

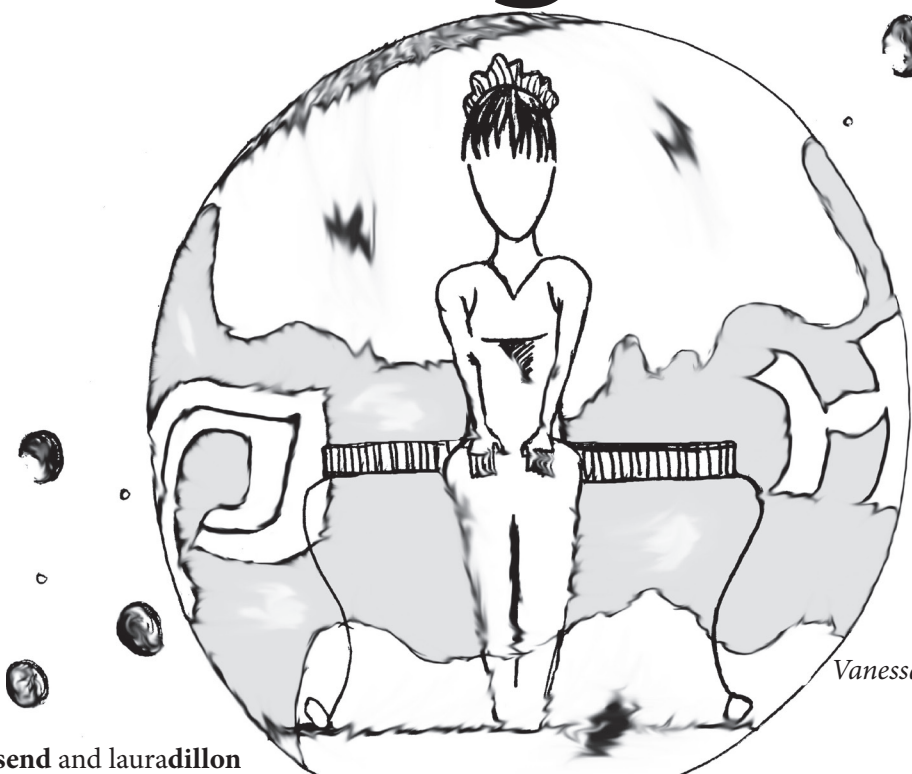
# the water tower

uvm's alternative newsma

uvm's  
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band  
→ page 4

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# Choosing an Abortion: what happens next?



Vanessa Denino

by alextownsend and lauradillon

It doesn't matter how it happened. Maybe a condom broke, maybe the pill wasn't as effective as you'd hoped, but there's one thing that's sure: you're pregnant. And you don't live in a bubble--you know the basic options. For one, you can have the baby. Then either raise the child, or give him or her up for adoption. But you also know that you don't have to carry this newly-fertilized group of cells in your uterus to term. You can get an abortion.

If you're female, chances are at some point in your life you've considered what you would do if you were to become pregnant unexpectedly. Almost fifty percent of pregnancies among American women are unintended, and four out of ten of those pregnancies are terminated. Considering these statistics, it isn't improbable that you or one of your friends may actually have to make the choice of whether or not to go through with the procedure. Deciding to get an abortion can be one of the hardest decisions of anyone's life, but after the choice is made, there remain many issues to be dealt with.

Despite Vermont's strong liberal leanings and pro-choice stance, it can seem like few people actually talk about the details involved in choosing and getting an abortion. Of course, you can always Google the information you need. (One good resource is the official Planned Parenthood website. See Resource Bank.) But the Internet can only tell you so much about the reality of going through the process. We wanted to explore what really happens when one considers getting an abortion in Burlington, Vermont. One former UVM student ("Mary") was willing to tell us about her experience.

When Mary suspected she was pregnant she went to the local Planned Parenthood branch for a pregnancy

test, where her worries were realized. Immediately she felt overwhelmed with the weight of her situation, but said she felt that the staff at Planned Parenthood were there to support her.

There are two main types of abortions. One is a chemical abortion, for which you take a pill in the privacy of your home. This pill induces a heavy period for the next several days and a few weeks later you would be asked to have a follow-up appointment at Planned Parenthood to completely insure that the abortion had been successful. This pill costs \$350-\$650.

We talked to a practitioner at the Women's Health Center about the pros and cons of the abortion pill. She said that it varies from woman to woman: while some women like the idea of being in the privacy of their own home (compared to an in-office procedure) other women are frightened by the idea of being alone during the sometimes scary and painful process.

Mary decided against this option, favoring an in-clinic procedure. A few weeks later she went back to Planned Parenthood for her appointment. She'd had plenty of time to think about her decision, and had been given a hot-line number that she could dial at any time if she needed someone to talk to, and she felt that she was making the best choice for herself. She was scared, but still certain.

The most common kind of in-clinic abortion is called an aspiration abortion. This procedure is done by inserting a tube into the cervix and essentially vacuuming at the walls of the uterus. It feels like getting a pap smear. You may feel cramps for a few days afterwards, but typically there are no physical complications. An aspiration abortion takes several hours of preparation, but the procedure itself only takes a few minutes. For hers, Mary needed only to take an Advil as an anesthetic.

Mary's procedure cost about \$900. Unfortunately this was not covered by her insurance, and she had to borrow money from a friend to cover it. The in-clinic abortions usually range from \$350 and \$950 in the first trimester. If you're still on your parents' insurance, coverage can vary from plan to plan. But if you are on the UVM insurance plan, a full 80% of the cost will be covered.

At no point was Mary required or pressured to inform the father of the fetus, which, by law, is seen as an "undue burden" on the woman. Nor was she expected, again per Vermont law, to inform her family. This would still have been the case if she had been a minor at the time. Vermont also does not require a "waiting period" before an abortion, nor mandatory counseling sessions, both of which are common in other states.

The abortion process is very safe medically (if it is performed within the first trimester, when the vast majority of abortions take place, it is actually safer to have an

## quick facts

from The Guttmacher Institute

--Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended, and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion.

-- By the age of 45, over half of American women will have experienced an unintended pregnancy. Trends suggest that 1/3 will have had an abortion by that age.

--Women in their twenties account for more than half of all abortions. Thirty-three percent of all abortions (in the US) are received by women 20-24.

--Forty-two percent of women obtaining abortions have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level.

--Fifty-four percent of women who have abortions had used a contraceptive method (usually the condom or the pill) during the month they became pregnant. Reports of correct use vary by method.

--Abortions performed in the first trimester pose virtually no long-term risk of such problems as infertility, ectopic pregnancy, spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) or birth defect, and little or no risk of preterm or low-birth-weight deliveries.

--In 2009, the average amount paid for a nonhospital abortion with local anesthesia at 10 weeks' gestation was \$451.

abortion than it is to carry a fetus to term and give birth). However, some women find that they need emotional support for some time afterwards, particularly if they feel they cannot talk to friends and family about their abortion. In these cases the UVM counseling centers are available for support, understanding, and help. All basic counseling appointments are free.

Getting an abortion can be a very intimidating and frightening experience, but you should know that there are resources on and around campus willing to help you every step of the way, if you decide that an abortion is right for you. You can go to the Women's Health Center, Planned Parenthood, and the UVM Counseling Centers for assistance and support without fear of judgment. Getting an abortion will never be an easy process, but it can be made easier with the proper information and help. Remember that you are not alone--there are Marys everywhere who have gone through the same process.

