

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

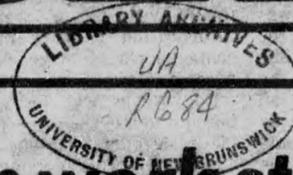
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Janitors prepare for action; plan work stoppage

By LORNA PITCHER



Campus janitors are prepared for a work stoppage if their demands are not met.

At a meeting last week, employees of Custodian Services and Modern Building Cleaning expanded plans for a work stoppage starting Feb. 1st.

If their wage demands of \$3.00 an hour are not met, the janitors will blockade key-stations to stop their employers from hiring other men to do their job. They also refuse to work for any other company not guaranteeing the acceptable wage and working conditions, as they would lose their seniority besides any chance of improving their position.

The men said they do not feel a union would help them arbitrate this dispute favourably, but strongly believe in joint action.

Over 90 percent of the employees of the two main cleaning companies on campus signed petitions endorsing these wage demands in addition to Blue Cross coverage, two weeks paid vacation and the observance of all statutory holidays.

They are currently being paid \$2.25 an hour and few have seniority.

Feb. 1 is the commencement date for cleaning contracts offered by UNB, making this an ideal time for labour to take action. However, as contracts go to the lowest bidder, employers are expected to be adamant in keeping wages low and fringe benefits almost non-existent. Also, the companies are only divisions of large corporations who employ professional strike-breakers, and who the janitors suspect are collaborating to keep the bidding low. The successful bidders will presumably refuse to

overspend their budgets, and fire those who will not accept the wages they offer.

As one janitor said, "no one's getting rich but the companies. Morale is down cause we can't get a decent living wage, and they keep us so understaffed and underequipped we couldn't do the job well, anyway."

In the coming week the men fear individual harassment, a pressure to join unions (the unionized UNB janitors are helpless in pressing wage demands), and possible firing of their leaders. The janitors have risen before with wage or benefit demands and have backed down under just such pressure. As many are family men, holding down second jobs and being ineligible for strike pay, they felt they could not afford to take any time off. This time, however, group solidarity seems strong as the men resolved to sign no agreements and make no compromises individually.

Part of their optimism stems from student support, particularly from the residences. The men of Harrison House have already taken over their own janitorial duties and other residences will follow next month if the janitors' demands are not met. The students in residence have signed petitions supporting the janitors, pledging to aid them in any manner during the projected work stoppage.

An employee of Modern Building Cleaning said, "I feel our hope lies in the students getting behind us. They've already started without our encouraging them in any way. Students are what this place is all about. They see the mess, especially in residence. They know

we're way understaffed (the concensus was about 40 fewer than 1972) and don't have the materials to do a good job. Dustbane just won't ship in the stuff we need to do the jobs right, and all the buildings need at least another man each in them."

"The students don't blame us for lacking pride in our work. Without the time, materials, or decent wages they can see why we loaf. It's hopeless as it stands."

The men realize that if they do win the \$3.00 an hour raise there will be tough examining of each janitors work and careful screening of applicants. They also do not want to have to resort to strike again, so they will be setting up a bargaining committee to deal with the companies in wage negotiations. The committee would also monitor cost-of-living increases and pressure the companies to provide corresponding wage increases.

Until this dispute is settled, however, another ad hoc committee has been set up to investigate all firings. It is another facet of their group protection plans that if a janitor is fired for his activeness in the organization of a work stoppage, all janitors will immediately walk off the job.

One former janitor feels the men are approaching the situation in the right way and is privately wishing them success. In his words, "They have to pay as much for a beer as the rest of us. Three dollars ain't much. Hell, they should get it, and more."

Construction of science complex may begin in 1975

By KEN CORBETT

Construction on the new Integrated Science Complex will begin in the spring of 1975 at the earliest, according to a prominent member of UNB's administration.

The multi-building complex will involve the erection of a new four-story Forestry Building directly behind the existing Geology-Forestry structure, a four-story Physics and Administration Building below and to the right of the Chemistry Building and a central concourse to be built on ground level directly in front of the Old Arts Building. These buildings will be interconnected through a system of linkages, some of which will be tunnels and others above ground.

Detailed planning on the complex has not yet started. Murray & Murray, the architects for the university, have completed the basic schematics.

Eric Garland, director of campus planning, is meeting with the faculties concerned to discuss their basic requirements before establishing definite plans.

