

the water tower.

uvm's alternative newsmag



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city market runs out of local organic butternut squash

burlington goes insane



by maxbookman and leamcclellan

The grim news was announced at 7:30 on Saturday morning by nothing more than a laminated card depicting a cartoon butternut squash with a cute little smiley face.

"No local organic butternut squash today," it read. Soon after, all hell broke loose.

Taylor Greenhood, a City Market regular, says he was one of the first shoppers to see the sign. "Using my iPhone, which can now send picture messages, by the way, I took a picture and immediately messaged my buddies who work down at the Intervale. They contacted the Compost Club, who contacted the EcoReps, and somehow the Moms for Sustainability got word, and before I knew it, those bastards had a mob on their hands."

For some Burlingtonites, shopping at City Market isn't just a trip to the grocery store: it's a statement. From the certified organic jalapeños to the fresh baked artisan French bread from South Hero, customers truly believe City Market reflects a commitment to saving the world, one Barbra's Bakery Peanut Butter Puffin cereal puff at a time. With this attitude in mind, one begins to understand how the unexpected absence of local organic but-

ternut squash could fundamentally rock the world of the City Market regular.

"I don't especially like butternut squash, in fact, my kids hate it, but I bought it all the time anyway. Why? It was local and organic, and that's all that

"I'm an orgolocalvore," yelled UVM student Willow Winters, as she repeatedly kicked City Market manager Mr. Treefellow in the balls. "Now where the hell am I supposed to get my local organic butternut squash?"

matters in my kitchen. I thought City Market was on the same 100% post-consumer recycled page as me," lamented Dorothy Sproutskey, president of Moms for Sustainability.

One disturbed eyewitness claimed that he saw City Market manager Mr. Treefellow trying to explain to the crowd that it wasn't that big of a deal, and that the local

organic butternut squash should arrive within the next two or three days. His explanation was ignored.

"I'm an orgolocalvore," yelled UVM student Willow Winters, as she repeatedly kicked City Market manager Mr. Treefellow in the balls. "Now where the hell am I supposed to get my local organic butternut squash?" she screamed into his painfully twisted face, "I might as well be back home on Long Island, you freakin' idiot!"

One passerby tried to calm the angry

mob by suggesting that they go down to Price Chopper on Route 7, where they could all get butternut squash for \$1.75 less per pound. "Besides," he added, "as the only supermarket within walking distance in Burlington, City Market doesn't even carry a wide selection of low-priced everyday groceries like meats, frozen meals, and brownie mix. I'm pretty sure

they don't even have Cool Ranch Doritos!"

His comments were met by screams of "lets compost that motherfucker," which could be heard as far away as Mr. Mike's. He was subsequently beaten, mauled, and hauled off to the compost pile.

The Burlington police were about to call the UVM police down the hill for backup when the crowd inexplicably dispersed. Only later did the reason for their departure come to light. It turned out that sales from the Farmer's Market in City Hall Park had undergone a sharp decline without the presence of Burlington's environmentally responsible consumer scene. Although the outrage over the loss of the local organic butternut squash was palpable, the urge to buy pricey local products directly from local farmers and artists in a fun, friendly outdoor environment was too strong to resist.

Twenty minutes after the crowd had disbursed, the once bloodthirsty City Market Customers could be seen calmly munching their granola and sipping homemade root beer at City Hall Park. Meanwhile, back at City Market, a late shipment of local organic butternut squash had arrived in the back of a Ford F-350 Super Diesel. ■

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inbox

trash ninja outrage!

Hi,
First of all, it must be nice for the author to have apparently never needed money badly enough to become familiar with a redemption center. Secondly, the callousness with which this was written and published is disgusting. **the water tower** is supposed to be UVM's "alternative news?" Give me a fucking break. Making a spectacle of homeless people and a dad trying to feed his kids isn't edgy; it's a pathetic display of privilege. "If there's one thing I learned it's that if I can give them some peace with my trash, if only for a little while, then any ninja is fine by me." Oh wow, how benevolent of you, to realize that your trash can help the needy people. Why don't you do some actual fucking work to make a difference?

-Liz

PS: Not all homeless people are aluminum-can crazed lunatics...some of them are you know, "normal people like you and me."

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

lost in translation

with emilyhoogesteger

Remember when people thought it would be great to have a president who speaks with clarity? As it turns out, that doesn't mean anything! It's almost like today's media cycle is one big game of telephone...

At a health care rally, President Obama says, **"This plan would help millions of uninsured Americans."**...

...you, watching the news out of the corner of one eye while you write your English paper that's due in an hour, text your friend: **"Yo, I think we're all gonna get free health care."**...

... **"The government is handing out medical care!"** your friend yells to everyone in the vicinity...

... which happens to include that ornery old man up the road, who hasn't bought new clothes since 1963 and thinks the government faked the moon landing. He ads, **"The government is rationing healthcare"** to his list of conspiracy theories.

... which he proclaims to anyone he meets, including the UPS delivery guy, who Twitters, **"Oh shit, I just heard the government has total control over our lives?"**...

... which is read by his 36 followers (who knew UPS guys were so popular?) all of whom post **"OBAMA = COMMUNISM!"** as their Facebook status...

... which makes its way onto protest signs, which make their way to Washington in the hands of **angry protesters, who make it on to the news...**

... which makes you, watching cable news while you drink your morning coffee, say, **"Communism? Didn't see that coming!"**

the water tower. uvm's alternative newsmag

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the shit list

with macsmith

The Taliban The Taliban has just been caught mocking President Obama's recent Nobel Peace Prize, which is stupid, considering the President could approve another 40,000 troops to send to Afghanistan. If this isn't irony, I don't know what is.

Mucus According to National Geographic, giant mucus-like blobs have become more and more common in the Mediterranean sea. They can be up to 124 miles long and can cause serious health defects. Although many believe this to be the effect of rising sea temperatures, others believe it's because James Gandolfini was shooting snot rockets off of the deck of his Italian Villa last month.

Boston In a groundbreaking effort to catch eyes with green building, Boston has commissioned the construction of a high rise that will feature green...algae slime on the outside of it. The building is to be called Eco-Pod, but will most likely devolve into the Green Monster.

Herbert and Catherine Schaible have just been charged for the death of their son, whom they prayed for during the last 24 hours of his life. He was "ravaged" with bacterial pneumonia and they couldn't figure out why. So instead of getting him treated, they prayed for him. The charges were dropped when it was discovered the family didn't have health care anyway.

the news in brief

with paulgross

"I will accept this award as a call to action."

-President, and now Nobel Laureate, **Barack H. Obama**. Apparently the Norwegians hadn't heard that Obama-mania is over, and decided to award the most high-profile prize in the world to someone who, actually, has done very little for peace. Then again, the award has been given to Yasser Arafat, Henry Kissinger and Al Gore. More like the Nobel "We think you're a pretty chill guy at this moment in time" Prize.

"This has to be seen through."

-**Hillary Clinton**, being a badass Secretary of State (as has, somewhat surprisingly, become the norm for her), and taking the first step to ending the one hundred-year tension between the Turks and Armenians. The Turks still haven't admitted to the Armenian genocide, but the two countries are now officially diplomatic allies, much thanks due to Ms. Clinton. At least someone in this administration is bringing change we can believe in.

"I will end 'don't ask, don't tell'"

-**Obama**, to a gay rights group. I'll believe it when I see it.

"I have great affection for her."

-**John McCain**, remarking on former running mate, Sarah Palin, and the tensions that supposedly plagued their campaign. McCain admits that he could not trust Palin all the time, but still stands by his decision to try to make a woman who doesn't read the newspaper the second most powerful person in the world. Thank god he's not president.

"He just ran from the police, then decided to come back."

