

THE GEM "jewel of the isle"



Volume III,
Issue No. 17

university of prince edward island February 13, 1986

UPEI adds to ban

By Peter Kuitenbrouwer
of Canadian University Press
OTTAWA (CUP) — Union leaders, a brewery president, and even some anti-apartheid activists strongly oppose a boycott of Carling O'Keefe beer and Rothman's cigarettes that is spreading across Canadian university campuses.

Students on at least seven university campuses have voted to ban the beer from their pubs and take the cigarettes out of their vending machines, in protest of beer company's ownership by a South African conglomerate.

McGill University and University of Prince Edward Island student recently joined the boycott, also in place at Carleton University in Ottawa, MacDonald College in Quebec and the University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto and University of Victoria.

Thirteen university newspapers and one college newspaper also boycott the products' advertisements.

A recent prospectus of Rothman's International provided by David Cohen an investment analyst for Wood Gundy in Toronto, shows the Rupert Foundation holds the controlling 44 per cent of Rothman's shares. Carling O'Keefe is listed as a Rothman's subsidiary.

The Rupert Foundation, the prospectus says, is "deemed to be controlled by Dr. Anthony E. Rupert." The 1985-86 Interna-

tional Who's Who list Rupert as a "South African business executive ... founder and chair, Rembrandt Group of Companies (tobacco)."

Carling O'Keefe president Donald Twiner played down the South African connection. "This is a widely held public corporation. They bought the shares on a free and open market in a democratic society," said Twiner.

He protested the boycotts, saying Carling O'Keefe is a Canadian company providing jobs for Canadians. "This corporation is covered by the laws of Canada and pays over \$325 million taxes here," Twiner said.

"We buy over \$1/2 billion in packaging in Canada," he said. "We probably employed 1500 students at our seven breweries over the summer. So it is strange that these actions would come back and hurt our corporation."

Gordon Blanderlieth, president of the Canadian Brewers Workers Union which represents most Carling O'Keefe employees, is furious about the boycott.

"It doesn't make any sense to cut off jobs from Canadian workers," Blanderlieth said. "This (beer) isn't imported from South Africa. "These were Canadian jobs before someone from South Africa bought into the company."

"Why doesn't someone smarten up and worry about what's going on here?" asked Blanderlieth. "Like with the

Inuits, native Canadians, the poor and needy..."

Scott Burke, president of the Student's Administrative Council at the University of Toronto, defended his school's boycotts saying "It's a statement of our displeasure and awareness of the situation that exists in South Africa."

"I sympathise with them (the brewery workers) because most of the money stays in Canada. But a lot of the profits go back to South Africa. The money then goes to the regime which has huge military expenditures," Burke said.

"Are domestic jobs more important to you than basic human rights around the world?" Burke said. "I think basic human rights are more important."

Joanne Naiman, chair of Canadian Concerned about Southern Africa in Toronto said Canada is the only country where there are boycotts of Rothman's products. (Rothman's also owns Dunhill, Jordan vines and Cartier watches)

"Our goal is to squeeze the economy so much that (President Pieter) Botha has no choice but to dismantle apartheid," Naiman who teaches sociology at Ryerson said. "Don't buy South African products, and get your campus to pull out investments in South Africa."

But she said a boycott of Carling O'Keefe "is not hitting the real target," since the product is made in Canada with Canadian labour.

Profits for Rothman's Inc. including profits from Carling O'Keefe were \$15 million for the nine months ending Dec. 31, 1985.

The Rembrandt Group, which Rupert chairs, reported \$170 million Canadian in net income in 1984.

The University of Saskatchewan and Carleton have been

prevented by provincial law from carrying out the Carling O'Keefe portion of the boycott.

Laws in those two provinces say bars must stock the brands of beer that are "commonly in demand." Burke at U of T said nonetheless, the bars there don't stock the brands.

Memorial award established

The Honourable Chief Justice John Paton Nicholson Memorial Award has been established at the University of Prince Edward Island by friends and colleagues of the late Chief Justice. Presently, the fund stands at \$4000., and the first award, valued at \$500 will be made in May 1986, the chairman of the Awards Committee, Michael Hennessey, has announced.

The terms of the award state: "The Award will be granted to a deserving English Major or Honours graduating student who has completed with high standing a minimum of five courses in pre-20th Century English Literature. (Intent: if more than five courses are completed, the average will be on the top five.)"

The Chief Justice's interest in the Classics was well known to residents of Prince Edward Island. The University invites further contributions to The Honourable Chief Justice J. P. Nicholson

Memorial Award c/o Murray Stevenson, Business Manager, UPEI, Charlottetown, P.E.I. CIA 4P3. A tax receipt will be issued by the University.

Mr. Justice Nicholson, a native of Charlottetown, studied at Prince of Wales College, graduated from Dalhousie University Law School in 1947, and was admitted to the bar in 1948.

During his years of law practice in Charlottetown he served as President of the Law Society of P.E.I. and its provincial vice-president of the Canadian Bar Association. He was named crown prosecutor of Queens County in 1966, continuing in this capacity until 1970. He became the 15th Chief Justice of P.E.I. in Feb. 1977. Mr. Justice Nicholson died in Charlottetown in May 1985 at the age of 62.

He is survived by his wife, the former Grace Diamond of Charlottetown, his son Christopher, and his daughters Martha and Margaret.

Lobbyists all over Parliament

OTTAWA (CUP) — Minister of finance Michael Wilson told university lobbyists last week he plans to announce several-year funding plans for three research councils in his late February budget, but

won't change his mind on cutting transfer payments for health-care and post-secondary education by

\$6 billion over five years.

Wilson met the lobbyists, including John Casola, executive director of the Canadian Federa-

tion of students, in his office Feb. 2 during the lobby of 150 ministers and members of parliament.

The National consortium of Scientific and Educational Societies, representing 31 groups involved in universities and research, organised the lobby week to convince the government to hold a first minister's conference strictly to sort out post-secondary education problems.

The consortium of students, teachers and researchers also want

no cuts in transfer payments and a commitment to research and foreign students.

Wilson told those meeting him he would take up the idea of a first ministers conference on post-secondary education with the prime minister, Casola said.

At a press conference Feb. 4, Consortium representatives talked about the need for government to meet the five year plans of the three research councils, SSHRC, NSEPC, and MPC.

Anderson said because the councils fund about 60 per cent of the costs of university research, adequate funding for them is vital to the survival of Canadian universities.

Bernard Shapiro, president of the Social Science Federation of Canada told the story of two professors who left a research centre in Toronto last week to take positions in the U.S., where a similar centre was able to offer them \$500,000 a year for 10 years

to carry out work they started in Canada.

A background paper by the Consortium shows Canada has the second worst record among OECD countries in terms of funding research. Only 1.3 of the GNP was allocated to R & D in Canada last year.

During its 1984 general election campaign, the conservative government committed itself to doubling this figure but has not produced on this promise.