



# The Current

Spring 2020

May 6th

Vol. 21

Issue 12



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# On The Staff

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**The Current** is the official student publication of Three Rivers Community College

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# COVID-19: The Current Update

The latest on the novel coronavirus

Story and Photos by Chris Boyle

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a zoonotic virus that causes a wide range of ailments in victims and has caused a complete disruption of daily life around the globe. The virus, believed to have first been carried by bats before being transmitted to humans, was first deemed a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March, 2020.

The consequences of the pandemic have been felt far and wide as the United States has joined several other countries in a sort of limbo, as the overwhelming majority of Americans now live under some form of a lockdown order. Moreover, the majority of states have ordered the temporary closures of non-essential businesses; including stores, entertainment venues, movie theaters, casinos, among others.

Across the country there has been a stark spike in unemployment as a result of businesses being ordered to close until further notice. Businesses such as restaurants and bars have been forced to close or move to take-out-only formats.

The infection targets the respiratory system and shares symptoms commonly associated with the flu. These symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever, cough, and trouble breathing in more severe cases of the infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Symptoms of the virus have greatly varied on a case by case basis, however, and can include anything from runny nose and aches and pains, to even a loss of taste and smell.

While the “incubation period,” or the amount of time between exposure to a given infection and the emergence of its first symptoms, can

be anywhere from 2-14 days, the average amount of time for those infected with the coronavirus is 5-6 days.

This large gap of time, and an unusual percentage of asymptomatic carriers, has aided COVID-19 in being particularly easy to transmit and has accelerated the spread. Severe complications of the infection can be pneumonia, permanent lung damage, and even an increased risk in strokes and other major health effects in some extreme cases.

As of 26 April, 2020, the WHO reported there were 2, 804, 796 confirmed cases of the coronavirus around the globe, and 193, 722 deaths associated with the disease. On the same day, there were 899,281 confirmed cases in the United States and nearly 50,000 deaths.

By some media outlets, the pathogen has been dubbed as an equalizer of sorts, citing that while there are people who are proportionally susceptible to more severe complications from the virus, anyone can contract the virus.

Earlier in April, United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson was confirmed to have contracted the virus, and later was hospitalized in intensive care after his condition worsened. He has since been moved out of intensive care as his health has stabilized.

The WHO has determined that the virus is spread through droplets released from an infected person’s nose or mouth when they cough or sneeze. These particles are “relatively heavy, do not travel far and quickly sink to the ground. People can catch COVID-19 if they breathe in these droplets



Three River's joins the millions of voices in giving thanks to essential workers during this time.



from a person infected with the virus” (WHO).

Though originally CDC, WHO, and other health officials stressed the virus is no airborne and healthy persons should not wear facemasks, recommendations have since been changed to now promote the use of such face covers.

The reason for this change is that, in some cases, droplets expelled by a sick person can in fact linger in the air depending on certain conditions. By wearing facemasks, the risk of spread of the virus drastically decreases.

There is currently no vaccine or clear-cut treatment for the virus, and subsequently the best way to avoid contracting the infection is to avoid exposure to it.

The WHO has also stated that there is no evidence supporting the notion that those who have been previously infected with the virus cannot contract the disease again, and those who have recovered should still follow the recommendations of health officials.

Health officials around the world and across the country have stressed the importance of people maintaining “social distancing” from one another; a practice that includes staying home, and remaining a 6 foot distance away from other individuals in a public setting. This practice of social distancing was outlined in the Trump administration’s 30 Days to Slow the Spread plan (previously titled 15 Days to Slow the Spread).

The document, also referred to as “The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America,” includes a list of recommendations for the general public as the coronavirus crisis continues to sweep through the nation. The document states things such as avoiding public settings (such as bars, restaurants,

shopping), working from home when possible, avoiding gatherings of people, and more.

Across the country, many states have put in place their own lockdowns and stay-at-home orders; while the federal government has faced a rapidly crashing economy and a demand for action among the states.

The federal government has been criticized for lacking a coherent and streamlined response to the COVID-19 crisis, and President Trump himself has faced criticism for pushing to reopen the country too soon. State

governors and citizens alike have chastised the Trump Administration’s response, citing a disconnect between the state and federal government.

The President has held regular press briefings at the White House in regards to the ongoing situation. In an April 13th press conference, the President alluded to the possibility of forcing governors to reopen their states for the purpose of the economy, citing “when somebody is the President of the United States, the authority is total and that’s the way it’s got to be... and the governors know that.”

In that same press conference Vice President Mike Pence, who was put in charge of the President’s Coronavirus task force, noted the extraordinary circumstances the nation is faced with, noting it is “the first time in American history when all fifty states have issued emergency declarations.”

“And fortunately... because the American people have heeded the President’s coronavirus Guidelines for America, because state governors have taken those and implemented them [with] additional measures as we provided them with data about cases and best practices, we’re making real progress as a country.”

In spite of concerns regarding the rapidly deteriorating economy, the President has instituted temporary bans on international travel as well as immigration to the United States. As a result, the airline industry among many others has suffered tremendous financial losses.

Government response to the virus outbreak has largely varied on a state by state basis. Many states have instituted their own business closure and stay-at-home orders, with the focus largely on New England as New York quickly became the virus epicenter in the United States.

While federal and state legislators work together to formulate a cohesive plan to reopen parts of the country, the United States Constitution subsequently leaves the act of “reopening” a state up to the state itself. Some states have already begun their process of reopening, even before meeting White House guidelines for when reopening is appropriate.

Governor of Georgia Brian Kemp has faced criticism both from his own state and nation-wide as he has gone forward



Typical Walmarts, once a familiar sight, now employing fences and sidewalk markers to encourage customers to keep distance from each other.



in reopening the state of Georgia; including reopening tattoo studios, salons, gyms, restaurants, and other businesses. Many point out this has come as Georgia has not met White House guidelines to reopen.

This criteria includes needing data in a state to show a consistent decline in a 14-day period of documented cases of COVID-19, positive tests of the virus, and a decline of flu-like illnesses being reported.

Many have criticized Georgia's push to open as one that favors the impacts of COVID-19 on their own economy over the dangers to public health. This comes as citizens in several states have held protests demanding that businesses reopen and imposed restrictions be lifted.

In contrast, there are some states who have ramped up their own restrictions. As CDC recommendations have now changed to promote the use of facemasks by healthy persons to reduce the spread of the virus,

many states have signed laws into place requiring citizens to wear face coverings in public; including Connecticut.

Governor Ned Lamont signed an executive order into law that stated "at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering."

Connecticut is among the list of New England states who have implemented strict guidelines during the crisis, and have been working collaboratively with regional legislators to formulate a cohesive and comprehensive plan to reopen.

Though the date is subject to change as deemed necessary, Connecticut has issued the following until May 20th: all in-person functions of non-essential business are prohibited, social and recreational gatherings of more than 5 are prohibited, public schools will remain closed, and stores that

are permitted to stay open are required to cap occupancy "at 50% capacity, and floor markings measuring 6 feet must be at checkout lines, among other items" (ct.gov).

Testing methods for COVID-19 have been improved upon and implemented throughout the country, but many argue the federal government has not done enough to make testing readily available to enough people.

As of April 26, Connecticut reported 25,269 cases of the coronavirus in Connecticut with 1,924 associated deaths. There have been 79, 811 people tested for the pathogen in Connecticut, a state with an estimated population of 3.5 million.

As the state struggles to keep up with the ongoing flood of unemployment claims and a strained healthcare system, local businesses have been forced to either close or adapt to the situation. Some restaurants, now permitted to only serve take-out, have gone as far as to offer delivery options with no minimum and no service fees.

The situation has put a strain on businesses large and small, and those effects have been felt nation-wide and in local communities as many town gatherings have been postponed or cancelled indefinitely, and town hall complexes closed to the public.

In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo has held regular press conferences regarding the situation that has been ongoing in the state, and naturally has been a prominent figure in the New England fight against the coronavirus. On Sunday April 26, Governor Cuomo unveiled the scaffolding of a coordinated reopening strategy for the state, approaching the conversation cautiously optimistic as new cases and deaths associated deaths in New York have begun to slowly decline.

The plan, dubbed "Reopening/ Reimagining," is a phase-based operation for gradually reopening businesses and functions within the state to be coordinated with surrounding states of the region. The plan calls on businesses in New York, and subsequently New England, to "get creative" in thinking how their operations can continue in a post-coronavirus world.

Citing the need for approach in the economic issues as well as the public health dangers, Cuomo's plan outlines the first phase of the reopening strategy would be restarting construction and manufacturing operations that are deemed to be low risk. After a two week period of evaluating whether or not improvement continues after the first phase, the plan would then move onto opening other businesses on a case by case basis.

