



## Summit Addresses Issues Of Safety, Violence in Schools

The recent shooting deaths of three University of Arizona professors by a failing nursing student who then turned the gun on himself are yet another chilling reminder that school violence can strike anywhere and at any time, said one of the scheduled speakers for an upcoming school safety summit at Western .

“The tragic shootings in Arizona underscore the importance of school safety concerns across the entire United States educational system, from the elementary school level all the way up to colleges and universities,” said Melissa DeRosier, president of the 3-C Institute for Social Development, a Cary organization that assists with prevention and intervention services for children’s social relationships.

DeRosier, who will discuss the phenomenon of bullying, is one of several experts lined up to participate in the Safe School Summit on Thursday, November 14, in the Ramsey Regional Activity Center. Also scheduled to speak is an official from Jefferson County Schools in Colorado, home of Columbine High School and site of the deadliest school shooting in United States history, and representatives from the Secret Service and Department of Justice.

Funded by a grant from the North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission and organized by Western Carolina’s Public Policy Institute, the summit will examine ways to prevent school violence. “We are bringing together state and national experts to share their

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### Pulitzer Prize–Winning Saga Comes to Life

## Family Entrenched in Greed, Deceit

It’s all about the land and the people who are obsessed with owning it and who will do anything to gain possession of it. Beginning in the 1700s and spanning 200 years, *The Kentucky Cycle* follows three families intricately bound by blood, deceit, and ownership of the land.

This unique theatrical offering of Western Carolina University and the University Players is told in a series of nine one-act plays presented in two parts, beginning November 16, in Hoey Auditorium. Robert Schenkkan wrote the 1992 Pulitzer Prize–winning play. “This is an ensemble piece with a lot of symbolism. Schenkkan has a sense of ritual that is carried throughout the play,” said Steve Ayers, associate professor of communication and theatre arts and director of the play.

### The Play

In Part 1 we meet the first pivotal character, Michael Rowan, who uses blankets tainted with smallpox to buy the land from the Cherokee. He marries the lone survivor, Morning Star. With blood spilled for the sake of the land, the saga continues when a neighbor slyly buys the land. The Civil War divides the family, but through deceit and manipulation, the land comes back to the Rowan clan.

Greed intensifies with the opening of Part 2. Outsiders find their way to that part of Kentucky, looking for the black gold hidden in the hills—coal. With coal come miners, unsafe working conditions, and the rise of unions with ensuing labor disputes. The fighting and



**Gazing at property that holds a family’s destiny are, left to right, Sabrina Franz as Rebecca Talbert, Dusty Smith as Patrick Rowan, and Cherie Vass as Sallie Biggs.**

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# Family Entrenched. . . *continued from page 1*

blood continue to flow for the sake of the land.

## The Production

Telling this saga requires twenty-five actors portraying ninety-five characters. Except for two small but critical roles, students become the fathers and sons, girlfriends and wives, and neighbors and friends. Steve Carlisle and Claire Eye, visiting lecturers in communication and theatre arts, lend their professional experience to enhance the students' performances, according to Ayers. Some actors appear in several roles throughout the two nights of the play.

In addition to the story line, this production features several unique elements. The setting is very minimal, but versatile. A giant, ancient oak tree provides the backdrop. The tree is the stage and does not completely fill the

permanent stage. The audience will see silhouettes of actors as they prepare for entrance to the oak tree stage. This enables the audience to see a transformation from a person, to a person as an actor, to the character on stage. Prior to coming onto the stage, the actor will make some psychological gesture to get into the character—for example, a certain stance or movement.

"In most plays the audience is drawn completely into the play. However, in this piece, with the darkened areas around the stage, the audience keeps a distance and is asked to think about what is going on and to make a judgment regarding the characters and their behavior," said Ayers.

The logistics of providing costumes for so many characters is a challenge. Actors will be dressed in a basic costume and will change hats, coats, and accessories to depict the next character and time period.

## Authentic Look

The first scene has Michael Rowan, the main character, dealing with the Cherokee Indians in the 1700s. The script calls for actors to speak Cherokee. To get the pronunciation correct, the three actors playing the Cherokee requested help from students at Cherokee High School. Laura Pinnix,

instructor at Cherokee High, and several students worked five hours teaching the actors the proper pronunciation.

Realism also is incorporated into the Civil War scene at the end of Part 1. Ayers received special permission from Gene McAbee, director of University Police, to use real period weapons that are named in the play, such as the 1775 Brown Bess musket. Carrol Ensley, a Civil War reenactor, served as consultant for this portion of the production.

