

Long
Story
Short



see our athletes in Level 1's new film:

Long Story Short



FEATURING THE OMEGA GOGGLE

SPY+ SKI IS:

Corey Vanular • Charles Gagnier • Dave Crichton • JF Houle
Liam Downey • **Stefan Thomas** • Travis Redd • Tim Durtschi



Banquet would like
to congratulate
Level 1 Productions
on their latest film,
LONG STORY SHORT.

Check out all Level 1 films online at BNQT.com



11 W. Del Mar Boulevard, Suite 101
Pasadena, CA 91105

Welcome - Bienvenue - Willkommen - Irasshai

Stefan and Liam put in a full day.
January, Utah
TT Kleiven photo



"The Story Behind The Story"

This booklet was designed as a supplemental medium to the Long Story Short dvd. We wanted to offer some behind-the-scenes insight into the 2005 / 2006 winter season as it unfolded for Level 1 and the skiers involved. Included are profile interviews of seventeen riders, intertwined with stories and anecdotes from our travels, locations, and shoots. All accompanied by some of the best still images of the year for a vivid interpretation of our movie making experience. Enjoy.

Photo content was generously provided in cooperation with Freeskier Magazine. Freeskier staff photography by Jay Michelfelder and Matt Harvey.

FREESKIER
www.freeskier.com

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Thanks to the people and companies that helped make this project possible

Level 1

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Cover photo by: Steele Spence Tree skier: Stefan Thomas, Wyoming



"The Machine"

Rube Goldberg (rōob göld'berg), n. a comically involved, complicated invention, laboriously contrived to perform a simple operation — *Webster's New World Dictionary*



"Cause and Effect" was the title of the project. It was the Fall of 1991, I was in the seventh grade, attending Mildred E. Strang Middle School in Yorktown Hgts, NY, and part of the program that provided extracurricular 'schoolwork' to the set of would-be overachieving 12 year-olds bored with what classes had to offer. We were given a budget of \$250, a brief historical recount of Rube Goldberg and his creations, and the task of creating our own such contraption that performed a specific series of innocuous tasks. While not overwhelmingly impressive, the project, or at least the concept of it left an indelible mark on my educational experience. Years later, when I became interested in filmmaking and production, I thought back to that project, and how and if I would ever be able to incorporate something like it into a film. Enter the modern rock band, "The Bravery." During the summer of '05, their chart topping single "Honest Mistake" burned up the air waves, and the accompanying video was in heavy rotation on one of the few programs on MTV that still played videos. The black and white short features the band rocking out in a darkened room, while the kick from the bass drum knocks over a domino, setting into motion a chain reaction of events that grows in complexity and scale as the song climaxes. Undoubtedly one of the most unique, impressive, and inspiring music videos I have ever seen, the proverbial seed had been planted and I knew that somehow, some way, I had to incorporate something like it into the next Level 1 film, however far out and random it would seem.

Fast Forward six months- I've brought on the twistedly creative Neil Satanopolis to help design and build our "machine," and he has further contracted his friend, Mark Bradshaw, whose family of Engineering PhDs owns and operates what can only be described as a mad scientist-esque laboratory/warehouse in central New Hampshire- providing the necessary materials and a setting more perfect than I could have ever hoped.

When I arrive on a weekday afternoon in early August to what has been planned as a two-day shoot, our machine amounts to little more than a few pencil sketches and grand ideas involving spark-spitting windup nuns, a pile of dominos, a forklift, and a tensile stretching machine. The 'two-day' shoot quickly turns into a five day sleepless, showerless, foodless, caffeine-fueled marathon of building, testing, and shooting for the three of us as we battle the ticking clock to wrap the shoot before I miss my return flight, which by day four had already been rescheduled for the third time.

When all was said and done, we shot over five hours of tape in what I can only describe as one of the toughest filmmaking challenges I've ever faced. While liberties were certainly taken in spreading out the locations of our shoot throughout the lab, and of course marbles occasionally jumped out of their tracks, dominos toppled the wrong direction, and our explosive devices malfunctioned, the vast majority of the machine's elements actually worked perfectly well. The real challenge lay in shooting it in such a way that everything actually made sense and would add up in the finished edit, if not on the first or second view, at least for those interested in trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together and make sense of it all.

Much like this movie as a whole, which chronicles the past winter of over a dozen of skiing's top athletes, and all the trials, tribulations, and successes of their season and our attempt to capture it, the machine as it appears in the film, and everything that went into it, is also very much a long story, short.

-Josh Berman



Stefan Thomas

Sometimes known as: Stef
Born: 2/17/86
Residence: Salt Lake City
Place of Origin: Salt Lake City
Sponsors: Nordica, Spy Optics, Skullcandy Headphones
Influence on slope: My skiing friends; Austin, Max, Tosh, Trav, the Utah crew.
Influence off slope: My friends, my parents. Old people cause they're mad smart.
What inspires you: People pushing the envelope, seeing things I haven't seen before, or hearing things I haven't heard before.
Name something that you want to do before you die: Juggle the futbol with Ronaldinho



Best ski shoot of '06: It's a toss up between here and here. I shot in Utah the majority of the winter and it was killer, stable snow, soft landings and good cover in most areas.

Aspirations: Find a rich wife.

What gets you stoked: Other people being stoked.

What bums you out: Other people being bummed.

What are you stoked to do next season: I'm stoked to get out there and hit bigger, gnarlier jumps than I have hit before.

Name something that you want to accomplish in skiing: I would like to be in the Olympics.

Describe your favorite ski session of '06: Well it was one of the first backcountry seshs of the year. Freedle found this one zone hidden in bonanza flats that was super compact but had alotta stuff to be done. Liam and I got to play with it over the next three days and it wouldn't stop snowing. All the variables were there to make it awesome, a small dope crew, snow and plenty of it, pillows and cliffs; plain of fun shit.

How do you learn a trick: I watch it a lot, then I visualize it a lot, then I'll try it until I get it, then practice it until its as stock as the rest.

Slope style: My on slope style is natural, I dont oversteer my set-up. I like my clothes baggy because its easier to move. I like light skis and boots. Nordica knows whats up on that program.

Offslope style: Casual most of the time, sometimes I like to throw on a get-up for whatever the situation entails.

Shoutouts: I wanna shoutout to my sponsors and my parents, thanks for all the support. All my bros Austin, Trav, Matt, Kev, Elliot, Pistol Pete, Vinnie, Marc, and if I forgot you its probably for a good reason.



JJ Kivinen photo

NAME YOUR FAVORITE
ski location: TOP SECRET
non-ski location: THE BEACH
travel destination: LA CLUSAT IS REAL ILL
ski crew: MY CREW HERE IN UTAH
famous female: THAT BRUNETTE CHICK THAT DOES THE LORÉAL ADS
time of year: FEBRUARY / MARCH
grab: NO GRAB
food: ITALIAN
non-ski movie: WHAT THE BLEED DO WE KNOW?
song to wake up to: "YAE YO" BY KAEKWAN
song to party to: SONGS I HAVNT HEARD
music to drive to: REGGAE
musical artist: TOO MANY TO MENTION/
nonski activity: IT SWITCHES, I LIKE SPONTANEITY

*Check out Stefan's severed finger bonus video, if you can find it.



Skullcandy

Lightweight Series



SKULLCANDY.COM



Montreal

JF Houle

Sometimes known as: J
 Birthdate or Age: 20
 Residence: Drummondville QC, Canada
 Place of Origin: Same...Drummond...
 Sponsors: Rossignol, Orage, Spy, D-Structure,
 Hype energy drink
 Influences on slope: Snowboard...I like
 snowboarding!!!
 Influences in general: Cousins and Brothers.

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: MAMMOTH OR BRECK
 non-ski location: DRUMMONDVILLE
 travel destination: FRANCE
 ski crew: MY COUSINS AND BROTHERS...
 famous female: MY GIRLFRIEND EMILY!!!
 time of year: WHEN I AM SKIING!
 grab: PURE NOSE
 food: FOOD IS GOOD!!! PIERADE (IN FRANCE)
 ski movie: SESSION RULZ
 non-ski movie: BOY COP BAD COP
 song for sleeping: PUNK ROCK
 song to drive to: EVERYTHING SOUNDS GOOD TO
 MY EARS...
 nonski activity: KAYAK
 item to travel with: PSP, COMPUTER...



