

EDUCATION

OHIO LAW SCHOOL STUDIES AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES AND THE LAW

Capital University Law and Graduate Center in Columbus, Ohio is pioneering a course on African American Males and the Law, the first such course ever to be offered at any major law school in nation, according to Rodney K. Smith, Dean of the law school.

Developed by Floyd Weatherspoon, an African American Law Professor, and a graduate of Howard University Law School, the course integrates social and economic studies on black males into traditional case law teaching materials. It uses materials from several disciplines to examine the cultural dimensions of the lives of black males, and helps students determine the impact of the American legal system on the status of black males.

"Everyone knows the dismal

statistics regarding black males," said Weatherspoon. "There are more black males who are unemployed, underemployed and suspended from school. Black males occupy a disproportionate part of the nation's justice system; yet until now there has been little effort by the legal and academic community to assess how our legal processes affect these men."

A key part of the curriculum is teaching law students to identify stereotypical biases against African American males, and to determine how these biases follow them through the legal system in an unending chain of distortion and discrimination, resulting in their being disproportionately impacted by laws and their enforcement.

"We have hundreds of ex-

amples of how the law directly disadvantages black males," said Weatherspoon, "yet there are countless indirect ways in which they suffer, as well." As an example, Weatherspoon cited a recent Florida case, in which a white woman was granted worker's compensation because her fear of black males prevented her from working in any situation where she might come into contact with them.

Weatherspoon believes that it is critical for informed law students in today's environment to understand the web of subtle biases that work to constrain justice against the black male.

Weatherspoon also insists that lawyers in the 21st century must be exposed to more than traditional theories of law. "It is no longer enough to read the law as an impersonal factor equally applicable to all persons. It is critical that today's law students understand, and be sensitive to legal issues and principles that will affect the future of their clients, especially black males, who are increasingly parties in both civil and criminal actions." In addition to helping students identify stereotypical biases and their relation to the justice system, Weatherspoon also lectures

on other issues that affect black males, such as arrest and policy brutality, sentencing guidelines, discrimination, NCAA rules, health, and the issue of fair and adequate representation in criminal cases.

The course was filled within a week of its announcement. Interestingly enough, according to Weatherspoon, enrollment in the course is primarily white male students. Weatherspoon finds this encouraging because black males are largely represented by white male attorneys, espe-

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR TO BUILD \$5 MILLION MONUMENT WITH HELP OF A SWEET TOOTH

An Illinois high school junior, Jamila Bailey, is hoping to cash in on a sweet tooth — \$5 million dollars worth by persuading the nation's students to give up a candy bar and bottle of pop on December 1st, the Great American Sugar-free Day. This ambitious junior hopes to encourage 5 million students to use the monies otherwise spent on sweets for the construction of the first national monument honoring the African-American patriots of the American Revolutionary War. The students are encouraged to send the monies

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

What is likely to galvanize the masses into aggression against the whites?

Will it be some grotesque atrocity against African people which causes us to rise up in indignation and crush the monstrosity?

Will it be by the heroic action of a small group of Africans who by their wisdom and courage commands action and respect in a way that cannot be denied?

Or will it be by Africans, finally and in an unpredictable way, simply getting fed up with the bumbling, stupid racism of this country?

These are serious questions that demand serious thought. Think about it Africans.

Until next week this has been the minister of information.

cially in criminal proceedings.

"The best part of this course," said Weatherspoon, "is that our law students are not only documenting the adverse impact of the nation's legal system on the status of African American males, but are also actively researching and seeking remedies

to address the problems."

For more information contact: Professor Floyd Weatherspoon, Capital University Law and Graduate Center - 614/445-8836 or Rodney K. Smith, Dean Capital University Law and Graduate Center - 614/445-8836.

collected through their student councils or principals to:

Jamila Bailey, Young Patriots, c/o Patriots Foundation, 1612 K Street, NW, suite 1104, Washington, D.C.

Jamila is the founder of Young Patriots, a national grassroots organization comprised of school-age students interested in building an awareness and appreciation of the multi-cultural contributions of American who contributed to America's prosperity. Young Patriots encourages students to be an active participant of history rather than

just read about it. Currently, the Young Patriots are involved in the project to build the monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

"At a time of such racial tension, Los Angeles, New York, and Detroit, this monument can serve as a symbolic reconnecting with America's greatest asset, her diverse multi-cultural society." Besides, Jamila added, "This monument would be built through the accomplishments of America's best — her children. We can affect history too!"

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