## resource bank

### Our Local Planned Parenthood:

23 Mansfield Ave.,  
Suite 102  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 863-6326  
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/>

### UVM Women's Health Center:

425 Pearl Street  
Second Floor (Room 2221)  
(802) 656-0603  
Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm  
Closed 12 noon to 1 pm

### Counseling Center:

(802) 656-3340

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## inbox

it's cold and it sucks, make it stop

Dear **water tower**,

Why is it so cold? What the hell, Vermont? It's like the middle of April, and it SNOWED today. On SPRINGFEST. Keyword: spring. The ten-day forecast shows mid-50 degree temperatures at best. And rain. I know, I know, April showers bring May flowers, but I don't give a shit. I want it to be nice out, and I want it now.

You're probably wondering what this has to do with your newspaper. Well, I think you're in on it. It has to be some sort of conspiracy or something. You were here a couple weeks ago when it hit 80 outside, and you were here when you put out all those "spring is here" type articles. So... be honest. This is your fault right? RIGHT?!

Sincerely,  
A Chilly Conspiracist

P.S. All temperatures are in Fahrenheit cuz this is AMERICA. Deal.

Sometimes reading **the water tower** makes our readers want to get naked and fight the power. But most of the time, they just send emails. Send your thoughts on anything in this week's issue to [thewatertowernews@gmail.com](mailto:thewatertowernews@gmail.com)

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New writers and artists are always welcome  
**Weekly meetings**  
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Or send us an email

## the shit list

by emilyhoogesteger

**Royal Wedding Obsession.** CNN is covered in headlines about everything from dresses to cakes to guest gossip for the upcoming British royal wedding. Most people don't even get so excited about their own weddings - why the hell do we care so much about this one? Just because we don't have our own royalty doesn't mean we have to steal it from across the pond.

**The Bailey-Howe Doors.** If they're push doors, why do they have handles? We've been going in and out of them for months or years, but we still end up looking like freshmen in September when we continually try to get the doors to open in the wrong direction.

**Donald Trump.** This man is pompous. He is egotistical. And he is incredibly comical. He belongs on his reality show, where we can make dumb comments about him to our friends while we eat nachos. He does not belong in politics, and under no circumstances should he be taken seriously.

**The U.S. Government.** Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown last week when they managed to pass a budget at the last minute, which was apparently a huge challenge. Really? Might we remind them that that is literally their only job?

## SPORTS BLINK

with mikiecieslak

The greatest time of the year is upon us. Playoff hockey has arrived. A couple of brief story lines to follow after the first few games: Tim Thomas has a fantastic mustache, but looks awful. Buffalo is going to need more than goaltending to get past Philly. Ducks will be without the services of Bobby Ryan after he stomped on an opponent's skate. Can the twins in Vancouver bring home the cup, or will Kane's mullet be enough to get them out of a 2-0 hole? Detroit looks real old, but completely dangerous still. Crosby might be the softest guy in the league, concussions are no big deal get over it. Also lots of UVM alumni around the league putting up numbers. Most notably Thomas, likely Vezina winner and likely to get swept by the Hab's in the first round. Stalberg and Sharp look to not get swept by Vancouver, but they might be too good. There is an embarrassing amount of teams from southern locations in the playoffs - Nashville, Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Jose, Phoenix, Tampa. Meanwhile the Hartford Whalers fail to make the playoffs for the 19th consecutive season, it's time to move that franchise. The UVM Athletic Department is hosting a Fan & Student Appreciation Day on Saturday, April 30th at the Post Field from 1:30 - 3:00. This will be between the Men's Lacrosse game at noon and the Women's Lacrosse game at 3:00 p.m. GO TO THIS!!!!

## the news in brief

with paulgross

**"We're not occupying, we're not invading."**

-**British Prime Minister David Cameron**, clarifying his country's role in Libya, the country British troops have recently invaded and are now occupying...

**"We take nuclear security very seriously"**

-A spokesman for the **British Ministry of Defense**, apologizing for a mistake whereby a document that detailed secrets about nuclear submarines could be read, un-redacted, if readers simply copied and pasted it into another document. This is a big mistake. Like, a really big one that probably anyone with a high school education and a working knowledge of computers could have fixed. Living in a world with such big bombs protected by so few people is scary.

**"We sincerely apologize for causing troubles."**

-**Tsunehisa Katsumata**, chairman of Japan's largest utility company, who recently announced that it will likely take nine months for one of the nuclear power plants destroyed by the earthquake/tsunami disaster to fully perform a "cold shutdown." He's very sorry for the inconvenience.

**"We still cherish a hope, however, that sometime we will be able to conquer other planets, other stellar systems."**

-**Russian President, Dmitri Medvedev**, speaking on the anniversary of the first, ever, manned space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union in 1961. For the leader of a hugely corrupt country with massive unemployment problems, conquering other stellar systems might be a misallocation of priorities.

**Our generation stands at a crossroads.** As we walk through a world ever connected to a thunderstorm of news and reflection, we risk losing the ability to think for ourselves. **the water tower** is for us non-thinkers. We provide witty and sometimes outlandish opinions so that you don't have to come up with them yourselves. We can't promise that you will agree with everything that we say, but you will respect the tenacity we have to say it. Every once in a while we will generate something that is truly thought provoking. We are the reason people can't wait for Tuesday. We are **the water tower**.

# budget insanity

republicans say "jump"

obama says "how high?"

by bendonovan

On Friday, April 8th, something rather amazing happened in Washington. An eleventh-hour deal was struck between House Republican leaders and President Obama, avoiding a federal government shutdown that would have begun at midnight. As political opponents shook hands, the government continued to run, Congressional staffers began to map out the specifics of the \$38 billion in cuts that Democrats and Republicans had agreed upon, and any hope of injecting some semblance of logic, moderation, or basic human decency into the discussion over this nation's finances was completely abandoned.

The federal budget for 2011 hasn't been ratified yet, but the details released last week go something like this: cuts to education, health insurance exchanges set up in the 2010 bill, the EPA and climate change-related spending in general, rebuilding of infrastructure and government buildings, and a \$1.14 billion across-the-board spending reduction—in everything but defense spending. In fact, the Pentagon actually received a \$5 billion budget increase. All told, it's the largest discretionary spending cut in American history.

Essentially, we're seeing textbook Republican economics at work: cut taxes for the rich, throw more money at the Pentagon, and cut from education, healthcare, the poor, and the elderly to make up the difference.

We're told by House Speaker John Boehner and the pack of talk-radio-fueled

anti-government mudjahadeen that pass for Republican legislators these days that budget cuts are necessary to restore consumer confidence and get the economy back on track. But even if that's true—and so far they've offered literally nothing in the way of evidence to back up their theory—the cuts in discretionary spending don't really put much of a dent in the projected deficit of about \$1.5 trillion for 2011, because discretionary spending is only a small part of the overall budget. Social

Security, Medicare, and defense spending together make up almost two-thirds of the budget, yet last week's agreement would leave those first two untouched and the last increased.

**"Ideas that were once the territory of right-wing AM radio hosts working the graveyard shift out of Boise now find their way into the federal budget."**

Back in the real world, every serious observer who isn't either a commentator on Fox News or a Republican member of Congress is scratching their head in amazement at the farcical narrative being offered by one of our two main political parties. Every economist on the planet will tell you that slashing spending during a recession—when the private sector is unable to put enough money into the economy to pick up that slack—is a sure-fire way to stay in a recession. And as long

as we stay in a recession, tax revenues will remain low, keeping deficits high. Combine that with last December's extension of the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2%, and far from solving the problem, the Republicans are all but ensuring that the huge deficits they're railing against will stay huge. As if that's not enough, Republicans and Democrats—and the drooling herd of morons-masquerading-as-journalists that (sort of) covers them—continue to insult our intelligence by calling this a compromise. The *New York Times* hailed President Obama's agreement with House Republicans as his quest to "recapture the middle." But the fact of the matter is that the Middle is not the Middle anymore. The Republican Party has moved so far to the right—and the Democrats have dutifully followed them—that what looks in Washington like compromise is light-years to the right of any actual middle-ground that once existed. What's being presented as compromise is the biggest discretionary spending cut in history; something not even the Republican leadership had the balls to ask for just months ago. President Obama essentially gave away more than was originally even on the table, while the

only concession the Republicans made was in passing a budget at all.

