

## Janitors plan to continue 'strike' into next week

By RICK BASTON

Students should look beyond the fact that the buildings are dirty and realize that this is the fault to a great extent of the companies involved and also the university, said Kent Blades, a spokesman for the striking janitors.

Blades said the walkout has been very effective so far. They had managed to stop the people hired to replace them from filling their jobs. He emphasized that this prevention has taken the form of talking and reasoning with the people hired to replace them. He said it was true that the maids had tried to report in for work on Monday, but that they were persuaded from this course of action by the fact that they won't be included in the negotiations if they reported in.

Blades said he felt they were hurting the companies as the companies had felt they could never organize, let alone strike. He said that as a result of this miscalculation on the part of the companies, they were now in the position of having to worry about their cleaning contracts with the university.

There are two main things that the janitors are demanding. One naturally is the wage increase to \$3.00 per hour. The second is that each janitor who has walked out will be offered a job by the companies after the walk out has been settled.

The janitors also want the statutory holidays, 2 weeks vacation pay, 1/4 days per month of accumulative sick leave, blue cross benefits, security from firings after the contract is settled.

Blades also said that they were interested in the possibility of a cost of living clause in the contract.

Another important point was that the maids achieve parity with the janitors by the next contract.

The effect of the physical plant walking out, Blades indicated, would be to have the emphasis shifted from the janitors to a conflict between the university and its personnel. The result in all likelihood would be a quick settlement on the part of the university. The administration would then possibly put pressure on the contractors to settle their strike.

Also, there is an oral promise on the part of the contractors to match whatever the university

offers its janitors.

Officially, Blades said, there has been nothing in the way of negotiations with the contractors. Informally there have been several confrontations with the contractors.

The contractors, Mr. Blades said, have been cutting staffs to the minimum since they began working on campus. For example, in the SUB, when it was run by the university, seven people were employed over the shifts to clean the building. When Custodian Cleaners took over, they used as two people a day in the building. People were pulled from other buildings to fill in gaps. The supervisors picked, aside from being too few, seemed for the most part to have little knowledge of janitorial work.

Blades said he felt that the university would not likely take over the service again in view of the fact that it had always been a headache to them. There were also the problems of adequate staff and keeping costs down. There is however, the remote possibility that they might as things haven't been working out too well.

Blades accused the university of trickery in one particular case. The keys for the buildings are kept in Annex B and the Residence Office. On last Thursday afternoon, the day of the walk out, Mike Davidson, an official of the physical plant when over to Annex B and signed out a number of keys for buildings. That night the contractors had keys to get into their buildings. Mr. Blades felt that Davidson made these keys available to the companies so they could carry out their contracts and avoid confrontation with the janitors. These keys have been out ever since, and normally keys are only allowed out for 8 hours at a time.

The janitors are not union members, said Blades. They did apply to C.U.P.E. (Canadian Union of Public Employees) to be admitted as a local, but C.U.P.E. said they didn't have the time for them. They tried to go before the Labour Relations Board at least twice, but on each occasion they were passed off. Also there is the fact that the physical plant has been receiving poor representation on the part of CUPE since they have been negotiating since last May for an agreement.

Blades indicated that they have considered the possibility of pooling their money and forming a janitors Co-op to bid on the

contracts. He said that would be cheaper and much more efficient than the present system as the men would be working for themselves.

He said they plan to continue the strike on into next week, if there is no agreement by the end of the week.



Garbage has been piling up in the majority of buildings on campus since the non-union janitors staged a walkout February 1. Many people are worried some edifices will be closed by the Board of Health unless minimum cleanliness can be retained.

Photo by Ken Ward

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### Anthro prof to give talk on Guyana

Dr. V.E. O'Connell, Professor of Anthropology at UNB, under the auspices of the Caribbean Circle, will be presenting a talk at 2 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 10 in Room 26 at the SUB. His talk will be entitled "Black Consciousness in the new Guyana".

Dr. O'Connell, who has studied the political, sociological and cultural situation in Guyana for the

last 10 years will attempt to demonstrate the rise to power of the black party, the "Africanisation" of the bureaucratic elite, and the development of distinctive African consciousness amongst Guyana's Africans.

Special attention will be paid to the relationship between the Africans, the East Indians and other racial groups.

### Lecture on Conservation Council to be given

A lecture entitled "The Aims and Methods of the New Brunswick Conservation Council" will be presented by K.K. Langmaid, a soil scientist at the Dept. of Agriculture.

The lecture takes place Friday, Feb. 8, at 3:30 p.m. in Loring Bailey Hall room 146. Langmaid is involved in land use

planning and studies.

He was instrumental in founding the N.B. Conservation Council and has been its president since its inception. The council has been active in such endeavours as pressing for environmental legislation, park usage, and impact studies on such activities as the Lorneville project.