

# Letters to the Editor

## An Open Letter To The Advisor & Editors Of Tarnhelm

A review of your recent publication, Tarnhelm, indicates that 87% of the contributions accepted came from the staff of Tarnhelm. Only approximately 13% of those contributions published were from students not listed in the credits on the inside cover.

In light of the overwhelming contributions accepted that originated from the staff, a question arises as to the criteria for selection. It seems most ironic that this significant percentage was based solely upon expertise in writing ability.

On the contrary, considering that no explanation of criteria was published, one can only believe that the criteria was subjective at best. If that was the case, a more reasonable approach would have been to evaluate contributions blindly.

In that contributions were solicited from the student body at large, and considering that the publication was supported by student funds, it is only reasonable that an objective criteria would have been utilized.

My creative writing ability is at best limited, and I did not contribute to your publication. However, I am aware of many who did, and spent many hours in preparing material. These people, I'm sure, expected at the very least an objective appraisal.

Certainly economics was a factor in the amount of material which it was possible to publish. Nevertheless, it is apparent that space was not a problem. Page three of Tarnhelm is a striking example of this.

The students at Capitol Campus frequently hear about the magnitude of student apathy. This is indeed a problem at our campus, as well as campuses across the country in the seventies. It seems strange then, that all students who contributed to Tarnhelm weren't in some way reinforced for their effort.

A simple statement at the end, thanking all those that contributed and explaining limitations in space and money would have sufficed. It is a sad commentary indeed, that it is necessary to point out that those who expended time and energy in student activism are not even acknowledged.

M. Chris Wolf  
11th term PSSC

## Jimmy Olson Refuted

I was very much disturbed when I read the article in the C.C. Reader dated May 15, 1975 entitled, "A Letter from God." I do not know which God wrote the letter. I am sure it was not the God portrayed in the Bible, and it is certainly not the God I worship.

The God I worship is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Since he is eternal, and all powerful, and it is he that created everything that we have the privilege to enjoy, can you imagine an all powerful God getting tired? When our first parents sinned and caused the whole human race to fall with them, God, in order to satisfy his holiness and justice, sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die to pay the penalty for sin so that whosoever will believe in him shall be saved (John 3-16). Now if God thought enough of the human race to send his only begotten Son into the world to die for man's sins, how could he ever get tired of his earthly children when they ask him to guide their lives.

True mankind is to love one another. When a person saved by trusting in the finished work of Christ, he proves he is saved by his fruits. Galatians 5:22 states "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." 1 John 4:7 states, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God." The next verse states, "He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God is love."

God also wants us to be dependent on him and trust him completely. Proverbs 3:5,6 and 7 states, "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil." Does this sound as though God gets tired of his children?

The article says, "When you humans were apes, you were much more well behaved." God created man perfect as stated in Genesis. None of my ancestors ever swung from tree to tree, and the article in Genesis is not a myth.

Exodus 20:7 states, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." All through the Bible you read of God being jealous of his holy name. My understanding of blaspheming God is stating that God is something that he is not. Notice what our Lord says in Mark 3:28 and 29. "Verily I say unto you, all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

My God is a great God and worthy to be praised. He has to be to save guilty hell-deserving sinners, like me. And he can save all of you too.

Fred Plasterer

Due to space limitations, we were forced to edit this letter. We apologize to Mr. Plasterer.

## Tarnhelm Attacked

Editor:

After paging thru Tarnhelm, I have come to the conclusion that it was just one big ego trip for the enlightened few who were on the staff, and whose works were about the only ones that graced the publication.

For an organization funded by the SGA from student monies, it has behaved like an elitist publication paid for out of the pockets of the publishers. I always thought it was understood that something paid for by the students should represent the students; especially when it is supposed to be a student project.

Not so. In Tarnhelm's case, it is obvious the editors felt that only that work which was of the highest calibre (read their own) would be printed. Thus, many students who worked diligently and in good faith and produced many poems were granted not a single millimeter of space, while a few (mostly staff people) had several of their "masterpieces" published.

"Wait," Tarnhelm may say, "P.R.J. Smith had seven poems printed." Aha! But Mr. Smith was last year's Tarnhelm editor.

Further, Tarnhelm may point out that they evaluated the works fairly, by scratching out the names of the authors on each piece. But, do they mean to tell us they couldn't tell one another's work from all the rest? Are we all that gullible? I think not.