-A **Georgia police officer**, commenting on the arrest of hip-hop superstar Soulja Boy Tell'em. Soulja Boy and 40 of his closest friends were at an abandoned house in the Atlanta suburbs, doing something nefarious when the police showed up. Lots of kids ran, but Soulja Boy came back about 20 minutes later to get his car. Clever. He was arrested for obstruction of justice.

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are always welcome
Weekly meetings
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Or send us an email

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.**

an update on honduras

by bsage

Tensions seem to finally be on the decline in Honduras, the Latin American nation which has been without its president, Manuel Zelaya, for over three months after he was deposed in a conservative military coup back in June. The coup, which was executed with support from both the Honduran army and Supreme Court, came about as a result of Zelaya's support of liberal Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, as well as allegations that he was attempting to modify the constitution in order to eliminate the one term limit on presidential power--something Zelaya denies. With nothing in the Honduran constitution concerning impeachment, the coup leaders decided to simply take Zelaya into custody and send him into exile in Costa Rica. The Honduran National Congress then voted "unanimously" to elect Roberto Micheletti, president of the congress, interim president of the country, though many of Zelaya's congressional allies were forced to abstain from voting.

Meanwhile, Zelaya maintained his international diplomatic recognition as president of Honduras, and attended conferences such as the Summit of Central American Presidents on June 30--just two days after being overthrown. In July, he made multiple attempts to return to the country, but each one was thwarted by the interim regime. He stayed in exile throughout August, though he remained very much in the public eye by often talking to the press and trying to increase his celebrity, but then stunned the world in late September when he appeared in the Brazilian embassy in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa. Following Zelaya's return, Micheletti issued an emergency decree which shut down two radio stations loyal to Zelaya, limited freedoms of travel and speech, and outlawed gatherings of more than twenty people. The army also surrounded the Brazilian embassy and remains there today, though it seems the situation is moving toward resolution.

"Dictatorial douche bag Micheletti has lifted the emergency decree, saying that 'there is peace' in Honduras now."

To begin with, the selfish and dictatorial douche bag Micheletti has lifted the emergency decree, saying that "there is peace" in Honduras now. It is clear the thug Micheletti is now realizing that neither the Honduran people nor the international community recognize him as anything more than the bully that he is. He is simply trying to save face and avoid greater punishment when his short and illegal stint in power is ended. There is more good news though, for the Organization of American States is due to broker negotiations between Zelaya's camp and the interim government this week, and Micheletti has indicated that concessions could be made to Zelaya: "If there are transparent elections in the country and we elect a new president," said Micheletti, "we can talk about any scenario, any solution."

The elections he is referring to are scheduled to be held next month, but the international community, as it should, has said it will not recognize the results of any election held under the Micheletti regime, for the military has even admitted that it would be "difficult or impossible" to accept a liberal government, and the regime has assassinated multiple supporters of Zelaya since it came to power. To call an election run by the current administration democratic would be an insult to the word, and it is the responsibility of the world's nations not to aid the current illegal government. What to do about Zelaya is more complicated, however; while the interim regime has definitely done some very unjust and illegal things to both him and his allies, it is fairly apparent that he was trying to manipulate democracy to selfishly extend his reign as president. His

what's up with old dudes like letterman?

unholy matrimony

by melaniekartzmer

When it comes to sex scandals in the political world, we've seen it all. Everything from prostitute rings, to Argentinean lovers, and even lewd conduct in an airport bathroom. It is amazing that the people running our great country, and under close media watch, feel they can get away with stuff like this. In the generation of YouTube, video and camera phones, and Twitter, let's be honest--you're going to get caught. But it looks like politicians aren't the only ones having trouble staying faithful.

Last week, the latest affair isn't linked to a philandering politician. In fact, it was none other than late-night comedy host David Letterman. He has admitted to having sexual relationships with female staff that work for him on *The Late Show*. Letterman has made it clear that these incidents were in the past, and he currently is not involved with any of them.

We're all human, and we all make mistakes. But there is a trend occurring that we can't ignore. Cases of adultery by leaders and celebrities have skyrocketed.

note to obama

by maxbookman

In an August 2009 *Wall Street Journal* article, former Bush speechwriter William McGurn analyzed the sinking support among Americans for President Obama's policy agenda and concluded that the only way for Mr. Obama to salvage his fledgling presidency is for the White House to shift its support towards more center-right policies.

Yeah right. Indeed, polling data does clearly demonstrate that for every critical issue that the president proposed tackling in his 2008 campaign, there is now a sizeable gap between support for addressing the issue and support for the *specific policy objectives* aimed at addressing the issue.

Americans agree that the economy must be fixed, but only 36% believe the president's stimulus plan will be effective in the future. A whopping 97% identify big problems with healthcare in the United States today, but just 44% approve of the president's handling of healthcare. A strong majority, 64%, answer affirmatively when asked if global warming poses a serious threat to the United States, but only 28% favor making major changes to American living habits in order to help protect the environment.

Mr. McGurn believes that this type of data shows that President Obama has vast public support for addressing broad issues, but has just been making the wrong choices on the specifics. He seems to assert that there is as a popular center-right way to address the issues and an unpopular lefty way, and that Mr. Obama has been unfortunately betting on the latter.

antics while in exile have often appeared to be aimed at getting personal attention rather than doing what is best for the nation he claims to still be president of. Ultimately, neither side really seems to have the best interests of the Hondurans in mind; the only way that the Honduran people will get the government they want and deserve is through a new, legitimate election with oversight from the international community. Otherwise, Honduras is likely doomed to a government of corruption and tyranny for a long time to come. ■

Not that these politicians don't have role models. JFK and Clinton were having flings with countless women. However, in JFK's time, it was the social norm for this not to be exposed to the general public in addition to the lack of a 24/7 news cycle. For Clinton, it was more accepted as part of his character, and clearly forgiven by the general public as reflected by

"In the generation of YouTube, video and camera phones, and Twitter, let's be honest - you're going to get caught. What is it about people in a position of power that entitles them to feel like they are invincible or exempt from basic moral code?"

his high approval rating. But are affairs becoming part of our cultural norm?

The Letterman scandal will blow over and be forgotten before the next story strikes. Our country is becoming jaded by the immoral and questionable actions of the people in the spotlight. When I hear about politician or celebrity cheating on spouses, I don't freak out. I don't debate with friends on what should happen. In fact, a more common response is a shrug of the shoulder and a "what else is new?" Have we accepted the un-sanctity

of marriage?

What is it about people in a position of power that entitles them to feel like they are invincible or exempt from basic moral code? There are a few possibilities. Powerful positions draw people with big egos. They need their egos to drive them to be successful despite bumps in the road they may face on the way to the

top. The problem could also be basic temptation, a sin that has plagued humankind since Adam and Eve. Constantly being surround by people who will do just about anything to get ahead

or are just attracted to power clearly takes its toll. What will it take for people to just keep it in their pants? ■

On his show last night Letterman joked, "Did your weekend just fly by? I'll be honest with you, right now I'd give anything to be hiking in the Appalachian Mountains." If only it were that easy. ■

go reagan

but stay left

This view, conventional wisdom among moderate Republicans is flawed because it incorrectly assumes that if President Obama moves to a center-right policy platform, Americans will be more likely to support it, and the gap will close.

The reality is that Americans never want to be caught up in policy specifics - left, right or moderate.

A closer look at polling data demonstrates that there is widespread disagreement among Americans regarding specific policy options. Time and again, a sizeable majority of Americans agree that something must be done, but within that majority exists a spectrum of opinion on how that something should be done. Washington is the only place where a binary left versus right ideological battle

ception of government dysfunction and inaction leaves a bad taste in the mouths of the American public far worse than the taste of an unpopular policy specific.

