

# Annual Tuition Freeze Campout and March February 4-5

By Laura FANNING

On February 4 the Student Union will be hosting its annual tuition freeze campout beginning at 3:00pm. The campsite will be located on the field behind the Wanda Wyatt building. Last year's event proved to be a huge success and this year the event promises to be even better!

Activities will be held throughout the course of the evening including sleigh riding, singing, and a bonfire. Snacks, marshmallows, and hot chocolate will be provided.

In order to ensure that everyone enjoys the activities in a warm and safe environment, students are reminded that they are required to supply their own camping gear, and should be well-prepared for the elements. Don't forget to bring a change of warm clothes etc!

Although this is a social event, its main purpose is to address the issue of the continuing rise in tuition fees. Another 6% increase is scheduled to occur in the 2003/2004 academic year.

On February 5 students will march from the W.A. Murphy Student Centre to the Shaw building downtown

(students may participate in one or both of the activities).

Krista Gallant, VP of the Student Union, points out that, "government and university administration do not realize that the proposed increase for the next year can mean the difference

between being able to afford books or not. Students simply cannot afford another 6% increase in the next year: an amount equalling \$232 per student per year (based on a full course load)."

Ron MacKinley has agreed to be present in support of the students initiative to freeze tuition.

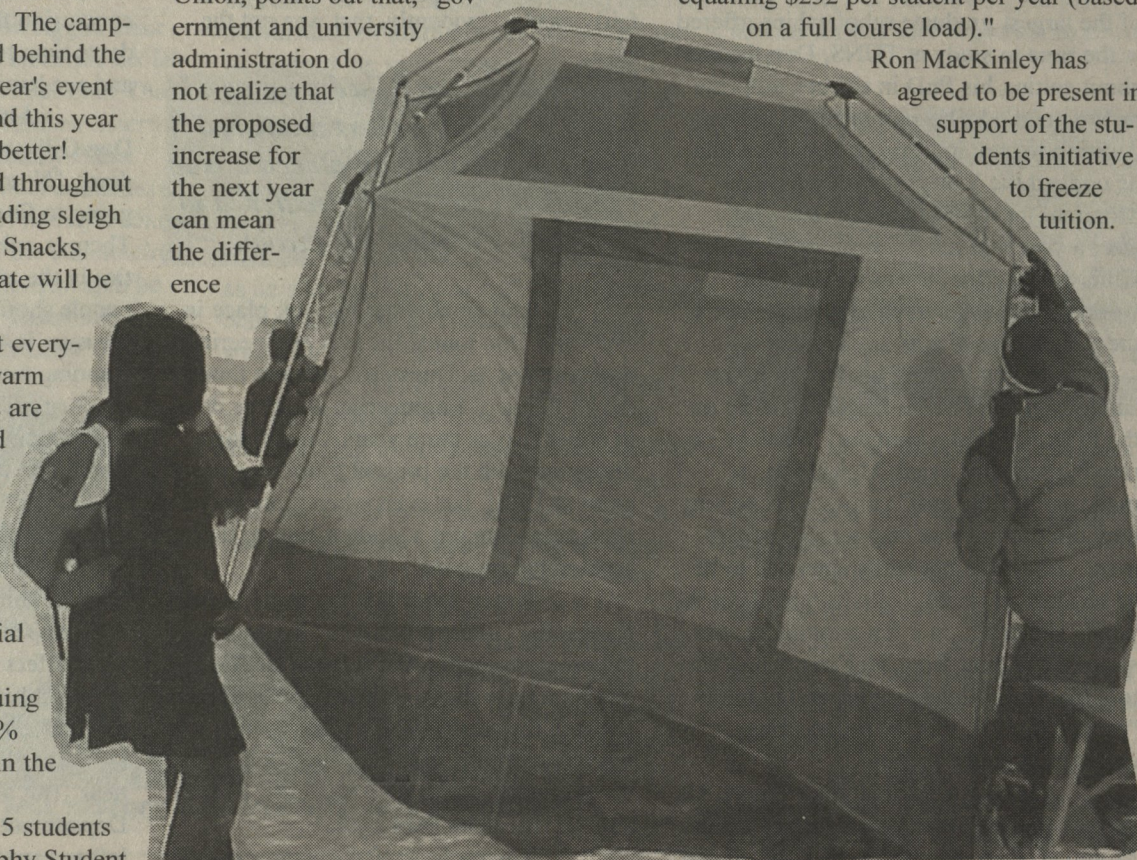
Students who participate in the March will receive a beverage coupon to be redeemed at The Wave and will be bussed back to campus after the event. Presentations will be made by both students and guest speakers at the Shaw building downtown; students can expect to be back on campus by 3:30pm.

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This is an important event so please make the time to show your support and address an issue that is relevant to all of us. Yes even you! Rising costs of tuition are not only putting a strain on current students but they are jeopardizing the future education of generations to come.

If a university education becomes any more expensive than it already is, we will soon find ourselves repeating history and limiting a higher education to only those who can afford it: the elite!

It is important that students with a desire to learn are given the access and opportunity to do so. Help maintain equality within our university and stop the rising costs of tuition fees!



**Caolin Moore tries to keep his tent down at last year's campout**

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