Tarnhelm, what of the students who submitted 10 or 20 poems, without having a single one printed? Were you so pressed for space that you were forced to deny them one small poem? (Judging from the layout of several of the pages, again, I think not.) Why no considerate remark, or even one little thank-you to all those who really wanted to help by contributing?

Finally, what distresses me the most in this situation was the way the publication evolved after all those early pleas for help and contributions from the students. Tarnhelm, you screamed for contributions, then smote those who contributed. You should have told everyone from the beginning that you were only in it for yourselves.

But, I understand. If you would have admitted these intentions from the beginning, you may never have gotten that \$350 allocation from SGA. You would have had to charge for your magazine. And who, besides yourselves, would have bought it? I understand.

with Love and Consideration  
Romeo Trajanus

## Tarnhelm Replies

Editor:

In response to questions posed regarding the selection of material for Tarnhelm I would like to state that each contribution was evaluated **anonymously** in terms of creativity, depth, intensity, complexity, unity and overall effectiveness as a unique work of art presenting a striking image, an imaginative perspective, an unusual idea, an insightful or philosophical statement.

Membership on the Tarnhelm staff was open to all students and meeting notices inviting participation in evaluating and editing material were posted. Those who responded expressed interest in reviving Tarnhelm for the purpose of offering the campus community a quality literary magazine.

In the spirit of creativity the staff collected, evaluated, edited and compiled the collection of literary material which you find in Tarnhelm. Because the objective of the Editors was to choose quality material, it was imperative that the staff approach each creative work from a critical perspective. Thus, it was decided that all work would be read **anonymously**.

In his article "The Concept of Artistic Expression" John Hospers states that one must evaluate art for its own sake, as it stands alone, divorced from the creator and any intention she may have expressed or any intensity she may have experienced. Not every contribution a literary magazine receives - no matter how hard the writer has worked nor how intense the emotional energy she has expended - will have literary merit.

The material in Tarnhelm reflects quality work evaluated on the basis of formalist criticism by a fairly large group of people who worked together in a democratic spirit, yet made individual decisions in evaluating material submitted for publication based on the criteria which had been established.

To a certain degree space limitations were a consideration as they must be in any publication. While all contributions could not be published they were returned to the author with thanks and with the hope that he/she would resubmit next year.

All things considered, I feel Tarnhelm speaks well of an effort undertaken with serious purpose and integrity.

Peggy Dillon  
Tarnhelm Editor

## Reply To The Reader

The last issue of the Reader contained a letter from the editor rebutting my letter printed in the previous issue. The letter was in regard to the fact that the C.C. Reader faulted in its reporting of the election scandal.

Well Mr. Bollinger, you blew it again!

I criticized Sherry Lukoski for stating that I had told Sue Bretherick what vote criteria had been used this year and not last year as you stated.

Next you stated you took the facts from the court record. I'm sorry Mr. Bollinger, but the court's decision reported only its decision, not the facts surrounding the case. The supposed facts you reported were apparently received elsewhere.

Then you ask what previous mistakes the C.C. Reader has made, which I referred to. I've written numerous articles for the C.C. Reader and it has been a rare occasion to find them without error in printing.

You state it is your duty to point out the faults of your peers and administration. Is that really what the duty of a newspaper should be?

You then state, "Our student leaders, who are true leaders, can accept constructive criticism as such." I'm sorry Mr. Bollinger, but didn't you just describe yourself when you jumped all over my ass for stating my opinion? To conclude I would like to say I am very proud of the C.C. Reader staff and the newspaper which they produce. I have received enjoyment from reading its articles and I also contributed quite often to its content. You people have worked hard and you have done some good as have the other organizations on this campus. We could not have worked as well without each other.

I really commend you for a good paper which your awards prove, however I don't feel you are that High and Almighty that you have achieved a level of perfection which no one will or could ever achieve, as you seem to think.

Al Kerchner

**ED Note:** The facts for Bollinger's editorial were taken from SGA Minutes, Lukoski's article, and the Student Court decision. Lukoski did not attribute Kerchner with any quotes concerning ballot-counting criteria.

## Thanks, Maxine

This year our campus has had the extreme good fortune to have had Maxine Lewis coordinating the exhibits in the Gallery Lounge. The quality of this year's exhibits, the professionalism of the displays and the organizing of the details of the series of exhibits are due to Maxine's efforts.

Because Maxine has done such a good job and has devoted so much of her energy to this program, I think it is appropriate to recognize her efforts publicly.

James D. South