need for protection must be balanced against the need to get the route done quickly, especially in late season climbs when daylight is limited. In this case they were pushing the limit, even with their ability. Given the benefit of hindsight, we know that they pushed too far.

Neither was wearing a hardhat. These might have prevented fatal injuries, at least in the case of Ken Stroud.

If the leader's ice axe had been tied to his waist sling it might have held him after his hand slipped off. Such a method of tie-in is not used much, since it leaves a lot of free webbing to tangle and get in the way. The more standard wrist loop would have been less likely to have held. Technical climbers seem to be divided over the question of any sort of axe tie-in system. I do not use one, and the review of this account will probably not cause me to change my practice.

If the leader had been using his ice hammer this might have made a difference, as it would have given him another hand-hold. With the exposure involved I would have wanted mine, even though the slope was only 50°.

Two man parties are often criticized for trying glacier climbs, especially when something goes wrong. Yet, on a difficult route a two man party will almost always move faster than two ropes of two. In the latter case it is usually impossible to achieve the balance of ability that a two man rope can achieve. Thus two man climbing will continue to be common for technical routes. (Source: Robert Hyslop, President, Mazamas)

AVALANCHE, SKIING ALONE—Wyoming, Grand Targhee Ski Resort. On March 20 Wayne Farrell (20) ski toured out of the patrolled area of Grand Targhee Ski Resort. While attempting the descent of a steep northwest facing hillside, Farrell was caught in a class 4 avalanche, swept over a 75 foot rock cliff and buried under 3 feet of debris. (Source: Jackson Sheriff's Office)

Analysis: This type of accident is on the increase. Ski touring has burgeoned geometrically over the past decade. In mountainous areas, a warning system at road heads might be of help. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL/SLIP ON LOOSE ROCK—Wyoming, The Tetons, Baxter's Couloir. John Wahlund (22) was a member of a five person party which had climbed Baxter's Pinnacle. They had just completed the rappel from the Pinnacle and were beginning to descend the South Couloir. Wahlund lost his footing while pulling down the rappel rope and fell some 20 feet down the Couloir landing on his head. He then continued to roll another 30 feet before stopping, sustaining head lacerations and possible fractures. Party member David Taylor then went around the lake and notified the Jenny Lake Boat Dock (Harvey) at 9 p.m. The rescue team was alerted and Nelson and Bellamy left the Cache at 10 p.m. arriving at the scene at 11 p.m., where they found Wahlund semicomatose. The victim was bandaged, splinted and loaded into the litter for transport.

Difficulties in the rotten Couloir and the irrational behavior of the patient hampered the operation. Wahlund kept tearing off dressing and bandages and attempting to exit the litter under hazardous technical lowering situations. Some 600 feet of technical lowering were accomplished with 450 feet being done on a single upper anchor utilizing 300 foot ropes with attached 150 foot ropes via a knot transfer. Technical lowering was completed at 3:40 a.m. and the support team then made belayed non-technical lowerings down the talus slope to the trail from where Wahlund was wheeled to the west shore boat dock arriving at 5:39 a.m. (Source: Mark Harvey, Grand Teton National Park)

Analysis: Although Wahlund was off the technical portion of the climb, Baxter's Couloir is steep and rotten with loose footing. A hard hat would possibly have minimized the injuries. (Source: Pete Hart, Grand Teton National Park.)

LIGHTNING—Wyoming, Grand Teton. Jane Constantino (28) and Ralph Hill were climbing the Petzoldt Ridge on the Grand when a large thunderstorm, including hail and snow, hit them from the west. The party reached the notch at the top of the lower ridge and stopped there to wait out the storm. About 12:30 p.m. they felt strong ground currents and suffered burns everyplace that their bodies were in contact with the rock. The current was strong enough to render them helpless for about an hour, although they remained conscious. They bandaged each other's burns and climbed over to the Exum ridge, then rappelled into the gully below Wallstreet. They arrived at the Lower Saddle at 8:30 p.m. where they spent the night. The following day Ms. Constantino came into the Jenny Lake Ranger Station where her condition was examined by Dave Carman and Jan Boyle. Her right arm was burned from the top of the shoulder to the elbow, the burns were third degree in places. This was redressed with dry sterile bandage. There were also burns across her back and left shoulder which were not redressed. Her shirt had burn holes in other places, and her socks were burned inside her boots. (Source: Dave Carman, Grand Teton National Park)

Analysis: When lightning is about and retreat is impossible minimum contact with the rock will reduce burned areas. In this case all body surfaces touching the rock were burned. (Source: Pete Hart, Grand Teton National Park)

FALL/SLIP ON ROCK AND ICE AND NO BELAY—Wyoming, Grand Teton. Thomas Raymer (27), Jackson Hole Mountain Guide, was guiding Robert Slater down from the Upper Saddle of the Grand Teton. Weather was inclement with up to 4 inches of fresh snow and some ice on the rocks. Raymer and Slater were roped together, but both were climbing down with the rope coiled. Raymer was in the lead while descending. Slater stated his pack caught on