The new forestry building will occupy approximately the space taken by the Chemistry Building parking lot. The administration member speculated that the white Annex buildings would eventually be torn down to provide parking, and said that the departments housed here might relocate in the new Physics and Administration building. The other building in this area, the Day Care Centre, is presently preparing to relocate elsewhere, and will therefore present no hindrance to the plans.

The Physics and Administration Building will rise four stories on the downhill face, and two stories on the uphill face, owing to the

natural gradient of the hillside. The third and fourth floor, plus the rear sections of the first two floors, will be used by the physics department, and the front sections of these two floors will be occupied by the administration.

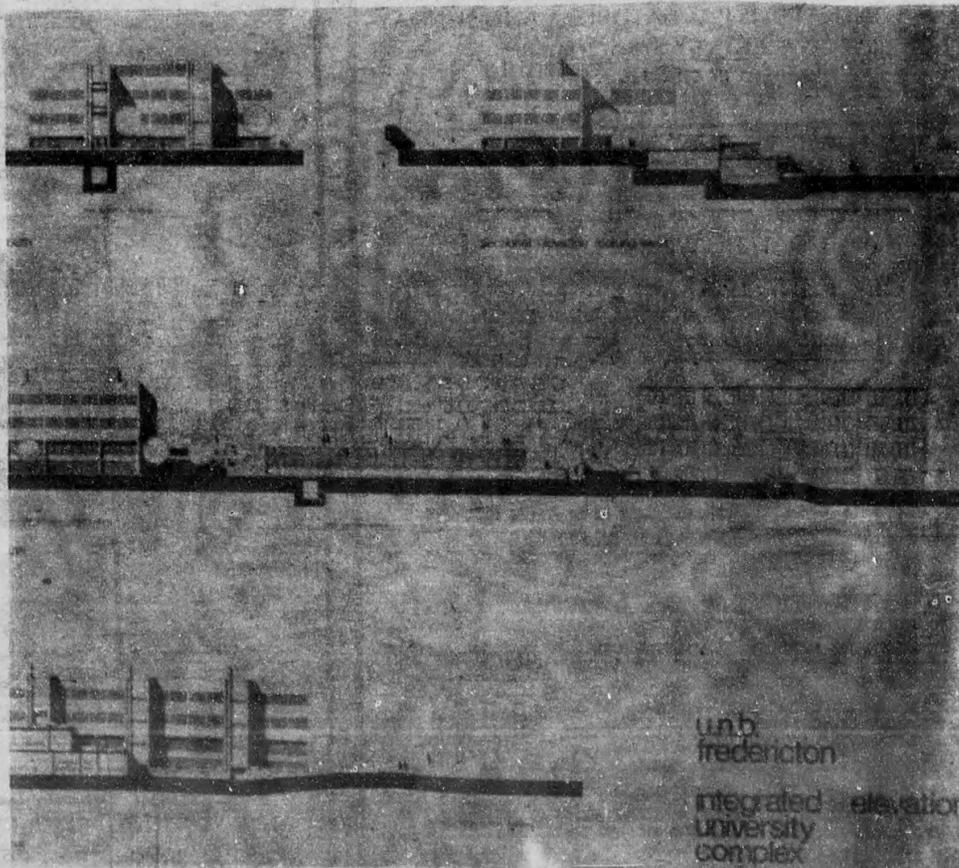
The underground concourse will be at the geometric centre of the complex. Its main feature will be an Integrated Science Library, with material concerning the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology and Forestry departments. Four all-purpose classrooms and several lounges also figure in the blueprints. Just off the main concourse will be located the offices of the Dean of Science.

The concourse will be interconnected by linkages with the new Forestry and Physics Buildings, and with the existing Geology-Forestry Building, Chemistry Building and the Old Arts Building. A possible linkage to connect with Carleton Hall is also being considered.

Parking problems for the complex will be solved through the use of existing facilities and other parking lots provided for in future plans, e.g., the tentative plan to provide parking space on the grounds now occupied by Annex B.

The budget estimate for the complex is between five and six million dollars. The final figure will be known when the project goes to tenders. The money for the project will come from the Capital Assistance Program, an agency established several years ago by the Higher Education Commission and the provincial government.

The preliminary sketch designs for the Integrated Science Complex are on display on the ground floor lobby of the Old Arts Building.



Construction of this science center, to be built in front of the Old Arts Building, should begin in 1975.

Photo by Kevin MacLauchlan