Cuomo said whether or not a business would be reopened would need to be coordinated between the business itself and the government based on a businesses evaluation of certain criteria. This includes questions as to how essential the business is and how "risky is that business?" Cuomo said.

"If you reopen that business how much risk are you possibly incurring? [Businesses] will have to think about how they are going to reopen with this quote unquote 'new normal.' What precautions are they going to have in the workplace? What safe cards are they going to put in place?"

The governor again highlighted the importance of a coordinated response and reopening strategy among the states in the New England region by nature of the state's integrated commerce and workforce- which is why the plan also states no attractions in the state will reopen that might attract visitors.

Cuomo noted that some businesses pose questions that remain unanswered and will require creative solutions, such as sports that can be profitably played and broadcasted nationally "where you don't have to sell a seat," as well as what summertime activities can be done in a nation under quarantine.

"There's a sanity equation here also that we need to take into consideration," he said.

While some states cautiously begin the dialogue as to how and when they can begin to reopen, and some states begin lift restrictions entirely,



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there are still many questions as to the repercussions of the pandemic. Moreover, as data from the United States and other countries begins to suggest a sort of plateau of new cases, concerns are growing over what will happen when and if a second wave of the coronavirus emerges.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, veteran Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, has become a prominent face in the Trump Administration's coronavirus task force. Though the President has disagreed, Dr. Fauci has said it is likely we will experience a second wave in the Fall and to proceed with reopening with caution because "if we don't do that there is a likelihood that we'll have a rebound."

"And the one way not to reopen the economy is to have a rebound that we can't take care of...[it is likely] we will have coronavirus in the Fall. I am convinced of that because of the degree of transmissibility that it has- the global nature. What happens with that will depend on how we're able to contain it when it occurs. [In the fall] we will be much better prepared to do the containment compared to what happened to us this winter."

As the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, there are a plethora of questions that remain as to when daily life can begin to go back to normal, and what the "new normal" might look like on the other side of these strange times.

During these times, it is vital to remain up to date with information and recommendations from health officials surrounding COVID-19. To keep up with the most accurate and current information, go to [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), [who.int/coronavirus](https://www.who.int/coronavirus), or [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ct.gov/coronavirus).--



The TRCC Community has had a turbulent semester as classes were quickly moved to an online-only format.



# Trump Cuts WHO Funding

A look behind the cut

Story by Jerico Ciliano

On April 14, 2020, Donald Trump announced that the United States would no longer provide the World Health Organization (WHO) with funding.

The WHO is an agency from Geneva, Switzerland that specializes in international public health. The agency gathers its health objectives from national health policies and strategies. This means that they try to make an efficient plan that follows a country's cultures and beliefs.

The United States has been funding the WHO since 1948 and stopping now seems like an irrational idea. According to the World Economic Forum website, in 2019 the United States contributed over \$400 million to the WHO's budget. The United States made up 15% of the budget. The United States is the biggest single donor to WHO.

The WHO may lose progress on fighting COVID-19 because the United States stopped contributing money. The WHO puts funding towards medical equipment, vaccine trials, and distributes test kits. That is only a small list of what they put funding towards, but the ones listed above apply to this situation.

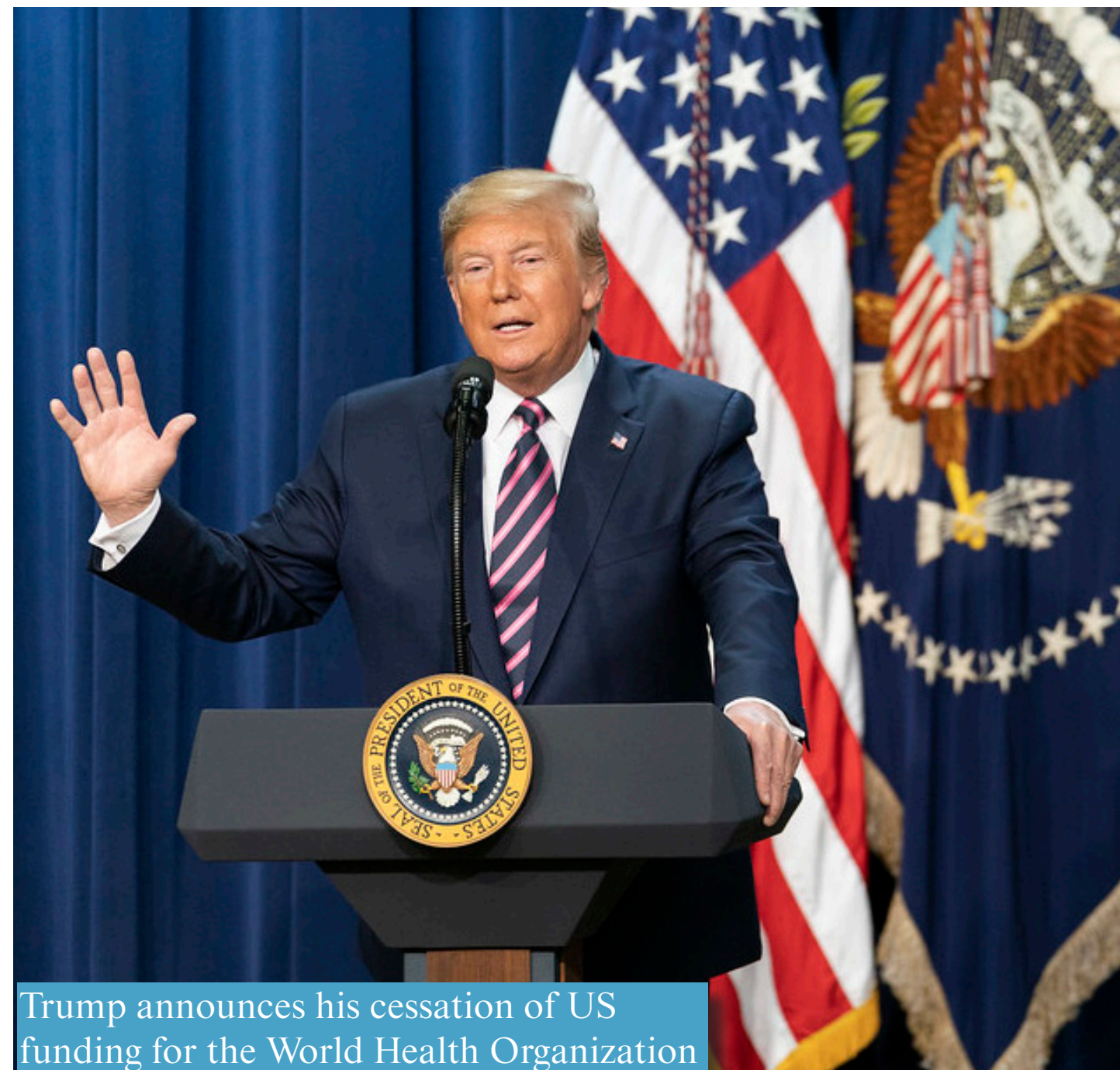
Trump came to this decision because he thought the WHO did not handle the early stages of the pandemic well. Since the virus

originated in Wuhan, China, the WHO put their attention on that region. Trump is also wary of trusting the WHO because he thought China was being favored by them. If the WHO is close with China, Trump believes that the communist government will influence the agency. He also suspects that China withheld information about the virus and wanted other countries to respond late to the virus.

Trump mentioned that he had a difficult time getting the WHO to impose traveling restrictions to China. The WHO was against the idea and said it was not necessary. The United States decided to impose them anyway, by doing this the United States is preventing people infected with COVID-19 to export the disease.

Trump said that the WHO was incompetently responding to the virus's threat and were downplaying it. The WHO failed to make information available to the public when China did not follow international health regulations.

Trump noticed that the WHO did not address China's responsibility for the spread of COVID-19. Pointing the finger at each other is not going to stop the spread of COVID-19. Differences should be put aside and countries should work together to eradicate this virus. Every country runs differently and has different beliefs, who is to say what is wrong or right?--



Trump announces his cessation of US funding for the World Health Organization

If you are interested in helping fund WHO visit: [covid19responsefund.org](https://covid19responsefund.org)

## HELP FIGHT CORONAVIRUS



# Delivery Services Experience Difficulties

Demand rises and services are unable to compensate

Story and Photos by John White

Following the events brought upon us by the Covid-19 virus we are in a dire situation. A situation where we are left with nowhere really to go and condemned to our homes.

With only grocery stores and few other essential places to go in this crisis, there are those who should stay home at all costs. Even if they are in drastic need for something from the store they should find someone to go for them (Family or close friend).

Cue in Peapod, a service that will hand deliver groceries to your home. They have experienced a huge increase in business since this pandemic started.

It has gotten out of control during these tough times of grocery shopping. Many people are experiencing delays and more specifically trouble getting a spot in the delivery queue.

