

Intramurals are new sacrifice

by Karl Wilberg

Most prophets have a bad record. However, indications are Dickson Wood, an intramural organizer, is correct when he predicts severe reductions in the variety of intramurals for next year.

In addition it seems women's and co-rec activities will suffer most, and in all, thousands of people will be involved. Worse yet it appears intramurals are being sacrificed to maintain a few varsity sports that involve a fraction of the numbers involved in intramurals.

Wood's prediction becomes clear when Wood, an administrative assistant for men's intramurals, explains how

women's and co-rec coordinator Wendy Carson and some administrative helpers have not been signed on staff for next year. In addition, the men's intramurals portfolio, along with the directorship of women's and co-rec intramurals, will be handed over to one man, wrestling coach John Barry.

Needless to say the expanding men's program, guided by volleyball coach Hugh Hoyles, was difficult enough to manage with existing staff. Both Wood and Carson agree that it is too much to expect one person to manage all intramural programs. Wood does not dispute Barry's ability, but states, "John can only do as good a job as he has time to do." In addition, Wood believes that with fewer administrative assistants "there is no question the program will suffer."

Moreover, these latest moves by the Athletic Services department, chaired by Ed Zemrau, describe what Wood terms "a number of discrepancies" and discrimination between programs. He believes the department policy is not so much a question of just tight money, but also of priority.

First of all, Wood mentions women's and co-rec assistants receive about \$80 a month compared to a men's intramural assistant who receives \$125. Wood states, "I make more as a first-year assistant than John Patrick makes as a senior assistant in co-rec."

More importantly though, Wood states intramural programs next year will be reduced in variety. In other words the "something for everybody" aspect that exists will be gone. Wood believes "people

will definitely notice the reduction in activities, especially people here now will notice it over the next couple of years." Consequently people will miss out on instructional clinics and fitness programs that appealed to a large part of the student population.

Needless to say, Wood believes this low priority for funding implies a poor sense of priority, and discrimination. Wood states, "Zemrau stated at Color night that varsity teams were suffering greatly — they had poor food allowances." Wood goes on to suggest this kind of suffering is minimal compared to the changes the intramural program will undergo.

In addition, Wood maintains "it seems to me varsity teams have everything bought for them," and for example, he

mentions "everything from socks to jock-straps." Wood goes on to suggest intercollegiate athletes be responsible to pay for some expenses, like food, in order to allow a wider range of intramurals and varsity sports to exist. He points out \$13,000 could be saved on food allowances, and these funds "would go a long ways to keeping Wendy Carson or allowing track and field to continue." Track is one intercollegiate sport tentatively slated for cancellation.

In total, Wood believes these actions by the department suggest an over emphasis on varsity sports, particularly "when cutting off whole programs." According to Wood, "If we are in dire straits it's time we re-evaluated priorities. I don't think some of us should be put in to boil and others left unscathed."

Spit in the wind

by Garnet DuGray

Snuff, chew, snoose, chaw. These are but a few names for an age-old tradition that is on the rise: chewing tobacco. Naturally some people say right away that "it's a bad habit," but then they aren't necessarily well informed about such an art. Chewing tobacco was started back in the 17th century by British seamen who were not allowed to smoke aboard their flammable ships and therefore reverted to chewing primarily cigar leaf tobacco to cure their habit.

When one looks at chewing tobacco today, we usually think of baseball players and cowboys. However there seems to be a great trend for many men and a few women to switch to chewing rather than smoking. Oil riggers have also been swept up by the "chewing storm" as they too follow British seamen's lead in obtaining nicotine without combustion.

This form of relaxing is not as socially acceptable as cigarette smoking because one must usually 'expectorate' (spit) tobacco juice. However, it is gaining popularity across the United States, Canada, and right here on our very own U of A campus. Just this past year in the U.S. tobacco companies reported a grand total of over 30 million pounds of "smokeless tobacco" sold. They say sales are still on the rise.

Because of its popularity in the U.S., the majority of the chewing tobacco is grown, cured and sold there, although Canada does make a few brands of its own. Chewing tobacco comes in three basic varieties: snuff (fine ground), loose-leaf (pouched cigar leaf), and plugs (small packed bricks of loose-leaf tobacco), and numerous brands and flavors.

Some notables are the big three in the snuff field: Copenhagen, Skoal (wintergreen flavor), and Happy Days (mild wintergreen flavor) which are made in both the U.S. and Canada by different methods. In addition the Canadian product is somewhat stronger than its American counterpart. These products are usually seen advertised on American, but not Canadian television by such notables as Walt Garrison, Earl Campbell, Carlton Fisk and Charlie Daniels.

