

Behrend Forum

By Paula Jeanne Maus

We have a new face on campus this year and an interesting one at that! You can call him Mr. John Borkowski but he prefers John, J.J., J.B., and some even call him Jo Bo. J.J. is not your basic run of the mill Math teacher. He teaches Business Calculus 110 and Technical Calculus 808. But things get much more interesting!



for John so he opted to pump gas in Parsippany, N.J., where his biggest thrill was converting gallons to liters. Anyway, John said that the Master's degree looked fantastic on the garage wall!

Since John's move to Erie he has taken up skiing to alleviate the boredom. He says he has the determination but not the coordi-

his own personal efforts to beautify America.

Unfortunately, J.J. is departing from Behrend Campus. He says he has trouble staying in one place. As for the future John will be returning to Rutgers for a Master's in Statistics and eventually a Ph.D. in something — not quite sure yet! He will still be teaching, but teaching the fortunate students in Jersey. He does like it here at Behrend. He felt the students were ultra-receptive and the class size let him have more control. It's too bad that John has to leave us. We really should have more easy going teachers like John. He is open to all students and very easy to relate to. So, if you see a guy with a Yankees' cap on, No — it's not Mickey Mantle, it's Mr. John Borkowski, self proclaimed legend in his own mind. Sorry to see you leave, J.J., you have taught us that math can be fun!

Well, that's all for the Forum this issue. More deep dark secrets next issue.

J.J. was delivered to us from Jersey City which was considered America's sixth worst city to live in and he is damn proud of it. He is a graduate of Rutgers with a BA in Math-English and continued on to University Park for a Master's in Mathematics. While at University Park John met his long standing friend-roommate Raymond Steinbacher (teacher here also). What a pair! As graduate school roommates, John says he and Raymond were very outspoken... to say the least.

As a graduation present to himself, J.J. took off for two and one-half months and toured the country. His favorite places were San Francisco, New Orleans and New Mexico (and, of course, New Jersey). He then returned to New Jersey and worked for Xerox in the Accounts Payable Department. But that was far too boring

dination — the drive, but not the steering. Better luck next season. Look out Jean Claude Killy!

John says that Erie has another point in its favor and that is the cheap beer. Chalk one up for Erie. He spends some free time at Mentley's Bar on 8th and Cascade. A pitcher of beer is only \$2.15! His only disappointment though is that their jukebox doesn't have any tunes by "The Monkees." Yes, John is still a thriving and religious "Monkees" fan.

J.J. is also an American dreamer. He loves to collect old things. His house will definitely have a jukebox filled with '60s music and an old Malibu convertible parked in the driveway. If you can recall, John sported a beard throughout the first-semester and because he loves this American culture so much he shaved it off in

What's Up?

By Tom Milley

Somewhere, out there — beyond the clouds, science and myth converge and unite to form the objects, creatures and persons we know as the constellations. The modern word constellation is derived from the Greek words for "star picture." There are basically three types of constellations: The circumpolar (those which are closest to the celestial pole, and are seen all year), the seasonal and the zodiac.

The zodiac are the constellations in which the planets may be found, depending on the time of year. (From September to December they are in the constellations close to the sun, so they're out in the daytime, but the sun, of course, makes viewing them impossible.) In case you ever wondered how the dates became associated with your "sign," they were the dates in ancient times

when the sun was in that sign of the zodiac.

Unfortunately, astrology and astronomy are often confused. Astrology was the belief of the Chaldean and Babylonian priests that the positions of the planets (the Greek word for "wanderer," it refers to the planets), which were considered gods, would determine the fate of the persons born when the sun was in such and such a house. Astronomy is a true natural science, which studies the structure and motions of the visible universe.

When people find out about my being an amateur astronomer, the most probably asked question is "How in the heck can you look up in the sky and make pictures, and know that you're looking at the right stars?" The second most asked question has to be "How do you know where the galaxies and nebulae are?" The answers to

both questions are simple. To be totally honest, we cheat. You have to remember that the constellations were named by the ancients, and life was very different then than today. To put an end to the confusion caused by trying to converse with persons from different countries who have different concepts of constellations, the International Astronomical Union — IAU, a group of professional astronomers, made decisions as to the borders of the constellations, early in this century. They did this after the first photographic sky survey was conducted by the Mt. Wilson Observatory. The sky was mapped out onto a globe, as it appears from Earth. Our lines of latitude and longitude were projected onto the surface of this sphere. These lines called declination (the North-South distances) and right ascension (the East-West distances) enable

Behrend Briefs

Student Government Elections will be held Tuesday, April 3, and Wednesday, April 4, from 9 to 3 in the Bookstore Lobby. There is a field of good candidates so come out and support your favorite.

