a deeper look into the silk road shutdown

by phoebebooks

The Silk Road, a leading online black marketplace notorious for transferring billions of dollars in drugs, hitman services, and nearly any other illegal commodity, had only just begun to make its way into public conversation when the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized the website on October 2nd. The site's operator, Ross William Ulbricht, known online as Dread Pirate Roberts, was arrested in San Francisco on multiple accounts of conspiracy. The feds additionally confiscated an estimated $80 million in Bitcoins (an extremely popular online currency) that Ulbricht's site had accrued in its two and a half years in existence. Hold up a minute. Hitmen? $80 million? Two and a half years? At first glance it seems as though the users of the Silk Road were getting away with quite a lot for a long time, but what is crucial to understand is that the FBI had known about the Silk Road probably since its inception. Users had remained safely anonymous for so long because the Silk Road was not your average www.website.com, rather it lay nestled in what is known as the Deep Web.

The Internet, as most of us know it, is considered to be the "Surface Web," or what is accessible through search engines and intuitive web addresses. Mike Bergen, founder of Bright Planet, a company dedicated to providing "deep web intelligence," is how Silk Road users got away with trading copious amounts of drugs for two and a half years. And when I say copious, I mean COPIOUS, like when Johnny Depp playing coke dealer George Jung in Blow said, "If you snorted cocaine in the late 1970s or early 80s, there was an 85 percent chance it came from us." The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.

Accessing the most within-reach realm of the Deep Web requires downloading Tor, a Firefox extension that ensures anonymity of the user. Additionally, in the case of vendors popular online currency) that Ulbricht's site had accrued in its two and a half years in existence. Hold up a minute. Hitmen? $80 million? Two and a half years? At first glance it seems as though the users of the Silk Road were getting away with quite a lot for a long time, but what is crucial to understand is that the FBI had known about the Silk Road probably since its inception. Users had remained safely anonymous for so long because the Silk Road was not your average www.website.com, rather it lay nestled in what is known as the Deep Web.

The Internet, as most of us know it, is considered to be the "Surface Web," or what is accessible through search engines and intuitive web addresses. Mike Bergen, founder of Bright Planet, a company dedicated to providing "deep web intelligence," is how Silk Road users got away with trading copious amounts of drugs for two and a half years. And when I say copious, I mean COPIOUS, like when Johnny Depp playing coke dealer George Jung in Blow said, "If you snorted cocaine in the late 1970s or early 80s, there was an 85 percent chance it came from us." The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.

Accessing the most within-reach realm of the Deep Web requires downloading Tor, a Firefox extension that ensures anonymity of the user. Additionally, in the case of vendors

The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.

Accessing the most within-reach realm of the Deep Web requires downloading Tor, a Firefox extension that ensures anonymity of the user. Additionally, in the case of vendors

The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.

Accessing the most within-reach realm of the Deep Web requires downloading Tor, a Firefox extension that ensures anonymity of the user. Additionally, in the case of vendors

The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.

Accessing the most within-reach realm of the Deep Web requires downloading Tor, a Firefox extension that ensures anonymity of the user. Additionally, in the case of vendors

The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.

Accessing the most within-reach realm of the Deep Web requires downloading Tor, a Firefox extension that ensures anonymity of the user. Additionally, in the case of vendors

The Silk Road is the George Jung of the 21st century.
Dear Water Tower,

As a long-time reader, I feel compelled to communicate my thoughts on the journalistic integrity of your paper. I wouldn’t wipe my ass with your trifling excuse of a newspaper. I weep at the thought of trees dying to bring your monstrosity to our newsstands. Your news team is a paradigm of unprofessionalism, and could only be made up of a bunch of d-leaguers, frivolous children. I only hope that you have the sense and dignity (if you can grasp such a concept as dignity) to end this horror show before it’s poison spreads further.

Sincerely,
90% of your readers

Mr. Johnson,

Firstly, the Water Tower editors would like to thank you for your professed dedication to reading our paper. We’re right there with you: we also wouldn’t use our paper as toilet paper, given the plenitude of actual, far more comfortable toilet paper. Only a very sad, desperate person would likely be compelled to use our newspap. Your compassion for the trees is admirable, but unfortunately fails to consider their acts of aggression against human kind (see: Poltergeist, Evil Dead)—seriously: fuck vegetation. While your use of “paradigm” may have been grammatically flawed, and betrays a clear misunderstanding of superlatives, we appreciate that you think that what the best at what we do. Additionally, while we would like to take issue with your assertion of our frivolity, we happily count ourselves amongst the D-League: that shit is hard to get into, and some of the other kids are really mean and scary. As for dignity, we’d go so far as to call it an overrated, antiquated concept clung to by those so deficient in both wit and humor that they could assume that they speak for a vast majority of their peers. But what kind of overwhelmingly pedestrian asshole would do that?

