



Festival of trees shines

By Niko Robledo

Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD – A live band playing “Jingle Bells,” children laughing, the faint chuckling of old Saint Nick. That only means one thing, the holiday season is finally upon us, and that means it’s once again time for Memorial’s Festival of Trees.

Held in the Orr Building on the Illinois’ State Fairgrounds, the Festival of Trees is an annual event that calls local artists to design trees, gingerbread houses and wreaths. All the finished products will be sold and the profits donated to health-related projects and programs at Memorial Health System and in the Springfield community.

Since 1989, an average of 35,000 people a year come to the Festival of Trees and it has been able to raise more than \$4.6 million. A main source of profit is the Gingerbread Village silent auction, where visitors are able to bid on gingerbread houses.

Trees and wreaths are also available for purchase.

“We have 99 7-foot trees, 17 4-foot trees and 56 wreaths. Then we have student trees that are designed by high schoolers; we have 18 of those,” said Regan Hennemann, a Development Program Manager for the festival. “Then we have mini-trees that are designed by daycares, preschools, little kids, and we probably have 70 of those. So, overall, we (have) over 300 designed pieces out here because we also have centerpieces, along with the Gingerbread Village structures.”

While the concept of trees and decorations stays the same, the festival changes its theme every year to keep the art inside the festival fresh and delightful. The theme for this year was “Skates, Sleds & Snow.” Some new additions include a ski lift with two



Niko Robledo/ The Lamp Photo

Trees are seen in the Orr Building at Memorial’s Festival of Trees. Below: ‘Pip’ the penguin is in his VW Beetle.

mannequins and a multitude of hanging snowflakes. Besides the scenery, the festival added 3 more kid-friendly food options to their kitchen menu. They added pecan pie, macaroni and cheese, and uncrustables.

One of the most recent changes for the festival is the introduction of their paint night. This is the second year, the sold-out paint night hosted 150 patrons on Nov. 14.

“It’s sort of like a private party. We actually painted the penguin in the showcase, who is driving the

VW beetle. The business that we partner with called ‘It’s Scrapi-cated.’ Everybody painted ‘Pip’ the penguin or the Festival of Trees logo,” Hennemann said.

The Festival of Trees has become a staple of the Springfield community calling adults and children alike to enjoy the holiday cheer it radiates. The festival takes place each year during the last two weeks of November.

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Logger basketball off to a good start

By Gracie Schweighart

Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD -- The 2017 – 2018 season is officially underway for the Lincoln Land Community College men’s and women’s basketball teams.

The men’s team has had a strong start to their season, sitting at a record of 6-2 as of November 20.

The women’s basketball team, despite many injuries leaving them with only five players at one point, is sitting at a record of 3-3 as of November 20.

LLCC Men’s Basketball

With a roster of ten freshmen and five returning sophomores, the loggers have not skipped a beat despite having a fairly young team. They began their season with an undefeated record of 5-0, and have been continuing to develop as a team since.

Sophomore guard Jacob Rueter said the role he played last year on the 2016 – 2017 team

gave him the experience that has allowed him to feel more comfortable this year as he has logged more playing time.

“Playing a fairly large role (in the previous season) put me in situations that made me grow as a collegiate basketball player,” said Rueter.

Sophomore leadership from other returning sophomores Trace Gentry, Jerrid Cosby, D’Aaron Owens, and Dwayne Jacobs will be extremely important as their schedule continues to get tougher.

“The season is starting to get more difficult and I don’t think we have really been tested,” shared Rueter, “we need to start figuring out that we will have to come to play every single game in order to win or even compete.”

Coming off of two losses, the men’s basketball team was able to pull it together as they dominated Robert Morris University – Springfield 100 -72 on Nov. 25.

“If we can come out every game and play

with intensity we should be fine,” finished Rueter.

LLCC Women’s Basketball

This women’s roster is made up of six freshmen and five returning sophomores who has had to overcome many obstacles throughout the first few weeks of their season.

The Lady Loggers had three key players from last year, Molly Smith, Hannah Cameron, and Hannah Krukewitt were injured prior to the first game of the 2017 – 2018 season. Krukewitt was able to return to the court last week while Smith and Cameron are still on the road to recovery.

The Lady Logger freshmen have had to step up immensely.

“Having three returning starters sidelined with injuries gave the freshmen a chance to step up and prove themselves as key players early in the season,” said Molly Smith, a 5’9 guard from Teutopolis, Illinois.

Smith played a large role in the 2016 – 2017

season, earning herself conference post-season honors.

