

Research funds given boost

By LAURA LUSH

Colleges and Universities Minister Bette Stephenson has announced a new program to fund applied scientific research in Ontario.

Stephenson outlined the criteria of this government-sponsored program in a November 15 statement to the legislature.

In her statement Stephenson said the program's objective will be to "improve the research capacity of Ontario's universities and at strengthening partnership with the private sector." More than 1,000 corporations, industry associations and privately-supported research organizations in Ontario have been sent application forms.

A total of \$30 million has been committed to the fund over the next three years, in which the government will give a dollar for every two dollars contributed by the private sector.

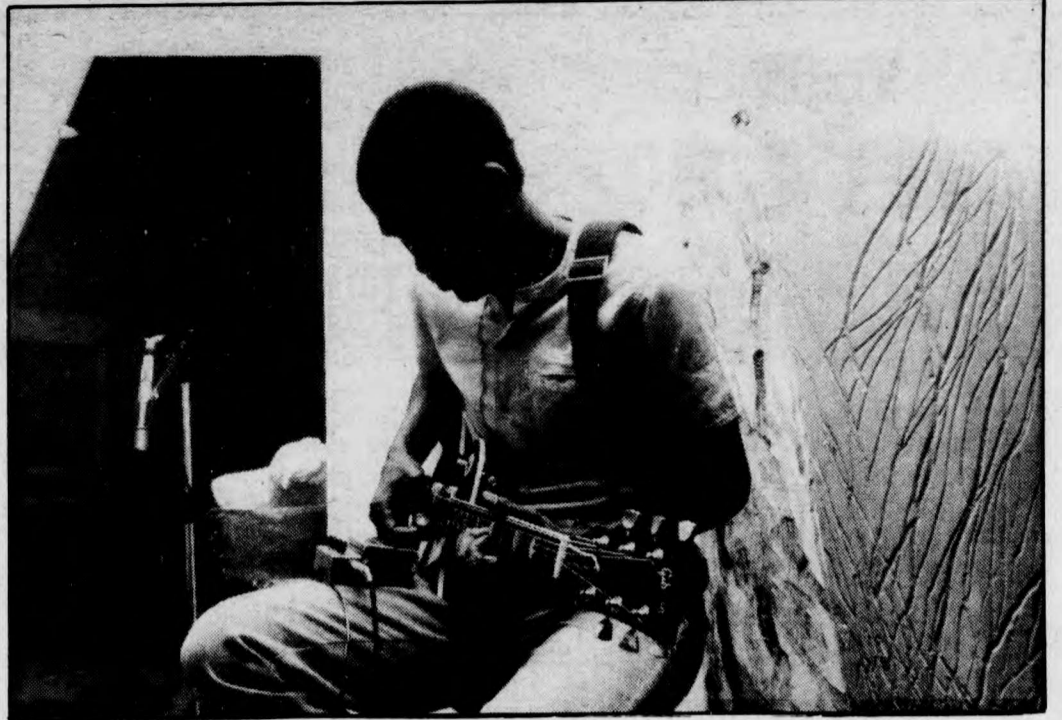
A selection committee will assess the candidates for the awarding of grants, Stephenson said. The committee will be looking at the quality of the research project and its researchers, and how it can best benefit trade and industry

and improve the research standards of Ontario universities, Stephenson continued.

Barbara Crutchley, a Research Information Officer at York, said application procedures have been sent out to all faculty Deans. To qualify for the funding program, all you need is money committed from the private sector in the form of a contract, Crutchley said.

"Although we (York) might qualify, it doesn't mean we will be awarded a grant," she said. Awarding of grants will depend on how well each proposed research program meets the government's mandate. A university which has an engineering or medicine school probably will receive more grants on the average, because of its greater support from the private sector. Crutchley pointed out that, although monies in research are generally directed toward science, this doesn't rule out the possibility of faculties such as Fine Arts or Law receiving grants.

Crutchley said York will be applying for the funding program but would not elaborate on the nature of the proposed research projects.



TWANGG: Member of Jammin' Bones tunes up for Tuesday's Fine Arts Ethiopian benefit.

Tory policies harm universities: Liberal leader

By KEN MOORE

Ontario's colleges and universities are facing a future of declining standards and increasing labor disputes unless the government's position is re-evaluated, Ontario Liberal Leader David Peterson says.

Peterson said the Conservatives are "placing a diminishing priority on maintaining the quality of education in our colleges and universities." It is this kind of thinking, Peterson says, that led to the recent strike of the community college teachers.