Sincerely, your biggest fans,
The Water Tower Editors

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

Dear Water Tower,

At the time, as a C.I.A. technician, the report alleges that Snowden attempted to access classified files that he did not have the proper clearance to view.

The Weakness of the system was if derogatory information came in, he could still keep his security clearance and move to another job, and the information wasn’t passed on.

The awarded theory is a central part of the Standard Model of particle physics that describes how the world is constructed…The entire Standard Model also rests on the existence of a special kind of particle: the Higgs particle.

- A statement from the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm which has awarded Peter Higgs and François Englert the Nobel Prize in Physics for their conceptual research into the Higgs boson. Scientists at CERN were able to confirm the existence of the Higgs boson with their experiments with the Large Hadron Collider.

the news in brief

- Observers reported clear indications of ballot-box stuffing in 37 polling stations, bypassing critical measures to ensure accountability and deter potential fraud…The counting was assessed in overwhelmingly negative terms, with 58 percent of observed polling stations assessed as bad or very bad, indicating serious problems.

- A statement filed by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe details the corruption in Azerbaijan’s recent presidential election. The Washington Post reported earlier in the week that the results from the election had leaked on the official smartphone app run by the Central Election Commission a day before voting began. While the figures did match the final results released, it is unclear whether the landslide victory by returning president, Ilham Aliyev, is valid.

- A report filed by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe details the corruption in Azerbaijan’s recent presidential election. The Washington Post reported earlier in the week that the results from the election had leaked on the official smartphone app run by the Central Election Commission a day before voting began. While the figures did match the final results released, it is unclear whether the landslide victory by returning president, Ilham Aliyev, is valid.

- A Republican lawmaker reacts to the news that Edward Snowden’s supervisor filed a derogatory report on his personal file in 2009. At the time, as a C.I.A. technician, the report alleges that Snowden attempted to access classified files that he did not have the proper clearance to view.

- A Republican lawmaker reacts to the news that Edward Snowden’s supervisor filed a derogatory report on his personal file in 2009. At the time, as a C.I.A. technician, the report alleges that Snowden attempted to access classified files that he did not have the proper clearance to view.

the shit list

- Spokesman for the newspaper in question, learn, and maybe reexamine, investigate, question, learn, and maybe pee your pants along the way. We are the reason people can’t wait for Tuesday. We are the Water Tower.

- I say bring on the debt. Get your act together, Uncle Sam, and keep borrowing money.

- I’m sure most college students can agree with me when I say bring on the debt. Not only do I want to graduate college in debt, transitioning into a crippling economy but I want to also inherit trillions of dollars of national debt. Get your act together, Uncle Sam, and keep borrowing money.

- 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.

- The Water Tower is UVM’s alternative newsmag and is a weekly student publication at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont.

- To learn more about the Water Tower, visit uvm.edu/~watertwr.

- Our generation stands at a crossroads. With sincerity and humor, we strive to make you reexamine, investigate, question, learn, and maybe pee your pants along the way. We are the reason people can’t wait for Tuesday. We are the Water Tower.
It is a sad, sad day for the United States when the country is accused of being an international criminal. Recent news has brought to the public eye how the United States has been on an international rampage: stepping from National Security Agency revelations to possible military action in Syria, the U.S. is on a mission to assert its global dominance.

According to the Bolivian president, Evo Morales believes suspicions that fugitive Edward Snowden, who was on the flight led several European Union countries to close their airspace and force the plane to land. Despite outright denying the accusations, Mr. Morales was still made to land and have his plane searched. In recent weeks, it was revealed that the United States government was behind the decision to ground the Bolivian flight and search for Snowden.

Several weeks ago, National Security Agency documents released by Snowden revealed that the U.S. had been monitoring the communications of the Brazilian and Mexican presidents. Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff criticized the United States for their multi-continent spanning surveillance activates, and shortly thereafter cancelled a trip to Washington, D.C. She and other Latin American officials have demanded an end to the electronic surveillance, with no admittance of fault from the U.S. or NSA.

Most recently, on September 30th, Mr. Maduro announced the expulsion of one U.S. diplomat along with two other employees from their embassy in Venezuela. Allegedly, United States officials attempted to fly from his home to China to attend talks with the Chinese government. The Venezuelan government has clearly stated that their relations with Venezuela, however, were what evoked this international dispute. Hours before Mr. Morales' press conference, the Bolivian president concluded that his political team would be preparing a lawsuit against the United States government and President Barack Obama for the alleged crimes against humanity.

Tense relations with Venezuela, however, are not all about! U.S. diplomats have been imperialistic and based entirely on force. Mr. Morales advocated for members of the CELAC council to withdraw their ambassadors from their respective embassies in the United States, to which several countries have responded positively. In a televised press conference, the Bolivian president concluded that his political team would be preparing a lawsuit against the United States government and President Barack Obama for the alleged crimes against humanity.

