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University of Rhode Island

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The University of Rhode Island celebrated its students, faculty, staff and organization 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.

Kue and the president of Women’s Union .

The organization is to expand the Local Food Market and have another Local Food Market in the fall, which will host a second event to cater to students."

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.

Fournel 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 Nell 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 restore the pleasure of eating while bringing a sense of awareness back to what food is, food is whole and is not processed," Nell 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 nominees for Student Organization Excellence are presented at the 14th Annual URI Diversity Awards Banquet.

Lauren Trad | Cigar

The Good 5¢ Cigar

Get the scoop on Will Ferrell’s bizarre new comedy, “Casa de mi Padre.”

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Diversity

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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; Hilliel and the URI LGBTQ Women's Group for Student Organization/Club 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.

Africa

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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."
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SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP) — One of the best-kept secrets in television has been revealed, with "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening pointing to Springfield, Ore., as the inspiration for the fictional 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 Springfield, Ore., scene, 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, only to have the material being spoofed to the viewers.

"It's a form of absurdist humor, to understand where many of the jokes came from. The many Springfield actors surrounding him tend to overshadow him, though, especially Gael Garcia Bernal, who plays the Onza, who is more fitting to short form."

"The Simpsons" creator: Real Springfield is in Ore.

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 runs his father's farm, and he wishes to take it over some day. However, his brother Paul (Diego Luna), after coming back home with fiancée Sonia (Genise 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.

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 history's most offensively unflattering portrait. The school is the definition of ugly.

What this form of absurdist humor does is make you laugh in a way that you can't exactly explain. You may not even understand some of the jokes, but you know it's funny because of the delivery of the actors. In concept, it seems most like it would be a five-minute "Anchorman" scene, which took place in the fictional town of Portland.

"Anchorman" and "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" are both very flawed movies. The first is a film about a cheesy, pornographic, 1970s TV news show, and it doesn't spread itself so thin as "Casa de mi Padre" does, but its jokes are all about the convoluted world of a fake news station, whereas the jokes in "Casa de mi Padre" come from the cultural folklore of a fictional city.

The Simpsons creator: Real Springfield is in Ore.

Niel Laudati was told about Groening's announcement, he said, "Oh, OK, we know that." The city has already incorporated the Simpsons into its own town lore. The Springfield eat dinner at the scene of the animated show, for example, and there is a miniature 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 cookies, the overly melodramatic tone is funny, but it doesn't quite do it justice. It's a bit of fun that will stay with you a while.

"Yo to Springfield, Oregon — the real Springfield" Groening wrote. "Your pal, Matt Groening, broad Oregonian — I join the Springfield" Springfield is a large city, with a population of 150,000 people. The Simpsons creator: Real Springfield is in Ore.

"We kind of got past it," Lauddati said. "It doesn't call out the bad stuff. Obviously we don't have a nuclear power plant. We don't have a lot of stuff in the town." Springfield is a large city, with a population of 150,000 people. The Simpsons creator: Real Springfield is in Ore.

"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."
The Shide Lines: Boston’s great television broadcasting duos

BY JONATHAN SHIDELL
Sports Staff Reporter

Growing up in New England, especially during this century, we tend to overlook and take for granted our teams while they are at their best. Another thing we do not realize is that some of the 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, particularly NESN, is that your hosts have been with the team. You are part of the team, you want to see the team succeed and are encouraged to be more passionate about them.

I will 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 it is his voice or not, it does happen. Brickley is everything that Edwards is not, and that is terrific for fans as well.

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 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 commentary, or what some call rambling.

Now onto The Garden, the Boston Bruins Celtics and their long-time terrific twosome 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 Walt) 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 many years, something like that, I could sit back and completely watch without having to worry about what the coach Fireman might say. Joe Buck and his success is unquestioned. However, as they get older in age, they seem to be the first thing 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 “Rem-Dawg” Remy.

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

Their baseball knowledge is greater than or equal to most national broadcast tandems (Fox has Mike and Tim McCarver). But where Don and Jerry separate themselves is in the humor category. Don is the hard-nosed beat writer – 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 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, folks. Beckett still takes the bump, though his mind is primarily on his new family. If you don’t like it “you can go [gosh] wherever I’d have to go in or not.”

The Bruins won the Northeast Division to earn the 2012 title in the playoffs, so they’ll open at home on Thursday night and play Game 2 at 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.”

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, 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-loss closers Jonathan Papelbon, despite Bailey’s inability to remain healthy. No surprise, Bailey didn’t make it out of Florida without being defined 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 play 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.

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 watch 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 an utter disappointment.

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 Edwards’ brash, hard-nosed beat writer – 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 stretch was “God’s will.” It didn’t work.

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