

# The Unfiltered Lens

www.TheUnfilteredLens.org

“It gets better,”  
but only if we speak out

What happened to  
Andrew Winters?

One year later, URI LGBT  
advocate remains silenced

October is Bullying  
Awareness/Prevention month



IAN ARMITSTEAD  
Editor-in-Chief

Do you remember the name Andrew Winters? Well, you really should. Especially this month, when leaders around the state and the country speak of putting an end to bullying in all its forms. Andrew was one such leader, and for his advocacy he was forced out of his job, forced into “retirement”. He was silenced. And what do the leaders of Higher Education in Rhode Island have to say about this? Their silence is just as deafening.

Andrew was the Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs for GLBT Programs and Services. A position created at URI after he advocated for such a role in beginning of the new millenium. A position that was sorely needed at the university, as they ended the second millenium once more amongst the twenty most homophobic campuses in the nation, according to the Princeton Review.

URI again tops the lists of the least LGBT friendly campuses, once more on the Princeton Review (number 14 as of August 2011), with a 2010 Campus Climate studying reporting that the #1 reason faculty would leave the university was due to a perceived heterosexism that pervades the campus, the proverbial “glass ceiling” at RI state schools.

I’ve written about Andrew and his plight before, back when it was brought to our attention by way of an open letter penned in April 2012 by Peter Nightingale, Professor of Physics at URI. Prof Night-

ingale wrote to call the community to action, to question the way in which Andrew was treated by then Interim Associate Vice President in the Office of Community, Equity, and Diversity, Kathy Friedman.

“Ms. Friedman alleged that the LGBT URI community had ‘without exception’ expressed no confidence in Andrew Winters. The two words ‘without exception’ capture the unprofessional nature of this communication and the atmosphere of intimidation and bullying,” wrote Nightingale. “... Many [in the LGBT URI community] also understand that it was precisely Andrew’s unrelenting effort to address bullying and harassment at URI that rendered him unwelcome in the eyes of the URI administration, despite award-winning job performance.”

It is believed Andrew’s trouble at URI began when he helped lead a round-the-clock sit in on campus to bring attention to the issues of LGBT students, and to force the university to take action to help correct these issues. For this action the students received recognition from chaplains of the university, and the students awarded Andrew a certificate of their making for “Service and Admirable Citizenship” and acknowledging him as their advocate.

It was as a direct result of this action that the position of Assoc VP of Community, Equity, and Diversity was created. A direct result of the actions for which Andrew was recognized as an advocate by the LGBT community that saw Kathryn

*continued on back cover, Silent*

## This Ally Week, WE need to be the change

KAILA MATTESON  
Staff Writer

It’s a feeling of trying curl further into yourself as you tumble through your day. It’s a constant fear of saying too much or not enough. It’s a heart shattering moment when you force out a laugh when the word “fag” is thrown in the direction of a complete stranger. It’s the contradictory act of self-preservation and suicide, of blending in and closing yourself off. Welcome to college.

The sad irony in those isolating feelings is the fact that they are shared, not only by a decent portion of CCRI students, but thousands of college students throughout the country. The stress and anxiety of deadlines, exams, and GPAs are compounded by the fear of being targeted by peers. In a community that should find pride in our diversity, it seems we’ve opted to keep quiet about it.

Fortunately, organizations such as

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) answer this silence every year from October 15 – October 19 with Ally Week, an event aimed at giving LGBT students and teachers a voice as well as giving straight allies a chance to show support. If you weren’t aware of Ally Week events happening on campus, don’t worry. There weren’t any. In fact, if you pull up the CCRI website and search “Ally Week” or “Diversity Week” you’ll get a number of course syllabi and a few memos from last spring, but no sign of support for the school’s gay and transgender community. If you think that’s the norm for colleges, check with URI, RIC, or Brown and they’ll be proud to brag about the number of students who showed up for the panel discussion or the crowd that gathered for the showing of a student-made documentary.

When an email was sent to President

*continued on pg 2, Allies*



We speak more about  
bullying, how it’s still  
around, and how YOU  
can help end it  
**Pages 2&3**

Ben Miller has some-  
thing to say about  
political lobbyists  
**Page 4**

T-Swift is Greg’s dirty  
little secret. Read  
all about it, and *Red*  
**Page 5**



# NEWS

THINK YOU HAVE A NOSE FOR JOURNALISM?

Join the I-Team, contact [info@theunfilteredlens.org](mailto:info@theunfilteredlens.org) for more details.

## THE SKINNY

### Organ and Tissue Donation Month

October is also Organ and Tissue Donation Month. If you are not yet an organ donor, I urge you to consider it. Register at the DMV, and be sure to talk to your family about it, as they will need to know.

