

Condom crusaders wage war against campus machines

By Michael Fibison
■ The Reporter
Mankato State U.

A militant group of self-proclaimed "Christian-minded" students calling themselves Students Against Sin waged a crusade against condom vending machines at Mankato State U.

G&B Vending Inc. owner Gerry Erickson discovered knobs missing on a sabotaged condom machine at the student union and an inscription banning the machines etched into the side.

Erickson said he also received a letter from SAS condemning the machines and vowing not to follow "the long drawn-out legal procedures and red tape to have these vending machines removed from campus."

Instead, they decided to take overt action.

The letter stated, "We will stop at nothing to sabotage these machines and prevent them from working." They also claimed to have the machine keys and threatened to steal the merchandise.

The condom-condemning crusaders said it is their duty to prevent the sins of premarital and extramarital sex by ridding MSU of its condom dispensers.

"If these condoms were not available to the youth of our society, they would not be tempted to follow the path of Satan toward sexual misconduct," the letter stated.

The actions of the group have worried Michael Hodapp, assistant director of the student union.

"I don't know how you stop something

like that," Hodapp said.

If the machines are not removed from campus, SAS vowed to continue their "active and militant" stance against the dispensers.

Erickson expressed his disappointment. "I thought we were doing a service," he said.

His company is the second to brave the MSU campus after the first vendor was forced by costly vandalism to remove his machines.

Erickson estimated his cost at about \$200. He speculated that the group must have used tools such as a chisel and hammer to break the knobs off of the machines.

Erickson said he questions the "Christianity" of the group because they are destroying property.



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SGAs network across the globe . . . Geography and culture soon may be irrelevant for student leaders trying to communicate worldwide thanks to a new global electronic Student Government Association mail network developed in May at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State U. For about \$10 a month, more than 150 institutions currently have instant access to mail discussion, archives and a global directory of other student governments. Kurt Jager, a member of an independent student government association at the U. of Stuttgart in Germany, said he thinks the future of SGANet might help prevent such occurrences as the massacre in Beijing last year. To participate in SGANet, Brian McConnell, coordinator of Virginia Tech's network, said students may obtain a CompuServe account by calling 1-800-848-8990. ■ Oliver Vest, *Collegiate Times*, Virginia Tech

Sexist

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the French word for "thin" was illustrated by a shot of a woman in a half T-shirt.

"The image struck me so powerfully," Blackmer said. "They were exploiting her body. She was a body, not a person. It became really difficult to concentrate on the videos."

In lesson 11, Blackmer said students were shown a man trying to pick up a pretty woman in a park. On the following exam, the students in Blackmer's class were required to repeat the lines of the male pick-up artist.

"I was really uncomfortable with the fear and the violence that is implicit in something like that," she said.

Amherst French Professors Aida Nawar and Paul Rockwell agreed that elements of the program are offensive but said the program is an "excellent" teaching tool.

Nawar said she intends to use portions of the program, but will use only those which contain no sexist elements.

"I don't think anyone can deny that there are things that might be offensive," Nawar said, adding that she has been made uncomfortable by at least one close-up shot of a woman's chest.

"Most texts are truly objectionable," said Marie-Hélène Huet, chairwoman of the French department, adding, "I refuse to teach anything that is objectionable to anyone."

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