



Brendan Lally as Eisenstein, Brendan Smith as Dr. Falke and Devin Kemp as Rosalinda in UMSL Opera Theater's 'Die Fledermaus'.

SARAH MYERS/ THE CURRENT

UMSL Opera Theater goes batty with 'Die Fledermaus'

CATE MARQUIS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"It began with a tenor," said a character onstage as a spotlight hit the second-level balcony and revealed singer Gustavo Perez as tenor Alfred, a grinning, seemingly drunk man in a shiny gold shirt. Perez belted out a gorgeous song, setting the stage for fun and wonderful singing in the opening act of "Die Fledermaus."

Golden voices and a flare for comic performance made for a delightful performance of "Die Fledermaus" by University of Missouri-St. Louis Opera Theater. The performance took place in the Blanche M. Touhill

Performing Arts Center's E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater April 3-4.

UMSL's Opera Theater may be a relatively new campus program, but what it lacks in funding and resources, it more than makes up for in sheer talent and creativity. If your idea of opera is a fat lady in a hat with horns bellowing off-key, you owe yourself a trip to one of these free performances.

"Die Fledermaus" translates as "the bat." This comic opera about an elaborate prank involves a masquerade ball, amorous tenors and lots of trickery. With hummable music by waltz king Johann Strauss, this farcical comedy is a perennial favorite with audiences. Both lawyers and

tenors (the leading men of the opera world) are the subject of humor in this playful piece. The program notes describe the story as "taking place in a time where champagne flows freely, princes are easily bored and tenors refuse to keep their high notes to themselves." Opera Theater's "Die Fledermaus" was easily the best free ticket this week.

Director Stella Markou gave a lively talk before the performances both nights, in which she introduced the material, explained some the changes made to the original operetta and talked about the gifted performers.

The cast was somewhat different for each night. Dr. Falke (baritone Brandon Smith)

is plotting a prank as payback to his friend Gabriel Eisenstein (tenors Brendon Lally on Tuesday and Nathan Johnston on Wednesday) for abandoning the inebriated Falke, dressed as a bat for a costume party, on the steps of the courthouse where he works, causing Falke great embarrassment. Falke seeks revenge with the help of a bored Russian nobleman, Orlofsky (soprano Victoria Hood, cross-dressing), who can never find enough amusement but is planning a big costume party that everyone wants to attend.

Eisenstein is due to report to jail to serve an eight-day sentence for an unknown offense, thanks to his incompetent lawyer, Dr. Blind

(the very funny tenor Mason Scott). Although it is his last night of freedom, Eisenstein would rather sneak off to Orlofsky's party without his neglected wife Rosalinda (sopranos Devin Kemp on Tuesday, Michaela Slamka on Wednesday). With her husband gone, Rosalinda's old flame, drunken tenor Alfred (tenors Chaston McPeck on Tuesday and Gustavo Perez on Wednesday), appears to woo her in the wonderful scene described above. The smiling, irrepressible Alfred is ready to move right in, donning Eisenstein's bathrobe and cuddling up to Rosalinda until her resistance wears thin and she agrees to go to the ball with him.

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StoryCorps records stories at UMSL Veterans Center

CATE MARQUIS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

StoryCorps Military Initiatives visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus on April 5 to record the stories of student veterans at the UMSL Veterans Center. The nonprofit organization StoryCorps aims to preserve the stories of a broad sample of Americans by creating

audio recordings. The recordings are kept at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Selected recordings by StoryCorps have been on National Public Radio stations and animated versions created using the StoryCorps audio have been broadcast on Public Broadcast System YV stations across the nation.

StoryCorps representatives

were in St. Louis from April 3-5. The StoryCorps recording sessions were part of the event "Creative Conversations: Uniting Veterans and Community through the Arts," coordinated by the Warrior Arts Alliance and VSA Missouri from April 3-6. The artistic events focused on the power of storytelling and its potential for engendering change and on the individual stories and

storytellers.

The StoryCorps event at the UMSL Veterans Center ran from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At about 3 p.m., there were about four veterans present to participate in StoryCorps.

"Story Corps is an independent nonprofit oral history project," Jill Glaser, a facilitator with Story Corps, said. "So we travel around the country recording

conversations between loved ones, and this specific initiative is for military families and friends."

"We've had a wonderful response and some great stories and participants," she said about the UMSL event. "We had a full recording day today, so it's about six interviews altogether in pairs. Everybody has been very open and helpful with us today."

