

The Current

Volume 19 Issue 7 May 2018

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The Current at TRCC

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Summer 2018 Movies

The most anticipated blockbusters of the summer.

Writing by Catalina Anzola Photos from IMDB.com

Each year the list of summer movies is filled with action packed blockbusters. This year is no exception. With the much anticipated blockbuster Avengers: Infinity War coming out in April, I had to pick a date for this list, and that date is May 1st. There are still many movies that will deliver great entertainment. Whether you are looking for comedy, drama or horror there are plenty of movies that offer that. Here is a list of a few of this summer's movies to look forward to.

The Incredibles 2 • Release June 15

The Incredible super Parr family is back in this Pixar sequel. Helen, Bob, Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack struggle to live a normal life as superheroes. Bob, Mr. Incredible, is now the stay at home dad while Helen is out fighting crime. When a new villain hatches a conspiracy, the family must work together again as superheroes.



Hereditary • Release June 8

A horror film with rave reviews at Sundance, Hereditary stars Toni Collette as Annie Graham, a woman whose daughter is being terrorized from the grave by her recently deceased grandmother. This supernatural thriller filled with unsettling imagery is sure to attract die-hards who are looking to be paralyzed by fear. First time director, Ari Aster delivers a film that will have you sleeping with the lights on.



Deadpool 2 • Release May 18

Ryan Reynolds is back as Mouthy Merc in Deadpool 2. This time he is teaming up with a league of soldiers to protect a young mutant from a time traveling commando played by Josh Brolin. Directed by David Leitch, you can expect this film to be chock full of graphic violence, sex and adult humor like in its predecessor.

Solo: A Star Wars Story • Release May 25

The latest spinoff in the Star Wars universe, Han Solo depicts the young smuggler years before encountering Leia and Luke. Previously played by Harrison Ford, Alden Ehrenreich resumes the role of Hans Solo. Follow Solo's adventures through the galaxy as he meets his future copilot Chewbacca in this film directed by Ron Howard.



The First Purge • Release July 4

The prequel to the first Purge movie, the First Purge is a movie that follows the beginning of the national day, a day that permits Americans to commit a crime one day a year in a 12-hour period without legal consequences. When violence of the oppressed meets the rage of the disenfranchised, you have the First Purge. A terrifying and disturbing film that will fascinate many thrill-seeking movie goers.





Ant-Man and the Wasp • Release July 6

In the newest chapter of the Marvel movies, Ant-Man and the Wasp features superheroes with the incredible ability to shrink. After Infinity War, Scott Lange, played by Paul Rudd, teams up with the Wasp, played by Evangeline Lilly, to uncover secrets and wrestles to find balance in his double life. Directed by Peyton Reed, this highly anticipated follow up film is a must for Marvel fans.

Ocean's 8 • Release June 8

A spinoff of the Ocean's trilogy movies, Sandra Bullock stars as Debbie Ocean, Danny Ocean's sister. Debbie gathers a group of all female players to attempt a heist at the yearly Met Gala in New York City. Directed by Gary Ross, this movie has such an impressive star-studded cast that you can't help but hope the film does well in the box office.



Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

• Release June 22

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom is a sequel to the 2015 Jurassic World movie. Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard return in another Jurassic Park adventure. Playing their previous roles, Pratt and Howard return to the island to save the remaining dinosaurs from another extinction. As each Jurassic movie has become more intense and scarier than the previous one, this sequel should delight adrenaline addict Jurassic fans.



Mama Mia Here We Go Again! • Release July 20

The sequel to the 2008 musical movie Mama Mia! The story revisits Donna's romantic past, played by Meryl Streep. Directed by Ol Parker, the film cuts back and forth from the present telling the love stories of a young Donna. Expect some ABBA tracks and some 60's vibe music. Mama Mia Here We Go Again looks to be a fun summer movie for those who enjoy musicals.



