

FEATURE

Paul Rosenfeld: Ten Years in the Making

by Marge Tomczak
Collegian Staff Writer

Paul Rosenfeld began college in 1971 at the age of 17 at New York City's Queen's College. He originally majored in pre-med, but after failing organic chemistry in his sophomore year, he decided that "maybe being a physician wasn't for me." Rosenfeld switched to psychology and graduated with a B.A. in 1975.

Rosenfeld wanted to be a clinical psychologist but couldn't get into graduate school. So, he opted for an M.A. in general psychology at Queen's College. While working on his masters degree he was involved in experimental psychology. After a while, he realized that this would not be an area to his liking.

In order to do the experiments Rosenfeld had to work with rats. He commented, "I really hated those rats and they hated me; I

have a very definite 'rat phobia.' Usually we were expected to wear a pair of gloves for protection. I wore two pairs: one for the rat to bite through and the second to protect me. I decided I'd be better off to work with humans, who generally don't bite."

His dream of being a clinical psychologist still prevailed, so Rosenfeld applied to 25 schools to be a doctoral candidate, and was rejected by all of them. He also applied to the State University of New York at Albany in social psychology as a backup. "Since they were the only school to accept me, I decided to go there. That's how I really fell into social psychology." He attended SUNY from 1977 to 1981 for a total of ten years of full time school. He emphasized, "Don't be afraid if you do not follow the course that you start out with, just follow a course."

Rosenfeld began teaching at

Behrend in 1981 and completed his dissertation and was awarded his doctorate in Social Psychology in 1982. Rosenfeld has given conference presentations at the an-



Dr. Paul Rosenfeld
Professor of Psychology

nual convention of the American Psychologists Association and has had several items published in various circulations in the social psychology field.

Together with other experts in his discipline, Rosenfeld completed a two-year project: a social psychology textbook. It is being published by West Publishers and will be out in February. It is entitled, "Introduction into Social Psychology."

Most recently, Rosenfeld has been working with Random House Publishers to write multiple-choice test banks that can be used with textbooks. "I found this very challenging. As I was working, they decided that 'none of the above' could not be used as a possible answer. Total depression set in! But they figured the students were not receiving a positive reinforcement. I'm getting over my depression now as they have let me keep in 'all of the above' as an answer." Random House would not let Dr. Rosenfeld use any of his other sometimes amusing choices for answers. Is there anyone who has

taken Psychology 2 from Dr. Rosenfeld that has not remembered his tests, or more importantly, his answers?

Rosenfeld is originally from the Bronx, NY. He admits that he has had a somewhat difficult time making the transition from New York to Erie, mainly because of the winter weather. He also stated, "Compared to cities of similar size, Erie is behind in times regarding the rebuilding of the inner city. Opportunities for cultural activities are limited but we have accessibility to major cities in the tri-state area." He continued, "I do like the lack of heavy traffic. Everything is located within a close proximity so the time saved going from place to place is a big plus."

Satisfied with his position at Behrend, Rosenfeld seems glad to be settled in Erie, and hopefully he will continue to instruct here for many years to come.

What's Up—

Astrology Versus Astronomy

by Thomas Milley
Collegian Staff Writer

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 Sept. to Dec. 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 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 than today. To put an end to the confu-

sion 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 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.



Fuhrmans Cider Mill

1218 East Gore Road
Erie, PA 16504
825-3844

Fresh Cider Made Daily
Full Supply of Freshly Picked
Apples and Pumpkins



**the
Cosmetic
Shoppe**

899-1010

Free gift with this
Ad or Behrend ID

Get Acquainted Special
20% Off
on Cosmetics

4445 Buffalo Rd.
K-Mart Plaza East
Erie, Pa. 16510

JOIN

Young Republicans

YR's

of

Erie County

G.O.P.
Headquarters
453-4649

America's Future