

# Hoodoo those new snow sports?

BY HALEY GORDON  
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

*Hoodoo ski area provides alternative gear, such as Airboards and snowbikes*

Tucked away in the Cascades is Hoodoo, a ski resort often stuck in the shadow of its larger neighbor, Mt. Bachelor. Those who aren't skiing or snowboarding can rent one of Hoodoo's unconventional snow toys.

"We have a unique toy for everyone," lodge manager Doug Ritchie said.

It's not normal to see a figure rush down the well-groomed runs face first, but it was a common occurrence last winter as youths tested the Airboard off terrain park jumps.

The Airboard is an inflatable body board that riders can steer by shifting their weight from side to side while lying on their stomachs. Emo Gear President Ann-Elise Emerson said it has "all the control of skis but (is) built with materials like a white water raft."

Airboarding started as an underground snow sport movement in Europe in 2000. It traveled to the states in November 2003, and Hoodoo introduced it to Oregon in January.

"It's becoming very popular," said Matthew McFarland, Hoodoo's general manager. "I just had a call last week from GQ magazine, and I get

phone calls every day from people interested in the Airboard and two a week from other U.S. ski resorts."

McFarland said the trend reminds him of the increase in snowboarding in the late '80s and '90s and predicts that people will soon ditch their skis and snowboards for Airboards.

On Feb. 25, Hoodoo will host the first Airboard competition, fashioned after the Airboard World Series in Europe. Emo Gear chose Hoodoo as the location because it is a progressive resort, Emerson said.

Hoodoo has 18 Airboards for rent and a number for sale. First-timers are required to get a lesson to learn the basics before tackling the slopes. The cost is an \$18 rental fee and \$10 for a first-time lesson.

Another alternative winter sport is snowbiking. Instead of wheels, a snowbike has ski blades; instead of pedal power, it requires gravity. Riders click into short skis for their feet, but there are no pedals. At Hoodoo, newcomers will need to take a short lesson on the basics. It costs \$20 to rent the snow bike and \$20 for the lesson.

Scouting down the slopes is more fun when trying something a bit unconventional. Hoodoo is located 83 miles east of Eugene.

## FOR STUDENTS ON A BUDGET

Campus Week

December 6-10

College students with IDs ski for half price on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Tightwad Tuesday

Starts Jan. 4, 2005

Tues. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lift tickets are \$16/day.

## With or Without Poles? SKIING VS. SNOWBOARDING

BY ADAM CHERRY | DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

*Eugene's skiers and snowboarders weigh in on their choices for the best winter sport; it's a matter of preference*

One plank or two? The debate between avid skiers and snowboarders continues as they argue for the best way to slide down the face of a mountain.

"Skiing is more natural, but snowboarding is more adrenaline," business administration major Moriah McGraw said. McGraw, psychology major Brisa Ayub and environmental studies major Kate Gross are coordinators for the Snowboarding Club. They've been snowboarding for more than five years.

"It's fun, you can do a lot of tricks — there are the trees, the pipes, the parks," Ayub said. "It's different in the powder. You just fall in love with it; once you go board, you never go back."

Jared Hoffer, a sophomore who has been skiing as long as he can remember, disagrees.

"I snowboarded in middle school," he said. "I prefer the feel of the skis; I think you're more free than you are in a snowboard."

Hoffer said skiing is more versatile and that snowboarding is more difficult to learn.

"Balance is a lot harder on a snowboard than on skis when you're first starting," he said. "It's harder to learn how to turn and stop, you just have to fall over."

Gross and McGraw agree.

"Snowboarding you actually have to learn. It's painful," McGraw said. "You have to have balance."

Skiing Club coordinator Courtney Vermaas said skiing is better for beginners because their feet can move separately.

"In high school, I would definitely

say that snowboarding was more popular," Vermaas said. "Now it's kind of even."

As for cost, snowboarding equipment tends to be slightly cheaper. Skiers need poles, skis, boots and bindings, while snowboarders require a board, boots and bindings.

At one point in the history of these sports, there was a great deal of friction between skiers and snowboarders.

"Older skiers don't like snowboarders," McGraw said. "But it's more of a joke now."

There are many things about being on the mountain that both skiers and snowboarders enjoy.

"My best friends are people that I ski with," Vermaas said. She added that she loves the adrenaline rush from skiing.

Hoffer said he enjoys skiing for the solitude.

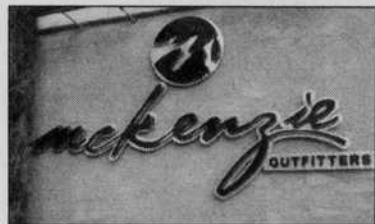
"I like going where there aren't a lot of people, in the back country," Hoffer said. "I like being alone on the mountain or with a couple friends and going through the powder; that gets me up in the morning."

Whether it's skiing or snowboarding, a lot of fun and entertainment can be had on the slopes. This winter season, students can make their own choice about which sport is better by hitting the slopes when ski and snowboard season opens.

## GETTING THE GEAR



REI  
306 Lawrence St. • (541) 465-1800  
www.rei.com



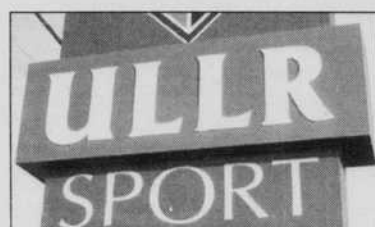
Mckenzie Outfitters  
566 Olive St.  
www.mckenzieoutfitters.com • (541) 343-2300



Berg's Ski Shop  
13th Avenue and Lawrence Street  
www.bergskishop.com • (541) 683-1300



Boardsports Inc.  
265 East 13th Ave.  
(541) 484-2588



ULLR Sport Shop  
207 Coburg Road  
www.ullrs.com • (541) 687-8557

**Oregon Gallery**

Ask about our student discount!  
**Best framing prices in town!**

**NORTHWEST MADE**

- Photography
- Gifts
- Wall Decor

Open 7 Days a Week  
199 E. 5th St., next to Steelhead • 684-0045 • FREE PARKING BEHIND OUR STORE

**Adult Shops**

New Releases weekly  
**VHS & DVD**  
5-day Rentals  
Over 3,000 DVDs

- Arcade
- Novelties
- Games

gift cards available

ADDITIONAL 25% OFF on selected DVDs

ADA accessible

<b>HE &amp; SHE I</b> 290 River Rd., Eugene 688-5411	<b>HE &amp; SHE II</b> 720 Garfield, Eugene 345-2873	<b>ALBANY</b> I-5 EXIT 233, 3404 Spicer Dr. 541-812-2522
--	--	--

**Mujeres**

**FREE TAN!** (UV Free OR Wolff)

Buy one tan at the regular price, get a second tan of equal value free.

Happy Holidays!

199 E. 5th Avenue Suite 11 • 686.2727  
www.mujeresboutique.com

GEL NAILS • PEDICURES • WAXING • FACIALS

MYSTIC TAN | i.d. | BARE ESSENTIALS

**PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS**

Trade-ins Welcome!

**Buy, Trade, and Consign • NEW AND USED Sports and Exercise Equipment**

**WANTED: Your Used Snow Gear**

**SNOWBOARDS**

- Skateboards
- Bicycles
- Golf Equipment

**SKIS**

- Scooters
- Fitness Equipment
- Soccer Equipment

2598 Willamette St. • 342-4041 • M-F: 10-7 Sat: 9-6 Sun: 12-5