Tense relations with Venezuela, however, were the result of what evoked this international dispute. Hours before Mr. Morales' press conference, the Bolivian president concluded that his political team would be preparing a lawsuit against the United States government and President Barack Obama for the alleged crimes against humanity. Tense relations with Venezuela, however, were the result of what evoked this international dispute. Hours before Mr. Morales' press conference, the Bolivian president concluded that his political team would be preparing a lawsuit against the United States government and President Barack Obama for the alleged crimes against humanity. Tense relations with Venezuela, however, were the result of what evoked this international dispute. Hours before Mr. Morales' press conference, the Bolivian president concluded that his political team would be preparing a lawsuit against the United States government and President Barack Obama for the alleged crimes against humanity.
It's the eighth week of classes and you know what that means, folks: it's midterm time. Whether you've been preparing for weeks or you like to cram everything into your brain the morning of, everyone needs to (or should) study! I'm sure you all have a nice cozy spot where you are used to studying by now, but I'm here to tell you a few spots, both on and off campus, that I've grown to love over the years.

New Moon Cafe
One of my favorite places to study (and eat) downtown is New Moon Cafe, on Cherry Street. Located directly across the street from American Apparel, this cute little cafe is a great place to spend a Sunday afternoon studying for that huge exam you haven't even begun to think about yet. They have amazing salads (if you're trying to be healthy) and an incredible bakery selection (if you're not). They have comfy couches in the front and a big, quiet room in the back. And here's the kicker: they have free WiFi! What could be better? They also tend to attract localvores since everything from their food down to their tables is made locally.

The Waterfront
If you are not easily distracted by bikers, slackliners, or the beautiful Lake Champlain, then the waterfront green is the perfect study spot for you. This is absolutely one of the most amazing places to spend the day in Burlington.
If you're feeling stressed out, take your books down to the green and soak up the sun. And once you're done studying, you can walk over to Burlington Bay and reward yourself with a delicious creemee. It's a perfect way to spend some time outside while also hitting the books. Maybe even pack a Frisbee for when you want to take a break. Whatever you do, make sure to hit up this beautiful study spot before the weather gets too cold.

Muddy Waters
Another incredible little coffee shop that I recently discovered is Muddy Waters, located on Main Street around the corner from Church. This small cafe is a great place to go and people watch—and study. They have comfortable chairs in the front and I definitely recommend trying out some of their freshly squeezed juice! Though their music can be a little bit loud, it is the perfect spot to get some work done if you bring your own headphones. So make a study playlist and head on down!

CWP Rotunda
For those of you Redstone readers who are interested in staying close to home, look no further than the Christie Wright Patterson Rotunda. If you don't mind being distracted by people walking by, then this is the place for you. This location is wonderful for those who prefer to study in a group. The booths are located between the Wright gym and CAPS. So put on your slippers, go down in your PJs and cram for that exam.

2nd Floor Bailey/Howe
If you're not interested in making the trek downtown or even taking a step off Central campus OR if you simply prefer a remote spot with very few distractions, the second floor of Bailey Howe is prime. Now, I know that it tends to get crowded up there, but there is a new study lounge to the right of the stairs, and all the way down the hallway. They have brand new desks with comfortable rolling chairs. This private little room is right next to the Microfilm sign and it is one of my favorite places to go when I have to sit and read in silence since it's not as daunting as the third floor.

5 things to do before it snows
Yeah, the sun may be shining and the icy breath of winter may not have come yet. But this is Vermont, people, and soon enough snow will be falling and we'll all be wishing for summer again. So you might as well start making the most of the activities you'll be missing. I've compiled a handy-dandy list of five suggestions you should do now, before the ground turns whiter than your teeth.

One Last North Beach Trip
Even if you're just sitting on a towel doing homework, you'll miss the beach when the water is frozen over. And in December, the last place you'll want to be is near a lake. Unless you plan to take up ice fishing. In which case, leave some for Champ. Sea monsters get hungry, too.

Take a Picnic
Take your sweetheart (or platonic life partner, bestie, chinchilla), go find a patch of grass and stuff your face. It’s cheap, it’s romantic, and there are plenty of spots in the area to choose from. Just remember to double-check your food for ants. And be careful about grass stains, they aren’t cute.

Wear Your Favorite Clothes
Not that you can’t once the cold weather comes in, of course, but all your awesome t-shirts with snazzy designs and witty phrases will soon be hidden underneath oversized sweaters and coats with more padding than a Victoria’s Secret pushup bra. And forget about sun dresses when you’re trudging through snow 2 feet thick. Show off your style while you can.

Adventure Times!
Get all those hikes, bike rides, kayaking trips and other outdoor stuff out of the way now. Sure you can go snowshoeing or skiing in the winter, but when will the trees be as green or colorful as they are right now? Go climb that mountain, get in tune with nature or whatever it is you outdoor people do. Collect some leaves to make a scrapbook, pluck a flower or two before they die or just lay in the grass and watch the clouds. Say hello to Mother Nature, I’m sure she misses you with all the time you’ve been spending inside studying for midterms.

