FALL ON ROCK, PLACED NO PROTECTION
California, Yosemite Valley

On June 12, 1980, David Swarbrick (19) was leading the first pitch of Direct South Face (5.10) and was approximately 40 feet up when he fell. As he was more than 20 feet above his last protection, he hit the ground. He suffered lacerations and contusions of the head and legs and a sprained elbow. He was then carried down to the road and taken to the hospital. (Source: Hal Grovert, SAR Officer, Yosemite National Park)

FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, STRANDED, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, EXCEEDING ABILITIES
California, Yosemite Valley

Brian Bennett (21) and Alan Swanson (24) stated that they began climbing the Harding Route on Glacier Point Apron (Grade III, Y.D.S. 5.7), at 10 a.m. on June 29, 1980. They finished the climb and, following Roper's *Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley,* p. 207, were attempting to descend via the Glacier Point Terrace descent route.

They encountered an area of confusion (painted arrow on granite vs. bolts and hangers).They chose the rappel bolts. They descended one pitch (50 m) and decided that they were not on the Glacier Point Terrace, so they rappelled down to an older belay point (off route). It was then about 7:30 p.m. They tried to climb back up to the Glacier Point Terrace route, but found the climbing to be difficult (Y.D.S. 5.9–5.10a and beyond their climbing ability). They then rappelled down to some old rappel slings, hoping to do a pendulum traverse to the Rohr rappel bolts (a secure, well-defined descent route).

Bennett and Swanson had only one rope and no manual or mechanical ascending devices; they found themselves attempting to do a rappel with the one rope, where two ropes were required. They could not climb back up, and were stuck. They then called for help and a rescue was initiated. After a bivouac, Rangers Orza and Zulim reached the climbers at 8 a.m. on June 30. The climbers were rappelled to the valley floor by 10 a.m.

I questioned Bennett and Swanson immediately thereafter. They stated they they required rescue because they had only one rope and no jumars and did not know how to make prusik knots from slings. (Source: Scott Kruse, SAR Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

See Rixon's Pinnacle accident report analysis, page 30.

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, NUT FAILURE, NO HARD HAT, INEXPERIENCE
California, Tuolumne Meadows

On August 7, 1980, I was told by the Park Dispatcher that a visitor at Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station was reporting a climbing accident on Lembert Dome in Tuolumne Meadows. I responded and met with Dacre L. Bush, who explained that his climbing partner, Lance Holliday (24), had fallen on the Northwest Beginner's route and sustained a serious head injury as well as possible fractures to the extremities. Bush stated that Holliday, whom he had met the previous evening, had said he could lead 5.9 and seemed to be competent, although he was wearing heavy mountaineering boots. Holliday had no hard hat. Holliday left the Beginner's route to "do some pioneering" (as Holliday put it) and fell while leading,