“The transition from high school to college ball is difficult, but our freshmen have made the transition look easy and have done a great job,” said Smith

With hopes for Smith and Cameron to return to the court soon and the freshmen gaining a large amount of playing time in the first few games, the Lady Loggers should have a strong remainder of their season.

The men’s next home game will be Wednesday December 6th against Lake Land Community College.

The women’s next home game will be Saturday December 16th against Illinois Valley Community College.

Come out and support the men’s and women’s basketball teams!

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

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Review: Star Wars Battlefront 2

From campaign to online gameplay of EA's massive shooter game

By Jack Pugh
Lamp staff

In a galaxy not so far away, the new Battlefront is finally here! For those of us who have played the original 2004 and 2005 Battlefront series, here is to a new generation of gamers.

The nostalgia of the old series is still in everyone's heart, but this game may replace some of the old deep feelings for the series.

New content, new battles, new blasters -- and new everything. This is a modern-day Star Wars game that immerses the gamer to the front lines of their favorite era or scenes from the movies.

From the Clones, to the Empire and to the new First Order; the player can jump era to era from each gamemode Battlefront 2 has to offer. There is so much more to the game than the multiplayer experience, now there is finally a campaign, unlike 2015's Battlefront. EA has listened to the dedicated fan base and is willing to work with gamers.

Before delving any further into the newly released game, here is what was going on with gamestop and what some fellow gamers feel about this new game.

Dalton Runge, a Taylorville Gamestop employee was excited for the new Battlefront game. "As a fan of the Star Wars movies, I'm really hyped to jump on in and play it."

Battlefront 2 was released on Nov. 17 officially and was able to be accessed early by a special pre-order of the game on Nov. 14.

At the Taylorville Gamestop, it was a midnight release but gamers were able to pick up a copy early as 11 p.m. Fans also got the perk of free Mike and Ike candy while they waited.

The only fears Runge has for the game is that it could turn into the 2015 Battlefront, which was nothing but a static multi-player game with little to no customization.

Runge played the 2015 Battlefront and was not alone in his disappointment of the game. Many other fans of the franchise felt this way about it.

Cody Ferrill, Austin Bolfling and Logan Veit shared their experiences with the 2015 edition.



"There was not much in the games in terms of customization or your gear setup while playing it," Ferrill said.

"It was fun for a first couple of weeks, but it felt like there was a lack of content and I quit playing it after a few weeks," shared Bolfling.

Bolfling added that there are some improvements, "I wish they had more content, maps, weapons, gadgets, and character customization. It would also have been nice to see a campaign for the game."

"The (2015 Battlefront game) looked good, but there was not a good cooperative game mode. There was little to no customization or gear for your character. All vehicles or hero pickups (pickups are in game icons for special items or heros) were camped by hardcore players. So it was hard to actually have fun. It was also sad to see there was no campaign," Veit said.

The 2015 Battlefront was not a fan favorite by any means, there was horrible systems in place for cool items, no class system and no campaign. It was a slap in the face for many Star Wars fans and Battlefront fans alike.

When EA released, they were making a sequel. Fans were in shock and afraid to see what was going to happen to their beloved franchise yet again.

As more information came out about it, fans were starting to see the major

game developers had listened to the fans this time around, and started working with them to produce the "dream" version of this game.

What needs to be said is very crucial, EA had a system in place which was the worst nightmare a gamer can dream of, a "pay to win" game. This is where gamers get ahead of other players by spending real life money to get gear or weapons in order to be better than a general mass.

Early on while playing the game, Veit thought "You had people who are like us who play the game as is, instead of pay to win."

He added: "After playing for 20 hours, they could buy anything and everything they wanted. It wasn't balanced or had a slow increase in power, they had "UNLIMITED POWER." This is known as a pre-patch version of Battlefront 2.

After fans complained about how unfair it was, it was taken down completely after two days, now the post-patch is here

Veit is now happy to play Battlefront and not have to worry about others paying to get better gear than the general mass. "I really enjoy the different classes for everyone's playstyle instead of being a one man army. It's now a DICE feel instead of a Call of Duty feel (meaning team based over a running and gunning style game)."

Onto a new campaign. Yes, Battle-

front 2 has a campaign! The player gets to follow a new and epic story that delves into the post Death Star II destruction. They follow inferno squad through the aftermath of the rebels victory. No spoilers here though.

The campaign takes roughly four to five hours to beat on a normal difficulty, but it takes the main character throughout the galaxy. EA will also be doing story updates or content packs as the game goes on, so there is more coming out!

"There is a really strong sense of character development in this game, it doesn't feel like it is a rushed game, rather it feels like the characters evolve as the story does and it really sucks the gamer in," Veit said.

