

# Big Money Splits

...is the title of an AP article I read the other day about the price of celebrity divorces, inspired by, of course, the McCartney-Mills divorce that's been dominating the headlines lately. I took note of this article because I was surprised that the McCartney-Mills settlement was not in the top 5 most expensive divorce settlements. In fact, the top 5 were surprising to me; just people I would not have guessed that would have had that much money or who would have not been able to protect themselves and their assets any better. Actually, the McCartney-Mills divorce settlement at \$48.6 million equaled a little over half of # 5 on the list. Here it is:

1. Michael and Juanita Jordan – possibly more than \$150 million settlement pending, 2006.
2. Neil Diamond and Marcia Murphey – \$150 million, 1994.
3. Steven Spielberg and Amy Irving – \$100 million, 1989.
4. Harrison Ford and Melissa Mathison – \$85 million, 2004.
5. Kevin Costner and Cindy Silva – \$80 million, 1994.

I wonder what some of these amounts would be if adjusted for inflation also. This article would have been a little more interesting if they had included the wedding date or how long the couple was together before the divorce. I am often amused when I look in the local newspaper and see divorces between couples who were only married a few years, some only a few months! My dear friends are wedding photographers, and they've shared at least one story of a couple who was no longer together by the time their wedding photos were ready to be picked up! It's amusing, yet sad at the same time, especially of course any time there are children involved. I wish people would think a little bit harder about the commitment and sacrifice involved in marriage, and I wish that

more people would treat marriage like the institution it was meant to be.