Ruth Papazian spoke to Washington Post saying, "I've been refreshing the page like a maniac, like I'm trying to get tickets to a really hot concert — and no matter what, it doesn't work.". The 65 year old woman stays up till 1a.m trying to secure a spot.

The poor woman that shares a home with her 85 year old mother has been at this for the length of this quarantine so far and the longer it goes the more frustrating it becomes. Papazian added, "I don't know why I bother anymore".

This woman is on the brink of whether the wait is worth as she has been going through this for 4 weeks. The waiting list for grocery deliveries is crazy and just goes to show how much Peapod is getting slammed.

Unfortunately, Papazian is not the only person in the United States reporting week long waits. All over the country Peapod and other shipping companies are having these issues of supplying customers with their needs.

Delivery workers over the past couple of weeks have actually participated in a strike to protest the lack of protective gear and to ask for higher pay raises. Growing pressure and frustration from whether this will ever get better and how?

The system that is supposed to be the future of online shopping is beginning to ripple under the pressure of the heavy surge in demand. Workers and supplies are already on a scarce amount and the overflow of orders does not help any.

Every form of these delivery services has experienced slight hiccups in their service all over the country. Some parts are getting better slowly, but still need some work.

Instacart Founder Apoorva Mehta said, "The customer demand we expected over the next two to four years has happened on the Instacart platform in the last two to four weeks.". The virus really propelled them ahead of the projected sales they expected.

If anything the virus showed us that we there are a lot of small kinks to work out of this system. This is the future of all forms of shopping and just needs to be worked out a bit more.--



A peapod order waiting to be claimed by the orderer



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# TRCC Proffesor to be Published

A curriculum tailored textbook that gives back

Story by Chris Boyle  
Photos by Kevin Amenta

Good photography is well thought out, balanced, and time consuming with a course curriculum that is no different. For Professor Kevin Amenta, finding a textbook that encapsulates this has been a long search; so he decided to write it himself.

Professor Amenta is the Graphic Design Program Coordinator at Three Rivers Community College. Amenta, who recently celebrated the program's five year anniversary, has long searched for a textbook that was just the right fit for his classroom.

"As the Program Coordinator, we decide which books are going to be adopted for each course," he said. "I have been changing the photography book for quite a few years now in an attempt to find the perfect fit. It just wasn't out there so I decided I should just write my own."

The textbook, titled Digital Photography for the Classroom, will be implemented into the Digital Photography course - taught by Amenta himself - next Fall.

Professor Amenta had been in talks with Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, an educational publishing house, for about a year after a recommendation from a colleague. Now, he says the textbook is one chapter away from being completed, slated to be available in early August 2020 and immediately adopted into the curriculum that coming semester.

For many, national quarantine amid the COVID-19 Pandemic has been a time of anxiety and frustration, while also an unprecedented opportunity to chip away at projects that for years have been piling up on the to-do list. For Professor Amenta, this

newfound and "uncertain" time was a chance to sit down and put his thoughts, lessons, and exercises on a page that he otherwise would not usually have time for.

The idea behind the textbook has existed for some time, but did not fully come into fruition until the quarantine went into effect, and Three Rivers joined schools across the nation in closing campuses for the remainder of the semester. The Monday after Three Rivers closed their doors in light of the virus outbreak is when Amenta really got to work.

As the country, and really the world, was plunged into a sort of lockdown-limbo, schools across the nation were forced to move to an online-only format. While some educators had to scramble to make the shift from classrooms to video-chats and e-teaching in a matter of weeks, Professor Amenta's graphic design program was already almost completely online; making the situation easy, but still turbulent.

Amenta's program and the courses it parents as a whole has always embraced the online format, and his textbook will be no different. To keep costs down for students, the book will be offered digitally; in addition to a paperback version for students who would prefer a hard copy.

An avid photographer with decades in the practice,

the book uses Amenta's own words as well as images. In fact, he noted the most difficult part of the task was choosing which photos from his collection would make the cut to the text.

"Selecting photos is by far the hardest part about this because I have tens of thousands of photos. I wanted the photo examples to reflect what new photographers can realistically expect to capture and not intimidate them with unrealistic shots."

Some of Amenta's own students were enlisted to help provide specific photos and graphics that were needed to illustrate certain concepts in the book. Credits will be attributed to these students in the book's text.

Photography is an art, and a broad discipline at that. There are a multitude of factors that go into taking the perfect photo, and a plethora of genres/sub genres that are umbrellaed under the word "photography."

Amenta's curriculum is no different, covering a wide range of topics in the art of photo taking, and unifying a myriad of components that make up a photographer's

arsenal. It covers areas like portraits, macros, nature, night photography, and even delves into the editing component of photo-taking using the Adobe Photoshop program.

The course is a mix of lecture based lessons, in class tutorials, and hands on practice outside of the classroom. In creating his own book for the class, Amenta is able to tailor assignments and lesson plans more specifically to the corresponding text material.

Amenta said it has been challenging to find a sort of happy-medium book with "different genres of photography, good examples that students can go off, and Photoshop learning exercises. One book would be heavy on one but not on the other."

The book's publisher would naturally pocket a large portion of its sales, however, Amenta is using a percentage of the proceeds to help fund scholarships in the graphic design program. In effect, the book will not only be implemented into the program itself, but also be giving something back to it.

Moreover, Digital Photography for the Classroom may not remain exclusive to Three Rivers. There could be opportunities in the future for expanding on the content of the book as well as its reach.

"[If] Kendall Hunt markets it to other colleges and then they adopt it, then other colleges or maybe even high schools may end up using it as their textbook."

There is also the possibility of a "part-two" to the book because, per the publisher, Amenta is able to make graphic, photo, or text changes to the book every year.

For now, the first installment of textbooks authored by Amenta is well on its way and is expected to be implemented into the classroom as soon as this fall. Now, when it comes to photography, Kevin Amenta, quite literally, wrote the book.--



Professor Amenta's photography course even tackles more challenging areas, such as night photography.



# Dating During Doomsday

A look at dating experiences during a pandemic

Story and Photo by Ariana Cloutier

Dating when you aren't allowed to be within 6 feet of someone or leave the house.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused people across the globe to stay inside unless they have to go to the grocery store or are an essential worker.

This means, no movies, no restaurants, no night life.

Surely, not many people are finding the love of their life at the grocery store with a mask on from 6 feet away.

Although, maybe it is opening up the dating pool on sites like Tinder or OKcupid. People are bored in the house so, why not get to swiping.

"Well, I feel like I'm meeting more/better people online, because so many more people are on there now... but it's hard not to let things fizzle out with not being able to meet in-person - and not knowing how long it will be till that's a possibility. It's all very frustrating," Carissa Decelles of Norwich says.

Not being able to see people in person is the biggest struggle when it comes to dating currently.

Even if people are making connections, it is hard to keep that connection without the physical connection.

Many people are also away from their loved ones at this time due to not wanting to get infected. Especially if that loved one is an essential worker.

"Honestly it's been hard. My boyfriend is a front line worker in a hospital (biomed) and I'm high risk so we're most likely going to be isolating even past the pandemic lockdown lifts. Because he'll be exposed in the hospitals. Realistically we won't be able to physically connect until a vaccine, or until tests become more accessible," says Jessica Oddi.

All people are able to do right now for the face to face is video chatting and that seems to not be enough.

"Obviously we still text every day but I definitely miss the physical connection to him right now," Oddi says.

The best things for couples living together right now is to take advantage of the time they have together.

Go for a hike, have movie nights, do something fun while staying healthy.--



A couple taking a hike during quarantine



## River's Bed:

Kasey McCarthy Zarembo

Story and Photos by Tucker Noniewicz



Kasey McCarthy Zarembo is an Assistant to the Academic Dean at Three Rivers Community College. She came to Three Rivers in September of 2001.

### What are some services you provide Three Rivers?

In my role as Assistant to the Academic Dean, I provide leadership, administration, and planning for various Academic Division operations.

Some of the services I provide include preparation of the academic schedule; management of the Academic Division's space utilization, guidance in matters related to courses, programs, curriculum processes, and compliance with Academic policies, and assistance with strategic planning in support of Academic Division goals. Never a dull moment and I love it!

### How does your work impact the lives of Three Rivers students?

Each semester I work closely with the Academic Dean, department chairs and program coordinators to carefully plan an academic schedule that meets the needs of TRCC students. This rewarding work leads to students being able to access their needed classes, experience fewer cancellations, and advance to degree completion.

It also involves my maximizing room utilization each semester so that students are able to get the spaces they need for courses, clubs, and other college activities.

My oversight of Banner's course catalog information safeguards that students are alerted upon registration to needed prerequisite and co-requisite courses, which secures students' preparation for coursework along their college path.

