

SU's final settlement with Best

by Allison Annesley
The year and a half legal struggle between the Students' Union and their former general manager, Bert Best, has finally been resolved. The SU offered an out of court cash settlement last Thursday, which was accepted by Best. Best was suing the SU for the terms of his three year contract, which was cut short by almost two years when he was terminated on February 28, 1981, without notice.

After less than two days in court, Best settled for \$19,372 in damages, in addition to \$5,000 towards his lawyer's fees and general court costs to both parties. The \$19,372 award includes the difference between what Best's salary would have been at the SU for one year after his termination and what he earned in his present lower paying job for the same year. He is also being paid his full SU salary for the nearly four months he was unemployed between jobs. The figure includes his holiday pay and the money he had already paid into his pension.

Says SU President Robert Greenhill, "We offered to settle out of court primarily because it's the (court case) had for the Students' Union image, and has taken an incredible amount of our (members of the SU) time away from important Students' Union

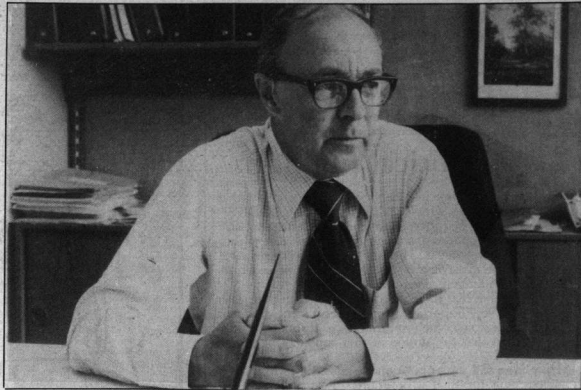
issues." According to present business manager Tom Wright, Best was essentially terminated because of dissension between Best and the SU executive at the time.

"The finances of the Students' Union were really going downhill and the executive was not happy," says Wright. It was while Best was in office that the initial SU deficit, which peaked last year at over a million dollars, was first discovered.

The President of the Students' Union during Best's term, Nolan Astley, offered a settlement of three months salary at the time, stipulating that this was only a starting point and that the SU was willing to negotiate.

Best refused the settlement, and insisted on referring his case to a lawyer. A statement of claim was then filed for \$82,297 with Best demanding his full contract wages as well as cost of living increases. He later issued another statement of claim for his full pension plan. The revised claim then amounted to \$180,000. Still later, Best filed for punitive damages in another claim, which brought his total claim to over \$190,000.

By the time the case appeared before court on September 7th,



Best had reduced his claim to \$63,000, due mainly to negotiations made by SU lawyer Paul Sulley, who Wright describes as "excellent".

Mr. Best is presently working as an administrative manager with the Alberta Construction

Labour Relations Association, where he is earning approximately \$4,000 less annually than he was with the SU, where he was making \$36,000 per year.

Because the base was settled out of court, business manager Wright estimates that well over

\$12,000 in further legal costs were saved by the SU. The case was expected to run until last Friday, and then to continue in October, when the judge was next free. Wright does not yet know what the legal fees already incurred by the SU will amount to.

Administration target for robbery



by Richard Watts

Thursday, Sept. 9, two armed men robbed the administration building making off with 65,000 dollars in student fees.

Shortly after 9 am two men wearing Halloween masks and armed with automatic revolvers entered the 3rd floor offices of the administration building.

Using the little used west stair case rather than the main entrance their initial entry raised no alarm. The west stair case was

left unlocked for reasons of fire safety.

While one watched over the office staff the other proceeded over to the cash cage which was receiving payments at the time.

The thief then tore down the plexiglass partition surrounding the cash cage before leaping over the counter and snatching up a canvas carrier bag being prepared for transport to the bank by Loomis.

Says Derek Cox, office manager of the administration

building, "If I had merely lifted my head I would have witnessed the entire operation but, it all happened so quickly."

Mr. Cox added, "It was definitely a professional sort of job, the two jokers had done a thorough casing of the situation."

Both men are then reported to have made off in a van. After they had the money the two robbers then made their exit by way of the same staircase they had entered, and reportedly then sped off in a chevy van.

The woman inside the cash cage during the robbery was badly shaken and preferred not to comment.

Immediately after the thieves had left the police and campus security were informed.

Says chief of campus security Gordon Perry, "We are all very displeased that this should have happened and we will be doing our utmost and cooperating as fully as we can to prevent a similar occurrence."

Mr. Perry did add that once the regular Edmonton Police force took over a case the entire matter

then became their concern with campus security only offering such assistance as they can.

Says Mr. Bert Knowler, the university comptroller, "Measures are being taken to insure that similar robberies do not occur in the future."

Knowler continues, "We are going to implement a step-up in our security in consultation with security experts."

In addition we are going to examine the entire flow of cash on campus in order to prevent other robberies of other areas on campus.

Due to the efficient accounting system of the comptroller's office all the names of the students whose fees were taken is on record.

Says Knowler, "No students

should place any stop payments on their fee cheques and those students who payed by cash needn't worry since the university is insured against such losses.

Police at this time have not yet arrested anyone in connection with the robbery.

Anyone knowing anything of a beige and yellow chevy Rally van should contact the Edmonton Police Department.

The van is described in Police reports as being beige and yellow, with perhaps some brown. It had a rear black, louvered window and a small Canadian flag on the left rear door.

Says Deb Palmer, spokesperson for the Edmonton Police, "We can always use all the help we can get."

This is government assistance

by Allison Annesley
The accessibility study students lobbied for last spring received a response from Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower James Horseman, April 2nd, in the form of what he calls a "participation study".

It is scheduled to begin October 1st. The objective of this study will be to determine participation trends amongst groups based on gender, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, and rural/urban residency.

Unfortunately, members of the Students' Union feel that this study will only serve to tell them what they already know. Fewer students of low income or rural background attend university than do middle and upper class students of common Canadian

cultural backgrounds.

"The accessibility study we asked for would have made recommendations for getting disadvantaged groups into post secondary institutions," says SU President Robert Greenhill.

He adds, "We find the government's study doesn't extend far enough. We want to see if we can get a parallel study to draw more useful conclusions and examine broader issues." Greenhill stresses that part of the reason these groups didn't attend university, is because of the difficulty they fear in adjusting. He suggests, "We would perhaps implement something like a halfway house for disadvantaged groups which would minimize cultural shock to prepare them for university."

Asks v.p. external Teresa Gonzales, "Is student aid not enough? Are these groups going to technical institutions instead? Right now we need to know what the problems are first before coming up with any solutions."

The government study, when it begins, will be performed by three students, four members of the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, and five representatives from post secondary institutions. Two of the students will be chosen by the Federation of Alberta Students and one by the Association of Colleges and Secondary Students' executive committee.

Says Greenhill, "We need to know what the implications are of having access to university denied to certain groups."

Baz

Like Baz said he was going to be here, but see he didn't show, eh? So, like we don't have a topic, eh. Sorry, you hosers are gonna hafta wait, eh?