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What's Current

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"What's Current" is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Monday Noon Series: "Looking at Contemporary Art"

Tricia Y. Paik, assistant curator of modern and contemporary art at the Saint Louis Art Museum, talks about her recent exhibitions and ongoing projects at the museum, 12:15 - 1:15 PM in 402 J.C. Penney Conference Center. For Info: Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

player, present a genre-bending concert, 8 p.m. in Touhill PAC Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. Both are multiple Grammy winners. Discounted SNAP tickets available. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

University Percussion, Afro-Cuban Ensemble and Vocal Point

A free concert that is a distinctive fusion of percussive sounds and joyous vocal music, 7:30 PM in the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Lunch and Learn: The Do's and Don'ts of Interviewing

Come Join University Program Board for some free food while learning what to do and what not to do while interviewing, 12:30 - 2 PM in Century Room C, Millennium Student Center. For Info: Scott Morrissey or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

LinkedIn & Beyond

Career Services offers a discussion of LinkedIn and social media resources, 2 - 3 PM in 278 MSC, Career Services Conference Room. Please register at careers.umsl.edu. For Info: Rachel Boehlow at 314-516-5111

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Youth Violence Prevention Conference

Description: Speakers at this year's conference will examine victimization and strategies for reducing adolescent victimization, 8 AM to 4 PM in J.C. Penney Conference Center. Research findings from St. Louis and other cities will identify the levels and types of victimizations occurring both in the community and in schools. Evidence-based policies and programs for violence education will also be discussed. Fee: \$35. For Info: Mary Gough at 314-516-5974

Floor Hockey League Deadline

Deadline for Campus Recreation's Floor Hockey Leagues (men's and coed), which will be played on Tuesday nights at the Mark Twain Gym beginning April 16. Advance online registration is required: imleagues.com/UMSL/Registration. For Info: Campus Recreation Office, 203 MT, at 314-516-5326

Battle of the Bands

Annual Battle of the Bands, sponsored by the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association, 7 - 9 PM in Pilot House in MSC.

Raise money for PLHCSA's charity of the year, Lydia's House of St. Louis. Free food, T-shirts and entertainment. Part of the UMSL Jubilee celebration. If you are in a band and would like to participate, please contact Jessie at jnbleile@mail.umsl.edu for more information. For Info: Jessica Bleile at 314-640-0594

Kinetic Chamber Project — UMSL Dance Concert

Join the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies for an evening of dance, April 11 - 13 at 8 PM in Lee Theater, Touhill Performing Arts Center. Students will perform dance pieces choreographed by faculty, guest artists and aspiring student choreographers. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Psychology Department Colloquium

The Department of Psychology and the Missouri Institute of Mental Health colloquium, 9 - 10 AM in 121 Research, features Dr. J. Dennis Fortenberry, professor of pediatrics at Indiana University School of Medicine, who will discuss "Sexual Modesty and Sexual Health Of Adolescent Women." For Info: Jean Mayo at 314-516-5393

2013 Relay For Life of UMSL

Relay For Life is a life-changing event that celebrates cancer survivors, remembers those lost, and fights back against the disease, 6 PM to 6 AM at Don Dallas Soccer Field. \$10 donation to register; go to relayforlife.org/umslmo to register. For Info: Brandi Grieshaber at 314-516-5291.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

AOSA Sprint for Sight 5K

Support the St. Louis Society for the Blind by participating in the 19th annual Sprint for Sight 5K run/walk, 9 AM to 1 PM at Legacy Park Pavilion A, Cottleville, MO. Early registration is \$20 (due by April 2) and late registration is \$25. Early registration guarantees you a T-shirt. Lunch will be provided the day of the race. For registration forms please contact Kelly Durst (kadm4b@mail.umsl.edu). For Info: Kelly Durst at 660-341-1216

College of Optometry CE Nutrition & the Eye Symposium VI

2-day class on Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2nd. It will offer research and findings of nutritional values that will increase longevity prospects, prevent, and even cure degenerative ocular diseases, 9 AM to 4 PM in JC Penney Conference Center. Fees: Various. See Optometry CE web page for more info: http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/Continuing%20Education/Nutrition2013.html For Info: Lis Ellerbusch at 314-516-5615.

Weekend Tour - Broad Horn Flat Boat

Mercantile Library at UMSL for a free, docent-led tour which focuses on a specific aspect of St. Louis or Missouri history, 11 AM to 12 PM in St. Louis Mercantile Library, lower level of Jefferson Library. Weekend tours provide a wonderful opportunity for lively discussions about topics ranging from the founding of St. Louis to the Mercantile's art collections, plus much more! No reservations are required. For Info: Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248

Experience St. Louis: Powell Symphony Hall

UPB is taking students to the Powell Symphony Hall to see an amazing symphony: Symphonie Fantastique, 7 - 11 PM, Provincial House pick-up, event at Powell Symphony Hall. For Info: R.V. Jenkins or other UPB member at 314-516-5531

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Weekend Tour - Arts and Culture in St. Louis

Join us at the Mercantile Library at UMSL for a free, docent-led tour which focuses on a specific aspect of St. Louis or Missouri history, 2 - 3 PM in St. Louis Mercantile library. For Info: Valenda Curtis at 314-516-7248

MONDAY, APRIL 15

New member of the Arianna String Quartet

Free concert as violinist Julia Sakharova joins UMSL Artists-in-Residence Arianna String Quartet. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

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Campus Crimeline

THEFT - WEST DRIVE GARAGE

April 1 - Report # 13-135.
 An UMSL Faculty member reported the theft of a license plate from their parked vehicle in the West Drive garage between March 14, 2013, & March 31, 2013. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

April 1 - Report # 13-136.
 An UMSL Faculty member reported the theft of a parking permit between March 20, 2013 & March 29, 2013. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

April 2 - Report # 13-140.
 An UMSL student reported a stolen parking permit that was taken on February 2, 2013. Disposition: Report taken.

