

## Ontario crowded

by Lynn Marchildon  
**TORONTO (CUP)** — Applications to Ontario universities have increased by at least 10 per cent. And it could be even higher once the final figures are in, say university and student groups.

The increase is expected to be well above last year's record 6.4 per cent increase in applications.

"We are extremely concerned," said Sheena Weir, chair of the Ontario Federation of Students. "At present, 80 per cent of universities don't even have enough classroom space for their students, none of them have enough library space and admission standards have gone through the roof."

Duncan Ivson, OFS campaign researcher, said preliminary figures were made public because universities are already panicking about

the number of students who will be knocking on their doors for admission next fall.

However, the director of Ontario Universities Application Centre, Herb Pettipiere said there is no way to reasonably predict the actual increase before figures are released.

Nison said the increase is due to the bulge that occurred with both grade 12 and 13 students applying for university admission, as well as the increased percentage of high school students choosing to go to university.

Helena Moncrieff, press secretary for the minister of colleges and universities, said the government is committed to funding the universities for any enrollment increase at both the graduate and the undergraduate levels.

But rather than the grade 12 graduate bulge, Moncrieff attributes the increase to more applications from native, francophone and disabled students who see that the government is providing special programs to attend to their needs.

"More people are looking at university and college as a logical step," she said.

## U of T's troubled supercomputer

by Barry McCartan and Lois Mermelstein

**The Varsity (TORONTO)** The University of Toronto is seeking an \$8 million grant from the Ontario government to keep its financially troubled supercomputer afloat.

Confidential negotiations are underway between the University and the province, for \$8 million in new money over four years, to keep the facility operating and to upgrade its capabilities.

At a closed meeting Governing Council's Business Affairs Committee approved a new business plan for the Cray X/MP supercomputer, which would see the provincial government contribute \$3 million for capital improvements and \$5 million in operating grants between now and 1991.

U of T asked for new money from the province during the summer, when it became clear that the centre was going to lose more money than had been budgeted by

Governing Council. The facility had lost \$1.4 million by April 30, about \$400,000 more than had been projected.

If the province approves the \$8 million the University then expects the supercomputer to lose \$260,000 this year and \$726,000 next year, before turning profits of \$574,000 in 1989-90 and \$247,000 in 1990-91.

These figures include \$2 million in new provincial operating grants this year, \$1 million next year, \$1.5 million in the third year, and \$500,000 in the final year of the business plan.

The facility is expected to have a cumulative deficit of \$1.6 million and the end of the four-year period.

The government responded to U of T's request by sending an expert to study the supercomputer's operations. The province responded to U of T's request by making a counterproposal involving \$8

million in grants, which was more money than the university had asked for. The province attached several strings to the offer:

- The University must assume sole responsibility for future losses or profits.
- The University must keep the centre in operation for the next four years.
- The University must add two seats to be reserved for government appointees, to the facility's management board.
- The University and the province must jointly conduct an independent review of the centre's operations.
- The centre is to be renamed the Ontario Centre for Large Scale Computation.

Governing Council must approve the proposal. If it rejects Business Affairs' recommendations, U of T would have to sell the supercomputer back to Cray, for a total loss of \$2.3 million.

The province is expected to announce the grants soon, but Bob Richardson, executive assistant to Lyn McLeod, Minister of Colleges and Universities, says "negotiations are still continuing between the government and U of T, and the grants are "by no means a fait accompli."

Another government source suggested the Liberals would take "a good hard look at the proposal" because the government had serious concerns about the large sums involved.

The administration refused to comment on the status of the negotiations. "I'm obligated to keep the results of our closed meetings in confidence," said Alec Pathy, Vice President for Business Affairs. Pathy's office is responsible for the supercomputer's revised business plan.

The original budget has been altered because revenue from commercial users was not meeting previous targets. In spite of this, various sources are optimistic about the supercomputer's revenue potential.

According to Prof. Philip Kronberg, who chairs of the Supercomputer Academic Users' Group, the commercial revenue decline is not a failure of U of T's management. He noted that a "ferocious competitor" had been taking customers away from U of T. Many potential commercial users were also unaware of how the supercomputer could be used, requiring additional training and more aggressive marketing.

"The facility has very high marks for its first year of operation," he said.

The supercomputer has been a centre of controversy since U of T's first request for \$18 million in government funding for the project. When the province granted only \$10 million last March, the university bought a less sophisticated machine and decided to seek revenue from industry and government to finance the operations of the facility. Most of the new capital grants will go towards upgrading the computer's capabilities to the level first proposed by the U of T to the Ministry.

Some members of the university were opposed to the supercomputer project from its beginnings, fearing it would become a drain on the U of T's already strained operating budget. However, departments such as Medicine, Physics, and Astronomy were very enthusiastic about the plan, saying it would open up many new research areas and preserve U of T's international reputation for excellence.

Safeway's got it...



# STUDENTS' DISCOUNT DAY

## For all U of A and NAIT Students

We've been together as part of the community for 57 years - why shop anywhere else when there's a Safeway Store in your neighbourhood.

# TUESDAY APRIL 12

IS YOUR DAY TO RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OF 10% OFF YOUR TOTAL FOOD BILL.

**VALID ONLY AT THESE LOCATIONS**  
 10930 - 82 Avenue 11850 - 103 Street  
 Edmonton

10% Discount does not apply to prescription, tobacco products or fluid milk products.

We ask that you present your Student Identification card in order to receive your 10% discount.

**NOW OPEN 8 a.m. - MIDNIGHT**  
 Monday thru Saturday  
 Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

# 10% OFF

## Your Total Bill\*

TO A MAXIMUM PURCHASE OF \$1000.00

\*We're proud to be part of your life!



# SAFEGWAY

© COPYRIGHT 1978 CANADA SAFEGWAY LIMITED