

## College lacks space

# LIT enrollment grows and grows

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Four giant trailers that were hooked together Wednesday at Lawrence Institute of Technology are indicative of a college bursting at its seams.

The trailers will house a temporary bookstore on the campus. The old bookstore is being pressed into service for a new manufacturing engineering lab introduced this fall, thanks to a \$125,000 grant from the Ford Motor Co.

At a time when most college enrollments are declining, LIT's enrollment is up 4.75 percent with more than 5,000 students expected at the end of this month.

Wayne Buell, Ph.D., chairman of the board at LIT, says the college is aiming for an "optimum" enrollment of between 5,000 and 6,000 students, figuring that number is desirable for running a cost-efficient college. But Buell admits the school buildings are crowded and were designed to accommodate under 3,000 students.

Buell points to a master plan for the college, which calls for the construction of a school of business and industrial management as the next priority in a building plan.

But Buell said funds for construction aren't there and the college is reluctant to borrow money at 11.75 percent interest to complete the project.

"Our engineering department needs to be increased 100 percent," Buell said. "That's why we moved the bookstore into temporary headquarters. There's an urgent demand for manufacturing engineers, and we need laboratory facilities."

While each building on campus is designated for a specific discipline, such as "school of engineering" or "school of architecture," classes are shuffled all over campus, Buell said, and scheduled at different times. But lately, he said, space has become tighter and tighter.

"We hope that the business and industrial management school will be built before 1982, our 50th anniversary," Buell said. "But ordinarily we don't build buildings without money."

The college board chairman recalled that another building, the student activities center, was supposed to be finished in 1972.

"We had a slogan around here, 'It must come through in '72' which spoke to the student activity center. I've taken a lot of jokes about that."

The student activities building has yet to be constructed.

"AT SOME TIME in the future this college will have to mount a capital campaign," Buell said. "We just don't have the facts to give anyone at this time. When we do, we'll be going to corporations, foundations and individuals."

Why the sudden upsurge in enrollment?

Buell says the college saw a jump in architecture students from 1973 through 1976 and then student interest switched to the engineering field.

"For one thing we are getting a large number of women enrolling," Buell said. "These disciplines are attractive to women. They're good paying jobs — engineering and accounting, management, computer science. There's a great demand for these graduates."

Enrollment in the architecture school peaked in 1976 at 1,183 students, compared to 836 in 1973. Engineering students jumped from 1,326 in 1975 to 1,836 in fall of 1978 — with more expected this fall.

Many new LIT students are women and minorities. For example, in the fall of 1978 there were 22 women enrolled in engineering courses at LIT, this fall there are 83. Buell said he taught in the late '30s and early '40s when two women attended LIT.

Minority enrollment is up 400 percent in the past decade, with 642 minority students enrolled this year.

With the financial support of New Detroit, Chrysler Corp., Burroughs and Rockwell International, to name a few corporations, the school has undertaken a program designed to recruit minorities into engineering and architectural careers. Part of the program is a Detroit high school program of TAB Clubs, which stands for Technical and Business Club.

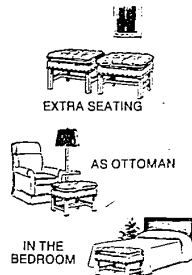
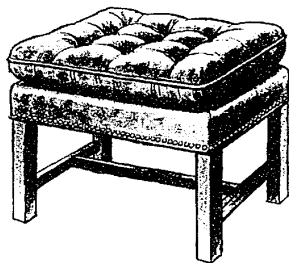
Part of the focus of the club is to get city minorities to take college-level courses such as physics, algebra and chemistry to help them pass LIT entrance exams.

LIT is the second-largest private college in the state — behind the University of Detroit — with one of the lowest tuition rates in the state. Tuition for a full-time student is \$1,470.



Reflecting on winter

If August furs sales come, can winter be far behind? If so, let the wind blow and snow fall, especially if you have a silver raccoon coat with zip-in fur sleeves that can be worn with a knit ensemble. Other fur fashions can be seen in the Suburban Life section on page C1. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)



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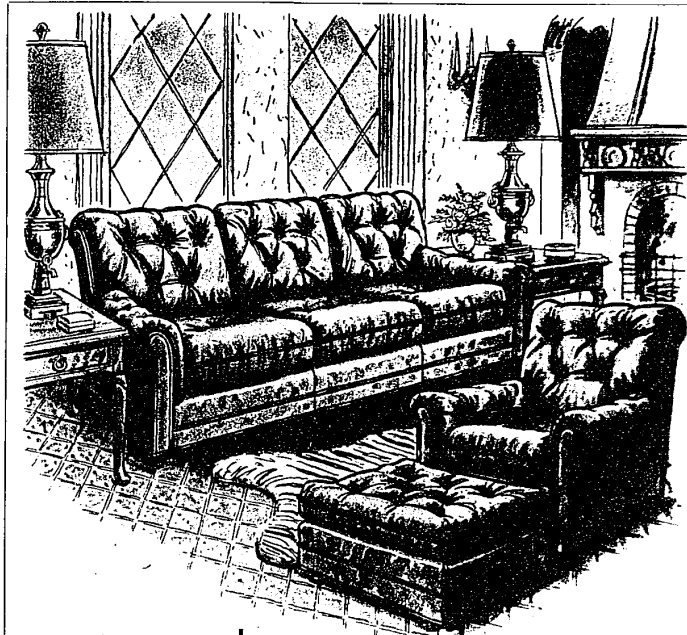


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