Best ski session of 2006: The Big Bertha at the Candide Event.
 Best ski trip of 2006: In La Clusaz with Piehouse and the rail trip in Montreal with
 Level 1...
 What gets you stoked: To get a sickkkkk trick on rail or the sickest rail!!!
 What does not get you stoked: Injury...
 What are you hoping to do next season: Get lip 270 on that perfect 40 stair down
 rail I found in Quebec in ...
 Name something that you want to get done in skiing: Win a big event and get
 that double spin I got on the water ramps this summer!!!
 Name something that you want to do before you die: Have some kids with my
 girlfriend Emily...
 Biggest regret: Didn't land my final run at the European Freeski Open in Laax...
 I was so pissed!!!
 How do you learn a trick: When you feel it, try it, and get it...



Michelfeider

Getting permission to shoot rails in high-profile public locales is never an easy task. When we gathered a crew of the sport's top jibbers in Montreal in early January for a Freeskier feature, a lengthy three-kink handrail in the center of the McGill University campus quickly caught our attention. However, requiring the use of our 8-foot drop in ramp, and in all likelihood a lengthy session, we quickly recognized that there was no way to slide this one under the radar of McGill's security force who had already removed us from several other less prominent campus rails in the preceding days.

Armed with a healthy liability insurance policy and years of experience begging and pleading for location clearances, I called the school and clearly explained that I was looking to hold a shoot for a ski film and magazine on their property. I referenced the drop in ramp, all the equipment that we would be bringing in, and the length of time that we would require. After spending several days talking with various administrators, I finally spoke to a woman who readily gave us the green light... it was almost too easy! Interestingly enough, the woman did not want my insurance information, and declined to have the athletes sign liability releases, insisting that they just weren't necessary.



J-D drops in...

The next morning, JF, JD, Cedric, and Russell proceeded to up the ante of urban jibbing while thousands of students, faculty, passersby, and even our friends from McGill Safety and Security stopped to watch the shoot, taking photos, cheering, and reveling in what was an event quite unlike anything they had ever witnessed.

Immediately after the session ended, I received a call from the woman who granted us permission... She was FURIOUS! For some reason, she had misconstrued the information I had given her and seemed to think that we were not shooting action, but rather having a "fashion shoot." When her coworkers mentioned the "stunt skiing" that they had just witnessed, she lost it and called the police immediately, assuming that I had somehow pulled the wool over her eyes and was endangering the McGill student body with my crew's antics. She arrived minutes later, followed by a half a dozen police, and several faculty members threatening to have us arrested if we didn't leave immediately. I quickly apologized for the misunderstanding (which was by all accounts all her fault!), packed up, and left, content to have avoided some serious fines and captured some of the best rail shots of the season. *-JB*



Harvey photo

Sometimes known as: Ced the Pirate, Cedric the Entertainer, and Cedmond.

Age: 23

Residence: Trois-Rivières and Causapsal, QC

Place of Origin: Amqui, QC

Sponsors: Atomic freeskiing, Silver Cartel, Spy Optics, BASE energy drinks, Enom Headwear, Brunelle Sport.

Influences on slope: Eddie Wall, Danny Kass, Dave Crichton, the Gagnier family, the Atomic team and all my friends from QC especially Joel "Lesch" Lechasseur.

Influences in general: My family, my good friends, Jack Sparrow, and Bryce de Nice.

What inspires you: The perspective of doing something slightly different or something that hasn't been done before. It's all about the "that could be really fun to do" feeling.

What gets you stoked: People having fun and nicely built set ups.

What turns you off: Sketchy set-ups, sketchy organization, and injuries.

What are you hoping to do next year: Hopefully I'll be able to ski again without too much back pain.

Something that you want to accomplish in skiing: Having people understand how urban should be done and doing trick on legit rails.

Name something that you want to do before you die: Having fun everyday until then.

Biggest regret, if any: I should have moved out of my hometown sooner to ski more.

How do you learn a trick: I think about the physics of the trick, figure out how to get the motion down, film the first attempts, look at the result and then change what need to be changed.

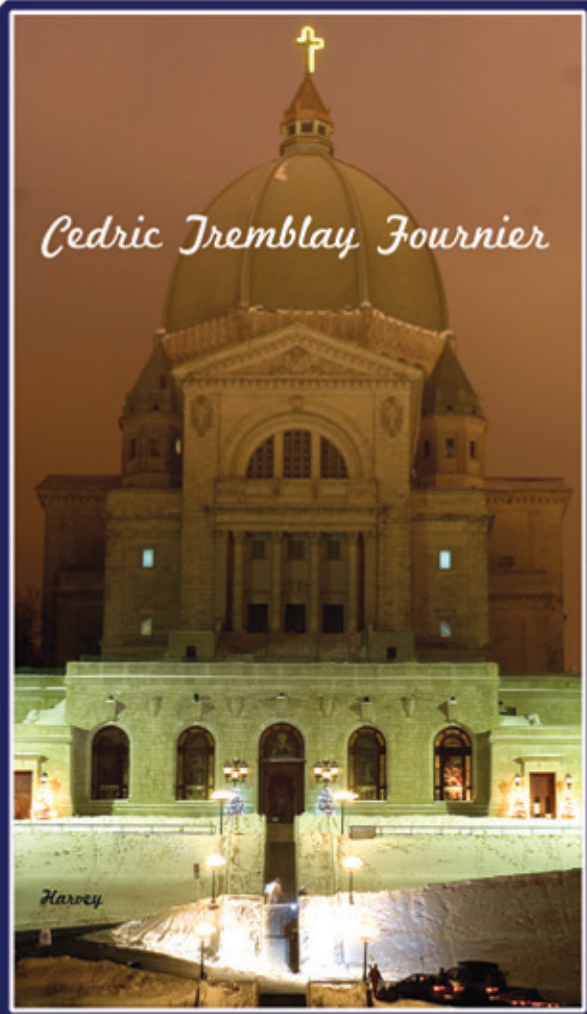
Describe your ski attire: Not that baggy suits in various colors that are not bright enough for filming, or a skin tight leather jacket with baggy pants.

Offslope style: Anything that looks decent and not too baggy. I like the denim/corduroy pants with a shirt or a hoodie. I rock the 80's shoes with a leather jacket, bandana and jeans when -ever I go party with my moustache though.

Best ski session last season: Park: Between the US Open and the AFT event at Breck, the Atomic Freeskiing team went up to Keystone to ski around the mountain. Most of the guys decided to explore the mountain since it wasn't that great outside, but Charles Grant and myself decided to hit the park anyway. The session that went down that day was EPIC, we were getting so many laps down in the park and everyone was letting us pass them in the waiting line for some reason. We skied like that for a good 3 hours going bigger every lap until our ankles hurt too much. At that point, the rest of the team just arrived in the park and called us sissies for going down to the condo so soon. Little did they know about our crazy session.

Best ski trip last year: The Ohio trip with Level 1: On a Sunday night during my exams sessions at the university, I received a phone call from my team manager asking me when my exam would be finished and if I could go to Ohio to shoot with Berman. Three days later, I was on a plane with J-D for my first real shoot. It was real fun being shipped in the middle of nowhere (for a French Canadian that went out of Canada only once before, 2 weeks earlier...) hitting rails all day and trying to understand what was going on with all those English speaking peoples and that cute little dog.

Shoutouts: Thanks to everyone that supported me in a way or another during the past 5 years: Caroline for bringing some light when all I could see was darkness. My friends for believing in me and being so chill. Alexis and Chris for all those crazy nights of doing nothing and enjoying it. My family for raising me the way they did and feeding me whenever I was home or visiting. My little bro Alexandre for being the coolest kid ever even though you're giving us a rough time every now and then. Lesch for being THE one that got me into sliding those stupid metal bars even though I thought it was stupid, painful and useless at first. Newschoolers.com for opening my eyes to the ski community. Big shout out to Berman and all my sponsors for giving a chance to be part of LSS. Finally, merci à tout ceux et celles avec qui j'ai skié à un moment ou à un autre dans ma vie, les moments passer avec vous sont mémorables.



