

Man under the mullet

By Ryan Fleischli
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Who among us can say they know of John Lee Scogin? The correct answer would be that a good amount of us do know of him, but we know him by his legendary nickname: “Chili Bowl Mullet Man.”

This man is known throughout the Springfield community for his

terrific hair style and for walking all around the city. Most of us do not really know his story, though, or what he is all about.

John Scogin was born September 25, 1983 at St. John’s Hospital. He went to TriCity schools.

He tried going to college, but just didn’t think it was for him.

“Don’t let things stop you from completing your college career and getting your degrees,” Scogin said.

“Keep going forward with life and be successful. I just found my own way of life.”

He had a very great childhood and wouldn’t trade it for anything.

It was in 1988 that the mullet man began growing his hair style that we all know him by today.

“My father was the one that cut my hair, and one day, when I was five,

Mullet man, continued on page 6



Submitted photo

John Scogin is seen holding up a shirt in this submitted photo. Scogin is known around Springfield as the ‘Chili Bowl Mullet Man’ because of his hair style.

Battled it out



Ryan Mazrim/The Lamp

A fan takes a picture of a band playing during the Battle of the Bands on April 23.

Experience the bands through Steven Hoskins’ pen

By Steven Hoskins
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – Entering the Trutter Center, I’m given a ballot, drawing ticket and program by students volunteers wearing long-sleeved, lime green Battle of the Bands shirts.

The ballot and program only list six of the nine bands previously announced would be playing. Michelle Burger, student engagement coordinator, said two bands had schedule conflicts and another failed to confirm its time slot.

Waiting for the music, I decided to explore the vendors. They were selling the lime green shirts for \$10 and dark gray T-shirts for \$5. I buy a shirt.

The next stand gives out popcorn, and the next one has the ballot box and seven jars, six with a band’s name on it and the seventh labeled 50/50 Drawing. The crowd is told later that the jars are another way to vote, money donated through the jars would count toward a band’s score.

Battle, continued on Page 7



Steven Hoskins wears his Battle of the Bands T-shirt.

Tuition goes up at LLCC

Cost increases \$6.50 a credit hour

By Ryan Wilson
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The cost of

education just went up at Lincoln Land Community College.

The college will raise its tuition rate \$6.50 per credit hour. It will cost in-district students \$110.00 per credit hour for the 2015-16 school year.

This comes in response to Lincoln Land’s board policy 5.14.

It says that LLCC’s tuition rate should be based on all Illinois community colleges’ tuition rates for the previous year. Lincoln Land then adds the Higher Education Price Index to that number.

“If that (HEPI) goes up and the average tuition charge for Illinois community colleges goes up, our tuition goes up,” Todd McDonald, vice president of administrative services, said. The HEPI is an inflation index calculated by Commonfund, an institutional investment firm.

McDonald said it is used by public and private two-year and four-year institutions. “If, for some reason, all the community colleges started tuition decreases and the average prices went down, our prices would probably go down.”

The school also raised its tuition rate for out-of-districts students \$15 (from \$207 to \$220) per credit hour and \$19.50 (from \$310.50 to \$330) for out-of-state and international students.

It is a board policy, McDonald said, that the school’s out-of-district students experience a tuition increase twice as much as that of the in-district students. Out-of-state and foreign students will see an increase of three times that of in-district students.

McDonald said he does not think Lincoln Land would increase its tuition rate differently, if it were not for the board policy.

Tuition, continued on Page 7

Students’ music featured in two films

By Roman Ballenger
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Next time you’re listening to hold music or hearing a score at a movie, you might very well be hearing the creations of a pair of Lincoln Land

music students.

Dylan Smith and Jefferson Gentry started “Red and Baldy Co.” They have already had their musical creations included in one film that was made in Algeria in Africa. They also created music for an independent film, “Before I Do.”

If you ever get put on hold with the American Lung Association, you’ll be hearing the work of this duo.

But that is just the start.

Gentry said they aspire to work for Disney and Pixar, composing music for major movie productions, or perhaps music video games.

“Dylan and I are in the process of renovating a space to build a studio,” Gentry said. “In five years, I see us working as full-time music composers out of our studio.”

Many students at LLCC have

Music, continued on Page 7

This newspaper is dedicated to the students, faculty and staff of Lincoln Land Community College.

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Farewell to The Lamp

By Ryan Wilson
Editor

My experience with The Lamp has been a dream — from the “stanky leg” dance to eating pizza and watching NBA at the State Journal-Register, to interviewing a potential Olympian, to talking to current and former professional athletes, to having a lunch with Pastor Tom Christell and discussing Marty Morris.

But the fat lady has opened her chops in music, ‘chops’ usually refers to talent, not the mouth. The match is over. My match is over. It is time to leave the ring. My time has come.

I may not be leaving a boxing match, but I am leaving the editor position.

I have been with The Lamp for two years, and it has been awesome. Every minute of it.

No, really.

I started with The Lamp two years under the former adviser Paul Povse. I didn't know what to expect when I signed up.

One day, I sent Povse an email, expressing my interest in joining. And from his extremely excited response, I could tell that this experience was going to be fun. From start to finish.

It was.

I have learned so much from The Lamp. Especially life lessons. I am now more confident with myself. I am no longer afraid to talk with people.

When I started with The Lamp, I was afraid to intrude on someone's



lifestyle. That has changed now, thanks to Brenda Protz (my speech teacher), Povse and current adviser Tim McKenzie.

They have given me self-confidence. Because of them and this trait, I have met seemingly hundreds of people in the last two years.

This has been a life-changing experience. I have so many more connections, including strong relationships with all the head coaches in the athletic department. Especially with volleyball coach Jim Dietz. I cannot thank him enough for answering all (no, really, all) my thousands of questions.

His witty and quick responses would make me laugh, especially when he told me that he did the “stanky leg” dance for his team a few years ago.

From that point on (and still today), I have tried to hunt down that video of him dancing. No luck, but I know it will be worth the wait.

Dietz is funny and full of answers. But he also cares about everybody, even encouraging me to apply to work for the popular sports blog SBNation because it was hiring sports writers.

I always enjoyed covering sporting

events at LLCC. It has been a great (learning) experience. Plus, I have built relationships with some athletes, all of whom have incredible stories. Some of those relationships, I know — whether it is with a coach or player — will last for long, long time.

Thank you, athletic director Ron Riggle and the entire athletic department, for letting me tell (or at least try to tell) your stories for the past two years. It was been one great ride.

My memories, however, go beyond sports.

Lynn Whalen, director of public relations and marketing, has gone above and beyond to ensure that all my questions were answered. And that all my requests were met in seemingly the blink of an eye. She has been a big help. Thank you, Lynn.

Whalen is a former radio reporter. Sometimes when we met, I would ask her for advice on getting into the media.

Whalen is required by board policies to sit in on any media interviews with any Lincoln Land vice president. One time after an interview with Todd McDonald, vice president of administrative services, she said, “Good questions, Ryan.”

That was memorable.

This entire experience with The Lamp could not have been better.

It was been awesome to have a random person — teacher or not — say, “Hey, you're the newspaper guy!” to me. I am a product of several news-

paper guys and a countless number of sources.