Go Barefoot
I kind of hate myself for even writing this, but if you must go without shoes, get it out of your system now. Look, I get it. Who doesn’t want to be a hobbit; living in a cozy hole in the ground, getting chubby on seed cake and reading books all the time (if you don’t, you’re lying). But listen to me closely, people: you are not Frodo Baggins. You are not on your way to Mordor to destroy the One Ring. Your soft human feet are not meant to walk on gravel, branches and broken beer bottles all the time. I respect your pain tolerance, believe me. But protect your little toesies with some shoes once the frost sets in.
A few weeks ago this "cough" esteemed "cough" publication committed a true travesty (at least in my opinion). What could this be you ask, apart from the all the Onion-esque articles, opinionated columns—like one writer's complaints surrounding the Outing Clubs sign-up process or just insane stories like our cover piece for last year's Halloween issue ("Disease Strikes: Campus in Crisis" involving a World War Z-esque outbreak of projectile vomiting). If you count yourselves among the lucky ones to have owned a pass to either, like the illustrious Trip-Maj or current Smuggs-Bolton, then you know why I must defend these awesome mountains, and this article isn't for you. But if you're any of you who read a just ski-related article and thought to yourself, "Well there's no way in hell I will be going there this season." To show you why it's a viable option, I will look at why our other staffer's comments on Smuggs and Bolton are just plain wrong and why these mountains really don't suck balls.

As a matter of fact, yes, Smuggler's Notch is a family resort and it does have decrepit lifts that are at least 30 years old and as slow as the snot dripping out of your nose at the top of Madonna 1; but these are actually a blessing in disguise for a few reasons. Because this resort has a large main base/lodge area at the foot of the "kiddie mountain" geared towards the family experience, all the noobs are busy catching edges on the greens and blues of Morse. Meanwhile, across the ridge, all the die-hard skiers know to stay on Madonna and skiing all day, avoiding the pizzazhing children and sloppy out-towners who won't think twice to cut you off. At Smuggs, you should be hitting the main mountains and catching every rideable woods section in sight, because let's be honest, skiing the East is all about the glades; not the ice-sheets called slopes! As God's jizz.

Not only is BV not 'just Smuggs but worse', it's probably better in just about every way apart from sheer size and vertical drop. At Bolton Valley, you get the local's ski-resort experience—a place where liftsy know you by your getup and even when all the lots are filled to the brim with VT licensed cars, the lifts still have almost no wait. Not only do you have this, but it's westward facing slopes allow it to have night-skiing, which lets you get out there late in the day but keep skiing the slopes fill after the sun goes down. A big plus is that Bolton is also the only Vermont mountain to have this option and, as icing on the cake, the glades here are crazy good, well-cut, expansive, and just steep enough to be fun. I have honestly had my best woods-day at Bolton, lapping Doug's Woods at least seven or eight times (among another six or so other runs) and finding pockets of virgin powder every time in a sea of perfect snow, and all this just days after the last storm. You can't do this mountain justice in two full days of skiing, much less two lines of written word, even if you lauded its white stuff as God's jizz.

Unfortunately, I couldn't get around to praising the 'slack-country' at Smuggs enough, which is probably the coolest part about the resort. It's out-of-bounds riding without a hike or a poor bastard who needed to stay with the car since you just ski back down to the base along the Notch roadway. If you want some sick-nasty, insanely good riding (imagine a near perfect thirty minute tree-run) hit it up on a Pow-day or if you just want something more relaxed but still equally epic, catch a ride to the nearest resort, aka: Bolton, after your early class, avoiding all the lines, and literally ski the day away. Even if you don't want to ride on these killer mountains and search for all the best runs, get a different pass. Just don't miss out on the college deals, because you'd better pick one up soon since most will rocket up in price at the end of the month. (What I'm saying is, don't go and lose perfectly good booze money out of sheer laziness in the next few weeks.) But no matter what you decide to do, find a way to make it out to the mountains this season, because I think it'll be a real one for a change. See ya on the slopes folks, freezing on the bus, or thawing out between runs in the lodge; but whatever you do, don't forget to pray... For snow!
The Sultry Foreigner
Katja's pick: Marion Cotillard
I fuck, man, I'm not in love with the sultry foreigner. But she's lovely in her 'Girl in Flight' role (see 'La vie en rose').

The Girl and Boy Next Door
Katja's pick: Emma Stone
Fuck me, what's not to love about this girl? She's so beautiful, her smile so wide, her skin so soft. Her performance in 'Zombieland' was incredible. She's a true beauty, and I could see myself falling in love with her if I had the chance. She makes me want to be a better person. She's perfect in every way.

Duh
Katja's pick: Rihanna
Botki pick: Paul Rudd

not that there’s anything wrong with that!
confessing our celebrity crushes
with katja richhisk and ben dunn
The Boston Bruins are coming off a heartbreaking loss in the Stanley Cup Finals last season. The Chicago Blackhawks stole the cup right out from under their noses with two goals within a minute late in Game 6. It was a tough loss for the Bruins, and that Stanley Cup victory would have marked their second in three years. Despite their recent successes, the Boston Bruins’ General Manager, Peter Chiarelli, has made some big changes this off-season.