Cedric Tremblay Fournier

Harvey



Harvey

J-D Zicat

Sometimes known as: Jayyy-D
 Birthdate: 11/10/87
 Residence: Quebec
 Place of Origin: Loretville
 Sponsors: Spy Optic, 4FRNT Skis, SMS Clothing,
 Dakine, D-Structure pro shop and Base energy drink.

Influence on slope: Charles Gagnier
Influence off slope: Mike Wilson
Best ski session of 05/06: When I went to Chicoutimi to do a lot of handrails.
Best ski shoot of 05/06: KEYSTONE!!!! with Level 1 ... So sick.
What gets you stoked: Landing a sick trick on my feet.
What are you hoping to do next year: Make a podium and have more shots with Level 1.
Something that you want to get done in skiing: The four 1260's
Something that you want to do before you die: Buy a Subaru WRX sti 06
Aspirations of any kind? Travis Pastrana
How do you learn a trick: P-R-A-C-T-I-C-E
Describe your on slope style: SMOOTH and BIG
Shoutouts: Thanks to all the people who believe in me...J-D Zicat

...Cedric

NAME YOUR FAVORITE
ski location: The Chic - Chaos
non-ski location: Home
travel destination: Gaspésie National Parc
ski buddies: Lesch, Charles Froot and all the kids from Mont St-Anne.
famous female: Keira Knightley (She's almost a pirate)
time of year: every minute I spend chilling with my good friends and my good family.
grab: any kind of nose
food: Sushis and fine pizzas
ski movies: Royalty and Shanghai Six
non-ski movie: Anything with pirates or wannabe criminals (sneaky and lock stock style)
song to wake up to: "Bo" by Dumas
song to party to: "Alger" by Jean Leloup
song to drive to: "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey
album: Selling England by the Pound by Genesis
musical artist: Jethro Tull
nonski activity: cycling



JENNIFER ANTON



NAME YOUR FAVORITE
ski location: MAMMOTH
non-ski location: FLORIDA
travel destination: WHISTLER
ski crew: LOW-1 CREW!!!
famous female: JENNIFER ANTON
time of year: WINTER
grab: NOSE
food: SPLITE GRILL
ski movie: TOO MANY TO MAKE A CHOICE
non-ski movie: CLIC
song to wake up to: "G-COOL" - GETO BOYS
song to party to: RIRANVA
song to drive to: LYRICSON
album: TUPAC
non ski activity: ROAD BIKE
item to travel with: LAPTOP



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LOIC COLLOMB-PATTON

TANNER RAINVILLE

ANTOINE DIET

DAN MARION

ARNAUD ROUGIER

MARIE MARTINOD

Travis Redd



The "Video Game" rail near Aspen, CO
Jay Michelfelder photo

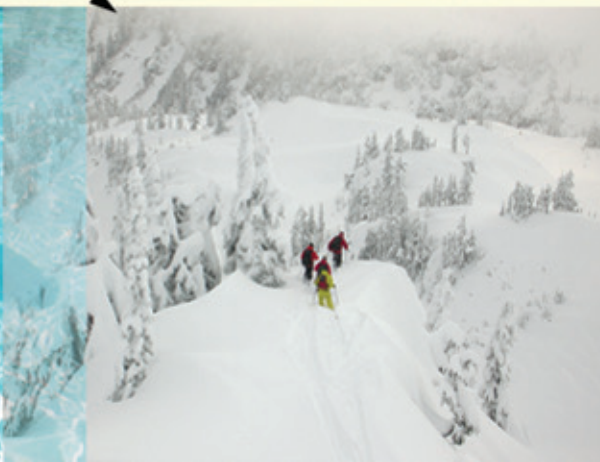
Sometimes known as: Disco Trav
 Age: 22
 Residence: Missouri Heights, CO
 Place of Origin: Same
 Sponsors: Atomic, Spy, Colorado Freeskier, Sublux
 Influence on slope: Steele Spence
 Influence off slope: My dad
 What inspires you: Learning new things.
 Best ski session of 2006: Late season Mammoth.
 What gets you stoked: Pow Pow, and Donuts.
 What turns you off: Capers.
 What are you hoping to do next year: Not compete.
 Name something that you want to do before you die: Ski off a big cliff with a parachute.
 Biggest regret, if any: I wish I could answer that honestly but you can't live life with regret.
 Slope style: I try to look as cool as possible with in my own boundaries.
 Offslope style, what does it for you? I keep having these dreams that im naked and just chilling with all my friends. Its really weird, what is that supposed to mean?
 Anything else that you'd like to add:
 I would like to give a shout out to my Grandpa, who just recently passed, he was the dopest Grandpa ever, I love you Gramps.

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: ASPEN, CO - ASPEN HIGHLANDS IN PARTICULAR.
 non-ski location: DA BEACH
 travel destination: FIJI
 ski crew: LEVEL 2 CREAM BARY.
 famous female: OYRAH
 time of year: FALL TO SHO
 grab: SAFETY
 food: EGG SANDWICH
 ski movie: LONG STORY SHORT
 non-ski movie: CLERKS 2. WAS AWESOME
 song to wake up to: SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW
 song to party to: "MODERN MAN'S HUSTLE" - SLUG
 song to drive to: "SIMPLE MAN" - GROUCH
 album: "STRAIGHT AHEAD" - PENNYWISE
 musical artist: BOB
 nonski activity: SKATE / SURF WHEN IM FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO.
 item to travel with: GOND BOOK.



Steele's best ski session of 2006:
 4FRNT photoshoot, Powder Mountain Catskiing, Whistler, British Columbia.
 Sterbenz, Niklas, Hjorleifson, and myself caught a huge storm in BC and skied feet upon feet of powder with our own private cat.



Michelfelder photo. Powder Mtn Catskiing



Steele Spence

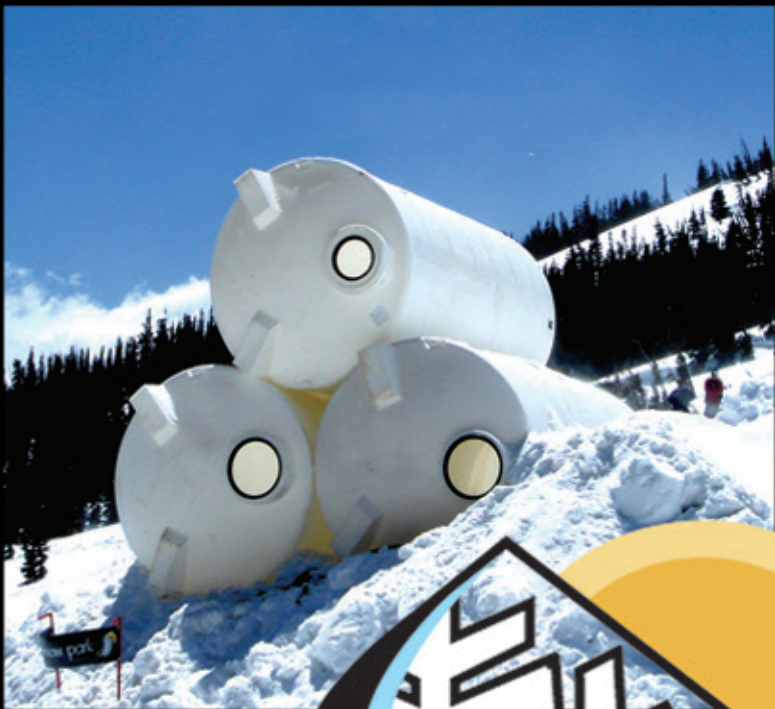
Sometimes known as: Spence
 Birthdate: 4/18/83
 Residence: Denver, CO
 Place of Origin: Aspen/Snowmass Village, CO
 Sponsors: 4FRNT skis, Smith, Rip Curl, Kicker, Aspen/Snowmass, Dakine, Swix, Decyler, Tecnica
 On slope influences: drugs and alcohol
 Other influences: drugs and alcohol
last two answers were only loosely based on truth.
 Best filming trip of 2006:
 The Road Trip. I looped the entire western United States with Level 1 and basically filmed all my backcountry for my segment this year. Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and California.

