

*Has theory of worlds in collision*

# Velikovsky claims universe is not orderly

By HARRY STINSON

Maverick scientist and philosopher Immanuel Velikovsky told an overflow crowd at Osgoode last week that a massive upheaval during the second millennium B.C. is still exercising deep psychological effects on the human race.

Velikovsky said he is firmly opposed to the traditional view that the universe is orderly. He opposes the unitarian theory of constancy and declared "Your textbooks are of Victorian vintage."

He challenged anyone in the audience to defend the accepted position that gravity and inertia are the only two forces at work in the universe. He said this challenge was his greatest heresy. Years ago, he predicted the earth possessed a magnetosphere whose influence extended at least to the moon. Attempts were made to discredit his theory, and even when evidence appeared, the emphasis only shifted to criticizing his reasoning.

But he gives more straightforward evidence in considering an elaborate set of Babylonian astronomical records, dating from about 600-700 B.C. These portray a different axis for the earth, days, months and years of different lengths, and even different rotation of the planets. The assembly of these stone tablets show evidence of highly advanced mathematics.

Velikovsky has found similar references to a massive astronomical disruption in the records of the Incas, Ancient Greeks, Romans, Indians, Iranians, Chinese, and Egyptians. Accounts of a great plague occur independently

in the Old Testament, Chinese, and Mexican sources. Greek prophets and letter-writers mention illusions of the sun appearing in different places, and speak of a battle of the gods.

Velikovsky maintains that these were contemporary events and not just literary metaphors, as is commonly assumed. The amazing similarity of dates has led him to fix this point as the moment at which the earth turned upon its axis.

He cites more evidence in examining the evolutionary cycle. Although Darwin attributes advances to competition, Velikovsky points to Mendel's work in genetics, and the effects of x-rays in producing spontaneous mutations. For Velikovsky, it was cosmic radiation at the time of the catastrophe that accounted for much of evolutionary change.

Why did some animals become extinct in the Americas, yet survive in the older hemisphere? Why are there marine remains at the top of Everest? Why are stones found thousands of miles from their natural origin? Why are coral remains found in northern Canada, and in Scandinavia? Why are fossilized remains of animals from widely-varying climates and environments found heaped close together?

Scientists explain the discovery of relatively complete fossilized remains by saying that they perished in the water, were covered by mud and preserved, but Velikovsky says it is not more likely that marine life and processes would have consumed them first? He says only a wholesale overturning of the earth's structure and systems, indeed that of the whole universe, satisfactorily answers the questions. He points to Venus as having been a

likely participant in the recent catastrophe. Its atmosphere (100 to 140 times that of earth), the fact it always shows the same side, and because it turns the opposite way from any other planet support his theory, he says.

Yet no serious efforts were made to investigate Velikovsky's statements; only derision resulted. At one point he staked his beliefs on the existence of solar winds and interplanetary magnetospheres. When the former were discovered, "this wind was like breeze to me". Other scientists were still reluctant to concede his prediction, and even the disclosure by Einstein of correspondence proving Velikovsky's stand were largely ignored, even more so as Einstein died only days later.

The implications of his theory extend into the psyche. Freud, in his later thinking, came to the conclusion that man is the victim of a traumatic experience, causing partial amnesia with regard to his self, which subconsciously causes him to want to either repeat the experience or to pass the consequences on to someone else. To Freud, the experience was the primeval possession of the mother by the son. The significance was that a healer should draw out the memory. But to Velikovsky, the experience was the destruction of the major part of mankind. And while we have not morally advanced, we are now technologically capable of repeating the tragedy should we experience a moment of irrationality. In saying this, he denies wanting to be a prophet, urging us to mend our ways. He says he only wishes not to be like Jonah, avoiding his responsibility.

He challenged the audience to point out Jupiter. Only three were

able to do it. Why then, did the ancients select, worship, and make sacrifices to it as a supreme deity, he demanded. Evidently it must have been once more evident in the skies than it is now.

The audience's questions, centred on specific instances of delicate geological formations and aged trees surviving the upheaval. They had evidently been anticipated by Velikovsky, as he was able to refute doubts by citing research he had already done.

Nothing less is necessary, he says, than a wholesale re-evaluation of the many fields that his investigations trespass. Religion, astronomy, comparative mythology, cosmology,

celestial mechanics, durology, other plants, anthropology, biology, would all have to be overhauled. He gives this as one reason for a Harvard led boycott of his book by the scientific community. MacMillan press suppressed and destroyed the book, he said.