But more alarming than the one-sided "compromise" that was made last week is the fact that this state of affairs—in which one party can simply continue to double down on far-right tarot-card economics, marching farther and farther from the political mainstream, and still demand, with a straight face, to be met halfway—is now considered normal.

What was once called "moderation" is now called "socialism." What was once regarded as babbling, bat-shit John-Bircher loony-tunes is now considered the mainstream. Ideas that were once the territory of right-wing AM radio hosts working the graveyard shift out of Boise now find their way into the federal budget. And concepts that were once considered pretty straightforward—that this country bears some responsibility towards its weakest citizens, and that if sacrifices must be made, that the rich should shoulder a significant portion of them—will earn you posters bearing your likeness festooned with a Hitler mustache, as we discovered during last year's healthcare debate.

We have, at long last, finally taken the very idea that things in this country should at least sort of make sense and skull-fucked it to death. My advice? Keep a stiff drink handy for whenever the news comes on. If this is the new normal, we're in for a very weird couple of years. ■

# cuba on the move

by jamesaglio

Cuba does not change quickly. The Soviet-style communist country is a living fossil of Cold War-era politics and its longevity is largely due to a lack of change, especially in regimes. But now the leader has changed, even if Raul Castro's accession has a certain nepotistic flair to it, and he has busied himself altering Cuba's economic system.

Soon after he took office in 2008, Castro broke long-standing bans on many

domestic items, such as microwaves, computers, and DVD players, in an attempt to modernize everyday life for Cubans. Castro also restructured the Cuban farming practices, turning over large tracts of unused, state-owned, land to small farmers, both increasing food production and the independence of individual Cubans. Raul Castro's most recent economic reforms are taking this independence a step further. The Cuban government, which

oversees 90% of the country's economy, is going to cut 1 million jobs, 20% of the workforce, in the next four years. Simultaneously, the government is attempting to rapidly expand the private sector, which they hope will absorb many of the newly unemployed, by creating 178 new occupational licenses that citizens can take out. These licenses run the gamut from large

businesses to small roadside stands, and so far they have been successful, with new operations springing up across the island nation. One of the major obstacles that the government faces in supporting this initiative is that there is a longstanding stigma in Cuba against non-governmental work. This stigma stems from the government's longtime insistence that government workers are superior to non-government employees, a stance that is quite inconvenient now that they have changed positions. Even so, many Cubans

welcome the change, but insist that the reforms need to go further, allowing Cubans fuller control over their financial position, including the ability to buy and sell property.

The exact extent of the reforms will not clear for some time, but it will be the first main focus of the Cuban Congress this year, which reconvened this weekend. In the opinion of Raul Castro, however, the reforms are needed to strengthen the socialist society of Cuba by fixing long existing flaws, saying, "Either we rectify the situation or the time is up as we close in on the precipice. We will fall and along with us entire generations will fall!"

- Cuban President Raul Castro

the precipice. We will fall and along with us entire generations will fall." From this it is clear that the Cubans are not taking this issue lightly. It would be wise to keep an eye on this situation, as, embargo or no, Cuba has long been an influential player in the diplomacy of the Americas.



patrick leene

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Timeline: UVM Springfest (Official Page) says Roots starting first \*\*\* Students emerge from various dark tunnels of Patrick Gym to the doors





# reflections.

# uvm's best band: the crack up



After months of intense deliberations, haggling in smoky back rooms, and a couple of near-deadly fist fights, the **Wf.** music staff is proud to declare a winner for our "UVM's Best Band" contest.

Choosing wasn't easy. We had over 30 submissions of all shapes and colors: we got Indie, emo, and hard-core—we got white rappers and punk rockers—we got singer-songwriters and aspiring dubstep-ers. Suffice it to say: we had a lot of listening to do. But the hardest part by far was choosing one great band over another—especially when we knew that all the bands are part of our shared UVM community. In fact, the final decision was only made with the help of the **Wf.** staff, and it came down to a one-vote margin.

In the end, we just couldn't bear to mention only one group. So without further ado, the **Wf.** presents **The Crack Up** as UVM's **Best Band**—as well as a handful of our favorites from the field.

## four more kickass uvm bands

### Best "we did NOT expect this" Band

**Butterfly Starpower**  
When we started this contest we had something of an idea of the kind of music we would get. Indie, hip-hop, DJ stuff, singer-songwriter...but definitely not a punk-rock band with a 7-year-old girl as the lead singer and songwriter. But that's what we got. And yes, it is amazing. The daughter of a lecturer in the English department, she writes and sings about what she knows: a bug bite emergency, a fun day at school, her pet parakeets, her grandpa. One of our critics' reactions was to say that "this legitimately might be THE most punk rock thing I've ever heard". Mandatory listening if you have a pulse, or were ever a child.  
[myspace.com/butterflystarpower](http://myspace.com/butterflystarpower)

### Best \_\_\_\_\_-fi Bedroom Music Band

**Zach Kangas**  
Low-fi, washy synth music with gaze-y vocals from a talented UVM sophomore with a laptop. He definitely cops some swag from similar artists (like Tycho) but Zach shows a legitimate songwriting proclivity, and a good sense of the potential that ambient background noise has to add to a non-ambient track. Of all the many submissions we received, this is the one that we most unanimously agreed on—we saw it as the music we would most likely be found listening to independent of our duties as critics.

### Best Party Band

**Fridge and the Spin\$**  
We love Fridge. For the most part at least. Some of us were turned off by the near-constant use of loud, poppy, candy-like synth overlaying the band. Some of us thought that was the best part. But synth squabbling aside, this was the one band still in the running 'til the final (very close) vote by the staff for Best Band. Fridge play a particularly frenetic brand of Indie rock: energetic doesn't begin to describe it. At times they almost seem to veer out of control, but always just manage keep it together—making for a very exciting musical product. At the end of the day, this band is all about plain, pure, unadulterated *fun*--something that is often missing from Indie rock these days. That emphasis on energy and fun has earned them some recognition, as they opened Springfest and have been gigging around town quite a bit. Which means they should be here to stay for awhile—and we sure hope so.  
[myspace.com/fridgeandthespins](http://myspace.com/fridgeandthespins)

### Best Electro Band

**Colin Domigan/DJ Dole**  
We have to admit, we are not so well versed in the world of remixes, mashups, and pseudo-post-dubstep penumbras and the like. But we know enough to know good stuff when we hear it. And this is. Colin has mixtapes on Soundcloud as well as a couple of Bandcamps with actual EPs and LPs. His sound ranges from party-ready beats to introspective headphone music, and covers a lot of ground in between. All of it shows big-time computer chops and great versatility.  
[colin-db.com](http://colin-db.com)

The Crack Up can be generally described as Indie rock. Parts of their sound are certainly trackable through many of the big guns of the last couple decades of Indie: Sonic Youth, Built to Spill, etc, etc. But there are a great many bands for which you could say the same. There's a reason why The Crack Up is set apart from the rest.

