

# Hike to hit UPEI

(continued from page 1)

case, it will mean another \$200,000 of expenditures. Henry said that the effect this would have on the budget projections would be, "Disastrous". Students can only assume that this will add to the tuition hike that is coming.

As for projections for the provincial budget, things look grim for UPEI. Henry believes the bulk of the cuts will come in the next two to three years. "They won't wait until the end to deliver bad news.... 97-98 will be the

year". As well, Henry believes that post-secondary education will suffer the bulk of these cuts, due to the nature of provincial politics. "Voters and their kids are affected by health care, and by [primary] education. Many fewer voters are affected by post-secondary education."

Health care, welfare and education are provided for in the Canadian Health and Social Services Transfer Payment, or the CHST. Henry predicts that these will get smaller for PEI in the future, and since this is the payment

where most of UPEI's funding comes from, the burden will almost certainly be passed on the university. As well, Provincial Transfer Payments are sure to shrink, due to the tax cutting policies of the Alberta and Ontario governments. By cutting taxes, they cut revenues, and in turn, cut transfer payments. This means less money for the provincial government, and therefore, UPEI.

A major concern among the Student Council was the quality of education that UPEI will be able to provide. Chris Gray, Acting Stu-

dent Union President, said, "While we see the need for a small tuition increase, as well as the need to cut staff expenditures, we would like to see a minimal tuition increase and the quality of education stay the same".

Various councillors expressed concern about the early retirement program, believing that the loss of older, more experienced staff could hurt programs. Henry said, in response to questions about professor quality, "While we are losing a number of excellent professors, we are also gaining a number of excellent new professors. I'm sure... it's better that a number of

them retire... Professors do their best work between ages 30 and 40".

Other concerns were raised by the Student Council about the nature of the budget projection. The projections were made without putting in a tuition raise that is almost certainly coming. On this subject, UPEISU VP Finance Lindy MacKenzie said, "While it is important that they try to keep tuition down... I am concerned that they may use tuition as balancing figure for their budget".

# Pepsi Pulls Out of Burma

By IDELLA STURINO

(CUP)--After years of boycotts and consumer activist campaigns around the world, PepsiCo has bowed to pressure and announced its complete withdrawal from Burma.

The January 28 announcement came almost a year after the company's decision last April to sell its 40 per cent stake in its Burmese franchise bottler, Pepsi Cola Products Myanmar. But since then, PepsiCo has continued to supply the bottler with syrup for its soft drinks.

Now, PepsiCo has stated that it has severed its ties with the bottler, which will end production and distribution of Pepsi products as of May 31, 1997.

The \$30 billion beverage and food giant's decision came as a surprise to activists who have been working to pressure the company to withdraw from the country. Burma is ruled by a military dictatorship that has repressed ethnic minorities and the pro-democ-

racy movement since it seized power in 1988.

PepsiCo explained its decision in terms of wishing to comply with the "spirit" of American foreign policy, which has recently taken a hard line on the Burmese dictatorship.

Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright condemned the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) for its repression of anti-government student movements and other opposition in the country.

Students have played a large role in the Pepsi boycott — often fighting the company when it tried to sign contracts with university administrators. Such battles have taken place at several Canadian universities including McGill and Carleton, and more importantly, students at large American schools have joined the fight.

Last April, Harvard killed a \$1 million deal with Pepsi over the company's

Burma holdings. Stanford University blocked a Taco Bell — which is owned by PepsiCo — from opening a campus outlet after 2,000 students signed a petition denouncing the company.

But whether PepsiCo's recent decision was a bow to consumer pressure or U.S. foreign policy remains unclear.

John Sallenave, of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group, doubts the decision came simply in response to international student pressure. He speculates that U.S. politics were as much of an impetus for the decision as consumer activist movements.

But Sallenave also said that the pull-out represents an impressive victory, regardless of the motivation behind it. He added that, at least in part, it can be seen as the result of the boycott and other consumer pressure.

"It's an inspiration to human rights groups and student movements that their efforts aren't futile," Sallenave

said.

Such feelings of victory were reiterated by other groups involved in pressure against the SLORC. The message on the Canadian Friends of Burma's answering machine last week asked callers to "please join us in rejoicing PepsiCo's complete withdrawal."

But for groups like the Canadian Friends of Burma, the work to support Burma's democracy movement is far from over.

"What Pepsi's withdrawal does is sharpen the energy to deal with those people still doing business in Burma," said Penny Sanger of the Ottawa-based group. She points to Canadian-based companies like Seagram's and NovaGas, which have either direct or indirect connections to Burma, as the target of future awareness campaigns.

Larry Dohrs of the Free Burma Coalition in the U.S. also sees Pepsi's withdrawal from Burma as a significant

sign of an "unstoppable movement." The Coalition, which has worked to raise awareness about businesses involved in Burma, has referred to the country as the "South Africa of the '90s."

Now that Pepsi has withdrawn, Dohrs says, the Coalition will likely focus on oil companies such as Unocal and Total, which are partners with the Burmese regime in a large-scale project to pipe natural gas into Thailand.

Dohrs adds that he hopes PepsiCo's decision will serve as a "red flag" to other companies still involved in Burma.

PepsiCo is the latest company to withdraw from Burma among a growing list, including Walt Disney, Heineken, Carlsberg, Liz Claiborne, Eddie Bauer, J. Crew and Apple Computer.