Whether or not this game is worth buying, EA has improved on the Battlefront 2 series. From breathtaking scenery, to cross Era faction game play, or a campaign, this game is nothing like the original Battlefront. This game deserves a 9/10 ranking for what's in the game already and what's to come with it.

I hope everyone enjoys this game and is just as overjoyed with it as I am! So grab your blasters, get in your starships and grab your light-sabers, war is upon us and it is up to us to save the galaxy!

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Veteran's Day ceremony at LLCC



Photos by Jacob Fisher

American Legion Post 759 Color Guard presents at the ceremony. Student Life honors all veterans on Nov. 10 in A.Lincoln Commons.



LLCC hosts foreign films

By Cierra Buckley
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD -- For the past two years, Lincoln Land Community College has been screening foreign films in the Trutter Center.

Professors Ashley Green and Joseph Hoff said ethnic films are important for the various races and ethnicities we have here on campus.

The first film in the series this fall was "The Motorcycle Diaries."

The film follows two men as they travel through Brazil and Peru by motorcycle. The two men change their views of how laborers are treated by industrialists after meeting and seeing what these laborers go through on a daily basis.

This is a true story based on how Che Guevara, a revolutionary and physician, was able to open his eyes to see bigger issues in the world.

After the film, both professors initiated a question-and-answer session.

Hoff said they decided to show the movie because of "the importance of the Cuban revolution is quite relevant. We must understand that men like Che Guevara, Alberto Grenado, and Fidel Castro were depicted as these terrible men, but in all reality, they were radicalizing their own beliefs to fight against the oppression of their country."

Green and Hoff clarified the importance of knowing the background of the character.

Guevara was privileged, in many ways, he didn't have to fight the fight of oppression for the sick and shut in. He did. He didn't let his privileged upbringing stop him from changing the world.

Green said, "(Guevara) wanted to train the proletariat to fight back against oppression". Meaning, he wanted to give the poor the tools to use to construct a better life for themselves and their future generations."

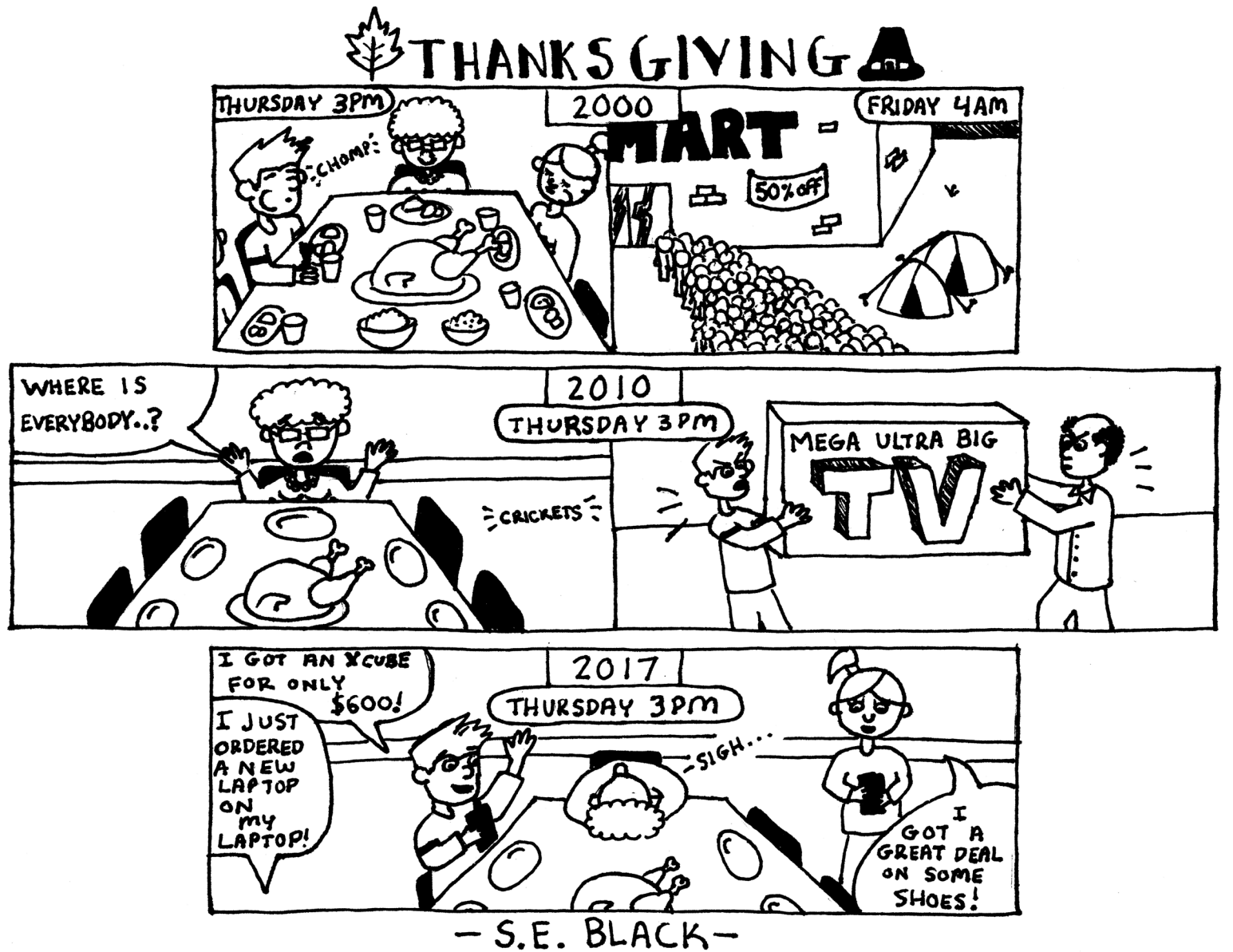
The film series was sponsored with refreshments by the "Habla-mos Club" and the faculty and staff of the Arts and Humanities Department.