What gets you stoked:
 Fresh Powder in the backcountry/snowmobiling.
 What does not get you stoked:
 Competing in shitty weather.
 What are you stoked to do next season:
 SKI NAKED!
 Name something that you want to accomplish/get done in skiing:
 Make 4FRNT even cooler.
 Aspirations of any kind?
 To buy a round the world ticket and circle the globe in a year.
 How do you learn a trick?
 On snow.
 On slope attire:
 Rip Curl all the way.
 Offslope style: What does it for you?
 Loose and comfortable.
 Anything else that you'd like to add:
 Don't do drugs and alcohol

NAME YOUR FAVORITE
 ski location: Snowmass, CO
 non-ski location: Lake Powell, VT/AZ
 travel destination: Costa Rica
 ski buddies: Delyfer Crew, T-Redd, Stephen Smith
 famous female: Paris Hilton (famous for being famous)
 time of year: December/January
 grab: Tree Tail
 food: cheese
 ski movie: "Unknown" by Pow Pow Productions
 non-ski movie: Detroit Rock City
 song to wake up to: "MILKSN" - Rancid
 song to party to: "One Night in Bangkok" - CBI
 song to drive to: "No Mistakes" - Classified
 album: "Feh Vu Z" (Murs + Slu)
 musical artist: Bradley Nowell (Sublime)
 nonski activity: Having fun



"Yo I got some crazy good music!"



eclipse snow park
COMING SOON

ST MARY'S COLORADO

ECLIPSESNOW.COM



Birthdate: April 8, 1985
Residence: Nowhere in particular
Place of Origin: New Hampshire
Sponsors: Volki, Tecnica, Marker, Sunice, Smith, Grandoe,
 Dirty Harry, igobig.com, Bern
Influences on slope: Alex Balsen, Pep, Andreas Hatveit
Influences off slope: My Dad, Billy, movies like "Ong-Bak"

NAME YOUR FAVORITE
 ski location: WATERVILLE VALLEY
 non-ski location: G-BOY'S HOUSE
 travel destination: NEW ZEALAND
 ski buddies: STACK, DIRTY, PAUL, BILL, ALEC, COLBY AND GREG
 famous female: REBECCA ROMINJ STANES
 time of year: FALL
 grab: ROSE GRAB
 food: SUSHI
 ski movie: SESSION 12KZ
 non-ski movie: THE MATRIX TRILOGY
 song to wake up to: XAVIER RUDD
 song to party to: "DIRTY DIRTY AND 'ITS GON' DOWN"
 song to drive to: "COCHISE" - AUDIOSEARCH
 album: "AEROMA" - TOOL
 nonski activity: FISHING, SAILING
 item to travel with: TOOTH BRUSH

Best ski session last year: With my friends at Loon Mtn, NH.
Best ski trip of 2006: Austria, with the Volki boys.
What gets you stoked: Seeing tricks with a lot of style and some creativity. I like when a trick looks impossible and makes you think after you see it. **What does not get you stoked:** Stressing out about skiing. Never a good time. **What are you hoping to do next season:** Travel even more. And get more training in at my home mountain.
Name something that you want to accomplish in skiing: X-Games.
Name something that you want to do before you die: See the world.
Aspirations of any kind? I would like to work on putting more style into my bigger competition tricks. **How do you learn a trick:** Do it over and over until I can do it without thinking. Then I add a grab.
On slope attire: Well when filming, brighter colors are key with a dark background. When I am training or just skiing around on the hill I like black. **Offslope style: Whats does it for you?** Whatever is comfortable, I don't worry about style off the hill. I just wear what is cheap. My friend Dirty makes clothing for me that's pretty sweet, so I rock that sometimes.

Anything else that you'd like to add: Thanks to Shane and Gaza. I couldn't have been here without them. And to Rob for the support from the beginning.

Dan Marion

Sometimes known as: Marion
Age: 19
Residence: Windham, ME
Place of Origin: Windham
Sponsors: Dynastar, DNA, Electric, Grandoe, XGO
Influence on slope: Mickeal because he taught me how to use my edges.
Influence off slope: alcohol
What inspires you: Prom dates
Best ski session of 2006: G-pass when I got a bunch of good tricks with the boys.
Best ski shoot/trip of 2006: Japan because it was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget. And we killed it.
What gets you stoked: Peeps kilin it.
What turns you off: Cold showers
What are you hoping to do season: Backcountry
Name something that you want to accomplish in skiing: X podium
Name something that you want to do before you die: Jenna Jameson
Aspirations of any kind? Hard work
How do you learn a trick: Fall on my ass and get up.
Slope style: Do what you do, and try not to move while you do it.
Offslope style: Whats does it for you? Skateboarding
Anything else that you'd like to add: If you build it they will come.



JENNA JAMESON



GLORIA ESTEFAN



COSTA RICA



NAME YOUR FAVORITE
 ski location: SECAET
 non-ski location: WHISTLER
 travel destination: COSTA RICA (SWE)
 ski crew: C-VAN, T-RANS, THE LUT GOES ON
 famous female: JENNA JAMESON
 time of year: WHENEVER THE TIME IS RIGHT
 food: HIGH CARB DIET
 ski movie: "BIG TO BE ROYALTY"
 non-ski movie: CADDYSHALL
 song to wake up to: LAST CALL SPEAKERBOX
 song to party to: LAST CALL SPEAKERBOX
 song to drive to: SOMEBODY YOU ALL ASKED TO
 musical artist: GLORIA ESTEFAN
 nonski activity: PING PONG

Copper
catalyst
TERRAIN PARK

GREG TUFFELMIRE
NICK MERCON
JON CYRULIK

COPPERFREERIDE.COM



THIS YEAR, WE ASKED ILLUSTRATOR NATE VAN DYKE TO GIVE US HIS TAKE ON OUR CATALYST TERRAIN PARK. TO SEE MORE OF NATE'S WORK, THE WORK OF OUR OTHER FEATURED ARTISTS, AND TO GET THE FULL DOWNLOAD ON COPPER'S CATALYST TERRAIN PARK, GO TO COPPERFREERIDE.COM.



© photo: elina srpavica

LevelGLOVES



www.jiberish.com

Jiberish

We would like to introduce the newest additions to the Jiberish family, Mike Clarke and Ian Cosco.





Austria



Words & Photos by Freedle Coty

Jim Russell

Sometimes known as: Love Muscle

Age: 22

Residence: Salt Lake City, UT

Place of Origin: New York

Sponsors: Volkl, Tecnica, Marker, Scott, Level Gloves.

Influence off slope: My parents and family for being super supportive.

What inspires you: Pushing myself and doing new things.

Best ski trip of 2006: In the backcountry with Liam in Austria. I couldn't stick the landing and Liam and Freedle made me do it one last time and I finally stuck it. We had gotten like almost 3 feet and it was too snowy to shoot so we just skied pow runs one day. It was pretty sick. The whole trip was awesome. A lot of memories. Mostly of Liam. (haha)

What gets you stoked: Music when I'm skiing. I just zone out, like I'm in my own little world.

What does not get you stoked: Being sore. You feel as if you just got hit by a car or something, its hard to roll out and do it all over again the next day.

What are you hoping to do next season: More backcountry with the sled from Orage Masters.

Name something that you want to accomplish in skiing: Hmmmm I'm pretty sure Vanular is going to get that done and think of it before me.

Offslope style: Whats does it for you? I like to play a lot of golf and get away from skiing. Or else I think about skiing to much.

Shoutouts to: Volkl, for helping me out a ton this year, without them I would not have been all over the world to ski. Level 1, Scott USA, Siver, Level gloves, My parents and sisters, Chels for dealing with me leaving all the time to go somewhere new, all my friends in Canandaigua and all over the world. Freeskier magazine. And I think that's about it. Later.



NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: Mammoth's park

non-ski location: Canandaigua Lake, where I grew up.

ski crew: Liam, TJ, Bibby Dumont

famous female: Sarah Burke

time of year: Well right about now its 9:56 am in New York

at my parent's house, oh and its August 2006.

grab: dub japan, those are fun.

food: fish or sushi, those are pretty yummy.

ski movie: Long Story Short

non-ski movie: The Land Before Time

song to wake up to: Bob Marley "No Woman, No Cry"

song to party to: Sizzla or something really weird

song to drive to: Depends on how long the drive is, usually

its from one end of the country to the other, so you need

about 5,000 different songs.

album: IPOD

nonski activity: Golf, wakeboarding, bubbly brews

item to travel with: Toothbrush, the worst is when you're traveling for like 24 hrs and you can't brush your teeth, or some floss. Deodorant. People don't want to smell your pits on the plane.

