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A Winter Wonderland

By Matt Murphy and Simone Sebastian
Staff Writers

February 7, 2003, 8:34 PM EST

Frolicking seemed to be the mood Friday as 5 inches of slushy snow put a blanket of white on the city.

There was a drop in public school attendance, some schools never opened or shut down early, and people flocked to parks to romp in the snow before it ceased in late afternoon.

About 30 women stripped nude and lay down in Central Park in a formation that spelled "No Bush" as a protest against the president's Iraqi policy. Police said no arrests were made.

Not far away from the nude women, but later in the day, Julie Jimenez, 26, a senior at Hunter College, was waiting for a friend to go sledding on two newly purchased plastic discs.

"Snow in New York is the best. It's one of the blessings of living in the city," said Jimenez, a Bushwick resident.

She had bought the two plastic sleds at Scandanavian, a store on 57th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

"All day long people have been coming in — sleds, gloves, hats. We just keep bringing them out," cashier Mary Mendez said at the store.

It seemed just weeks ago that New Yorkers were griping about the prolonged cold spell, but the mood seemed more upbeat with Friday's snow.

In Forest Park, Lauren Bullock, 29, her boyfriend, John Scicutella, 26, and his brother, Dominick, all of Richmond Hill, were sledding on what they considered the steepest hill in Queens.

"You have to take a running start," Bullock said. "If you go head-first, you'll catch more snow."

Moments later, she caught plenty of snow, as her sled flipped and she rolled down the hill. "This has

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[Snow in Central Park](#) (Photo by Robert Mecea)
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[A man and his child ride a bike in Central Park.](#) (Photo by Robert Mecea)
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been one of the best winters in a couple of years," she said.

Most major roads were free of snow by Friday evening, but parks, trees and rooftops were still coated.

The Department of Sanitation said it deployed 350 salt spreaders and 1,450 plows during the morning, and there were reports of several spinouts during the morning rush hour.

The forecast for Saturday called for temperatures in the low 30s, but with sunshine that should continue to melt the snow.

Forecasters predicted a chance of snow early Monday morning, and low temperatures for the week that could turn any precipitation into snow.

Staff writer Nick Chiles contributed to this story.

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[Hubert plays in the snow.](#)
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