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A State Department Resignee Speaks on an International Crisis

Stephen Walker, who had been a mid-level policy analyst at the U.S. State Department until last summer when he resigned in disgust over the Clinton administration’s policy concerning Bosnia, spoke at an event last Monday. Approximately sixty-five students, faculty, and community members attended. Walker discussed the events in the former Yugoslavia and the information he received during his tenure. Although some people have downplayed the situation in the past, Walker emphasized the need for continued action and vigilance.

Whither Bosnia?

Bard Student, Zoltan Bruckner with former State Department analyst, Stephen Walker

Sean O'Neill
Features Editor

news is whatever sells newspapers. the observer is free.
On the move

Bard Student Foot Patrol hits the pavement

After months of hard work by two students, the Bard College Foot Patrol is getting ready to hit the pavement.

With the assistance of the Dean of Students office and student volunteers, the Foot Patrol is intended to become the "eyes and ears" of the College in protecting the person and property of other students.

In a meeting last Thursday evening with prospective volunteers, organizers Sasha Gorman and Antonia D'Amato discussed their vision and plans for the Foot Patrol. They said that the purpose of the Foot Patrol is to be a presence on campus to deter theft, vandalism and other criminal activities. The Patrol will also serve as an escort service so students do not have to walk across campus alone. Gorman and D'Amato stressed that the Patrol is meant to be non-confrontational and will work in conjunction with Bard EMS, BRAVE and Security.

Earlier last week, Gorman and D'Amato held recruitment meetings in the dormitories. On Thursday, they said that around 65 students had expressed interest in joining the Foot Patrol. Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Huang will serve as an administrativ assistant to the Patrol, since his previous job before coming to Bard was training student foot patrols at Lehigh University.

"I am very encouraged by the turn-out and concern," said Huang. "The Foot Patrol is not an appendage of the administration, and it took an incredible amount of work by Gorman and D'Amato to get to this point."

Gorman said that it was a long, difficult endeavor to get the permission of the administration to begin the Foot Patrol. "The school held up the process, because they were afraid students would get hurt," he commented.

The weekend after Halloween, a C-Just for you girls! Having an old fashioned slumber party w/ slam books & practicing kisses, in Teddy & Sleeping bags! And perhaps, a raid from the men?

If interested in any of these, or something similar, please reply to box 5794 and I'll try to put something together. And, yes! This is a serious announcement!

The Masked Planner

Cold, or just bored? Let the residents of Oberhofer warm and excite you! They're sponsoring a Bonfire in Manor Field this Friday, October 29th at 7pm.

Looking out over my life, I shuddered. And yet, I continue to live!

Friend- No time still to write a letter so I just wanted to say that I'm sorry for the bitcheness I bestowed upon you before Reading Week. I have no excuses, just an apology. Please let me know when you've written more of your story 'cos it 'captivates' me and I can't wait to read more! Love, Me.

"Friendship should be more than biting Time can sever." -T.S. Eliot

Attention Biker Wannabe-Be- and Brando Fans! I'm looking to sell my one-year-old black leather biker's jacket. It's in excellent condition (just barely broken in) and is a size 38. Paid $170 for it, asking $125 or best offer. Interested? Call Kate at 752-7496. Comes complete with cold-weather lining and attitude.

Hark ye, Hark ye all ye Bard students! Are you interested in any of the following:

A roller skating trip en masse like we did in the early eighties; ya' know that pseudodisco 'barnyard' kind of things.

Getting a drive-in movie and making out w/ your favorite lover in a car -- the pseudo fifties thing.

C-- just for you girls! Having an old fashioned slumber party w/ slam books & practicing kisses, in Teddy & Sleeping bags!

 Classifieds & personals

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WHAT WORST WITH BEING A SCREWED.

I'M NEVER ALLOWED TO LEAVE MY POST.


No place to lay (your head)? Check out the accommodating accommodations at For Cot Towlers, the comfiest bed-down in Amandale! Two beds, no waiting. Plenty of floor space. Stretch out 'n get cruddy w/ our gentle and friendly hostesses. Not exactly a bed and breakfast, but who needs food anyway? Shirt, shoes, no service. There's ALWAYS a vacancy. We'll leave the light on for ya! Woo!

Der schinen ist nicht die seife

ATTENTION LOVERS OF MUSIC! Seeking people with diverse musical backgrounds who want to bounce around ideas—people come together, play and create. Not necessarily looking for virtuoses...Let's jump in and try it all! Interested? If so, let's chat about the possibilities. Drop a note in Box 683 or Box 1239 today.

Cajun Dinner Dance to benefit the Mid-Hudson/Larragenega Sister City Project's efforts to build another classroom in Nicaragua.

7pm-Midnight October 30th at the Church of the Messiah.

The church is located 1 1/4 mile north of the traffic light in Rhinebeck and the dance will be in the Parish Hall behind the church. Tickets are $25/couple, $15/single & $10/college students & senior citizens.

An item was found in the Health Service waiting room in early September. Please call the Health Service at ext 433 to identify.

Attention Biker Wannabe-Be and Brando Fans! I'm looking to sell my one-year-old black leather biker's jacket. It's in excellent condition (just barely broken in)
Mary McCarthy, whose long and prolific career as novelist, critic, journalist, and memoirist made her a preeminent figure in American literary and intellectual circles, was the subject of a day-long conference in Olin last Friday. In her lifetime, McCarthy's achievements were recognized in her winning of both the Edward MacDowell Medal for outstanding contributions to literature and the National Medal for Literature. She gained mainstream notoriety with the bestselling success of her novel “The Group” in 1963. Currently, neoconservative writers are minimizing the importance of her contributions to American intellectual life, and the conference provided some degree as a way of applying fair scrutiny to McCarthy's contributions.

