

The New York Times

### Fitness

## Clip On Skis, Hitch Rover, And Go

Skijoring gains popularity in parks and winter resorts.



Allen Brisson-Smith for The New York Times

**MUSH!** John Thompson skijoring last month across a golf course in Minneapolis.

By STEPHEN REGENOLD

**F**OUR years ago Carin Offerman clipped on a pair of cross-country skis, tethered herself to her giant schnauzer, Raven, and braced for a ride that would change her life. Her 70-pound dog started running, and Ms. Offerman felt the line go tight as she rocketed down the snowy trail.

Ms. Offerman, 57, an independent investor from Minneapolis, had read about skijoring, a Nordic

FRANCISCO COSTA, who designed Elle Macpherson's dress: "She said, 'Pick the color,' and I chose lime green. It turned out to be great because of her skin color. She looked great, but it was her allure and her personality, really, that made it happen."

KRISTINA O'NEILL, Harper's Bazaar: "Elle always puts things together offhandedly. That picture of her rushing into the party, especially the angle, it's like Cinderella. It was the least Chanel-like look there."

## The Good, The Bad And the Huh?

Best-dressed lists are as plentiful as frizzy hair on a rainy day, and about as meaningful.

By ERIC WILSON

**T**HAT rainy night last May when Elle Macpherson cemented her reputation as a person whose style is worthy of a superlative, she wore an acid-green strapless gown when almost everyone else at the annual Costume Institute gala was dressed in a Chanel-inspired theme of black and white. Her boyfriend of nine years, Arpad Busson, repeatedly tripped on her hem, revealing the beaded flip-flops underneath.

Within a month the couple announced they had separated.

If there was a silver lining to that evening, Ms. Macpherson, the 42-year-old model, actress and lingerie designer, would not see it for another six months. What might have been remembered as a fashion disaster — one guest described the dress as the color of Mello Yello soda — was instead deemed by the editors of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar as a highlight of 2005, with both magazines naming Ms. Macpherson to the best-dressed lists they published at year's end. It was her originality in the offhanded pairing of casual flats with formal wear, editors of the magazines said, that was cause for admiration.

That distinction may be lost on most readers, who this season are being deluged with best-dressed lists: in addition to those two fashion magazines, People published a gallery of "Best Dresses" in its year-end double issue, and America Online and the MSN each compiled online features about supposed style trendsetters. Mr. Blackwell, the designer turned self-appointed fashion critic, will release his famous worst-dressed list on Tuesday.

The lists are so common that they seem the equivalent of fashion magazine horoscopes, and one could argue that everyone is best dressed in someone's eyes. Yet their popularity comes at a time when ranking celebrities and socialites by style is ever more anachronistic:

## Physical Culture

## Unmentionably Toasty

**U**NDERWEAR is often not just unseen but overlooked.

But in the winter, people who want to ski or snowboard all day are well advised to avoid wearing cotton underthings, because they retain moisture, sapping body heat.

Mercifully sports-apparel makers in the last few years have started to make underwear of performance fabrics that wick moisture away from the body and help keep exercisers warm.

"Consumers have become much more savvy and understand that not only their base layers but also the technical yarns in their underwear are keeping them dryer and more comfortable," said Pamela Kimball, the senior director of product marketing at Hind, which makes briefs and thongs.

This new generation of boxers and hipster briefs is often fetching too, in colors and cuts found in the realm of fine lingerie. These five brands offer athletes alternatives to cotton underwear. **KATE SIBER**

**HIND BOY BRIEFS AND ENERGY TANK**

\$22 and \$40, [www.hind.com](http://www.hind.com).

The compressing shelf bra and vertical ribbing in this tank offer adequate support for small- and medium-chested runners, but larger-chested women should wear this style only for low-bounce activities like hiking. The boy brief, which tends to run small, is made of breathable synthetic fabric and doesn't ride up.

**HELLY HANSEN SPORT STRIPE BOXERS AND STRIPE TANK**

\$19.99 and \$26.99, [www.hellyhansenneuengland.com](http://www.hellyhansenneuengland.com).

With an eyelet-knit construction that lets moisture escape, Helly Hansen's boxers and tank are made of polypropylene fabric stretchy enough for high-intensity activities. The tank keeps the core warm but leaves arms free to move. Flat seams reduce bulk and chafing.

**HOT CHILLYS SALSA CONTOUR THONG AND CONTOUR STRING BRA**

\$22 and \$18, [www.hotchillys.com](http://www.hotchillys.com). A patchwork of different stitches give these garments a great fit with no seams, to minimize chafing. The wicking nylon-spandex fabric has silver ions imbedded in it to ward off bacteria and odors.

**PATAGONIA CAPILENE HIPSTERS AND CAPILENE CAMI**

\$18 and \$28, [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com). Last year Patagonia, which has made Capilene long underwear since 1984, introduced a handful of skimpier intimates. The briefs' waistband is wide and flat to avoid bunching, and the camisole is a single-layer tube with no irritating seams.

**PATAGONIA CAPILENE SW BOXERS**

\$29, [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com). Made of Patagonia's trademark synthetic fiber, these silky boxers pull moisture away from the skin. And they come in 27 bright patterns and colors.



**MARMOT SILKWEIGHT BOXERS** \$25, [www.marmot.com](http://www.marmot.com). Unlike conventional cotton boxers, these have a streamlined fit to minimize bulk under winter layers. Silver ions in the yarn prevent odor.

