

THE LAMP

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Life after the accident

Jeff Conan talks about adapting after crash that put him in a wheelchair

By Theaibold Kennon III
Lamp staff

Jeff Conan takes one class each semester and is mainly in the lower level of the library

You could talk to Jeff about his favorite baseball team: He is a lifelong White Sox fan. You could ask him all about the classes he has taken over the last six or seven years. He will tell you about how awesome his professors are. But Jeff will want to share with you the day that changed his life forever. The day that led him to need a wheelchair to get around.

Jeff shares his testimony of his life with young high school teens taking driver's education at events all over the state. Five days before his 16th birthday, in 2001, Jeff took a ride with three of his friends. They were heading back home to Taylorville from an impromptu trip to Springfield. Back then, the highway they were traveling on was a two-lane one. They tried to pass in a no passing zone. Suddenly a mini-van was right in front of them. Jeff's friend was driving and he swerved on the gravel. They pulled back on the road, but ended up hitting the median.

"The people in the mini-van were OK. The kids in the back seat were OK, but the driver broke her leg, I think. This was all told to me later. I was out of it." Jeff recalls.

Jeff's friend behind him, Willie, died on impact. Jeff's best friend, Chris, only had an ear injury. Chris was behind the driver. The driver, Thad, was sent to the hospital that night but released. Jeff was airlifted to St. John's in Springfield, where he was in a coma for three months.

"In the coma I saw God. He asked If I wanted to live or die. I said I wanted to live. He said we will see." Jeff said.

Jeff awoke three and a half months later with his dad by his bed. Jeff went on to therapy for the next year and a half. He went back to school and even had visits from St. Louis Cardinals players. When he graduated from high school in Taylorville, Jeff walked across the stage; he can walk with the help of a walker or cane.

Jeff has found a deeper meaning and connection in life beyond survival. He gets to do, as he says, awesome things, like canoeing down the Mississippi, or going on the field

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Club initiative begins in spring

Council encourages collaboration

By Isaac Warren
Editor

SPRINGFIELD - Lincoln Land Community College hosts a lot of clubs and organizations. Starting in the Spring 2017 semester, the student government alliance will be kicking off Club Council, which will aim to provide training, awareness, and collaboration for all clubs and organizations at LLCC.

Most positions, such as President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be able to be properly trained with information and tools necessary for their club and organization to operate at it's highest potential. All officers will also be able to participate in leadership training, which teaches about "Learning how to be a strong and effective leader," according to the SGA slideshow.

Other training events will cover the workings of a club, such as running a fundraiser, how to volunteer as a club, and "Bringing clubs and organizations together to work toward common goals through club council committees."

The emphasis on collaboration is a big one, and it is one of the primary goals of the Club Council to ensure all clubs are able to participate in activities together, and even alleviate the costs of some trips.

Meetings are currently planned to meet once a month. During these meetings, club representatives will be able to attend and report on updates from their club and from the SGA. Discussion of group initiatives and plans are also topics of conversation.

The Club Council will be headed by the SGA vice President, with the SGA Public Relations Officer serving as Vice chair. Four committees will be created, where clubs and organizations will sign up to take the responsibilities of their committee. The four committees are: diversity and cultural competency, civic engagement, social, and awareness.

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LLCC celebrates veterans



Ryan Mazrim/Lamp

Faculty and staff gather in the A.Lincoln Commons to hear speakers during Veterans Day. More photos on page 3.

How to find a job on campus

By Emmi Fisher
Assistant Editor

SPRINGFIELD - The holidays are coming around and you might have notice your bank account can not cover your children's or a special someone's presents wishes. After fall tuition and life bills and spring tuition due soon, this is likely a problem with many of the students at Lincoln Land Community College.

However, Lincoln Land Community College has many job occupations, and want students to fulfill these needs. The Human Resources Department at Lincoln Land Community College has also made

it super easy to view open positions and apply for these positions.