Bard was an appropriate place for the conference, in which approximately one to two hundred people participated, because McCarthy was a professor here in the 1940's and again in the 1960's. Her novel “The Grooves of Academe,” which addressed the question of whether there can be justice for an incurably arrogant person, has reputed allusions to Bard faculty members and politics from the 1940's. Current faculty, including Professors Deirdre D'Albiteris, William Wilson, Nancy Leonard, James Chace, Karen Greenberg, Mark Lytle, Dimitri Papadimitriou, and several others, were friends with McCarthy in her last years.

Mary Mary Quite Contrary

“I wanted to embarrass myself and the reader, too,” McCarthy once said of her work, which was very like herself, but frequently dislikable.

The New York Times critic Michiko Kakutani wrote the following description of McCarthy in 1990: "At her best (as in 'The Stones of Florence'), she was an erudite cultural historian, using her familiarity with history, politics, and the arts — and the application of some plain old-fashioned common sense — to draw surprising conclusions and to make her readers reconsider their perceptions.

Kakutani described McCarthy's writing style as "capable of moving from the frivolously feminine to the willfully cerebral, from girlish insouciance to bare-knuckled fury." McCarthy's childhood was one of what she termed "Dickensian cruelty." When her parents died when she was six years old, she went to live with her great-aunt and had to endure regular beatings and abuse. At age eleven, a grandfather rescued her and enrolled her in proper schooling, in an intensely Catholic atmosphere. She went to Vassar, where she became enamored with the English language and its prominent writers. Her first two marriages were ones of distrust and estrangement. Yet, despite her background of victimization, she refused to feel sorry for herself, or to make her personal pain a focus of her writing.

McCarthy did not refrain from writing, in the words of Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., "with rigor, pleasure, ambition, and candor." She was a feminist by example and not by exhortation, he said at the conference. And she did not consider "offensiveness to be an unpardonable sin." Schlesinger said that he suspected that his old acquaintance McCarthy would have found "the insufferable humorlessness of today's politically correct" literary theorists and intellectuals "depressing and hilarious."

A Gallant Spirit

"When you are writing a story it should illuminate something new (about the meaning of the experience) or else it's dead," wrote McCarthy. Her stories inevitably attempt to grapple with the meaning of her experiences, whether her observations made her appear as a political radical or an expert on social etiquette.

The Bard conference, "Truth Telling and Its Cost," invited almost forty professionals, people of letters, and friends of McCarthy to discuss various aspects of her work. For many of them, their feelings for this woman of intense passion and penetrating reason appeared to go beyond admiration to love. McCarthy's exacting style, her "heroic" quest for certainty amidst mediocrity and dissensuous, her sense of self-parody, her open display of her conscience in anguish, her feminism "by example and not by exhortation," and her "justly famous smile," all elements seemed to attract fondness from the participants.

Mary Ann Caws summarized the general feeling by closing her keynote address. "I believe that her life and her writing were not in vain."
Man not myth

Dean Stuart Levine

"I'm not sure whether I exist or not, but I am alive and well," said Dean Stuart Levine in an interview yesterday afternoon. His remark was made as a serious, but amusing response to recent letters in the Observer inquiring as to his whereabouts, plan, searches for programs.

"I've been doing a lot of good stuff," said Levine. If you haven't seen Levine around much lately, it is most likely because he has been up in his office on the second floor of Ludlow attending to several very important tasks. These duties include interviewing applicants for new teaching positions, conducting searches for department heads, presiding over faculty evaluations, overseeing plans for construction on Olin, organizing space for the summer, discussing with the faculty a new method by which to schedule classes (so as to reduce conflicts) and grading papers from his freshman seminar class.

It's meeting with his freshman seminar class twice a week that Levine says he enjoys doing most so far this semester, although it is difficult, with every thing else he must do, to sit through the papers. He, however, is very pleased with the students in his class, and says that they are "bright." Levine is one Dean that truly enjoys getting together with students on their level. Three years ago, during the Language and Thinking program, Levine lived in Tewksbury for three weeks. He said it was one of his best experiences so far at Bard, and the students were extremely good to me.

Although Levine considered doing something like that again, he has not yet had the chance. In fact, he has been working so many long hours lately that he's "not getting out of my office as much as I like." Currently, Levine cannot do the social Dean he would like to be. Instead, he is a busy man with great chores to accomplish. He is also, despite his ever overloaded agenda, a great source of information.

Some of the valuable things he had to share during the interview yesterday related to ongoing construction around campus and current, and upcoming faculty positions. On the construction end, some may be happy to hear that some may be happy to hear.

Features

 Bosnia talk continued

continued from front page

provide effective action on the global stage. The Bush administration did not develop any contingency strategy for the situation, should the European initiatives fail, besides expressing a vague disdain for the precedent of state disintegration. The Americans saw themselves in a "win-win" situation. If the Europeans succeeded, the U.S. would be absolved of responsibility. If the Europeans failed, they would return to requesting American guidance in international affairs.

The Europeans eventually banned the sale of armaments to any state of the former Yugoslavia, a ban which the United Nations supported. The European community subsequently imposed economic sanctions only against Serbia. Thus, a policy of simultaneously maintaining an uneven military situation that favored a Serbian nation—whom they also identified as the aggressors—began in the fall of 1991.

"Lift and Strike"

Walker repeated throughout his talk of his concern over another inconsistent policy stance taken by the international community. In the spring of 1992, most nations recognized the statehood of Bosnia-Herzegovina, yet they continue to take no action to lift the UN arms embargo and permit Bosnia to defend itself.

- Walker also repeated his assertion that the behavior of the Serbian army against Bosnian Muslims has clearly been one of "systematic genocide." His assertion is not universally accepted, because many experts portray Serbian aggression as limited to preserving its own territorial claims and to not exceeding those claims (since they have obtained most of their desired territory) merely to exterminate Muslims.

Walker also repeated, several times, his dissatisfaction with the Cyrus Vance-David Owen peace plan, which would divide the former Yugoslavia into ten autonomous regions. He sarcastically described the "irresponsible" policy-planning of the Clinton administration. He said that when they got to Washington they were informed of the implications and the risks of actively addressing the issue of Bosnia, Clinton's staff "was overwhelmed," and instead of "changing their thoughts or priorities on the situation," they attempted to avoid it entirely. Involvement would create "a distraction for more than a year and would delay Clinton's reform programs.

