

## Winter paradise

# The slopes attract all types of skiers

By JONATHON SYMLIE

**N**OW what was it the ski instructor told us. Take little turns, run the slope in sections not all at once, learn by imitation and, oh yes, don't worry.

You jam the poles into the snow, line up parallel to each other and check the binding so that the boots will remain secured to the ski. Straightening up you take one last look at the white countryside before it all becomes an unrecognizable blur. "Kind of different from all the brown grass and brick sidewalks at school," a voice beside you says.

Sounds familiar? Well it is that time of year again. For \$16 to \$20 plus gas and food you can grab a group of friends, a few cars and in four hours step from the world of academia into the mountains and the world of downhill skiing.

Kyle Shatterly, UNC Ski Club president, said that with the help of Carolina Outdoor Sports, the club will offer weekday and weekend ski outings. "The club provides a cheap and convenient way to learn how to ski," Shatterly said.

To become a member, "you just show up," he said. The club has only 10 or so people in it but Shatterly projects that number will increase now that football season is over and students are looking for other ways to enjoy the weekends.

The club provides students with top instructors including Dick Steven, a nationally recognized giant slalom champion. They also are able to get reduced rates on rental equipment and can tell you the best kind to use. They help arrange transportation and there is nothing like a little instruction and encouragement when on the slopes.

"Anybody can do it," Shatterly said. "All it takes is a good head on your shoulders. And if the binding fits right there is little chance of getting hurt. People get dejected at first."

But sometimes it is hard to enjoy skiing if all you feel is wet, cold, and sore. "Over half of the skiers in the south are beginners. The more you do it the more you like it and the better you get," Shatterly said.

The club plans some Tuesday and Thursday trips in the weeks to come, along with one overnight outing and a Spring Break trip to Vermon's Sugar Bush mountain.

Luther Propst, a graduate of UNC, works for Carolina Outdoor Sports. "The shop is the only kind like it in Chapel Hill and Durham," Propst said. "We work with all kinds of groups, fraternities, dorms, and different clubs."

The store offers lower rental fees than at the resorts and special rates for UNC students. Propst suggests beginning skiers rent for a few times to find out what brands are best before dropping a few hundred dollars into equipment. The shop offers rental packages including skis, boots, poles, and also sets the bindings.

Another group that offers trips is the Parks and Recreation Department of Chapel Hill. They are sponsoring several weekday and weekend ski trips to Sugar Mountain with transportation arranged.

The Durham and Chapel Hill Ski and Sport Club offers trips to Showshoe, W. Va. in late January and early February. Later in February they plan to go to Beech Mountain.

For more instruction beyond the UNC Ski Club you will find Appalachian has a French Swiss Ski School that offers lessons throughout the winter. They are the largest independent ski school in the south and over the holidays they conducted a week long program in Chapel Hill. Jim Cottrell, one of the top instructors in the school said, "the Chapel Hill program helped spread interest in skiing beyond the mountain area of North Carolina."

"It is a good season, with good weather and growing crowds," said Cottrell. "The school provides a good way for people to get started in skiing."

The only equipment needed by the beginner is warm clothing. Wool is the best. The skier will need mittens, thermal underwear, wool pants, layers of shirts and sweaters and a warm cap. The thing to remember is to use water tight clothes. The exercise will keep you warm.

For an idea of cost here is the bottom line. Carolina Outdoor Sport has rentals for UNC students at a discount for \$5.50 on weekdays and \$7.50 on weekends. At the North Carolina resorts like Beech and Sugar Mountain rental costs on weekdays, for a group of 25 or more, will run about \$14.50 per person, with higher rates on weekends. For individuals it ranges from \$19 on weekdays to \$26 on weekends.



DTN/Scott Sharpe

**A beginner skier needs warm "equipment" . . . include layers of sweaters for the slopes**

Lift tickets range from \$7 during the week to \$13 on the weekends at Appalachian, to \$8 weekdays, \$6 nights and \$18 on weekends at Ski Beech. At Sugar tickets range from \$12 during the week to \$18 on the weekends. Not bad but a phone call or two might help you decide where to go.

For area, Appalachian is the best for starters. It is not a difficult mountain to learn on. Beech has the widest variety of slopes and ways to get down the mountain. The resort also offers more discounts to individuals, students and groups. Sugar Mountain has the steepest slopes and is good for intermediate and advanced skiers. Seven Devils tends to be less crowded and a little cheaper than the others. It is better for the more experienced skier.

"Anyone can do it," Shatterly said. So don't hesitate. Ray Luce, a past UNC Ski Club president and skier for more than five years describes downhill skiing most appropriately. "It is as much fun as you can have with your clothes on." **W**

Jonathon Smylie is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

## Doors special tonight on WXYC

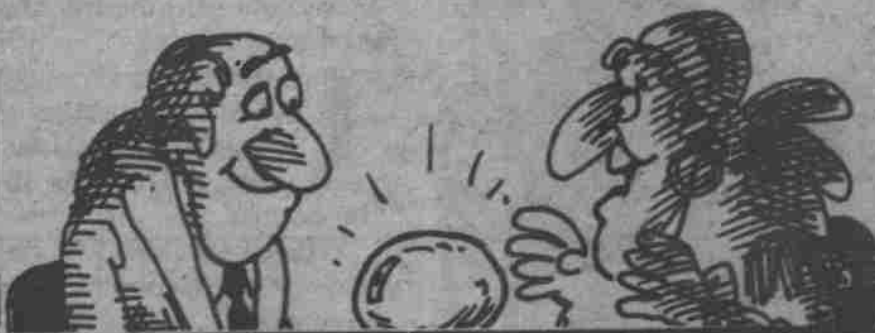
Members of this year's freshman class were nine or 10-years-old when Jim Morrison, lead vocalist of the rock group the Doors, died of a coronary in a Parisian bathtub in 1971. Despite the difference in generations, record stores across the country say that freshman of all walks of life are walking in and purchasing Doors' albums. People are strange.

WXYC-FM (89.3) is wrapping up its Doors Special tonight with an album give

away. Between 10:00 pm and midnight, WXYC will be giving away one copy of *The Doors Greatest Hits* every 15 minutes. At midnight a drawing will be made to determine who wins the entire collection of Doors records.

To enter this contest an entry form must be filled out at one of the Chapel Hill Record Bars before closing time tonight and be listening to WXYC at midnight when the lucky winner is announced.

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