### What is the most impactful change you've experienced at Three Rivers?

The most impactful change I've experienced at Three Rivers was the change in campus location many years ago, from the Mohegan site to our new building at this current location on New London Turnpike. The logistics of the move were far reaching, intensive, and were years in the making, but well worth the time and energy!

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With our switch in campus and building, our College has been able to expand our academic programs in a variety of ways, and to meet the educational needs of many more students in our region.

### Looking ahead, what excites you the most about the future of Three Rivers?

One of the things that excites me the most about the future of Three Rivers Community College is that we have more opportunities opening up technologically that will allow us to reach more students.

Just this past academic year we experimented with a new live/remote technology in one of our 21st century classroom spaces, a videoconferencing space.

It was a very successful pilot project and is leading to more faculty interest in teaching with live-remote technology, etc.

### How has being a staff member here at Three Rivers made an impact on you?

My career shift from a private university to Three Rivers Community College was a game-changer for me in life, as I finally was able to find my work niche. Each day I work for the College, and with every responsibility that I carry out in support of its mission, I find meaning in my work here, and as Rita Mae Brown once said, "to have meaningful work is a tremendous happiness."--





# Does Ibuprofen Worsen COVID-19?

A look into a rumor

Story by Bianca Lane

By now everyone has heard the rumors that some non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs can cause COVID-19 to be worse, or effect, non-effected people, more easily. The thing is, it's not true...yet.

While there are some good reasons for certain patients to avoid NSAIDs generally, there is no evidence that ibuprofen or other similar drugs will exacerbate the disease. Instead, this whole thing is simply a hypothesis that has not been tested.

This whole rumor started with comments from the French health minister, Olivier Véran, who on March 14th, sent out a tweet that taking anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen

"could be a factor in worsening the infection." He advised people with fevers to take paracetamol, the European name for acetaminophen, or Tylenol, instead.

He also suggested that people already taking anti-inflammatories should consult with their doctors.

However days before that on March 11th, a letter was published in a British medical journal called 'The Lancet Respiratory Medicine', which had theorized that ibuprofen could make it easier for the new coronavirus, to enter cells. There could also be positive effects of NSAIDs on the virus.

After an initial news report that a World Health Organization spokesman endorsed the



Olivier Véran @olivierveran · Mar 14

⚠️ #COVID — 19 | Taking anti-inflammatory drugs (ibuprofen, cortisone, ...) could be a factor in worsening the infection. If you have a fever, take paracetamol. If you are already on anti-inflammatory drugs or in doubt, ask your doctor for advice.

1.4K

42.9K

40.1K



French health minister, Olivier Véran, tweets about taking Ibuprofen

recommendation to avoid ibuprofen, the WHO clarified that it did not advise "against the use of ibuprofen."

The WHO said in a tweet on March 18th, that it is in consultations with doctors treating COVID-19 patients, it has not heard of any negative effects of ibuprofen beyond its known side effects and that it "is not aware of published clinical or population-based data on this topic."

Other medical groups and health agencies, such as the European Medicines Agency also chimed in, repeating that there is not any evidence linking the worsening of COVID-19 symptoms to ibuprofen.

For example, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, or NIAID, said in a statement that more research is needed, but they're currently

is "no evidence that ibuprofen increases the risk of serious complications or of acquiring the virus that causes COVID-19."

Still, some governments are advising against ibuprofen for COVID-19 patients or recommending other medicines. England's National Health Service, for instance, acknowledges that there is "currently no strong evidence" that ibuprofen can worsen COVID-19 symptoms, but recommends acetaminophen for people treating COVID-19 "until we have more information."

So how true is the concern? Experts told us that it's possible ibuprofen could have a negative effect on COVID-19 patients, but it's purely hypothetical at this point.--

The World Health Organization addresses the Ibuprofen rumor



World Health Organization (WHO) @WHO · Mar 18

Q: Could #ibuprofen worsen disease for people with #COVID19?

A: Based on currently available information, WHO does not recommend against the use of of ibuprofen.

At present, based on currently available information, WHO does not recommend against the use of of ibuprofen. We are also consulting with physicians treating COVID-19 patients and are not aware of reports of any negative effects of ibuprofen, beyond the usual known side effects that limit its use in certain populations. WHO is not aware of published clinical or population-based data on this topic.

Could ibuprofen worsen disease for people with COVID-19?



#coronavirus

18 March 2020

402

7.6K

8.5K



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The normal, over the counter Ibuprofen circular tablets





# The Current Staff Members Speculate on Post-COVID Society

What lies beyond these uncertain times

Stories by:

**Chris Boyle**

**Jerico Ciliano**

**Ariana Cloutier**

**Bianca Lane**

**John White**

**Politics**

**Economics**

**Social**

**Education**

**Entertainment**

## Forward: Chris Boyle

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has caused a complete disruption of daily life on a global scale. As the weeks of national quarantine have quickly turned into months, there are many questions left unanswered as to where we as a society go from here and what lies ahead in a post-coronavirus pandemic world.

Schools and businesses deemed nonessential are still closed, town functions and gatherings of people are still prohibited, restrictions have been ramped up, unemployment is reaching record highs, the nation's economy has all but disintegrated, and several states have passed legislation requiring facemasks.

As the engines of the world have come to a halt (seemingly overnight), the United States has joined the rest of the world in the dark as to the repercussions this pandemic will have on our society, and whether we can expect "social distancing" to follow us to the end of the tunnel.

New cases of COVID-19 in the United States as well as the number of deaths have slowly begun to decline, and though health officials remain cautiously optimistic they warn that lifting restrictions too early can leave the country worse for wear. As the healthcare system across the country continues to be pushed to its limits, a nation who has been tasked with staying home for months at a time is now left to ask: What comes next?

It is important to remind ourselves that while some states in the country are opening up gyms, beaches, movie theaters, and other businesses- such as Georgia -we are not free from the terrors of COVID-19 yet. Experts have warned that it is likely the virus will have a second wave and will surely make a resurgence in the fall, and that we must begin to gradually and "creatively" think of ways to reopen parts of the country that have been hardest hit.

Nevertheless, as a relative break in the

May 6, 2020 / Issue 12

storm appears to be occurring, the question posed by legislators, business owners, and the entirety of the American people is shifting from "When will we reopen?" to a matter of "How will we reopen?"

Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York began the dialogue regarding a post-coronavirus world during one of his daily press conferences, of which have been watched nation-wide on a regular basis as his state has become the country's epicenter. The phased plan, dubbed "Reopening/Reimagining," is really more of framework on how Cuomo and other New England governors of neighboring states can begin to move forward and slowly reopen their economies.

Cuomo cited that legislators will have to work with businesses on a case by case basis, and businesses will be charged with finding creative solutions to how they can reopen and how "risky is that business."

The nation has been hard hit, and there is no easy solution. The coronavirus has caused a complete disruption of daily life, and in order to move forward a two way dialogue must exist between the people and legislators as we work to imagine what our "new normal" will be, and speculate the ripple effect these historic times will have on our nation.--



The United States of America has overcome trials and tribulations throughout its history, and it will again. But what will change in our society when COVID-19 is defeated?



# Politics and COVID-19

Presidential election years are by nature turbulent and relatively “uncertain” times for our nation. This year especially, after dozens of democrats had thrown their hat into the ring to run against sitting President Donald J. Trump, the average constituent likely has felt what can only be described as a “political whip-lash” of sorts.

President Trump’s term has been clothed by a plethora of media coverage and almost as much controversy, having been impeached by the Democratic led House of Representatives in late 2019. As news outlets across the nation followed the saga from its very beginnings, and to its subsequent finale with Trump’s January acquittal by the Senate, all the while the coronavirus situation across the globe in Wuhan, China quickly spiraled out of control.

Some months later, we find ourselves in the midst of election season with only two clear frontrunners, President Trump (R.) and former Vice President Joe Biden, and yet it does not quite feel like an election year. Since entering a National State of Emergency in response to the situation, per a Proclamation signed by Trump on March 13th, the nation has seen a conspicuous lack of public campaign events or even typical Trump rallies.

Connecticut is among several states that has opted to delay their primary elections until such a time when the virus

situation has begun to hopefully subside.

Amid the rapidly escalating situation, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders dropped out of the presidential race on April 8 leaving Joe Biden as the presumable Democratic Primary. As new legislation began to be passed, and talks of government stimulus checks emerged, Sanders’ focus shifted from campaigning to passing immediate crisis relief efforts in the Senate.

The once booming economy has continued to nose dive (with some experts warning of a recession unlike anything this generation has seen), along with a rapidly rising unemployment rate corresponding to business closures across the country. Among other political issues, legislators (and candidates) must now work with health officials and business owners directly to form a cohesive and safe plan to reopen and reset the country.

