

Space...

The growing frontier

by Kevin Speight

Philip Peebles, an internationally known cosmologist and Albert Einstein Professor of Science at Princeton University gave a lecture concerning the large scale structure of the universe in the Cohn last Thursday.

The lecture was the second in the Dorothy Killam Memorial Lecture Series on our universe, funded by the Killam Trust Fund.

Peebles' lecture, which relied on graphs and slides, was attended by about 700 people. Peebles lectured for an hour on the physics of the whole universe, concentrating on its expansion and makeup.

Peebles compared the study of the universe to a dog walking on its hind legs. "It's not done well, but it's surprising that it's done at all", he said.

Peebles identified two main problems in the study of the uni-

verse: how it began, and what it is made of.

In his lecture, Peebles mentioned the inflation theory which Michael Turner discussed in the first lecture of the series. However, Peebles seemed critical of this theory, which describes the beginning moments of the universe.

It is more important to be able to make observations, he said, than to come up with theories with no proof, like the inflation theory. "People shouldn't try to be as brilliant as Einstein. Most times when people try to copy him, it is disastrous."

Peebles' charts gave persuasive proof that the universe is expanding, and becoming less ordered as galaxies clump together. However, he said the universe is still quite uniform on the large scale.

A good deal of the lecture was devoted to "dark mass". This is

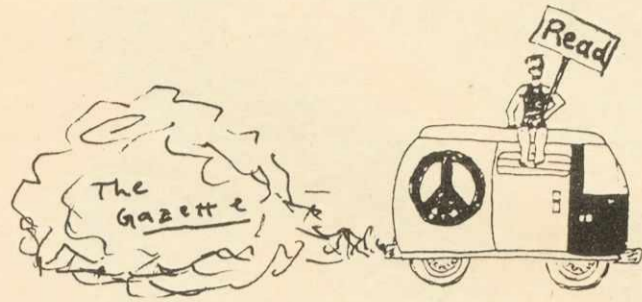
the matter in the universe which must be present in order to explain the behaviour of the universe, yet we can't see it.

Peebles offered two possible explanations for dark matter: stars that are so small that they don't shine, or new kinds of particles which haven't yet been observed.

"You tell me what that dark mass is, and we'll share the Nobel Prize", Peebles offered the crowd.

Reaction to Peebles' lecture was mixed. One person praised Peebles for being not only a great scientist but "a great communicator". Another stated simply "He lost me."

The final lecture in the series will be by Nobel Laureate Manfred Eigen, on the physical basis of life. It will be held in the Cohn Auditorium at 8 pm on October 25.



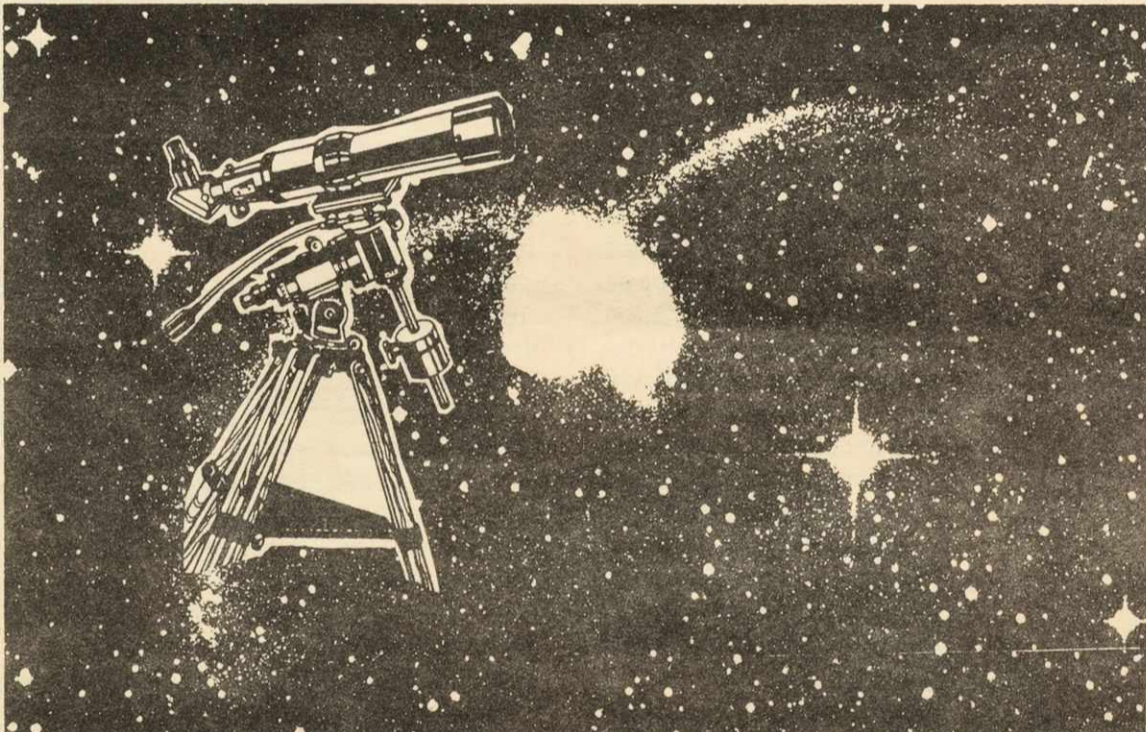
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Abortion

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not, but that different leaders have tried to discredit her arguments and her organization.

Kissling believes in working within the system to change that system. For her the problem is not with Catholicism but with "rage filled politics that the bishops are engaged in."

Kissling is presenting a direct challenge to the powers within the Church, for she believes it is not a question of 'murder', but a power struggle, in which she is engaged.

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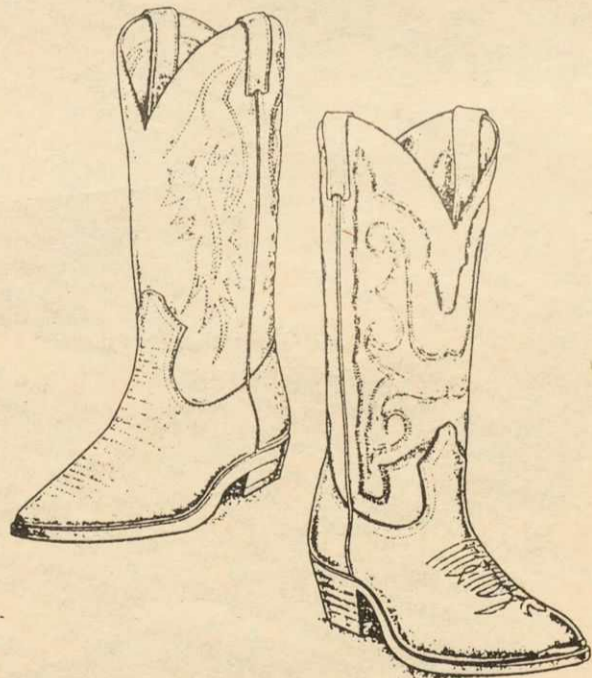
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