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - MILLENNIUM SOUTH

April 2 - Report #13-141.
 A hole was punched in a wall following a dispute between two UMSL student. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - WEST DRIVE GARAGE

March 11, 2013 - Report #13-105.
 An UMSL student reported a lost parking permit. Disposition: Report taken.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT - THEFT - METROLINK NORTH STATION

April 3 - Report # 13-145.
 An UMSL student reported that an I-phone was stolen from them while on the Metrolink platform, St. Louis County Police handled the report due to jurisdiction. Disposition: Report taken.

STRONG ARM ROBBERY - GROB-MAN DRIVE

April 4 - Report # 13-147.
 A non student reported that around 10:35pm on April 3, 2013 they were accosted by an unknown black male who stole his I-phone, the victim followed the suspect to a location in North County. St. Louis County Police arrested the suspect and contacted UMSL Police. Disposition: Report taken.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON - METROLINK SOUTH

April 4 - Report # 13-148.
 UMSL Police assisted St. Louis County Police in the arrest of an individual loitering at the Metrolink stop that had several outstanding warrants. Disposition: Report taken.

News briefs

UMSL POLICE ASSIST BEL-NOR POLICE IN ARREST NEAR UNIVERSITY MEADOWS APARTMENTS

Several police vehicles converged on the parking area behind the gates at the University Meadows Apartments on the South Campus of University of Missouri-St. Louis on April 1 at about 4:30 p.m. The incident was observed by a member of The Current staff while attempting to deliver copies of the student newspaper to the apartment's office. "On Monday, a driver was arrested by Bel-Nor police for outstanding warrants, and we assisted that agency," Captain Steven Salamon, UMSL Police Department. Salamon said that Bel-Nor police requested assistance after the suspect drove onto the campus after driving several blocks on Natural Bridge Road. Salamon said that no campus incident report was listed since campus police were only assisting. No other information was available from University Meadows, UMSL police or Bel-Nor police.

MAN ROBBED OF CELL PHONE NEAR NORTH CAMPUS METROLINK STATION

The UMSL campus police reported that a man was allegedly hit on the head and robbed of a cell phone on April 3 near the intersection of Grobman Drive and University Boulevard, also known as Florissant Road, at about 10:35 p.m. The information was emailed by Captain Steven Salamon, UMSL Police Department, to UMSL students as a Clery release on April 4. The UMSL police learned of the incident when they were notified by St. Louis county police at 2:52 a.m. The victim was not a student at UMSL. No weapon was used. Both the victim and the alleged assailant had disembarked at the North Campus Metrolink Station. The first man was walking down the hill near Grobman Drive toward University Boulevard, followed by the second man, who reportedly hit the first man on the back of the head, knocking him down and taking his cell phone. The victim followed the alleged assailant and called police on a second cell phone he was carrying, according to Salamon. The suspect was arrested.

StoryCorps at UMSL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Glaser described the StoryCorps recording process, which they were doing in the office of the director of the UMSL Veterans Center. "We have a little bit of paperwork about their personal information and where they come from for the archive at the Library of Congress, where all of our stories are archived. And then they come in, we do a little sound check and we do a 40-minute interview. Afterwards, we take some pictures, and then they're good to go. They go away with a CD copy of the recording," she said.

"We were just at the Regional Arts Commission yesterday. We're not just at universities; we have different partners all across the United States. So we've had three recording days total. Two were at the Regional Arts Commission and with the VA hospital ad today, here on campus," Glaser said.

Ryan Barrett, interim director of the Veterans Center at UMSL, spoke on how StoryCorps came to the Veterans Center. "Actually, it was gender studies who approached us and let us know about the opportunity, that StoryCorps was coming to the St. Louis area," he said.

Upon learning that StoryCorps would be visiting St. Louis, Kathleen Nigro, associate teaching professor



Ryan Barrett, interim director of the Veterans Center. **LEON DEVANCE/ THE CURRENT**

of English and program advisor for the Gender Studies Program, worked with Deb Marshall, director of Warrior Arts Alliance, to bring StoryCorps to UMSL.

"Because we have a new Veterans Center, it seemed a natural fit for StoryCorps to visit our campus," Nigro said.

"They thought it would be a good opportunity to get some veterans to get them to speak about their experiences," Barrett said. "We linked up with them and went ahead and made a call out for student veterans, who were kind of our target, and got responses back, and so here they are."

