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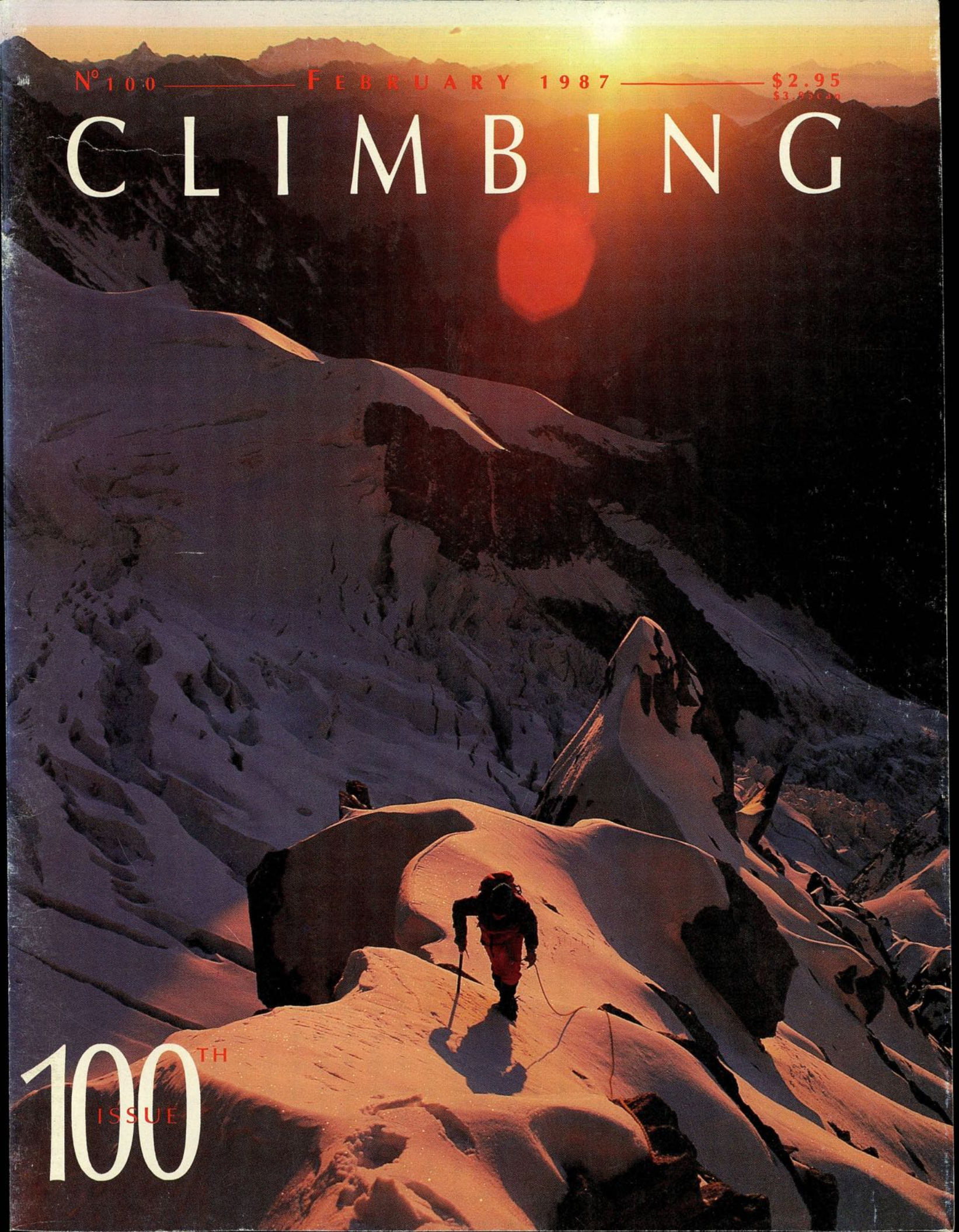
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# CLIMBING

100<sup>TH</sup>  
ISSUE





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by





# CLIMBING

N° 100 FEBRUARY 1987

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**Cover:** Sunrise midway up the Brenva Spur on Mont Blanc, with the Matterhorn and the Mont Rosa in the distance.  
Photo: Michael Kennedy.

**Contents:** Bob D'Antonio on *Not My Cross to Bear* (5.11c/d) in Penitente Canyon, San Luis Valley, Colorado.  
Photo: Laurel D'Antonio.



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*Wild Country Mountain Gemini tent  
in use on the 2nd ascent, Talkeetna Ridge,  
Mt. Foraker, Alaska. Photo: Charlie Townsend.*



## Seeing the Tree Through the Branches

The analogy has often been made between our sport and a large tree. From the roots of adventure and exploration has come the trunk of mountaineering, which now bears branches so diverse that some specialists find it difficult to relate to others. However, whether the adventure comes from linking together ten moves on an urban crag or at 20,000 feet on a great Himalayan peak, there is no denying our common heritage.

We like to think that this issue, our 100th, represents a branch in itself, the culmination of 17 years of growth. Since its inception, *Climbing* has been nurtured by the diversity of its namesake. Hopefully, we have returned this energy, both to the climbing community as a whole and to each area of specialization.

With this issue, we hope to embrace those branches which are well established within the sport, but not commonly seen in our pages.

Admittedly, we have neglected those readers who are beginners. To them we dedicate *Starting Out*, a regular column by Ed Webster devoted to the basics of ascent. Starting with our next issue, this column will also address questions from our less-experienced readers; in effect, it will allow the beginner or intermediate climber access to the most up-to-date and detailed information available.

We also plan to cover the mountain experience more completely. Skiing in, out, and down from climbs has been common practice since the sport began, and the pursuit of skiing as an end in itself compliments many climber's lifestyles. To them we dedicate the first of what we hope will be many articles on ski-mountaineering, "On Any Winter's Day," by Eric Sanford.

*Climbing's* core will always be dedicated, however, to technical ascent. A greater number of pages is the key. This issue, appropriately, is the first to go over 100 pages.

Our growth over the last year has far out-stripped even our most optimistic projections. *Climbing* has become more polished, better written, and much more comprehensive. Support in terms of both readership and advertising has increased dramatically. In December we hired a full-time advertising/marketing director, Julie Kennedy. In the short time she's been with us, Julie has already had a profound affect on the magazine's future, and unfortunately, our work load.

Although many are helping us grapple with the horns of growth, the beast, frankly, is still dragging us along. As a result, several of our recent issues have been late. We hope that you agree with our belief that steadily-increasing quality is more important than an issue in hand before the month printed on the cover.

During the recent American Alpine Club meeting, several "Great Debate" panelists suggested that the climbing media has a responsibility to report the style in which routes are done. We agree with the basic premise, but complying is simply not practical. In Basecamp news features, we attempt to report the prevailing style of each area, as well as exceptions to common practice. We do not have the manpower to investigate how every route reported is done, nor the space to list such information in the route notes. That responsibility, we believe, belongs to the guidebook author.

Finally, I am pleased to have succeeded in convincing *Climbing's* editor, Michael Kennedy, to consent to an interview, which is presented in this issue. At the expense of sounding sycophantic, what amazes me about Kennedy are not his alpine accomplishments, nor his virtual single-handed efforts in making *Climbing* the most widely-circulated climbing magazine in the English language, but the fact that he has managed to do both simultaneously, while still excelling within the community and his family.

Now, about that raise...

— JS

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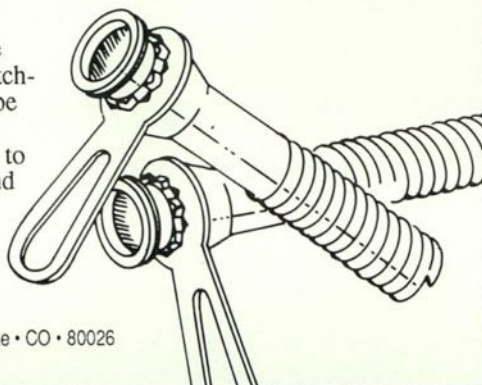
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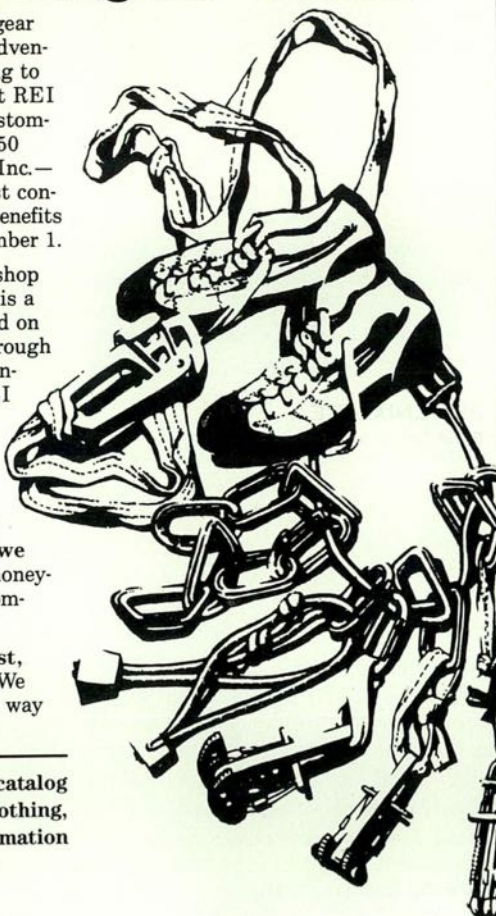
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# BASECAMP

## ARIZONA

PHOENIX, FLAGSTAFF, TUCSON

### Central Deserts Heat Up, New Guide Ready

The first guide to the crags in Central Arizona, published by Jim Waugh, Larry Trieber, and Bruce Grubbs in 1981, sold out quickly, reflecting the large number of climbers in the Phoenix area and their rabid enthusiasm. The new guide, *Phoenix Rock*, is now expected out in late January, and according to author Waugh, describes 575 routes in a whopping 410 pages! Of course, if he doesn't quit doing new routes, he might have to publish it in two volumes.

Phoenix has to be the warmest developed area to winter in the Southwest, and several suspect that the nearby Superstitions may place Phoenix in the mainstream of winter cragging. Reports from local climbers bubble over with enthusiasm. "Why haven't I gone there before?" seems to be the primary question. The potential for new routes in the Supes is staggering, largely due to the nature of the rock — rhyolite and welded tuff (the latter is the same as Oregon's Smith Rocks). Not surprisingly, most routes involve climbing on pockets and clipping bolts.

Most of the recent activity in the Superstitions has been at Wild Horse Wall. So far, the majority of routes established there have preplaced bolts, as has the new route on Nose-picker Pinnacle. Other route activity in the Phoenix area has taken place on Pinnacle Peak and in the McDowell. Several impressive first ascents were recorded in these popular areas, including Steve Smelser's redpoint aid elimination of *Live Aid* (5.12a), later flashed by Jason Sands, and Sands and Jim Zahn's "pinkpoint" of the *West Face Direct* (5.11d).

The 5th Annual Central Arizona Bouldering Contest is tentatively scheduled for April 5th, with a rainout date of April 12. Locals should watch your favorite mountain shop's bulletin board for details. Others can address inquiries to: Polar Designs, P.O. Box 5575, Glendale, AZ 85312-5575.

Up in northern Arizona, snow has blanketed the Flagstaff area — bad for climbers but great for those who love to slide on the silly white stuff. Before the blizzard, newcomer and new store owner Dick Cilley (of the Social Climber) registered several new topropes at Paradise Forks.

Down south, Tucson enjoyed beautiful weather this fall. To the surprise of all locals, Paul Davidson organized a brilliant Beanfest, held at

Cochise's Stronghold in the Dra-goons. A key to its success was an unannounced but well-planned bouldering contest on Sunday, which attracted nearly 75 sturdy souls with foggy heads. Most of the hardest routes were problems established by Bob Murray. Consequently, the contest was, in the words of organizer Davidson, "a real bouldering contest." Yosemite legend Dale Bard won the expert men's category and Arizona legend Bobbi Bensmen won the women's category. Sponsors included JRAT, O.F.C. Designs, Summit Hut, Wired Bliss, and Kinnaloo.

On Mount Lemmon just north of Tucson, new route activity has been unusually subdued, except for a handful of routes. Ray Ringle and John Steiger quickly dispatched two new 5.12's, both cleaned and bolted on rappel, toproped, then redpointed. Hidetaka Suzuki used similar methods to lead yet another Murray toprope (see *Climbing* no. 99), *Trapeze Direct* (5.12c/d), after pre-placing three fixed nuts. Suzuki followed the toprope line to just below the slab before traversing fifteen feet left to the arete of the original *Trapeze*.

—Michael Jimmerson

#### PHOENIX AREA

**Blind Leading the Naked** (5.11a), Superstitions, Wild Horse Wall. Just R of *The Bronc*. Slightly-overhanging face to thin crack. 2 bolts.  
**Wailing Banshee** (5.10b), Wild Horse Wall. R of *Blind Leading the Naked*. 3 bolts.  
**High Over Texas** (5.6 R), Wild Horse Wall. R of *Wailing Banshee*.

**Gunfight at Hueco Corral** (5.11b), small crag just R of Wild Horse Wall. Slightly-overhanging pockets. 3 bolts.

**Bomb's Away** (5.10b), Superstitions, Nose-picker Pinnacle. Overhanging pockets. 90', 4 bolts.

**Scar Wars** (5.12a), Pinnacle Peak. Free version of *Live Aid*. (FFA: Smelser, Larry Brighton, Rich Shoupe, Andy Marcourt, fall/86).

**Flight 511** (5.11c), Pinnacle Peak, Upper East Wall. Face R of *South Crack*. 3 bolts. (FA: Sands, fall/86).

**Out On a Limb** (5.7), Pinnacle Peak, below Upper East Wall. Crack/arete. (FA: Brighton, Smelser, fall/86).

**West Face Direct** (5.11d), Tom's Thumb. R of *Experiment in Terror*. 4 bolts. (FA: Sands, Zahn, fall/86).

**Pretty Girls Make Grades** (5.12a), Tom's Thumb. Arete between *Ubangi Lips* and *Sacred Datura*. 6 bolts.

**Crossroads** (5.10a), McDowell, Parking Lot Wall. Thin crack/face. (FA: Sands, Scherry Duncan, fall/86).

#### PARADISE FORKS

**Shotgun** (5.11d tr), Obvious thin crack R of *On The Edge*. (FA: Cilley, fall/86).

**Rumble Seat** (5.11d tr), Face R of *On The Edge*. (FA: Cilley, fall/86).

**Unnamed** (5.11d tr), Arete R of *Aqualung*. (FA: Cilley, fall/86).

#### MOUNT LEMMON

**Air Monsters** (5.12a/b), Windy Point, North Fin. Overhanging S face of Nancy's Thumb Tower. 3 bolts. (FA: Ringle, Steiger, 11/86).

**Lion Chow** (5.12b), Windy Point, South Fin. Between *Rooting for the Lions* and *Chicken Coop*. 5 bolts. (FA: Ringle, 11/86).

**Trapeze Direct** (5.12c/d), Windy Point, Beaver Wall. Lead version. From last fixed nut traverse L to arete. (First lead: Suzuki, 11/86).

**Scorpion Jam** (5.8), Green Slabs. On buttress just below *Friend in Need*. Climb to hand crack. (FA: Charlie Rollins, Josh Tofield, fall/86).

**Missing in Action** (5.7), Green Slabs. L and uphill from *Green Banana Jam*. Shallow corner/flake system. 100'. (FA: Michael Jimmerson, Mike Laurence, fall/86).

#### References:

Climber's Guide to Central Arizona, Jim Waugh, et. al., 1981, out-of-print, Phoenix Rock, Jim Waugh, due February 1986.  
 A Cheap Way to Fly, Tim Toulas, 1986. A Climber's Guide to Paradise Forks, Michael Lawson, 1986.  
 Climber's Guide to Sabino Canyon and Mount Lemmon Highway, John Steiger, 1985.

## CALIFORNIA

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

#### Locals Take Advantage of Superb Weather

After a series of early fall storms, the weather remained stable throughout the rest of the year, producing one of Yosemite's most climbable late fall/early winter seasons in the last few years. Even Tuolumne saw shirt sleeves in mid-November.

Most first ascent activity was down in the Valley, however, with the majority taking place on a newly-developed crag below and right of the Rostrum. Approached across the Merced River (or via the Rostrum rappels during high water), the crag, dubbed the Jungle Gym, has so far yielded eight routes, all established by Valley

locals.

On the hard rock scene, John Bachar found yet another Yosemite testpiece in the overhanging thin crack now called *Dale's Pin Job*. The first-knuckle crack is only 40 feet long, but has a rich history of previous attempts by some of the Valley's most respected climbers. Bachar's ascent of this and *Phantom* (5.13a, *Climbing* no. 99) a month previous seem to cap what several think is J.B.'s finest season of climbing. Bachar turns 30 next month.

On a younger note, Scott Cosgrove (23) is apparently well-



recovered from a severe injury he suffered last spring (*Climbing* no. 97). Cosgrove and Valley Bhagwan Werner Braun freed a 1963 Chris Fredericks/Steve Roper route in the Ribbon Falls amphitheater in flawless style. The pair carried no pins or bolts and bagged the nine-pitch route (four are 5.11) with no falls.

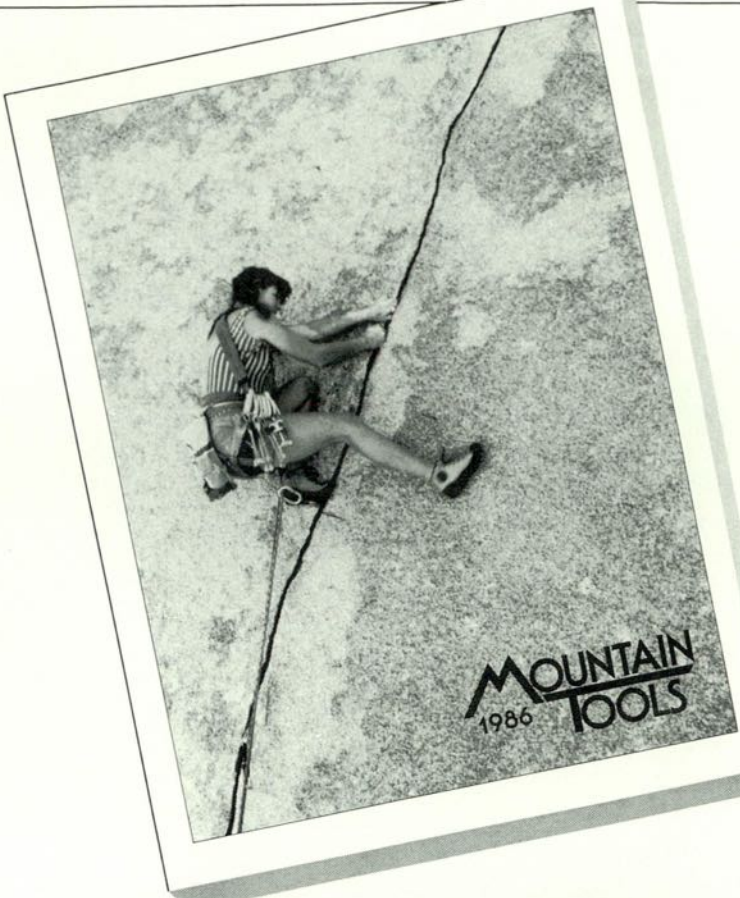
Cosgrove also teamed up with Peter Donovan to do the first continuous ascent of the *Pratt/Kelsey* on Higher Cathedral. Cosgrove had previously freed the upper half with Braun; he returned to free the complete line after the fatal accident of his friend, Eric Goukas, who apparently fell nearly 100 feet after slipping on easy ground during an earlier attempt to do the first continuous free ascent (*Climbing* no. 98). Finally, the Cos has turned up some impressive solos, the most noteworthy being *Another Roadside Attraction* (5.12a).

The efforts of Bachar, Cosgrove, and other Valley locals are often overlooked by those wrapped up in today's high numbers game. Establishing the highest numbers with techniques conventionally held as aid or contrived is thought by many to be clearly *not superior* to establishing slightly lower numbers with techniques more firmly embedded in American free climbing. In what some feel is a mad rush to increase technical difficulty, respect for the rock and other's approaches apparently falls to the wayside.

Another interesting aspect of the current first ascent scene in the Valley is the sheer number of new routes that keep appearing. A well-known advocate of the European approach to establishing routes has often said that traditionalism limits the new generation's potential for first ascents simply because the "natural" lines have all been ascended. The fact that the Valley has seen the longest and most continuous climbing history of any area in the Western hemisphere, and the large number of new routes reported here over the last year casts a curious light on this argument. Indeed, compare the number of routes in Reid and Meyer's newly-released Yosemite guide with that printed a scant three years ago.

Action on the Valley walls has mostly been repeat ascents, except for Mike Corbett, Steve Bosque, and Gwen Schneider's first ascent of *On the Waterfront* (VI 5.9 A4), which takes a line to the left of the black water streaks that describe the path of Horsetail Falls. Corbett and Bosques' last adventure, joined by John Midendorf, was an attempt on the *South Face* of Half Dome, which ended with an epic rescue after several avalanches destroyed their portaledge (*Climbing* no. 97).

The first ascent of *Karma* (V 5.11c A0), reported in *Climbing* no. 98, evidently was not as controversial as the Basecamp report inferred. First



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Ascentionist Dave Shultz writes, "*Karma* was put up in classic big wall style. There were three sections that could not be freed, using five- and six-bolt ladders, with ten-foot pendulums at the end of each. At no point and under no circumstances after the bolt ladders were put in was an attempt made to free these sections, as this would be highly unethical... Also lines were fixed at the end of each attempt, as we only had weekends to continue our ascent."

Finally, Charles Cole's update on El Cap and Half Dome (*Climbing* no. 98) has received a tremendous positive response from wall aficionados across the country. The article apparently is being viewed as an im-

portant chronicle of American wall climbing. Several letters reported corrections: *Dorn Direct*, 7 pitches; *Grossman/Harrington*, repeated by Mark Smith and Richard Jensen (1984), A3, 5 pitches; *Hockey Night in Canada*, FA: D. Hatton and Bill Stern (spring 1977); *Horse Chute*, FA solo: unknown climber (1982; observed by Richard Jensen); *Sea of Dreams*, third member of FA party: D. Diegleman. *Squeeze Play*, FA: February 1982, second ascent: March 1982; *Tis-sa-ack*, FA solo: unknown Japanese (September 1984; observed by Jack McBroom); *Wings of Steel*, completed June 1982, photograph inaccurate (missing last two pitches to *Aquarian Wall*); *Muir*, A3.



## JOSHUA TREE

### The Place To Be

Climbers continue to swarm to Joshua Tree in ever increasing numbers. One tourist was overheard as saying, "Is this some sort of climber's convention?" Nevertheless, growing crowds are no stranger to JT.

The Hidden Valley areas, Echo Tee, and Saddle Rocks remain extremely popular; however, much of the rock in the Monument is rarely visited. It is not too difficult to escape the masses as they tend to congregate in only a few spots.

New route activity continues at a feverish pace, and a new supplement to the 1986 guide should be out in the fall of 1987. This will contain upwards of 400 new routes, bringing the total number of routes to nearly 2000!

Although some controversy has been generated by last year's removal of rappel-placed bolts, it appears that these actions have had the desired effect. All routes are going in on lead, and new "rap jobs" have not appeared. Even the most ardent rappel-bolters have expressed reluctance to employ such tactics in the Monument.

One unfortunate reaction to the re-

moval of rappel-placed routes was the completely unjustified removal of *Sole Fusion*. Predictably, the spineless perpetrators have refused to acknowledge responsibility. Since *Sole Fusion* was placed on the lead by John Bachar, its removal appears to be motivated from petty revenge rather than any ethical beliefs.

Interestingly, when one climber voiced his intention to replace the route *en rappel*, Bachar clearly indicated that any rap-placed bolts would be removed. As a result, until someone gathers the requisite nerve to re-drill the bolts on the lead, this fine route won't be seeing many ascents.

— Randy Vogel

## YOSEMITE

**Unknown** (5.11 ?), Arch Rock. Direct finish to *Inchworm*, which starts up and R of *New Dimensions*. After turning 8° roof, continue up crack to end, work R and up face. (Original line leads L at crack's end to *Klemens Escape*.) Pin. (FA: Ed Berry, fall/86).

**Tennessee Strings** (5.12a), Cookie Rock. 40' seam and former aid line L of *Harold*. (FA: Rob Robinson, Cade Lloyd, Glenn Klein, 11/86).

**Pimpers Paradise** (5.12a), Owl area. From pullout directly below Owl, walk 100' toward Foresta, follow path above to horizontal wide crack to solution pockets (L of Owl). (FA: Cosgrove, Griffith, fall/86).

**Anal Tongue Darts** (5.10b), Reeds Pinnacle area. Start thin crack just L of *Olga's Trick*, turns to face then to thin crack. 125'. (FA: Brian Bennett, Bob Ost, 10/86).

**Danger Will Robinson** (5.10c), Reeds Pinnacle area. Obvious crack L of *Anal Tongue Darts*, joining for last 20'. Crux mantle on knobs to hand crack. 130'. (FA: Bennett, Ost, 10/86).

**Center of the Remnant** (5.11d/5.12a), Reeds Pinnacle area. Rurp seam w/4 bolts. 60'. (FA: tr, Scott Cosgrove; first lead, John Bachar, fall/86).

**Dales Pin Job** (5.12d), cliff between *Another Roadside Attraction* and *Back to the Future* (Climbing no. 97). 40' overhanging thin crack. (FA: Bachar, 11/86).

**Camp Tramp** (5.10a), This and That area. Squeeze chimney to finger crack, up and L of This and That cliff. (FA: Dave Hatchet, Arizä, fall/86).

**Catch A Wave** (5.11d), New Diversions. Knobs R of *Chicken Pie*. Bolts. (FA: Cosgrove, winter/85).

**Holidays** (5.8 R), New Diversions. 2 pitches (5.8 R knobs; 5.7 crack) R of *Chimney for Two*. (FA: Cosgrove, Jenny Naquin, winter/85).

**Nothing Good Ever Lasts** (5.10d), Five and Dime. 15' R of *Cro-Magnon Capers*, thin-hands to fist crack. 60'. (FA: Hedge, Ken Ariza, fall/86).

**P.M.S.** (5.11a), Last Resort Cliff. Layback flake L of 2nd pitch of *Moon Age Daydream*. (FA: Tucker Tech, Mike Sciacca, fall/86).

**The Thinline** (5.11c R), Ribbon Falls Amphitheater. Free version of *West Portal Route*. Around corner, 300' R of *Gold Wall*. Starts prominent R-facing dihedral. (FA: Cosgrove, Braun, fall/86).

**Sunday Driver** (5.10b), base of El Cap. R of *Little John Right*. (FA: Ariza, Mark Carpenter, Dimitri Barton, fall/86).

**On the Waterfront** (VI 5.9 A4), El Cap. Between *Eagle's Way* and the *Waterfall Route*. Last 4 pitches join *Waterfall Route*. 11th pitch crux. 79 holes. (FA: Corbett, Bosque, Schneider, 8/86).

**Full Stem Ahead** (5.11d), Lower Falls area (L side). 3-pitch dihedral near *Lightweight Guides*. (FA: Rob Robinson, Chris Snyder, 11/86).

## STOCKTON AREA

### New Cliff Opened Near Ebbets Pass

A new crag, said to provide the most accessible and pleasant climbing in the region, has been opened up in the Ebbets Pass area 60 miles east of Stockton.

The 200-300 foot Ramsey Cliff faces south, and is located at about 5000 feet. The high-angle rock is reminiscent of that in Yosemite, and good ledges provide the belays for most pitches. It is not the most aesthetic bluff when first encountered, but the climbing is very enjoyable. In addition to Ramsey Cliff, a nearby 600-foot dome provides excellent Apron-like face climbing. Numerous other small crags and slabs add to the area's potential.

So far, seven routes have been established on Ramsey Cliff, all the work of Phil Bone and Alan Johnson of Cottage Springs during the spring of 1986.

Access is via a 2-mile graded logging road to the very summit. From road's end the approach is short, skirting the cliff to the east. The area is on U.S. Forest Service land, but the road is private. The cliff is in a remote canyon with the nearest services 6 miles away in Dornington. If you wish a pristine wilderness setting with easy access, you won't be disappointed with the climbing here.

## RAMSEY CLIFF

Routes described from left to right.

**Spare Time** (5.7). Small dihedral on far L end of crag. 150'.

**Night Moves** (5.10b). 1) 5.8 crack to ledge. 2) 5.9 L and up to ledge. 3) straight up.

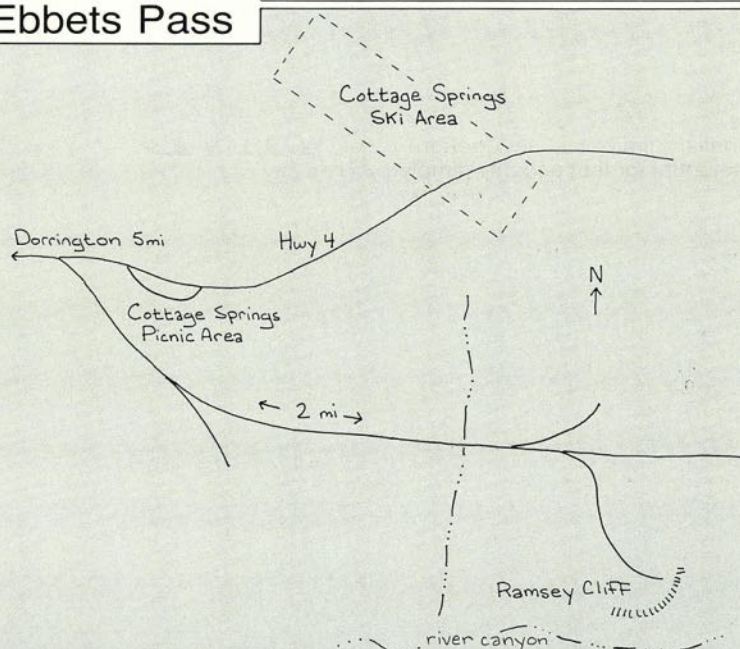
**Foster Farm** (5.7). 1) 5.7 knobs to ledge (same ledge as atop 1st pitch of *Night Moves*). 2) L-facing dihedral w/5.7 exit move.

**Ear** (5.10). 1) R-facing, R-arching offwidth/chimney. 2) 5.7.

**Keystone** (5.9). 1) 5.9 R-facing dihedral to ledge with large oak tree. 2) R-leaning dihedral w/5.9 exit moves to knobs. 3) 5.7.

**Born to Party** (5.10). 1) 5.8 thin to ledge w/trees (same ledge as atop 1st pitch of *Keystone*). 2) Shift belay R, ascend knobs to roof. Exit L via L-facing dihedral (5.7) or R (5.7) to ledge. 3) 5.7 corner.

**Hoselips** (5.10). 1) R-leaning crack to ledge, above 5.10 knobs to square-cut roof. 2) 2 vars: L 5.7, R 5.9.





**Gelatinous Wombat** (5.11b), Upper Yosemite Falls Trail. 3 switchbacks below observation point, 150' off trail. Layback, thin crack. 130'. (FA: Forkash, Bennett, Eric Mayo, 9/86).

**Lizard Skin** (5.11c tr), Upper Yosemite Falls Trail. Thin crack, layback before *Gelatinous Wombat*. 45'. (FA: Bennett, 9/86).

**Moe! Larry! The Cheese!** (5.10c), Sunnyside Bench. 150' uphill from *Butthole Climbers* (Climbing no. 98). Short pitch up pedestal to oak trees. 2) overhanging thin crack to slab, steep knobs, then thin crack. 140'. (FA: Bennett, Tuttle, 10/86).

**Hells Hollow** (5.10a), Devil's Bathtub area. (FA: Ariza, Carpenter, Doe DeRoss, Nick Arms, fall 86).

**Maps and Legends** (5.11b), Lehamite Falls area. 150' L of Lehamite Falls is 120' finger crack to ledge w/2 bolts, rap. (FA: Joe Hedge, Drew Davol, fall 86).

**Mirror Mirror** (5.9), Mirror Lake area. L of *Eric's Book*. 2 vars: R has 5 bolts, L dirtier. (FA: L. Eric Brand, Jonelle Geller, 10/85; R. Brand, Shores, 10/86).

**Groundhog** (5.11c X), Mirror Lake area. Just R of *Thin Man*. 2 bolts. (FA: Eric Kohl, Brand, 11/86).

**Breathalyzer** (5.10b), Mirror Lake area. R of *Groundhog*. 2 bolts. (FA: Kohl, Brand, 11/86).

**Way Lost** (5.9), Illioullette Falls area. 600' L of *Ape Index*, 120' layback crack. (FA: Tech, Lee Price, fall 86).

**Jack the Zipper** (5.12b), Glacier Point Apron. Free version. (FFA: Cosgrove, winter 85).

**Fire Drill** (5.10a), Glacier Point Apron. Starts 50' L of 1st pitch of *The Punch Line* (Climbing no. 94). 90'. (FA: Bennett, Tuttle, 10/86).

**Run With Me** (5.10a), Glacier Point Apron. Start top of talus, 300' up from *Thin White Duke* (Climbing nos. 94, 97). 3rd to large ledge. Seam off ledge turns into face. 2) 5.9+ to ledge (same belay as top of 1st pitch of *Punch Bowl*). (FA: Bennett, Tuttle, 10/86).

**Ticket To Nowhere** (5.11c), Middle Cathedral. Between *Black Primo* and *Quicksilver*. 2 new pitches added, for total of 5: 5.10c, 5.10d, 5.10a, 5.11c, 5.11b. (FA: 4th pitch, Bob Gaines, Mike Paul; 5th pitch, Gaines, Francisco Blanco, Walt Shipley).

**Princess** (5.9), Watchtower area. Start obvious corner 50' L of *The Thief*. Double thin cracks above. 70'. (FA: Bennett, Mike Forkash, Brian Hoffman, 10/86).

**Beat the Clock** (5.10c), Leaning Tower area. Start 40' L of *Drop-Out*. Thin crack to knobby face. 60'. (FA: Forkash, Norman Boles, 9/86).

**Brian Five** (5.11a tr), Leaning Tower area. Steep knobby face by *Beat the Clock* (use same anchors). (FA: Bennett, Forkash, 10/86).

**Power Point** (5.11c R), Higher Cathedral. Free version of entire Pratt/Kelsey (see *Climbing* no. 97). (FA: Cosgrove, Donovan, fall 86).

**Alamo** (5.11a), The Jungle Gym (cliff R of Ros-trum). 1 pitch knob route to L-facing crack. (FA: Al Swanson, Dave Shultz, Ken Yager, fall 86).

**Flight Attendant** (5.10d), The Jungle Gym. 120' overhanging crack, hands to fingers. 1 pitch. (FA: Yager, Shultz, Hiskes, fall 86).

**Unnamed** (5.10d), The Jungle Gym. Layback/rope climb to seam. (FA: Cosgrove, Paul Crawford, fall 86).

**Dancing in the Dark** (5.11b), The Jungle Gym. Start in chimney. Step to face on arete. Very poor pro near top. (FA: tr, Shultz; first lead, Scott Cosgrove, fall 86).

**The Viper** (5.11b), The Jungle Gym. Start directly above *Dancing in the Dark*. 1 1/4" to hand crack. 1 pitch. (FA: Braun, John Midden-dorf, fall 86).

**Breast Fest** (5.10), The Jungle Gym. Licheny, jug-filled face L of *Alamo*. No pro. (FA: tr, Shultz; solo, Cosgrove, fall 86).

**Lloyds Lollipop** (5.10b), The Jungle Gym. 50' hand crack to top of pedestal. (FA: Shultz, Yager, fall 86).

**Poodle Bites** (5.10a tr), The Jungle Gym. 60' face off *Lloyds Lollipop*. (FA: Yager, Shultz, fall 86).

**East of Eden** (5.10b), Royal Arches. Classic face pitch 600' L of *Serenity Crack*. (FA: Gaines, Jay Smith).

## TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

**Thought Criminal** (5.10a), Olmstead Point on far E side. From last turnout heading W, look for obvious crack splitting buttress 600' uphill. 130'

thin crack w/small roof halfway. (FA: Brian Bennett, John Tuttle, 7/86).

**Shoot the Moon** (5.10a R), L of *Lunar Leap*. 1st pitch has only 1 bolt (2 pitches). (FA: Bob Gaines, Jean Yurgalewicz).

**Namche Bazaar** (5.9), Mountaineer's Dome. Between *Thin Air* and *Tourist Trap*. 3 bolts. (FA: Gaines, Yurgalewicz).

**Golden Years** (5.12a tr), Mountaineer's Dome. Start flake and ramp between *Namche Bazaar* and *Tourist Trap*. (FA: Gaines).

## JOSHUA TREE

**Penis Magnet** (5.10d), Willow Hole, The Tombstone. Face L of *Heaven Can Wait*. (FA: Dave Evans, Spencer Lennard, 11/86).

**Snap on Demand** (5.11+), Real Hidden Valley, Houser Buttress. 3-bolt face on buttress L of *Loose Lady*. (FA: Darrell Hensel, Jonny Woodward, fall 86).

**The Real McCoy** (5.12 tr), Echo Cove. 20' L of *Halfway To Paradise*. (FA: John Long, Gaines).

**Fear of Flying** (5.10d), Chimney Rock. Double dikes between *Ballet* and *Howard's Horror*. (FA: Gaines, Terry Ayers).

**Tap Dancing** (5.10d tr), Overhanging face on largest pillar above road 2.4 mi N of Quail Springs Picnic Area. (FA: Gaines, Pat Nay).

**Elijah's Coming** (5.10b X), Intersection Rock. 2 pitches (5.10b, 5.10d) unprotected face parallel and R of *Mike's Books*. No bolts. (FA: Gaines, Bruce Christle).

**TVC15** (5.9), Little Hunk. Face L of ZZZZ. No bolts. (FA: Gaines, Christle).

**Charles Who?** (5.11c), The Outback, X-Factor Dome (about 300' N of Labor Dome). Thin flake to face on lower SW buttress. (FA: Vogel, Evans, Rob Raker, 11/86).

**Out Of Work** (5.11 tr), The Outback, Labor Dome. Obvious roof/thin crack just R of A *Womans Work is Never Done*. (FA: Randy Leavitt, 11/86).

**Dirty Tricks** (5.11c), Comic Book. Complete lead. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, 11/86).

**Combination Locks** (5.11b), Comic Book area. Face/thin crack just L of *Alice In Wonderland*. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, 11/86).

**Mr. Bunny's Petri Dish** (5.9), Wonderland of Rocks, on NE face of obvious large formation SE of Nomad Dome. L-leaning corner then up to flake/chimney. (FA: Lennard, Alan North, 11/86).

**Speculum Scrapings** (5.11 tr), Wonderland of Rocks. Face starting off boulder L of *Mr. Bunny's Petri Dish*. (FA: Lennard, North, 11/86).

**The Duke** (5.9 Al), Wonderland of Rocks, Don Juan Boulder. Lasso horn 15' up overhanging N face, then hand-over-hand up! 2-bolt 5.9 face above. (FA: Tom Grimes, David Katz, 11/86).

**Spring or Fall** (5.11), Wonderland of Rock, Con Dome (formation W of Rockwork Rock, just S of Bed Rock). On W face, up face past bolt to crack. (FA: Laeger, Michael Jaffe, Kodas, 11/86).

**Dikeless** (5.7), Wonderland of Rock, Ven Dome (formation S of Escape Rock, E of Con Dome). On W face, R-tending dike past bolt. (FA: Kodas, Jaffe, Laeger, 11/86).

**Challenger** (5.11+ tr), Wonderland of Rock, South Astro Dome. Start just L of *My Laundry*. 160' dead vertical face.

**The Inauguron** (5.11b), Wonderland of Rock, Secret Valley area. Free version of 1st pitch with new 2nd pitch up L edge of face. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, Maria Cranor, fall 86).

**Morality Test** (5.11b), Secret Valley area. 2-pitch face L of *The Inauguron*. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, fall 86).

**Wheat Berry-Beri** (5.10d), Secret Valley area. Face to crack L of *White Bread Fever*. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, fall 86).

**Blue Ribbon** (5.10d), Wonderland of Rock, Afro Blues Wall. Face and thin crack at R end. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, W. Quaker, fall 86).

**Horizontal Terrorverse** (5.10), Sheep Pass, Cap Rock. Follow horizontal crack which crosses *The Ayatollah*. (FA: Laeger, Kodas, Andy Brown, 10/86).

**Crystal City Underground** (5.11), Split Rocks area. Crystal dike across from formation w/ *Rubicon*, on backside of *Grand Canyon Donkey Trail* formation. (FA: Kodas, Laeger, 86).

**Disappearing Finger** (5.10b), Split Rocks area. Future Games Rock. Start *Invisibility Lessons*, traverse L to crack systems. Excellent. (FA: Laeger, Andy Brown, 10/86).

**Save the Last Stance for Me** (5.9), Isles in the Sky area (formation 300' R of Isles in the Sky). Face to 2-bolt stance in alcove. (FA: Laeger, Kodas, Kurt Shannon, 1/86).

**Wallflower** (5.10b), Isles in the Sky area. Face over bulge, continue to stance of *Save the Last Stance*. (FA: Kodas, Laeger, 1/86).

**Vanishing Point** (5.10d), Future Games Rock. Face just R of *Invisibility Lessons*. Go R then L after 4th bolt. (FA: Laeger, Kodas, 11/86).

**Safety Pin** (5.11b), Future Games Rock area. 100' R of *Invisibility Lessons* is block w/large roof near ground, R of *Casual Affair* (noted but not described in Vogel's guide), ascend center of block. (FA: Kodas, 2/86).

**Belly Ache** (5.11), Pinto Basin, Belle Camp-ground. R of *Belly Dancer*. (FA: Vaino Kodas, Herb Laeger, 3/86).

**The Micro Millenium** (5.11d), Pinto Basin, Stirrup Tank Area. Face thin crack on N side of formation SE of Ziggy Rock. (FA: Woodward, Hensel, Cranor, 11/86).

**Black Widow** (5.11a), Stirrup Tank. Face R, around corner of *Wooly Spider*. (FA: Geoff Archer, Doug Aagesen, 11/86).

**Accelerator** (5.10b), Stirrup Tank. Face on N face of boulder 200' E of *Wooly Spider*. (FA: Archer, Aagesen, fall 86).

**Hershey Highway** (5.9 tr), Stirrup Tank, Hershey Kiss formation (SE of formation w/ *Hand Grenade*, near S end of several small rocks). L dike. (FA: Archer, Aagesen, fall 86).

**Spinal Tap** (5.9), Hershey Kiss formation. R dike. (FA: Archer, Aagesen, fall 86).

**War Baby** (5.10 tr), Face 150' N of Hershey Kiss formation. (FA: Archer, fall 86).

**Primal Urge** (5.9), Stirrup Tank, formation 300' SW of Hershey Kiss formation. Far-R open book on E face. (FA: Archer, Aagesen, fall 86).

## NEEDLES

**Green Tide** (5.10d/5.11a), Witch Needle. Lichen-covered face just R of 1st pitch dihedral of *Witch Doctor*. 1 pitch. (FA: Kodas, Patrick Paul, 86).

**Witch Doctor**, 3rd pitch var (5.10c), Witch Needle. Rather than traversing L above 2nd belay, go straight up thin crack, flake, and over roof to join 4th of *Witch Doctor*. (FA: James Weger, Mike Baca, Greg Vernon, 86).

**The Entity** (5.10d/5.11a), Witch Needle. R of *Shazam*. 4 pitches. (FA: Kodas, Laeger, 7/86).

## References:

Yosemite Climbs, George Meyers, 1983. *New Yosemite guide available February 1987*. Chockstone Press, 526 Franklin Street, Denver, CO 80218.  
Rock Climbs of Tuolumne Meadows, Don Reid and Chris Falkenstein, 1986.  
Joshua Tree, Randy Vogel, 1986. *Supplement in preparation*. Contact: Randy Vogel, P.O. Box 4554, Laguna Beach, CA 92662.  
Stonemasher Rockclimbing Guide to the Kern River Canyon and Environs, E.C. Joe and Dick Laversee, 1983.

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## COLORADO

### BOULDER AREA

## Mild Winter Brings New Testpieces

Despite the onset of colder weather, the production of hard new free climbs in Colorado's leading climbing area continued at a fast pace. On one especially fine day in November, two excellent new testpieces were added to Eldorado's top-standard tick list.

The all-too-obvious dihedral of the *Book of Numbers* was finally freed at 5.12c in a fine effort by Darius Azin and Mark Tarrant. Azin led this in one pitch with horrendous rope drag near the top; he later added a bolt belay at a no-hands rest midway up the lead. The first pitch (5.12b) deviates slightly from the original aid line and had been rehearsed on top rope. Although the route was originally sieged, Azin came back later for a redpoint ascent.

A near-flash second ascent by Pat Adams, accompanied by Alan Lester, abruptly ended when Adams fell "right at the end" and broke his ankle. Shortly after, Christian Griffith claimed the second ascent, but not before falling off the same place and sustaining a twisted ankle. His persistence paid off on his next try.

After preplacing bolts and making numerous attempts spread over many days, Chris Hill and Griffith finally led the severely-overhanging face left of *Supremacy Crack*. *The Web* (5.13b) is only 45 feet long, but involves an extremely sustained sequence and three crux sections. Hill is credited with the first lead, the second going to Griffith a few days later.

Over near Bear Canyon, Dale Goddard continues his quest for new rock in the "backcountry" of Boulder by adding *Cornucopia* (5.13a). Pre-placed bolts and several days worth of attempts were required on this beautiful and strenuous face. West German Wolfgang Gullich made the second ascent, confirming the route's difficulty and merit.

So far this winter, temperatures have been mild and storms few. If this trend continues, spring should bring a bevy of locals in superb shape and an intense season on the crags. Unfortunately, several of the leading locals, including Griffith and Goddard, plan on spending the spring and early summer in Europe, perhaps lessening the competitive fray that is partly responsible for Boulder's spiraling standards.

—Dan Hare

### BOULDER AREA

*Book of Numbers* (II 5.12c), Redgarden Wall. Free version. (FFA: Azin, Tarrant, 11/86).  
*The Magic Roof* (A2), Redgarden Wall. 20' R of start to *Yellow Spur*. (FA: Mike Brooks, Magi Tedli, Jan Delaney, 12/86).

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**Break Free** (A2), Redgarden Wall. 6' R of start to *Yellow Spur*. Short R-facing dihedral to roof crack. (FA: Delaney, Brooks, Tedli, 11/86).  
**Men of Steel** (A2), The Whale's Tail. Above *Monuments*, L of *Spool*. Obvious crack to slight ledge. (FA: Greg Miller, Brooks, 9/86).  
**Wave Rave Roof** (A2+), Redgarden Wall. SE corner of Lower Ramp, directly S of *Wisdom*. (FA: Delaney, Brooks, 10/86).  
**Those Fertile Years** (A1+), Hawk-Eagle Ridge. L-facing dihedral 8' L of D.O.A. to belay on *Cinch Crack*. (FA: Delaney, Brooks, 10/86).  
**The Web** (5.13b), Supremacy Slab. Just L of *Supremacy Crack*. Bolts. (FA: Hill, 11/86).  
**Pleasure Trailer** (A1), Upper Peanuts Wall. 50' L and above *Advanced Rockcraft*, thin L-angling seam. Step L to belay. (FA: Brooks, Tedli, Delaney, 11/86).  
**Fiddle Sticks** (A1+), Mickey Mouse Wall. Little cave next to *The Tracks*, aid up R side, go L 10', over roof. (FA: Delaney, Brooks, Tedli, 10/86).  
**A Rose for Andrea** (A2-), Mickey Mouse Wall. 70' above *The Tracks* in alcove, thin seam to chimney. (FA: Brooks, Delaney, 10/86).  
**Cornucopia** (5.13a), rock N of Finger Flatiron. Steep. S-facing wall 100' R of *Stone Love*. Bolts. (FA: Goddard, 10/86).  
**Moondoggie** (5.10d), Boulder Canyon, Bitty Buttress. Start just R of *A's Jax*. R-facing corner w bolt at start. (FA: Tim Hudgel, Kyle Copeland, 11/86).

### OTHER AREAS

**Too Much Turkey** (5.10+), Turkey Rocks, Leftovers. 50' L of *Too Much Crack*. L-facing dihedral to 8' roof. (FA: Brent Kurtzman, Rick Westbay, Mark Milligan, Tom Griesan, fall/86).  
**The Deception** (5.11d), San Luis Valley, Rock Garden. 1st side canyon to W off cliff band. Pillar on R side. 4 bolts. (FA: Bob D'Antonio, Neil Cannon, Will Gadd, 11/86).

### References:

*Pictorial Guide to Boulder Climbs*, (4th ed.), Richard Rossiter, 1986. *New route notebook*, International Alpine School, Eldorado Springs. *The Hard Stuff*, Climber's Guide to the Turkey Rock Area and other South Platte Crags, Mark Rolofson, 1984. *For Turkeys Only*, Steve Cheyney, 1984. *"San Luis"*, Lew Hoffman, February 1985, *Climbing* no. 88.

### Corrections:

Several errors for the Durango area were printed in *Climbing* no. 97. The three-pitch dihedral right of Apple Cider is Punta Magna. 5.11b c with the crux coming on the second pitch, rather than 5.12b as reported (or 5.11c R as reported in *Climbing* no. 98). *Crime and Punishment* was misspelled and is 5.11a rather than 5.10+ R; evidently, the line protects adequately with *Friends*.

Several errors for the Durango area were also printed in *Climbing* no. 98. *Lucky 7* is actually called *Triple Tree Direct*. *Pale Skinned Nebraskan* has two bolts, not five. *Sweet Sandstone* is not an R-rated lead, and is protected by four bolts, not three. *Oxbow* is not on the *Rock of Afternoon Delights*, but further down the cliff-band. *Black Corral* no longer has a bolt, as it had been previously done without. Out in the *Woods* is actually called in *Mesopotamia*, and was done in 1983 by Tim Kuss and Scott Eshbaugh. On the *Side and Glider* had also been done years ago. Finally, *Contortionist* is 5.11c rather than 5.12a as reported.

Several omissions were in the report for San Luis Valley in *Climbing* no. 99. *Richard Aschert* was instrumental in the establishment of *Los Hermanos de la Penitente*, as was *Neil Cannon* on *Morada*.

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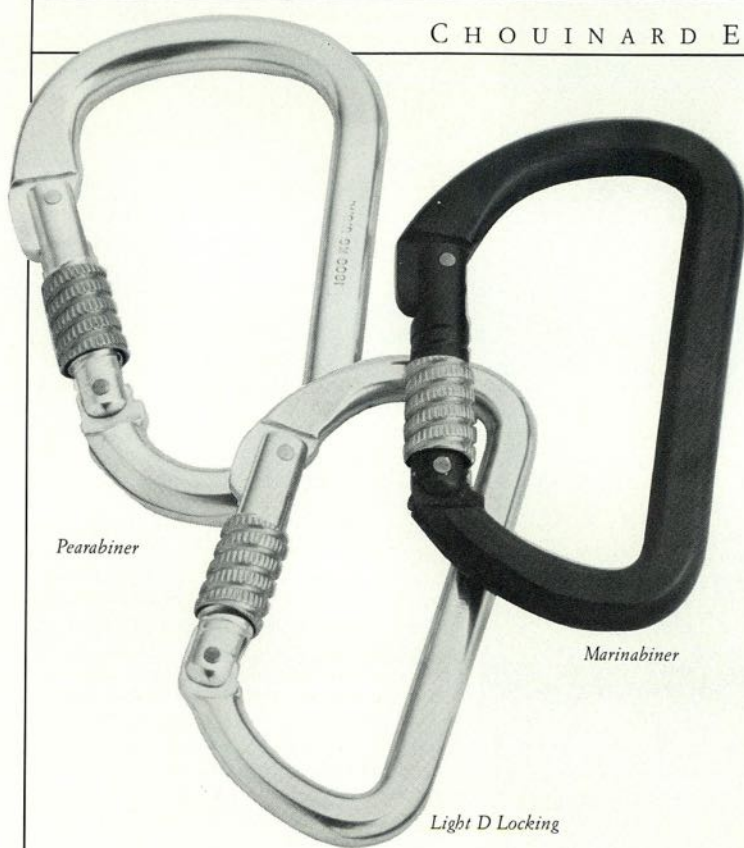
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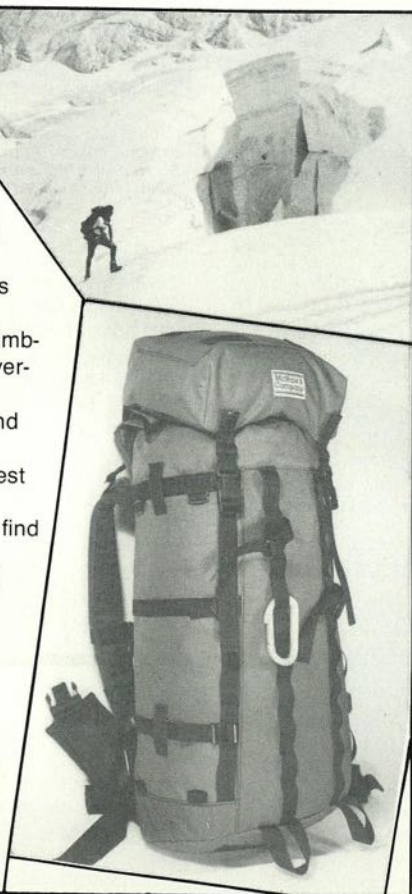
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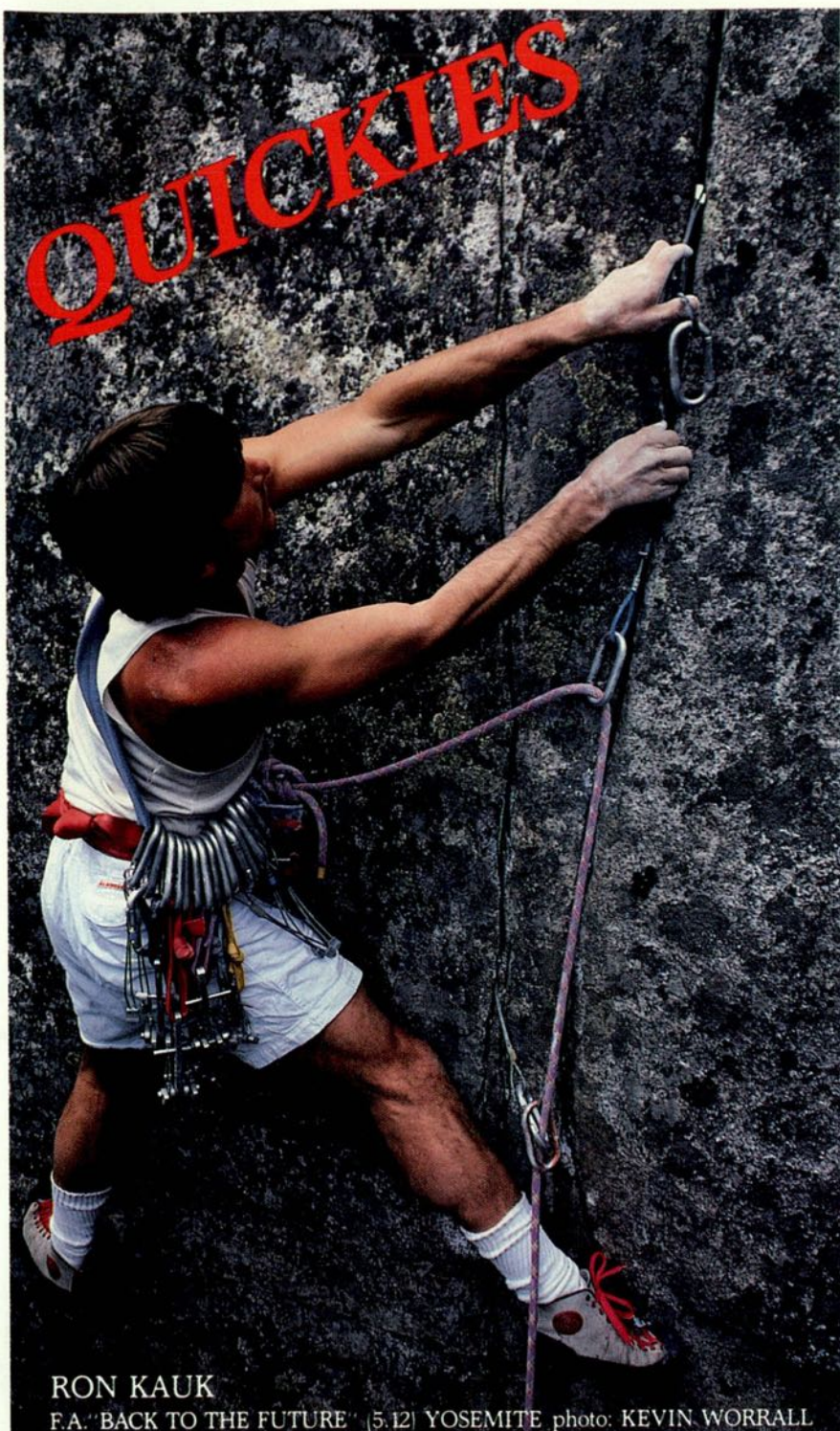
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## NEW YORK

### SHAWANGUNKS

#### Et Tu, Boltus?

Bolts, bolts, bolts; gift from the climbing gods or Pandora's box? Drills, hammers, and steel were once again the issue, this time at a meeting in New Paltz between climbers and Mohonk Preserve officials.

The past season at the Shawangunks was an active one. Young, new-to-the-scene climbers made their mark. Some striking leads of a fresh crop of routes assured that the future of the Gunks will be lively. But with new blood came new (or really not-so-new) ideas. For the first time in almost ten years, bolts were placed on first ascents.

The ensuing controversy caused an unfamiliar friction. The Gunks have long been known as a friendly place to crag, but this year the local scene was rifted by 2" X 3/8" pieces of steel. It wasn't just the younger lads using bolts—a few of the older folks, myself included, went for the drill. Not even that many bolts were placed: only a total of six at last count. The concern was the future. How many bolts would eventually go in? Would bolting get out of hand? Who was to say when bolts were warranted and when they were bogus?

The debate, for most, wasn't a stylistic one. Whether the bolts went in on rappel or on the lead was irrelevant. The bolts themselves were the issue. No one wanted a bolt war, and after one local chopped a "modern classic," it was painfully obvious that some talking had to be done to avoid a battle where the only casualty would be the rock.

Jordan Mills, one of the younger set, was the instigator of the New Paltz Peace Conference. He invited representatives of the Mohonk Preserve to attend a meeting of local climbers. Since the Gunks are on private property, it only seemed fair to hear from Preserve management.

