

Somebody had to say it

## LCC would benefit by keeping Cardenas in office

For almost a decade, it appears as though the Lansing community has held a bone of contention with LCC, whether it's with the administration or, well, the administration.

It seems that the troubles are never-ending. Going as far back as the Anderton dismissal in 2000, LCC has been wracked with administrative despair that has crippled community-school relations.

In the wake of the legal woes, LCC has prepared for a large-scale presidential search. And finally, after seemingly endless months of postponing the search, the school has a tentative timeline for putting the new commander in office by summer of next year.

I wish I could be happy with those results.



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Unfortunately, I'm still stuck at this place where I cannot help but wonder why we don't keep our current president in office and avoid spending thousands upon thousands of dollars on a nationwide search.

Naturally one could assume that by opening up the search process, the current administrators are avoiding past accusations of closed-door proceedings.

Board of Trustees Chair

Chris Laverty faced colleague and media scrutiny when he replaced disgraced former President Paula Cunningham with current President Judith Cardenas without opening up the search process.

The controversy continued when school and community members got all pissed off that Laverty had replaced Cunningham with the person who was in charge of student academic services when the school's financial aid system was causing all sorts of trouble for students at that time. (I believe some would agree that the financial aid system continues to cause trouble.)

Furthermore, opening up the process could possibly yield a candidate whom the school finds more appropriate for the position than the

current president.

But now it's time to get real.

First, Cardenas is promoted from interim president to full-on president after less than a year of taking office. She is given a hefty pay raise and even \$40,000 to pursue her second doctorate. The Board of Trustees cannot help but let everyone know what a great job she is doing.

Later, Cardenas expresses her intentions of joining in the running once the search process commences. Her announcement was even met with applause.

Don't get me wrong, though, I think Cardenas is doing a very good job as president. She is overhauling departments of the school that are long overdue for restructuring. She

is at least trying to take care of the IT problems caused by the Oracle software, and she is exhaustively working with her support staff to find alternate sources of funding in the face of state cuts.

I also can't fail to mention she kept her cool (at least publicly) when she was accused of misappropriating school funds.

If the consensus is that Cardenas is doing a good job, then why are we even attempting to spend money on an expensive search?

The school spent \$32,000 on a much smaller in scale audit of the human resources department. I can't even begin to imagine how much money LCC has already spent and will continue to spend until the search is over.

I guess the reason why

the school wouldn't halt the search is they've already spent too much to quit now, and they might be perceived as weak or defeatist if they were to give up.

I say we keep Cardenas, if not for the sake of saving money then for the sake of time. As far as LCC goes, Cardenas is already aware of the joys and woes of working here and obviously cares enough to stick around.

Her commitment to stick around through all the adversity she has faced at least proves her dedication to the school. That characteristic alone will outshine any other trait shown by her rivals during the search.

So let's just keep Cardenas on board. It makes the best sense of all.

Bad music for bad people

## Dead rock stars really put a smile on the kids' faces

Dead rock stars tend to get a lot of attention from teenagers today. Maybe too much.

If Kurt Cobain hadn't killed himself, would today's batch of teens still love his music like they do? It's highly doubtful.

Nirvana would have released one, perhaps two more albums after their 'In Utero' record and that would have been it.

Cobain would not be special because he would still have his head attached to his neck.

Don't get me wrong, I am a fan. I owned Nirvana records before he



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was even dead.

I just don't think today's youth would cling to that music without something to suck them in.

Something morbid or tragic tends to really attract kids.

Would teenagers and

college kids across the world have Jim Morrison shirts and posters if he had lived to turn into an old, fat alcoholic?

The chances would be slim.

Morrison might not even be recognized by his name. He would've probably just been, "That one guy who sang 'Light My Fire.'"

Much like Morrison in his prime, a lot of rock band members were druggies and alcoholics in the 1960s.

Today people don't know them all by their first name, more often by

only their hit single that they hum to in their car.

The few radio hits that The Doors had back in the late 60s would have come and went like all others.

Yeah, they would've still had random plays on every oldies station, but there wouldn't be any books or Oliver Stone movies to glorify Morrison's life.

Fans of musicians that die at a young age never see that person looking old and pathetic (i.e. Keith Richards), so they always associate them with youth and tragedy, which can be appealing to

kids looking for a hero.

Fans also never get to hear the "crap albums" that would have followed their best and most creative work (i.e. every Rolling Stones album past the '70s).

It's a fact, even Bob Dylan sputtered out of brilliant ideas eventually.

Another example of this would be albums released by The Beatles, post-breakup. Paul had a couple nice songs with Wings, but most of that catalog isn't anything to brag about.

John Lennon's late '70s records were bordering on

horrible, whereas a few years before he was penning some of the best songs ever written.

One of the easiest scenarios of the dead rock star theory is 2Pac.

He sold modest amounts of records while he was alive, touring and making videos.

This was nothing compared to the millions in sales that followed his murder.

I think it was "The Blast Master" KRS-ONE who said something like, "Why is it that the best rapper of all-time is always a dead one?"

### Bloggging with Doc Campbell

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

- > LCC students hope to reach the State Finals this year in hoop jumping.
- > Faculty in the Philosophy Department are experimenting this year by taking steroids and then exercising their intellects.
- > In an effort to lift Gannon Building off its foundation and level it, all male students having classes Nov. 1-2 are asked to bring three condoms inflated with helium.
- > In a survey taken by the English Department asking students why they didn't read more, 72 percent responded, "Because."
- > LCC students have hit Wikipedi so many times that it's lost a letter.
- > One LCC student said she liked to binge drink, blackout and drive, because that way she didn't stop at every fast food place on the way home.

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