Unlike many college-age rock bands, The Crack Up doesn't subscribe to the tendency to find a single sound that works and stick to it til death does them part. Their sound is flexible and open, allowing for musical choices that are not even on the table for some Indie bands. Space is very important in their music.

But what we think really makes the band click is the honesty found in their songs. The lyrics and the instrumentation mesh in a way that betrays not just writing skill, but musical maturity, and patience and experience in the practice room. Think Wilco, in this aspect. The result is an emotional candor that made us (amateur music critics who might not normally get into this particularly emotional brand of Indie) forget about genre and consider what the songs themselves say. Whether or not this type of music is your bag, there is something going on here that is most definitely worth being heard. That's why The Crack Up is UVM's Best Band.



The Crack Up - *Get A Life*

### We talked to Jon Tatelman, recent UVM grad and The Crack Up's lead singer, songwriter, and guitarist, about the group.

**How and when did the band meet?** We all met pretty much through the dorms and such. The Crack Up has always been a collaboration as a group on my songs that I guess you could say I write lyrically and the chords but we come together in formation. I have been playing music in this town since I was a freshman in 2005. My first show was at a raging party on Bradley St. in Feb of 2006 with a bunch of friends from my dorm Mercy Hall, our group called "Jonny Tea".

Everyone thinks their dorm stamps history but I don't believe any of it can compare to Mercy Hall in the year 2005-2006. It was a ridiculous time...felt more like summer camp. The Crack Up formed in 2009. The album *Get A Life* is surmised of sessions in that year which we then recorded in Hells Kitchen NYC with engineer/ producer Steve Rossiter.

**How would you describe your sound?** I would describe our sound as "sonic rock," for lack of better term. Definitely moments of experimental noise and improvisational shred. See it always develops from me on an acoustic guitar (something which I rarely play live or on the album). We all approach the songs from our respective musical brains. Everyone has been shaped by what music they listen to and I think that wonderland of genres comes out in the collaboration of our music. Influences might be The Grateful Dead, Wilco and Jim O' Rourke's influence, Yo la Tengo, Stephen Malkmus, Built to Spill, 90's skate videos..

**What are your live shows like?** Our live shows are very dynamic. A lot of our new songs sort of take on this mellow meditative noise. But then we also have a bunch of punch-you-in-the-face rock. I have turned into a bit of a gear freak so I like to mess around with oscillations on guitar pedals. But our music is always lyrically driven. I could listen to a G chord all day long. Lyrics have always been important to me. Too much of music today is lost in bumping rhythms. I want to feel something from music. I always hope to evoke raw emotion.

**How would you describe the music scene in Burlington?** Burlington is both an awesome place for a musician and a hard place. It is a college town. From what I feel, college kids want to listen either jam bands/dreddy funk or pulsing DJs. As a songwriter, it is hard to find people who like to *listen* to music. The only place that I have really found this in town is at the Radio Bean. People want to actually listen to the music. They are respectful of performance and by far it is my favorite place to play in town. However this is something you sacrifice in terms of getting paid. The Monkey House is also great but they are not in Burlington...we need a place like that in Burlington...big and down for rock and roll. Promotion of our music is something I've never been really good at. I always feel like an asshole pushing people to come to our shows. You have to be competitive rather than let the music speak for you because they are only creeps searching burlington Myspace pages.

Playing shows is an energy like no other. I always finish feeling like I have just come from some other world. My goals for The Crack Up are never to be big or famous or anything. The group has always been an outlet for emotion cause I'm fucking emo.

**What's next?** We started tracking our new EP in January and are in the motions of mixing...hopefully will be released sometime this summer or maybe early fall. I am working on a sort of mini tour for this summer as well. We played a good amount of shows locally this winter and now we are sort of taking a break to assess new sets for shows.

# the millenials: just how awesome are we?

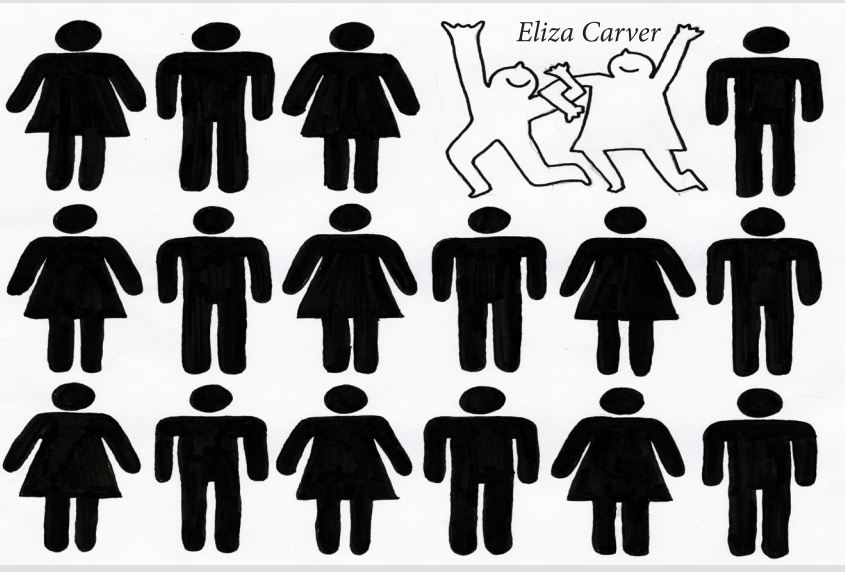
by rosefierman

"People try to put us down (talking about my generation)..."

The Who wrote those words for their 1965 debut album on their hit 'My Generation.' The song resonated with the free love era and the counterculture of the 1960s that was growing off of anti-war sentiment across the UK and America. 'My Generation' was about the college aged youth and the uncomfortable pressure building between the new left and the status quo.

I can still feel this uncomfortable pressure today in our generation. Some may call it the Burlington Bubble, but simply put it is the difference between the ideals of the Vermont community and the world at large. There are certainly progressive communities across the world, but as a UVM student, the difference between my hometown in middle class coal country Pennsylvania and radical Burlington is getting to be excruciating. Much like the 1960s counterculture rebelling on college campuses, our generation is facing mainstream ideas with a fresh perspective. We seem to be fighting for a reconstruction of our society and economy simply because these things need changing, but exactly what it is we're fighting for seems blurry. So what do we stand for? Our nameless generation has been floating through an increasingly bipartisan legislature, several wars abroad, and the most detrimental financial collapse since the Great Depression. So then, who are we? And are we, the era devoted to Bieber and Harry Potter, really a generation worth being proud of?

I was faced with this question after attending a lecture by Malaila Joya, an Afghani woman dismissed from her country's parliament for her radical ideas, particularly her stance on women's rights, warmongering, and the US presence in her country. It wasn't Joya's insightful lecture that got me thinking, but rather the yelling match that erupted during the question and answer period. Several members of the Burlington community were on their feet



screaming at each other over differences of opinion. From my seat in the back row I watched these middle aged and elderly people bicker as young UVM students looked on. It reminded me of the way I used to fight with my siblings over Legos.

Right then and there, I'd had enough of the Baby Boomers and Generation X. Watching these adults fight like children in a public lecture was the push I needed to take my generation seriously. Where I once felt that mine was the generation of Facebook and Jersey Shore, I suddenly felt this sense of pride and confidence in what my generation could accomplish. We can change the way we interact with each other for the better, and we can make sure that each one of us has the empowerment to live as well as the next person. I am certain of this now after watching my peers sit through the catty bickering of those old men.

