

THE MARS HILL COLLEGE HILLTOP

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CONTROVERSIAL AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT MARS HILL

MARS HILL—Erich von Daniken, 38 year old Swiss native who has created a whirlwind of controversy with his books on ancient astronauts, will present a lecture at Mars Hill College Tuesday, October 15, at 8 p.m. in the school's Moore Auditorium.

Von Daniken's books -- Chariots of the Gods, Gods from Outer Space, and Gold of the Gods--deal with the theory that the earth was visited in ancient times by astronauts from outer space. Von Daniken feels that they planted the seeds of civilization as we know it today, and left "stunning evidence" of their presence.

Published in the late 1960's in Europe and the early 1970's in the United States, the three volumes have been translated into 32 foreign lan-

guages -- even Chinese -- and have sold 28 million copies. An NBC television film, "In Search of Ancient Astronauts," received one of the highest ranked viewings of the year when it was aired last winter.

To support his statements, von Daniken has researched ancient material including the books of Tibetan monks, stone relics of the Mayas and Incas, the pyramids of Egypt, the sculpture of Easter Island, cave drawings in North Africa, unusual markings in Japan, Italy, Australia, and scores of phenomena in other parts of the world.

The Biblical prophet Ezekiel has proven to be one of the most fascinating sources for von Daniken. The author contends that the fiery chariots Ezekiel wrote about were the spacecrafts of ancient astronauts.

Reinterpreting the information he has gathered from these sources in the light of modern technological advances, von Daniken uses these findings to support his theories. Because he has departed from traditional methods of archeological research, von Daniken has become the target of attack from the traditional scientific community. He has, however, drawn support from members of the scientific community such as NASA engineer Joesf F. Blumrich, Dr. Karl Kuhleberg of Aachen University, and Dr. Herman Oberth, the father of the modern-day rocket.

Von Daniken's lecture is well illustrated with slides from his travels to the various sites he has researched. The lecture is open to the general public, and there is no admission charge.



Author of Chariot of the God's
Erich von Daniken

FOUNDER'S DAY

A telephoned bomb threat Tuesday morning sent physical plant and security staff members on a frantic search of Moore Auditorium shortly before Founders Day activities began. The threat was received by a physical plant staff member shortly before the scheduled 10 a.m. convocation. No bomb was found and the threat was not made public until after the convocation. No identification of the caller has been made. It should be noted that bomb threats are a federal offense and carry a stiff imprisonment penalty.

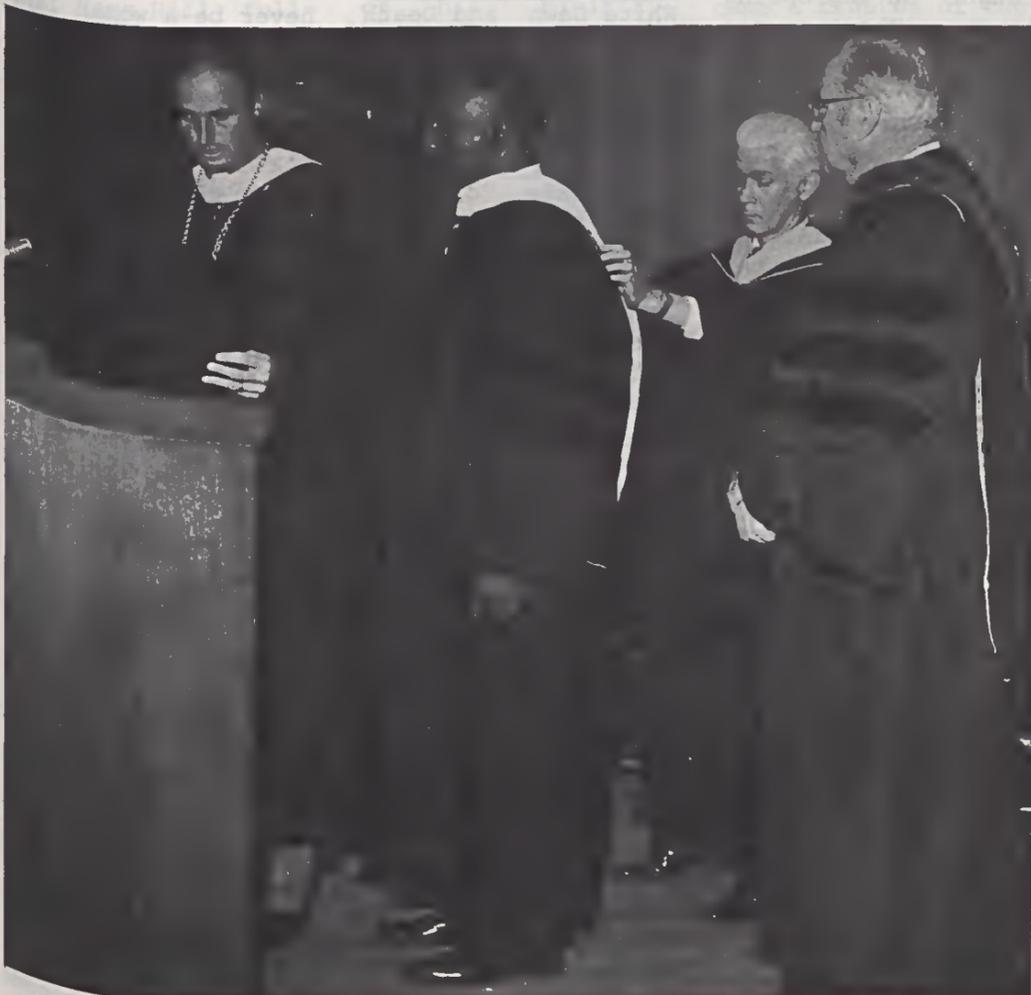
MARS HILL- Dr. O.L. Sherrill, executive secretary of the General Baptist State Convention of North

Carolina, became only the third person to receive an honorary degree from Mars Hill College Tuesday. Dr. Sherrill received the Doctor of Humanities degree during Founders Day activities marking the college's 119th year.

On hand to deliver the invocation and to assist college president Dr. Fred B. Bentley in the investiture was Dr. W. Perry Crouch of Raleigh, executive secretary of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, an association of some 3,300 predominantly white Baptist churches with a total membership in excess of one million.

The awarding of the special degree is a significant prelude to the joint meeting

Cont. on page 3



Dr. O. L. Sherrill receives "Doctor of Humanities" degree from Dr. Bentley