

"D.A.W.G.S." which means Descending Accurately With Grace and Style or Speed.

As I start my next run, I see a yellow cross on a wine-colored parka. The cross represents a member of the ski patrol. He's waiting for hazardous skiers who ski too fast and out of control, or both.

He's just spotted me, but this time, I am not pursued. If he does catch me, he can warn me verbally. If he catches me a second time, he can pull my ticket. I don't like that. Ski patrol members are a part of an elite team, and they are effective for skier safety. They are the mountain-area law.

I'm far enough away now. I

switch to mach speed. I love this part. I sometimes pretend I'm being chased like in a James Bond movie or a contender for an Olympic gold medal.

I'm in control. My body is low for less wind drag, skis shoulder width apart for more stability. My hands are straight out in front of me, so I keep my weight slightly forward. Hup, hup, hup. My legs are starting to burn. I'm breathing heavily — but I'm still smiling.

**Skiing the bar**

The lodge is coming into sight. Time to ski the bar. This sport is almost as exciting as the mountain sport. Now, I can use a hockey stop for a dramatic entrance; nobody really sees me or pays any attention. After getting

my skis off, I separate them so they are less likely to be stolen.

Just walking up the steps to the lodge is a workout. The lodge is big, wooden and noisy. I see lots of faces, fashion and laughter. Everybody is smiling. I go up another flight towards the roar of the crowd. I order my favorite imported beer. I see some friends at a table by the window. I sit and talk of the need for new snow.

**'Riding' Elevator Shaft**

After I get to the top again, I yell to some ski DAWGS to take the Elevator Shaft, we all line up with our tips hanging over the edge. Gus is first. He makes it look easy. My turn: I make four turns and yell hup! Hup! I

fall so hard my skis come off. I finally stop sliding. My climb uphill to retrieve my skis — and hat and glasses and poles — is difficult. Now I need to put them back on and catch-up.

We split up after the run. They go back for one more. I'm too tired after my hike, so I pack everything up and go home to rest before the party tonight.

All I need to do is get dressed. A T-shirt with a ski slogan like "Ski Kansas" will do. If it is bitterly cold, I'll wear a sweater and a parka. A bandana is optional but a hat is mandatory. Jeans, faded, of course, are adequate.

I thumb a ride to the front door of the party. The music is loud and a little obnoxious. I let myself in and see Kim talking to Gus. She waves at me and yells that the beer is in the refrigerator. I yell "thank you."

**Floaters**

I talk with guests about the need for new snow. As more

guests show up, Kim hands out "floater," an imported beer as a base and a stout beer on top. They taste great, and the party starts hopping.

After we finish the floaters, people begin jumping into Kim's pool. It is time for the hairiest dive competition. The winner has the biggest air, best pose and worst splash. Phil wins with his version of "St. Helens Shaken, with a twist!"

Then someone yells "It's snowing!" A cheer rings out. The dump! As it snows, we talk of virgin powder and "figure eights." The early bird catches the first tracks so I decide it is time to go home and dream of tomorrow. When the powder is its deepest, a snorkel comes in handy.

Well, that's pretty much how the best or even the worst days of skiing will go. So, I'll probably see you in the fashion parade or in the bar, skiing. I'll be there, and we'll both be smiling.

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**Problems** Continued from Page 2B

But Ueberroth has sensed that a brewing situation might explode. The current practice is to place the baseball player in a rehabilitation program and individually, confidentially provide assistance.

For repeat offenders, the team determines their future. One notable example is current Baltimore Oriole Alan Wiggins.

Wiggins had a number of cocaine-related problems as a San Diego Padre. Padre management had always been gracious in dealing with Wiggins' abuse, and thought he was cured from his addiction.

They had just signed Wiggins to a new three-year contract when, you guessed it, he once again admitted to cocaine use.

The Padres ran out of patience, and Wiggins was traded to the Orioles last season. Oriole management has said Wiggins will start with a "clean slate" — but Baltimore announced their tolerance would be considerably less.

Sports cannot be condemned for all of this. For every Don Reese, there is a Julius Erving; for every Billy Ray Bates, there is a Dale Murphy.

I think the biggest setback lies with the fact that society finally realizes being a member of the athletic elite does not constitute immortality, but that athletes are merely human beings.

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