

woods, missing all trees. He suffered only cuts and bruises and was able to walk out. (Source: Rick Wilcox, Mountain Rescue Service of New Hampshire)

### **Analysis**

Many ice climbers are "going for it" without protection because of the quality of the ice climbing accouterments. It is thought by the expert climbers that the act of placing protection can be a greater hazard than just climbing. The result is that sometimes deciding the lesser of the two evils can be a dilemma. In this particular case, it seems the hardest, crux part of the route had been accomplished, so that perhaps Cummins' concentration was not what it might have been earlier on. As for the rappel accident which followed here, one can only wonder as to what might have been going on in Imbare's mind. (Source: J. Williamson)

## **FALL ON SNOW, LOSS OF CONTROL, INVOLUNTARY GLISSADE**

### **New Hampshire, Mt. Washington**

On March 11, Henry Dones (20) survived a spectacular 500-foot slide down the east slope of Mt. Washington. A Harvard student, he was one of ten members of an M.I.T. Outing Club excursion. "We broke up into groups," said Dones. "I was with two other climbers, a guy named Ken and a girl named Laurie; I never did learn their last names." Dones said that he had to quit within 200 feet of the summit because he was exhausted. He found some shelter and waited for his companions to return, which they did half an hour later at 4:30 p.m. Ken checked Dones' crampons, then they started down the slope. "I took five steps, long ones, and then everything seemed to let go. My crampons didn't seem to grab hold of anything, and my ice axe didn't help either."

The fall started near the top, at what is called The Cone, and ended at the Alpine Gardens. Dones missed several rock outcroppings along the way. His companions covered him with sleeping bags and parkas, and then got help from the A.M.C. A litter evacuation was soon accomplished, and Dones was taken to a nearby hospital. (Source: *The Boston Globe*, March 14, 1978)

### **Analysis**

Mt. Washington demands mountaineering techniques and knowledge. Beginning climbers need to learn appropriate skills, which in this case means ascending and descending snow slopes, use of crampons, and ice axe self-arrest. It seemed from the details provided that Dones had the idea that crampons and ice axes work independently and had somehow failed to do their intended jobs. (Source: J. Williamsons)

## **RAPPEL FAILURE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, NO HARD HAT**

### **New Mexico, Sandia Mountains**

Leo Sandoual (17) and Lloyd Hriunak (18) were injured in a 60-foot fall from the practice cliffs on La Luz trail on August 6. They were demonstrating rappell-

ing to friends, and were using separate ropes tied to one sling and anchor point. The sling knot "slipped" as they went over the edge. (Source: Don Mattox, Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council)

### **Analysis**

At times it is necessary to rappel using only one anchor point. Even then, the anchor point, though it may be a tree two feet in diameter, is only as good as the means by which the rappel rope is secured. Two rappel ropes coming from the same anchor point is not unreasonable under certain conditions, but using separate slings is the minimum which might have prevented at least one of these accidents. The type of knot used was not mentioned, but would be worth knowing. (Source: J. Williamson)

## **FALL ON ROCK, WASPS**

### **New York, Shawangunks**

On July 15, a 23-year-old man was climbing Fat Stick, a 5.7 route, when he was stung by wasps. He fell about 60 feet, sustaining only minor injury to an elbow and hip. (Source: Brad Snyder)

### **Analysis**

Last year it was pointed out that perhaps snake bites are potentially less damaging than 60-foot falls. Bee stings should have been included in that statement. We know of a tragic case in Africa a few years ago, however, where a climber was stung to death by very large bees. This editor and a climbing companion were once attacked by an owl whose nest we encountered while on a new route. This kind of incident may be more than just a rare occurrence. (Source: J. Williamson)

## **FALL ON ROCK, NO HARD HAT**

### **New York, Shawangunks**

On November 22, while seconding a traverse on Rusty Trifle, a 5.3 route, a climber (24) fell about 20 feet and fractured his skull. He was wearing no hard hat. (Source: Brad Snyder)

## **FALL ON ICE, NO PROTECTION**

### **North Carolina, Whiteside Mountains**

At 2 p.m. on the afternoon of February 6, 1978, Jeff Bates (21) from Atlanta, Georgia, was killed in a fall at the base of the North Face of Devil's Courthouse, a large granite outcrop on the north side of Whiteside Mountain near Highlands, North Carolina. Bates was a member of a party of three which had completed the ascent (possibly the first) of a 400-foot Scottish Grade V ice climb on the North Face of the Courthouse the previous day.