

HIGHLIGHT HAWAII

# SurfLife



Spring 2004 [www.SurfLifeForWomen.com](http://www.SurfLifeForWomen.com)

for women

## WATER WAY of THE WOMEN



U.S. \$3.99 CAN \$5.99



DELUXE DOUBLE-WIDE GALLERY





sequence-grodesky>

# Alex White

Alex White grew up skating in the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles, but it wasn't until she moved north to Monterey that she really fell in love with the sport. Now back in LA attending college, skating for Roxy, and entering contests, Alex has found a way to mix in skateboarding with her education. I met up with Alex at her dormitory. We cruised around the Venice Beach boardwalk and checked out a mini ramp in the Dark Horse Distribution warehouse. This skater chick has talent, intelligence, dreams, and a great sense of humor.

## Did you start skating by yourself or did a friend get you into it?

When I first started skating it was the cool thing to do. It was in 1996 and I was in sixth grade. I was this little kid skating

around LA, not knowing what I was doing. *I used to get held up at knifepoint for my board all the time!* (She's not joking) Then I moved up to Monterey and met my friend Kyle. He motivated me to be better and push myself. It was really good for me, even though I got hurt a lot. That's also where I got interested in filming and editing.

## Have you traveled a lot?

Yeah, Roxy pays for all my travel to contests. It's cool to be able to go to places I normally wouldn't go, but then again I don't know how many people want to go to Toronto! Last year I was gone every weekend. It was really fun, but stressful.

## Are the other girls competitive?

The girls aren't as competitive as the guys,

but the girls keep track of who is doing what trick. It's a way to see where you need to go to be at the same level. It's cool to gauge yourself with the other girls. Contests are a good display of that. I get stressed at contests now. One time I tried to ollie this gap and I slipped out and tore my pants all the way from my thigh to the back of my pants and it was two minutes before my run and I couldn't go change my pants. So, I was skating with my purple underwear showing! Yeah, it was pretty funny. I think it messed with my concentration though, because I would roll up to something and just feel the breeze!

## What are you studying in college?

I'm a sophomore at Loyola Marymount University and I study TV Productions.





In TV Productions you focus more on audio and video. It's easier than film and not as expensive. Next year I'm going to be working on a documentary for my thesis, a project that takes two years.

**What is it that sparks your interest in making films?**

With video I feel like you can utilize music a lot more and that's what got me hooked on it. I like being able to sync up music with skateboarding and being able to create a full audio and video experience.

**What are you going to do your documentary on?**

I'm thinking of doing it on girl skateboarding. I think it would be interesting because not too many people know about it. It's like a subculture within a subcul-

ture. Plus I saved lots of stuff from when I was a kid. Every little picture I got or any article in any magazine that had girls skateboarding in it, I have it. So I should have a good collection for the documentary. I'm also working on a video with Lisa Whittiker, Vanessa Torres, Amy Carron, and Jen O'Brien. It's going to be produced by 411. It will be the first real girls street skate video. There really hasn't been a girl's skate video. There is the Galllaz A.K.A Girl Skater, but it was more of a documentary.

**It's cool that you're so involved with your sport. I feel it's the only way for women's extreme sports to grow. The guys have their "boy's club" the girls need their club as well. Do you agree?**

Yeah, I ride for a girls skateboard company called Cherry. I think it's really great too. I noticed when you're hooked up with a guy's company; you're so much in the shadow. It's great that Roxy really helps the girls, but I would like to see them push skateboarding and snowboarding harder.

**Is it hard to find a balance between serious skateboarding and having fun?**

It is hard because it's such a party lifestyle. *The code hero in skateboarding is the one that can get drunk the night before and win the heat the next day.* I've had to break away from the code hero; I want to be a little more mindful of what we are doing. I don't condone the code hero I don't want to do that anymore. It doesn't work for me. ☘