



ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Students warned to watch for West Nile

By Kris Cabulong
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

While no cases of West Nile have been reported at the UA, students are advised to take precautions to avoid the potentially fatal virus.

There have been 307 cases of West Nile in Arizona to date, accounting for a full third of all cases nationally, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While the most deadly cases have been confined to the elderly and infants, Elizabeth Willott, assistant professor of entomology, advised the campus community to use insect repellent containing DEET, a proven mosquito repellent. She said it will work best when sprayed around the cuffs of sleeves and pant legs, Willott said.

She also advises students to cover up. "Wear clothes. The mosquitoes here are generally wimps, so long shirts and pants and socks are generally a pretty good deterrent," said Willott, who is involved with a Pima County team trying to contain the virus.

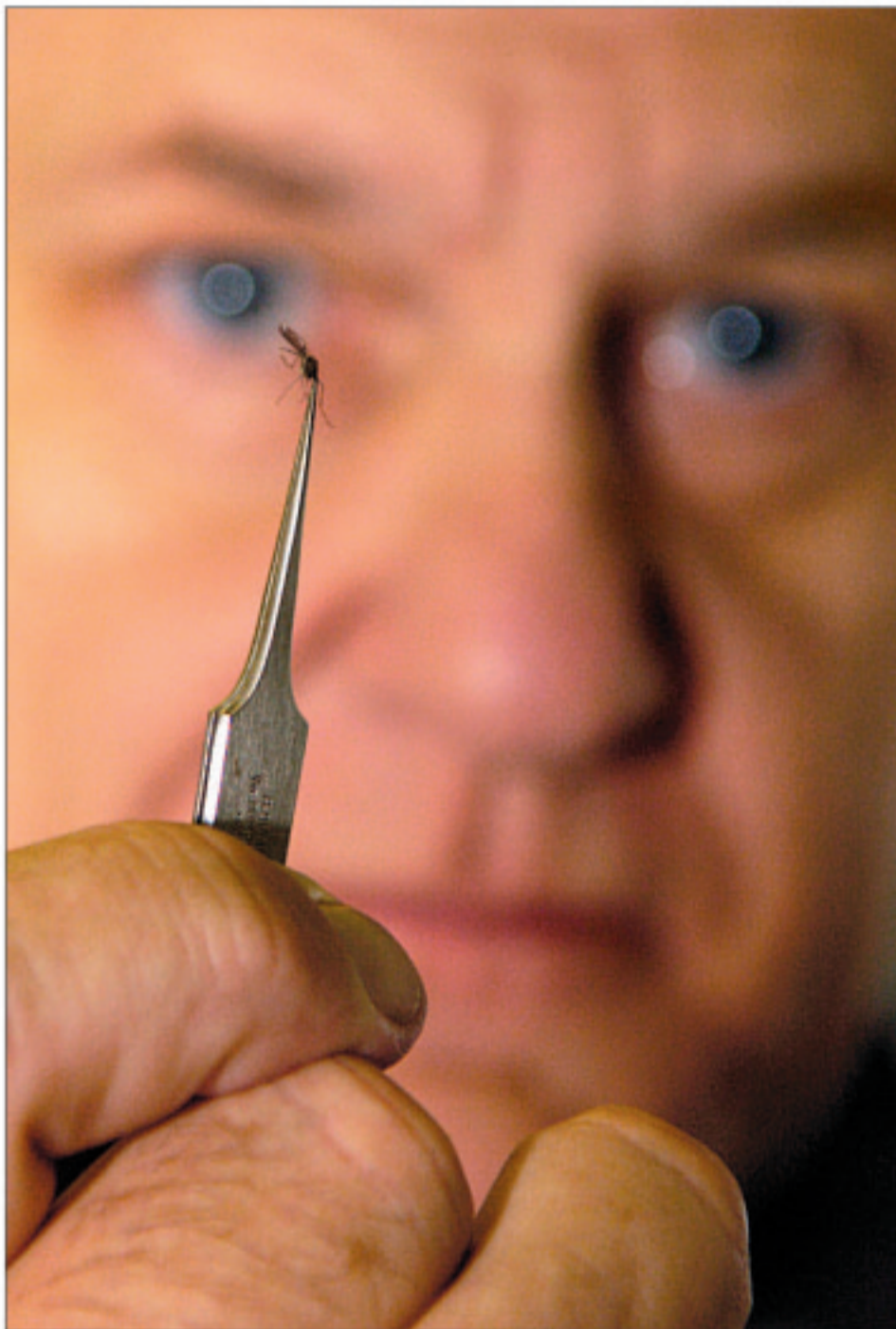
Last week, a man in nearby Maricopa County contracted the virus from a blood transfusion and died, bringing the death toll in Arizona to four. In Maricopa, there have been 279 documented cases of human infection, but here, in Pima County and at the UA, there have been none. So far.