The mid-November meeting attracted a good cross section of Gunks regulars, about 20 climbers in all. Almost immediately, the ball landed in the Preserve's lap, as if the owners of the land should be the ones to make the decisions. But the Preserve officials would have none of that. They felt that climbers have regulated themselves in the past, and should continue to do so.

Within the first 15 minutes, it was clear there was common ground. Everyone agreed the occasional bolt was not a bad thing; bolts themselves aren't inherently evil. On the other hand, we all believed a proliferation of bolts should be avoided. But how to regulate bolting? Nobody came up with an answer.



The conversation took various twists as the night wore on, and the issue of publicity came up. It was suggested that ego gratification had a lot to do with bolting — new routes with natural protection were drying up, but bolts opened up vast acres of cliff. Bolts equalled new routes — and names in magazines and guidebooks.

At least no one was naive enough to deny ego was involved. But the problems with publicity had become apparent. Areas that had been relatively quiet in the past were receiving much heavier traffic now. Maybe magazine publication of new routes was part of the reason. Days without crowds were going the way of the Brontosaurus, even at the outback crags.

One Preserve representative had told me, "I was out at Lost City recently, and I heard people trundling huge boulders off the top. Lost City has managed to withstand five ice ages. It's the Preserve's position that it shouldn't be climbers who level it."

Perhaps the issue of how to regulate bolting was a puzzle, but how to regulate publicity was easy: go back to the Shawangunk tradition of not reporting the goings-on. The Gunks went for years without being in the rags on a regular basis, and somehow survived.

Keeping the news out of magazines might not do much for calming the drills, but it could help ease the crowding on the more remote crags. Since these cliffs aren't in the guides, the only way to get a tick list is through a publication or rumor. Rumor is definitely more fun.

One climber suggested recognition of topoascents as first ascents. If a climber could get credit for a topoascend, then maybe a bolt would be avoided, and the climb would be left for a first free ascent by some one bold (or stupid) enough to go for it — kind of a British gritstone ethic. The idea met with acceptance and the meeting moved toward a conclusion: a moratorium on bolting and giving first ascent information to magazines, at

least until the spring, and hopefully, another meeting.

This meeting, surprisingly enough, was truly useful. Before the talks started, there was an air of apprehension around the table. Afterwards, people joked, laughed, and left with a feeling of camaraderie. The decisions made were in the best interest of the Gunks and its climbing community.

One of the things that makes climbing interesting is diversity. Having different ethics and styles for various areas is a good idea. So is the concept of getting together to talk issues over. The benefits of open discussion will undoubtedly serve any climbing community.

—Russ Clune

*Although we disagree with the reasoning behind the Gunks community's ban on information, we will abide by their wishes. The following routes were reported to Climbing before the moratorium.*

#### SHAWANGUNKS

**Immaculate Conception** (5.6), Trapps. Face and arete between *Bitchy Virgin* and *Son of Bitchy Virgin*. (FA: Swain, Thackray, 86).

**Osteo-Path** (5.8+), Trapps. Thin seams L of *Raunchy*. (FA: Swain, Thackray, 86).

**Everybody needs Thumb** (5.9+), Trapps. Arete and white face R of *Gory Thumb*. (FA: Swain, Thackray, 86).

**Too Old to Know Better** (5.8+ R), Trapps. Thin seam and arete L of *Proctoscope*. (FA: Lea, Rubin, 86).

**Hot Climes** (5.9+), Near Trapps. Start L *Grand Central* var, to *Alphonse* corner, reverse *Easy Rider* crux, finish L of *Grand Central*. (FA: Swain, Schenkel, 86).

**The Hounds** (5.10), Near Trapps. Start 5.8+ var to *Fatstick*, face above to *Baskerville*, finish on 5.9- var. 1 pin. (FA: Swain, Wallace, 86).

**Wrong Place, Right Time** (5.10), Near Trapps. Yellow face R of *You're in the Wrong Place My Friend*. Rap from pine. (FA: Swain, Schenkel, Courtney, 86).

**Eat Here and Get Gas** (5.7+), Near Trapps. Thin seam over bulge R of *Highway 51*. (FA: Swain, Schenkel, 86).

**As the Cliff Turns** (5.7+), Near Trapps. Thin crack R of *Scuttlebutt*. (FA: Swain, Beuttler, 86).

**Unnamed** (5.10), Near Trapps. Overhang and face L of *Grim and Tonic*, then arete R of *P2*. (FA: Swain, Thackray, 86).

**Unnamed** (5.8- R), Near Trapps. Face between *Mainline* and *Mac-Reppy*. Join either at roof. (FA: Swain, Schenkels, 86).

**Genetic Culling** (5.7+ X), Skytop. L of *Jism*. Black streak to short corner. (FA: Swain, Levenstein, 86).

**Out of Africa** (5.9), Skytop. Thin seams L of *Jug is Up*. (FA: Swain, 86).

**LSD aka Lichen Strikes Again** (5.11- R), Skytop. Thin seams on arete R of normal start, then up vertical seam to *Land of Milk and Honey* belay. (FA: ?).

**Trouble in Paradise** (5.10 R), Skytop. Face between *Solitaire* and *Single File*. (FA: Swain, Rogers, 86).

**Nuclear Arms** (5.10), Skytop. Shallow corner capped by ceiling on main cliff R of *Seasonal Positions*. (FA: Monz, Rezucha, 86).

**Unnamed** (5.10+), Millbrook. Obvious R-facing corners R of *Apollo Theater*. (FA: Polvere, Savery, 86).

**Unnamed** (5.8+), Millbrook. Direct finish to *Recollection* up steep final wall. (FA: ?).

#### POK-O-MOONSHINE

**Libido** (5.10+). Between *Ukiah* and *Scorpion*. 2 bolts. (FA: Julien Dery, 7/85).

**Macho** (5.11- or 5.11), Vertical face R of *Pt Pillar Route*. L crack to 5' traverse to finger crack. Direct finish avoids traverse (5.11). (FA: Dery, Yves Girouard, 7/86; direct finish, ?).

#### References:

The Gunks Guide, Todd Swain, 1986. Shawangunk Rock Climbs, Richard Williams, 1980. New guide in preparation. Contact: Rock and Snow, New Paltz. Climbing in The Adirondacks, Don Mellor, 1983.

#### Corrections:

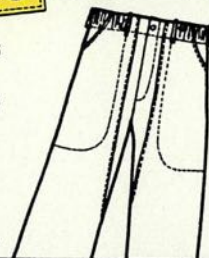
Several errors were reported in Climbing no. 99. Future Shock and Clubsy Foot were misspelled. The first ascentists on Hawaii Five Ten were Swain, Schenkel, White, and Peterson, on Boron Destroyer were Swain and Schenkel, on Pangalactic Gargleblaster were Gotoh and Swain, on Crank'N'File was Rich Gottlieb.

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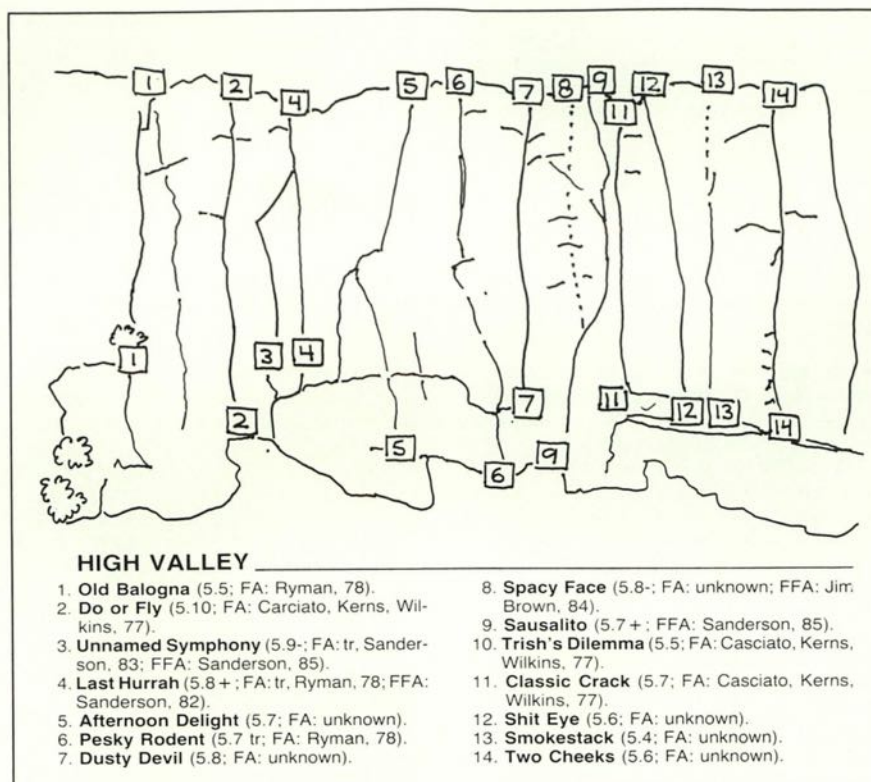
## OREGON

### HIGH VALLEY, ANTHONY LAKES Northeast Report

During the past two decades several climbing areas in northeastern Oregon have been developed by locals. Although there are no formal guidebooks to the areas described here, they have seen much activity by local climbers and deserve recognition.

High Valley, the set of basalt cliffs found on the High Valley Road northeast of Union, has provided climbing for many years. Approximately 15 climbs, 5.3 to 5.10 and ranging from 25 to 80 feet high, have been established on the main portion of rimrock. Lin Casciato, Mark Kerns, and Richard Wilkins pioneered High Valley's first climbs in 1977, the most notable being *Do or Fly*, a 5.10 overhanging jam crack. In 1978, Steve and Stu Ryman established several fine routes including a 5.7 offwidth crack befitting of its name, *Pesky Rodent*. During the summers of 1981 and 1983, Allen Sanderson made the first ascents of *Sausalito* (5.7+) and *Unnamed Symphony* (5.9).

A short walk north from the main area is a 20-foot band of rock stretching for several hundred feet. Numerous boulder problems can be found here, including a traverse of the entire band — which has only been done a few times.



The Anthony Lakes area, located in the Elk Horn Mountains west of the town of North Powder, has provided both summer and winter climbing on a variety of granite peaks (access is through the Anthony Lakes Ski Resort). During the winter, ascents and, occasionally, ski descents are possible on the 50-60° ramps of the north-

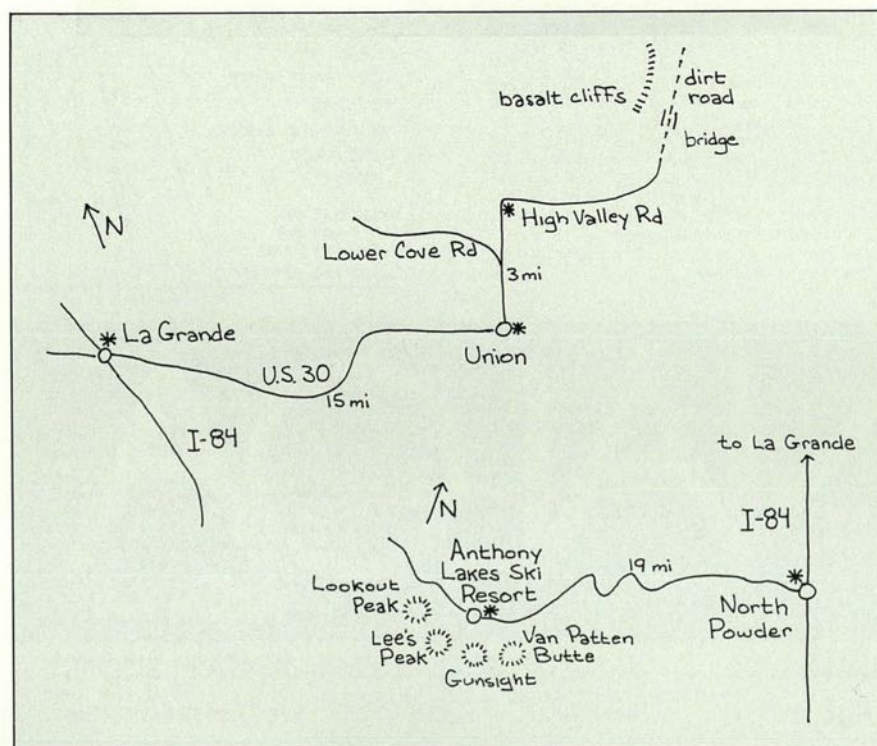
west faces of Gunsight and Lee's Peaks. More difficult lines are on the ribs of Van Patten Butte and the faces of Gunsight and Lee's. Shorter and steeper ice climbing can be found in the vicinity of all these routes. Access is easy by ski, but avalanche danger is high.

During August and September, the ramps are usually snow free, leaving several multi-pitch rock climbs on excellent granite. In the early 1970's, Dave Jensen and Mead Hargis made the first recorded ascent of the ramp on Lee's Peak, three pitches of 5.6 with poor protection via either flaring or very wide cracks. They also established several other 5.6 to 5.8 routes on the face of Lee's Peak. In 1982, Tim Bailey and Allen Sanderson did the first known ascent of the ramp on Gunsight. The route was dubbed *Gardener's Delight* (5.6) since it follows a crack which is usually full of dirt and weeds. More difficult climbs can be found on the South Face of Lookout Peak. The routes are 80 to 200 feet high and range in difficulty from 5.5 to 5.12.

The Wallowa and Elk Horn Mountains are littered with peaks having routes or potential lines up to 3000 feet. Many opportunities for first ascents still exist, although the reluctance of local climbers to discuss these areas makes it difficult to accurately describe them.

A sampler of the routes in northeast Oregon, those in High Valley, is provided above.

—Allen Sanderson and Steve Ryman





## SMITH ROCKS

### Buoux of the U.S.

The dust has finally settled at Smith Rocks after the whirlwind visit of Frenchmen Jean-Baptiste Tribout and Jean Marc Troussier. As reported in *Climbing* no. 99, Tribout came away with a clean sweep of Smith's hardest routes, establishing *To Bolt or Not to Be* and *Rude Boys*, and repeating the *East Face of Monkey Face*.

Easily his most impressive ascent was the left wall of *Sunshine Dihedral*, which he named *To Bolt or Not to Be*. His curious name is intended as a statement. Tribout feels that without the opportunity rappel-placed bolts offer, his climbing skills would never have developed as they have. Largely as a result of his efforts, Smith now boasts the three hardest routes in the U.S., much to the pleasure of the locals.

While Tribout made the headlines, partner Troussier made his own mark by establishing several new lines in the already-crowded Dihedrals. His best efforts included *Taco Chips* (5.12d), *Powder in the Eyes* (5.12c), *Latin Lover* (5.12b), and *Nothing Much* (5.12b). He also managed the second ascent of *French Connection* (5.13b), which traverses out of *Sunshine Dihedral* at mid-height, finishing up *To Bolt or Not to Be*.

The impact of the French visit has been revolutionary at Smith, serving to reconfirm the ethical convictions of local climbers. Smith Rock is perhaps the only major area in the U.S. where, without exception, all leading locals firmly embrace the tactics of hangdogging and bolting on rappel. With no time wasted on ethical squabbles, the locals are able to devote full attention toward raising the area's standards. As the hum of power drills breaks the calm of winter, locals seem dead set on making Smith Rock the Buoux of the U.S.

Apart from Tribout and Troussier, significant ascents this past summer and fall have been limited. *Rude Boys* survived a wave of daily attempts from a barrage of foreigners trying in vain to nab the second ascent. As previously reported, *Darkness at Noon* (5.13a) saw several ascents; the most recent by Wolfgang Kraus, the "unidentified" German mentioned in *Climbing* no. 99 (Kraus, incidentally, is the same unidentified German who made the third ascent of *Grand Illusion* several years ago). Also worth reporting are the ascents of Frenchwoman Corrine LaBrune, who recently finished second behind Lynn Hill at the French Grand Prix (*Climbing* no. 99). LaB-

rune came away with several first female ascents, including *Watts Tots* (5.12b), the first pitch of *Heinous Cling* (5.12a), and the third ascent of *Latin Lover*.

— Alan Watts

#### SMITH ROCKS

**Rude Boys** (5.13c). Free version of direct start to *Boy Prophet*. (FFA: Tribout, 10/86).

**French Connection** (5.13b). Original route on *To Bolt or Not to Be*, bypasses lower section. (FFA: Tribout, 10/86).

**To Bolt or Not to Be** (5.14b). 14 bolts up 135' 90° wall L of *Sunshine Dihedral*. Finishes on *French Connection*. (FFA: Tribout, 11/86).

**Taco Chips** (5.12d). Steep face R of *Lion's Chair*. (FA: Troussier, 11/86).

**Powder in the Eyes** (5.12c). R wall of *Sunshine Dihedral*. Excellent. (FA: Troussier, 10/86).

**Latin Lover** (5.12b). Vertical knobs and edges on L side of *Tator Tots* buttress. (FA: Troussier, 10/86).

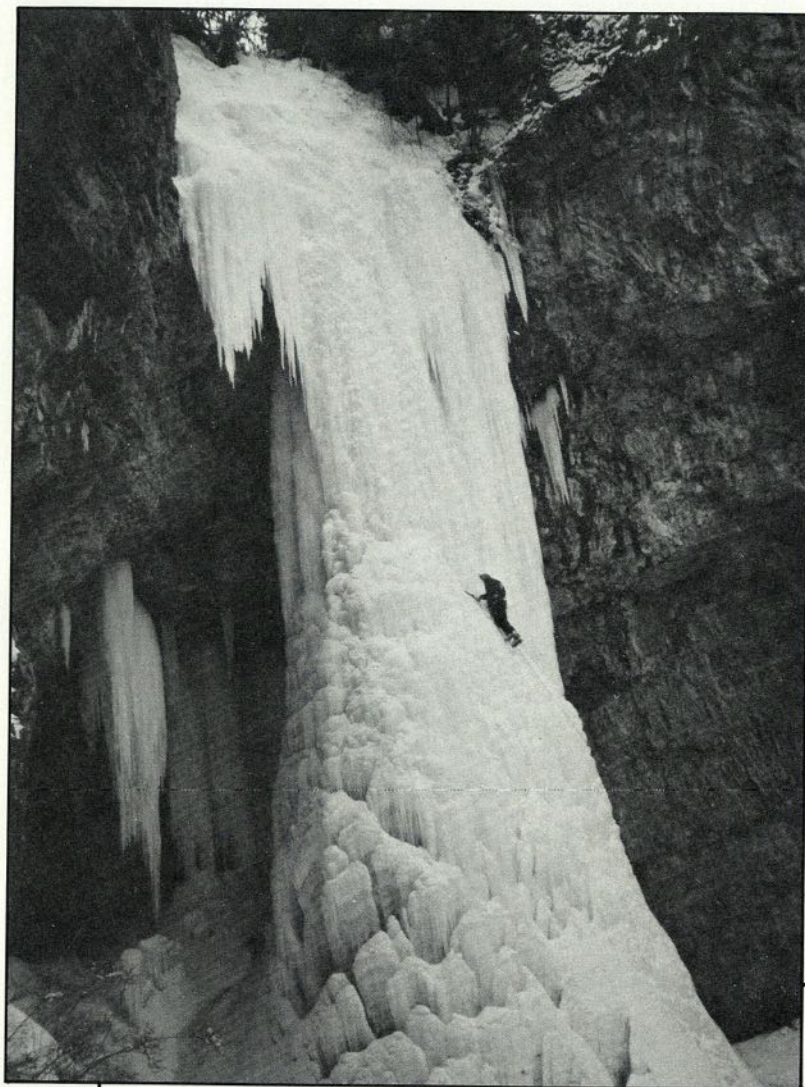
**Almost Nothing** aka **Niggy Tots** (5.12b). 60' wall L of *Lester Tots*. (FA: Troussier, 10/86).

**Rambo Roof** (5.12b/c tr). Roof on basalt below and west of the turnaround. (FA: Sandahl, 4/86).

**Squirring Gerbils** (5.12b). Face and stemming R of *Dark Star*. Many bolts and pins. (FA: J.R. Rich, 9/86).

#### References:

Oregon Rock, Jeff Thomas, 1983. *Climbing* no. 74, "Free Climbing at Smith Rocks," Chris Grover and Alan Watts, September 1982. *Climbing* no. 99, Basecamp report. Climber's Guide to the Gorge (?), Chuck Buzzard, 1984 (?), available at Juniper Junction.

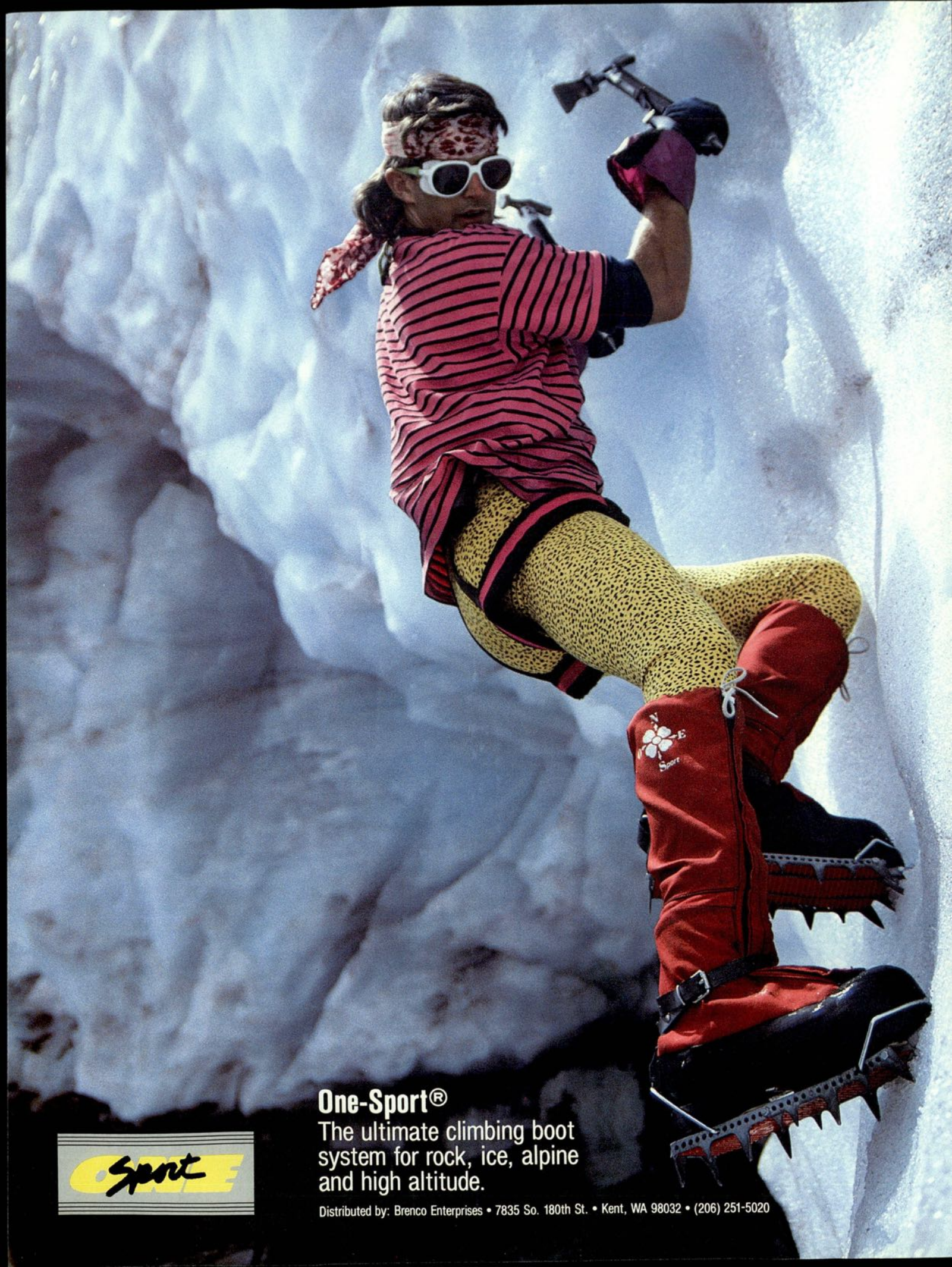


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## TENNESSEE

### TENNESSEE WALL, SUNSET PARK, BEE ROCK

## Sandstone Activists Wanted, Apply Within

The Tennessee Wall, nicknamed the "American Arapiles," continues to develop into the South's finest crag. Once again Rob Robinson had the area practically all to himself, and along with Pat Perrin and a few other friends, established several dozen new routes.

It seems that in spite of an unbelievable potential for first ascents, most visitors are content to repeat established classics. That could change, however, as a SWAT team (whose members include some of the strongest climbers on the East Coast) has been formed and is planning a mass assault on the area this coming spring.

Speaking of strong: Hidetaka Suzuki and his wife Michiko came to Chattanooga, and found the climbing so much to their liking that the couple ended up staying for several months. A good deal of their time was devoted to exploring the Tennessee Wall, and although Hidetaka bagged but one new line, *Moms Are Marvelous* (5.11c/d), he cleaned up on second ascents. To his credit are repeats of *Super Nova* (5.12d) and the incredibly complicated and strenuous *Grand Contusion* roof (5.13a). Both lines were completed after a protracted struggle spanning several days.

The activists were mostly Southern, however. Alabama climber Gene

Smith captured the second ascents of *Scamper Proof* (5.12a) and the run-out, finger-wrecking face climb *Steepopolis* (5.11d). Longtime local Forrest Gardner managed to work out a couple of his own creations, including *Bugs From Hell* (5.11d R) and the abstract, overhanging *Crime Wave* (5.12b).

Pat Perrin added to the T wall collection with his ascents of *Grandma's Couch* (5.11b) and the very aesthetic bolt-protected face climb *Genesis* (5.10b/c). Ron Davis and Kevin Thomas snagged several second ascent prizes including the often tried *Up In Arms* (5.11c), a very tricky double-tiered roof. The pair also put their own version of hard overhangs in the record book with the giant *Zenmania* (5.11c) on the upper band of cliffs.

New River Gorge activist Mike Artz dropped in for a few day's sampling, and with Eric Janoscrat completed a serious face climb called *Self Control* (5.11 R).

Other players present this year included Mark Cole, Curt Merchant, Mark Henley, Robyn Erbesfield, Kyle Patrick, James Dobbs, Buddy Baldwin, Tim Cumbo, Oliver Muff, Mark Thompson, Tim Toula, and Karen and Ed Clark.

One last note about this area: if visiting the Tennessee Wall (or Suck Creek Canyon) be sure to lock all valuables not carried to the cliff in your

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Photo by Jonathan Carpenter

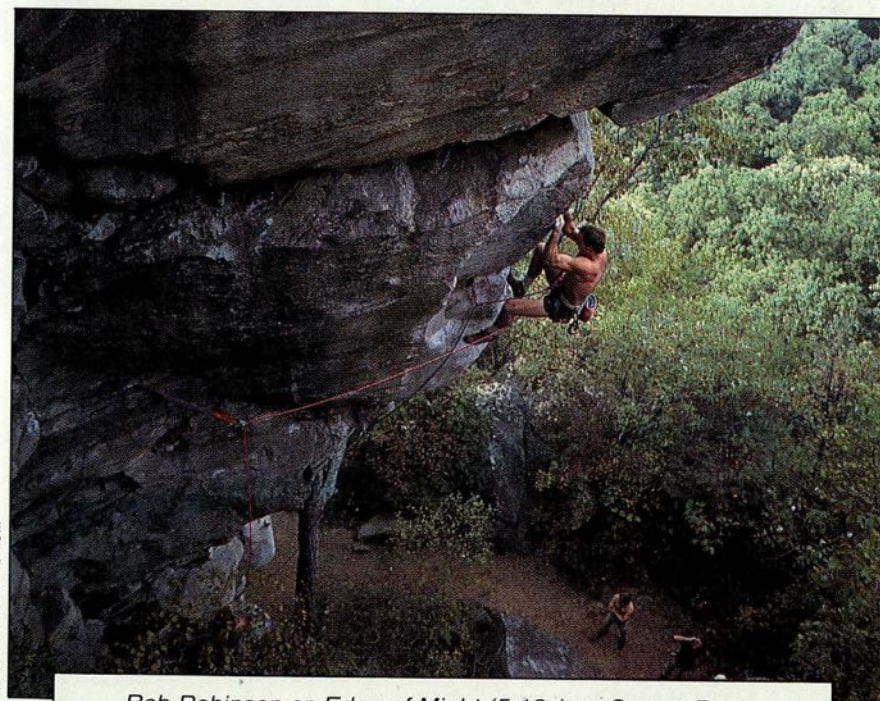
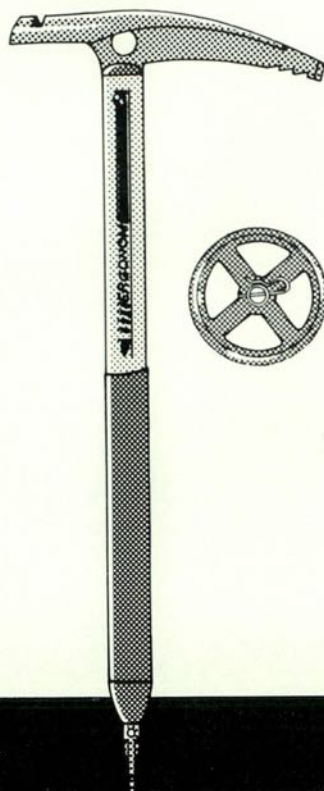


Photo: Helen Morrell.

Rob Robinson on Edge of Might (5.12c) on Sunset Rock.





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trunk. A few thefts have occurred when climbers have left cameras, sleeping bags, etc., in the passenger compartment.

Once again the old gold mine Sunset Park had local prospectors searching for nuggets of new rock on which they could stake a claim; in 1986 their efforts were amply rewarded. Seven new pitches of 5.12 were added to the already long list of "Sunset super-desperates," and many more are sure to follow. Previously inaccessible lines are being opened up with the addition of one or two strategically-placed bolts. First ascensionists are, however, demonstrating considerable restraint as to when bolts will be used, and no doubt will continue to do so in the future.

Exemplary of this new approach are Forrest Gardner's 24 karat *Afternoon Walk* (5.11a/b), a not-so-casual face climb protected by a perfectly-placed quarter-inch bolt. In the same genre is Rob Robinson's *Edge of Might* (5.12c), a radically overhung arete and right-facing corner on Sunset Rock. Although there is a run-out past a manky pin, the hardest crux (a completely airborne dyno off very small holds) is protected by a bolt.

Hidetaka Suzuki also hit the jackpot with a free ascent of the *Direct Afraid* roof. After a few day's effort, Hidetaka created what could be best described as a rock gymnast's dream. He graded the route 5.12c/d and said it was somewhat easier than *Grand Contusion* at the Tennessee Wall.

In spite of a potential for dozens of new routes just waiting to be done, Bee Rock's world-class cliffs received a mere three.

Rob Robinson finally returned to the Atomic Buttruss to complete *Vector Analysis* (5.12b/c R). Robinson had worked on the route for four days several years ago with visiting Gunks climber Jeff Gruenberg, who commented that the climbing to the high point was about equal in difficulty to the Gunks testpiece *Intruders*. The pair swapped 40-foot falls trying to work out the moves and protection, which soon led to three #1 stoppers being placed on rappel.

Robinson replaced these with a fixed pin prior to his successful no-falls ascent. This certainly seems justified — if you fall above that point at least you won't die!

Hidetaka Suzuki, hot on Robinson's heels (as usual), also managed to pull off a redpoint ascent the next day, but had wired the run-outs with top rope protection.

Finally, of special interest to the connoisseur of fine rock is Forrest Gardner's amazing *Seppuku Corner* (5.12b), a very nasty pump that links thin crack, iron cross moves, and cor-

ners for passage through a severely-overhanging bowl of "imitation white granite."

This time it was Robinson hot on Gardner's tracks, showing up for a quick second ascent, but in his haste he slipped at the crux corner and took a spectacular fall into the wall below! He went on to finish the climb without further delay.

#### SUNSET PARK — NORTH

**More Fun With Dick And Jane** (5.9). 10' L of *The Diamond*. R-facing flake to face L of arete. (Gardner, summer, 86).

**Dysphoria** (5.11 R). Seamy wall L of *Euphoria*, step L to *Rusty's Crack* when feasible. (FA: Greg Smith, Robinson, 9/85).

**The Edge of Might** (5.12). Radically-overhanging arete and R-facing corner R of 2nd pitch of *The Pearl*. Pin and bolt. (FA: Robinson, 8/86).

**Muscle Shoals** (5.12-). 30' face L of *The Pearl*. Former top rope. (First lead: Robinson, Thomas, 8/86).

**Invisible Touch** (5.12-). Up *The Cobb*, jam R around roof to 40' bulging seam. (FA: Robinson, 4/86).

**Perfect Sinner** (5.12) pin. Start *J World* flake, above diagonal L over bulges and follow direct finish. (FA: Robinson, Thomas, 10/86).

**J World Super Direct** (5.11-). Finish straight up shallow L-facing corner to top of wall. (FA: Gardner, ?, 9/86).

#### SUNSET PARK — SOUTH

**Rude Awakening** (5.11). 50' overhanging tan wall 100' L of *HF Wall*. (First lead: Gardner, 9/86).

**Windmill** (5.10-). Start roof on *Liberty Bell*, step L to steep wall w/shallow cracks. (FA: Gardner, Noonan, 9/86).

**Grounds For A Peel** (5.11 R). Shallow corner and seams between *Divinity Crack* and *Optical Delusion*. (FA: Robinson, 8/86).

**Afternoon Walk** (5.11-). Face and roof 10' R of *Afternoon Delight*. Bolt. (FA: Gardner, Bell, 8/86).

**Unknown** (5.12-?). 15' tiered white roof L of *Silent Runner*. Pin and fixed wired nut. (FFA: Gardner, Noonan, 11/86).

**Apogee** (5.12-). 8' roof R of *Ghostly Grabber*. (FA: Gardner, 8/86).

**Direct Afraid** (5.12). Former aid roof. 15'. (FFA: Suzuki, 11/86).

#### BEE ROCK CLIFFS

**Worm Drive** (5.10). 75' R of *Souvenirs*. RP cracks through bulges, roof. (FA: Robinson, Bell, 8/86).

**Vector Analysis** (5.12 R). R of *Beyond Berserk*. Double roofs and overhanging face. (FA: Robinson, 11/86).

**Seppuku Corner** (5.12). ¼ mi R of Atomic Buttruss. Up thin cracks (pin and fixed wired nut), iron cross L, up short R-facing book and L around roof. (FA: Gardner, Noonan, 5/86).

#### SUCK CREEK CANYON

**Panty Raid** (5.11-). Upper Passes. 75' L of *On Any Sunday*. Steep pocketed wall. (FA: Gardner, Webb, Henley, 8/86).

**Reach For The Sky** (5.11). Upper Passes. Obvious 10' roof crack above *Star Search*. (FA: Webb, Gardner, 8/86).

**Happy Holidays** (5.12-). Roadside Wall. L of *Milky Way*. Use iron cross move off *Milky Way* roof on 1st pitch, then straight through roof on 2nd pitch (R). (FFA: Robinson, Greg Smith, alternate leads, 9/85).

**Bitch In Heat** (5.11). Roadside Wall. Start initial corner of *The Way With Girls*. Move L under roof and up L-facing corner and R to ledge. (FA: Robinson, Perrin, 3/86).

#### References:

*Southern Sandstone, A Climber's Guide to Chattanooga, Tennessee*, Rob Robinson, 1985.  
Yellow Creek and Tennessee Wall guide in preparation, Rob Robinson, available spring 1987.



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Mike Artz on  
"Can I do it till  
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## TEXAS

### HUECO TANKS

## State Park Issues New Regulations

An explosion in the Hueco Tanks climbing population has had a rippling effect down through the Park, from management to those climbing there.

Because of the increasing number of climbers in the area, the local raptor society has been up in arms, successfully closing down a section of walls on the west side of North Mountain. They claim that the rare Prairie Falcon nests in these areas at certain times of the year. The Parks and Wildlife Department has closed the following routes from September 1st through May 31st: *Sea of Holes*, *Tree Route*, *Eternal Apples*, *Amplified Heat*, *Amplified Apples*, *Indecent Exposure*, the second and third pitches of *Deliverance*, and the third pitch of *Rainbow Bridge*.

Another blow to climbers was the closing of the right side of the *Long Traverse*. This closure is for the *Nuclear Arms* part of the wall and does not include the *Blood and Gore* traverse. This was due to the tromping of prehistoric paintings by the mall-sized crowds using this select piece of Hueco bouldering. Is this forever? Probably.

With the slumping of the Texas economy to an all-time low, there were reports by the local news media of discussions to close some state parks, one being Hueco Tanks. This sent the Park Department scurrying out to defend itself from the mighty sword of bureaucratic budget cutting. This is one of the reasons given for the new climbing registration procedures — all climbers entering the park each day must register at the Ranger Station. Locals feel this is not all that bad. The documentation of climbers coming to the area will give them a voice bureaucrats will hear.

In late December another new climbing regulation was issued. Brown-colored chalk is now required for anyone who uses chalk, whether bouldering or cragging. Currently, there are two companies that produce colored chalk.

Unresolved problems in the Park include the replacement of bad bolts. Clandestine efforts in the Park have replaced the hideous 1/4" bolt in the *Flake Roof* with the trendy and standard 3/8".

An unidentified source has said that the Park Department is planning to expand the camping area to accommodate primitive campsites. This means that instead of paying \$8.00 for full hookup, whether you want it or not, you may soon have the option for tent sites at a reduced rate

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El Rancho Herradero is fast becoming a Hueco institution. The Rancho is now in full operation and boasts being the only climbers hostel/convenience store in the immediate area. Camping can be had for \$1.00 per person which entitles you to full privileges upstairs. Here is where the mere underling can mingle with the super hardmen (and women). The only drawback is the lack of showers, but who cares when everyone smells the same after a while anyway? El Rancho also offers a full menu of home cooked food and, most importantly, there is plenty of beer just minutes downroad.

All routes reported below were done in traditional style. It is felt by both the local climbing community and many visitors that something must be done to preserve the Hueco Tanks first ascent tradition. It is with this in mind that routes with bolts placed on rappel will not be acknowledged. Hopefully this will preserve some of the park's challenges for the future.

—David Head

#### HUECO TANKS

**Final Stone** (5.11+). Between *Walking On The Moon* and *Window Pain*. (FA: Fred Nakovic, Mike Head).

**Brain Dead** (5.10+). Var to 2nd pitch of *All The Nasties*. (FA: M. Head, Dave Dyess).

**Western Playland** (5.11+). Above *Blood Stained Highways*. (FA: M. Head, Mark Motes, David Head).

**Star Dust** (5.12). Left of *Wasp Wars*. (FA: Nakovic).

**Wasp Wars** (5.11). Major wall R of *Pigs In Space* buttress. (FA: Nakovic, D. Head)

**Cowboys Don't Wear Lycra** (5.10+). R of *After The Gold Rush*. (FA: M. Head, D. Head, John McCall).

**Iron Man** (5.10). R and around corner from *Mr. Natural*. (FA: Nakovic, Dyess).

**Sunny Side** (5.12). R of *Iron Man*. (FA: M. Head).

**Max Headroom** (5.11). R of *Sunnyside*. (FA: M. Head).

**New Wave** (5.10+). Close to Eagle Rock. (FA: free solo, M. Head; bolted on 2nd ascent).

**Road To Nowhere** (5.11+). L of *Through the Looking Glass*. (FA: M. Head, Motes).

**Sand Master** (5.12). At end of East Spur. (FA: M. Head).

#### References

Indian Heights, A Climber's Guide to Hueco Tanks, James Crump, David Head, and Mike Head, 1985.

Guide in preparation. Contact: David Head, 2226 Seagull, El Paso, TX 79936. New route information is requested.

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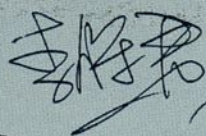
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## UTAH

### ARCHES, CANYONLANDS Guide Approaches

A flurry of climbing activity has taken place in Arches National Park resulting in an unprecedented number of routes being established this spring and fall. Some may be in response to the preparation of a Canyonlands guide, but most activity still centers on the desert classics. Castleton Tower, east of Moab, has now been climbed close to 800 times. The most recent 200 ascents have been completed within the last 12 months.

Lin Ottinger, who for three decades has guided tours into canyon country from his Moab Rock Shop, made an ascent of Castleton Tower in September. Unlike his roped climb last year, the ascent this year was by helicopter bearing a Chevrolet pick-up truck while he worked on the company's 75th anniversary promotion. It seemed like a case of *déjà vu* as Chevrolet had twice placed a vehicle on Castleton's summit in the early 1960's. It seems not surprising that a week before Chevrolet's third ascent, the tower was host to a Japanese pick-up truck. Fortunately, there was no debris left from this year's truck ascents, unlike Chevrolet's 1962 advertising spectacle.

In a more usual vein, perhaps the most difficult climb in the Arches National Park was completed in mid-October on the first ascent of the nearly 600-foot Tower of Babel. Charlie Fowler, Eric Björnstad, and Lin Ottinger climbed the narrow southwest buttress, rating the line IV 5.4 A4.

Another interesting first ascent was that of Fowler and Kyle Copeland on Sheep Rock in the Courthouse Towers. The 440-foot line, rated III 5.7 A3, had been attempted by Layton Kor in the 1960's. His ascent ended as he was chased off the climb by zealous National Monument rangers. The eventual first ascent this year, however, was received with enthusiasm as climbing ranger Steve Swank visited with several climbers while following Fowler and Copeland's progress through binoculars.

—Eric Björnstad

### ZION NATIONAL PARK Kolob Canyon Report

Correspondence from this past summer in the The Kolob Canyons section of Zion National Park reports the area saw a surprisingly small amount of activity despite temperatures more amenable to climbing than usual.

The bulk of activity took place up the South Fork of Taylor Creek Canyon. Several free attempts on *Last Rites*



(5.9 A1) by activists Eric Mohler, Brian Chan, and David Thomas offered the season's most concerted efforts, but to no avail. The arching tips crack remains one of the Kolob's best short aid lines.

Also of note, all the old bolts in South Fork were pulled and replaced with hefty  $\frac{3}{8}$ " bolts and cable rappel anchors were fixed atop several routes. All bolts and anchors were given a healthy coat of flat black Rustoleum to aid in rust protection and to maintain low visual impact. Future first ascensionists in the Kolob Canyons are asked to do so as well. Also, it is suggested that the use of colored chalk will help the area retain its wilderness appeal.

## ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Also see loose-leaf notebook at visitor center.  
**Libbis Maximus** (5.10c), Headquarters Hill. 70' dihedral. (FA: Tony Valdes, Sonja Paspal, Bob Milton, 86).

**The Dumpster** (5.11). Just R of *Portable Trash Unit*. (FA: Fowler, Björnstad, 86).

**Cinnamon Rose** (5.9). L of *Another Zinger Route*. (FA: Fowler, solo, 86).

**Sand Tears** (5.11). 2.5 miles from visitor center on N-facing wall near park road. (FA: Fowler, Björnstad, 86).

**Sand Bag** (5.10b). At L entrance to Park Avenue, approached from N. (FA: Copeland, Sue Kemp, 86).

**Hall of Flame** (5.11c), Candelabrum Tower (in Park Avenue area of arches). (FA: Alison Sheets, Copeland, 86).

**Tower of Babel** (IV 5.4 A4). Narrow SW buttress directly above park road. Obvious cracks. (FA: Fowler, Björnstad, Ottinger, 86).

**The Lamb** (5.10). Steep 90° formation to rear of Sheep Rock. (FA: Fowler, solo, 86).

## MOAB AREA

**Teri's Lieback** (5.11c), Indian Creek, Disappointment Cliff (faces landing strip). R-facing corner on very prow of buttress. 120'. (FA: Teri Kane, Antoine Savelli, 3/86).

**Christmas Tree** (5.12c), Indian Creek, Battle of the Bulges Cliff (cliff preceding Supercrack Buttress). 160' layback in R-facing corner, 100' R of *Crack Attack*. 2-bolt rap station. (FA: Kane, Savelli, 12/86).

**Funnel Arch** (?). Above Kane Creek between Pritchett and Hunter Canyons. (FA: Ottinger, solo, 86).

**Oxygen Debt** (5.11). Just above State Highway 163 (the river road), E of *River Road Dihedral West* (located few feet W of Sheep Canyon, about 3 mi upriver from Moab). (FA: Paul Gagner, Rich Perch, 86).

**Sorcerer's Apprentice, Left** (III 5.11c). Above milepost 1 on State Highway 163. (FA: Jim Dunn, Maureen Gallagher, 86).

**Seven-Up** (5.10), Taylor Canyon. On R side of the 1st canyon branching L (N). 120' hand/fist. (FA: Chris Begue, Kent Wheeler, Chuck Grossman, 86).

**Merrymaker Route** (II A3), Merrimac Butte (on US 191 just N of junction with State 313). Just L of *Hypercrack*. (FA: Ron Olevisky, Dan Mondeau, Dan McGee, 86).

**Monitor Butte** (II 5.7 A2), near Merrimac Butte. L side of SW face. 250'. (FA: Olevisky, Mondeau, 86).

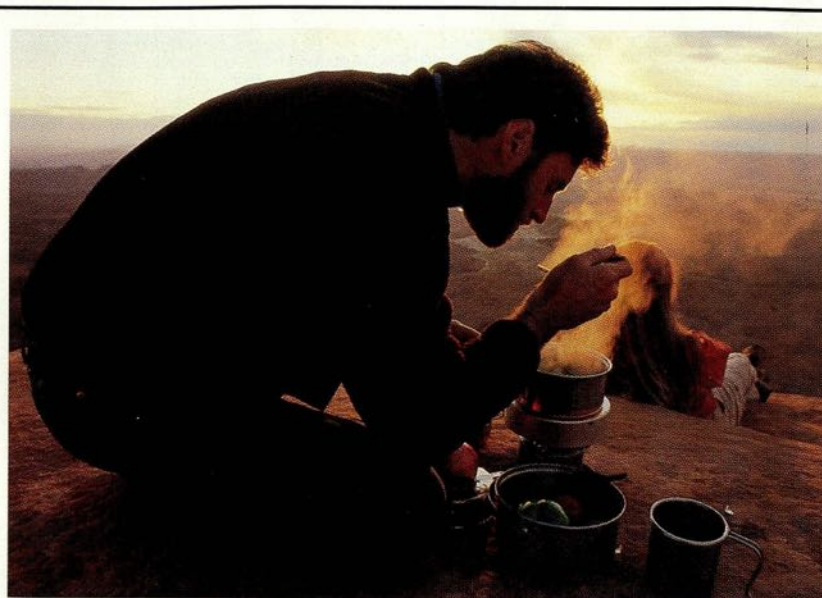
## KOLOB CANYON

**Southern Comfort** (II 5.9 A4), S Fork Taylor Creek. 2-pitch corner. 3 bolts. (FA: Thomas, solo, 6/86).

**Last Rites** (5.9 A1), S Fork Taylor Creek. 5.9 flakes to arching thin crack. (FA: Thomas, Stuart Schneider, 7/86).

**Down by the Sea** (5.10a X), S Fork Taylor Creek. Direct start to *Avalon*. Climb crossbedded slab on L, up (5.10a friction) to bolt to big flake. (FA: Thomas, Chan, 8/86).

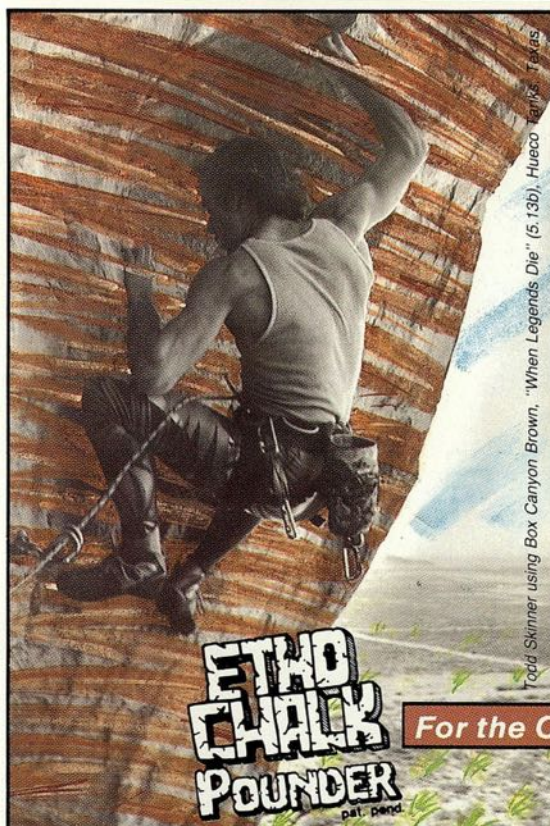
**Point of no Return** (5.8 X), S Fork Taylor



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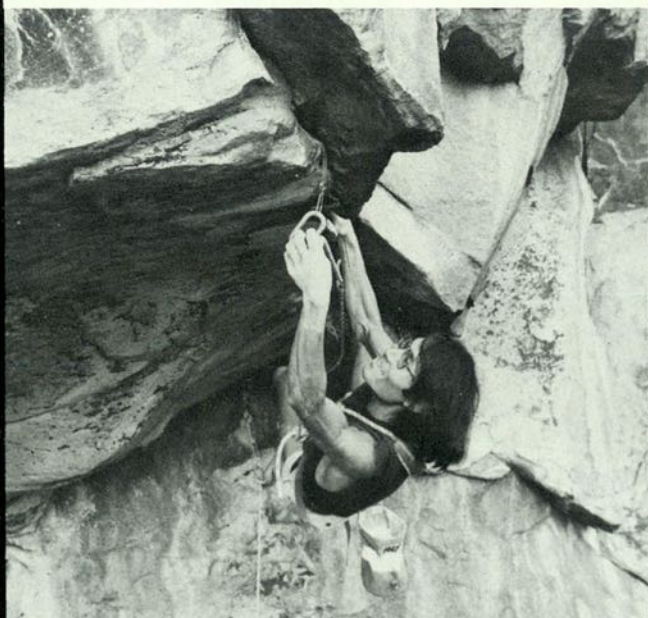
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Creek. Old *Avalon* start to *Frite Nite* var. Finger crack to shallow corner. (FA: Thomas, Schneider, 7/85).

## JUNIPER BUTTE

**I Wanna be a Cowboy** (5.10b tr). Overhanging layback to 2 mantles. (FA: Chan, 7/86).

**Road Kill** (5.11 tr). Technical face and stemming in shallow corner. (FA: Thomas, 8/86).

### References:

*Notebook* at visitor center, Arches National Park. *Canyonlands* guidebook in preparation (excludes Zion and Grand Canyon). Contact: Eric Björnstad, c/o The Moab Rock Shop, 137 N. Main St., Moab UT 84532. The cutoff date for new material is scheduled for June 1, 1987. *Zion National Park Climbers Guide, Visitor Center.*

*Juniper Butte: A Climbers Guide to Granite in Iron County, David Thomas, in preparation. Contact author at: 3312 S. 11th, Tacoma WA 98405.*

## WEST VIRGINIA

### SENECA ROCKS

## 1983-1986 Update

Due to an apathetic local climbing scene and the growing popularity of the New River Gorge, new route activity at Seneca Rocks has been limited for several years. Since Cal Swoager's correspondence in 1983, the pace of first ascents has declined compared to the late 1970's and early 1980's. Nevertheless, several quality routes have been established over the past four seasons.

Since the flood of November 1985, Seneca has almost returned to normal. There is still no bridge across the river directly to the rocks. High water access is still available, however; contact the Gendarme mountain shop. There is a new Forest Service campground on the hill behind the Gendarme and camping is also available at the old pavilion area. Roy Gap road is closed to all camping and vehicular traffic. The local swimming hole is the only thing that fared well through the flood; it's better than ever.

The most significant routes at Seneca in 1986 were John Bercaw's masterful ascent of *Ronin* (5.12+), Mike Cote and Mike Artz's ascent of *Burning Tendons* (5.12-) and Pete Absolon and Topper Wilson's *The Viper* (5.12). Each of these routes bear fixed protection originally placed on rappel, a sign of changing times for Seneca.

—John Markwell

### SOUTH PEAK — WEST FACE

**Kosher Ritter** (5.10d). Just N of *Traffic Jam* rappel tree, on *Critter Crack* face. Face (crux) past bolt to L-diagonal crack. (FFA: Mike Perlis, Peter Absolon, 9/83).

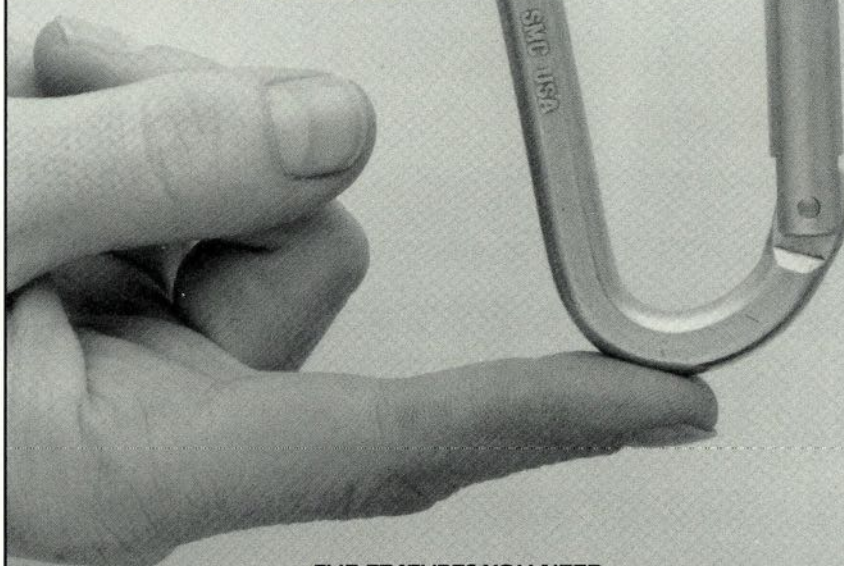
**Hit The Silk** (5.11-). Face and thin crack 10' R of *Breakneck Direct*. Runout. (FFA: Rob Robinson, Robin Erbesfeld, 8/84).

**Projected Futures** (5.12). 50' R of *Front C*, just R of bolt and pin on *Ronin*. Thin face to flared crack. (FFA: Absolon, 84).

**Irony** (5.6). L-facing corner opposite *Conn's West Direct Finish*. (FA: Absolon, Linda Elleson).

**Out Of The Cold** (5.10+). Crack and face just R of *Conn's West Direct Finish*. (FA: Absolon, John Govi, 9/84).

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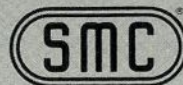
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**C.O.C.C. aka Cockscomb Overhang Double Direct** (5.11+ R). Overhanging face L of *C.O.D.* Brass balls helpful. (FA: Smith, Absolon, 10/84).

**Total Malfunction** (5.11). Face R of *Triple S*. Bolt, runout. (FA: Smith, Mike Cote, 85).

**Burning Tendons** (5.12-). Overhanging face 10' L of *Tomato* past 3 bolts to undercling. (FA: tr, Greg Collins, 84?; first lead, Cote, Mike Artz, 5/86).

**Ronin** (5.12+). Face 40' R of *Front C* past bolt and pin to thin cracks. (FA: John Bercaw, 5/86).

**The Viper** (5.12). Var to 2nd pitch of *Sidewinder*. Climb through bulge on 2nd pitch, diagonal R up flake and thin crack. (FA: Absolon, Topper Wilson, 9/86).

**Dawn Of The Living Psycho Faggots** (5.10 A3+). Between *Agony* and *Triple S*. (FA: Smith, 85).

### NORTH PEAK — WEST FACE

**Summer's Eve** (5.11- R). 25' R of *Negative Feedback*. Shallow L-facing corner system moving up and R. (FA: Absolon, 9/84).

**Psycho Faggots** (5.11). 15' R of *Madmen Only*. Crack and face, take upper crack at split. Var (5.11) takes lower crack. (FA: Smith, Cote, 85; var, Cal Swoager, 85).

**Ma Bell Connection** (5.11). Start *The Bell*. Take overhanging face up and L to *Malevolence*. (FA: Smith, Andrew Barry, 85).

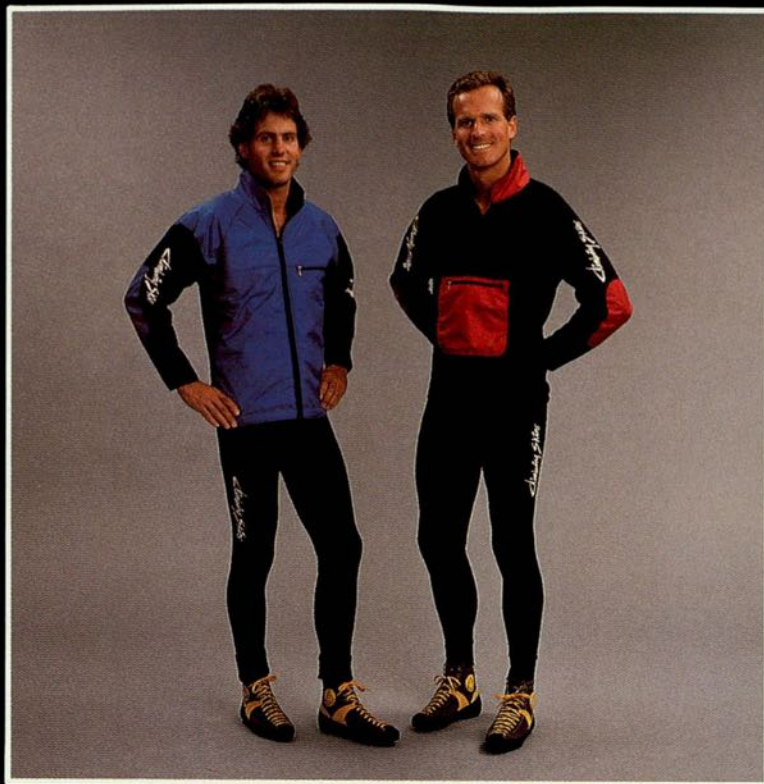
### NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

**The Memorial** (5.10 X). Black and orange face 15' L of *Permanent Press*. Route dedicated to Buck Harper. (FA: Absolon, Chris Guenther, 9/84).

**Burrito** (5.8). Flakes 30' R of *Bandito*. (FA: Eric Janoscat, Artz, 2/85).

**Nacho Man** (5.10). 20' R of *Burrito*. L-facing





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flake/corner, then R on face. (FA: Artz, Janoscrat, 2/85).

**Powers Of Ten** (5.10-). Start *Bandito* for 10', then straight up face past wide slot. (FA: Paul Anikis, Mark Thesing, Absolon, 9/84).