Some have raised the concern that, given the tumultuous circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 crisis, the Trump Administration would be interested in delaying the 2020 Presidential Election entirely. Despite such speculation, however, the process for doing so is as lengthy as it is unlikely.

Delaying a presidential election would require an act of



Trump’s presidency has been marred by controversy and even an impeachment trial, but decorated with a once booming economy.



Congress, not the President. By the United States Constitution, the President is elected every four years on the first Tuesday of November, and their term ends on January 20th following an election year.

The Twentieth Amendment of the United States Constitution (Section 1) states:

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

The Constitution, in short, says there would need to be a majority vote in both the House and the Senate in order to delay a presidential election. Congressional action of this caliber is very unlikely, not to mention the House is under a Democratic majority and the Senate controlled by Republicans; even in these most “uncertain” of times.

However unlikely, in the event that an election were to be delayed by circumstances coronavirus related or otherwise, provisions in the Constitution state a sitting president’s term would still expire on January 20th at the end of his 4 years. If an election were to be postponed and a president’s term were to expire, there is subsequently a line of succession that would come into play.

Vice President Mike Pence, though second in line, would not be eligible to take the Oval Office per the same section of the Constitution that would render Trump’s authority inoperative. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, would also be ineligible because the majority leader’s term expires in December of 2020.

Through the line of succession, in this highly unlikely scenario the next eligible President of the United States would be Chuck Grassely of Iowa- president pro tempore of the United States Senate.

The virus outbreak could very well disrupt normal proceedings of the election process, and mainly in-person functions, but the possibility of it being postponed are slim.

Moreover, it is important to note that per the Twenty-Second Amendment, a person is limited to being elected to the Presidential Office twice; two four-year terms.

This amendment was ratified after the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the president who saw the nation through the Great Depression as well as the majority of World War II, was elected to four consecutive terms. Roosevelt died a few months after his reelection into his fourth term.

Roosevelt, however, is a prime example of the nature of presidential elections in the United States during “uncertain times.” Historically speaking, during times of national crisis, such as the one we now find ourselves in, rarely if ever is the nation ready or willing to have a transition of power.

In a National State of Emergency the federal government is empowered to impose legislation and enact certain policies as deemed necessary that would otherwise not normally be permitted. This is often equated to a concept of Roman law called justitium, where (by some definitions) there is a “cessation of judicial and all public business, due to national calamity” (latin-dictionary.net).

In today’s world, we might equate it to a more familiar phrase: “Desperate times call for desperate measures.”

During one of President Trump’s daily coronavirus press conferences, the President controversially said that his “authority is total” over the states, and specifically in the current crisis. While not entirely true, per the US Constitution, Vice President Pence followed up the statement and said:

“This is an unprecedented time in the life of the nation...[M]ake no mistake about it. In the long history of this nation, the authority of the President of the United States during national emergencies is unquestionably penary.”

President Trump does not have the authority to postpone a Presidential Election, and he does not have



In-person functions will surely see a disruption this election year, leaving voting future uncertain (Photo by Unsplash)

“total” authority over the States, per the Constitution. He does, however, have a rather eye-opening amount of leeway regarding his powers and legislation during times of national crisis.

Even some actions taken by President Lincoln during the time of the Civil War can, through a certain historical lense, be deemed downright criminal (such as suspending habeas corpus and imposing martial law). Throughout his time, in fact, Lincoln was largely disliked in Washington and around the country and yet, even in spite of criticisms for his handling of a nation in crisis, won re-election.

Having invoked the Defense Production Act, deployed the National Guard, and at the helm of the federal government during this ongoing crisis, Trump is right in a sense that he is a “wartime president.” These actions do look similar to wartimes in history, though our soldiers are wearing a different uniform and our enemy wears a much different face.

These are historical times, even more so than a typical election year. Whether or not voters think the sitting president has what it takes to piece the nation back together when the smoke settles might not be the issue, but instead if they think they are ready for a new face

in the Oval Office.

If we entertain the scenario that President Trump is in fact re-elected, then he and his administration would be charged with not just putting the nation’s economy back together, but essentially an overhaul of the structure of the entire country. In some ways, government fail-safes in the economy that date back to the New Deal, put in place by the Roosevelt Administration, were burnt up in a matter of days as the COVID-19 pandemic began to ravage the nation.

These are turbulent, and yes, “uncertain” times and the American people need more than to go back to work; they need to have their faith restored.

During times of national crisis the American people are not usually willing to have a transition of power, but whether or not the Trump Administration is occupying the White House come January 20th, 2021, history will remember the faces of change. A post-coronavirus world must be a world of change.--



# Economy and COVID-19

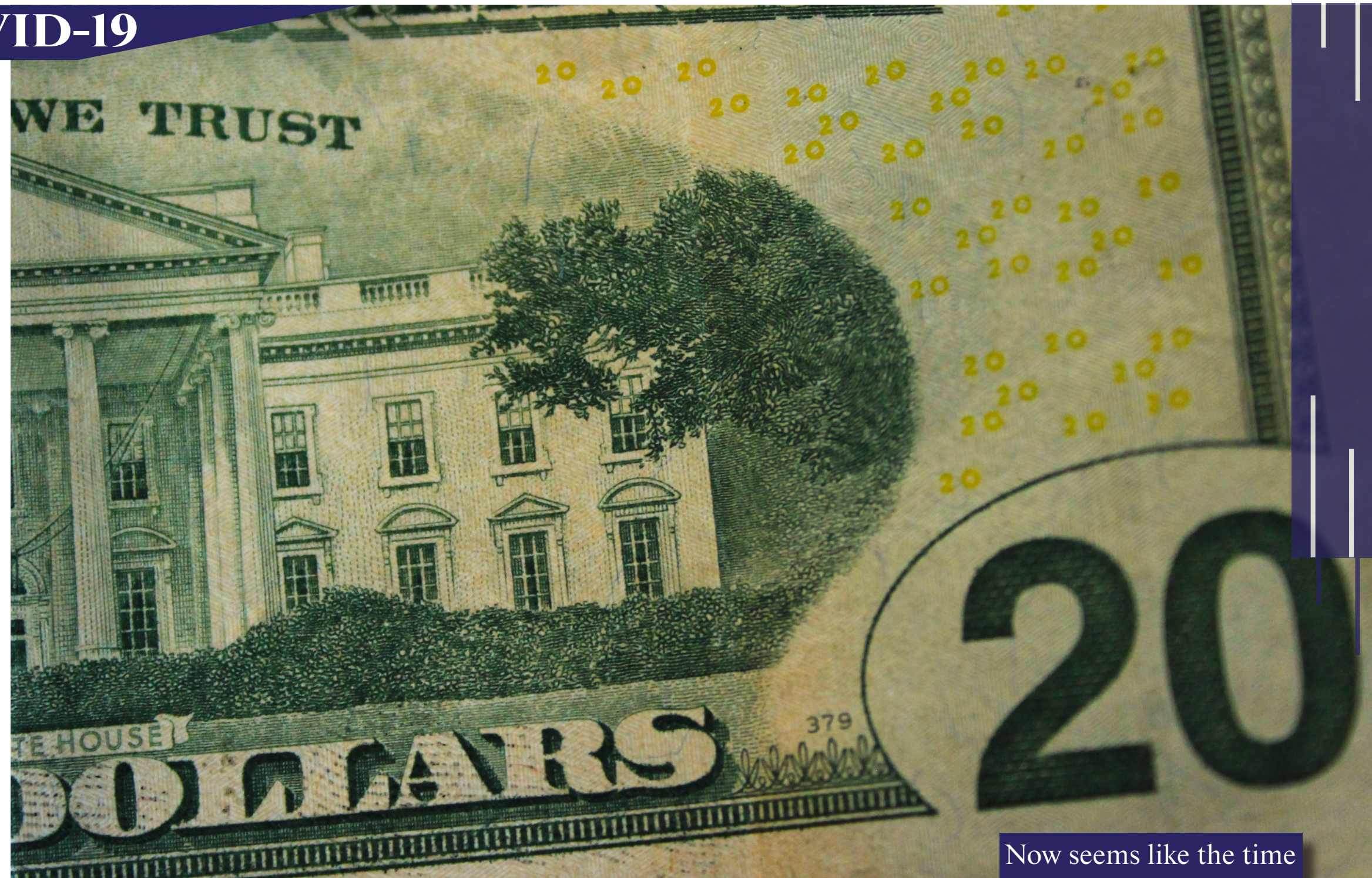
Economy is a system set up to provide the production and consumption of goods to fulfill needs of people that are living and working within the economy. The coronavirus is interrupting our everyday lives. To enforce social distancing Connecticut has closed nonessential businesses and schools have gone online. With nonessential businesses being temporarily closed a lot of American have filed unemployment.