If you would like to apply for a job on campus follow these simple steps:

Visit <http://www.llcc.edu/human-resources/student-jobs/>, or find this page by visiting the LLCC website and clicking on Human Resources, then Student Jobs.

Visit the job postings, and find one that fits your major or interests.

Apply for the position online, the application takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

For a better chance of obtaining a job fill out a FAFSA to see if you qualify for work study.

Working on campus has many advantages for students. Lincoln Land will work around your class schedule, transitioning from school to work is a nice convenience and holidays mean time off. The pay is minimum wage or more in many cases. The position you're at is part-time, so you can make some nice cash, but not be overwhelmed with work hours.

So, as the holidays come about and spring break planning starts, if you are in need of a job, you will be sure to find a position that fits your interest at the school.

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with the White Sox. He has given his testimony in front of two churches, including the one his dad goes to, so far. Jeff is now thirty-one and lives on his own. He takes the Springfield

Access bus, to and from Lincoln Land. He has a caregiver that helps him by making his bed, helping with his laundry and cooking his meals for him. He faces challenges every day, Jeff meets them, then looks for his next set, beyond school, Jeff is on the Special Olympic Bowling team. He hangs out with his girlfriend, friends, his brothers, and his dad. Jeff fills his life with choir at church

and being a genuine nice person. "Through everything that I've been through, there's one thing that held me together, my faith. With God, I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. But without God, I don't know where I'd be." Jeff speaks of his life.

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Respect is important following election fallout

Call for treating others with the same respect you deserve can go a long way

By Isaac Warren
Editor

SPRINGFIELD - Trump. The name everyone is talking about. The surprising victory from the now President-elect has spawned many reactions. Some protested, some cried, some rejoiced and some were hopeful. No matter what side of the political map you may fall on, it is important to remember a few ideas. Treat others the way you want to be treated. This rule has been in everyone's mind since elementary school, or earlier. Although it may seem childish, it is a good litmus test for actions. Do you want someone screaming profanities at you because of a difference in opinion? Probably not. Not everyone shares your opinion. The world is huge (source needed) and there are a lot of people who

live on it. It is unrealistic to expect everyone to have the same point of view as you do, and is is even more unrealistic to think that someone can be swayed to another side by threatening them, harassing them, or being just plain rude. Alexander the Great did not defeat multiple civilizations because he called them racists, cis scum, traitors, or drones." The founding fathers did not write cruel and untrue things about the King and Queen of England. They expressed their discomfort and ideas in a way that was professional and not slanderous. A cynical attitude gets you nowhere. The future may seem bleak to some people, maybe even apocalyptic. If you voted for anyone other than Trump, you are probably feeling a bit angry and upset at the results. No one likes to lose, but there comes a point where you need to accept

that this is the way things are now, and it will be an experience that will go down in history. If I feel down, I always come back to this quote" Was it a bad day, or five minutes of bad that you milked all day?" Give Trump a chance. I have to admit that I was surprised that Trump won, and I initially was not sure how to feel about his win. I have decided to keep an open mind and give him a chance. I strongly advise others do the same, regardless of political party. As Lincoln once said "A house divided cannot stand." This election has split the nation more than any other election to date. If everyone could agree that Trump deserves a chance, we could have a better attitude as a nation towards progress.

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Becoming aware of life on a bus ride

By Edward Gerson
Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD - "You're bipolar, Mr. Gerson" the psychiatrist said, "a condition you share with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Jane Pauley." "We should text them," my wife said ironically, "I'm sure they'll be excited." "I'm going to start you on Lexapro," the doctor added, "10 mg every morning." "Well, that's it," my wife said, "You'll have to give up driving. Give me your keys." My wife is a Latina: petite, blond, and blue-eyed, she's lived through riots, revolutions, civil war. She once held a chicken-thief at rifle-point until the police arrived. "Hell, no!" I shouted. "I'm not going to give up my freedom. Plus, it's impractical. How am I going to run errands while you're at work like shopping and stuff?" "We'll just have to do them together. I'm not worried if you kill yourself. I'm worried about the other people you might kill or injure plus the car. By that I mean my car. We can't take the risk. Your friend Mark can drive you to campus." "I'm not going to do it!" I insisted "Suit yourself," my wife said. "I'll fix up the kid's bedroom." "I feel emasculated, Mark," I said, "like she took away my manhood."