**Blue Highway** (5.9). Face above *Finger Stinger* past pockets and bolt. (FA: Artz, Gene Kistler, 6/85).

**Unlimited Sky** (5.10 R). 3' L of *Desperado*, turn overhang and up face past bolt. (FA: Don Womack, Govi, 9/85).

**False Labor** (5.10). Face just L of *Streptococcus*. (FA: Womack, 8/86).

**Skoshi Go** (5.10). Face just R of *Streptococcus*. (FA: Womack, Cote, 9/86).

#### **SOUTH PEAK — EAST FACE**

**T.R. Rap and Drill** (5.11 + R). 20' R of *Frosted Flake*. Follow bolts to top of shallow corner. (FA: Perlis, 85).

**Terminal Velocity Direct Start** (5.10 X). Straight up face just R of start to *Terminal Velocity*. Pro placed from *Conn's East*. (FA: Absolon, Govi, 7/86).

**Hopeful Illusions Direct Finish** (5.12-). *Hopeful Illusions* then straight up face past big horn. (FA: Kris Kline, 83).

#### **THE SOUTH END**

**Superstition Direct** (5.11c). 10' L of *Superstition*. Overhang (widecrack) to regular route. (FA: Marty McLaughlin, 82).

**Birds of Prey** (5.10 R). From tree belay for 3rd pitch of *Skyline Traverse*, take flake system on W face of the LaBelle Vista rib. (FA: Anikis, Thesing, 9/84).

#### **THE SOUTHWEST CORNER**

**Organically Inclined** (5.9). On upper end of SW corner to R of Hemlock Grove. Short crack (pin and tree), face. (FA: Absolon, Wilson, 4/83).

**Moonshine** (5.11 + R). 5' L of *Sunshine*. Up face, then angle R toward horizontal below *Sunshine* bolt. (FA: Cote, Artz, 7/86).

#### **THE SOUTHERN PILLAR**

**Daytripper Double D** (5.11c). *Daytripper* to top of corner, step left to crack and face. (FA: Drew Bedford, Ed Begoon, Artz, 7/86).

**Border Patrol** (5.11 + R). R of *Block Party*. Overhang to L-facing corner. (FA: Robinson, Erbesfeld, 7/84).

#### **THE LOWER SLABS**

This area contains several recently-established high quality routes. Information on these routes is available at the Gendarme. A few of the classics are: *Autumn Fire* (5.11), *Discrepancy* (5.8), *Scuttle* (5.5), *Summer Breeze* (5.10), *For Slab Rats Only* (5.8), *Angry Angles* (5.10), *Death By Abunga* (5.9), *Fire On The Mountain* (5.9).

#### **References:**

Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, A Climbers Guide, revised 4th edition (green cover), Bill Webster, 1985 (?). Guide in preparation (due summer 1987). Contact: The Gendarme, Box 53, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884.



## EASTERN CANADA

### QUEBEC

## Recent Developments at Mont St. Hilaire

The development of climbing in Quebec continues to spiral, with 5.10 and 5.11 routes being done by an increasing number of climbers. One of the best cliffs, not in size but certainly in quality, is Mont King at Val David, which has recently seen the addition of a few 5.12's.

The potential for new routes on Mont King and Mont Nixon, about 30 miles north, is excellent. The description of this area in the new East Coast rock climbing guide by John Harlin promises to bring more climbers and new routes. This guide has been favorably received and is recommended for visitors and locals alike.

Mont St. Hilaire, ignored for years even though it is only 20 miles east of Montreal (by Route 116), has become an excellent area for moderate routes in less than three years of development. Most of the new routes are face climbs in the 5.9 to 5.10 range, but several excellent crack climbs of varying difficulty have also been

added. The 20-minute approach via talus, well-established poison ivy at the base, and occasional loose rock on the crag are the most often-used excuses to avoid the area; but these little inconveniences have not prevented a small but determined group from developing the crags. They simply believe that if their mountain were situated in New Hampshire, Colorado, or in other regions having a great climbing tradition, these obvious lines would have been climbed long ago. This "forgotten side" of St. Hilaire takes the competition out of first ascents, and assures the locals of relative tranquility. Fixed protection is usually installed on lead, the more difficult routes often taking days to equip. Consequently, uncompleted routes are not uncommon to see, but they are usually left alone by those not involved from the start.

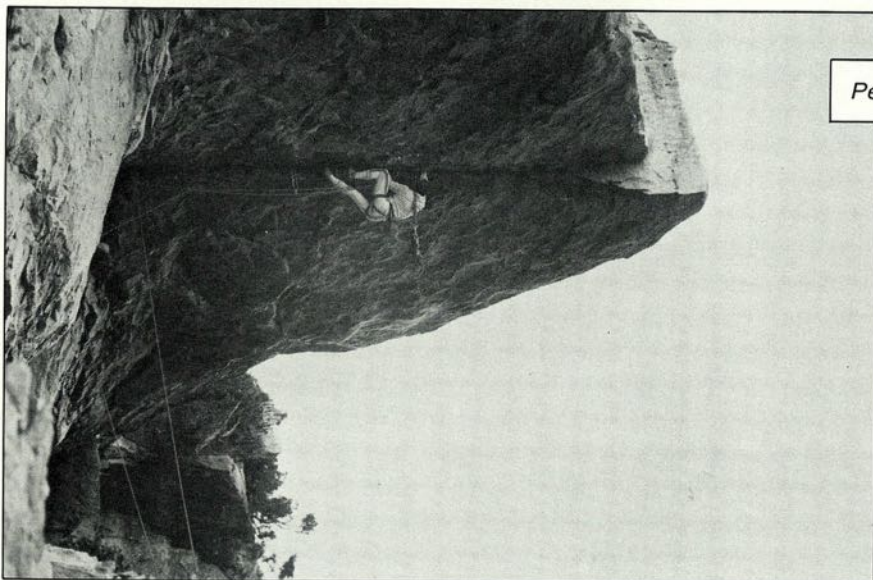
The west face of Mont St. Hilaire sees more sun during the afternoon, a good tip considering that the Dalle

Verte (Green Slab) area tends to be a little wet in the morning. The rock is mainly composed of Essexite, a gabbroic type of mineral that offers about the same possibilities as granite. The result is a similar mix of short crack climbs and high quality face climbs. Most routes are well protected.

Perhaps the finest slab climbing in southern Quebec is the Dalle Verte area. So far it contains five routes and several variations. Most are near 100 feet high, and their grades vary between 5.9+ and 5.11.

Another interesting area is the Tour Rouge (Red Tower). The upper part of the tower threatened to fall over and possibly reach a hospital (Foyer Savoie) at the base of the 1400-foot mountain. Consequently, the authorities decided to remove the offending section with explosives, erasing an old aid route but leaving two cracks which have since provided some good free-climbing. The world does move in mysterious ways.

A guidebook dedicated exclusively to Mont St. Hilaire, penned by Julien Déry, is practically complete and should be available in April. Although written in French, some key explanations and symbols will satisfy English readers as well.



Pete Reilly on Monument (5.12d, A0).

been Dave and Reg Smart, and Pete Reilly, with Martin Seidenschmid, Bob Bennel, and Richard Massiah also making important contributions. *Train In Vain* (5.11d/5.12a) and *Female Belay Slave* (5.11c/d), by Dave and Reg Smart respectively, are typical of the best new climbs in the area — overhanging walls with fixed protection.

Two major breakthroughs in Ontario limestone climbing were made this year. After Dave Georger (USA) worked out some crucial sequences, and with an eight-day siege, Dave Smart made the first ascent of *Christina's World* at Kimberley. Ropes were left up for two nights in a row for the first ascent of this very overhanging white wall, which has a two-meter roof crack halfway up and is tentatively graded 5.12d. The route would be an impressive redpoint due to the intricacy and length of the crux sections.

One of the most striking lines in the area, perhaps the entire eastern seaboard, is the appropriately-named *Monument* (5.12d A0). The aid, a single rest point, came two meters from the lip of the crux section, a ten-meter roof crack varying in size from wide hands to fingers. Pete Reilly, who worked on the route with Dave Smart, commented: "Considering that the opening section alone is a poorly-

### SOUTHERN ONTARIO

## Niagara Limestone: Nearing 1000 Routes!

Ontario's leading rock climbing area, the Niagara Escarpment, saw quite a lot of activity in the last couple of seasons. As the area is primarily overhanging limestone, the general acceptance of rappel-placed bolts has been a major influence in the consolidation of the harder grades. Several inexperienced climbers have placed bolts incorrectly, making them almost impossible to clip, but there have been only a few cases of this.

Over 100 new routes were done in 1986 alone, bringing the total number of climbs in the area up to about 1000, of which almost 100 are in the 5.11 and harder category! Bear in mind, however, that these climbs are spread along a 300-mile escarpment, although the most developed crags are concentrated around Milton, (half an hour west of Toronto), Beaver Valley, and Lions Head.

The most prolific pioneers have



protected, overhanging 5.10 wall, and considering the difficulty of the lip, you might describe it as similar in strenuousness to climbing *Wheat Thin*, *Separate Reality* and *Slingtime* in one pitch." Reilly yoyoed the route with the one hang over four days. The onset of winter precluded the elimination of the last rest point — and of course a redpoint.

With a huge number of unclimbed, futuristic limestone walls all over the Escarpment, a friendly and unpretentious local scene, and relatively cool summer weather, the locals will probably continue to have a great time developing the area.

—David Smart

## MONT ST-HILAIRE

**Mephisto** (5.9), Black Slab area. Far L end of cliff. (FA: Jean-Luc Michaud, Dery, 7/85).

**Black Widow** (5.9), Black Slab area. Starts near middle of 1st pitch of *Black Slab*. Short face, 1 bolt. (FA: Michaud, Dery, 7/85).

**Petite Aquarius** (5.9-), Black Slab area. 200' R of *Black Slab*. Fingernail crack. (FA: Dominique Jodoin, Louis Dionne, 83).

**Aquarius** (5.9), Black Slab area. Finger crack above and L of 1st pitch of *Twisted Chimney*. Classic. (FA: ?). **Duo** (5.9), Central section. Few feet below and L of *Camel*. Bolt. (FA: Dery, Yves Giroud, 6/86).

**Duodenum** (5.8+), Central section. Look for 50' dihedral L and above big overhang on 2nd pitch of *Camel*. *Duo* can be used as 1st pitch to this. (FA: Dery, Michaud, 8/85).

**Extase** (5.10b/c), Central section. After mantle giving access to dihedral of *Duodenum*, traverse to 4-bolt face. (FA: Dery, Michaud, 5/86).

**Dalle Verte Route** (5.10+). Free version. 5.9+ var bypass.

**Paranoia** (5.11a/b), Dalle Verte. 5 bolts on L side of slab. (FA: Dery, 8/86).

**Schizophrenia** (5.10b/c), Dalle Verte. 5 bolts R of *Paranoia*. Traverse R at 1st bolt. (FA: Dery, 7/84).

**Nevrose** (5.10b/c), Dalle Verte. 5 bolts R of *Schizophrenia*. (FA: Dery, summer 85).

**Scorpion** (5.11+). Overhanging hand crack on R corner of Dalle Verte. 1) 5.11-, 2) 5.11+. (FA: 1st pitch, Paul Laperriere, late 70's; 2nd pitch, Gérard Bourbonnais, 81).

**Dame de Coeur** (Queen of Heart) (5.10c/d), Tour Rouge. L crack of pair created in 1982 "bombing." (FA: Richard Cartier, 5/86).

**Digitale** (5.11-), Tour Rouge. Crack R of *Dame de Coeur*. (FA: ?).

**Lobotomie** (A3), Tour Rouge. 10' R of *Digitale*. (FA: Michaud).

**Traverse Sans Retour** (5.10+/5.11-), Tour Rouge. Start crack 25' R of *Dame de Coeur*, traverse L past bolt. (FA: Dery).

**Telex** (5.9+), Inclinaison Wall. Few feet L of *Inclinaison* route. (FA: Michaud, 86).

**Unnamed** (A2+/A3-), Inclinaison Wall. R of *Inclinaison* route. (FA: Michaud, roped solo, 7/86). **Crack-a-tack** (5.9 A2), Mur Hypersurplombant (Super Overhanging Wall), 130° overhanging wall several hundred feet R of *Inclinaison* Wall. Short corner to overhang. (FA: Dery, Michaud, 8/85).

**Illusion Nocturne** (5.8+), Uppulley from *Crack-a-tack*. Overhanging dihedral. (FA: Dery, Michaud, 6/86).

## References:

Guide in preparation. Contact: Julien Dery, 136 Poincarre, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada, J4L 1B1; (514) 468-9502.

Climbing on the Niagara Escarpment, (2nd ed.) David Smart, 1984. Most of the newest routes are described in the 1986 guidebook supplement, Ontario Climber, Toronto section of ACC/ORCA, November 1986 (available at Mountain Equipment Coop, Toronto). The new route log is also kept at Mountain Equipment Coop.

## WESTERN CANADA

### ALBERTA

## Another Look at the 1986 Limestone Season

Two contrasting styles of climbing are currently being used on Alberta limestone. On the smaller cliffs, pre-viewing, cleaning, and preprotecting are now recognized to be usually the only viable methods of developing hard routes, as the rock tends to be steep, brittle, and somewhat loose, with very few cracks or drilling stances. Multi-pitch routes, however, are being climbed from the ground up, with bolts occasionally being placed from hooks.

Five longer climbs were completed during 1986, four of them on Yamnuska. Three of these, *East End Boys*, *Highlander* and *Astro Yam*, were reported in *Climbing* no. 98; the fourth, *Above and Beyond*, was finished in late summer by the *Astro Yam* team of Jeff Marshall, Brian Gross, and Steve DeMaio. Like *Astro Yam*, *Above and Beyond* is sustained, technical, and sometimes runout, with a 5.11+ crux pitch. The hazards of hooking on the local limestone were demonstrated by Gross during an early attempt on the route; just as he was finishing a bolt hole, the rock disintegrated under his hook and he took a long ledge-fall.

The other new long climb is the classic *Moondance* (III 5.11b), by Andy Genereux and Jon Jones. The route lies on Burstall Slab, a giant, slightly-concave bedding plane exposure in an alpine setting near Mt. Sir Douglas. It features four gradually-steepening pitches culminating in a sustained crux section of intense friction.

Grotto Canyon and Heart Canyon were the main cragging centers in Bow Valley during 1986. Grotto Canyon was the scene of the first local 5.12 on limestone, Sean Dougherty's fierce face climb *The Importance of Being Ernest*. The canyon also yielded numerous other good climbs, including several in the 5.11+ range. Across Bow Valley, Heart Canyon experienced an unprecedented flurry of activity, mainly by Genereux and Jones; it is now an alternative technical playground, offering routes that are generally easier but longer than the Grotto Canyon climbs.

Lightly-regarded Kananaskis Valley continued to provide good new routes during 1986 for the relatively few climbers interested in exploration there. Climbing in the Kananaskis was, until recently, almost entirely restricted to Wasootch Slabs, a popular venue for over two decades. Since 1984, however, several new areas have been opened up and two — Barrier Crag and McDougall Slabs — are

becoming popular. The principal center of activity for steep climbing is the South Wing of Barrier Crag, where many excellent routes, 5.10 to 5.11+, have been established, mainly by Larry Ostrander and David Dancer. McDougall Slabs, by contrast, features steep friction climbs, 5.9 to 5.11, mostly by John Martin and Lynda Howard.

In alpine climbing, the main event of the winter season so far was Don Gardner's solo, one-day winter ascent and descent of the North Face of Mt. Sir Douglas, a trip involving some 16 miles of skiing, nearly 7000 vertical feet of ascent, and ice climbing up to 60°. Gardner, a former member of the national cross country ski team, completed the round trip in just 11 hours. This is believed to be the first winter and first solo ascent of the peak by any route.

Later in the year, two big alpine faces at Kananaskis Lakes received first ascents. In late August, Sean Dougherty and John Martin climbed the prominent but long-neglected Northeast Buttress of Mt. Sarraill in a long day at IV 5.10a. Less than a week later, Dougherty returned with Jim Sevigny to climb a mixed route on the North Face of neighboring Mt. Foch, also in a long day.

—John Martin

## YAMNUSKA

**Above and Beyond** (IV 5.11+), Steep wall just L of *Balrog*. Runout. (FA: Marshall, Gross, DeMaio).

**Bedtime Story** (5.10b), Nanny Goat Crag (near Yamnuska), Overnight Sensation area. Leaning corner near L side of outcrop. (FA: Martin, Dougherty).

**Into the Night** (5.10b), Nanny Goat Crag. Face R of *Overnight Sensation*. (FA: Martin, Dougherty).

**Evening Star** (5.10a), Nanny Goat Crag. Slab and overhang near R side of outcrop. (FA: Martin, Dougherty).

## GROTTO CANYON

**The Importance of Being Ernest** (5.12a or 5.12b), Hemingway Wall. Small holds on vertical rock near L side of cliff (5.12a). Direct finish 5.12b. (FA: Dougherty, Mark DeLeeuw, Nigel Helliwell, A. Hobson; direct finish, Dougherty).

**Walk on the Wilde Side** (5.11c), Hemingway Wall. 2nd diagonal line R of *Farewell to Arms*. Traverse R to finish. Classic. (FA: Dougherty, Sevigny, Mark Zimmerman).

**Grey Matter** (5.10c/d), Hemingway Wall. Face line between *Walk on the Wilde Side* and *Grand Larceny*. (FA: Brian Balazs, B. Webster).

**The Sting** (5.10d), Water Wall. Overhanging yellow wall at R end of cliff. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

**Cerebral Goretex** (5.11d), Water Wall. Short face just L of *Across the River*. (FA: Balazs, Webster).

**Reflex Action** (5.11d), Water Wall. Just L of *Cerebral Goretex*. (FA: Dougherty, Dave Morgan).



**Too Low for Zero** (5.11), Three Tier Butress. Big, rounded bulge to groove near L side of cliff. (FA: Dougherty, DeLeeuw).

**High Octane** (5.11c), Three Tier Butress. Wall 30' R of *Too Low For Zero*. (FA: DeLeeuw, Dougherty).

**K.P. Special** (5.11a), The Peanut (small rock across creek from Three Tier Butress). Obvious line past 2 bolts. (FA: Dougherty, DeLeeuw, Zimmerman).

**Lemon Pie** (5.10a), Right Wing. Wall and ramp just R of wedge-shaped patch of yellow rock. (FA: Martin, Ron MacLachlan).

**Pitrun** (5.10b), Right Wing. Arching corner R of *Lemon Pie*. (FA: Zimmerman, DeLeeuw).

**West Coast Idea** (5.10c), The Narrows. Long, slanting fault line. (FA: DeLeeuw, Dougherty, G. Hill).

**Monkey in a Rage** (5.10+), The Narrows. Illusion Rock. Overhang near L side. (FA: Dougherty, Bruce Keller).

**Tabernaquered** (5.10c), The Narrows. Start *Trading Places*, traverse R to independent line. Excellent. (FA: Chase Yonge, J. Rollins).

**Mandala** (5.10c), Upper Tier (new cliff beyond The Narrows on E canyon wall). Left side of textured wall. (FA: Martin, Dougherty).

**Search Pattern** (5.10a), Upper Tier. L of two hanging water grooves. (FA: Martin Howard).

**Squirrel Breath** (5.10b/c), Upper Tier. R water groove of pair mentioned above. (FA: Martin, Dougherty).

**Conifer Crack** (5.10+), Garden Rock (new cliff immediately S of Armadillo Butress). Incipient crack over bulging wall in center of face. (FA: Martin, Dougherty).

**All Spruced Up** (5.10a), Garden Rock. R side of wall directly behind spruce tree. (FA: Martin, Howard).

## HEART CANYON

**Feel on Baby** (5.10a), First Rock. Start L-center of steep buttress at base of L side of rock. Up to L-facing flake. Finish up steep wall. Miniclassic. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

**Dynamic Dumping** (5.10d), First Rock. Center of the steep buttress, just R of *Feel on Baby*. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

**Midnight Rambler** (5.10b), First Rock. Pocketed wall R of *Dynamic Dumping*. (FA: Genereux, Bill Rennie).

**Honky Tonk Woman** (5.10b), First Rock. Short awkward wall and overhanging hand crack near R side of lower buttress. (FA: Genereux, Sutherland).

**Bitch** (5.11b), First Rock. Start in prominent corner R of above routes then move over bulge to exit steep wall. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

**Sticky Fingers** (5.11a), First Rock area. Slab near R side of main formation. Excellent. (FA: Rennie, Andy Skuce).

**Dead Flowers** (5.10a), First Rock area. L-center of smaller formation R of main area. Steep, pocketed wall, exits up easy slab. (FA: Skuce, Annick Geoffrey).

**Unnamed** (5.11a), Jupiter Rock. Very steep wall and wide overhanging crack in yellow rock just L of N ridge. Runout. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

**Puppet on a Chain** (5.10c), Jupiter Rock. R of 2 bolted lines R of Cyclops Eye (large round hole near top of face in center). (FA: Genereux, Sutherland).

**For Your Eyes Only** (5.10b), Jupiter Rock. Between Cyclops Eye and *Puppet on a Chain*. Climbs past twin holes (the eyes). (FA: Genereux, Sutherland).

**Brontes** (5.10b), Jupiter Rock. Direct line to Cyclops Eye. (FA: Jones, Rennie).

**Venus** (5.10a), Jupiter Rock. Start L of *Brontes*. Up and R to Cyclops Eye. Excellent. (FA: Jones, Rennie).

**Riparian** (?), Jupiter Rock. L side of main wall. 2 pitches. (FA: Skuce, Rob Lanthier).

**Old Friends** (5.11b), Jupiter Rock. Prominent pillar on L side of formation. (FA: Morgan, Skuce, S. Worthington).

**Blackheart** (5.10b), Lower Heart Crag. Prominent hanging dihedral at extreme L end of cliff. (FA: Martin, Howard).

## KANANASKIS VALLEY

**Koyaanisquatsi** (5.11b), Barrier Crag. Discontinuous finger cracks on steep wall R of *Drifter's Escape*. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

**Static Fanatic** (5.11c), Barrier Crag. Roof and

steep face L of *Lumpy Corner*. (FA: Ostrander, Glen Reisenhoffer).

**Ideal for Living** (5.11a), Barrier Crag. Steep corner system R of *Koyaanisquatsi*. Excellent. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

**Brazilian Buzz** (5.10a), Barrier Crag. Face R of *Ideal for Living*. (FA: Ostrander).

**The Great Outdoors** (5.11b), Barrier Crag. Steep face on L side of Rainbow Wall. (FA: Ostrander).

**A.K.A.** (5.10c), Barrier Crag. 2-pitch face R of *The Great Outdoors*. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

**Winnebago Warrior** (5.11c), Barrier Crag. Edging route to R of 2nd pitch of A.K.A. Excellent. (FA: Ostrander, J. Wolfe).

**Through a Glass Darkly** (5.11c), Barrier Crag. Steep face R of previous 2 routes. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

**Age of Reason** (5.10b), Barrier Crag. L of 3 short routes on center of Rainbow Wall. (FA: Ostrander, Blair Marsden).

**Hollow Men** (5.10b), Barrier Crag. Face R of *Age of Reason*. (FA: Ostrander, Marsden).

**In Us Under Us** (5.11b), Barrier Crag. Overhanging dihedral R of Rainbow Bridge. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

**The Flake** (5.10c), Barrier Crag. Gently overhanging flake on wall R of *In Us Under Us*. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

**End Dance** (5.10b), Barrier Crag. Short, steep crack at R end of Rainbow Wall. (FA: Dancer, Kelly Tobey).

**Color Me Psycho** (II 5.10b), Barrier Crag. 3-pitch face on steep wall up and R from ice climb *Amadeus*. (FA: Ostrander, Dancer).

## PORCUPINE CREEK

New area just east of Wasootch Creek.

**Hyperion** (5.10a). Short slab on the 1st climbable rock in valley. (FA: Martin, Genereux, Jones).

**Unnamed** (5.10a), Blind Mans Bluff (steep rambling cliff near forks of creek). L side of slab in middle of cliff. (FA: Jones, Genereux, Martin).

**Unnamed** (5.10c), Blind Mans Bluff. Steep wall and short slab just R of previous route. (FA: Genereux, Jones, Martin).

**Snowblind** (5.10a), Blind Mans Bluff. L side of steep yellow wall directly above creek. Finishes in short corner. (FA: Jones, Genereux, Martin).

**Blind Alley** (5.11), Blind Mans Bluff. Center of steep wall over a bulge. (FA: Genereux, Jones, Martin).

**Unnamed** (5.10c), Blind Mans Bluff. Faulted wall R of *Blind Alley*. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

**Reclining Porcupine** (5.10a or 5.10d), The Hedgehog (slabby wall up east fork of creek). Start near L side, move R over overlap, traverse L to finish directly above start (5.10a). Direct var 5.10d. (FA: Genereux, Skuce, Dave Bartle; var, Balazs).

**Repining Porcuclimb** (5.10a), The Hedgehog. Start *Reclining Porcupine* but finish above overlap. (FA: Jones, Rennie).

**Hystrix** (5.10a), The Hedgehog. Start *Reclining Porcupine*, slant up R to finish. (FA: Jones, Rennie).

**Prickles** (5.10c), The Hedgehog. Direct line near L side of slab. (FA: Genereux, Skuce).

**Spiny Norman** (5.10b), The Hedgehog. Splits out R of *Prickles* above initial overlap. (FA: Skuce, Geoffrey).

## WASOOTCH CREEK

**Exhibit A** (5.10b). Alternate start to *Third Corner* on B Slab on wall to R. (FA: Ostrander).

**Silver Bullet** (5.10a). Hanging corner R of *Exhibit A*. Excellent. (FA: Martin, Howard, Mark Ring, Steve Stahl).

**B-Line** (5.10a). Slabby face L of *The Funnel*. (FA: Martin, Howard, MacLachlan).

## MCDUGALL SLABS

**Lube Job** (5.11a), Little McDougall Slab. Narrow slab at L side of formation. (FA: Skuce, Genereux).

**Flashpoint** (5.10a), Pellucidar (new slab up and left from Aldebaran). Start L of arching, L-facing corner. Up to steep wall, traverse R, over bulge to upper slab. (FA: Martin, Howard).

**Rimshot** (5.10b), Pellucidar. Trends R from near start of *Flashpoint*, crosses arching corner, finishes on steep slab. (FA: Martin, Howard).

**Pellucidar** (5.11a), Pellucidar. Center of main

slab. Excellent. (FA: Martin, Howard).

**Natural Lite** (5.10a R), Pellucidar. Slab R of *Pellucidar*. (FA: Martin, Howard).

**Altair** (5.10b), new area up and R from Aldebaran. Black waterstreak just R of prominent L-facing corner. (FA: Martin, MacLachlan).

## LORETTE SLAB

New area on the east side of the Mt. Lorette descent gully.

**Boardwalk** (5.10c). L side of slab. Excellent, runout. (FA: Martin, Balazs).

**Atlantic Avenue** (5.10a). R of *Boardwalk*. Runout to start. (FA: Martin, Balazs).

**Park Place** (5.10b). Faint groove in R-center. Finishes up a crack. (FA: Martin, Balazs).

**Marvin Gardens** (5.10a). R side of slab. Runout. (FA: Balazs, Martin).

## BURSTALL SLAB

**Moondance** (III 5.11b). Prominent twin water grooves to "Half Moon," in center of main slab. Finishes 2 pitches of steep friction (5.10d, 5.11b). 4 pitches. Classic. (FA: Genereux, Jones).

## OTHER AREAS

**Northeast Butress** (IV 5.10a). Alberta, Mt. Sarraill. On buttress crest, with detour L to avoid steep central pillar. Crux on upper headwall. Loose, but free from rockfall. 2500' (FA: Dougherty, Martin).

**North Face of East Ridge** (IV 5.6). Alberta, Mt. Foch. Climbs lower glacier (2 technical ice pitches; rockfall), works up over very loose rock band. Finishes up 55° ice. (FA: Dougherty, Sevigny).

**Tower Arete** (IV 5.10- A2), British Columbia, Bugaboo Group, West Face Snowpatch Spire (North Summit). Start L of *Beckey/Greenwood*. Thin double cracks (A2) to alcove formed by dark blocks (160'). 2,3) to top of tower. 4,5) R crack/flake system then up and slightly R to top of 2nd tower. 6) Hand/finger crack to top of 3rd tower (5.10-). 7,8) Crack/flake systems. (FA: Randall Green, Rod Gibbons, Chris Hecht, 8/86).

### References:

Yamnuska Rock Climbs, *Urs Kallen, out-of-print* (1976?).

*Guide to Bow and Kananaskis Valleys in preparation*. Contact: John Martin, #1 4407 Namaka Cres. NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2K 2H5, Canada.

### Corrections:

Several inaccuracies were printed for the *Western Canada report* in Climbing no. 98. The routes reported as Brown Pants and Wild Boys, completed during 1985, are actually called Brown Trousers and The Wild Boys (see Climbing no. 93). The routes reported as The East End Boys and The Importance of Being Earnest are actually called East End Boys and The Importance of Being Ernest (see above). Finally, Steve DeMaio's name was misspelled.

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## AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB

### 84th Annual Meeting Draws 800

The Regency Hotel in downtown Denver was the site of the American Alpine Club's 84th Annual Meeting in early December. With a total of almost 800 participants, it was the largest such gathering in the Club's history.

The AAC made a conscious effort at attracting a broadly-based audience to this year's festivities. Rather than packing the weekend with too many long Himalayan slide shows, the program was oriented toward younger climbers, with rock climbing given a prominent (some would say overwhelming) place on the agenda. It was a busy three days for all concerned; taking everything in was virtually impossible, especially with the ample time allowed for socializing between events.

AAC President Jim McCarthy was the emcee throughout the weekend. The meeting was kicked off with a banquet dinner, at which legendary climber Layton Kor was introduced as this year's guest of honor. Another legend followed, with John Gill giving an engaging talk on bouldering in middle age. Gill's many tales were both humorous and enlightening, and his closing remarks especially appropriate in the context of the rest of the meeting:

"I would like to relate a brief but profound observation on modern rock climbing, focused as it is upon inching up the arithmetic scale of difficulty. This comment comes not from the depths of personal wisdom, but is attributable...to the great writer Somerset Maugham. With a necessary translation into the climbing vernacular, it is as follows: *Remember, there are only three rules that will enable a climber to climb any pitch. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.*"

On Saturday morning, Lynn Hill and Russ Raffa provided the audience with an entertaining and eye-opening look at climbing competitions, European-style. Their presentation raised as many questions as it answered, contrasting fine athletic rock climbing with an apparent environmental disregard — huge crowds, manufactured routes, trees destroyed to provide better TV coverage. A rock-around-the-world tour followed; Russ Clune's insightful commentary and witty anecdotes provided a wonderful picture of cragging on four continents.

A respite from this barrage of well-trained, tanned, and disciplined rock athletes came with *Climbing* editor Michael Kennedy's travelogue of over-the-hill desk jockeys plodding up various obscure snowy bumps in Alaska and the Himalaya. And for those who tired of slide shows, an excellent film program, put together by *MountainFilm* coordinator Jim Bedford, was available in a nearby auditorium.

The most-publicized of the programs, The Great Debate (or, Is 5.14 Worth It?), turned out to be less of a debate than a sedate question and answer session. The panelists were held well in check by McCarthy, and it might be said that the most important function of this event was to provide topics for the many hours of discussion in the bars and hallways of the Regency. Complete coverage of the debate follows.

After a lengthy cocktail hour and dinner for 400 in the Regency's Grand Ballroom, McCarthy recognized a number of prominent figures in the history of American climbing, and presented the various annual awards peculiar to

the American Alpine Club. Formalities complete, Greg Child's keynote address on the second ascent of Gasherbrum IV (see *Climbing* no. 98) was next on the agenda. This very important climb deserved its place of honor on the program, and Child amply fulfilled expectations with an excellent presentation. However, as is the fate of many such addresses, much of its impact was lost on an audience befuddled by wine, overcome by the warmth of the crowded hall, and kept up far past its bedtime.

On Sunday morning, those awake enough to attend were treated to what may have been the most entertaining presentation of the entire weekend, a look at the state-of-the-art in high-altitude physiology, ably conducted by Drummond Rennie, Peter Hackett, and Robert Schoene. Thus ended what many have hailed as one of the best annual meetings that the American Alpine Club has ever hosted.

It is significant to note that while the AAC has less than 2000 members, it is widely seen as the primary national representative of America's climbers, currently estimated as 50,000 to 60,000 strong. With its ever-increasing role in protecting access to climbing areas (see *Climbing* no. 99), its endorsement and sponsorship of expeditions and climbing exchanges around the world, and its continuing publishing effort (which includes *The American Alpine Journal*, widely-regarded as the finest national alpine club journal in the world), the American Alpine Club is in a unique position to become truly representative of the entire American mountaineering community.

One of the major stumbling blocks to this goal has been the perception that the AAC is merely a social club for over-the-hill (or never-even-on-the-hill) climbers, who have historically come from the upper end of the social spectrum. Many active climbers, myself included, have argued that the annual AAC dues of \$50 would be better spent on a week's food in the Wind Rivers, or on gas for a trip to the Valley. However, this denies the importance of the AAC's accomplishments, only a few of which are cited above. And, as the number of climbers grows and climbing moves increasingly into the American mainstream, it becomes more and more apparent that some sort of national organization is needed to represent our interests.

The American Alpine Club has the name, the history, the political contacts, and the authority to fulfill this role. What it lacks, at present, is members, and the vitality (and money) that an increase in membership will bring. A step in the right direction was made during this year's meeting, when the Board of Directors decided to streamline application procedures for AAC membership; over the course of many years, this task had been complicated beyond reason. It is hoped by that this will be just the first step in making the AAC an organization that is open to, and truly representative of, all American climbers.

To join the Club, a person currently has to apply with two references (no letters of recommendation are required, and references need not be from AAC members), and pay dues upon acceptance (now \$50, with discounts available for climbers under 25 and over 65). New application forms will be available by the time this issue is printed, and inquiries may be directed to The American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10028.

— Michael Kennedy

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## THE GREAT DEBATE

### Same Board, Different Game — Who Makes the Rules?

"Gee, in the old days people used aid to make things easier, nowadays they use aid to make things harder."

— Juanita Donini, comment on the debate

Certainly, the "Great Debate" scored a political victory for the American Alpine Club, but as could be expected, nothing was resolved. Perhaps a more appropriate title would have been "Great Opinions — For Those That Don't Know Already, Or Can't Guess."

Still, it was impressive to have John Bachar, Henry Barber, Christian Griffith, Lynn Hill, Ron Kauk, Rob Robinson, Todd Skinner, Randy Vogel, and Alan Watts sitting together at the same table, having an amiable discussion on rock climbing's "new style" — namely, bolting on rappel and hangdogging.

With the streamlining of application procedures enacted during the Board of Directors meeting the previous day, Saturday's "debate" effectively served notice that the AAC does represent and serve the entire climbing public. Ninety minutes of often vigorous discussion and hours of private meetings left the panelists with the same disagreements but perhaps with a better understanding of each other's approaches.

The AAC had advertised the discussion as "The Great Debate (or: Is 5.14 worth it?)" featuring "Bachar/Barber/Hill/Kauk vs. Griffith/Robinson/Skinner/Watts." But the debate turned out to be a loose-knit slinging of ideals rather than a point-by-point analysis, and if there were teams, it was more like Bachar/Barber/Hill/Kauk/Robinson/Vogel vs. Griffith/Skinner/Watts.

Not surprisingly, the 400-strong audience displayed a clear preference for the traditionalist side of the table, and the out-manned "eurodogs" seemed destined to be overwhelmed during the question-answer period following each panelist's statement of position. Nevertheless, both sides held their positions well, first through a pointed, one-by-one grilling by AAC President Jim McCarthy, and later through questioning by the audience.

Clearly, no side "won," but the points raised summed up virtually all the concerns voiced throughout the country, as European tactics are slowly but surely becoming accepted, and traditionalists struggle to maintain the Way.

During the debate, these concerns seemed to involve two broad and perhaps overlapping issues, style and ethics. Most panelists viewed style as a practice which has no direct impact on anyone else, such as hangdogging. Ethics, however, involve the rights of others, and embrace anything that alters the rock permanently, such as bolts.

The issue of style elicited a diverse range of opinion, although most seemed to agree that style is a personal matter. Tactics such as hangdogging, previewing on rappel, and toprope rehearsal were wholeheartedly embraced by Griffith, Skinner, and Alan Watts, who was perhaps the most eloquent spokesman for these neoeuropean traditions:

"...Hangdogging is essential to acquire the skills necessary to succeed on today's hardest climbs. Traditional

tactics, as commendable as they are, simply are not a means to succeed on 5.14.

"Many critics of European tactics feel that high numbers are not everything — they point to adventure, danger, and inner growth as vital components of the sport. Indeed, numbers are not everything, but difficulty has always been an important part of climbing tradition.

"The Europeans are way ahead of us in the free climbing game. The world's hardest routes, the boldest solos, and the most remarkable flashes have all been accomplished by Europeans. Throughout the 1960's and 1970's, the U.S. was on top of the rock climbing world, and I've always been proud of this. Frankly, it bothers me when I hear the top French climbers referring to U.S. climbing as a 'myth.' The only way for us to improve enough to climb their hardest routes is to adopt their style.

"Climbing the hardest routes is not important to everyone, and there's no reason why it should be. But for those of us who have made it our goal to put the U.S. on top again, the path to take is clear. Among these individuals, there is no debate."

In sharp contrast, Bachar, Barber, and Kauk took the strongest stands against these European tactics. Henry Barber disagreed with the importance Watts put on competing in the international climbing arena:

"I don't really see climbing as competition. I see climbing as an activity that is sensitive to the environment. It's an activity in which we can develop ethics and style..."

Barber, whose *modus operandi* during the 1970's was to go to an area, repeat the hardest routes, then add new testpieces of his own, has obviously mellowed since his heyday. But he still prefers a strict definition of style:

"I've been climbing for 18 years, I've been fortunate to travel all over, and I have a really good feel for the history of rock climbing throughout the world. I have never used Friends. I don't hangdog, I don't toprope. I rely on doing a lot of climbing with a lot less.



The "Great Debate" panelists (L to R): Henry Barber, Rob Robinson, Randy Vogel, Ron Kauk, Lynn Hill, John Bachar, Todd Skinner, Christian Griffith, Alan Watts.





"Since 1975, when confronted with a possible fall, I've either downclimbed to a restpoint or to the belay, and then started back up. In the event of a fall, or if I have to be lowered to a restpoint or the belay, I go down and pull the rope back through.

"I think that style matters in life. I think that tomorrow is another day. We should leave some of these gems of climbs and real challenges for climbers who will be really inspired to do them in the best possible style."

Hill, Robinson, and Vogel all took a more moderate position on matters of style, primarily from the viewpoint that differences in style do not affect others directly. Rob Robinson, speaking about the relatively-recent development of the southeastern Sandstone Belt, summed up the attitudes of many in the South, and no doubt elsewhere:

"The South is a sanctuary where climbers could care less whether you are a eurodogger, redpointer, or believe that the earth is flat. It is enough that you are a climber who shares in the spirit, power, and aesthetics that guide us in our dream-like existence in the vertical world. That you love the sport is, in the final analysis, enough for us."

Lynn Hill's opinion was much more practical. She commented, "With my background as a gymnast, I view hangdogging as a technique for training, not climbing. Clearly, it has produced some very hard routes. I don't see anything wrong with it — it doesn't hurt anyone else."

Vogel continued along the same lines. "Hangdogging and previewing may erode a climber's personal integrity, but once that person is gone, I can still experience the rock the way it was before."

This statement reflected the stand-off on style very concisely. Although most of the panelists felt that other's style didn't interfere in their own climbing, they were quick to criticize. Either the others weren't climbing as hard because they were too attached to an antiquated style or the others weren't reaping the full benefits of experience because they were adopting styles with no basis in adventure.

Comparing styles is difficult, to say the least. To Robinson, the question is, "What is harder, doing a 5.12c/d on-sight in traditional style, or doing a 5.14 hangdog?" Most panelists appeared to agree that higher numbers don't represent a higher quality of experience, although the traditionalists maintained an unanswered offensive that reflected their belief that the traditional quality of experience is superior. This is easily interpreted from Kauk's statement that, "to truly raise the standards of freeclimbing, you can't sacrifice style or purity for a higher number."

The issue of ethics caused far more disagreement. Probably the biggest area of contention revolved around the gray area where personal style and community ethics overlap, very specifically the practice of placing bolts on rappel. Todd Skinner summed up the essential new-style argument. "Ethically, drilling bolts on the lead, bolts however they are drilled, it doesn't matter. The performance is the end."

Watts again brought the place of the American climber in the world scene to the forefront. "Bolting on rappel is the only way to protect (these) futuristic routes. Denying the validity of hangdogging and pre-placing bolts closes one's eyes to one of the best tools available to improve. Simply put, (these tactics) allow a climber to do a hard route faster, and I feel that the more hard routes you do, the better climber you will be. Time is spent facing new challenges, rather than wiring the same old problem. But if this fails to convince you, I suggest a trip to Smith Rock to attempt America's first 5.14, the *Sunshine Wall* (To Bolt or Not to Be, see Basecamp), a route recently pioneered by Frenchman J.B. Tribout. This one route does more to show the benefits of European tactics than any amount of debate."

Christian Griffith compared the opportunities rappel-placed bolts offer to today's young first ascensionists to the opportunities vast sections of unclimbed rock offered to yesterday's heroes. "It is hard for me to express the feeling that modern ethics have brought to my home area, Eldorado, but certainly I can say it must resemble the waves of



energy that hit during all the great revolutions of the past, from the days of Layton Kor and Pat Ament, through to those of Jim Erickson, Jeff Achey, and Skip Guerin."

Griffith acknowledged possible problems with placing bolts on rappel, however, relating a story about a few other Eldorado locals "taking our ideas of bolting and using them in ways we didn't really consider as appropriate." Griffith felt that the limits to bolting on rappel needs to be set on a "community level."

John Bachar argued that routes should be started from the ground for several reasons. "I don't really believe bolts should be placed on rappel, it offends the guys who are out to do first ascents (from the ground up). I travel around looking for virgin rock, I'm looking for gymnastically-difficult stuff. But I like to do it on the lead. I don't know anything about it, I'm up there pushing gymnastics, I'm trying to put it all together for that first ascent."

"For example, say I've worked on routes before, fallen off, gotten hurt, then came back to find that some guy put bolts in on rappel and did the first ascent. It seems that he copped out on the challenge by walking around the back. I would have more respect if the guy drilled a bolt ladder and freed it — at least he faced up to the fact that he had to climb the route."

"Another reason for not bolting on rappel is that after someone has topoped it, the bolts might be too far apart for someone to attempt it on-sight. For example, if I got into this business of placing bolts on rappel after topoping, I could produce some death routes."

"Should I expect a person to walk up and climb something on-sight, after I had it thoroughly wired? That would be unfair. So the only way to bolt is on the lead, on-sight, without prior knowledge of the route. And if you can't do it, leave it for someone else."

And what of the difference between bolts placed on hooks and those placed on rappel? Although Bachar acknowledged that a bolt placed on hook is aid, the similarities stop there. "The big difference is whether or not you start from the ground. A lot of these new routes placed on rappel are really abstract, in the sense that the methods used have no practical sense in the world of alpinism. Placing a bolt on rappel is not a choice in the mountains."

Randy Vogel sees an analogy between what industry is doing to the environment and what the current trend of placing bolts on rappel is doing to the rock. "The oil industry is saying, 'We need to exploit our environment so we can insure our great status as a nation, do what ever it takes to stay ahead.' They're looking at the short term, not the long term."

This theme, that first ascensionists who place bolts on rappel are depleting the potential for first ascents too quickly, was echoed by Robinson. "To me it looks like they the Europeans are burning the rock reserves up. They're not going to have anything left."

Henry Barber added an interesting tack to the traditionalist argument, invoking the name of diversity. "I really don't want to tell people how to climb, but I really believe that when you are in Rome, you do as the Romans do — and I don't want to build Rome here. I want to go to Rome, I want to travel all over the world and experience the different types of climbing available in different areas. I don't want to make it all the same."

Lynn Hill took perhaps the most moderate position on the issue of rappel-placed bolts. "I don't look down on people who place bolts. There are obviously different types of rock, limestone in France, welded tuff in Smith Rocks, and I have enjoyed doing routes that have been bolted on rappel... Each area is unique and it is the responsibility of the local climbers to organize themselves and decide what should be done."

Certainly, this deference to local practice weaved through many of the panelists' comments. Not surprisingly, the question of community enforcement, namely chopping bolts, soon came up.

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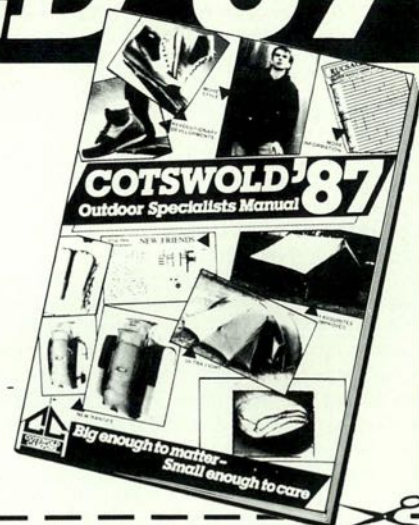
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Removing rap-placed bolts has been used to enforce traditional ethics in Yosemite, Joshua Tree, and several other cragging centers throughout the country. Both Vogel and Bachar have actively supported bolt-chopping, which to neoeuropean advocates is often viewed as offensively as their routes are to traditionalists.

When Vogel was asked if chopping bolts is an act of violence, he first replied that the term is a misnomer, that bolts are pulled and the holes filled so that, "in many cases, you wouldn't know the bolt was there to begin with." Vogel justified bolt removal as a deterrent. "Alan Watts said he wouldn't go down to JT and rap and bolt. I think that we've seen, in JT, that the effect of removing offending routes has the desired results."

If there was a unanimous agreement on anything, it was on manufacturing holds. Virtually every panelist denounced this practice, despite style. Griffith, who apparently embraced the concept in his opinion article "Manifesto" (Climbing no. 98), addressed McCarthy's query on the issue: "Most people up here consider chipping holds as being completely disadvantageous. I really agree with that right now." He further qualified his position by stating, "I consider extreme difficulty as being relatively unnatural. You have to have just enough that you can climb it but not so much that it is easy, and the variation in between is very, very limited. There may come a time when there isn't a natural place for a 5.15, or 5.16."

Others objected more explicitly. Skinner simply stated that manufacturing holds is where the quest for ultimate difficulty stops. "That is the point where you admit the route is too hard for you."

The traditionalists, of course, were the most outspoken about altering the rock. Vogel pointed out that chopping holds is nothing new, and the reasoning to do it is as weak now as it was in the past. "People think, 'Well, nobody really chops holds,' but there are some very revered climbers who have been known to participate in this activity. What those climbers were saying is that they were the best climbers in the world, and that nobody would ever be any better..."

"People are justifying what they're doing because of the extreme level of climbing they're participating in. They're doing a 5.13, therefore it is justifiable to do something a little quasi-ethical. However, five or ten years from now, dozens of people will be doing 5.13's every day — to think otherwise is very naive."

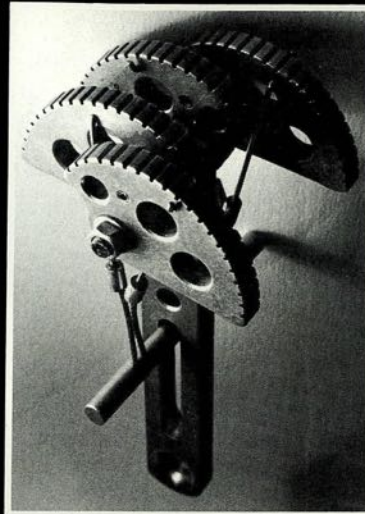
Bachar reiterated the idea of leaving the rock intact for future generations, pointing out that in Buoux, "Chiseling is commonplace. Some 7c's that were the hardest routes of the time were chiseled, manufactured to make them go. Now 7c's are commonplace, and they're looking for 8b's and 8c's to do. They had them — they chiseled them to make the 7c's — and now the new 8b's are (being) manufactured."

Another area of agreement was on the need for communication and honesty in reporting new routes (see Editorial). A consensus to respect local traditions was also reached, although tradition is subject to change. Watts pointed out that "change is inevitable. When a majority of the local climbers in each area decide it's time for a transition, then change will occur, despite tradition. Change, as much as anything, is what tradition in climbing is about." Watts' comment, of course, can be applied to either approach, despite the use of the word "tradition."

Clearly, every panelist came to the podium hoping to explain their position and sway attitudes. Equally clear, however, was the feeling of community as the panelists lined up for photographs shortly after. Barber's closing remark seemed to be dead-center on the proverbial nail:

"Together, the old chumsters like me and these guys today, we can all walk away from here talking the same language even though we don't agree. I think this is really where the future of the sport lies."

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# Sharon Wood

On May 20, 1986, Sharon Wood became the first North American woman to step onto the summit of Mount Everest.

She also stepped into the hearts of a hero-hungry Canadian public, and into the hands of the media. While reaching the summit of Everest may have been, as Sharon puts it, "a logical culmination" of 15 years of dreams and plans, becoming famous for climbing fits her like someone else's clothing. Suddenly, out of quiet obscurity, she has become one of that strange new breed: the climber who is a commodity. Sharon rides in the back of parade cars, Sharon is in the daily news, Sharon is hired to mingle at cocktail parties. Soon she will begin a speaking circuit to tell the story of the climb.

Paradoxically, the image that the public seems to demand of her is almost exactly the opposite of the character that got her to the top in the first place: a quiet, private, modest, and introspective determination to simply be the best she can at anything she tries. On Everest, as in many things, she succeeded.

It is interesting to see how media coverage of the Everest climb has shaped the way that others look at Sharon, and at times, has changed the way she is forced to look at herself. The press has an obsessive concern for all the firsts of the climb: first climb from the north up the West Ridge, first North American woman. But asking Sharon about the climb, you're likely to get a reminder about her being "only one out of 160-odd people to get to the top and only the sixth woman on the summit."

Ask her again, and she will admit to a more pragmatic approach to this public response. She recognizes how hard she had to work, for a great number of years, to get a chance at Everest. She still has many mountains she wants to try, and if the public wants to help her by creating a career around her climbing, well, why not?

Coming to terms with this has not been an easy thing. It has required that she tailor her experience to meet the demands of the public. There are contradictions in her life which she is left to smooth over; impositions on her personal life, and more ironically, on her climbing. She runs the risk of having to talk

about Everest so much that she cannot afford the time to climb for herself. She also faces the possibility that the creation of a public side of the climb might color the private side.

Sharon wonders what the constant retelling will do to the memory of the climb. So far, she has been pleasantly surprised, feeling that each telling helps her understand better what the climb really symbolizes: a marker of her goals, and a reminder of her capabilities. She is finding a reward in being a motivating force for others.

But she was perhaps most concerned that as a woman she would be singled out, and that her own role would be overstated. In a full-page newspaper article showing her posing alone on the mountain was an incongruous quote from Sharon: "I think it's tragic to make heroes of the people on the summit when so many others are involved." While she couldn't be more direct in crediting the people that went as a team to Tibet, and in acknowledging her dependence on them, the media seems to be less concerned with the others. This clearly bothers Sharon, although she seems assured that the closeness of the Everest Light team will weather the neglect.

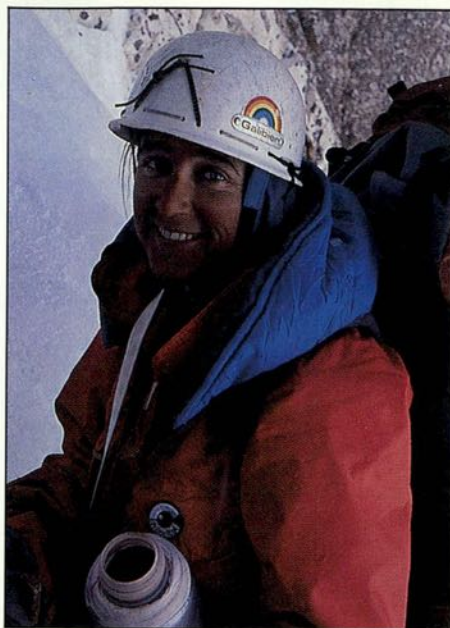
One of the potential perils of being in the public eye is the way that it can peer into more private aspects of a person's life.

Although some details about the past that Sharon would have rather kept quiet have been dug up, she feels that on the whole the media has been supportive. She says that media interest in those kinds of details is really just a way of keeping the story alive.

The need of the press to bring up personal issues may reflect a confusion about what it takes to get a woman to the top of Everest, more than it reflects any kind of malice. It may be difficult for the public to see how the committed climber, especially a successful woman climber, must be on the edge of society's conventions to produce the time and energy to climb a peak like Everest. And Sharon has wanted to be on the edge since she was a kid.

As Everest was a logical culmination of her dreams, so her dreams are a logical result of her

*Sharon Wood on the Cassin Ridge (inset), and on Huascaran (right).*



*Photo: Gregg Cronn.*



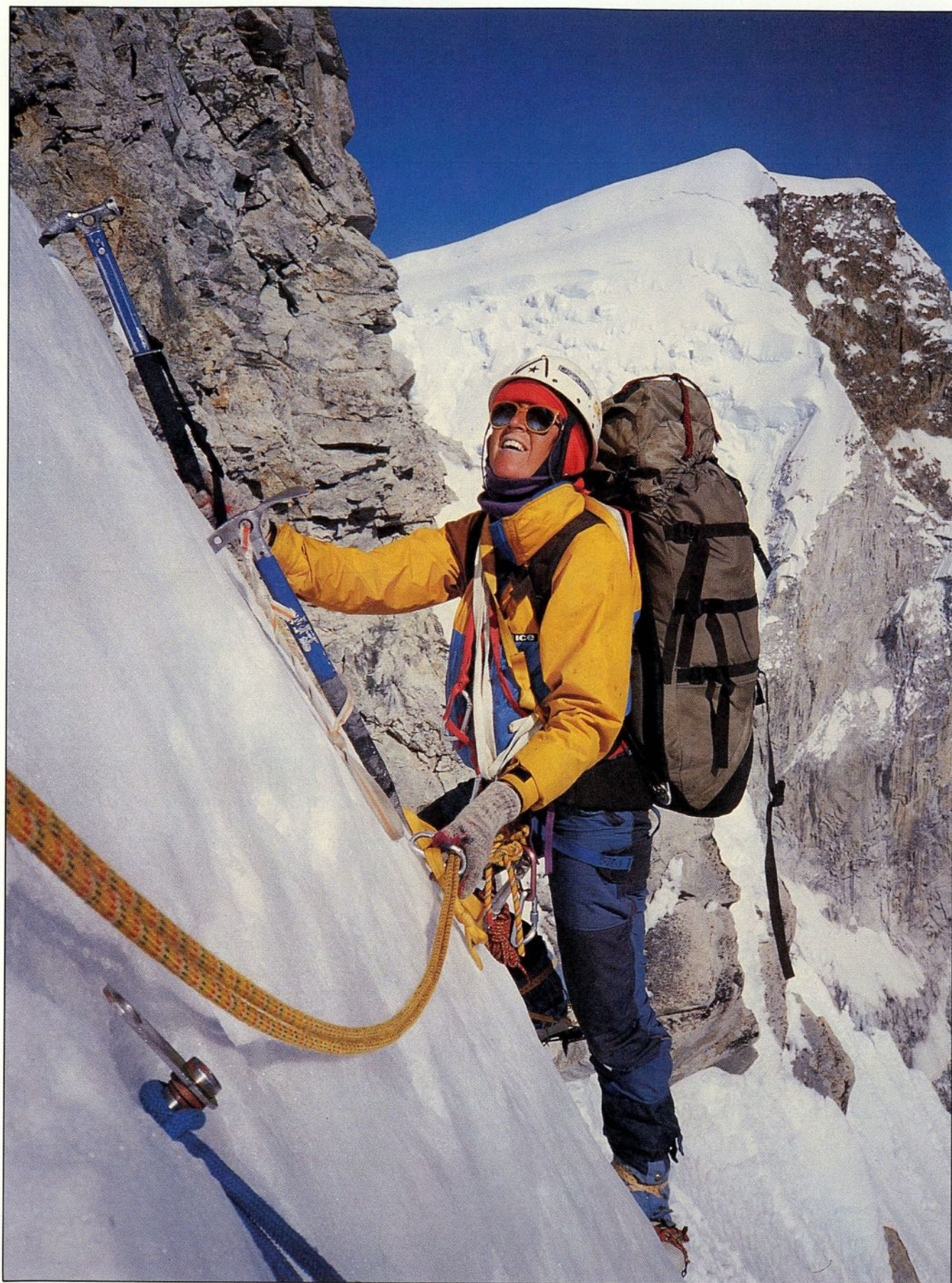
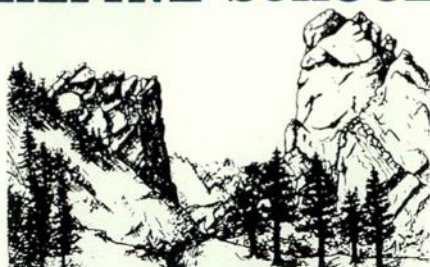


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upbringing. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, she is the second daughter of a wonderfully eclectic father, who taught her the value of escaping complacency, and a mother who balanced that by teaching a cautious determination to get what she wanted.

Sharon's earliest memories of getting into the outdoors are not unlike the style she would use later to get to the Himalaya. She tells the story of watching her brother and father go off skiing when she was four, feeling like they would never ask her. "I found that if I dressed myself first and stood in front of the car, I was a package they couldn't refuse." The first taste of the mountains was enough to win her over.

She learned the value of self-determination much younger than most people, and much more than many women, but not at an easy price. By the time she reached 14, the challenges she was facing in school and at home were no longer big enough, and like many bored kids, Sharon rebelled for a couple of years. "I was in a suburban high school, just one of 2500 kids, and I was screaming to get out." After a period of trouble with drugs and petty crime, she ended up with a probation officer, as well as the conclusion that ultimately she was going to be held responsible for her own actions. And so, remarkably foresighted planning for a more productive future began, leading her onto a path that peaked on Everest.

The plan involved a conscious decision to make a career out of the mountains, and she began with a summer working around Jasper, Alberta. That first summer she and some friends pooled their resources and hired a guide to teach them how to climb. She also heard about Outward Bound, and went for a course at the age of 17 with the precocious purpose of getting into the outdoor instruction network.

Although Outward Bound provided her the opportunity to meet Laurie Skeslet, who would later become a strong mentor (and the first Canadian to the top of Everest), she found the course disappointing. But she stuck with it. After a period of working support around the school, she approached the director with a request to become an instructor. His answer, which Sharon remembers roughly as, "You've got a long way to go, baby," was enough. She went.