Thank you, LLCC community, for reading my stories. Thank you for all the kind words. Thank you for believing in me when I had doubts.

Without, Whalen, Povse, McKenzie, Riggle, Protz, Dietz, the entire Lamp staff member, President Charlotte Warrant and dozens of other people who I interviewed, none of this would have been possible.

We would not have been able to publish 12 editions, a website and several social media sites this year. We would not have been able to win 13 awards — including the Mike Foster General Excellence Award — at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association.

This has been one heck of a ride.

I know The Lamp is in good hands with Tyler Allison at the reigns. Allison, I know, will be able to steer this newspaper into an even better position, due to his passion toward journalism and leadership abilities.

My brain has probably doubled in size with everything I now know. But it is time that I let someone else learn as much as I did.

It is time I sit back in my chair and watch you all succeed and have twice as much fun as I did.

Ryan Wilson was editor of The Lamp during the 2014-15 school year. He can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311

Jordan Minder's farewell

The past three semesters, I have spent here on The Lamp have been full of experience, to say the least.

Starting out as a photographer, I pushed myself out of my comfort zone to start writing and designing.

Running around campus or town to collect the materials, I needed not only helped me to meet new people and discover new ideas or philosophies, but aided in my search in finding myself.

Thank you to all of my professors here, namely the ones who helped/forced me to actually write, for I would have never guessed I would find some sort of niche in writing.

I owe the biggest thank you to Ryan Wilson, for not only convincing me to sustain my position on The Lamp, but for unconditionally and patiently helping me.

I hope to carry these skills and memories along with me wherever I go, and I hope to see the future Lamp staffers excel in continuing to make this paper a strong, creative expression of who we are here at LLCC.

Accuracy

The Lamp strives for accuracy. If you find an error, please let us know. You can reach us at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786.2311.

Body art helps one express oneself

By Jordan Minder
Visual/assistant editor

Self expression comes in many forms.

The term ‘body art’ encompasses any form of body modifications, including tattoos and piercings.

Getting inked or pierced has become such a popular practice in today's society, whether you love it or hate it. Many practices of body art has existed throughout history.

Though what makes it all so appealing?

Motives for getting body art include a mark of identity, style, honor for another person, as well as other reasons. Regardless of the motive, a mystery remains behind why a person would do such things to their body, potentially arousing curiosity.

Tattooing and piercing may be considered art in itself, implying human skin is a canvas.

Tattoos may represent a very important aspect of one's self. Some considering getting ink feel that the tattoo must have a meaning, whether it's a quote, date or symbol. Whatever a person decides to do to their body is ultimately a reflection of their character.

Another aspect of the appeal includes the act of getting a tattoo or piercing. In past, the majority of the tattooed demographic were ‘rebellious’ types, bikers, sailors, prisoners, etc. Those with ink often are stereotyped as ‘edgy’ or ‘tough.’

“It's the freedom of expression, to dress and look however I want,” said Roger Rienstorf, an experienced piercer at New Age Tattoos and Body Piercings.

The mere fact we live in a nation where most superficial expressions of self is perfectly legal, the allure of acting upon it, simply because you can, prevails. Ink or piercings may indeed have a mean of identification to a single person, but as a whole, the act of acquiring them serves as a revolutionary act for our society.

Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

So, perhaps the overall appeal lies within one's own personal preference. An attraction toward anything, whether a person, place or idea, roots within one's natural desires. Body art so happens to be a growing part of our culture, literally marking us humans as who we are in this day and age.

Jordan Minder can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Letter to the editor

Not a crime to eat while driving

A man from Marietta, Georgia, was recently on the news after being ticketed for eating a cheeseburger while driving.

This story gets my attention because the man was not treated fairly. He was not distracted and still able to keep his eyes on the road. He was ticketed for violating Georgia distracted driving law, but the Georgia man should not have been ticketed.

The cop repeatedly told the man that he cannot eat while driving. Millions of people eat while driving and do not get ticketed. This is supposed to be a free country and people are to be treated fairly. While everyone else in America is allowed to eat while driving, this man was not. This is not

illegal because he was not driving erratically and he was obeying the law. If the rules are going to change, then they have to be applied to everyone just as the driving while texting and all the other rules of the road are. Currently, the distracted driver's law does not state one cannot eat while driving, but that they cannot engage in activities that distract them from driving.

Eating while driving is not against the law so no one should be ticked for doing it unless it distracts their driving. I do not agree with this violation. This is not the law and is unfair. If eating while driving is not affecting how a person drives, then no rules are broken. Therefore, the man should not have been ticketed.

**Lisa Stolz,
LLCC student**

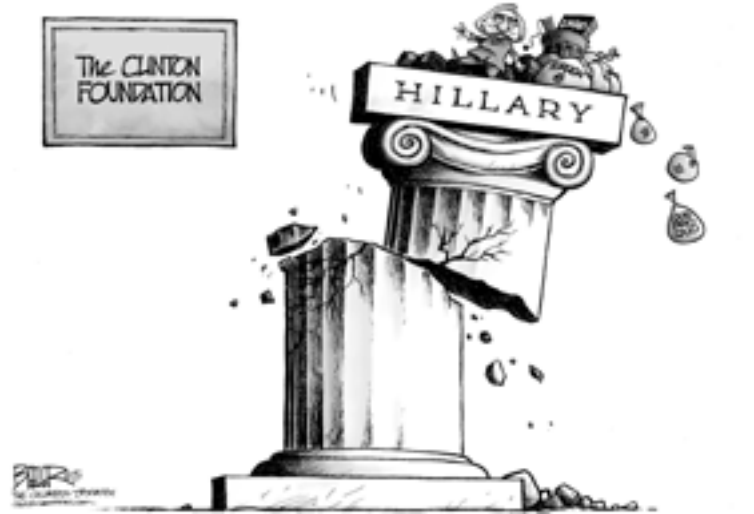
Correction

The “College Inaccessible” story that ran in the April 15, 2015, edition of The Lamp should have been labeled as an opinion piece.

The front-page column was not intended to be a factual account of inaccessibility. It relied upon the author's personal experiences and observations as a student in a wheelchair.

The Society of Professional Journalists maintain a Code of Ethics that The Lamp and all journalists attempt to abide by. Within its prescriptions for journalists, it states, “Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or context.”

The Lamp erred in failing to clearly label the article as commentary. We regret the error.



Politicians are human

By Lukas Myers
Staff Writer

It seems like every day we hear of some new scandal in the Oval Office. Barely a week goes by without a congressman's affair leaking to the media or a senator taking a bribe.

How many Illinois governors have been sent to prison? The answer is four out of the last seven have served prison time for political transgressions.

Clearly with all of the bureaucratic red tape and conditional freedoms, the American people are the victims. We, as everyday regular citizens, have no control over the political system. Clearly everything wrong that happens is because there is some system far over our heads that we cannot even hope to perceive. Or, at least, that is how we treat this system.

Stop and think about that, what are the concepts in our world we can never truly understand: Infinity, nothingness, deities and politics?

