



## Plexiglas rivalry no longer exists on slopes

by Justin Harrison

Eight years ago, Touchstone pictures released the comedy gem *Out Cold*, the bizarre love child of a *Casablanca* remake and “extreme” sports’ biggest rivalry, skiers vs. snowboarders. It was, in a word, painful. The acting was passable, but based around a script that found stupidity in hot tubs and public nudity amusing. Its soundtrack was an odd blend of good and bad (Weezer and Jimmy Eat World alongside Sum 41 and Eve 6). The constant jump cuts induced dizziness, and it reduced two subcultures to stereotypes for the purpose of bland comedy. All in all, it was a beige mess, one whose central conflict, skiers vs. snowboarders had ceased to exist years before.

Nestor’s Sporting Goods carries both skis and snowboards and employs people who enjoy both. Taos Ski Valley, for years open only to skiers, opened its slopes to snowboarders last year, leaving only three mountains in the United States that still prohibit careening down their trails on one piece of Plexiglas as opposed to two. The Winter Olympics have featured snowboarding since 1998.

In spite of this, the “rivalry” continues to be played up by society whenever winter hits because society seems to



photo by Emma Godfrey

*Contrary to popular belief, this no longer happens.*

want to take the easy way out and pigeonhole, rather than do actual research. Apparently favoring different ways of moving from point A to point B at high speeds means that there must be some kind of social division. The same can be said for just about anything. Take for instance politics. The Republican Party has apparently dedicated itself to removing all traces of moderation, to the point where Glenn Beck is taken seriously, and Rush Limbaugh seems to be setting its general direction. Rather than investigate their opponents and issue genuine challenges,

the current incarnation of the Republican Party’s sole goal seems to be further dividing the people of the United States.

Skiers and boarders have put aside their differences in form to celebrate the mountains they both ride, and extremists who devote themselves solely to one form and call for the exclusion of others make no friends among their peers. It is an example the rest of the world would do well to learn how to follow.

Its message is a very simple one, embrace commonalities rather than dwell on differences, but it has gone a long way toward solidifying skiers and snowboarders as a single group; people who love the mountain, regardless of tools, form, sponsorships, gender, age, sexuality, creed or sense of humor.

*Out Cold* failed as a movie not only because it found incidents in hot tubs to be high comedy, but because it ultimately praised excluding one group in favor of another. Real life is not *Out Cold*, either on the mountain or in the nation surrounding that mountain.

## Sticky situation with hall passes puzzles students

by Cain Azar

Just a couple of years ago, during the sunny days of elementary school, a student was permitted to utilize the restroom facilities without being burdened by a pass. Skipping to the bathroom, a child could relieve oneself, wash up and head on back to class without so much as a second glance. Nowadays, students have grown to be more mature and wise. With wisdom comes great responsibility. Specifically, the responsibility of a bathroom pass. Whether it is a huge empty jug, a slimy piece of paper or a miscellaneous item that even fools the hall monitors, bathroom passes have been in high school students’ lives for years.

Passes come in many types, the first being the laminated passes. Feeling greasy and oily, these seemingly harmless pieces of paper cause surprise upon touch. Also, they tend to host strange pools of unidentifiable fluids. On normal passes, strange stains plague the light colors causing students to wonder what accident may have occurred. The bulky object passes are just awkward, and many objects tend to get stolen or find their way to the bottom of toilets.

There are many solutions to the pass crisis. For starters, the idea of carrying passes could be abolished altogether. Most people do not check for passes in the



photo by Cain Azar

**WARNING:** Hall passes can be hazardous to student health.

hallways, and to be blunt, they are just plain nasty. The whole idea of bathroom passes seems unnecessary at times and always unsanitary. If passes are a necessity, one could supply their students with a bottle of hand sanitizer as a pass, or a box of Clorox wipes. This would deter kids from spreading germs.

In the back of every bathroom, a lonely poster is hanging, urging bathroom-goers

to wash their hands. This advice is futile. Even if a student were to obey this law, they would get their hands dirty again by touching the pass. Nobody really knows what splashes or falls on the shiny laminated surface, and through the transitive property, whatever lands on the surface finds its way into the cafeteria.

With flu season now in full swing, prevention is key to a healthy and happy high school year. Bathroom passes do not support either of the two, instead spreading the illnesses more quickly. This means more work for the poor school nurses. So please, do it for the nurses.

One in every ten girls who enters the bathroom exits without washing their hands. In addition, one in every four guys displays the same tendency. Regardless of whether one cleans their “mits” or leaves their hands tainted with the breeding germs, everyone touches the same slip of paper; how delightful. Consider that before digging into Mom’s turkey sandwich at lunch,

## Falco’s Fury:

Going green is more than a fad

By Chelsey Falco

For the past couple years, the cool thing to do has been to “go green.” Going green is a phrase describing the act of being environmentally friendly. Green acts include recycling, car-pooling and using less paper. Unfortunately, the act of going green is just a fad for many, and its importance is slowly diminishing.

Leonardo DiCaprio does it, as do Brad Pitt and Cameron Diaz. What these A-list celebrities are doing is going green. They have all been very public in their efforts, but that may not be beneficial. When celebrities first start a project to help the environment, many people jump on the bandwagon to help. Many of those people could care less about the fate of the Earth. They just want to be doing whatever their favorite celebrities deem cool at the time. Their initial enthusiasm is great because they will do a lot to help the effort, but as the weeks and years go by they begin to move on to the next fad. Eventually, their concern for the environment completely goes away. Another color becomes the new green, so to speak, and environmental protection is no longer important.

Going green has gone from being a major movement to prevent environmental degradation, to being just a passing fad. While it is respectable that people cared for the environment at one point, it is not good that they have given up their efforts. Whether one believes in global warming or not, it is still important to protect the Earth’s natural resources. Serious problems like global warming may not effect the current generation, but future generations will be in peril. For example, the o-zone layer will be depleted and harmful solar rays will begin to heat the Earth. This will lead to the ice caps melting and flooding many coastlines. Polar bears and other species will become extinct, and many resources will be depleted as they are used recklessly. The environment will not always be there to provide life’s essentials.

It is important for people to realize that little steps can help the environment. Switching to reusable water bottles and using both sides of a piece of paper are easy methods of contributing to the movement. Going green does not necessarily mean buying a hybrid car or installing solar panels on a house. Going green can be easy!

It does not matter if Al Gore’s predictions are correct because going green is an important step in securing Earth’s future. It is important for students to support the green movement and not just treat it like a fad. Going green entails much more than doing the popular thing.