Has Campus in an Uproar

Photo by Matthew McKeown

Tarnhelm co-editors Katie Eye and Patsy Bauer.

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speech.

Bauer also said that the posters were continuously being removed from their approved locations.

The ad was met with additional resistance by some who saw it.

Nagele said, "If the Tarnhelm staff once had a legitimate argument in the way of playfulness in the vein of humor, they have certainly forgone any legitimacy as they have accelerated their campaign displaying a woman bound and gagged."

Nagele continued, "The suggestion of domination as masochism that goes hand-in-hand with Tarnhelm's advertising is particularly disturbing once one notes that women were involved in its production."

Boger clarified her position. She said, "The second set of posters Tarnhelm displayed used the word 'oppression' along with the word 'submit.' It is not that the words are bad. It is when you use the words and the pictures together that make them offensive and, in the minds of some, pornographic."

Bauer said the criticism is a misinterpretation of the second ad campaign which could have been clarified if those who opposed the ads would have contacted the Tarnhelm staff.

Most of the concerns people had with the ads is that they believed the posters promoted or minimized the issue of violence against women.

Nagele urged the Tarnhelm staff to "recognize that this literature may be far more disturbing to any student, staff or faculty member who, at some point, may have been a victim of violence."

Humanities professor Dr. Margaret Rose Jaster, though, doesn't see the ads as promoting violence at all.

"As a survivor of spousal abuse, and an advocate of women's rights for over two decades, I am very sensitive to these issues. While I am not an advocate of any sort of violence, I cannot join those...who would condemn the efforts of some of the few students around campus who attempt to participate in campus activities and to encourage others' participation, which was the point of the posters," Jaster said.

According to Dr. Victor Viser, the Tarnhelm's advisor, only one woman approached him about the ads.

Though he could not remember her name, he did recall what the woman's concern was.

"She considered it sexual harassment," he said.

Viser said the woman knew that both co-editors are women but that didn't matter to her as women can harass women too.

Bauer recently discovered evidence that sexual harassment may be an issue for other critics as well.

Bauer said a sexual harassment brochure was tacked to one of posters.

According to Bauer, no one has claimed responsibilty for attaching the pamphlet to the poster. However, some of the brochure's information was highlighted.

Among the highlighted portions is the university's sexual harassment policy including the statement that "prompt corrective measures will be taken to stop sexual harassment whenever and wherever it occurs."

Two other sections were highlighted. They are both under the heading "A Word About Harassment."

The first is the statement "Many accused harassers are surprised to learn how their behavior is perceived by those who feel victimized."

The other section reads, "Do not assume that colleagues, peers, employees, or students enjoy sexually oriented comments, jokes, inappropriate comments about their appearance, or even minor physical contact."

Additionally, four names were highlighted on the brochure including that of Linda Measheey.

Measheey, coordinator of academic development for PSH, was not aware of her name being marked on the sexual harassment brochure.

Measheey said she clearly saw the ads as sexual and said they were "not appropriate for the setting."

She said given that anyone would see the ads whether they wanted to or not, she didn't feel that having them displayed is in the campus' best interest.

Measheey said her goal was to see the posters come down and she contacted her superior to see "what route to follow."

When she was told that it was a First Amendment issue, she said she didn't pursue it any further.

Though it would not have been out of order to contact the Tarnhelm staff directly, she decided it wasn't beneficial to do so.

SGA President Roderick Lee said the ads were scheduled to be removed once the submission deadline of Feb. 21 passes.

Lee further stated that both Bauer and Eye "have continually made themselves available to anyone who had a concern about their ads. However, no one voiced their concerns to the owners of the posters."

Since no one has approached them, Bauer and Eye don't know how to accurately respond to those who are offended by the ads.

"Unfortunately, not only am I unaware what the complaint is, I do not know who is complaining," said Eye.

"This leaves the staff in a difficult position. How are we supposed to understand and consider someone's viewpoint through hearsay?" Eye continued.

The Capital Times attempted to reach several people for their comments. Dr. Dorothy E. King, professor of social science, had no comment on the Tarnhelm ads.

Dr. Daniele D. Flannery, professor of adult education, and Dr. Alison D. Hirsch, professor of American studies and history, did not return e-mails and telephone calls from The Capital Times.

Angela Keen, who helped coordinate PSH's Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign last October, was not aware of the posters.

Jennifer Boger would like to meet with the Tarnhelm staff. She challenged the Tarnhelm staff to "agree to meet with members and students of the Women's Studies program to discuss both sides of the issue."

