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For immediate release

Final WLU registration shows

12.3 per cent gain over 1979

Full-time enrolment at Wilfrid Laurier University totalled 3,583 as of Nov. 1, according to statistics released today by James Wilgar, the university's registrar.

The figures indicate a 12.3 per cent gain over the 1979 total at the same date and are a cause for some concern among university administrators.

Neale H. Tayler, Laurier's president, said the university just removed its portable classrooms from the campus and certainly doesn't want to go back to them.

"But if this trend back to university among today's high school students continues, we could find ourselves in a situation where we would find it difficult to accommodate the demand."

Dr. Tayler said Laurier has a concern that a close student-faculty relationship be maintained. That could mean a limiting of enrolment in arts and science faculties in the future, as well as in business and social work.

Dr. Tayler said growth in the school of business and economics had been contained to 9.1 per cent by applying continually higher admission standards. Students now usually need an average in the mid seventies' for admissions to that division.

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The university has seen its full-time undergraduate students grow from 2,977 in 1976 to the present level of 3,583, stretching facilities and teaching loads to the limit.

The registrar pointed out that the problem could become acute as the recent bulge moves through the four-years of campus teaching.

"If the rate of application and admissions continue at their present level we simply will be unable to accommodate the students and will be forced to find some method of reducing enrolment."

He said there is a strong indication across the province of an increasing awareness of the value of a university education--with a resulting impact upon nearly all 15 universities in the province.

"We talk about WLU being a small school and we want to keep it that way," Mr. Wilgar said.