

# UNL graduate disputes Darwin

Scholar presents research in book unveiled last week

By Steve Smith  
Senior Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate has challenged Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory in her recently published book.

Dorothy Kurth Boberg's "Evolution and Reason — Beyond Darwin" was unveiled last week. Boberg said she spent seven years writing the book. The research, however, took her entire adult life.

"Darwin wrote his theories down 134 years ago," Boberg said. "We should appreciate his works, but we should realize that at the same time, they are simply inadequate today."

Boberg was in Lincoln in the middle of a two-week tour to promote her book and new idea.

A 1951 UNL graduate, Boberg

discussed her theories Thursday with various organization leaders and university and city and state government officials. She was given the governor's appointment to admiral in the Nebraska Navy at the Wick Alumni Center.

New insight into the roles of viruses, which were unknown to Darwin, led Boberg to speculate on the broader role of microorganisms in evolution, she said.

In her book, Boberg says a natural interaction of microorganisms exists in evolution. It dispels the "exclusive" basis of Darwin's theory, she said, by broadening its scope.

After graduating from UNL, Boberg lived in Lincoln until she married. She moved to California in 1954 when her husband was offered a position in the Lockheed Corp.

Boberg said she didn't expect to be unleashing a new way of reasoning when she graduated from the university.

"I didn't expect to get far," she said. "(The new evolution theory)

was just an interest of mine that I never expected to follow up on."

Everything changed for her when she moved to California and devoted much of her time to research, she said. "I finally came to a place in my life when I felt I had something significant to offer," she said.

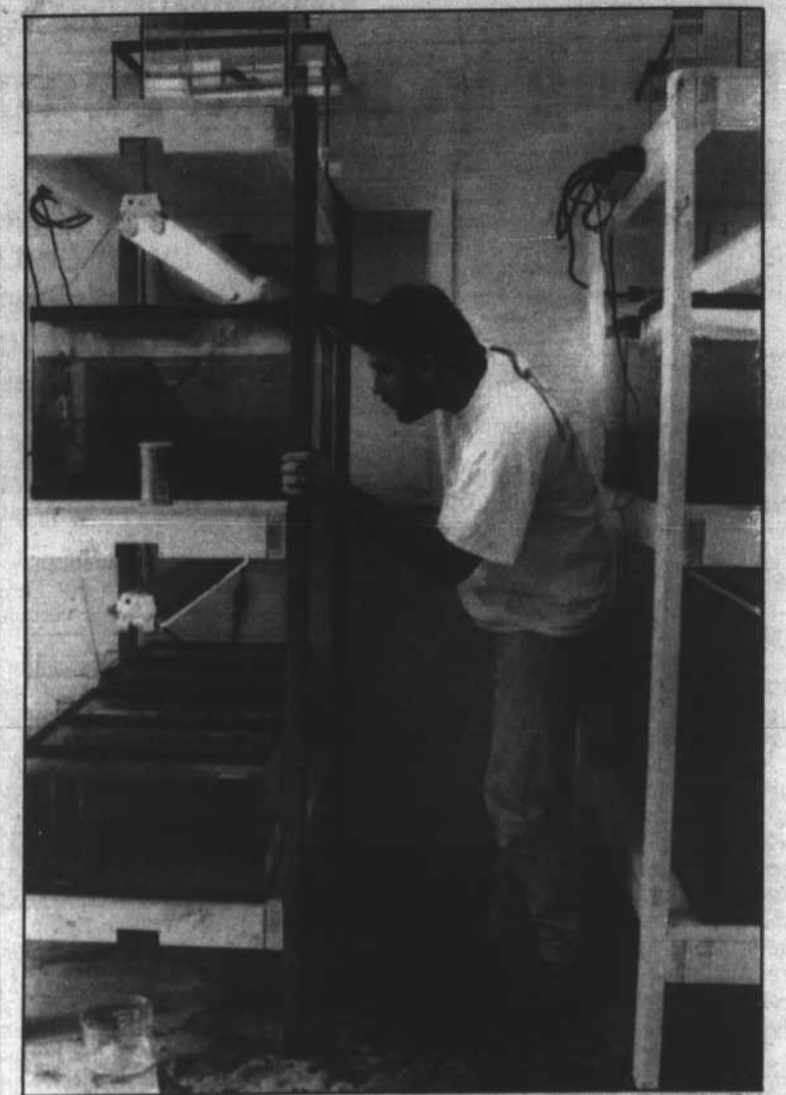
An independent scholar, the Lincoln native's new ideas concerning new thinking on evolution are gaining nationwide notoriety.

Boberg said she gained respect by studying hard in school — not focusing on any one subject, but taking a broad-based approach to education.

Boberg's book takes a similar broad-based approach. The bibliography cites more than 700 authors.

She said her method of drawing from all available sources was an important ingredient for success.

"I guess my advice to today's students would be to try to get as broad-based an education as you can," she said. "Get a broad background, but also be very specific. Don't wear yourself thin."



