

Honoraria: inequities, corruption

By J. DAVID MILLER

Honorarium — a fee to a professional person for professional services. From the old French 'honest'.

The student council at UNB sees fit to grant funds from student levies to various people for various services. There has been a proliferation of honoraria in recent years, and they have been granted in many cases because individual council members were afraid to vote against honoraria for friends.

Several years ago, honoraria schedules were set up and since then, two things have happened. Firstly, there have been additions to accommodate new positions in organisations where honoraria are paid. In many cases these additions have been granted without reference to, and consequently disproportionate to, other established honoraria. The second and perhaps more serious, effect of time has been the change in the nature of the jobs so that within established honoraria schedules, some people have become grossly overpaid relative to others which have become grossly abused.

The following is a list of scheduled honoraria as passed by the SRC. It is to be noted that council also passes honoraria, at whim, any time it wishes, so this may not represent a complete list.

SRC

PRESIDENT
\$90 per week in school \$2160
\$100 per week in summer \$2600
½ tuition (from UNB)

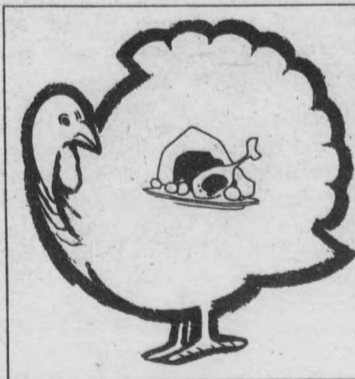
VICE PRESIDENT
(2) \$300.00 plus \$600
½ tuition (from UNB)

COMPTROLLER
\$600
½ tuition (from UNB)

ASST COMPTROLLER
\$300

SRC CHAIRPERSONS
(2) \$100 \$200
SRC COUNCIL MEMBERS
(20) \$100 \$2,000
Sub-total 8,460

BRUNSWICKAN
Editor \$500 \$500
½ tuition (from UNB)
Managing Editor \$300 \$300
News Editor \$150 \$150
Sports Editor \$90 \$90
Inside Editor \$85 \$85
Photo Editor \$90 \$90
Features Editor \$85 \$85
Subtotal \$1300



CHSR

Director \$500 \$500
½tuition (from UNB)
Station Manager \$350 \$350
Program Manager \$200 \$200
News Public\$200 \$200
Affairs Director
Chief Engineer \$200 \$200
Business Manager \$50 \$50
sub-total \$1,500

YEARBOOK
Editor \$300 \$300
Staff \$400 \$400
sub-total \$700

CAMPUS POLICE
Chief \$100 \$100
Asst Chiefs (2) \$50 \$100
sub-total \$200

Even a casual observer will note the rather puzzling inequities in this document. There also is a case of downright disgusting corruption. The SRC members grant themselves \$100 each. In all other cases people who seek honoraria must present written reports to the Administrative Board and a recommendation from the head of the organisation concerned that the individual in question did a satisfactory job. Not so for councillors.

The only time I have ever seen someone have the guts to speak out against a council member receiving an honorarium was last year. The person in question said less than a dozen words total for a whole year's meetings, and evidently had not voiced too many opinions. The issue was solved when the person started to cry, and council promptly voted the \$100 — to ease the tears, and shit all over the councillor who dared criticize. It is to be noted that councillors also get free passes to all SRC events.

There are four other distinct cases of inequity in the system. These inequities are harming the organisations involved, because, if you are working at a job, and although the money isn't the reason you took the job in the first place, if someone else who does a whole lot less than you gets a whole lot more, one must admit that that is discouraging.

The first case is the comptroller of the SRC. When you consider that the president gets \$2,160 for the same period, \$600 seems ridiculous. Most comptrollers I have known (four) have put in at least as many hours as the president actually working. In addition, the comptroller has responsibility over a full time staff of three, and supervises the financial affairs of both the union and campus services limited.

Case two is the Editor of the Yearbook. As far as I am concerned most of the problems we have with the Yearbook stem from the fact that the Union refuses to pay the Editor for at least a month or two in the summer. In addition, since it is getting much harder to find not only staff but an editor as well, a greater burden is placed on the editor so it takes much more time.

The third case is the Chief Engineer of CHSR. The station is equipped with somewhere around

\$100,000 worth of electronics hooked to gether with nearly 50 miles of wire. It is taking substantial amounts of time to keep the station on the air, and council seems unwilling to recognize this fact.

Perhaps, after the comptroller, the worst case of inequity is the Editor and staff of The Brunswickan. Time has allowed for fewer and fewer volunteers and this has resulted in the Editor virtually making the job a full time occupation. One will also observe that the Managing Editor get less money than the station manager of CHSR and yet he does substantially more work.

I think that it is clear that honoraria per se represent a reasonable attempt at both recognizing good service and attracting qualified personnel. An approach to, at least ironing out the blatant excesses would be to immediately cut out all honoraria for council members and apply that money to more critical areas, and vastly more deserving people. As a suggestion, the honoraria of

the SRC Comptroller, the Editor of The Brunswickan, and the Editor of the Yearbook should be doubled immediately. The honoraria of the Bruns staff should be increased by about \$300 and at least \$200 should be added to the Chief Engineer of CHSR's honoraria.

When council removes its own honoraria, the funds saved would make up the increases just mentioned so that there will be only a small net increase.

It is highly reprehensible to think that without any sort of

controls council can put its own collective back, and yet very strict controls and the shaft are given to students who actually put the newspaper out, keep the radio on, and publish the yearbook. This situation does not and could not satisfy the needs of the various service oriented student organisations and consequently does not serve the needs of students.

The origin of the word implies honesty both from the grantor and the receiver.

YOGA REGISTRATION

WHO? *Beginners & Intermediates*

WHERE? *Lobby L.B. Gym*

WHEN? *October 12th (Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m.*

FEE? *'10 for 8 weeks*

STARTING? *October 18th (Monday) 7-8 Beginners*

8-9 Intermediates

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