

Forums About Tarnhelm Ads Produce Little Results

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discussion. Nagele said the event took roughly three weeks to plan, but added that most of the details were finalized in the last days before spring break.

According to Nagele, the Diversity Committee and the SGA co-sponsored the event.

"The problem is with the representation," Nagele told the group of 30 to 40 students and faculty attending the noon session. "Once you have an advertisement and put it in the media, then it becomes political."

One attendee expressed concern about the motivation for the campaign. She said the images of a person, presumably a woman, clad in black and holding a bull whip, evoked thoughts of females as submissive slaves.

Another participant commented that symbols are a strong, cross-cultural communication that can mean different things to different people. She sought a calm, rational response to the reasoning behind the posters.

Dr. Robert Russell, who teaches in the business school, supported *Tarnhelm's* right to use the provocative imagery.

"If anyone should be offended," Russell said, "it should be men because women are in a dominating position."

Tarnhelm staffers at the debate were willing to address concerns, but said they had not received any concrete complaints about the posters.

Nagele believed an open, student-driven discussion would provide the best opportunity for each side to present its case.

Though all parties involved supported the general idea of holding a forum to air grievances, members of the *Tarnhelm* staff questioned Nagele's approach to publicity.

Nagele said she informed WPSH and *The Capital Times* of her forum, and she also claimed to have printed a notice in the weekly PSH news bulletin, but nothing ever appeared.

[*The Capital Times* was not informed of the open forum. Nagele told a communications student who indicated he was hoping to have the story published in the newspaper about the forum.]

According to Nagele, flyers were created to advertise the forums, but they were not posted until the evening before the event because of printing problems.

Furthermore, Nagele said she asked a humanities professor to invite all students and department members, but did not mention following up to make sure her request had been carried out. When asked to identify the professor, Nagele

declined to answer.

"No staff member, co-editor, or faculty adviser of *Tarnhelm* was notified of the event," said Bauer.

"We had heard rumors before spring break, but never anything confirmed. The *Tarnhelm* mailbox is well-marked and directly below Lisa's. A simple hand-written note would have done just fine."

Bauer said the *Tarnhelm* Staff received an unsigned letter from the Diversity Committee that protested the ads, but when she responded, the chairperson, Dr. Robert Scott, said he knew nothing about the correspondence.

Tarnhelm adviser Dr. Victor Viser condemned the publicity strategy. "It was obviously some sort of ambush tactic," he said.

"I can only speculate that they either didn't know what they were doing, or they did it intentionally. I'm not sure what perspective these people are coming from that they're so intolerant of divergent views."

Viser and Bauer agreed that the controversial *Tarnhelm* ads are no longer an issue.

Though he attended neither forum, Viser said he did not understand the opposition's continued displeasure, nor the poster wars which ensued after the initial set of *Tarnhelm* ads appeared.

One set of posters asking

"Where are Patsy and Katie?" was glued on the walls of Olmsted's third floor. Some had tacks bordering them.

"I viewed discourse and give and take as a step toward female solidarity on the campus, as well as the best means of resolving the issue in a civil manner," said Nagele of the forum.

But Viser believes Nagele's actions were anything but civil. "After a while, the whole thing got to be very juvenile and high schoolish. The opposition sunk below the levels of protocol in their response."

Although Bauer only learned about the forums when she received a phone call that morning from someone who saw the flyers, she and Eye attended the 5 p.m. session.

Bauer said the forum was a good idea, but felt it should have occurred in January when the ad campaign began.

"At no time has Lisa or any other student approached the *Tarnhelm* editors with complaints. This was the first we ever met face to face," Bauer said.

She added that the concerns Nagele and her supporters expressed were very vague. They mostly dealt with the opinion that the ad campaign was "inappropriate" since people from outside the PSH community could

see them and form a negative impression of the university.

"I don't really understand this logic," said Bauer. "As far as I'm concerned, the students pay outrageous tuition and fees and should have freedom of expression in the halls they support without taking into account what campus visitors might assume."

Nagele and other critics also contended that the ads were inappropriate because they were provocative.

"I agree; so what?" Bauer responded. "[Lisa] should be jumping up and down with joy when she sees images of powerful women in complete control of their sexuality. The fact that these women are sensuous and attractive is secondary and irrelevant."

In response to the charge that the ads encouraged violence against women, Bauer assured the audience that *Tarnhelm* has never condoned or promoted this practice.

In fact, one *Tarnhelm* staffer shared the ads with a friend who has experienced spousal abuse. That person was not offended.

Bauer described the ongoing controversy as "very surreal," and Viser agreed.

"Twenty-five, thirty, or maybe even 50 years from now," he said, "people will look back on this, see the intolerance, and see what a brave thing the *Tarnhelm* did."

PSU's Newest Treasure Is Dedicated

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make the library a reality. He singled out the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for being "broadly supportive."

As each successive speaker rose to the occasion, glowing praise for the library, thanks to its creators and recognition of the

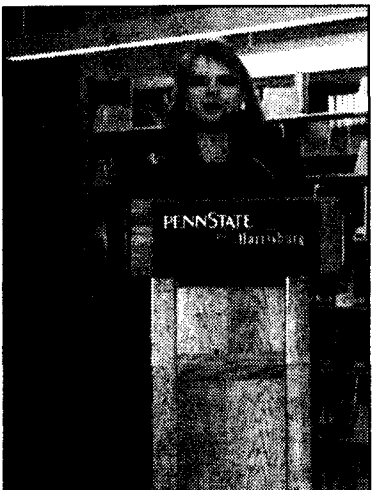


Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Campus Board of Adviser
Kathleen A. Smarilli

new library's role in Central Pennsylvania flowed.

"What a difference a day makes," Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Secretary of General Services Gary Crowell quipped.

According to Crowell, the library construction came in on budget and a day ahead of schedule. "Penn State put together a great team," Crowell continued.

Harrisburg Campus Board of Advisers Chair Kathleen A. Smarilli called the new library, "Penn State's Newest Treasure." Capital College Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Omid Ansary even thanked the taxpayers of Pennsylvania for their role in the creation of the library.

Following the scheduled speakers, ceremony guests toured the library and mingled over cake in the Morrison Gallery and Reception Hall.

Library Director Shill was beaming as he accepted the con-

gratulations and thanks of well wishers. Dankanich was also enjoying the moment, but mentioned the break in construction was brief.

"The housing construction starts soon," he said.

Julian was impressed with the dedication. She felt honored to be asked to greet the trustees and advisers.

"The Marketing Department coordinated the event well," Julian said.

In contrast, Communications major Robin Rissmiller thought the event had been "overrated."

"It was a lot of hoopla," she added. Rissmiller did enjoy the music of the jazz band that entertained guests gathering for the ceremony.

Schuylkill professor Paul Miller lead the trio. "I hope they invite them back," Rissmiller said.

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