



Amy Schmidt/DN

## Snow games provide cheap fun

By Jeff Randall  
Staff Reporter

Let the games begin. The six inches of snow Lincoln received last Tuesday have ushered in the official start of this year's winter sports season.

The pricetag for winter activities can be anywhere from \$4 for a plastic sled to \$7,500 for a top-of-the-line snowmobile, said some Lincoln sporting goods retailers.

Justin Zetterman, an employee at Lawlor's Sporting Goods, 5500 S. 56th St., said the sales of winter sports-related items had skyrocketed since Tuesday's snowfall.

Sledding is popular with many people, he said. Sleds range in price from \$4 to \$100, he said, and Pioneer's Park is a local favorite sledding site.

Ben Smith, a sophomore business major, said sledding was a rush.

"Sledding gives you the same adrenalin thrill that some people get from roller coasters or speeding in a car," Smith said, "but it's a whole lot cheaper."

Zetterman said outdoor ice skating also was popular in Lincoln despite the city's lack of an indoor ice rinks. Ice skates vary in price depend-

ing on quality and purpose.

Basic vinyl figure skates cost about \$35, he said, with leather skates checking in at about \$50. Hockey players must dig a little deeper, Zetterman said, to pay for \$100 skates.

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### BEN SMITH

Sophomore business major

Zetterman said Holmes Lake, 3016 S. 70th St., was the best local ice skating site.

People who want a little more vavoom in their free time may try snowmobiling. Capitol City Snowmobile Club president Bernie Mertzmann, said the main obstacle for local enthusiasts was a lack of

snow.

"When I first started riding, there seemed to be a lot more snow each year," he said. "But with what we have so far this year, we've been pretty lucky."

Rod Yanagida, owner of Rod's Outdoor Power, 5900 S. 56th St., said snowmobiles could cost up to \$7,500. Riders also must purchase an operator's license and park permits, Yanagida said.

Snowmobilers can use trail systems, frozen lakes or both, he said. Snowmobiles once were allowed on state highways and city streets, he said, but recent laws forbid such use.

Yanagida said the best snowmobile sites were at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and the Black Hills in South Dakota.

But Yanagida and Mertzmann agreed that Branched Oak Lake, located about 15 miles northwest of Lincoln, was a great local spot.

Mertzmann also recommended Oak Lake, located near Highway 34 and Sun Valley Blvd., and the area adjacent to the Capitol Humane Society, 2320 Park Blvd.

"For the more experienced, those places might seem pretty small," he said, "but if you're just starting out they work just fine."

## MUSIC REVIEWS

**Slick Rick**  
"Behind Bars"  
Def Jam  
Rating: B-

The ruler's back, but can a guy still behind bars hang in the competitive hip-hop market?

Slick Rick has dazzled fans throughout his career, influencing scores of rappers. For the last 2 1/2 years, Rick has been locked up on Riker's Island, and has been denied parole. After recording this album, Rick's work-release status was revoked, and there's been talk of deportation for the London-born performer.

Little by little, Rick recorded songs for his anticipated return. But being locked up has kept him from growing and evolving with hip hop.

All the elements of classic Slick Rick music are there. The beats, singing, storytelling and even the love story line make up Rick's third album.

The lyrics are solid. We expect no less from the guy who gave us "La Di Da Di" and "Children's Story." He can still tell a story as well as anyone, but the stories on "Behind Bars" do not jump out like his earlier works.

An all-star line stepped up to work Rick's new tracks. "I'm Captive" and "Get a Job" are both mixed by Pete Rock. Large Professor revamps "It's a Boy," originally seen on Rick's second album. "The

Ruler's Back." Even hot producer Warren G steps in to blow up the title track.

All of these things are great, and true Slick Rick fans are sure to be satisfied. The year of 1994, however, was a year for comebacks in hip hop, and the biggest one was the return to tight lyrics.

Rick's duet with Doug E. Fresh on "Sittin' In My Car" works all right but drags on. The collaboration with Nice & Smooth, which also appeared on their latest album "Jewel of the Nile," is good but not consistent with the rest of the album.

The high point of "Behind Bars" is "Get a Job," a terrific track on which Rick talks about unmotivated fake friends and girls who want to live off of him.

No one can really blame Rick for not being able to still "knock 'em out the box" under his barriers. When you wear down the knife, it loses its edge.

—Greg Schick

**"Christmas Spirit"**  
Donna Summer  
Mercury Records  
Grade: C+

Donna Summer stepped out of the Christmas music factory — open only two months a year — to release "Christmas Spirit."

The compilation of seven traditional favorites like "O Come All

Ye Faithful" and "White Christmas" is pleasantly balanced by three of Summer's songs: "Christmas is Here," "Christmas Spirit" and "Lamb of God."

Her three songs are great, especially "Spirit" and "Lamb." These could easily become future Christmas favorites.

Summer is a talented singer, but her style just isn't right for the older Christmas songs on this album. Summer fails to capture the lyrical power of "O Holy Night." The line "Fall on your knees, o hear the angel voices" should be sung with a commanding tone; she merely suggests it. And the jazzed-up orchestration on this song just doesn't fit.

A better choice for Summer would have been to write another seven new songs and leave the traditional songs to their original composers and singers.

But Summer and her producer can't be accused of putting too little effort into this album. Full choirs perform on five songs, and the Nashville String Machine Orchestra provides music on three songs.

Although there are only three really good songs on this album, it's worth listening to. A good philosophy is that one can never have too many Christmas albums ... unless Beavis and Butt-head release one.

—John Fulwider

## Lincoln rocks during break

### From Staff Reports

Trapped in Lincoln over break? Here's a list of some holiday entertainment that will make vacation a little jollier.

Tonight: Terrance Simien at the Zoo Bar.

Wednesday: The Scissor Girls with Blaster at Duffy's; Baby Jason and the Spankers at the Zoo Bar.

Friday: The Starkweathers with the Sissies at Knickerbocker's; Terry Evans at the Zoo Bar; and Heroes and Villains at the Hurricane.

Saturday: Flatwater Circus and Grimace at Knickerbocker's; Sinister Dane at the Hurricane; and Tom Principato at the Zoo Bar

through Sunday.

Sunday: Nail at the Hurricane. Dec. 19: Magic Slim and the Teardrops at the Zoo Bar through Dec. 23.

Dec. 21: Jumpin' Kate at Le Cafe Shakes and Duffy's, early show at Shakes and late show at Duffy's.

Dec. 23: Penguins of Destruction and Throttle at Knickerbocker's; Gregory, Mercy Rule and XXY at Shakes; and Echoing Green at the Hurricane.

Dec. 28: Think at Duffy's.

Dec. 30: Rascal Basket and Wide at Knickerbocker's; and Fat Tuesday with Exit at the Hurricane.

Dec. 31: Mudjack and Orange at Knickerbocker's; and Punkinhead at the Hurricane.



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