A freshly assembled group of skiers for Volkl USA, consisting of Liam Downey, Jim Russell, Craig Coker, & Colby West embarked on a filming mission in the heart of Austrian ski country for the first two weeks of February. They were also joined and guided by German filmer Mo Jarhammer and skiers Nico Zajack and Ho Weisser. Here is a day to day account of the trip.



2/1 - Flew out of Denver, layover in the ATL, en route to Munich, Germany.

2/2 - Arrived in Munchen, Deutschland, Enjoyed some grade A Italian coffee, stacked firewood, visited a biergarden, slept, got rejected from a massive 2kink rail, and ate weiner snitzel. Saw more BMWs, Mercedes, and Audis than we could shake several sticks at.

2/3 - Skied the Zugspitze glacier (in Garmisch, Germany).

2/4 - Drove to Schladming, Austria to meet up with Flo Weisser and other Volkl skiers for a step-up building session.

Craig Coker

Sometimes known as: E-Walk

Age: 22

Residence: Everywhere

Sponsors: Orage, Volkl, Jiberish, Marker, Tecnica

Influences on slope: Liam with his rails, Tim with his Trucks, Corey with his cat like reflexes.

Influences off slope: My Parents. Always workin their ass off to make people happy.

What inspires you: Good Vibe from people.

Best ski session of 05/06: Playin Foolsball with Liam in random places of the world.

What gets you stoked: Skiing with the friends

What does not get you stoked: Not skiing to my full potential which I feel that I do a lot of.

What are you hoping to do next season: Lots of shooting with Freeskier and Level 1. That's the main mission, I'll also be in Europe a lot.

Name something that you want to accomplish in skiing: Sell lots of my sponsors products. A multiple page profile in Freeskier Magazine, A Big featured segment in a movie.

Name something that you want to do before you die: Sky Dive

Biggest regret, if any: Not working hard enough in skiing.

Describe your on slope setup: Some skis, maybe some poles perhaps some ski clothes?

Offslope style: Jiberish Velour suit and slippers.

Shoutouts: Berman, Freedle, and the whole Level 1 crew.....Jea boys!

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: All of Europe

non-ski location: The Beach

travel destination: Europe

ski buddies: Mr. Russell, Liam

famous female: My Girl Friend

time of year: The hot summer days at the beach

grab: Tail

food: Spaghetti

ski movie: Long Story Short

non-ski movie: Chappelle's Show (all seasons)

song to wake up to: I never wake up to any songs

nonski activity: Surfing



2/5 - Jumped the step-up under blue skies. Visited some local eateries and drinkeries in Schladming.

2/6 - Filmed a hedge/driveway gap at the Weisser residence in Oberhaus, Oesterreich and had a nocturnal rock wallride shoot. Also ate some more homemade weiner schnitzel for lunch.

2/7 - Drove across Austria to the northwest side of the Arlberg region.

2/8 - Did a snow dance.

2/9 - Snow begins to dump. Skied some roadside pillow lines against the better wishes of the Austrian Highway Department.

2/10 - Snow continues. Had a powder day at Warth resort with several fence jumpings and avalanche scares.

2/11 - The clouds break and 3 days of sun begins. We get down to business building and shooting two inbound kickers.

2/12 - Two more beautiful jumps are built.

2/13 - Due to lapses in security, several gaper snowboard tracks are put in parts of our landings. Despite this, the aforementioned jumps are shot in tandem in a good session. This is what we came here for, it's a warm and fuzzy feeling.

2/14 + 15 - Visited St Anton and Lech, Arlberg. Snow goes downhill due to solar radiation, or "sunbaking" if you wanna be a dick about it.

2/16 + 17 - Return to Schladming where it begins to rain. Single tear. Yes, it does rain in the Alps too.

2/18 - Drive in the night to Munich and hop on the early flight home. Returned to the land of Starbucks, hemis, fake fits, and Chuck Norris, Eh voila.

Alex Balsen

Birthdate: 8/3/86
Residence: Malden Bridge, NY
Place of Origin: Columbia County
Sponsors: K2, Spy, Joystick, Jiberish
Influence on slope: Terrain. Fellow shredders.
What inspires you: People

Best ski session of 2006: Two real turns at Mira. Skiing a simple little face isn't as simple as it seems. Ski too far right or too far left and you'll hit terrain traps - a slide could funnel you off a two thousand foot cliff. A subtle crease mid-slope could hide a hundred foot crevasse. We were on a simple face, so - simple turns. Still, the whole no-go death-zone thing was new for me. Mad respect to the big mountains, and the shredders who shred them.

What gets you stoked: Pretty people and things, A refreshing breakfast.

Friends: Tunes.

What turns you off: War. Politics.

What are you hoping to do next year: Try to get zen with shit. See how some skiing deprivation hits me.

Name something that you want to get done in skiing: Ski more powder. Ride more mountains.

Biggest regret: Not skiing Alta everyday while living in Salt Lake.

How do you learn a trick: Visualization. Studying other peep's hucks.

Slope style: Gangsta and wanton.

Whats does it for you off the hill? Drawings, paintings, good company.

Anything else that you'd like to add: Love and peace to all.

Bob Dylan



NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: Not sure yet. I like so many.
non-ski location: places with interesting people (to draw)
travel destination: Nepal
ski buddies: Mr. Fields, Big D, jzuzms, David Hoffman, nez
famous female: Katie Killwitz
time of year: any time.
grab: a ss
food: bread
ski movie: License to Thrill
non-ski movie: Snakes on a Plane
song to wake up to: "1913" - Dylan
song to party to: "Fear" - Peggy Lee
song to drive to: "Sweet Jane" - Velvet Underground
album: "Magical Mystery Tour" - The Beatles
musical artist: Bob Dylan
nonski activity: doodling

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: Mammoth
non-ski location: Lake George, NY
travel destination: Anywhere with snow and a mountain
I have never ridden without a sk bag so...
ski buddies/crow: The Mammoth Crew - Sean Logan, Spud, Kevin, Nolan, Bekah, Garrett, TK, Stu, Benny, Rainville
time of year: All of it as long as there is skiing somewhere
grab: True the sk leading true to smother (Bekah)
food: Sushi
ski movie: Rocky
non-ski movie: Avengers Will See You in Derek Luctica
musical artist: The Great Full Dead
nonski activity: Boating, Wakeboarding, Skating
item to travel with: iPod

Sean Decker

Sometimes known as: Squid
Birthdate: 10/29/88
Residence: Mammoth Lakes, CA - The 492
Place of Origin: North Salem, NY
Sponsors: Dynastar, Spy

Influences on slope: The kids I ride with daily in Mammoth, they're all sick so I definitely feed off what they do.
Influences off slope: My Dad. He's the man. He's always supported my skiing and allowed me to ski a lot when I was young. He always tells me to do what I love and taught me to work hard. He's the reason why I have dedicated myself to skiing so much.
What inspires you: People who are amped about what they do and take it to the next level. I like to see people pushing themselves rather than just going with the flow.

Best ski session of 05/06: Well Mammoth got 675 inches this year so its hard to name one sesh. But probably the morning Nolan and I broke trail to the top of Hemlock Bowl or one of the days we all lapped The Tail 5 or 6 times.

Best ski shoot of 05/06: Crested Butte in April was ill. It was the first sled trip I have gone on so I was really stoked. Liam, Balsen, and I all skied well so it was a really positive experience. It's what has me stoked to try to film more this season and showed me how much time and work skiers and snowboarders really put in to getting the exclusive shots.

What gets you stoked? Skiing when its dumping out. It's usually the best snow and no ones out riding and it gets me pumped to get up and out the morning its clears. Also seeing my friends killing it and stomping new stuff. It helps me to try new grabs or whatever rather than do stuff I already know.

What does not get you stoked: Fools being foolish at the mountain. You always seem to see someone yelling or bitching about something and it wack. It must be all the energy you get from skiing or something but fools need to contain that stuff.

