

Illustration by Lynda Cloud

Lights and live trees forbidden in dorms

Housing sets safety guidelines

By SHARON TAYLOR
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

By this time, everyone has had his fill of Thanksgiving. Mother has returned her best linen table cloth and silver to the china closet, as festive thoughts of holly and lights replace those of drumsticks and cranberry sauce.

In tune with merchants who hurry shoppers into the holiday spirit of giving, students, returning to the residence halls after break, rush to spruce up their rooms with festive decor before they head back home to celebrate the holidays with their families.

They reach for that cardboard box buried on the top shelf of the closet and pull out those holiday treasures.

The knickknacks that usually clutter bookshelves and bureaus are replaced

with angels, Santas and reindeer. Rosy-cheeked elves find themselves perched in the boughs of miniature Christmas trees.

Although many students deck their halls before they head home, some, who decorate with lights, may find themselves getting fa la la la from their housing supervisors.

James S. Kline, assistant director for housing services, said housing officials established holiday decorating guidelines that prohibit the use of lights, live wreaths, trees and candles to enhance safety in the residence halls during the holiday season.

"We wanted to give students the opportunity to do some legal decorating within reasonable guidelines," Kline said.

Housing officials encourage students to use flame-retardant paper

decorations and ceramic figures when decorating.

Although he said it is possible for students to decorate using these guidelines, many students find it difficult to follow those regulations, exceeding bounds as they spruce up their windows with red, yellow and blue lights forming trees, candy canes and festive stars.

Often, students find it possible to violate some Housing rules without facing consequences because officials do not search students rooms. But, Grigor A. Fraser, manager of housing services for Centre, North, South and West Halls, said officials may ask students to take down decorations that present a fire hazard.

Connie Butler (11B-food, service and housing administration) said housing officials do not rigidly enforce their decorating guidelines.

"Most of the guidelines are reasonable," Butler said. "But some

(students) can ease by them."

Last year Butler said she was confronted by an housing official when she papered her entire door in green and topped it off with a large red bow. The official asked her to take the decoration down because it was a fire hazard.

Butler said some students wait until after 5 p.m. to turn on lights when most of the officials jump into their cars and go home for dinner.

Students also get away with illegal decorations, because many maids do not want to create problems, she said. Janet Barton (1st-petroleum and gas engineering) said, "I think some of the regulations are ridiculous — we're in college; I think we should be mature enough to decorate with candles."

Although Terri Staub (2nd-accounting) did not plan to decorate her room with lights, she said many students use lights to spread the Christmas spirit.

Resorts prepare for holiday skiers

By SHAWN ISRAEL
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Area ski resorts in Centre and northern Bedford Counties are gearing up for Penn State students and others preparing to hit the slopes for the coming holidays.

Students can take advantage of both individual and group discounts for the Christmas holidays and the coming ski season at Oregon Hill in Morris, Pa. and Skimont in Boalsburg.

Donna Aichholz, office manager at Skimont, said both Oregon Hill and Skimont offer skiing lessons at group discounts of \$48 a person for 15 people or more.

Skimont will also feature programs for students, Aichholz said, such as a five-day pass package for all members of the Penn State Outing Club. Also, she said, there will be a \$1 discount every Thursday for all students with identification.

Joseph Aichholz, Jr., President of the Keystone Club and the Skimont Ski Corporation, said regular rates for Oregon Hill are \$12 a person per day, \$10 a night. Group rate programs are available.

Rates for Skimont are the same as for Oregon Hill, Aichholz said, with special reduced rates offered on Saturday nights. All rates over the Christmas holiday, Aichholz said, will be the same as weekend rates.

Also, passes for PSU students are available at Skimont, which are selling well, Aichholz said.

"About 300 (students) have bought them so far," Aichholz said.

Opening soon, Skimont will close Christmas day, General Manager Bob Gagnon said, but will reopen Dec. 26 and remain open seven days a week during the winter.

The Blue Knob ski complex in northern Bedford County offers student discounts every Tuesday and Thursday except

during the year-end holidays, Blue Knob Group Coordinator and Secretary Phyllis Dodson said.

Emery Musselman, General Manager of Blue Knob, said students with proper identification may purchase special lift tickets for these days.

Musselman said the complex will be open every night of the week. Day rates are \$12 on weekdays and \$9 on weekends. Special twilight tickets are available any night of the week for \$10 as well as half-price discounts for ladies on Wednesday nights, he said.

Group rates are also available at Blue Knob, Musselman said. Weekday rates for a group of 20 or more are \$8 a person, with a free ticket for group leaders. Weekend rates for a group of 30 or more are \$14 a person, he said. All night group rates, he said, are \$7 a person.

Rental packages are also available at Blue Knob, Dodson said, for \$10 on weekdays (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and weekends. Night rentals are \$6.

Blue Knob is also offering lessons for

beginners at \$6 a person for group sessions, she said. Private lessons cost \$15, and \$10 for each additional person.

For those who desire to travel out of state, the Snowshoe resort in Snowshoe, West Virginia, may be an ideal alternative.

John Wright, information clerk at Snowshoe, said group lessons are available for skiers from beginning to advanced stages.

Skiing lessons begin at a maximum cost of \$10 a person, and decrease with further sessions, Wright said.

Private skiing instructions are also available at \$22 a person per hour, with \$12 for each additional person, he said.

Tammy Hamrick, information clerk at Snowshoe, said new features include the

"Widowmaker," a new triple-chair lift, as well as a recently completed restaurant and three new sets of condominiums.

Wright said the new condominiums hold up to four people a room. Rates are \$86 a person per night for two, \$54 a person per night for four.

Reduced group rates are available for 40 or more people, he said. Lift tickets are also available for individuals. Rentals are \$10 a day on weekdays, \$12 on weekends.

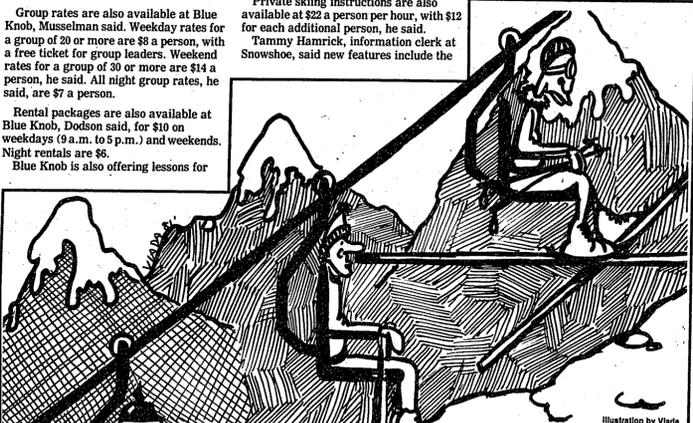


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