For example, the current healthcare debate has been so ill-received by the public because it dislikes the level of exposure to policy specifics it has been made subject to. If a majority of Americans support healthcare reform, then the president must focus on passing healthcare reform. By bringing the public into the debate on specifics, the President has invited those who agree on that broad level to devolve into enemies. This would not change if the president moves to the right, as McGurn suggests. President Obama is far better suited to the task of staying above the fray of arguments over

specifics. His ability to orate in high platitudes was what initially drew the public to support him. If something - anything

- gets passed, the president will be back in the territory he is most comfortable in, speaking broadly about the success of a broad policy goal. Besides, any healthcare bill that becomes law would take years to actually go into effect, and years after that before its tangible effects could be evaluated by the public. In the meantime, the president would be able to flaunt that something has been done on an issue that is of major concern to the American people. If President Obama is to salvage his presidency, his best bet is not to move to the right on specifics - it is to avoid them all together. ■

"If President Obama is to salvage his presidency, his best bet is not to move to the right on policy specifics - it is to avoid them all together."

is being waged - there is a nuanced spectrum of disagreement everywhere else. While those who are already writing the president's obituary are happy to see the gap in support for Mr. Obama's policies as evidence of a different, more popular way that he has neglected to follow, that mythical popular way does not exist. There will always be a gap.

More shrewd advice would implore the White House to do whatever it takes to get Congress to pass specific policies that address the issues Americans are concerned about, regardless of the level of public support, which is likely to be low no matter what. This is because the per-

edit/undo

last week's article titled

stuck inside washington
with the hollywood blues again

was written by

Brian Coffill

3



reflec

ice'd!

by ryanwaingortin



Imagine waking up in the morning after a long night of drinking, feeling like a Boeing 757 just collided with your forehead while the room is spinning faster than a cheap carnival ride, only to wake up next to a Smirnoff Ice malt beverage (yes, the one that is basically an alcoholic soda) deliberately placed next to your pillow. For most people, the thought of having another drink would make their stomachs recoil in horror. Now imagine having to get down on one knee and chug

amusing if one were to lower a Smirnoff in front of someone's face from the roof of a house using a fishing pole? How about if a person near and dear to you were to send you a package containing one of these unpleasantly sugary drinks? The possibilities are endless, and the more creative and ingenious, the better.

However, there are a few very important guidelines to keep in mind when playing the game of Icing. Most notably, a person can only be Iced if he or she has

"The more clever and cunning the Icing, the better. Hell, buy the grossest flavor you can find (Grape)."

clearly expressed consent for participation. Conversely, Icing someone implies a desire to participate, and thus automatic consent. In other words, if you Ice someone, then you are vulnerable to an Icing and must oblige if Iced. Otherwise, there is no Icing people who have not expressed a desire to participate. Furthermore, a person cannot be Iced with the Smirnoff Ices that he or she purchases, only others can be Iced. This pleasingly juvenile game can be costly and getting Iced by a beverage that you purchased would be like spending money to Ice yourself.

People all over campus are indulging in the hilarity that is Icing, but be mindful of the rules and guidelines, for there has to be some boundaries in the game to keep it interesting. The more clever and cunning the Icing, the better. Hell, buy the grossest flavor you can find (Grape). While you're at it, throw it in the freezer for a bit so the unfortunate victim who has to chug it will writhe in pain from severe brain freeze. So if your buddy hands you a cold, grape Smirnoff Ice before your 8:00 A.M. final, you better get down on one knee and pound that thing before your professor sees you, because you have just been ICED! ■

the hell out of that Smirnoff Ice right on the spot. For you, my friend, have just been Iced. This is only one of the many instances where you may find yourself on the off-putting side of the game that is called Icing.

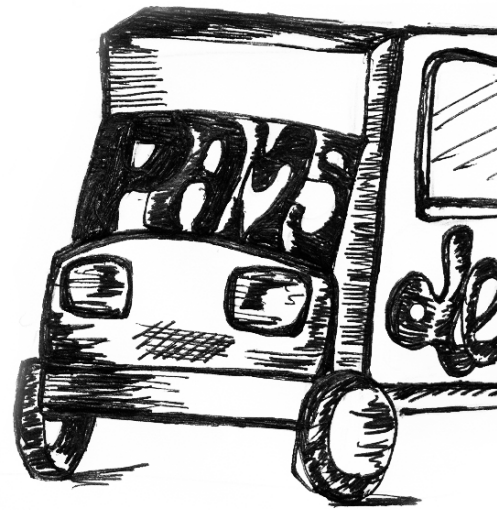
pam's is sti

by julietcritsimilios

While you may have passed the big yellow truck that houses Pam's Deli and awaits UVM customers every day, the inside may not be so familiar. **the water tower** went to see who was behind the breakfast sandwiches and lunch subs that fuel students day in and day out, so we interviewed Pam of Pam's Deli herself.

Pam has been here forever. She's been working at UVM with her husband George since she was 23 years old, and takes great pride in that fact. It wasn't always her and George serving kids, either. When they were younger, UVM students helped them out. "When I first started at UVM it was more like friends I was working with. Now I'm more like a mother to you guys. You're my children's ages," she explains. Nowadays, she says, "That's one thing about my business: the kids that come to me are kind of regulars so I get to know them a bit. I got a box of tissues. I handed out orange juice and gave health advice. Drink liquids!" Although she likes being a mother figure, she says that when she was younger she felt like her relationship with students was "more personable" and she tries to maintain that close relationship with the customers she has today. Justin King, a freshman, agrees with the importance of such a relationship: "It's about the friendliness. The food is amazing, but anyone can make food. It's the friendliness that matters most."

Those customers, however, seem to be in short supply this year, probably because so many us have had to cut back because of the economy. "We're kind of stressing out about business itself rather than feeling how nice it is to be up here.



"Pam has been here forever. It seems unfair that her business has been affected by the economy."

We have so much competition and no-one has a lot of cash right now. The Cat Scratch. The meals plans. All of that has affected us."

In comparing Pam's to the other meal options we have on campus, it makes more sense to stop over and see her. Even though

the sports entourage epidemic

by jelenaaleksich

There's a new epidemic in town and it's spreading faster than Swine Flu. The allure of the sports athlete has always been one of the more tempting things in a college student's life. Is it their rock hard bodies? Their success? Or their multitude of battle wounds that you just want to massage all over? Most are not able to know because they somehow always manage to be treated like gods...at least during their college experience.

The same phenomenon happens: new freshmen and sophomores have marked their territory. Girls surround each of the athletes and create a posse of worshippers. Every team has their own group that serves as the personal carnal crew. All of these lacrossetitues, hockey hoes, basketball bitches, and soccer sluts have one thing in common: jock addiction. This may come in many forms, but if you seem to be constantly surrounded by people in the athletics department, that's when you know you have been hit by the lure of the athlete.

You may be a sports slut without even realizing it! A few general symptoms include the following:

1. Extreme difficulty not looking at team rosters
2. Inactivity and withdrawal from RK's (regular kids)
3. Trouble not acquiring multiple frenemies who also have this ailment
4. Lack of energy to do anything but show up to sports games, tailgates, and practices.
5. Fantasies of scoring with at least five athletes...on the same team

If you have at least two of these symptoms for a minimum of three weekends, then you have Fanatic Athlete Syndrome. However, it is treatable and usually optimistic for complete recovery. Firstly, it's already getting colder so you may want to start considering settling for that "special" someone who will make the long winter

warmer. In reality, this will most likely not be an athlete. There are a few exceptions, where you may become the happy trophy wife, or the muggle BFF, but this is a pretty rare occurrence. You'll only benefit yourself in the future if you try your hardest to resist this enticing desire. There are those tenacious individuals who do not fall victim to this condition and this may be no concern to them. However, it's only reasonable for most of you to not have that much self-control because we all have that one friend who succumbs to this condition.

