

skiing/into the 80s/skiing /into the 80s/skiing/into the 80s/skiing/into the 80s/skiing/into the 80s/skiing/into the 80s/skiing Crescent skiing provides a weekend getaway

By Suzanne Sayed

It's Friday night again. Relief settles in, and one exhausted, mentally-drained student contemplates the endless possibilities of entertainment and recreation that are to be had in the bustling, education-inflicted city of Lincoln.

After repeated viewings of seductive Bo Derek in *10*, or the tear-jerking series of events in *Kramer vs. Kramer*, even a few drinks at one (or two) of the local bars aren't enough to satisfy the wistful desire that occupies the mind of every hard-working student at one time or another: "I've gotta get away for awhile!"

Whether you are an experienced skier who laughs at the prospect of being thrown, headlong, into the arms of a thick, snowladen evergreen, or a beginner who quivers at

the mere thought of buckling a ski boot, Crescent Hills ski resort in Crescent, Iowa, can provide a challenging and pleasurable excuse to get away, for awhile, from the pressures of getting an education.

No more than one hour and 15 minutes from campus, Crescent Hills offers a variety of slopes, four lifts, and plenty of rental equipment, including skis, boots, bindings and poles, for those who do not have their own.

There are ski runs of up to 2,000 feet, with a vertical drop of 300 feet, most of which is covered with two to three feet of fine, well-packed snow, according to Russell Lindeman, Jr., whose father is the main owner of the family-owned business.

Lindeman said that excellent skiing conditions are assured by the production of artificial snow at temperatures below 29 degrees. The snow is made through an underground water system, and then is blown into the air

by fans, Lindeman said.

The snow lands on the ground in the form of a soft powder, he added, and every morning the slopes are groomed.

"The new snow manufacturing equipment is extremely efficient," Lindeman said, "and the powdery snow is fluffier and makes the best skiing conditions."

"We rely about 90 percent on snow-making," Lindeman said, adding that even if there is little or no snow in town, skiing conditions can be excellent.

Crescent Hills opens annually about mid-December and remains open until about mid-March, depending on weather conditions, Lindeman said.

Although the busiest time is the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, Lindeman estimated that about 25,000 people ski at Crescent Hills during one season.

"On weekends," he said, "we average 600 to 700 people a day, and 300 to 400 per day during the week."

The two-story ski lodge offers a snack bar, a ski shop, ski rental, and a ski school. Lessons are offered by members of the Professional Ski Instructors of America, and are available to anyone requesting them. Lessons range from \$5 to \$12, depending on whether they are private or group lessons.

"Any beginning skier or advanced skier who desires a refresher course should take lessons," Lindeman said. "The instructors will teach safer guidelines, and the lessons only take about 1 to 1½ hours."

Crescent Hills are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays. There are mercury vapor lamps which make night skiing safe.

Adult rental and tow rates are \$20 on weekends and holidays, and \$16 on weekdays, Lindeman said. Children's rates are slightly lower.

"Group rates are also offered for groups of 25 or over on any weekday or any evening," Lindeman said. The cost is \$12 per person for rental and tow. Season passes are also offered to students for \$120.

Ski races are also open to the public every season, Lindeman said. There are four divisions and the winners receive trophies, and also ski equipment.

Lindeman said that there will be a midwest open ski championship which will be open to anyone on Sunday, Feb. 17.

For those who enjoy cross-country skiing, Pioneer Park and Wilderness Park of Lincoln offer about 7 miles each of excellent skiing conditions, according to Terry Genrich, the City Recreation supervisor.

Ski equipment can be rented for \$6 to \$7.50 a day from several downtown businesses, Genrich said.



Photo by Colin Mackley

John and Carol Argue and their daughter Hannah ski Nebraska-style — cross-country at Pioneers Park.



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