"Turnout is good. I think we

have about eight folks that are here," Barrett said. Barrett is a veteran himself and served in the Air Force. "And I did give an interview," he said.

"It was pretty good," he said about the experience. "It was good to sit down and explain my experiences, because I'd never really done that before. [I] kind of explained how I got into the military, the reasons why, what I did while I was in and why I eventually got out."

"The StoryCorps project helped to encourage communication between the UMSL veteran and civilian communities, as well as to highlight our new Veterans Center," Nigro said.

Jubilee Flashback

The Current has been part of the university since 1966. For the campus' fiftieth anniversary, we are re-printing selected articles from our archives.

Vince Schoemehl was also a member of The Current staff. This article originally ran on April 9, 1981.

UMSL graduate elected mayor

Cheryl Keathley

Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., a 1971 UMSL graduate, won this past Tuesday's election for mayor of St. Louis.

Schoemehl defeated his republican opponent, Jerry Wamser, by a two-to-one margin with a vote of 73,209 to 37,078.

"I think it's wonderful," commented Chancellor Arnold B. Grobman in reaction to the UMSL graduate's success. "It's a measure that the university is becoming of age in the city."

Another administrator also shared the Chancellor's response.

"I'm very pleased," said Ar-

thur MacKinney, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. "I'm hoping it'll make people more aware that we're here."

MacKinney noted that UMSL will be willing to work with Schoemehl in any way it can. Such a joint effort, according to MacKinney, is presently done through the Technical Assistance

Program run by Professor Terrence Jones.

The program is a jointly funded project by which the city can draw on UMSL faculty members as experts. According to Jones the program worked well under Mayor Conway.

"I'm hoping it'll work quite well under Mayor Schoemehl,"

Jones said.

Jones shared this view adding "one way it'll show up is through government."

Schoemehl, 34, is the youngest mayor in the city of St. Louis in more than 100 years.

"That Schoemehl won is no surprise," said Daniel Monti, who had all the candidates speak before his class "The City."

"That he won with that margin is no surprise."

Monti commented that there has not been a strong republican presence in the city of St. Louis for a long time.

He also noted that the Homer G. Phillips issue which "helped to dump Conway", did not seem to play a role in Tuesday's election.

"It would appear that the anti-Conway could not be translated as pro Homer G. Phillips," Monti said.

While at UMSL Schoemehl formed and was president of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), although this organization did not belong to the national SDS.

During the primary campaign for mayor, Schoemehl was under attack for his part in the SDS during his college years. A reprint of a March 19, 1967 Current article, telling of his involvement in this group, was used to label Schoemehl a "traitor" and a "draft dodger."



PM NUMBER ONE: UMSL graduate Vincent C. Schoemehl talks with

well wishers at his victory party Tuesday night, April 7 [photo by Wiley Price].

Commuting doesn't stop Cynthia Holman from getting involved on campus

ANYA GLUSHKO
FEATURES EDITOR

It can be hard for a commuter student to get involved on campus. However, it can be very beneficial in academic and other areas. Cynthia Holman, junior, secondary education, a student from Branson, Mo., is a great example of this.

"I really like [University of Missouri-St. Louis] because of the diverse student population and how it's really easy for students to get involved on campus. I chose UMSL because I wanted to broaden my horizons by going to a quality university in a metropolitan area. I am not originally from St. Louis, so being involved at UMSL is how I got to meet other people and make connections. This is a great way to build a personal network," Holman said.

Holman chose to be an education major because she has always loved working with students. "I'm also a Spanish major, and after doing some teaching in the United States, I'd love to work and live abroad. I also plan on getting a master's degree in Spanish and teaching in higher education," she said.

Holman works as a Spanish tutor with the foreign language department at UMSL. "This job is especially important to me because I want to become a Spanish teacher. Joining an honors society or having work experience in an area that you plan to pursue a career in can be very beneficial. You can meet other people in your field," Holman said.

Volunteer service is another prominent aspect of Holman's life. Holman is currently an intern doing grant research at

Lydia's House, a transitional housing facility that supports women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Holman volunteered there for about a year.

"When I first applied for an internship there, the volunteer coordinator was surprised because she said that most of the applicants for internships were social work or psychology majors. Domestic violence is definitely an issue in today's American society. There are thousands of women in Missouri that get turned away from emergency shelters every year. That is why agencies such as Lydia's House are so important. I really wanted to volunteer there to become involved with an organization that supports survivors of domestic violence," Holman said.

With regards to campus involvement, Holman is in-

involved with other organizations on campus, among them the Emerging Leaders program. Holman decided to become an Emerging Leaders mentor so she could inspire other students to fulfill their leadership potential. She advises students to get involved on campus.

"I would highly recommend [for] students to get involved on campus. There are so many different cultural, religious, academic, leadership, service and other special interest-based student organizations as well as Greek Life organizations for students to get involved with on campus," she said. Student involvement provides a multitude of opportunities for networking and also provides an avenue for students to get to know other students on campus. As a result of being involved at UMSL, I have been

granted access to many opportunities that I would otherwise not have received."

