

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL AND
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November 18, 1986

Ronald A. Ward, Editor
Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association
Department of Entomology
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
Washington, DC 20307-5100

Dear Dr. Ward,

I was stunned by the paper "Swarming and mating of the univoltine Aedes mosquitoes in the laboratory" by I. N. McDaniel which appeared in the September 1986 issue of J.A.M.C.A.

I feel the inclusion of the third paragraph in this otherwise interesting and potentially useful paper is inappropriate for a scientific journal. While I certainly sympathize with Dr. McDaniel in the recent loss of his wife, the inaccuracy and speculative nature of some of his remarks reflects poor judgement on the part of the Editorial Staff and referees of the A.M.C.A. For example, the proportion of AIDS cases in persons with no known risk factors is now only 3% nationwide (C. Norman, Science 234:415-417), not 7% as stated in the offending paragraph.

We in California have just achieved a major victory over the bigotry associated with AIDS by the defeat of Proposition 64 on our November ballot. The California Mosquito and Vector Control Association was one of many agencies that successfully fought against the inclusion of misleading statements regarding mosquito transmission of AIDS in the official Voter's Handbook. One hopes that our national organization will demonstrate similar critical judgement in the future.

Yours truly,

Marilyn M. Milby