Kathy Senita, a COM-MUTER, recently was treated to lunch in Dobbins cafeteria. She enjoyed breaking the system by joining resident students for chicken cosmos.

Friday, April 13, 1984, is the date slated for the SGA Dinner-Dance at Peek 'n Peak. The cost is \$20 per couple and reservations can be made at the SGA Office, ext. 220.

Women Today and the Top of the Club are cosponsors for a lively and entertaining discussion to be held on April 11. Diana Hume George will begin "Is Feminism a Dirty Word?"

at 7 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall.

The OBK Third Stream Jazz St. Patrick's Day Reception was a huge success. Students and community members praised OBK for the beautiful event — shamrock and musical note cookies and plenty of green decorations.

B.I.S. (the Behrend Introvert Society) is carefully searching for a keynote speaker for their annual May Day Dinner. The selection committee requirements are: low popularity; quiet voice; and mediocre interest in speaking subject. Submit your application under the Observatory door.

A unique visual experience can be had by all in Erie Hall on Thursday, April 5, with Mountain Visions — an exploration into visual mediums.

Observatory Open House Slated

Behrend Astronomy Club President David Duda (4th semester, Meteorology) announced at the club meeting Tuesday, his plans for the club's involvement in Spring Week '84. He said the Observatory would be open and staffed by club members on all clear nights during the week of April 23-29, 1984. As the moon will be changing its phases from last quarter to new moon during the week, excellent observing conditions are expected. "Observing with a full moon makes it difficult to see galaxies and nebulae, so we generally don't observe during the week that the moon is nearly full. Fortunately, Spring Week '84 falls near new moon and the skies should be very dark and hopefully clear," he said. He also went on to state that the featured object would be Saturn, and students and faculty are invited to see the "showpiece of the solar system" with their own eyes.

"Our slogan for the week's membership drive, which will be going on concurrently with the Open House is 'Come and see the rings of Saturn.'" Also on the agenda for the week is a telescope display and a guest lecture by an Erie area amateur astronomer.

New members are welcomed to attend any weekly meeting held on Tuesdays at 12:20 p.m. in Behrend 124, and interested persons are advised not to wait until the membership drive. "Most of us aren't serious about astronomy as a career," stated Duda, "and none of us are majoring in it, still we're enjoying ourselves with it as a hobby, and it's nice to know there are others here at Behrend with the same interests."

Ridge continued from page 1

gives Behrend College students an advantage."

Assessing his performance in Congress, Ridge feels that he has established credibility. "Both my staff and I have established a sense of credibility with my committee groups, with my peers, with my constituents, and with the institutions," he said. He believes that establishing credibility is the first step toward getting involved in the highest level of the House of Representatives, where he can

continued on page 7

astronomers to pinpoint exact coordinate locations on the celestial sphere. So stars, galaxies and nebulae have known, exact locations, just like cities here on Earth have exact longitudes and latitudes. There's really no guesswork about it; all the objects mentioned can be found in what we call a star atlas, which as the name implies is exactly that, an atlas of the stars.

Getting back to the fact that we cheat, what I mean to say is that no one really memorizes the positions of the borderlines between constellations. Instead, we imagine connections between certain stars, just as a guide for reference. A perfect example is the constellation Ursae Majoris, the Great Bear. The British commonly refer to it as the Plough, and we Americans as the Big Dipper. Such a grouping of stars, which

consists of just the brightest stars, is known as an asterism (How's that for a Scrabble word!). Other asterisms are the Little Dipper, the Teapot in Sagittarius (the archer), the W in Cassiopeia, still others are the keystone of Hercules, the "Northern Cross" in Cygnus (the Swan) and the "Great Square" of Pegasus. If it'll make you feel any better, when we look up, no we don't see any lines connecting the stars the way they're drawn in Sky & Telescope or Astronomy magazines, either.

Until next issue, why not try putting on a coat and see how many asterisms you can find in the (hopefully clear and warm) nighttime skies. But remember, you won't find any if you go around hanging your head. So keep your chin up and your eyes open for what's up.