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**Nice 'backside grab'**



Photo illustration by Nick Olmstead Emerald

# LIFTING OFF

■ University snowboarders are taking their sport to another level — competition and invitationals

By Marcus Hathcock  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The EMU Club Sports snowboard team could be national champions one day.

But not for a while, club organizers said. The organization has shifted focus from fun to a new challenge for participants — competition.

Members said this year's leap into local invitationals spawns hope for the future.

Though the snowboard club still focuses on having fun and improving technique, a select group are attempting to take their sport to the next level.

Since 1991, the club has made trips to Northwest slopes with the goal of establishing a local riding community.

Junior biology major Loic Fabricant, the club's organizer, said he envisions the club as a strong unit, formed by the love of the sport.

The group religiously takes trips to Willamette Pass, where they can continuously learn more about the sport, Fabricant said. He said riders take trips up to the mountain three to four times a week, with the ultimate goal of competing.

"The club is about getting up to the mountain with a bunch of people so you can push each other to improve your skill," Fabricant said.

He added that most of the club's approximately 90 registered members are active participants. Any student may join the group at any time during the academic year, Fabricant said.

"At this point, if someone wanted to be involved and showed up, showed the interest and got involved with fundraising, (becoming a member) would be no question," he said.

Club organizers are going to be concerned with fundraising during the next few weeks, as members organize a T-shirt sale.

"After we get really rolling in these next couple weeks to do our fundraising, people could still get involved, but they'd miss out on a lot of the development things," he said. "We're always welcoming new members. The more numbers, the better."

Club members of years past have traveled to faraway slopes for pleasure trips, but that doesn't seem to be the case this year as the group has shifted their focus.

"In the past there have been trips to Whistler (in British Columbia) but not this year," junior business major Nathan Price said. "We wanted to focus more on training and competing."

With this new concentration, the members have created something groundbreaking for their organization. As members have grown in confidence and skill, the club has formed a group within itself — a snowboard team.

Twenty-five riders of the nearly 90-member snowboard club participate on the team,

said Fabricant. As of now, 10 women and 15 men are working toward competition.

"This is really our first year competing," said Price, the team's coach. On Jan. 20, the team will represent the University in its first competitive event.

Club members and Willamette Pass staff are working together to plan future events.

Willamette Pass, the team's home slope, hosts the competition. Randy Rogers, skiing director for Willamette Pass, said although he has seen many University snowboarders throughout the years, this year's group is different.

"I've been really impressed with the group this year," Rogers said. "They have great ideas, commitment and follow through. For all the years there have been (University) snowboard clubs, this year's delivered the best so far."

Rogers also said some of the snowboarders helped him design the layout for the terrain park at Willamette Pass.

The Jan. 20 inaugural event is the KDUK Slopestyle Competition, and the team will take to the slopes performing various technical maneuvers.

On Jan. 26 and 27, Willamette Pass and the team are sponsoring what Rogers called the "UO Snowboard Invitational." Saturday will feature the halfpipe event, and Sunday will bring boarders together for the slopestyle competition.

Competing in halfpipe and slopestyle events entails virtually the same judging criteria, but with different physical settings,

Turn to Snowboarding, page 4

## Idle task force waits to work on athletics

■ Formed Dec. 7 to advise University President Dave Frohnmayer on athletics issues, the task force has yet to meet and awaits basic instructions

By Eric Martin  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The momentum of a new University athletics task force has slowed, and task force members aren't sure when the group will begin meeting or what their objectives are.

The task force, established Dec. 7 to advise University President Dave Frohnmayer on national athletics issues and to strengthen the relationship between University academics and athletics, has yet to meet formally.

A news release in early December said the group of 11 faculty, staff and students would begin work after Jan. 1, but several members said they are still awaiting instructions.

"We haven't had any discussions yet," law professor James O'Fallon said.

Frohnmayer and University Senate President Nathan Tublitz appointed the task force members. The group has yet to name a chair.

The task force will advise Frohnmayer on national athletic issues, such as a recent joint resolution on athletics, passed by a Big Ten Conference committee in early November. In part, the resolution seeks to slow the rapid construction of athletics facilities on college campuses. A similar resolution was passed by university senates in the Pacific-10 Conference in spring 2001.

Frohnmayer is the Pacific-10 Conference representative to the NCAA board of directors.

The task force members are: Brad Shelton, mathematics professor; Margaret Paris, associate law professor; Nathan Tublitz, biology professor; Suzanne Clark, English professor; Martin Smith, head men's track coach; Bill Moos, athletic director; James O'Fallon, law professor and faculty athletic representative to the NCAA and Pac-10; Dan Williams, vice president for administration and finance, ex-officio; and students Jenny Kenyon, Jeff Oliver and Amanda Studdard.

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## EPD officer snags alleged shoplifters

■ An off-duty police officer noticed the suspects as he ate outside the University bookstore

An off-duty police officer stopped two suspected shoplifters Monday as they were leaving the University Bookstore on Monday.

**INSIDE**  
*Crimewatch: The weekend was active for criminals and DPS officers.*

PAGE 3

spokesperson Pam Alejandre said.

EPD called a probation officer when they discovered one of the pair had an outstanding parole violation, Alejandre said.

Alejandre said the official report had not been filed yet and she had no other information on the crime.

— Marty Toohey