



RIAA drops mass downloading suits

Record labels pick up cases

By CAREY O'NEIL
THE RED & BLACK

The Recording Industry Association of America decided to end new lawsuits against people caught sharing music on the Internet, a decision that comes millions of dollars too late for two University students.

"We discontinued initiating new lawsuits in August," Mitch Bainwol, chairman and CEO of the RIAA, wrote in a Dec. 23 let-

ter explaining the resolution to work with Internet service providers to create programs against copyright offenders. "In just the last couple of months, we have seen more notices forwarded from ISPs to subscribers than we filed lawsuits over the previous five years."

But the decision offers little consolation for a pair of University students.

Imaad Rashied, a junior from Duluth, faces a lawsuit against five record companies, including Warner Bros. Records and Sony BMG Music, over copyrighted music he downloaded and shared on the Internet, according to U.S. District Court

ON THE WEB Interview with students

documents filed in September.

"Last August I got a letter from the RIAA and the University telling me that they were suing me for 1,728 songs and they wanted \$720 per song — more than \$1.2 million," Rashied said in a phone interview Tuesday.

Rashied said the University gave him the option of signing an admission of guilt statement and receiving a reprimand, or appearing before the student judiciary. Rashied opted for the reprimand,

and said the University told him that his information would be protected from the RIAA.

"I'm very proud of the University because the RIAA asked for names because EITS has all that info," Rashied said. "The University refused to give it up until the RIAA subpoenaed for the info."

After contacted by the RIAA, Rashied called the association, which attempted to contact him through the University in May, offering him a \$3,000 out of court settlement. But the University took a month to notify Rashied, prompting the RIAA to ask for a \$4,000 settlement.

"That was the University's

fault. They didn't let me know in time," Rashied said, and that he told the RIAA, "I can't afford to give you \$4,000, sue me for the \$1.2 million."

Rashied is not alone in his lawsuit against the major record labels. Jessica Umbaugh a junior from Cumming, is facing off against eight record labels for songs she downloaded and shared using a peer-to-peer service called Limewire, according to U.S. District Court documents filed in December.

"I didn't know my computer was sharing," Umbaugh said in a phone interview Tuesday.

See RIAA, Page 3

Humidity damages museum artwork

By HAYLEY PETERSON
THE RED & BLACK

About 25 paintings and several pieces of decorative art weathered damages after a faulty HVAC valve spiked humidity levels in a storage room at the Georgia Museum of Art.

"We don't yet know the extent of the damage," GMAA Director William Eiland said in a phone interview.

A museum conservator is monitoring the affected artwork during the next several days as the moistened paint dries.

The conservator will be able to provide a more detailed assessment of the sustained damages by early next week, Eiland said.

"Paint loss means the integrity of the painting has been compromised to the point of being damaged," Eiland said.

One such loss was a mid-19th century American painting by artist William Haseltine.

"Some other works are merely wet," said Eiland. "When the moisture goes away they may be OK."

Recovering works include "Dogtown" by Marsden Hartley, a painting attributed to Eastman Johnson and a 19th century hunt board from the Piedmont region of Georgia.

Eiland said a hunt board is a tall table that — "legend has it" — enabled hunters to grab food and drink without dismounting from their horses.

He said the table "appeared to have water damage on its surface."

The broken valve was discovered by a museum security supervisor during a routine check on Jan. 4.

The broken valve caused moist air to flow into the storage room where a variety of paintings, furniture pieces and sculptures are housed.

Eiland said he cannot estimate the cost of the damages until the conservator finishes appraising each compromised piece.

He said he is working with the museum's insurance company to cover the losses.

The restoration process must be completed before the end of March, he said, when the museum will be sequestering the collection in preparation for its reopening in 2011.

Million Dollar Smiles



DANIEL SHIREY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Matthew Stafford (left), Mark Richt (center) and Knowshon Moreno sit at a press conference on Wednesday. Stafford and Moreno announced they will be leaving the University to enter the NFL draft.

Bulldogs leave Georgia confident for NFL draft

By TYLER ESTEP
THE RED & BLACK

Knowshon Moreno is pretty confident about getting drafted.

The now-former Georgia tailback, who announced Wednesday he is leaving for the NFL draft alongside quarterback Matthew Stafford, didn't even file his papers to the NFL Advisory Committee before making his decision.

The committee, which tells prospective

ON THE WEB Watch a video of the conference

draftees what round they might be selected in if they enter, told Stafford he could expect to be a first-rounder, but never heard from Moreno.

"I just didn't get them in on time," he said, laughing.

While he doesn't have any official word

from the NFL, Moreno, who rushed for the most yards for a Bulldog freshman not named Herschel Walker in 2007, is touted by many experts as a mid-first round pick and the most NFL-ready back to enter this year's draft.

Stafford, Georgia's all-time single season touchdown leader, is regarded as a potential No. 1 overall pick.

"The toughest part about this is probably leaving my teammates," Moreno said. "I had

See NFL, Page 11



DANIEL SHIREY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Quarterback Joe Cox is the front runner to take over for Matthew Stafford next season.

Patient Cox finally reaches first string

Joe Cox has played the waiting game for more than four years now.

He must be a virtuous fellow because I know I wouldn't have this kind of patience. My brain fumes when I see more than four cars sitting in a Zaxby's drive-through line.

Many quarterbacks in his situation would have transferred. I know I would have.

But Cox stayed. Patiently. Now that quarterback Matthew Stafford has declared for the NFL draft, it's Cox's position to lose.

For Cox, being excited would say the least (he used the term "excited" or "exciting" in some way, shape or form 14 times in Wednesday's press conference). His time has come and, for him, it was well worth the wait.

"I honestly never expected it to come like this," Cox said. "I was always happy to stay. I was ready for any situation."



JASON BUTT

It didn't matter that for four years Cox never saw much of the limelight. Sure, there were his Colorado game heroics in 2006, but since then it's been Stafford-this, Stafford-that.

After Stafford and Knowshon Moreno, both dressed in sharp suits, left their press conference Wednesday, a lot of cameramen and reporters followed them out. The reporters who stayed saw Cox make his way to Georgia's media room, wearing an Elite-11 camp hoodie and a backwards cap, and possibly feeling a little nervous about his first major interview as the top dog on Georgia's depth chart at quarterback.

It was about as informal of

an interview as you get considering that Moreno's family had reserved seats for his and Stafford's announcement.

"It's been tough, waiting," Cox said. "I was laughing and talking to one of my friends and said I felt like I haven't played football in 10 years. But I'm excited about it. It's been a fun road. I've had a lot of fun watching both of those guys play, especially Matthew. I'm excited for him, and I'm excited about my chance."

(I wasn't joking when I said he was excited).

When it comes to change, a level of uncertainty arises. A lot of people don't like change when they are comfortable (see: Republicans during 2008 presidential election). But regarding comfort zones, why do you think so many fans kept making excuses as to why Stafford should stay?

See COX, Page 11

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Cool Cuts page 7

Figure out where you want to go next time you want to change your hair style, and learn about the many places in Athens to get your hair cut.



White House Honors page 3

Two University professors got to hang out at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. at a ceremony honoring their research.

Index

- UGA Today 2
- Wire 2
- Opinions 4
- Variety 6
- Crossword 2
- Sports 9
- Sudoku 11