Kiley Timperley/DN

Graduate student Brett Fessell separates two species of minnows from holding tanks for a project to test the thermal tolerances of three species of minnows that live in the Platte River.

## Aquatics

Continued from Page 1

Important research would be difficult to do without the aquatics lab, he said.

"The first experiment run in here, for example, addressed a question that is important to the state," he said. "What is the biological impact of mixing pesticides in streams?"

"The majority of the work that has been done in the last six months and that will be done in the next two years addresses questions of specific importance to this state, and that's just the stuff that's planned right now," Hoagland said.

For example, one of the first experiments done at the lab was a study of the effects of two herbicides in a stream.

"If you go to a typical agricultural stream in Nebraska during a storm and run a pesticide scan to see what's in the water, you don't usually just find one (herbicide)," Hoagland said.

That raises questions for aquatic ecologists, Hoagland said.

"When two herbicides are in a stream at one time are they acting independently or in concert with each other?" he asked.

The effects of two herbicides, such as atrazine and alachlor, coexisting in a stream could be studied by putting variants of the stream water in different tanks, he said.

The master's student conduct-

ing the experiment put stream water with no herbicides in a control tank, stream water with just atrazine in one tank, stream water with just alachlor in another, and stream water with both in a fourth tank.

"With 32 tanks we can run that kind of experiment here," Hoagland said. "We can run that easily, and we can do it in an environmentally realistic way."

Other studies at the facility include looking at the effects of light on stream algae and of current velocity on snail grazing on algae in rocks.

"It may sound trivial," Hoagland said. "You know, 'who cares?' But, algae in streams form the base of the food chain and drives the whole system, ecologically speaking."

"Doing that kind of experiment in the field would be very difficult and far more costly."

Hoagland said another part of the lab was set up for fish holding. Two of Peter's graduate students are doing an experiment to determine the critical maximum temperature fish in the Platte River can tolerate.

Although the lab is used primarily by students in the forestry, fisheries and wildlife programs who are working on their master's or doctorate degrees, Hoagland said the lab is open to other departments.

"There are lots of possibilities here," he said.

## Ultimate

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possession of the opposing team. Even then, the opposing team member picks the disc up immediately and action continues.

Just like football, teams score when someone catches the disc in the endzone.

Generally regarded as a West Coast sport, Vincent said, ultimate is catching on in Lincoln.

This weekend's sectional tournament, which will be played at a field near First Street and Cornhusker Highway, features 15 teams from Kansas, Iowa and Missouri. The teams will compete to win a trip to the regional tournament.

Competition will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday and last until about 5 p.m. Sunday games will begin at 10 a.m.

This year is the first for a women's club, Keiko Matsui, a player on the team, said. Eight women play in the UNL club.

"A lot of tough women want to

play ultimate," she said.

Ultimate is a much different sport from football and basketball, said Dan Ryan, president of the UNL Ultimate Club. Ultimate, he said, is a much friendlier sport than the Midwestern usuals.

However, as with any sport, ultimate players fight to win, Vincent said. The sport is not for pansies, he said.

"It's supposed to be a noncontact sport, but it gets pretty brutal," Vincent said. "People think it's pretty whippy, but it's pretty intense."

Team member Pat Adams said referees were not used in ultimate.

Games are self-governed using a method called the "spirit of the game," he said, where players rely on their own honesty to make the calls.

"You'll never see people pushing each other around saying, 'Oh yeah, you're lying,'" Adams said.

One of the best aspects about the game, Adams said, is that it's open to everyone.

"Anyone can throw a Frisbee," he said.

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—Higgins  
UNL student

if a book offends them, they shouldn't read it."

Higgins agreed.

"An author doesn't realize the power he has — the power of words," he said. "If people didn't go off from the norm, we'd still be reading half-truths and non-truths, not what people think and feel."

The banned-book display runs through Saturday.

## Books

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that people stop writing?" Rickerl asked.

Rickerl said he thought other mediums were more offensive than books.

"It's silly in a way," he said. "There's so much violence on TV; comparatively, books aren't a big deal. People need to keep open minds, and

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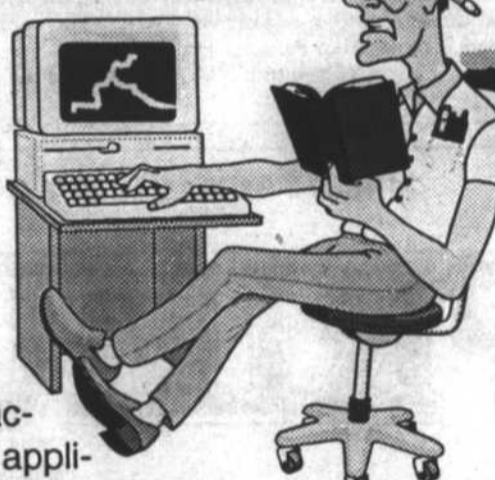
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