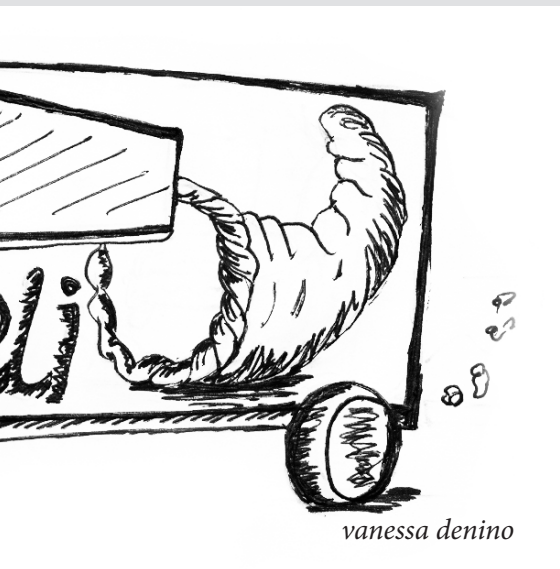
The first step is to try having 10 shots instead of 15, because you'll actually remember your night and not throw yourself at the first person wearing a jersey. The slightly better lucidness will help you see that the guys aren't as cool as you really thought they were and you'll also realize the plethora of competition that comes along with this fantasy. It's a vicious cycle that only gets worse during their in-season. Post-celebratory games are the most dangerous because we all know (including the players) that they're all guaranteed a shag that night, whether they won or not.

Just like their "bro-tastic athletes" reputation, most of these may ridicule you in one session of their locker room talk. They'll even use the same ways to describe their bedroom adventures with you in sports language; with words like: slam, rail, slay, and beat it up. Their sport, as well as the many bromances that come as a result, is probably their sole purpose in life.

With the exact cause of this addiction unknown, it is hard to have a solid way of dealing with the issue. Limiting yourself to the athletic elite results in short-lived entertainment, where you bang out your guilt. So the next time you walk by those chiseled abs and cocky smirks, try to keep it in your pants. ■

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ll trucking



vanessa denino

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er business has been
e Davis Center."

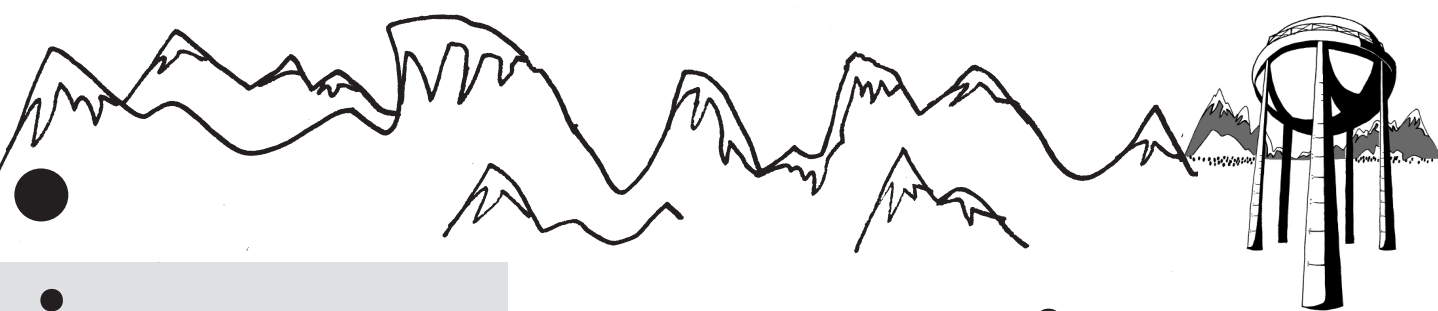
Pam's Deli only takes cash, they're conveniently located in-between most class buildings, so you don't have to jog all the way to the Davis Center. Their food is awesome-- and local. "With me, unfortunately it's cash only, but you get fresh eggs, not the powdered form.

We slice our meats daily, we pick up our breads daily. We grow our own tomatoes," and all the rest of their produce is locally grown and shipped by their distributor. While Pam claims the turkey bacon is her favorite, people rave about the strollers, bagels, and bacon-egg-and-cheese. Kathleen Truax, of UVM's very own history department, agrees: "I like the Italian Strollers. And everything is so fresh and yummy."

Pam has been here so long, it almost seems unfair that her business has been affected by the Davis Center.

"The whole time the Davis Center was being built, we wondered 'Oh, gee, how is that going to affect us?' And unfortunately it has, which is no one's fault. It's just progress. Our price reflects the tax which is already 11%, and we still think we're cheaper than the Davis Center." While the Davis Center hurts them, nothing warms their hearts more than appreciation from students. "I know the students that we had [working with us] when we first started off. Their kids are coming back now and they say, 'Oh my mom ate here.' I get that a lot. It's rewarding."

Something that is such a UVM staple should be recognized for its great food and student-proclaimed friendliness. With local food prepared fresh, and a satisfied appetite, Pam truly trumps her competitors in all respects. Going into your wallet instead of reaching for your Cat Card is likely to save you money and give you great, unprocessed, fresh food. Pam's is a delicious win-win for all UVMers, as well as a tradition that should be supported for years to come. ■



creation:

an intelligently designed movie

by **dauidouglas**

debuting at the Toronto International Film festival this year is not a Canadian film but a British film that has stirred up a long simmering controversy in the US. No, not Racism or National Healthcare, or Twitter vs Facebook... Give up? Evolution.

A little film called "Creation", starring Paul Bettany, Jennifer Connelly, and directed by Jon Amiel, probes the life of the 19th century naturalist and father of

lier this year "The Voyage that Shook the World", a documentary commissioned by Creation Ministries International, a Christian film group, in celebration of Darwin's 200th birthday, premiered. Despite its neutral tone and unbiased name, the film falls short of the moral and cultural high ground and instead dives right into the petty cluster fuck that is also known as right wing politics. Three historians were interview by the filmmakers

"Wake up America! It's 2009 and we're still having this debate in our country? Who knew evolution was still such a hot topic?"

the theory of evolution, Charles Darwin, as he reconciles with his religion and wife after the death of his 10-year-old daughter Anna. This is not a movie about how much cooler biologists are than evangelical preachers, or how "The Origin of Species" is a better seller than the Bible. It is an emotional film about a tortured soul, just like "The Passion of the Christ" only without all of the kinky whipping.

Wake up America! It's 2009 and we're still having this debate in our country? Who knew evolution was still such a hot topic? Apparently these people did. Ear-

masquerading as Fathom Media, a front company to Creation Ministries. The historians, Peter Bowler, Janet Browne and Sandra Herbert, accused the filmmakers of "distorting" their comments and "twisting" their views. To which Phil Bell, CEO of Creation Ministries said, "Well, it could be called deceptive. But I think, at the end of the day . . . more people are concerned about how we've made a documentary, that's a world-class documentary, clearly with wonderful footage, with excellent interviews, and balanced open discussion."

Is evolution really worth it? What does "Evolution" give us that "Intelligent Design" lacks? Evolution explains why there are fossilized monsters beneath our feet that await the day we foolishly try to resurrect them as our pets or for theme parks based on movies starring Jeff Goldblum and then they will strike when we least expect it and at the most ironic time. However, what about things evolution cannot explain like miracles, compound eyes, women, and rubix cubes? The good thing about science, and the universe, for that matter, is that it doesn't care what you believe in. Science doesn't need your faith or your hearts, just your eyes to see its natural wonders. It is scary to think that some of our most powerful politicians are caught up in this furor that has swept through the nation. Meanwhile outside the perky tits of the North East and the plump, firm, meaty buttocks of the West Coast, the rest of America is constricted into a Bible-Belt corset, where not everyone is as liberal and open-minded as the kind folks that you see every day at UVM and you may have to deal with one of these "non-believers". Or you may find yourself surrounded by infidels who reject the gospel you take so lightly for truth. Some people will try to reconcile the two, and some assholes will goad you into debates and temper tantrums over the controversial issue just to spread their own message and get you all hot and bothered.

