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The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

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'Just what this country needs'
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Wednesday
April 11, 2012

Diversity Awards honor commitment to multicultural involvement

BY NANCY LAVIN
News Editor

The University of Rhode Island celebrated its students, faculty, staff and organizations' commitment to multicultural inclusion at the URI Diversity Awards Banquet last night in the Memorial Union.

The event recognized 13 students, clubs and faculty members who have made unique advancements to URI's commitment to campus diversity. The winners were selected after being nominated by themselves or another member of the URI community, according to Mailee Kue, assistant director of the Multicultural Center.

"Anybody can nominate someone, and you can even self-nominate," Kue said. "Our process is that it's not the number of nominations you get, but what you have actually contributed to the community."

The Multicultural Center let out a call for nominations in late fall of 2011, according to Kue. After all the nominations were in, nominees were asked to fill out a supplemental form



Lauren Trad | Cigar

The nominees for Student Organization Excellence are presented at the 14th Annual URI Diversity Awards Banquet.

explaining more about themselves "so we could get a full picture of the individual," Kue said.

"It was a complete surprise [to be nominated]," senior Narvan Hilliard, who was awarded for Undergraduate Student Excellence in Arts and Culture for his commitment as president of the URI Capoeira Club, said. "I was minding my own business and I got an email from Mailee, and she told me I was nominated for an award. It was actually my instructor who nominated me

because I guess he got something similar during his day."

A committee of 12 undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff members then read the individual information and ranked them on how they answered the questions against others in the specific pool they were competing in. Kue then calculated the scores, and the group came to a consensus to select either one, two or three recipients, depending on the award category.

"We are a group that

works in collaboration, so we really shoot for consensus," Kue said. "If there's disagreement, I try to remind the group to look at how we impact the community on a larger level, and just keep the group focused on that."

Kue said since the committee does not really operate by a majority vote, coming to decisions can be difficult in some instances. Other times, however, there is clear agreement on the winner.

"Typically you'll find patterns of individuals who are ranked pretty high consistently across groups," she said. "Choosing a more flexible approach is appropriate, particularly in the work of diversity."

The event featured keynote speaker John Ramos, who is known for revitalizing urban education in Connecticut and promoting educational reform for students of all backgrounds. Ramos urged URI students and faculty to be pro-active in reaching the university's

Continued on page 2

Students to light lanterns for Africa in annual event

BY KIMBERLY DELANDE
News Reporter

University of Rhode Island's Students for the Welfare of Africa (SAWA) is planning to hold their third annual Lights for Africa event, which was originally scheduled to take place this week, but has been rescheduled due to issues SAWA had with ordering lanterns for the event.

While the group does not have a concrete date as for when the event will take place, SAWA president Tete Joseph said that it should occur "in about two weeks."

Lights for Africa is an event where students gather on the Quadrangle and light a lantern for Africa. Joseph said the lanterns are a symbol of the optimism for a future where Africa is "liberated from war, poverty and famine."

While the lanterns had plain, clear lights the first year SAWA held the event, the group has decided to use lanterns with colored lights this year. SAWA experimented with using colored lights last year, and, according to Tete Joseph, the sight was "beautiful, colorful, and amazing" when they sent them into the sky.

Last year, Joseph said, the turnout for the Lights for Africa was "crazy." Initially, 30 people showed up to the event, but the lit lanterns attracted more students toward the Quadrangle. Joseph said even though SAWA ordered a little more than 100 lanterns last year, there had not been enough lanterns for everyone who showed up at the event to light. To prepare another large turnout, SAWA has ordered 250 lanterns for this year's event. The lanterns are also biodegradable, "to cater

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Slow Food URI brings local, healthy fare to campus