At first, "People kept doors shut on me. I was young, I was a girl, but I kept trying. Doing the shit jobs. But I knew I was going to have to earn my place." That winter, she went to work at a ski-hill for the first time, in order to broaden her skill areas. In 1976, she heard of an Alberta YMCA camp that was looking for outdoor instructors. She applied and the first door was opened.

The opportunity to work at Camp Chief Hector cannot be overstated as a foundation for Sharon. She had the chance to get linked up with a group of climbers who were powerfully driven, and who would later form the core of the strongest mountaineering group in the country. After a few years of affiliation with the YMCA, the group became independent as a teaching facility, but kept a philosophical approach which binds the members strongly even now.

Continuing work for the Yamnuska Centre also provided contact between Sharon and the better female climbers in the area. By that time, she was beginning to make a name for herself within a small circle, and in 1977, was offered a place on a women's expedition to Mt. Logan.



“People kept doors shut  
on me. I was young, I was  
a girl, but I kept trying...  
I knew I was going to have  
to earn my place.”

Logan proved to be another turning point. Sharon found a connection with expeditionary, high-altitude mountaineering. “It also set my sights on the future, and I returned to Calgary to find the doors of the climbing community open to me.”

The dreams began to seem possible at this point, but they were still very much private dreams. Some of her rebellious energy was being tempered by experience and acceptance from others, but still she saw that there was, “a difference between me and those guys who were moving onto bigger things.” The difference seems to have been a basic trust in herself. Those “guys” were some of Sharon’s best friends, co-instructors at the Yamnuska Centre, and later, her strongest supporters. They had dreams that fit exactly with hers, but as they moved onto bigger and harder things, particularly in the Yukon and later the Himalaya, Sharon entered a period of what she calls “complacency.”

This period is perhaps better described as a time of consolidation, a deliberate effort to slowly build up her skills to the point where she could go with her friends on the big trips. She recognized the importance of timing during this period. She points out that although she did not yet have the ambition that the others did, she still committed herself to working through a series of steps to get where she wanted.

The first major step was performing on ice with a group of people who were pioneering some of the hardest waterfall climbs in the world. Over the course of a couple of winters, Sharon’s skills improved to the point that she was able to keep up with the boys. Part of this success came from the strange discovery that she began to enjoy climbing more when the conditions got adverse: “At that point I really decided to pursue it.”

By 1980, Sharon was spending the winters as a ski-patroller and summers with the Yamnuska Centre. Her on-and-off presence in the Calgary climbing community helped to give her a perspective on the influence this group had on her. She speaks with a great deal of pride about her friendship with the main figures in the movement, but especially of John Lauchlan.

“John was the one who was going somewhere. He was the first Canadian to really do it and really admit it. He didn’t waste his time, was good at everything he did, and was way ahead of the rest of the pack in his approach.” And perhaps most influentially, “He knew the value of marketing himself, and taught us all that if we wanted to do the big stuff, we’d have to forget all that false modesty crap and learn how to promote ourselves.”

John’s energy also helped Sharon to see the importance of setting big goals. In the summer of 1981, she took a major step by going back to Outward Bound and being able to instruct this time. She recalls with some pride: “I didn’t have to beg, and had a very successful summer.”

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A second step was to apply to be director of the ski patrol at Panorama in British Columbia. Sharon describes Panorama as setting a precedent for her. "I really, really wanted this, and I learned that I could say to people 'I know you're taking a risk by hiring a woman, but I will do a damn good job'." She was learning that being a female wasn't really a liability, because people would stand up and take notice when she did accomplish something.

By the winter of 1982, Sharon was ready to come out of the period of consolidation, feeling more and more certain of her abilities, but still presenting herself to others with hesitation and insecurities not at all reflective of her actual skill levels. With a number of plans in the works, but still hesitant to publicly announce them, Sharon was coming to the point of deciding whether or not to go for broke. And then John Lauchlan died.

"That really forced me to take stock. I wondered how John felt to have been cut off so early, and I realized I would be very unhappy to stop here. I had been too content, and I realized that I had a desire to continue on his energy. He was supposed to go to Everest that fall with all my friends, and I suddenly realized how much I wanted to be with them too."

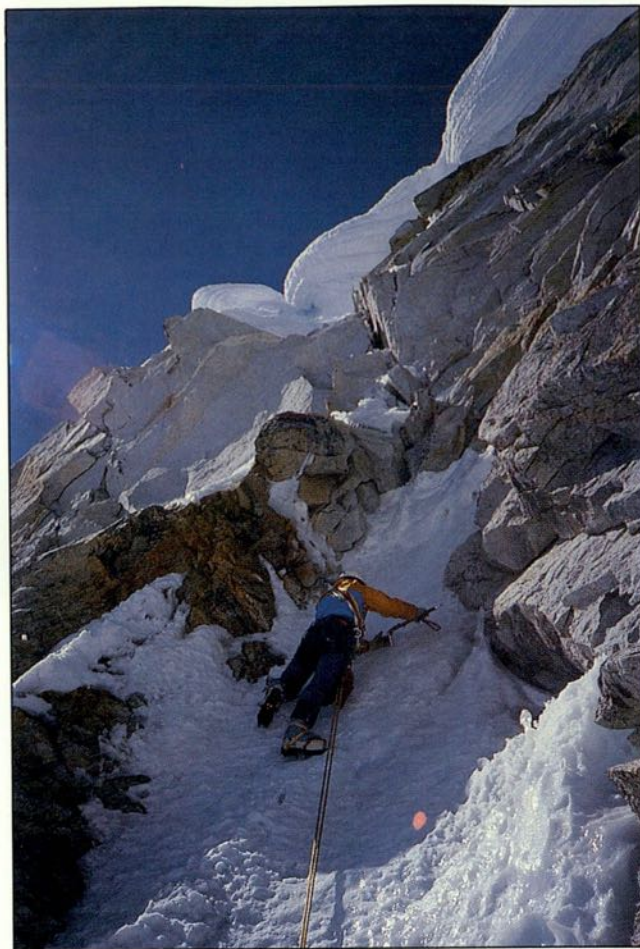
The impetus was strong enough to force quantum leaps. The first was to attempt the guide's course with the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. This was the first real test of how the climbing community outside of her close friends would accept a woman. "I was worried how the squareheads were going to treat me, and they gave me a pretty good run for my money." When she succeeded, the guides were more pleased than anything else, and she was pleasantly surprised.

Her success on the guide's course brought about a noticeable change in Sharon; she had a confidence that was not there in the past. The spring of 1983 saw her facing up to another long-standing goal, by going on the Cassin Ridge of McKinley with Gregg Cronn (a Seattle climber). "It was well within my comfort level, and I was surprised at myself. We did the route in good style, in good time, and without incident."

Understandably, the Himalaya was the next big goal. Everest beckoned from the wings; her friends were going again in the spring of 1986, and she was sure she wanted to go this time. Sharon recognized she would have to plan this big a step quite a while in advance.

She approached the people holding permission for the climb, but as she says, "What did I have to offer? I had done McKinley by a good route, but I knew I still had a ways to go to prove myself." It was also a time when she saw what she would have to face being a woman. "I was pissed. They were questioning my mood swings, and they put it to me clearly that they had to gauge whether it would be worth it to add the element of bringing a woman on the trip. Today, I understand completely the kind of problems they were talking about, but at the time it was very hard for me."

She also saw that, "This was a team that was put



together very differently than most. There was a core who voted in every member, and the whole selection process was very cautious and took lots of time... and I was very impatient, wondering why, why, why at every decision point."

The opportunity to prove herself again took the form of a place on a lightweight trip to the West Ridge of Makalu in 1984. Sharon credits Carlos Buhler, a Washington climber who had been to the top of Everest in 1983, with the chance to go to Makalu.

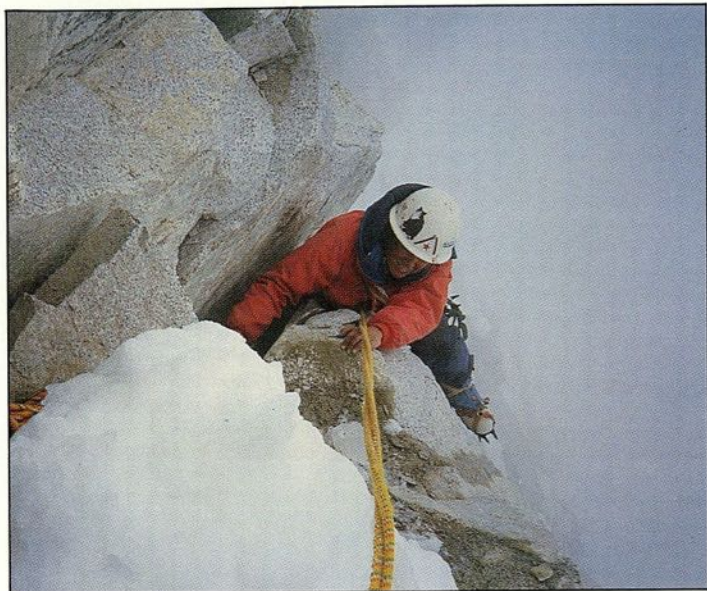
One of the strongest of Sharon's mentors, Carlos helped her reach for many goals. "Carlos' attitude towards high-altitude mountaineering had a significant impact on me. He saw no boundaries when it came to opportunities and possibilities." Makalu was one of the hardest things yet tried by a largely Canadian team, and Sharon used the mountain to really test herself. She found she could work high, carry as well as any of the boys, and learned enough about high altitude mountaineering to "grow up quickly."

Although she speaks with some bitterness about the expedition's failure so close to the top, and about not being given a summit attempt, she recognizes how the failure on Makalu motivated her to try harder than ever. In order to tolerate the drudgery and monotony of expeditionary climbing while on Makalu, she focused her dreams on a peak across the valley: Everest.

When she came back from Makalu, she knew. The climbing community also knew: she could be viewed as an equal, and even as a special asset. "I came back and I got serious. I approached Jim (Elzinga, the

*Photos: Carlos Buhler.*





*Sharon Wood on the Anquosh Face of Huascaran — which she completed with a broken scapula after being hit by rockfall on the first day of the climb.*

Everest trip leader), and he said 'How would you feel about getting exploited?' That was to be my unique contribution to the trip. And, given my career directions, it would also be a very pragmatic move."

The media's attention to Sharon began at this point, with the issue of "first woman" receiving the most hype. But the trip was still a year-and-a-half away, and she was hardly the sort of person to rest while waiting for the future. 1985 saw a trip to South America which involved some very major gains. Sharon had the chance to do some serious technical routes in fine alpine style with Buhler, including the South Face of Aconcagua and a new route on the Anquosh Face of Huascaran Sur.

The ultimate statements of her confidence, however, were a couple of solo ascents of Taulliraju (West Face) and Ranrapalca (North Face), both of which are spoken about with an unconditional satisfaction that she doesn't show towards any climb prior to this point. It is easy to get a sense that while she may have grown up technically on Makalu, these solos were the final spiritual confirmations she needed to take with her to Everest.

Right up to the last minute before Everest, Sharon continued to test the right that she had to have risen to the top as a woman. One of the biggest tests was to work as a heli-skiing guide, an occupation that is a very traditional male bastion. Guiding for Canadian Mountain Holidays gave her the chance to see again how being a woman could at times work to her advantage. While her performance may have been more closely scrutinized than a man's, she also saw how "a woman may not have been expected to do as well, and so some of the boys came to offer me more than they could have given to a guy, because their egos

**"...some of the boys came to offer me more than they could have given to a guy, because their egos were less on the line with me."**

were less on the line with me." It also got her praise from an older guide who wouldn't even notice her at first. By the end of the season, the same guide came to her and "shook my hand like a man, gave me a kiss like a woman, and welcomed me aboard."

The story of Everest itself is one which Sharon would like to summarize as, "the conditions were bad, we made it to the top, we used oxygen." She acknowledges some moments of bitterness within the team, but certainly no more than would be expected. That Everest was the realization of a specific plan is perhaps best understood by looking at the people involved (most came from the Yamnuska school), and at the closeness that she felt to her summit partner, Dwayne Congdon.

Dwayne had been a co-instructor on Sharon's first major course with Yamnuska, six years before, and had gone to Makalu with her. The stresses put on both of them during the summit day on Everest were overcome because of a mutual instinctive trust. She sees Dwayne as being the driving force on the "monumental carry from the traverse from Camp V (on the West Ridge) to Camp VI (in the Hornbein Couloir). The weather was awful, we were wondering when the rocks or snow would flush us out of the couloir, we had horrendous loads, and we were turning around to each other wondering, 'What are we doing here?' And Dwayne would come up and say, 'Why are you all waiting? Let's go.'"

The following day, left on their own, Sharon was slow to start, with Dwayne getting going a half-hour earlier. "The winds were high, and we were having to dodge falling rocks. Dwayne was going much stronger, and I wondered what was wrong with me. But I caught up at the Yellow Band (27,000 ft.), and found my turning point. All we had was a 5.5 mm rope, because we had wanted to go light. On the Yellow Band I came alive because my focus narrowed. All that mattered was the next move... in front like that, I have no doubts."

She also found motivation from Jim Elzinga. At the base of the Yellow Band, with everyone watching from below, Jim came on the radio that Sharon was carrying, and said, "You gotta want it!" Several hours later, the pair stood on top.

Dwayne and Sharon needed their trust most of all on the way down. "We started down and Dwayne was being more cautious. Suddenly, he wasn't there anymore. I was scared because my oxygen was low; I was on a two-liter flow with a budget for 10 hours, and I had already been going for 14. It was a real moral dilemma. We were on the edge and I knew if I waited I would be in jeopardy. I knew that everyone in basecamp was watching us separate more and



**"I think it's tragic to make heroes of the people on the summit when so many others are involved."**

more. When I got down to the base of the Hornbein Couloir, it was dark, and I couldn't remember where Camp VI was. It took a few tries up blind alleys until I found it."

"It was an hour-and-a-half until Dwayne came in; his oxygen had run out four hours before, he couldn't move his fingers, and I had to take off his boots and crampons for him. I still lament that decision of leaving Dwayne. I still have nightmares; it's one of the only decisions in my climbing career that I have ever questioned."

"At that point, in the tent, I had been brewing up water for some time, and the gas cylinder had run out. I changed the cylinder, then lit the new one, and the whole thing burst into flame. I don't know if anyone at the lower camps saw the stove, my toque, and my eyelashes fall down the North Face in flames."

If Dwayne was the perfect partner for Sharon to go to the summit with, then the dreams came full circle when the first person that Sharon saw on the way down was Laurie Skreslet: "He was the perfect person, a friend and one of my strongest mentors, coming up to share this with me."

Coming home from Everest has meant a great many changes for Sharon. "More and more front doors are being opened for me. I used to have to make things happen, now I'm having to look into the future and cross things off my list. Sometimes I wish this had never happened, and see that I have lost a lot of my freedom and have to weigh out the sacrifices. But I do know I am an opportunist and that I will try to gain from this."

Gaining from this may mean having to understand the circumstances that led her to Everest, and accepting some of the ways that the public will continue to bend her. One of the more complicated forces is the pressure to remain in the public eye. Her success on Everest means that the trip could turn a profit, and this would help her friends. But it will also mean being frantically busy for quite some time with speaking engagements and other public appearances.

This public face must be the strangest contrivance of big expedition life. In this case it has meant that a private dream has become public property, and the contradiction is showing up in discomfort for Sharon. Returning from Everest, she recognized how the success could be rewarding to her, and she asked her close friends if they thought she was selling out. They didn't, but she hasn't stopped asking herself the question. With the cost of big trips continuing to esca-



*Teamwork on Everest: Laurie Skreslet (right) attends to Sharon and Dwayne after their summit bid.*

late, she may have to sell herself hard to get anywhere.

A more difficult question is how being a woman has played a role in her story. A first observation is that, like many women, Sharon has suffered from a socially-imposed self-doubt. She may have been taught less doubt than many women, but she was trying to prove herself in a strongly male field. A second observation is that as she has succeeded, Sharon has also appeared more traditionally feminine. In the last five years she seems to have come to better terms with her womanhood, and in many ways, this personal acceptance seems to have gotten her acceptance from others as well.

While listening to her story, there's a thread of satisfaction in her describing how she learned to use gender to her advantage. Sharon insists, however, that she has never had to use it to gain ground within her close climbing community, and never in getting special acceptance to an expedition. It may have helped the team on Everest to have someone who could add a marketable edge, but her sex is not the reason why she was able to go. Sharon puts it most clearly herself: "I get on trips because I climb well with the men who go on these trips; nowadays a woman can look at the fact that she's a woman as either a problem or as an opportunity. For me, it's a great opportunity."

The future? There are a number of possible expeditions, including a chance to go with friends to the Rupal Face of Nanga Parbat, but Sharon has decided to settle into life back home for a time. She has a schedule of talks, and says, "I want to hang onto all those moments from the climb." She is perhaps most excited by an offer to teach in an outdoor education program at a university. "How ironic that they should be asking me!"

Some dreams may have come true, but one thing Sharon said suggests that things may just have begun for her. "Finally, I know I am a climber." Clearly, she is.

*Photo: Programmed Communications*



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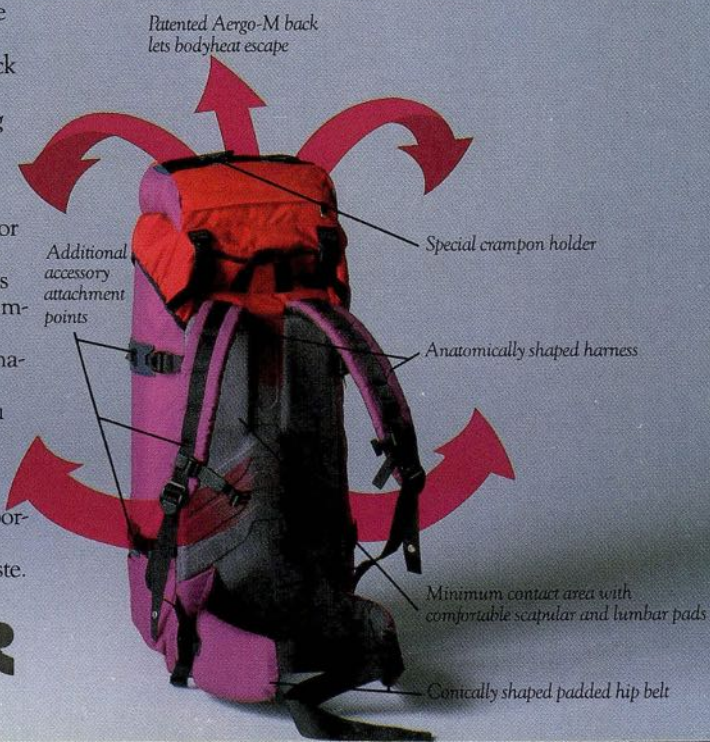
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# Coonyard Mouths Off - Part II\*

Commentary by Yvon Chouinard

"There is a spontaneous and light-hearted quality in a sport which vanishes as the sport matures."

—Sir Arnold Lunn

**B**etween 1915 and 1932, the Swiss guide Hans Lauper knocked off 18 major first ascents in the Alps, including the north faces of the Monch, Jungfrau, and Kamm, and the East Face of the Eiger. During the 1930's most of the great north faces in the Alps were climbed, including the "last great problem," the Eigerwand in 1938.

In 1947, John Salathé and Anton Nelson climbed the Lost Arrow Chimney wearing sneakers and driving pitons directly into decomposed granite. They placed expansion bolts on the smooth summit knob.

In 1957, the first Grade VI in North America was put up on the North Face of Half Dome, and if you found a vibram track on any trail in America, you knew it was made by a climber, who was a friend of a friend of a friend.

By 1960, gas was 25 cents a gallon and for 50 bucks you could get a decent car. With a couple hundred dollars more you could spend April to November climbing all over the country. This was the beginning of the age of specialization. You climbed and that was it. Robbins was the only one we knew who also skied and we never really trusted him because of that. In Yosemite you climbed cracks or you were a face climber. The first 5.10's were put up beginning in 1960, and by the end of the decade it was possible to effect a rescue on El Cap from the top.

In November 1964, finding 15 inches of snow on

the summit after making the first ascent of the *North America Wall*. Robbins, Pratt, Frost, and I threw off a duffle bag and watched helplessly as someone jumped out of a car, ran to the base of the wall, and made off with all our down jackets and bivouac gear.

**I**n May 1970, *Climbing* no.1 was hot off the press, definitely slanted toward Colorado climbing; but the Northwest had *Off Belay*, Southern California had *Summit*, and the Gunks had the *Vulgarian Digest*. The free standard was now 5.11, and the Dawn Wall was marathoned in 29 days for the ultimate in big wall living; they blew it though, two days more and they could have inked a big promo deal with Baskin-Robbins.

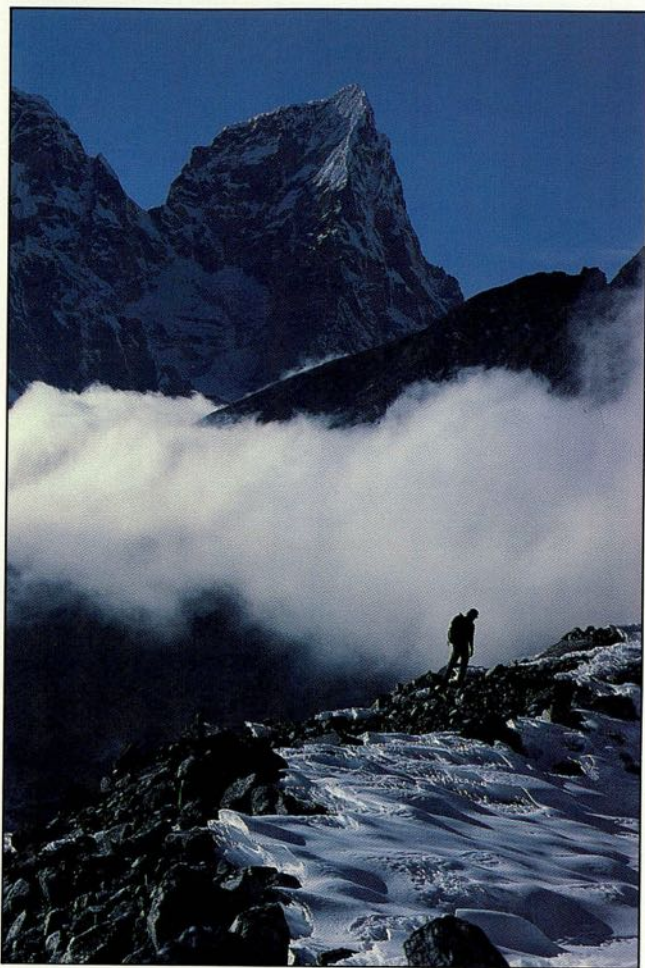
More and more people were getting into climbing and backpacking, but you couldn't leave your gear at the base of a wall or even in your tent any more. The Wall Street Journal advised corporate America to invest in the "high growth" specialty outdoor industry. The Park Service was busy setting up reservation systems for backcountry use. The Yosemite Master Plan was being formulated to eliminate automobiles in the Valley by the year 1990.

In 1972, the Chouinard Equipment Catalog came out with the "Whole Natural Art of Protection," and

\*The original "Coonyard Mouths off" appeared in the 1972 issue of *Ascent*.

Photos: Michael Kennedy.





*Far from the maddening crowd:  
Carlos Buhler and Cholatse in the  
Khumbu Himal, Nepal.*

almost overnight the game changed, most of America switching over to natural protection. People attempted to de-piton routes in Europe, like the Walker Spur, but democracy wouldn't allow it; the lowest common demoninator prevailed, and within weeks they were pegged up again.

Sometime around 1973 the rate of growth in outdoor sports peaked. Some companies diversified into soft goods, some didn't even see the change until it was too late. Gas prices shot upward and suddenly there was less fat in the system to support those on the bottom end of the social spectrum. The draft card burners of the 1960's were getting older, having kids, and looking to upgrade their lifestyles.

**E**nter the 1980's. You can't "out-rebel" your parents — they were the wigged-out, drug-crazed hippies of the 1960's. So change the rules. Drive them crazy by going to law school. Join the Boy Scouts, don't take any risks and, above all, it's very uncool to be passionate about anything. Instead of marathon weekend drives to the Valley, you jog around the block every day and put in a nice 10-miler on the weekend, with maybe a little session of Nautilus or aerobics here and there. The heroes are Eastwood and Stallone, who both chickened out of going to the Cannes Film Festival for fear of being terrorized.

It's the "me-now" generation, and narcissism is the

game. You can't even get your picture in the British mags without your shirt off (and I've never seen a day in the Isles when I've even wanted to take off my sweater)! Pink hair, pierced noses, lycra with cod-pieces, it's all good fun and doesn't hurt anybody. After all, we used to wear all white on the walls.

But the mountains are strangely empty. Backpackers are now car camping, and the only ones you see in the woods are the redneck survivalists who jump out of the trees to scare the shit out of you before they "camo" back into the bushes. The only people in the Winds are kids or executives, sent there to wrest some sort of character building or moral out of confronting the wilderness.

The Valley now has a video store and the Merced is open for commercial boating. Many of the environmental gains of the 1960's are wiped out by an over-zealous Secretary of the Interior who believes that, "Jesus wants us to drill for oil in the wilderness."

The dominant environmental policy of the 1980's is that we should drill all our oil, cut down the forests, and dam the rivers *right now*. Go for the short-term goals, and let the future generations worry about reforestation of acid-rain killed forests, cleaning up dead rivers, and bringing back extinct species. Like in Vietnam, we may have to destroy the earth in order to save it.

Climbers are polarized into socio-geographical areas: Eldorado, Joshua Tree, Hueco Tanks. In the Tetons they are all on the Grand, sometimes 100 a day on the top, but the other peaks are empty. Everest is in vogue with overachieving attorneys, doctors, and businessmen. Oh, there are still a few geeks around like Stump and Lowe doing risky alpine climbing, but the system doesn't recognize, understand or reward this kind of abnormal behavior. Which is why they do it, I guess.

Ice climbing is dead — the tools are so efficient anyone can climb vertical ice on their first day. So what do you do the next day? Sport rock climbing is the rage, but it has as much spiritual relationship to the mountains as modern agriculture has to the earth — the dirt holds the chemicals and plants in place so they don't fall to middle earth.

It's tough making a name in climbing today. So you climbed the Nose and Half Dome in one day? Didn't even make the sports page in the *Fresno Bee*. You can try and follow Bachar but there's too good a chance of getting snuffed. It's a lot easier to be an asshole. Make a name by being "controversial." Piss off the locals and they won't forget who you are. Infamy is better than no recognition at all.

On the positive side there is less specialization. Climbers ski, kayakers climb — the unbalanced ones are the specialists who have only one trick, the 5.13 climbers who can only look forward to a self-destructing body with its muscle tears and inflamed ligaments.



*Not-quite-perfect climbing style: sticky shoes and chalk. John Bachar ropeless on Knob Wall, Yosemite.*

**N**ow, for 1987 and beyond. The recent elections sent a clear message to those turkeys in Washington. The people would rather have clean rivers and be able to drink out of the tap than have MX missiles. The freshmen in some schools are now considerably more liberal than the sophomores. Reagan and his lamer-than-lame trickle-down economy is in deep shit. The mood is changing.

Risk sports which thrive only during politically liberal times may be on their way back. There could be a resurgence in the geek sports like alpine climbing, backcountry skiing, and whitewater kayaking. Alpine touring is coming on especially strongly.

Americans have no background in true winter climbing. The Europeans made winter ascents of all their north faces back in the 1950's and 1960's, while our best alpine climb, the North Face of the Grand Teton, has had only one winter ascent. American climbers in the Himalaya have a real gap in their experience because they've missed out on this winter climbing stage. Our mountains are not as accessible as the Alps, and perhaps this new interest in back-country skiing will give access to the thousands of American mountains awaiting first winter ascents.

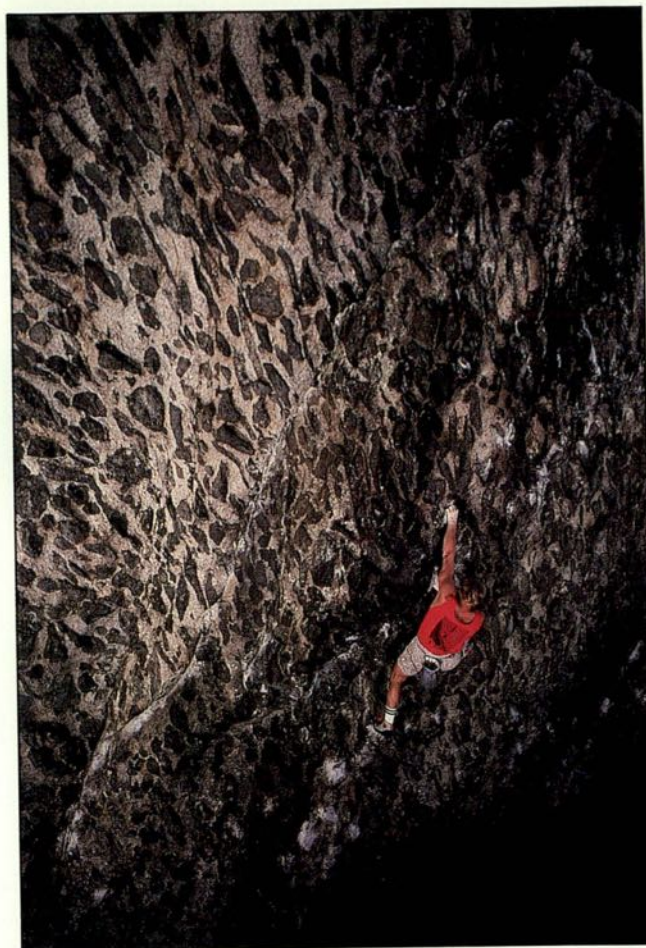
Hangdogging, chipping holds, placing bolts on rappel, climbing competitions — the great debate continues. Who is right and who is wrong? I say it's pretty simple. There are ethics and there is style. Ethics are so you don't screw it up for the next guy, and style is so you don't delude yourself into thinking you're so hot. Here's all you need to know about ethics:

**The Climbers Bill Of Rights:** *You have the right to climb anywhere in any style you wish, as long as it doesn't alter the medium or infringe on the next person's experience.* It's simple. You use chalk, place a bolt, leave fixed pro, shit on El Cap Tower, it's all bad ethics. I don't care if Everest is climbed by an expedition of 100 Rotary Club members all sucking O's from base camp, as long as the mountain is not altered and it doesn't bother the other groups on the mountain.

Style is another story, and it's mostly a matter of degree. We need to establish a cornerstone.

Let's call it:

**Perfect Climbing Style:** *A naked human free soloing a new route on sight.* If you put on shoes you get docked one point, shoes with Spanish rubber another point, chalk one to three points depending on the climb, the heat, and the humidity. Previewing or reading a guide book another point, placing one piece of pro, another point, and so on into infinity. The farther you get away from this Perfect Style, the less proud you should be of yourself. With this criteria, the best climber in the world today is probably Berndt Arnold of Dresden, with his nearly bare feet, no chalk, and long runouts.



**I**s climbing, as a passion and as a sport, better off now than it was in the past? We can do harder climbs now in faster times — techniques are more refined and equipment more sophisticated — but are we really any better off?

On the plus side we have the free climber soloing rock that was unclimbable 10 years ago, the alpine climber in Europe who is so incredibly competent and fit that he needs to knock off three or four big north faces to feel like he's had a good day, and those applying alpine techniques to Alaskan and Himalayan walls. There is still a lot of room in these games for adventure, spontaneity, soul, and art.

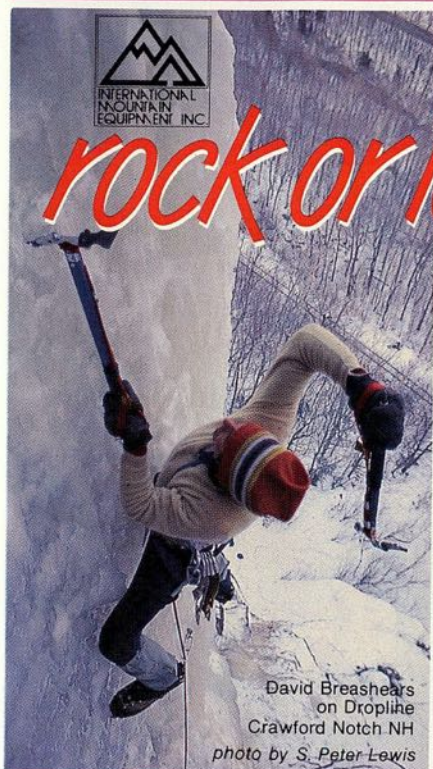
On the negative side we have the ice climber hacking his way up the Black Ice Couloir with his three tools, the El Cap climber with his full rack of chocks, full rack of pitons, and a full rack of Friends, and the specialist sport climber who chooses to become better and better at less and less. I'd say we are small winners.

As a sport matures, it doesn't necessarily get better. Look at alpine skiing. In the 1936 Olympics they painted your skis to make sure you used the same pair in the slalom as in the downhill. Now you can't tell the winners without the aid of electronic timers accurate to the millisecond. The specialists are the ones who take the soul out of any sport.

It's a great thing to run a marathon. You train a bit, maybe change your diet, give up smoking, and you

*Photo: Phil Bard.*





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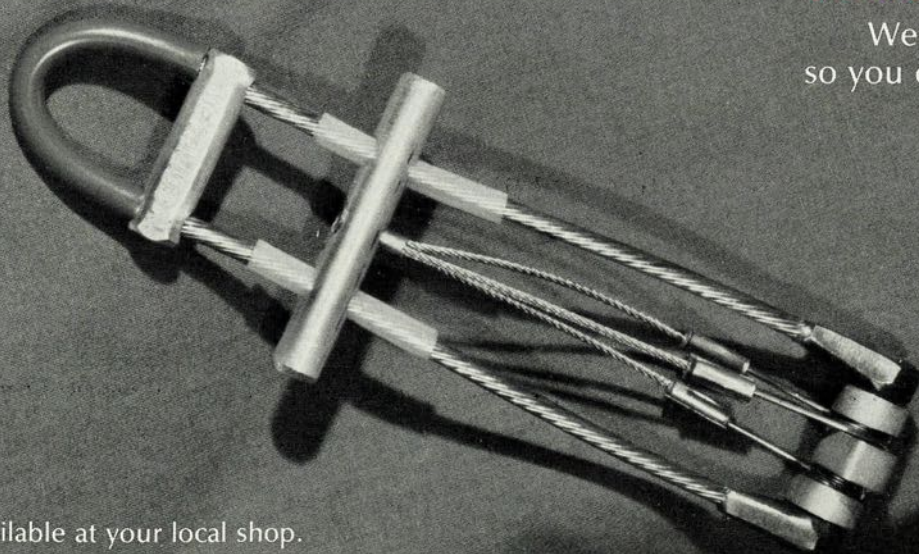
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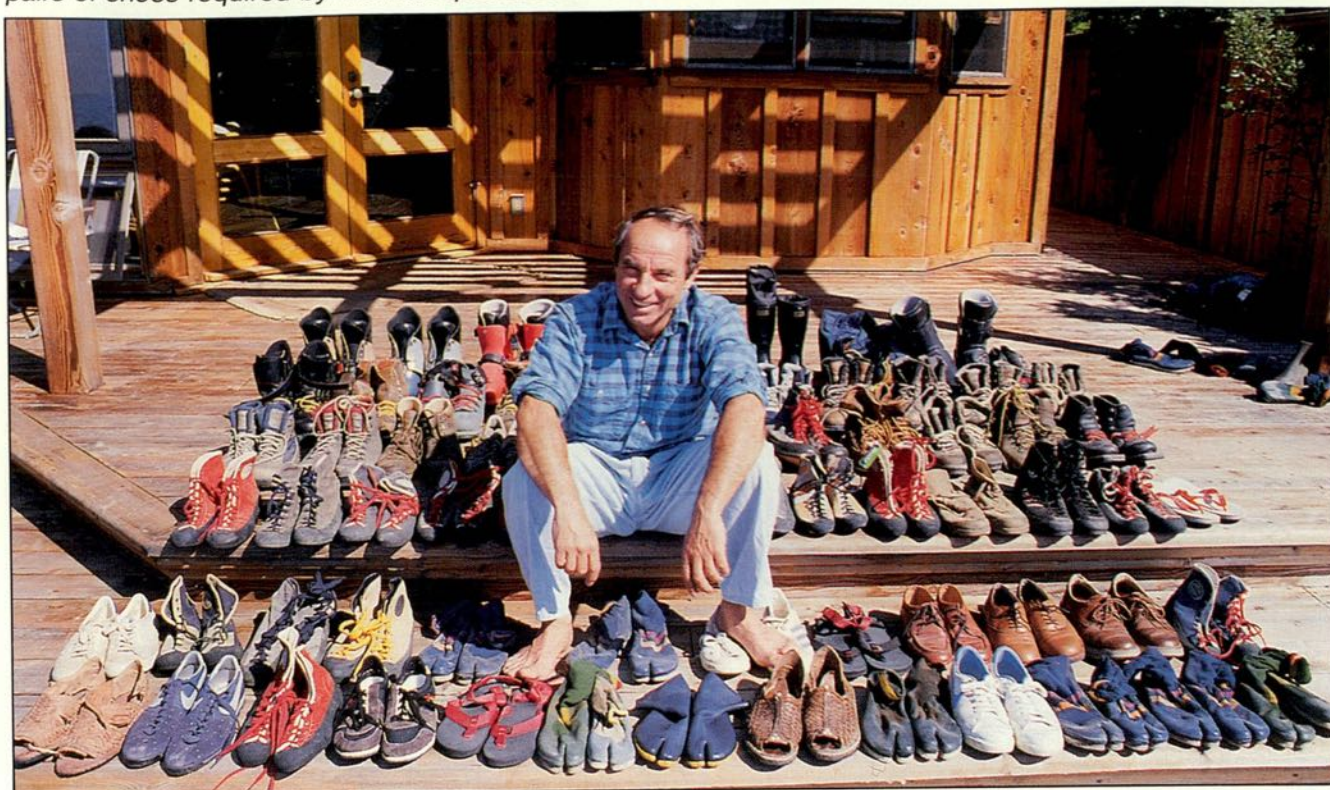
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*"He who dies with the most shoes wins." Yvon Chouinard and the 87 pairs of shoes required by the non-specialised mountain enthusiast.*



knock it off in 3 ½ hours. If you want to do one in 2 ½ hours, that's another story, and if you want to do one in 2 ¼ hours, you have to kiss off sex, your job, your friends, all the "non-essentials," and devote your entire life to the effort.

I say the last 10% of the way to perfection takes so much of your life that it isn't worth the effort. This overzealous attitude is what creates religious fanatics, body nazis, and athletes who are exceedingly dull to converse with, unless you want to talk about their particular specialty or their bodies.

Specialization, when indulged in by true geniuses like Mozart, Babe Ruth, or Berndt Arnold, can create great art that elevates mankind above the lowly beasts. But you and I can evolve more quickly by putting that energy into more than one direction.

**I**t's unrealistic to think we can go back to what climbing was in the 1930's, but we do need to constantly change the rules of the game to keep the sport evolving. When basketball players are all over seven feet tall, you need to raise the height of the basket. When the thrill is gone from alpine skiing, you just free up the heels and re-invent the telemark turn. Any activity, whether sport, business, or love, needs constant change, even revolution to keep it from degenerating.

Hangdoggers think that they are the revolutionaries who are going to save climbing. But bad ethics in the name of raising the standards or making American rock climbers more internationally competitive is twisted zeal. Remember, these are really the arch-conservatives of the 1980's, because they want to minimize the risk factor in climbing at the expense of the rock. They are the super-patriots that believe American climbers shouldn't be second to anyone. And like James Watt, they are the ones who believe

the old Christian ethic of having dominion over the beasts and fishes (and rocks).

In the greater scope of things, how important is it that Americans climb 5.14? The grading system has to be flawed anyway, when an out-of-shape, 48-year-old surfer can now do some 5.11a's, when in 1960 he could barely do 5.10a's — and that when he was in his prime and could do one-arm pullups! At this rate he will be a 5.13 climber when he's 90!

It's bloody tough to beat anyone at their own game. Climbing and similiar individual sports like solo around-the-world sailing are a strong European tradition. They have much more accessible rock, many more climbers, and greater public acceptance of the sport. The Europeans don't have the National Safety Council and insurance companies not allowing them to take risks. It's crazy for us to think we can beat them at their own game. Do you see the French sending over a team to play in the Super Bowl?

I say change the rules! Let's play our own game. In America, we have one thing going for us that the Europeans used to have, but they've already used it up. We still have a bit of wilderness left, a few grizzlies, a couple of condors, and some still-virgin mountains and rocks. We also have a strong tradition, going back to Thoreau, Muir, and Bob Marshall, of loving and wanting to preserve wildness.

Are we going to allow a few "me-now" hangdoggers to be the spokesmen for American climbing? Are we willing to compromise our ethics and style, all for the sake of raising the standards? If so, the climbers coming after us will have to grind off our chipped holds, plug up our bolt holes, and wash away our chalk marks in order to raise their own standards. It seems to me that climbing would be better off if we just learned to hold back a bit, and take an attitude of "each climb has its time."

*Photo: Chouinard Collection.*



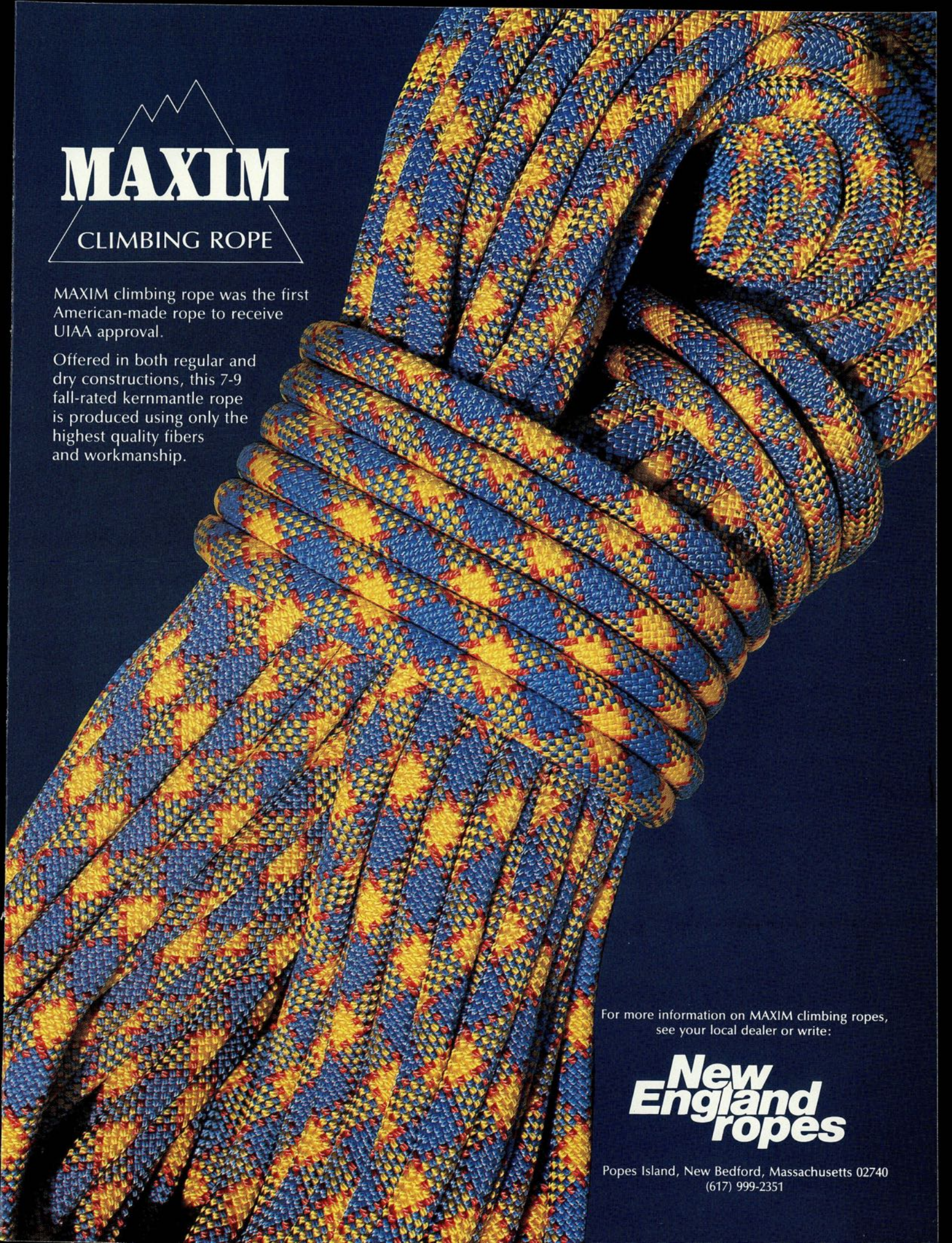


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# The International Climbing Meet at Mount Arapiles

I'd been terrorized by the time I arrived in Australia. One friend told me Araps made the Shawangunks look like slabs. Another said the climbs were so steep you could see neither holds nor protection above: "You just have to go — and trust they're up there." Many had tales of sandbags. "My ego got trashed," said Russel Erickson. "It still hasn't come back." I'd heard what Arapiles climbing did to innocent climbers' elbows. One-third of the regulars supposedly had tendonitis.

Australians were also said to dislike Americans. "Everyone knows that," an Australian friend told me, mildly surprised that I wasn't aware. Several friends who'd visited the country said the anti-American jokes became wearing. Said one, "Whenever you got Aussies together, they'd start raking Americans over the coals. The climbers are especially straightforward about it." The Arapiles guidebook lists a route named "Dead Americans," and editorializes, "There should be more of those."

But then, I admired the vitality and irreverence of the Australians I'd met, and liked their gross sense of humor, having a gross sense of humor myself. The small, ferociously-active Australian community seemed the tightest anywhere — and the wildest. Mike Law, "The Claw," a leader of the climbing scene since age 15, sometimes wore perfume, lipstick, and the ruffled top-half of a red dress to his job in a climbing shop.

I'd wanted to go to Oz for a long time, and the impetus arrived in North Conway two years ago. Louise came to town. I'd seen her once before, in 1981, in Yosemite. At that point, I had climbed only one full season. I was wondering just how hard women can climb — I knew so few women climbers. Then a robust Norwegian named Inga pointed out a skinny little tomboy with short dark hair and a bright smile. "That's Louise," Inga said. "She leads 5.11d." And I thought, "Whoa, women can climb *that*?"

Well, Louise came to North Conway, and I played host on *The Prow*, a mega-classic. As she and I scrambled to the base, I was nervous. Meeting your heroes don't come easy.

On the hanging belays we laughed a lot — Louise sees the world humorously. She is incredibly assured and scrappy, but unlike some very assured people, she really has heart. She urged me to come to the 10-day international climbing meet she was organizing at Arapiles.

Never arrive in Melbourne on a Sunday. No climbing shops open, no tent to buy, no hope for a ride, bus and train gone, no rental car. I ended up taking a bus



▲ Wolfgang Gullich on *Angular Perspective* (29).  
Alison Osius on *Orestes* (24). ►

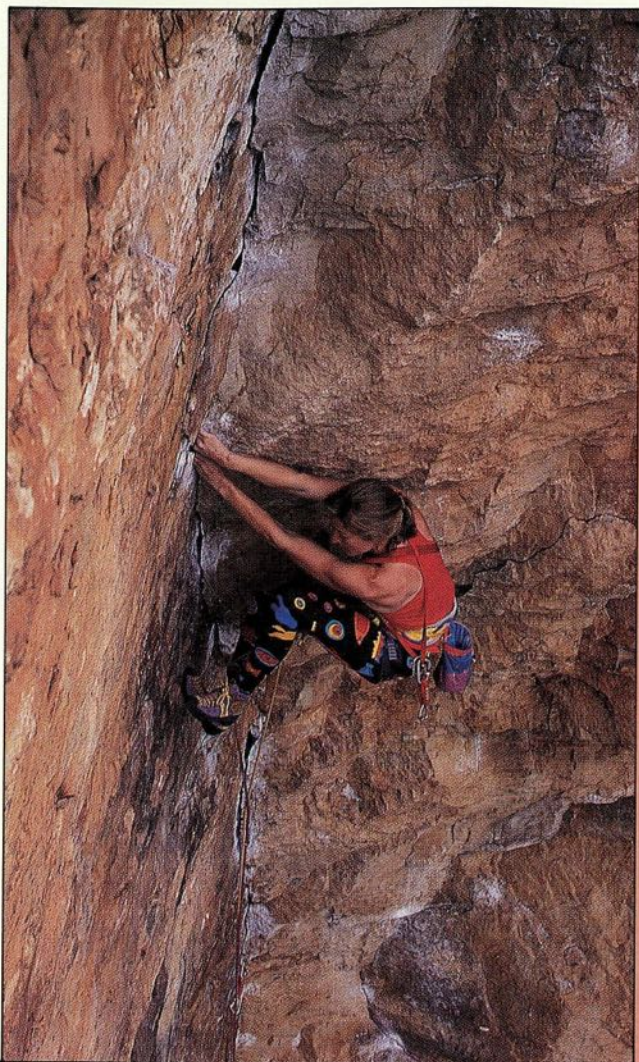
clear back to the airport for a rental, then drove off on the wrong side of the road, putting on the windshield wipers when I went for the turn signals and trying to switch gears with the window handle.

By the time I got to the Arapiles campground, it was dusk. The cliffs looked short and jumbled. I wandered around asking if anybody had seen Louise. Someone sent me to ask at the Top Site, "where all the good climbers stay." I approached hesitantly. Louise wasn't among the dark shapes standing around the fire. I was directed to Camp America ("Australians over *here*, Americans over *there*" is the reigning joke), where Merrill Bitter's Bachar ladder hung from

By Alison Osius



# O, How I Almost Took the Way Whipper for AliO



I'd been stumbling over stumpies at Mt. Arapiles for a little over 48 hours and I still didn't have a clue to what the International Climbing Meet was all about. For the uninitiated, stumpies are lizard-like creatures which most resemble a cross between a turd and a stick with a top speed of 6 feet per hour. The opening ceremonies had been good fun: lots of roast pig, beer, two bonfires, and all manner of International Climbing Meat wandering around drunk checking out other International Climbing Meat.

However, the next morning when I crawled out of my tent I was still feeling like just another climber in a climbing area. Sure, the birds woke you every morning sounding like the soundtrack to a Tarzan movie. Sure, the snakes were all deadly poisonous. Sure, the stumpies created a certain ambience that's lacking in America. Still, a climbing scene is a climbing scene, and this was one.

Enlightenment strikes everyone at some point. There I was, riding my bike to Camp America to see what the gang was up to when I ran smack into

*Photos: Glenn Robbins.*

Louise, AliO, and enlightenment. Now although my crush on Louise had been operating since I met her 48 hours ago, my crush on AliO had been carefully refined over a five-year period. Suddenly, the idea of a climbing meet made sense. It's an event in which you travel very far to meet someone else who has traveled very far, but is, in fact, from your own country. Then you fall in love. I could relax. Manifest destiny and all that. It was obvious that the International Climbing Meet meant spending evenings with AliO.

Things are never as simple as they seem. That evening's activity was a slide show and group supper, not the intimate candlelight dinner I'd envisioned. No worries though, the slides were good, Jon Muir's film of his Shivering expedition was excellent, and the food was abundant, if not three-star gourmet. Besides, there's always time to hang out with AliO afterwards. Except, blow of blows, she was staying in town with Louise, and my ride to the Pines campground was leaving. Luckily, Camp America was well stocked with firewood and inebriants, if not sympathetic fellow climbers. Cry into your beer until you fall asleep, tomorrow is another day.

Despite some pretty sketchy weather there were lots of international types hanging from the rocks of Arapiles. Well, not everyone was hanging. A few stalwart Americans did try to set a good example for the misguided 'dogs. Admittedly this activity caused a few squabbles. Kurt Smith's ethics on a new route he'd just put up were called into question. It seems he placed a bolt from a skyhook while on lead instead of placing it on rappel. Despite the controversy, the line was not chopped as threatened and *California Style* (21) became an instant classic. Later that day a group of Aussie climbers were seen merrily hangdogging the crux moves, thus preserving international goodwill.

Wednesday morning brought a downpour. Nothing for the international climber to do except hop on his bike and head to Natimuk to mail some letters. There was no reason to think this activity was suspect just because I forgot the letters.

Natimuk sports a post office, a bar, the Willows (home of the world's best milkshakes), and the NatiShack, home to Louise Shepard and, at this time, AliO. I soon discovered that the Pines wasn't the only social scene. Residing at the NatiShack were not only Louise and AliO, but Geoff Weigand, Jon Muir, Kim and Meg Carrigan, Wolfgang Gullich, Kurt Albert, Jean-Claude Droyer, and Didier Raboutou. In other

By H.J. Schmidt



one tree and a Cabbage Patch doll by her neck from another. Luckily, I found someone who was going into the nearby town of Natimuk, who soon led me to Louise's house.

Louise arrived simultaneously, full of talk and plans, towing along several confused foreigners. She offered me a room, bless her heart. The building is long and flat, with a front awning, half a dozen big rooms, and long corridors that open into other rooms. In the back room stands a board with pieces of wood nailed to it for training. No light is in the outhouse, so that at night you don't close the door but look out at the stars and wonder what the weather will do.

The next day Louise gave me a tour of Arapiles. She handed over a bunch of bolt brackets, shaped like bent 8's, at which I stared slack-jawed. "The bolts at Araps have no hangers," she said. People carry brackets in their chalk bags. "It would cost so much," she explained, "to put hangers on all the bolts."

Close up, the cliffs are alluring, steep, and sweeping. One route was *Tarantula* (19), a flawless corner. The pitch was short, as are most, but I quickly adapted. (It became an encouraging concept.) Then *No Future* (21), in which you twist and turn, pulling on typical big sideways holds. Having sweated when I'd considered Araps climbs, I was now witness. Some could be done.

Ahhh, but just when you thought it was safe to go back on the rocks... Louise took me up *Female Friends*, a sandbag at 23. This began my rating confusion. A 22 could seem moderate, a 23 horrendous, a 24 reasonable — unless you had a bolt at your face, in which case, *beware*.

A climb's rating just depended on who did it, how diabolic his sense of humor was, and when he did it. "Yup, get it quick before it comes down," said John (Crunch) Smoothy with a laugh when I spoke of a juggy arete called *Manic Depressive*, a fabulous line, given 25. I was perplexed. "The holds?"

"No," he said. "The grade."

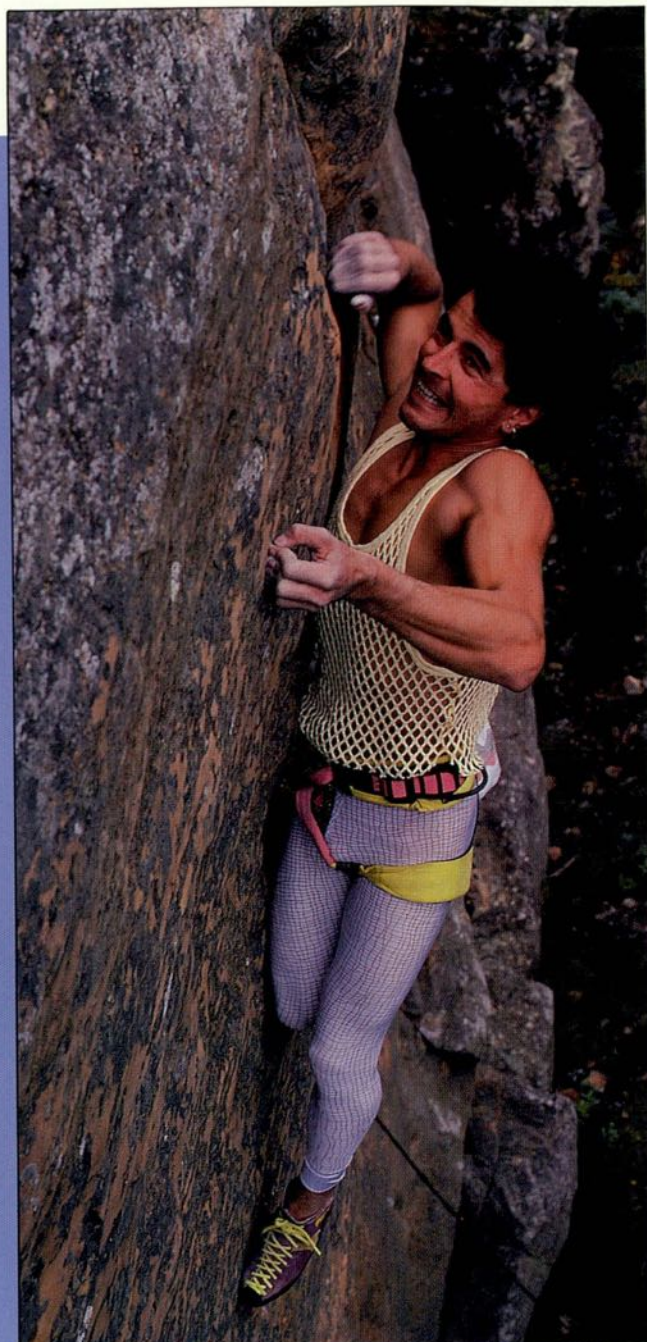
The meet unfolded, but not in any organized way, and therein lay its charm. This was definitely a case of fend for yourself. Evening slide shows and films were offered, but no one lined you up in the morning and paired you off. That wouldn't have been the Australian way at all. As Crunch told me, "The only organization Australians are interested in is the DSS."

"What's that?" I asked.

"Department of Social Services, dear. The dole."

How many came to the meet? Who knows? Seemed to be 100 people at one slide show, and generally 50 to 70 at others. The campground was full: Brits, Yanks, Japanese, New Zealanders. It was also changed from what I'd expected.

In the late 1970's, Chris Peisker was practically the only one around at Araps, except on the weekends.