I may have my own personal reasons for advocating donation, but for more info please read about donation at the New England Organ Bank: [www.neob.org/donation.htm](http://www.neob.org/donation.htm)?

### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

And, as you no doubt are aware, October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month.

For more information check last October's *Lens* (which I received no end of grief for printing a nearly-nude photo in) or National Breast Cancer Awareness Month: [www.nbcam.org](http://www.nbcam.org).

### "It Gets Better at URI: Coming out for Change"

CCRI's Triangle Alliance group invites us to a screening of a documentary made by the URI Women's LGBTQ Group.

The free screening and Q&A will be held Thurs 1Nov at 7pm on Knight Campus in 4080. Contact Andrew Cook for more info, [adcook@ccri.edu](mailto:adcook@ccri.edu).

### Advertise your club and events

Use The Unfiltered Lens to promote your club and club events. Each club has one free, full color, quarter page advertisement for the life of their club.

For further information on either of these, contact The Unfiltered Lens at [info@theunfilteredlens.org](mailto:info@theunfilteredlens.org) or call (401) 825-1215.

\*\*To have your notices posted in The Skinny, please e-mail The Unfiltered Lens at [news@theunfilteredlens.org](mailto:news@theunfilteredlens.org) subject Skinny.

# Spotlight on intolerance: The transphobic graffiti on the gate

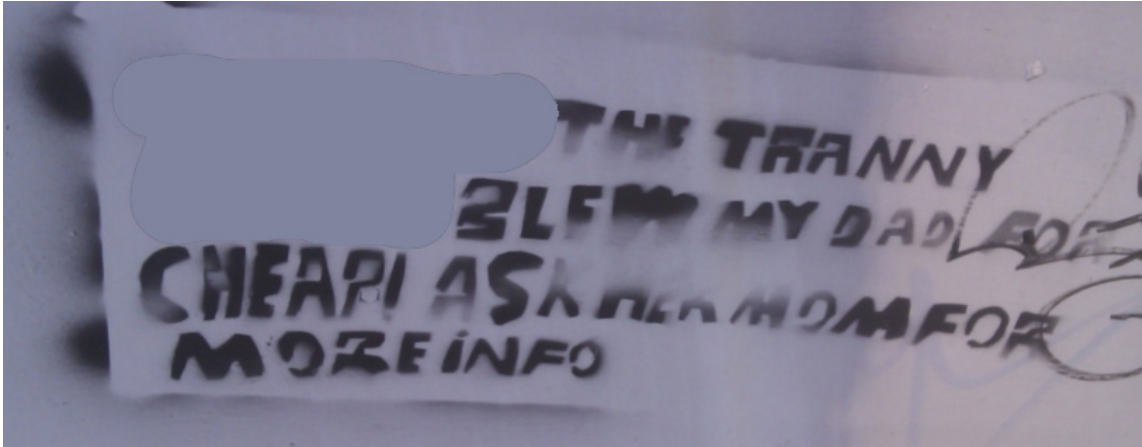
MAYA LINCOLN  
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, August 23, 2012, I found this disturbing piece of graffiti as I was walking through the grounds of CCRI's Knight Campus. I saw it sprayed on the gate that borders the grounds of CCRI and Kent County Hospital. When I looked at it, my first thought was, "this is harassment".

I decided to get a closer look and when I did, I saw something that alarmed me even more. One of the lines had the word "tranny" written on it. I was thinking it was some sort of trans-phobic harassment, but it is not confirmed if it actually was. As a former officer of the Knight Diversity Club and a CCRI Alumni, one of my main concerns was student safety here at CCRI.

I proceeded to take a picture and went back into the building to show my friends who happened to be in the Student Union area. I was very fortunate that Dean Christine Jenkins happened to be around, because she instructed me to report it to security. So I did just that.

When I had entered the secu-



This image was what would greet visitors to our fair campus, a message of ignorance and hate. Is this really the environment we want on our campus? I sure don't. Will you join with me? --iarmit

urity office and reported my problem, I was very pleased to hear that it was being taken care of in the appropriate manner. The officer, whose name I did not get, was very friendly and explained the situation. He explained that there was a "beef" in the IT department, and that the suspected person was leaving the school. He also stated that there have been stickers and such posted all over the campus. I had thanked him and left.

The reason for me to report

such things is, since I became a student back in 2009, I have seen many incidents of harassing individuals, such as graffiti. I remember the year when that exact same spot had an anti-gay slur sprayed on it, and it was a big deal. This is an example that even after so many years of bringing awareness of intolerance and harassment into the school. The bullying still occurs.

