

James Dewey Watson speaks to reporters at the Wick Alumni Center Friday.

Travis Heying/DN

James

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science and information that has come out of universities, he said.

A dedication ceremony held at the Beadle Center after Watson's presentation also stressed the importance of continuing education, research and quality professors.

Rep. Doug Bereuter, who spoke at the dedication, recalled his own days as a student.

"Since I was a student I have been concerned about the need to build buildings," Bereuter said. "The most important element of a university is the people in the buildings who teach."

"We need to adequately staff, pay, recruit and sustain good professors."

The Beadle Center will bring science and students together from both UNL campuses to share scientific knowledge, Bereuter said.

This sharing will benefit everyone, Gov. Ben Nelson said at the dedication.

"Science, technology and the addition to education is the way for life to get even better than the good life we live today," Nelson said.

Phoenix to recognize survivors

By Jenny House
Staff Reporter

A phoenix is a mythological bird that endures destruction by fire, but arises triumphant from its ashes.

The Lincoln Action Program wants to recognize people who — like the phoenix — have been restored after suffering, said Deb Daily, acting volunteer coordinator.

The program is now accepting nominations from the community for its Phoenix Award.

"Our award is for low-income individuals that turn around their lives," Daily said. "We wanted to honor self-sufficient individuals."

Many low-income people in the Lincoln community have overcome tremendous obstacles to achieve economic independence, she said. The Phoenix Award would be given to someone who had faced such bleak circumstances.

"This individual might be a mother who has moved out of a shelter, turned around her life, earned her GED, gone on to college and entered the work force," Daily said.

The Lincoln Action Program will recognize the Phoenix Award winners at the program's annual meeting Nov. 16.

It will mark the nonprofit organization's seventh year honoring individuals with the Phoenix Award. Last year's winners included five people from Lincoln and one from Ashland. Additionally, three honorary winners were chosen by the LAP Board of Directors' Special Events committee and the Low-Income Caucus.

People wanting to nominate someone for the Phoenix Award should contact Deb Daily at 471-4515. The deadline for submitting nominations is Oct. 13.

DNA expert defends genetic research

By Kelli Bamsey
Staff Reporter

Science is under attack, said James Dewey Watson, though science's main concern is to help people.

Watson, president of the Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory in Long Island, N.Y., spoke Friday at the dedication of the George W. Beadle Center for Genetics and Biomaterials Research.

Earlier that day, Watson spoke to reporters about the criticism of DNA experiments, especially the human genome project, for which the Cold Springs Harbor Labora-

tory is known. The project researches how to map genes.

"People against the human genome project are, for the most part, those who haven't suffered from a defect," Watson said.

People have been playing with genetics and life forms since American Indians turned corn to maize, Watson said.

One of the main worries the public has about DNA experiments, Watson said, is the ethics of the experiments and what effect they could have on future generations.

Watson said that from the beginning, 3 percent of all money spent on the human genome project has

gone to an ethics program, making it one of the largest ethics program in the world.

"I've never lost a minute's sleep over the ethics of the project," Watson said.

Many people worry about science because they do not understand nature's stability, he said. Biotechnology has never made anyone sick, he said.

"You've got to try to improve your life," Watson said.

Watson said he disagreed with most government regulations that attack genetics, limiting researchers' experiments.

"Some of it is just downright

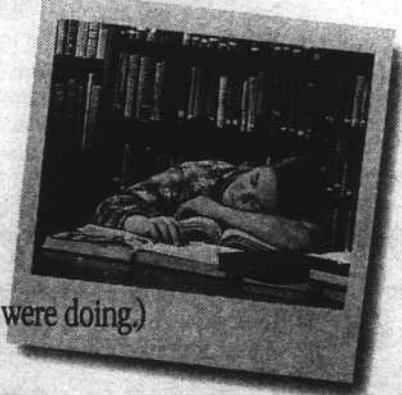
stupid. They get carried away," Watson said. "They can pass laws, but sometimes laws are against reality."

Watson pointed to historical setbacks that countries experienced when genetics research was limited. Russia was set back when Stalin tried to block genetics research, he said.

A lot of people are worried about change, when change is absolutely necessary, he said.


"Some want to dismantle everything we've done in the past 50 years. It's a lot of crappy nostalgia."

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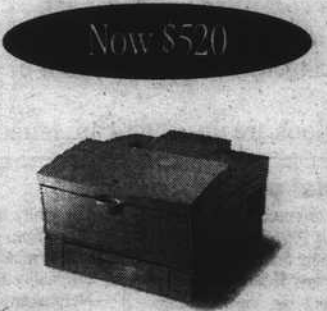
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