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YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

\$862 million needed in capital funds: COU

By MARK HUNTER

Provincial government underfunding in the area of capital grants has forced Ontario Universities into conducting bad business practices, according to Dr. Will Sayers of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).

Dr. Sayers noted that it is common procedure for successful Canadian businesses to annually re-invest 1.5% of their total market value back into the company in order to cover the expense of maintenance and physical improvements. According to Dr. Sayers, the Ontario Government is consistently providing too little in the area of capital funds and as a result universities in Ontario are left with no choice but to spend "considerably less than 1.5%," on building maintenance and physical improvements.

Last week the COU released a brief outlining how much it believes the government should commit to the post-secondary capital-grant budget. The recommendations have a hefty price tag of \$862 million spread over a five-year plan, but according to the COU this is the minimum amount needed to produce schools with the proper facilities and physical environment which world-class institutions require.

According to the report, the physical environment of Ontario's universities is largely a legacy of the 1960's, when a massive investment was made by the provincial government in construction and reconstruction of Ontario's higher education facilities.

According to Dr. Sayers, "There has been little movement by the government in the area of capital

funding over the last ten years," and that when the capital announcement for 1988 is made in two weeks, "there is no reason to expect this year to be any different." The province's allocation is usually about 20% of what the COU recommends.

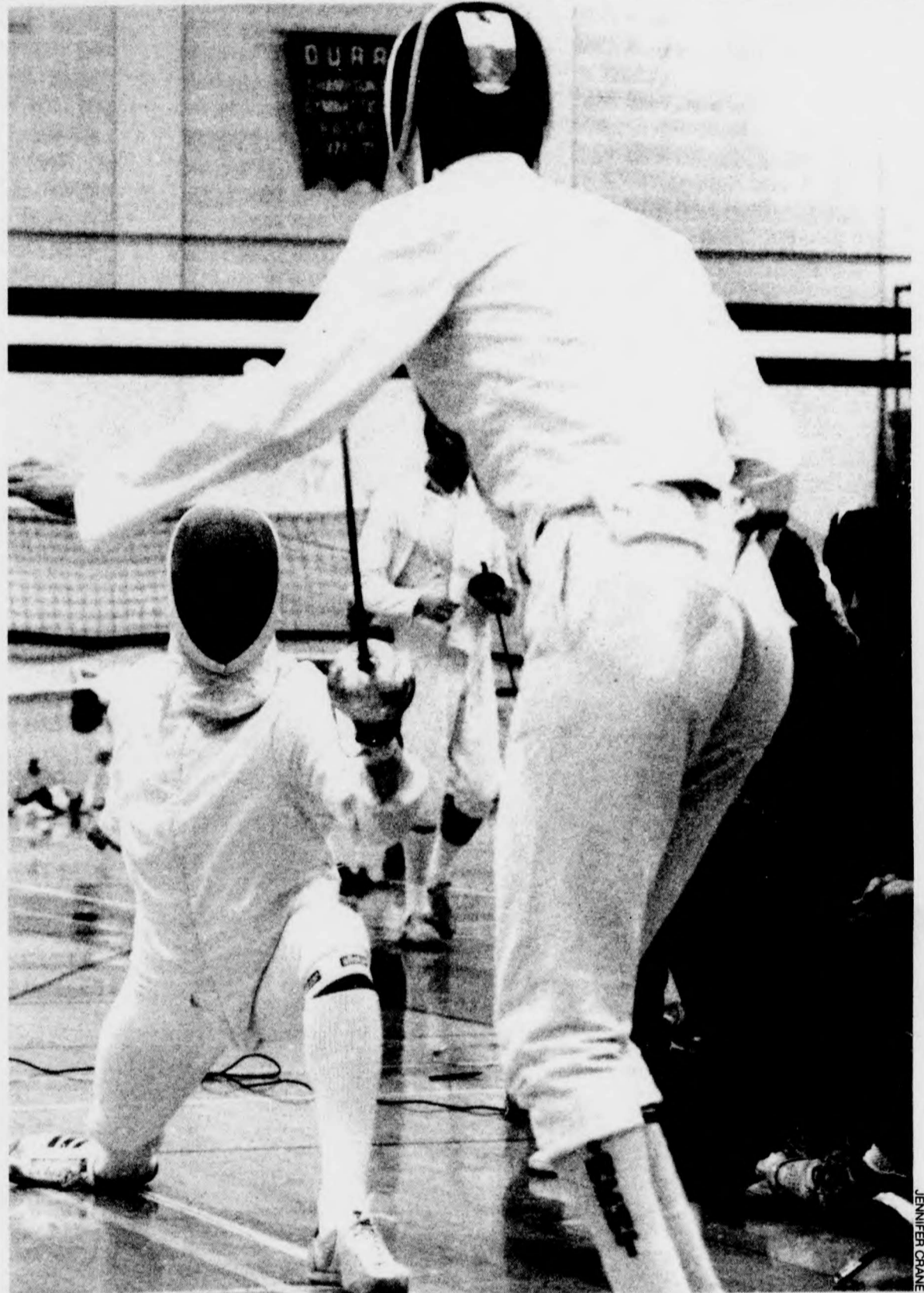
Despite the decline in the provincially allotted capital funds, enrolment has continued to rise in Ontario Universities. Over the period of 1977 to 1986 the number of students attending universities in Ontario increased by 29%. During that same amount of time, space available for teaching and for research grew by just 9.3%. Enrolment is expected to rise again in 1988.