Walker was critical of the American government's refusal to accept responsibility for addressing Bosnia's needs directly. On February 10th of this year, Secretary Christopher announced that there would be no U.S. military intervention. He also announced U.S. support for the Vance-Owen peace plan, which Walker described as "irresponsible and ill-thought out," in consideration of the violation of principles such support entails. The U.S. Walker asserted, should not ask Bosnia, a sovereign nation, to accept dependence by Serbia, a foreign power. He stated that internal dissent on America's policy on the Balkan tragedy increased dramatically, as did criticism from the U.S. Congress. These dissenters advocated a policy of "lift and strike," which means that the arms embargo on Bosnia should be lifted and that during the few weeks that the Bosnian Muslims were training with the defensive weapons, NATO aircraft would silence Serbian artillery.

Walker still advocates a policy of "lift and strike" for NATO, even now. He considers it to be an effective method of rectifying a salvageable situation, not an ineffectual method intended just to solve the conundrum of Western nations. He argued that supporting an actual settlement now would create a disastrous precedent, and did not see such a settlement as a way to preserve future peace. He believed that air strikes could effectively incapacitate Serbian military forces, and did not think that air strikes would be unable to destroy the needed amount of Serbian artillery to forestall unbridled slaughter. He insisted that intervention would further American and European cooperation, and did not think that intervention would further damage these international ties, if failure resulted. He considered the use of American forces on the ground in large numbers to be unnecessary if NATO actually constrains the violence, and did not foresee that a strong stand in this matter would lead to the involvement of our soldiers.

At the end of almost two hours, Walker received applause for initiating a provocative discussion.

ST. BOOTY AT SANTA FE

Halloween Costume Party
October 31st Starting @ 10pm
$5.00 Cover
21 To Drink

The second annual Halloween Scavenger Hunt
Sat., Oct. 30, 7:00pm
Olin moon room

*5-minute, fully-dressed, upright, asexual, backrubs - sorry no hot oil massage.

100 ITEMS - 100 MINUTES

Trek presents:

The second annual Halloween Scavenger Hunt

Please send a list of team members (3-6 people) to Box 958 by Oct. 29 (or if you can't get your team together, then just show up Sat.)
Another View

Shameless Filler!

If there are any readers out there who are deeply religious, I must apologize in advance for the tone and attitude of the following column. If you have very little tolerance for jokes, japes and humor directed at those who are religious, you'll probably be more steamed than amused by this little tidbit. I don't discourage you from reading further, since I hope that you'll find the ability to discover some light-hearted corner of your conscience which will allow you to laugh along. And if not, you can feel secure in the knowledge that I am a devout, godless heathen who will burn in the fires of hell longer than Hitler. The thought of that alone might be enough to give you a wee chuckle.

One of the things I do to waste time on a weekend night is doing scoring for the women's varsity volleyball team. This involves watching each and every point intently, like a hawk, making tiny little marks in a book, and annoying everyone in the general vicinity. Luckily, each of those conditions come so easily to me. This past weekend Bard faced two teams at home, Nyack College, whom they defeated earlier this year in a five game match, and Dominican College (Who? I just got this weird sense of deja vu...). The odd thing about these two teams is that they were both religiously-oriented schools. The religion in question being some form of Christianity.

Now, people who "got religion" (as we say in the wilds of Connecticut) usually learn to make me somewhat bewildered, but religion and sports particularly makes me confused. From the first time I saw Mark Bavaro cross himself in the end zone after scoring a touchdown, to the strangely violent softball scene in Chaim Potok's The Chosen, I've been perplexed. Consider the dilemma you're going to compete against another team of people. There will be an extended period of physical exertion, during which you will do everything within your power, and the rules to prevent your opponents from succeeding at their goals, and proving your superiority to them. You will exploit their weaknesses and eventually prove them inferior. I'm sorry, this just isn't "Love thy Neighbor" stuff. And it's far a cry from any kind of Christian charity scene, too.

There are more glaring dichotomies in a brutally physical sport like football, but even in volleyball there is talk of "setting up a kill." I mean, for a comparatively friendly sport, the teams I witnessed on Saturday surely weren't being very loving of their fellow person.

Nyack College was certainly the more twisted of the two. They were ever so etymically and chirpy and cheery. Before a match, they asked if they could warm up to their "inspirational tape," a collection of hard-rockin' Christian bands singing their saved souls out. Whenever the coach called them over for a group cheer, they'd put their hands together in the middle of the huddle, and yell out something that sounded like "Opera Head!" I later found out that they were yelling, "All for Him," etc., all for Jesus Christ.

I just don't see this volleyball extravaganza as something the Son of Man would be spending his Saturday afternoon peeping in on. Call me superstitious, but I doubt that an intercollegiate victory, as impressive as it may have been, would go very far to earning the savior endured when he died for our sins. If I were me playing that game, I'd kinda want to dedicate my effort and abilities, if not to the team in general, then to myself, in hopes that I'll become a better player and a better person. But you gotta hand it to those religious folk, always looking out for someone else.

Whether Jesus was in the building or not, I must have worked to inspire Nyack, since they both Bard and

In which we learn how to serve the lord

Another View

Dead Goat Notes

The following column was translated out of Latin. The observer accepts no responsibility for any loss of meter, rhyme or content.

It's Halloween time once again. You can trot up to Leon's house with your sheet over your head and he'll either give you a lollipop, or someone will think you're KKK and protest you. But the best thing about Bard Halloween is roughing up professor's children and taking their candy.

The other special thing about Bard Halloween are the spooky things about this campus. Many of you know the ghostly way in which Red Hook got its name. Also on Halloween night the Chapel bell tolls for those who were taken by the Horrible Hunchback of Bard, a creature which snatches up underclassmen who ring the bell while others are trying to sleep.