"No, she didn't," Mark said, turning down Toronto Road, "Not that you had much to begin with. Plus I don't see you wearing handcuffs. You're free, white, over the age of 21. Take responsibility for your decision. She's worried about you. You love her. You're doing this out of your concern for her feelings." "Well," I said relieved, "when you put it that way, yeah, I guess I did." "Plus the lady's right," he added, turning onto the campus. "You can't get behind the wheel." "Why not?" "Because you're too unstable. If you had an accident, you'd lose it. Try explaining that to the judge." So I started riding SMTD. And a funny thing happened. I began to notice things. I became aware how diverse people were who rode the bus: the people from different countries and the languages they spoke; the different ages: students, seniors, young mothers with their kids in strollers. I noticed the people going to work dressed in their uniforms: Golden Corral, McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Hardies; the men and women who racked their bicycles on the front of the bus; the people who got on with crutches, walkers, strollers, wheelchairs. I was amazed one afternoon when a lady driver no more than my wife in size and build strapped a disabled veteran into the bus. I began to talk to people, not only students, but

others, like the lady who filled me in on Illinois politics, the gentleman who asked why a man my age was taking classes at LLCC. And my awareness continued to grow. While walking my dogs, I realized how many others were out doing the same: plus the joggers, single and together, whole families sometimes, my neighbors cutting lawns, trimming hedges, washing cars, the garbage men, the postmen, the UPS deliverers, the contractors, working on roofs, painting homes. And finally, I noticed the trees, the leaves, the way they looked in the evening sun, the sound they made moving in the wind, the way the leaves dropped to the earth. All of it. Everywhere. "I have something to confess," I said to my wife. "What is it?" "She said irritated. "You were right about my not driving," I said sheepishly. "I was." "Yeah. I never realized how bright the world was until now. It's like a kaleidoscope, my Sweet. You turn it and something new and wondrous appears." My wife looked at me. "Can I ask you a question?" "Sure. Of course," I replied. "Did you take your meds?"

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Make voice heard about the election outcome

By Tess Peterson
Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD - After thoughtful consideration I know what to put on my sign. President-elect Trump is not ok, but he is going to be our president. We all need to come together to fight for everyone's rights. As Alexander Hamilton said "I never expect to see perfect work from an imperfect man." As we have learned from the wildly popular musical, Hamilton, "I'm not throwing away my shot." This is more powerful coming from the actor playing Hamilton, Lin -Manuel Miranda who has inspired many as a child of immigrants. The story of election night this year we live in different kind of a divided America. The results of the Electoral College have given the victory to Donald Trump, while the popular vote has been won by Hillary Clinton. This has only happened twice in recent history. This is the system we have chosen to elect our President and we must respect it. That does not mean that we don't express our first amendment rights to protest. We should, however, do so peacefully. Some of our friends may be scared about their future because of Donald Trump's victory. They have every right to be scared as President-elect Trump made some very scary campaign promises that if they became real, it could affect people's lives. Think about a fellow undocumented student's fear they could be deported, if DACA is rescinded. What about the promise of a Muslim ban? These are real concerns, and policies like this do not represent America. You have a way to ensure that these types of policies are not ever enacted. Get involved in local issues that you care about. Make sure that your elected officials know that policies like a Muslim ban and the reversal of DACA are not acceptable! Participate in peaceful protest. Use social media to spread love rather than hate. One great thing about our democracy is that we have elections every two years for Congress. Get involved and help a candidate that supports your beliefs and aspirations to get elected. We need people in political life who are more like Hamilton who understood the first job of a government servant is to serve all of the people. History has it eyes on you

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Bobby Herpel poses with his trumpet
Ryan Mazrim/Lamp



Bobby Herpel gives a speech
Ryan Mazrim/Lamp



Veterans participate in the LLCC Veterans Day event
Ryan Mazrim/Lamp



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Nontraditional students face similar challenges

By **Jesse Baker**
Lamp staff

The world is diverse, and the same could be said for Lincoln Land's campus, where thousands of students come from differing backgrounds in age, countries, beliefs and so on.