These moves have drawn a lot of controversy and invoke the classic rhetoric, “if it ain’t broke, why fix it?” Why change up the roster of a successful NHL team?

This season brings in a lot of new faces, most noticeably at the wing position. The most radical move by the Bruins was the blockbuster trade with the Dallas Stars. The Bruins shipped Tyler Seguin, Rich Peverley, and prospect Ryan Button in exchange for Loui Eriksson, Joe Morrow and Reilly Smith. Seguin accumulated 32 points in last year’s shortened season, and at age 21, appeared to be a building block in the Bruins franchise. However, with a huge salary and some off-ice issues, Chiarelli decided that Loui Eriksson holds the key. The 28-year old winger is the former assistant captain for the Dallas Stars and will assume a new role on the second line alongside Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand. This line is shaping up to be an all-around strength for the Bs. Patrice and Loui are excellent team players that play solid fundamental defense, and Brad Marchand is looking to net some more goals coming off a great season.

Also, say goodbye to Nathan Horton and Andrew Ferrence. Horton was a free agent at the end of last season. Instead of resigning with the Bruins, he decided to head west to the Columbus Blue Jackets. The former Bruin was another core member of the team, but signed an enormous seven-year, $37 million contract elsewhere. The aging Ferrence faced a similar fate, has signed with an enormous seven-year, $37 million contract elsewhere. The former is another core member of the team, but signed to head west to the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Nathan Horton and Andrew Ference. Horton was a free agent at the end of last season. Instead of resigning with the Bruins, he decided to head west to the Columbus Blue Jackets. The former Bruin was another core member of the team, but signed an enormous seven-year, $37 million contract elsewhere. The aging Ferrence faced a similar fate, has signed with an enormous seven-year, $37 million contract elsewhere.

Right around the trade deadline, Bruins fans thought that both Horton and Ference would be gone, but in came the new guys. I wish that both these players could have stayed with Boston, but the Bruins clearly had other plans with their salary cap space.

With Horton, Seguin, and Ference out of Boston, Peter Chiarelli decided to spend the extra cap space on two players that have been, and will continue to be, fundamental parts of the Bruins franchise. Both Tuukka Rask and Patrice Bergeron are here to stay as they each signed eight-year contracts. The Bruins have decided to pay these players some big bucks for their crucial services. Tuukka is arguably one of the five best goalies in the league, and is staying in net for the long term. Patrice laid his body on the line last year, and played through a broken rib, punctured lung, and separated shoulder during the Stanley Cup Finals. The man bleeds Bruins hockey and will almost certainly be the future captain of the team.

Another surprise came at the veteran wing position. The Bruins did not resign Jaromir Jagr, who took his ancient services to New Jersey. Jagr was signed exclusively for the playoffs last season, where he tallied 9 goals and 10 assists. It was incredibly frustrating watching Jagr in the playoffs, as he could not find the net despite his best efforts. In each conference will score wild card spots. The Bruins will now be competing more frequently with the Detroit Red Wings, a significant NHL contender, and I am excited to see how they will face off throughout the season.

The Bruins certainly have a lot to work on this season. The first of these is chemistry with the influx of new players. The first line is certainly going to be the most productive on the team. It is comprised of Milan Lucic, David Krejci, and Jarome Iginla, and the three must find a way to consistently score. The third line is currently the weakest out there and is also the least defined. It is currently made up of Jordan Caron, Reilly Smith, and Chris Kelly. Chris Kelly, the assistant captain, is the only constant on this line from last season. He will have to lead these less experienced players. I’m also hoping to see more of Carl Soderberg this season.

The Bruins signed the Swedish Player last season, and he will hopefully find his place on a line when he returns from an ankle injury.

Another important area of the team is the young defensive unit. Younger players like Torey Krug, Dougie Hamilton, and Matt Bartkowski will have to look up to defensive role models like Zdenoa Chara, Johnny Boychuck, and Dennis Seidenberg. Hopefully both young and old can contribute offensively, while keeping the defensive mindset that is at the forefront of the Bruins.

Another key focus this season is the power play and penalty kill. The Bruins have one of the best penalty kills in the league, and they definitely will hope to keep this kill elite. The power play, on the other hand, leaves a lot to be desired. Although it did improve a bit last season, it should be a lot better. The Bruins are currently scoring about 30% of the time they have a man-advantage, granted this is only 4 games into the season. Power plays provide the prime opportunity for goals, and the majority of these chances need to be utilized. Look to new players, like Loui and Krug, to contribute, and to a lot of different power play combinations as coach Claude Julien hopes to improve this unit.