What are you hoping to do next season: Hopefully its a good snow year so I can ride alot of pow. I really want to hit more back-country jumps and push it there and I definitely want to continue to ride a lot of park. I think there there is alot more to do in the park with grabs and spinning four ways.

Name something that you want to accomplish in skiing: Land four 10's? Some people, including myself, have hated on 10's and spinning a lot but at some point but its really sick. If you can land four 5's or 7's and won't try to land four 10's you're only holding your self back and its lame. Its all about trying to raise your level of skiing everytime you ride.

Something that you want to do before you die: Ski in AK. **Aspirations of any kind?** To stay involved with skiing my whole life.

How do you learn a trick: Try it. **Offslope:** **Whats does it for you?** Cruising with the kids I ski with. I really like to meet other people and see people I know who dont ski, but I have the most fun chilling with the people who know me best, and those are usually people I ski with.

Shoutouts: "The Back Ground" check it out!

photo by Jazelle

Bromuda

by Freddie Coty

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2006

"Superunknown"

Each fall hundreds of entries pour into the Level 1 offices for the annual Superunknown contest, the consummate "sponsor me" contest that rewards the most impressive promo video with a pile of hookups and opportunities. We get everything from enthusiastic 12-year-olds doing 360s and backscratches on backyard jumps to über impressive displays of jibbery and jumping from the kids that will inevitably be the next big thing. This year's crop featured nothing less than the deepest talent pool to date, with Mike Clarke and David Beaulieu rising to the top, and sparking what was certainly the most heated and involved call we've had to make. At the end of the day, young Mike Clarke walked away with the decision, and following in the footsteps of previous winners Corey Vanular and JD Zicat, should be a name to watch in coming seasons. Have you got what it takes to throw down with the best of the best? Be sure to look for details on this year's Superunknown IV contest at www.level1productions.com.

Age: 17

Residence: New Hampshire last year, Colorado this year.

Place of Origin: Lake Placid, NY.

Sponsors: Spy, Jiberish, Salomon, Obermeyer.

Influences on slope: Pep, Vanular, Andy Hathaway, and mucho mas.

Influences off slope: Chuck Norris and DMX.

Best ski session of '06: Skiing around Momentum this summer with

the boys, just having a good time digging, scraping rails, and catching sweet air. I even grabbed my skis once... maybe.

Best ski shoot of '06: I did a sunset pipe shoot at Mt. Hood with O'Connell and Salomon this summer. We were just above the clouds and the light was superb. It was just Peter, Sammy, Simon and myself lapping the some what sketchy Windell's pipe, but it was a good time.

What gets you stoked: Snow, Sun, Friends, Eating Muffins, Skiing Moguls, Music, Movie, Summer, Winter.

What does not get you stoked: Alarm clocks, Rain, Wet dogs or any kind of animals for that matter, Getting hurt, Running, Pimples, Tucking my shirt in, Working in landscaping, Blisters, Being cold, being wet, Etc.

What are you stoked to do next year: Ski a considerable amount, go to school in the fall, live out west, hit big booters, backcountry, handrails are okay, ski nice parks, do a few of those competition things, pipe, film, have a good time and get barreled.

Name something that you want to do before you die: Be shredding hard when I'm super old and having a good time. That or build a boat or something sweet, out of wood.



Biggest regret, if any: Nothing at this particular moment. Actually I used to figure skate.

How do you learn a trick: I huck myself off something, and hope I land on my feet. Or occasionally water ramping in Placid.

On-slope style: Describe your attire, setup
Skis: Salomon SPKs Boots: Salomon SPKs Bindings: Salomon 916s Goggles: SPY Soldiers or Omegas Clothing: Last years Obermeyer stuff, pretty sweet. I need gloves.

Offslope style: What's does it for you?
Jiberish, G-Unit and Spy.

Shoutouts: Mother, Father... Hello! Jeremy Gasowski, Nick Preston, and Everyone at Waterville, Richie Morgan, Jenny and Ted at Salomon, Pete and Gabe at Jiberish, Kiffor at Obermeyer, Berman, Spy, Level 1, Olenick, Willis, Hath, Kiesels, Strenio, and anyone else I can't remember.

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: BECK

non-ski location: LAKE PLACID

travel destination: WHISTLER

ski crew: WATERVILLE ACADEMY

famous female: SO MANY

time of year: WINTER

grab: BLUNT

food: PANCAKE OR MUFFIN

ski movie: SHANNY SIX WAR, TEDDYBEAR CRISIS

non-ski movie: WEDDING CRASHERS, DUMB AND DUMBER

song to wake up to: ENRIQUE IGLESIAS - "ESCAPE"

song to party to: RICK ROSS - "EVERYDAY IN THE STRUT"

song to drive to: BLUE STRIP STEEL - "BORN IN THE USA"

album: BEACH BOYS GREATEST HITS, AND REACTION ETERNAL

musical artist: NAS, TILLY, OR COMMON

nonski activity: CROQUET



Michael Clarke



Matt Harvey crane photo

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

ski location: Mammoth

non-ski location: Barcelona

travel destination: Hawaii

ski crew: we got T-Reas T-Money D-Marin Sean Peeeeeezy

Fos reeezy. Stefan Thomas Dr. Van the man Valin. Mammoth crew,

Kye, Whistler crew, Michelle Parker, T.J Schiller, Joshua Bibby,

Dr. Liam Downey, The Dumont ya heard!

famous female: mmm Jena Haze

time of year: winter, spring, summer...

grab: blutteez mon

food: all food

ski movie: Royalty

non-ski movie: Belly

song to wake up to: "NIKE AIRS and CRISP T'S" - RICK ROSS

song to party to: "TIPSY" - J-KUN

song to drive to: "O' SKOOL" - T.I.

album: "THE LEAK" - T.I., "WORDS OF TRUTH" - SIZLA, "LIFE" - SIZLA

musical artist: SIZLA

nonski activity: SKYBOARD, GOLF, CHILL

item to travel with: MASTERCARD

Corey Vanular

Sometimes known as: C-dog, C-van, van-city, UuuLAR, Steeze-Ular, VAN, Cor, Corey, Vanular.

Age: 18

Residence: Whistler

Place of Origin: Ontario-yl

Sponsors: Orage, Spy, Dynastar, Monster, Jiberish,



Tom Penny



Sizzla

General influences: Reggae, hip hop, Tiger Woods, Tom Penny

Best ski session of 05/06: Brighton pow pow

Best ski trip of 05/06: Switzerland

What gets you stoked: Powder, girls, green

What does not get you stoked: No powder, no girls, no green

What do you want to do next season: Ski powder

Something that you want to accomplish in skiing: Win

X-Games, ski lots of powder.

Aspirations: To be a millionaire and to make a name in skiing.

How do you learn a trick? Visualize it beforehand.

Offslope style: What's does it for you? Jeans, long t's, gold

ring, bracelet, watch, Newera cap/headband, Nike Airs.

Anything else that you'd like to add: Booyakashaal

Ending out the season.

When the mercury climbed into the 90s in Southern California during the last few weeks of April, the creek collecting runoff from Big Bear quickly turned into a series of Class V rapids, and prospects for our final park shoot of the season, tentatively scheduled for the second week in May, looked bleak at best.

Following on the heels of super successful shoots at Keystone and Eclipse, the Bear park staff rolled out the red carpet and still managed to farm enough snow for a few jibs and jumps to keep us busy. While a shortage of sunscreen was the only real issue faced over the first few days, the final day provided a harsh reminder of just how serious the consequences are in our sport. Cedric took too much speed off the back of a sled tow into the 75-foot hip, and overshot the landing past the bottom of the transition. One ten-thousand dollar heli ride later, he awoke to find out that he had done some substantial damage, and would need to have titanium rods inserted into his spine in order to help heal the five vertebrae that the surgeons would soon fuse. While a grim reminder as to our own mortality, Ced's accident also serves as a testament to how big an effect a positive attitude can have. Cedric has since returned home to Quebec where he's deep into rehab, and far exceeding all his doctors expectations for full recovery.

KEYSTONE, COLORADO.



