

Strip clubs aren't a-pole-ing to everyone

The world of strip clubs has both fans and critics, and it probably always will

Jessica Richelderfer
Managing Editor

The dancer waltzes onstage, scantily clad but clothed nonetheless. She teases her audience with a twirl around the pole before descending on the crowd. She then slowly begins taking off pieces of her flashy outfit in tune to the music and starts to make her rounds.

She catches a man's eye, and he responds with an eager nod. She dances over to a table, flashing her breasts as she gives him a lap dance. He holds up a dollar bill from the pile stacked high in front of him, and she grabs it with her cleavage. The dance is over, and he waits for the next.

For many college students, especially men, a night spent at a strip club is harmless fun. People get to see naked women — live. The dancers make money, and plenty of it — sometimes to feed themselves or their families, other times to put themselves through school.

But historically, strip clubs have also been a hotbed for sexual assault, drug abuse and other dangerous crime. While stripping is legal in most states, women who work at strip clubs are subject to many of the same dangers as adult film stars and sex workers.

Some people say adult dance clubs in the Eugene-Springfield area generally are much tamer and clean-

er than clubs in bigger cities. University senior Robert Collett, who goes to strip clubs with friends a few times every month, said in some larger cities, he's seen bigger problems with drug addiction and what he called "shady and perverted" managers and patrons.

"The whole crowd is less dirty here," he said.

He added that he'd go more often if he had the money — although he does feel bad for the dancers.

"It's degrading, for sure; I would never let my daughter do it," Collett said. "They don't like it, but they're doing it for the money. They do like it when you bring girls in — they're more comfortable with you."

And while he enjoys interacting with the dancers, he said it's hard not to judge them, adding he would never date a girl who strips because she is essentially selling her self-respect for money.

"If you're willing to take off your clothes and dance in front of a nasty, greasy guy with a mullet, then how am I going to love or respect you?" he said.

Freshman Anthony Warren said he thinks stripping is a degradation not only to the women, but to society as well.

"If girls feel it empowers them, fine — but I think they could probably show a lot more respect for themselves," he said. "It's just kind of a perverted sense of how you should spend your Friday night."

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Photo illustration by Adam Amato Emerald

Many college students frequent the small-town strip clubs in the Eugene-Springfield area on weekends.

Hentai anime serves up some dark fantasy, tentacles, violation



Pat Payne
The return of Captain Sensible

As anyone who knows me can attest, I am an otaku — a rabid fan of Japanese animation. Japanese animators have developed a range of animated classics, from kids' stuff like "My Neighbor Totoro" to poignant war dramas like "Grave of the Fireflies" to slick sci-fi works in the vein of "Ghost in the Shell."

However, I'm not going to be talking about any of these bona fide treasures. Instead, this article is about anime's slightly saucier side, hentai (literally, "sexually perverted") anime. Where a film by Oshii Mamoru or Miyazaki Hayao almost always

shows up some of the best stuff Disney can offer, hentai is nothing more than low-grade whacking material.

I want to stress to all the zealous "fun police" reading (yes, both of you) that not all anime is hentai porn. Very little, in fact. We're talking here about a niche market compared to the sales of mainstream anime. And, just to clear the air, I'm by no means a prude and enjoy a little "harmless visual stimulation" as much as most. I'll admit it: I've watched some of the more talked-about titles, more or less to see what all the fuss was about.

The best way to describe the idea of hentai is to say this: Take the sickest fantasy you can, and then imagine it poorly animated and sold for \$30. Just make sure your sickest fantasy includes demons. You'll see why in a second.

Just looking at the boxes gives you a pretty good indication of the title's contents. Take a look at the variety of hentai plots: "Angel of Darkness," where college girls are violated by alien tentacles; "Adventure Kid," where adventuring women are violated by computer tentacles; "La Blue Girl," where a ninja girl is violated

by demonic tentacles. And here's an oldie but a baddie: "Urotsukidoji," where everyone is violated by all kinds of tentacles. Yes, for some reason, makers of hentai in Japan are, for whatever reason, obsessed with tentacle violation. In other words, the variety and scope of stories that anime is famous for are nowhere to be found in hentai.

Further, if you've seen these shows, you'd know just how bad the production values are — starting with the animation. "Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro" these
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