



A large group attended the Diversity Summit at Oregon Convention Center.

## Whose America is This?

continued ▲ from Front people. Our nation's success depends on our commitment to justice for all."

As co-founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit group that specializes in lawsuits involving civil rights violations and racially motivated crimes, Dees has worked on multi-million dollar judgments against the KKK and the Aryan Nation.

Here in Portland, he was the lead attorney in a civil suit that resulted in a \$12.5 million verdict against Tom Metzger, founder of the White Aryan Resistance, and his son, John. The Metzgers had trained and organized the Skinheads who murdered an Ethiopian college student outside his southeast Portland apartment in 1988.

Dees challenged everyone at the April 30 summit, which was organized and presented by Port-

land General Electric, to pick up the torch of tolerance and carry it with him.

"You never know the influence you will have on others," Dees explained.

To reinforce his point, Dees told the audience about a Jewish karate expert and a gay rugby player. The two "ordinary" American men were unknown to each other or the rest of us—until they helped bring down United Flight 93 over Pennsylvania on Sept. 11.

"America is great because of our diversity, not in spite of it," he said.

To help teach tolerance, Dees has launched [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org), a website dedicated to acceptance of those who are different and the belief that building on those differences will make the world great.

The website includes several on-line "tests" that help identify hidden biases that influence our perceptions and actions.

Created by psychologists at Yale University and the University of Washington, the five-minute tests, which are privacy-protected, measure unconscious bias as it relates to ethnic background, skin tone, weapons, sexual orientation, gender, age and body image.

Because a hate crime is committed every hour, [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org) also provides 10 principles for fighting hate, along with a collection of inspiring stories of people who acted, often alone at first, to push hate out of their communities.

Before sending summit participants to breakout sessions dealing with diversity issues, Dees reminded them that bridges will be built by friendship, acceptance, tolerance and love.

Quoting the Biblical prophet Amos, he said, "Let's not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters."

## Jury Accuses Police of Cover-Up

continued ▲ from A3

investigation was done was left to Officer Lee, who was a new hire still on probationary status. He is the only one who seemed interested in determining what occurred and then he was told by his superiors not to write a police report, but rather to record things in his private notebook. No one ever took the time to ask Officer Lee the vital information he had gathered because in our minds most of the police officers did not want to know what had occurred. We felt Officer Lee should be commended for the efforts he made that night.

We were shocked by the testimony that demonstrated that there was a complete lack of control of any criminal investigation. This lack of control created a vacuum between the commanders, the supervisors and the street officers. We believe that sergeants and lieutenants are paid to supervise, to obtain all relevant facts, make decisions and to fully inform their superiors. That did happen here. With the exception of Officer Lee, no one seemed interested in or capable of ascertaining the facts.

The first report that went to the Commander at Central Precinct decry the victim's injuries as merely being a bloody nose.

It appears that many of the officers put their heads in the sand and did not want to know what happened. We were disturbed by inconsistencies in the testimony and some of the officers' apparent lack of memory.

From the witnesses, we heard it was evident that on Jan. 24, most of the officers conducting the investigation and those in supervisory capacities were

hope that this never happens again, and that no grand jury has to hear the very poor excuses offered in this case. Police officers are professionals, and we expect them to maintain higher standards of investigation and coordination than we have seen in this case. We were not impressed with the finger pointing and shifting responsibility to other people. When

felony conduct is perpetrated by police officers, even though the victim does not want to prosecute, the Portland Police Bureau should diligently pursue the matter.

We are asking you as the district attorney

*It was obvious to anyone looking at injuries to the victim that this was an aggravated felony assault by two off-duty officers.*

—Letter from Multnomah County Grand Jury.

to convey our thoughts to the Portland Police Chief, the Mayor and the president of the Portland Police Union. We need to be assured that this does not happen again. Their needs to be clear rules in place that prevent this from ever happening again. We have seen the best side of the Portland Police Bureau, which represents the vast majority of cases we saw. Unfortunately, that did not happen in this case.

Our final thought is to thank the chief who, upon receiving the anonymous complaint, put together an excellent investigation team that enabled us to a case that was put together in a very professional manner.

## Trillium Charter School

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## Mission Gets Tougher at McCoy

continued ▲ from Front

White says some kids come to the school with "phenomenal authority issues." She describes the teacher-student relationship at McCoy as "constant patient prodding," and adds, "Public schools just don't have the time."

White cites a 58-student waitlist as testimony to the school's draw and the faith that the community has placed in it.

Students at the school recently won a regional film

award for writing a producing a video called "Brown Fields in our Backyards." Students are also credited with setting up the first drug free zone in the Portland School District.

Antoine Rouse, 17, came to the school from Grant, which he described as "too big and loud."

His attendance at Grant was poor, but after his transfer to McCoy, it jumped to 90 percent.

"This school is smaller and more comfortable," he says. "Teachers here know what you need to graduate. They

really care about you." White describes the school's 45 students as being its biggest and most vocal advocates for the school's survival.

Sharie Jackson has attended McCoy since fall. She speaks with the confidence and cool of someone much older than her 16 years.

"Teachers here take their time to work with you individually," Jackson says. "We need this school."

To contact McCoy Academy, call 503-281-9597



## Happy Mother's Day! Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12th

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