Of course there are problems with our political system, there are problems inherent in any system, and nothing on our Earth is without flaw. So, of course, there will be bad people who take advantage of



that system and exploit those flaws.

Furthermore, one more thing is true, think back to your most embarrassing mistake you've ever made. The one that really haunts you. Maybe for no good reason. Maybe for a very good reason. We all have one of those memories. Those memories are indicative of our humanity and of our imperfections.

The law dictates that only a human can run for president or be appointed Supreme Court justice. So why is it then that we accept the phrases, "Nobody's perfect" and "We all make mistakes," when it comes to all of us, but not when it comes to people who are politicians?

Across the board, there seems to be one thing that the American people can agree on, and that is that they hate politicians. "You can't trust 'em." They're some of the

few people in the country who are looked upon as lowly as a lawyer or a telemarketer.

We seem to say, "Nobody's perfect, but the congressman should be judged as though he was supposed to be."

Or we utter, "Everyone makes mistakes, but Obama's not allowed to."

These statements elevate politician to above human beings, which results in them being treated as though they were below human.

They are in important posts in our country. They do tough decision-making. In reality though, they do mostly paperwork, and a lot of it, while they sit behind their desks stressing over their job security and wanting to find a way to make everyone happy.

We forget sometimes that they are allowed to make mistakes, a government of automatons would also suffer in the polls.

The old adage is, "To err is to human." But I like to think about it is that these politicians go home and, sometimes, they have meatloaf, which is their favorite food, and my favorite food is also meatloaf.

Lukas Myers can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Letters to the editor

Letter: Lamp story misrepresents comments

I strongly feel my comments were taken out of context in The Lamp's College Inaccessible article from the April 15, 2015 edition. I would like to make a few comments and clarifications in response to Ryan Wilson's article.

While I am sure his article was written out of fear and frustration after a major power outage at Lincoln Land on March 17, we must realize that there was no eminent danger.

In the article, I did state I cannot reach the elevator buttons at Lincoln

Land. The truth of the matter, though, is I cannot reach or access elevator buttons independently unless they are in a set up like the Beckwith elevators (pictured in Ryan's article) at the University of Illinois, so I am used to directing personal assistants with this task in most other settings and do not find it to be a burden. The Beckwith elevator was specifically designed by engineers at U of I, and funded by donors.

I think it is important to point out

that no space is entirely universally designed and accessible for all. Even the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, ranked among the top universities in the country for disability services, has buildings and classrooms that are inaccessible to some individuals.

I am not saying Lincoln Land couldn't use some accessibility improvements. Lowering the automatic door operators and improving bathroom areas would be helpful. If they haven't already done so, I recom-

mend designating "rescue assistance areas." These areas are typically marked yellow boxes at the tops / bottoms of stair wells for persons with disabilities to wait. Emergency personnel are often trained to check these spots first, to assist, during an emergency.

Improving awareness among students, staff and trained professionals will help everyone to respond safely and efficiently to instances such as power outages and disasters. I can write with certainty, that Lincoln

Land faculty and students are much more aware of the needs of disabled students after the power outage during March. It is that awareness which will add to the compassion of a great community college. It is the people, the culture, and the ethos of LLCC that make it possible for students of all abilities to thrive, and why I am successfully continuing my pursuit of a professorship.

Alexis Wernsing
2011 LLCC Alum

Police brutality needs to stop

We all know that in the last couple years we have witnessed brutality to young African-Americans that have resulted in the deaths of these individuals being attacked. Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by George Zimmerman. Martin was a young black teen who was loved in his community by friends and family members. George Zimmerman was not charged with the death of Trayvon Martin and as a result it startled people all over the world. This came as a shock but not as shocking as the news we all witnessed after Michael Brown was shot and killed by a Ferguson police officer. This story quickly developed on various social media sights such as face book and twitter. Officer Darren Wilson was also not charged with the murder of this teenager and as a result the citizens of this community simply destroyed it. There are other similar cases out there such as the Eric Garner case. Police brutality is

becoming common in our society and we are losing our youth because of it. As a society we have to do something to stop this injustice. We can't keep watching these events take place without trying to do something to prohibit it or prevent it from happening. We need to protest to our legislators and express our ideas that can turn this bad cycle around. As a peaceful protestor I do believe that there are many different measures we can take to prevent these things from happening in the future.

Joseph Brooks,
LLCC student

Joint custody argument flawed

I recently read an article in a magazine in regards to shared parenting. Since it is becoming more and more popular in the courts, and I am going through a battle of my own, I decided to touch on the subject.

In his article, "Shared Parenting is Better than Sole Custody" published

in Policy and Practice in March of 2015, attorney at law and child advocate David Levy argues his position on shared parenting versus sole custody. Although Levy is a lawyer and the chief executive officer of the Children's Rights Council, a child advocacy organization, he doesn't give fairness to other custody arrangements. He advises parents on legal, financial, and psychological options for custody and also studied law at the University of Florida from 1958 to 1961.

Levy asserts that parents snap and kill themselves and their children over custody disputes and therefore custody of a child should be shared rather than given to one parent over the other. He doesn't go into the fact that these parents may have deeper psychological issues and that anything could have made them snap. He ruins his debate by distorting the truth behind why these parents kill their children and themselves which causes his argument to have very little evidence on why shared parenting is better than sole custody. Although Levy's background deals with family law, this sole premise

does not back up the logos and ethos of his argument.

He also fails to give examples of parents that killed their children and themselves over something completely different than custody disputes or even divorce.

Given his background and the fact he continuously practices law, I would expect Levy to be knowledgeable in opposing viewpoints. With that being said, he does a poor job of providing opposing viewpoints such as: children living with one parent over the other majority of the time and the benefits from it or cases in which children thrive better with living with one parent more than the other. Although the child isn't with each parent half of the time, there still are benefits that he doesn't explore.

Custody disputes do not usually cause parents to kill themselves and their children and shared custody is not always a good thing for the parents and especially the children. Levy also argues that parents should share custody because 13 other states wrote it into their legislation, but what about the 37 other states?

The majority of Levy's work includes a few subtle premises on why shared parenting is better. The main point Levy tries to argue is that shared parenting alleviates most issues with split family situations. Although Levy's article lacks appeal in logos and ethos, it does deserve credit in pathos, because he does relate the needs of both parents, and is understanding to the fact that the child may want to be with both parents half of the time. But while Levy's theory of shared parenting may be ideal for some families and situations, it is not ideal for all. Although he argues it will alleviate the murdering of children, this is certainly not the case.

Unfortunately, children will continue to be murdered, families will continue to separate, and unfortunate circumstances will take place regardless of custody arrangements. Levy didn't have a fair argument from the beginning of his article. It's just not justifiable that custody should be split due to the sole fact that parents murder their children because of it.

Andrea Dodson,
LLCC student

Funeral brings history to life

By Tyler Allison
Staff Writer

Springfield – Any person who has lived in the Springfield area knows Abraham Lincoln is the focal point for a number of attractions and celebrations in the community. This weekend, that belief was put on display as thousands gathered to witness the funeral reenactment of Springfield's greatest celebrity.