So please lets not be the middle aged people fighting in public. Let's communicate as peaceably as we have been, whether it be in line at the Cyber Café or holding doors in Waterman. Perhaps our generation can be the one devoid of international entanglements and financial recklessness. The cliché is true that the future is in our hands. Pete Townshend said it right, "It's my generation, baby."

# shrug off that snob

by lizcantrell

We've all done it: rolled our eyes at a frosh trying to use a corkscrew, or chuckled with condescending amusement at that girl who mispronounced a French philosopher's name. At some point in your life, you've been a snob. And that's okay, because we'd all like to think we're experts on one thing or another, be it 1940s cinema or brands of salsa. However, there are a select few who make snobbery a full time occupation, and they need to be brought to justice. If you spy a snob, take 'em down!

### Five types to watch for:

- 5. Academic:** Prone to say things such as, "Oh you haven't read Camus' unpublished works? They're absurd. Get it?" Um, no I don't get it and I don't think you do either. Who really reads that shit for fun anyway?
- 4. Art:** Admittedly, some artwork is better than others. Da Vinci probably has something on your watercolors from third grade. That being said, if you cherish that painting of a purple-striped tiger with paper mache wings, then that's your prerogative and no one should bring you down.
- 3. Coffee:** Similar to the wine argument, coffee is one of those things that if you need it, ya just need it, cinnamon foam soy latte be damned! If you're addicted, you'll take what you can get, even if you have to crush the beans into a fine powder and snort it.
- 2. Music:** "Oh my God, you have Meat Loaf on your iPod? That's embarrassing. I only listen to post-modern Reggae-revival snyth." First, wtf does that even mean? Second, why should you apologize and qualify the music on your iPod? It's bullshit. You know you love rocking out to "Id Do Anything For Love" and there's nothing wrong with that.
- 1. Wine:** Who cares about the difference between Bordeaux and Burgundy? It's alcohol and it gets the job done, whether you drink it out of a Waterford Crystal glass or a Dixie cup. Simple as that. ■



# campus convos

by lindsaygabel

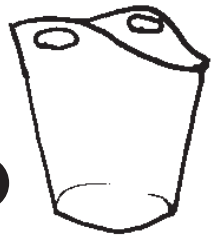
Not that I actually talk to inanimate objects, but this is how I imagine such conversations would go:

- 1. With res hall washer/dryer systems:**
  - \*Swipe card\*
  - "Plan 51 has a balance of \$0.87. Use credit to start washer 2?"
  - Um, yeah?
  - "Press "enter" to CONFIRM (are you SURE?)"
  - No, my CatCard just swiped itself, entered the washer number, and pushed "enter" of its own accord.
  - "Washer 2 started (!)"
  - Great?
  - "Remaining balance: \$0.86! Only 86 more loads are covered by your tuition! Monitor closely and use them wisely!"
- 2. With the campus cable network:**
  - "Sorry, channel 18 isn't available at this time."
  - Okay, I'll try channel 9.
  - "Sorry, channel 9 isn't available either."
  - Channel 14?
  - "Ummmm.... no."
  - ESPN? MTV?
  - "Nope."
  - ANY channel under 20?
  - "Not likely."
  - ...
- 3. With the campus wireless network:**
  - "You are not connected to the Internet."
  - thxnx I know, I literally turned on my laptop 2.3 seconds ago.
  - "Safari/Firefox/Explorer can't open the page because your computer isn't connected to the Internet."
  - [18 minutes of troubleshooting later]
  - "...Network Diagnostics was unable to fix the problem. Contact customer service for assistance."
  - Bite me. ■

\*[Due to space constraints, the extended version of this conversation is effectively paralleled in the Monty Python sketch, "Cheese Shop". If you have time on your hands (and even if you don't), I highly recommend it. Plus British accents make everything that much funnier.]



# trash.



## i want you so bad

someone on campus catch your eye? couldn't get a **name?** submit your **love** anonymously [uvm.edu/~watertwr/iwysb.html](http://uvm.edu/~watertwr/iwysb.html)

Just like all of the parking tickets you've gotten Girl, you have FINE written all over you. You're smart, sexi and tan... you must be Italian? Maybe French? Either way, you're a hot SB girl and I want to see your biscuits more often. Get at me. **When:** every damn day **Where:** a lot of places **I saw:** My sugarbeet **I am:** Your muffin

Musician boy with shaggy hair, I like your swag, I like your flair. I've seen you play guitar so sweetly, And I've watched you from the basement meekly. You: music-loving, street playing, Slader, too, I'm brown haired, shy, and into you. We could listen to records, talk rhythm and blues, Play guitar, smoke weed, or take off our shoes. So meet me on the center of Redstone Green, 3pm on Thursday, trust me, I'm a sight to be seen. **When:** Every other Wednesday **Where:** Open Mic **I saw:** a groovin' young man **I am:** shy but interested

We've been friends for over a year now, though I haven't always been the best or most involved. I've never been too close to you because I know just how I've felt from the moment I saw you: You're beautiful. Bright. Sly. Sweet. Funny. Adventurous. You told me you were single just a week after I started dating. That caused some problems for me: You? or Her? ...I still haven't resolved them. So here I sit, across from you, as I hear you start to tear up: Dumping a boyfriend is hard, so is losing those friends, and lots of exams. I'm happy with her for now, but... In this moment, I'm crushed because you're hurting. You told me about your love of IWYSB and the secrets you want to know... Maybe now you know one.

Give me a smile, please. It's stunning, even through the pain. **Where:** B/H **I saw:** sexy beauty **I am:** anonymous?

Tristan and Isolde have nothing on us, our BROmance spans the ages, and maybe it's unorthodox, but this love can't be found on stages. Every weekend, shit show or no, there's NO Things I Hate About You, or our deviant shenanigans, for never has there been a guy-love so true. **When:** erry day **Where:** Austin/Marsh 3 **I saw:** my patriotic pal **I am:** not actually a dude

I once told you that chicken you were eating was vegan. you said "i know" and now i feel stupid. I love you. **When:** long time ago **Where:** Simpson Dining Hall **I saw:** a vegan bro **I am:** sorry.

I see yo' fine ass everyday. You always sit near me, but we never speak. I really like your backpack. And the hat you wear everyday. Actually, you kind of wear the same stuff everyday. But I can fuck with that. You're hairy, and I can also fuck with that. So say waddup bro. **When:** Everyday **Where:** Bio, Chem, Library **I saw:** A sexy beast **I am:** A real cool bitch

Ever since that night you told me how you felt I haven't stopped thinking about how you made me melt. Although you have a girlfriend and you live next door I find myself simply wanting more. It seems to me like you feel trapped But you have options you may not have mapped. We have both thought about what was said that night However I was hoping that you might Think a little more about just what could be in sight. **When:** All the time **Where:** Our house **I saw:** a quiet crush **I am:** crushing back

I wish I could talk 'til the end of day But now I'm running out of things to say So I'll end by the line you already know "I secretly want to make your babies" more than what I could show **When:** Monday **Where:** Walking from the library **I saw:** the UVM smokeshow **I am:** the guy who wants to touch your bum

Honestly bro, we see each other every day. You're incredibly cute, and I can't keep my eyes off you. Every time we accidentally catch ourselves staring at one another, I can sense the intense chemistry we share. Your glasses and sweaters make me swoon, and when you sit near me in the library my heart jumps. We never really talk, and I await the day you grace me with your voice. Please let that day be soon. **When:** Everyday **Where:** Chemistry (T,R), BCOR/Library (M,W,F) **I saw:** An adorable, mature man **I am:** Waiting

those intense eyes and thick pitch black locks, always wearing dark colors that make these features even more pronounced. i see you and my breath stops short, even though fate manages to make me pass you every day, i am still always caught by surprise, a quick catch of the eye, a passing glance, my intuition says that you see me, and that you know that i see you. i have yet to hear your voice, but i assume it's smooth and sultry just like you're looks. so maybe next time i'll smile. **When:** nearly erry day **Where:** cdae 2 and the most random places **I saw:** red dropping demeanor **I am:** draw-headed rando

