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Nobel Laureate Shunned for Race Comments, Creationism Under Fire in Europe

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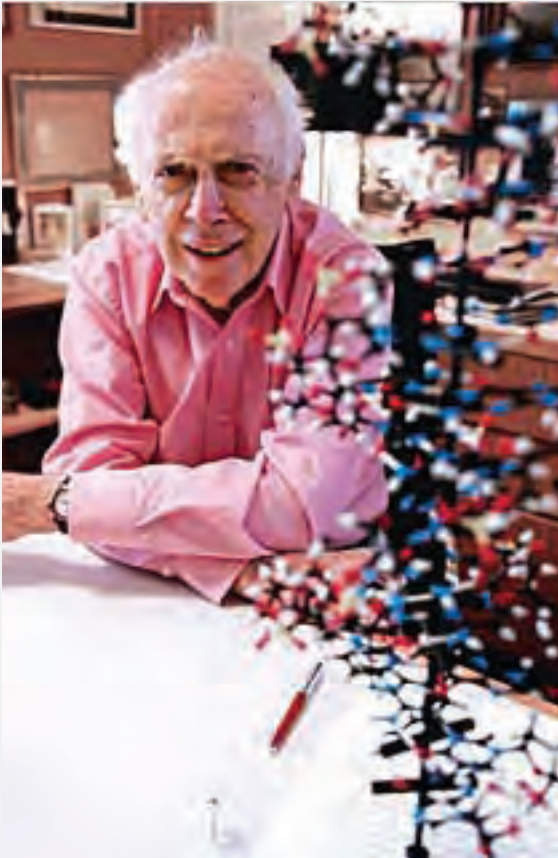
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James Watson

Nobel Laureate Shunned for Race Comments, Creationism Under Fire in Europe

Basil Bakir

Nobel Laureate Shunned James Watson, the man every BY 123 student at UAB studies as the discoverer of DNA and the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1962, was recently removed from a lineup of speakers at a London museum amid an outcry over what critics called racist comments. Speaking to the *Sunday Times*, Watson said he was “inherently gloomy about the prospects of Africa” because “all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours—whereas all the testing says not really.” His employer, the Cold Harbor Laboratory in New York, one of the most prestigious research institutions in the world, suspended the 79-year-old geneticist after his statements. He has since apologized.

Creationist Controversy in Europe The Council of Europe, an intergovernmental body responsible for human and civil rights in Europe, voted recently to urge member states to shun creationist teaching in schools and instead teach orthodox evolutionary biology. The issue is now becoming as high-profile in Europe as it has been in the US; attempts are being made to teach creationism or variants of it in British, French, Russian, and Turkish schools. The issue has been on the radar in the US for a significant period of time, most recently in Dover, Pennsylvania, where a federal judge struck down an attempt by the Dover School District to teach Intelligent Design, a ploy the judge decided was creationism in disguise.