

Cheech and Chong return

Cheech and Chong, Ode recording artists, will return to Lincoln this Saturday. The Spanish-Chinese duo were nominees for a Grammy for comedy records and have three gold albums to their credit: **Cheech & Chong**, **Big Bambu**, and **Los Cochinos**. The last achieved its golden status before it was released.

The ribald pair have had a number of hit comedy singles including "Santa Claus and His Old Lady" and their current hit, "Ear Acne, My Eye."

Cheech and Chong and "The Incredible Ricky Jay" will perform at Pershing Auditorium Sept. 7 at 8 p.m.

Von Daniken's credibility in 'Gold of the Gods' questioned

Book review by Ladd Petersen.

In **The Gold of the Gods**, Erich von Daniken continues to expound his theory that in prehistoric times the earth was visited by extraterrestrial beings.

This theory, first propounded in von Daniken's **Chariots of the Gods** and later in his **Gods from Outer Space**, holds that these intelligent beings mated with humans and gave them intelligence and the rudiments of civilization.

Von Daniken finds the proof for these speculations in ancient mythology, in the Bible and in some of the great stone works and caves dating from prehistoric times.

In this latest work (a new book entitled **My World in Pictures** currently is being translated into English) von Daniken expands his theory to include a reason for the aliens' visit to earth.

According to von Daniken, the visitors were the losers in a mighty galactic battle between intelligences similar to human beings, but much more advanced technologically. To escape destruction by their enemy, the losers in this war fled to earth and dug underground tunnel systems (one of which von Daniken claims to have seen in Ecuador) to hide their presence.

To fool their enemy, von Daniken says, they set up fake colonies on the fifth planet from the sun, which no longer exists. When the enemy detected these colonies they destroyed the planet, creating what is now the asteroid belt.

The sudden gravitational imbalance in the solar system caused by the planet's destruction tilted the earth on its axis, in turn causing massive flooding which, von Daniken says, is recorded in the history and mythology of many ancient cultures.

After their successful trickery, the aliens supposedly came out of hiding

and, using their knowledge of molecular biology, created man in their image from the monkeys extant on earth and started them on the road to civilization.

He includes other theories and tales that would seem better placed in "Believe it or Not" or the **National Enquirer**. For instance, one theory suggests that the banana was brought to earth by extraterrestrials. In a **Playboy** interview (August 1974), von Daniken admitted that the "banana theory" was a put-on. Yet he does not tell the reader this in the book, and thus, the question arise—how much of the book can the reader safely believe?

For instance, the author claims to have seen magnificent underground tunnels in Ecuador, presumably constructed by aliens. But the owner of the land which covers these alleged tunnels swears that von Daniken never saw them or the wonderful artifacts and statues within which he describes in the book. Whom are we to believe?

Von Daniken's style is at least partly responsible for his staggering success—more than 25 million volumes of his three works are in print. He often ridicules scholars and scientists for not accepting his views, explaining reluctance to abandon their own theories by saying, "No one likes to fall of a skyscraper he has built himself."

The reader would feel easier about the works if he did not run across quotes like this one from the **Playboy** interview: "In Germany we say a writer, if he is not writing pure science, is allowed to use some 'dramaturgische Effekte'—some theatrical effects. And that's what I have done."

But it is just these questionable techniques that have contributed to von Daniken's success, and who can fault techniques that sell 25 million books? Clearly, von Daniken is doing his best to earn his share of the gold of the gods.



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