Here are a few of the lesser known horror stories that you can tell around the campfire while passing the long. Hannah Arendt rises from the Grave. A Bard Biology student trying to mix up a new batch of LSD just can't get the experiment right. He takes his mistaken formula to the graveyard behind Leon's house and dumps it in the cemetery, right over Hannah Arendt's grave. This formula somehow manages to resurrect her from the dead, and after a few years down there, she's pretty ripe. Frozen in fear, the poor biology student must listen as Arendt's long passages from Origines of Totalitarianism. Later, the student is compelled by her Zimmerman-like powers to steal Arendt's books back from the special collection in the library and bury them with her corpse.

Just ask Jeff Katz if you don't think this really happened.

The curse of the Maxwell House Gypsy. It seemed like an ordinary day in introduction to philosophy, when an old gypsy woman wandered into class. When the philosophy professor scoops her magical powers as being illogical and un-empirical, she hesit Hen. He takes a sip of coffee and find that he can't remove his hand from the cup. No matter how much coffee he drinks, the cup is ever-full. The only cure is an herbal tea made from cranberry and wolfsbane. Herbal tea! Imagine the horror!

The day the world went away. Although he didn't do his reading, John Carter decides that he will go to class anyway. When he arrives, he discovers that only his professor is there. They wait in uncomfortable silence for ten minutes until it becomes painfully obvious that, out of a class of fifteen students, no one will show up. The professor refuses to cancel class and forces John to discuss the reading. A fate too terrible to contemplate.

The P.C. nightmare. It's a dark and stormy night. A lonely and differently-sane student, Victor Von Frankerman is working with his computer. Lightning flares outside his room. Sparks fly. The smell of ozone is heavy in the air. Suddenly, a bloodcurdling cry tears through the heavens as every student in the computer center realizes that they forgot to save their work before the lightning knocked the power out.

The other P.C. nightmare. An enterprising young man decides to take a young woman whom he is romantically interested in on a moonlit walk through the graveyard. He reasons that she will be frightened by an owl hooting and jump into his arms, providing a cheap thrill for him. He is sexist, but correct; she does grab him in fright during their walk. However, once they get back to campus, she takes him to the Student Judiciary Board for sexual harassment and they award her his Volvo.

The Vegan Vampire. A vegan working in Kline uncovers that beef is being used in Tofu imitation Hamburger Patties and that Tofu is being used to stretch the Hamburger meat. The Kline staff ends her noisy protests by whacking her with a bologna. When she arises from the dead, she is thirsty and seeks the blood from meat-eating students. These students send her to her grave once again by driving a steak through her heart.

(914) 876-4524
Free Consultation
44 Old Post Rd
Rhinebeck, NY

David C. Schiffman, Ph.D.
Psychologist
Bard Alumnus, Class of 1961

A page of unedited observations by guest writers

by Matt Gilman
Another View
unbard love
by Sean O'Neill

"How many times do I have to tell you to come with me to the costume party?" says Basil Rodinger. "You need to dress up, get out, and have some fun."

"But I have to study," says Sprague.

"This stuff, I can't make it sink into my brain."

"You need a break away," says Rodinger. "That's pretty intense stuff you're studying there."

Sprague closes his astrology textbook.

"Yeah, Basil. Maybe you're right."

"Come on, Colby. You can go in a disguise, act like a fool, pick somebody up, and no one will know about it tomorrow. No embarrassment possible."

"Are you going to go Count Cavour?" asks Sprague.

"Don't tease me, roomie," he says. "It really hurt when my ex-girlfriend smashed that vase on top of my head. You know, I paid good money for that vase."

"Good thing you had already given those flowers to your love, what was her name?"

"Nadine," says Rodinger. "Maybe you'll meet each other formally tonight. Oh, and one other thing. You are going to be my escort to the party."

Later in the night, at the costume contest.

Queen Nerfertiti and Hillary Clinton are standing side by side, talking to Michael Jackson.

"I didn't know doctors could smooth out a person's earlobes like that," says the Queen to Jackson. "They really did a superb job."

"They do look great," says the First Lady. "But do not expect the new federal health care plan to pay for it."

"You know," says the Megastar. "I could recommend a great doctor who could give Chelsea a little nip here and there. It could do wonders for her self-confidence."

"I don't know about you, Hillary, but I would never allow anyone to touch my Princess," says the Queen. "Like Lilahokwani says, you Americans are stupid."

"Oh, look at that inventive costume," says the First Lady.

"You mean the cartoonist dressed up as a 'click-person'?" asks the Queen. "It's a shame the costume doesn't disguise his body odor."

"And look, isn't that one of the Deans," says the First Lady. "No, that's Dopey, one of the Seven Dwarfs," says the Queen.

"No, no, I mean next to you, Hillary," says the First Lady. "Oh, you're right. It must have been the light."

"Be careful," says the Megastar. "You never know for sure who is listening or talking to you in disguise tonight."

"Well, there's James Bealle as Jean Claude Van Damme, The Muscles From Brussels, standing over there," says the First Lady. "I don't see him," says the Queen. "Point him out so I can avoid him."

"He's talking to Madonna and Marilyn Monroe," says the First Lady.

"Those costumes deserve a prize," says the Megastar. "Everyone else here are just monsters, with an occasional French Maid."

"But who are these two?" asks the Queen. "Princess Leia steps up and curtsies. The fellow wearing the black and red cape with the mask stands behind her.

Hello, Princess," says the Queen. "My what masculine legs you have! I would like you to meet Hillary Clinton, my friend."

Princess Leia curtsies again. The other man bows. Michael Jackson walks off to meet Elizabeth Taylor.

"As a fellow aristocrat, why don't you introduce us to your fine friend in the red and black cape," says the Queen menacingly. "The outfit looks painfully familiar."

"This is the Phantom from the Phantom of the Opera, and he doesn't like to be touched," says Princess Leia, quickly.