A couple weeks ago our Professor confessed for you; you're a poet? Wouldn't you know it I happen to be, too! Maybe we could get together sometime and share a bottle of wine while analyzing line breaks and Simone's "terza rima" that fails to rhyme when translated to English. I might not have the linguistic prowess of Mr. Alighieri but I think we could string some pretty sweet words together. **When:** Thursdays **Where:** Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso **I saw:** A Pilgrim **I am:** Beatrice

You lit my cigarette, and also my fire, One Saturday night, I'm now filled with desire. You've got me so distracted I can't even learn The library, the dorm, everywhere I turn. Sometimes we eye-fuck in class Let's meet on the roof to smoke some grass. I liked the story about your drunken scars, Your eyes remind me of the gazing at stars. I hear you're with WILD and like to go outing, Go with me, I'll be sure to get you shouting. Do you like to ski or ride, hit the slopes? I'll break out my Burton Feather with fervent hopes. I'm here to offer a suggestion: We should get it on — is it even a question? **When:** Erry W, other times **Where:** UHeights North, South **I saw:** A gorgeous dark-haired boy **I am:** A smokin' HCOL babe

every girl on our floor thinks you are so pretty but oh my dear god, id be your sex kitty when you smile, i smile, and you make me laugh i want to see your lower half. just kidding! just kidding! you're such a sweet guy. whenever i see you, you always say hi. i love when you wear your robe 'round the dorm you make my tummy all fuzzy and warm. mmm and your eyes, they're so damn blue oh what the hell, id make love to you! **When:** every day **Where:** Jeanne Mance **I saw:** a pretty boy **I am:** crushing :)

i think you may have said hi but i didn't reply because i may have been high and i wish instead of walking by i wasn't so shy and i may have said hi or perhaps goodbye, or something. **When:** in the middle of the afternoon **Where:** unnir' neath a blue sky **I saw:** a smiley guy **I am:** pretty fly

## the ear

overheard a conversation in b-town? was it hilarious? dumb? inspirational? tell **the ear** and we'll print it. [uvm.edu/~watertwr/ear.html](http://uvm.edu/~watertwr/ear.html)

**Library stairs**  
**bro on the phone:** ...I mean, just get her pregnant already!

**The Tunnel:**  
**girl, to two friends:** so i just went to the bathroom, threw up, brushed my teeth, and went to the dentist. and that was it. bitches ain't shit.

**1st floor Library**  
**Dude to a group of guys:** "I've never seen a man masturbate so much in my life!"

**The Cyber Cafe**  
**Nerdy guy to another dude (in a sad voice):** "I wish I could write this paper on push-up bras."  
**When:** late at night

**Royall Tyler Theatre**  
**Girl to guy:** Oh my god! You have no idea what it feels like to have a cold vaginal!  
\*Pause\*  
**Guy to girl:** Touché, I don't.

**Rowell**  
**Bro freshman 1:** "I'm giving up being a man whore dude...it's so not worth it. I'll just work on my flirting"  
**Bro freshman 2:** "Well you've sure worked a lot on flirting with my girlfriend..."

**Jazz History Class**  
**Guy 1:** Oh no- I didn't wear green today...But I'm drunk!  
**Guy 2:** Well that constitutes!  
**When:** St. Patty's Day, 10 am

**Outside Cook**  
**Guy 1:** Bro, I was at this house party last night, but then this dick of cops showed up and busted it.  
**Guy 2:** a dick of cops?  
**Guy 1:** Yeah, its this thing I'm trying to start. A group of cops is a dick of cops. \*smirks  
**Guy 2:** \*long pause, blinks  
**When:** Morning after St. Patricks

**Davis Center men's Bathroom**  
**Bro 1:**Who even cares who the SGA president is anyways.  
**Bro 2:** I know like seriously.....what's the SGA?

**Drunk Bus**  
**girl 1 (to girls 2 and 3):** If there was to be one race...no not race...sex! If there was to be one sex it would be women.  
**girls 2+3(not really listening):**uh huh  
**girl 1:** Because we like have the ability to reproduce and would be easier to clone. I mean guys would have to figure out how to give birth and stuff...  
**girls 2+3(still not paying attention:** yeah...  
**When:** heading downtown on st. patrick's day

**Lake Champlain**  
**Friend of Biddie:** I wouldn't do that if I were you.  
**Biddie:** "Steps on slushy ice"  
**Friend of Biddie:** It's not--  
\*Splash as biddie falls through the ice into Lake Champlain  
**Friend of Biddie:** TAYLOR! TAYLOR, Oh my god!!!  
\*Friend struggles to remove biddie from lake\*

**Third floor library**  
**girl:** i could have got arrested last night.  
**guy:** what did you do?  
**girl:** i peed on a car.

**Lafayette**  
**bro 1:** how'd you do?  
**bro 2:** i think really good, i didnt even cheat until the last question  
**bro 1:** yea man

**My Apartment**  
**Guy 1:** I have to spit this out first, I have a thing about chewing gum and pooping.  
**When:** Sunday

**Church Street**  
**Girl:** Why can't I have nice friends like that?  
**Boyfriend:** Its because of your dreadlocks.  
**Girl:** Fair enough

**UHeights South**  
**Girl 1:** Dicks could be wands!  
**Girl 2:** And boobs could shoot out lasers!

**Church Street**  
**girl:** hey, do you think \_\_\_\_ and i should get a sex swing.  
**guy:** no  
**girl:** why not?  
**guy:** because that's creepy

**Bailey Howe couches**  
**nerdy guy 1 talking to a girl:** some of us play world of warcraft instead of watching movies. [high fives other approving nerdy guy] sup!  
**When:** Thursday afternoon

# fashion five-oh. fashion beyond clothes

by colbynixon

There's a lot more to fashion than the material that serves to cover the body from the elements. It goes beyond accessories, even, watches, jewelry, or bags. Fashion draws upon elements of nature, and of architecture, drawing on influences of popular and obscure art. In recent years, many marketing departments of design houses and mass manufacturers alike have taken to tying a culture, or a life-style to their products. A shirt is no longer just a shirt, but a vehicle for which to express yourself, it gives you confidence, and a persona, or at least that's what Madison Avenue is striving to tell you. The crux of the issue is that an individual has to have the knowledge to back up her façade with. If you were to take Joe Shit the Ragman off the streets and send him to a gallery opening in a Brooks Brothers blazer, he's not going to appreciate the art with any greater value, (unless of course he was an art history major in college, which might explain why he's living on the streets). This article is not about homeless people being pawns in a grand rags to riches experiment (if you're looking for something like that, try Trading Places). This is about knowing why you wear what you do.

