

In Our Own Words

A time of rebuilding

Old wounds reopened as fresh wounds try to heal

STAFF EDITORIAL — In light of the recent apprehension of the alleged Lansing serial killer, many have expressed their doubts as to whether city police really have their man.

Thickening the plot is the family of Claude Zain McCollum, the man convicted of murdering former LCC professor Carolyn Kronenberg, alleging in the media that the man accused of the recent murders, Matthew E. Macon, is really to blame for the death of Kronenberg.

After a week of ostentatious Lansing State Journal headlines proclaiming civil unrest and a hurried announcement by Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley and Mayor Bernero that a suspect had been apprehended, it comes as no surprise to us that skepticism is coursing through the community's veins.

Also of concern is why the city police have not formally issued warrants for any of the slayings, or for the attack on a 56-year-old Lansing woman.

The concerns expressed by McCollum's family are understandable, given the patterns of the recent murders. For instance, the most recent string of murders was on women aged 30 to 76. Kronenberg was 60 years old.

Furthermore, the 2007 murders were very brutal, cruel beatings that left some, if not all, of the victims practically unidentifiable. Kronenberg's murder in 2005 was deplorable, as she was severely beaten and sexually assaulted.

The animosity and misogyny displayed in these murders is disgusting. Our staff's observations of both community reaction and police PR are mixed.

We applaud the community for banding together in an inspiring show of neighborly love and strength. However, impatience from the city is undoubtedly causing pressure for police to produce a suspect. We cannot help but wonder if city police rushed to the first suspect they could find in order to quell community concerns.

However, we applaud their caution in handling the matter. It is better to proceed carefully instead of convicting and jailing an innocent man. It is also in that spirit that we encourage a deeper look into all possible connections between the recent murders and that of Carolyn Kronenberg.

Now is a time of patience and rebuilding. The community has already shown it can stand and fight in the face of adversity. Now let us see how well we can heal together.

Bad Music for Bad People

Run of the mill songwriters invade upon FM radio dials

Today it seems that certain pop musicians who can play the piano are often referred to (or marketed) as musical geniuses.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but if you consider yourself a musician, being able to play a musical instrument shouldn't seem too extraordinary.

In fact, that would seem like the first logical step in developing as an artist.

Alicia Keys, for instance, won multiple Grammy Awards because she took a few piano lessons. I've even heard people compare her to (gasp) Stevie Wonder (ha!).

While Keys may write her own songs, comparisons to a musical legend/genius are absurd.

Stevie has been playing for almost 50 years, so it's only fair that Keys should also have to prove herself by recording a stack of brilliant albums, especially before she's mentioned on the same level as the man who recorded, "Songs in the Key of Life."

Even further down the ladder of hacks are squares like Vanessa Carlton, Gavin DeGraw,



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John Legend, Norah Jones and that guy from *Coldplay*, (who all lack souls).

The fact that these artists were put through music lessons doesn't impress me in the slightest.

Big-time record labels, VH1 and half-wit music reviewers are to blame for this outburst of promotional crap.

Is it because in comparison to the other (somehow) less talented pop acts that it doesn't take much to make a musician look good nowadays? Certainly the competition is not that fierce.

The FM dial today is full of horrible pop-country, generic one-hit wonder rappers, fake aggression emo, macho redneck rock, and the singer/songwriter with their guitar and/or piano in tow, ready at a moments

notice to bore you to an unconsciousness state.

So have the masses been swindled into buying these CDs simply because of a lack of better choices, or do buyers feel that staying current with pop-trends keeps them hip?

Either way, record companies deserve to have illegal downloaders steal a majority of the music they push on unsuspecting consumers.

Maybe I'm wrong, but after watching MTV and reading rubbish like Spin and Rolling Stone over the past few years, I feel that a musician who can play a musical instrument uses it as a tool to sell albums to the Starbucks crowd of yuppies.

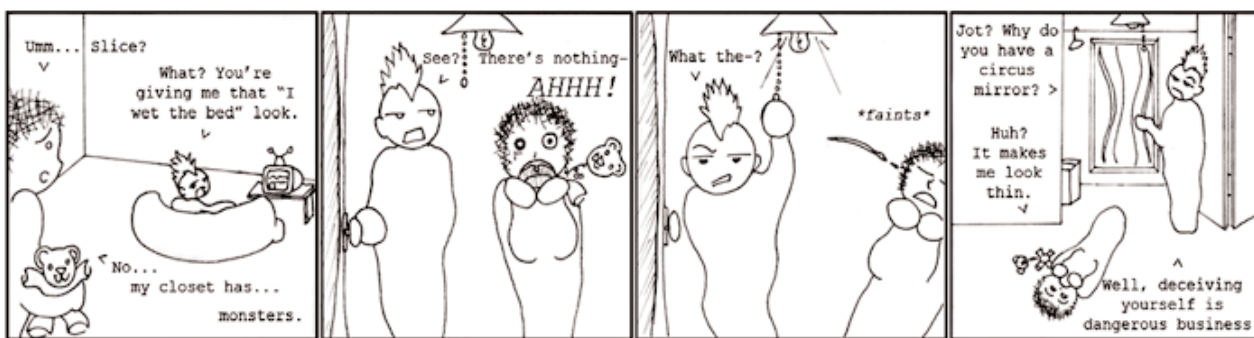
I can picture it now, frappuccino in one hand, new Daniel Powter CD in the other.

Who knows, maybe all of today's pop stars will still be valid in the future.

Maybe in 60 years our great-grandchildren will be writing book reports about the legendary Norah Jones.

Perhaps that's when the apocalypse will finally put the world out of its misery.

Your Daily Potato by Leslie Garbin



Blogging with Doc Campbell

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

- > Any student in the Aviation Science Program will tell you it is easier to pour beer in a glass while flying upside down.
- > The college president's Porsche was clocked at 172 mph last Wednesday. She disagreed with the police, insisting she was doing at least 180.
- > Parking meters around and near campus will be modified next year to accept five, ten, and twenty dollar bills.
- > When asked if he could be anyone in all of creation, whom would he choose to be, the devil replied, "a meter maid."
- > Did you ever notice how when you were 17 years old you were part of the solution and then you woke up 18 to discover you were part of the problem?
- > The main events of the upcoming all-campus Halloween Party will be bobbing and bungee jumping for apples.

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