"Nice meeting you," says the Phantom, disappearing into the crowd.

"The Queen chases angrily after him."

"Who was that masked man?" asks the First Lady.

"I don't know," says the Princess. "I picked him up at an intergalactic bar. Who may I ask, are you?"

"Married to the most important man in America, so don't try anything, wise guy."

"Meanwhile, outside the party..."

"I swear I borrowed this cape, and I'm not Count Cavour person," says the Phantom.

"Then tell me who you are," says the Queen.

"You're acting like a royal wrench," says the Phantom. "Let go of my arm."

"You're not much of a Phantom if I can hold onto you so tightly."

"You're not much of a Queen, making such a ruckus in front of all the yokels," says the Phantom. "What will the peasants think?"

"Queen Nerfertiti thinks better and lets go. The Phantom stands there and straightens his cape.

"You don't have a Midwestern accent," says the Queen.

"I didn't know Midwesterners had accents," says the Phantom. "Wait! Don't hit me. I'm sorry, whatever I said! Hey, cut me some slack. Half of my face is destroyed, and this is my first night's entertainment in months."

"You've got a sense of humor," she says. "Like that in a subject. Are you going back to the party?"

"No, I want to look at the stars at Blithewood," he says.

"May I join you?"

"If you wish, Movember. Maybe I can show you what I've learned in astrology class so far."

"Sure," she says. "Is that your Q course, whoever you are?"

"My name is Sprague. Colby Sprague."

A page of unedited observations from guest writers
The Brach talks
Eloquent meandering or sleazy gossip?

Art professors, students and other interested individuals got an inkling of just who Paul Brach is in a series of two lectures and a panel discussion. Rose Merrill Staff Writer

Brach's first lecture, entitled 'Paul Brach: His Life and Work' answered this question both in terms of factual biography and personality.

Brach told the story of over forty years spent in the art world as a "painter, teacher, writer, and administrator." From abstraction in the 1950s to present day western landscape paintings. But that wasn't the only story he told.

Although Brach began his talk in a reserved, formal, and dull lecture tone, he soon relaxed into an easy, conversational voice in which he was able to truly express his.thoughts and feelings about periods of his life and artwork. He talked freely and feelingly about his painting. "Message" was painted during a difficult, artist drought after he moved back to New York from teaching in California, and admitted candidly that a piece entitled, "City of the Sky," one of Brach's first attempts at painting western landscapes was "so corny I wondered if I could rescue it."

During the question and answer period Brach responded to questions in a manner verging on flippant. He advised aspiring artists to "grow up, be mature, sell-out." This was just the first indication that Brach was an opinionated curmudgeon.

At his second lecture on Abstract Expressionism Brach was more relaxed in appearance and speech. He meandered more into episodes in his own life and opinions. Unfortunately, rather than bringing the audience closer to his topics by the question-and-answer method, Brach's stories seemed to isolate with their specificity rather than embrace with their universality. If he had stuck purely to art history, and maintained his easy, eloquent dialogue, the lecture might have been a resounding success. As it was, one couldn't help wondering how much of what one was being fed was fact and how much bias, based only on Brach's personal experience. Since presumably most of the audience had a limited knowledge of the personal dynamics between artists and critics involved in Abstract Expressionism, they could only take Brach's strong opinions at face value.

What was wonderful and exciting to watch was the process by which Brach questioned his own statements and restructured them as necessary to better articulate his sentiments. It was in these moments that Brach was positively poetic and inspiring, as when he searched for the exact way in which to describe Mark Rothko's paintings and he defined them three ways: "gaseous, sacred architecture," "devoted Stonehenge," and "cosmic schmuck." These "eloquent meandering" appeared to stem from an honest desire to communicate and understand the often non-verbal world of art; there was no tinge of the self-conscious bragging that had permeated Brach's New York sagas.

The final discussion panel on Abstract Expressionism, featuring Professors Elizabeth Frank, Jacob Grossberg and Brach, was a detour into the closet gossip of the art world. The panel certainly began on respectable and well-articulated grounds with moderators Bernard Greenwald posing the question "What were some of the less-recognized / less-visible influences on Abstract Expressionism?" All three speakers had original answers to this question, and eventually found themselves discussing Jackson Pollock, and from there the talk slipped into a reminiscence by Grossberg, and success. As it was, one couldn't help wondering how much of what one was being fed was fact and how much bias, based only on Brach's personal experience. Since presumably most of the audience had a limited knowledge of the personal dynamics between artists and critics involved in Abstract Expressionism, they could only take Brach's strong opinions at face value.

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Dean Levine continued from page 4 that the additions to the Henderson Computer Center and Procter will be completed by sometime early next summer. The new section to Procter will include two large teaching spaces (one for sculpture, the other for painting) and several individual studios for senior art majors. The construction on Olm, to build an addition, will begin next semester. The new section of this building will include a lecture room (capable of seating at least 150 people), seminar space, more classrooms and a larger language lab.

In the area of faculty positions, Levine was happy to share the news of a recently hired Drama Dance professor who will be coming to teach a History of Dance class next semester. The woman's name is Greta La Vart who, according to Levine, has many years experience in teaching dance history. Levine is currently involved with the search for people to be a tenure track position in African American Literature, to become the chairperson of the Art department, a full time Drama Dance professor and to become the director of Multi-Cultural studies. These are just a few of the specific positions that he is taking a major part in trying to fill. The other main coordinators for the positions directly related to Multi-Cultural studies are Myra Arstead, Laura Patton and Ann Aresil.

Films being presented this weekend by the Film Committee in the Old Gym

Friday Saturday Sunday
Cat People The Wickerman Ladder
Jacob's Ladder
Come to the Movies!
Nightmare before Christmas
Tim Burton’s latest flick reviewed

You’ve probably seen or heard something about this much-anticipated and long-awaited film by now, and (if you’re the type who pays attention to such things) you may have wondered: gee, Tim Burton does some pretty wacked-out stuff; if he does an animated kids movie, is it gonna be really lame or really cool? Are they gonna let him get away with making it really cool? Well, let’s see.

