

Consumer snowjob can be avoided by wise skier

By KATHY O'TOOLE
Collegian Staff Writer

Heavy snowfalls and chilly temperatures are drawing record numbers of skiers to the white-capped mountains of Pennsylvania ski resorts this winter.

And with crowded slopes come empty wallets as more and more people are realizing that skiing is an expensive hobby.

A little shopping around, however, can usually lead skiers to areas able to challenge their abilities without drastically challenging their pocketbooks.

Oregon Hill, on Rt. 287, north of Williamsport, is probably the best bargain a Centre County skier will find.

Located within a 90-minute drive of State College, Oregon Hill has four slopes and one trail that includes something for every skier, from beginner to advanced, despite a vertical drop of only 515 feet.

The price of a lift ticket is \$6 on weekdays and \$8 on Saturdays and Sundays, with a \$1 discount after 2 p.m. Rental of equipment is \$8-50.

Weekdays offer the best opportunities for economical skiing on uncrowded slopes.

"On weekends we get pretty busy," said Joe Aichholdz, manager of Oregon Hill. "But during the week you practically have the place to yourself."

The one chairlift and two T-bars keep lift lines moving sufficiently, even on busy weekends.

"I've never had to wait in

line more than 15 minutes," said Joan McHenry, a season pass holder at Oregon Hill.

As an added attraction, Tuesdays and Thursdays are College Days at Oregon Hill, and college students get \$1 off the price of their lift tickets by presenting their I.D. cards.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the regular ski hours, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., are extended to 10 p.m. at no extra cost, which means 11 hours of skiing for the more durable skiers for \$6.

For those who enjoy long drives, Denton Hill, just east of Coudersport on Rt. 6, near the New York line, has even lower prices than Oregon Hill.

A weekday lift ticket is \$5.50 and a weekend ticket is \$6.50, with \$1 off after 1 p.m.

"Denton Hill is state owned and receives state funds," Gary Dunn, equipment operator, explained. "That's how we manage to keep the prices down."

With 13 slopes and trails, and a 570-foot vertical drop, Denton Hill also caters to all classes of skiers. Ski instructors are on hand at all times, offering group lessons for \$4.50 an hour and private lessons for \$9 an hour. Lift lines are moved adequately by the one chairlift and three poma lifts.

Closer to home, but more expensive and less appealing is Blue Knob, on Rt. 869 in Newry, near Johnstown. Blue Knob not only charges more for a lift ticket — \$8 on weekdays and \$11 on weekends, but also has less to offer for the money.

Blue Knob has a good beginner's slope and an enjoyable intermediate trail, about one and a half miles long, but no wide open slopes such as the ones found at Oregon and Denton Hills. It's one advanced slope is rarely open.

There are two chairlifts, but their proximity to each other causes the two lift lines to merge, creating crowds, confusion and long delays getting up the mountain.

The most common complaint many skiers have about Blue Knob is the coldness, a result of bone chilling winds that never seem to cease on the mountain. There is a vertical drop of 1,052 feet, the biggest of all Pennsylvania resorts.

One regular customer described it as "the coldest spot in the world." This may be questionable, but nevertheless, the attendance at Blue Knob has declined this year.

One employee believes the decreased number of skiers came about because the main lodge burned down last November.

"We still have complete facilities — food service, warming areas, rental equipment and a repair shop," she said. "But few people realize this and that's what's hurting our business."

For skiers who like to go in style, a three-hour drive to Champion, off Rt. 31, near Somerset, will lead to the most luxurious ski area in Western Pennsylvania — Seven Springs.

A year-round resort, Seven Springs has everything from

an indoor swimming pool, bowling alleys and a convention center to exclusive gift shops, cocktail lounges and a 1,500-room hotel.

The main feature, however, is the ski area with eight slopes and about 15 trails, including the Northface, which ski instructor Andy Gumberg calls the "best skiable hill in Pennsylvania." Gumberg, who is also coach of the Penn State ski team, said Seven Springs is "far superior to any place in Pennsylvania."

Lift tickets at Seven Springs are \$8 on weekdays, \$10 on weekends, and \$6 for all night sessions.

Lift lines generally move more quickly with the aid of seven chairlifts — including one triple chair lift — four rope tows and two poma lifts. Lines at two of the chairlifts, leading to the more popular beginner and intermediate slopes, tend to get congested occasionally, but the wait is seldom more than about 15 minutes.

Luckily, for those with simpler tastes, the cheapest ski area is only a 30-minute drive from State College. Black Moshannon, in Black Moshannon State Park on Rt. 504, sells lift tickets for only \$3 on weekdays (\$2 after noon) and \$4 on weekends.

Because there is no snow-making equipment, however, there tends to be a little base at times and occasional icy patches. Also, there is not rental equipment or eating facilities.

The one trail and one slope may not provide a wide



Skiers are carried upwards through the trees at Oregon Hill. The return trip is certain to take less time.

selection of skiing routes, but they do present some challenges for the advanced skiers as well as intermediates and beginners. It has a vertical drop of 250 feet.