When many people get meticulously dressed with a shirt and tie, it means something. This is especially true on the college campus. Generally, much of the student population dresses in jeans, t-shirts, and pullovers. Of course this might be a gross generalization, but it serves

## "this is not about homeless people being pawns in a grand rags to riches experiment... this is about knowing why you wear what you do"

to illustrate the rarity with which ties are seen. It may be argued that ties can be seen everyday. Although true, how many ties do you actually see a day? Maybe three or four? Consider the amount of students on campus, and acknowledge that that's actually quite a small percentage of the population. When I wear a tie, I will be asked, multiple times throughout the day, "what did you dress up for?" Typically, it's for a meeting or an interview, but what if it wasn't? Maybe I simply enjoy wearing a tie for no reason other than the fact that I can. Because of this

# créatif stuffé.



*Feeling a little créatif? Wishing Vantage Point was published more than once a semester? Well now you can submit your creative writing, short stories, poems, drawings, black and white photos, and any other créatif things to **créatif stuffé**. Send your submissions to [thewatertownews@gmail.com](mailto:thewatertownews@gmail.com) by Tuesdays at 4:00.*

## the flames of passion

by joshhegarty

The mighty dragon Hogarth, flew into the inactive volcano he'd made into his Nest. Inside he saw Valencia, his mate, who rolled over onto her back to greet him.

"So how was your day dear?" she asked.  
"Oh you know, about usual. Burned some cities, stole some gold from the dwarves," he paused and lurched his body over to their hoard of gold, jewels and other treasures. He proceeded to vomit up a large mass of gold bricks.

"You sure know how to get me going," said Valencia, and she angrily opened her vagina. Steam poured out and her nostrils flared.  
"Oh, is it Thursday already? I'm sorry dear, you know how I lose track of days."  
He pulled a silver crown adorned with jewels from the pile and placed it gently on her tail. She smiled a vicious toothy grin and said, "That's better."

They began to fornicate, violently by human standards, although quite timid for such grand lizards. It was at this moment, when the beasts where mid coitus, that a knight, covered in armor made his way into the dragons' lair. Mistaking their thrashing and rolling for fighting, he took his opportunity to catch his prey off guard and drew his bow. One after another, he unleashed arrows into their scales and leathery backs. Most broke upon impact.

This went on for some minutes until Valencia said, "Hang it all Hogarth, would you stop poking me with your tail?"

"I'm not poking you dear, my tails all the way back here."  
"Well then what the hell is poking me?"  
The dragons turned to see the knight standing in a small cave-like opening. They growled in unison, "Just who the hell do you think you are?"  
The knight replied, "I am the good knight Kinsley, sworn protector of the realm of Andor. I am here to slay you fell beasts." At that, he dropped his bow and drew two great swords, one in each hand.

Valencia looked at him and said, "Can you come back another time? We're a bit busy."  
"Your tricks will not work on me demon! Have at you!"  
He charged towards Hogarth and began to swing each blade wildly at his scales. Hogarth was neither pained nor amused by the effort. Valencia looked at Hogarth and said, "Honey, get rid of him. It's Thursday night and I will not suffer these interruptions to our lovemaking."

So Hogarth looked at the knight and said, "Good sire, you must vacate. I'm trying to make love to my lovely dragoness and you are absolutely wrecking havoc upon the mood."

He continued to slash away and yelled, "I have a duty to all the free peoples. I have sworn to end their dragon problem."

"Did you swear with your life? Because that will be the cost if you don't get to leaving."  
"My life is nothing compared to the lives of the free people."  
"As you like it then," said Hogarth as he picked Kinsley up and breathed a hearty blast of fire towards him, leaving him rather crispy and quite dead. The dragons took the opportunity to have themselves a snack and when they were finished, Hogarth looked at Valencia and asked, "Now where were we?"

Valencia again opened her vagina, and once more the steam poured out and her nostrils flared. "Right about here." ■

## student life

by julianvandertak

I. We rise and shine to sunny skies whose rays do bake the morning's earth; where student anthills spring to life to climb the ladder and prove their worth.

II. Fences hopped, yards traversed, emergence is blocks away; though men arrive, in bland blue suits, Vermont is where they play. ■

infrequency of formal garments, many people do not know how to wear them.

One student, Phil Morin, who has done work at galleries downtown and as an art curator of the Davis Center mentioned to me that it seems many people, not just students have no idea how to dress at semi-formal and formal events such as gallery openings. Either they come in too casually, with ripped jeans and sneakers, or overdress in three-piece suits with pocket squares. There are, of course, situations where either get-up would be entirely acceptable, but the main point of this is that many people have no idea how to dress in a smart casual sense. This is most unfortunate, as this can be the most versatile outfit in any clothing arsenal. A well-cut pair of jeans with boat or any pair of brown leather shoes, with a t-shirt, polo, or untucked button-down is most acceptable in this situation. This is not the only option, but just a specific example of how one could dress. It is an outfit that appears as though it took little thought, but does actually take some consideration. ■

how to dress in a smart casual sense. This is most unfortunate, as this can be the most versatile outfit in any clothing arsenal. A well-cut pair of jeans with boat or any pair of brown leather shoes, with a t-shirt, polo, or untucked button-down is most acceptable in this situation. This is not the only option, but just a specific example of how one could dress. It is an outfit that appears as though it took little thought, but does actually take some consideration. ■

## haunted

by joshhegarty

Make me a stone, So I could not feel anything. There is horror behind our eyes. There is horror inside our minds. This path that we walk Does not lead to serenity. Where's the light that would never go out? Is there hope to be found in the dark? I am not strong. I am not anything. I cannot stop the monsters That crawl out from under the bed. We're trapped in a cage. We're trapped in our memories. But the past is dead and gone. It's up to us to bury it. It will not be easy, But I've got my shovel. And we'll pack the dirt as tight as we can. We'll keep these monsters buried. We won't be our past. We won't be our trauma. And if they escape, We'll put them back in the hole they crawled out of. ■

## da true homie

by christinatcecy

The Bronx. Birthplace, not home. New York, not my home-y, Across the Atlantic, not home. Here, home?

Come here, work place, bread basket-et-ernal escalate. Enormous, skylless, nevertheless. Oh

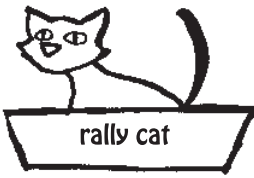
No more small town gossip, biking without traffic, stealing raspberries from neighbors, all gone.

Never there? Ever bare cosmo calamity, conform to cover-up, mono color?