"It can be very challenging to balance school, work and other obligations. However, it does not take a substantial time commitment to reap the benefits of student involvement," Holman said. "For commuter students, it's a way to stay connected to UMSL and other students. From personal experience, I know that sometimes it seems that that you are not really a part of the campus community if you live off campus. Student involvement bridges this gap. Even for students who do live on campus, I think that being a part of student organizations and leadership programs still helps them feel more connected to the campus as a whole."



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Rustic Lantern Films Presents Its First Feature Film



Lake Windfall

COMING IN
APRIL 2013

This Film is Not Yet Rated

Film contains profanity and mild violence. Some material may not be appropriate for children under 13. Parents are urged to give special guidance.

The film is a portrait of interactions between deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people. The plot focuses on five characters in a post-apocalyptic setting. Told with humor and emotion, this film takes an authentic look at three different types of hearing loss experiences. While navigating through this tale of awareness and survival, both hearing and deaf will realize how critical effective communication is to our collective survival. The cast and crew consisted of mainly deaf and hard of hearing members from all over the country. This production, expressed primarily using American Sign Language, illustrates the great skill, creativity, and passion for filmmaking shared by these talented artists. Unlike many film productions, all proceeds made from this film will be devoted to programs and services that enhance the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people and promote greater inclusion and cooperation with the mainstreamed population—those who can hear.

Thursday 04.25.13 | Touhill Performing Arts Center
House opens at 9:30 a.m.
Film at 10 a.m.
Q&A with Dr. Felix Vincenz,
Clinical Psychologist and Research Associate Professor,
Missouri Institute of Mental Health from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Directed by Roger Vass, Written by Tony Nitko and Roger Vass
Starring Christopher B. Corrigan, Alex Laferrere, Jason Hicks

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Devin Kemp as Rosalinda and Chaston McPeck as Alfred in Die Fledermaus.

SARAH MYERS/ THE CURRENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

'Die Fledermaus'

Meanwhile, her maid Adele (the wonderfully funny and gifted singer Stephanie Crawford), who has ambitions to go on the stage, is trying to wheedle a night off so she can go to the ball disguised as a lady. Even the prison warden Frank (baritone Micah Turnbough on Tuesday and Ravi Raghuram on Wednesday) has snagged an invitation. All the farcical intrigue comes together at the party in the second act, and all gets sorted out in the third act in the prison office of Warden Frank. The cast is rounded out by mezzo-soprano Andrea Lair, who does a great physical comedy bit as Adele's sister Sally, and the chorus of Thomas Edler, Minerva Keller, Amanda Orzel and Rachel Sexson.

It is silly fun, but it features some marvelous voices singing melodious tunes by Strauss. All the voices are good, but there were a few standouts in both singing and comic acting. Soprano Stephanie Crawford was definitely riveting whenever she was showcased, both as a singer and as a performer with great comic style. On Tuesday, others whose powerful voices shone were Brendan Lally and Devin Kemp

as Eisenstein and Rosalinda. On Wednesday, the comic pair of Gustavo Perez as drunken tenor Alfred and Ravi Raghuram as prison warden Frank stole the show, wowing with their glorious voices and spot-on comic timing.

There was a great deal of creativity in the staging, with pretty costumes looking cleverly improvised and the few props well-chosen. Very original graphics by Martin Baragiola were used in place of sets, with sepia-tone images projected on hanging panels and a screen at the back of the stage by lighting and projection designer Glen Anderson. In the first act, images of pillars and a large window suggested a grand home. An image of a huge, brilliantly-lit chandelier was the backdrop for the grand ball in the second act. Piano, played by Donna Pyron, was the only musical accompaniment for the singers.

"Die Fledermaus" was a musical and comic delight and not the first highly entertaining, beautifully sung performance from UMSL Opera Theater. UMSL audiences would be wise to catch the next one.

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TRANCE
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JAMES McAVOY VINCENT CASSEL ROSARIO DAWSON

IN SELECT THEATERS APRIL 12

COMICS & PUZZLES

The UMSL MATH CLUB
 presents:

Problem of the Month

Submit your solution to the April Problem of the Month by Friday, April 12. Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month. Prizes available. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH

April Problem of the Month:

A box contains exactly five chips, three red and two white. Chips are randomly removed one at a time without replacement until all the red chips are drawn or all the white chips are drawn. What is the probability that the last chip drawn is white?

**March Problem solved by:
 Joe Koester & Susan Novak.**

Note: Pi day, 3/14, was roundly enjoyed by everyone. Also, on Wednesday, April 24 from 1-3pm in Clark Hall 309 the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will sponsor the 10th Annual Andalafte Mathematical Competition. This math competition is open to any UMSL undergraduate. Prizes available. Please contact R. Dotzel in ESH 329 (516-6337) for further details. Application forms are on the department website.