But there was a positive, if slight, experience in this. Our campus security is finally han-

dling these situations seriously and I am very proud of them. I also have to give credit to our students, faculty, and Dean Jenkins for being such advocates for student safety and tolerance on campus. I just hope that for the future of student safety on this campus that more attention is being brought to such incidents. We need to respect one another no matter what background one may be, or what "beef" one may have with another. There is no need for such immaturity and bullying.

October is National Bullying Prevention/Awareness Month. Sadly, bullying of the LGBT community on CCRI campuses is still common. This cannot stand, and it will not if we, as a whole, speak out against it. Please consider joining your voice with ours so the incident reported above will be the anomaly and not the norm.

# Allies needed, are you one?

*continued from cover*

Ray Di Pasquale asking about the school's plan for Ally Week (because surely there was some kind of plan, right?), it was forwarded to associate vice president for student services Ronald Schertz, who responded in kind by forwarding the same email to Christine Jenkins, Associate Dean for Student Life for Knight and Newport campuses. When Dean Jenkins sat down with us it was clear how much faith she had in the students to make a difference with just a bit of teamwork between clubs and administration, saying "I think we have a very diverse student body...people need to accept, move forward, and work as a group." She stressed that administration could only do so much without student groups ready and willing to keep the momentum going.

We're all in the same boat around these parts. We all struggle in class and at home. We all buckle under the pressure of expectations and fear simply trips us up, causes us to tumble through the day. Does subjecting a fellow human being to childish name calling and harassment really make our lives any easier? Ask yourself where you stand;

proud ally or a glorified schoolyard bully. If you find yourself standing with the brave students who see something worth celebrating in our differences, then speak up, get organized, and start planning for Ally Week 2013.

CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
CHANGE BEHAVIORS.  
CHANGE DIRECTIONS.  
CHANGE LIVES.  
CHANGE POLICIES.  
CHANGE VOICES.

BE AN ALLY.  
BE THE CHANGE.

media credit: allyweek.org

WANT TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Visit our website at [www.theunfilteredlens.org](http://www.theunfilteredlens.org) and submit yours today!

# STANCE

## Shadows and Silence

### Taking a stand against cyberbullying

PAUL LAROCQUE  
Contributing Writer

Over the course of the past several years social media has become a central component of everyday life in the United States.

The vast majority of people have Facebook and/or Twitter accounts, use YouTube, Skype, and other such media outlets. That's not to mention some of the more (or less) recent social media sites like Tout or Myspace. What's more, with current cell phone technology, we never have to worry about being separated from our favorite sites.

However, while none of the above were developed with anything but good intentions, modern technology and social media come with a price; they've opened the door to a world of hurt and cruelty – the world of cyber-

bullying.

Stopbullying.gov, a federal website managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, defines cyberbullying as "...bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites."

Cyberbullying takes place outside of the school, by invading the privacy and relative safety of the victim's home via their computer, cell phone, or other electronic devices. It is often paired with the more "traditional" forms of bullying that many of us have either witnessed or experienced within schools themselves. It ensures that the bullying pervades every aspect of the victim's per-

sonal life outside of their schooling.

As a result, many teens that are targets of cyberbullies feel that they have no safe place to turn to when bullied. They do not feel safe at school, where they have to endure face-to-face confrontations with the person(s) bullying them, but they also feel unsafe at home, due to the flood of texts, Facebook messages, comments, Tweets, etc. that invade their lives.

Many teens do not feel comfortable bringing the issue to their parents' or teachers' attention, because cyberbullies often threaten physical harm and further psycho-emotional abuse on their victims, if they attempt to inform anyone of the situation.

This stems from the fact that most bullies feel "safe" hiding behind a computer screen; because

the bullying isn't face-to-face; hence, they often taunt and threaten far more serious, vile things, than would be said in person.

The torment brought about by cyberbullying often leads its victims to drastic actions. Many teens resort to self-harming techniques, such as cutting with razor blades; others turn to drugs and alcohol, which pose equally dangerous situations; others still suffer emotional breakdowns and need to undergo therapy, sometimes long term.

Occasionally, teens will break their silence that they are being bullied, and parents have gone so far as to move to different school districts to try to solve the problem. Unfortunately, more often than not, it is seldom solved; with our global technological ca-

*continued on back cover, Group*

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ARE YOU A VETERAN HAVING ISSUES WITH  
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## Are we taking care of our veterans?

BY ALEJANDRA VIDAL





# Place your bets: Get your piece of a lobbyist today!

**BEN MILLER**  
Staff Writer

Three percent. Summarizing the consensus of most economists and financial writers, David Harvey, author of *The Enigma of Capitalism*, says that just three percent growth will maintain a healthy economy. Obviously, we're in trouble. Even two percent in the next year would result in a hail of champagne corks, but it won't be enough. What we need is a guaranteed dollar circulator, something that will keep cash flowing like those numbered ping pong balls swirling around a plastic tub before popping out to show the winners of Power Ball.