Nightmare Before Christmas is the story of spectral Jack Skellington, leader of Halloween Town. He has just pulled off another brilliantly successful Halloween, and yet he feels something lacking. Wandering through the woods at the edge of town, Jack discovers the door to Christmastown, where the bright lights, snow, and toys make Jack realize - he knows what’s been missing. He decides that Halloween Town is going to take over Christmas for the year, with him in the role of Santa Claus (of course, Santa must be kidnapped in the process, but do what you have to). What ensues as Jack and his Creepy pals make their own attempt at Christmas, and how our world responds to this attempt, and what poor Santa has to put up with - well, you can see the movie and find out. Sound cool yet?

Of course, this plot is not exactly awe-inspiring and does not feature plot twists of any dazzling nature, but remember, it’s a kid’s movie. Besides which, the heart of the film isn’t in plot, but in vision - the nightmarish (yet cuddly) creatures and sets that bring Halloween Town to life. Burton’s flair for the sort of gothic-macabre that made Beetlejuice and Batman so memorable are the driving point of this film, and it’s a strong one. The real question is, how will people respond to this? I mean, we’re talking gross stuff here - guts and brains and goo and slime... kids will love it, but what will the parents think? Is it only a matter of time before piglet lines of morally conscious parental units roam the streets in front of theaters trying to chase off would be viewers? It’s very possible - this is a movie that really pushes the limits of what a kids movie can and should be. And that’s what really makes this movie so wonderful - it really is a horror movie for children. The images involved are child-like, even though macabre or morbid, the plot is childlike in its simplicity, the music (oh yeah, forgot to mention, it’s a musical) is very kid’s movie-like, and most of all the horror element, the fears upon which the scary scenes play, are kid’s fears. This is one of the first movies I’ve ever seen aimed at children that does not ‘talk down’ at the audience in any way - there’s no belaboring moral message, no “so be good little boys and girls and obey your parents’ moral, anything - just really fun, really creepy, really visually amazing, just well, really great. It’s impressive that Disney (who released the movie through Touchstone) were willing to promote a movie as dark as this. Basically, if you like animation, go see this movie - even if you do have to drive to Poughkeepsie (I had to go to the Galleria to see it) it’s totally worth it. Definitely beats catching the discount matinee of Cool Runnings at the Lyceum.

P.S. For all you David Lynch freaks - Upstate Films is showing Eraserhead over Halloween weekend...
No doubt about it: it's fall. Mother nature is leaving her things all over the ground, the general consensus of trees amount to "why bother?" And if you're walking alone in the woods for any extended period of time, you must dress accordingly: i.e., wear as many bright, fluorescent colors as possible with a large hair-do that can be seen poking above the brush line, and a large plaid which reads, in pink paint, "DON'T SHOOT ME. I AM NOT A DEER. I AM A YOUNG LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE STUDENT WHO OWES MY SCHOOL AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MORE MONEY THEN I'LL SEE IN SIX YEARS. ON SECOND THOUGHT, SHOOT ME!"

Is it any wonder, then, that droves of students were running through the woods this Saturday, not wishing to tarry, lest their head be found on the wall of some sportsman somewhere in Westchester? Of course, the fact that Bard was hosting the Bard Invitational Cross Country Race might have had something to do with it. Both the men's and women's team showed up for this jaunt into the woods. The women's abbreviated team again consisted of Dawn Gray and Jennifer Matthews. Dawn placed extremely well in the three mile race over hill and dale. She finished with a time of 20:41, which placed her fourth in the field of 29. Jennifer had an impressive time of 26:56, placing her 22nd.

The men's team did have enough runners to field an actual team, and they did wonderfully as well. Brad Richman led the Bard pack, running 8 kilometers in 29:41, which placed him at eighth among the field of 57. Evan Rallis placed 11th with a time of 30:28; Milord Roseborough placed 16th at 31:48; John Hanson nipped at his heels with a time of 31:58. Gus Brandt crossed the line at 35:30; and Billy Yeskel rounded out the Bard team at 38 minutes flat. All in all, the performance of the Bard team was good enough to put them in third place overall, teamwise.

Women's Tennis

The Bard women competed in the NAIA District 31 championships last Sunday, and came home with a certified champion. Laurie Currie rose from the rest of the entire district to capture not only the singles title, but the doubles title with Hirimi Yanoaka as well. Curry defeated three opponents in the singles matches en route to her title, losing only 13 games over all. Then she and Yanoaka fought back from a one-set deficit (as well as a 4-1 game deficit in the second set) to defeat Sandra Bove and Collette Adamos 6-4, 6-2. The victories allow Curry and Yanoaka to compete in the NAIA nationals next spring in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Unfortunately, the tournament marks the end of the women's season. The team finish with a disappointing 0-6 season this year.

Soccer

The men's team struggled through two games this past week. They faced Ramapo College on Wednesday, falling to them by a score of 0-5. They then faced Stevens' Institute of Technology on Saturday, and fought hard to a final score of 0-4. The men's team now has a record of 2-1-1 as the season nears its close.

The women's soccer team fared somewhat better, splitting their games last week 1-1. The women played very well against Manhattanville last Thursday, not allowing a goal until 3 minutes left in the last quarter. The hard-fought goal resulted in a 0-1 loss for the Blazers. They went on to face Jersey City State (which confuses even me) on Saturday. The tough defense came through, and Bard won, benefiting from a single goal scored by Julianne Voss, 1-0. The victory brings the team to a record of 2-9.

Women's Volleyball

The Blazers had what could be considered an "off week," I suppose. Of their four matches, they won only one. The week began with a trip to St. Thomas Aquinas College on Tuesday, where they lost by a score of 1-15, 2-15, 13-15. The team then returned home for a match on Thursday, against cross-river nemeses, SUNY New Paltz. The Paltzians were in a different class than Bard, and although Bard played well, they fell 1-15, 9-15, 6-15.

