

the ravine where he finally was able to arrest his fall. As Graves finished bandaging his wounds, a solo climber, who had witnessed the fall, came to his aid. The climber, using an ice ax attached to Graves crampons, dragged him feet first another 300 meters to the Huntington rescue cache. Word of the accident was sent to the Harvard Cabin caretaker who in turn radioed the USFS Snow Rangers at Hermit Lake for assistance. The Rangers transported Graves with their Thiokol Sno Cat to the AMC Pinkham Notch Camp arriving at 1520. Graves was then transferred to Gorham Ambulance and transported to Androscoggin Valley Hospital, in Berlin, for treatment of a severely lacerated forehead, sprained knee, ankle and multiple contusions. (Source: Mike Pelchat, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)

#### **Analysis**

Graves is an expert climber with 18 years' climbing experience in mountain ranges from Alaska to Mexico, as well as having climbed every route in Huntington's several times. Graves reported two factors that probably put him in the path of the avalanche. First, as he approached the top of the gully, a little voice from within his gut told him to move right and finish the climb on the rock. For some reason he ignored this voice and continued straight up. Secondly, Graves is near-sighted and had removed his eye glasses since they had fogged up. He felt that had he been able to see properly, he would have noticed the weird snow conditions at the top of the gully and would have moved right earlier. Graves suffered relatively minor injuries compared to the severity of his fall and lack of a helmet. He was probably somewhat cushioned during the fall by being inside the avalanche. (Source: Mike Pelchat, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)

### **FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT, INADEQUATE BELAY, INEXPERIENCE**

#### **New Hampshire, Cathedral Ledge**

On June 5, 1988, Al Pelletier (44) took an eight meter leader fall and broke his neck on a 5.7 route near "Pine Tree Eliminate" at Cathedral Ledge. (Source: Rick Wilcox, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service)

### **RAPPEL ANCHOR FAILURE**

#### **New Hampshire, Canon Cliff**

On October 16, 1988, Marc Fragge (23) and Joel Sunshine (24) were killed when the granite block they had anchored to apparently came off. One was rappelling and the other was tied off, waiting to rappel. (Source: Various reports—newspaper, New Hampshire Mountain Rescue Service, interviews)

#### **Analysis**

These climbers were about a hundred meters above the base of the cliff, near Weisner's. They were experienced and had appropriate equipment. They apparently trusted their single anchor point. All five deaths which have occurred to experienced climbers on Canon have involved loose rocks. "Regulars" on Canon avoid rappelling for this reason. The scramble to the top from all climbs and the walk down are straight-