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## Local ski rental offers benefits

By Vicki Ruhga

During Christmas vacation, many UNL students will either go to Miami for the Orange Bowl or head toward the ski slopes.

Average rental costs for skis, boots, poles and bindings — basic skiing equipment — are about \$8 to \$10 per day, according to local sports shops.

Bob Rosenberger, owner of Gerry's Sport and Ski Shop, 1324 P St., said that prices vary for the equipment, depending on how many days the person will be skiing. Most local shops do allow free travel time out and back from the ski slopes, he said.

John Lawlor Jr., ski shop manager at both Lawlor's stores, said that there are several advantages to renting ski equipment locally.

"You can come in when it is convenient, get properly fitted and reserve the equipment," Lawlor said. "Typically, it costs a little bit less to rent here. In the Colorado area, the prices are marked up."

Stan Thorpe, manager of Olympic Village at the Centrum, said that renting locally also saves time because the person does not have to wait in line to get fitted. In addition, the equipment in Lincoln is better because it is not used every day like it is in Colorado, Thorpe said.

Thorpe said that when skiing, a person really only needs to dress warmly.

"They do have designed clothing specifically for skiing, but you can ski in jeans," he said.

However, Rosenberger said he would not recommend that beginners ski in jeans because in warmer weather, the snow is wet and it soaks the jeans.

"We are experimentally renting nylon bib overalls this year," Rosenberger said. "The charge will be on a per ski-day basis. We will allow travel time, and the cost will be \$2.50 per day, with a minimum charge of \$7.50."

Lawlor said that skiers should also wear ski coats and goggles or sunglasses.

"A lot of students ski in jeans, but it is advisable to have some nylon shell-type material over the pants," he said. "The nylon bibs sell for \$40 to \$60."

Students can find out about skiing conditions on the slopes through a variety of sources.

Lawlor said his store is sponsoring the KLMS hotline at 488-2722, which has the snow conditions at all major ski areas.

Thorpe said Olympic Village also will have a number that skiers can call for slope conditions.

Jeff Schmahl, assistant sports director of KOLN/KGIN TV, channels 10 and 11, said that the stations usually do a report of the slopes either Monday or Tuesday during the 6 p.m. news sportscast. In addition, the slope report is given twice a week on the morning weather guide, he said.

Once in Colorado, the cost for the lodging varies, depending on whether one wants to rent a condominium or a hotel room.

"The cost has gone up quite a bit," Lawlor said. "It is 10 to 15 percent more than last year."

Lawlor said that skiers could get more of a discount if they ski at certain times. The most expensive times are at Christmas and New Year's, and the discounts are available in early December or late January and February, he said.

Leanne Rickert, of the reservations department at Lincoln Tour and Travel, said that during the busy season, which is Christmas and New Year's, the cost of a one-bedroom condominium is about \$76, compared with \$63 for the low season.

Seil Lang, a travel agent with Nebraska Travel, Inc., said she does not think prices for lodging had gone up significantly.

"They are really very reasonable," she said. "It depends on how many people are going. If four to six people are sharing a \$90 a night condominium, it is reasonable."

Lang added that the price of gas along interstate 80 had not gone up, and from the news reports she has read, it may be even lower this year.



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