This makes the term "normal" incredibly hard to define in terms of what a normal college student looks like. In terms of age, a traditional — or normal — college student is 18 to 24 years old, usually with no formal disabilities.

According to Lincoln Land's website, this is considered to be about 75 percent of students at the college this fall. Anyone else who does not fall into this category and makes up the other 25 percent is considered to be nontraditional.

"Older nontraditional students often have more purpose and direction as to why they're in school compared to younger students. However, they can also have a greater sense of anxiety when they come back to school due to the challenges represented by college," said Psychology Professor Gary

One example of that "sense of direction" spoke of by Swee might come from one Sheila Bryant.

"I actually feel less pressure about going, back to college now than if I did when I was younger," the 45-year-old student said. "I simply want more education, not more money."

This allows Bryant with the support

of her family and job to go back to college without added pressures of attempting to find well paying jobs in the workforce.

Nontraditional students have also found ways to be successful in the educational studies in the wake different challenges that can include a college's size, work expectations and load.

"When I got out of the military, I knew I wanted to come to a small school, to ease myself back into the college setting," said Kegan Sullivan, a 25-year-old student.

Nontraditional students can be overwhelmed by college atmospheres and the cold unfamiliar feelings that big colleges campuses can have. In this way, smaller college environments may provide a more intimate feeling for nontraditional students and one-on-one aid may be more readily available. This is in contrast to big universities where nontraditional students may struggle to navigate campus and find help when they need it.

Younger students such as Evan Dionne, who is 17, are also known as the nontraditional student.

"I'm mainly taking college classes now so I can get my degree early ... with the added benefit of getting more time to pay off my degree," Dionne said.

Dionne seems to show an ambition and drive that is usually not found in his classmates who are his age, but these educational fulfillments can be still fulfilled at Lincoln Land even at

a younger age than Dionne's. Often courses here at Lincoln Land can be occupied by those who are younger or older than that of the average age of people who are considered to be traditional students if they are approved by the academic administration.

This may be in part due to the work of people like Lisa Collier, the head of Enrollment Services at Lincoln Land.

"My job is to show students how to go (to) school while being in line with goals they have for themselves," Collier said.

Collier stated her relatability to nontraditional students when she said, "I too was considered a nontraditional student as it took me 10 years to obtain my associate's degree before I moved on to my bachelor's and master's".

This makes Collier along with other accessibility services such as the Center of Academic Success a safety net and reference point for traditional and nontraditional students alike to obtain help in their academic adventures.

So overall, here at Lincoln Land, students have many different opportunities to succeed in whatever they decide to do. Even if someone is considered to be a nontraditional student, many different paths are available for these students to accel with the rest of the student body

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Doctor Strange is Marvel's best to date

By **Isaac Warren**
Editor

SPRINGFIELD - Enter the world of Doctor Strange, an amazing brain surgeon who can perform surgeries that almost seem like miracles. His talents surpass his co workers, and has earned him multiple prestigious awards. However, his reckless behavior causes him to fall victim to an accident that renders his talent impossible. Seeking answers and healing, he goes to Nepal, where he learns how to control the source code of the universe in spectacular ways.

Doctor Strange is a visual masterpiece that must be seen in theaters. I have not met anyone who has disliked this movie, and I think it is Marvel's best movie to date. Benedict Cumberbatch was amazing as Stephen Strange, and pulled a very convincing American accent throughout the movie. The beginning scene is only a small taste of what is to come later in the movie, as far as visual effects go. The end credits had the entire screen filled with names when it listed the workers for visual effects, which shows Marvel's willingness to spend every penny necessary to make this movie phenomenal.

