By Ted Gup

Some years back, James Russell Wiggins, editor of the Ellsworth American in Maine, wanted to prove to readers how pitifully American losing its identity. It is the town. But change is certain.

The former Ambassador still holds public record. "I threatened to name it Lolita, an old man's darling, but my wife didn't care for that," he says. "J. Russell? He's an American original," says Wiggins and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's annual report, 1987 which shows that anti-Semitic incidents in 1987 increased 12 percent in 1987 reversing a 5-year downward trend according to this morning's New York Times. Their report makes the disturbing conclusion that anti-Semitic incidents in the United States...
vandalism outnumber the harassment and threats by 2 to 1, and 1977 was no exception. There were 694 acts of vandalism and 324 harassments, threats and assaults.

Tragically, New York State again led the States with 207 incidents; New York also led with 80 harassments, threats and assaults.

It is important to note that an increased number of State legislatures, 29 in all have adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing religious or ethnic vandalism. Yet there remains to be any legislation to deal with the problem of religious and ethnic violence.

H.R. 2538 proposes a graduated series of penalties for those who commit these heinous acts against religious persons or property. This would include life imprisonment for any such incident that results in death.

There are far too many acts of violence and vandalism occurring against people of all religions. Just two nights ago, Cardinal O'Connor of the Archdiocese of New York had his personal residence broken into by a knife-wielding individual who threatened one of the cardinal's housekeepers. It was the second forced entry in the past several months that we read about too many religious buildings being defaced. We even hear too much about desecration of cemeteries.

It is time to act and we must do so. It is tragic that these acts occur but they do. We cannot ignore them because our inaction will only encourage more such acts in the future.

At this time I wish to insert an article from the New York Times highlighting the B'nai B'rith report.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 27, 1988]

REPORT SHOWS 12 PERCENT RISE IN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States increased 12 percent in 1987, reversing a five-year downward trend, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported yesterday.

At the league's New York headquarters, its national director, Abraham H. Foxman, called the results "disturbing." He blamed, paradoxically, the increase had come in a period of vigorous local law enforcement and statutory efforts against crimes of bias as well as a recent Federal crackdown on hate groups.

The 1,018 reported incidents in 1987 and the 1,057 in 1986, however, were less than those of 1981, the last year the annual audit found a significant increase in anti-Semitism in this country.

In 1981, there were 1,324 reported incidents. That was the third year in a row that the number of incidents was more than double the previous year's.

694 VANDALISM INCIDENTS

The league divided the incidents into two types: vandalism against Jewish institutions and property, and harassment, threats and assaults against Jews and Jewish property. Historically, incidents of vandalism have largely outnumbered harassments, threats and assaults and that was the case last year.

The number of incidents of vandalism last year was 694, ranging from swastika daubing to church bombings. That was an increase of 17 percent over the 594 incidents reported in 1986. The sharp increase, the league largely reflected a 121 percent increase in anti-Semitic vandalism.

The audit found some of the more serious acts of vandalism were carried out by members of a new generation of anti-Semites who call themselves the Skinheads. The group's activity last year, particularly in California, the audit said, brought the number of anti-Semitic incidents attributable to organized hate groups to 20. In recent years, no more than one or two vandalism incidents have been attributed to such groups.

The audit report states that threats and assaults was 324 last year, a 4 percent increase over the 312 such incidents reported in 1986. Those included 18 assaults last year, compared with 11 the year before. Most of the harassments and threats came in the form of hate mail and telephone calls.

NEW YORK'S BREAKDOWN

New York, the state with the highest Jewish population, led the nation with 207 vandalism incidents, up from 186 in 1985. Of the 81 incidents reported last year in New York City, Brooklyn had the most, with 37, followed by Manhattan, with 27.

Outside the city, Nassau County had the most in the state, followed by Suffolk County, with 41. The remaining 55 counties in the state had a combined total of 15 incidents.

California had the second highest number of vandalism incidents, 127, up from 82 in 1986.

Florida was third, with 64, followed by New Jersey, with 43. The 1987 totals for both states, however, were down from 1986.

Connecticut was ranked 4th with 13 incidents, one more than the year before.

The top four states for vandalism were ranked the same for harassments, threats and assaults.

Mr. Foxman said that, in recent years, 29 state legislatures, including those in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, had adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing religious or ethnic vandalism.

Nonetheless, he said that the 1987 figures re-inforced the need for new anti-criminal prosecution of bias crimes, strengthened security measures for Jewish institutions and greater educational efforts to heighten public concern about such crimes.

A UNIQUE PROPOSAL FOR WORLD COURT

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 1988

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the following an interesting article written by Paul Kerson, a lawyer from Queens County, NY, on the use of the International Court of Justice of the United Nations to resolve international disputes and consequently lower the risk of nuclear war.

That so my colleagues may be able to learn more about this intriguing proposal, I include the article, which appeared in the December 1987 issue of the Queens Bar Bulletin, in the Congressional Record.

The International Courts of Justice—Queens County Style

(By Paul E. Kerson)>

Have you noticed the change that has come over our county in the last five years? The law of the land has been dramatically changed and the courts have been moved from the Flushing subway station. A wise Queens County practitioner comes up with the English language disclaimer: "This document is signed for religious purposes only and has no civil effect." All filed.

Item—A Nigerian gets off the plane at Kennedy Airport with 100 pounds of marijuana in his suitcase. Local counsel is appointed and the defendant waives his right to a jury trial. The court agrees to an E-Felony plea with voluntary deportation. The Office of Court Administration has no objection. The United Nations Nigerian mission claims that no one speaking Ibo could possibly serve on a committee to which the Nigerian University saves the day by sending an Ibo speaking engineering graduate student to translate.

Item—A thoroughly distraught Russian woman gets off the plane at Kennedy airport. The F.B.I. says to her in Yiddish, "You have violated the spirit of Solomon, the judge awards title to the Koreans, but permits the Greek contractor to remain in possession pending the outcome of a declaratory judgment action." Item—A local con artist hoodwinks a Greek church by getting the children before the court the next day, and then�...