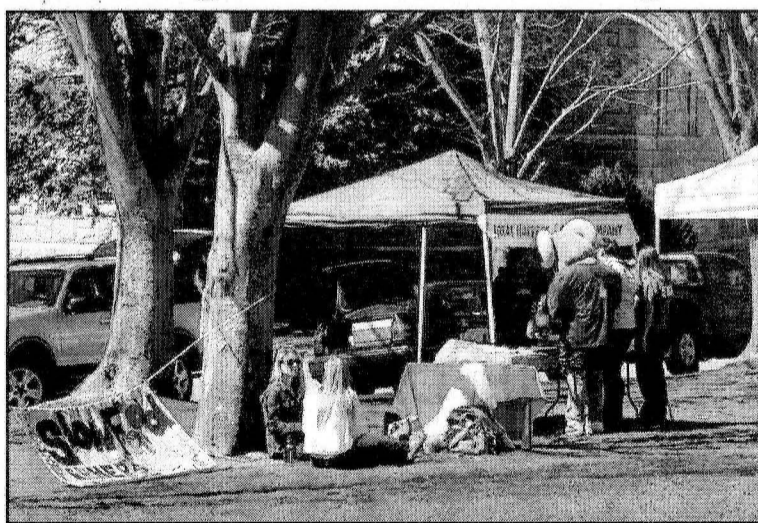
BY AUDREY O'NEIL
Contributing News Reporter

In an effort to better their eating habits, students on campus are beginning to turn to organic foods. One student organization at the University of Rhode Island is finding ways to enjoy foods in their natural forms.

Founded three years ago, the organization Slow Food URI focuses on the principles of good, clean and fair food. Slow Food URI supports food that is healthy, nutritious and good for people. They ensure the food is produced by environmentally sound practices, and that those who produce the food are treated fairly.

Nutrition and dietetics major, Alyssa Neill, has been the president of Slow Food URI for two years and hopes to increase mindful-social eating throughout the URI community.

"Slow Food URI works to



Lauren Trad | Cigar

Rhody the Ram looks around at the Farmer's Market on the Quad, organized by Slow Food URI.

restore the pleasure of eating while bringing a sense of awareness back to what food is, food is whole and is not processed," Neill said. "Food is the corn on the cob, not the maltodextrin derived from corn in a processed power bar and it's vital to know the integrity of our food, and to

know that eating should be just as pleasurable as it is medicinal."

The organization is working hard to bring local food to the URI campus and is sponsoring the Local Food Market on the Quadrangle today and every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from now until May 9.

The Local Food Market consists of popular vendors throughout Rhode Island, including a Tallulah's Taco cart that uses only locally-sourced produce and meat. Another vendor, chef Jake Rojas, was nominated for best chef of 2012 by Food and Wine magazine for his Newport restaurant. Other vendors included at the event are the Coffee Guy, who makes cold pressed coffee and Bravo Wood Fired Pizza with locally sourced toppings. Another vendor, Great Harvest Bread Co. is also organic and grinds all of their own grains to bake fresh bread and muffins daily.

Slow food URI will host another Local Food Market in the fall, which will be held on Tuesdays.

The next goal for the organization is to expand the Local Food Market and have more local food available

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The Good 5-Cent Cigar

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Nickel Brief:

Learn about another URI faculty member accepted to the American Council on Education.

Get the scoop on Will Ferrell's bizarre new comedy, "Casa de mi Padre."

See page 3.

CAMPUS

Diversity

From page 1

diversity goals.

Hilliard echoed this idea, explaining that he has tried to get people involved in Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian form of martial arts, and expose them to a new culture.

"I'm excited because I'm not doing what I do on campus just for an award," he said. "I'm doing it because I love Capoeira, the aspects of the particular martial art and getting more people involved in it. I didn't know I could even win an award for this."

Other award winners included Kayla Butts and Riley Davis for Undergraduate Student Excellence in Academics and Service; Erick Betancourt, Precious Kafo and Brian Sit for Undergraduate Student Excellence in Leadership and Service; Hillel and the URI LGBTQ Women's Group for Student Organization Excellence; Jennifer Brandy and Yifei Li for Graduate Student Excellence; Laura Beauvais for Staff/Administrative Excellence and Walter Besio and Yvette Harps-Logan for Faculty Excellence.

Slow Food

From page 1

throughout the dining halls.

"Dining is an amazing operation because they buy only the best products, listen to the students' ideas and work hard to run very successful dining halls. However as we learn about how food impacts our bodies as well as our communities, it is essential that we focus on food with integrity," Neill said. "Life is fast, eating slow might just save us."

