



THE BRUNSWICKIAN

Canada's oldest official student publication

VOL. 108 ISSUE 12

28 PAGES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1973

FREE

Forty-six union members caught "maintenance flu"

By TOM BENJAMIN

Forty-six members of UNB's maintenance crew did not attend work on November 12th, due to illness, a union member said on Wednesday. He described the ailment as "maintenance flu, due to malnutrition from low wages."

UNB's maintenance employees have been working since July 1st without a contract.

Contract negotiations between the university and Canadian Union of Public Employees local 1326 have broken down because of many disagreements between the two parties. Some of the main points of contention are: management rights, union security, holidays, hours of work and overtime, promotions, and most importantly, wages and the definition of the union's bargaining unit.

An example of the wage disparities found in the negotiations is in the classification of "storekeeper 1". This position presently receives an annual wage of \$5,966. The union is asking for a raise to \$4.06 per hour or \$8,444 annually by July 1st, 1974. The university management is offering a raise to \$3.20 per hour.

A "Receiving and Shipping Clerk" is presently earning an annual wage of \$4,718. The union wants a raise to \$3.68 an hour or \$6,937 annually. Management is offering a raise to \$2.55 an hour.

A union member said he would "like to see the old army boys who are ruling us with an iron hand try to live on our wages - it couldn't be done."

Union members also stated they wanted management rights to be controlled by the Industrial Relations Act.

The management rights clause the university wants included in the contract reads, in part, as follows:

"...it shall be the exclusive function of the Employer to manage its business and to hire, layoff, suspend, promote, demote, classify, recall, transfer, discipline and discharge employees. Furthermore, the Employer may schedule work, determine the methods to be used, allocation and use of employees, manage its business, properties and plant, direct and distribute the working force, the numbers and responsibilities of its employees and to make and alter from time to time rules and regulations to be observed by employees."

A union spokesman said, "union members are getting very hard to control, getting downhearted. A wildcat strike may take place because negotiations are taking too long."

He said that electricians wanted to work overtime, but the university refused them. Instead the university hired two new electricians for 5 weeks, costing the university \$27.00 per hour.

The union spokesman also mentioned an ad the university ran in a local paper calling for security personnel. The ad read "salary currently under negotiation."

However, he said, the university

is attempting to have security personnel removed from the union; so therefore they would not be included in the negotiations.

John Toner, an industrial relations officer with the Department of Labor, said his department has appointed a conciliation officer for the dispute.

"Negotiations are being stymied because of the university's definition of the bargaining unit," Toner said.

B. F. Macaulay, Administration Vice-president, said "bargaining sessions have been going on for some time. Discussions are being held between the legal representatives of both parties to determine the bargaining unit. Until this is clarified conciliation cannot proceed."

A. F. Knight Personnel Director, said he "can't see the benefit" of commenting on the issue.

"I don't want to be caught up in a legal tangle. I'm not in a position to prejudge what the law will decide," he said.

Knight refused to be interviewed on the topic.

A union spokesman said "if it wasn't for maintenance crews changing fuses and unplugging drains the university could not operate."

He said that the union asked for a support vote in case of a strike and received 100 percent backing by its members.



Photo by Ron Ward

Forty-six members of UNB's maintenance crew phoned in sick on Monday, November 12th, with "malnutrition from low wages". Personnel Director A. F. Knight refused to grant an interview to The Brunswickian.

New parking lot costs to be minimal

By TERRY DOWNING

The new parking lot in front of the SUB is beginning to take shape. No time has been lost in initiating the work and it should be finished soon if the weather holds out.

Expenses are supposed to be minimal since this project wasn't included in this year's budget. Commenting on the expenses Professor Eric Garland, Director of Academic Planning and Campus Development, stated that, "expenses will primarily consist of buying the gravel and transporting it."

There is no real expected date for completion due to the time of year. Weather plays a big part. "I

don't want to make a prediction because it could be finished in the next week or so and then again it might snow or just be plain miserable. But," Garland added, "work is going along rapidly since last Thursday when work was started."

"Snow removal will present no real problem," stated Garland, "since the blade of the snow remover can be raised and left at a certain height. The only problems should be encountered on the first couple of jobs is the ground isn't frozen enough and again in the spring when the ground begins to thaw out. But other than that it should be alright."

The area has already been

cleared by the students from the Maritime Forest Ranger School. Grading and leveling is just being started on Wednesday by the UNB Surveying Engineering Faculty. The heavy equipment to smooth and to get rid of the stumps is being supplied free by Mr. D. C. Campbell, a member of the Board of Governors and head of Tractors and Equipment Ltd.

"This will not really be a new parking lot but an extension of the older parking lot. The extension will be the closest you can get to the different buildings without being in the centre of the campus."

If finding a place to park is a problem, Garland suggests using the parking lot by Teacher's

College field. It has room for 100 or so vehicles and is now only being used by a few people.

The only term plan for expansion of the UNB campus is being made up of many short range projects such as the parking lot and the new arena complex, according to Garland. The parking lot will be able to help if there is any overflow at the arena but this is not very probable since the parking lot will be just as far away as any parking lot. In the long range plans this extension could very well be in the centre of the campus in a few years. Any one interested in seeing some of the proposed projects can get in touch with Professor Garland in the Old Arts Building.



Photo by Ron Ward

BULLETIN

Donald Edwards, who was recently offered the position of UNB Vice President Administration has declined the post.

UNB President John M. Anderson has informed The Brunswickian that the vp search committee must now "go back to square one".

Apparently the committee has no particular person in mind at present and it is very doubtful that they would be putting anyone else's name forward at the Thursday afternoon Board of Governors meeting.