"Creation" has garnered positive reviews from film critics at the Toronto film festival and as of September 21st has found a distributor in Newmarket Films according to Variety Magazine. The film will be coming to theaters this December, so expect a slew of articles about the controversy around the holiday season. Newmarket Films, as some of you may remember, released a little snuff film called "The Passion of the Christ" ... I guess the two theories, Evolution and Intelligent Design, can co-exist regardless of what some people may say. ■

fall's latest trend: H1N1 vaccination

by **ginamastrogiacom**

This week in the Davis Center, you may have noticed the flu shot tables that have gone up. How could you not? The woman working Table One all but plunged the needle into my arm while trying to pass through - Lady, don't come between me and my sushi rolls, alright? Or maybe you've seen the "Flu Kits" for sale at Cat Pause? (Paper bags with the labels taped on? What do these kits really entail -- it looks like a bagged lunch!) But how long

will it be before the vaccine we're really concerned about, the Swine Flu one, is made available?

This past Friday, the director for the Center for Disease Control, Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, issued his first statements about vaccine distribution saying that they would be "a little bumpy." Doctors should expect to receive the first rounds of the vaccination by October 6. Just what sort of packaging can we expect on such a product? Well, while I personally was hoping for something with Dora the Explorer on it (don't pretend you don't love getting bandaids like that at the doctor!), according to the director it will look more like FluMist nasal spray.

Cool, I'll take spray over a shot any day! However, the spray has limits to how it can be used and who can use it. Infants under 2, adults over 49, pregnant women, and anyone with pre-occurring health problems are advised not to receive this version. ...Guess my mom is getting Swine Flu?

No fear - an injectable vaccine will be made available in mid-October. But don't expect it to last too long. With over 90,000 distribution locations to reach, Dr. Frieden predicts shortages. Unlike the regular flu vaccine, the Swine Flu vaccination is not purchased by doctors; it is paid

for and ordered by the federal government, the same people who are paying for its distribution and accompanying materials. (AKA - incredibly scary needles.)

While September is normally reserved for apple picking and general freeness of Fall Spirit, this past month has seen more flu activity than ever, spreading over 26 states so far. Dr. Frieden says that the regular flu shots, those currently being peddled on campus, will not prevent

"There's not a better way of transmitting germs than packing hundreds of young people into poorly ventilated party rooms, sharing glasses, playing beer pong and kissing," said Dr. James Turner.

H1N1.

What can college students do in the meantime? Unfortunately, it may require putting down your shot glass.

"There's not a better way of transmitting germs than packing hundreds of young people into poorly ventilated party rooms and sharing glasses, smoking materials, playing beer pong and kissing," said Dr. James Turner, president of the American College Health Association.

Dr. Turner estimates that a little more than 13,000 students have experienced flu-like symptoms over the past month. But health officials are apparently no longer testing every sick student, so determining what is flu and what is Swine has become increasingly difficult.

To put the fear of God in you, two students have died from the Swine Flu thus far, one at Alabama's Troy University and another at Cornell University. So far this year, we've only had one mass e-mail invade our inboxes telling us of one poor soul officially confirmed with the illness this year, though there have been several students sent home to recoup and recover with similar suspicious symptoms. The

best thing, UVM says, that a student diagnosed with H1N1 or with any flu-like symptoms can do is just to stay out of close contact with others. (Excuse not to go to that two hour lecture? I'll take it.) How can such a large vaccine be traced? Harvard Medical School scientists have created databases of large insurance companies that cover up to 50 million people with registries of those who have been vaccinated and have gone to see a doctor

following that vaccination appointment. At Johns Hopkins University, they are using e-mails to track their patients and how they're feeling. If there is a possible connection to Swine Flu, researchers contact the infected with detailed follow-up questions.

So this shot is FDA approved, and will apparently go to work 8-10 days after administered. But because it won't be available until later in October, for now the University is encouraging students to at least get those seasonal flu shots in the Davis Center. They're \$15, can be charged to your student account, and will be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It's not much, but it's the best that we've got for now. In the meantime, to avoid being cast in some horrible camp film like "Swine Flu Goes To College", basically just avoid sharing the ever-hallowed plastic cups at parties, and try to get your seven hours in sometimes. You can never really get the medical records of the guy or girl that you make harried and uninformed decisions with on Friday or Saturday nights, but as we enter into cold and flu season, I know I'll be walking to Church Street with a newly purchased bottle of Purell in my purse. Will it actually help fend off H1N1? Who knows. Just stay clean, rested, and well-informed. ■

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

I used to talk to you almost everyday, but I haven't seen you in over a week. Now I hear that you're with Sean, but I don't know how to get in contact with you, because you're dead. Please come back to UHN.

When: Friday night, September 25th
Where: Prospect and College
I saw: A phone
I am: Sebastian Downs

I met you at orientation and we saw each other at the airport when we left. Since school's started, I've seen you around campus and everytime we've made eye-contact, it involves some serious sexual tension. I think you are one of the most handsome guys I've ever laid my eyes on, and I think the only way to get over this is to get under you.

When: Mostly in the afternoon
Where: All over campus
I saw: a man
I am: a woman

I've seen you around a lot this year so far because we share similar friends. I think you are so cute and one of the funniest people I know. Since we met, I've had a growing lust for you, and I think about you all the time. Can we please be something more?

When: When our friends hang out
Where: Usually on Trinity Campus

We were chillin in your room. I was the tall goofy guy sitting there like a jack bum. You were so beautiful, I didn't know what to say. You were typing on your pink laptop. I think you were studying. I would really like to study you!

When: All the time
Where: In my dreams
I saw: a woman
I am: a man

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

In Williams Hall:

Guy: Yeah, the best thing about going to UVM is it doesn't really matter what you wear in public. Someone's gonna look weirder than you.

Opposite Sides of Loomis Street:

Drunk girl: I wanted to fuck him so bad! But he's a freshman...
Drunk boy across the street: Dooo it!

Outside a party on Colchester Ave.:

Freshman girl: I told him my V-Card was NOT being swiped.

Parents weekend in Chittenden:

Mom: You don't go out with someone just to use them!
Daughter: I do.
Mom: That's disgusting!

Kid talking loudly on his phone at the library:

Kid: Well it wasn't like I was driving black out, I just remember going over the line sometimes
Pause
Kid: No mom, I don't remember

Library, first floor computers:

Chem Bro 1: So do you know her personally?
Chem Bro 2: Yeah, she gave me a nickname before school even started.
Chem Bro 1: What is it?
Chem Bro 2: Pookie-Wookie
Chem Bro 1: Why, may I ask?
Chem Bro 2: I don't know, I sign my emails to her as Pookie-Wookie.

h.t.h.d.t.e.h.t.s

(how the hell does this even happen to someone?)

has anything ever happened to you
that made you wonder
how the hell does this even happen to someone?
let it all out. it's good for you.
uvm.edu/~watertwr/hthdtehts.html

We thought this section would be really funny. But then, like, no one ever really submits anything for it. If we don't start getting more submissions, we're totally going to have to concede defeat and cut the section. HOW THE HELL DOES THIS EVEN HAPPEN TO SOMEONE?!??