Skyscraper • Release July 13

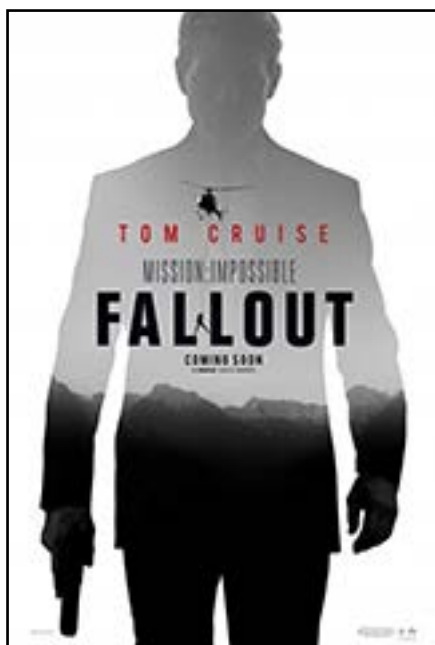
In this thriller Dwayne Johnson stars as Will Ford, a former FBI agent turned building inspector. During an evaluation of a building in China, a fire breaks out and Ford must now try to clear his name and rescue his family from the burning high rise. With Dwayne Johnson in the starring role, expect an action-packed film loaded with violence and adventure.



Upgrade • Release June 1

This sci-fi thriller stars Logan Marshall-Green as Grey Trace. Trace is a victim of a brutal mugging whom receives an artificial intelligence implant to enhance his body. Now with superhuman abilities, he seeks revenge for his wife's murder. A film for those who are looking for invigorating sci-fi entertainment.





Mission Impossible Fallout

- Release July 27

After a mission gone awry, Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and his IMF team of skilled spies are in a race against time to save the world. In the 6th film of the Mission Impossible spy action franchise, Christopher McQuarrie directs the high powered cast which include Angela Bassett, Alec Baldwin, Ving Rhimes, Simon Pegg and Rebecca Ferguson. Known for its action packed, intense violence, and dangerous stunts, Mission Impossible fans will undoubtedly line up to what could be the most thrilling franchise movie to date.

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3 Ingredient Mug Brownie

With three ingredients and a mug, you can have a quick treat in a few minutes.

Writing and Photography by Ashley Hanson

Time is a precious commodity, especially when the semester is almost over. Final papers, final exams, last minute studying, it all seems to take precedence over the rest of our lives. It's important to practice self-care in those moments more than ever. Grab some Nutella, take a few minutes and whip together this study break snack. This 3 ingredient brownie made in a mug is sure to cure the end of the semester blues!

Ingredients:

- ¼ Cup Nutella
- 1 Large Egg
- ½ tbsp. Baking Cocoa Powder
- Powdered Sugar (optional)



This flourless treat tastes just like a brownie!

Directions:

1. Combine the Nutella, egg, and cocoa powder in a microwave-safe mug. Mix thoroughly with a fork or small whisk until the batter is smooth and the egg has been mixed in completely.
2. Place the mug in the microwave for 1 minute 10 seconds. The brownie should be set but may be slightly wet on the top. Let the brownie cool for 15 minutes before serving it. The brownie will condense down during the cooling process.
3. Before eating, top the brownie with powdered sugar. Eat it in the mug or transfer it to a plate. To transfer the brownie, slide a knife around the edges of the brownie to loosen it then let it slide slowly onto the plate.

Operation Ally Prom Attire Donation and Community Outreach.

TRCC Students, Please Support this Cause!

Writing by George Simones Photos by Michelle L. Hurley

Operation Ally is an organization started by Michelle L. Hurley out of Plainfield, Connecticut. They are a group that helps the community in many ways. Most recently, they have been collecting prom attire for students in need.

Michelle described her cause with a powerful message. “I was frustrated with donations going to organizations like Goodwill that charge when we have people in shelters who have no way to get to Goodwill and can’t afford to pay for the item.”

Prom is a special time in the lives of many high school students and there are many families that simply can’t afford the extra expenses that come with the formal event. This is why it’s so important to assist this just cause.

On May 1st, the prom dress drive at the Plainfield Town Hall officially came to an end. However, instead of gifting your formal attire to a store that will simply put a price tag on it and sell it, please consider putting it to good use and help out a student in need.

Even though the drives official date as come to an end, consider getting in touch with Operation Ally. Proms can run late into May, so you don’t consider yourself too late. You could be the deciding factor in assisting a student in attending a life changing event.