Five minute lift. Progressive rails. Night jibbing.
keystoneressort.com/a51

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Colby West
Julian Fohrman photo



Karaoke and Tuna Bowls in the Land of the Rising Sun



WORDS BY JOSH BERMAN

Now the first remarkable thing about Japan, as anyone would guess, really is the food. However, its remarkability lends itself not necessarily to what one would expect, as traditional Japanese cuisine and Japanese 'Sushi' is quite a departure from the Americanized version. "I like American sushi better," decidedly announced Tatsuya, our esteemed trip organizer, self-appointed driver, and the incidental editor of Bravoski Magazine (Japan's leading Freeride rag). Tatsuya's callout is for good reason. One could search high and low for a lifetime and nary a California Roll could be found.

Beyond the cuisine though, the snow really is quite remarkable.

When Travis Redd, John Symms, Matt Philippi, and Dan Marion arrived on the Island of Hokkaido in late February, there had been no appreciable accumulation in over 10 days. Even so, a veritable army seemed to be working around-the-clock shifts managing the highway side snow drifts that in many places towered 30' overhead. The first few days gave us light snowfall that dusted the city of Sapporo and its outlying towns, where we were staying. Unfortunately, mild temps and the dry spell that preceded our trip left us with less than prime surface conditions, and our quest for truly deep pow was quickly stymied. Our "official" guides, Ken and Nobu from Dominant Films knew the lay of the land and took us to zone after zone of epic pillow lines and mushrooms ("Mash," in Japanese ski slang) that were one good snowstorm away from being legitimately ski-able. When our near-futile attempts to get real skiing done more or less fell through, Ken and Nobu rallied us around several nearby urban areas, pointing out more quality kinking Japanese steel (and aluminum) than anyone would want to go after in the course of a season.

Several days of jibbing later, Tatsuya led us to the fabled resort area of Niseko. One thing that quickly became apparent was the obvious lack of sun that we would be seeing on the trip. At this point, aside from a few fleeting glimpses of sunlight, the North Island seemed perpetually covered by a dark grey cloud that alternately generated fog, flurries, moments of heavy snow, and at times rain. As it turns out, storms, specifically in Niseko, would blow in from Siberia and contribute to nearly 700 inches of average annual snowfall. The downside of course, with the constant snows, sunshine in the area was more myth and legend than reality. According to one of the numerous Australians wintering in Niseko, the one day of sun we were lucky to experience was only the 5th bluebird day all season.

So the day before our fabled bluebird day, Ken and Nobu led us to a local jump spot off of one of the passes that they had shot the previous season. Despite the falling snow, it was readily apparent that there was a layer of reddish-brown coating much of the terrain, which, as Ken explained, was sand that was blowing in from deserts in China. Near the top of the pass, we managed to bump into a Poorboyz crew including the likes of Pep, Grete, Benchetler, and Cinematographer Tyler Hamlet. Daunted by the blizzard we seemed to be in the middle of, they were heading back to the hotel. Not us. Tatsuya insisted that the skies would clear the next morning, and everyone agreed that an afternoon of jump building was in our mutual best interest. With less than 5-feet of visibility, heavy blowing

snow, and no light, we rolled the dice and spent five hours constructing an 8-foot tall cheese wedge. Tatsuya's seemingly doomed prediction for sun notwithstanding, we awoke the next morning to blue and sunny skies, and found that our hotel in fact lay at the base of a towering Volcano, bearing a striking resemblance to the main Island's Mount Fuji. The volcano, as Tatsuya explained, was the adapted symbol of Niseko, and the dominant geological feature on the Island.

With that knowledge in our pockets, we loaded up our 9-passenger Toyota Lunch Box van and headed up to our spot, only to find the aforementioned PBP crew putting the finishing touches on their jump, no less than 50 yards from our own jump. 6500 miles from Utah's Grizzly Gulch, and we were sharing a jump spot with the same crew that shared a nearby jump spot the day before we left for Japan 10 days prior. Aside from the camaraderie of the joint session, however, it was a very strange reminder of the fact that skiing is a very, very small world. With a few shots in the bag, we rolled out to jump spot #2 as the clouds came in to meet us, and we were to see our last moments of sunshine in Niseko. With a mix of rain and snow in the forecast, we wrapped this particular leg of our journey and headed off to Sapporo, in search of our favorite Kudu Kudu (merry-go-round) Sushi establishment, some more rails, and the numerous Karaoke bars the city had to offer.

One of the other most notable things about Japanese culture and the society at large is its intense focus on courtesy, manners, and respect. Nowhere else in the world, to the best of my knowledge, are you greeted at the gas pump by so many smiling individuals, who seem to thank you at least once for each liter of gas they pump for you. With our 65-liter tank, we were on the receiving end of a lot of 'thank you's' and were at least once literally chased out of the gas station by a thankful crew, bowing in appreciation as they called out "Arigato GyoZimas" (translated as thank you, very, very much!) at the top of their lungs.

Among other cultural notables, one couldn't cross a city block without taking notice of the abundance of what has been popularly termed by North American culture, as "SARS masks" after the epidemic of 2003. Media coverage with redundant shots of Asian men, women, and children donning surgical masks as they went about their everyday business did nothing short of creep most of our group out, before Tatsuya explained that these were people with general cold/flu symptoms, who, as their culture dictates, should take every step possible to make sure they didn't share whatever they had with the rest of the population. That, and the same surgical masks, as Tatsuya went on, had been adapted by urban gangs, and after that point, American pro skiers hell-bent on sliding Japanese handrails.

CONTINUED>

The city of Sapporo is not unlike any large city, and not so uniquely illustrates the cultural clash between new and old, aspects of traditional Japanese culture running hand in hand with 50-foot animated Pokemon billboards. On one corner of Susukino, Sapporo's main drag, could be found a traditional Japanese temple, espousing everything one could imagine to be old-school Japanese society, and not more than half a block away would be Club Sega, featuring a plethora of slots, pachinko machines, and a life size shoot-em-up Dawn of the Dead video game for which the line wound round the block.

Of course no trip to Japan would be complete without a few hours of Karaoke, which, to my surprise, was quite different then one might have guessed. So looking forward to a stage full of Japanese teenagers rocking the latest in Hello Kitty fashions and belting out their best rendition of Madonna's "Material Girl," we were disappointed to be locked in a small room with our own personal Karaoke machine and catalog of tens of thousands of classic hits and flops alike. When everyone's vocal chords were sufficiently bloodied by Sir Christian's "Motorin" and Guns 'n Roses "Paradise City," bags were packed and the van loaded one last time as we left the land of plentiful snows, Pokemon, and surgical masked gangs where it turns out, the rising sun is more often then not obscured by clouds.

Sometimes known as: Phupa
Birthdate: 6/11/86
Residence: Breckenridge, CO
Place of Origin: Charlestown, MA
Sponsors: Volkl, Tecnica, DNA
Influences on slope: Felton, Vanular, Marion
Influence off slope: The Dude
What inspires you: Big Jumps
Best ski session of 2006:

Quarter Pipe session at the Vermont Open in Stratton with JP Solberg.
What gets you stoked:
Learning new things whether on skis, boards, or bikes.

What does not get you stoked:
Injuries

What are you hoping to do next year:
Big backcountry jumps.

Name something that you want to get done in skiing: I want to have fun the whole time.

Name something that you want to do before you die: Catch the sickest wave ever.

Biggest regret, if any:
Not sticking it

How do you learn a trick:
Send it.

Describe your ski attire:
Jeans, a New England Patriots jacket and a coolah of beer dude!

Shoutouts:
Thanks to everyone who has helped me in skiing. Mom, Dad, Bro, Harry B, Boomer, Glenn, Richie at Placid. Thanks to MC, Arnie, and Clem at Volkl. Ryan at DNA, Japan was sick!, Charlie at Level Gloves, Travis at Windells, and Berman.

