

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS IN THE PARK

By *The LowDown Etiquette Department*

So, the hill has its cliques and shares of competitive stares from one rider to the next, and yet everyone is just trying to have a good time.

So in an effort to maximize the fun and create a unified park, The LowDown has some ideas on how to score yourself some new hommies in the park. And maybe even a date.

To start off, we can all learn something from hippies. Positive vibes are a must bro. So, always cheer and clap for your friends and anyone who looks like they need a boost. Maybe even take a page from football players and give that guy who just 450ed off of that new box a pat on the behind.

Always give a little love to a nice trick. And let's face it kids, nothing, and I mean nothing says "Good Job," like a swift pat on the butt.

Take advantage of lifts and lift lines. If you're an extrovert this is your approach, plop down on the lift and say, "You shred? Can we be park friends for the day? Seriously, you're good. I'll just ride with you and give you a pat on the butt when you get the knar."

For the smokers in the crowd you have got an Ace up your sleeve. It's a typical situation: You find yourself needing your first fix about 2 runs in and your neighbor pulls his Camel Filters out of his cargo pocket. It's go time, but politeness is key here. Presuming he wants to give away a stick of his \$4 pack of cigs could cost you. Just be genuinely stoked to see him light up and ask, "Is there an extra in there for the broke/forgetful?" Being a bummer or bumme of smokes on the hill gives you an easy window for a "hey bro, thanks bro," situation. You don't need to stop there, feel free to rant about your smoky treat. Tell them how you don't believe that cigarettes are bad for your health, after all why would the government let you buy them if they were that bad.

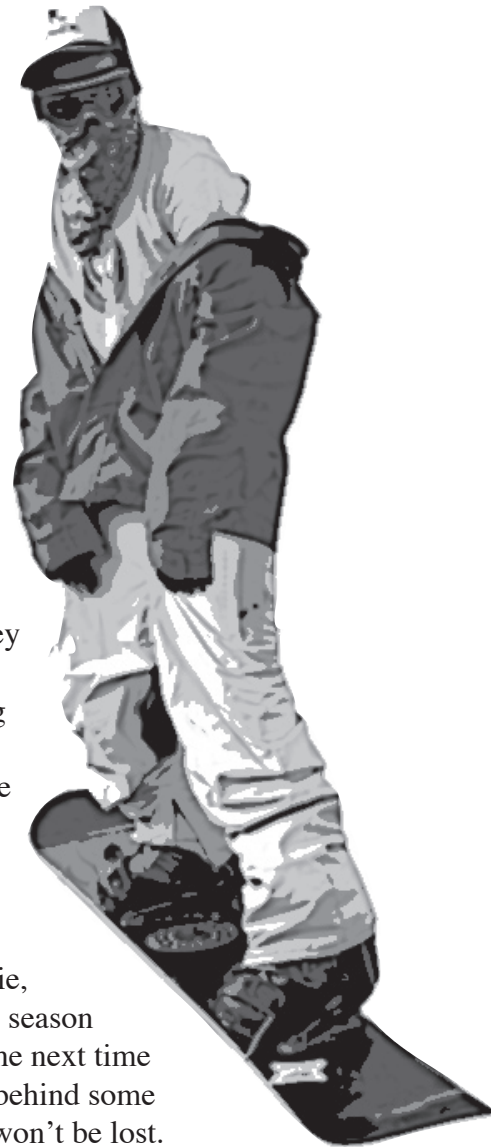
Peruse the singles line: Going solo gets a little boring unless you find someone to cruise down the hill with every few runs. A lot of people might think you should steer clear of iPod or bargin' headphone wearers because they're probably trying to keep us friendly folk out, but this really isn't the case. Start talking to them until they turn off their music; then ask them what they're listening too. Tell them how hot the new Good Charlotte album is and say things about music that make you sound intelligent like: "I think Good Charlotte are the Ramones of our generation."

Keep your celly close, because if you're going to score any digits it will be here. Don't be afraid to answer those incoming calls. Let everyone you're sitting on the chair in between sick park runs. Don't spare any details, you could impress that member of the opposite sex sitting next to you or who knows,

they could be a potential sponsor. Speak loud and clear, "I just totally killed the double kink rail."

Give fashion props to all those kids rockin' the latest fashion trends. If you see someone rockin' the goggle or extreme pants sag don't be afraid to say to them, "Hey you saw The LowDown fashion column too? It's so hot to rock the extreme pants sag this year." And don't forget to remind them, "Dude, you remember that teal is going to be next year's pink don't you?" Or tell them, "Hey I like you coat, I saw like 10 other people wearing it today."

Lastly, trade-mark yourself... pick a beanie, or anything for that matter, and stick to it all season no matter how stupid you look... that way the next time your up on the hill you won't be a lost face behind some goggles and all that time spent fraternizing won't be lost.



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