Although some of the offseason moves may be disheartening for Bruins fans, fear not, for the new face of the team is as strong as ever. Seguin, Horton, and Ference may be gone, but new faces like Eriksson and Iginla are here to pick up the slack. The Bruins are thirsty for a repeat Stanley Cup Finals appearance, and their new team have the heart and skill to do just that.
You were my everything. To my life many good things did you bring. You gave me food and shelter, but now my life's all helter skelter. I'm sorry I was drunk and maybe a little high, but I didn't think it'd cause you to say to me your last good bye. Now that you're gone I'm scared and alone. Without you the streets I roam begging for a falafel or maybe just some ramen, and hoping that maybe a neighbor will let me in. I'm going broke without you here and how I long to once again hold you near. There's a space in my wallet where you used to be and right now it stays open, waiting for thee. But soon I may cave and replace you, cause that seems to be the only thing left to do. So come home soon my dear for soon I fear will come the dreaded day where the words, “fuck it” I'll say and I'll move on away from you and get someone just like you, but new. I want you back in my life cause without you this life is filled with strife.

Someone on campus catch your eye? Couldn't get a name? Submit your love anonymously.

uvm.edu/~watertwr/iwysb.html

To you, this I write my love for you grows, But grows out of sight. No hint of a clue To you will I send, sweet words written in secret, So please comprehend. Each day we cross paths and I see you walk by. My courage escapes me. I guess I'm too shy. Dear Shannon, what I'd say If I could get near... Soft things I would whisper In your little ear. I'd tell you about all these feelings inside. How tender I feel when I look in your eyes. That I long for your kiss to touch my shy lips, The weight of your hands to rest on my hips, Your warm firm embrace to hold me so close. But your hand in my hand I desire the most. But for now, here I wait and you'll never know... How much I adore you, How I love you so.

When: nearly every day
Where: Harris Millis
I saw: RA Shannon
I am: A very secret admirer

You were my everything. To my life many good things did you bring. You gave me food and shelter, but now my life's all helter skelter. I'm sorry I was drunk and maybe a little high, but I didn't think it'd cause you to say to me your last good bye. Now that you're gone I'm scared and alone. Without you the streets I roam begging for a falafel or maybe just some ramen, and hoping that maybe a neighbor will let me in. I'm going broke without you here and how I long to once again hold you near. There's a space in my wallet where you used to be and right now it stays open, waiting for thee. But soon I may cave and replace you, cause that seems to be the only thing left to do. So come home soon my dear for soon I fear will come the dreaded day where the words, “fuck it” I'll say and I'll move on away from you and get someone just like you, but new. I want you back in my life cause without you this life is filled with strife.

When: June Orientation 2012
Where: The CatCard Place
I saw: My first college student ID card
I am: lost without you!
Miley Cyrus has been making a lot of news lately, which is great and all, but let's be honest: she isn't the real star of the Cyrus family. The real star is her father, Billy Ray, who is much too often forgotten, and who still does still support his daughter: speaking to Entertainment Tonight about his daughter, Billy Ray said, “It wouldn't have mattered if Miley would have worn jeans and a flannel shirt ... a tux ... or a nun's habit. The song's a smash ... and her performance vocally on the tune reflects her roots and sheer God-given talent.” Good old Billy Ray, standing in, defending his daughter, because he loves her as any good father should. He did his best in raising her right, but once he was out of Hannah Montana, he seemed to fall into the background (with a brief resurfacing when he and his wife went in and out of two divorce filings), with Miley taking the spotlight alone.

Well, Billy Ray, you have not faded from my memory. Your achy breaky heart will be at ease when I tell you that I still remember. And hey, you've got a lot going for you! You have your new album, Change My Mind (out October 23), coming out soon! That's great, isn't it? And yeah, you had a bit of an issue with your wife, but hey, you seem to have reconciled at this point (or at least at the point at which I am writing this), so you won't be lonely now. And, your new album is being released on your new record label, Blue Cadillac Music—you're not just a country superstar, but an indie country superstar! It really does seem like things are going good for you, and that's great to hear—it seems like you're a busy man!

Billy Ray, despite your wild rise to fame and his life as a superstar and Alvin and the Chipmunks cover (that's how you know you've made it big), you try to keep to his country roots. On his website, you say “I'm not country because somebody said I was. I'm country because I'm Billy Ray Cyrus from Flatwoods, Kentucky, and I grew up listening to country music and bluegrass music and outlaw music and southern rock, and hard-ass rock and roll. I'm a little bit of all of that stuff.” And let me tell you about Billy Ray: he is country music, even if he no longer has that trademark mullet that all of the ladies lusted for and men strived to imitate back in the nineties. The country in Billy Ray might seem to be going away, but he always manages to bring it back to Tennessee.

Cyrus's new album has some really deep, introspective tracks, like “That's What Daddy's Do,” talking about how he needed to just man up and be a good father, and “Hope is Just Ahead,” written about the Columbine shooting. He is very excited about this new album, and let me tell you, so am I. Billy Ray has been great since the beginning. His debut album, Some Gave All (1992) went nine times platinum, with its leading single, "Achy Breaky Heart." The album held the #1 spot on the Billboard top 200 for seventeen weeks, breaking the record for male solo records. Change My Mind is Billy Ray's thirteenth studio album, and from his first album to now, Billy Ray has achieved so much success throughout his storied career.