"This summer, a man in Marana found 47 dead birds by his house. They tested positive for West Nile," said Frank Ramberg, a UA research scientist who has been investigating West Nile.

The virus is primarily transmitted between birds by mosquitoes, but mosquitoes are also able to transmit it to humans. The annual migration of birds is responsible

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DISSECTING AN EPIDEMIC



UA research scientist Frank Ramberg examines a Culex mosquito yesterday in his lab in the Marley building. The Culex mosquito, most active between sunset and sunrise, is primarily responsible for the transmission of the West Nile virus.

CHRIS CODRITO/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Poli sci honorary best in country

By Alida Kunsu
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The UA's political science honorary, Pi Sigma Alpha, was awarded best chapter of the year for 2003-2004 for their creativity and activeness on campus.

There are over 600 PSA chapters nationwide, and the UA chapter was selected from the pool for the category of universities with a population of 15,000 or more.

The award came as a pleasant surprise to PSA's president Jen Lum, a political science senior.

"I am surprised, but at the same time not really. I do think we deserve it. I am really happy that someone recognized us for all our hard work," Lum said.

PSA, a politically neutral group, has been involved in the Rock the Vote Campaign, which encourages youth to vote.

The group has also worked to register UA students to vote, and has hosted fundraising activities, social gatherings and other events to encourage political awareness.

Lum said being politically neutral is important and said PSA wants to include independent voters and others who might otherwise be left out.

Although PSA received the award letter, certificate and a check for about \$250 in the mail in July, the club didn't find out

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Internet class aims to curb smoking use

By April Lacey
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Arizona Health Sciences Center is launching an Internet-based research project to teach people how to talk to tobacco users about quitting.

Similar to a CPR class, in which people learn to save the lives of others who have stopped breathing, Project Reach aims to train ordinary people in effective ways of convincing tobacco users to quit, said Myra Muramoto, the principal investigator for the project.

"Doctors can't reach everyone," Muramoto said.

The specific goal of the project is to test whether or not Web-based training can be as

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McCain touts Bush re-election at RNC

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Sen. John McCain offered a stout defense yesterday of President Bush's decision to invade Iraq as the only way to keep that country from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, as McCain swept aside his long-running differences with Bush and urged voters to re-elect him.

In a prime-time speech on the opening night of his party's convention, McCain heartily endorsed the Iraq and anti-terrorism policies of his 2000 rival for the White House. Bush is particularly vulnerable over his invasion of Iraq, and the Arizona Republican's support gave Bush the stamp of approval of a Vietnam War hero who enjoys broad backing from independents and some moderate Democrats.

"Our choice wasn't between a benign status quo and the bloodshed of war," McCain said. "It was between war and a

graver threat. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Not our critics abroad. Not our political opponents."

The war in Iraq has become one of the most pivotal issues in this year's campaign. Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry has faulted Bush for providing a misleading pretext for war — Iraq's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction.

Kerry has also lambasted the president for failing to gain support from countries that could contribute troops and money, and for lacking a plan to manage post-war Iraq.

McCain said that in fact, Bush won support from Pakistan and other allies. And he said Republicans agree with Democrats who argue that diplomatic, financial and intelligence successes will be needed to prevail against terrorism.

"I don't doubt the sincerity of my Democratic friends," McCain said. "And they should not doubt ours."

McCain said the debate over Iraq and

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► Convention takes aim at Kerry

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Sen. John McCain addresses delegates on the first day of the Republican National Convention yesterday in New York.

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