Two more screenings were planned for this semester.

"Monkey King 2" was shown on Nov. 16. This is a 2016 Hong Kong-Chinese fantasy film based on the classic novel, "Journey to the West" by Wu Cheng'en.

The last film screening will be of "Romero!" on Dec. 7. This movie is a bio-pic documenting the life of Oscar Romero who went from a disengaged Catholic priest to an Archbishop.

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Rise of online retail

Amazon's appeal and quick delivery system is setting a new industry standard

By Zach Aiello
Editor

SPRINGFIELD — In 2017, Jeff Bezos has become the richest person in the world with a net worth around \$99.6 billion, surpassing Bill Gates who held this title for a majority of the past decade.

If you don't know who Bezos is, he is the founder and current CEO of Amazon.com, which leads all online sales of products in the world. The reason for Bezos massive amount of wealth is thanks to us, the average American consumer. Our drive for fast-service delivery, instant checkout on apps and the constant need for the newest and most innovative tech on the market has fueled Amazon's growth in the past decade.

"It's just so convenient for me to go online and create something that I know my friends will like," said UIS student Mariah Rodriguez, who ordered a lot of personalized gifts online. "It's easier than searching from store to store and I'm able to order whenever I need it."

In recent years, holiday shopping has shifted its focus from going out and buying your gifts in person to one-click shopping. The age of brick-and-mortar stores is starting to crumble at the hands of online retailers. Stores such as Target and Walmart are trying to keep your business by moving some of their sales to online exclusive only. This in all signs is good for consumers who have easier access to products than 20 years ago and more af-

fordable prices.

Best Buy has led the way to give consumers who love Apple products the best deals and prices on electronics.

One employee of Best Buy, Nicholas Thomas, explained how online shopping was the norm for retail sales: "Why go shopping when you can just get the products delivered to your door?"

To give people a good understanding of how important online sales are to Best Buy, Thomas said, "We had over 200 every hour for store pickup." He added, "It's easier to get sales and deals online without the stress of human interaction anymore."

The younger generation seeks a more simple and easier way to buy what they need and want

without the hassle of driving in to town and seeking out the best prices. Our generation is fueled by the drive to seek the best deal, and with so many options to find a smartphone or TV we have to dig down and go online to compare different deals that are offered.

The convenience factor is a large part of what drives Amazon's overall sales. If at 2 a.m. you decide you want a new watch but can't go out and buy one because every shop is closed you can easily pull up the Amazon app and buy it in one click.

For students who don't have a car on campus, Amazon is their best friend when it comes to convenience. "Not having a car, I use Amazon to buy everything. If

I need something I buy it online and have it sent to me in no time. It's super convenient and I love it!" said Eric Schmitt, student at Carthage College.

Online retail isn't just affecting how we buy gifts, as many students across the country are starting to use online book rental services that are cheap and hassle free.

Paul Giganti started using online book rental services this semester in order to save on buying textbooks. Last semester, the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville student said he spent an average of \$78 per textbook. Once the semester ended, selling the books was a challenge.

"My goal at the beginning of the semester was to reduce my costs on my overall college expenses," Giganti said. "Renting my books through Amazon.com has helped me find rates that I wouldn't at college textbook shops or other places."