Save the Date!!



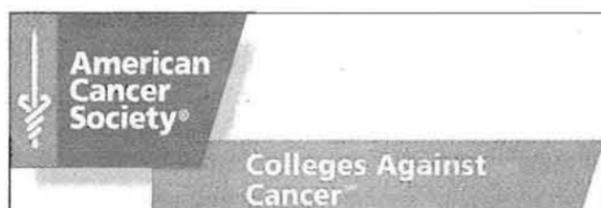
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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Mandatory drug testing is a necessity for organizational interests

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Is mandatory drug testing for organizations an invasion of privacy for citizens or is it a necessary evil for employees who contribute to concealing the problem of drug abuse?

A study of 6,000 personnel professionals conducted in 2012 by the Society for Human Resource Management found after implementing a drug testing program that all of the companies experienced an increase in employee productivity along with a decrease in absenteeism. Another big concern for organizations is the substantial cost of worker's compensation, which increases insurance rates across the board. Companies that tested for drugs found an improvement in worker's compensation incident rates, along with a decrease in employee turnover.

In the private sector, companies have a stake in making sure that those who have been convicted of crimes do not bring their negative behavioral patterns back into the workplace. By no means do I sug-

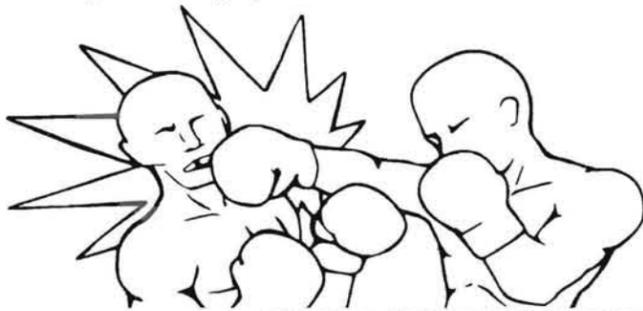
gest that companies have the right to discriminate against applicants with criminal backgrounds. However, under laws imposed in the late 1980s by President Ronald Reagan, former inmates who are under probation or supervised release are required to submit to at least three drug tests, or they will be re-incarcerated. Companies that perform drug tests are merely enforcing the law.

The most solemn case for mandatory drug testing among organizations both in the public and private sector is that those who have chronic problems with substance abuse are among us. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 70 percent of all illicit drug users are employed.

Also, there are many industries such as construction, hospitality, industrial, automotive and aviation repairs that have very high rates of substance abusers.

In addition, the implementation of mandatory drug testing may do the offender a favor by getting the person referred for substance abuse counseling that will enable that person to transition back into society clean and sober and ready to contribute.

The benefit to society outweighs the general perception that mandatory drug tests are an invasion of privacy. Mandatory drug testing is actually a necessity to assure safety in the workplace.



CHRISTIAN KESSLER/THE CURRENT

Drug tests are not necessary

MARCUS BARNETT
STAFF WRITER

Drug tests are an unnecessary violation of individual privacy. The only times a person would need to undergo a drug test would be during a job interview process or if a person was reporting to a probation officer. Businesses use drug tests as a method to separate the individuals who are using drugs from the individuals who are not using drugs.

If a person is able to successfully complete the tasks necessary in order to get the job done while they are at work, what they do on their own time should not matter to the employer. As long as the employee is not using drugs while

they are at work, then it should be acceptable for individuals to use drugs on their own time. If an individual using drugs on their own time is unable to perform their daily duties at their place of employment due to the use of drugs, then the employer can simply fire the person as they would any person who cannot complete their daily tasks.

The same can be said about a person who is on probation reporting to their probation officer periodically for a drug test. If the person who is on probation was not incarcerated because of drugs, then the person should not have to undergo drug tests. Some people may say that drug use is the cause of crimes.

What people do not realize is that drugs do not cause people to commit crimes. The use of drugs could only give a person the courage or put them in the state of mind to commit a crime that they had been considering doing before drugs came into the picture. They commit a crime because a have developed a criminal mind, not because they use drugs.

Instead of businesses and probation officers resorting to the use of drug tests to determine if a person is suitable for hire or continued freedom, they should administer mental health tests. That would be a better way to distinguish the good from the bad.

COLUMN *The Chopping Block* Less aid disadvantages transfer students

HUNG NGUYEN
OPINIONS EDITOR



Many students transferring from community colleges or other schools often face an uphill battle trying to complete their degree program, since as transfer students, they receive less aid.

A report based on data from the U.S. Department of Education, released in December 2012 by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, showed that while the difference is smaller at public universities, transfer students at both private and public institutions received less aid and borrowed more in student loans than peers who started their degree at the institution.

