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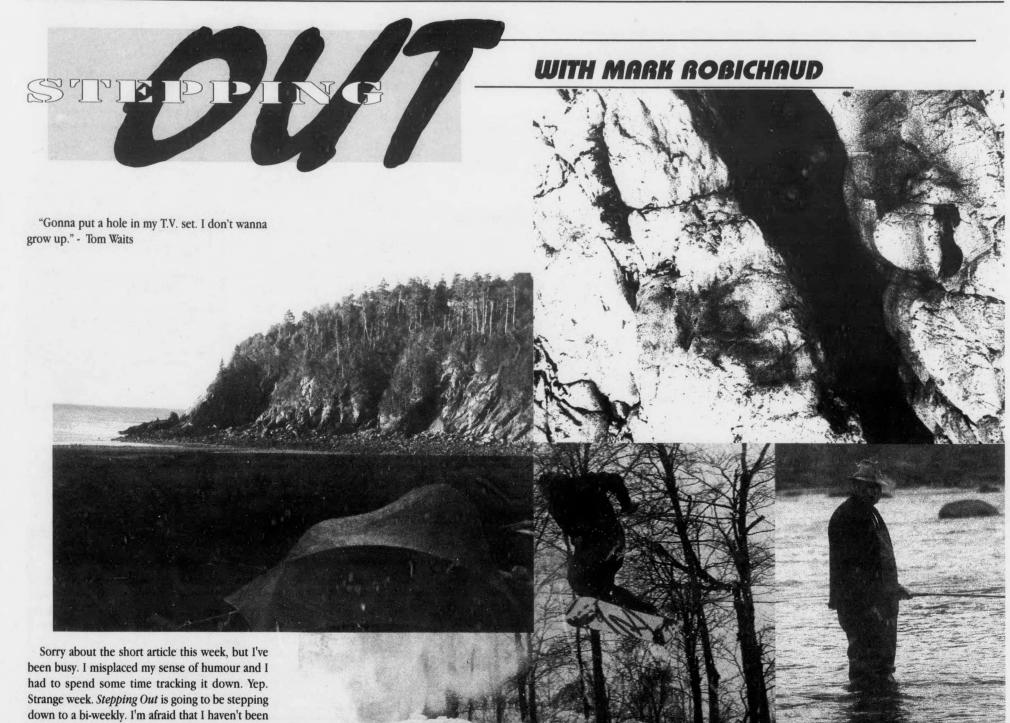
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**KINGS PLACE** 

Sleeping Bags

Some of you kind folks may be planning on doing some winter camping this year. And to go along with the trip you may be thinking of acquiring some sort of sleeping aparatus - commonly known as a sleeping bag.

A quality sleeping bag and a yummy croissant should share some characteristics: light, fluffy, the ability to squish down really small and several flavours.

Sleeping bags come in two flavours - I'm not sure about croissants. Down and synthetic pile. Down comes from geese. Synthetics? Who really knows? An off-shoot of NASA test products is entirely possible. The critical component of a good sleeping bag is loft - this is what keeps you warm. The interior material combined with the loft creates a cocoon of warm air between you and the elements.

Down bags are expensive but definitely the good.

The bonuses are an incredible crunch down factor, light as a feather and warm. The draw backs are the huge price and when the bag is wet you may as to your brain.

well be curling up under a piece of tissue paper. But most of us use a tent when hiking, so the wet factor isn't that big of a deal.

Synthetics like Liteloft, Polarguard, etc. are cheaper and will maintain some resemblance of heat when wet. These are the good points. The negative side of synthetic fill are: poor loft quality, short life span (300hrs), and weight.

The long and short of a sleeping bag is you would benefit enormously by spending the extra cash on a down bag - you'll get more warmth for your weight. I've had two down bags and loved them both. I now have a synthetic bag made by Woods and I hate it. It has single stitching, cheapass zippers and I was lied to by the company. They claimed this particular bag to have a rating of minus twelve degrees. I've used it in freezing temperatures and I had to wear a down coat to make up for the lousy quality.

Remember: neck-ties cut the circulation off to your brain.

