



Slalom can be tough



Jumping is fun!!!!



Robin Richardson pushing to triumph

By PETER CHRZANOWSKI

Well folks, the snow is slowly melting and my driveway finally thawing out.

The sad part is that with all this warmth and comfort approaching skiing is slowly coming to an end. As UNB recalls, we had our share of skiing fun. Crazyness on snow prevailed from Sugarloaf, USA through Crabbe on up to Nanooks' land in Campbellton.

No matter how heavy the schoolwork seemed there was always a good excuse to go SKIING. Luckily Crabbe was not open every day in the week otherwise some of us would have blown our academic careers for sure.

How many times the skier hath awoken late on Thursday morning with labs, midterms, assignments lying on his conscience. Yet one look out that window showed him SNOW and SLOPES beyond. Before I knew it I found myself jammed tight with 4 others in some vehicle playing Rally Racing on Keswick Ridge towards Crabbe Mtn. All this to catch those 3 inches of fresh fluff. What is this world coming to, a snowball?

Mind you Crabbe is no powder haven. The only knee deep stuff to be found was on the FORBIDDEN T-bar line. My fluffy bliss was over as soon as I came face to face with two very annoyed Ski Patrolmen blocking my further descent.

People can talk about sports and sports and sports. But I tell them all, try skiing. It's more than a sport. It's a going downhill, without mechanical propulsion. Just you, the mountain and the wind. There is no BUZZZZ that splits your head as in a snowmobile or circular patterns as in skating. It's going forward and not looking back. Growl! It's SKIING.

Unfortunately there are hangups. Once down at the bottom one has to await a lift back to the top. This is usually no problem throughout November to March. It is in the warmer weeks however when all those people that you never knew skied started appearing on the slopes. Like bears out of hibernation the pleasant-weather skiers come and clog the lift lines in March. This is Snow-bunny weather.

Shorts and teeshirts prevail, so do the injuries on the hill as bunnies bite the snow and scratch goes the skin on the exposed parts of the body.

Well, enough of that now. To get back to SKIING, it is not over yet. After Crabbe turns to mud there are other pastures covered with snow yet. Sugarloaf is great at Easter. Killington, Vermont plans to stay open until May 29th. And if that is not enough there is always Tuckermans Ravine. This place stays open until late June. The only hangup is that there are no lifts at Mt. Washington. I strongly recommend this mountain as it is the meeting place of the real hard-core skiers. After the closing of all eastern resorts the skiers come to Tuckermans. It is always a good time. Most people camp in the vicinity, party heavily and then gather at this large bowl of snow which has a headwall of 50 degree steepness. Wipeouts are a common sight. There is always an onlooking crowd watching from below. Whenever a fall is spectacular the crowd goes nuts yelling and screaming sadistically. What can I say? Its' SKIING.

If winter is not enough for some there is always snow in the higher Rockies or below the Equator.