Bauer said that she welcomed the opportunity to talk about the Tarnhelm ads.

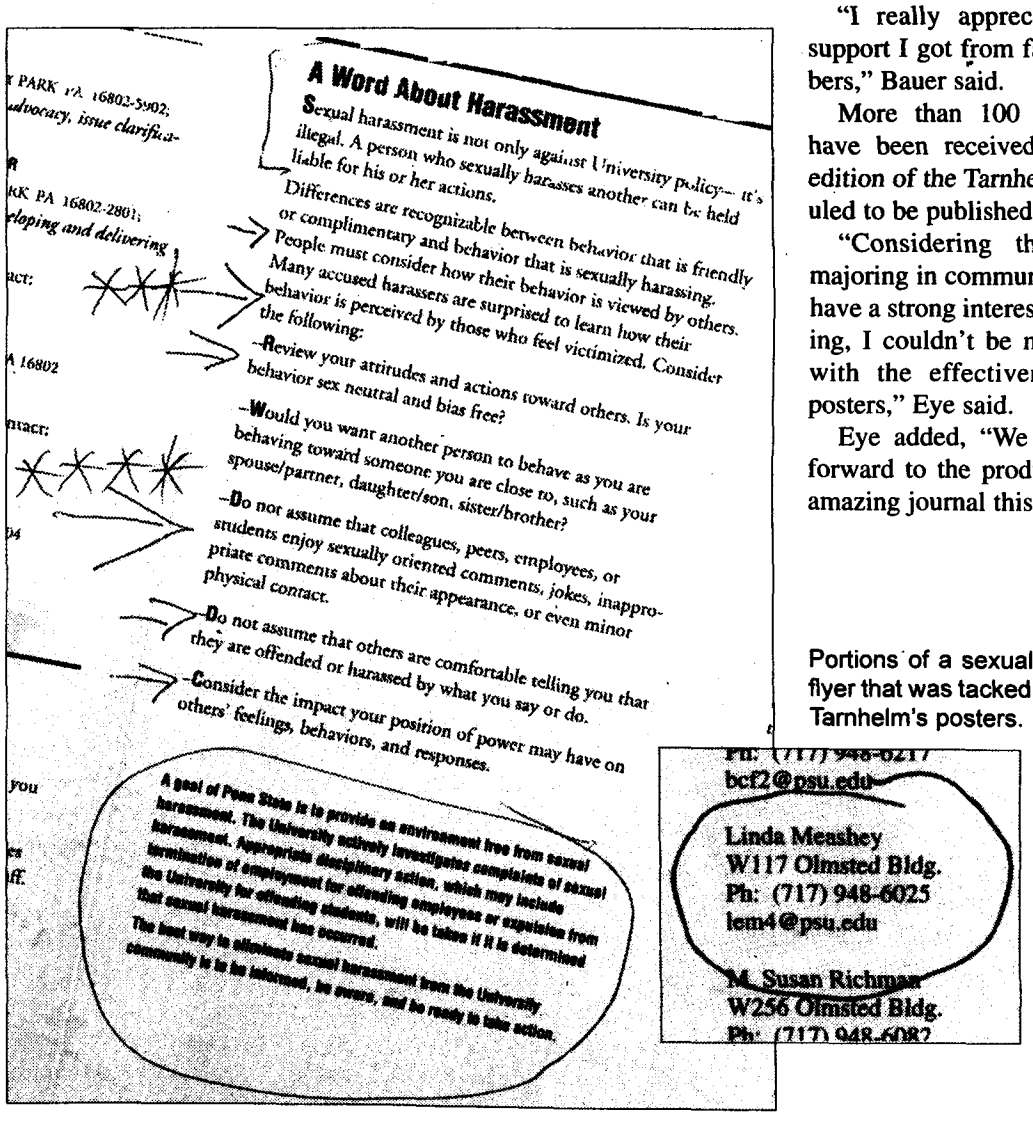
Though the extent of controversy over the ads caught both Bauer and Eye off guard, they said that they have received only positive feedback about them.

"I really appreciate all the support I got from faculty members," Bauer said.

More than 100 submissions have been received. The 2000 edition of the Tarnhelm is scheduled to be published in April.

"Considering that we are majoring in communications and have a strong interest in advertising, I couldn't be more pleased with the effectiveness of the posters," Eye said.

Eye added, "We are looking forward to the production of an amazing journal this year."



Portions of a sexual harassment flyer that was tacked to one of the Tarnhelm's posters.