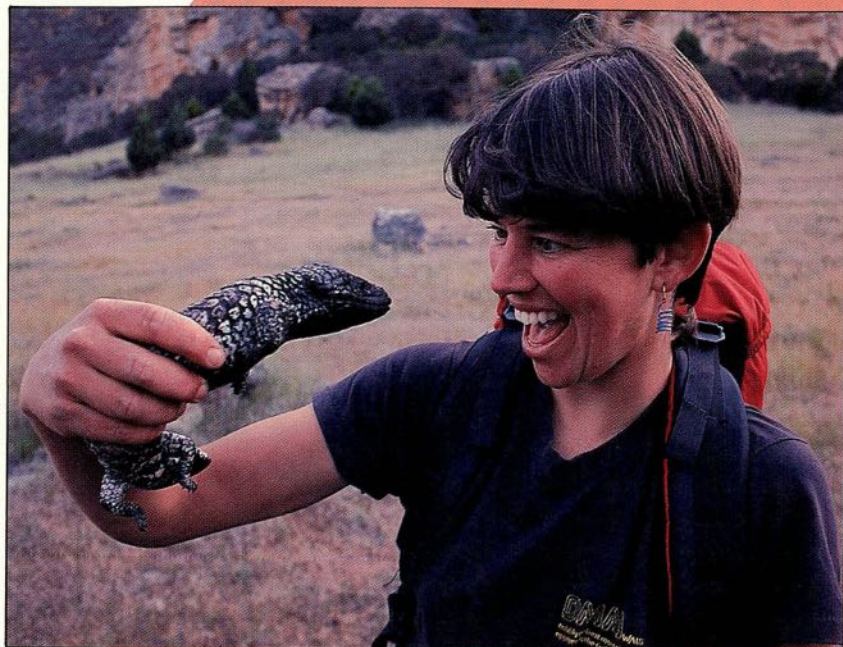


But in the 1980's, activity revved way up in a golden era of new, very hard routes. Araps was (is) the center of Australian rock climbing, but the scene was still small. The fact that three of the country's most notable activists were Louise, Lincoln, and Chris Shepherd reinforced a family analogy. Louise taught her brothers to climb. "Then I went overseas and Lincoln got good," she recalled. "Then when I was on another overseas trip Chris got really good. Whichever of us was the best," she added cheerily, "was the most obnoxious."

Lincoln Shepherd, describing how the place has changed, said, "It used to be more punked out, more

Photo: Glenn Robbins.





▲ Louise Shepard with Stumpy.  
 ◀ Didier Raboutou on Lord of the Rings (32).

words, the whole name-dropping international climbing scene.

Activities consisted mostly of heavy coffee drinking and a little toast eating, interspersed by the normal slandering of everyone present and absent, and a discussion on the degrees of homosexuality required for various climbing styles. Let's face it, customs abroad aren't that different.

The sun eventually came out and it was off to the crags. Everyone wanted to get a quick climb in before going to see Redgum, a popular Aussie folk-rock band. Since the joint at which the band was playing didn't allow jeans or tennis shoes, getting in was a bit tricky. Eventually a bunch of lycra-clad climbers were allowed entry, "If you'll put on some real clothes." Jeans suddenly became acceptable.

The effort was worthwhile, as the band turned out to be excellent, playing a good blend of driving rock with guitars, fiddles, flutes, and harmonious lyrics. Much of the music was political, taking tongue-in-cheek stabs at everything from Reagan to the Aussies' own Prime Minister. There was also some dead serious stuff such as their number one hit about Aussies in Vietnam.

The music was quite danceable and Kim and Meg got all the climbers out on the dance floor for a rollicking good time. Soon it was "who can dance the

Photo: H.J. Schmidt.

wildest," and although no official results were published, the stares of the locals suggested that the climbers danced much more frenetically than any other social group present.

Yes, I danced all night with AliO, but I still woke up in my own tent. It wasn't like the opportunity for a good night kiss ever presented itself. So much for the horrors of group dating.

It was a late start the next morning, but an experience not to be missed. Not only was the van off to Bundaleer, yet another Grampian's crag, but H.B. was piloting the vehicle. H.B.'s reputation for pushing the envelope while driving probably exceeds his reputation for climbing. The ride was as exciting as anticipated, the van careening on windy mountain roads, but the only casualty was Wolfgang, who was riding with Louise and experienced a colorful bit of motion sickness.

Two of the most classic climbs at Bundaleer (or anywhere else), are two 28's called *Ogive* and *Angular Perspective*. Steve Schneider put in an excellent attempt on *Ogive* coming within six feet of the lip on this 50-foot roof problem with his first try. The climb is very technical involving everything from lay-aways, backwards stemming into kneelocks, an upside-down hands-off rest hanging from heel-toe jams, side pulls, and eventually a large bucket just above the lip. Steve claims it would have been desperate without H.B.'s coaching, and it seems H.B. was the right coach to have as he did the route twice (on Steve's gear) while Steve was resting.

Down the cliff, *Angular Perspective* was seeing similar activity. Kurt Albert made the first part of the climb to the hands off rest (27) but declined to try the second half. (*Angular* was put up initially to the hands off rest, then H.B. added a second, even tougher section. The climb goes up a 45° overhanging wall with little pockets and edges for holds. Moderate 5.12 interspersed by desperate dynos makeup the route). Didier got up to the final crux of the second half, but couldn't figure out the move. H.B. gave it a shot as well but was too wasted after his two ascents of *Ogive*. These two 28's alone saw 11 climbers from five countries in one day.

Finally Friday arrived, along with the event everyone had been waiting for: the International Eating



anti-social, more 'I'm bored.' It was very elitist." One line that went around was "Up your grades or f--k off." "Either you were up in the Top Site," someone told me, "or you were out on your own in twos and threes."

It was a gonzo time. During the "mice plagues," people were trapping mice all night and throwing them in fires. They threw aerosol cans in too, and played "chicken" to see who would be the first to dive out of harm's way. The police paid some visits.

When Louise visited the States in 1985, her slides showed guys with huge earrings, punk haircuts, and nail polish. "In Australia, it's trendy to look gay," she told me.

Now that the rest of the world is getting into sartorial outrageousness, the locals view it as boring. Chris Peisker has grown out his Mohawk. But he'll still sport blue eye shadow on a Saturday night.

Today, the plums have largely been picked, and the frenetic pace maintained by the tremendously-skilled locals has slowed. Kim Carrigan, for years Australia's leading climber, has moved to Switzerland and become a triathlete. Mark Moorhead, another brilliant climber, died on Makalu. Geoff Weigand, who in 1985 emerged as Carrigan's peer, had to drop out for 14 months with "stuffed" elbows, and is only now beginning to climb again. The Shepherd brothers have taken up other interests. Mike Law focuses on the crumbly Sydney sea cliffs, climbing among trashed cars and gravestones, races motorcycles professionally, and plays bridge.

Also, it has become much harder to be a standout. It used to be that when Chris Shepherd did a 25 it was big news. And if a climber from overseas came to visit Arapiles, everyone knew it. With so many good foreign climbers around regularly, people are doing hard routes all the time. It doesn't matter who's in the Top Site anymore.

But the Australian climbers are still a close community. A death within it really stings.

Indeed, the meet symbolized the new internationalism, as the Australians welcomed a rash of imports. Another guest at Louise's house was Wolfgang Gullich, whom I barely recognized without the lightning bolts that ordinarily surround him (in the Edelweiss ads, anyway). With him was the mobile-faced jester Kurt Albert, who whispered during a lengthy slide show, "He must be a sadist to look out and see so many bored faces and keep talking." The two had just come from making a film in Yosemite, for which Wolfgang had soloed *Separate Reality*, and were on their way to go rock climbing in China.

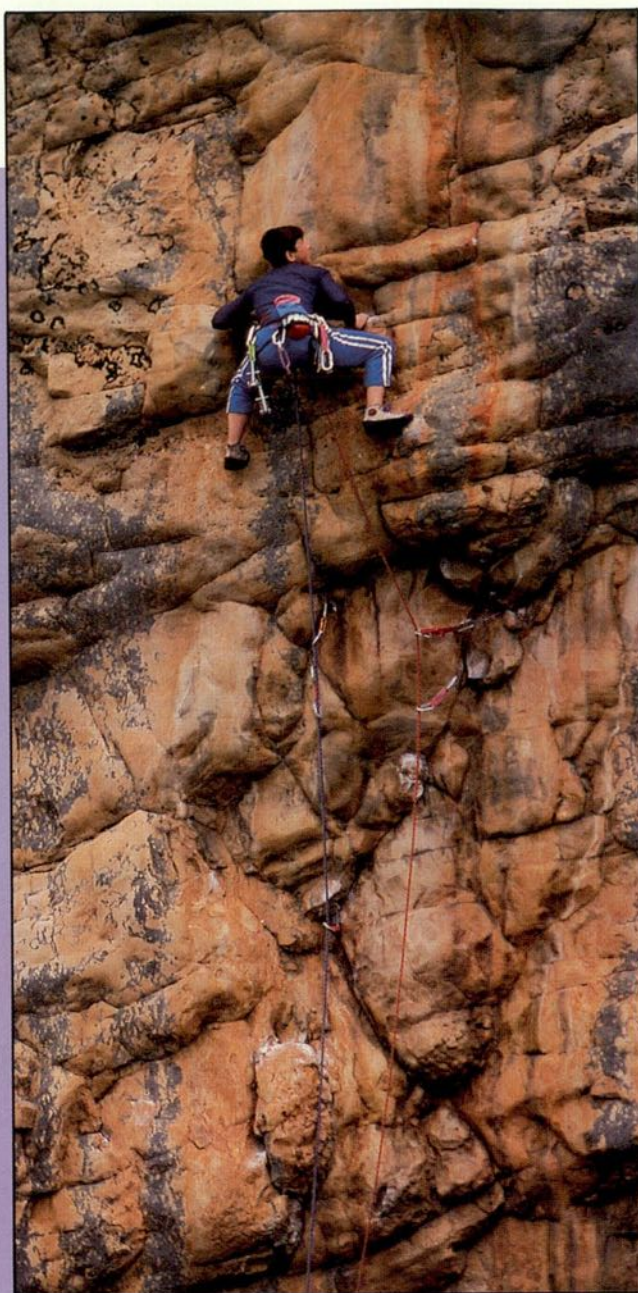
During evening insult sessions, Wolfgang always wore an air of innocence and mild injury when, as usual, his friends were ribbing him. The roomful howled at the news that he, one of the world's best

climbers, had injured his finger doing one-finger pull-ups for slide show audiences. Wolfgang explained he had only meant to do it once. "Then every slide show they expect you to," he said. "They have the sling all set up."

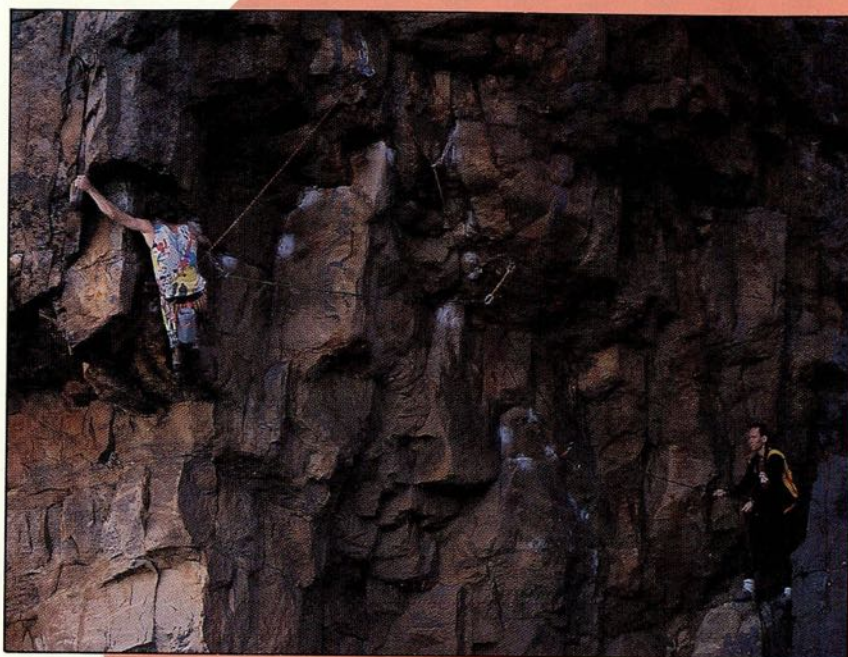
He was full of lectures on climbing, training, posers, and competitions. Wolfgang hates climbing contests, but soon will be in one because, "I hate work even more."

Kim Carrigan was there too, back from Switzerland with Meg, his bride of one week. It was Meg's first trip to Natimuk. "Kim married a woman who'd never seen Arapiles?" his friends said, agape.

Photo: John Sherman.







▲ Bill Myers, belayed by Leonard Coyne, on *Anxiety Neurosis* (26).  
 ▲ Louise Shepard on *Strolling RHV* (25).

Competition. A few things should be explained here. The climbing meet was intended as a non-competitive gathering, a chance for climbers from all parts of the world to share ideas on climbing, show slides of their home areas, and maybe slander each other a bit. Generally speaking, it was a low-pressure, fun gathering.

However, climbers ego's being what they are, it was soon apparent that some sort of competition would have to take place to placate the masses. After tossing around ideas that included a snow-sculpture contest, an origami contest, and a beauty contest, it was finally decided that an eating contest was the only true cross-cultural event that would not have to rely on subjective judging. So it was.

Early Friday morning, I was on my bike. Ant Perin was out bouldering. Glenn Robbins was sleeping. Everyone seemed to have their own preparation going.

Ten o'clock, and everyone was at The Oven Door, Horsham's own glorious yum-yum bakery. (Horsham is the real town about a half hour drive from the 'piles). The weigh-in attracted a lot of attention from passerby as climbers striped to their shorts. Rumors abounded that certain individuals stooped to showering before the event to rid themselves of those extra kilos of dirt and chalk.

There were three weight classes: Lightweight (under 65 kg), Middleweight (65-75 kg), and Heavyweight (over 75 kg). The competition was run as follows. Everyone put \$5.00 into the pot. The official buyer walked into the Oven Door and ordered x number of doughnuts (one for each climber), then x number of some other item. People could drop out at any time, but no refunds were given. When the money was gone, everyone coughed up another \$5.00. Whoever ate the most won. Besides the international fame and glory of being the biggest pig, there was a \$30.00 prize for first and \$10.00 for second in each weight division.

Everyone had their own style. Some ate slowly and quietly, others went for the show. Glenn Robbins, well over 75 kg, smiled as he ate. I'm a middleweight, and my personal strategy was to keep moving while eating to burn as many calories as possible, and to psyche out the

competition by eating fast and begging for more food. Everyone was having a rollicking time as Bob Baron, the official food buyer, brought out tray after tray of food, a sadistic smile on his face with each added digestive atrocity.

The competition started with the outrageous sugar buzz of a cinnamon roll, then a slice of pizza just to keep the tastebuds guessing. Eclairs came out next, followed by cheese rolls and the whimpering of a few lightweights. After a thick shake, sourdough bread, a vegetarian pastry, and an ice-cream cone, contestants started dropping like the ubiquitous Arapiles fly. (As an aside, 24 dead flies with one blow of the flyswatter is the current Camp America record. Bon Appetite.)

Then it was apple turnovers, apricot turnovers, and yet another round of apple turnovers for the heavyweights. By the time I'd finished eating my Ladyfinger I'd won the middleweight call. I decided, with coercion, to eat another apple turnover and go after the heavyweight title. Since there were still three lightweights and four heavyweights (including me) going strong, it was decided to push the food limits in a different direction, and fries and soft drinks were served.

Two more lightweights dropped out, leaving Paul Hoskins the lightweight winner. The field was limited further by my demise after the bananas. The remaining heavyweights then split an apple pie with lots of whipped cream. Glenn Robbins ate his piece in about 30 seconds and then choked down a custard tart.



The Americans included Merrill Bitter, an open, smiling Utah desert rat; Leonard Coyne and Bill Myers, who'd scammed computer jobs and company cars for their stay in Australia; Steve Schneider and Kurt Smith, Valley Boys; Cathy Gockley of Boulder; and H.J., a spirited Montanan. H.J., who'd never even *thought* about tendons before, arrived in Arapiles, climbed for three days, and blew 'em right out. It was the classic American thing to do. Sharp pains in my own elbows began after five days.

A few days after I got to Natimuk, into Louise's house walked Didier Raboutou and Jean-Claude Droyer of France. Didier, 5'6" and slender, is one of his country's premier rock climbers, a consistent star on the competition circuit.

Didier, I had heard, mostly glowers during the competitions, though he told me he likes the excitement and pressure. At this meet, however, he was nothing if not serene and bemused. His English was meager, but Didier managed much humor. Pointing at a rope burn on my hand, he said, straight-faced, "Too much washing?" At a Bush Dance, when we were all in a circle listening to the caller's instructions, Didier stepped into the center, and — always mock-placid — did his own mincing disco number. Dancing, he was a light cloud, feet just patting the floor, twitting "di di di" to the music. But then, still calm, he put his shoulder into my abdomen, lifted me — who must outweigh him by ... never mind — horizontally aloft, and spun.

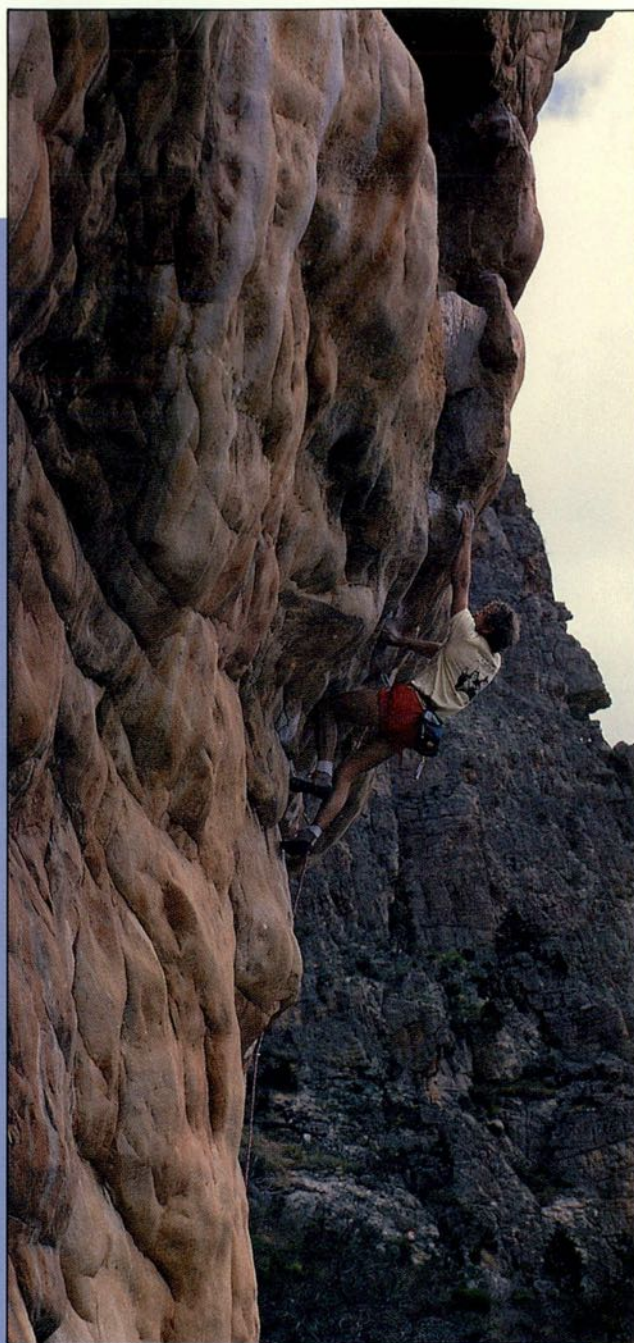
Otherwise, he spent much of his time on *Punks In The Gym*, Wolfgang's fierce creation, a 32. He told a friend candidly it was the hardest route he'd ever been on, and he didn't know if he could make all the reaches. He also told me he'd never put protection in before. I thought he was joking. He was not.

What is finer than touring classics in a new area? I paid homage to the beautiful *Orestes* (24), a perfect overhanging corner with perfect fingerlocks. At the top is a jug traverse, with air for your feet, guaranteed to make you realize 'I'm in Australia.' And then we went on to its neighbors *Plimsoll Line* (22), a delicate groove, and the big roof with the big holds, *Pilot Error* (20).

Trips to the Grampians followed, the first to Stapyton, one of the crags that rises straight out of the plain. Stapyton is isolated and lovely, with waist-high underbrush, thick clumps of gum trees, and winding corners of orange and black-striped rock. Some of the climbing was on "nobbly" rock, whose features resembled chicken heads, but mushrooming ones.

Another trip was to Bundaleer, home of gigantic roofs, including *Ogive*, a 28 like a tunnel ceiling, and *Angular Perspective*, 29, an extravaganza authored by the beloved "local country boy" Malcom Matheson. Known as H.B., he is a self-proclaimed thug climber.

Looking at a twin crack system, given a 20, I thought: "Lots of big holds — doesn't look too hard,"



then promptly took a 25-foot winger, dragging Geoff, who was belaying, across the ground. I rested, went up again and finished, feeling foolish. Geoff followed and said carefully, "Good lead."

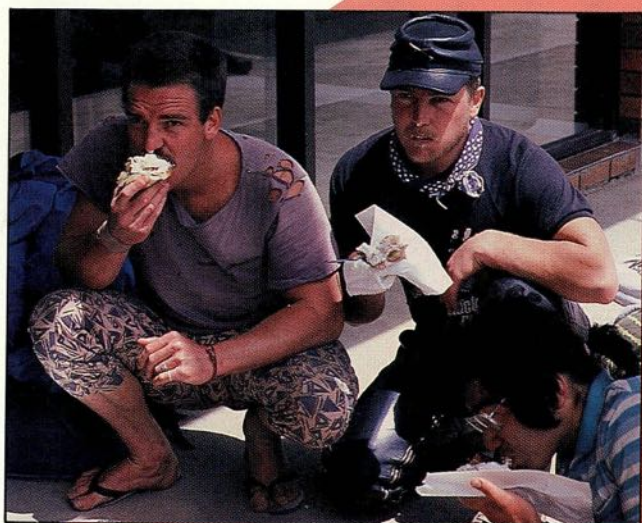
I laughed, "Bullshit."

Animated as usual, he said, "I was wondering if you'd be dumb enough to believe it."

He then led *Manic Depressive*. Seconding, I didn't get the knee bar worked in well and had to lunge for a jug. To my surprise, it landed in my hand as my feet flew out. "I got really lucky," I said. Geoff observed, "Yeah, you did that move really poorly." Aussie bluntness is refreshing.

Photos: H.J. Schmidt.





▲ The end of the eating contest: Jon Muir (left) and Glenn Robbins duke it out at the finish.  
 ◀ Kurt Albert on India (29).

This totally psyched out his opponents and it was all over.

That evening Glenn showed a captivating slide show of motorcycle racing and climbing without displaying any side effects from the contest — the mark of a true champion.

For those of you still attempting to follow the romantic interest in this tale, suffice it to say that even my victory in the eating contest failed to impress the damsel whose favor I wished to acquire. In other words, I was shit out of luck, wondering once again what this international meet thing was all about. As it turned out, I didn't have long to wait.

Media, that's what it was all about. And not podunk freelance photojournalists like yours truly. We're talking (whop, whop, whop) helicopters at 6am filming the cliffs at sunrise (except its cloudy). Seemed like a good way to make enemies to me; breakfast comments included, "Man, if I had a rocket launcher..."

So, the media filmed Kurt and Wolfgang trying *India*. They filmed me riding my bike at *India's* base. Another crew came along, found they'd been scooped, and left. I wandered after them and heard Bill Myers yell from *Procul Harum* (26), "Come film me!" The crew did. Sheep. It was the weekend and you'd think Arapiles was really a spot on the map. Media, tourist gawkers, weekend warriors, even a few climbers. Feeling a claustrophobia I thought only existed in the Valley, I sucked down a beer and headed back to *India*, where at least I knew everyone.

Kurt was psyching up for his second try. This was his fourth day on the climb, a definite 29 which translates as 5.13b. He nipped up, got by the crux, and was off the rock. He wanted Wolfie to hit him. He started repeating the mantra, "If I don't make this climb, everyone in Germany will hate me." After a long rest and a massage from Louise and AliO that made me consider trying the route, Kurt fired through and was all smiles.

The evening scene was films of H.B. in the Valley, Jean-Claude's slides of France, and Wolfgang's of Dresden. Back at the Pines a festive mood was in full swing. I wandered from campsite to campsite, drowning my sorrows of seemingly-unrequited love. I found lots of interesting company, first at Dennis' site. He is a 60-year-old Brit with more yarns to spin than stitching in a sweater. His young companion was having trouble trying to determine which side of a beer can you drink from. At another site, a Japanese was discussing the possibility of marrying an Aussie girl — he seemed worried about whether or not she'd be a virgin. I visited the German site and got fed a lot of wine without following much of the conversation. But it didn't matter, the wine went to my head and I was quite happy.

By Monday, most of the people were gone, the media had disappeared, and things were beginning to seem normal. Burnt out climbers were struggling to get on a route by noon. If it seems like the climbing was uninspired, it's no big deal, might as well save your energy for the Bush Dance, the official end to the climbing meet.

No, the Bush Dance is not an event where women are bussed in to dance with climbers. Bush dancing is Aussie folk dancing. Some is like the folk dancing in America and some is distinctly Australian, like the dance that had everyone hopping like kangaroos and strutting like emus. It was an extremely good time and the lack of female climbers was easily compensated for by the horde of high school girls who had come to stare at Kurt "If I was only 17 again" Smith. This is straight from one of those high school girls, who consented to dance with me as another had already snagged Kurt. Luckily, Kurt headed to Munari after the meet — it's a very isolated spot, which ought to help the swelling subside.

After the Bush Dance, the meet was officially over. Some of the climbers headed other places to climb, some headed back to jobs, but most were sticking around Arapiles to climb a little longer, dwell on things that never were, and, perhaps to discover how stumps propagate.

AliO was one that left and I never did get my candlelight dinner, so, AliO, I'm offering now. How about it? Candlelight dinner at Devil's Tower last week in June? I'll be waiting with the candles.

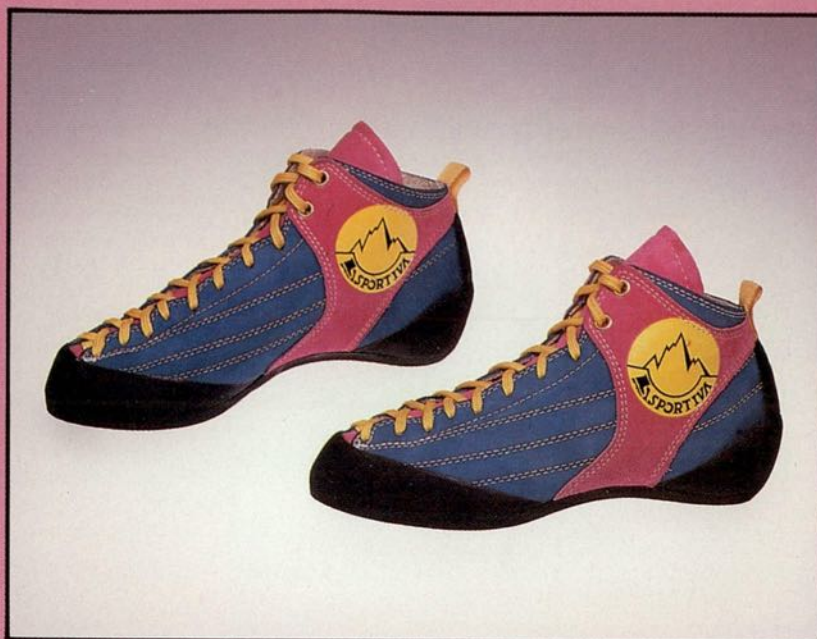


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One night Louise and I stayed up late talking. She is remarkably unfazed by things. Her general attitude is, "No, that didn't bother me, why should it?" and "Who cares what people think?" or even, "Good, I'll shock 'em." When she mentioned a time she and a then-recent boyfriend both arrived at a climbing area, and his new girlfriend turned up, I asked if that bothered her. "No, I didn't feel very threatened," she said. "She wasn't a very good climber." By the time she got out the sentence, we had cracked up.

As Louise is wonderfully accepting, so seemed the other Australian climbers. Generalizing is dangerous, but different groups of people do have different ways. In the States, climbers seem no more liberal than the population at large; but the Oz climbers appeared nicely sanguine about each other's idiosyncrasies. The attitude seems to be, "You've gotta do something *really* crazy before I'll double take or get embarrassed."

One evening Glenn Robbins, who used to be climber but now only photographs them, gave a slide show. His audience laughed warmly as he showed his gorgeous, very personal close-ups, commenting, "Here's Nyrie having an absolute epic... Here's Louise in hysterics," using a riding crop as a pointer and to caress the photos of men. For the show, Glenn, who is proudly gay, had complemented his usual black leather chaps with a black leather vest, studded arm bands, and a bondage harness across his chest. Narrating, he danced a bit to background music by the band Yello.

Afterwards, I complimented him, and offered to help set up a slide show if he ever came Stateside. He was pleased. He asked if his get-up would go over okay.

Suddenly, with a sinking feeling, I remembered. I told him I kind of doubted it. That was when I realized I would be going back soon.

As to the anti-American sentiment: The only such comments I heard were hard-nosed, but in jest. One night a band did a sketch and song that were pretty rough on Americans. "Um, you're not American, are you?" asked Simon Parsons, a very polite Australian sitting next to me. "Um, I'm sure they didn't really mean it."

My last day in the area, Louise, H.J., and I went to Rosea, a cliff in the Grampians laced with angles and corners. It was the tallest I'd seen yet — our route, *Fringe Dweller* (23), was five pitches.

When we were halfway up, a loud noise, a chugging like an old outboard motor, interrupted the stillness. A Koala.

Sitting on a car-size flake up top, belaying, I remembered returning from a climbing exchange in France several years ago. I was hoping to take a cue from the French and climb faster. This day I was thinking how nice it would be to have some of the attitudes I'd just seen stay with me. To cringe and worry less. To be unfazed. Certainly it seemed contagious: I was leaving bolder. But then, I still climb as slow as ever.



# EURO TRENDS

Commentary by Alan Watts



Climbers throughout the United States are beginning to wake up. After years of complacency, a growing number of individuals are working hard to raise stagnant U.S. standards. In the late 1970's it was the Europeans who turned to the U.S. for inspiration — routes like *Phoenix*, *Grand Illusion*, and *Midnight Lightning* were easily the hardest in the world. When visiting our country these foreigners tried our hardest routes and were often burnt off badly.

So what did they do? They went home, trained with a passion, climbed daily, and pushed their own standards higher in the competitive arenas of the Peak District, Buoux, and the Frankenjura. Insecure about their own position in the climbing hierarchy, they worked hard to match U.S. standards. Feeling that your routes don't measure up and working hard to remedy that has, time and time again, resulted in climbs shooting spectacularly above what others thought possible.

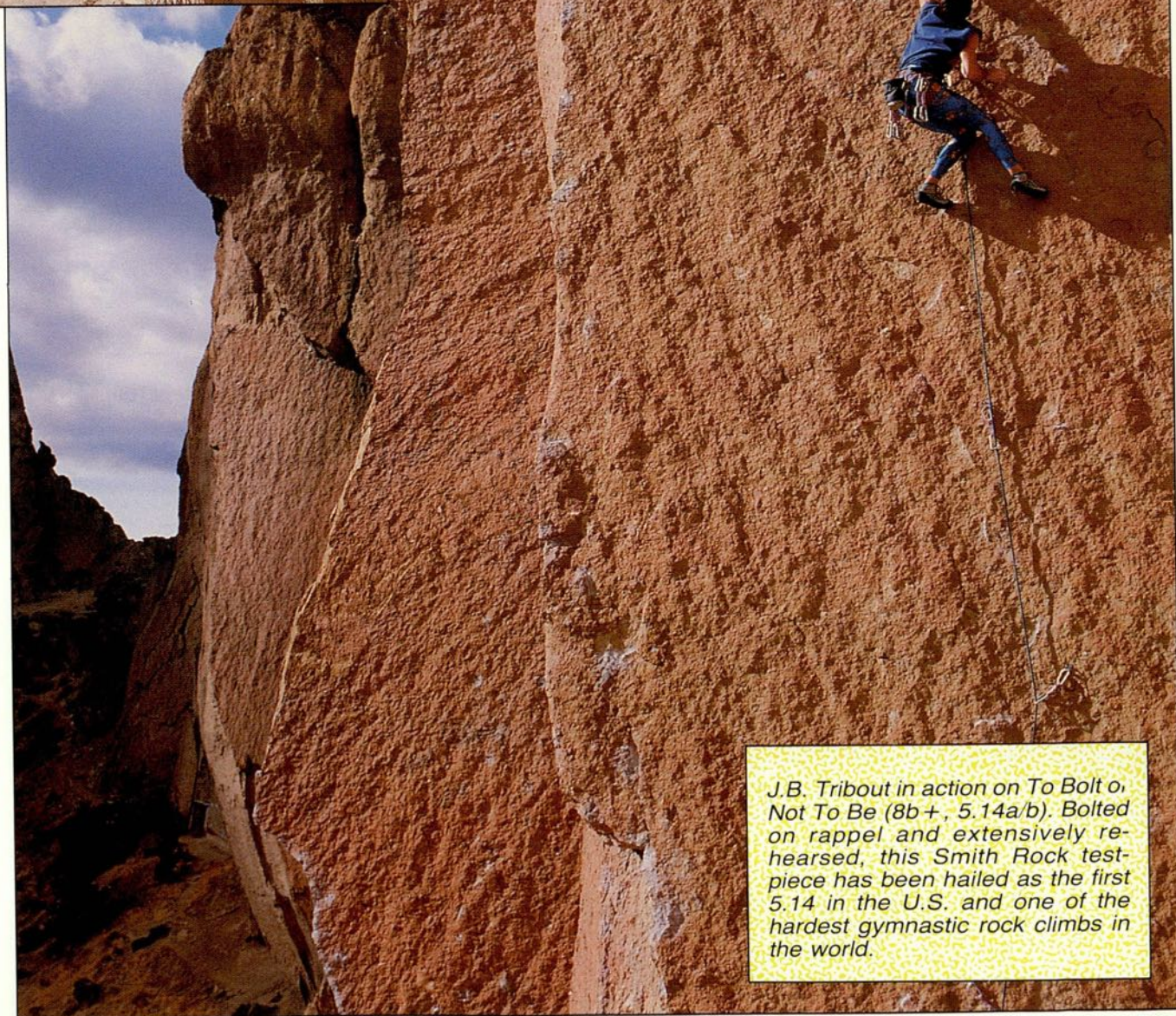
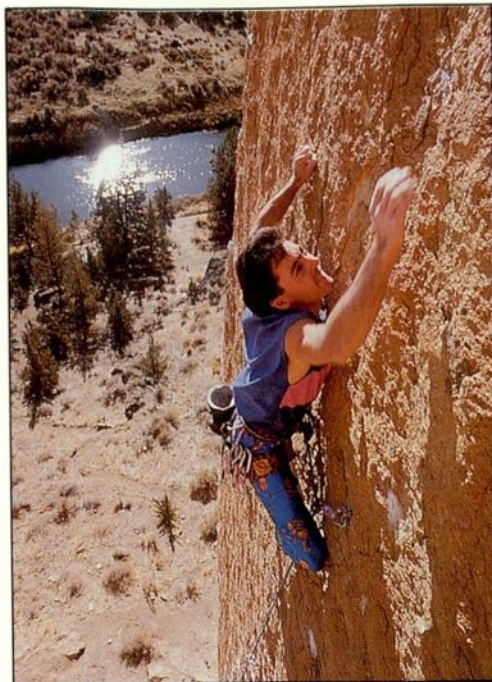
Today the Europeans are far ahead, and we are the ones who must look to them for inspiration if we hope to catch up. Routes such as *La Rage de Vivre*, *To Bolt or Not to Be*, *Ravage*, and *Ghetto Blaster* are the product of European efforts and are examples of routes we can learn most from. Not all U.S. climbers share the goal of catching up, but regardless, we will all be affected by this revolution. Indeed, the future of our sport is being shaped by the driven individuals who pioneered these routes.

Last summer I was fortunate enough to tour a few of the most influential European climbing areas. The routes I attempted, the

people I met, and the ideas shared have totally changed my views of what's possible. In effect, any U.S. climber who has never traveled abroad wears blinders when speaking of the state of climbing today. My trip overseas opened my eyes to the big picture, and I'd like to relate some of my impressions.

England was my first stop. Ever since Jerry Moffat tore apart U.S. standards a few years ago, I've had great respect for the British. After meeting so many excellent British climbers in the U.S., I found myself starting to believe that *any* climber with an English accent must be a star. The actual stars setting the current British standards are centering most of their efforts in the Peak District and at the limestone of Malham Cove.





J.B. Tribout in action on *To Bolt or, Not To Be* (8b+, 5.14a/b). Bolted on rappel and extensively rehearsed, this Smith Rock test-piece has been hailed as the first 5.14 in the U.S. and one of the hardest gymnastic rock climbs in the world.

Photos: Jean-Marc Troussier.



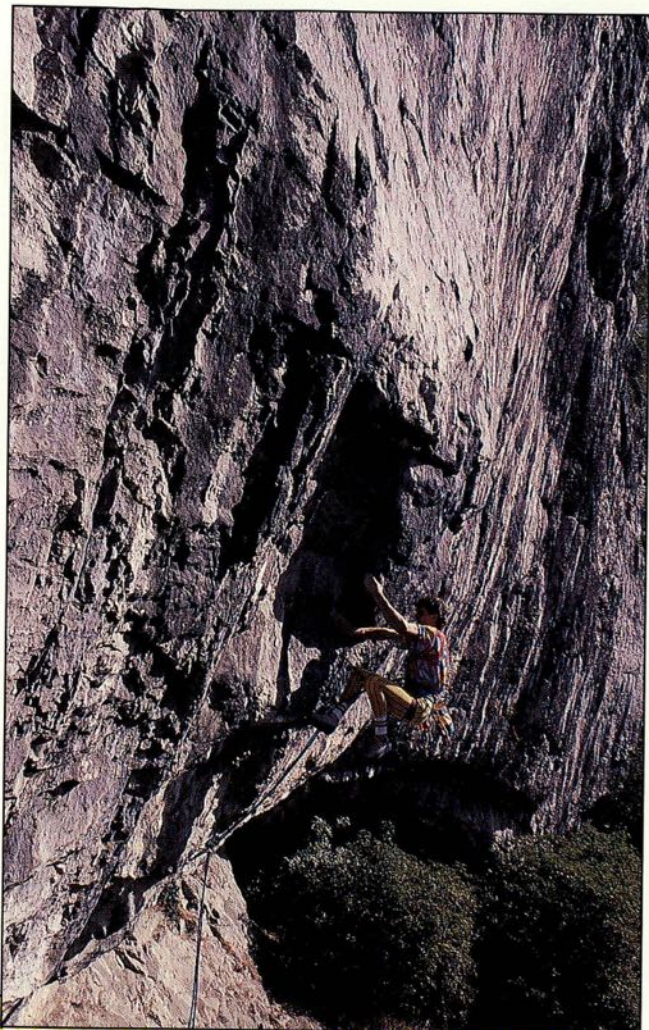
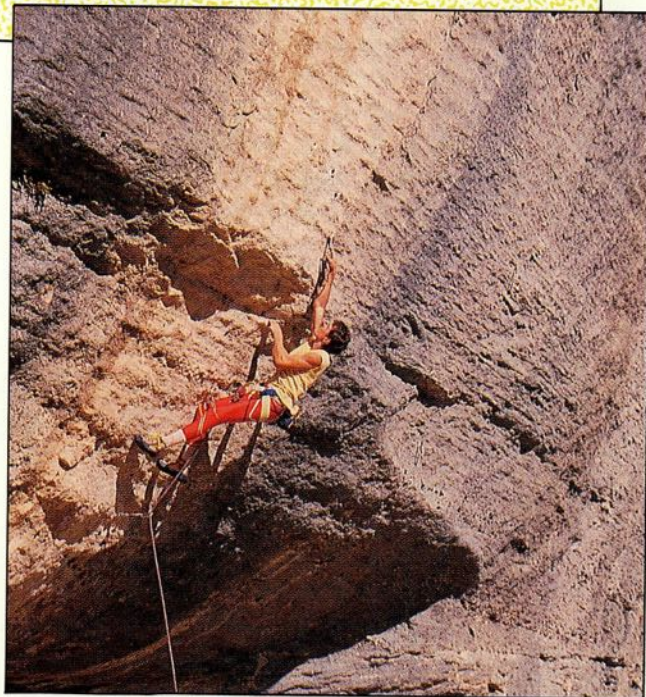


Photo: Ian Harrod.

Mark Leach on *Revelations* (5.13b/c, above) at Malham, and David Chambray on *Chouca* (8b, 5.13c, below) at Buoux.



After a few days in the Peak it became obvious why the British are so successful. Aside from their highly competitive scene, they're blessed with a large variety of rock. They've got technical and bold gritstone routes just a few miles from powerful, overhanging limestone routes. It's hard to imagine two more different types of rock. The brute's approach insures failure on gritstone, yet without tremendous strength the hardest limestone routes are equally as impossible. Only the very best have been successful at both types of climbing — to succeed one must be exceptionally strong, technically superb, and courageously bold.

Totally different ethics have evolved for the two types of rock. Gritstone ethics are very traditional — no bolts, pins, toppling, and often times, no need for a rope. Falls from some of the most serious routes would likely be fatal. Only recently have some of the latest gritstone desperates been inspected on rappel prior to the first ascent. The ethics used on the newest generation of limestone routes are much more liberal — short of manufacturing holds, anything goes. Consequently, most of the hardest limestone routes are very well protected by rappel-placed bolts.

Almost all of England's highest-graded routes are on limestone. Since all gritstone routes are established on lead, their difficulty is largely a result of their seriousness. An E8 7a on gritstone will often be a full U.S. number grade easier than an E8 7a on limestone! Obviously though, it's absurd to call gritstone routes easier than limestone routes.

Not being good enough to accept the risk of leading, I chose to top rope several of the hardest gritstone climbs. On top rope, *Gaia* (E8 7a) and *Master's Edge* (E7 6c) are 5.12c, and *Beau Geste* (E6 6c) is 5.12b. But doing these routes on top rope is like riding a bicycle in the Boston Marathon — you survey the course but you miss out on the true difficulty. On the 5.12 finish of Johnny Dawes' *Gaia*, a fall would probably be fatal (I fell here on top rope). Surely the accomplishments of the gritstone masters are every bit as remarkable as the ultimate difficulty levels achieved on limestone.

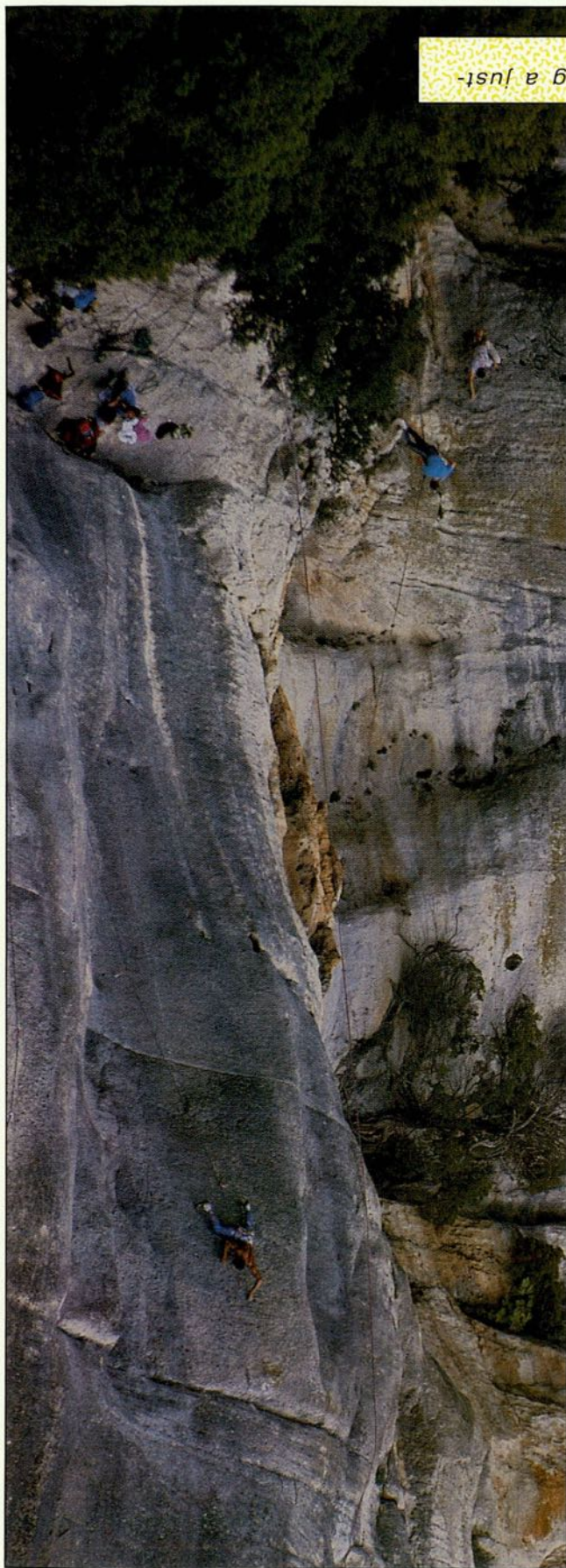
English standards, after a couple years of consolidation, are on the rise again. The old standard, set by Jerry Moffatt, wasn't easy to catch up to. Moffatt wasn't just the best in England — at his prime he was easily the best in the world. His hardest route, *Revelations* (5.13b/c), developed quite a reputation. England's best at the time could hardly pull off the ground. Then, in possibly the most brilliant solo effort ever, Antoine Le Ménéstrel climbed the route without a rope. Le Ménéstrel's ascent shook the British scene like nothing before — in no small way, the new wave of English routes is a result of his visit.

*Revelations* caters to the boulderer — pure power is a much more useful attribute than endurance on this route. It has one of the hardest single moves I've ever encountered on an actual climb — a dynamic for



Photo: Beth Wald

Marc Le Menestrel flashing a just-completed 8a at Buoux.



The future of English climbing seems bright, and 1987 promises to be a banner year. Mark Leach and Ben Moon, in particular, are very close to ushering in 5.14. Leach's project is *The Crack*, an extremely short, atypical gritstone problem of ferocious difficulty. So far he's spent one day for every nine inches he has gained on the route. Moon was close to success on the previously-aided *Free That, You Bastards*, only to find that the original ascensionist chipped off

the U.S. solution of the ethical debate that rages throughout relative peace shows some sign of hope for the routes. The fact that these two groups can co-exist in don't feel the need to chop the newest limestone generally respect the gritstone ethic and grit experts stone and limestone specialists. Limestone climbers climbing is the lack of animosity between the grit- One of the most interesting aspects of British rock by John Dunne.

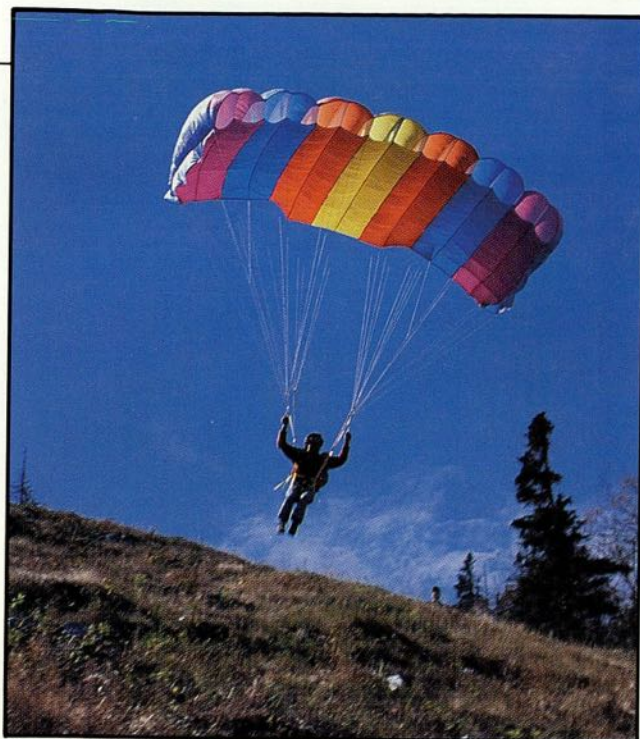
extremely-powerful Malham Cove route established dest route is currently *The Maximum* (5.13c), an Britain's first limestone E8. Arguably England's hardest Wall, creating *Hot Fun Closing* (5.13c), heralded as Moon added a direct finish to *Kudos* on the Rubicon has seen many tries but just two repeats. Ben establish *Zoosook* (5.13c). This horrendous problem ceeded on an overhanging wall at Malham Cove to England's hardest route. Veteran Ron Fawcett succeeded in the last year. *Revelations* has been eclipsed as stepping stone on the path to today's extremes.

of the past, *Super Crack*, *Genesis*, and *Grand Illusion*, *Revelations* has been reduced to just another really seemed. As with many standard-setting climbs I could think of was how ludicrous a ropeless ascent could have savored my accomplishment more, but all stated by Le Menestrel on his solo ascent. I wish I helped but to think of the control and vision demonstrated on a notorious English route, yet I couldn't As I clipped the anchors, I was thrilled to have choked on the final move.

almost anti-climatic. I did the start first try, and didn't redpoint the route the morning of my third day, it was top, falling off the last move. When I returned to well enough that, on my next try, I just about got the manage to do it once. I had the upper sequence down those moves that can be done consistently if you ever snare the layback and stay on. Luckily, it's one of how to use my left foot properly and managed to move, falling off again and again. I finally figured out I spent a good twenty attempts trying to do that first by a long dynamic to a side pull.

polished rock leads to a balancy 5.12a finish, capped no pushover. Overhanging and insecure climbing on comes at the start. The rest of the route, however, is a layback hold far above your head. Fortunately it





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*Spectators at Bardonecchia in 1986: Are such competitions the wave of the future, or just big business?*

the key holds. Not to be denied, Moon has nearly succeeded again using the few holds that remain. With young stars constantly on the rise, England will likely stay competitive on the world scene for years to come.

The European mainland currently dominates the world of rock climbing. Their 5.13 grade is almost as well established as our 5.12 grade. The Frankenjura of Germany and, in particular, the limestone of southern France, are the forging grounds of today's hardest routes. They've got a lot going for them — tremendous amounts of excellent rock, financial support, public acceptance, perfect weather, and a wide-open ethic.

The Europeans have made a tremendous advance in the last two years. In 1985, the leading French, German, and American standards were all roughly equivalent. Since then we've been left far behind as Europe has experienced an unparalleled surge in standards. Today there are at least fifteen routes as hard or harder than Smith Rock's *East Face of Monkey Face* (5.13d).

It's interesting to note that the world's best climbers have employed the world's most liberal ethics in making this leap. Rappel-placed bolts and hangdogging are used by all without debate. In France, a great many routes have been sculpted. The occasional chipped hold is not the outrage that it is here. Few climbers in our country would justify chopping holds in any circumstance. The French feel differently. To them chiseling a few holds is justified if it makes possible an otherwise impossible free route.

A surprisingly-similar situation existed in our own

country a few years back. In the 1960's, a big debate centered on whether a few bolts were justified to make possible an otherwise unclimbable big wall. Perhaps the difference between bolting and chiseling isn't as great as we like to think. After all, both permanently alter the rock in much the same way, and both make the impossible possible.

Southern France has the greatest concentration of excellent rock I've ever seen. Literally dozens of superb cliffs haven't even been touched. Buoux has replaced the Verdon Gorge as the focal point of French rock climbing. I spent two humbling weeks here. Never have I seen an area as well suited as Buoux for hard climbing. The rock is littered with enough pockets to make even the most overhanging walls feasible.

Many of the current desperates are the work of France's four top climbers. Antoine Le Ménestrel linked together *The Rose and the Vampire* (5.13d/14a) and *La Secte* (5.13c) in one 150-foot pitch to create *La Rage De Vivre* (5.14b), Buoux's hardest route. Marc Le Ménestrel was the first to power up the series of two finger pockets on *Chouca* (5.13c). My two days on this route left both my fingers and ego in shreds. Marc's current project, *The Minimum* promises to be one of the hardest routes to date. Diminutive Didier Raboutou established *Le Mission* (5.13d/14a), an absurdly-overhanging wall that's reminiscent of a *Grand Illusion*-size overhang, without the crack. Jean Baptiste Tribout feels that his unclimbed route to the left of *Le Mission* might be 5.15! After his Smith Rock visit, I wouldn't bet a dime against his doing this overhanging nightmare.

*Photo: Uli Wiesmeier.*



France's only rival for top gun on the continent is West Germany. The small crags of the Frankenjura are as developed as any in the world. Routes exist every six feet in some of the most popular areas, and most of the well known cliffs are virtually climbed out. Fortunately, hidden in the trees are many relatively undeveloped crags.

The most prolific West German climber is Wolfgang Gullich. At the top of German climbing for many years, he has compiled a routes-climbed list second to none. Spurred on by the standard-setting routes of John Bachar (*Chasin' the Train*, 5.12d) and Jerry Moffatt (*The Face*, 5.13c), Gullich has gone on to establish some amazing climbs of his own. His hardest is *Ghetto Blaster* (5.14a), a short, overhanging wall of one-finger pockets. *Canal in the Back* (5.13d) has seen only one repeat, by Gullich's rival, Stefan Glowacz. It's difficult to compare the standards of France and Germany since the top climbers in each country have never met in a head-on clash. No Frenchman has ever climbed grade 10 on German rock, while no German has managed the equivalent 8b grade in France.

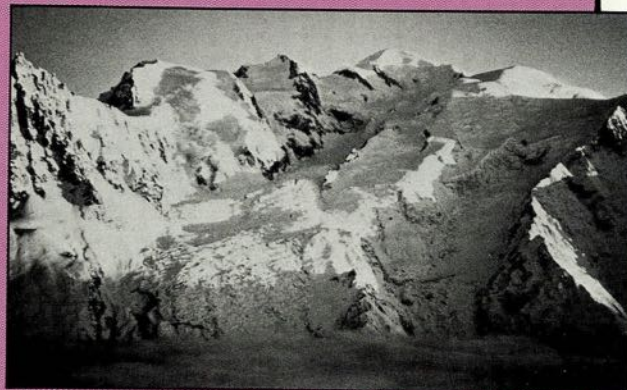
Certainly one of the contributing factors to the Europeans' success has been a well-developed support system for the best climbers. In Europe, unlike the U.S., it's possible for certain individuals to live comfortably from their climbing, without working directly in the industry. Sizable contracts from manufacturers, along with the formation of sponsored climbing teams, has made it possible to pursue the sport as a full time activity. Few are rich, but the best-known celebrity climbers come close. Patrick Edlinger reportedly made well over \$100,000 last year from his climbing. One of the biggest money-making innovations are the organized climbing competitions. These popular meets may well signal a major change in rock climbing.

I was fortunate enough to be able to compete in the French Grand Prix, held this past September in the Pyrenees. The experience was an eye-opener — the depth of the competition was remarkable, and the public support of the event amazed me. Five thousand paying spectators turned out the day of the finals to watch Lynn Hill and Gilbert Ogier pull off exciting victories. I managed to make it through three of the four days of the competition, and felt relieved to get that far. To make the semi-finals it was mandatory to flash a 7b+ (5.12c). Remarkably, fifteen competitors did just that.

Competition climbing is becoming big business in Europe. The sponsors love it because competitions provide great advertising. The climbers are usually less than thrilled about it, but they compete because of the appeal of prize money, and the fame that accompanies winning. Many of the biggest names have less to gain by competing, but their contracts require them to be there. More and more, the quick-

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*The Mont Blanc massif. Photo: Antoine Savelli.*

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est way to become famous in Europe is to win the most competitions, rather than climbing the hardest routes.

It will be interesting to see how organized competition influences climbing. It may continue as a side show or it might develop into a separate subsport, much as rock climbing itself diverged from mountaineering years ago. If this occurs, there may be a shift in emphasis away from pushing the standards and towards training for competitions. Since all routes in a competition must be flashed, training by dogging out 5.14's does little good. What needs to be practiced is the ability to climb 5.12 and easy 5.13 on your first try. The winners of competitions are the climbers who have best demonstrated their ability to flash 5.12 — the 5.14 climbers don't always win. In the future it seems likely that climbers will go where the money is. If it becomes possible to win \$100,000 a year in competitions, few will continue to focus on the push to 5.15.

Yet I feel strongly that there will always be those who push the upper limits, just as there will continue to be those who push the standards of soloing and bouldering. As time goes by, our sport is becoming more and more segmented, and finer distinctions are being made about how we climb. Today we distinguish between flash, redpoint, and hangdog ascents, while a few years ago it was all just free climbing. It's unlikely that any subdivision of our sport will die out. Regardless of how many people start hangdogging, there will always be those who choose to play their own no-hangdog game. Perhaps a time will come when most climbers can accept that there is more than one legitimate way to climb. We would then be competing against others who play the game we play, instead of squabbling when we can't compete with others playing their own game. Who's to say who's best, when one side is playing chess and the other checkers?

The sport of rockclimbing is in its infancy. It's all too easy to look at the hardest climbs of today and feel that there isn't much further to go. Yet those who feel that limits are near are very wrong. By the end of this decade 5.15 will be here, and I've got little doubt that 5.16 and 5.17 are waiting for us.

When comparing rock climbing to the level of established sports, like gymnastics, it's obvious we aren't even close to an equivalent level of expertise. Training techniques are just beginning to become refined, and few climbers can afford the luxury of full time climbing, let alone the coaches and trainers employed in other sports. We are a long ways from the human limits that have impeded further progress in other sports, such as the 100 yard dash. Fortunately, climbing is such a richly diverse activity that when limits are reached there will always be new avenues to explore.

There are many people who do not like the changes in our sport — they'd like us to continue to climb as the pioneers did. But like it or not, change is here. Rock climbing would not be at the level it is today if it weren't for individuals like John Gill, Layton Kor, and Warren Harding. These pioneers were bold enough to stand apart from the mainstream and try something outrageously new. Rock climbing will continue to advance in the future only if today's young pioneers are brave enough to choose their own way.



by Eric Sanford

# Any Winter's Day

There are some things in life which are very difficult to put into words. It's not that the words don't exist, but rather that human communication based on language is simply inadequate.

