

*was alone. The actual cause of his fall is unknown. Two of the four accidents reported from this park in 1988 were fatalities.)*

### **FALLING ROCK, NO HARD HAT**

#### **Colorado, Eldorado Canyon State Park**

On October 8, 1988, Bob Drummheller (31) and his partner were at the top of "Touch-N-Go" preparing to rappel when rock fall came down. Drummheller sustained a laceration requiring four stitches. (Source: Eldorado Canyon State Park)

#### **Analysis**

This area receives heavy climbing use, and for that reason helmets are advised. Or maybe not climbing in heavy use area. (Source: Eldorado Canyon State Park)

*(Editor's Note: Of the 12 accidents reported from Eldorado Canyon State Park, three were due to inadequate protection and two were caused by spontaneous shoulder dislocation. There was one fatality—a solo climber, who had no equipment other than climbing shoes and a chalk bag.*

*Our thanks to the rangers for forwarding the information to us.*

*The other climbing/hiking accident of note in Colorado was the fatal fall of well-known physicist Dr. Heinz Pagels (49) from Pyramid Peak in July. We have no more than newspaper reports on this.)*

### **RAPPEL FAILURE and FALL FROM BUILDING, JILTED**

#### **Illinois, Chicago**

Dale Moll (33) fell 16 stories while attempting to use television cables on the roof of a highrise to rappel down to the window of his girlfriend's fifteenth floor apartment. Less than a half hour later, Robert Harris (25) fell from an eighth story ledge of a public housing complex while trying to get into his apartment after his girlfriend locked him out.

Both men died in these endeavors. (Source: From an Associated Press report.)

#### **Analysis**

Moll stopped at a sixteenth floor apartment, but swung away when a woman inside screamed. Then the cable snapped. We don't know the kind of line Moll was attached to, so we can't comment on what the strength of antennae wire versus cable wire, etc., might be like. We should mention two things. One, this is not in the data; two, a Patrolman from the Chicago Police Department said, "I don't think any girl is worth it to climb that high."

### **FALL ON ROCK**

#### **Iowa, Maquoketa Caves State Park**

In late August 1988, Val Svetich (24) fell while rock climbing at Maquoketa Caves State Park and reportedly lost her leg. She was climbing with a friend near a cave called Fatman's Misery according to a park ranger. (Source: A brief clipping sent in by Glen Gierke, Jr.)