

3-2010

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Recommended Citation

Liberty University, "Student takes on snowboarding challenge" (2010). *March/April 2010*. Paper 13.
http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lj_2010_mar/13

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Student takes on snowboarding challenge

April 01, 2010

Mark Simpson may not be able to walk, but he definitely can snowboard. Born in Bombay, India, with deformed legs, Simpson suffered many medical complications before finally having his legs amputated in 2005 at the age of 17. Now in his freshman year at Liberty University, he decided in December to get out of his wheelchair and try snowboarding at the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre.



“My roommate and I had heard about Snowflex and so one Wednesday night we really weren’t doing anything and decided to try it,” Simpson said. “So we came up and went tubing. The first time I went it was really freaky, but then I got the adrenaline rush of being able to go downhill like that.”

He spent his first day on the slopes tubing, but set a goal of snowboarding by the end of the Fall 2009 semester. On Dec. 10 he reached that goal after figuring out how to situate himself on the snowboard. He positions himself between the leg bindings on the board and then holds on to those bindings with his hands.

“The snowboard is like my skateboard; it’s just balancing your weight and figuring out how to turn and stuff like that,” Simpson said.