

TRAIL SIGNS

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OUTING CLUB SURVIVES WISCONSIN SKIING EXCURSION OVER VACATION

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Although most students returned from vacation bright eyed and in the prime of health, some members of the student body have been hobbling around campus in various stages of physical disablement ranging from bruises to broken legs, but firmly convinced that "skiing is the greatest of all sports."

These students, who went on the Outing Club Ski Trip to Rib Mountain, began arriving at Wausau, Wisconsin, early last Saturday morning, and by about 8:30 a.m. Sunday practically the entire delegation of approximately 130 was present and ready to take to the slopes. Wausau, located in the center of Wisconsin, is about 450 miles from Lafayette and the trip took an average of about twelve hours, depending upon road and weather conditions, and in many cases, how often the driver got hungry.

THRIVING COMMUNITY

Contrary to the expectations of many, Wausau was more than just a few buildings huddled at the foot of a mountain. Students were quartered in the Youth Center, part of the University of Wisconsin Extension in Wausau, a low, white, simple, but rather new building with a dormitory for girls on the second floor and a boy's dormitory and lounge on the first floor.

Rib Mountain itself is a Wisconsin State Park located about six miles from the Youth Center. One can leave the rope ski tow at the top of the gentler beginning slope which is about a quarter of a mile long or go on to the steep upper slope and sheer face of the head-wall attempted only by those with considerable skiing ability. The entire main slope is about a half mile long.

The T-Bar Lift also goes to the upper slopes and the ski "trails". These trails through the woods were quite "interesting" and were attempted by members of the group with varying degrees of failure.

PERFECT WEATHER

The weather was perfect for skiing during the four days, with a temperature of about 16 degrees most of the time. The slopes were usually occupied between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., the time the tows were in operation. Somehow people seemed too tired to walk up after the tows stopped.

Other activities of the trip included square dancing Monday evening, ice skating at Marathon Park near the dorm, and skiing under the lights Tuesday evening.

Many students had never even donned a pair of skis before, let alone attempted to travel on them, but everyone seemed to pick up skill of a sort rather rapidly--after picking up themselves a few times. However, some felt that the skiing was best in front of one of the huge fireplaces inside the beamed ceilinged Ski Lodge at the base of the mountain.

