

# FEEDBACKFEEDBACK

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They are the 'little people' who make the university go round believe it or not. I doubt very much if you have a true picture of what the true situation is here at UNB...I know I didn't when I was a student.

I speak to you as a former employee of UNB (as of Nov. 17th) a member of that non-academics (the technicians, janitors, gardeners, secretaries) ...ask them how many people they have to support on that salary. I'd be willing to bet that some of the employees are too embarrassed to tell you how little they are making. I might agree that there are a few people on this campus who do not deserve a 'good' salary, and I'd also be willing to admit that there are a few superfluous people here, but I'd bet that very few of these people are 'little people'.

However, for the main part of the non-academic employees at UNB they are being underpaid and overworked. A 'good' salary for a non-academic employee (excepting department heads or directors) is \$5000 or less.

If you see a "workie" standing around 'idling' as you have labeled it, chances are he hasn't got any incentive to do anything for the place, and chances are also very likely that he has already done more than is being paid for.

The Personnel Office I'm sure will immediately come back with the answer that they have a system of merit raises etc, but the people who determine the worth of a person are more or less afraid of the ex-army officer sitting in the big chair, and they don't believe in fighting for their staff. The merit raise can be anywhere from 5 - 10 percent raise, but Mr. Editor, it is my belief that 5 percent of nothing is still nothing.

The deductions coming out of that meagre salary cheque total about 35 percent of the total salary. Income tax, UIC and CPP are bad enough, but then the university takes more out of you for health insurance, now compulsory for all new employees whether they are covered elsewhere or not. Well, with that kind of thing going it's enough to destroy anyone's incentive to work let alone produce anything at all that is 'productive'. And yet, things keep going along...I think the employees deserve a pat on the back because they continue to plod along with absolutely no incentive at all.

I can state many cases of underpayment, but then you hit those people who are below the poverty level. One case in particular, an employee with a mate and a small baby to support is earning the grand total of \$3360 a year (about \$65 a week). The

secretaries around here start at that level too. When you figure that rent, food, clothes etc. have to come out of that salary AFTER deductions have been taken off... one would probably do better on welfare, but this employee is too proud to go on welfare (aren't you glad to know that there are still some people like that left! )

If you ask for a pay raise you are handed the old line about the provincial civil service wage scale, UNB wage scale being equal to that (which in many cases is pure BS) or that the budget can't take the payraise (and yet directors get \$1000 more a year

on the average) ...or, get this, if we give you a raise we can count on at least 300 others knocking on our door within minutes all wanting raises.

Well, Personnel Office, that's tough. If you aren't paying enough to the people who make this university run, then you ought to expect that sort of thing. But don't expect above average, or even average production for a below average pay.

And one more thing, if you go in to ask for a raise, and if you happen to have a wife or husband who also works, then this is inevitably brought into the con-

NOVEMBER 24,

versation... but not by the ployee who is asking for raise. The powers that be that you ought to be grateful that if there are two paycheques coming into the house then have no right to ask for money. I'm afraid that I do believe that my husband's has anything to do with I'm worth as an employee, lieve me' I'm glad I'm out of it

Sign me 'quit because they only paying me \$3840/yr. getting more than they were ing for'

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1972

## Vote Returns Show Trudeau's Party Ahead

On Page 1, Col. 6 parliament, the Liberals could on Saturday, "because Canada lose no more than 13 seats dian are thinking — thinking Trudeau insisted t contributed to today. However, they could about the kind of Canada they dian labor force, : predicting the out-retain power as a minority want." unexpectedly hij were 12,790,686 government if they fall below Mr. Stanfield, the Conserva- simply outstrinne

Dear Sir:

The United States has been caught with its Canada "experts" asleep at the switch. But then they never can be really in touch with Canadians because they are totally unable to see Canada with anything other than the warped glasses of their own experiences and values, which to them, of course, are the only ones that count.

But not for a moment should we expect them to admit it. No, no...it is the Canadian public that is "dismayed, bewildered, stunned" at the outcome of the election. In

other words, the Canadian electorate is a group of political illiterates who are unable to tell the difference between promises and results, between facade and real concern, between real liberals and phony ones.

The election coverage in the New York Times on November 1, 1972, has to be some kind of classic of superficial, condescending, distorting political reporting, perhaps with a measure of wishful thinking thrown in. This is the usual genre of reporting about Canada; this time it goes even further. Not only are the pressures

and forces from the United States that did much to help shape election not discussed, their is actively denied.

It does not say how the unemployment issues are tied in with United States economic policy and control; it does not say how hamstrung Canadian unions are their stifling ties to overbearing and domineering United States unions. It does not say just how unhappy many Canadians are about the weak and humiliating stand Trudeau has and is taking against continued takeover of Canada by the United States. It ne-

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