

The Tiger

James Watson: Nobel winner or just a loser?

by Regina Franklin

Clemson University has been graced by the presence of James Watson, Nobel Prize recipient, author of the *Double Helix*, and father of Molecular Biology. Dr. Watson is scheduled to give a number of private talks during the day today followed by a public address tonight at 7pm in Tillman Auditorium. He will be speaking on new advancements in genetic manipulation and his role in the discovery of the structure of DNA.

The Tiger had learned that rumors have been circulating at scientific conferences about Watson's latest endeavors. "I've heard that Watson has found a way to reverse the aging process in adults," Dr. Jean Dickey eagerly told her Biology 101 class before launching into an incomprehensible explanation of the technical details. Another Biology 101 class was told by Dr. Jerry Waldvogel that new research findings would soon allow the genetic enhancement of young adults. These techniques, he asserted, would enable college students who were rich enough to dramatically increase their chance of career success in any area by purchasing genetic changes to their mathematical, verbal, musical, or athletic abilities.

Watson refused to answer direct questions about whether his research in these areas has been successful. However, The Tiger noted that Watson appeared to be much younger than his chronological age, and was in stunningly hunky physical condition as well.

Watson was more forthcoming about the role played by Rosalind Franklin in the discovery of the structure of DNA. Many biology classes across campus have read his book *The Double Helix*. After comparing Watson's own account with more objective portrayals, students have engaged in dialogue about whether Dr. Franklin was a victim of exclusion if not outright sexual harassment. The Tiger asked Watson about this. "You have it backwards," Watson stated. "If Rosie had been a team player instead of holding all of the information, Crick and I would have cracked the helix in half the time." Asked if Franklin was considered a member of the research team, Watson replied "Sure, as much as any woman can be. Her job was to crank out the data. It's tedious, time-consuming work and a trained chimpanzee could do it. That's why we left it to a woman. But it takes a man's mind to interpret the data. Women's brains don't work that way. Rosie just didn't understand her place."

The Tiger respectfully asked Watson what he thought Dr. Franklin's, or any woman's, place should be. "The kitchen! The bedroom!" he advised with a condescending sneer. "Go with what you're good at, honey. Leave the thinking to us."

At this point, The Tiger chose to terminate the interview. We encourage the women of Clemson to express their opinions about Dr. Watson's views at his presentation tonight.