As a result, transfer students graduate with large sums in loans, work while in college to pay their tuition bills or do a combination of the two. This is a disadvantage, since students usually need to retain a full course load of 12 or more credit hours to qualify for most aid programs, and working part-time makes doing well in college much more of a challenge. While one would argue that it just requires some effort on the part of the student, one could also question why aid programs for transfer students are not as prevalent in number.

Many students and their families now find community colleges to be a much more affordable option if they receive insufficient aid and cannot foot the bill for traditional four-year institutions, which often have tuition rates three or four times those of two-year colleges. Some students have to change schools for personal reasons — family illness, high cost of living, job relocation, etc. With the growing cost of education, these cases are now more common than just a

decade ago, and so it is reasonable to question why the system has not addressed this concern. The system does such a great job of increasing student costs when it needs to from year to year; why does it not increase its aid programs?

Some would go so far as to disregard this problem altogether. It's life. If you can't afford it, then too bad; you're on your own. While this logic is not entirely wrong, it does not account for the fact that students from middle- to low-income families will be at a disadvantage, since their parents cannot contribute as much, if they can contribute anything, to their education. For some, it means putting off their degree program for a few years or going part-time in order to work and pay other essential costs — rent, car payment, child care, utilities, food, health care, etc. — and extending their time in school. The notion of equal opportunity and workforce diversity is already dead in the water.

If the goal is to create productive citizens and well-educated students, we should make sure that they don't have to worry from semester to semester they will be able to pay. They shouldn't be so tired from working that they can't concentrate on what they're studying. It's not a leveled playing field, and it's not equal opportunity. Life's not fair, but let's not make it more trying for some than for others.

STAFF OPINION:

Defense of Marriage Act not likely to be overturned

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

The legal definition of marriage deserves to be recognized as the civil rights issue that it is. Everyone who loves somebody deserves to have that love validated to the full extent of the law. This is the basis of marital equality and the effort to overturn the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA says that the legal definition of marriage is limited to marriage between a man and a woman. Thus federal benefits cannot be recognized for same-sex marriages performed in the states that grant it.

For those who support the overturning of DOMA and have the means to support the issue of same-sex marriage in the political

process, the issue is over who one chooses to marry. However, ethnic minorities need to be careful that they do not let the wealthy social elites, those who stand to benefit the most if DOMA is overturned, dominate the political process.

For ethnic minorities, the issue is over social and economic conditions that impede marriage as an objective. The high incarceration rate of minority men is one of the reasons for the low marriage rate among African Americans. For historically persecuted groups, the legal definition of marriage is a validation of racial identities and culture. Due to ethnocentric stereotypes, many in these groups are made to feel that they are socially inadequate and unworthy of

being married and loved, and legalizing same-sex marriage is not likely to change that. While it is true that interracial marriage bans were lifted by the courts in most states by the late 1960s, the marriage rate for African Americans was actually higher at that time than it is today.

Finally, when it comes to race, there are clear distinctions and divisions in the concepts of marital union that raise fair questions of whether same-sex marriage will be embraced or spurned by minorities if it is legalized. Civil rights leaders and activists have yet to articulate a position on whether or not DOMA should be overturned.

The U.S. Supreme Court will have to deal with the backlash from states that refuse to marry same-sex couples, which is something they are never

obligated to do. However, same-sex marriages that are performed in one state must be recognized as legal and valid in all 50 states.

By supporting the overturn of DOMA, the Obama Administration has put itself into a conflict of interest that compromises many, not just ethnic minorities. The role of the president is to defend the law in court, even if he disagrees with it. If Obama feels as strongly as he does, he must wait until the Supreme Court decides on overturning DOMA. The Supreme Court could decide that in order to overturn DOMA, Obama must introduce federal legislation to do just that, the same way he did for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Because the U.S. Department of Justice cannot represent the federal position on

the possible overturning of DOMA, a partisan party advocacy panel in Congress now represents them.

It appears that ethnic minorities who have fought long and hard for inclusion in society will likely defer to DOMA as a means to galvanize their community in support of the customary definition of marriage. Further ethical diversity is not likely to favor supporters of same-sex marriage.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor really took the heat over ethnicity during her confirmation to the Supreme Court with her remarks about "the wise Latino." Racial controversy is something that Sotomayor appears to want to avoid, and she will likely join conservatives in remanding same-sex marriage to the states, effectively upholding DOMA.