This year marked the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's death. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln, accompanied by his wife, Mary Todd, decided to go see the show *Our American Cousin* at Ford's theatre. During the play, well known actor John Wilkes Booth snuck into the 16th President's viewing box, and shot the beloved leader in the back of the head. After many hours of work and attempting to revive him, Abraham Lincoln died early in the morning on April 15.

Everyone knows Abraham Lincoln's assassination story, but very few people know of the funeral procession that followed. This weekend was a tremendous and worthy nod to the former President of the United States of America.

Kids and adults, alike were able to find something to pique their interests. From the reenactment, to the train that carried Mr. Lincoln home, to the civil war replicas. Everyone had something to enjoy.

Current Illinois Governor, Bruce Rauner took some time on Saturday to address how important this event is to Springfield's history: "His [Lincoln's] legacy has withstood the test of 150 years and our love for him has only grown stronger".

Many historical buildings were open for viewing as thousands scrambled through to learn more about the Great Emancipator.

The celebration included hundreds of re-enactors dressed as civil war soldiers and women dressed in 1800s clothing. For one spectator, the combination of "present day" people and the re-enactors was exhilarating. "It's like something you see in a movie", said local native, Ethan Morrisey. "You kind of begin to question what era you are in when you sit down and talk to one of these actors. One guy wouldn't even tell me his real name when I asked him."

The commitment to each character was astounding. When you walked down to the

restored Union Station, you could not help but be taken back in time. Over twenty re-enactors were sitting in the seats, all with the anticipation of seeing their fallen President brought home.

"When they removed the casket out of the train, you couldn't help but feel like you were actually there", Morrisey said. "I hated history in school, but to actually see how everything unfolded back then with this funeral is absolutely awesome."

Many people in Springfield grew up going to all of the museums and exhibits about Abraham Lincoln. The consequence is sometimes, the appreciation that a man does becomes overlooked or minimized. However, with this reenactment, something fresh re-sparked the interest of many people.

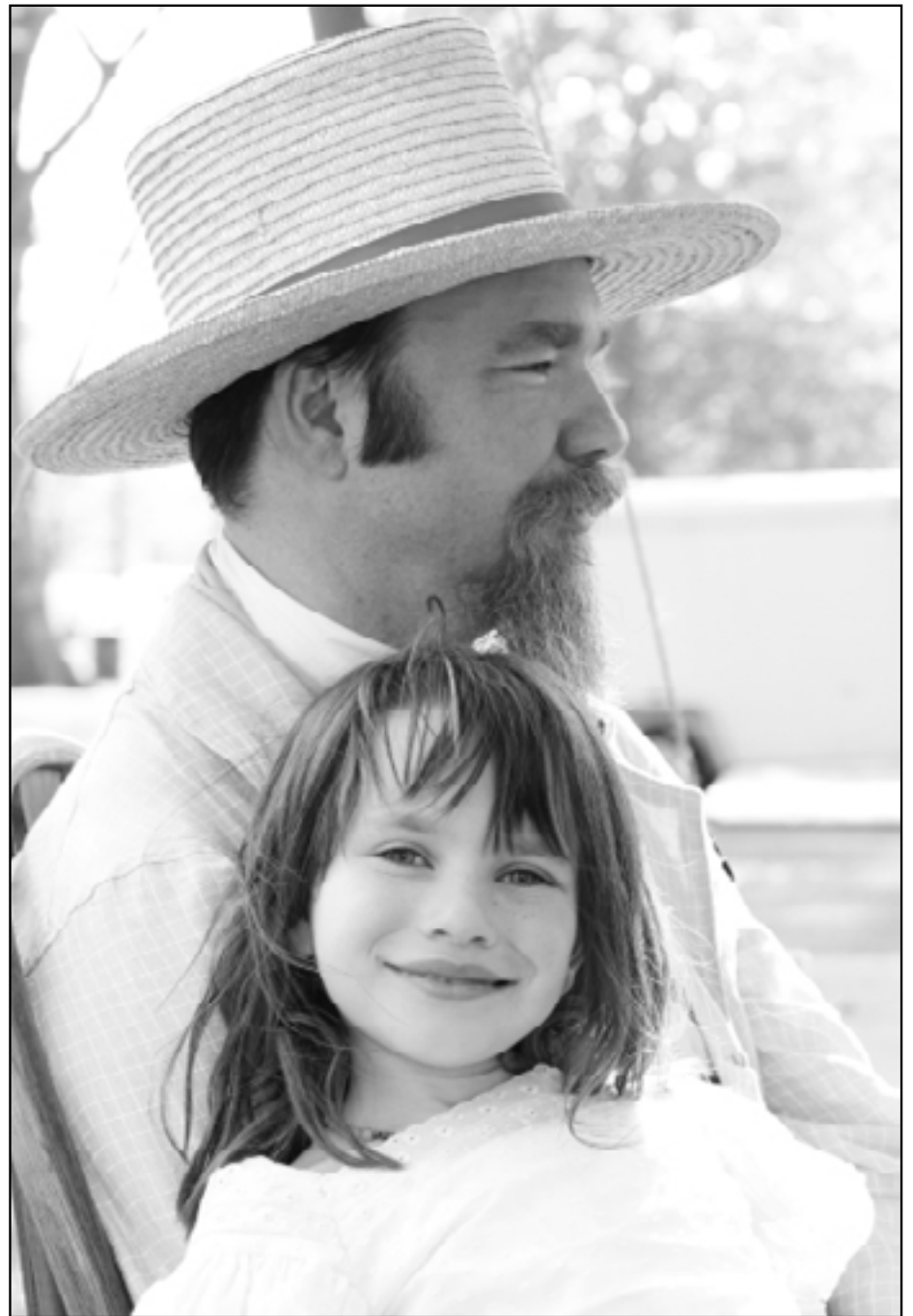
"It was just something new. Something I've never seen before", Morrisey said.

Lincoln's work on the abolishment of slavery still remains as one of the greatest accomplishments in American history. To this day, Lincoln still has an influence on people. Whether it be human rights or inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

Urban youth worker, Nicole Barks shared how she thinks of the weekend's festivities: "I think it is so neat to see Springfield celebrate the life and legacy of Lincoln. Through his work, he opened up doors and minds to the possibility of a socially renewed nation. Spurring a nation who claims freedom, into a nation that continues to act in the cause of freedom..." she said. "...Though today we still have the social struggles between rich and poor, between able and disabled, between black and white, between all that separates people from people, Lincoln was one of the active voices in challenging us to embrace freedom for all."

Regardless of how many times people have heard his story, or have told the story to their friends and family, Abraham Lincoln did, and continues to capture the hearts of everyone, young and old. The city of Springfield did a tremendous job of organizing and executing this weekend-long celebration. There could not have been a more worthy way of thanking/honoring Springfield, Illinois' greatest hero.

Tyler Allison can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.



Photos by Ryan Mazrim/The Lamp





Presentation takes aim at John Wilkes Booth

By Steven Hoskins
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — “John Wilkes Booth was not a born loser like so many would-be or actual presidential assassins,” Dr. Terry Alford told a packed room in the Trutter Center on April 23. “He was already a famous man, an incredibly accomplished actor, one anyone would have wanted an autograph of, or a picture of. That’s what attracted me to the man, he had something to lose.”