Unfortunately, all bubbles deflate: the hi-tech bubble of the nineties, the housing bubble of the oughts. The currently inflating education bubble will pop once enough families question the cost for a degree from a high-priced, four-year institution. What we need is an investment vehicle that will defy economic gravity; its returns will only go up, never down.

With that in mind, I offer a sure fire suggestion for a money maker that will last as long as the United States of America: IPOs of lobbying firms.

This is not the Joker talking. Only forty years ago this country had a few hundred lobbying firms; today over 11,000 are registered to lobby in Washington, D.C. alone. Quite an impressive growth rate, wouldn't you say? At the end of last year, *The Washington Post*, using information from LegiStorm.com, reported that in the previous decade over 5,000 former staff members of Congress and nearly 400 former legislators themselves left the government to join or start lobbying firms. Given this feeder stream, would you bet on a decline in the number of lobbyists?

Even the courts are coming on board this influential juggernaut. Using *Citizens United* as justification, two federal courts have overturned restrictions on lobbyists' campaign finance ac-



tivities and on the time between legislators and staffers leaving office and joining lobbying firms. They can continue sliding from a public job to a private one without even pausing for a week at the beach.

But in whom to invest? A lobbyist can work for the Sierra Club or Public Citizen, the Boy Scouts of America or AARP. And a "lobbyist" can be a consultant, corporate lawyer, tax attorney, retired general, etc. Whatever we call these money circulators, however, smart investors will place their money on firms catering to the welfare of corporations: defense, finance, real estate (it will come back!) etc. They get results.

For instance, as the *Providence Journal* never tires of telling us, in the past 15-20 years retirees from private industry saw their benefits go from gold edged to tin plated. In *Retirement Heist*, Ellen Schultz, reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, reveals how and when this income shift from rank-and-file employees to upper management occurred. As the economy boomed in the nineties, corporations accumulated a glut in their pension funds, enough to pay off obligations to retirees for decades.

Unfortunately, however, this money was not making a profit. Consequently, corporations like IBM, AT&T, GE and countless

others froze some pension funds, recalculated others downwards and reduced medical coverage for most rank-and-file employees. In return they pumped up their bottom lines, financed restructuring, and enhanced executives' compensation, usually a drag on a company's bottom line, by shifting billions of dollars from regular employees to those who really know how to spend it. Employees saw their medical coverage decline—which the corporations then blamed on unsustainable retiree benefits, without the media even peeping about the contradiction.

Consultants who used to advise companies on ways to maximize employees' benefits now told them how to reduce those payouts. Towers Watson even torched its own lower level employees, stripping money from their pension plan to supplement executives' retirement packages. Now that's rectitude: a company that practices what it preaches!

However, the gold standard for lobbying is the pre-emptive strike made by Billy Tauzin and others in 2003. Tauzin, then Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, helped push Medicare Part D through Congress. Crucially, the legislation prohibits the federal government from negotiating prices for drugs (the VA excepted), insuring a big

payday for Big Pharma.

As subsequently reported by *Sixty Minutes*, within months of the bill's passage, Tauzin and fifteen other staffers, congressmen and the then head of Medicare, Tom Scully, went to work for the pharmaceutical industry. The time bending, centripetal power of the lobbying universe offers no better example. Lobbyists before they were lobbyists, Tauzin and his intrepid band occupied two dimensions simultaneously, the public and the private. But they knew which one had the big bucks.

Both Republicans and Democrats know this. For instance, John McCain, senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee and sometime vocal critic of the corrupting power of money on politics, recently rehired Elise Sauer, fresh off ten years of lobbying for Lockheed Martin. President Obama, who pledged that lobbyists would not influence his administration, recently brought in Steve Ricchetti, former lobbyist for Fannie Mae, General Motors and Eli Lilly among others, to serve as an advisor to Vice President Biden.

Sure, the federal government has tried to revive the economy the old fashioned way, but we all know that you can't turn a tired nag into a racehorse. The real circulators of dollars are the lobby-

ists and their related condottieri: consultants, corporate law firms, accountants, ex-military—virtually a fourth (and unelected!) branch of government. Once they begin selling shares of themselves to those who can afford it, we'll see an expanding universe of dollars circulating until the end of time, or the country, whichever comes first.

All it will take is an IPO from some farsighted lobbying firm: the Business Roundtable, the Private Equity Council, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America etc. Once one of them jumps in, others will follow, and the list is endless. As more people buy shares of them, the already substantial field of lobbyists will grow like kudzu, circulating more taxpayers' dollars and corporate boodle.

