

Union rejects the university's latest wage offer

Last Friday night Local 1326 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the union for employees of the University of N.B., voted unanimously to reject the university's latest wage offer.

They voted 70 percent in favour of a strike.

Earl Cronin, negotiator for the union said, "The last offer was foolish, this offer is ridiculous."

He explained, "In some cases it was a little more than the last offer, but in most cases it was less."

Under the old offer plumbers were given \$4.34 by July 1974. The new offer gives them \$4.32 an hour.

Masons are now offered \$4.00 an hour, while they had been given \$4.34 in the last offer from the university.

Auto mechanics are now offered \$4.09. They had been offered \$3.77, a raise of 32 cents.

Cronin says he has no idea why this offer was made.

"We don't want to go on strike," he says, but adds that the university, by making this offer

seems to be saying, "You go on strike. We want you to. It's putting out backs to the wall."

On Wednesday the union sent a letter to the university administration which said they were preparing to strike.

Cronin said, "In my opinion if a better offer isn't made by the end of the week, a strike is very possible."

The union could legally strike twenty-four hours after their letter was delivered.

Cronin predicts that if there is a

strike, "It'll be peaceful."

He added that there will be picket lines at all entrances of the university, so it is possible that food will not be delivered on campus.

The heating plant will be kept in operation since this is an essential service, and the main roads would be kept plowed.

Cronin also said, "I've been signing up a lot of new members lately."

Director of Personnel, Brigadier Knight, who has been conducting

the negotiations for the university, would say only that the latest offer came directly from President Anderson, and that only the president should release comments on it to the press.

President Anderson was not available for comment at press time.

The union is demanding a basic rate of \$5.25 for tradesmen, and \$3.00 for laborers janitors and maids.

The university is offering maids \$2.13 and janitors laborers \$2.07.

At Harrison House

Students clean own residence

By ANDREW STEEVES

Unlike the other residences which have had residents to do the cleaning during the janitor strike, Harrison House has decided to take over completely its janitorial services.

This do-it-yourself service was started last month when the existing janitor service contract ran out. There were various reasons for the decision to take over the House cleaning duties. First of all there were the monetary reasons as the old cleaning contract cost the house \$10,000 per year. Now this money will be returned to the house to be paid out to those residents who do janitorial duties. Also, there was the quality of the services received before the contract ran out. Service had deteriorated to the point where the floors in some rooms had an organic appearance; some of the floors were not washed at all during January. Finally there is the convenience and informality of a student run service. Your morning-after sleep does not have to be interrupted if you want your room cleaned, it can be done tomorrow by a janitor or by yourself. House cleanups can be timed to coincide with a social or to occur after a party. House pride enters the picture as it will be the

house members responsibility to keep Harrison House looking clean. The janitors have to live in the results of their handiwork and face heavy criticism if the job is not up to par. The individual resident will have access to cleaning materials if he has a party planned for his room. It is a more convenient, almost an apartment situation.

Each floor of Harrison House has been broken up into three sections, north wing, east wing, and center. Each section has its own janitor crew responsible for the corridors, stairways, bedrooms, washrooms, and social rooms in its section. The janitors are paid by the amount of work done, not by the time it takes to do the job. Sweeping and mopping a room earns a janitor fifty five cents, cleaning the washroom earns him 90 cents and cleaning a stairway give a janitor 65 cents.

So far the system is working very well. The house looks much cleaner. Floor tiles have been uncovered of grime and paper litter is at a minimum. There has been nothing but compliments so far for the janitors and the job they have done. Perhaps Harrison House has started a trend in residence maintenance.



Harrison House boys have taken it upon themselves in trying to keep their residence in a half-decent state since janitorial issue began on the first of February.

India Nite announced

India Nite '74 will be a colourful variety entertainment filled with songs and dances prevalent in India today. The India Association is going through a hectic time rehearsing for the D-day, 9th Feb. 7:30 p.m. at the Playhouse.

Starting off with a classical dance set to tune by Ravi Shankar, the program includes a variety of melodies and folk dances with a colourful display of Indian bridal costumes and jewellery.



Photo by Ron Ward

Members of Local 1326 of the Canadian Union of Public employees voted unanimously to reject the university's latest wage offer. It is speculated the maintenance crew will begin a strike today.

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