Africa

From page 1

to those who might be worried about the lanterns' effect on the environment," Joseph said.

According to Joseph, hosting Lights for Africa is a critical event for SAWA to not only unite the campus on the Quad, but to teach students about the ongoing battles that countries in Africa are still facing today. The lanterns, Joseph said, do not only act as beacons of hope, but represent the "epiphanies" people have after learning about the issues that are plaguing modern-day Africa.

"Some people say ignorance is bliss, but I say ignorance is a disease," Joseph said. "If you don't know what's going on outside of your state, then it's hard to say that you know anything at all. When people come out to the Quad, learn about all that's going on in Africa, and see the lights in the sky, they have an epiphany. It all comes together for them."

For Joseph, who is Liberian and has recently returned to URI after taking a trip to Liberia, being able to host Lights for Africa holds personal significance. According to Joseph, Liberia is one of the many countries in Africa that has been "torn apart" by war. Since the early 1990s, Joseph said, the country of Liberia was fighting a civil war. While the war has ended, Liberia is one of the many countries in Africa that is currently trying to "pull itself together," Joseph said.

"As Africans, it's our job to try to educate people about these issues," Joseph said. "Hopefully, we're making a positive impact on campus."

Rhody pic of the day



Lauren Trad | Cigar

Students went barefoot to support One Day Without Shoes, a TOMS campaign to raise awareness for the impact a single pair of shoes has on the life of a child.

Miss Universe pageant allowing transgender women to compete

NEW YORK (AP) — Allowing transgender women to participate in the Miss Universe beauty pageant next year is a step forward for equality, advocates said Tuesday after pageant officials announced the policy change.

The announcement came after the organization last week reversed its stand and said Canadian Jenna Talackova could compete in the pageant this year. Talackova underwent a sex change four years ago, and organizers in Canada at first disqualified her from the 61st Miss Universe Canada pageant in May, citing a rule that she must be "naturally born" a woman.

"We have a long history of

supporting equality for all women, and this was something we took very seriously," said Paula Shugart, president of the Miss Universe Organization.

The new rules will have to be approved by Donald Trump, who runs the Miss Universe Organization, and contest co-owner NBC.

"Everybody should be allowed to participate in every aspect of society," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "Absolutely it's good news, it's another pernicious structural discrimination barrier taken down."

Susan Stryker, director of

the Institute for LGBT Studies at the University of Arizona, said she hoped to see similar progress in areas that would impact more people, such as employment discrimination issues and anti-transgender violence.

But she said trans women participating in the pageants could help shatter stereotypes and educate the public. She pointed to Chaz Bono, a transgender man, and the impact of his appearance on "Dancing with the Stars."

"To that extent, it's just a great thing to have a positive media representation even if it is inconsequential," she said.

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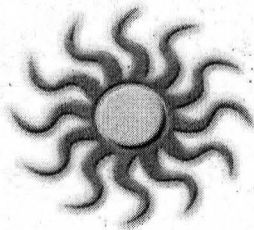
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Repetitious humor of 'Casa de mi Padre' runs out of steam long before film's end

BY AUGIE KING
Entertainment Editor

"Casa de mi Padre" is a particularly bizarre addition to Will Ferrell's comedy oeuvre. It's an American-produced, Spanish language movie where Will Ferrell speaks Spanish the whole time against actual Spanish actors. In concept, it seems like it would be a five-minute "Funny Or Die" skit, which should not be surprising because it was produced by F.O.D. owners Ferrell and Adam McKay (who directed "Anchorman" and "Talladega Nights"). Despite some hilarious scenes, "Casa de mi Padre" feels like it would be more fitting to short form.

Armando Alvarez (Ferrell) is a lover of the land and ranch his father owns, and he wishes to take it over some day. However, his brother Paul (Diego Luna), after coming back home with fiancée Sonia (Genesis Rodriguez), is his father's choice to inherit the farm because he feels Armando is too incompetent. But when Paul gets mixed up with local drug lord the Onza (Gael Garcia Bernal), a war ensues that finds Armando stepping up to defend his heritage and fall in love with Sonia.