Except for Black Moshannon, all the ski areas mentioned have snow-making equipment that can provide good ski conditions if the temperature is 28 degrees or less. In fact, a brochure released in 1975 by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Travel Develop-

ment reported that Pennsylvania ski areas have the best snow-making equipment in the East.

"Why depend on the weather?" it says. "Pennsylvania ski areas can fool Mother Nature."

African official suggests joint militia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Eteki Mboumoua, secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), yesterday urged the creation of a joint African military force to help defend African countries against mercenary attacks.

Eteki also said he welcomed as a "healthy

sign" the visit to Africa by Andrew Young, the Carter administration's newly named ambassador to the United Nations.

"The very fact that he made the visit shows his preparedness to consider African problems in a new light," the OAU chief told a news conference.

However, Eteki said it was still too early to judge

whether American policies toward Africa have really changed substantially. Many African nations have been highly critical of what they view as neglect of the continent when Henry A. Kissinger was secretary of state.

Eteki said Africa should not remain passive in view of developments including last month's reported coup

attempt in the tiny West African state of Benin, where the Marxist military government claimed a mercenary force including whites staged an airborne invasion.

The OAU chief also cited operations against Mozambique by troops of Rhodesia's white minority government.

IRA gunmen sentenced to life terms

LONDON (AP) — Four Irish Republican Army gunmen were sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for seven killings and a dozen bombings during an 18-month IRA offensive in English cities.

Authorities said they were bracing for a possible upsurge of IRA violence in reprisal for the stiff sentences.

The judge in the case, Sir Joseph Cantley, who had been

told he was on the extremists' death list, refrained from commenting on the threat of an IRA campaign as he imposed the sentences in Central Criminal Court, known to Londoners as the Old Bailey. He recommended that each of the four men serve no less than 30 years in prison before being paroled.

Afterward, Cantley declared: "I have been dealing with criminals, who

called themselves soldiers and shot unarmed men, murdered unprotected and unsuspecting women, sneaking up and throwing a bomb through a restaurant window before running away."

Outside the court, units of specially armed Scotland Yard officers were posted at public buildings in the heart of the British capital while extra precautions were being

taken to protect prominent people considered likely targets for IRA reprisals.

London's police chief, Sir Robert Mark, warned the public: "Don't relax — be doubly cautious."

During the 13-day trial of the four IRA men, 12 bombs exploded in central London Jan. 29, causing extensive damage to stores but no injuries.

THE PHI WHO FOLLIES ARE COMING!

RIP US OFF
DOUBLE YOUR MONEY AT FUNTIME
PAY FOR 2 GAMES AND
GET 2 GAMES
FREE

FUNTIME U.S.A. INC.
127 So. Pugh St.
GOOD THRU MON., MAR. 7

ONE PER CUSTOMER PLEASE

MODE romantic skirts, tops and dresses

Open Daily 9-5:30
Mon. and Fri. nites 'til 9
123 S. Allen Street

Penn State Symphony Orchestra
YOUNG ARTIST CONCERT
D. Douglas Miller, Conducting

Featuring First Prize Co-Winner
'cellist BRENT WISSICK
and five other Young Artist
Competition Winners:
Robert Wright: piano
Fran Moskovitz: flute
Nona Uhler: soprano
Douglas Floyd Smith: baritone
Katherine Kello: piano

Saturday, 12 February, 8:30 p.m.
University Auditorium
Admission Free

4 cuts = 646.01 cm² = \$1.
Where can you buy 646.01 cm² of Pizza for \$1.00?
(5-8 Mon. thru Thurs.)
25.4167 cm. at
HIWAY PIZZA CUT SHOP
State College's longest established pizzeria Since 1983
4 CUTS = 646.01 cm² of Pizza for \$1.00
Sicilian Style Pizza • Fresh Dough Pizza •
The least expensive pizza in State College
Friendly, Efficient Service, Too!!!
112 S. Garner St. 234-0349
(An affiliate of Dante's, Inc.)

Another quotable from
**Sam Student — Intermural
Volleyball Champ, Ace
Pinochle Player & Space
Cadet, semi-intense:**

**"Only YOU Can
Make La Vie Your
Yearbook. So Order
Your Copy . . . I Did."**

**DEADLINE
SOON!
206 HUB**

LA VIE
It's Your Yearbook

St. Valentine's Jammy
featuring
Brandy
Waring Hall Dining Room C
8:30-12:30
Sunday, February 13

Kalins
CLOTHING
STATE COLLEGE, PA

**THREE PIECE SUIT
SALE**

Three piece vested suits are now on sale
... just in time for interviews.

All remaining fall and winter suits reduced
to at least one half of the regular price with
alterations at no charge.

Suits starting at \$50 . . . *Don't Miss It.*

Open Mondays 11 until 8:30
Tuesday thru Saturday 9:30 until 5:30
128 S. Allen St.