

# Editorial

*The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of this publication, or of the Student Union.*

We all love Brian Mulroney, right?

We voted for him to represent us all up in Ottawa so he must be doing what is best for us, right?

I doubt too many people answered yes to both of these questions. It is no secret that not many of us trust the government or the politicians, why then should we have any more faith in our student government or student politicians.

I am not talking about any particular person or even group of people, but rather I am talking about the Student Union in principal.

I have always been suspicious of student politics, but never bothered to check it out for myself. Well since there has been much talk in the past few weeks about the Student Union I decided to do some looking. Here is what I found....

The most shocking thing I found was in the 1991-1992 budget. How many people out there know how much the Student Union collects from students? Inflows into the SU for the 1991-1992 year total \$600,000. That is over half a million dollars, from students! Just imagine what could be done with half a million dollars.

We must also find out where all that money goes. To start with, over \$250,000 goes to our CFS medical plan. That is around \$100 per student and has increased by 100% in the last four years. That is by far the greatest expense on the books, but it is some of the smaller expenses that are worth noting.

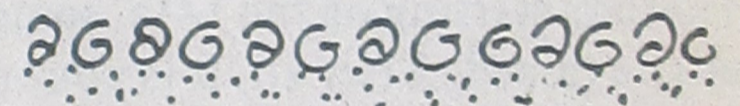
Some of the more notable expenses in order of price are:

\$55,000 to the yearbook. How many people know they pay for a yearbook each year and are "suppose" to pick one up? Why do we not know this? Maybe it is because we are uninformed of this so that the SU does not have to order enough books for everybody. Actually, in the past, there used to be a specific fee for your yearbook, somewhere around \$20, but that was

removed from the list of fees, perhaps because only around half of the total yearbook fees were actually going the yearbook.

\$20,000 to the "Capital Savings Fund". This is a fund set up to save money for a new Student Building in the future. I wonder if this will be brought up in the future discussions about a starting new building fee to pay for a Student Centre.

\$19,000 is paid in SU executive salaries. I did some calculations on these salaries and I figured that each executive member makes \$70 a week. That is not a huge sum but when we see that the yearbook editor makes only \$47/week and the CIMN station manager makes \$60/week, it puts the executive salaries into perspective. Even more interesting is the fact that executives get paid for 8 full months. It is nice to know that they still get paid for there spring break (even if they are going to Florida?) and for Christmas holidays. The president even gets paid for working in the summer (making a higher salary then in the winter). One final note, it is interesting that the executive salaries were raised by 10% last year when most of the other SU employees did not get any raise at all and those that did, averaged at 5%. Who makes up these pays anyway?



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