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Bowling Green State University

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Nieman book explores ex-slaves' use of new legal and political power

From the standpoint of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, the Emancipation Proclamation and resulting Reconstruction in the American South might be viewed as a failure in achieving the rights of citizenship they were intended to accord black citizens.

A new book edited by Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Christopher Waldrep, who holds the Parker Chair in History at San Francisco State University, demonstrates that Reconstruction did initially accomplish its goal and that the attainment of civil rights was a seismic event in the lives of African Americans. In fact, during the period of Reconstruction, black people made excellent use of their newfound legal and political power to establish economic success. Local Matters: Race, Crime and Justice in the Nineteenth-Century South, published recently by the University of Georgia Press, contains nine essays on the intersection of law and race relations as drawn from local court records from counties throughout the South.

Taken together, these underscore the reality that political power is necessary to make the legal system responsive.

Local Matters reveals some larger themes and highlights some unexpected findings. First, Nieman noted, he was surprised to discover the assertiveness and sophistication with which African Americans used the legal process to defend their rights and expand their freedom. An important aspect of this was their participation on juries, he added, which gave them much more influence in their communities. Another key aspect was their large-scale participation in the political system and the extensive political infrastructure they created.

The nine case studies emphasize the connection between political power and the rights of citizenship. "What we see is that the law alone can be a pretty weak reed in protecting rights," Nieman said.

Black History Month events planned

The University will mark Black History Month with an extensive series of events continuing into March, culminating on March 22 with the Africana Studies Student Research Colloquium. Films, lectures, discussion groups, special menus in the dining halls and music will be featured.

A highlight of the month is the four-day visit of the Voices of Africa group, Feb. 5-8. VOA is made up of five women who present a cappella songs and traditional African drumming from across the African diaspora. They will give a family concert in Kobacker Hall and work with BGSU classes and area school and church groups to share the rich culture of Africa and its descendants around the world.

See the Monitor calendar for a full listing of February events and further events in March.

BSGU police officer to provide security for Winter Olympics

BSGU Police Sgt. John Shumaker has more than 500 uniform patches from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. He is taking patches from the University police force to the Olympics to swap with other volunteer officers there.

When the Olympians ascend the dias to receive their medals in Salt Lake City this month, they can feel secure knowing they are well protected by a strong security force of police and Secret Service agents. One of those policemen will be Sgt. John Shumaker of the BGSU police.

Shumaker will spend Feb. 4-27 at the Winter Olympics, where he has been assigned to the medals pavilion. He explained that this year's medal presentation process will be different from previous Olympics.

"Instead of the hockey team, for example, receiving their medals right there on the ice after the games, this time there will be a large presentation ceremony every night in the medals pavilion, with fireworks and a show by top-flight entertainers," he said.

Shumaker's primary job is to provide security at that site, but he has also been assigned to work with the Secret Service, which he assumes will mean providing a uniformed presence when needed. As a certified law enforcement officer, he will have full powers of arrest.

Another change this year is that the police team will be armed. Shumaker also worked at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, for which he was not required to carry his gun.

However, the scarcity of police officers in the state of Utah and recent national and international events have led to the need to prepare for any situation.
Community Concert. Voices of Africa, a cappella ensemble, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Feb. 8 Saddlefire Lecture, "Taking Responsibility for Student Learning That Lasts," with Marzia Menakowski, psychology faculty and director of educational research and evaluation, Alverno College. 10 a.m., 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. For more information, call 2-3147.

Reed Metz, trumpet, and Bryan Moore, euphonium. 7:30 p.m., Women's Center Lounge, 108A Hanna Hall. Includes community potluck supper and presentation by Carol Olson, anthropologist-sociologist, Millersville University.

Saturday, Feb. 9 Provost Lecture Series, "Grief, ZCraft, and the Miscellaneous Production of Subjectivity in an Age of Uncertainty," by Janice Radway, Duke University. 7:30 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall. Continuing Events

Feb. 4-8 Art Exhibit, "Pink Onions: Reflections on the Nostalgic Tenderness and Raw Pungency of Youth," national juried exhibition of works by artists: Willard Wansel/Alman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays. Closing reception 7-9 p.m., Feb. 8.

Feb. 6-7 Firelands Diversity Event, "Sojourner Truth," a first-person interpretation of the noted abolitionist and advocate for women's rights by Annette E. Jefferson, 6:30 p.m., Central Lounge, North Building on Feb. 6; 8:30 a.m. Feb. 7. same location.

Feb. 10-12 Theatre Performance, "The Vagina Monologues." All performances begin at 8 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Tickets are $5 for BGSU students, seniors, military; $8 for BGSU faculty, staff and community, and $15 for patrons. Tickets on sale at the box office, 407 South Hall, or call 2-9616. Proceeds go to the Survivor Emergency Fund.

in memory

Melvin Jones, 83, died Jan. 19 in Bowling Green. He was a retired lieutenant with the BGSU police department, and also headed the University parking and traffic division for many years. Jones worked at BGSU from 1964-86.

Family Campaign — "Support a Scholar" (Continued from front)

and cabinet members, as well as to the strong supportiveness of the campus family. Everyone is encouraged to come out on the 12th and show support for BGSUs student-scholars.

• A reminder to all department representatives: The representatives training dates are this Wednesday and Thursday (Feb. 6 and 7) from 11-11:45 a.m. and 4-4:45 p.m. in the Family Room (Room 208) of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Representatives need attend only one of the four offered sessions.

Shumaker to provide Olympic security

(Continued from front)

international events prompted the governor and the International Olympic Committee to ask the 620-member auxiliary force to be armed, Shumaker said.

Security will be very high, extending out 150 miles from the city itself to the sites of some of the events, such as the skiing competitions. A seven-block area downtown will be closed to vehicles, and magnometers and other security measures will be used, he said.

Shumaker will be housed at Camp Williams, about 10 miles south of town, he noted.

Will he get to attend any of the games? He's hoping to, he said. His wife and daughter will visit for three days, and he hopes to join them for some of the figure skating and snowboarding competitions.

Here in Ohio, his Olympic service has made Shumaker almost as much a celebrity as the athletes he is assigned to cover. Newspapers, television and radio stations from around the state have interviewed him, and he will give live interviews from Salt Lake for one TV channel. "The response has just been overwhelming," he said.