Only a fool would miss out on the action. In fact, I'm starting a venture capital firm solely to invest in the lobbying cosmos. I expect to quadruple my money in the first year alone, and after that, well, the horizon is boundless. I've already chosen a name for the firm: Bane Capital. It has a nice ring, don't you think? So if you want to jump into a money pit, contact me; together we'll put this country back on the right track, the entrepreneurial track. Nothing else matters.

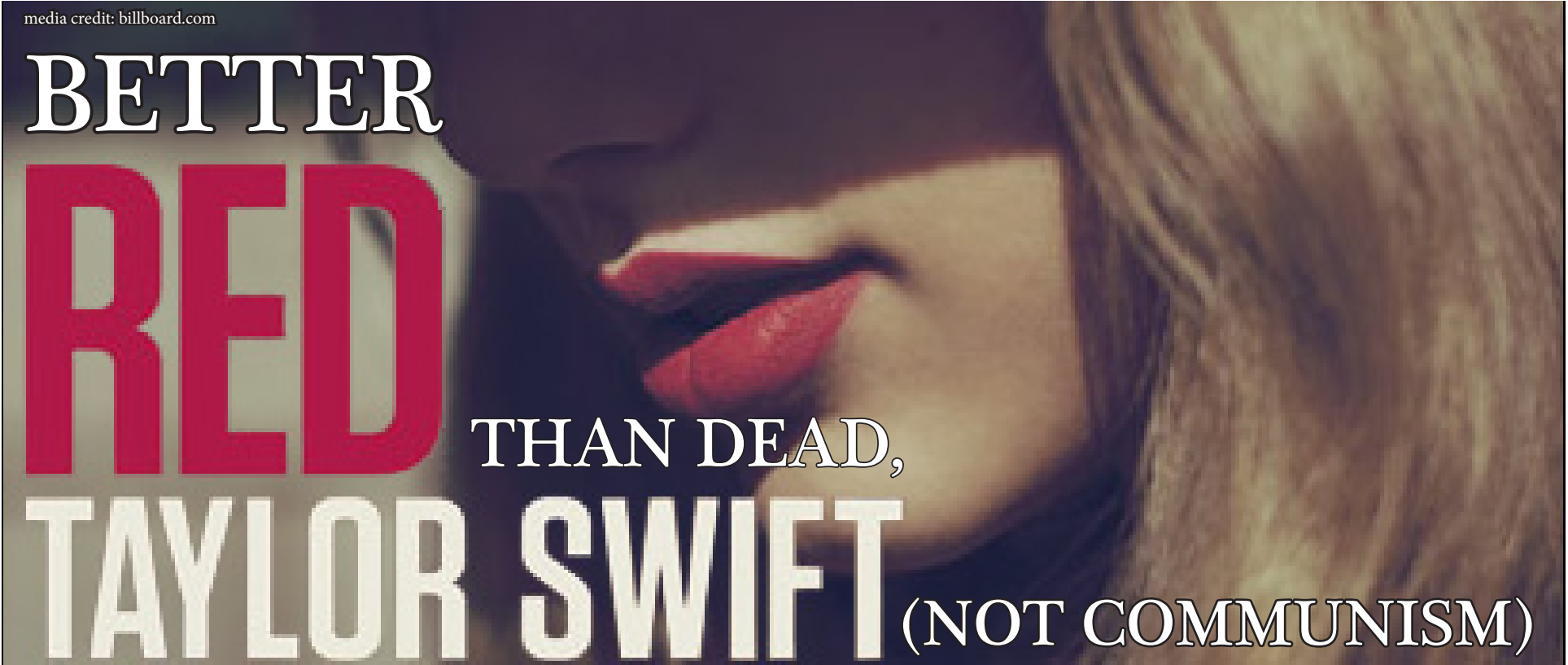
## WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR COLLEGE RESUMÉ?



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# THE SCENE

Because there is so much more to college life than studying for exams...



GREG MAYNARD  
The Scene Editor

## 4/5 - Worth Your Time

That’s right everyone, don’t get your panties in an uproar. I’m talking about our beloved Taylor Swift’s newest album, *Red*. I’ve always had this fantasy in my head that if I ever had the privilege of meeting Taylor Swift in person, I would say something like, “Taylor, please go out with me so I can dump you and have a song written about me.” Not that I would ever dump her in my fantasy land, I mean, she seems like a lovely person. But, I’m just saying, if I did, it wouldn’t take long for a revenge song to work itself out of the woodwork.

Ms. Swift has held tight to her infamous reputation for this. You know, writing songs about her exes. Biting back hard for all the horrible experiences she’s had in past relationships. I’m no T-Swifty fanatic, so don’t fact-check me here, but I’m guessing she must have at least twenty five to thirty songs about exes to date, whether they are happy, or sad songs. You’d think that we’d be getting tired of hearing about it by now, but here’s the funny thing. In a world of heartbroken, misunderstood girls and boys who are just too ashamed to admit they love it, Taylor Swift is a bullet-proof inspiration to us all.