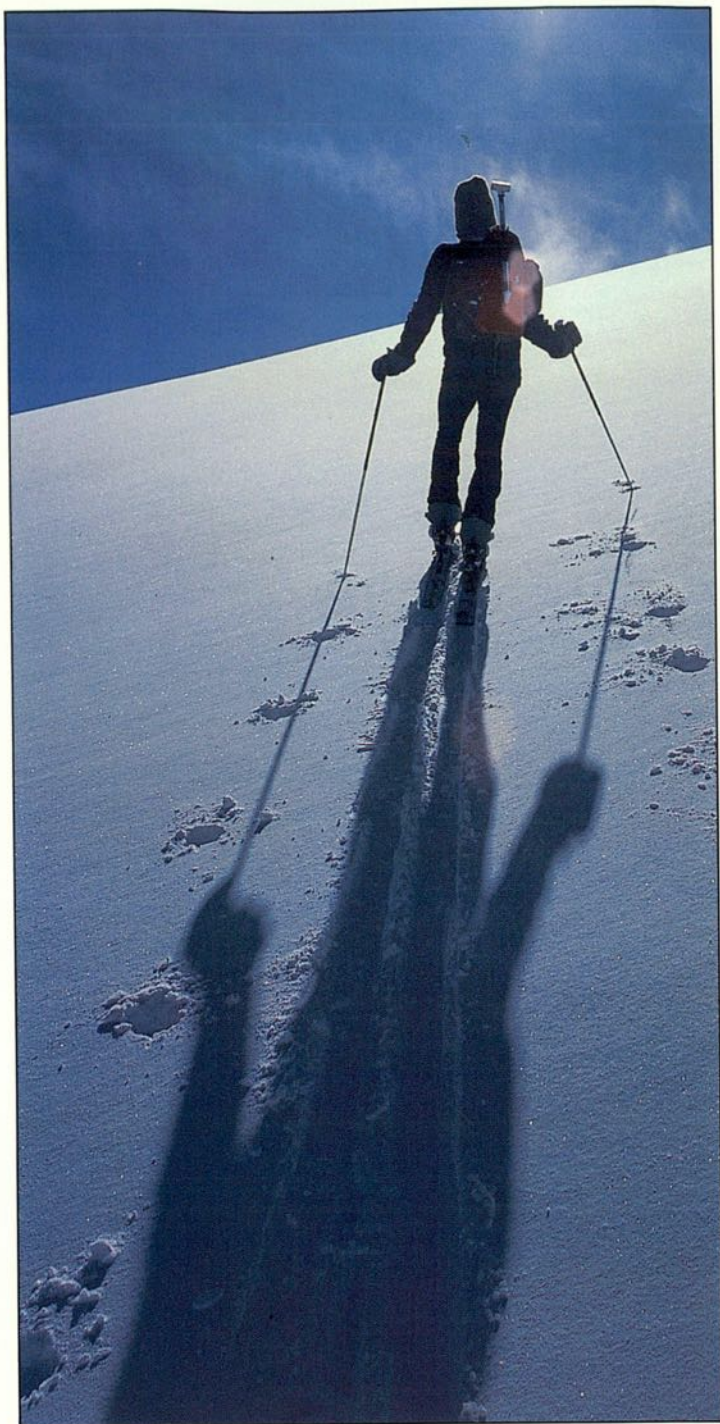
For instance, how does one explain climbing? Not the physical activity, but how climbing affects the mind, the senses, one's life. How would one describe the feeling of total exhaustion yet total elation from a successful ascent? Is it possible to convey that very special feeling to a non-climber?

There are only a few things in life which have ever given me the indescribable feeling of controlled panic, accomplishment, and



Photo: Michael Kennedy.

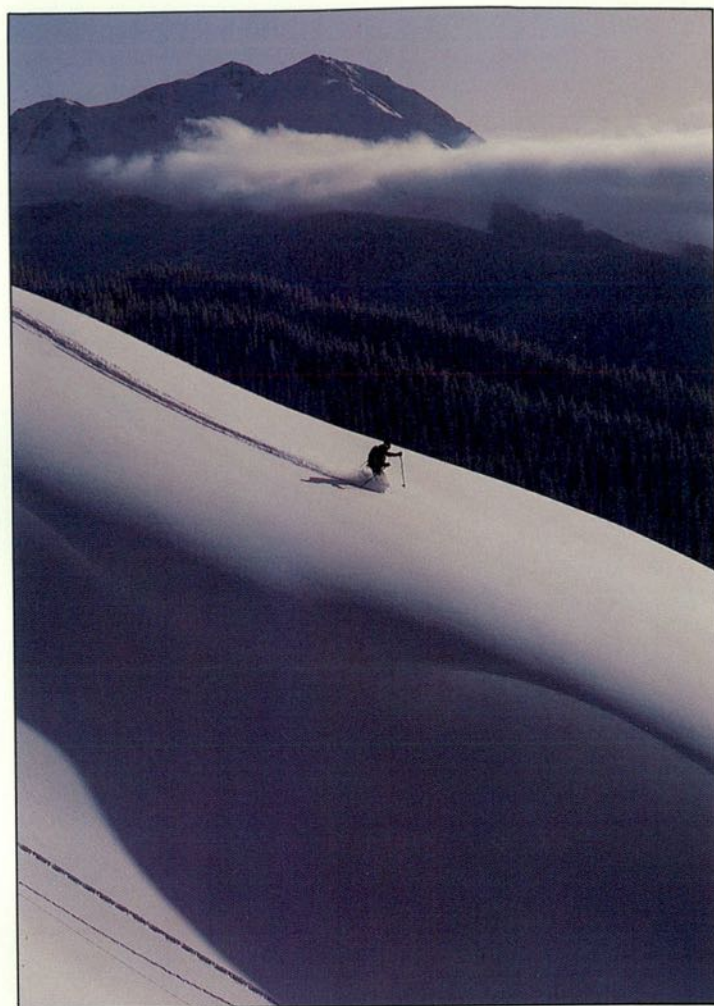




## Any Winter's Day

*On Mount Hayden, one of Colorado's best ski-mountaineering peaks (above and previous page). Dropping off Richmond Ridge into the Castle Creek valley, with Mount Hayden in the distance (above right). Returning to camp from Kahiltna Pass, on the West Buttress of Mount McKinley (far right).*

*Photos: Michael Kennedy*



physical pleasure. A feeling of elation which only a few ever experience and words can barely describe.

Climbing at a high standard is one. Perhaps an intense love affair is another. Sky diving must be, windsurfing has its moments, as does hang gliding and whitewater kayaking. But over the past thirty years nothing has quite equalled skiing in my life. The feeling of floating down through waist deep powder under a cobalt blue sky with the air so cold and crisp that it fills your lungs by itself. Time and space merge. The mind strains with sensory overload, not prepared for such basal pleasures in this complex world. This is skiing.

Naturally I'm not talking about the mass merchandised, lift serviced, environment adulterating variety practiced by over 7 million Naugahide-clad masochists each year. That kind of skiing is like sex with a blow-up doll: all the same moves but none of the feeling. When I say skiing, I mean the type that's labeled "backcountry skiing." And the differences between backcountry skiing and that in developed ski areas are like those between long, remote alpine routes and single-pitch routes on practice rocks.

Don't get me wrong. I have had some truly memorable days at developed areas. Several years back I was in Grindewald in early December. That time of year the sun never really makes it high enough into the sky to cast a harsh shadow, and sun glasses are optional. I was with a friend; we had skied hard all day





and decided, around three in the afternoon, to tour up to a small summit near the base of the Eiger.

We arrived at the top around four, just as the last rays of the sun dipped into the Lauterbrunnen Valley and the first lights appeared in the chalets below. Then we started down. Down over our zig-zagging tracks which scored the once virgin hillside. Down over rolling fields, dotted with ancient sheds and rough hewn snuggeries. Down on snow covered roads and trails, through pastures deep under their winter blanket, and into the alpine forest as we silently slipped into the valley below.

We skied for 45 minutes straight, dropping over 5000 feet as the lights of the town below twinkled ever brighter and a brilliant moon eased into the horizon. Long, soft shadows danced before us as we hopped over the last rail fence and skied up to the train station to catch the last ride back across the valley to Grindelwald. Neither of us said a word. We didn't need to. We had passed into an almost elemental state of pleasure.

Another time I was heli-skiing, filming on a remote glacier in the Monashee Range in British Columbia. After a very long day of flying, skiing, waiting, skiing, and more waiting, it was time to return to the base. All the important people got to fly out first and after three loads there were just two of us left — me and Jim Hunter, a member of the Canadian National Ski Team.

We were told, in no uncertain terms, to wait where we were for the helicopter to return. "Where we were" was at the top of a steep 4500-foot virgin run, covered uniformly with over two feet of the lightest, fluffiest, most sparkling powder you'd ever hope to find.

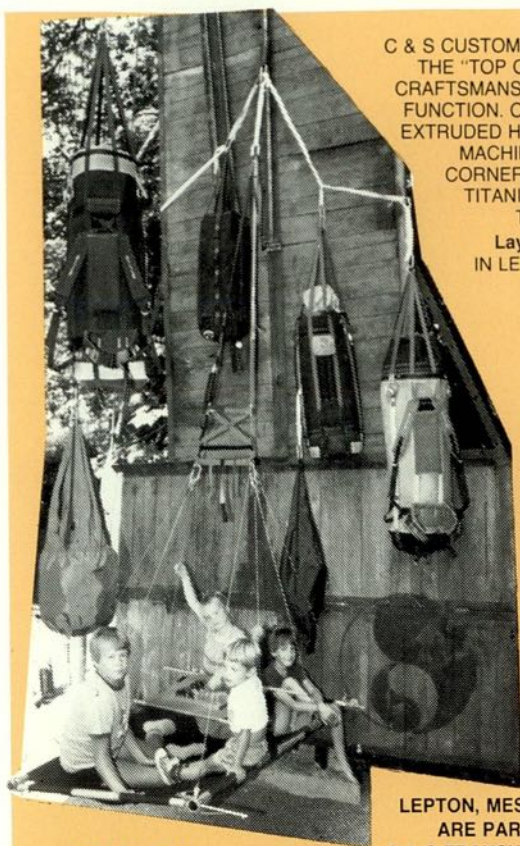
As the helicopter disappeared into the distance, the sun dipped below the horizon, shooting brilliant yellow rays all the way across the sky and making the snow glisten with an iridescence which seemed to radiate from within. Jim and I stood there in awe, watching and feeling this grand spectacle.

Then we turned to each other and without a word, pushed off down the slope. As Jim disappeared into the first turn the snow careened up over his head and flew into the sky, catching the sun and exploding into a blinding flash of colors as the light refracted through millions of intricate crystals.

I don't remember the skiing. We flowed down the mountain in a perfect slow motion stream of consciousness. Each turn was displayed in front of me as my shadow struck the snow flying over Jim's head; it was like watching yourself from a different world. As the sun sank further, only the very tip of the flying snow caught the rays until, just as we reached the bottom, it was gone, and all was dark and still.

There had been no stops along the way, no need to ponder or consider, no need to recuperate. We had been in perfect harmony with the mountain.





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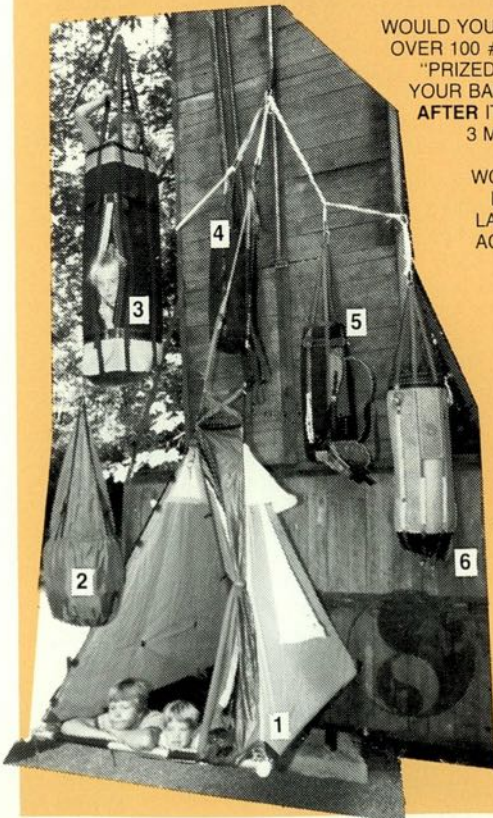
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In the silence we both began to laugh. Louder and louder until the valley was alive with howls and yelps, like a pack of wolves gone wild with pleasure. A moment later the volume rose to a crescendo as the helicopter returned to pick us up. The pilot didn't bother to look for us at the top of the run; he knew we wouldn't be there. Dipping into the hollow where we waited, he gave the chopper full throttle and flared straight up into the sky like an eagle playing with the wind, rose to a standstill, then drifted down almost silently. He, too, knew what a special moment this had been.

You might say that those two runs were not true backcountry skiing, and in one sense you might be right. Yet backcountry skiing is more a state of mind than a dictionary definition. Even the other terms of "outback," "randonnée," "off-piste," and "mountain touring" don't really come to grips with the essence of the experience. Extreme skiing is just a portion of the game, like free-soloing is to climbing.

Skiing is a gravity sport, and the skier uses this most basic natural force just as a climber might. The climber doesn't fight gravity as much as he plays with it, using his own strength and skill to play with opposing forces, seeing just how much nature will allow. Skiing moves in the opposite direction, allowing the individual complete freedom to move downward within the bounds of his own skill. In both cases movement is freedom, and freedom is life.

It doesn't matter what equipment you use. Some prefer ultra-light cross country gear. Others swear by metal-edged telemarking equipment or heavier randonnée gear with plastic boots. Whatever gets you

there, both up and down. The idea is that with one set of equipment you can get into an area, up onto a peak, back down through whatever conditions you might encounter, and back out again. Telemark skiing has gained great popularity over the past few years but going telemarking is like going snowplowing — it's just one turn, one technique, and it is no more an end than just crack climbing.

The freedom of skiing is total. You set your goals, your objectives, your medium. Sunny afternoon tours with friends or month-long expeditions in the Arctic. Sometimes you remember that one turn all your life; sometimes the entire experience melts into a blur.

It has been said that deep powder skiing is better than sex. Perhaps it is, I don't know. I don't think about it. Skiing is fun. Skiing makes an endless glacier slog into an interesting tour. Skiing makes a desperate glissade into controlled excitement. Skiing on spring corn snow turns the entire world into a playground of speed and perfect carved turns. Skiing brings you that feeling which cannot be put into words.

Jack Rabbit Johanson is 112 years old. He has been skiing for 106 of those years. He's got the bug. And although I've never met him we share those experiences. We share them every time I head out into the mountains, never touching the ground below. Gliding silently through the forests and high onto the peaks. To slip down again over rolls and dips and wind sculpted ridges as I head back to a cozy log cabin with a roaring fire.

Join Jack Rabbit and me sometime. Capture that feeling. You'll never forget it.



# Reflections of a Broken-Down Editor

Interview by Paul Piana



The 100th issue of *Climbing* comes during its 16th year of publication; for 12 of those years, Michael Kennedy has been the magazine's editor. Under his direction, *Climbing* has evolved from a small regional publication, written by, for, and about Colorado climbers, into what many believe to be the finest English-language climbing magazine in the world.

It seems especially appropriate that, in this issue, the readers of *Climbing* learn more about their editor of the past 12 years — about the changes he has made in the magazine, why it is still evolving, and where it is headed.

The first issue of *Climbing* was published in May 1970. Founded by then-Aspen resident Harvey T. Carter, it was very much a regional magazine, focusing on climbs in Colorado and adjacent states. Carter was a unique blend of talented climber, visionary, and eccentric, and while *Climbing* was his, the magazine reflected his personality and interest in local events.

Late in 1971, Carter sold his fledgling magazine to Bil Dunaway, publisher of The Aspen Times, and Fritz Stammberger, a young German immigrant who was a printer by trade. Dunaway had been a ski and climbing instructor in the 10th Mountain Division during WW II, and later guided on Mount Rainier. Stammberger was a very strong mountaineer, and in some ways was well ahead of his time, rejecting as he did the use of supplemental oxygen and large teams in the Himalaya. He was a member of a number of Himalayan expeditions, and in 1975, disappeared while trying to solo Tirich Mir.

As an active climber himself, Carter had kept tight rein over what went into the magazine. But the editors between 1972 and 1974 were not hardcore climbers, and during this period *Climbing* remained a small-time, regional journal that was spotty in quality, but which had a good descriptive name and a growing audience.

Michael Kennedy moved to Aspen in 1971 to teach and study photography for the summer. Having learned to rock climb the year before at Ohio's Clifton Gorge, the mountains and crags of Colorado were a powerful inducement to become a full-time resident, which he did during the summer of 1972. Michael became more and more active in all aspects of the climbing game and soon began a long association with the magazine.

"I was your basic local climber and David Bentley, who was then editor of *Climbing*, asked me to write about a couple of things I'd done. One was a new route that Lou Dawson and I did on the North Face of Capitol Peak, one of the Fourteeners fairly close to Aspen. It was my first big winter climb. We bivouacked 200 feet from the summit, with nothing, in mid-January, and a big storm came in, we barely escaped with our lives — you know, the usual epic tale. That was my first article and it appeared in the September/October 1974 issue.

"The second appeared in the Winter 1974/75 issue, and was called 'Little Giants.' It was your normal, survey-type of article about the rock climbing in the Aspen area."

A few months after the publication of these articles,

Photo: George Lowe.



Bentley decided to return to school and pursue other interests. He approached Michael about taking over as editor of *Climbing*.

"I thought it was a great idea, but I had no concept of what it would be like to run a magazine. I had no experience other than working on my high school newspaper. I guess what qualified me was that I'd written a few things, I was a photographer and had a little graphic sense, and the simple fact that I was around — I was just here!"

For that first year, Michael worked part-time at a local mountaineering shop, but soon realized that in order for the magazine to grow, it would require much more of his time. He quit his job at the shop, and persuaded Dunaway to pay him a little more money. With this increase in salary, Michael was able to devote more time and effort to the magazine.

"My ideas of where the magazine should go were pretty well-formed at the time, and it was largely a matter of developing the skills necessary to execute the ideas I had. My biggest influences at the time were *Ascent* and *Mountain*. *Ascent* had a very nice literary quality and clean graphics, while *Mountain* had a tremendous information value. Ken Wilson did an incredible job of gathering material from all over the world and putting it into perspective. I really wanted to combine the two approaches in *Climbing*."

There were certain aspects of Wilson's style that Kennedy didn't like too much. One was his use of newspaper-style headlines in *Mountain's* information section. "*Mountain* always seemed to oversensationalize things. Of course, our new Basecamp format incorporates similarly-sensational headlines, so I suppose it could be said that Wilson was just that far ahead of us!"

Another aspect of Wilson's style which Michael objected to was his activist role. Wilson often used his position as *Mountain's* editor to influence public opinion, and to promote his own ideas about where the sport should go. Michael has always tried to avoid this sort of editorial privilege.

"One of my basic philosophies, all along, has been to present the various sides of different issues, and let the reader decide what's right for him. I've never felt it was my position to tell anyone else how to climb, but if I feel strongly enough about something, I'll write about it in a signed editorial.

"It's very difficult to keep personal bias from creeping into your work, but I think I'm pretty objective.

Now, John has a little harder time than I do with that sort of thing. (John Steiger is the assistant editor.) He really wants to take more of a position on certain things than I do, and in that sense the magazine is changing right now. We go back and forth quite a bit, but being as objective as possible, being fair, is very important to both of us."

Through the 1970's, *Climbing* changed very little. Color covers sporadically appeared until the mid-point of the decade, after which they became a regular feature. Michael was learning more about how to make *Climbing* into the magazine he thought it should become. Although the first five or six years utilized pretty much the same format, he has spent the past ten years experimenting, learning, and crafting his way toward his journalistic goal. Also, America's growing climbing public has become more willing to pay for a professional, slick-looking publication.

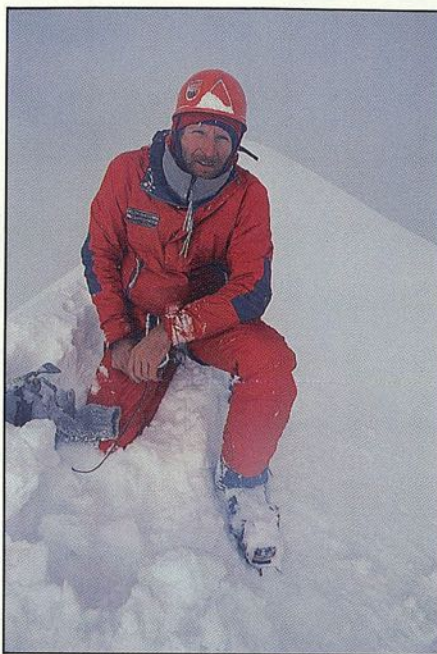
In the past two years, the magazine has changed dramatically, growing in the number of color pages and diversity of material. The reasons for these rapid changes are many.

"Certainly the European magazines have played a part in this. I look at them all and try get an impression of what is going on, even though I read very little French or German. The Europeans have a great climbing tradition, so naturally what happens over there will affect us sooner or later.

"However, a lot of what you see now, I've wanted to do from the beginning. That is, taking a professional, journalistic approach to climbing as a sport and as a lifestyle. Over the last couple of years, the sport has experienced a lot of growth and so has the magazine. Now, we've got enough money for more color and better graphics.

"Being able to hire John last summer was a really big step, and he's been a tremendous influence on the direction that *Climbing* is taking. We work really well together, and usually manage to agree on things. I tend to be a little more conservative — old and in the way — so sometimes I have to rein him in. But then he pushes me to do my best, so we're a really creative combination.

"Everything I've learned about putting this magazine together has been self-taught. My sense of how the magazine should look, how the copy should be edited, and how it should read — it has all become more refined over the years. Actually, it has started to



Kennedy on the summit of Thelay Sagar (above), and on the lower section of the Infinite Spur on Mount Foraker (opposite).

Photo: Randy Trover.



come together in a very short time, especially in the last year. The circulation of the magazine has almost doubled, we're running more pages than ever before, and I think our coverage of the climbing scene is better than it's ever been."

And what about his upstart competitor in Boulder?

"*Rock and Ice* has actually helped us out quite a bit. I really believe that having two fairly strong, individual magazines about the sport lends a certain credibility and interest to the marketplace.

"When you have a competitor, it tends to push you a little bit. Climbing has been around so long that it is a given. I don't want people to say, 'Oh great, they're doing the same old stuff that they've been doing for years.' It inspires me to go after what we do best, what we feel strongly about, in a publication about climbing. I think we have been good for each other.

"Neither magazine would be where it is now, without the other to bounce off of — I'm absolutely convinced that this is true."

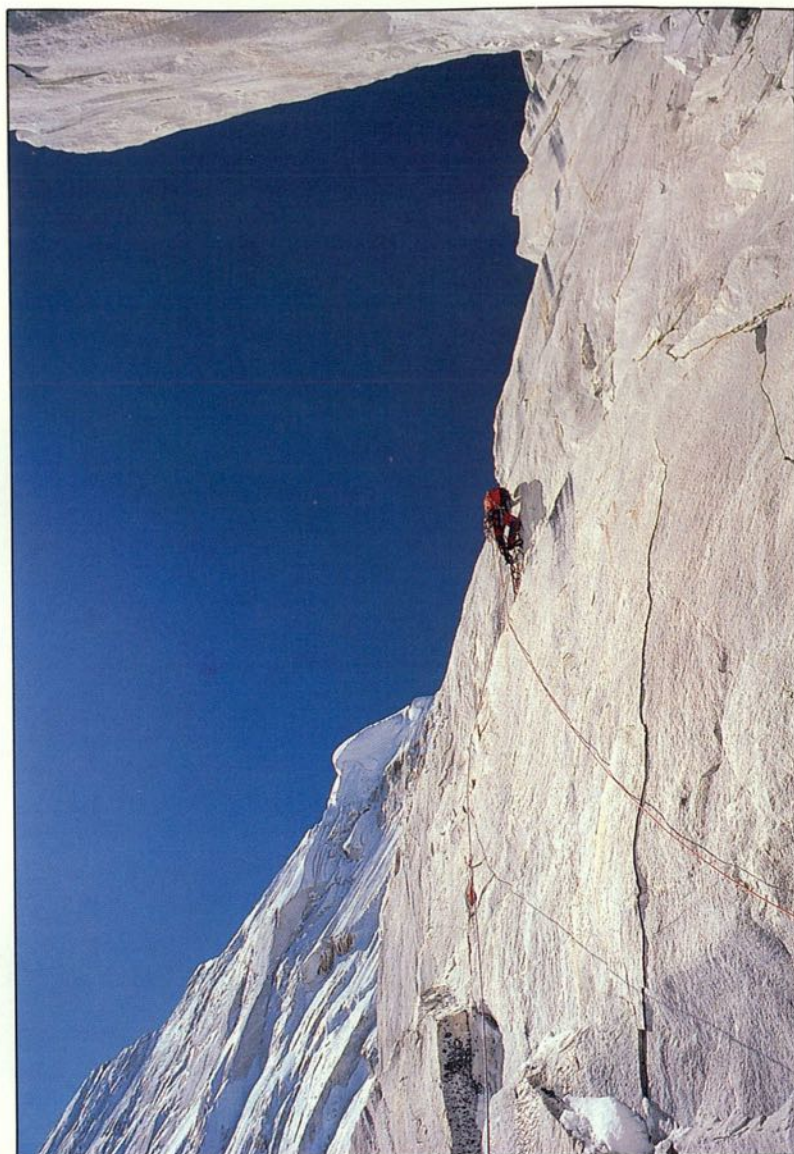
Michael has seen a lot of changes during his 12 years as the editor of *Climbing*. When he took over, the sport was undergoing a dramatic surge in popularity. After the boom of the mid-1970's the pace slowed. In many ways, things have come full circle with the sport's current boom, and Michael is pretty successful in describing "his" audience.

"Ten years ago the sport was still a bit renegade. If you told people that you climbed, they would look at you like you were a weirdo. It was still way out there.

"Climbing, right now, is definitely mainstream. It's another yuppie sport. I must say that I don't particularly care for the fad aspect of it, even if it is good for business. I've always really enjoyed the wild characters you get to meet through climbing, and there still seem to be enough of those to go around.

"I wasn't around in the 1950's and the early 1960's, back when climbing was really renegade, really out there. Maybe climbers were totally mellow then, just a wandering band of gypsies doing their own thing, but I'm not so sure. There is a lot of wistful looking back about the good old days and it's very pleasant to think that way, but I'm sure that climbers were just as competitive and that the climbing world was torn as deeply by differences of opinion then as it is now. In that sense, I don't think things have changed much at all.

"There is a lot of talk about how what is happening now represents ultimate difficulty, but we have to remember that people have always talked this way. What people are doing in rock climbing, in the Himalaya, in the Alps, is all part of a completely natural



*Perfect granite and perfect weather midway up Thelay Sagar.*

progression. Ten years from now, climbers will be flashing 5.14's, soloing the Southwest Face of Everest in a day, doing things that now seem impossible.

"What we are seeing now is a lot more people climbing. It's much harder to be exceptional. One difference now is that people try harder or do different things to stand out, but that's not a big change in the nature of climbing."

Michael began climbing much like everyone else: he had some friends who were climbers, and they invited him along. From there, he progressed along the recreational lines of a weekend climber. Not until Michael moved to Aspen did he get really fired-up about all aspects of the game.

"I started climbing in 1969. I had always been interested in the outdoors but had never done anything. I mean, I had been to the beach, but that was about it. When I was in college in Ohio, I went rock climbing with some friends at Clifton Gorge. We had old laid ropes, mountain boots, wool knickers — it was a lot of fun.

*Photo: Michael Kennedy*



"As far as any kind of technical climbing goes, I really grew up here in Aspen. My ambitions have always been pretty modest, although there have been times when I have been pretty single-minded about climbing. I've always been interested in new routes and in exploratory climbing. I did a number of routes in the Wind Rivers, did a lot of winter climbing around Aspen, and made a few first ascents of frozen waterfalls in Colorado in the mid-1970's, mostly with Lou Dawson, Chris Landry, and Larry Bruce.

"My original goals were alpine climbs, big north faces and mixed routes. Bigger mountains have always attracted me. I went to Alaska in 1975 to try the East Face of the Moose's Tooth, and again in 1977 to try Mount Hunter and Mount Foraker. That trip totally opened my eyes.

"I suppose I was a bit naive. George Lowe and his cousin Jeff were heroes of mine, and it was a real thrill just to have the opportunity to climb with them. George and I did two big new routes, the Lowe/Kennedy on Hunter and the Infinite Spur on Foraker, climbing 20 out of 23 days. George was ten years older than me, and had done a lot of this sort of thing before, so I was pretty happy that I could keep up.

"They were hard climbs, but they made me realize that I had the skills to do certain things. Some of my best memories of climbing are from that trip, and the things I learned from those guys have inspired me ever since."

To the readers of *Climbing* and other publications relating to the sport, Michael Kennedy is not only a magazine editor, but one of the better known and more successful alpine climbers in the country. Not all has been success, however, and Michael says his failures have played an important role in his development as a climber.

"I've had several very frustrating trips, at least from the standpoint of succeeding on things. Latok I 1977, Skyang Kangri 1980, Gasherbrum IV 1983 — we had some very good climbing on all of them, but in mountaineering the summit is really the bottom line, and we were a long way from the summit on all of those.

"But at the same time, I learned a whole lot on these trips — how to avoid getting sick on the approaches, how to take care of myself on bivouacs, what sort of gear worked the best, lots of little details. Acclimatization is critical, even on relatively low peaks. One big thing I learned from Jeff Lowe was simply to relax and enjoy the climbing — take a big climb one day at a time.

"Support is really important. You can't climb in a vacuum — you need to know you're coming back to something, especially after a failure. Julie (Kennedy, his wife) has been very patient, very supportive all along, even though it's been difficult at times. I can get really intense, really wrapped up in work when I'm getting ready to go on an expedition. This kind of climbing involves a lot of sacrifices — emotional, financial, time away from home — that wouldn't be possible without family and friends backing you up.

"Big alpine routes aren't exactly safe, and that's another area of stress. But I feel that the dangers are largely under your control. You need to have your feelers out, and you have to be willing to back off if things aren't quite right. At the same time, you have to push through your doubts and fears. For me, the hardest time on a big climb is the first day or two —

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often, you can still get down without too much problem, and it's easy to look for good excuses to do so. But once I'm committed, when it's easier to go up than down, I get pretty focused in — all the doubts and fears drop away.

"That's not to say that these things aren't scary at times. I've had some pretty bad days, a few genuinely terrifying moments, but overall, the good times far outweigh the bad."

Many of Michael's climbs have demonstrated his eye for a good line, an ability to handle difficult climbing in trying situations, and the motivation needed to keep it all together. And some have been truly enjoyable as well.

"Two trips to McKinley really stand out. In 1979, I climbed the West Buttress with three women friends, one of whom I later married. That created a bit of stir on the glacier! Right after that, I spent three weeks stormbound in a tent below the Moose's Tooth, which probably served me right.

"A couple years later I soloed the Cassin Ridge, sort of. I started up the route several hours before Dave Cheesmond, but he caught up to me when I spent a day waiting out the winds at 14,500 feet. So we ended up third-classing the rest of the route together, which was great — no hassling with ropes and hardware, and good company during the bivouacs. We finally decided to put the rope on during the descent — it seemed pretty silly to risk falling into a crevasse after all this great climbing.

"The climbs on Thelay Sagar with Randy Trover in 1984 and Ama Dablam with Carlos Buhler in 1985 were really satisfying. I remember wishing that they were longer and harder — I liked the feeling of being out there on these things. I felt strong, super solid on the climbing, and had very few personal doubts. Everything I'd learned over the years about alpine climbing really came into play on these climbs."

It is quite a testimony to Michael that he can balance his family life, his creative energies, and his climbing skills. Always modest about his achievements, Michael was hesitant about publishing an article about himself. He felt it would appear that he was "beating his own drum," and explained why he decided to publish this profile.

"Mostly it was John (Steiger) bending my ear. I also thought that people who read *Climbing* would be interested in knowing a little bit about the people who are behind it.

"I look at what I've done in climbing and at the magazine, and I feel pretty positive about most of it.



*Hard mixed climbing on the West Face of Gasherbrum IV.*

Basically, I'm a weekend climber. You know, I'm married, have a full-time job, and a mortgage. Most of my climbing is done around Aspen, after work and on my days off. When I go on a climbing trip, it's my vacation. I guess I'd like people to understand that.

"When I went to the recent AAC meeting and gave a slide show, I got this reaction from a lot of people: 'Gee, you're one of the top alpine climbers in the country — one of the elite...' That's really flattering, but it makes me uncomfortable, because I don't feel that I've done anything all that exceptional. My skill level isn't anything to rave about, and in a lot of ways I feel more akin to the weekend climber than to the elite climber. I think there are barriers between the elite and the average climbers that are put there by both groups. I would like to see those barriers broken down.

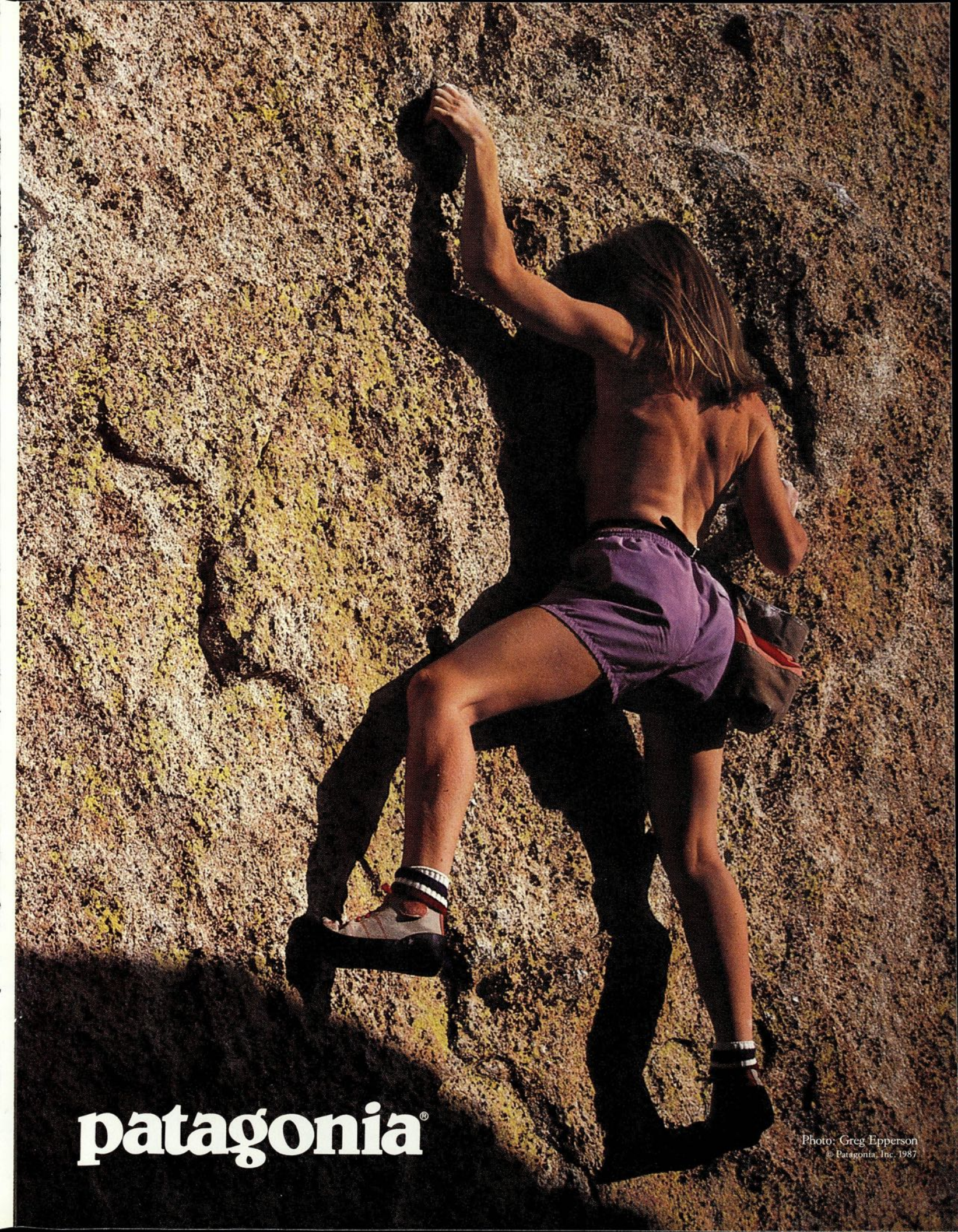
"My basic philosophy is to climb for the experience, to climb for myself. I don't think that conflicts with sharing the experience with other people, whether it's through writing, photography, slide shows, or whatever. There is a lot of room for many forms of expression in the sport and I hate to see people being restricted in that expression.

"I don't expect people to aspire to everything that they see in the magazine. I mean, I'm not going to hang on a route for hours trying to figure out a move, or climb naked in the moonlight or anything like that, but I do get psyched reading about that stuff. In a lot of ways, I'm the ultimate armchair mountaineer. It's all climbing, and I get excited reading about it!

"*Climbing* has finally become a real magazine. It's no longer a dip-shit little magazine about a dip-shit little sport. It's a real magazine about something that people are deeply involved in, that people really care about. I want people to know that is the approach I'm taking with *Climbing*."

*Photo: Mugs Stump.*





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Photo: Greg Epperson  
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# STARTING OUT

## PART 1 — MOTIVATION AND PHILOSOPHY

### The Inner Climber: Look to the Children

The boulder was perched on a small hillside, away from the glowing colors of my godmother's flowerbeds, away from her birdfeeders and her screened-in porch. Away from the only world that I knew. It was summer, I remember, and hot. And the boulder sat alone and undisturbed, in the midst of the cool, green, and silent forest.

A dog might have run into the woods to retrieve a thrown stick, and I may have followed him. Perhaps we had gone on a family walk. So many years have passed that I can't remember why I was suddenly standing below it.

The rock was egg-shaped and just as smooth, stained greyish-green by the lichen and moss that flourished in the moist environment. At least the trees overhead gave some relief from the blazing summer sun.

I looked up at the boulder. It reared above me like a mountain, foreign and distant. It was the first rock of any size that I had ever seen, and more than two body-lengths in height. But the thought was there: climb it. Perhaps my father was prompting me to go ahead and try it. Or was my godmother patiently watching me, waiting to continue with our walk? Maybe the notion of climbing the boulder hadn't required any thought at all. It could also be that this first climb, this first experience of fingertips on rock, lives entirely in my imagination.

I reached up and found something to hold onto, a small wrinkle in the rock's surface. It had a slight edge to it, enough to curl my stubby fingers over, and there was a sloping hold for my foot. I stood up, slipped, and fell. Then I tried it again.

Before I knew what had happened, I was standing on top.

Breathing hard and smiling, I was filled with the excitement my little conquest had prompted. Was it the change in perspective, that elevated view of the rest of the world, that I enjoyed? Or the tingling in my fingers and the pounding of my heart?

I gazed out into the great, dark, green forest, and knew a different world than the flowerbeds, neatly mowed-lawns, and summer tea parties of my godmother's home. The natural world: the unruly, untamed, unexpected, and even slightly-dangerous. My heart continued to pound.

Maybe I walked back around to the base of the boulder and did the climb

again, I just can't remember. The boulder, the wrinkle, the blur of movement, standing on top — those are my memories. The rest is all fiction, a fable of youth, an innocent vision of what may have been.

I was only five years old.



Photo: Ed Webster.

*Daniella Lombardi, age 9,  
on the Westminster climbing wall.*

Most every climber begins humbly enough, with a tree, a small boulder, or an outcrop as their first success. Last fall I returned to my godmother's house in Bedford, Massachusetts for a visit, and we retraced our old walk through her backwoods, right by the boulder that was my first climb. To my utter astonishment, the rock was only four feet high! Obviously my memory had been playing tricks. At age five, that four-foot boulder could have been Everest.

While the desire to climb places many adults in a quandary, climbing is an exhilarating delight for children. It is as innate a form of locomotion as either walking or running. Give a young child a tree or boulder to climb, and their joy is immediate. Children generally meet the challenge of climbing without the slightest fear or adult hesitation. True, they may falter and cry for help five feet off the ground, but they will usually give it their best effort. A child's first reactions to climbing are almost always positive. And no child (within reason) is too young to try to climb, even if their goal is only a four-foot boulder in the backyard.

By the age of five, this human desire

to climb has been greatly explored: out of cribs, up and down stairways, over car seats, up the monkey bars, and on countless neighborhood trees. But more advanced physical prowess, greater arm and finger strength, increased height, and better balance are all noticeable advantages for children as they approach the age of ten.

Many of these observations come from supervising a newly-constructed, indoor rock climbing wall at a recreation center in Westminster, Colorado. I was surprised to see so many young children lining up to go climbing, and had never considered what a perfect environment the inside wall of a gymnasium was for children, and their typically-reluctant parents, to be introduced to such a "dangerous sport."

Twenty-five feet tall, 30 feet wide, and dead-vertical, the Westminster climbing wall is an imposing enough structure that I expected most children to be frightened by it. But just the opposite occurred. Young children, both girls and boys, were magnetized by the challenge. Luckily, when the wall was under construction last winter, we left enough holds in the pink Lyons sandstone so that even six-year-olds are still able to make the moves!

I first noticed something was up when a young boy named Mitch strolled up to the wall. Unsure of her son's motives, or how safe this would be, his mother nervously signed the release form (all the while probably envisioning her son dangling, like the Camel Man, from a hemp ropebridge above a bottomless chasm). Mitch stood calmly nearby, awaiting her approval. When told he could start, he cruised the bouldering traverse like he'd been practicing at Flagstaff for years, looking like a miniaturized version of John Gill.

Astonished, I asked, "Have you ever climbed before?"

Mitch shook his head, then shrugged, "Well, a little."

At the end of the traverse he jumped off and rubbed his hands together, obviously pleased with himself. His mother was now watching the performance from the upstairs gallery window. I tied Mitch into the toprope, and he floated up the wall's left side, about 5.4. I lowered him back down to the foam mats on the floor.

"That was fun," said Mitch, untying the knot. Up in the gallery, his mother was radiant. The verdict was unanimous: Mitch, age 8, was a born natural.

I wondered if girls Mitch's age would have the same aptitude. It soon be-



came clear that they did. Her pigtailed streaming behind her, seven-year-old Molly ran over for a try. Her older brother, well, he wasn't so sure about the idea. But Molly couldn't wait; she finally got tired after her third trip up the wall.

In the past month, I have watched the number of children drawn to the climbing wall steadily grow from a trickle to a stream: Stephen, Sarah, Mitch, Molly, Josh, Brian, Vincent, Emily. What's been even more satisfying, there's been virtually no differentiation between the sexes. At one point, there were seven girls between the ages of eight and 12 standing patiently in line waiting their turn! With the advent of municipal rock climbing walls, perhaps we will at last see participation by equal numbers of men and women in American climbing, when young girls and boys each have the same opportunity to learn to climb.

This undeniable interest in climbing by children points to something most climbers have been aware of since their youth. The desire to climb verges on being an inborn trait that all human beings share. An innate and pre-existing urge, it needs no lengthy justifications or elaborations. As a result, climbing should not be stymied by adult preconceptions and worries, but cultivated as a natural outlet for self-discovery in children, and as a means for them to develop self-confidence, personal awareness, and athletic ability.

Climbing is a powerful tool for self-examination and offers a profound looking glass into individual psyches, for adults and children alike. For better or worse, climbing helps to define the goals and aspirations of many individuals (much to the confusion and dismay, perhaps, of spouses and loved ones). Climbing is a way of life, involving recreation, travel, meeting new people, and being outdoors. On a fundamental level, we climb to interact with nature on nature's own terms. Climbing is an all-encompassing sport, a physically-, spiritually-, and psychologically-challenging game — but a game whose goals and meaning are uniquely perceived by each climber. Climbing is a special way of seeing, feeling, and coming to grips, literally, with the world around us.

To gain this insight about climbing, you don't need to be an adult.

If I could put a finger on something of vital importance, it is my perception that people should embrace a more well-rounded, youthful appreciation of climbing: to not take climbing quite so seriously, to reach back once in a while and remember just what it felt like the first time you were out on the rocks; to simply recall the things that are so special about climbing, why it demands so much of your attention, time, respect, and commitment.

## ROCK BITER

### Four-footer Flashes 5.2!

My son Karn is nine years old. He has been subjected to the rigors of the life of a vagabond climber, and has logged more base-of-the-route time than many adults. He remains remarkably patient.

When he was seven years old, Karn expressed an interest in doing a long, roped rock climb. Up until then, he had only bouldered and scrambled to the bottom of climbs. We selected a route up an arete in North St. Vrain Canyon near Lyons, Colorado. The route had a number of ledges for belays, was fairly low-angle, and otherwise looked feasible for an inexperienced rock climber only four feet tall.

Recently, we reminisced about the route, which was Karn's very first long climb. He named it *Rock Biter* (100 feet, six pitches, good pro and belays, 5.2).

*Tell me a little about Rock Biter.*

It was fun. It was kinda hard for my first climb, but it didn't seem so dangerous with all those ropes and stuff. I thought it would be a pain-in-the-drain. It looked pretty high. I wondered if I could do it. I looked up and thought it would be spooky and hard.

*What else do you remember about the climb?*

It's sort of hard to reach up, like when you're holdin' on and you're afraid to reach up and you're afraid to fall over... go whsssssh.

*Were you afraid to fall?*

Only when I reached up. I didn't want to go boing, boing, boing on the end of the rope, go pfump (a sound like John Wayne getting slugged), land on my harness really hard. And I don't wanna...I've seen you fall, and it's like zzzssshooo (sound like a falling bomb). I didn't want to do that!

*Were you afraid to look down?*

Oh no! I'm not afraid of heights.

*How did you feel when you got to the top?*

I felt good. And proud. I felt brave.

*Do you want to keep on climbing?*

Yeah, I'll want to climb when I grow up.

*Do you think you'd like to climb on rocks, or snow and ice in the mountains?*

Everything! I'd like to climb up a mountain!

*Why do you think you'd like to climb a mountain, rather than do a climb on a cliff?*

Because when you get up it, there might be something really neat up there... like a fossil. And just to get onto the top of it and look around everywhere. That would feel good!

—Paul Piana

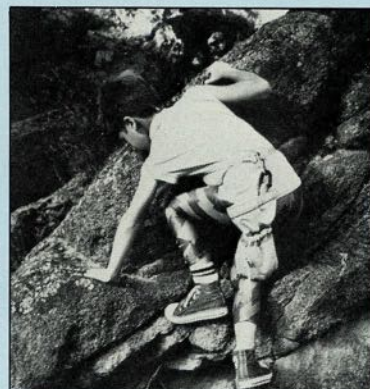


Photo: Paul Piana.

Karn Piana bouldering.

A young boy stood shyly beside the climbing wall, trying to go unnoticed.

"What's your name?" I asked him.

"Ryan."

"I wonder how old you are?"

"I'm six," he replied. "And you know what?" he added, warming to the subject.

"What?"

"I'm going to be seven on March 10th!" (It was only November, but what did that matter?).

"Would you like to go climbing?" He nodded.

Once tied into the rope, Ryan nearly leapt onto the climb. He pulled through each move to the top, grabbed the handrail, turned around, and gasped, partly out of fear, and partly from asto-

nishment at his new view of the gymnasium from 30 feet above the floor. I lowered him back down.

"Wow!" Ryan exclaimed. "That was really something!" I helped him with his knot. "You know what, Ed?" he asked, grinning.

"What?"

"Well, I don't think I ever told you this before," admitted Ryan. Judging by his level of excitement, it didn't seem that he'd be able to contain himself for another second. "Did I ever tell you I was the best rock climber in my pre-school?"

I had to laugh. In no time at all, he'd be giving the locals in Eldorado a run for their money.

—Ed Webster



## NORTHWEST CHINA

### Exploring the Jade Dragon Snow Mountains

Very few of the world's mountain ranges have been left unexplored. Technology and money has allowed the Westerner to go anywhere he wants — except to areas locked up by ideologically-opposed armies.

As the world becomes smaller, an increasing number of these areas are opening up. And whether the closures were immoral or humanistic, their reversals are presenting opportunities rare in the closing years of the 20th century.

The eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau had been closed to foreigners ever since Mao Tse Tung's "liberation" of China in 1949. Between March and June 1985, we were the first Westerners in over 35 years to travel through much of the northwestern Yunnan Province which comprises this exotic region. Our expedition, sponsored by the United Nations University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, set out to study the balance between the use of the region's natural resources and its long-term regenerative capacity. The incredible Yulongxue Shan, or Jade Dragon Snow Mountains, however, continuously stole our attention.

As has happened elsewhere in China, this presently restricted region will be opened up to tourism over the next few years, initially to mountaineering expeditions. Lijiang (Da Yan), the regional capital 20 km south of the highest summit of Yulongxue Shan, was declared open in October 1985. We were told that mountaineering expeditions will be given access to this superb range of largely unclimbed summits within the next few years.

#### SETTING

The Yulongxue Shan-Lijiang region is in the subtropical mountain zone. High valley floors (Lijiang lies at 2500 m) ensure a spring-like climate much of the year, with good traveling conditions even in mid-winter. The region is situated in the great bend of the Jinsha Jiang (Yangtze River), the longest river in Asia. It is reached by road from Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, 650 km to the southeast.

The Yulongxue Shan forms the backbone of the 300,000-strong Naxi nation. Lijiang, the largest city in the region, has a population of 60,000. This region has been the home of the Naxi people since the eighth century. They have developed their own literary tradition, religion, and high culture, known as Dong-ba, which is showing

a marked resurgence due, in part, to government reform programs.

Although these people are primarily farmers, hunting has drastically reduced or eliminated tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, deer, and large numbers of other small mammal species. There are no local laws to protect these increasingly rare animals and, sadly, many species appear doomed to extinction.

Sien-Tzu-tou (5596 m) is the highest summit of Yulongxue Shan, the beautiful culmination of an impressive range of limestone peaks extending north to south for 35 km. The unusual northward flow of the Jinsha Jiang cuts off the northern end of the range from Habaxue Shan (5396 m), forming one of the world's most spectacular river gorges, the Xia-qiao-tou, or Tiger Leap Gorge. The river drops nearly 3700 meters in six kilometers.

The main character of the eastern escarpment of Yulongxue Shan is determined by a series of massive faults, causing the mountain crest to stand as much as 3000 m above a series of basins, the largest of which is the Lijiang Plain, extending between 2450 and 2800 m. The line of hills forming the eastern flank of these basins only reach elevations of 3500 m. The western escarpment of Yulongxue Shan has very difficult access, and was only observed in part from a distance.

Most of the region is underlain by limestone, weathered to produce some exasperating micro-relief, such as surfaces of small razor-sharp ridges, solution hollows, and sink holes. The lack of streams, especially in the post-monsoon season, and seasonally-disappearing lakes lead to the suspicion that the area may be laced with extensive cave systems.

Above 4000 m, the range is dissected by glacial cirques, giving an alpine or sub-Himalayan character to the upper slopes. Two massive U-shaped gorges, complete with hanging glaciers, disrupt the otherwise wall-like eastern flank and provide access to numerous 2000 m walls.

Snowline is near 5000 m, and forest extends from 3900 m down to 2600 m. These spectacular forest belts include 50-meter-high fir, beautiful large oak, and over 60 species of rhododendron. Below the forest limit the land is extensively cultivated. The presence of palms and banana groves within sight of glaciers and ice caps reveals a bewildering range of vegetation, from subtropical to arctic desert, over a very short distance.

Yunnan first became known to Westerners in the late 1860's, when the British began looking for an overland trade route from India to China via Burma. By the late 1800's, a considerable number of British, French, and Russian explorers, many of them naturalists, had penetrated the interior regions. Missionaries, traders, government officials, physicians, and members of the Chinese Customs Service soon followed, but never in large numbers. Between 1923 and 1949, National Geographic Society explorer Joseph Rock extensively studied the Naxi culture and the regional botany. We met several older people who had known or worked for Rock as children, and some had managed to retain his high quality photographs despite the Cultural Revolution purges.

Yunnan was officially closed to Westerners in 1949, and was not visited again until a delegation of foreign scientists (including one us) made a brief visit in 1982 at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. This prepared the way for our 1985 expedition.

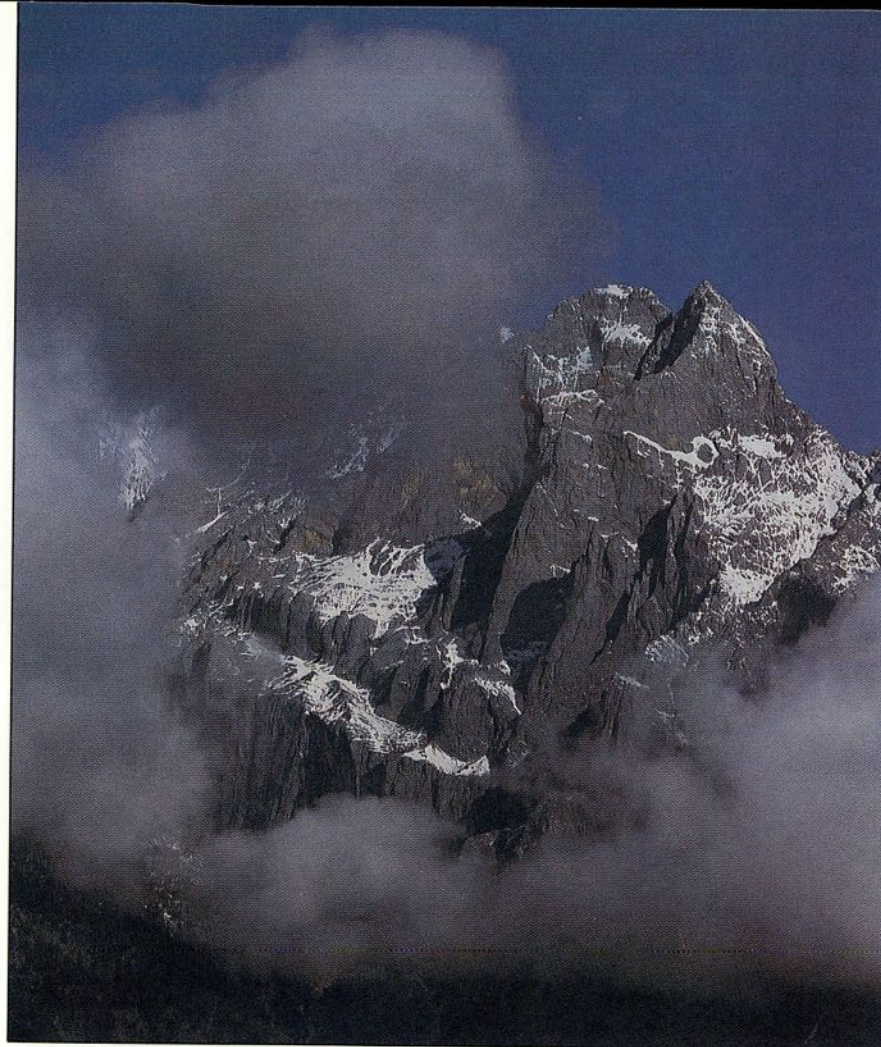
It is probably safe to say that most of the summits of Yulongxue Shan have not been climbed. Rock claims to have climbed the northernmost summit (third highest), a long, gentle ridge walk, but we have not located any summit photographs. Several Chinese university scientific expeditions have worked well above treeline and on several of the small glaciers. However, the Chinese Mountaineering Association has only a single record of a major ascent. On May 15, 1964, four Chinese from the Beijing Geology College climbed the main summit, probably from the northeast.

Both the northern and eastern ridges of Sien-Tzu-tou, as well as its southern approaches, offer great mountaineering attractions. Massive limestone walls and fluted aretes, and the entire, unknown western flank of this virtually unexplored range, will undoubtedly entice many mountaineering efforts.

#### LOGISTICS

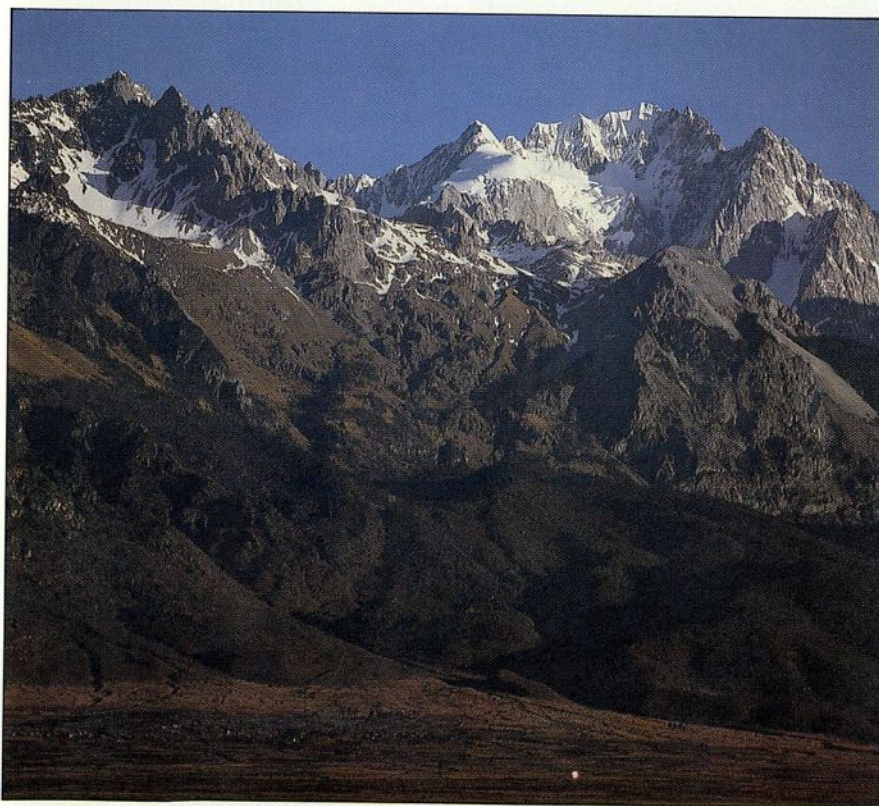
Western expeditions have climbed in China, including Tibet, for several years now, and without exception all arrangements have been handled by the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA). The normal procedure is to first request permission to climb. This request should include a summary of the expedition's objectives, anticipated duration, and member qualifications. Affiliation with scientific organizations can streng-





*Unclimbed limestone towers, summit elevation about 17,000 feet.*

*Yulongxue Shan, highest summit as seen from basecamp.*



Photos: Jack Ives

then the proposal. Likewise, expeditions that are specifically designed to "...promote the exchanges between our two peoples" (CMA form letter, 1981), which means climbing with and outfitting a Chinese team, may grease bureaucratic cogs.

Once permission has been granted, the CMA will provide the expedition leader with a registration application that normally requires a \$100 deposit per member. Representatives of the expedition may be required to travel, at their own expense, to Beijing for preliminary discussions regarding routes, costs, arrangements, and Chinese members. An estimate of total in-country costs, which include the peak fee and daily per person expenditures for food, transportation, portage, etc., will be provided by the CMA.

This package arrangement is the norm for many kinds of travel in China and, for most expeditions, is very expensive. With all the changes occurring in China it is possible that this could become more flexible with time. Still, a 15-member American-Chinese expedition to Tibet claimed that it needed \$150,000 (in 1981) for the month-long excursion, including round-trip plane fares and shipping costs.