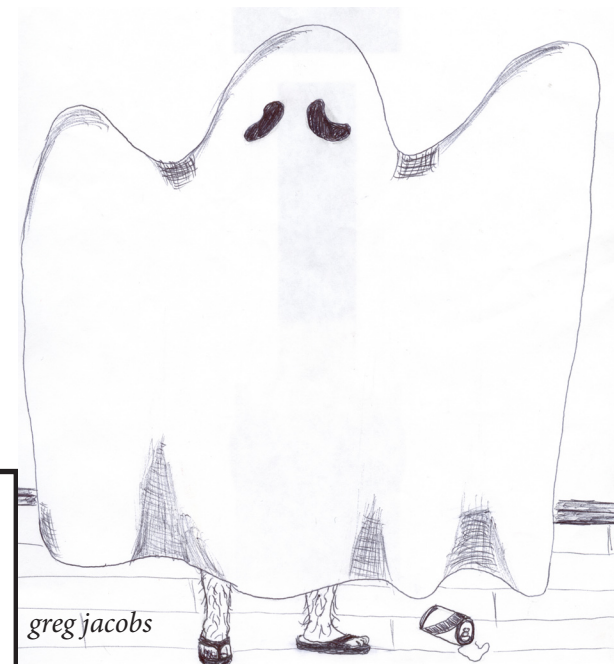
HTHDEHTS

the first annual...

wt. halloween costume contest!

Well children, All Hallows Eve is upon us. The wt. urges you to avoid eating any previously opened mini snickers bars and to send your costume photos to:
thewatertowernews@gmail.com

(deadline: Nov. 1st)



the best "_____ "costume:
and the categories are...

why is this turning me on?

Everyone knows about the sexy French maid, the sexy nurse, the sexy cop-- and then there is the whole range of sexy woodland animals like bunnies and ferral cats. But that's all a little cliché, no? What about a sexy walrus? Or sexy Teddy Roosevelt? Make us feel weird inside. We dare you.

i found this outfit in the gutter...but hey, i look good

You don't really "buy into" this whole dressing up thing...but you "guess" you could "throw something together." Not a big deal.

the kid that went all-out

Who says Halloween is only fun for small children and pumpkin farmers? Your mom dressed you up as frickin' Piglet for the first seven years of your life. Now it's your time to shine. Go ahead-- glue fake werewolf fur to your butt, or sit on the couch all night because you purchased a real mermaid tail.

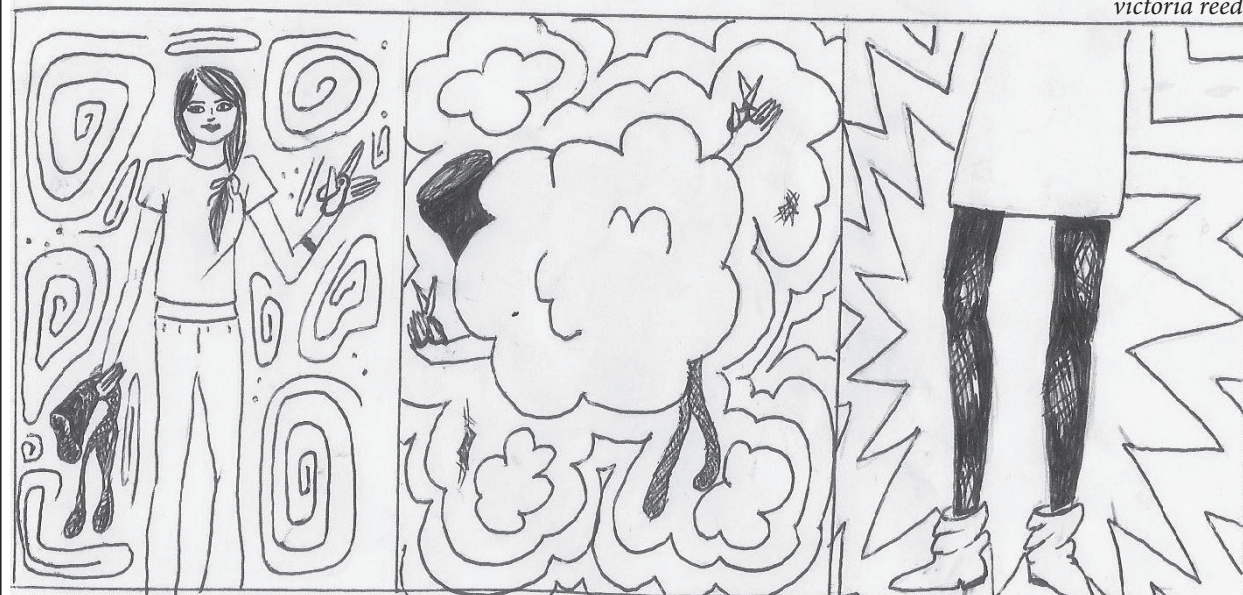
i'll dress up if you do

Sure, your costume is great, but check out your social circle! It's one thing to dress up like Dorothy. It's another when you roll up with Toto, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and a flying monkey by your side.

fashion five-oh. rip her to shreds

with moniquezeitz

Extra, extra! Read all about it! Hot and hole-y style for you steezy beezy kids out there! It's time to snag some of these hole-some nylons! You pay six bucks for a remedy to the Vermont cold and all you get is the runs. What am I talking about? *Shred nasty tights!* One can spot them on campus, usually the color black and decorated like a war veteran, holy and fatigued. Take those tainted tights and rip 'em to shreds; holes are cool and so is frostbite. Throw some snot and blood spatter on them to add a believable effect that you don't give a fuck! Or if you're too damn lazy to DIY, go buy them for twenty-four bucks at your local hipster store. As for me, I'm going to run amock with my nylons plastered to my head (much like Jack Black in "Saving Silverman") while listening to Blondie's "Rip Her to Shreds."



1. Run n' grab yo' ruined tights and a pointed, sharp object

2. Take tights in hand and aim your weapon.

3. An attack!!!!
Chop chop chop
chop chomp chomp
chomp chop chop.
The massacre of Nylon-ville!!!!

or...For those who are lazy: fly over to the nearest Urban Outfitters (or American Apparel) in your environmentally unfriendly SUV (even though you only use REFINED gas AND you go to UVM, duh!! Totes an environmentalist!).

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 the water tower's new section, **créatif stuffé**. Send your submissions to thewatertownnews@gmail.com by Tuesdays at 4:00.

a quick jaunt to city market

by jpdubouque

My fridge groans with hunger pains
Empty of food—not one grain
And here I'm trapped in B-town
With no car in which to drive around—
Alas City Market can save the day
It's down on So Winooski Avenue
Where exactly, I haven't a clue....
Alas, I'll find it, I'm off—adieu!
I clutch the handle—gripping tight—
Of my dwarfed little cart at perfect height.
I grab for the cheese but oops it drops
And then I spot her Birkenstocks.
Grimly brown on her mannish feet
It's too late for me to retreat
For my eye already caught—
The wispy skirt hiked up knee-high
Highlighting her very hairy thighs
Exposed so all can see
She has an au-naturelle philosophy.
Oh shit she saw my nauseous face
Get me the hell outta this place!
I run to hide among the poultry,
I mean the free-range poultry...
Make that the organic free-range
poultry...

Actually it's the Vermont organic free-range poultry....
In fact it's the loved, raised with children, fresh Vermont organic free-range poultry.
It sounds too healthy to resist
So into the cart it was whisked.
Wending my way through the narrow aisles,
Everyone's wearing such delirious smiles
Dazzled by local labels with organic wheat
They gobble them up like scrumptious treats
I scurry off to check me out
And end this deluge of doubts
About what seems healthier
To make my body wealthier
In strength and vigor.
The cashier told me what I owed
More than a semester's book-load!
That's it I can't take it anymore,
Next time I'm slumming it at Hannafords for sure.

cops and robbers

by joshhegarty

Part One

"Do it," whispered a voice in the dark, "Then turn on the lights, but keep 'em dim. I want him to appreciate the atmosphere."

The lights came on and there was an old gray man in bed. Above him was a younger man holding a gun in the elder's face.

