 2, North Little Rock

An 87-year-old Levy resident was attacked and raped by a 14-year-old boy. Travis Lamond Smith who has been in some "unspecified legal trouble" was taken to Pulaski County jail after being arrested by North Little Rock Police.

The victim told authorities that Smith came to her home and asked to use the phone. She opened the door to let him in when he pushed her to the ground and raped her.

ADG: 11/2, 11/3

November 7, Little Rock

Two men approached Cleophus Starks, 71, at his home where they shot and killed him after asking to borrow a tool. No money was taken and both assailants immediately left the crime scene according to witnesses.

Money and drugs were found in Starks' home, which

was thought to be a site used to distribute drugs. Starks had no criminal history with the Little Rock Police Department.

ADG: 11/7, 11/9

December 31, Pulaski County

An elderly woman was found dead inside her home in east Pulaski County. Nona Thomas, 72, was discovered in a room "splattered with blood," according to Sgt. George Craig. Thomas' car was not at her home when police arrived at the scene.

After locating the vehicle, deputies obtained a warrant charging 17-year-old Stewart Gilbert, Jr. in the shooting death of Thomas.

ADG: 12/31

**Women's
Project**

2224 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72206

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Vol. 15 Issue 4
Fall 2000

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As a VISTA worker in the fall of 1980, I traveled around the state of Arkansas asking women what the main issues were that they were facing and what they needed to face them. The issues, they said, were violence, racism, and poverty, and what they needed was an organization to help bring them together to confront these oppressions. The articles that follow, written by women who have had deep staff and board relationships with the Women's Project, are testimonies to the pervasiveness of those issues and to the passion and hope each woman brought to working for justice in her community. Each writer was asked to address four questions:

What inspired you to work for social justice? How has your involvement in the social justice

movement changed since you first were inspired to get involved? Considering all you have done and your own experiences, what is your vision for social justice? What keeps you doing this work?

The stories that follow speak to the profound commitment of the women who were drawn to the Women's Project as a place to live their commitment to social change. These statements are a fulfillment of the dream formed in the fall of 1980: that an organization could be created that would draw women together to build a world of equality and justice for everyone.

SUZANNE PHARR

Where We Are Going, Where We Have Been

Suzanne Pharr

When I was a child, I was rebellious, disliked authority and, like most children, had a heightened sense of fairness and unfairness. On top of that, my gender behavior more resembled that of a boy than a girl. These traits caused me considerable conflict with my large family and church. I saw that females did not have the privileges of males, black people were treated as less than white people, and, particularly within the church, what people professed to believe (and imposed on everyone else) did not match their actions.

Given my rebellious nature, I might have become destructive toward society. However, by the late 1950s,

the Civil Rights Movement gained strength, I discovered the idealism of the Romantic poets and Henry David Thoreau, and I was drawn toward a path of social change. The 1960s found me without true direction as I tried to sort out my sexual orientation, my concern about the Civil Rights movement, and my vehement opposition to the Vietnam War. It was only when I returned from a short expatriate period in New Zealand in 1969 and discovered a full-blown anti-war movement and a fledgling women's movement that I made a 100% commitment to social change.

When I first got involved in social change, I was lucky enough to be part

(continued on page 2)