As of April 30, the National Public Radio (NPR) reported 30 million people have filed for unemployment. Most businesses could not keep paying their employees while their doors are closed. The congress decided on increasing the payments to \$600 per week through July. This is provided to gig workers and self-employed people as well. Unfortunately, with a large amount of people applying for unemployment the system is overwhelmed and slowed down.

The New York Times stated in an article, over 16 million people were out of work in the past three weeks in April. The virus has unfolded a large amount of problems in such a short time. Since people have a limited income, they will carefully choose what to spend money on. Monthly bills, payments, loans, and groceries will become priorities. There will probably be a drop in leisure shopping. For example, people go to Foxwoods to gamble, eat at restaurants, attend concerts, and go shopping in the Tanger Outlets. There is a huge economic loss in just that one area.

The economy will most likely struggle to bounce back post COVID-19. Consumers and employees might have a difficult time going back to their daily lives. This virus is making people socially distance themselves, wear masks, and use disinfectants daily. If the government said that it is safe to go about our lives normally, will the virus still be present? The government only has so much control, it seems like it would be difficult to track exactly where the virus would show up.

James O'Shea, Assistant Professor of Marketing and Business at Three Rivers, gave his thoughts on the economy post COVID-19. O'Shea said, "The CT



economy depends a lot on the defense industry, which remains open, but it also depends on tourism, entertainment and events, and even gambling. Even if these things were allowed to open back up, consumer behavior is likely to change and not as many people are likely to go out to crowded events and venues, even beaches."

Electric boat is a company that builds submarines for our military. There are subcontractors who make parts, supply materials, and equipment for Electric Boat. A lot of people are employed in that large industry.

O'Shea said it is difficult to predict but he believes the recovery will take time. O'Shea believes that it could take anywhere from 6 months to 2 years for

the economy to be firing on all cylinders. The breakthrough in the treatment of the virus would mostly speed up the recovery time.

Once a viable treatment is made available to the public, people will become more comfortable leaving their house for things like shopping, travel, dine in restaurants, and other activities. The consequences of COVID-19 on our economy are not fully

Now seems like the time to start saving money.

know, but by remaining patient and determined our nation has the potential to bounce back as it has before.--



# Society and COVID-19

Coming off of quarantine things are bound to change within society, socially.

Speculation shows that many people will stop doing normal things such as handshakes and the usual greetings such as even hugging.

This pandemic has given humanity a whole new kind of perspective on giving people space and social distancing.

“I think society will be different, jobs will change, telecommuting and telehealth will become more of an option, stores and restaurants will be less plentiful, and other industries will prosper; grocery & online stores & technological industries, in particular,” Rhonda Spaziani, Psychology Instructor at TRCC and Licensed Professional Counselor says.

Many people are home alone during this time and it can be very jarring for mental health.

“As individuals, I think we have struggled with staying in the present and in our own company. This has forced us to take a pause, reevaluate, miss our loved ones and friends in ways we obfuscate with our more “traditional”, busy lifestyles,” Spaziani says

A major hope in this will be that families will become more connected during quarantine and understand the importance of having people who are close to you when times get rough.

This is not an easy time for anyone and there are many changes that will need to be changed to succeed going forward in the outside world. Socially, many businesses and professionals will need to have new business practices to ensure that people are safe.

Right now places like grocery stores have guards up at the cash registers, while that may seem cold or harsh to humans in a social manner, it is what has to be done for the safety of humanity.

“Education will be more important than ever, particularly in health and technology fields. Front-line workers will require retraining, and the community college is particularly well suited to provide those educational opportunities,” Spaziani says.--



The now quiet Mystic Boardwalk will soon become full again.

“SOCIAL”

6 FT A PART



DISTANCING



# Education and COVID-19

In a matter of weeks, coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed how students are educated around the world. Those changes give a glimpse of how education could change in the long run.

As more and more schools shut down, the more students and educational institutions have to find ways to keep learning and keeping up on their studies. This has to lead to almost every student in the world to start doing school at home.

These changes no doubt caused some kind of inconvenience, but they also created new examples of how education can evolve.

Unfortunately, it is too early to judge how COVID-19 will affect education systems, as many school districts are taking it month by month, there are signs suggesting that it could have a lasting impact on learning advance

and digitalization.

COVID-19 has become a catalyst for educational institutions worldwide to search for innovative solutions in a relatively short period of time to change the slow pace of centuries-old, lecture-based approaches to teaching and classrooms.

In February to help slow the virus' spread, students in Hong Kong started to learning at home, via interactive apps. In China, over 120 million students have gotten access to learning material through live television broadcasts.

Worldwide all kinds of solutions have popped up to help continue education. In fact for some schools, for physical education, students are to shoot and send over their own videos of athletic training and sports to their teachers as "homework," pushing students to learn new digital skills.

"While the sports exercise took a few minutes, my son spent three hours shooting, editing, and sending the video in the right format to his teacher." a student's parent said.

While this may be all and good, that doesn't account for students that don't have access to a computer or any technology really.

Most schools in affected areas are finding quick solutions to continue teaching, but the quality of learning is heavily dependent on digital access. After all, only around 60% of the globe's population is online.

While virtual classes on personal tablets may be the norm in Hong Kong, many students in less developed economies rely on lessons and assignments sent via email.

Unfortunately, those students without or have trouble with using technology will further be left behind. When classes transition online, these children lose out because of the cost of digital devices and data plans.

Unless access costs decrease and the quality of access increase in all countries, the gap in education quality, and socioeconomic equality will widen. The digital divide could become more extreme if educational access is dictated by access to the latest technologies.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of building resilience to face various threats, be it pandemics or advancing technology.

The pandemic also reminds people that students need many skills in this world such as informed decision making, creative problem solving, and adaptability. --

# Entertainment and COVID-19

A new year brings new seasons of your favorite sports, blockbuster movies, games, and countless other media that people absorb for entertainment. 2020, however, has brought a cloud of uncertainty on the scene across all media as the COVID-19 pandemic situation continues to unfold.

When concerns over the coronavirus started picking up, there were rumors of having sports with no fans in the audience was floating around in the air. Then the unexpected happened.

The NBA followed by the NHL suspended their seasons. A few days passed and the NCAA canceled their March Madness tournament, and the rest slowly went after that.

Soon after the rules started to affect the different venues more and more as the max number of people began to dwindle. Casinos, bowling alleys, and arenas all over the U.S began to shut down until further notice.

We had entered a dark time in this generation and no one really did not know how to handle it. No sports, no where to go, really not much of anything was happening.

Many people will never be able to look at a crowd of 10 or more the same way, nevermind close-quarter public spaces. Slubs, concerts, arena sports, and large events of any kind will have a different feel all together at the end of the pandemic.

No one will want to touch or be within touching distance of somebody. There will be a lot of adaptations to be made if anything is to change, but it will be a long time before that happens.

At a press conference done by Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, he addressed the sports situation in New York. Cuomo states, "We want to bring sports back, right? So that there's an activity that people can watch on TV".

Television has taken a huge loss during this time, though they show old games from the last few decades. It is not the same as broadcasting games with stars of today. New York's Governor wants the people to experience that, but when it becomes safe to do so.

Gov. Cuomo adds, "What sports can you do without an audience? What sports can you make work economically, where you don't have to sell a seat in the stadium or the arena". Getting sports back on television is one part of the battle, there is still the aspect of what the organizations will do to keep up financially.

There will be a long time before we will see audiences at sporting events again. What is there for these venues to do in order to make money? They still have salaries to keep and players and staff to pay.

There are men and women who work their entire lives for a chance to entertain large crowds. How are they going to be able to sell out shows after the dust on this virus settles?

People will be scared to walk within range of other people, nevermind an arena filled with an audience. The music industry will need to make adjustments accordingly and figure new ways to get into the groove of things.

Tommy De La Cruz, a employee of Mohegan Sun Event Security, said after the virus he worries we will "devolve



A student trying to keep up with her education while surviving COVID-19



[back] into the same things [public habits] we always did before.” Referring to how we will just in the beginning take it very seriously and just as time progresses forward we would fall back into the swing of how it was before the virus outbreak. Some people do not learn or care not to change,” De La Cruz added.

One of the more impacted entertainment giants that was hit hard by this pandemic has to be the movie theater. Since this began there have been many straight to On Demand movies thus resulting in select Movie theaters cutting ties with some studios.

That will be heavy when this all comes to an end, will they hold this stance or go on to slowly show their movies again once the time is right.

Lots of questions will be answered when this virus turns the corner. Whenever that will be the only logical thing for us to do is stay inside and find other ways to preoccupy ourselves.