So keep on going, Billy Ray, because I write these words by heart. I can't wait for your new album (out October 23).
Looking back at me, brother.
You are standing on another peak
across this distance,
that somewhere out there,
It’s comforting to know
and usually, I am grateful.
but you make me face my fears
and I push back,
I get through. You push me
and with your encouragement,
when I don’t know how to myself
You believe in me
joyful personality around.
for having you and your
calls don’t compensate
My heart aches with missing you
so many times before.
lke we have other mountains
this mountain together
as though we’ve conquered
I can picture you beside me,
cant.
can seem so insigni-
/f_i
between you and me
and marvel at how the 2,974 miles
I look out across this vast land
that bound between the trees,
with endless energy
and the forest creatures
that know centuries of stories
nestled between the tall pines
Standing on this mountaintop,

by bethziehl

Standing on this mountaintop,
лиsted between the tall pines
that know centuries of stories
and the forest creatures
with endless energy
that bound between the trees,
I look out across this vast land
and marvel at how the 2,974 miles
between you and me
can seem so insignificant.
I can picture you beside me,
as though we’ve conquered
this mountain together
like we have other mountains
so many times before.
My heart aches with missing you
and usually, I am grateful.
but you make me face my fears
and I push back,
I get through. You push me
and with your encouragement,
when I don’t know how to myself
You believe in me
joyful personality around.
for having you and your
calls don’t compensate
My heart aches with missing you
so many times before.
lke we have other mountains
this mountain together
as though we’ve conquered
I can picture you beside me,
cant.
can seem so insignifi-
/f_i
between you and me
and marvel at how the 2,974 miles
I look out across this vast land
that bound between the trees,
with endless energy
and the forest creatures
that know centuries of stories
nestled between the tall pines
Standing on this mountaintop,

by wesdunn

You know that windowless brick cylinder building near the Catholic Center on the way to Redstone from Athletic campus? Could you say what’s inside it? If you’re about to say “stuff for the cell tower,” I’m afraid to say you couldn’t be farther from the truth—that’s only what they want you to think.

I was making that familiar journey the other evening, walking past the Catholic Center, when I saw fast movement up ahead near the music buildings. As I got closer, I saw that a figure was dodging furiously about the trees, running from one to the next. When I was halfway past the little dirt parking lot, I saw the person, clad in a burgundy bathrobe, dart across the pavement behind the brick cylindrical building.

I’m used to much weirder stuff than that in my daily life here at Groovy UV, so I didn’t think much of it. But as I came around the corner, I saw a thin ray of bright golden light shining on the pavement, and traced it back to a door in the side of the building. It was barely ajar, but the light coming from it was unnaturally bright.

I stepped closer to check it out and found that I was able to pry the door open—it didn’t make a sound, sliding smoothly out. I could hear metallic clinking noises, and my eyes took a moment to adjust to the bright gold light that was coming from...actual gold.

The interior of the building was cavernous and filled with gold coins, jewels, dollar bills (Canadian and American) and other articles of treasure. The real deal, to be clear. It had red satin interior, emerald inlay, the works. I looked up, and stepping out onto the diving board suspended twenty feet above heaping pile? None other than President Sullivan. I watched as he poised—

This I swear—the interior of that brick building is a Scrooge McDuck safe, and Sullivan apparently winds down his day with a swim in the university’s material assets.

The dog dropped a deuce
All over my sister’s bed.
She threw out her bed.

So much depends on
How the toilet bowl is shaped

Oh, morning coffee
You go straight to my rectum
Where’s the toilet? ...NOW!

This morning, I pooped
It was a major stinker.
Air freshener; help.

Swills of beer and gin
Washed down with Marché cheese sticks
Rough shits, I’m sweatin’

My stool has three legs
Way back, I thought all stools did
But my doc says no.

Yes, defecation—
It’s what I like to do best.
I love it so much.

Brown streak on the bowl
A smell not so bad but worse
And yet it feels great.

Coprolite; fossil
You were once a fresh steamer
Now you are ancient.

Docked at the porcelain spot
Unloading comes now,
Slides right out of my sphincter
Like a small birthed mouse.

The dog dropped a deuce
All over my sister’s bed.
She threw out her bed.

So much depends on
How the toilet bowl is shaped

Oh, morning coffee
You go straight to my rectum
Where’s the toilet? ...NOW!

This morning, I pooped
It was a major stinker.
Air freshener; help.

Swills of beer and gin
Washed down with Marché cheese sticks
Rough shits, I’m sweatin’

My stool has three legs
Way back, I thought all stools did
But my doc says no.

Yes, defecation—
It’s what I like to do best.
I love it so much.