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- 10 A.M. - College of Nursing
 - College of Fine Arts & Communication
 - School of Social Work
 - Master of Public Policy Administration
- 2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences
- 6 P.M. - College of Optometry -
Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY, MAY 19

- 2 P.M. - College of Education
 - Bachelor of General Studies
 - Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
- 6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
 - UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate
 Engineering Program
 - Missouri University S & T
 Engineering Education Center

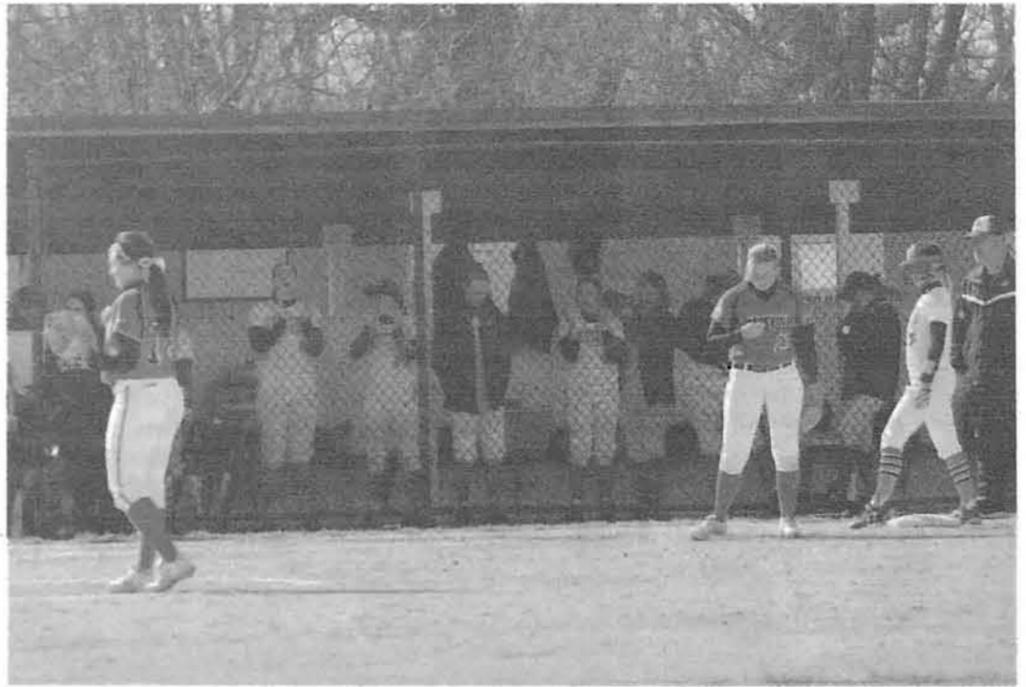
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UMSL women's softball wins 20th



UMSL women's softball team won their 20th game and are looking forward to season. LEON DEVANCE/ THE CURRENT

LEON DEVANCE SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team is erasing the sting of missing the Great Lakes Valley Conference playoffs last season.

According to the UMSL website, UMSL collected 28 hits in a double header home sweep of Maryville, winning 10-0 in a game called after five innings. UMSL then continued the onslaught, winning the nightcap 15-1 in another game called after five innings.

The sweep improved UMSL's record to 20-8 overall. At 11-1 in the GLVC, UMSL has a commanding six-game lead over second-place William Jewell in the Western Division. Maryville dropped to 5-15 overall and 2-7 in the GLVC.

Pitcher Hannah Perryman, freshman, criminology, worked fast, threw strikes and tossed a complete game for her eleventh win against four losses. UMSL got off to a quick 3-0 first-inning lead as second baseman Katie Wood, sophomore, biology, and catcher Madison Zbaraschuk, sophomore, communications, plated runs with singles. Brianna Butler, sophomore, early childhood education, plated the last run of the inning with a groundout.

Perryman's pitching line included four hits, one walk and 10 strikeouts. Lead-off designated player Katie Schultz, freshman, elementary education, went five for five at the dish with four RBIs and scored four runs. Wood went five for five and added five RBIs.

Brian Levin, head coach, said pitching was the key to the sweep. "The pitching was real good for us today. It allowed us to keep the other team from getting runners on and scoring," Levin said.

UMSL then put the game away in the second inning. The inning was keyed

by Zbaraschuk's, sophomore, communications, two-run ground ball single up the middle as UMSL piled more runs on.

UMSL has won nine consecutive games and 11 straight games in the GLVC. Levin said that the team is ready and focused on game days.

"I emphasize a 100 percent work effort in the weight room and on the field. Their effort and attitude will make the difference. I also preach intensity and enthusiasm to these girls. Combine that with energy, which leads to extra effort and excellence. I also tell them that we've got to win one inning at a time so that if the opposition scores, we've got to get the runs back," Levin said.

Outfielder Jena Boudreau, sophomore, nursing, insisted that the off-season work is paying off in wins.

"We are going to continue doing our best and play to our potential, which is 110 percent, against every team we face. We worked out at 6 a.m. and busted our butts to get where we are now," Boudreau said.

Levin said that while the season is now halfway done, there are still goals to accomplish. "Softball is a crazy game. You don't get a couple of breaks, and you can lose a few games. Rockhurst ... and William Jewell ... will be in the race until the end. Drury's record is not reflective of their team, and they were picked to win the conference," Levin said. "We are halfway through the season. Winning the division crown is key. We've got to maintain focus and not lose concentration and make our opponents pay for their mistakes. It hurt last year to sit at home and watch the eight teams eligible make the playoffs. I told our director of athletics that will never happen again."