Despite all the names he has been called, Velikovsky concluded, no one can refute his theories, or change any of his works or writings. Velikovsky's Worlds in Collision theory is more completely developed in the book The Velikovsky Affair: The Warfare of Science and Scientism, by Alfred De Grazia, University Books, New Hyde Park, New York, 1966.

## 35 elected under non-cooperation on U of T council


Thirty-five "non-cooperation" candidates have won in 52 student seats in the University of Toronto's faculty of arts and science council. All nine seats to extension students and four full-time students went to neutrals. There are still four vacancies.

There were 1,217 of a possible 12,000 mailed ballots cast. Philip Dack, Students' Administrative Council president and an acclaimed member of the arts council said non-cooperation candidates will meet tomorrow to decide what course of action they will take at the first council meeting. Possible motions may include abolishment of the academic standards committee, readjustment of the student-faculty ratio along the lines recommended by the parity faculty-student restructuring committee and changing rules where the council could be reformed, he said.

The faculty reform caucus will seek support for such motions. Dack said non-cooperation members will withdraw unless there are moves towards implementing last year's referendum favoring parity. A.D. Allen, arts and science dean says that although it would be sad and distressing, obviously council could function without student participation. It would be a better council if students would be a part of it, he said. Allen hopes that "with good will and good sense we can work towards something that can work."

Under the newly restructured council 52 seats were allotted to students (43 full time and nine extension) as opposed to 89 faculty seats on the general committee of the council. Last November in a record turnout when almost half of all arts and science students voted, 88.5 percent favored parity on the council. The faculty rejected the request in January when a strike movement failed, students repeatedly disrupted council meetings during the spring.

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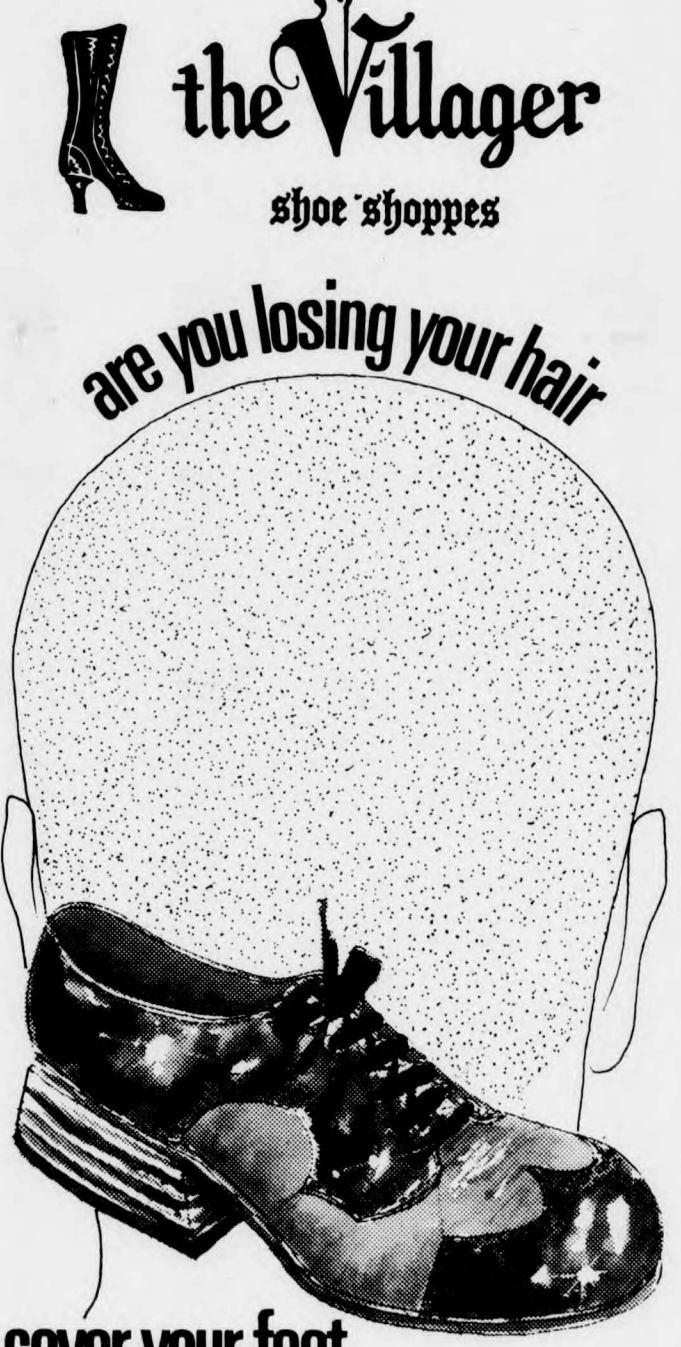
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