

Ags will 'hit' the slopes in March

Skiers practice for the real thing

By MICHELLE SCUDDER

Although last month's snow wasn't enough reason to get snow skis out, Texas A&M University has its own reason all year around.

Mount Aggie, the 36-foot by 100-foot artificial turf slope supports ski enthusiasts and beginners in classes sponsored by the physical education department.

Beginning and advanced classes are taught at all P.E. levels with a fee of \$25, for students who do not have their own equipment.

Mount Aggie, which has been in existence three years and is located east of G. Rollie White Coliseum, is one of the largest artificial slopes of its type in the country, said Bill Gregory, ski instructor.

Mike Davis, a junior petroleum engineering major who took snow skiing at Texas A&M last fall said, "The class taught me all the basics I needed to know. It was just a matter of using them. After taking the class I felt I was ready for an intermediate slope when I got to Aspen."

Other students on campus are taking an interest in skiing besides those registered for classes.

The MSC Travel Committee is going to Wolf Creek, Colo., March 10-18, while the Ski Club is going to Steamboat Springs, Colo., March 10-17. Applications and information concerning both trips are available in Room 216 of the MSC.

"I went skiing with the Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture

Club during Christmas vacation to Lake Eldora, Colo.," said Pam Warwick, junior horticulture major. "We paid for our transportation and lodging with proceeds from student floral concessions and plant sales. The skiing conditions were great and it was fun to go with other kids that are in horticulture like I am."

Some students may shy away from skiing because of the expense, but there are ways to cut costs. Multi-day ski lift tickets, skiing off season, group travel, and lodging away from the slopes may save a student enough money to make a ski trip possible.

Lift tickets may range in price from \$8 to \$14 per day, depending on where one is skiing, and whether it is

mid-week or a weekend. Prices are higher during the busy season, Dec. 18 to April 1. Equipment rental may range from \$12 to \$20 per day depending on if it's rented at the slopes (more expensive) or in town. Accommodations vary greatly in cost depending on the quality of the room and the number of people.

Skiing has a fashion world all its own, but since ski clothing can be expensive, blue jeans sprayed with Scotch Guard, a water repellent, and borrowed jackets serve the same purpose. The most important consideration in ski clothing is keeping warm; gloves, heavy socks, a hat, and thermal underwear are necessary, along with a jacket or heavy sweater.

Many beginning skiers are

plagued by various phobias: the fear of learning, fear of falling, fear of being hurt, fear of getting hit, and fear of getting laughed at.

"The first step toward overcoming fear is to know that fear is natural and normal," said Laurence Korwin, director of the sports training institute at Texas A&M. "Fear is nature's protective emotion."

"Once the skill becomes an automatic response to you," said Bill Gregory, Texas A&M ski instructor, "there is no longer a fear of the circumstances."

Skiing can be hazardous for someone who has never had lessons in skiing or putting on equipment properly. Lift tickets have a note saying that skiing is a hazardous sport and that the resort disavows any responsibility for injury.

"I like snowskiing because it's one of the few sports that is all up to you," Davis said. "If you fall you can get up and try again. It's more like you against the mountain instead of you and an opponent. It's enjoyment and competition together."



Franz Klammer he's not, but Dave Dino looks good as he makes a run down Mount Aggie. Dino is a microbiology major from New Jersey.
Battalion photo by Ann Richmond

The Battalion Classified

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*The Financial Need Analysis Report is provided to this office by the College Scholarship Service and is based on information contained in the Financial Aid Form. Normal processing time for a Financial Aid Form at College Scholarship Service (including mail time) is about two (2) weeks. Therefore, you should mail your Financial Aid Form to College Scholarship Service to allow sufficient time for proper processing and mail time.

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Houston toad may become extinct

By United Press International
HOUSTON — Wildlife biologists will spend the next five months looking for new colonies of the shy, secretive Houston toad.

The Houston toad — more accurately known as Bufo houstonensis — is considered the most endangered U.S. amphibian. Only about 1,000 to 1,500 are believed to remain.

A federal wildlife expert said two federally protected sanctuaries used

scratched by the Interior Department Wednesday for a fundamental reason: The amphibians are undoubtedly already extinct there.

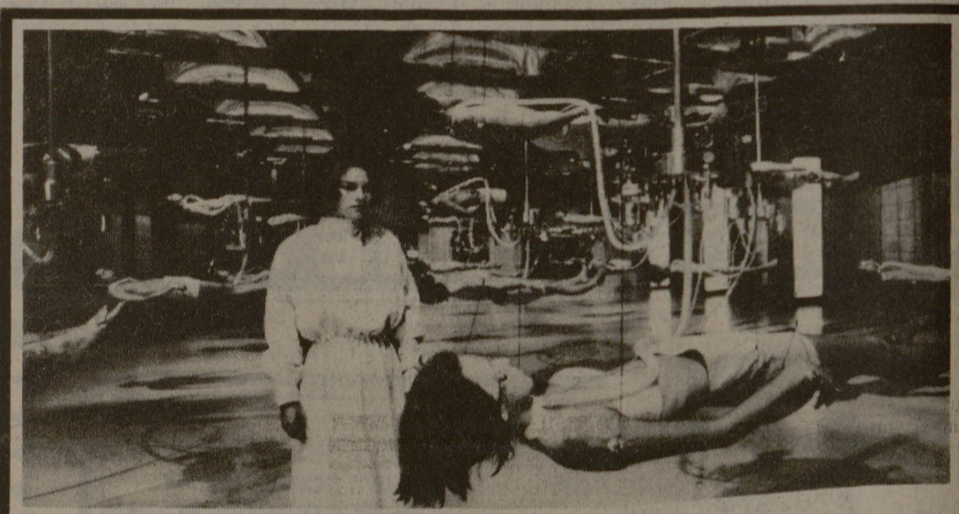
"Both areas have been so modified and hashed up by development that no toads could possibly be there," said Dr. C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr. in Washington.

The two tracts eliminated by the federal government were the

Sharpstown Shopping Center and the city's old Holmes Road garbage dump.

Five other sites around Houston will get further study and still could be designated as critical habitats for the toad.

Wildlife biologists will look as far as Bastrop, Texas, some 120 miles west of Houston, for possible toad populations.



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