Michael.

A whole generation has grown up on the antics of these two Rhode Island rubes, so a little nostalgia isn’t unwarranted. Box office hopes for this pre-packaged but very late sequel should be high. But the strain shows in the wizened-but-not-wiser stars.

It’s just that comedy left the Farrellys behind over 10 years ago and their best efforts at reviving their PG-13 Three Stooges style feels old-fashioned and tired.

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**Eastern presents ‘South Pacific’**

**WILLIMANTIC** — Eastern Connecticut State University’s Performing Arts Department presents the musical “South Pacific” from Nov. 19-24. Directed by Ellen Brodie, the musical will run Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 4 p.m. and Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Harry Hope Theatre.

“South Pacific” is set during World War II on two islands in the Pacific Ocean where American sailors are stationed. The plot focuses on an American nurse who falls in love with a French emigrant plantation owner, but struggles to accept his mixed-race children. There is also a secondary romance between a U.S. lieutenant and a Tonkinese woman.

Throughout the musical, issues of racial disparities and prejudices are explored.

Admission is free for Eastern students, $5 for students (other than Eastern) and groups of 10 or more, $10 for Eastern faculty, staff, alumni and senior citizens and $15 for general public.

For more information, call the box office at (860) 465-5123.

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**ECSU prof’s novel follows Colonial family**

**WILLIMANTIC** — “Heirs to Freedom,” a historical novel by Eastern Connecticut State University professor Christopher Vasiliopoulos, was recently released by Dog Ear Publishing.

The story follows a colonial Charleston, S.C., family that lived in the four decades prior to the American Revolution. The heavily researched book recounts actual historical events, but also has a speculative, fiction component to it, as Vasiliopoulos imagines what the family might have been like during that turbulent time.

Vasiliopoulos, a political science professor, started working on the book more than 30 years ago. “It’s been a lifetime effort that started when I was living in Atlanta, during my first bit of academic unemployment.”

He was first inspired to take on the endeavor after reading a book about a black man who was declared white back in the mid-1700s.

“Heirs to Freedom” touches on the topics of religion, murder, political theory, race, justice and freedom. “The characters are complex, bright and sensitive people, which allowed me to delve into important topics and ideas,” said Vasiliopoulos. “The book was a vehicle for expressing a lot of my interests. The difficult part was making it a cohesive story.”

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**Bread Box to host Aztec Two Step**

**WILLIMANTIC** — Aztec Two Step will perform Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bread Box Theater.

For more than four decades, Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman have been writing and performing songs that help make their generation’s musical memories. The duo has performed worldwide, been critically acclaimed in major newspapers, reviewed in Rolling Stone and appeared on numerous radio and TV shows.

Tickets are $25 and all proceeds to the Covenant Soup Kitchen and Emergency Food Pantry.

The theater is located at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 220 Valley St.

For information, visit www.breadboxfolk.org or call (860) 429-4220.