The loose-leaf product comes in 2-3 oz. foil pouches to keep

it fresh and these are usually cured with such products as mollasses, honey, apple, and licorice. The more popular brands in this field are: Beech Nut, Red Man, Levi Garrett, Big Red and numerous others. The plug chewing tobacco comes in small rectangular bars

All three types of chewing tobacco usually run between 50-60¢ in the stores with the exception of the snuff products which may run anywhere from 60-85¢ in the U.S. and whereas the loose-leaf and plugs are imported to Canada thus raising their prices very easily.

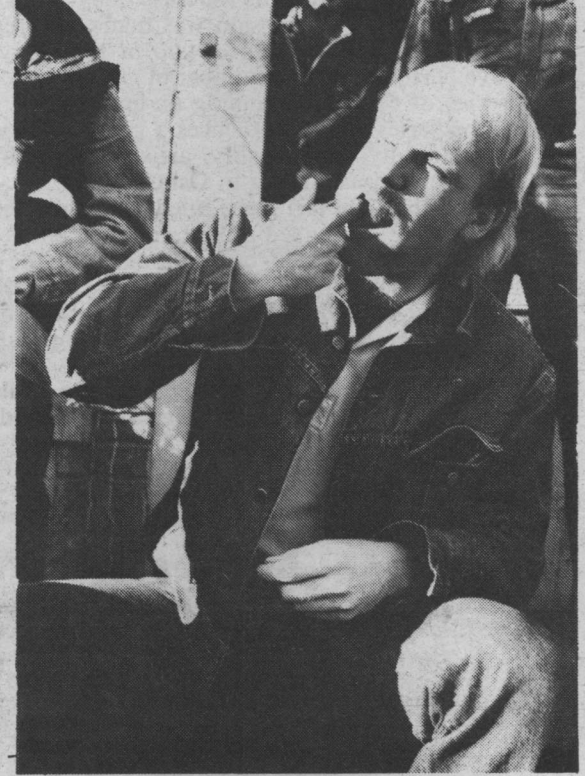
Getting back to expectorating, one asks, "Where do they spit the tobacco juice?" There are many inventive items to be used other than the traditional brass spittoons which are hard to come by in Alberta (in spite of many cowboys). Many people use paper cups, beer bottles, pop cans or small garbage cans with plastic bags that can be thrown away easily. Maybe there could be a surge in the sales and availability of spittoons if the rage continues as it has so far.

When one thinks of people around Edmonton who chew tobacco other than a few cowboys and ball players, one immediately thinks of Eskimo quarterback Tom Wilkinson who has been seen numerous times having a "chaw" on the sidelines

As well, Bobby Clarke, the hard-working, diabetic center of the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers has his own spittoon in the locker room. He once said that, "Barry Ashbee turned me on to chewing because it helps me to relax."

And speaking of sport, as mentioned before many baseball players chew tobacco on the field and have been known to spit on the opposing player or the umpires. Many guys today enjoy chewing tobacco while skiing downhill or playing football just to "psych" out the opposition by spitting on the ball just prior to the opposition's center grabbing it."

Right here on our own U of A campus the art has gained in popularity with members of the Ag. Club (male and female), the Lonestars and Kappa Sigma intramural units, and the odd



Top left: the chew men prepare. Top right: a close-up of proper fitting technique. Bottom: always aim away from buildings, people and dogs.

aspiring lawyer. In particular one Lonestar, Mark "Bunny" Robertson stated that, "... chewing tobacco doesn't leave me short-winded, or pollute the air for others, tastes great after a meal or when drinking but it does have one drawback, it's not that great after sex like a cigarette."

Many people enjoy chewing on the job outdoors in the summer where it is easy to expectorate, but some feel discriminated against because they can't chew while waiting in a restaurant where other places

allow their employees to smoke. John Artym, Lonestar unit manager says that the only thing he hates about chewing is "... dribbling down the front of your shirt if the receptacle opening is too small to spit into."

As well, Lonestar Jacques Couillard who began chewing in high school in Colorado Springs, says that, "... our house is such a dive that we have to chew just so we can spit on the cockroaches to kill them." Jacques has also been contemplating the prospects of having his two front teeth removed so he can spit easier through

the space.

All in all the art of chewing tobacco is not something one obtains over night like cigarette smoking as I myself have seen a few rookies turn "green" awful fast on their first few attempts.

Maybe there should be some investigating done into placing spittoons in the bars and other public places, even on campus so we of the trade do not have to keep using beer bottles and paper cups. And as Earl Campbell once said to avid tobacco chewers, "Skoal brother."