“I find that when someone is giving something away for free they definitely prefer that it goes directly to someone who needs it rather than for a store to put a price tag on it anyway”. Michelle L. Hurley explained. This is a good point that needs to be addressed. I too would rather give something away and have it go directly to someone who needs it rather than to be sold on a shelf.

Unlike many organizations that profit off of a majority of what they receive, Operation Ally is an organization that is by the people, for the people.

To learn more about Operation Ally’s cause and what they stand for, visit them on Facebook.com. Just search for “Operation Ally” and sign up to experience a great community of caring individuals.



“This is just the Front and back of my business cards so people will know what we stand for, how to join, and if they’d like to donate something or are in need they can contact me anonymously. A lot of people like the option to Facebook message the group because it only goes to me and it gives you that privacy”

Michelle L. Hurley



Three Rivers Community College Hosts a Full House for Senior Night.

Writing by Catalina Anzola and Abigail Moran Photography by Catalina Anzola

On Tuesday April 10th, high school seniors and their families attended senior night to learn more about Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) and the programs offered. Over 150 people attended the free event that was open to the public. All they had to do was RSVP ahead of time.

Registration took place outside the multimedia room, where guests could register to win prizes. Inside, the event began promptly at 6:00 p.m. with so many people that faculty had to find and create extra seating. Refreshments were available in the back of the multimedia room.



Faculty and guests talk about the degree programs at TRCC.

The featured speakers represented different departments. Peg Stroup, Director of Admissions opened the forum by welcoming the guests. Stroup then introduced the Dean of Students, Steven Finch. Finch spoke about why students should choose TRCC, and the application process.

Next, financial aid was addressed in detail by Kenneth Briggs, Director of Financial Aid. Briggs explained the FASFA process, as well as available school grants, scholarships, loans and work study for students. Lastly, Edwin Muenzner, Professor of Accounting, addressed issues on how to make college affordable for families.



Pegg Stroup speaks about TRCC to seniors and their families on senior night.



TRCC clubs and organizations were available in the cafeteria to answer questions.

Following the forum, guests were encouraged to attend 2 out of the 4 break-out sessions being offered throughout the D wing and the cafeteria. Sessions offered in the D wing addressed financial aid, transfers to a 4-year college, and accessibility services at school. In the cafeteria, faculty from each degree programs were lined up on the left.



Applications were available for guests to take home.

Students in attendance at Senior Night



As guests began filing into the cafeteria a line quickly formed at the Nursing Degree table. “Our nursing program is very popular,” said Melissa Neill from the nursing faculty program. To be able to apply to the nursing program, students need to have a GPA of 2.5 or better. The program has become so popular that students applying to the program average a 3.4 GPA or above. Neill adds, “We have a 95 – 100% employment placement”.

Along the right side of the cafeteria were clubs and organizations available for students to join at TRCC.

Overall, the informational night was a success as students could understand more about the college experience before joining TRCC officially. Kaylee Smith, one of the prospective nursing students, shared it was a good experience because she learned “more about financial aid.” Many students found it to be just as helpful with the FAFSA and many more college aspects.

A Walk To Remember

The first ever Lavender Graduation in a Connecticut Community College!

Writing and Photography by Katherine Collins

On Thursday, April 12th in the Multipurpose Room, 6 students were joined together to honor their sexuality and show the achievements each student has had throughout their college career.

This event is known by as Lavender Graduation, which was designed by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, who was refused the right to attend her children's graduations for being a lesbian, and was first hosted in 1995 at the University of Michigan. Since then, there has been a massive increase of colleges who hold Lavender Graduations. 23 years would come to pass, and Three Rivers Community College would be the first to hold such an event out of all of the community colleges in the state of Connecticut.



Vice President of SIGMA, NaKeisha Little, gives her reflections to the crowd.



The Lavender Graduation venue before the arrival of guests.

Along with the students that would be walking that night would be several humbling stories coming from the students, some teachers, speaker Tony Ferraiolo, and President Mark Ojakian and Mary Ellen Jukoski.

When President Ojakian stepped up to the podium, he would come to discuss his struggles he has come to face with his husband and his personal opinions on the matter of sexual discrimination.

Ojakian mentions his frustrations and sadness that he needed to check if it was okay to go into a certain place to travel with his husband, stating "People in this country have permission to hate and discriminate. It's always been there, but now it's on the table".