Alford, author of “Fortune’s Fool,” the first full biography on John Wilkes Booth, and the award-winning “Prince Among Slaves,” spoke at the Honoring Lincoln Symposia.

Alford is a nationally recognized scholar on both John Wilkes Booth and the assassination that made Booth infamous. He has done many appearances discussing Booth on The History Channel, Discovery Channel, PBS, and ABC News’ 20/20.

The presentation came to Lincoln Land as part of the Lincoln Funeral re-enactment events. The organizers contacted the college about hosting



Steven Hoskins/The Lamp
Terry Alford, wearing a modern-day suit, stands with actors, from left to right, Terry Jones, Elizabeth Roehrs, Mary Disseler, Matthew Reuker and Kevin Lust.

an event, said Michelle Burger, student engagement coordinator.

“We saw it as a good opportunity to help give the school some good

recognition during the Funeral Train celebrations, plus where else would it be better to talk about Lincoln than the place with his name on it,”

Burger said.

Alford’s presentation, “John Wilkes Booth: A New Look at an Old Story,” gave an in-depth look at a man who would change the world in a single act.

The event was sponsored by LLCC Loggers Activities Board and The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition with by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation

Alford opened the presentation with a bit of history on Booth, telling the crowd of his early years as an actor who was so good he would have to calm down his co-stars when he played a villain, of an alcoholic father, who despite being against it would inspire three of his children into acting careers and an overprotective mother, who would prevent Booth from enlisting in the Confederate Army.

Alford though was not the only speaker at the presentation. It included five actors giving eyewitness testimony of the assassination.

Matthew Reuker, an LLCC alum with a master’s in public history, portrayed Harry Ford, stagehand, treasurer and brother of the Ford’s

Theatre’s owner.

“I have been doing stuff like this for nine years,” Reuker said. “And it’s always exciting to educate people.”

Kevin Lust, the college’s Small Business Development Center director, portrayed Joseph B. Stewart, an attorney attending the play.

Lust said he found his character, “In a room packed with military folk, he was the only one to jump up and chase after Booth. In all that confusion, he was the one to act.”

Alford ended his presentation with a series of slides that told of Booth’s last moments. He also showed pictures of some artifacts, such as the pistol Booth did the deed with and a picture of a small piece of wood, thought to be a piece of Booth’s crutch, humorously referred to as The True Crutch.

When asked why choose Booth, of all people, to focus on Alford said, “He’s a strange man who did an unheard of thing and I needed to know why.”

Steven Hoskins can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Human trafficking happens locally

Modern-day slavery discussed in Jacksonville

By Nathanael Herbert
Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE — “Do any of you think there is human trafficking in this city?” Four of 40 people raised their hand in response.

This is the question Dana Pfeiffer, director of Grounds for Grace, began her presentation with on the topic of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery.

Nearly 2.5 million people are forced into labor at a given time.

Ranked third in global crime, human trafficking makes an annual profit of more than \$31.6 billion.

Sex trafficking affects both boys and girls and can happen in the home.

Grounds for Grace, a Springfield-based organization, helps raise awareness of this form of slavery. They work with victims, pimps and families, who are involved in human trafficking.

The Jacksonville Activities Board (JAB) sponsored the event, Raise Awareness of Human Trafficking on April 30 at Lincoln Land’s campus in Jacksonville.

The event began at 5:30 p.m., as organizations from the community came to offer volunteer opportunities to those attending. Such organizations included: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Grounds for Grace, Freedom Then Freedom Now and JAB.

From 6:00 until 7:15 p.m., Pfeiffer told vivid,



Nathanael Herbert/The Lamp
Dana Pfeiffer shares stories to students about human trafficking and sex abused victims to Jacksonville students.

graphic stories of survivors, explained the purpose of Grounds for Grace and presented way in which the students could help end human sex trafficking in this area.

As the presentation began, students were looking around, texting and slouching in their chairs. Within five minutes, all distractions

were placed to the side as eyes fell towards the ground in pale disgust. Eventually, all attention was focused on Dana as she explained the brutal life of one of the survivors.

Pfeiffer told numerous stories of men, women and children ranging from age 2 to 68 who had been trafficked or forced into sexual abuse.

“I was looking around,” said Jan Terry, executive director of Lincoln Land in Jacksonville and Beardstown. “I expected some of the students to shut down.”

“It might have been new information. It was more graphic than what we talk about in class. I was not shocked about the story. I kept hoping somebody, the schools, police would intervene. I was surprised she (the victim in the story) didn’t move into considering suicide,” Terry explained.

Staff, faculty and students from a sociology class and an education class attended.

Bailee, a freshman at Lincoln Land, was worried as she listened to the stories. “It’s a scary situation. People should be more educated about it (human trafficking.)”

Nick Poole, a 20-year-old studying physical education, said that his education class unanimously voted to attend.

“Mind blow. I knew it existed, but not so close to home. It shocked me,” Poole said.

Poole explained that he wants to take the knowledge he learned into his future. “I’m majoring in education. I can help stop this.”

Who would think that human trafficking happens here?

Interstate 55 is the main hub in the Midwest for human trafficking, but even worse, sexual exploitation happens in homes among family

members.

“I can’t believe that this happens in our area,” said Elisa, a student pursuing early childhood education. “People need to pay more attention. If they see something, they need to report it. Raise awareness. Sign a petition or a bill,” she said.

Pfeiffer explained that volunteers of Grounds for Grace have learned to identify victims through certain tendencies or physical ailments they may have.

In the different stories, victims weren’t always clean, had bruises, marks and scars. Victims didn’t respond to the opposite sex in normal behaviors and had other physical and psychological issues.

Grounds for Grace has teamed with hospitals in Springfield and Jacksonville to pay closer attention to patient’s records that may allude to sexual abuse.

“You never know where you are going to be, what you’re going to see in that moment,” said Pfeiffer at the end of her presentation.

In closing, the students were challenged not to let this presentation fade away in their minds, but to act on what they’ve learned.

They were reminded that they are Lincoln Land students and that they can make a difference.

“In that room, seeds would’ve been planted, but it is determined with their actions,” said Terry.

(If you know anyone who is being trafficked or sexual abused, call the police. You can be the one to save a life.)

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Bands,

Continued from page 1

I enter the darkened stage area. Bands set their equipment along the far wall, busily going in and out the emergency exit. The room is already crowded with a talkative crowd of more than 100 fans, and Michelle Burger ran around frenetically getting things ready. With arms full of chairs, Burger waves and smiles just before volunteers descend on her like vultures looking for orders.

With a few minutes to show time, I decided to head outside for a smoke and jot down a few notes.

On my way out, I see Lamp photographer Ryan Mazrim entering. He tells me he won’t be able to stay for the whole event. I joke at how unfair that is, but honestly, after seeing the whole show, he is the one who loses.

Automatic Afterthought

I take a spot in the back as AJ Mulvey, from local station WDBR, announces the first Act, Automatic Afterthought, to a smattering of applause.

They get right into their first song, an original track titled, “Wasting Time.” The speakers blare, shaking the chests of the audience, as Aundrea Marsh and her band give it their all.