I’ve read my share of reviews for this album. Enough to get me genuinely pissed off. As expected, I came across many individuals who claim that they are “a die-hard Taylor Swift fan, but this album is

horrible. Huge disappointment. Taylor cannot go pop and needs to stick to her country roots,” minus the proper grammar. Reviews such as this make me upset, because it seems to me that people like ‘Jessica710’ are only doing half the work as the listener. The music is important, and that will always be true. But Jessica710, please do me a favor and listen to *Red* with your eyes closed. Feel it. Respect it. Love it. You might consider editing up your review a little.

Here’s my side of the story. Listening to *Red* is like taking a day trip to the planet’s most extravagant, mind-blowingly spectacular zoo under the moonlight and stars, with animals of all kinds and maybe a few Maserati’s thrown in speeding around the park full throttle.

It’s true what they say, Taylor Swift has gone pop, however, only on certain tracks. But hey, every zoo has an animal you just want to skip by. And if you’re not a fan of the whole pop thing, then try to stay away from “I Knew You Were Trouble,” “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together,” and fear with all of your heart the oddball evils of “22,” where T-Swift tries her hand at imitating Ke\$ha with dance floor hooks and a bizzaro country bite. But between you and me, a little guilty pleasure never hurt anyone.

Taylor fooled the masses when “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” was aired as a radio single. When I flipped on the radio one day, I thought, “Wow, I haven’t heard any Avril Lavigne in a while.” It was a track that heightened skepticism and arose panic among many die-

hard fans like Jessica710. However, from what I can hear, there are only two other songs on the album that sound similar to the latter. The way I see it, 3 out of 16 ain’t bad.

The album has a number of highlights. One of which includes the predicted next single, “Begin Again,” a softer, country ballad, speaking an enlightening, heart melting tale about starting over anew, with (hopefully) the right person. Then there’s “All Too Well.” A classic Taylor Swift track, similar to “Back to December,” in the sense of it being a memory ridden joyride where Jesus takes the wheel and in the end, nobody wins.

“The Last Time” is another gem, but you should know that I’m a sucker for tear-jerking tragedies. Featured on the track is Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol. Indulging in an apocalyptically passionate duet, the two work together to put a permanent end to the painstaking misery that they have caused each other over the span of their relationship.

“Sad Beautiful Tragic” is a curious turn, almost sounding like a track that could’ve been played during Jack and Rose’s post-sinking scene in *Titanic*. Written in a 3/2 time signature, it gives off the feel of a deeply lovable waltz, moving to the brink of a promise to never let go.

*Red* has its share of happy-go-lucky jingles as well. “Stay Stay Stay” is a cheery circus romp that makes love look easy. After three and a half minutes of ear pleasure, be warned. You might have an embarrass-

ing grin to wipe off your face. Complete with Taylor’s wholesome laugh at the end, and a secret ingredient, (a mandolin) “Stay Stay Stay” is the perfect tune for any happy couple.

“Everything Has Changed” has received much popularity in the past few days of the album’s release. Why? Because it features Ed Sheeran, London’s favorite ginger! The collaboration of the two creates an indulgently flirtatious song, certain to wedge itself somewhere in your head. Together, they sing a dialogue of quick moving love, where the butterflies are still fluttering and hopes are forever high.

All in all, this album is magical. As the late, great Hunter S. Thompson had once said, “Buy the ticket, take the ride.” Just be sure to buckle up, because who knows there Taylor will take you. Of course, there are bits and pieces of *Red* that I don’t care much for, but I won’t get into that. Just in case Taylor Swift ever reads this, I don’t want to ruin my chances of that break up tune.

## Rating System

- 5/5 - Wicked Awesome
- 4/5 - Worth Your Time
- 3/5 - Decent
- 2/5 - Barely Tolerable
- 1/5 - Utter Crap

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### FALL OPEN HOUSES

Sept. 22, Oct. 20  
& Nov. 10



# Events calendar: October 17th - November 10th Now get out of the house and do something!

October 17th  
Say Anything  
with Murder by Death, the Sidekicks, and Tallhart  
Lupo’s Heartbreak Hotel, 79 Washington Street,  
Providence  
\$17 Advance, \$20 Day of show  
Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:30pm

October 27th  
Buddy Guy  
Park Theater, 848 Park Ave, Cranston  
\$35-\$55  
Doors at 7:30pm

through October 31st  
Pop Goes the Culture  
Hope Artiste Village, 999 Main St, Pawtucket  
most events \$10  
7:00pm

through November 4th  
“Fabric Flesh”, large scale figurative works by  
Flynn Grinnan  
#102 Satelite Project, 60 Valley St, Providence  
Free  
gallery open Th & F 3-8pm, Sa & Su 12-5pm

If you have an event you want to add to upcoming calendars, contact Greg Maynard at [gmaynard@theunfilteredlens.org](mailto:gmaynard@theunfilteredlens.org).

