



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Student Activities Board's annual Murder Mystery turned foul when the German Baron was murdered and students were left to discover the motives and killer.

Students solve SAB murder mystery

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

A German Baron was murdered in the SUB down under Tuesday night, while attending a dinner hosted by the British Prime Minister.

Was it a business deal turned bad? Or the deadly result of a sordid love triangle? Truman students put on their detective hats and whipped out their magnifying glasses to investigate the case during the Student Activities Board's annual Murder Mystery. Sarah Graham was the SAB member in charge of putting the mystery together and spent the past few weeks getting everything ready.

"I bought the script online," Graham said, "I chose this particular one because of the mature rating. I wanted a script that would appeal to an older audience."

Once Graham chose the script, she had to read through and figure out what props would be required. SAB lent items such as drinking glasses for use as props during the show. This is the first SAB event Graham has been in charge of and she said that everything went smoothly.

"The only real problem I had was when I got the script it was way too long, so I had to go through and cut it down so it would fit in to the hour to an hour and a half time period we had allotted," Graham said.

The mystery is set in Great Britain and centers on a dinner party of the British elite hosted by the Prime Minister. During dinner the German Baron is killed and the audience must find his killer. Everyone in

the room is a suspect and each has a different motive. Freshman Anna Blount played the German Baroness whose husband is murdered. The Baroness works for the German secret service and is revealed to be hiding poison in her necklace. The Baron treats her terribly, openly flirting with other women in front of her. Did her husband finally push her too far? A friend on SAB asked Blount to portray the Baroness.

"My friend told me they were looking for people to help out," Blount said. "She knew I did theater stuff in high school and gave them my name and then they contacted me."

Blount attended the FACT murder mystery during Truman Week and said she really enjoyed herself, so she was excited to be involved with this one. The show is pretty low key, with only a few props and no big sets or fancy costumes, so the actors were challenged to help make the story come to life and most of the preparation was done on their own.

"We've only met once to read through the script so everyone could kind of get familiar with it and practice accents, and then our only other rehearsal was right before the show on Tuesday," Blount said.

Freshman Cleo Shy also participated when a friend in SAB asked him. He said he was very excited to perform and that this was his first theater experience at Truman.

"I play the Colonel who is English and drunk, so I have been practicing my drunken British accent," Shy said.

Colonel Albert Rochester was glad the Baron died. The

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Sarah Graham
SAB member



Baron was responsible for ruining the Colonel's chance at marrying the only woman he ever loved, who just so happened to be the Baron's sister. Did he murder the Baron to take his revenge?

Shy also was involved in theater while in high school, and he said his previous experience performing in one-acts and musicals helped by giving him the acting know-how to prepare for this role.

Three other people in Shy's house in Ryle hall are also part of the production which he says has been beneficial.

"We have been running through the script together a lot and helping each other with our accents, which is a big help," Shy said.

The mystery played out Tuesday to a crowd of Truman students who solved the case and nailed the perpetrator. The murderer was the Prime Minister himself, who murdered the Baron in an attempt to avoid political embarrassment and possibly a lost election. The Prime Minister placed a rigged cell phone in the Baron's pocket, which, when it rang, caused the Baron's pacemaker to stop working, giving him a massive heart attack. Looks like winning another election won't be in the cards for the Prime Minister after all thanks to the sleuthing of the bright young students of the University. Another Murder Mystery solved.

Graduation looms in near future

I'm graduating in about a week. What am I thinking? I'm an idiot.

I'm leaving Truman a year ahead of schedule in the middle of an economic recession that has drawn frequent comparisons to the Great Depression with a degree in journalism at a time when most media outlets are struggling to stay viable.

I'm spending the summer traveling in Europe instead of saving the precious few dollars left in my bank account.

I am an idiot.

But I couldn't have spent the past three years learning more. And I couldn't be more excited about the wisdom I stand to acquire in the future.

Our generation of 20-something-year-olds is stumbling into a world for which, we've been told, we are ill-prepared. We require too much hand-holding and spoon-feeding. We are lazy and unmotivated. Asher Roth isn't doing anything to improve this image with his song "I Love College," which proclaims, "Time isn't wasted when you're getting wasted."

Regardless of whether this is an accurate representation of university life (and let's be honest, there are those weekends), I've learned a bit more from my time here than proper drinking etiquette. So if you take anything with you when you leave Truman be-

sides the bag of graduation goodies they give to encourage alumni donations, remember:

First, learn how to write. Strong communication is a priceless skill, and being able to say what you mean benefits all aspects of life, whether you're writing a political science research paper, a business proposal or a love note.

Learn how to count. I despise math, but I can't deny its importance. After all, at its core, numbers got us into this economic mess. If I mitigate the importance of math, I can't use the recession as an excuse for not having a job.

Learn about the world. Truman students get to choose between three free newspapers each day, so there's no excuse for not being informed — unless we can blame that on the recession too.

Then there are lessons our tuition fees can't buy and our ridiculously expensive textbooks can't impart.

I've learned why relationships end and also why they never get started. I've learned how to survive the tumult of emotions that follow both circumstances and how to help friends do the same.

I've learned it's never too late to start learning. After years of wanting to play piano and three months of lessons, I now can play a near-flawless "When the Saints Go Marching In." Because of this, I've also learned that learning takes time.

At various times, I've questioned the meaning of love, the existence of God, the necessity of studying for a test and just what makes baby pandas so adorable.

Much to my conservative parents' chagrin, I've discarded many of the values I brought to college in pursuit of a more meaningful way of life and an identity outside the ideology they chose to espouse when they were my age.

I've learned that free food is a powerful motivator.

I've discovered myself in deep conversations with friends and lost myself with the same people on long Friday nights. Cue "I Love College."

But as I walk out that scholastic door feeling too young and terrified/excited, MGMT's song "Time to Pretend" more closely reflects my thoughts on the past and the future. It begins, "I'm feeling rough, I'm feeling raw in the prime of my life." But we are not the slackers we are made out to be. We are equipped with the knowledge and the support of relationships to successfully transition into the real world.

The song goes on, "Yeah, it's overwhelming, but what else can we do? / Get jobs in offices and wake up for the morning commute?"

Maybe — if that's what we want. But we don't have to settle, and we don't have to know what we want right away. We just have to keep learning.

Peace
mind



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