Transportation in China, and particularly to the Lijiang region, is very good. An expedition can expect to reach Kunming from Beijing either by train (3 days, 2 nights) or plane (3 hours), proceeding by truck to Dali (1 day), then Lijiang (6 hours). Once in Lijiang, the group will probably be placed in hotels specifically designated for foreigners. These do not exist at present, but their construction is definitely planned. The 1985 expedition made its basecamp at an abandoned airport 10 km north of Lijiang, but it is not known what the local officials have in mind for this site in the future.

Access to the foothills of Yulongxue Shan, rising dramatically to the north of Lijiang, is made easily by truck across the Lijiang plain. Horses and porters from the local Naxi villages were used in 1985 to transport equipment to the higher camps, and this will probably remain the case for future expeditions.

One of the major problems in this limestone country is the lack of water below snowline (5000 m). Lower camps must usually anticipate sending out water carriers daily to sporadic and hidden springs, often an hour or more distant. Fresh food should not be a problem, as porter-truck relays can be set up to buy a variety of foods from Lijiang.

The numerous peaks of Yulongxue Shan appear to vary in difficulty, but all are easily approachable. They are something of a cross between the Alps and the Himalaya, and with a seasoned team, most summits prob-



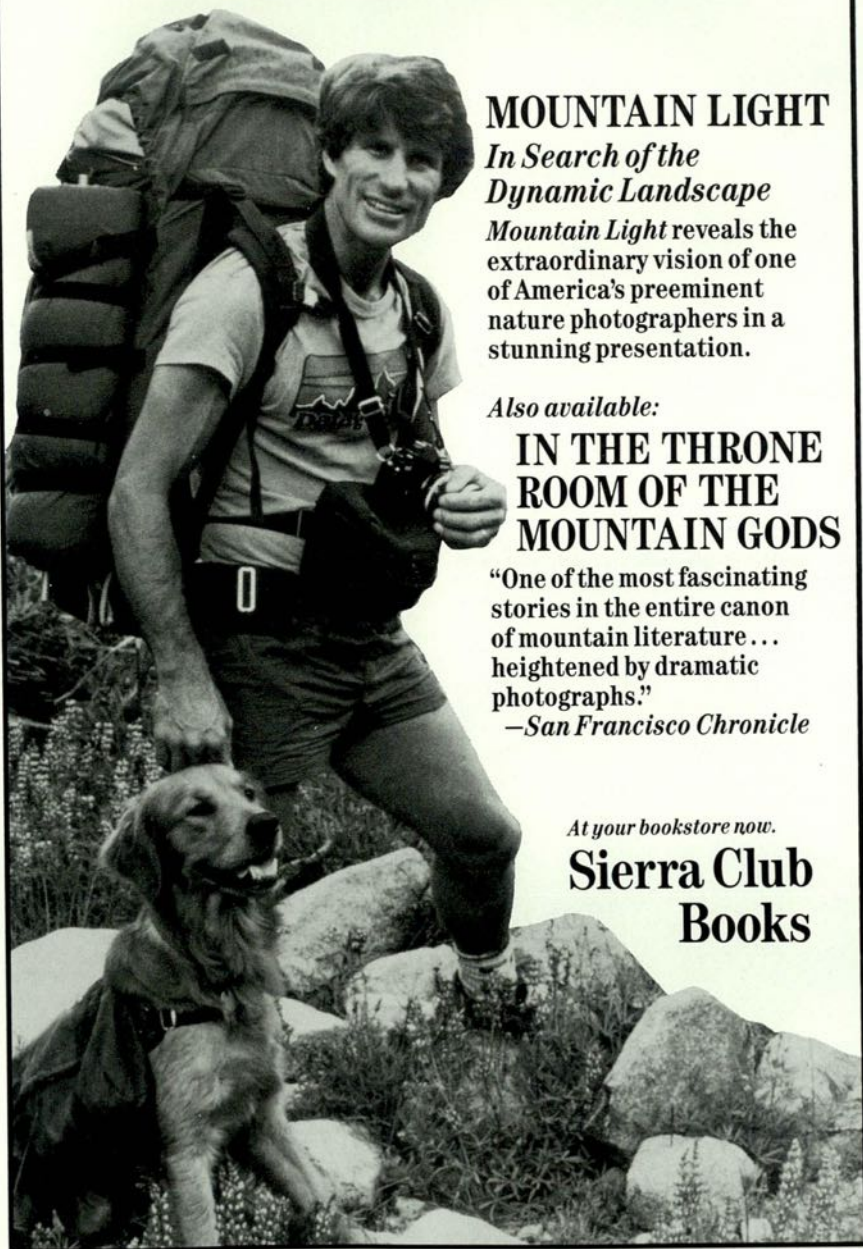
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ably could be reached from a second, higher alpine camp, the first camp being located in one of the many sub-alpine meadows.

Maps and aerial photographs are practically impossible to get, even for the Chinese scientist that accompanied us in 1985. However, preliminary route-finding might be facilitated by consulting the many landscape photographs of Dr. Joseph Rock from the 1920's-1940's, or the photography of the 1985 expedition.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Electricity is available in most villages for lighting but wood is still used for cooking and heating; consequently, deforestation is a potential problem. As elsewhere in the mountain world, campfires will always be in demand, particularly by the porters, but the use of kerosene stoves and lamps can minimize their need (kerosene is readily available in Lijiang).

Expeditions should take it upon themselves to leave all campsites as clean as possible, even though your Chinese hosts may not appear to place much value on the need for preventing litter accumulation. Likewise, other environmentally-sound practices may first have to be demonstrated, as the Chinese have yet to experience the equivalent of an "Earth Day" consciousness.

The slopes of Yulongxue Shan are still in a fairly natural state, but rapid destruction from trekking or climbing groups could undermine their outstanding beauty, and exacerbate certain potential problems, in a very short period of time. Certain areas in the Khumbu region of Nepal may serve as examples.

While it could be a year before the mountains are officially opened, it is suggested that prospective expeditions begin their inquiries as soon as possible. Not only will you experience a unique mountaineering adventure, you will be rewarded by myriad unusual alpine and subalpine flowers, mountain forests ablaze with rhododendron blooms, and a colorful and friendly mountain folk, few of whom have had contact with foreigners. An extra bonus is the Naxi temples, gardens, and museums which are being superbly revived following the ravages of the Cultural Revolution. Without a doubt, an expedition to Yulongxue Shan will provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

—Alton Byers and Jack D. Ives

The authors would be pleased to assist prospective expeditions. Write either Alton Byers or Jack Ives, Department of Geography, Box 260, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309. The address for the Chinese Mountaineering Association is 9 Tianguan Road, Beijing, People's Republic of China.



## WASHINGTON

### Climbing in Icicle Canyon Threatened

Icicle Canyon has long been Washington's most popular roadside bouldering area. With its rushing streams and excellent granite, this mile-deep canyon has been the refuge of many seeking the freedom of the mountains without the effort required to reach true wilderness. Washington climbers have always been under the false impression that Icicle Canyon is on public land. Unrestricted use has until recently perpetuated this myth. But the truth about the future of climbing in the area is far from encouraging.

History has set the stage. In the 1860's the U.S. Government deeded large tracts of land to the railroads to promote development. In the Rockies and Cascades, if a canyon showed potential for providing railway passage, every other section of land in that canyon was deeded over. Around Leavenworth, every canyon with an east-west orientation was thus affected.

During Teddy Roosevelt's reign, the U.S. Forest Service took charge of the public lands in these areas. To provide cash flow, the railroads eventually sold excess land to timber companies. After many years of harvesting, these timber companies recently decided to sell the bottomland properties, which unfortunately include most of the popular boulders and crags in Icicle Canyon.

At present there is a year-round residence at Bridge Creek, a second at Eightmile Creek, and three seasonal cabins. Fortunately, Icicle Canyon is in a special zoning district with a unique governing body, the Icicle Design Review Committee, a five-person board which makes recommendations to the Chelan County Commissioners concerning development proposals. Current zoning allows only one single family dwelling per 20 acres. This alone will prevent a density problem. But what is the future for climbers and campers?

A number of climbing areas are on private property. These areas and their present market prices include Nearly Vertical Wall (aka Little Bridge Creek Wall, \$79,950), Eightmile Rock (\$84,950), Alphabet Rock (\$79,950), and Bruce's Boulder (\$79,950).

Icicle Buttress was sold to Bob Abbott of Seattle in a \$110,000, 40-acre deal, and is currently closed to climbing. Abbott is willing to deed the Buttress to the USFS in exchange for a 1/4-acre parcel near Snoqualmie Pass, a complicated and unlikely swap.

Rat Creek Boulder, a misnomer for Hook Creek or Donini's Boulder, is probably the most-threatened rock in the Icicle due to its small size and lengthy approach across a private bridge. In a desperate move, Dr. Mark Shipman bought the property containing this rock. The deal will close on January 20 if a zoning variance is granted concerning the rock and surrounding property.

Shipman, who made this remarkable acquisition at great personal expense, is also the Chairman of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, a non-profit group active in acquiring significant private wildlands. Due to liability concerns, the Trust is unwilling to own property for rock climbing, but it is willing to acquire such property with the idea of deeding rock to public entities such as the USFS.

In December 1986, the Icicle Design Review Committee voted to recommend approval of Shipman's variance request, which would allow him to deed Rat Creek Boulder and an easement to the USFS and still build one dwelling on the remaining substandard parcel. He intends to sell, however, not build. On the same day, the Regional Supervisor for Wenatchee National Forest rejected this proposal, citing the creation of small blocks of public land within the private sector and, surprisingly, liability as his main objections. This is a setback and could be argued against more vehemently.

One other thing is certain: under the Reagan Administration, the USFS will not be able to buy recreation land in Icicle Canyon, a once hoped-for solution.

Starting in 1987, the Forest Service will strictly enforce the ban on camping outside of developed camp-

grounds. The Chelan County Sheriff's Department will prevent roadside camping on private property as well. Overall, this is a bad situation.

As a further note, Shipman is leading the drive to acquire the Peshastin Pinnacles (see *Climbing* no. 98), but the effort has received limited financial support from the climbing community. With the help of the Seattle Mountaineers, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust has raised only \$2400 toward purchase of the Pinnacles. Nevertheless, owners Bitterman and Sweet were offered \$40,000 cash for the rocks and three acres of orchard for parking. They rejected this, wanting \$400,000.

Ironically enough, liability, the root of all evil in both the Pinnacles and the Icicle, is circumvented by Washington State Statute RCW, which states that a person recreating on private lands assumes inherent liability for his or her injuries. Unfortunately, the landowner may incur court costs defending suits anyway. In the meantime, the Pinnacles remain closed but unpatrolled.

I am in the unique position of being a climber, a landowner, and a member of the Icicle Design Review Committee. I am worried. As a committee member, I will save every rock possible, but as a climber I can see that roadside bouldering may soon be a thing of the past. As a landowner, I am disgusted with the trash left around my favorite areas, and I know that other landowners will turn hostile if this continues.

Some climbers seem to think that they do not have to care. Unfortunately, they may close the doors for the rest of us. In the past, belligerence and ignorance have worked fairly well for the Washington climber. Awareness and combined funds will be the key to preserving climbing for the future.

— Rob Newsom

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## ALPINE DOUBLE BOOTS

## 1987 Footwear for the Snow and Ice Shuffle

No single element of alpine climbing gear is more essential than footwear. Because it's understood that when "the feet fail" so does the summit bid, this review will focus on the major alpine double boots available in the U.S. this spring.

Backing our recommendations are scores of boot-miles and more than 100 hours of research, interviews, and field testing. Still, without a full season of further tests, we cannot objectively rate two factors for some of these boots: warmth and durability. Most of these products are very new; and we didn't have the benefit of extended winter use on all models, so we'll restrict our remarks to helpful generalities in these two categories.

First off, it's important to get back to boot-camp basics. A good fit and savvy stepping technique are vital to getting optimum warmth, comfort, and performance out of any double boot. You can't blame a well-designed boot for being cold if you've jammed too many thick socks inside and cramped circulation. And most boots will rub your feet to hamburger if you've failed to adjust for fallen arches or heel slide with orthotics. Even on relatively flat approach terrain, it's important to walk correctly in plastic boots: go for higher knee lift and a more deliberate, flat-footed gait. Your legs and feet will bless you.

It's amazing how many experienced alpinists shell out \$200 or more for high-tech boots, then put a cheap pair of socks right next to their skin. Why not go the extra inch and drop \$12 on a pair of high-quality wool/nylon hiking socks to complement the boots you've chosen? To do anything else approaches lunacy, since socks are essentially a part of your inner boot. And if you're the sort who battles frostbite often, don't hesitate to buy those inner boots a half-size too large so they'll take an extra pair of socks without pinching.

Just as crucial to a boot's warmth as insulative materials are thin dead air spaces inside, prevention of moisture evaporation on the skin, body core warmth, and blood circulation. If you control all of these factors wisely, you'll wring the most warmth from your alpine doubles.

When plastic boots first hit the U.S., a heated debate arose between leather advocates and new wavers. Plastic vs. leather: it's a trade-off between waterproofness, light weight, and warmth — or ankle flexibility and good feel on rock. Some folks — Yvon

Chouinard, for example — have grown so disgusted with plastic boots' poor feel that they've ripped the hinged ankle cuff away, then sewn on sturdy leather uppers to ease the pain of French technique.

It's important to play with the lacing combination between inner and outer boot to get maximum comfort on approaches and full stability on steep rock or ice. Good boots are like your alpine wheels; tune them up as you go and they cruise like crazy.

We were impressed by the diversity of fine alpine double boots available in the U.S., and equally impressed by the dedication to solid quality standards that most of the bootmakers showed. There were no blatant duds in the bunch, although even the best of the boots raised some serious design or workmanship questions. If you can't find a decent climbing boot among these models, you might as well bag the sport and take up knitting.

So, whether you're a glacier slogger, mixed terrain expert or waterfall addict, lace 'em up and go for it.



*Presles, Jannu, Resin Rose, Trango*

## ONE SPORT

In a final digression before focusing on alpine double boots, we'd like to introduce the climbing boot innovation of the decade. Meet the **Presles**, an ultralight nylon-upper overboot that slips over your rock shoes, accommodates light crampons, and helps you scoot across snow to reach uncrowded alpine crags. Once some production kinks are ironed out, they are bound to take the alpine rock market by the throat: no more need to approach faraway rock routes in clunky boots, and no more alpine 5.10's in blocky full-shankers.

The Presles is a bit above ankle height, with urethane-coated Cordura gaiters attached directly to the counters. The gaiters are cinched by elastic bands on top and sealed in front with a

Velcro strip. A 1 1/2 inch rubber rand helps ward off errant crampon points. Two Velcro straps inside the boot serve as stabilizers: one over the ankle, the other over the metatarsal bones. There's a carabiner loop at the back of each boot for hanging them from a pack or sit harness.

The versatile Presles not only slides like a high-topped slipper over rock shoes, but it kicks steps quite well. A long-overdue concept, this boot allows you to cut your total footwear weight almost in half. Consider buying the Presles to fit an oversized rock shoe that will accommodate a thick wool sock. This will enhance warmth and comfort on the approach as well as the climb.

The design of the Presles is not without intrinsic limitations. Because the boot lacks stiff counters, you can't tighten crampon straps too snugly over the ankle and instep. The boot is not built for steep frontpointing on anything but short pitches. Although the essential design is superb in its functional simplicity, One Sport should consider building another model with a slightly stiffer sole and a beefed-up toe counter to encourage their use over longer stretches of steep ground.

Though we like the Presles' design, it suffers from a number of quality-control problems. The gaiters are sewn from a loosely-woven Cordura, with a spotty urethane coating inside; this coating is bound to yield bare spots with hard use, leaving the door open for water leakage. That means soaked rock shoes and cold feet much sooner than later. Hotcutting the gaiter fabric, or spiral stitching the inside seams, would help prevent nylon fraying. Some of the interior sewing is sloppy, with inadequate tension on midsole stitching, and a block toe would improve edging.

Nevertheless, the Presles will shine as a popular summer unit — a transglacier ferry to the sweet, hot rock of July. This boot is One Sport's stellar offering to the climbing world this year — a boon to serious alpine rockers.

The next boot up in the One Sport line, the **Trango**, is an outer boot into which you place any inner boot of your choice. It is far superior to plastic boots in sheer ankle flexibility; but that quality, which tempts one to use them on hairy mixed routes, also leaves them extremely vulnerable to damage. They're simply not built to take a beating — just what rugged mixed terrain does to gear. The Trango is, at best, an average design that raises major concerns.

First, this boot needs a block toe for safer edging on dicey footholds. And the integral gaiters have the same



urethane coating as the Presles; it's destined to rub off well before the rest of the boot is worn out. A higher rubber rand on the inside ankle to prevent crampon gouging — like the Jannu offers — would be a good idea. Once a gaiter is badly ripped, a cobbler would have to remove it and sew on a costly custom replacement. Who needs that headache?

We found the zipper was too tight over the top instep, so that you really have to tug to get it past. This suggests inevitable tearing and a moisture nightmare to follow. Because of that tight spot, it's also tough to get a good uniform seal on the Velcro flap that covers the zipper, another potential moisture hassle.

The Trango is extremely warm, and the built-in gaiter is like a hotbox unless ambient temperatures are icy. It's sometimes necessary to wrap the tall nylon stack down around your ankles on a long approach to avoid sweat condensation dripping down to your socks.

The meaty toe box will give you trouble in thinner cracks, but it provides shock absorbercy for step kicking. And the relatively thin sole hinders easy toe bale fit for step-in crampons or alpine-touring bindings.

One Sport might consider installing a stiffer tongue in the split-leather midboot, to bolster instep support for frontpointing and edging on technical rock. A waterproof coating on the outside of the midboot, to repel the moisture that's bound to gather there from condensation or gaiter seepage, would be a good idea. The Trango also suffers from poor sewing in the midsole and along important seams.

Back on the plus side, the Trango has the best leather-like feel and ankle flexibility of all the double boots tested. In colder, dryer snows, the gaiter design should work well, shedding invasive moisture efficiently with a good seal. A generous rubber rand gives the Trango good friction for wide cracks, and the boot's overall lightness is a selling point. Also, the Trango offers remarkable comfort for hiking and camp lounging.

This is an adequate technical boot in very cold conditions, but don't get that midboot wet or you'll regret it the rest of the trip — dissatisfaction guaranteed.

There is little doubt that 1987 expeditions worldwide will find that the **Jannu** is the warmest double boot available — period. Featuring multi-layered insulation and an ingenious use of thin dead air spaces, the Jannu is a superior frostbite buster, ideal for winter climbs in North America, as well as Alaskan and Himalayan ventures.

The Jannu is built around a split-leather midboot laminated with 2.5 mm closed-cell foam. A urethane-coated Cordura gaiter is sewn directly

to the midboot. This unit then is mounted on a rigid Vibram sole that's insulated with a thin layer of closed-cell foam. There is a generous two-inch rubber rand around the lower boot, with higher sections to protect inside ankles from crampons. The rand also wards off slicing ski edges. The boot can be resoled readily, and accepts all types of crampons as well as many alpine-touring bindings.

The midboot closes with laces and the gaiter seals with a conventional zipper and Velcro flap. A layer of plastic stitched into the interior layers of the midboot helps increase rigidity for easier frontpointing.

One Sport offers a very comfortable closed-cell foam inner boot, the K2. It's rear-entry design seems to seal out cold air better than the Koflach Thermo IS Alveolite liner boot, but it has the same inherent flaw: it's a good bet to wear out quickly.

For hiking, the Jannu is one of the most comfortable double boots available anywhere, because of its superior ankle flexibility and well-cushioned footbed. Even with a full-steel shank in the sole, the boot is so pliable that you can almost walk heel-to-toe, as in a leather alpine boot. It seems the inner boot complex rocks slightly against the sole and shell to absorb the shin shock that plastic boots dish out so mercilessly.

We also noted that although the feel for toeholds is dimmed by the bulky insulation of the toe box, the block-toed sole performs authoritatively even on icy rock and micro-holds.

However, the Jannu has the same spotty urethane coating inside its knee-high gaiter, the same sloppy stitching, a fragile sewing job where the outer Alveolite layer meets gaiter bottom, a midboot vulnerable to moisture, and other potential headaches. As with the Trango, there's a tugging point above the upper instep that puts unsettling strain on the zipper.

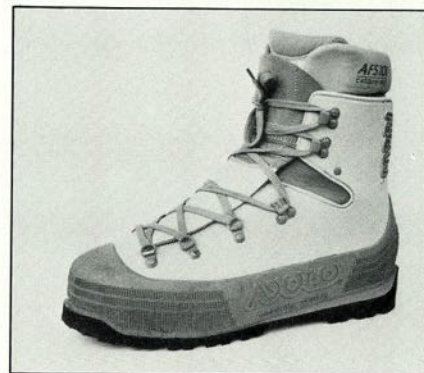
The K2 liners need better gluing in the tongue area — after only two trips there was noteworthy peeling. The elastic ankle bands should be sewn on the outside to prevent the chafing that sharp protrusions outside the stitching can cause. The closed-cell foam layer that's partially exposed at the outside ankle is very prone to abrasion and should be protected by tougher waterproof nylon.

Perhaps the upper gaiter could be made of Taslan Goretex to allow better breathing, but that likely would boost the Jannu's \$350 cost even higher. The price tag is about the only thing that'll give climbers cold feet with these mobile ovens.

Jannus are not made for the casual Cascade or Rocky Mountain climber. They are super-warm boots geared to meet the ugliest weather on the planet, and that's when they'll do their best work for you. With the K2 inner

boot, the Jannu sports closed-cell foam insulation of 5mm between foot and sole, plus 7.5mm over the foot. That, plus the ample dead air spaces between layers, will likely make this boot the chill-quashing standard in the industry.

In summary, we are enthused about One Sport's ideas to fuse the worlds of rock and ice with safety, efficiency, and lightness. Brenco Enterprises is the U.S. distributor for One Sport, and their technical reps are both knowledgeable and open to constructive criticism. We're confident that Brenco is working to encourage One Sport of Italy to boost its quality control.



Asolo A.F.S. 101

## ASOLO

The **A.F.S. 101** sports the highest quality-to-versatility quotient of any boot tested so far. Although it's been on the market since last summer, it still hasn't sparked a consumer firestorm the way that Koflach did several years ago — but it should. This fine Asolo design has so many top-flight features it's tough to know where to start. But availability is a question for folks with odd foot sizes: the boot now comes only in sizes 6 through 11. Asolo says that larger boots are on the way.

The uppers are a special nylon-based plastic that stays flexible even in extremely cold temperatures. Indeed, the compound offers the most leather-like feel of all the plastic double boots, and ankle flexibility second only to that of the One Sport boots. The upper is closed with a combination gusset and overlap tongue that seals out moisture well.

The integrated sole system used in the A.F.S. 101 is worth mentioning. The toe-box, heel counter, and insole are injection-molded together to provide a resilient, pliable unit that allows French technique far easier than other plastic boots. The Vibram Montagna block sole is fused to a rubber rand with a unique feature: little vertical bars that look like the ridges on a coin's edge. They grab dry rock with gusto. Ample recessed grooves at the toe and heel make fitting step-in crampons and ski-mountaineering bindings easy.



BRAND AND MODEL	RETAIL PRICE Spring '87	SIZES AVAILABLE Men's	Sole	WEIGHT OUNCES		Liner	SOLE
				Shell	Liner	Types Available	
ONE SPORT PRESLES	\$79	5-13 whole sizes only	35.2		35.2	Not applicable	rock shoes worn inside Vibram, shallow lug No block toe Half steel shank
ONE SPORT TRANGO	\$219	4 1/2-13 half sizes available	81.4	11 K2 model	92.4	Some faulty gluing & stitching Stiff, clunky but durable	K2 model closed-cell foam (\$99) Mont Blanc wool loden (\$89) Vibram, medium lug Full steel shank No block toe 2" rubber rand & toe cap
ONE SPORT JANNU	\$349	4 1/2-13 half sizes available	89	11	100	Same as above	K2 model recommended Vibram, deep lug Full steel shank Block toe 2" rubber rand also goes across ankle on inside
ASOLO A.F.S. 101	\$250	6-11 half sizes available	77.6	16.4	94	Excellent sewing & gluing Tight seal	Evapor closed cell foam (\$83) Vibram, deep lug Full honeycomb shank Custom design with integral rubber rand Block toe
KOFLACH VIVA SOFT	\$145	3-13 1/2 half sizes available	64.2	23.2	87.4	Time tested high quality & durable	Poly-wool loden with minimal lacing (\$89) Vibram, deep lug Block toe Rocker sole, full shank
KOFLACH ULTRA	\$230	3-14 1/2 half sizes available	63.6	30	93.6	Time tested & durable	wool loden (\$138) Vibram, deep lug Full shank Block toe Shock absorbing heel
KOFLACH ULTRA EXTREM	\$275	3-13 1/2 half sizes available	63.8	21.4 Thermo IS 31.2 loden	85.2 w/Thermo IS 95 w/loden	Time tested Thermo IS wears out quickly	Thinsulate & wool liner standard (\$165) Thermo IS closed-cell foam (\$110) Vibram, deep lug Full shank Block toe
KASTINGER HABELER PEAK	\$197	6-12 half sizes available	69.4	29	98.4	Decent quality Somewhat stiff but appear durable	Wool loden liner Vibram, deep lug Block toe Full shank
DOLOMITE ALPINIST SUPER	\$149	4 1/2-12 half sizes available	79.6	29.6	109.2	Pliable & forgiving, comfy Expertly sewn	Wool loden Vibram, deep lug Full shank Layer of shock absorber Block toe

The A.F.S. 101 also offers a promising shank concept: a honeycomb pattern of carbon fibers is bonded to fiberglass for stiffness as well as light weight. This shank also tends not to bleed heat away from the foot as quickly as steel does.

The A.F.S. 101's inner boot appears to be the most ruggedly-built foam inner on the U.S. market, featuring a tricot cloth-covered outer wall to resist wear and tear. But the tricot also absorbs invasive water — a major concern on multi-day routes. The inner should have a bit more insulation underfoot, where a lot of heat is lost in cold conditions.

The only other major problem we found was rand peeling, which can be rectified by judicious use of a rubberized compound.

Asolo trumpets a goal of building a synthetic double boot that's nearly as comfortable to hike in as an older-generation leather model, yet more flexible and leather-like in demanding mixed conditions than plastic boots. It seems they have succeeded, although this boot needs to prove itself

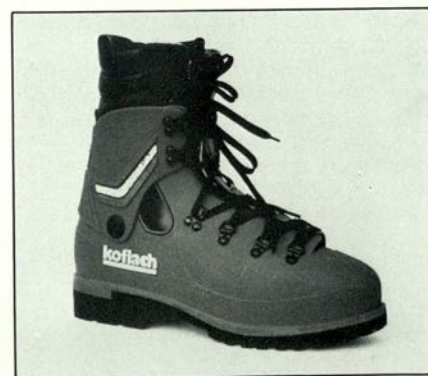
in the field the same way that Ultras and Ultra Extremes already have done.

When you weigh the \$250 price, the A.F.S. 101 is a definite value that should give Koflach and One Sport a run for the smart money. This Asolo boot is a jack of all terrains. It would be good for anything from Denali to 8000 meter monsters, as well as snow slogs and intense mixed routes.

### KOFLACH

So what do you get when you take the old Koflach Viva, soften its plastic cuff a bit, add a rocker sole and still keep the price under \$150? You get a relatively-cheap plastic boot that now offers only moderately-poor ankle flexibility — the same old wolf in a younger wolf's clothing.

The **Viva Soft** at \$145 is aimed at a climbing crowd that wants the water repellence of plastic double boots but isn't willing to slam down the money for a real quality pair. These boots are still fairly stiff and not recommended for use in very cold conditions. They're adequate in warmer weather.



*Koflach Ultra Extrem*

The sole has built-in shock absorbers, and the inner boot has a light loden lining with a removable felt footbed. This boot, though the same price as the Dolomite Alpinist Super, is no comparison in quality.

Koflach also offers the **Viva Soft Lady** (\$135), which includes a little extra padding, increased heel height, and smaller sizes (3-10 1/2) to accommodate women's feet.



UPPER	WARMTH BEST USES	DESIGN AND INNOVATIONS	QUALITY OF MATERIALS WORKMANSHIP	OVERALL GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 ounce Cordura nylon; urethane coated inside</li> <li>2" elastic cuff at top</li> <li>Good ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For warmer weather</li> <li>Best used for snow or glacier approaches or descents, to and from alpine rock climbs</li> </ul>	A+	B-/B-	A-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Split leather mid-boot</li> <li>11 ounce Cordura nylon integral gaiter; urethane coated inside</li> <li>Good ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With closed-cell foam liner manufacturer claims good to -20° Celsius</li> <li>Not good for sustained steep ice or rock</li> <li>Best for mixed alpine climbing</li> </ul>	B-	C-/C-	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Split leather mid-boot</li> <li>11 ounce Cordura nylon integral gaiter; urethane coated inside</li> <li>Good ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With closed-cell foam liner manufacturer claims good to -40° Celsius</li> <li>Expedition use, severe cold conditions, probably the warmest boot in the world</li> </ul>	A-	C-/C-	B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nylon-based injection molded plastic</li> <li>High flex rubberized piece for back of ankle</li> <li>Good ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good for winter technical or high altitude expedition climbing</li> <li>Good snow boot too</li> <li>Very versatile in all conditions</li> </ul>	A	A/B+	A-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polyurethane molded plastic</li> <li>Hinged ankle cuff</li> <li>Poor ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not recommended for extreme cold</li> <li>Best for summer mountaineering</li> </ul>	B-	B/B	B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nylon based molded plastic</li> <li>Hinged ankle cuff</li> <li>Poor ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good all purpose mixed climbing and expedition use</li> <li>Time-tested, good for very cold weather</li> </ul>	B-	A/A	B+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nylon-based molded plastic</li> <li>Hinged ankle cuff</li> <li>Poor flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard of the industry for extreme cold conditions</li> </ul>	B-	A/A	B+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polyether-based polyurethane plastic</li> <li>Very poor ankle flex</li> <li>Hinged ankle cuff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General mountaineering use</li> <li>Not recommended for very cold conditions</li> </ul>	C	B-/B-	B-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nylon-based molded plastic</li> <li>Poor ankle flexibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good for a variety of mixed climbing conditions</li> <li>About same warmth as Ultra</li> </ul>	B+	B+/B+	B+

Then there is the **Viva Winter** (\$160, in sizes 5½-13). This boot combines the Viva Soft shell with the warmer Ultra loden liner. Viva Winters are just another variation of a common theme: a stiff, unyielding, urethane-shelled boot that hikes uncomfortably, but keeps your feet dry and toasty on glacier slogs or steep snow and ice.

The **Ultra** is a time-tested gem that's seen scores of warm ascents on major peaks in the Himalaya, the Andes, and across North America. As usual with Koflach, the workmanship is good.

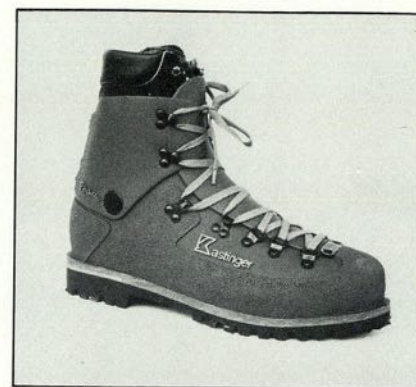
Despite the hinged ankle cuff and nylon upper, these boots are lacking in proper feel and ankle flexibility for French technique and steep mixed terrain. But they're fine for glacier slogs, cold snow climbs, and moderate mixed ascents. They won't approach super-comfortably, however, because of the intrinsic stiffness problem.

Ultras perform well for extreme frontpointing chores and are a reliable all-purpose alpine boot. Their wool felt

liners are heftier than the Viva Soft's. Hats off to Koflach for recessing the bale grooves on Ultras — and Ultra Extremis — because now they're able to take step-in crampons with a safer, snugger fit.

What new can be said about the **Ultra Extrem**, an excellent plastic boot? A stalwart performer for years, the Ultra Extrem is the *ne plus ultra* of its genre, if you can handle its lack of ankle flex and ghastly feel on long approaches. This boot has been tested to the max on all sorts of terrain and has legions of fans in every climbing sub-specialty. It is a solid performer on steep ice and snow.

But don't get taken in by the pretty purple shell. It's the same plastic and design as the Ultra, only cut a little roomier to accommodate a double-thick wool loden liner boot. Ultra Extremis also take a Koflach Thermo IS Alveolite liner, which will coddle your feet to -30°F with ease. But the Thermos are expensive, don't wear well, and are sometimes a pain to adjust for a comfortable walking fit.

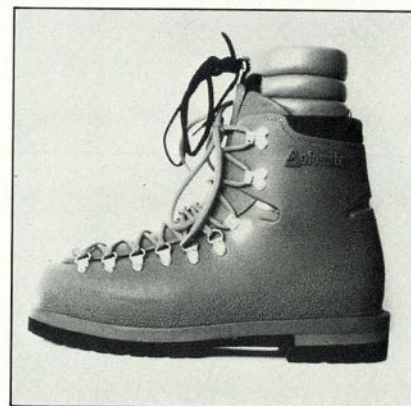


*Kastinger Habeler Peak*

### KASTINGER

The durability and workmanship of the **Habeler Peak** has been proven over years of hard use in Europe and North America. But there's nothing to throw a party over in this model. In fact, their feel and fit may give some people fits. The loden liner is stiff and unforgiving, the plastic uppers are restrictive and offer poor ankle flexibility, and this boot's feel on alpine rock is uninspiring.

On the plus side, the Habeler Peak is a good step-kicking and glacier boot, and a decent value. Our chart does not show the other Kastinger double boot available this spring: the Habeler Robson, which sells for \$141.



*Dolomite Alpinist Super*

### DOLOMITE

Here is the newest model on the U.S. market, and an unsung hero among plastic boots. The **Alpinist Super** costs a cool \$81 less than the Ultra, but gives you equal bang for the buck in all key areas: workmanship, sturdiness for steep snow and ice use, warmth, and so-so approach comfort if you lace inner and outer boots wisely. There are ample sole lips for the bale of step-in crampons. The loden liners are expertly sewn, pliable, and comfortable, but the felt insulation is a little skimpy atop the footbed.

The Alpinist Super is the best dollar value of any plastic double boot we've tested. We wholeheartedly encour-



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In closing, we'd like to thank Bill  
Sumner, Recreation Equipment Inc.'s  
respected product development man,  
for the effort he extended in setting up  
an experimental protocol for measur-  
ing heat-loss rates from double boots.  
We'd hoped to fashion a test that  
would yield strictly objective data, but  
with the time and technology avail-  
able, the numbers didn't prove  
meaningful enough to warrant sweep-  
ing conclusions. Our thanks also to  
the many reps and company spokes-  
men who endured our endless phone  
calls and interviews with patience and  
good humor. Rest assured, folks, we  
did our homework and we're calling  
'em as we see 'em.

—John Hessburg and Jim Nelson

**CLOTHING**

**Climbing Skins**

At a guidebook author's request, I  
recently rummaged through some  
notes on climbs I'd done almost ten  
years ago in Alaska. Most amusing to  
me was the list of clothing I dug up:  
one-piece long underwear suit, plus  
separate tops and bottoms, turt-  
leneck, shirt, and two sweaters (all in  
wool), topped off with a pile suit, wind  
suit, down parka, and various gloves,  
mittens, hats and socks. I wouldn't  
even want to guess at the weight and  
bulk of such an outfit, let alone con-  
template actually having to carry it  
again.

For the alpine climber, nothing has  
changed so much in the past decade  
as clothing. Lighter materials and bet-  
ter designs have given us more effi-  
cient protection than ever before. And  
weight and bulk saved here can be  
translated directly into a faster ascent,  
or more food in the pack for a longer  
route.

Bob Culp originally designed his  
line of *Climbing Skins* with the alpine  
climber in mind, but the end product is  
a versatile set of garments well-suited  
to a wide variety of temperatures and  
activities. *Climbing Skins* are con-  
structed of a thick (11.5 oz.), stretch  
polypropylene/lycra fabric, brushed  
on the inside for comfort against bare  
skin. This fabric is very warm and wind  
resistant, and the fit of the three gar-  
ments that I've used (pants, zip-front  
jacket, and vest) is superb: tight and  
stretchy, but not restrictive, with long-  
enough sleeves and legs so the cuffs  
don't end up around your elbows and  
knees. The overall quality is excellent,  
and both the material and the sewing  
has held up well to over three months  
of heavy use.

What has surprised me the most  
about *Climbing Skins* is their broad  
comfort range. I've worn the pants and  
jacket by themselves for hot summer  
mountain bike rides and long, wet  
hikes around Chamonix; by adding  
shells, the same garments were warm  
enough for a late-fall ascent on the  
north side of the Grandes Jorasses.  
This winter, I've been wearing the  
same set-up for my semi-weekly,  
sweat-drenched, 1 1/2 hour trudge up  
Aspen Mountain before work hours,  
again adding shells for the colder des-  
cent back to town. It seems that this  
fabric, while being wind-resistant, is  
also very breathable, leading to less  
buildup of moisture during strenuous  
exercise; it also dries surprisingly  
quickly for a material so thick.

If I were to voice complaints, they  
would be on two minor points. The  
fabric, for all its good qualities, pills  
after moderate use; this is merely a  
cosmetic effect, which many will un-  
doubtedly love, bringing back as it  
does visions of well-used pile jackets.  
And *Climbing Skins* are available in  
just one fashion color, black, hardly  
*de rigueur* for today's up-and-coming  
star. I was promised a test set covered  
in Hawaiian-print lycra, but unfortu-  
nately it never came through. Maybe  
next year?

—Michael Kennedy

*Climbing Skins* are available in  
pants (with ankle zipper, \$49.00),  
knickers (\$35.00), bibs (with full-  
access crotch zipper, \$60.00), vest  
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## WALL CLIMBING — PART II

### Vertical Living: Systems and Techniques

Wall climbing in Yosemite is a sport in itself — an adventure requiring specialized gear, techniques, and above all, a specialized state of mind. In fact, the state of mind required for a multi-day big-wall ascent is so unique that many are unable to click into it; thus, the failure rate far exceeds the success rate for those unaccustomed to its demands.

The natural impulse, once on the wall, is to immediately go down; if the mind succumbs, it easily rationalizes not being there, and retreat begins. If the initial mental barriers are overcome, however, wall climbing becomes a series of interesting challenges, many which stem from choosing the right tool and applying it in the most efficient manner. Developing appropriate "wall systems" is the key to overcoming these challenges.

The basic wall system involves two or three ropes: a lead line (11mm or 11.5mm), a haul line (9mm to 11mm), and an optional lower-out line (9mm). Envision Bert and Ernie on the big stone:

1. Bert leads, Ernie belays.
2. Bert finishes pitch, sets up new belay, prepares to haul.
3. Ernie releases haul bag from his belay (if need be, lowering it out with the lower-out line), Bert hauls it.
4. Ernie cleans pitch (jumaring).
5. Ernie arrives at Bert's belay, prepares to lead.
6. Ernie leads, Bert belays.

Repeat until dark (bivy).

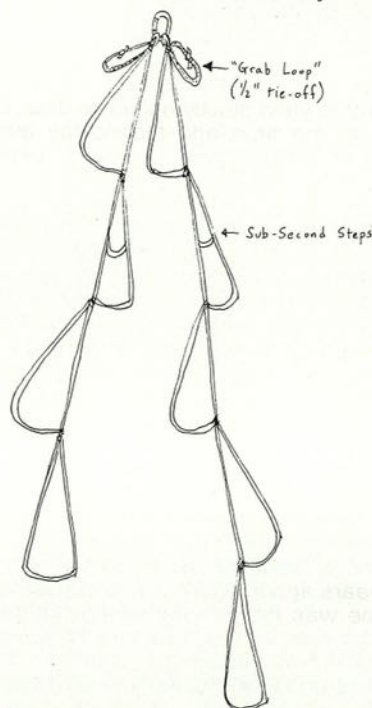
With three people, a third rope is required. After a pitch is led and the bag hauled, one will clean the pitch while the third jumars a free-hanging rope. At this point many systems are possible. The most efficient has the person who jumared the free-hanging rope start leading the next pitch while the previous pitch is still being cleaned.

#### GENERAL TECHNIQUES

Cleverness is an asset; good judgment and innovative thinking are in constant demand while on a wall. Besides the primary challenge of a successful ascent, a wall continually offers minor challenges, each unique and each requiring a slightly different solution. With experience, one learns the "tricks of the trade," and the complex task of wall climbing becomes second nature.

While preparing for a nailing lead, it is a good idea to first look at the line and calculate a general plan; for example, how to place slings to minimize rope drag, or how, for example, some Lost Arrows should be saved for a higher section. Don't ever trust the topo, as it is merely a general guideline and by no means exact. Overall efficiency becomes the name of the game, and accurate judgment is required.

**Gear.** Proper organization of gear is all important. With double gear slings (and two loops on each side), racking has become simple and comfortable. Suggestion: rack pins (5 to 6 knifeblades per biner, 4 to 5 Lost Arrows per biner, 3 to 4 baby angles per biner, and 2 to 3 angles per biner), slings, and tie-offs on the right side; Friends, wired wedges, copperheads, and hooks on the left side; and then distribute the free biners so as to equalize the weight on each side. However it's done, quick access requires a consistent, familiar system.



**Aiders.** Two sets of aiders are handy (2 aiders on each biner). It's nice to have a grab loop and a sub-second step. For testing purposes, one of the two aiders should be longer (5-step).

**Daisys.** A daisy chain acts as a secure tentacle — a cord and biner directly connecting the climber to a placement. Five millimeter perlon (doubled) works well, knotted with a clip-in point every foot or so and extending from your harness to the tip of your reach. For the harder routes, two separate, different-colored daisy chains are useful. Also, I'll usually have a fifi hook on a short supertape sling tied to my harness. The usual procedure for using all this: a) place the next piece, b) clip in a set of aiders, c) clip in the daisy, d) test the piece, e) get on it, climb into the third step of the aiders, hook in the fifi and hang from it (a carabiner can be used, but the fifi is easier to hook in). After a momentary reprieve, decide what's required for the next placement, climb up the aiders (the daisy, clipped in short, can also be used on overhanging sections to lever in while topstepping) and repeat. With the daisy, the rope doesn't need to be clipped into a piece until ready to move off it (minimizing the potential length of fall).

**Tie-offs.** Tie-offs reduce the leverage on pitons which bottom out. An overhand knot can be used to tie pins off, but a clove hitch is quicker and easier to untie afterwards. A longer "keeper sling" tie-off, looped through the eye and clipped in, will prevent losing the pin if it pulls out (make sure the load is not on the keeper sling).

**Testing.** There are two methods of moving onto dubious placements: the "ease-onto-it" method, whereby the climber slowly eases his weight off the present piece and onto the next piece, and the more recommended "shock-test" method, whereby the climber bounces his weight on the next piece (with the aiders and daisy clipped in, *not the rope*), slowly at first then building up to forces exceeding body weight. Of major importance is preventing the present piece from getting shock-loaded if the tested piece does pull. Of course, sometimes a dubious piece can't or shouldn't be tested: judgment is required. Testing in the midst of a string of dicey placements is one of the scariest aspects of the game.

**Free Climbing.** To leave the security of the aiders is usually exciting, especially when the aiders must be retrieved for future use. Here the difficulty is to keep from tripping over the aiders and the daisy. Clip them well out of the way.

**Cheater sticks.** Though some consider cheater sticks unethical, they are a part of the game. Personally, I never use one. It's just an extraneous piece of gear which gets in the way, is seldom used, and is never necessary.



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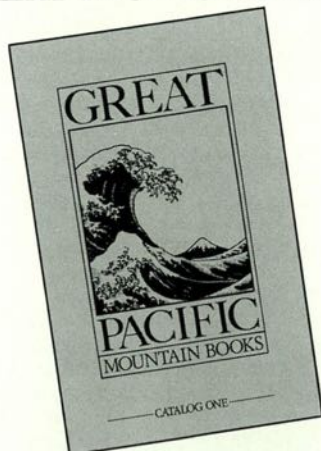
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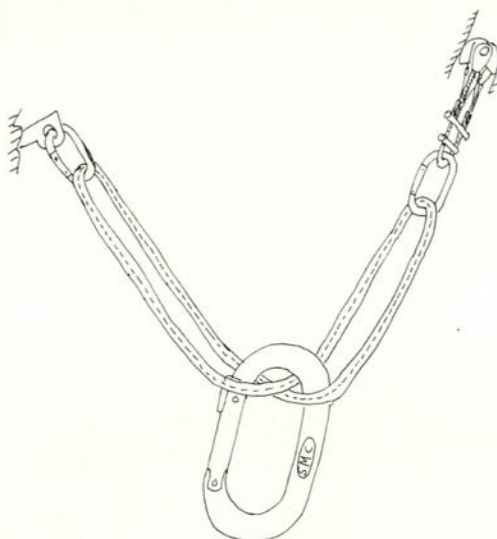


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**Sling Use.** Slings reduce rope drag, save biners, prevent the rope from going over sharp edges, and equalize belay anchors. Carrying slings on carabiners on the rack keeps them out of the way and yet fairly accessible. Medium length 9/16" supertape slings can be looped through the eyes of pitons (often saving a biner). Be aware of sharp edges while on lead, both for yourself and for your partner: slings usually solve this problem, but infrequently an edge will be so bad that an article of clothing must be shed and left securely in place to pad it. At belays, it's a good practice to equalize pieces with regular length 1" slings. Properly done, this distributes the load equally between two anchors, and is secure even if one of the two anchors fail.

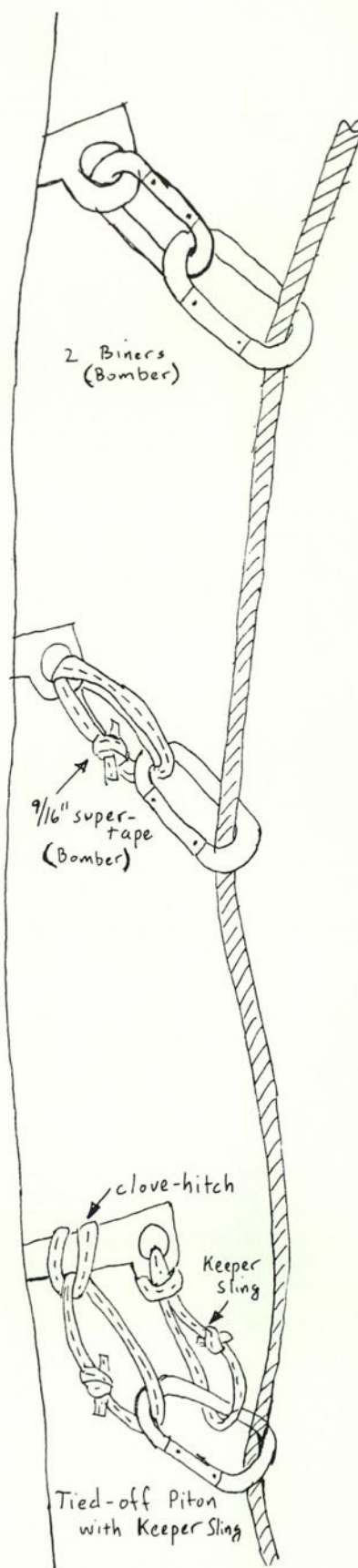


Equalization (not to scale)

**Belay set-ups.** Once the belay is reached, it is important to be organized. As the belay is set up, keep in mind which anchor your partner will be jumaring on, which anchor the hauling will be done from, and which anchor you'll be hanging while your partner leads the next pitch. When the anchors are spread out, belay set-up is simple, but when the anchors are bunched together, proper set-up can be tricky.

Be sure to tie in with enough slack to be able to haul. I'll usually tie in with six feet of slack, and then hang from a jumar clipped directly into my harness. I'll use this same jumar to haul with, then to clip my belay seat to so that it is adjustable. Clipping the daisy into part of the belay will act as a back-up.

Portaledges make luxurious belays. A comfortable seat can also be fashioned out of a two-foot square piece of padded plywood with two holes drilled in the corners of one side, and one hole drilled in the center of the





other. The sling to the center hole should be adjustable.

### SPECIFIC TECHNIQUES

**Copperheading.** Copperheading is an art, learned through experience. A striking tool is frequently needed for the smaller heads. For larger heads, the pointed end of the hammer is often effective. Lost Arrows work okay for stuffing the metal into narrow seams. The "X-em, paste-em, rock-em, sniff-em" technique is adequate for most placements. X-em: embed the head with multiple cross-hatched blows; paste-em: pin the right and left side in; rock-em: hit the top and bottom to see if it rocks; and finally, sniff-em: if it stinks, get off it!

To remove, connect a sling from the copperhead to the hammer, and swing upwards, jerking it out. For some heads, a biner-chain instead of a sling may be required. If it looks like the wire will rip out, leave the copperhead fixed in place, unless you plan to clean the metal out.


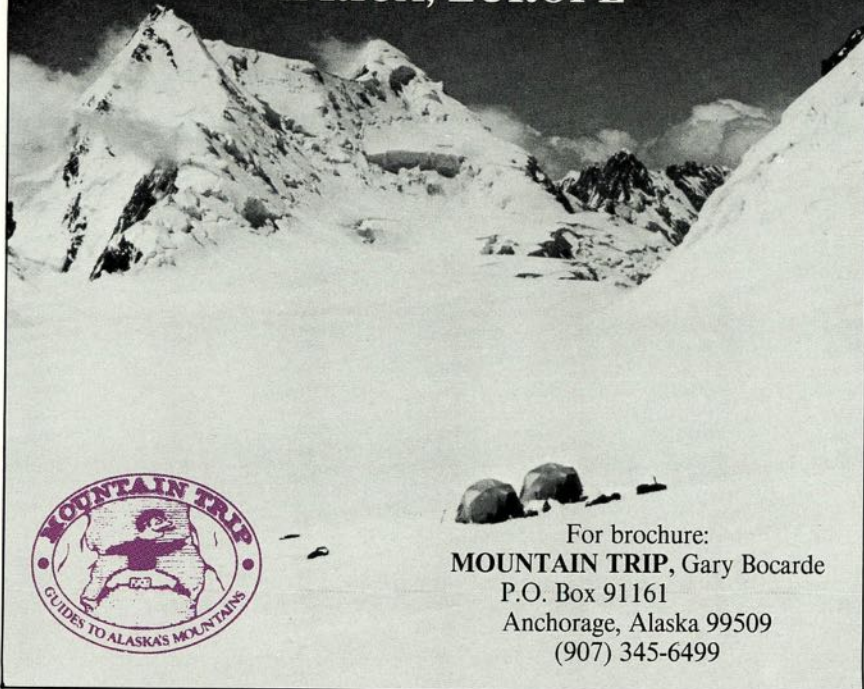
**Hooking.** A familiarity with the various hook types and a knowledge of where each will work best is essential. When hooking, always keep a daisy connected to the hook/aider so it doesn't blow off or become lost in case of a fall.

**Expando.** In expanding flakes, placing each successive piece may loosen the piece that you're on. Always clip into the higher piece with a daisy. Overdriving a piton at the start of an expanding section will often make the section more secure, although it could blow the flake apart. Intelligent and patient use of pitons, nuts, and Friends reduces expando from its voodoo reputation to a fairly sane activity. Expanding copperheading is always exciting. When a flake is too loose or too thin to be nailed, tap copperheads deep into the flake and weight them until they catch. The copperhead acts as a wedge, being held in mostly by the pressure of the flake.

**Stacked pins.** Pitons occasionally need to be stacked when there just isn't enough metal to squeeze into the placement. Blades and arrows can be stacked, angles and Leeper Z-pins are commonly stacked, and large angles can be stacked with each other. Threading a keeper sling through the eyes of the stacked, tied-off pins minimizes the chance of losing them if they fail.

**Other placements.** As one develops an eye for placements, the best selection can be made from a well-equipped and well-understood arsenal. Two-cammed Friends are often secure. RP's are frequently bomber in the bottom of pin scars, though HB's may be the ticket. Bongs can be used sideways for large cracks. Pitons are easily overdriven, making them hard and time-consuming to remove.

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## FOLLOWING

**Cleaning.** Efficiency is a must. Keeping gear organized while cleaning a pitch makes re-racking for the next pitch simple. For cleaning purposes, I sacrifice a biner which I tape onto a cleaning sling. Clipping the cleaning biner to a piton prevents the piton from being dropped as you hammer it out, and allows leverage if necessary. A nut tool on a long sling also speeds the cleaning of stuck nuts.

**Cleaning pendulums.** The simplest, quickest way to clean short pendulums is by using a loop of rope through the pendulum point. Start by making a loop with the end that you are tied in with, pass it through the pendulum point sling, and clip the loop into a biner on your harness. Pull the slack out of the loop so your weight is on the loop and off the jumars. Then unclip the pendulum point biner, and lower out hand over hand (only one hand is really needed). The rope will pull through the pendulum point sling after lowering. Simply unclip the bight from your harness and pull it through. Long pendulums must be rappelled.

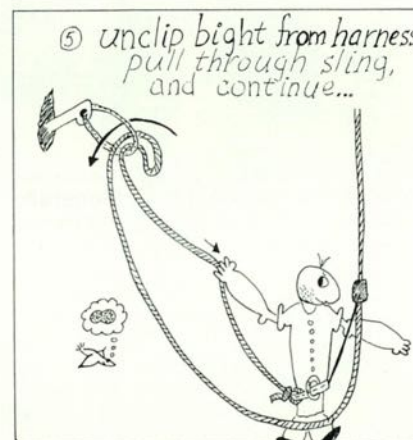
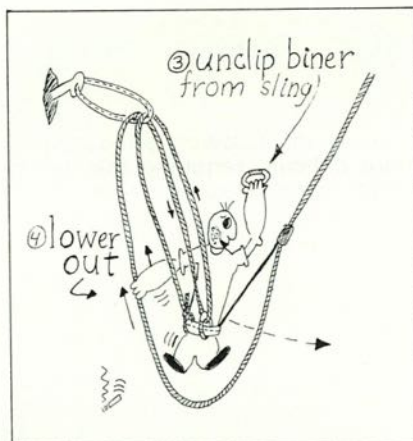
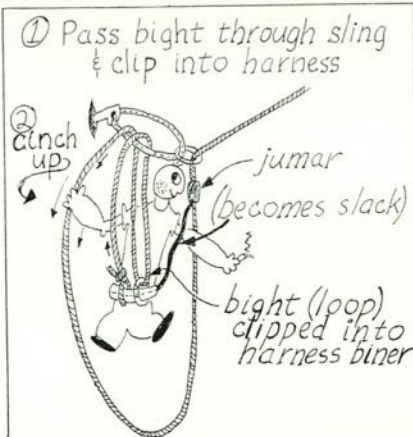
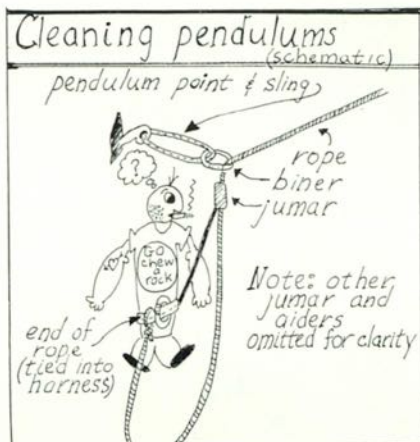
If you want to keep the pendulum point piece (rather than leave it fixed), the sporty method involves clipping into the piece with your cleaning biner, weighting it, then hammering away at the piece until it pulls, sending you on a short but vigorous flight.

## THE BELAY

**Transitions.** Making the transition from cleaning to leading the next pitch can be very awkward, especially when the belay is cramped. Efficiency takes practice. Re-rack the gear, obtain an untangled belay from your partner, and start aiding. Don't forget the haul line.

**Ropes and Management.** The Spaghetti Management System, where everything is left to tangle, is not recommended. Careful organization and separation of the various ropes will save time and energy later. Different-colored ropes allow for quick identification. Stacking each rope through a sling keeps it from blowing around and getting tangled. If it is easier to leave the haul line hanging, clip it loosely to the belay with a Munter hitch so that the leader doesn't have to deal with the full weight of the haul rope. Give slack as needed.

Sometimes the leader will need additional gear; he can haul it up on the haul line. If more than half of the haul line is out, then it will have to be untied from the haul bags, and the lower-out line attached. (Untying from the haul bags can be very difficult; the knot has been severely weight-loaded). There are two ways to avoid this: when leading, make sure that you have everything needed to finish the



pitch as you near the half-rope point, or utilize a fourth rope. On difficult routes, I'll trail a 7mm "zip line" instead of the haul line. Besides being lighter, gear can be easily sent up at any point of the pitch. At the end of the pitch, the zip line is used to pull up the haul line.

**Hauling.** Once the leader is ready to haul (pulley clipped over haul line, upside-down retaining jumar on end leading to previous belay, hauling jumar on other end and clipped to harness) the belayer must free the bags. On straight-up pitches this is easy, but on traversing pitches, it's often difficult. If the bag is too heavy to lift by hand, the simplest method is to clip the lower-out line (tied into the haul bag) through a higher anchor, and use a belay device or jumar to pull the lower-out line, pulley-fashion, until it is off its anchor. Then unclip the bag from the anchor and lower it out. Both hauler and cleaner should be aware of anything the haul bag might catch on.

For loads over 200 pounds, two separate hauls can be made (two haul lines). Simpler, however, is the two-person haul system: the cleaner gets the bags off the anchor (with help from the leader), cleans the pitch to the belay, then clips in to the haul line underneath the haul jumar. The leader can then haul in a traditional manner, aided by the "dead weight" provided by the other climber.

Clipping the haulbag into the anchor is a four-step process. Clip the daisy attached to the haulbag into the anchor. Lower the haulbag (reverse hauling) until its weight is no longer on the haul line. Disassemble the haul system so that the pulley can be removed and readied for the next lead. Finally, back-up the daisy by tying off the haul line attached to the bag.

**Organization of the Haul Bag.** Water bottles, especially on lower angle routes, should be well padded; ensolite is excellent. Certain items, such as extra gear, the day's food and water, and rain gear, need to be handy. Having either a day-pack or a pocket in the top of the haul bag makes organization simpler.

**Bivys.** Stuff sacks and sleeping bags with sewn-in loops can simplify bivy set-up. Be sure you practice setting up your porta-ledge before you're actually on the wall; if you can simulate a hanging stance do it — you will find it much more pleasant when it is for real.

## OTHER SYSTEMS

**Fixing.** Fixing the first few pitches is standard practice. Without making the full commitment, a team can at least accomplish some of the work. Fixing station-to-station is advised if possible; otherwise, ropes can be tied together and left to hang. Leaving gear at the top of the ropes lessens the



eventual work load, but watch for gear thieves. This hasn't been too bad of a problem in recent years, since most realize that getting caught could be fatal.

Hauling past knots is tricky. It requires either replacing the pulley with a carabiner until the knot passes through, or lowering the hauling anchor. Rappelling past knots requires use of the jumars.