After they finish their first song, much more enthusiastic applause follows, and Marsh announces the bands second song a cover for Blink 182, “if you have ever heard of them,” Marsh jokes.

“I will Miss You” is followed by another cover this time of a band called All Time Low; the song was titled “Kids in the Dark.”

Marsh jokes that given the time of day, sunlight streaming in from open doors, “we are more like the kids in the light. No that’s a terrible joke.” The crowd still laughs.

The band finishes its set with another original song titled “Ecstasy,” which can be listened to on YouTube and SoundCloud, with help from Built in a Day’s J.R Bennet, who bassist Nick Dabbs also plays for.

I snag drummer Dylan Gladson for a quick interview.

He tells me that the band formed as is about two months ago, and that he and Nick had found Aundrea through friends.

He expressed relief at going first since it got the nerves out and now he could just enjoy the rest of the battle.

On Point

After announcing the winners for the first door prizes, Mulvey welcomes On Point to the stage, the winners of last year’s Battle of the Bands.

A large crowd that grouped up near the stage screams wildly.

The band belts out song after song with barely any recovery, just a quick notice of each song starting with “Wanted” by Bon Jovi, then slipping into “Say It Ain’t So” and “Hold On Loosely.” As a closer the band does some trick playing, as both guitarists and the bassist raise their instruments behind their heads and continue to play just as well as they have the whole show.

Through email and an interview, Dave Harris, guitar and vocals, told me about the band of four who formed about a year ago, just in time to enter and win LLCC’s last Battle.

“It was an awesome experience,” he said, with sweat pouring off him as he asks if he can get a drink of water before I ask more questions.

When asked about how he felt about his playing this year against last year, he said, “I feel really content, we played much better than last year. Though that first band made me a little nervous they were so good.”

On Point can be found on YouTube.

Built in a Day

Mulvey introduces Built in a Day, with Molly Edwards, on vocals. She gives the name of the first song, but bumbles it “Close call close, something like that,” she says to a few chuckles.

The Black Sheep Café, a local music venue on south 11th Street, lists the song as “Close Calls Call For Calls Home.”

Their music is great with lots of instrumental parts that really make one regret that we can’t mosh. They also play a cover of Fallout Boy’s “Dead on Arrival.”

Speaking to Molly after their set, I learn that the band formed in 2012, and while they have gone through several band mate changes, tonight was a real treat in the band had all its original members.

While they did play last year’s Battle of the Bands, they didn’t even place, though in that same year they won the Black Sheep Café’s battle.

Edwards said she felt like the band did about the same as they did last year. If you like them, they play at The Black Sheep Café, an all-ages venue.

You also can find a sample of their music on Black Sheep’s website.

Fill in the Blank

More prizes, that I didn’t win, are announced.

Mulvey then introduces Two Fat Guys and a Skinny Guy, aka Fill in the Blank. They rush out full of energy into their first song, and even a little bit of speaker trouble is not going to stop these guys singing about being mad at your parents.

The next song about being mad at your ex-girlfriend has a great drum solo. But then we get dark as the band that seemed so goofy starts to sing some heart wrenchingly sad songs.

Sadly, after the second sad song about a kid wondering if anyone would care if he ran away, a broken

string sends the band off early.

Lukas Myers, bassist and lead vocals, tells me about how awesome the performance was as he and his band mates Kevin Carman, guitar and lead vocals, and David Gardner, drums, surround me blocking off the entrance to the lobby.

“No, it’s not normal, but we do break stuff occasionally.” Myers said when asked about the broken string.

“We’ve been a band for three years, and we are great friends, though it wasn’t always that way,” Myers said, retelling a time when he got in a fist fight with Carman over a girl. But it’s all good now, Myers said giving Carman a hug.

You can find music by the band on SoundCloud and visit their Facebook page.

The Light Home

Another prize is announced as The Light Home enters the stage, draping its drum kit in a white string lights.

There were a few technical difficulties with the drum and guitar, but that didn’t stop this group from putting on a great show. Its Fallout Boy cover was the closest sounding cover to the original all night. They also played a very inspiring song about how even when you are stuck there is always a way out.

You can listen to their music on their Facebook page.

Audience reaction

I missed my chance to talk to the band as I talked to two attendees about the show.

Katie Heikes, liked On Point a lot but also liked it more when the bands used original songs. She also voiced that she didn’t figure there would be as much original music as was showcased.

Rebecca Zielke, who was friends with the drummer of The Light Home, Caleb Jennings, also enjoyed the original music. She also told me that she is in a band herself and understands that string breaks like what

happened to Fill in the Blank happen often enough.

Wanna

Last prize was announced. I still didn’t win.

As Wanna makes it onto the stage, they arrived more than a little late due to bassist Johnathan Sabath being sick. He said he was feeling much better by show time and expressed that he was glad he came even if he risked spewing on stage.

The band announced they are only going to play one song, but assure the crowd not to worry as some voice disappointment.

“It’s probably going to be really good,” someone in the crowd says.

I think it’s more likely it’s going to be really long. We were both right.

The band jammed on that one song until only four minutes of their set was left, so they jammed for four more minutes to the delight of the crowd.

I asked Sabath why they only chose the one song, “We are more of a jam band, and I was taught at this school to never let a good composition go to waste, so why let a good thing peter out after 5 minutes.”

You can find photos and music samples on the band’s Facebook page.

And The Winner is...

On Point wins the battle and the \$500 top prize.

Fill in the Blank grabbed second with a \$250 prize.

The Light Home took third and a \$100 prize.

A lead singer for On Point, Dave Harris and his band mates thanked everyone and the fans who donated over a hundred dollars for the Illinois United Way.

Harris also offered a special thanks to LLCC and AudioTechnic Services for putting on such a great show.

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Students' voices heard

By Teresa Brummett
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Lincoln Land Community College joined with students from community colleges around the state for Student Advocacy Day.

The Springfield event included guest speakers talking about the importance of community colleges and offered a chance for students to share their voice with lawmakers.

"With such an impressive looking group of students, you have to know that you are all so much more effective together," Karen Hunter-Anderson said.

She encouraged students to tell their stories. She said she believes that Illinois community colleges are not the best in the country, but the best in the world.

Following Hunter-Anderson, Kyle Walsh, a student at Heartland Community College, spoke.

"I will tell you what all of my old girlfriends have told me: 'I swear I won't keep you long,'" Walsh said as the room broke out in laughter.

He quoted Abraham Lincoln, "Al-

ways bear in mind that your resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing."

Walsh spoke about state Rep. Dan Brady bringing a resolution on costs of a college education. They want to pass a bill that will allow students who are at-risk, minority, low-income and under-represented populations the chance to go to college. The legislation would pay for these nontraditional students' first two years of school.

Walsh said having full-time jobs and full-time school makes it hard to focus on school. Students also worry about student loan debt.

If this bill were to pass, Walsh said, it would relieve pressure for students.

"If you don't have a seat at the table, then you are on the menu," Walsh said, quoting Avery Bourne, the state representative from Litchfield. Walsh was encouraging students to advocate for their positions.

"I hope this isn't the last time that you voices will be heard," Walsh said.