Times, dates, and prices may be subject to change.  
If such a change is announced, please contact the venue’s box office or the ticket provider.

Transfer ad 4.93x7.5\_Layout 1 10/2/12 4:01 PM Page 1

# Open House 10/28

[www.uml.edu/openhouse](http://www.uml.edu/openhouse)

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Find us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/umltransfer](http://www.facebook.com/umltransfer)



The Ebb

Sunday is low tide, and thoughts scatter, innocuous like the green tones of arsenic wallpaper before the dampness sets in. The shards of bright glass that lit the air the night before (each a piece of brighter whole, I’m sure: a laugh, fragment of conversation, exchanged numbers) dim in significance worn milky and dull by the tides overnight on the carpet the ashtray rests on.

The highway nearby shifts ceaseless outside the windows, a river or body in slow throes of hazy fever dream or opiate languid daze, her name eludes and I remember that old roommate strung out on two days of beer and coke slow on the walk to the bar and say, “I feel like I’m outside my body,” before vomiting between his feet. The air is cold and clean as a body prepared for burial

and I’m not inclined to give a fuck this morning.

You see, the wind reminds me of the service at the dock for that other girl I knew, the way the heat drifted off her skin in her own bed until her lover shivered beside her in his sleep. The cheap vodka I chased with more to the sweet, bitter backdrop of her life reduced to the pieces friends remember and speak into the microphone in the tent that takes the edge off the wind and cold. Properly pensive, I awkwardly adjust my funeral tie and wonder what he may have dreamed that night, if he remembers anymore. Its a spur that catches the run of my thoughts

and I hope that’s not all life is, every day a cervical collar covered in blood, an ex-roommate who you pick up a paper to find has been found at the base of a fifty foot cliff, or the other, wondering if he still doses and falls on the nod in the bathroom every morning, oblivious to the polite knocks for hours, or the girl with bright green eyes and cotton fever, arm stiff and distended as a rain-swollen stump before the weather rots it out.

Or even sweet, lost Cam, who would cut herself with mirror shards and took to painting with all the garish hues shot from a syringe.

All of it,  
all  
of it.

Here I make my stand, let this bed be my plinth, blankets a shroud. Demiurge, bandage me in all your bad dreams, each fissure between will be a font that sprouts bright blooms, bears beautiful fruit

but not today,  
(oh sweet bathos)  
just not today.



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# Silent too long, we must speak on Andrew’s behalf

*continued from cover*

Friedman installed in a position that ultimately led to Andrew being forced out of the university he had served for 17 years.

Now it is my understanding that Andrew signed a retirement package of some sort with the university, and as part of that deal he has been barred from discussing his “personnel issues”. As such, and since I did not wish to cause him any more harm, I met with Andrew’s friend, and outspoken supporter, Peter Nightingale, to speak some more about Andrew’s situation. His “personnel issues,” as it were.

Andrew was given no fair treatment by his superiors. He was managed in such a way that it “created a box, which is very scary.” Faced with the options of fighting a long, protracted battle against the very administrators purported to prevent exactly this sort of marginalization of those who speak out or submitting to the pressure, Andrew signed a resignation contract. Had he not resigned, he would have returned from his unpaid leave to report once more to Friedman, the source of his consternation.

URI’s president David M. Dooley has kept a very consistent answer when he has been asked, by numerous reporters from local news outlets. That Andrew’s situ-

ation “pertains to a confidential personnel matter and I am not at liberty to [...] discuss the situation.”

Nightingale and others at URI have tried bringing Andrew’s case to the RI Board of Governor’s for Higher Education, as well. And, as of my speaking with Nightingale, the Board of Governor’s had yet to even acknowledge receipt of the letters sent to them.

This silence has not gone unnoticed. But it has gone on for too long. I am currently a student at URI. This very same campus is now my academic home. I may not face the same trials as the LGBT community, but I believe that their troubles are my troubles. Andrew’s troubles, though he has gone before I arrived, are my troubles.

I will not be silent about these issues. What is the accountability, the responsibility of people to do the right thing? Who will speak truth to power, and hold them responsible when people are marginalized or “papered over” when they speak out against inequity, iniquity?

I can only do so much, I am but a single voice. But with your help, we can raise such a trumpet that the very foundations of injustice will crumble. I may not be able to help Andrew, but I can carry on for him. And so can you. But will you?