This past weekend Bard faced two teams at home, Nyack College, whom they defeated earlier this year in a five game match, and Dominican College (Whoa! I just got this weird sense of deja-vu...). Unfortunately, Bard didn't fare as well this time around against Nyack. After a hard-fought match, with much garnering of momentum and primal yells on both sides, Bard came up just short by a score of 15-3, 6-15, 15-9, 15-4. Bard did manage to defeat an inspired Dominican, winning the match and staving off a Dominican comeback in the third game, and held out to win by two points. All in all, a most draining match. The week's activities brings the volleyballers to a record of 12-7. Two games remain in the season, and then Bard hosts the NAIA District tournament; an all day affair beginning at 9:30am on Saturday November 6. It should be interesting...very interesting.

Notice!

Hey, men's and women's varsity fencing will begin holding practices soon...very soon in fact. On the team? Interested in joining? The first full team meeting will be held on Monday, November 1 from 4:00 to 6:00pm. C'mon down and take a stab at it!
Go ahead trash it, but do it right!

by Joanna C. Breton

Later today, stop by the Post Office (late afternoon is the best time). Before checking your box, take a look around. What do you see?

Are there menus, flyers and papers strewn across the table and laying around all over the floor? If you’ve said no, I am surprised. Some days the mess there absolutely despicable. On others, it isn’t too bad – just an abandoned magazine or two. It is more pleasant to visit the post office on one of the latter, and less frequent occasions, but even on these days there is something I simply do not understand.

There are three large garbage cans and a set of recycling bins in the post office; why then is it so impossible for students to deposit their unwanted mail properly into the trash? Please people, it only takes a tiny reach and a measly few extra seconds to get to one of the cans; let’s stop making our campus look worse than a pigsty!

Why? First of all because it is unfair for the postal workers, who work hard all day, six days a week sorting and distributing our mail to us, to have to clean up after us. Once they have fulfilled their duty of stufing the boxes with mail, the mail should then become the recipients responsibility. Secondly, foremost and finally, the more devastating we make this campus property look, the worse we look. Bard students are already considered by some to be filthy, disrespectful and entitled, worthy scoundrels. Isn’t it about time we worked to improve this image? At least just a little?

The smallest and simplest things can start it happening. When you are done thumbing through, browsing or actually reading this week’s issue of the Observer, take a short stroll over to the recycling bin, and drop it in!

Don’t be immature!

Dear Editor,

My first complaint concerns people smoking in designated non-smoking areas, namely deKline. Is it that these smokers have forgotten how to read? (There are huge signs which clearly say NO SMOKING!) Or, is it that they have to invent every little place they go into with their carcinogenic cigarettes regardless of the rules? I’ve complained to deKline myself, but in reality the workers are there to prepare and sell food rather than baby-sit the selfish smokers and make sure they don’t blaze up. I don’t care if I am in the minority, so are the non-smoking designated areas. It is not that hard to refrain from your habit, which is harming to others, for a short while. There is an occasional cigarette smoked in the main Kline-dining hall which is also disrespectful, but the problem does not compare to that of deKline.

Disrespect is also very prevalent with the increasing amount of graffiti showing up on Olin tables and chairs. Would you do this to the furniture of your parents or your own living room? I don’t consider any of this vandalism in Olin classrooms art. I consider it to be disrespect which a secondary school would punish in the form of detention. Don’t you think that we need not be treated like little babies? Of course not! We are all supposed to be respectful adults/despite

college students.

I came to Bard believing that it would be a place of respect. I think that much of the student body is respectful. However, there are some imbeciles here, some of whom I hope will think twice after reading this letter.

Sincerely,
Seth B. Travins

If you’re interested, in the next few weeks a few queer things are happening to live up discussion on this campus:

1) A paper on the 9th International Conference on AIDS held in Berlin, Germany in June.
2) Two safe sex videos from the conference followed by two safer sex work talks led by students and (under two targeted men, one targeted for women.
3) A Transgendered historian from Berkeley will come give a talk on the history of transgender and transsexuality.
4) A lesbian lawyer from New York will come give a talk on reproductive rights and alternative families in American society.
5) Sara Schuman, a lesbian/activist, writer, is coming from the city to read.
6) December 1st is Day without Art. December 2nd Bard will host an HIV+ theatre troupe and a very special performance.
7) Also, in December look forward to more queer readings from your friends - the Queer, the pornographic and the emotional reality of same-sex desire.
Standard Letter -- 1993

America,

England's 1908 Preventive Detention/Habitual Criminal was adopted by Australia, Canada, India, France, Germany, Russia, Sweden and America!

Since 1930, America has been using England's atrocity against our Founding Father's Government.

This atrocity is not law; prosecutors use our prior convictions, which have been paid in full to society, and they use them for debase of our moral character. They tell the jury that we are not worthy to live among society anymore.

Tennessee adopted this atrocity in 1939, never tried a woman with it, until 1985 — June Beverly Hoover, in Nashville?

Now the court records and prison records will show that prosecutors in Tennessee, New York and 36 other states are violating the Eighth, Ninth and Fourteenth amendments of the Constitution. By picking and choosing who to try as Habitual Criminals.

The Eighth amendment prohibits Cruel and Unusual Punishment, and incorporates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth amendment, and requires that punishment be handed out uniformly.

Many moons ago in America, when all Americans had the very same "Unalienable Rights," governed and judged by the same laws — Our Great American Heritage.

America, when students enroll in Junior High School, they should receive a copy of the Constitution. Then they should have a class on the Constitution. There should also be a class in High School. The young Americans are our guarantee for Freedom in America!

"Nobody in America, especially our "United States Supreme Court, can infringe upon, or deny our Constitutional Rights. When they're violated, gather your family, kin, friends, neighbors and strangers; everyone carry an American flag and then march on the White House.

Then see if President Clinton, will honor his (Loyalty Oath) to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to the best of his ability, so help me God!