Susan Brown-Strauss, associate professor of theatre, designed the costumes. Richard Beam, professor of theatre arts, is in charge of lighting, and Luther Jones, visiting assistant professor of theatre, designed the set.

## Schedule of Performances

All performances are in Hoey Auditorium.

### Saturday, November 16

Part 1, 2 p.m. Part 2, 7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, November 17

Part 1, 2 p.m. Part 2, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 20

Part 1, 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, November 21

Part 2, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday, November 22

Part 1, 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, November 23

Part 2, 2 p.m. Part 1, 7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, November 24

Part 2, 2 p.m.

## Special Ticket Information

For individuals interested in seeing both parts, there is special ticket pricing.

Tickets for whatever dates the patron chooses must be purchased in advance at the same time at the box office in 123 Stillwell. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for WCU faculty, staff, and senior adults, and \$10 for students. Single performance ticket prices also are available. For additional information, call the box office at 227-7491.

# Summit Addresses . . . *Continued from page 1*

first-hand knowledge of school safety issues and their insights into what happens when violent acts do occur on school ground," said Gordon Mercer, director of the Public Policy Institute. Leaders from government, education and law enforcement sectors are expected to take part in discussions on topics such as the expanding roles of school resource officers, safe school planning, bullying and threat assessment.

George Sweat, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, will deliver the keynote address. Marilyn Saltzman, director of communication for Jefferson County Schools in Colorado, will speak on "Lessons from the Columbine Tragedy."

Also on the program are Mark Alexander and Brandi Justice, agents from the United States Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center. Calvin Hodnett, policy analyst with the United States Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, will talk about safe school funding opportunities.

Joanne McDaniel, director of the Center for Prevention of

School Violence of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, will address "Safe School Planning." Other presenters will include Bob Gabordi, executive editor of the *Asheville Citizen-Times*; Will Annarino, chief of the Asheville Police Department; and faculty members from Western's departments of political science and public affairs, criminal justice, and educational leadership and foundations.

In addition to the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, major conference supporters are the Horowitz Foundation and the Carolina Institute for Community Policing. Conference sponsors include the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 3-C Institute for Social Development, Asheville Police Department and Western Carolina University's College of Education and Allied Professions, Public Policy Institute and Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society.

The registration fee of \$11 includes lunch, refreshments and materials. For more information or to register, contact Gordon Mercer at 227-2249.

## Tuesday, November 12

Training Tuesday—"Diversity for Managers." Professional Development Track, 3 credits. All interested persons welcome. Registration required. 2-4 p.m., Room 404, BB. (227-2388 or [www.wcu.edu/hr/training](http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training))

Seminar/*Dimensions and Directions of Health* series—"The Environmental Dimensions of Health," satellite seminar with Kenneth Olden, former director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and director of the National Toxicology Program, 7:30 p.m., NSA. (227-7383)

## Wednesday, November 13

Recital—Flute studio, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Thursday, November 14

Safe School Summit—Participants include representatives from government, education, and law enforcement, daylong, RRAC. \$ (227-2249)

Discussion—Leslea Newman discusses her book "Heather Has Two Mommies," 7:30 p.m., Grand room, UC. (227-7206)

Concert—Gamelan Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Friday, November 15—Saturday, November 16

Reunion—first alumni band reunion, includes half-time performance at WCU vs. Appalachian football game by combined alumni band and Pride of the Mountains Marching Band. (227-7335)

## Saturday, November 16

Catamount football—vs. Appalachian State, Southern Conference game, 3:30 p.m., WS/BW. (227-7338)

Volleyball—Lady Catamounts vs. The Citadel, Southern Conference game, 6 p.m., Charleston. (227-7338)

Theatre—The University Players present *The Kentucky Cycle*, see Page 2 for dates and times. \$ (227-7491)

## Sunday, November 17

Volleyball—Lady Catamounts

vs. College of Charleston, Southern Conference game, 2 p.m., Charleston. (227-7338)

## Monday, November 18

Recital—Mary Kay Bauer vocal studio, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Tuesday, November 19

Training Tuesday—"Personal Financial Management" will discuss the basics of money management, credit, and financial management for the holidays. All welcome. Registration required. 2-4 p.m., Room 404, BB. (227-2388 or [www.wcu.edu/hr/training](http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training))

Last Minute Productions—Ahmad Daniels speaking on "Race Relations at the South African Summit," 7 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-7206)

