

Having Fun?

Written by Kalle

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After reading a large number of summer interviews from Whistler I found out that all the skiers out there are emphasizing one thing - having fun. They are saying it so clearly that you would certainly assume that they are all meaning exactly the same thing, but they are not. Having fun is a subjective experience and something may be fun on somebody's opinion while all the others are hating it. So, when a skier being interviewed, is saying he is 'having fun', he is only giving the interviewer a small glimpse of what he really means. Maybe he doesn't know how to express his thoughts more accurately, or then he doesn't care. I'm writing this because I'm curious and I want answers. I've heard the same phrase too many times and I'm bored with it.

Another phrase I'm totally fed up with is 'I love you'. I keep hearing it almost every day on TV especially while watching American soap operas. Heroes and heroines in these programmes use this sacred sentence excessively, only to describe that they 'like somebody too much to say that they only like.' These characters seldom bother to tell, what actually makes their darlings so special. They lack the ability of expressing their thoughts, which is the same problem that skiers tend to have. That is the reason why I don't find soap operas interesting, and also the reason why skiing may become less interesting in the future.

Skiing community needs more thoughts, opinions and criticism. The typical case on newschoolers.com forum, is a kid who starts a topic about his favourite skier. He does it, because he has something worth discussing. For example, a sick new edit or a competition. Soon, there are dozens of comments on the same topic and all the kids are praising their new favourite (pro) skier. This is good for everybody: kids are sitting behind their keyboards, instead of burning churches or painting walls, while pros and all their sponsors are getting the important publicity. However, this mutual harmony has a tendency to break, when someone starts to disagree with the others. On newschoolers, disagreement is often considered to be 'hating', and a person who disagreed, a 'hater'. Why this has to be so? Why newschoolers are rarely using proper arguments? We have plenty of things in this sport people are not satisfied with, for example FIS, The Olympics, copying snowboarders and bad judging. These are all problems that could be solved, if we just discussed constructively and expressed our thoughts.

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Skiing is fun and for most pros it is fun in a really special way. But 'fun' can be interpreted in many ways. Poor Boyz Productions' last year's flick *Reasons* was a step towards right direction. All the skiers sounded like they had really thought of what they had to say about their careers and skiing in general. And when Mike Douglas said: "It's not just something that I do for fun, it's truly part of who I am." it was something I could relate to. This years Poor Boyz film is called *Every Day Is a Saturday*, and judging by the trailer (though only the trailer), it seems to be much less deeper and thought-provoking than *Reasons* was. Why? Maybe they just wanted to do it differently? Or maybe the big crowd was not looking for any reasons at all.