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## January 24, 2012: Third Coast 2011 Fiction Contest Winner Chosen for Anthology

Department of English

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**Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

**[Third Coast 2011 Fiction Contest Winner Chosen for Anthology](#)**

*Third Coast* is pleased to announce that Sarah Elizabeth Schantz's story "The Sound of Crying Sheep" (winner of the 2011 Fiction Contest) has been selected for inclusion in *New Stories from the Midwest 2012*!

Posted by [emily](#) at [9:53 PM](#) [No comments:](#) 

**[WMU Poet Nancy Eimers reads on Thursday.](#)**

Nancy Eimers will be reading at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, at the Olmsted Room in Mandelle Hall at Kalamazoo College.

Posted by bethlynn at [2:06 PM](#) [No comments:](#) 

**[Bill Zorn in 'Never The Sinner'](#)**

KALAMAZOO — They were still in their teens, of high-intelligence and wealthy families, and should have had a bright future ahead of them.

“They were charming, witty, engaging, good-looking, and had a summer with nothing to do, so they decide to kill somebody just to see if they can get away with it,” D. Terry Williams said of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb.

The Leopold and Loeb kidnapping and murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks was the original “crime of the century,” sparking a media frenzy in 1924. It inspired Alfred Hitchcock’s 1948 film “Rope” and Richard Fleischer’s 1959 film “Compulsion.”

The movies didn’t cover all the details that are in “Never the Sinner,” however. Western Michigan University theater department emeritus Williams will direct it at the York Arena Theatre running Jan. 26 through Feb. 5.

John Logan based his 1985 play on years of research, sealed family archives and court transcripts, Williams said.

“To say that Leopold and Loeb were ‘monsters’ is too easy. To say that they were ‘evil’ is too facile,” Logan wrote in the introduction to the play. He chose to portray them as human beings, who are “tormented” and “brutal.

It’s a courtroom drama plus an intense character study. “I’ve always been fascinated by this play ... because of their complex personalities,” Williams said.

They were from wealthy Chicago families. Leopold, 19 at the time of the crime, had a genius-level IQ, was multi-lingual, published ornithology articles and was already attending the University of Chicago law school. Loeb, 18, was at the time the youngest graduate in the history of the University of Michigan.

Their relationship was complicated by a factor not covered in previous dramatizations. "They were lovers," Williams said. "Leopold gets sex in return for collaborating in risky crimes dreamed up by Loeb."

Enthralled by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's concept of the "superman" not ruled by society's morals, they commit what they think is the perfect crime.

"They were very sophisticated — but not civilized," Williams said.

Certain hanging awaited them at the end of their trial, but their lawyer, Clarence Darrow, turned the case into an argument against capital punishment.

The cast will sit among the audience until needed onstage. They are Max Rasmussen (Leopold), David Cooper (Loeb), Bill Zorn (Clarence Darrow), Ben Maters (Robert Crowe), Jenna Wyatt, Taylor Keenan and Sophie Scanlon.

It's easy to be charmed by the characters of Leopold and Loeb, Williams said, "then you step back and say, my goodness, how can I like these two psychopaths?"

He brought in a consultant from the WMU psychology department, Lester Wright, "who has been very helpful to the cast in explaining these types of personalities."

Wright helped the cast explore how such crimes can occur by comparing Leopold and Loeb's to Jerry Sandusky's alleged acts, Williams said.

What makes this compelling drama is its examination of criminals who commit heinous acts but feel justified "in their own world of rules and regulations," Williams said.


If you go  
'Never the Sinner'

When: 8 p.m. Jan. 26-28, Feb. 2-4; 2 p.m. Feb. 5

Where: York Arena, Gilmore Theatre Complex, Western Michigan University

Cost: \$20, \$15 seniors and WMU faculty/staff, \$5 students

Contact: 269-387-3227, wmutheatre.com

Posted by bethlynn at [2:02 PM](#) [No comments:](#) 

### [Tererai Trent visits WMU tomorrow !](#)

Oprah's favorite guest Tererai Trent will speak at WMU

Dr. Tererai Trent, whose moving story of being "the woman who buried her dreams" earned her the designation last May as Oprah Winfrey's favorite guest of all times, will speak at Western Michigan University Wednesday, Jan. 25.

A WMU alumna, Trent is returning to Kalamazoo to speak at Southwest Michigan First's Catalyst

University. Before her Catalyst University appearance, she will address a WMU campus audience to tell her inspirational story at 10 a.m. in the Kirsch Auditorium of the Fetzer Center. The WMU event is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending the talk are asked to reserve a spot by sending email to [office-of-the-provost@wmich.edu](mailto:office-of-the-provost@wmich.edu).

Trent is also scheduled to meet with a WMU Evaluation Center group for a noontime discussion on cross-cultural evaluation techniques, her academic area of specialty.

Trent, who grew up in poverty in Zimbabwe, realized one of her goals in December 2009 when she earned a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary evaluation from WMU. She started her adult life as an impoverished cattle-herder who defied a culture that places little value on the contributions of women. She educated herself, setting a path and an example for her own five children and for other women in similar circumstances.

Trent's story was retold on Winfrey's highly anticipated May 20 episode in which the host identified her favorite guest among those she has interviewed in 25 years of broadcasts. Winfrey called Trent the guest whose story "epitomizes everything I've been trying to say on this show for 25 years."

Trent's story was first chronicled on the pages of the New York Times, and in a book, "Half the Sky," by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. An October 2009 episode of "Oprah" placed Trent on the national stage, where she became known as the woman who "buried her dreams."

Both the book and the "Oprah" show detailed how Trent developed a list of goals for herself as a very young woman living in a rural village. Her list was buried in a tin piece behind her home in a field where she herded cattle. Over the next 20 years, she accomplished each goal, retrieving the list each time to cross off the achieved goal and move on to the next one.

Trent plans to return to her nation in the future. Her dreams of building a school there will become a reality, thanks to a \$1.5 million donation from Winfrey. The school and an initiative with Save the Children are expected to impact 4,000 children in Zimbabwe.

Posted by bethlynn at [9:32 AM](#)