Full disclosure: "Casa de mi Padre" is the definition of a niche film. If you haven't stopped reading after the first

paragraph, then you might be a part of the niche interested in the movie. In addition to being a Spanish language American film, the sense of humor will appeal most to those who watch Spanish telenovelas (Spanish soap operas). Are you still with this?

Even though I've only come across Spanish soap operas in passing, I was able to understand where many of the jokes came from. The majority of them lampoon the ridiculously melodramatic nature of soap opera acting and dialogue, as well as the technical flubs and low budget effects that come into play. Luckily, I found much of this funny, although the movie tends to rely on this type of humor as a crutch. By the end of the short, 80-minute running time, the joke of having a cheaply painted background or laughable special effects (an animatronics-controlled leopard) wore old by a certain point.

Thankfully, Ferrell dials down the man-child persona that he typically uses in his Adam McKay-directed features, and his handle of the Spanish language is impeccable (or so I am told by friends). The many Spanish actors surrounding him tend to overshadow him, though, especially Gael Garcia Bernal who plays the Onza, who is

having a blast chewing the scenery and playing up the charm in his villainous role. There's a running bit where he lights up a cigar every time he has a conversation with somebody, which leads to an unexpectedly absurd and funny joke where he lights up two cigars while having two conversations at the same time, and Bernal plays it completely straight.

It's this form of absurdist humor that is familiar to fans of Will Ferrell's style and allows those unfamiliar with the material being spoofed to get some mild enjoyment out of it. In the same scene with the cigars, the overly melodramatic tone is funny enough, but once Bernal pulls dirt out of thin air to explain how important the land is, the joke really hits home.

I only wish that "Casa de mi Padre" had managed to be more diverse in its jokes and didn't spread itself so thin even at such a short running time. When compared to Ferrell's other output, it rests somewhere in the lower middle in terms of quality, better than "Semi Pro" and "The Other Guys" (which I did not enjoy) but not up to the level of "Anchorman" or even the overrated "Step Brothers." It won't appeal to a big audience, but I'm sure there are those out there that will enjoy it more than I did.

'Simpsons' creator: Real Springfield is in Ore.

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP)— One of the best-kept secrets in television history has been revealed, with "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening pointing to Springfield, Ore., as the inspiration for the animated hometown of Homer and his dysfunctional family.

Groening told Smithsonian magazine, published online Tuesday, that he was inspired by the television show "Father Knows Best," which took place in a place called Springfield. Springfield, Ore., is 100 miles south of Groening's hometown of Portland.

"When I grew up, I realized it was just a fictitious name," Groening told the magazine. "I also figured out that Springfield was one of the most common names for a city in the U.S."

"In anticipation of the success of the show, I thought, 'This will be cool; everyone will think it's their Springfield.' And they do," he said.

Groening said he has long given fake answers when asked about the Simpsons' hometown, leaving open the possibility that

his latest one is itself another fake.

The show has made a running joke of hiding the true Springfield's location. In one episode, daughter Lisa points to Springfield on a map, but the animated "camera view" is blocked by son Bart's head.

The series has been on the air for 22 years, becoming the longest-running American sitcom, the longest-running American animated program and a cultural phenomenon with colleges devoting courses to studying it.

People in the real Springfield — the one in Oregon — took on the mantle of the show's hometown after Groening visited during a tour before the 2007 film "The Simpsons Movie."

Back then, tiny Springfield, Vt., beat out 13 other like-named cities, including the one in Oregon, to host the movie premiere. The cities submitted videos meant to connect themselves to the fictional Springfield.

When Springfield, Ore., community-relations manager

Niel Laudati was told about Groening's announcement, he said: "Oh OK, we knew that."

The city has already incorporated the Simpsons into its own town lore. The Springfield Museum features a couch similar to the animated one shown in the show's opening credits, and a plaque marking the movie's release.

"Yo to Springfield, Oregon — the real Springfield!" Groening wrote. "Your pal, Matt Groening proud Oregonian!"

The Springfield depicted in "The Simpsons" isn't always a flattering portrait. The school is falling apart, there's a constant fire at the town dump, and Mayor Quimby is chronically, helplessly corrupt.