Play video games, watch movies on demand, go outside with your pet or family. It would be better to be active, for example go on a walk somewhere and wear a mask and stay away from others. Take the precautions and we will fight through this and be better in no time.--



Open air sports like basketball, are also a good outlet for pent up energy



Video game consoles are one way to provide yourself a distraction in this lockdown

## In Closing: Current Staff

It will not be easy, or even possible, to reopen to the America we lived in three months ago. COVID-19 has done more than just halt our factories and ravage the nation's healthcare system; it has left a deep wound in our country that will have social, economic, and political repercussions for years to come.

For many generations who are living through this time, it is an unsettling feeling to realize we are living through a turning point in history. We will not know right away whether we have done enough in fighting the virus; only whether we have done all we could have.

When the smoke clears, the word “coronavirus” begins to become more scarce in the media, the masks finally come off, and we all go back to “normal” the world might be very different than what we remember pre-pandemic. COVID-19 has revealed major faults in the foundation of the country, while in many cases bringing out the best in its people.

As the future remains as uncertain as ever, as a nation we must look to each other for support and dialogue as we all in one way or another try to navigate through these tough times, as well as the long road of recovery that still lies ahead.--



# Sonic Through the Ages

How did the blue blur come about

Story by Bianca Lane

August 14th, 1989 having spent the better half of the decade releasing game after game, it was clear that the gaming market belonged to the one and only Nintendo. Not that they didn't have any competition, of course.

There were a number of different consoles released in the 1980s that had attempted to steal Nintendo's title of number one. Those consoles, of course, including the Atari 7800 and the SEGA master system.

While initially, the SEGA master system was successful in some places, the system has been long forgotten for numerous reasons.

One of those reasons being, the competition was too intense, which isn't hard to see. After all the system had to compete with the likes Mario, Zelda, and Metroid, with SEGAs Alex Kid, Fantasy star, and the original Kings Quest, they were completely outmatched by the competition.

Speculation has it that the reason the system failed was SEGA themselves, but as the era of 8-bit gaming came to a close, SEGA was determined to create their place as a gaming market competitor, as 4th generation gaming consoles started coming out.

SEGA was able to get a leg up on Nintendo with the 16-bit gaming system the SEGA Genesis, which was called the Mega Drive in Europe. As it was a new generation of consoles, with better technology the graphics advanced as well.

The release of the SEGA Genesis had SEGA targeting an older age, rather than the younger ages like Nintendo was. Because of this, the console had so success to a point, but SEGA knew to become the gaming markets head honcho, they had to take out the current head.

To do this SEGA started to develop a new game and mascot to compete with Super Mario and Nintendo.

On June 23rd, 1991 the fruits of SEGAs labor came to show, with the release of the SEGA Genesis exclusive, Sonic the Hedgehog.

In the game, like most Sonic games, the player takes on the character of Sonic, a blue anthropomorphic Hedgehog who runs and jumps through levels in order to save animals before they are turned into robots by the evil Dr. Robotnik.

The gameplay and storyline were simple, and with that was some of the most detailed visuals seen at the time.

But what made Sonic truly stand out among the rest, was the emphasis on speed. Back then, save files were little to none, so the player had to beat the game in one sitting or start all over.

Players would play the first few levels trying to memorize them and be able to speed through it to advance further. To solve this, Yuji Naka took that concept and implemented it into Sonics development.

Instead of the player having to press a speed button, like most games back then, Sonic gradually gained speed the longer he ran. Because of this, the game had multiple routes a player could go, based on their success of making it to the higher paths, and punishing those who

messed up and had to go to the lower routes with enemies, spikes, and traps.

This speed based design with Sonics demeanor mixed with the SEGA Genesis's processing power is what brought the game and console to the top of the gaming market. Nintendo was months away from releasing its own 16-bit console and Mario game, so SEGA had a headstart in the game.

Over the course of the early 1990s, Sonic saw many sequels, all of which introduced new mechanics and new characters. Including, but not limited to Sonic the Hedgehog 2 and three, Sonic CD, and Sonic and Knuckles, all being released between 1992 to 1994.

Sonic 2 introduced Tail, aka Miles Prower, and the iconic Spin Dash move. Sonic CD was a release for the Genesis add-on, the SEGA CD,



Congratulations! you won the game!



and introduced time travel and Amy Rose and Metal Sonic.

Sonic 3 and Sonic & Knuckles introduced the Red Echidna Knuckles, with Sonic & Knuckles making him playable with unique abilities. Interestingly enough, these two games were meant to be one game, but SEGA didn't have the budget.

While released separately, a player could insert Sonic 3 into Sonic & Knuckles before inserting it into the console to make Knuckles a playable character in Sonic 3.

Between 1991 and 1996 over a dozen different Sonic spinoff games were released for most if not all of SEGAs consoles on the market. Pinball, puzzle, racing games you name it.

Though only being on the market for five years, Sonic had enough games to stand-up against Nintendo and it's beloved Red clad Plumber, who is no longer a plumber. Many of these games being formatted for other consoles over the years.

Some of these games were great others... not so much. But, the 16-bit that brought Sonic his moment of glory, was on its way out, to make way for 5th generation consoles, that ditched 2D pixels in favor of the new and exciting world of 3D polygons.

By then the SEGA Saturn had only been out for a year, and the competition already had moved to 3D games. So SEGAs Sonic Team had to think of a way to bring Sonic to 3D.

They tried a couple of different approaches, at one point teaming up with the developer's Travelers trails, including Sonic 3D Blast and Sonic R in 1996 and 1997.

Sonic 3D Blast was a pseudo isometric 3D viewpoint, that had slippery controls and maze-like levels. Sonic R, on the other hand, was a fully 3D racing game, that will well-liked at first, has since been heavily criticized.

The next try was Sonic Xtreme, which was never released, as the project was cancelled after several

development issues and negative responses from SEGA higher-ups. Because of this, the SEGA Saturn failed without having a Sonic game to its name.

But that didn't stop them, as SEGA came better prepared for the next console release, The Dreamcast. The first truly 3D Sonic game, Sonic Adventure was released September 9th, 1999, as an action-adventure game where the player could be Sonic, Knuckles, Tails, or Amy, as well as Big the Cat and E-102 Gamma.

Each character came with their own story campaign and unique gameplay that went from high-speed 3D platforming and ... fishing strangely enough.

Sonic Adventure was a hit, becoming the best-selling game on the Dreamcast and having two sequels.

Sonic Adventure two, is a well-known game, still loved today. But before its release, SEGA teamed up with the company SNK, to release Sonic Pocket Adventure. A classic 2D style platform, exclusive to the SNK Neo Geo pocket color, the very first none SEGA console release of a Sonic game. Which become pretty common as the Dreamcast lost popularity and was discontinued due to the PS2 and Xbox.

After the Dreamcast failed SEGA started focusing on 3rd party development instead of consoles. Sonic Adventure 1 and 2 then saw a new release on the Nintendo Gamecube of all things.

Since going multiplatform, Sonic has gone all over the place... in-home consoles at least, as handhelds have kept it old school since 2002, thanks to the Sonic advance Trilogy, Sonic rush games, and Sonic rivals.

That's not to say that there weren't a couple of experiments along the way such as The Gameboy advances, Sonic Battles, and the Nintendo DS Sonic Chronicles: The Dark Brotherhood. But most are 2D platforms just



The first Sonic game on the Mastercast



like the SEGA Genesis console games.

The home consoles, however, have had major ups and downs since the early 2000s.

The Sonic Team experimented with many different types of gameplay. There was the 2004 Sonic Heroes, revolving around team-based gameplay, and 2005's Shadow the Hedgehog, in an attempt to make the Sonic series edgier through introducing guns to the Sonic universe.

The experimenting got so bad, that SEGA just scrapped everything and rebooted the entire series to celebrate Sonics' 15th anniversary. This all came together with the infamous glitch-ridden and unfinished game, that every sonic fan knows by now, that's right Sonic 06.

Sonic 06 is now known as one of the worst games of all time with average ratings being a 4.6 out of 10. Needless to say, SEGA's reboot utterly failed and almost killed the entire Sonic the Hedgehog franchise.

After the disaster of Sonic 06, SEGA continued to release Sonic games almost every year, still not knowing what to really do with the Blue blur.

Released on February 20th, 2007 for the Nintendo Wii, Sonic and the Secret Rings, was a game similar to Temple Run, just with an Arabian nights theme. The game had average reviews and had spiritual successors with Sonic Mobile games Sonic Dash and Sonic Dash 2: Sonic Boom and a sequel in 2009 as Sonic and the Black Knight.

Sonic and the Black Knight, places Sonic in the time of King Arthur and

gave Sonic a sword. It didn't do much better than Sonic and the Secret Rings.

But between those games, SEGA released Sonic Unleashed for the PS2, PS3, Xbox 360, and Nintendo Wii, in 2008. This game was split between the normal fast-paced, 3D platform where the player plays as Sonic during the day and a hack and slash action level as Sonic the Warehog during the night.

