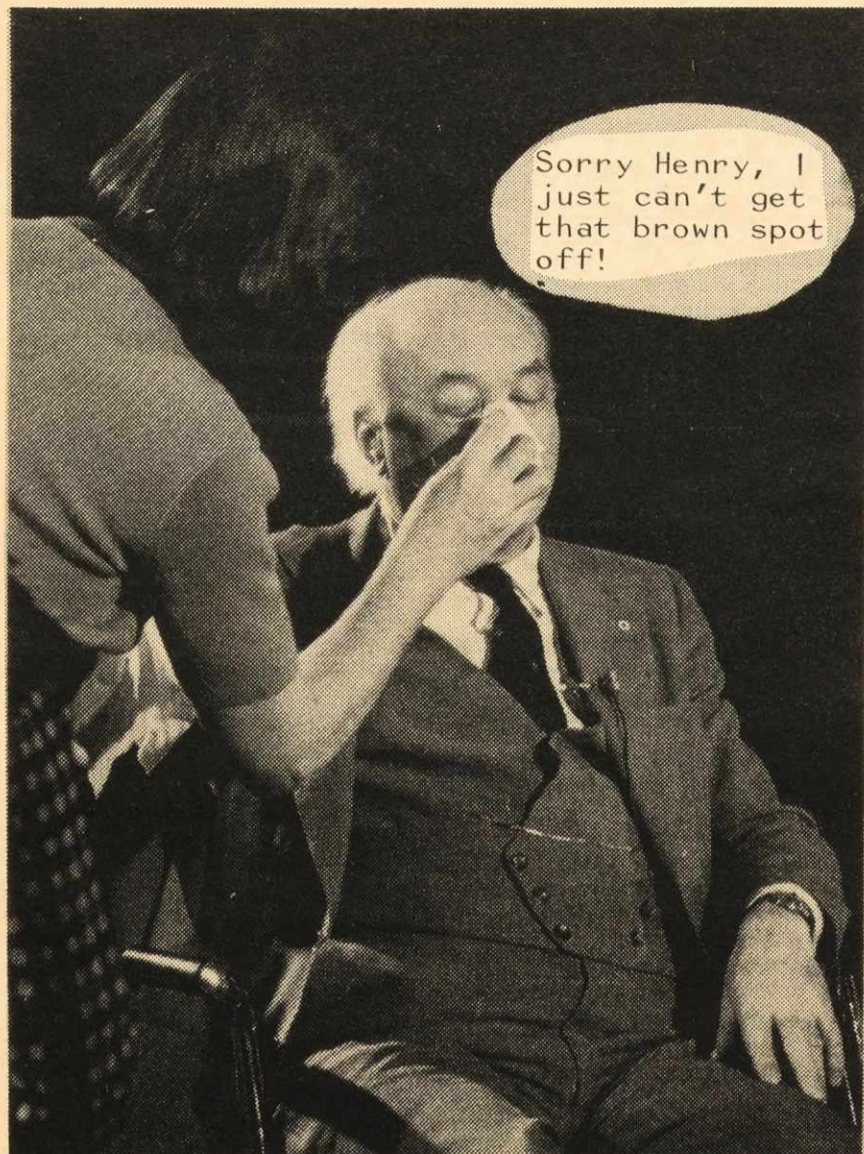


# Silly Snaps



Sorry Henry, I just can't get that brown spot off!

Thanks to John Naugler for submitting the quip for ol' Oxrut. (Nigel thinks it plumbs the depths of bad taste.)



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## CRYPTOQUOTE

Here's how to do it:

OXRUT OILZY

is

HENRY HICKS

One letter simply stands for another. In the sample O is used for the two Hs, X for the E, Z for the K, etc.

This week:

DV DI C YRMIFCFRH'I AWWU VX FHDYV VER YRMI CYA  
HCDIR ERTT.

—VER LEDLCNX VHDOWYR, 1861

XLS ILEUKQKILSYQ LFJS KDUP EDXSYISXSC XLS GKYUC.

XLS IKEDX, LKGSJSY, EQ XK ALFDNS EX.

—BFYU VFYZ

Answer to last week:

"The legislature is a strange place. A member gets up and says nothing. Nobody listens and then everybody disagrees."

Ron Wallace, MLA

## Mosquitoes prove it!

# Evolution is silly

To most people, the mosquito is a bothersome pest with an irritating proclivity for drawing blood. But the sex life of the mosquito is a fascinating study in the hidden intricacies of what is usually considered a "simple" organism. Indeed, the structures of the sexual apparatuses of the male and female mosquito are incredibly complex, and the sexual behavior patterns of the mosquito are surprisingly elaborate.

Since space does not permit us to describe all the mysteries and complexities surrounding the sex life of the mosquito, let us focus on

only one specific aspect: the baffling change in male anatomy required for the mating of mosquitoes of the species *Aedes Aegypti*.

What is this mysterious anatomical change? Shortly after a male mosquito emerges as an adult, his rear end undergoes a remarkable rotation. The last two segments of the abdomen begin to rotate until, over a period of 20 hours, they have made a full turn of 180 degrees. In other words, the male's posterior turns upside down—permanently. The female abdomen, by contrast, always remains in its original position.

This curious twist is absolutely essential for mating to occur, since the male must clasp the female in a very complicated fashion to ensure fertilization. A partial twist—say 90 degrees—will not do the job. According to Dr. Jack C. Jones, an entomologist who has conducted extensive research on the amazing reproductive systems of the mosquito, the mechanism responsible for the strange posterior rotation is not known. Jones' studies indicate that the muscles of the body wall do not cause the rotation.

But whatever the mechanism, how could such a revolutionary rotation have evolved? According to evolutionary theory, changes in organisms accumulate over long periods of time, eventually resulting in a superior creature. In the case of longer legs, or bigger horns, such a concept might make sense. But can you imagine male mosquitoes slowly learning, over millions of years, to completely rotate their hind ends so that they could mate with a female? Unless the male mosquito had the ability to effect an essentially complete rotation from the very beginning, the mosquito could not successfully mate, and would now be extinct. Yet mosquitoes quite obviously exist today. And remember, the posterior flip of the male mosquito is only one of a series of spectacular changes and transformations that are vital for mosquito mating and reproduction.

The curious twist in the sex life of the mosquito would seem to provide strong and compelling evidence for the unfathomable inventive genius of God.

(Reprinted from The Plain Truth.)

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