"We kind of got past it," Laudati said. "We don't dwell on the bad stuff. Obviously we don't have a nuclear power plant. We don't have a lot of stuff in the Simpsons."

"What we do have are a lot of blue-collar working families that go to church every week and eat dinner together," Laudati said. "That is accurate."

Rhody
SPORTS

The Shide Lines: Boston's great television broadcasting duos

BY JONATHAN SHIDELEK
Sports Staff Reporter

Growing up in New England, especially this century, we tend to overlook and take for granted our teams while they are at their best. Another thing we overlook simultaneously are the outstanding local media members that surround these teams.

This week I'm going to look at the local television broadcasting duos among the Bruins, Celtics and Red Sox.

The beauty of working at local stations such as New England Sports Network (NESN) or Comcast Sportsnet New England (CSNE) is that you are working to promote the team. You are part of the team, you want to see the team succeed and are encouraged to be biased.

I'll start with the Boston Bruins and their NESN broadcasting tandem of Jack Edwards and Andy Brickley.

At times Jack can take away from the on-ice action and bring it upon himself in the booth, whether on purpose or not, it does happen. Brickley is everything that Edwards is not, and that is terrific for fans as well as NESN.

Brickley does not exactly have a chance to talk as much due to Edwards, who at times, can talk more than Joan Rivers at a red carpet event. However, Brickley is a bright and modest

commentator. He is not afraid to criticize the Bruins when they play poorly, and acknowledge them when they succeed.

Brickley is a former NHL player who knows the ins and outs of the game and is the perfect match for Edwards' brash, over-the-top commentating, or what some call rambling.

Next I'll stay in The Garden, but switch sports and television stations. CSNE is the broadcasting partner for the Boston Celtics and their long-time terrific twosome that is Mike Gorman and Tommy Heinsohn.

Gorman is the golden standard for play-by-play guys. Of course he wants the Celtics to win, but he does not let that get in the way of how he calls a game. His calm soothing voice can quickly change to a loud "Got it!" which has become a staple of Celtics buzzer beating wins.

Now onto Tommy. I love Tommy, you love Tommy and Tommy loves the Celtics. (And Walta) Heinsohn is a former Celtic great, and NBA Hall of Famer who clearly bleeds green. He yells at the refs and opposing players live during games, sometimes with reason sometimes without. Tommy has what national broadcasting stations hate to have in an analyst—a strong hometown bias and that's why we love him.

Mike and Tommy have

been doing Celtics games for more than 30 years, and their success is unquestioned. However, as they get older in age, they seem to be the first pairing out of the three that will come to an end, so let's enjoy the next few years we have them.

With the start of the baseball season here, it seems fitting to close with the NESN pairing of Don Orsillo and Jerry "Remy Dawg" Remy.

My personal favorite out of the three broadcasting teams, they make you feel as if you are in the booth with them watching the game. Orsillo leads the way with his above average play-by-play and Remy colors in the lines with his commentating.

Their baseball knowledge is greater than or equal to most national broadcast tandems (yes, I mean you, Joe Buck and Tim McCarver). But where Don and Jerry separate themselves is in the humor category. Baseball is a 162-game grind, and the two make the best out of it, no matter the outcome of a game.

I encourage you to sit down and watch a Red Sox game from the top of the first inning through the bottom of the ninth. If you don't find yourself chuckling along with them at least once during a game, you are taking your perspective as a fan too seriously.

Red Sox season begins as poorly as last one ended

BY TIM LIMA
Contributing Sports Reporter

The Masters Championship just concluded, the Bruins are heading toward their annual playoff appearance and the Celtics are continuing to make things interesting — as is normally the case in the beginning of April.

This leads most people to believe that the Red Sox are still breaking in their new field in Fort Myers in front of the thousands who were allowed to leave their retirement homes to attend a game. This year, though, is different. This year, the Sox are being talked about, for the end of their last season was so discussion provoking.

One of the worst collapses in sports history — catch your breath Sox fans, the Yankees still own that title — took place last year with the Red Sox puking on their spikes when games mattered most. What added to the frustration was our leaders — our moneymakers — our idols, such as Adrian Gonzalez and Josh Beckett, blaming everything but themselves. Gonzalez even tried to cool off Boston fans by explaining that losing in a horrendous fashion down the final stretch was "God's will." It didn't work.

