

Students head for the hills

LENNOXVILLE (CUP)— Bishop's University and Champlain College students will set out in May to do what no Canadian student has ever done: climb the highest mountain in North America.

When they set out for Denali-Mt. McKinley, the 20,300-foot Alaskan peak, the 10 students will have been in training for a year

and a half. They will need it.

The mountain has been challenged by climbers from all over the world, but very few have succeeded. From the expeditions undertaken so far, there are 23 bodies on Mt. McKinley's cliffs.

Norman Lapierre, the Champlain physical education professor organizing the

expedition, has climbed the highest mountain in Canada, Mt. Logan in the Yukon.

Lapierre picked eight male and two female students for the expedition from 24 who tried out. He chose them based on enthusiasm, their relationship with others, their outdoors activities background and

running, climbing and weightlifting skills.

The training since fall 1983 has included weekly lectures on climbing as well as running and weight-training.

Before they challenge Mt. McKinley, the students are climbing the White Mountains in New Hampshire for eight consecutive weekends, and will ski a 65 kilometre cross-country marathon near Quebec City.

"With lectures, reading, notes, films, climbing, backpacking and listening to bad jokes the group is growing increasingly confident as the year progresses," said Pat Vaughn, a Bishop's student and expedition member.

He said the climbers, who also include three experts, are working to create "synergism" within the group. "By acting together the group's individual members benefit far more than by separately trying to conquer the mountain," he said.

In the first week of May the 10 students and four experts will fly to Talkeetna near Anchorage. They will then fly a smaller plane

to the base of Mt. McKinley.

The members will attempt to climb 1,000 feet a day for 21 days. They will actually climb twice that distance, since each member will have to carry two 65 pound packs in two separate trips. Only one in three Mount McKinley expeditions have reached the top of the mountain.

Bill March, leader of the Canada Everest expedition two years ago, said he was amazed that a group of students would actually be climbing a mountain as big and risky as Mt. McKinley.

The students have raised all but \$8,000 of the expedition's budgetted \$66,000 costs. Donations in cash, food and equipment have come from local businesses and merchants.

They applied for funding from the International Youth Year Secretariat, but were turned down. If they do not raise the money needed, they must drive to the site in two vans.

One student dropped out because she was assaulted in Sherbrooke and is suffering from a fractured skull.

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presented by the Dalhousie Student Union

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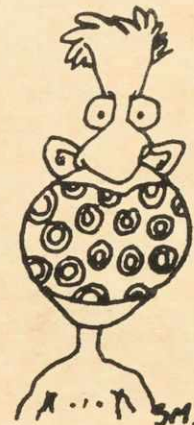
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ALTHOUGH HE DID WARN MOOSE ABOUT KICKING SAND IN HIS FACE, TED HAD TO ADMIT THAT HE DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT STUFFING A BEACHBALL IN HIS MOUTH.

Graphic: Imprint

In The Grawood

Friday & Saturday

The Abominable Dr. Phibes

with
Vincent Price

Ice Pirates

with
Robert Urich
and
Mary Crosby

Movies start at 8 pm