In this day and age, students have started leaning towards a more online friendly future. We seek an easier way to shop and services like Amazon are pushing for this path. Will Amazon someday rule the economic market of the world in the future? Only time will tell, but with Jeff Bezos now close to \$100 billion and his company racing to be the first trillion-dollar company it seems that future is closer than it seems.

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Leo Borgelin/The Lamp

Cody, the referee at left, makes a call about rules with Diamond, at right.

Logger Lair hosts pool tourney

By Leo Borgelin
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD -- It's been an exciting month in the Logger Lair, but what capped it off was the tournament. Yes, the pool tournament. It wasn't the tournaments to end all pool tournaments, luckily there is another one coming up soon.

Dustin L. and Cleveland W. played in the early rounds. These were some of the best people down in the lair, but you have to spark it up somehow especially when cold weather comes in.

I've played against both of them multiple times prior to the tournament. They both had their own unique style. And for Dustin, well you don't have a shot. He makes an effort not to give you a shot and he's not shy about it. With an early championship worthy game like

this, it was Dustin who was going to struck gold. After his victory over Cleveland he lost to Diamond.

I was in the tournament as well. I was not going to miss out on what was going on. Even if it lead to an early exit. This would be good time to explain why I lost, and think of a 1000-word excuse, but instead let's just point out that the player I went up against made it to the semi-finals.

It was Jinet P. who made it to the semi-finals. He's a hard hitter, but went up against Connor M, and then the tables turned.

Obviously, it goes without question that they both worked their way to get to where they were, but someone had to go. In a circle of making winners and losers you want the person that beats you to win the whole thing. In a way, they represent you

even if it's by your loss. I did not make it to the finals. Nor did Jinet, but making it to the semi-finals said more about his skills and hussle.

The championship was comprised of Dwayne J. and Connor M. It was Dwayne who took home the title. From what I could conspire Dwyane was no novice. The people were not surprised by his sudden victory.

This tournament was intense. When there's a few balls left on the table, it can still be warm and inviting, but only to those who are willing to play. To the experience from the inexperienced. Know the rules first just like everyone down in the lair. Put all the other balls in first, then spark the billiard ball.

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Meaning of Thanksgiving

By Avery Cook
The Lamp

SPRINGFIELD -- Thanksgiving is a national holiday, but honestly what does that mean exactly? Well it means that we as individuals can give it meaning.

Thanksgiving does not have a real set meaning to it, well yes giving thanks it is right in the name but that is so vague that it could be anything. Are we supposed to give thanks for family? Food? Our country? All of the above? Nothing at all?

This might sound a bit depressing but Thanksgiving really only has the meaning that we as a culture give it. Thanksgiving is a very personal holiday as it does not have much religion tied to therefore anyone can enjoy it or loath it for that matter.

For some the holiday is a wonderful time of the year, filled with love and family and a time to enjoy one's bounty.

For LLCC student Alison Rebecca Tolly Thanksgiving is met with excitement for the food and is seen as, "a day my whole family, including my extended family, gets together and eat, lay around and watch football."

While many people do love to see their loved ones and spend time with the people in their lives some however are in it for the food.

"My family usually just eat out for most of the year so I get really excited for Thanksgiving because me and my immediate family all sit

down for an actual home cooked meal," Lauren Walters shared of what makes Thanksgiving special for her.

Of course there are those whose definition of family is different from the norm. For many the holiday 'Friendsgiving' is welcoming.

"The holiday really is about being with your loved ones and that doesn't have to be your family. It's a great thing to have friends in your life you want to spend this holiday with and even though Thanksgiving is a very family oriented holiday, family doesn't always have to be related" says Lauren Walters.

"I spend Thanksgiving with my family, but I always make time in the month of November to get together with my friends and celebrate Friendsgiving by spending time with them" says Jenny Merriman.

Of course just because Thanksgiving is a national holiday doesn't mean that the country takes a day off, and many still had jobs to do

"I had to work for the majority of the holiday although I didn't mind so much because I still got to see my family at the end," says Libby Marx

Thanksgiving is a national holiday which means you don't have to be a part of a specific subculture to participate. From The Lamp I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving.

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Can you solve this?

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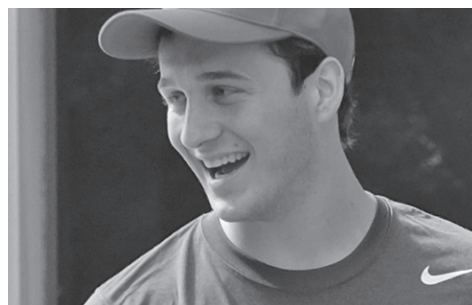
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