"Wake up!" shouted the man with the gun.

And wake up the old man did. His eyes popped open, then shut again as if in disbelief. When they opened again, they held a clear sense of fear, firstly because there was a gun in his face, and secondly because he realized he could only move his head, and barely. His eyes darted upward and looked at the man holding the gun. He had a stern face, one you would not want to cross. He looked as if he could have been no older than thirty, except in his eyes, which had clearly seen horrors beyond his years.

"You look surprised. You really shouldn't be. You know how we operate. You can't move because I had my personal physician inject you with a sedative. The gun is in your face because you crossed us. Any questions?"

The old man's mouth opened slightly, all he could muster. The gun slid through the opening, lying heavily in the geezer's throat like a cannonball. There were tears in his eyes.

"Judge Stephens, you are going to use all the pull that you have in order to get

the arrests of my men, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Abrams, thrown out. This will be the last reminder. You've spent too much time dicking around with us. We had a deal, Calvin. I've done terrible things for you. I've kidnapped. I've murdered. I once broke a three-year-old girl's leg for you. Do you know what happens when your leg is broken that young? It doesn't ever heal right. I crippled that little girl while her mother watched, for you. And this is how you repay me? By letting my men get arrested? Charged? There are so many horrible things I could do to you. And you really thought you could get away with disobedience? Did you forget about your affair with a 16 year-old girl? Did you forget about the nephew you molested? I could destroy you with a phone call. But that's not what I'm gonna do to you. This is your last chance. If they aren't released by 3 P.M. tomorrow, I will be back. And you'll be dead."

He pulled the gun out of the judge's mouth. This was when Judge Stephens realized there were more men in his room than just Joe. There were five other men, one in latex gloves, all staring sadistically at him. It was too dark to recognize any of them.

Joe snapped his fingers and the men turned and left. As he was about to walk out the door, Joe turned off the lights and said, "You'll be able to move again in about an hour. Don't make me come back to this shithole."

He slammed the door. ■

cups and balls

digital photograph by juliet critsimilios



untitled

by chandlergodette

When I put on my fitted, and rock it low
I can see you but you can't see me
You cannot see where my eyes lead
And in turn cannot read what's going on with me
It's like a wall I have up as a protection
Because here I truly sit in Red Sox nation
Surrounded by things different and new
Nothing like the streets I'm used to
Where the fitted you're wearing can be the difference
between life and death
Where if you're stupid enough to the size visible on the
hat you're assured theft.
But as time has past I've learned and crept through the
issues
And here I stand here before you.
My fitted is my heart.
It reminds me of what has happened from the very start
The city, the smell, the police, the drugs, the drama, the
people
But I wouldn't trade it for the world
My fitted represents not only me but where I'm from
Home of the Bronx Bombers, Hip-Hop, and an awesome
rapper named Big Pun (R.I.P.)
So when you see this fitted on me, or another
If they're anything like me respect it, cuz even if you're
rockin' a Sox or another fitted,
Rivalries and competition aside we still share that mu-
tual connection
Love for our team and our home.

oskar mcgrew and the fraternity of blasphemy episode 5 escapades and escapes

by henrykellogg

When strange evil threatens the UVM campus to the point of all weirdness, Oskar McGrew strives to save UVM from certain peril.

The three thugs looked at one another manically. I looked right back at them. I tensed and bent my knees. If my extensive training in Mexican wrestling and being the only boy on my high school's gymnastics and cheer-leading team meant anything, it was that I should be able to kick these guys' asses right now. As the first lunged to take a swing at me, I dove through his legs. Then I hand-springed past the second guy. The third punched me in the face. I went down hard. On my ass. My sombrero fell off. This was not the time for weakness. I stood up. I then kicked with my left foot and did a plié. I was in first position. But this was not ballet class.

I twirled. Then I did a cartwheel. I did a handstand. It then became clear to me that I was out of moves. I looked at them. When they looked back at me they were probably more bewildered than anything else. The first one snickered. They were just jealous. They wished they had sweet moves like I did. Then it occurred to me that I didn't need to waste time beating up these cretins. They would just have to live with the truth they had just been bested by Oskar McGrew. And they would have to live with that.

I bounded up the stairs, past the bumping music, and ran out the door. As I turned behind me I saw that the three guys from downstairs had followed me up. Also there were three more who had been guarding the door

before they saw a guy in a bathrobe running full speed out of their house. I was being chased by six big, fratty guys. As I turned to them, a chill wind blew. As I looked in their eyes, I saw a red reflection. Not the red like a long night of partying gives you in the morning. Glowing red. Like possessed by something red. I was at the eerie nexus between one reality and another. One of the sane and good and natural. The other of another, where strange things live and the supernatural rules. The world of demons. I knew that this was not the time to stay and fight. I jumped on to my bicycle full force, pushing to get away.

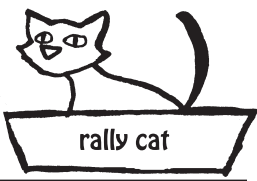
CRAANK!! A noise of metal against metal. My bike was still locked to the tree. Or it had been. In fact, it still was. Only I had jumped on it without unlocking it and thus, what was meant to be super cool get away wound up with me just going over the handles. I lay sprawled on my back. The frat members closed around me. As I looked into their eyes, I knew I was done for.

Then the sound of a car pulling up awoke their reverie. I stood up to find a cop standing right next to me. I looked at him rather bewildered. I was amazed. What had just happened to me? "Excuse me, sir, we have been issued a noise complaint; we're going to have to shut this party down."

"Umm, I'm not involved with them," I mumbled.

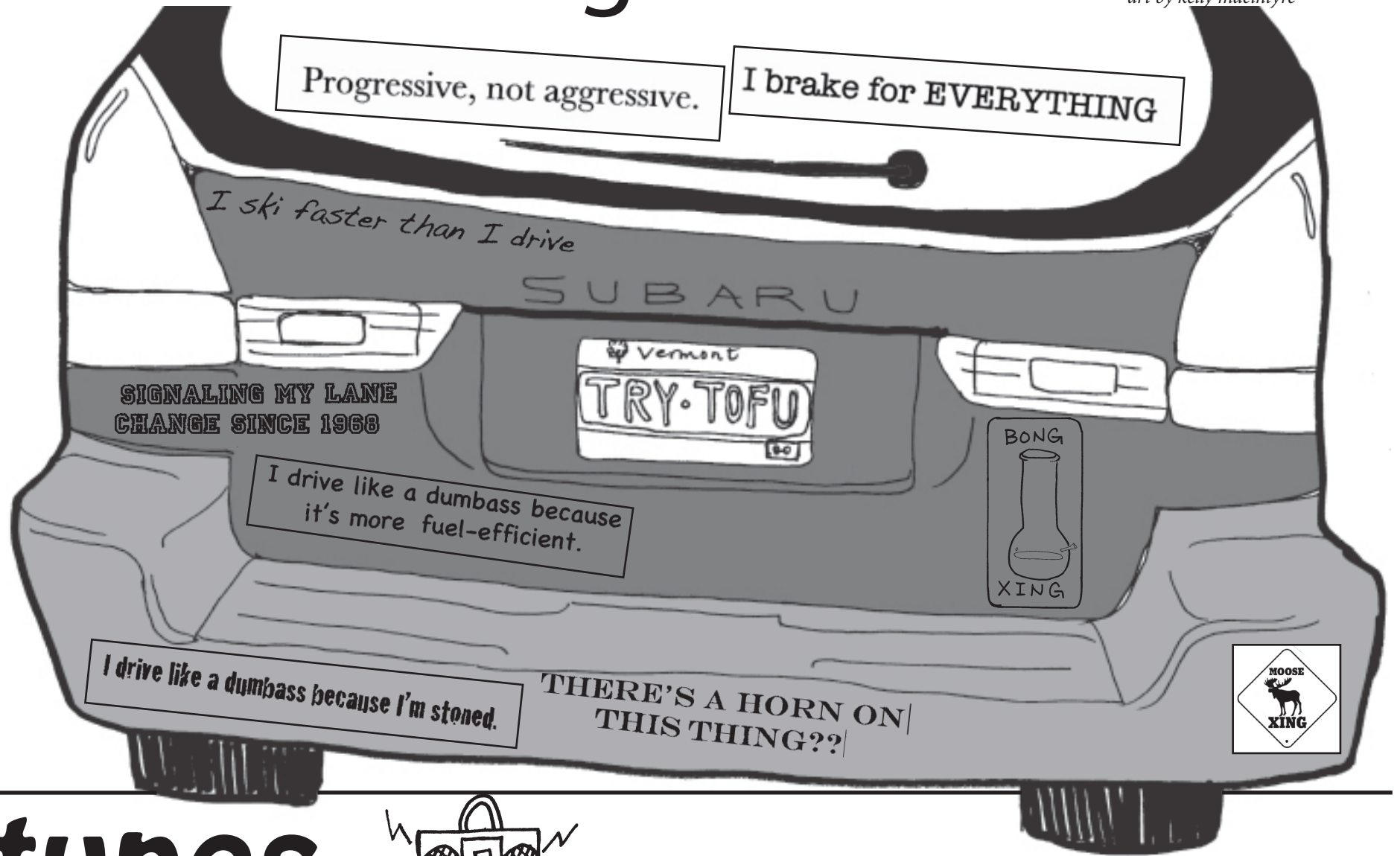
"Well, I'm going to go issue a noise complaint," voiced the cop as he tromped over to the party. I got up, unlocked my bike, and slipped off into the night. ■