Brown streak on the bowl
A smell not so bad but worse
And yet it feels great.

Coprolite; fossil
You were once a fresh steamer
Now you are ancient.

Docked at the porcelain spot
Unloading comes now,
Slides right out of my sphincter
Like a small birthed mouse.

The dog dropped a deuce
All over my sister’s bed.
She threw out her bed.

So much depends on
How the toilet bowl is shaped

Oh, morning coffee
You go straight to my rectum
Where’s the toilet? ...NOW!

This morning, I pooped
It was a major stinker.
Air freshener; help.

Swills of beer and gin
Washed down with Marché cheese sticks
Rough shits, I’m sweatin’

My stool has three legs
Way back, I thought all stools did
But my doc says no.

Yes, defecation—
It’s what I like to do best.
I love it so much.

Brown streak on the bowl
A smell not so bad but worse
And yet it feels great.

Coprolite; fossil
You were once a fresh steamer
Now you are ancient.

Docked at the porcelain spot
Unloading comes now,
Slides right out of my sphincter
Like a small birthed mouse.

The dog dropped a deuce
All over my sister’s bed.
She threw out her bed.

So much depends on
How the toilet bowl is shaped

Oh, morning coffee
You go straight to my rectum
Where’s the toilet? ...NOW!

This morning, I pooped
It was a major stinker.
Air freshener; help.

Swills of beer and gin
Washed down with Marché cheese sticks
Rough shits, I’m sweatin’

My stool has three legs
Way back, I thought all stools did
But my doc says no.

Yes, defecation—
It’s what I like to do best.
I love it so much.

Brown streak on the bowl
A smell not so bad but worse
And yet it feels great.

Coprolite; fossil
You were once a fresh steamer
Now you are ancient.

Docked at the porcelain spot
Unloading comes now,
Slides right out of my sphincter
Like a small birthed mouse.
“Then we got out of Dodge/ Like them Dukes of Hazard/ Music and tabs of Lucy/ Take your chance with this rapper” – Chance the Rapper, “Smoke Again”

Pretty much the perfect end to a perfect song. ‘Nuff said.

“The flask is an alcoholic’s paintbrush/ The flask is an alcoholic’s toothbrush/ I need to go throw up now/ I wanna be the queen of all the belly rubs now” – Andrew Jackson Jihad, “Fucc the Devil” (not a misprint)

Just one of the many lyrics that AJJ sings that makes me become dangerously introspective. They are the kings of weirdness and have little gems like this peppered throughout their discography. I suggest giving them a good listen to.

“Pushed my gramma down in front of a train/ I like to watch people wiggle around in pain/ Especially if it’s those that I love/ Gonna send ’em to the great god above” – This Bike is a Pipebomb, “Murder”

A seemingly very dark lyric, but the delivery is so fast and upbeat you barely notice. The whole song is a description of how killing all your loved ones will put them in heaven so when you finally make your joyous ascent, you will be surrounded by the people you love. How cute is that.

“When I park my Range Rover/ Slightly scratch your Corolla/ Okay, I smashed your Corolla” – Kanye West, “Hold My Liquor”

The misunderstood rap god shows in this song that he cares about you. He’s sorry he hit your Corolla and comes clean that he did some hefty damage to it. But honestly you drive a Corolla, that thing deserves to be smashed. So really, good’ol Yeezy did you a favor. You should now thank him.

“And I know I’m not dead/ Because I just threw up/ In my own mouth/ Swallowed back/ This hangover ain’t that bad” – Bomb the Music Industry, “King of Minneapolis pts. III and IV”

The guitars drop off and all that is left is the thumping of the bass drum and all that’s left is Jeff Rosenstock’s angelic voice delivering you one of the most true statements ever.

“Climbed out onto my roof/ So I’d be a poet in the night” – Jawbreaker, “Condition Oakland”

For the times when you are lonely Jawbreaker is always there to guide you through. “Condition Oakland” is one of my favorite songs of all time simply because of its imagery.

“They will never catch him or catch up/ They asked me what it was/ I told them it was ketchup” – Tyler, the Creator, “Tron Cat”

Speaking of imagery, this song is basically an unrated version of Silence of the Lambs. Admittedly, this is not my favorite line from this song, but I feel uncomfortable printing any of the others, as they are very graphic.

“I close my eyes and seize it/ I clench my fists and beat it/ I light my torch and burn it/ I am the beast I worship” – Death Grips, “Beware”

No list, not even your shopping list, is complete without a little Death Grips. As you may have noticed by now, I am a fan of the darker lyrics. “Beware” starts with a sample of a Charles Manson interview and does not let up. Talk about dark.

With the recent purchase of a pair of AKG headphones, I have delved back into the depths of my musical library. What I found was there have been a lot of lyrics that have moved me in some marginal way. Here I present some of the more hilarious, emotional, or dark lyrics in my Arsenal of Despair (yeah I’ve named my music library, so what). Get it... like a top hat.