The COU's recommendation, entitled 'Rebuilding Ontario's Universities,' lists four main areas where the capital funds will be spent, they are: major renovations, alterations, deferred maintenance and new construction.

In the plan, the bulk of the funds requested are allotted to the 'new construction' category. The COU in a recently released space-standard document called for the construction of 280,000 square metres of offices, classrooms, and research space. The total cost for this space is estimated at \$616 million, but it is conventional practice that universities raise up to one third of the total capital expenditures themselves from private donors. This leaves \$411 million to be covered by the province.

The second most expensive area stipulated in the recommendation is repairs and renovations. The COU has requested that 1% of the total 4.6 billion dollar inventory value of Ontario universities should be spent on repairs and renovations. This would equal \$46 million per year for a period of five years. In 1987, the province provided just \$20 million for projects concerning renovations, less than half of COU's recommendations, and even that amount was considered an improvement over previous years.

Alterations and maintenance make up the rest of COU's requests, requiring an additional \$221 million in combined capital funds over the next five years.



SAUCY KNAVE, TASTE MY STEEL: York fencer Tony Forsith prepare to lay a devastating blow to his opponent in last weekend's York Invitational Fencing Competition. At the tournament, one of the largest in Ontario, over 200 competitors from every university in the province were in attendance.

INSIDE

"I believe we are controversial simply because we are committed to the Bible."

MARK MANCINI,
EVANGELIST FOR TORONTO'S
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

TICKET TO HEAVEN?:

Toronto's Central Church of Christ has been the centre of a lot of debate within both the York and Metro communities. *Excal's* James Flagal investigates the Church and how its members defend themselves against their opponents who vehemently denounce the congregation. Pages 10-11

OPENING DOORS:

Innovation York is giving the business community access to important university research facilities and services. Last week, the organization held an open house to take stock of the success which it has enjoyed since its inception. Page 7

REBUILDING A DYNASTY:

Yeoman basketball coach Bob Bain has enjoyed unprecedented success in the OUAA with a string of championship teams, but last year that dynasty came to an abrupt end. Now Bain is in the process of rebuilding his team. Page 18

Student group blasts aid programmes

By DAVID DOLLARD

The provincial government has failed to provide sufficient funding for quality, accessible post-secondary education (PSE), says the chairperson of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

According to OFS head Sheena Weir, the provincial government has shown a "lack of responsibility (which has) inhibited acceptable levels of growth in the post-secondary education sector." In the last seven years federal spending on PSE has risen 112%, while provincial allocations to universities and colleges has gone up only 77%. Weir also states that transfer payments from the federal government are roughly 77% of the total PSE budget in Ontario.

OFS statistics also say that 1986-87 transfer payments to Ontario, as part of Established Project Funding,

amounted to \$1.7 billion, with provincial spending on PSE at \$2.25 billion. In 1987-88 \$1.8 billion came as transfer payments, with \$2.4 billion spent provincially on PSE. With a new provincial budget expected in April, OFS calls for the provincial government to increase its portion of PSE from 23% to 50% over the next three years.

Attacking the Challenge '88 student summer employment programme, Weir says the failure to increase funding, which stands at \$180 million, from last year, is a great disappointment. As well as failing to increase job funding, the federal government plan fails to provide sufficient summer income for students. The average gross income through the Challenge programme last year was around \$2,100. OFS has criticized OSAP, which does not rec-

ognize actual cost, for providing only \$106/week for students to live on.

Weir's comments, at a Queen's Park press conference, were made to "kick off" National Week of Action—a week "to draw attention to the chronic underfunding which PSE has suffered under the careless guardianship of (provincial/federal) governments." Aside from inadequate PSE funding, OFS plans to highlight housing, the Ontario Student Association Programme (OSAP), and the failure of the federal/provincial government to create enough adequate summer jobs for students.

Weir also criticizes the Peterson government for not providing enough housing for students. Alleviating some of the financial strain of excessive rents, students have been forced to share accommodations.

However certain municipalities have made it illegal for more than four unrelated residents to live in a single dwelling. Students at the University of Western Ontario recently lost their appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board to strike down these exclusionary by-laws, according to Weir.

To combat these exclusionary by-laws, Cam Jackson, Progressive Conservative MPP Burlington South, has introduced Bill-94 to prohibit such discrimination. Jackson, along with NDP education critic Richard Johnston, supported the OFS criticisms.

A final area of concern for OFS is the provincially initiated Centres of Excellence. According to Weir, this plan designed to decrease Canada's dependence on foreign technology

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