President Thomas Jefferson once said, "In questions of power let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief with the chains of the Constitution.

Every home/apartment, should have a copy of the Constitution. Everyone should have an American flag. When you see Americans, marching with their flags, join them and help protect Our Founding Fathers' government — Of the People, By the People, For the People...

This missive is on behalf of Our Founding Fathers, President Lincoln and all the Americans, past & present who have given their sweat, tears, blood, limbs, very lives and Sacred Honor for those unique and profound documents of American Freedom (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights).

American Convict
Thomas J. Smith, Jr. #75859

Just a letterhead

Dear Editor,

As a member of this community, it is my duty to call attention to your mistake in responding to Pamela Chaplin's query regarding Dean Levine. The truth is, Pamela (and all others who are still living in the Myth of Dean Levine):

There is no such thing as Dean Stuart Levine. He does not exist. This is why you "rarely see" him. My friend said he stepped on her foot the other day, but I think she was making it up for prestige. When you do see him (e.g., on Parent's Day, etc.) you what you see is just a trick done with mirrors and holograms and such (it's all very complicated; ask a science major). Dean Levine is more than an image; he is also a name they use on various mass mailings to "The Bard Community" — you know, the ones you throw away. See, they needed an official-sounding name to put on all those memos and so "Dean Stuart Levine" sounded perfect (and sort of rhymes). It was all an L&T project, incidentally, and the freshman who cam up with the name was rewarded with a free ride through Bard.

Anyway, Pres. Leon is real, a live flesh-and-blood man who says "ha" to us. And speaking of Leon, don't forget his party this Saturday at 4pm.

Sincerely,
Julia "L.M. Bard" Magnuson

The Bard Observer

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Bard Observer Editorial Policy

All submissions must be turned in to either campus mall or our Tewksbury office no later than 5pm the Friday before the issue for which they are intended.

Space on the Another View and Letters pages works on a first come basis; if we cannot fit your submission in one week, it will be guaranteed space the next week. We do not exclude any material unless it is slanderous, or does not include the name of the author. Classifieds are free to Bardians and cost $0.10/word per issue for all those in our local region. For more information on our policies or advertising rates please call:

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Bard Observer Bard College Box 185 Annandale, N.Y. 12504
**WEDNESDAY. OCTOBER 27**

- **Walk For Health.** Sponsored by Bard's Athletic department. Meet in front of Ludlow, 8:15a. Walk lasts for 45 minutes, wear comfortable footwear.

- **Table Francaise.** Berets and baguettes required Kline Committee Room, 5:30-7p.

- **Chinese Table.** Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.

- **A.W.E. Meeting.** Every Wednesday Albee Social, 7p.


- **Constance Berkley** will give a lecture entitled, "The Turnaround: John Killens and Margaret Walker." Olin Auditorium, 7p.

**THURSDAY. OCTOBER 28**

- **Song Exchange** Come learn traditional folk songs or teach the ones you know. Musical instruments optional. Albee social, 3p. Meets every Thursday.

- **La Tavola Italiana E Conversazione** Keep your Italian up-to-date. Kline President's Room, 5-7p.

- **Bard College Folk Society meeting in Kline's Committee Room, 6:30p.**

- **German Table.** In the Kline College Room, 6p.

- **Bisexuals, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Transgender.** B.A.G.I.E. will meet this Thursday Club Room in the Old Gym, 7p. All interested are welcome.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting.** Thursday nights, 7:30p.

- **David Schultman, Ph.D., class of '61** will speak on his career as a psychologist. Olin 102, 7:30p.

- **Bard's Christian Fellowship at the Bard Chapel, 9:30p.** Everyone is welcome. Christian or not.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**


**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

- **Wilsonianism Resurgent.** A conference on the legacy of Wilsonianism and its relevance to the American democratizing mission today. Levy Small Conference Room, morning and afternoon. For a schedule of papers call ext. 430. Organized by Prof. James Chase.


**WEEKEND TRANSPORTATION**


- **POUGHKEEPSIE:** Leave at 5:30p. for the 6:16p. train; leave at 7:45p. for the 8:30p. train; leave at 10p. for the 10:43p. train.

**SUNDAY:** Church: Leave at 9, return at 10:30a for St. John's (Barrytown) and St. Christopher's (Red Hook). Rhinecliff: Meet 7:15p and 9:30p trains. Poughkeepsie: Meet the 6:40p. 8:40p and 10:40p train.

**WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 3**

- **Walk For Health.** Sponsored by Bard's Athletic department. Meet in front of Ludlow, 8:15a. Walk lasts for 45 minutes, wear comfortable footwear.

- **Table Francaise.** Berets and baguettes required Kline Committee Room, 5:30-7p.

- **Chinese Table.** Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.

- **A.W.E. Meeting.** Every Wednesday Albee Social, 7p.


**TUESDAY. NOVEMBER 2**

- **Towbin Poetry Room.** Come listen to Bard's recited library of poets and authors. Olin 101, 6-9p.


- **Famous Photographer:** John Coplans will discuss his work. Olin Auditorium, 8p.

- **Coffeehouse.** Sponsored by Bard College Folk Society. deKline, 9p. If you'd like to perform, contact David Loebell, 752-7352.

**MONDAY. NOVEMBER 1**

- **Help the Mentally Ill.** Sally McDonald will speak about the Community Friends Program of the Dutchess County Mental Health Association, a program of volunteer companionship to the mentally ill. Kline Committee Room, 7p.


- **Body Image Support Group** for students dealing with issues of weight, appearance and body image. Come to talk or listen. Upstairs in the Student Center, 7-9p.

- **Observer Staff Meeting.** Ecstasy! Third Floor of Aspinwall, 7p.

- **Peer Tutors in the Stevenson Library, Room 402, 10-Noon, and 1-3p.** For every night except Friday and Saturday: 8-10p.


- **Intergenerational Seminars** "History in the Making" Olin 205, 7p. Registration required in advance at 758-7508.