The speakers ended with state Rep. Thaddeus Jones, D-Dalton, who started his speech with wadding up his personal outline and tossing it

over his shoulder.

"Believe it or not, I had really big glasses and an Afro back in school," Jones said, jokingly. "I know it's hard to believe, because I'm bald now. But it's true."

He talked about growing up in one of the poorest communities and how privileged he felt to be here speaking with the students, because a lot of kids didn't make it out of his town.

When Jones graduated, he made a copy of his diploma and put his mother's name on it. She never finished fifth grade, but he knew she was as much a part of his accomplishments as he was.

The backbone to the community is our community colleges, Jones said, and we have to fight for them.

Jones finished by saying that, "believe me, there is power in numbers, and your voices want to be heard. That's why I'm here. I'm excited for the students, and for your futures. So let's go get it!"

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Teresa Brummett/The Lamp

Sadie Mosher (left) and coach John Marsaglia (right) pose for a picture. Sophomore Mosher will be transferring to Ave Maria University next fall.

Sadie Mosher leads Loggers on, off the playing field

By Teresa Brummett
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The Loggers softball team will be losing a good all-around player this spring.

Sophomore pitcher Sadie Mosher, will be packing up and moving to Florida next fall. It's not just because she loves the beaches.

Mosher plans to continue her softball career at Ave Maria University, a private catholic school, in Naples, Fla. She will be studying physical therapy.

Mosher can play about any position in softball, but she prefers pitching, then shortstop.

"This is a girl we saw play three years ago," said coach John Marsaglia. "She had great potential and integrity. And today has risen far above and beyond all of our expectations"

Mosher has 13 wins and five losses in 20 appearances as a pitcher this season. She has 3.26 earned run average with 110 strikeouts.

Mosher also has a .431 batting average with eight homeruns. That is third and second among the Loggers, respectively.

The 2013 Riverdale High School

graduate has amassed a list of accomplishments for herself at such a young age.

During her high school career, Mosher broke the all-time school record for doubles in a season. She was selected for the Three Rivers Athletic All-Conference team all four years, player of the year in 2013 in the same northwestern Illinois conference.

Mosher has kept very busy on and off the field all season.

Mosher stays grounded with help from The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

She and other athletes meet to talk about sports and the Bible. Before every game, the team offers the opposing team the chance to join them in right field for a prayer. Keeping everyone safe and giving thanks to God is what keeps her faith close at hand.

Mosher said she is excited about continuing her softball career and studies at Ave Maria, which has a beautiful church at its center.

"We are really going miss her," Marsaglia said, emotionally.

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Music, continued on Page 1

enjoyed some of the musical creations by the duo. The pair has written music for Lincoln Land's theater productions "The Dumb Waiter," "Hello Out There" and "The Shadows of Edgar Allen Poe."

"The Edgar Allen Poe show was amazing due to the mood that the music set for the audience and play," said Justice Council, a Lincoln Land student.

Smith and Dylan grew their friendship riding to school together to

Southeast High School, where they both played percussion and were part of rock bands.

"The bond Jeff and I have is very strong and low maintenance," Smith said. "Sure, Jeff and myself could each write good scores alone, but bringing our unique perspectives together to create something that might be otherwise unattainable is very much worth the outcome"

Besides, Smith said, composing music can be lonely work, and having an extra set of eyes and ears allow him more perspective on his music.

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Mullet man, continued on page 1

I just decided to have him not cut the back of my hair," Scogin said.

He has the hair because he loves it, its a part of who he is, and he doesn't care what other people have to say or think about it.

He has many favorite things about the chili bowl mullet, including its look, its feel and the way he feels when he walks around town with it.

These are only the minor things that he loves about the style. His favorite thing is that it gives him "inspiration." He says that it gives him true and great happiness for who he is.

Although he does love the mullet very much there are a few things that he finds aggravating.

He sometimes thinks that it can be tiring having to take care of it. He has to constantly cut it perfectly straight across on his own.

He doesn't like to go to barbers, because he believes he cuts it the best.

Beside that, he keeps his hair care simple. He says that he takes a shower, uses standard shampoo, combs and dries it every day.

He doesn't do anything special, he says.

His family was not exactly comfortable with the hair cut.

They didn't like it too much. They wanted him to cut it off. They fought it for some time and would really try and get him to cut it, so there was some confrontation.

Now his family has accepted it.

When he first started walking around Springfield, some people would yell and scream stuff out at him, but the mullet man kept going.

He continuously blew it off and just kept on going with life.

"I never got down or sad about what they would say to me," Scogin said. "It is apart of who I am and I love it."

He hears mostly positive stuff anymore.

He has never thought about cutting the mullet and be-

lieves it is too much a part of who he is for him to cut it.

When the question was asked if he was ever consider cutting it for charity and such, he said, "Go find someone else. I would appreciate it but find someone else. But I would be glad to help any charity in any way possible — except cutting my hair."

His popularity has led to people doing many things for him. People give him coupons, give him price breaks on certain goods and giving him rides.

Most of the time though, Scogin walks to all the places he has to go.

The mullet man walks about eight hours a day during the week and 10 to 12 hours a day on the weekends.

He loves walking.

Scogin says that he does it for exercise and fun. He believes that every day is an adventure when he walks, he gets to see new and awesome things while walking everywhere.

The Chili Bowl Mullet Man is unemployed but does odd jobs for people.

Scogin said he doesn't have any career expectations. He just wants to see what happens. He wants to reach as high and as far as possible.

"Life is a hard process, but you gotta do what you gotta do. I just want to see what happens," Scogin said.

The one thing that many people talk about is whether or not the mullet man will be on MTV's "Ridiculousness."

Scogin said he has been contact by the show, and it is planning something for the fall.

He doesn't know if he is going to be on the show or if it will be over video or what. The show will be featuring the mullet man though.

To end it all, he wanted this to be said "Dear Springfield fans, I have appreciated all that you have done for me. I hope that you all live long and happy lives. Always keep going and pursuing your dreams. Just remember when you see me walking down the streets, think of me, John Scogin, the Chili Bowl Mullet Man, because I am looking out for you and you are me. Y'all take care."

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Tuition, continued from Page 1

"It's certainly not an arbitrary decision (to increase tuition) done by just Lincoln Land, like, 'Hmm, I think we should make tuition \$110 (for in-district students)," McDonald said.

McDonald said he does not expect the tuition increase to affect enrollment for next school year. He also said that he thinks that has not been a problem in the past.

"I don't think we've ever heard the reason, 'I didn't come back to school this fall or this spring because tuition went up,'" he said. "I don't think we hear that, to my knowledge. I

haven't heard that that is a problem."

McDonald said he expects the tuition rates to continue rising.

"Typically, most schools do a tuition increase," he said. "Some keep it smaller, some go a bit larger. It just depends on their budgeting situation. So as long as the average tuition for the state (community colleges) goes up, our tuition will go up. And I think just based on what I've seen from other schools doing tuition rates, most people are increasing.

"I've seen a few (community colleges) with the decision to make it low or hold it flat for a year. Perhaps they did a large increase last year. Everybody's rationale is different."

