

## Our campus cleaning staff gets a raw deal this year

Since the beginning of classes in September we have been hearing about the various labor disputes on the campus.

Last summer the administration contracted out the cleaning of most of the campus buildings. All the janitors who at that time worked for UNB were 'fired' and most of them were able to get their jobs back by working for one of the cleaning companies who got the contracts. For men, and women, who had been working here for many years, this meant a loss of seniority.

Since the changeover we have noticed no improvement in the cleanliness of the buildings. As a matter of fact, at times it seems even worse. Some of the contractors seem to be having trouble finding enough good men to fill all the positions. For example at one time it was said that in order to properly clean the SUB, a night shift of six men would be required. Many times they have less than four men on, at times only two. Why so few people? Is it because the contractors do not have enough manpower? If so, why?

One way to insure that a proper job is done is to have the same people work in the same building for a long time. This would seem the most efficient way. This is the way the university tried to run things. However, the contractors keep shifting men around from one building to another. They might show up for work in one building, work for an hour or two and then the foreman comes around and sends them off to some other place for the rest of the shift.

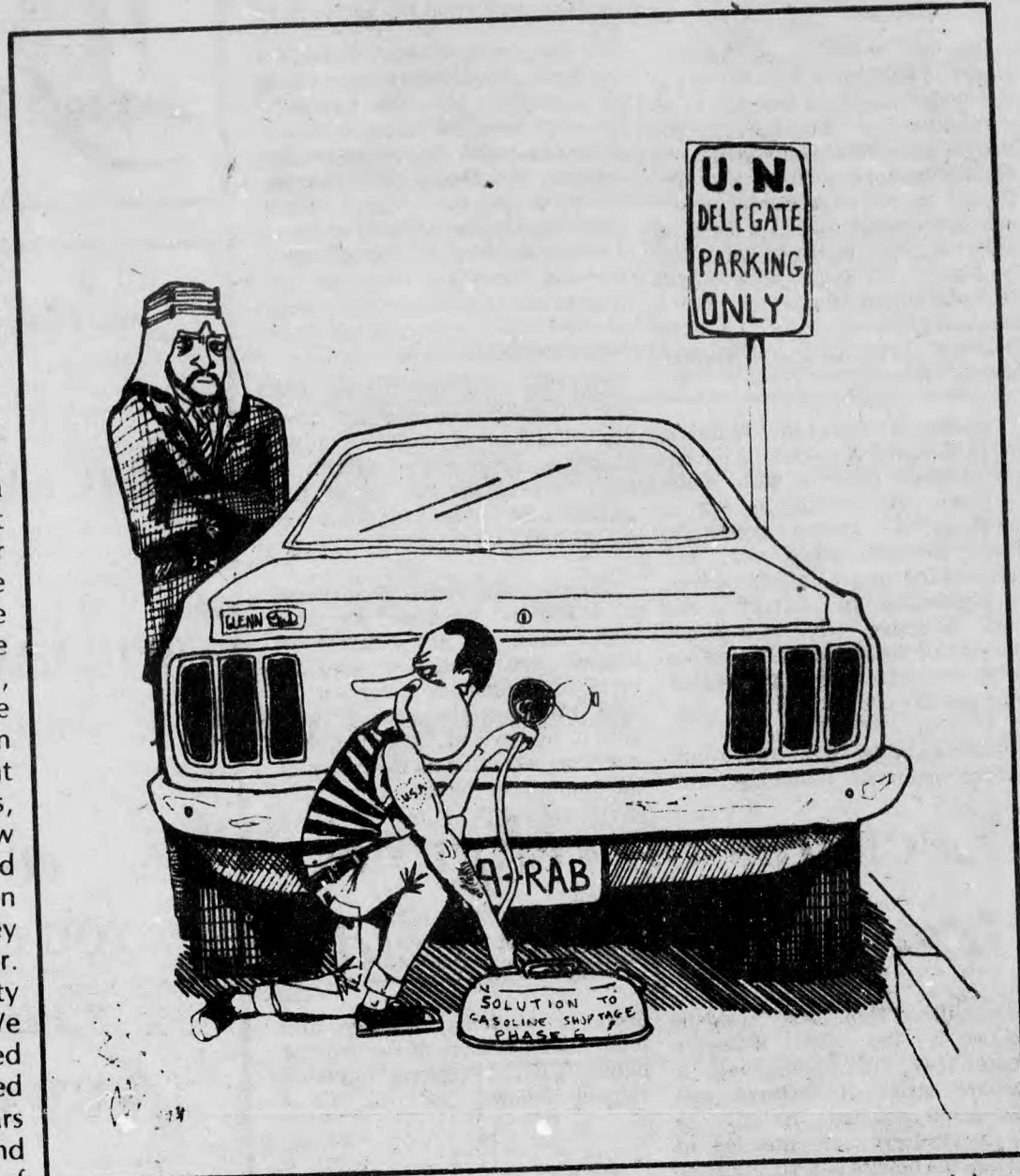
Salary, of course is always a bone of contention. We talked to one caretaker who says that he has worked here as a janitor for six years without a raise. At the present many of the janitors who have been working here for a number of years are extremely pissed off. And they have good reason to be.

Custodian Services Ltd., now has the cleaning contracts for 13 buildings on campus. At the end

of this month they intend to quit their contract. The main reason seems to be that it is no longer a financial feasibility for them. The university will now have to call for tenders for these buildings. Word has it that Custodian will re-bid for the contract, but at a higher amount. This isn't saying much for the management of the company if they couldn't do the job under their previous contract.

The janitors who presently work for this company are disillusioned and 31 of them have signed a petition saying that they will not work for any new contractor unless certain stipulations are met. These conditions are mentioned in an article on page two in this edition. However, chances are that whoever gets the contract, whether it be Custodian or another contractor, they might say to hell with these demands, and then go ahead and hire a new batch of employees. The men and women who signed the petition will then be out of a job. They won't be the only ones to suffer. We, the students, and the faculty and staff will suffer as well. We will lose a group of experienced janitors, some who have worked in the same buildings for years and know everybody in them and take pride in the cleanliness of their buildings.

One of the stipulations in the petition calls for no union affiliation. The present caretaking staff is very adamant about this. This is possibly due to the fact that the maintenance workers belong to a union and don't seem to be getting anywhere in their contract negotiations. Naturally, the union members tell you one thing and the members of the UNB administration tell you another. It doesn't really matter who you believe, either way it is taking an awfully long time for these people to get their contract disputes settled. In the past years many of the university employees (not just maintenance and janitorial staff) have complained about the way the administration treats them. Of course, the administration to them is



represented by one person, Brigadier Knight, Personnel Director. Apparently Mr. Knight prefers the title Brigadier because he was in the army and he seems to think he still is. He continuously refuses to talk to The Brunswickan on any matter, even if all we want is clarification on some matter. Mr. Knight retires this year. Perhaps with him will go some of the labour strife that we seem to have now. We certainly hope so.

We can't expect the janitors

and maintenance personnel here to do a great job if they have so little job security and uncertainty. It's about time the administration realized that there's more to a university than themselves and the academic staff. To quote from the Berkeley Free Student Movement:

"The university is composed of faculty, students, books and ideas. In the literal sense, the administration is merely there to make sure the sidewalks are kept clean...."

An Assistant Professor is a person who can take a point and turn it into a lecture. An Associate Professor is a person who can take a point and turn it into a course. A Professor is a person who can take

a point and turn it into a career. A dean is a person who has forgotten the point. And, a President is a person who no longer believes there ever was one. —A.W.R. Carrothers, President, University of Calgary.

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