

Polishing off the Tarnished Helm Tarnhelm

Tarnhelm Under New Management, No stone to go unturned!

by Cathie McCormick
Tarnhelm Co-Editor

According to Thomas Jefferson, "A little revolution is a good thing," and it's a little revolution we are planning for *Tarnhelm* this year.

The Penn State Harrisburg literary and art journal known as *Tarnhelm* began publication in 1983 and is organized as a student club funded by the Student Government Association and Student Activity Fees.

The journal is published in the spring of each school year and features poems, short stories, photographs and other art work of students, faculty and staff of Penn State Harrisburg.

While it is technically a club, it has not exactly behaved like one. With the exception of advertising for submissions during the fall semester and reviewing entries for publication in the spring, the staff members of *Tarnhelm* are as difficult to find as vampires on a sunny day.

There are other problems as well—possibly inadvertent—but problems nevertheless. My first exposure to *Tarnhelm* was the rejection of a short

story I submitted during my second undergraduate semester in 1999. While I learned to handle rejection years before attending college, I must admit I was dismayed to see that a vast majority of the entries that were accepted were written by staff members of the journal.

That perception, legitimate or not, was not corrected when in 2000 and 2001 the editors' art work adorned the cover of the journal and last year's back cover was a photograph by the advisor.

I have been on campus for several years, and each year I've heard the grumbling of those who chose not to submit entries because of the perception of bias—or pondered the honesty of the "submissions are reviewed anonymously" disclaimer after comparing the list of staff with the list of accepted entries. Who can blame them? So let the revolution begin.

My co-editor, Mitch Bentley, and I are committed to reconnecting *Tarnhelm* with the campus at large and vow that no person responsible for reviewing entries for *Tarnhelm* will be permitted to submit their own work for review.

That does not mean that club members may not submit work. It means that the few club members

who agree to be part of the review committee will not submit their own work during the year they serve as reviewers. It means you will not see our work in the journal.

That leaves the question, "What are the benefits and responsibilities of a *Tarnhelm* club member?" The good news is that being part of *Tarnhelm* doesn't mean you must agree to review hundreds of poems, short stories or pieces of art work in the middle of mid-terms next spring. If the mission of *Tarnhelm* is the promotion of visual and literary arts on campus, it seems the potential for club activities is endless.

This is why we need to hear from you. There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. in the conference room between the Housing and Food Services office and the Student Activities office (go down the hallway behind the food court—room E-124). Please join us to discuss the future of this organization.

If you are interested, but unable to attend the meeting, e-mail us at cam336@psu.edu or call (717) 579-0937.

The revolution has begun...

Ciccarelli hopes for a Real World Experience

By ANGELA SHUFF

Layout Editor

Over the last 10 years our generation has fed off the growing national addiction to reality shows, and MTV's *Real World* and *Road Rules* has been at the forefront of popularity. Remember when Stephen slapped Irene, when Puck stuck his finger in Pedro's peanut butter, and when Ruthie's alcoholism put her in the hospital. The next drama might involve a Penn State Harrisburg student, Drew Ciccarelli.

Ciccarelli attended auditions held in Philadelphia in September, and he has made it down to the final cut for a *Real World/ Road Rules* cast that will be taped in January. He hopes to be chosen for the *Real World*, a show that MTV markets as "The true story of seven strangers, picked to live in a house. Find out what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real."

The shows are taped months before they air so MTV is currently two and half months into taping a *Real World* episode in San Diego. Ciccarelli has heard from producers that this episode is a great one and viewers should anticipate its premier in January.

For several years Ciccarelli has thought about sending in a tape of himself to MTV, but he never did. Since auditions were nearby in Philadelphia, he decided to tryout in person. When he arrived he was 197 in line out of 700 people. Interviewers called in nine contestants at a time and asked them 10 ques-



tions. Some of the questions were: Should prostitution be legal? What do you consider cheating? Who would

you marry in this room and why?

Ciccarelli believes he has made it this far because of his answers to the questions. He replied candidly, saying that prostitution should be legal because it would improve the economy and keep drunk drivers off the streets. He explained to the interviewers that cheating should be condoned if the couple is drunk. What also helped Ciccarelli was the fact that the girls in his group thought he was attractive and funny. "Three of the four girls in the room picked me to be their mate," said Ciccarelli.

After the group interview, Ciccarelli became one of the 60 who were called back that evening to fill out an 18 page packet of essays. He then successfully passed into the next step in which 18 were chosen to have an hour-long interview with an

MTV producer. Ciccarelli said the interview was relaxed and the two of them sat in the hotel living room and chatted about Ciccarelli's girlfriend, parents, and his ADD.

According to Ciccarelli the interviewer seemed to like him and commented that he was a funny guy. Ciccarelli was sent home to make a video about himself, in which he taped himself at many locations here on the Penn State Harrisburg campus.

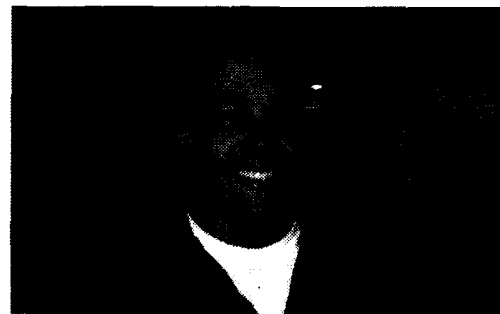


photo by Angela Shuff

Drew Ciccarelli may be selected to be on MTV's *Real World*.

Ciccarelli has waited four weeks to hear an answer from MTV, and very soon he will know whether or not he made the cast. He is excited about the possible opportunity of a lifetime, to live in a huge, fully-loaded house and meet girls, all at the expense of MTV. However, most important to him is the opportunity for publicity that this kind of exposure can bring. Having four months of his every move being on television, and familiarizing his face all over America can open doors and provide connections for a much desired future career in entertainment or with MTV productions. This experience could help his career, therefore Ciccarelli has no qualms about putting his college education on hold. If chosen, he will only be set back one semester and will plan to graduate in December 2004.

He jokes saying if given the chance, he would wear Penn State clothing every day and show his school pride to the world. "I'd make it a show worth watching!" he said.

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