The plot was well-paced and understandable, for the most part. If this is your first Marvel movie, you will not feel left in the dark by and references to previous movies, except for the scene after the credits. I

felt the writers balanced the amount of exposition and casual talk well, and the information was not clunky or out of place. Every conversation felt normal and realistic. The jokes are few and far between, and are more slapstick pieces aimed for the younger audiences.

It is important to note that this is not a science movie, like previous Marvel superhero movies. The origin story for Doctor Strange is based in science and medicine, while the powers are more magical. There are no lab explosions, radioactive spiders, or any cliché that usually kicks off a hero's story. Strange's origin felt as if it could happen to anyone, and his methods of dealing with it are normal for people who could be in his situation.

Overall, Doctor Strange earns a 4.8/5 in my book, and has far surpassed my expectations as a movie enthusiast. The commercials did not give away any crucial points of the story, and the movie itself looks stunning. Be sure to stay after the entire end credit sequence for a second ending that will make you wanting more. This movie is, in my opinion, best seen in theaters in order to experience the full effect of the movie's achievements in terms of sound, story, and visuals.

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Students balance class, jobs

By **Avery Cook**
Lamp staff

Lincoln Land is a very affordable

college, but that does not change the fact that every college student has to ask themselves this question: What the heck am I going to do for money?

Many Lincoln Land students have to balance both their academic work and outside jobs. For some students it might be a simple matter of picking the right hours, and managing their schedule.

"I work mostly night shifts, and I usually make sure that I have at least two hours to work on my homework" said Lincoln Land student Lauren Walters and hostess at Public House 29.

"I am usually able to plan ahead a lot and stay up on my work responsibilities and school work as I only go to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and I have three online classes although I rarely have any time for a social life," said Ryan Larson, a manager at Pier One Imports.

But for others, things can be a bit more complicated. Some students need a certain level of financial support before they are able start college.

"I had to quit school the first time because my old boss did not respect my school schedule, and I had to wait to come back to school because I needed to find job where I would make above minimum wage so that I could pay my bills" said Karissa Hurst, an employee of Thorntons

Gas Station.

When students work jobs outside of school, they need to figure out what their first priority is their work schedule or their school schedule.

"If school is my number one priority, and if that started to conflict with my work, I would either step down from my manager position, or try to adjust my schedule" Larson said.

For many students, they work hard to deal with scheduling conflicts.

"If my school schedule interfered with work schedule, I would probably try to get other people at work to cover me until next semester where I would try to change up my schedule to fit in with work schedule" Walters said.

Of course, it also helps to have an employer who is willing to help them, and work with their school schedule. Because if not then they will be working against themselves trying to fulfill both of their needs.

"Employers need to see what they can do to encourage higher education," Hurst said.

Of course students who live with their parents usually have less to worry about than students living on their own, as they usually have fewer bills to pay and less pressure, but they usually are not able to make as much money as the could with a higher education.

How many hours a student works can potentially make all the difference to a student's academic career.

"I live by myself, and I work around sixteen hours a week, and I go to school about 10 hours a week,

and that right there is about the perfect amount for me. I wouldn't really want more or less," said Eric Bonacorssi, an employee of Public House 29

"I started working in March this year, and I started with around \$40 hours a week, but when I started at Lincoln Land, I had to lower it to 20 to 25 hours. There just was not any way I could keep it up, and I am lucky that my boss is supportive of my school schedule," said Madilyn Kell, an employee of Chick-Fil-A.

If a student truly wants to have no conflict between their work and school schedules, they might want to try to become a student worker as each semester the workers submit their schedule and how many hours the student would like.

"I work usually 10 hours a week, and I have classes like 15 hours a week. The school works with you and determines your hours based on your class time, your study time, your homework time and your home time. They really want you to succeed in your classes as a good academic standing is required to be a student worker," said Emily Millbury, a student worker for Student Life.

So many of the students at Lincoln Land Community College have jobs as well as school so it is important that they learn how to balance these parts of their life so that they can receive the most out of both.

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