The reviews varied by the console for this game, but the games day mode showed what Sonic could have in the future if expanded upon. This is shown throughout the next few games.

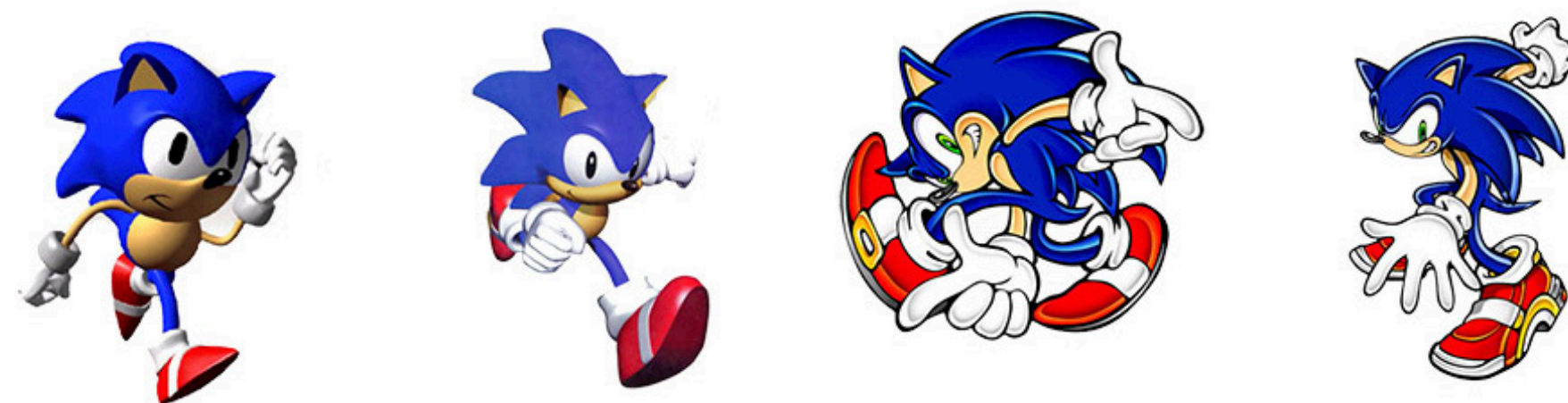
Sonic Team spent the early 2010's bringing Sonic back to his roots, starting in October of 2010 with the release of Sonic the Hedgehog 4, episode one. Sonic 4 was a short throwback to the SEGA genesis's Sonic the Hedgehog 1-3 with its style and planned to have three episodes. Unfortunately, only two were released.

But that wasn't the big one for 2010, no, that was a month later with the release of Sonic Colors for the Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS. The two versions varied, with the DS being more like Sonic Rush, while the Wii was the true return of Sonic the Hedgehog to form.

The Wii versions took the traditional platforming from Unleashed and expanded and refined them into many creative and beautiful worlds. Colors also released new power-ups in



## THE EVOLUTION OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG OVER 25 YEARS







## Sonic Adventure 2 is widely accepted as the best Sonic game

the form of aliens known as wisps, that have reappeared in many other games since then.

Sonic colors were the most positively reviewed Sonic games since Sonic Adventure 2 and went on to sell millions of copies worldwide.

Then came Sonic's 20th Anniversary, worrying many as the last anniversary resulted in Sonic 06. So, in November 2011, Sonic Generations was released for the Nintendo 3DS, PS3, Xbox 360, and PC.

The situation was pretty similar to Sonic colors, as the handheld was more like a Sonic rush, but the Console version was praised as one of the best Sonic games in

years.

The game was a huge celebration for Sonics' entire history, as every level was from one of Sonics' most notable titles, with new life with HD graphics. This game was split between the Genesis styled 2D act and the modern Sonic Colors 3D act.

So the player could play classic zones that could be played in both 3D and 2D.

By then Opinions for the Sonic Series started to change, with fans being ecstatic at its revival.

The next three games were released exclusively to Nintendo Consoles, as per a mutual deal between the two companies.

These games included Sonic Lost World, which was released on October 29th, 2013, for Wii U and 3DS. This game appeared to draw inspiration from the Super Mario Galaxy series, and the canceled Sonic Extreme with different level designs.

This game introduced the parkour system and the run button to the Sonic Series. This game also had the most ranged ratings going from 4 out of 10 to an 8 out of 10.

The 3DS version was also the first full handheld 3D version. It was also later available for PC.

In October of 2013, it was announced the Sonic Team would team up with french production company OuiDO to create the next Sonic cartoon, known as Sonic Boom.

Because of the contract with Nintendo, SEGA planned to release a set of games based on the Sonic Boom cartoons. The only thing, these projects were not to be developed by Sonic Team.

Instead, it was outsourced to third-party developers with Sonic Team watching them. The two games developed were Sonic Boom Rise of Lyric for the Wii U by Big Red Button and Sonic Boom Shattered Crystal for the 3DS by Sanzaru Games.

These games were unfinished, monotonous, and poorly designed, these games had no real focus and had almost nothing recognizable to the past Sonic.

Rise of Lyric was filled with bugs, frame drop rates, and game-breaking glitched. This game had the four main characters a player could switch to at any time, but most stuck with Knuckles, as he had a glitch allowing the player to jump infinitely. While Rise of Lyric did have a patch created, the damage was already done. The ratings for the games were on par with Sonic 06.

On June 9th of 2015, SEGA Announced the third game for Sonic Boom on the 3DS, called Sonic Boom: Fire and Ice. The game came out on September 27th, 2016, and had more traditional gameplay.

To celebrate Sonics 25th anniversary a big show was created, during the show, there were multiple audio problems and the dancing was quite awkward.

It was there, that SEGA announced Sonic Mania and Sonic Forces.

Sonic Mania was developed to make the player feel like it came out from the 1990s, with the pixilated style and character design.

In Sonic Forces, Dr.Eggman has finally defeated Sonic, and now the player's own character has to help and save the day. There are three stages, all of which have amazing graphics and soundtracks.

There are classic Sonic stages and modern sonic stages, were the player uses that Sonics play mechanics to run through a mix of 2D and 3D levels.

Then there are the player's stages, where the player controls their characters. The player's character also uses a special gun called a weapon, to use a boost.

The stages are short and the player doesn't have to worry about running out of lives.

The newest game for Sonic the Hedgehog was released on May 29th, 2019 as Team Sonic Racing for PS4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, and PC.

The player controls one of fifteen characters and compete to gain 1st place with their team.

All this history begs the questions as to, what will Sonic Team and SEGA do for Sonics 30th Anniversary next year, during 2021?



# AMC to Boycott Universal

Could the movie theatre industry be changing?

Story by Tucker Noniewicz

With local movie theaters closing due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the movie industry has begun to adapt. Universal Studios made the decision to release Trolls World Tour digitally, bypassing the theaters at the moment.

Trolls World Tour exceeded expectations, pulling in nearly \$100 million in revenue through digital sales alone and selling more than five million copies, said NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Shell to the Wall Street Journal.

Shell said, “soon as theaters reopen, we expect to release movies on both formats,” meaning that NBCUniversal was beginning

to realize the viability of digital releases. This comment sparked AMC Theatres chair-CEO Adam Aron to respond by calling Shell’s comments “Unacceptable.”

“We want to be absolutely clear ... AMC believes that with this proposed action to go to the home and theatres simultaneously, Universal is breaking the business model and dealings between our two companies,” Aron said in a letter to Universal Chair Donna Langley.

Aron went so far as to say, “Therefore, effectively immediately AMC will no longer play any Universal movies in any

of our theatres in the United States, Europe or the Middle East.”

Aron’s position was seconded by the National Association of Theatre Owners. “While universal may be pleased with the PVOD results of Trolls World Tour, this outcome should not be interpreted as a sign of a ‘new normal’ for Hollywood,” said the National Association of Theatre Owners.

“We absolutely believe in the theatrical experience and have made no statement to the contrary. As we stated earlier, going forward, we expect to release future films directly to theatres, as well as on PVOD when that distribution outlet makes sense,” Universal responded to Aron’s statement.

Universal has confirmed plans to release the Pete Davidson/Judd Apatow comedy King of Staten Island straight to streaming, but the latest in its Fast and Furious action franchise F9, appears to be on track for a delayed cinema release in April 2021.

TRCC Student and Current Managing Editor Chris Boyle had this to say, “I would argue that’s a fight AMC will lose. Streaming new movies is better and more viable in the future by every possible definition.”--

AMC Theatres to stop showing Universal movies in response to Universal’s perspective change in the business model.



VS

Happy with the showing of Trolls World Tour, Universal moves to put more movies straight to stream.



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# The Current

Spring 2020

May 6th

Vol. 21

Issue 12

## To Gool for School #5



“Quarantine’s over Gool, we can go outside.”  
“What is... Outside?”