

Wilson denounces Von Daniken

by Keith Miller

Although Erich Von Daniken's "Chariot of the Gods" first appeared over six years ago, evidently it holds the interest of many people. In fact, more than 1,000 people had packed the SUB Theatre for the Feb. 7 lecture, "Crash Go The Chariot of the Gods" with Australian geologist Dr. Clifford Wilson. The doors had to be kept open to keep the audience size manageable.

Wilson began his lecture presentation by asserting that he was presently lecturing (as a committed Christian) on the grounds that Von Daniken's idea of God was an astronaut. He was serious, yet still serious. He said although many apparently believe in the claims of Von Daniken's "ancient" archaeology as a science, Wilson said although archaeology admits mysteries surround the ancient world, geologists consistently understand and explain these in terms of man and his relationships to the earth, not in terms of space coming to earth to offer man the fruits of their technology.

Wilson showed slides of men lifting and moving stones on Easter Island with no man-power. "Astronaut, and space craft were not to accomplish such things," Wilson told the SUB audience.



Clifford Wilson holds sway over packed SUB Theatre.

Granting that electroplating may have been known by the ancients, as evidenced by primitive batteries in their possession, Wilson claimed the ancients could not have had the technology to power microphones. Von Daniken claims Moses used in the Covenant. More important to note, however, stated Dr. Wilson, is that Von Daniken must move Moses as a historical figure from 1,000 B.C. to 500 B.C. In fact, because Von Daniken's theory

suggest the astronaut gods came once and then left, much of the dating already done by archaeologists must be rearranged, Wilson added. "Von Daniken is constantly stepping over the realms already revealed by science today," he said, "making non sequitor after non sequitor."

Von Daniken's world-view map, ostensibly only possible with an air to land view, has since been disclaimed by Von Daniken himself. But Wilson pointed out there are still over 8,000,000 books acknowledging the initial claim.

The famous landing strips Von Daniken describes were also questioned by Dr. Wilson. He revealed that the sites are not perfectly smooth, the markings are no more than four inches wide in spots, and the earth is exceptionally soft in the area. In archaeological circles, Wilson said, these are regarded as likely only the worship markings of some ancient god-fearing people.

Wilson closed his presentation by drawing attention to the accuracy of the Bible. Von

Daniken must attack the Bible in order to maintain his own theory, but he had done so knowingly refuting a historical record commonly accepted by the archaeological world, Wilson charged.

Acknowledging that two distinguishing features of man apart from animals are some consistent historical belief in a life after death and a belief in a god or gods, Wilson refused as an archaeologist, to acknowledge that these beliefs arise from some earlier earth visitation by space beings.

Study shows students are reading — a lot

Young people do read — a lot more than adults think," Deborah Stachelek, a Connecticut State College who just published her study of Connecticut and Canadian student reading preferences in a national study of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Stachelek, an English major at the New Britain college, studied students in rural, urban and suburban high schools in Connecticut and the Edmonton area in the spring of 1976 to come up with data published in the Winter newsletter of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents.

The 21-year old CCSC student says she found more similarities than differences in the month survey.

Our two major findings are that a majority of young people read local newspapers and that their extracurricular reading is heavily influenced by what they see on television and in movies.

While an exchange student for sophomore year to the U of Alberta have changed students for about 25 years, Stachelek became interested in research work with area systems. Upon returning to New Britain, she learned that the CCSC Alumni Association was offering grants for student research projects.

Being interested in reading and education — she was a part-time teacher during her senior year at Southington High school — Stachelek applied for and received an Alumni Research grant to undertake a survey of adolescent reading in secondary schools. Using the grant for long-distance phone calls, postage and transportation costs to Connecticut schools, she arranged interviews in three Canadian and Connecticut high schools. Finding that she found the

students toward their studies to be very similar in both countries, Stachelek reported the following results:

Of the students polled: 83 per cent read sometimes; 50 per cent consider themselves lukewarm readers; 33 per cent are avid readers; more females than males like to read; suburban students read more than urban students; Canadian students read more than American students; more Canadian than American students read comic books.

While classics are not prominent in students' favorites, books made into movies are, with 74 per cent of the 81 most popular books read having been films. Canadian students read American, British and Canadian authors but American students read only American and British authors.

Ninety per cent of all students read newspapers; 61 per cent reading a paper daily, with Connecticut students and males reading newspapers more often. Most popular sections are the front page, comics, local news, amusements and sports.

Fifty-seven per cent of students prefer paperback to hard cover books and nine of the

10 teachers interviewed use paperbacks in classes. Seventy-five per cent of the students read magazines, listing 183 titles (the most popular being: *Time*, *Seventeen*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Newsweek*, *Readers Digest* and *Chatelaine/Miss Chatelaine*.)

The most popular book categories, in order, were: adventure, mystery, sports, nonfiction, science fiction, romance and youth. Females more than males and Albertan more than Connecticut students prefer racial/ethnic books. Only four per cent of the students belonged to book clubs.

The ten most popular books were: *Jaws*, *The Outsiders*, *The Exorcist*, *Helter Skelter*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Godfather*, *Gone With the Wind*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and the Holy Bible.

A 1973 graduate of Berlin High School, Stachelek plans on a career in secondary education — in English or reading. First, however, she'd like to see a bit more of the globe. A student worker in the Registrar's Office at Central, she says she's trying to save up for a trip to Europe, hopefully following graduation in May.

U of A undergrads may soon have access to old examinations used in previous years in winter session courses.

A motion passed by the General Faculties Council (GFC) executive committee Monday recommends that all undergraduate faculties make available two copies of all winter session examinations to the Students' Union to establish an exam registry.

The GFC committee to investigate teaching said in a report to the executive the main reason for setting up the registry was concern that some students would have access to old exams even if the common pool did not exist. A registry would even out any unfair access some may presently have.

The motion was passed by a tie-breaking vote from U of A president Dr. Harry Gunning. It will now go before a full session of GFC for discussion and a final vote.

Any faculty council would be able to choose to withhold an examination where it deems appropriate, the report said. But it added abbreviated versions of

exams should be provided in cases where the complete version was withheld.

The report did not conclude access to old exams is an aid to study, but instead stressed that access to exams should be open to all.

New cartoon has mouse hit mickey

NEW YORK (ZNS-CUP) - Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Bugs Bunny and other cartoon characters have hit skid row.

At least that's how they're being portrayed in a one act stage drama called *And They Used to Star in the Movies* currently showing in upstate New York.

The play takes place in a sleazy hotel where a wrinkled old alcoholic Mickey is desperately awaiting a call to star in an Italian movie and Minnie talks about her many affairs with Bugs Bunny and Popeye. Goofy is depicted as a hopeless junkie.

ON THE ROCKS
 CJCA-FM Stereo 97.3 MHz
 Nitely - 10:30 PM - 1:00 AM

STEREO 97.3 Mhz

Artists mentioned: Jethro Tull, Average White Band, Supertramp, Queen, Bob Seger, Emerson Lake & Palmer, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Genesis, Jefferson Starship, Blue Oyster Cult, Santana, Queen.

FACULTY ELECTIONS

STUDENTS' COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

New Term of Office Begins Mar. 31.
 Faculties must hold elections before this time.

Interested students contact your Faculty Association.
 S.U. Returning Office