This was how Ms. Friedman’s letter of reprimand to Andrew concluded: “You will not talk to anyone, you will ask for no help, you will receive no assistance, no justice, and you will like it. Or, I’ll fire you,” ...or something like that

# Group effort, here’s how we end cyberbullying together

*continued from pg 3*

pabilities, cyberbullying doesn’t end at the city limits. Most unfortunately, some teens even resort to suicide, because they can’t bear the anguish any further.

Hopefully by now, you’re asking yourself questions. Questions like: How can I recognize the signs of bullying? What can I do to help those who are being bullied? And most importantly, what can ***we all do together*** to put a stop to these heinous actions, once and for all?

Let’s first focus on recognizing the signs that a child, teen or college student is being bullied.

Common signs that someone is being bullied include but are not limited to: frequent headaches and/or nausea, pretending to be ill, sudden decline in grades/academic performance, loss of friends, avoidance of social situations, anxiety, etc.

Often, watching for signs that someone is *being* bullied is not enough. Parents and teachers need to recognize signs that indicate that someone *is bullying* others as well; some common indicators include: increasingly aggressive behavior(s), consistently denying responsibility for one’s actions, consistently blaming others for one’s problems, frequently getting into fights or verbal arguments, etc. More information can be found on both of these issues

at stopbullying.gov.

Once we’ve learned to recognize the signs, it’s important to not ignore them and act immediately when they are identified.

Whenever possible, put a stop to bullying on the spot; make it clear that there is zero-tolerance for it. Also, be sure to support those who are victims of bullying.

They do not need to hear: “Ignore it and it will go away.” IT WILL NOT GO AWAY! This is a monumental misconception. Often, by the time children/teens have brought the bullying to an adult’s attention, they are distraught and see that adult as their last ray of hope.

Telling them to ignore the bullying crushes that hope and sends the message that we, as adults, have better things to do than to be concerned with this seemingly trivial matter. That being said, the most important thing to do is to NOT be an “innocent bystander,” because there is no such thing!

An innocent bystander who witnesses or has knowledge of such awful wrongdoings but refuses to act is guilty by association. By refusing to help, that person becomes just as guilty if not more so than the actual bully.

Lastly, there are resources available for victims, who feel like they have no place left to turn. Lifeline, more commonly known as the National Suicide Preven-

tion Lifeline can be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

The Lifeline is available for support to those contemplating suicide or going through an emotional crisis, *and* to those who know someone in either of those situations. The responders are trained and prepared to provide emotional support 24/7.

Now to address the “what we can all do together” part to bring about change. First, we need to come together to put a definitive end to cyberbullying and bullying in general.

Teens cannot go on harming themselves and taking their lives because we refuse to act on their behalf. Therefore, I urge you to write your local and state politicians, and more importantly your Senators and Congressional Representatives.

Demand that they take action to pass legislation making cyberbullying that results in self-harm, extensive therapy, or suicide, a crime. If letters are not effective, then start petitions by gathering signatures in your community, your school, your city council ward, etc.; mail those petitions to our politicians too.

Inform local news channels of your efforts within community and urge them to cover the story. We can no longer be innocent bystanders, guilty by association. It is up to us to take a stand, to give a voice to the voiceless.

*Paul Larocque is currently a sophomore at CCRI. He is a former pre-school, and daycare teacher, as well as a former student teacher at elementary through high school levels.*



# Cooking with Sass

with Stephanie Bly



# Cheesecake stuffed strawberries

When searching for a sensual dessert, look no further than the cheesecake stuffed strawberries. Take a bite out of one and let your mouth and tongue have a moment alone with the flavor.

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<p><b>1</b> lb. large strawberries</p> <p><b>8</b> oz. cream cheese, softened; can use 1/3 less fat</p> <p><b>3-4</b> tbsp. powdered sugar, 4 for sweeter filling</p> <p><b>1</b> tsp. vanilla extract</p> <p><b>½</b> graham cracker crumbs</p>	<p>Rinse strawberries and cut around the top of the strawberry. Remove the top and clean out with a paring knife, if necessary (some may already be hollow inside). Prep all strawberries and set aside.</p> <p>In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla until creamy. Add cream cheese mix to a piping bag or Ziploc with the corner snipped off.</p> <p>Fill strawberries with cheesecake mixture. Once strawberries are filled, dip the top in graham cracker crumbs. If not serving immediately, refrigerate until serving.</p>

When making these, I did not use the crushed graham cracker crumbs, and they came out far better than I had hoped. Careful how big you snip the corner of the bag, as you want the tip to fit into a small hole.

Enjoy and see you for the next Recipe.

*Like to cook? Want Stephanie to make your recipe for Cooking with Sass? Email her at sbly@theunfilteredlens.org subject: Cooking*