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500 Words or Bust

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500 Words or Bust

YOU JUST BOUGHT A NIPPLE CLAMP

column by | BETHANY KOHOUTEK

I can say with some degree of certainty that I would not enjoy being bound to a wooden board with metal handcuffs and flogged with a cat o' nine tails by five leather-clad dominatrices in the Cardinal Room at the Memorial Union.

However, I'm paying for other people to do just that. And I'm giving money to the Scottish Country Dancers of ISU. My pocket change also goes to ISU's Motorcycle Club, even though those wheelie-popping wankers take all the good parking spots around Welch Avenue Station on Friday nights.

And like it or not, you're funding the same organizations I am. You're also paying for me to sit in front of my computer to write this column.

In fact, you pay for **ethos** magazine to exist.

That's the beauty of the Government of the Student Body — it scoops up your student fees and distributes them as it sees fit to 140 campus organizations and clubs that meet certain funding criteria. **ethos** is one of those organizations, and so are the Scottish Country Dancers, the ISU Motorcycle Club and Cuffs, your friendly neighborhood sado-masochist club.

Recently **ethos** received a letter from a concerned parent who had come across a copy of the April 2002 edition of our magazine. The cover featured a photo of a shirtless man with a woman behind him, her hands on his chest, and the words, "Sex at ISU." The story within described the sex lives — or in some cases, the lack thereof —

of ISU students, through interviews with monogamous couples, gay students, virgins, as well as some of the randier bunnies among us. The story promoted neither wanton orgies nor celibacy. It simply informed you — **ethos'** audience, Iowa State students — about what's going on at your university.

The letter writer, however, found the story and the accompanying photos offensive. She didn't like the fact that Iowa State students, through their fees, were paying for something they might not support, especially something as "distasteful" as a story about college students — gasp — having sex.

Let's just see where this logic takes us. I highly doubt many Christians on campus would willingly reach into their wallets and contribute a few bucks to the Atheist and Agnostic Society. Likewise, you'd be hard-pressed to find an atheist happily emptying his or her pockets into the Campus Crusade for Christ offering plate.

I doubt the ISU Motorcycle Club would be the recipient of the first fruits of my personal paycheck. Nothing against them (well, besides the parking issue), they just wouldn't be at the top of my list of Things To Spend My Money On. They'd be a little further down. Probably somewhere between Lint Remover For My Sweaters and New Napkin Rings.

Here's the point: if we eliminated every club and organization someone had a beef with — or didn't give a crap about — there would be no clubs and organizations left. GSB's careful allocation of fees ensures that we will always have a well-rounded array of student activities to help us become well-rounded adults when we emerge with diplomas in seven to 10 years.

Though you won't find me donning a dog collar and harness any time soon, I'm still glad Cuffs got my \$0.057. Flog away, fellow students, on my dime. Flog away. **e**