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

- ski location:** JAPAN
- non-ski location:** RHODE ISLAND COAST
- travel destination:** COSTA RICA
- ski crew:** DYLAN MOOD, GRAS WATERS, RIGHE PARADISE
- famous female:** QUEEN LATIFA
- time of year:** POW DAYS
- grab:** TAL - PAV
- food:** SUSHI
- ski movie:** LSS
- non-ski movie:** THE BIG LEBOWSKI
- song to wake up to:** "BABYLON" - CAPLETON ft SIZZLA
- song to party to:** "KILLA CAM" - CAM'RON
- song to drive to:** "YOURS TO KEEP" - TEDDYBENK
- Stockholm**
- album:** CHANTOWN BABYLON
- musical artist:** SIZZLA
- nonski activity:** SURFING
- item to travel with:** CREDIT CARD

Matt Philippi



thumbnails by Berman & Redd



Sometimes known as: "John" or "Symms" or "John Symms"
Age: 22
Residence: Salt Lake City, UT
Place of Origin: Caldwell, ID
Sponsors: Salomon, Scott, DNA, Park City Mountain Resort
Influences on slope: Linda Symms, JP Auclair, Julien Regnier, Scott Hibbert, Mike Derbidge
Influences off slope: My family, my friends, and people in movies, TV shows and music videos.
What gets you stoked: Sunshine, Backflips, Double Backflips.
What does not get you stoked: Clouds. Wind (wind is by far my least favorite meteorological phenomenon), under-rotated backflips.

John Symms



My best ski shoot of last season was hitting a huge booter which I built in Japan with Josh Berman, Jay McWhorter, Travis Redd, Matt Philippi, Dan Marion, and our Japanese buddies/guides Nobuhiko Tamaki, Ken, and Tatsuya Teraoka. We built the jump all day long the day before in the fog and snow. The weather that day was exceptionally disagreeable and everybody was in a bad mood the whole time - I was especially, and I was being a dick to everybody. But the next day there was glorious sunshine, and that was nearly the only sunshine we saw in our whole two-week trip to Japan. When we arrived to hit our jump, PBP had built a jump right next to ours. Berman had a conception fit because they had "ruined his shot." And they probably had, kind of, but at least they didn't just hit our jump, right? The rest of us were just happy because Pep, Grete, Bencheiter and Tyler (a really cool guy, and a huge Lenny Kravitz fan by the way, who films for PBP) were there, and we got to hang out with them while we hit our respective jumps in the Japan beautiful sunshine. The jump was very big, and the snow was firm and crusty, so I decided I only wanted to hit it once. I had tried a few double backflips earlier in the season, but I hadn't landed any yet, and I was hungry to land one. So if I was going to get the trick I wanted and only hit the jump one time, like I wanted to, I was going to have to try a double backflip first hit. I tried. It went okay: of all the other 1 and 3/4 backflips I've done, that one was probably the best. The empty-foot crud belly-flop still hurt pretty bad though, and it made me want to only hit the jump twice (since once was not a rotation, obviously). So I hiked back up and stomped my first double backflip ever on the next try. That was the high point of my season, and I'm a double backflip machine now. So that day was not only the best shoot of my season, but it was a turning point in my life - in my life, man.

What are you hoping to do next season: Have fun. Do things I've never done before. Try to make sure that everybody plays fair, does his or her best, and has a good time.

Name something that you want to accomplish: Switch 1260... I mean switch 1440... I mean switch 1620... I mean, whatever the biggest switch rotation which has been done is. I want to do 180 more than that.

Name something that you want to do before you die: Eat a nice dinner. Swim in a lakewarm infinity pool. Buy a puppy made out of cut glass off of the Home Shopping Network.

How do you learn a trick: I tell all my friends about the new trick I learned, until they can't stand it without my bragging anymore. Then I pretend to be hurt and I never have to prove to anybody that I can really do it.

Slope style: An understated look free at jerseys, danglers, doo-rags, gold fronts, platinum fronts, bandanna, spinner rings, spinner necklaces, spinner watches, spinner psychains, etc. I do wear a lot of red though...and although my goggles are never low enough in Mammoth, they're low enough most other places I've been in the world.

Shoutouts: To my family, friends and my girlfriend Laura for always being there for me.

NAME YOUR FAVORITE
ski location: COOKE CITY, MO (don't tell anybody about it)
non-ski location: Home
travel destination: Beach
ski buddies: All my friends in SLC
famous female: Whoever the hottest one who can cook is.
time of year: Spring and Autumn.
grab: I don't know. I haven't seen next year's X-Games yet.
food: Mexican
ski movie: Hot Dog
non-ski movie: The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou
song to wake up to: "Ziggy Stardust" by David Bowie
song to party to: "Dance Move Burglar" by Eurotrash
song to drive to: "By Your Side" by Lenny Kravitz
album: "Eurotrash is Goin'" by Eurotrash
musical artist: Lenny Kravitz. I don't know if you know this. But I'm kind of a big Lenny Kravitz fan.
nonski activity: Page Sticking



Liam Downey

Best ski session of 2006: Alex Balsen, Evan Spong, and Hornbeck just laying a smack down at PC. This was one of ten or less days that I skied park for fun this season; it was raining, but we made the best of it. Skiing isn't about the conditions... it's what you make of it and how hard you push it. My best and most progressive days ever were in an icy east coast park which didn't have tables longer than 30 feet. So East Coasters and Mid-western park rats go get some.

Best ski shoot of 2006: Crested Butte at the 2 Plank joint was the time of my life. Sean Decker and Alex Balsen just getting duuuuuuirty like Method Man: Roll that shit, light that shit, smoke it. Every morning we would hit up the Gas Café, and every night we would surround ourselves with the beautiful women of Crusty Butt (or not). Anyway, we got down to bizness, na mean?

What are you hoping to do next year: Become the Tiger Woods of skiing or the Tanner Hall of golf. Either would suit me juuuust fine.

Name something that you want to accomplish: To name one's aspirations is to define one's limitations. If Goethe didn't write that he should have.

Something that you want to do before you die: Live

Austin Holt photographs

Liam



"Vacationland"

Liam and I drove about 5 hours to Maine just to shoot this rail in late December 2005. By the time we had hooked up with Shea Flynn and the rest of the crew there, our prospects were looking fairly dismal due to heavy rain falling across the state. Thankfully the next day there was still ample snow to set up this mellow 2 kink, and the police sergeant who visited us was happy to let things continue. Liam and Shea had a lengthy session; including Liam getting both switchups to fakie. After everything was tidied up, we grabbed some soup at Tim Hortons and boogied the 5 hours back to Vermont. If only things worked out this well all the time.

-Freddie Coley

Sometimes known as: Dunny

Age: 21 baby!

Residence: VT

Place of Origin: VT

Sponsors: Volkl, Tecnica, Marker, SPY, Volkl Clothes, Grandoe Gloves, Stratton, Sublux

Influences on slope: The Tanners, Montage Crew, and Vanular when he doesn't make me feel like I suck.

Influences off slope: Davis Love III, the Novotny bros.

What inspires you: Nico Müller's BC prowess.

What gets you stoked: Skiing with the Seans

What does not get you stoked: Stagnancy in an evolving sport.

On-slope attire: VOLKL CLOTHES!!!! Say no more.

Offslope attire: Tall T's, Jerseys, Laceless Timbs, you know the deal.

NAME YOUR FAVORITE

non-ski location: EXCHANOK, CA

travel destination: SWITZERLAND

ski crew: BMP, SMP, AND MAMMOTH LEGS, AND BALSAN, JUST BECAUSE HE'S STOKED ON LIFE.

famous female: ALBA

time of year: WHEN THEM LEAVES TURN AND THAT SNIP IS IN THE AIR

grab: ONES THAT DON'T REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY

food: POUTINE, REUBEN SANDWICHES, AND OTHER THINGS THAT MAKE ME GASSY

ski movie: ROYALTY, SEEM TO BE LSS

non-ski movie: AFTERBANG, IF YOU AIN'T SEEN IT, GET ON IT.

song to wake up to: FIRM FIASCO

song to party to: CEMUK MUEK, BIG TYMERS

song to drive to: I GOT A CAR I ONLY DRIVE ON TUESDAYS

album: ILL-MATIC

musical artist: NAS, AZ

nonski activity: GOLF

Shea



standstrongagain.org



Marc-Andre s'ils vous plait

In a blow felt throughout the greater ski community, Marc-Andre Belliveau suffered a tragic accident in April while skiing in the British Columbia interior, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. At age 26, Marc's whole future has been drastically changed. It is our responsibility as participants in this sport to help him and others suffering from spinal cord injuries, and get back after their passions and enjoy the lifestyle they once lived. Thanks for the support.

Alex O'Brien photo

precisely executed

diablo magma



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LIAM downer

Photo: Ralpa Kristopher

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