Peterson is also critical of Colleges and Universities Minister Bette Stephenson's handling of the strike. The Liberals wanted to allow the negotiators at least 30 more days to try to reach a settlement before an arbitrator was appointed by the government. This would have allowed some of the bad blood that had surrounded the talks to be cleared and it would have shown the teachers that Stephenson was not totally against them, Peterson said.

Peterson says a lack of provincial funding will be the main reason for future disputes. This year alone, federal education grants to the province will be reduced to \$100 million, and Peterson says, the provincial Conservatives have shown indirect support for this policy by failing to protest the cutbacks. This cutback will cost each full-time student \$350 next year, Peterson says.

The Liberals have called for an immediate infusion of \$50 million for this fiscal year to prevent further decay of the system, along with post-secondary funding that will increase at the rate of inflation. Peterson says that this is the only way to save Ontario's educational system from collapse.

York plans improved athletic facilities

By LYNNE FORD

Plans to expand the athletic facilities at York University have been proposed by Vice President (External Relations and University Development) George Bell and Dr. Stuart Robbins, Chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Athletics.

"The need to extend and enlarge the Tait McKenzie Physical Education Centre, add a Stadium and improve the Ice Arena are high university priorities," reads a proposal issued by the University.

Expansion of the Tait McKenzie Physical Education Centre would involve the construction of a new building which would "accommodate a broad range of athletics and/or presentation events." The extension would serve the needs of the "University, the programme requirements of the Department of Physical Education and Athletics, the intra-mural athletics programmes, amateur sporting groups and the local community," reads the proposal.

Due to the lack of facilities and large amount of individuals involved in university athletic programmes, "a level has been reached where quality is threatened by inadequate space."

The preliminary financial estimate for the total project is \$5,000,000.

Construction of a stadium in the north-west sector of the campus has been proposed. It would consist of double grandstands of 5,000 seats each at an estimated cost of \$2,200,000.

Plans are also being made to build a second Ice Arena or improve the existing one. The National Tennis Centre may also be expanded and partially enclosed. Formal proposals of these plans are not yet available.

The expansion of Tait McKenzie, the Ice Arena and construction of a stadium were part of a master plan for the University when it was

founded in the 1960s. Construction has been held up since 1973-74 when provincial funds began drying up.

The University is now seeking funds from "the private sector, foundations, prominent individuals and government agencies responsible for physical fitness, sport and recreation." Acting Director of Communications Temple

Rill and ROM a bad party mix, says culture critic Grande

By DAVID TEICHMAN

Wasn't that a party? According to the Ontario NDP's culture critic Tony Grande, it was a party, but in the wrong place. Grande has criticized the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) for renting out space for a party hosted by York cafeteria caterer Warren Rill.

The *Globe and Mail* quotes Grande as saying the party was attended by 1,000 people and that entertainment included can-can girls, a band, and a casino. A ROM official said the party was held in all four atria available for functions.

The *Globe and Mail* reported that among the guests were Mayor Art Eggleton, and nine Toronto aldermen, including Derwyn Shea and Joseph Piccinnini. Also in attendance were Mayor of North York Mel Lastman, Mayor Alan Tonks of the City of York, and TV star Al Waxman.

Grande said several people who attended the party called him because they were worried about the safety of a 700-year-old Chinese painting in a gallery adjacent to where the band was playing.

Grande said the concern was that the painting, which already had cracks, might be further damaged by vibrations caused by the celebration.

Harris said talks are currently taking place with corporations and individuals about donations. The proposals for the expansion of Athletic facilities stress the advantages of these developments would create both locally and nationally. They state that these projects would invite national attention as well as enhance the school's "esprit de corps."

"I think the worldwide reputation of the museum would certainly be weakened by that," he said. "As one person put it to me, he certainly doesn't think Le Louvre in Paris would rent facilities for that type of bash."

A ROM spokesperson said the painting was not damaged in any way, and that it was checked during the party. She said a guard became concerned that the vibrations caused by the band threatened the painting. The spokesperson said, however, that Susan Wilson, head of the ROM's conservation department, checked and found the painting was not in danger.

In response to Mr. Grande's concerns, the spokesperson said the renting of space makes money for the museum, but not a lot. The main purpose is to bring people into the museum," she said.

"My concern," said Mr. Grande, "is why does the museum rent out to private people its facility? If this is the type of thing that's going to happen more and more, then I'd be quite concerned. How safe are those treasures at the ROM with these sort of things going on?"

The spokesperson said that renting space was "common practice among other museums."

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