cat litter.



now entering vermont

cat litter:
by juliet critsimilios, greg francesce,
mac smith, and mike white
art by kelly macintyre



tunes.



believe the hype: hype machine is the pandora for trendsetters

your weekly WRUV
music review



with nyikobeguinn and brianreid

Volcano Choir - Unmap (Jagjaguwar)

Experimental pop/post rock chalk full of ambient textures, ambiguous loops, breathy/biting vocals, and unconventional song structures. Evokes visions of a snow-covered log cabin kept warm by heat-breathing robots. Side project of Justin Vernon (Bon Iver).

For Fans Of: Bon Iver, Animal Collective, Grizzly Bear

Whales and Wolves - Green and Grey (Self-Released)

Acoustic guitar riffs with accompanying piano and smooth vocal harmonies. Relaxing, interesting tunes.

For Fans Of: Vetiver, Iron & Wine

Russian Circles - Geneva (Suicide Squeeze)

Hard rockin', instrumental trio. (Bass, guitar, drums.) Some of the tunes are fun to rock out to, while others feel like they might benefit from a singer.

Music Go Music - Expressions (Secretly Canadian)

Debut album from outrageous disco-rock trio hailing from Los Angeles. Stuffed with explosive synth-infused club anthems (if the club is Studio 54). Female vocals backed by a light choir, driving dance percussion, and progressive disco orchestration. Featuring members of Bodies of Water.

For Fans Of: Bodies of Water, Goldfrapp, ABBA

by bridgettreco

You just arrived at UVM and you realized that your taste in music is far behind what it should be. You thought you were pretty cool at first, liking Animal Collective and Grizzly Bear. Well, guess what frosh? You ain't cool until you like obscure electro-pop and leaked hip-hop remixes ironically named things like "Pour Another Glass of Champers Remix." Okay, now I'm being ironic.

Remember Pandora and how we hyped that shit as soon as it went "viral"? Well, I've got news for you. Pandora isn't cutting it anymore. The Hype Machine will be like pornography for your ears.

Sick of the way Pandora won't let you listen to anything more than once? Hate the way Grooveshark lacks the good stuff? Feeling jaded that Last.fm was only cool when you were in middle school?

If you're just out there for the new, undiscovered leaked tunes and remixes, Hype is the place for you. Created by blogger Anthony Volodkin in 2005, the Hype provides "one-stop-shopping" for mp3s, put together by thousands of links to blogs all over the world. It's basically a mash-up of all the hippest blogs from Stockholm to Sydney to Tokyo to Yo Mama's House. If you're not salivating over this already, you will be once you hear about the new Vampire Weekend single that you've been waiting for, or the cover of "Use Somebody" by the ever-so-sleek Bat for Lashes. Don't know Bat for Lashes? Well, neither do most people, and you'll be extra cool when everyone else finds out about them and you're already wearing their t-shirt!

The best part about the Hype is that after making an account, you can "customize The Hype Machine with the music you love!" Which is totally true. They aren't lying. You can have updates on your favorite types of tracks and artists emailed to you every day. Oh yeah, and you can Twitter about it... whatever.

The feature that is the most valuable is the easy-to-use, fast-loading player that lets you actually re-play songs as much as

you want. Plus, if you hear something you like, you can go straight to the original blogs to read all the bizarre musings from all corners of the musical world. One of the best things about the Hype is that you can find some leaked tracks from greats like Lou Reed and Tom Tom Club. Remember: Whatever's old is hip, even if it's a William Shatner single.

Here are some of the tracks currently with the biggest buzz on the site, although look out, because they'll be out of date in a few days. P.S.: You will get laid if you play tracks you heard. It's science.

Kid Sister- No, she's not yours. She's a straight up-G from Chicago who dealt with Kanye and now has her own dope career. Check out "Right Hand Hi" (Caspia Remix)

Discovery- Mash-up of members from Vamp Wknd and Ra Ra Riot. It already

sounds awesome, but check out their cover of Jackson 5's "I Want You Back." MJ is smiling... wherever he is.

Little Boots- British version of Lady GaGa plays bizarre instruments and is a whole new kind of fierce. The best is "Remedy."

Uffie- Absolutely FEROSH white girl rapper who's already made quite a name for herself (obviously, on Justice's TTH-HEE PPAARRTTY). Find her "Pop The Glock" (Mirwais Pop Remix).

Röyksopp- Norwegian electropop explosion of goodness and synth...you've heard the name undoubtedly, now really immerse yourself with "What Else Is There" (Ministry of Sound Remix).

Phoenix- French band interested in conquering our silly little country, one snooty Audi commercial at a time. You will love the Friendly Fires remix of "Fences." ■

good song, bad song

by jeremyklein

Good Song: Girls - Laura

This is a song (and album) which really harkens back to the old days of rock n' roll music. Christopher Owens, the band's lead singer, sounds like Elvis Costello singing over the melodies of the Beach Boys. As far as lyrical content, Owens is perhaps one of the most lovesick songwriters to come along since emo died. All he seems to want in life is the love of someone he cares about. His words are extremely honest and personal. He's messed up in the past and realizes it. He's repentant for all the mistakes he's made. All he can do now, though, is say how sorry he is for it and hopes that he'll be forgiven. He's tired of fighting and just really only desires to be "friends forever, friends until the end of it all." And in the end, isn't that what we all really want?

Bad Song: Muse - Uprising

It pains me greatly to label a song by Muse as being "bad," as I consider myself to be a pretty big fan of their music. That being said, as soon as I heard the whirring synthesizer that opens this song, I knew something was wrong. The song itself is a contradiction. The music is synthesizer-driven to its core, inclining me to maybe dance a little bit, whereas front man Matthew Bellamy spouts political ideology telling us to overthrow the oppressive regime. And since I never ever associate cutting up the dance floor and the overthrowing of an oppressive government, the song to me falls flat on its face as it tries to perform both at the same time. It's a real shame, but at least we'll always have "Origin of Symmetry." ■