Mary Ellen Jukoski was next onto the podium, addressing that she is dedicated to her student being, and that she will always be here for her students. “As an educator in higher education, I am committed to helping young people find their identity”.

Jukoski also points out that her students are what is going to make this next generation of people, and that she has admiration for SIGMA for hosting this event in a public college. “When I think about this event, I think about a mosaic...a rainbow within yourselves... a rainbow of dreams and aspirations... It’s your voice and that is going to make a difference in the world”.

Benjamin Crowley gives his reflections to the crowd.



Professor Ann L. McNamara speaks at the Lavender Graduation

The commencement followed up with a speaker named Tony Ferraiolo who is a Certified Life Coach, Trainer, and a Transgender Youth Advocate in the New Haven area. Over the past decade, Ferraiolo has served over 650 families through support groups and has delivered trainings to educators on transgender children in school environments to over 12,000 people in the country.

Ferraiolo gave the graduates empowering words of wisdom, being able to discuss his own struggles transitioning from female to male. “If I listened to every single person who told me they knew me better than I knew myself, I would be an Italian woman with three children cooking pasta every night” he said, jokingly.

The night ended harmoniously with the six students getting graduation certificates, black stoles with rainbows across them, and even a bountiful dinner of breakfast food, and cake for dessert. Congratulations to the first ever graduates of Lavender Graduation at Three Rivers Community College!

Ponemah Mills Comes to Three Rivers

Jody Dole and Bernice L. Rocque come to discuss the reasoning behind the Ponemah Mills mural in the library.

Writing by Katherine Collins Photography by Abigail Moran

On April 11th, in celebration of National Library Week, Three Rivers decided to host a gathering inside the Gallery and Library in dedication of the Ponemah Mills manufacturing building before it would later be rehabilitated into an apartment complex.

Ponemah, being an indigenous term, translates to “Our Future Hope”. Ponemah Mills, which began operating on October 16th, 1871, was a textile manufacturing mill.

The 18-panel mural that can be seen on the second floor of the library was imagined by the creative mind of Jody Dole, a famous photographer and artist.



Dole got inspiration for having Ponemah Mills as the mural from one of his good friends Matthew Eisenberg.

From this piece, Dole wanted to have a historical connection to the mill and the school with this piece, especially since both are in Norwich.

“You would never see those things outside of a museum... I was really glad I was able to make that connection with Matt, the architect, and Three Rivers... it all comes full circle” Dole stated.



Also being featured at the event was author of *The Ponemah Years: Walking in the Footsteps of My Mother*, Bernice L. Rocque.

Rocque wrote about the continuous struggles that her grandparents faced as they came failing farms and from borrowed funds and how that in turn led to successful futures for her parents.

“I’ve come to the conclusion that at for it’s time, it was a really good employer... Ponemah Mill was the reason my parents could afford to build a house” Rocque said.

At the end of the event, there was a informal social event and book signing held in the library that was topped off with tea and cookies.

Bernice Rocque’s book is currently out now and can be bought through retailers like Barnes And Noble and is also available through Amazon.



The Consolidation of CT’s Community Colleges is not the best plan.

Writing and Photography by George Simones

Over the past couple of months throughout the Spring of 2018, The Current at TRCC has produced a couple of articles discussing the consolidation of Connecticut’s community colleges.

The issue centers around CT’s 12 community colleges undergoing a consolidation in which they are combined into one accredited college on 12 different campuses, rather than 12 separate schools.


According to an article from CTmirror.org entitled, How the “Students First” College Consolidation Affects Students, this merging is projected to save \$28 million. However, should saving money be the most important aspect when the education of students is on the line.

President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, Mark E. Ojakian’s plan to consolidate CT’s community colleges has been proposed as something that will benefit students, however this is not exactly true.

When we do a little research and look further into the matters at hand, it becomes clear to see that this plan isn’t all about benefiting students. Monetary gain and money are other factors at play in this scenario.

Not much has been updated since the last article that we brought you regarding the consolidation, however it looks as if the schools really might end up merging.

Ojakian’s plan does away with the Department Chair position in schools and will result in many people losing their jobs. The consolidation is a movement that I can’t support.



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