Seminar/*Dimensions and Directions of Health* series—

November 11-24, 2002

Look for regular updates on the university's Web site at [www.wcu.edu/cal.html](http://www.wcu.edu/cal.html)

"The Mind/Body Connection," satellite seminar featuring Lori Arviso Alvord, associate dean for student and multicultural affairs and assistant professor of surgery at Dartmouth Medical School, 7:30 p.m., NSA. (227-7383)

Concert—Wind Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Wednesday, November 20

Training program—van safety course, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Hospitality Room, RRAC. (227-7443 or [flury@wcu.edu](mailto:flury@wcu.edu))

Recital—Percussion studio, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Thursday, November 21

*LCE Series*—violinist Charles Rex and cellist Christopher Rex with pianist Lillian Pearson, 7:30 p.m., RH. \$ (227-7206)

## Thursday, November 21—Sunday, November 24

Volleyball—Lady Catamounts in Southern Conference Tournament, Davidson. (227-7338)

## Sunday, November 24

Faculty recital—Russian chamber music for piano and winds, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Submissions:

Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723 or e-mail to [Reporter@email.wcu.edu](mailto:Reporter@email.wcu.edu).

Submit items for the university's calendar online at least one week prior to the event.

# WCU Calendar

## ★★★ Now Showing ★★★

### Exhibitions:

**Art Students League Exhibit.** Through November 21. Chelsea Gallery, UC. (227-7206)

**Deliberate Wait: The Photographs of Herman Goustin.** Through December 6. BB. (227-3591)

**North Carolina Women Making History.** The trials, triumphs, and changing roles of women during the past 400 years. Through December 2003. MHC. (227-7129)

**African-American Builders and Architects in North Carolina** explores the extraordinary buildings constructed by enslaved and free black artisans and builders during the pre-Civil War era. Through November 22. MHC. (227-7129)

**Migration of the Scotch-Irish People.** (Permanent exhibition). Information, illustrations, artifacts, and murals. MHC. (227-7129)

**Key:** \$ - Admission fee; HA - Hoey Auditorium; HFR - H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HS/CF - Hennon Stadium/Childress Field; MHC - Mountain Heritage Center; NSA - Natural Sciences Auditorium; RRAC - Ramsey Regional Activity Center; RH - Recital Hall, Coulter Building; BB - Belk Building; UC - A.K. Hinds University Center; UOC - University Outreach Center; WS/BW - Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field; SSF - Shrader Soccer Field.

# Visiting Scholar To Speak On Southern Politics

One of the nation's most authoritative voices on political issues of the South will visit Western Carolina Thursday, November 21, to share his thoughts on the winner and losers in the November 5 election, and the implications for Southern politics.

Merle Black, who holds the Asa G. Candler Professorship of Politics and Government at Emory University in Atlanta, will speak on "The 2002 Election and the Future of Southern Politics" in a program beginning at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Mountain Heritage Center.

Black is one-half of the dynamic duo known as "The Poli Sci Twins." His identical twin brother, Earl Black, holds a similar endowed chair of political science at Rice University. Together, they have written the recently published "The Rise of Southern Republicans," which traces the transformation of the South's political landscape from a bastion of "yellow-dog Democrats" to a region of intensely competitive two-party races.

"The Black brothers have become the most important scholars in the field of Southern politics," said Gibbs Knotts, a Western Carolina University assistant professor of political science and public affairs who worked as a research assistant for Merle Black at Emory.

Black will be at Western as part of the Visiting Scholars Program.

For more information, call the department of Political Science and Public Affairs at 227-7475.

# LCE Series Continues

Brothers Charles and Christopher Rex, along with Western's own Lillian Buss Pearson, will give a performance of classical music on the violin, cello, and piano at Western on Thursday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert in the Coulter Building recital hall is part of Western's *Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions* Series for 2002-2003.

Charles Rex began studying the violin at age four. He debuted with the Florida Symphony Orchestra at age thirteen and toured as a soloist with the Brevard Music Center Orchestra shortly afterwards. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Florida State University.

Christopher Rex joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as principal cello in 1979 and has made numerous national appearances as recitalist and chamber musician. He was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for seven seasons and is a founding member of the Georgian Chamber Players.

Pianist Lillian Pearson, associate professor of music at WCU, has performed across the United States and Europe. She has appeared as a soloist with the Asheville and Jacksonville, Florida, Symphony Orchestras; and others.

Tickets for the concert are \$2 for WCU students, \$10 for the general public, and \$8 for senior citizens, WCU faculty and staff, and non-WCU students.

For more information, call 227-7206.

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***The* Reporter**

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