Now, this year's team started as last year's did — being swept in their first series — with a ninth inning collapse followed by a 10-run blowout followed by a ninth and 11th inning choke. Things haven't changed much in Boston, folks.

Beckett still takes the bump, though his mind is primarily on his new family. If you don't like it "you can go [expletive] yourself," that now being his infamous quote to explain where his heart is. One thing is for sure, it isn't in baseball.

Kevin Youkilis is hitless through three games. He is coming off an off-season injury rehabilitation, but he is hitless nonetheless. A player whose on-base percentage is sky high due to his ability to get pegged with the ball has been walking with his head down back to the dugout a lot more than we are used to.

Things have changed, though, but have they changed for the better? Ben Cherington replaced Theo Epstein and made his first major move to bring in Andrew Bailey to replace our long-lost closer Jonathan Papelbon, despite Bailey's inability to remain healthy. No surprise, Bailey didn't make it out of Florida without being declared inactive for months to come. There's no surprise then that the Red Sox have lost two winnable games because of their inability to close.

If this team has any heart and love for the game, they will not allow themselves to return down the same path they did last year. They have talent, but they just need their priorities in order. Many ball players also have families, but Josh, you need to juggle them both. You get paid millions of dollars to throw a baseball, and you should respect yourself, your team and your profession enough to give a damn about it.

Also, I think Adrian Gonzalez should start taking accountability for himself and worry about winning games with his ability, not good will.

Don't push the panic button yet, though. We haven't seen the end of this Red Sox team. Things may get dirty down the stretch, but I would rather watch a team that goes down with the ship, rather than one that jumps for the lifeboats.

Bruins goalie mum on returning to Washington

WILMINGTON, Mass. (AP) — Tim Thomas has gotten some rest.

And if last season's playoffs are any indication, he's going to need it.

"I don't think he's a tired goaltender," Bruins coach Claude Julien said as the defending Stanley Cup champions wrapped up the regular season and prepared for what they hope will be another long playoff run. "I've seen Tim tired before, and I see the signs, but he's certainly not tired. ... We've got a few days here to work on our game and get ourselves sharpened up, and that includes him."

The Bruins begin the playoffs against the Washington Capitals on Thursday, and Thomas is certain to be in net for the opener. Last year, Thomas played every minute of the team's run to its first NHL championship since 1972, earning him the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP to go with the Vezina he snared as the best goaltender in the regular season.

Three of the Bruins' four playoff series went seven

games, and four games went into overtime. In all, Thomas played an extra 1,541 minutes, 43 seconds in the postseason last year before coming into a season where the Bruins again leaned on him heavily after backup Tuukka Rask was injured at the beginning of March.

Still, Thomas finished with playing-time statistics this season similar to last season's. He played in 59 games, two more than last year, but started 55 in both seasons and played two fewer minutes this year than last year.

And when the playoffs start on Thursday, it will be Thomas' second game in 11 days; last year, he had played three games after April 1 as the Bruins headed into the postseason. Thomas skipped a trip to Ottawa on April 5 after it was clear that the Bruins were locked into the No. 2 seed in the East.

"Not traveling to Ottawa, was a nice little mental break," he said. "When you're on the bench you never know when you're going to have to go in, and that probably was the first game in I don't know five years, four years, something like that, I

could sit back and completely watch without having to wonder how the game goes whether I'd have to go in or not."

The Bruins won the Northeast Division to earn the No. 2 seed in the playoffs, so they'll open at home on Thursday night and play Game 2 at the TD Garden on Saturday. The series moves to Washington for Games 3 and 4 on April 16 and 19. Game 5 would be back in Boston on April 21, if necessary.

The matchup will bring Thomas back to the nation's capital, where he caused a stir in January after refusing to join the team when it met President Barack Obama for the traditional champions' White House visit. He said at the time that the federal government "has grown out of control" and vowed not to discuss it again.

He held fast to his promise on Monday.

Asked about the White House snub, Thomas cut off the interview.

"Thanks, guys," he said with a laugh as he walked away. "We finally got somebody to get me out early."

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