

# The SCJ Reporter



The Nation's Oldest National Honorary Collegiate Journalism Organization

Founded as ΠΔΕ (1909) and ΑΦΓ (1919)

November, 2002, Volume 7, Issue 1

## Get Your Contest Entries Ready!

By Mary Beth Earnhardt  
Editor

The contest date looms for SCJ chapters and members. All entries must be post-marked by December 15, 2002. Contest Director, Mary Jennings, under the direction of the National Council, has revised the rules, and you should have received a copy with the last issue of the *Reporter* and you will receive another copy with this *Reporter*.

All chapter members are eligible to compete for the awards. This makes November a great time for an Autumn initiation banquet. Only members can compete in individual categories. However, each chapter is eligible to compete in the overall excellence categories.

SCJ's contest is the only national competition judged by professionals in the field of journalism. The contest represents a chance for you to get professional feedback on your efforts.

"We are looking forward to the best competition we've had in years," said Dr. Arthur H. Barlow, SCJ Executive Director. "The base of our organization is

energized and collegiate publications are better than ever." In addition to the contest, SCJ also offers several other avenues for rewarding the efforts of SCJ members and chapters.

The Barker Award, named after SCJ past president Sheridan Barker, is presented each year to an outstanding adviser. Last year this award went to Dr. William Lawbaugh, who was until recently, adviser to the Mountain Echo (student newspaper) and the Pirdwin (student yearbook) at Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland. Dr. Lawbaugh is also the Past President of SCJ. Also, SCJ has national awards to recognize the outstanding chapter and the Student Journalist of the Year.

Last year's Student Journalist of the Year was, Victoria Scavo from Ocean County College, Toms River, New Jersey. The chapter of the year was Virginia Wesleyan College.

"Of the functions SCJ performs, recognition is my favorite," says Barlow. "Student journalists and their supporters work many hours with little acknowledgment; any time we can step in



The SCJ Adviser of the Year Award is named after SCJ Past President, Sheridan Barker. Barker was president for two years.

with a little well-earned praise, I know SCJ is honoring its mission." Each award winner is decided by the National Council from letters of nomination. Forms are included with this issue of the *Reporter*; please send nominations to:

Dr. Arthur H. Barlow  
Becker Hall  
Clarion University  
Clarion, PA 16214

In addition to the annual awards, SCJ also offers Certificates of Merit and Medals of Merit. These are awarded on an as-needed basis throughout the year. Nominations for these awards are also submitted in written form to the National Office at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

# Legal Briefs

Animated cartoon that aired was called racist

## Murray State forms editorial review board for TV station

Administrators at Murray State University last week instituted an editorial review board for a student-run access television station after the broadcast of an animated cartoon that one college official called racist.

The new written guidelines for the two-week-old station, TV-11, require that an editorial board made up of 12 students must review all editorial, opinion and entertainment-based programming at least 48 hours before its scheduled air time, said Jeanne Scafella, chairperson of the Journalism and Mass Communications Department. Ten of the 12 paid-positions are to be filled with TV-11 staff members, and regulations state five members are required to give final authorization before broadcast. The board is modeled after the student newspaper's editorial board, she said.

"It's not a way of stopping programs; that's not the purpose of it," Scafella said in a *Murray State News* article.

The decision to create the board came after students, faculty and residents of the college town complained that the "Professor Hobo" animated cartoon was racist. A portion of the eight-minute cartoon created by two students, Justin Young and David Rothwell, fictionally depicted a administration mandate to offer a residence hall strictly for black students.

Gary Brockwell, provost and vice president of academic affairs, sent an e-mail to administrators and professors in the Journalism and the Mass Communications departments asking that the two cartoonists be removed from their responsibilities at the station until the "university administration can be assured that racist programming and/or cartoons will not occur in the future." Brockway further stated in the e-mail that "state funding cannot be used to support racism on our campus."

Administrators immediately informed the television station not to re-broadcast the cartoon until the

board could review the program.

Young defended the cartoon and took issue with being called a racist.

"At Murray State University there exists a White Residential College (named for someone, nothing to do with color)," Young stated in a letter to media outlets. "First we meant to mock the name of 'White Residential College.' Second, we meant to point out the confusion that comes between students and administration on campus. It is obvious, to us at least, that in the cartoon the administration misunderstands the concerns of the black students and addresses the wrong issue [by giving them their own residence hall]."

After a meeting with Brockway regarding the new editorial board policy, Young stated, "We were told we would be allowed to keep our jobs, [and] we should focus on delivering more positive messages about the university and work to portray it in a good light for the good of the university."