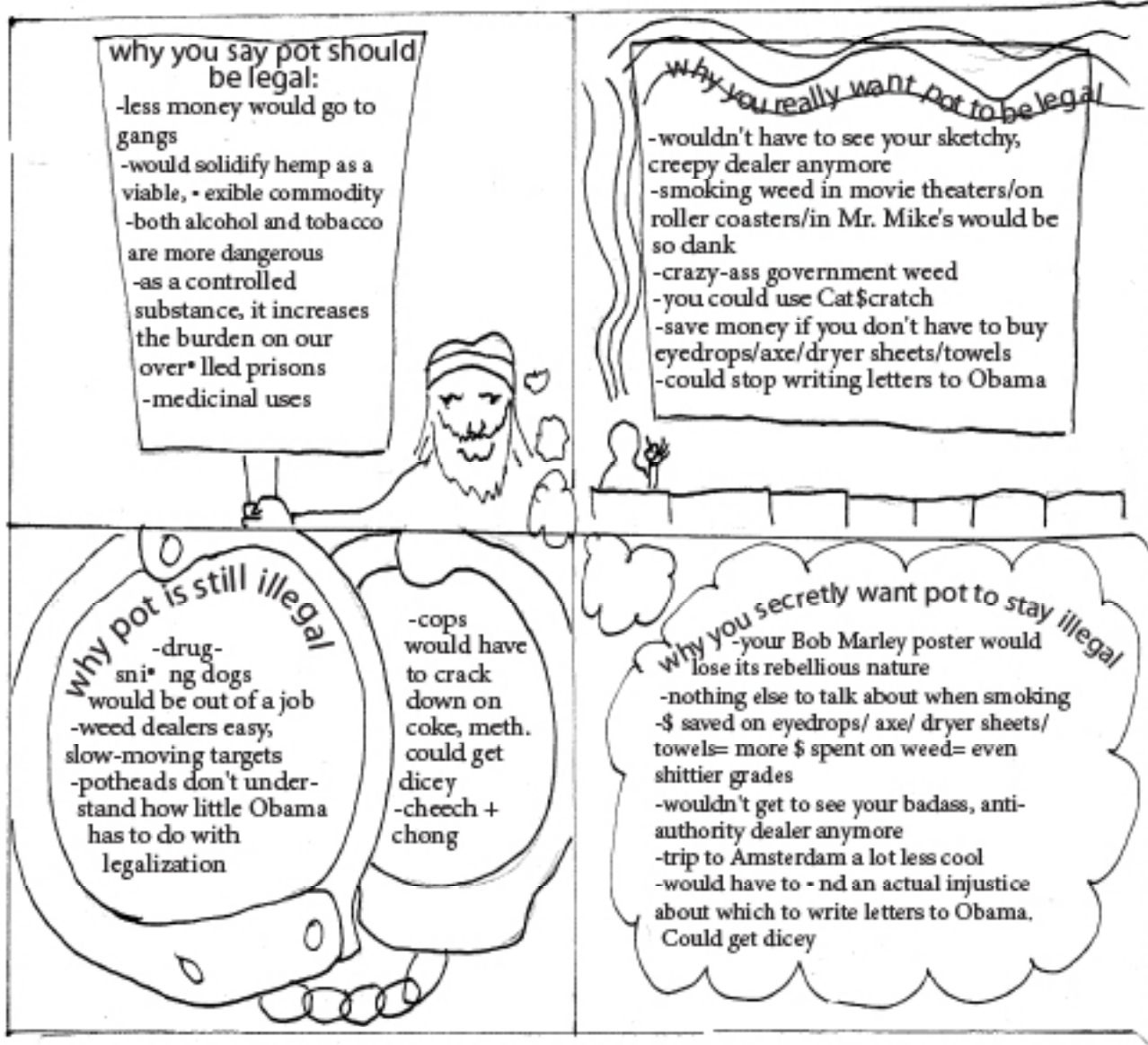
Gather Memories, as They say, recycle it! Wash out six years of nature, come City. ■



# cat litter.



cat litter:  
by drew diemar, willis schenk,  
ryland tinsley, and caleb demers  
artwork by malcolm valaitis



# how the roots saved springfest

# tunes.



by jeremyklein & sarahmoylan

**springfest:** a word that signifies a music festival that takes place in the springtime. It conjures images of warm weather, students taking to the CBW green to bask in the sun, and enjoying a musical show. However, this year, UVM students only got the “fest” aspect of Springfest. While the event headliner, The Roots, absolutely killed it on stage, the journey to their saving grace was a long, strange, and at times agonizing one.

Due to Burlington being Burlington (read: erratic weather patterns) the event had to be moved from the spacious, outdoor CBW green to the cavernous, indoor Patrick Gymnasium. Right off the bat, Springfest just did not feel like Springfest. The crowd is usually sparse for the opening bands, but for some reason the gym felt especially empty for the student bands who opened the show, Potbelly and Fridge and the Spin\$. Maybe it had to do with the fact that all of the vendors and other activities were located outside of the basketball court area itself, but it seemed like there were literally only twenty people in the audience.

The afternoon seemed to be headed towards a disastrous ending when the power mysteriously went out (and stayed out for two hours) between the sets of Fridge

and the Spin\$ and Brothers McCann. With no power, and students left to just hang around and wait it out, Springfest 2011 seemed to be well on its way to winning the dubious distinction of “Worst Springfest Ever.” A riot certainly would have spiced things up, but the UVM students decided instead to keep things classy, and just wait patiently. Activities included a spontaneous game

**“...after the aforementioned disappointment of a MSTRKRFT show last year, it couldn't have felt more refreshing to see a real, live band on the stage—complete with instruments! Like drums and horns and stuff!”**

of Duck-Duck Goose, dodgeball played with beach balls, and an awesome acoustic set by the Brothers McCann (featuring a drum set, saxophone, triangle, and...garbage can?!). Finally, the power came back at around quarter to five, much to the excitement of electricity-loving UVM students. Everybody was pumped to finally hear Thievery Corporation's DJ set...but was it really worth getting worked up about? Nah.

In a throwback to last year's headliner MSTRKRFT, Thievery Corporation took the stage to just stand there and let the crowd do all the work. Frankly, it seemed

that their only job was to decide, “Which song goes on next?” And, after the delay caused by the power outage, the overall boring and frustrating set just seemed to go on forever. Even Thievery Corporation looked pretty bored. It makes one wonder if the earlier power outage was actually an omen to leave the gym and never come back, or if we would have been better off if the power never came back on at all.

But, had the electric company not managed to restore power to the building, we never would have gotten to experience The Roots. The Roots are one of those rare bands that can please a whole crowd: they're awesome musicians who impress the music geeks, put on a lively performance that is endlessly entertaining, and have beats and melodies to get everybody moving around. Sure, they might be best defined as a hip-hop group, which makes them part of a genre that doesn't always have universal appeal, but they're so fun and energetic that it's impossible not to like them. And, after the aforementioned disappointment of a MSTRKRFT show last year, it couldn't have felt more refreshing to see a real, live band on the stage—complete with instruments! Like drums and horns and stuff!

So, thank you, Legendary Roots Crew. Thank you for making a weird and strangely Duck-Duck Goose-filled day worth our time. ■



## reviews

by emilylozeau

### The Babies— “The Babies”

Woods' Kevin Morby and Vivian Girls' Cassie Ramone bring the Babies unto you. It's pure bubbling power: in ways similar to both their respective bands, yet definitely leaning away from the Woods direction. Kevin and Cassie's call and respond vocals float over each other in nearly every song, while a few, like “Wild 2,” are more grungy. Even when they tear it up, they do so without their molars, adding a decidedly twee sound throughout

even the most aggressive tracks. The first chord on the first song is immediately the creamy forest rock of Woods, and then jumps into something more like Wavves. It's a combo that is tried and true— fuzz pop for the 21st century, but while it's still not on the “overkill” list of genres yet, let's enjoy it for a while.

**Play:** “Run Me Over,” “Sunset,” “All Things Come to Pass,” “Voice Like Thunder”  
**If You Like:** Vivian Girls, Beach Fossils

### Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears— “Scandalous”

Brassy horns and crisp big band swing meets James Brown's crooning yelps and King Khan and the Shrines' dirty style. Black Joe Lewis is punchy, with a mix of 2011 and old time garage-blues, and he is funky like George Clinton. He's living in “Booty City” and all he wants is his ham glazed. Trumpets and sax, keyboards, bumping bass and the smooth Joe Lewis complete this eight-piece package. Fresh off their 2009 debut, “Tell Em What Your Name Is!” the band is larger sounding and so close you can feel their spit on you. From call and response trumpet shouts, see “You Been Lyin’,” to a very Dan Auerbach-esque blues guitar in “Ballad of Jimmy Tanks.” It's a whole body spiritual sensation, so go ahead and have some medicine. You deserve it.

**Play:** “Booty City,” “I'm Gonna Leave You,” “Messin’,” “Mustang Ranch,”  
**If You Like:** James Brown, King Khan and the Shrines, the Black Keys ■