

# Increased spraying is dangerous

by Thomas Olsen

If the Alberta Government goes through with proposed budget cuts to the Horticultural department of Edmonton Parks and Recreation, it may mean a switch from the use of biologically safe pesticides, to potentially environmentally poisonous sprays.

That is one alternative the department would consider for its mosquito-spraying program, says Horticultural department director Keith Evans.

"The government provides about one third of our funding for summer pest control," said Evans. "If this money was cut off, we would be faced with possibly having to revert from the use of newly developed, safer pesticides, back to less expensive, but possibly more harmful pesticides."

The mosquito spray presently being used is a Bacterial Control Agent that attacks the mosquito in the larvae stage. The BCA has no impact on human or animal population, and is quick to dissipate from the environment.

Ian Birse, Supervisor of Pest Management for the department, said that "the beauty of the BCA is that it destroys only that which it is intended to destroy, it completely stays away from surrounding plant and animal life."

The biggest drawback to using BCA is its price — it costs five times

that of conventional insecticides. Birse expressed some optimism, however, saying that due to an increase of popularity in Canadian markets, the product has dropped in price considerably since 1984.

Another alternative that the department may consider is a discontinuation of expensive research into

alternate methods of pest control.

Brad Wylynko of Toxics Watch, an Edmonton-based environmental group, said it would be "very irresponsible" of the department to stop research into areas of safe pest control.

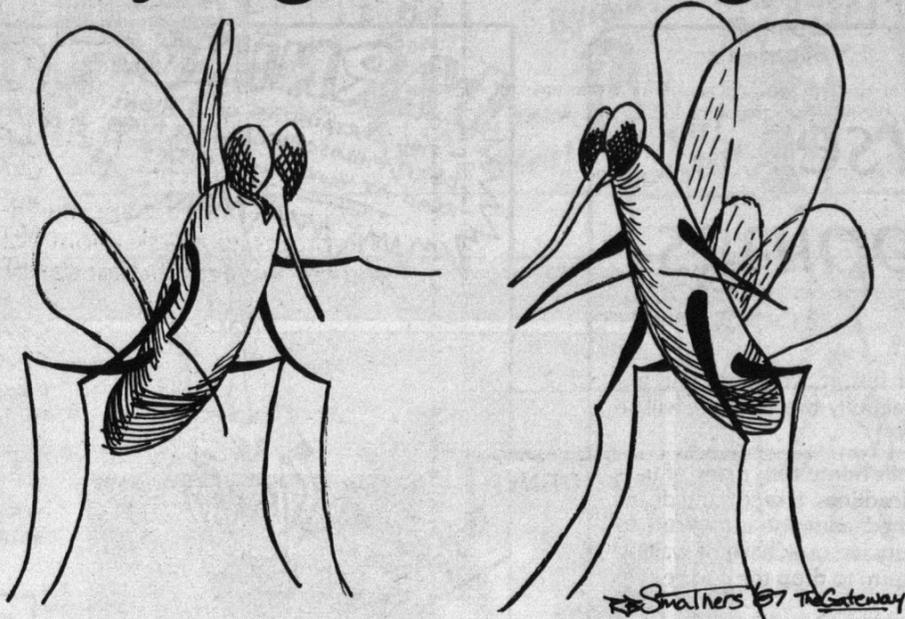
Although he admitted that "all the facts aren't in" as far as present

insecticide use is concerned, Wylynko said that human beings should "error on the side of safety" in respect to ecological matters.

Wylynko maintained that prolonged use of chemical sprays could cause a variety of genetic and physical disorders among different organisms. He said that ecological

safety should be put before human comfort.

Ian Birse said that no spray is being used in high enough concentrations to cause immediate damage to the environment. However, prolonged use of conventional pesticides may cause problems in the future, Birse said.



"Have you heard about the special in Edmonton this summer? All the human you can eat for free!"

The Volunteer Action Centre (Phone 482-6431), a United Way agency, has special requests of interest to University students:

**Alumnae search:** University Alumnae association needs volunteers to help find "missing" graduates and enter them on the database system.  
**Tutors:** Tutors are needed for individual school youngsters, English as a Second Language Students, and individuals with special needs, including a profoundly hearing impaired Millwoods 14-year-old.

**WIN House:** Edmonton's shelter for women who have left home because of physical abuse needs volunteers for a wide variety of tasks.

**Home Living Skills Instructors:** A pre-employment class needs help from volunteers who can teach such skills as cooking, cleaning and home maintenance.



**VOLUNTEER ACTION CENTRE**

**Conservatory Guides:** Volunteers are needed at the Muttart Conservatory to lead tours through the pyramids and answer questions about plants. Extensive orientation is provided.

**Dependent Handicapped:** Volunteers are needed to work one-to-one with multi-handicapped teenagers who are now living in a group home.

**Instructors for Mentally Handicapped:** Volunteers are needed to teach aquafitness and social dance to small groups of mentally handicapped adults.

**Child Care:** A south Edmonton Day Care needs volunteers to help plan and supervise activities for small groups of two to five-year-olds.

For these and other challenging volunteer assignments, call the Volunteer Action Centre at 482-6431.

## Course Droppings

continued from p. 1

come of the midterm exam, ie. drops the course because she won't get the grade she wanted, the system suffers.

"This ties up resources such as a marker and lab facilities . . . and it has denied access to someone (who was serious about completing) the course," said Silzer.

He adds that the philosophical issue is what kind of feedback students need before they decide whether or not to continue in a course — such as the feedback provided by a midterm exam grade.

SU VP Academic Craig Cooper thinks changing the deadlines to

before midterms contradicts the idea that "you have an opportunity to assess your performance in a course."

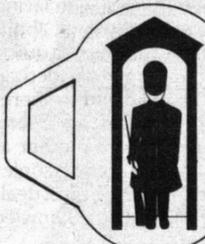
Cooper points to a 1975 recommendation by GFC that endorsed "faculties and schools to adopt withdrawal deadlines beyond the half-way point (in the course)."

"The current proposal is a total 180 degree turn in philosophy," said Cooper. "Why bring it up now?"

Silzer said that the current climate of restraint may have influenced the commencement of a new deadline policy.

"If people were obliged to stick with a course at an earlier juncture, it'd be easier to marshal the resources available," he said.

Silzer also sees it as a question of equity from one student to another — the less students "abuse" the system, the more courses will be available to all students.



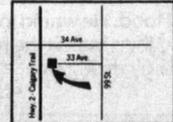
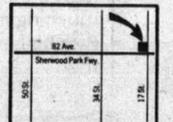
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