Brockway said students should create programs that reflect a positive view of the broadcast journalism department in order to increase its enrollment. Administrators have considered cutting funding to the journalism and mass communications department budgets if enrollment and productivity is not increased, he said.

"I want the students to be responsible for their programming," Brockway said. "Essentially the idea is to give the students that are running the station the method to operate in a responsible manner."

TV-11 received other complaints about the use of profanity by student commentators during two college football games. Brockway said the profanity could potentially violate Federal Communications Commission regulations and is also a violation of a contract with the city government.

Jeff Prater, TV-11 operations manager, said in an

# Our Online Presence Grows

By Mary Beth Earnhardt  
Editor

The SCJ website is growing in both scope and utility. In a recent National Council decision the SCJ magazine, *The Collegiate Journalist*, changed to an online magazine.

SCJ webmaster, Adam Earnhardt, is in the process of developing a template for the online publication. Earnhardt plans to begin asking for submissions by this summer. The submission process will be handled online. The magazine will be online in December 2003.

In addition to the magazine, contest rules and forms are now available on the web. The forms are in PDF format for easy downloading. You must have Adobe Acrobat on your computer to access PDF files. A link



**SCJ Webmaster,**  
Adam Earnhardt encourages chapters to create web pages which can be linked to the National site.

to download the software is also available on the website.

"I'm trying to use the web to bring our membership together," said Earnhardt. "The web is making the world a smaller place. Using new technology saves money for smaller universities. We are now in the position to provide opportunities to our members at a fraction of the previous cost."

Other features of the SCJ website include, an online version of the *Reporter*, links to media organi-

zations, and the Constitution/Handbook. In addition, chapter sites are linked to the main page. Hampden-Sydney College, Murray State University, Northeast Texas Community College, Southern Illinois University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Virginia Wesleyan College, Wartburg College, and Widener University are currently linked to the National Page.

"I encourage all member organizations to recruit an on-campus webmaster," said Earnhardt. "Most college campuses will host web sites for student organizations and we can link chapter sites to the National site very easily."

If you have a chapter website and wish to have it linked to the national site, send an e-mail to [aearnhardt@clarion.edu](mailto:aearnhardt@clarion.edu) or call (814)393-2659.

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## SPLC

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interview with *Murray State News* that the college is taking steps that would potentially limit television programs by allowing the broadcast of only those programs that give Murray State a positive image.

"I'm sort of caught in the middle of this," Prater said. "I am not proposing that we censor students, but I am doing that because I am being directed to do that." Young has resigned as the

graduate assistant with the television station after a television show he also produced was held for prior review by the editorial board. The administration has not offered an apology for the comments they made about the cartoon, Young said.

"On one hand the classes are teaching that the government can not control what is said by the media, and on the other hand the administration is trying to control

the media on campus," Young said. "I see a journalism department that is only allowed to produce public relations messages for the university as a scary and disturbing thought."

Young is considering taking legal action for defamation and for pulling the cartoon from programming.

*This story is re-printed with the permission of the Student Press Law Center. Go to [www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org) for an electronic version of this story and other stories of interest to student journalists.*

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## Notes from the Executive Director



As you should note NOW is the time to prepare submissions for the annual National Contest, and this is a very good time to think about competing for our other National Awards; Chapter of the Year, Adviser of the Year, and Student Journalist of the Year (SJYA) - which also carries a \$500 scholarship made possible by the National Dean's List.

In late October the SCJ National Council convened during the CMA/ACP Fall conference. It was a vigorous session, and I'm pleased to welcome Brian Steffan from Simpson College, Iowa, as our newly elected Third Vice-President.

It was a very good National Council meeting. It was well attended, and I'm very pleased by the turnout in chapter representatives. I've always felt that we have not involved our chapter representatives as effectively as we could; this meeting was a step in the right direction.

Our bills are paid; our house is in order; our membership is being served, and our vision is sincere—as evidenced by SCJ's contribution of \$1,000 to the Student Press Law Center—now more than ever they need national support. Watch for the outcome of *Hosty v. Carter*.

Take special pride in the fact that SCJ's was the largest single contribution to SPLC at this National Convention—some dollars—not even tax dollars—are working for you.

## Chapter Notes

*Congratulations to our new members at:  
Southern Illinois University, IL;  
1 new member  
and  
Hampden-Sydney College, VA;  
3 new members.*

*SCJ wishes all our members a great Thanksgiving Break.*



The SCJ Reporter  
The SCJ newsletter is published once a month during the fall and spring semesters in accordance with the Clarion University of Pennsylvania academic calendar. It is created on a Tangent computer using Microsoft Publisher 2000.

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