

Somebody had to say it

## Board's big legal problems end for now

Earlier this month, LCC officials agreed to pay out \$175,000 to former general counsel Tim Zeller if he agreed to drop his lawsuit against the school for wrongful termination.

The legal battle between Zeller and the school raged for almost a year before screeching to a halt with one of the highest payouts to a disgraced employee the college has seen in almost a decade.

LCC's bank account was raided when the controversial former president Paula Cunningham submitted her resignation to the Board of Trustees in early 2006. She was paid \$388,000 in spite of the fact she had resigned.



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Even before that, the Board of Trustees delivered a pink slip to former president Jim Anderton.

Included with that pink slip was a payout for over \$200,000.

As chronicled in the Lansing State Journal, LCC has paid out much more over the years to disgraced employees.

And why not? A handful of Benjamins is a good way to shut anyone

up. I can't purport that LCC paid these employees simply to shut them up, but I can't rule it out either.

It's all office politics. I've worked with plenty of people in the past who I would have forked a check over to instantly if it meant never working with them again.

Ironically, the high profile lawsuit with Tim Zeller came not too long after former trustee Todd Heywood announced he was dropping his lawsuit against the board for allegedly violating the Open Meetings Act.

A key support in the Heywood lawsuit was crippled when a current trustee signed an affidavit

rescinding statements that were made in earlier documents.

Those statements ended up launching a \$6,000 investigation into conflicts within the board.

Those statements were quite damning to some.

I must applaud LCC for being able to scrub off its large legal issues seemingly at once.

That means applause for Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, for being such great legal counsel.

With two members of the board leaving at the end of the year, one can't help but wonder what is in store for the year ahead.

But I'm sure it won't be pretty.

## The Lookout

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Bad music for bad people

## Rock 'n roll is on life support and no one seems to notice

The roots of rock-n-roll are almost dead. Youth today seems to have no interest in where popular music came from.

What happens to something after a generation or two ignores and forgets it?

It slowly dies like a lonely old man hooked up to a ventilator in a nursing home.

If you think that I'm wrong, go to a middle school and ask 20 children who Gene Vincent is, I'll give you \$50 if you get one correct answer.

Some might argue that today's brand of MTV rock music is the evolution of the form.

Just because the same instruments are being played, doesn't mean it's



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the same equation. Current chart toppers often lack soulful vocals, boogie-woogie blues rhythms and a steady back beat.

The elements of black gospel, blues, doo-wop and country music have all been abandoned.

They've now been replaced with middle class white guys screaming into a microphone over top of ridiculously

low tuned guitars, which is fine, people can listen to what they want.

All that I am saying is the formula for rock-n-roll music has been changed by the majority of popular (and not-so popular) Myspace bands.

If you dig deep enough, there is a sub-culture of bands and artists who have managed to stay true to the blueprint that was designed by Sam Phillips, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Nolan Strong, Little Richard, The Coasters and many others in that 1940s-60s time-frame.

Some bands can still be seen touring smaller clubs, playing the music that reflects what the

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originators created.

The Black Lips, Reigning Sound, Goodnight Loving, King Khan & BBQ Show, The Hentchmen, Demon's Claws, King Louie Bankston and Jack Oblivian to name a few.

Or you could just look up the few record labels that consistently turn out genuine rock records.

*Norton Records, Goner, In the Red, Crypt, Shattered, Dusty Medical, Flying Bomb, Sympathy for the Record Industry and Spoonful*

*Records*, all do their part to keep this form alive and breathing.

So with only a specific sub-culture of young bands left playing the true form, old man rock music could one day pass away quietly, with very few people noticing that he's died.

I wouldn't expect people unfamiliar with old rock-n-roll to care if the roots of American music died.

Much like strangers won't cry at my father's funeral. If they never knew it existed, why would they care if it died?

For more information on bands mentioned in this column, visit [www.grunnenrocks.nl](http://www.grunnenrocks.nl).

### Blogging with Doc Campbell

*Dr. Campbell teaches in the Communications and Humanities Departments and used to be a stand-up comedian. The following are his original jokes.*

- > If Gannon Building were sealed up and the amount of beer Lansing Community College students drink in a year were poured into it, where would they put the rest of the beer?
- > Gannon is so long that cigarettes cost twenty dollars a carton less at the southern end than they do at the northern one.
- > The Wellness Center hopes to achieve its goal of reducing smoking on campus by 50 per cent next semester by replacing the Butt Hut with another half its size.
- > The library opened fifty years ago with an encyclopedia, a dictionary, and directions about how to get from one to the other.
- > The rumor that the Science Department accidentally cloned a student last summer is correct. They named the baby Eve and issued her a Star Card.
- > Gibson's announced last week that it had indeed bought out Microsoft.

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