

United by fun, divided by culture— skateboarders and longboarders are at odds.

Skateboard culture is a lot like high school—cliques rule. You have your technical skaters, your punk skaters blah blah and so on. Certain skateboarders fit into these cliques and stay within them. When an individual does something different—let’s say longboarding, for example—an open-minded few may accept that person, but most will ostracize him or her.

“This is a criticism aiming towards a lot of skate culture that constantly complains about things that are biting off skateboarding. Skating came from surfing,” says Rob Brink, skateboarder, writer and host of “The Weekend Buzz”—Ride channel’s talk show. “You can’t be bummed at surfing... skaters tend to have this ‘holier than thou’ approach. Everybody rips them off.”

A skateboard is a narrow, short board with four wheels. A longboard is a longer skateboard which usually has a surfboard shape. Both are used for getting to class or going on a much-needed beer run. The true difference is the culture: skateboards are more intense and used for tricks while longboards tend to offer a more laidback and easy going ride.

“I respect the sport [of skateboarding]. It takes a lot of talent, but I think [their hatred] is kind of bogus,” says Adam Jeffrey Nelson, a sophomore in Horticulture who has been longboarding for two years. “The community in longboarding is so friendly. It’s kind of a clique-y thing with skateboarding—you have to prove yourself.”

Nelson enjoys longboarding because he meets new people, or “spreads the stoke” as he calls it. Nelson has noticed the general hatred aimed toward longboarding from the skateboarding culture.



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“Unfortunately, I don’t think it’s ever going to change because there are too many people that feel like they’re protecting skateboarding. And there are too many people that feel they are entitled to have skateboarding be a certain way and only one way,” Brink says.

Skateboarding was originally made up of a group of rag-tag, goofy kids. Why can’t longboarding be that bastion of belonging for people just as skateboarding has? It can and is for some, but that doesn’t mean everyone is going to like it.

I can only hope that part of the skateboarding community opens its mind and learns to accept the other activities derived from skateboarding, but then again I am a romantic.

May the board bless you and keep you
May it bring you joy and happiness
And may your speed and thrill be constant
Amen



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