Gov. Bruce Rauner's predicted budget is to not change the state's funding to Illinois

community colleges from last year. McDonald said the Illinois Community College Board determines how much state funding each community college receives.

"Whether each individual school gets the same exact amount remains to be seen," McDonald said.

Lincoln Land Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget of \$43,388,533 for fiscal year 2015 at its Sept. 24 meeting

He said LLCC's tuition and property tax play a role in the schools overall budget for the 2015-16 school year. Property tax is 40 percent of Lincoln Land's budget, while tuition is 50 percent. He said he expects the budget to go up slightly for the 2015-16 school year.

LLCC's property tax is \$0.46 of \$100 as-

essed value. McDonald said property values have gone up 1 to 2 percent.

"We getting additional money from the property taxes," McDonald said. "Obviously, we will get an increase in tuition revenue. It just depends on what our enrollment is going to be, how many students, how many credit hours."

Discussions on whether to cut any programs "haven't materialized or aren't to the point of being serious enough," McDonald said.

"We don't come at it (the budget) from a number side and what do we need to cut to make things balance," he said. "We come at it with a strategic goal side, and say, 'What do we need to do to advance the institution?'"

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Lamp staffers graduating, moving on

SPRINGFIELD – Several students who contributed to The Lamp while at Lincoln Land will be graduating this spring.

The Lamp wishes all graduates the best of luck, but it is very proud of all who contributed.

Here is a look at The Lamp alumni:

Nathanael Herbert

Nathanael Herbert will graduate and continue his studies at the University of Illinois Springfield, where he plan to major in media communications.

Herbert was not only a contributor to The Lamp. He also was crowned homecoming king at Lincoln Land, which he said was an honor. He also was involved with the Jacksonville Activities Board.

Herbert enjoyed the friendships he created with students, as well as faculty and staff, he said. Working the front desk at the Jacksonville campus, he remember “having great conversations with Jennifer Meyer, going into Jan Terry’s office for laughs and lessons on life and being the leader of JAB with adviser Keri Mason.”

Herbert, who was homeschooled and graduated in 2012, started at LLCC in the fall 2013.

At Lincoln Land, Herbert said his favorite classes were Political Science 101 and Sound Design 1.

Herbert wrote a story about the music program’s new audio certificate, which he recalls as a highlight of his reporting. “I have been abundantly blessed dur-

ing my time at Lincoln Land,” Herbert said. “I cannot say enough on how the professors and staff teach and pour into us students because they want us to succeed. Lincoln Land is a school that has opportunity and community as the foundation. I will miss Lincoln Land, but forever hold onto the wonderful memories that have been made here.”

Herbert hopes to use his skills in media for Christian purposes.

Justice Council

Justice Council plans to take a year off after graduating in order to save money before transferring.

The 2014 Glenwood High School graduate wrote columns for The Lamp in the fall, and he said his favorite was about voting in America.

“Even though I did not write too many pieces, I enjoyed the time I spent writing for The Lamp,” Council said.

Council counts his favorite classes as Introduction to Philosophy and Mass Media and Society.

“I really enjoyed being a part of the honors program,” Council said. “I got to meet a lot of good people, and it helped me build as a person.”

Council hopes to study public relations.

“I would love to own my own Public Relations firm,” Council said. “I really like the idea of image promotion for companies and individuals.

They give me a vision of what they or their company are all about, and I present it to the world in a way that rally’s people behind their vision.”

Stephen Ortega

Stephen Ortega will graduate and transfer to University of Illinois Springfield to study media communications.

Ortega both wrote and took photos for The Lamp. Ortega took on the project of taking photos for a special “Where Is It?” contest in the first edition of The Lamp in the fall 2014.

He spent time looking for the right angle on familiar sites to challenge readers to figure out where they are located.

Ortega said his favorite story for The Lamp was in “The Lump,” the April Fools edition of the newspaper. He wrote multiple stories for it, but his favorite was about Lincoln Land moving to California.

The 2013 Springfield High School graduate started at Lincoln Land in the fall 2013.

His favorite classes were English 099 with Ashley Green, Photography and News Writing.

“My best memories (at Lincoln Land) were when I could help out with The Lamp newspaper and having friendly, helping professors,” Ortega said.

Ortega hopes to move to California to work for the media or film.

“If you work hard and never give up, you can make it anywhere,” Ortega said. “LLCC is a great college and remember to study, study, study to get the best grade.”

Jordan Minder

Jordan Minder plans to study psychology with a minor in art. She

is still considering transferring to University of Colorado Boulder.

The 2014-15 assistant/visual editor for The Lamp, Minder said she most enjoyed writing about one of Thom Whalen’s paintings.

“A lot of people here know Thom, and getting to know him on a more personal level through this article was really fun and memorable for me,” Minder said.

Minder graduated from Sacred Heart-Griffin in 2013 and started at Lincoln Land in the fall.

Minder would pick Greg Murray’s English 102 as a favorite.

“It wasn’t even that I liked writing,” Minder said. “Though I despised writing at the time, the class dynamic was absolutely eye-opening. This class made me realize that though rubrics may exist, there are no rules or limits when it comes to writing, or anything else, for that matter.”

Minder said she is still trying to figure out what she will do. Being young, she hopes to explore her options.

“I wouldn’t have traded my two years here at LLCC for anything,” Minder said. “I am trying to figure out where I’m supposed to go and what I am supposed to do in life, which I know many of you can relate to. Being here really shaped me and helped me into some sort of direction, even though I am unsure of which way that direction is going. All of my professors were outstanding, and I encountered so much opportunity that I don’t believe I would have gotten anywhere else.”

Ryan Wilson

Ryan Wilson, the editor for The Lamp in 2014-15, will graduate and transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he plans to study broadcast journalism.

Wilson aspires to do play-by-play sports announcer for college or professional athletics, but he would most like to be an announcer for NBA games.

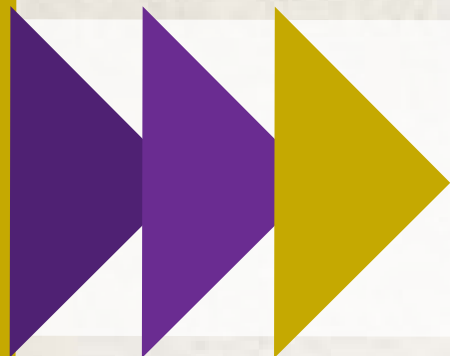
The 2013 Auburn High School graduate started taking classes at Lincoln Land during the summer 2012, but he began full time in the fall 2013.

Wilson said his favorite class was speech with Brenda Protz, who “kept the class fun and interesting. Her class helped me in many aspects, not just speaking in public. She sparked my interest in journalism.”

Wilson counts as a favorite memory at Lincoln Land was leaving campus to attend the Illinois Community College Journalism Association conferences.

“It was neat to speak with other aspiring journalists like me,” Wilson said. “The two-day trip was fun and a great learning experience. As the conference offered several journalism-specific seminars.”

Wilson added: “Lincoln Land has been a great school for me. It has definitely provided me with the necessary tools to succeed in school and beyond. I am very thankful that I chose to come here.”



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