



Photo by Jaclyn A. Talarico

Dr. Emily Bernard taught at Smith College before joining the PSH community as Assistant Professor of Humanities.

Lecture Addresses Interracial Friendship

By Jaclyn A. Talarico
Capital Times Staff Writer

On Nov. 7, Dr. Emily Bernard, assistant professor of humanities, presented the first of a two-part lecture series on "Remembering the Twentieth Century."

Students, faculty, staff and community members filled the Gallery Lounge for her presentation.

Professor Simon Bronner, American studies program coordinator, introduced

Dr. Bernard and promoted future lectures at PSH.

Bernard's lecture, entitled "The Trouble with Friendship: Lessons from the Harlem Renaissance," lasted an hour and was followed by a question and answer session.

Her lecture focused primarily on the friendship between Carl Van Vechten and Langston Hughes and how they maintained it during the Harlem Renaissance.

Bernard used a power-point presentation that featured pictures of the two men as well as other prominent figures mentioned in her lecture.

"The Trouble with Friendship: Lessons From The Harlem Renaissance"

The Harlem Renaissance was the time period between the end of World War I through the middle of the 1930s, when a group of talented African-American writers produced what was, at that time, an unusually large body of literature. They wrote poetry, fiction, drama and essays. Among the major writers of the period were Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen and Rudolph Fisher.

Langston Hughes was a central figure during the Harlem Renaissance. He was, and still is, a respected African-American writer and poet. Carl Van Vechten was an

Continued on Page 4

Dan Karman—this is mime story

By Ana Paulina Gomez
Capital Times Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, a mysterious man dressed in black slowly walked into the Lion's Den. His presence was unmistakable. He looked like a corporate recruiter from the "Twilight Zone." The man was Dan Kamin, playing the "Corpozoid Man," an eerie character with the ability to alienate people and to perform amazing magic tricks. This short performance at Penn State's cafeteria was just a sample of what was coming: "Slick Moves," a show Kamin performed in the Gallery Lounge at noon.

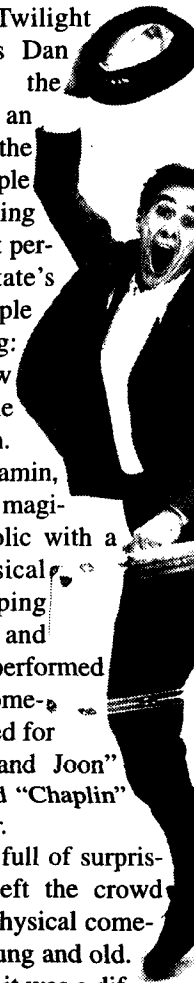
During the show, Kamin, an excellent mime and magician, surprised the public with a blend of silent physical comedy, eye-popping movement illusions and magic tricks. He also performed some of the physical comedy scenes that he created for movies like "Benny and Joon" with Johnny Depp, and "Chaplin" with Robert Downey Jr.

Kamin's show was full of surprises, his magic tricks left the crowd amazed and his silent physical comedy appealed to both young and old. For the younger people it was a different way to see comedy, and for the older people, it was a break from the comedy that we are used to seeing on TV shows.

Kamin is not new in this business. He began performing at the age of 12 as a birthday party magician. He attended Carnegie Mellon University and studied industrial design. His hopes for a normal life and career evaporated when he discovered the uncanny movement illusions practiced by theater professor Jewel Walkers. He promptly became the sorcerer's apprentice.

The great silent comedy films of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin provided additional inspiration that impelled Kamin to begin touring the country with his first original show, "Silent Comedy...Live!" Kamin carved a new vaudeville circuit out of colleges, theaters and schools. Kamin's talents have been recognized with invitations to perform at the White House, Lincoln Center and around the world.

Kamin's life, however, is not just about touring and presenting shows. He consulted on "My Best Friend's Wedding" and Tim Burton's "Mars Attacks!" His own strange and varied film roles include the wooden Indian that comes to life in the cult classic "Creepshow 2," a blind street performer in "Diary of a Hit Man," a key-stone cop in "Chaplin" and a diner victimized by Johnny Depp in "Benny and Joon." Kamin is also a writer. He wrote "Charlie Chaplin's One-Man Show," which revealed the secrets of Chaplin's comic art, and a children's book, "Carnival of the Animals," which is yet unpublished.



Workshops Encourage Girls to Study Math

By Cathie McCormick Musser
Capital Times Staff Writer

Big yellow school buses don't visit PSH often. On Nov. 3, several rolled up to Olmsted's front entrance and delivered 82 attendees to Sonia Kovalevsky Mathematics Day.

According to program handouts, SKDays "encourage young women to continue their study of mathematics," and "assist them with the sometimes difficult transition between high school and college mathematics." The events are sponsored nationwide by the Association for Women in Mathematics.

Lisa Busch, SKDay chair, is passionate about encouraging young women to pursue careers in mathematics. Busch, a computer science major, and Martin

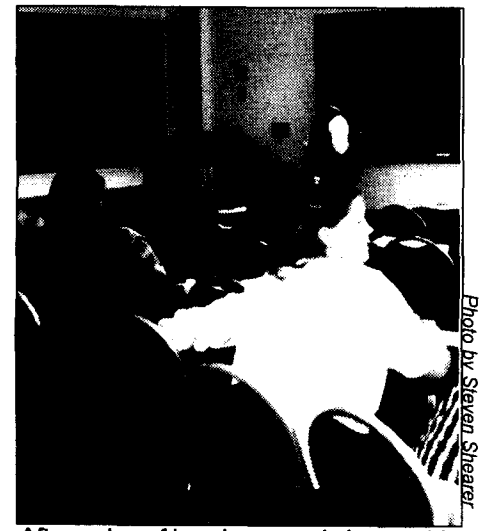


Photo by Steven Shearer

After a day of hands-on workshops, girls won prizes in friendly competitions.

Continued on Page 4