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Frontlines

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Fracture your ideals

Alas, the last issue of the year has arrived. Though as I'm writing this, ethos has taken a big hit. Despite our efforts to provide this campus with solid reporting, good pictures and exciting layouts, the Government of the Student Body has cut our funding by $6,000. This is about 11.5% of our operating budget and 14% of last year's allocation.

My question is: why? It seems to me that GSB has stopped making sense. Some of the members of GSB just want to hold onto GSB's money. For what purpose, I cannot say. At the Senate meeting that determined the fate of ethos' funding, one of the senators asked the finance director what would happen if ethos was funded at the $43,050 it was originally allocated. The finance director said nothing would happen to GSB's budget. Yet still the Senate did not vote to overturn the original request for a cut in funding. My question is: why have a lame campus when we can have a cool one?

This town, this university, this state is, in my opinion, one of the lamest places on the planet. Which is really too bad, because it could be really cool. The campus is beautiful, the education is, in most areas, top-notch. But what sucks is the tightwad attitude that seems to prevail here.

I want more to do than go to a lame keg party or to the same boring bar every damn night. I want to have my pick of bands to see on a Saturday night rather than be lucky to see one at all. I wanted to be able to see David Lynch's new film or Pulp Fiction when it came out. But the community of Ames, both on-campus and off, is dry and boring. It's not that there aren't cool people here, there are. But there are certain people here who would, apparently, rather lead boring lives. These people cut us off from good movies, good bands (of any style of music), new bars and other establishments and a plethora of special events. All because they just want to have a town that is nice and simple, a town that doesn't ever go out of its way for anyone or anything. After all, look at what they've done to VEISHEA.

As I am graduating at the end of the summer, I am glad to be leaving this place. I feel I've learned a great deal and gotten a good education. I've met some people that I will be friends with for a long time, but I've also been bored and frustrated with many of the aspects of this campus.

My advice for this university is to value diversity. President Jischke said this university has a commitment to diversity. But this campus is one of the least diverse campuses in the entire nation. And I am not just speaking of minorities. I am also speaking of music, art, places to go and hangout, see a movie or most of all, to learn something new.

As I said, why have a dull, boring campus when we could have a campus teeming with excitement and creativity?

-Matthew T. Seifert