**Jumaring.** Always tie into your jumars. Free-hanging jumaring can be made less strenuous using the Texas Style: clip the top jumar into a daisy and through a chest harness, which can be rigged with slings, and have both aiders on the bottom jumar.

**Retreating.** It's always a good idea to have a general plan for emergencies. Speculate on possible retreats from each pitch before embarking. Keep in mind accessible routes that may have a fixed descent route or offer a quick and easy way up. Weather is a major cause of trouble; proper storm gear, even in the warmer seasons, will often prevent a sudden change in plan due to a sudden change of weather. Self-rescue is the preferred escape; calling for a rescue should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Rescues are expensive and difficult.

**Sanitation and Garbage Disposal.** There is considerable disagreement about the appropriate methods. If there's no one below you on the route, I recommend taking dumps out in space, since paper bags full of feces at the base are very unsightly and decompose very slowly. On popular routes this must be weighed with the possibility of seriously offending the next party by feces which did not clear the route. Trash, however, should be carried up, since throwing garbage off routes can be considered nothing less than littering, even if you do plan to pick it up after the ascent. El Cap and Half Dome are getting so much use that their bases are minor dumps. Everyone, regardless of experience, needs to realize that throwing trash off is no longer acceptable.

**Ridding Yourself of the Bag.** The National Park Service recently has semi-illegalized bag-throwing; if caught throwing haul bags off the top, you'll get charged with "creating a hazardous situation." Thus, don't do it unless absolutely necessary. If you do, either fill a bag only with soft stuff (sleeping bags, clothes, slings, etc.) for the toss and carry down the rest, or rig the bag with a parachute. For the latter method, tie hardware together with a sling and pad with ensolite and sleeping bags. Put heavy stuff at the bottom. Pack a sleeping bag at the top and tie the haul bag's opening loosely — the sleeping bag will blow out the top of the haulbag at impact, absorbing a lot of the shock; otherwise, the haulbag will probably blow apart. The

only way you can be sure that you won't kill someone is to carry the bag down.

"Walls are 99% pure torment, 1% fun."

—Fish

**Solo Techniques.** Soloing a wall can be a great experience. With a busy work load, a high degree of commitment and uncertainty, and an intense amount of solitude, soloing becomes a unique adventure, potentially testing the climber to his/her physical and mental limits.

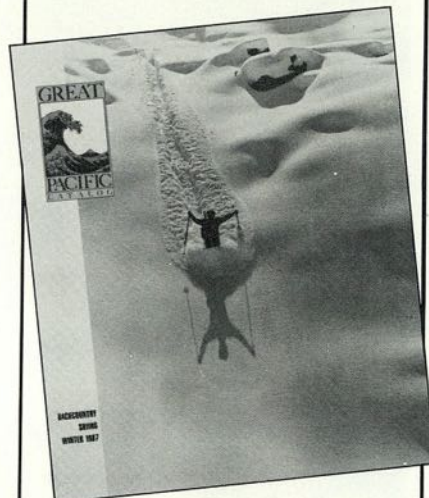
Techniques are generally the same as with a partner, except that a self-contained belay system is required. For routes primarily aid, the clove-hitch system works well. The climber simply ties a clove hitch in the lead line and clips it into a locking biner on the harness. One end of the lead line is anchored into the belay, and the other end can be left to hang, or tied in, depending on your faith in the system. (Letting the other end of the lead line hang, however, prevents a loop from getting hung up on flakes). Slack must be passed through the clove hitch as each move is made. Having two locking biners can give the climber large amounts of slack while still being tied in: tie a second clove hitch in the second locking biner with the required amount of slack, then untie the first clove hitch.

One advantage to soloing is that rope drag is never a problem (the rope remains fixed in relation to the pieces); in fact, the rope can be tied into bomber pieces anywhere on the pitch. Leading and following pendulums is more difficult, requiring the use of jumars and/or a rappel device. Of major importance is setting up the haul line properly before leading a pitch so that it doesn't snag while moving.

Once the pitch is led, it must be rappelled and cleaned, and the bag hauled. A standard system entails rapping down the haul line after setting up the haul system with a third jumar, freeing the haul bag, cleaning the pitch, hauling, and setting up to lead the next pitch. Getting back to the previous belay can be difficult if the pitch traverses considerably. Two ropes tied together may be required to reach the stance — rappel until below the belay, then jumar up. The lower rope is then pulled back into the belay, untied from the upper rope, and used to lower out the haul bag. Generally, however, only one rope is necessary to reach the lower belay — simply rappel down and pull yourself to the stance. Jumars may be needed.

For straight-up pitches, the rappel/body-haul system, or "sporty system," can be used: two ropes are trailed in addition to the lead line; the haul line and a rappel line. The haul bag is left solely on a fifi hook (this

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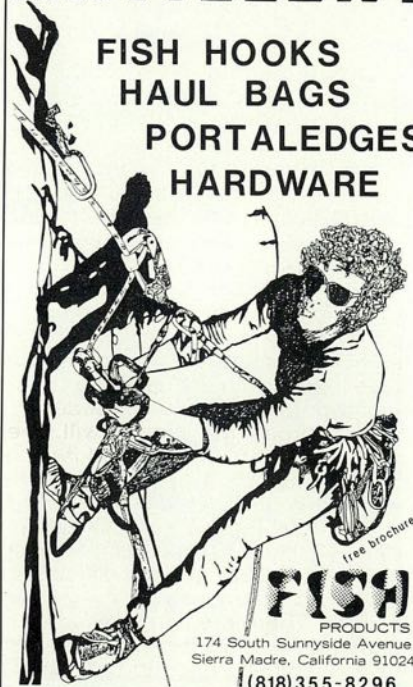


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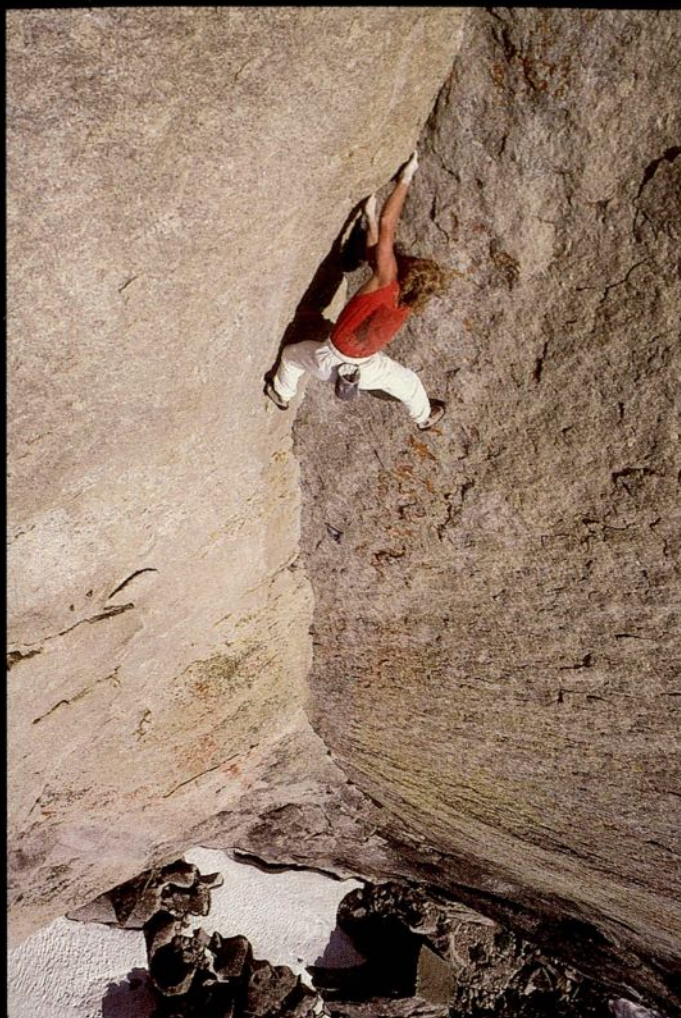


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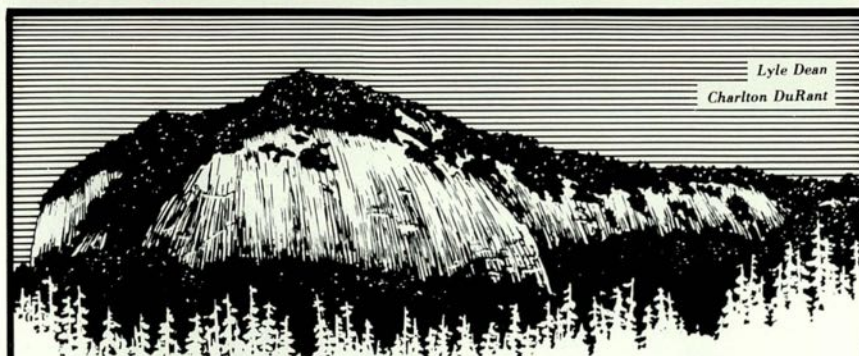
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must be rigged properly so that an upward pull on the haul line will lift it off the anchor). The haul bag is then body-hauled (set up haul system carefully so that no snags develop) as the pitch is rappelled. Although huge amounts of energy are saved, this system can be dangerous unless everything is set up exactly right; of major importance is leaving the haul bag on a remote part of the anchor so that a fall while leading would not disrupt the haul bag's anchor, possibly causing it to cut loose.

"It ain't over 'til it's over."

—Yogi Berra

## THE GAME

**Ethics.** Wall ethics do exist, though generally not as commonly controversial as free-climbing ethics. Climbing is a game with certain rules; even though many climbers pretend to ignore their existence, everyone seems to draw the line somewhere. With walls, good ethics come from having a reverent respect for the rock. Minimum impact becomes the name of the game. For first ascents, this involves minimum bolting and riveting (never drilling unless absolutely no natural placement is available), and minimum rock sculpting (poor style in any case). For subsequent ascents, basically *any* altering of the rock is considered poor style. If you're drilling where others didn't have to, you're out of your league. But enough said about this grey subject.

**Tradition and the Future.** Wall climbing has a tradition of pioneers who have utilized the best of their present technologies, developed new specialized tools, and brought into existence novel and strange techniques to ascend expanses of rock previously thought to be unreasonable. When the ascetic hardmen Salathé and Nelson first climbed the *Lost Arrow Chimney* over a period of five days in 1947, they made a radical departure from the traditional rock climbing style then prevalent in Yosemite.

By the late 1950's, the sheer faces of Half Dome and El Cap were still considered impossible, but pioneers like Robbins and Harding soon disproved that, and in the process, also initiated the idea of "style" and its resulting controversies. By the late 1960's and early 1970's, wall climbing in Yosemite reached a peak with inspired individuals like Bridwell, Porter, Bard, Burton, and Sutton, each one pioneering in some manner, whether boldness, style, or technique.

Presently, wall climbing seems to have found some equilibrium, with the current game being to find those last great routes and climb them in as perfect style as possible, namely minimum drilling. Most of the activity is still concentrated on El Cap and Half



Dome, yet certain individuals like Steve Bosque have been active in finding good routes off the beaten path. Other present-day games include speed climbing, all-clean climbing of previously-nailed routes, and no-bolt first ascents (which the recent ascent of the *Time Machine* exemplifies).

The future will bring new variations and refinements on these games, most likely with new technology spearheading the changes. Expect gear to be lighter, smaller, and more secure.

**Modern Grades.** The present trend of grading routes A5+ probably impressed the masses, but any one who knows better will tell you that ultra-specific wall grades need to be taken with a few grains of salt due to the incredible diversity of difficulties peculiar to wall climbing. For example, an A5 lead on the *Atlantic Ocean Wall*, besides taking seven hours and being the most exhausting pitch — both mentally and physically — I've ever done, had a dangerous fall potential (hitting a slab) beginning a third of the way up and lasting for the rest of the pitch. This section was entirely on marginal pieces, many barely holding body weight, and none very secure. Other parties rate their pitches A5 because they are perceived to be at the highest level of difficulty on an admittedly-arbitrary scale. It seems shallow-minded to assume that one's own A5 pitch is harder than another's unless the other has been experienced first-hand.

Historically, the A5 grade has always been the most difficult thing going; what they called A5 on the original *North America Wall* ascent, for example, would be considered A2 or

A3 by present standards; likewise, A5 on the original *Pacific Ocean Wall* ascent would be considered relatively tame by today's standards, probably A3 or minimal A4 — a reasonably safe 60-80 foot fall. This is beside the fact that these routes have become easier with use. Presently, A5 means a dangerous or death-fall potential on marginal body-weight placements.

Aid climbing just becomes more bold with time; to let the scale get out of control with grades of A6 and up simply renders the system useless, being dependent on people's egos rather than the nature of the route. Besides, a route with many easy pitches and one so-called A5+ pitch will not necessarily be harder than a route with continuous A5 pitches. Since it is so sketchy to put a number on something so massive and diverse as a big wall, it seems reasonable to stick with the basic A1-A5 system for describing individual pitches. Those experienced in hard aid climbing will intuitively know what is involved anyway.

—John Middendorf IV

*This is the second of a two part series. The first installment described the gear that the modern well-equipped wall climber uses to ply his craft (Climbing no. 99).*

Middendorf is a veteran of 17 El Cap routes as well as over a dozen other multi-day walls — all done during a 2½ year sojourn in Yosemite Valley. He has recently started his own business specializing in big wall gear and instruction (see ad this page).

A complete listing of all the wall routes on El Cap and Half Dome can be found in "El Cap and Half Dome, 1986," by Charles Cole, in *Climbing* no. 98.



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# TRAINING

## STRUCTURE AND MECHANICS

### Scientific Principles of Training for Rock

While many agree that success in climbing comes from having the proper mental attitude, very few can deny the importance of physical fitness.

The ability to hang out in a strenuous position while evaluating the next set of moves or placing protection can make the difference between success and failure. The climber who has held fast to a diligent training regimen will certainly have a physical and mental advantage over one who has led a life of decadence and debauchery during a long cold winter.

In developing a training program, whether to develop strength and endurance or maintain a current level of fitness, there are a number of factors that must be recognized. Training regimens are often based on erroneous principles and false reasoning, usually learned through hearsay and anecdotal accounts. Through this and an article to follow, we hope to provide a wide range of information that will allow climbers to develop a training program that will best serve their individual needs.

#### BASIC PRINCIPLES

**Specificity of training.** A climber is not going to get stronger by running ten miles a day. This may be helpful in developing endurance for an arduous approach, but the benefits on the climb itself will be minimal. If the goal is increased endurance for climbing, it is necessary to work out in a manner that will simulate climbing.

**Overload.** In order to develop strength or endurance, the musculature of the body must be presented with a resistance greater than that to which it is accustomed. Muscular *strength* is defined as the ability to overcome a maximum resistance while muscular *endurance* is defined as the ability to overcome submaximal resistance over a period of time. While strength is clearly important, there are very few times that a climber is performing to the absolute maximum of his or her muscular strength. Muscular endurance should be the primary aim in developing a training regimen.

#### MUSCLE STRUCTURE

Each muscle or muscle group is made up of hundreds of thousands of individual fibers. These fibers are composed of two major protein filaments, actin and myosin, which lie parallel to each other as illustrated in figure 1. During a muscular contraction, the actin and myosin filaments slide past each other, resulting in the visible shortening of the muscle. In-

creases in strength are associated with increases in the size of these protein filaments. As we mentioned earlier, it is not so important to develop strength as it is to develop endurance. Climbers, like gymnasts and dancers, must be cognizant of their body weight. If the ability to lift an additional five pounds comes at the expense of a ten pound increase in body weight, there are no advantages gained from the increase in strength. In fact, the climber is at a disadvantage due to the increased weight. Climbers should strive for a high strength-to-weight ratio.

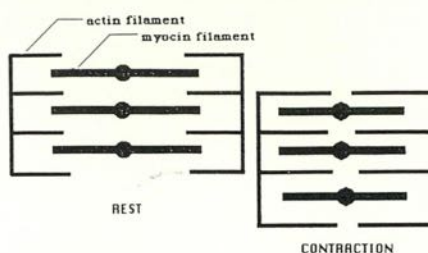


Figure 1. Actin and myosin filaments during rest and contraction.

#### MUSCULAR ENERGETICS

In order for actin and myosin to slide past each other, the molecule adenosine triphosphate (ATP) must be present. ATP is a three phosphate molecule. When one of the phosphate molecules is removed, energy is released and adenosine diphosphate (ADP) is formed. ATP is stored in limited supply within the muscle fibers, and therefore must be continually replenished. There are several energy systems within the body which allow for this. The first is that of ATP stored in the muscle, which is depleted in only a few seconds. The second source of energy is that of creatine phosphate (CP), which is also stored in the muscle. The molecule of CP combines with ADP once ATP is depleted. The combination of ADP and CP results in the formation of ATP and creatine. Like ATP, CP is stored in limited supply within the muscle, and can provide only a small amount of additional energy.

A third energy system, and the most used during climbing, is that of glycolysis. Glycolysis is the process whereby glucose or blood sugar is broken down so that ATP is formed. Blood glucose is formed as a result of the breakdown of starches, such as potatoes and dietary sugars. When one molecule of glucose is broken

down, the net result is the production of two molecules of ATP and one molecule of pyruvic acid. Depending on the fitness level of the individual, this process can continue for up to 4 minutes in a maximally-contracted muscle.

A fourth energy system comes into play during extended periods of moderate exercise. The pyruvic acid produced by glycolysis is consumed by the mitochondria, globular bodies within each cell. There it goes through a sequence of steps, often referred to as the *Kreb's Cycle*, to produce 36 molecules of ATP for each molecule of pyruvic acid. Essentially, the molecule of glucose is now able to produce 36 molecules of ATP as opposed to the 2 molecules of ATP produced by glycolysis. However, it takes time to "turn on" the *Kreb's Cycle*, while energy production from glycolysis and stored ATP and CP is readily available.

In order for glucose to yield ATP through the *Kreb's Cycle*, oxygen must be available to the cell. If oxygen is unavailable, pyruvic acid will not be allowed to enter the mitochondria, and lactic acid will be formed. Lactic acid can adversely affect the production of ATP and is responsible for the burning sensation felt in the muscle during intense exercise.

It would seem that the build up of lactic acid could be easily alleviated by providing more oxygen to the muscles. However, the transport of oxygen from the atmosphere to the mitochondria is a complex process that can be affected by a number of factors. During heavy exercise with the arms, there is often obstruction of the blood vessels due to muscular contraction. Once blood flow is restricted, oxygen is unable to be delivered to the mitochondria, resulting in the build up of lactic acid. Furthermore, lactic acid can not be shuttled out of the muscle, since there is a reduced blood flow out of the area as well. The resultant build-up of lactic acid will eventually shut down glycolysis as well as the *Kreb's Cycle*. If this occurs, only stored ATP or CP are available, and, as mentioned earlier, these are in limited supply.

- (1) Stored ATP;  $ATP \rightarrow ADP + P$
- (2) Stored CP;  $ADP + CP \rightarrow ATP + C$
- (3) Glycolysis
- (4) Aerobic metabolism; *Kreb's Cycle*

Table 1. Summary of Energy Systems

From the above discussion, it should be clear that only three of the four energy systems available can be used to any great extent during the short, strenuous bursts of energy typi-



cally used while rock climbing. Therefore, any training program should be directed towards these energy systems

### MUSCLE FIBER TYPES

While all muscles have structural similarities, muscle fibers differ in their ability to utilize energy systems outlined in Table 1. Muscles can be divided into two groups. Red, slow twitch fibers have the capacity to contract for an extended period of time with only a small amount of force being generated. White, fast twitch fibers can generate large amounts of force but their ability to maintain this over time is limited.

White fibers can be subdivided into two types depending upon their ability to utilize oxygen. Fast twitch, oxidative, white fibers are able to generate large amounts of force for a longer period of time, much as the red fibers. Fast twitch, white, glycolytic fibers can generate large amounts of force but only for short periods of time. When talking about fast and slow twitch fibers, we are referring to the speed at which the muscle is able to contract—the greater the speed of contraction, the greater the force output.

A summary of the different fiber types and their characteristics is shown in Table 2. Each of these fiber types requires a different training program if it is to be developed to its fullest potential. Climbers should be concerned with developing the potential of the fast twitch fibers, since it is these fibers that are utilized to the greatest extent while climbing. Specific training procedures will be discussed in a later article.

As in any sport, there are some individuals who are naturally gifted or predisposed. An individual with a high percentage of fast twitch, oxidative fibers will be better suited for climbing than an individual with a high percentage of red, slow twitch, oxidative fibers. If that is the case, most readers will ask, "How do I change my fiber types?" Unfortunately, this is not a viable alternative: The only way to change fiber types is to exercise greater discretion when selecting one's parents. Therefore, the only option is to train the capacity of the fibers with which you were born.

### FATIGUE

With the basic physiology outlined, let's examine the nature of fatigue a little more closely. Fatigue can be defined as the inability to maintain work at a given intensity, resulting in a decrease in performance. In most instances, climbers are not completely fatigued, but rather are unable to maintain the initial force output. The consequences of fatigue are far more serious for the climber than for other athletes. A runner experiencing fatigue simply slows down the pace. The

Characteristic	Red, slow twitch, oxidative	White, fast twitch, oxidative	White, fast twitch, glycolytic
Speed of Contraction	slow	fast	fast
Strength of Contraction	low	high	high
Susceptability to Fatigue	low	medium	high
Ability to use Glycolysis	low	medium	high
Ability to use Aerobic Energy System	high	medium	low

Table 2. Muscle fiber characteristics.

Adapted from: *Physiology of Exercise for Physical Education and Athletics*, by H.A. deVries, published by Wm.C. Brown Company Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa., 1980.

crux move 30 feet above the last piece is no place to slow down for the climber.

The exact mechanisms causing fatigue have yet to be clearly defined. One probable cause of fatigue is the depletion of ATP and CP within the muscular system, which is related to the intensity of the work. In general, the greater the work, the quicker the depletion of these two energy sources.

A second factor contributing to fatigue is lactic acid accumulation, which appears to be the primary cause of fatigue during exercises similar in nature to climbing. Therefore, training programs should be designed to help alleviate the problems associated with lactic acid accumulation.

Another factor associated with fatigue is the depletion of glycogen (the muscle's form of glucose or blood sugar). Without glycogen, the muscle is unable to use glycolysis to produce additional ATP. It is unlikely that this is the cause of fatigue during climbing. Glycogen depletion occurs only after very continuous, high intensity exercise. While climbing does require a high energy output, it is not continuous for the time necessary to deplete the

muscle fiber of glycogen. Eighteen miles of continuous running is an example of an activity that would deplete muscle glycogen.

From the above discussion, the three most logical sites of muscle fatigue are depletion of ATP and CP, the accumulation of lactic acid, and a third factor we have not mentioned yet—the climber's unwillingness to continue, or psychological fatigue. Most training methods will help individuals overcome psychological fatigue as long as they push themselves during the workout. A workout program must therefore aim to increase stores of ATP and CP, increase the capacity of the glycolytic system, and increase the body's ability to tolerate lactic acid. Our next article will examine some general principles of training based on the information presented here. We will apply these general concepts to specific training regimens. In addition, we will discuss some of the various training methods commonly being advocated for climbing, and how the above principles can be incorporated into these methods.

— Michael Berry, Ph.D., and Lynn Berry, Ph.D.

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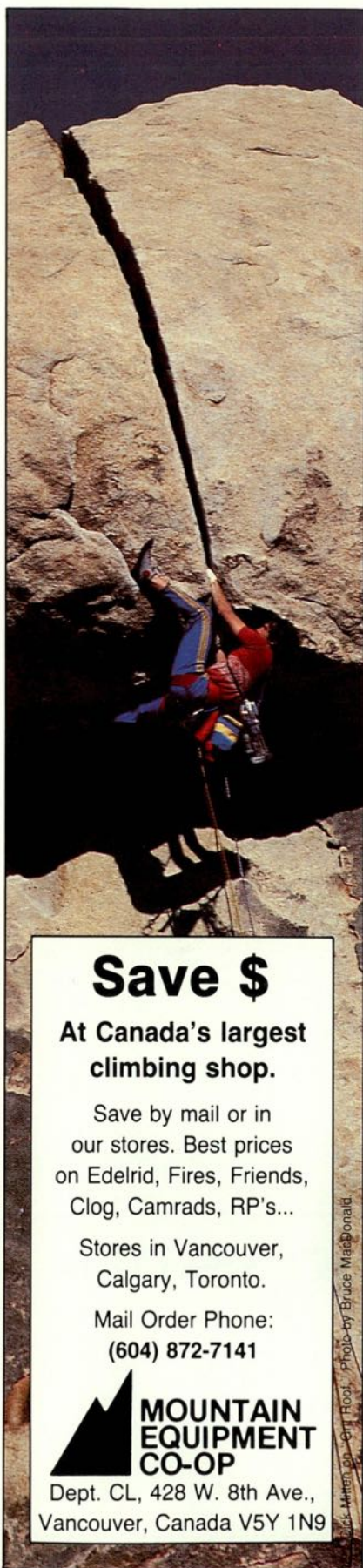
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# REVIEWS

## Eleventh Annual Banff Festival of Mountain Films November 7-9, 1986

Once again, a capacity crowd managed to escape jobs, commitments, and even spouses to attend the 11th Annual Banff Festival of Mountain Films. Whether it was old friends dragging another epic through the mud, or the formation of a business partnership, it was the participant who made the weekend's festival a success. And, as Sunday night eventually wound down, most people left with a familiar sense of satisfaction.

To the film industry in general, mountain films must seem an odd genre. However, to the town of Banff, this film festival is certainly the social event of the fall. Roughly 4000 people came to shop, to dine, and to liven up the place.

After a slow start Friday night, the viewing began in earnest on Saturday. The films selected from the original 60 entrants revealed a wide variety of purpose, subject matter, and style. One of the outstanding films, *Zimska Olimpijada*, which was not subject to judging, was a candid look at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics. This film beautifully combined "shoot from the hip" impressions with brilliantly edited and choreographed action sequences. The spontaneous burst of applause following the ice dancing clip must have been intended as producer Howard Moses' (NZ) award.

All was not theatre, however, and when the decision was made to drag one's bleary eyes from the screen to the lobby, one could meander amidst a surprising variety of booths flogging the products of equipment retailers or adventure outfitters.

Two special seminars also gave viewers the chance to participate in open panel discussions. "Media in Adventure," chaired by *Climbing* editor Michael Kennedy, drew a keen response as it struggled to rationalize the contradictions between the goals of the media (documenting human experience in sport), and the ethics of the individual (experiencing, and attempting to relate the experience of sport). Obviously, this was a difficult topic considering the numerous different people addressed by the various forms of media.

"Mountain Safety and Ethical Concerns" deliberated over the protection of man from his determination to err in a hazardous environment. Moderator Lito Tejada-Flores often dragged the audience and panel back to pertinent questions regarding ethics, cost vs.

need, and problems of increasing usage, while voicing probing concerns of his own.

The tone for the weekend was set by the affable nature of the various imported personalities. Hamish MacInnes arrived to speak both on opening night, and as a panelist on the mountain safety seminar. Robert Swan, another British visitor, described his Antarctic expedition, "In the Footsteps of Scott," to those who chose not to attend Saturday night's social at the Banff Springs Hotel.

In addition to the prestige and exposure gained from entering the winners circle at Banff, local sponsors donated \$5000 in cash awards to the winners. Speaking for the jury, *Rock and Ice* editor George Bracksieck presented the following awards before Sunday night's showing of the Best of the Festival.

**Special Jury Award** — *Cowboy*, produced by Darold Black (Canada). "Conveyed a feeling for the special breed of people who choose to make the mountain environment their home."

**Best Film on the Mountain Environment** — *Kunde Hospital*, produced by Jack Micay (Canada). "This film is a sensitive, well-documented portrayal of the positive interaction of western influence on the Sherpa culture."

**Best Film on Mountain Sports** — *Corsikayak*, produced by Laurent Chevallier (France). "...provided some thrilling footage of the most outrageous adventures on water."

**Best Film on Mountaineering** — *Paps et Zebulon*, produced by Philippe Lallet (France). "A charming look at a father-son relationship made more special by the adventures they share together..."

**Best of the Festival** — *The Climb*, produced by Wendy Wacko (Canada). "This film emphasizes the perils of group dynamics which become exaggerated in the rarified environment of a Himalayan giant. While exercising artistic license, this film goes a long way to bring the sport of mountaineering to the general public."

— Colin Zacharias

### Journey After Dawn

by Bill Peascod  
Cicerone Press, England, 1985  
\$19.95.

Bill Peascod's autobiography is a remarkable tale. Peascod, who suffered a heart attack while climbing on Cloggy shortly after *Journey After*

*Dawn* was released, has left us with a vibrant *oeuvre*, crafted as poignantly as his painting and as precisely as his first ascents.

Born into a miner's heritage in the West Cumbrian lowlands, his early years gave little hint of the life of the artist and climber that would develop. His "awakening" was just that: one morning, after a night shift in the mine, Peascod began his journey by cycling into the previously unexplored countryside. From that point on his life was devoted in one way or another to all that a hungry intellect can be offered by the hills.

Endowed with a physique trained in the mines and nerve honed by daily risk underground, Peascod found in climbing a medium in which he excelled. He quickly became one of the most competent and important Lakes District climbers of the 1940's and early 1950's, putting up many routes and exploring new crags. Though he is modest about the matter, there is no question that many of Peascod's routes will retain the classic mantle. Indeed, his *Eagle Front* was featured in Border Television's *Lakeland Rock* series.

Peascod's climbing accounts are compelling. The telling of a semi-winter ascent of *Great Gully* on the Screes of North Wasdale is sufficiently chilling to give pause to a well-equipped modern climber:

"From the ledge I attacked the ice on the bulge and cleared away several holds, while Elwyn, below, dodged masses of flying ice. The way ahead eventually became clear enough. On the bulge itself I had de-iced a small foothold, but to reach it I had to go right through the path of the falling water. There was a chance I would get washed off."

His journey took him to the British technical mining college, where he built on the practical foundation learned alongside his father in the mines to become a manager. Opportunities took him to Australia, where he renewed his passion for painting. Success and artistic frustration led him to Japan and ultimately back to England in 1980, where he settled in the Lakes District. Peascod's last years were spent in the hills he had journeyed into 50 years earlier.

The narrative skill exhibited makes Peascod's *Journey* a delight to travel — his eye for detail and turn of phrase place the reader alongside him throughout, as in this description of an ill-fated bicycle ride filmed as the introduction to *Eagle Front*:

"The bike was old but in good condi-



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tion. The brakes had been thoroughly checked. As I skimmed easily downhill I became blasé. This, I thought, is easy. I'll try it with one hand — and did. The front wheel began to wobble. Something unscripted was imminent. I had two options if I were to come off, I reasoned (and suddenly realized I would!). Either the big drop on the right and a spectacular catapult into space or the grass, wall and odd rock on the left. I headed for the grass and rock on the left. Gracefully, I believe, the bike and I parted company."

One can picture this event perfectly. At the end, it is perhaps fitting that Peascod writes:

"Suddenly I felt a great elation — an excitement I hadn't known for years; there was so much to do and see and feel — the air seemed charged with life and the end of my journey out of the dawn light seemed as far away as ever it had been."

One hopes that Peascod journeys yet.

— Stuart Pregnall

**The Great Climbing Adventure**

by John Barry

Oxford Illustrated Press, England,  
1985

Hardbound, 251 pp., \$12.95

At first glance, *The Great Climbing Adventure* elicits a groan and a "here we go again." The book opens with, "The most common question all climbers are asked is, why? 'Why do you climb?'" This is a great philosophical conundrum akin in cosmic importance to, "Why get up in the morning?"

Luckily, Irish climber John Barry spares us a boring slog through the usual platitudes that began with Mallory — serious or not — uttering, "Because it's there."

Barry is well-read enough to know that no one has a good answer for that non-question to begin with, and that mountain literature is already weighed down with tons of bad prose set to avalanche on the next foot trying to improve on Mallory's aphoristic *directissima*. "The game — and it is only a game — hardly bears rational examination after all," says Barry. "The dozens of questions got up as answers to that big question 'why do you play this game?' are proof of that, not refutation."

The best in mountain literature, like the best of any literature, simply tells the story, and leaves the nit-picking analysis to the scholars who climb nothing more than the steps to the library entrance. The best mountain writing is that which shows climbing, in rich description, in tightly-woven narrative, with an honesty that sees it steadily, sees it whole.

Barry follows in the footsteps of the finest mountain narrator of the 20th century, H.W. Tilman. Tilman was

never hyperbolic, never took himself or climbing too seriously, and always maintained a self-effacing, sardonic humor. Barry also carefully mixes irony, honesty, and wit, and does so with the skill, like Tilman, of a climber who can write, of a writer who also climbs.

A good example is Barry's memory of what a guidebook, in obnoxiously optimistic language, "slippery with lyrical prose," describes as a four-hour alpine snow slog on the Mont Blanc massif. To Barry, the climb and "alpinism (were) something very different." Memories of the route were of, "lukewarm brews, forgotten food, burnt fingers, handleless pots and Anglophobe hut wardens... super-charged long-life sardine-fuelled belches, bust crampon straps, fumbled gear and slings all too big or too small." The truth — and Barry does an excellent job of locating it — is that mountaineering is one foul-up close on the heels of another. Sort of like, you guessed it, life. In spite of snafu, we muddle through and reach the top (sometimes).

If climbing serves as metaphor for anything in life, climbing is The Big Goof and as far as Jupiter from The Big Conquest. Military metaphors for climbing are dead and never should have been given life, another glimmer of common sense Barry, although a former Royal Marine, sees steadily. A comic/absurd failure on the East Face of the Grand Jorasses, he concludes, "went a long way in developing my sense of the ridiculous — an important alpine attitude."

That sense carried him up Mt. Cook, to the Alps, through Wales and Scotland, to Gauri Sankar and Deborah. It's great to have another honest book with a healthy sense of irony and the absurd on the ego-swollen mountain book shelf. But don't worry; by "honesty" I don't mean the serious self-examination of David Roberts, a writer John Barry admires but does not imitate.

What I have in mind is the honesty of a climber who says, "Writing is hard work. Like climbing, to do it well, you go slowly, backwards even, and some days nothing at all happens." Of a climber who can state without flinching that, "mountaineering (has) as much to do with weakness as with strengths."

Barry shouldn't mind, then, if I say that *The Great Climbing Adventure* does have a flaw or two. The chapters on Scottish and Welsh rock crumble into a slag heap of anecdotes, the kind told to friends after two beers. Those tales needed sustained tension, a touch of suspense to hold interest like the superb Gauri Sankar narrative did. For an American reader, the going is also tough when the thick British colloquial snow gets blown around on the page; I could have used one or two



fewer "wazzers." Tilman used care not to let British idiom clutter his sentences.

Still, *The Great Climbing Adventure* should stand the test of time as Tilman's books have. Barry's 250 pages will remain on my shelf long after I've forgotten the prose and glossy color photos in yet another boring book about another boring first.

—Barry Greer

**First on Everest:**  
**The Mystery of Mallory and Irvine**  
by Tom Holzel and Audrey Salkeld  
Henry Holt and Company  
New York, NY, 1986  
322 pp., \$19.95

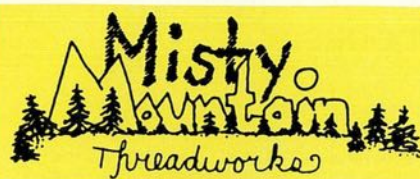
Few people have the good fortune to create their own epitaphs. In 1923, George Mallory offered, "Because it is there" as his *raison d'ascendre*; in 1924 he immortalized both the phrase and himself by disappearing on Mt. Everest with his climbing partner, Andrew Irvine. The two were going well when a storm developed; when the clouds parted briefly, Noel Odell saw his friends nearing the summit, moving well but behind schedule. They were not seen again. Their fate, and whether they might have reached the top, has been hotly debated ever since.

*First On Everest* takes a fresh look at the story of Mallory and Irvine. The authors give an absorbing account of Mallory's three Everest attempts. Then Holzel, using the scant evidence available - Odell's sighting, an ice axe found in 1933, a body found and then lost again in 1980 - argues convincingly that Mallory, leaving Irvine behind for the last push, probably reached the summit before perishing.

At 38, Mallory saw in Everest a last chance to fulfill his youthful ideals. Was his obsession great enough? He and Irvine tried to accomplish what many thought impossible. They had little high-altitude experience on which to draw. Their gear was primitive: porous clothing, hobnail boots, ponderous oxygen sets that constantly broke. They climbed an unknown, difficult route. Yet they came within 800 vertical feet of a peak not trodden until 29 years later, when Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, using better equipment, climbed the South Col route.

It's an exciting and well-told story. The history is lively, and the personalities involved, especially Mallory, are portrayed with depth and compassion. The climbing passages, written cleanly and with little jargon, vividly evoke the demands and rewards of extreme mountaineering. *First On Everest* will engross climbers and non-climbers alike.

—David Dobbs



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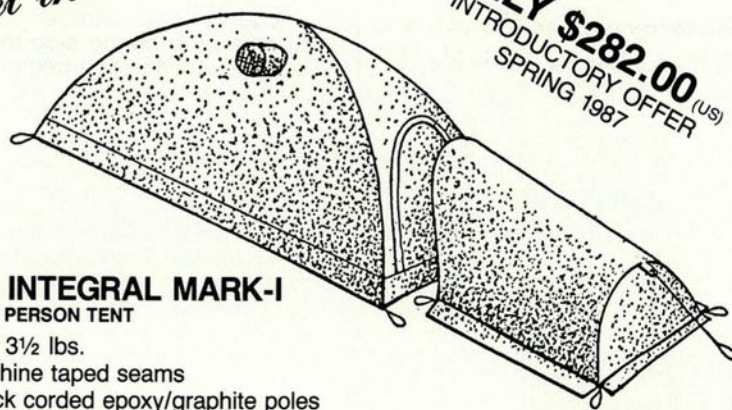


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## Southcentral Guidebooks



This is the third in a series of articles attempting to list every rock climbing guide ever published for the United States. This installment covers Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois.

### KENTUCKY

One doesn't hear much about the climbing in Kentucky; nevertheless, climbing is (and has been) going strong. The rock is primarily sedimentary in composition. Its relative fragility has led to a strong clean climbing ethic. The Red River Gorge lies within the Daniel Boone National Forest and offers some of the best and certainly the most developed climbing in the state. The most current guide to the Gorge (KY no.5) lists many routes at all levels of difficulty. Other Kentucky climbing areas include Pilot Rock (KY no.1), Greencastle Cliffs, and Pennyryle Forest (KY no.6).

- |   |                            |      |
|---|----------------------------|------|
| 1. <i>Climber's Guide To Pilot Rock</i>                       | Geoffrey L. Irons          | 1979 |
| 2. <i>Rock Climbs In Southcentral Kentucky</i>                | Jack Dickey                | 1981 |
| 3. <i>Red River Gorge, A Climbing Guide</i>                   | Frank Becker & Diane Blazy | 1974 |
| 4. <i>Climbers Guide To The Red River Gorge</i>               | Ed Pearsall                | 1980 |
| 5. <i>Stones Of Years: Climber's Guide To Red River Gorge</i> | Martin Hackworth           | 1984 |
| 6. See Regional Area Guide no. 4                              |                            |      |

### TENNESSEE

Like its neighbor to the north, Tennessee has long been considered an obscure destination for climbers. In recent years, however, the fine climbing offered by Suck Creek and Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga has gained considerable attention. Several articles and a relatively new guide can no doubt be credited with the recent surge of interest. Typical of most of this region, the rock is largely sandstone, but of a superior quality.

- |  |              |      |
|--|--------------|------|
| 1. <i>An Underground Guide To Above Ground Memphis</i>                 | M.C. & H.C.  | n.d. |
| 2. <i>Southern Sandstone, A Climber's Guide Chattanooga, Tennessee</i> | Rob Robinson | 1985 |
| 3. See Regional Area Guide no. 2                                       |              |      |
| 4. See Regional Area Guide no. 3                                       |              |      |
| 5. See Regional Area Guide no. 4                                       |              |      |

### NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is blessed with some of the best granitic rock on the East Coast. Stone Mountain is probably the best known; its low-angle slab climbs

provide an interesting respite from the vertical and overhanging nature of most Southern routes.

- |   |                            |           |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <i>Dixie Crystals, A Climber's Guide To Stone Mountain, North Carolina</i> | Roid Waddle                | 1983      |
| 2. <i>Guide To The Carolinas (exact title unknown)</i>                        | George Dewolf & Hugh Owens | 1967      |
| 3. <i>A Climber's Guide To The Carolinas</i>                                  | Arthur Williams            | c.1973/74 |
| 4. <i>Carolinas Climber's Guide</i>   | Buddy Price                | 1977      |
| 5. See Regional Area Guide no. 2  |                            |           |
| 6. See Regional Area Guide no. 3  |                            |           |

### ALABAMA

Not a powerhouse of Southern climbing, Alabama still offers reasonable fare for the climbing enthusiast. Relatively unknown names such as Bankhead, Chandler Mountain, Shades Creast, Cheaha State Resort Park, and Jameston head up the list of this state's finer areas. Many more areas exist, and there is still room to discover more.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. See Regional Area Guide no. 3 |  |
| 2. See Regional Area Guide no. 4 |  |

### TEXAS

The Lone Star State has rather suddenly become the darling of the climbing jet set. Hueco Tanks has been touted, debated, and nearly closed in the last year. It provides unique and tremendous climbing at the highest levels of difficulty. Unlike its more famous relative, Enchanted Rock has received little attention in the climbing press, and ironically has been developed far longer than Hueco Tanks.

- |   |                                     |      |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. <i>Climbing At Enchanted Rock (A Granite Research publ.)</i>                         | Jim Walker & Tom Richards           | 1976 |
| 2. <i>Stranger Than Friction, A Climber's Guide To Enchanted Rock</i>                   | Dale Bergeron & James Crump         | 1984 |
| 3. <i>Stranger Than Friction, A Climber's Guide To Enchanted Rock (revised edition)</i> | Dale Bergeron & James Crump         | 1985 |
| 4. <i>Indian Heights, A Climber's Guide To Hueco Tanks</i>                              | James Crump, David Head & Mike Head | 1985 |

### OKLAHOMA

Yes, even in the middle of America rock climbing is alive and well. The Wichita Mountains offer granite and a fairly well-developed climbing scene. As the one guide attests, you don't have to leave the state to find 5.11 climbing.

- |  |                             |        |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1. <i>Southern Exposure, A Climber's Guide To Oklahoma</i> | Duane Raleigh & Bill Thomas | c.1980 |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|



## MISSOURI

The only guide solely devoted to Missouri exclaims, "So, another guidebook to an obscure climbing area. Boone County Missouri!" Limestone is the name of the game, although it is not exactly like the variety we are used to seeing in those photographs of climbing in France. Indeed, it is probably not as good as the stuff in England. But it's climbable nonetheless.

1. *Boone County Climbs* Charly Oliver & Chris Taylor 1981
2. See Regional Area Guide no. 4

## IOWA

The corn belt has crags too. Palisades (a commonly-used midwestern euphemism) Kepler State Park has climbing, as well as a few other relatively unknown areas.

1. *Rock: The Climber's Guide To Palisades-Kepler State Park* John B. Ferguson 1978
2. See Regional Area Guide no. 5

## OHIO

Ohio is blessed with a beautiful area for climbing in Clifton Gorge. As readers of *Climbing* are probably aware, short outcrops at the brink of a deep river valley constitute the cragging in Clifton Gorge. The fine climbing has caused this area to gain popularity with Northern, Midwestern, and Eastern climbers alike.

1. *A Climber's Guide To Clifton Gorge* Jack DeGuseppi 1978
2. See Regional Area Guide no. 5

## ILLINOIS

Perhaps surprisingly, Illinois is home to a fairly large number of climbers. This can probably be attributed to the fair amount of developed climbing within the state and in nearby Minnesota. The end result of all this has been the publication of a considerable number of guides to a variety of crags and outcrops.

1. *Guide To Mississippi Palisades* James Kolotronis 1965
2. Addendum to no. 1 (Two page mimeo) James Kolotronis 1967
3. *Mississippi River Rock: A Climbers Guide To Mississippi Palisades State Park* Gary Taylor & William Collett 1983
4. *Climber's Guide To Kanakee River State Park* Matthew & Andrew Nicodemus 1979
5. *The Gritstone Mountaineer* Adam Grosowsky 1976
6. *The Gritstone Mountaineer* Adam Grosowsky n.d.
7. See Regional Area Guide no. 5

## REGIONAL AREA GUIDES

(Continued from part I and II)

3. *Southern Rock, A Climber's Guide* Chris Hall 1981
4. *A Climber's Guide To The Mid-South* Jim Dettlerline 1982
5. *50 Short Climbs In The Midwest* Alan Bagg 1978

—Randy Vogel

Additions and corrections are requested. Contact the author at P.O. Box 4554, Laguna Beach, CA 92652.



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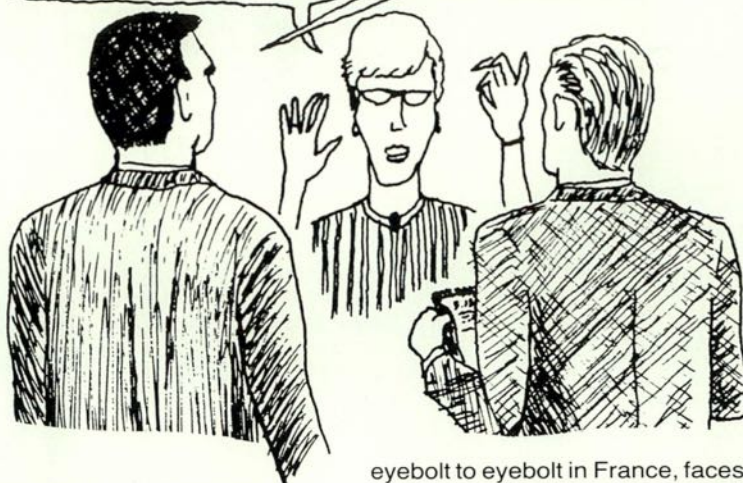
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## LETTERS

...so I get in a bomber nut  
at the lip and crank out the  
sequence all with this really  
heinous rope drag...

What we need  
are the facts ma'am,  
just the facts...



## Flogging the Frogs

Dear Editor,

Reading about the French frontiers of granitic gymnastics (*Climbing* no. 98), which, complete with chipped holds and topropes, one must believe are the frontiers of mankind, I can only conclude that it is merely a matter of time until the ultimate in the standardization of technical climbing is achieved. This will come in the form of precast concrete slabs, which can conveniently double as walls for co-op housing. A more amenable form of this will be molds of climbs in sheet metal, in easy-to-ship 2m X 4m sections. In this way, a 5.14b can be designed on one continent while providing a challenge and standard to climbers around the world. Increase the angle of the wall by 2.3 degrees and *voila*, a 5.14c. But why stop here? The possibilities are endless. A whole new mode of expression opens before the human mind, as artists can now design their routes on paper, sculpt them on the medium of choice, and then climb them!

Despite the cynical tone of this conjecture, I don't mean to denigrate the achievements of these fine athletes. On the contrary, I must accord them due respect, just as I appreciate a gifted ballet dancer or an Olympic gymnast. But it is with more than a tinge of regret that one sees this technical extreme, as epitomized by the French, go by the same label as the feats of Bachar, *et al.*

—Lindsay Ellis, Vancouver

Dear Editor,

Reading Basecamp and "The Laboratory" (*Climbing* no. 99) was an exercise in ethical frustration: 5.14 arrives in the U.S., 80-foot "leads" from

eyebolt to eyebolt in France, faces are bolted from a toprope, bolts are chopped, bolts are replaced on lead, and "to have done it" means a toprope ascent in the Gunks. And all of this after a disappointing American Alpine Club annual meeting, where our climbing leaders past and present managed to sidestep every tough stylistic question, providing little guidance as to acceptable styles of ascent.

What are we, the recreational (5.10/5.11) climbers to make of all this? If it's acceptable to bolt 40 feet of rock from a toprope, as long as it's a new route of great difficulty, why isn't it okay to make 5.10 routes safer for the 5.9 climber by bolting? Or bolt new 5.8 routes from the top if you climb at a 5.7 level?

Has there been no ethical growth since Maestri on Cerro Torre, or the *Dawn Wall*? We have come full circle to the "top is everything" mentality, the only difference is the diminution in scale from big walls to tiny faces.

This new aspect of our sport should be called what it really is: bouldering between bolts. Those who practice this style are gifted athletes, but they are not visionaries. They do not advance the spiritual aspect of climbing, the risk, the adventure, the aesthetics. Will every 30-foot crag in the U.S. eventually sport bolted, 5.12 "leads"? If you want to climb like the French, then go to France. But climb from the ground up in the U.S. If you want to make a name by climbing 5.13, then go to the desert for a month; you won't have to fix pro, and you can climb 5.15 if you're capable enough.

It's unfortunate that the narrow top end of the sport receives so much press. Anyone with an imagination can appreciate the vast difference, both ethically and aesthetically, between a new 5.10 being led on-sight,



and a 5.13 "engineered" over days or weeks.

Let's keep climbing from the ground up, and maybe we'll regain some balance in a sport that has become a parody of itself.

—Bertrand Honea, Laramie Wyoming

## Wall Commentary

Dear Editor,

While the El Cap/Half Dome commentary by Charles Cole (*Climbing* no. 98) was both interesting and accurate, I was dismayed by Cole's light treatment of the Big Wall Wannabes who, "in their hollow quest for glory," are wantonly adding chicken bolts to the few remaining hard (and dangerous) Valley nailing routes.

El Cap has a finite amount of nailing to offer, and once a route has been beaten-out and bolted to death, that's it. Certainly a route will become easier as it is repeatedly ascended, and as thin cracks are widened. But this "natural aging process" should in no way be confused with the needless addition of bolts or other permanent alterations of the rock in order to lower the standard of difficulty to the point where any incompetent can succeed. With so many spectacular and safe routes on El Cap and Half Dome, there is no excuse for anyone to ruin one of the few routes that is *really* dangerous. The difficulties encountered on *Sea of Dreams*, *Sheep Ranch*, *Jolly Roger*, and *Aurora* are basically well-known throughout the aid climbing community. These routes appeal to some aid climbers just like *Perilous Journey* appeals to some free climbers, and no one wants to see bolts on *Perilous Journey*, do they? If the idea of doing fifty consecutive hook moves out of a huge dihedral without any pro doesn't turn you on, stay off *Sea of Dreams*. If offwidths aren't your cup of tea, stay off *Son of Heart*.

The vast majority of wall climbers in the Valley are cognizant of the need to preserve the great treasures we have in Yosemite's big wall routes. If enough pressure can be applied to those gang rapists who wish to spoil it for everyone else, then maybe there will always be a few routes available for those aid climbers who have the incurable desire to "hook or book."

—Rob Slater, Chicago

Cole's original manuscript was edited for brevity; some of the deleted copy contained additional comments on the "Wannabes."

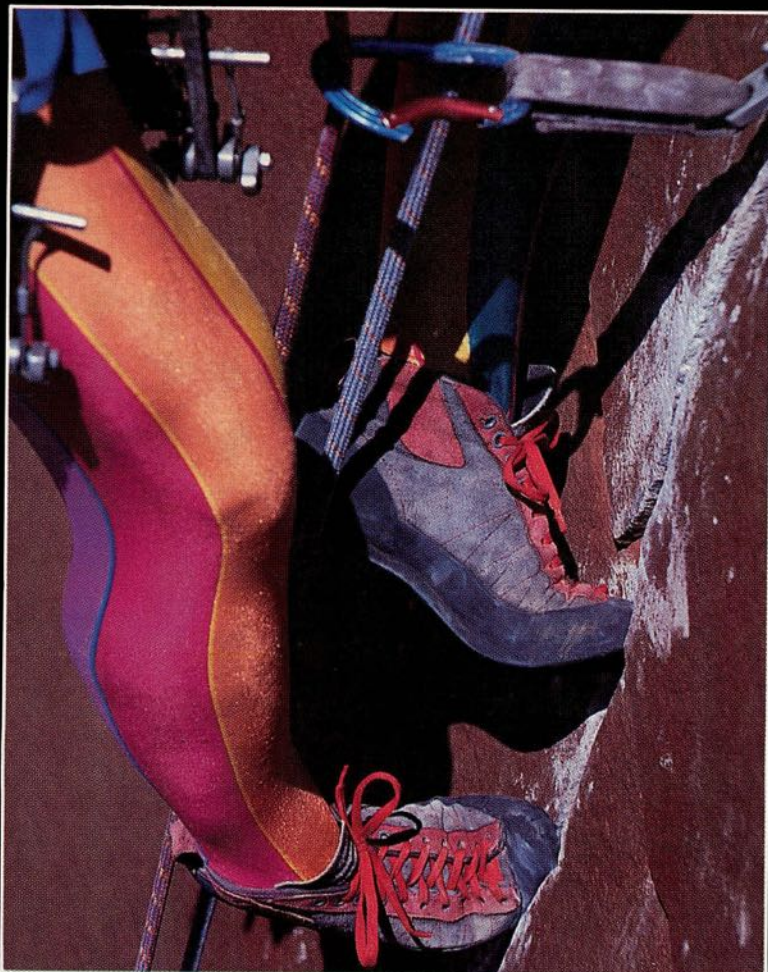
—JS

Dear Editor,

Only the fact that the word "commentary" appears in the title justifies the inclusion of Charles Cole's article in *Climbing* no. 98. This article was indeed merely comments on the part of Mr. Cole, although he should have maintained minimum standards of

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fairness, accuracy, and responsibility in his writing.

Although there are numerous errors in Cole's article, I will address only those that apply to *Wings of Steel*, a route that Mark Smith and I made the first ascent of in 7/82 (not 7/81 as reported).

In his article, Cole makes the distinction between bolts and drilled hooks, rivets, and dowels. However, when referring to our route, every drilled placement is called a "bolt," which is subtly misleading. Of the 145 holes drilled on *Wings of Steel*, only 66 were bolts (41 of these for anchors); even if every drilled placement were a bolt, in 1750 feet of climbing the ratio is not even close to "every other placement." Another ridiculous issue is the seven days we supposedly spent on *Aquarian Wall* once we reached it. In fact, we spent five days on that route, only three of which were climbing days. We are Seventh-Day Adventists, and spent the Sabbath hanging around at the 15th belay. Both the first and last days were only half days of climbing. We were hauling three large bags, and replaced several of the pitiful anchor bolts, all of which took time. Altogether, three climbing days is not an inordinate amount of time to spend on *Aquarian Wall* after over a month on our own route.

We also were reported to have had the "temerity to hype the route with articles and slide shows." In truth, every slide show we have given has been by invitation; we have never sought an audience. And our two articles can hardly be classified as "hype." They were mostly devoted to a discussion of the insane treatment we received in the Valley, as well as a philosophical look at the climb and its impact. We spent almost no space discussing the "way horrendous run-out that could result in death," or, "The sixth pitch is for sure A6 with a 250-foot fall for sure."

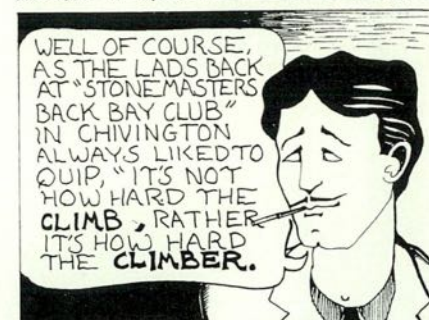
Then there are the everyday errors. The first two pitches were chopped and replaced, not just the first pitch. And the picture of El Cap diagrams our route as going up a different part of the slab than we actually ascended, as well as chopping two pitches off the top of the route where it joins *Aquarian Wall*.

In summary, Cole's commentary reveals a lack of concern for the truth as well as a malicious intent better reserved for campfire circles. Although there have been three second ascent attempts on *Wings of Steel* that I know of, none have passed the first anchor, and the route still awaits a second ascent. If indeed there is a "bolt every other placement," then Mr. Cole should have no trouble blasting his way up the heap in a couple of days.

— Richard Jensen, *Homeland*



OUR LAST ACTION FROUGHT ISSUE HAD HARD-MAN BEING CHALLENGED. ON HIS OWN TURF! A CONTEST IS IN ORDER! BUT FIRST, LIVE MEDIA COVERAGE...





## Man He Fester (Mighty Christian at the Drill)

It looked extremely gloomy for  
the Eldo tribe that day.  
Not even patterned spandex tights  
could change their mood to gay.

A keening from the pumphouse came.  
"Alas," the hardboys whined,  
"It was so good while it lasted,  
but now everything's been climbed."

It started at the Rainbow Wall  
the bolts mere feet apart.  
Then carried on at Paris Girls  
where Christian got his start.

Just left of C'est La Vie a crop  
of close-spaced hangers grew.  
Next twist the Edge and Diving Board  
was butchered by this crew.

"There seems to be holds everywhere.  
Gee, isn't this just great?  
Now since we own these power drills,  
our pace will not abate."

"The Europeans we must catch,  
if we're to have some pride.  
This dream of our's could never be,  
if ethics hadn't died."

It lasted but a year or two,  
till all the routes were done.  
The pace so fast that most forgot  
that climbing could be fun.

A common cry did emanate  
The boys they bawled "Oh wow,  
with all the lines now drilled and scaled  
who'll publish our names now?"

Amongst that crew twas Christian who  
said, "Men, now please don't cry.  
Yon 5.5 and yon 5.6 flank  
a new route I must try."

The afternoon was filled with glee.  
The boys began to dance.  
Again the day was saved by he  
who climbed in underpants.

On either side the bumbles were  
amazed as Christian rapped  
only six feet from the 5.5,  
but eight feet from the crack.

The face was looking mighty thin  
and just a bit too bold,  
so Christian started chiselin'  
and added one more hold.

The crux seam took a 4 RP,  
so Christian grabbed his drill.  
"To hang on brass nuts frightens me.  
This hole a bolt will fill."

Another several bolts went in.  
This climb it wasn't short.  
At twenty feet twas longer than  
most thirteens in the sport.

About one hundred tries went in.  
There didn't seem much hope.  
Too weak to hang upon the holds,  
he hung upon the rope.

Each time he fell he wouldn't drop;  
his static line was stiff.  
"I'll do whatever tricks it takes  
to climb this stretch of cliff."

Now, somewhere in this land of ours,  
some ethics still prevail.  
Adventure still remains there as  
the climbers do not quail.

The fun and challenge still remains  
because they run it out.  
But there is no joy in Eldo,  
Mighty Christian bagged his route.

—John Sherman, Carbondale, Colorado

## Onward Christian Soldiers

Dear Editor,

You should find Christian Griffith's frustrations in "Manifesto" (*Climbing* no. 98) disturbing not for their "potentially inflammatory" nature, but for the entire article's poor literary quality. Inflammation will come from critics of writing, not climbing, if anyone gets past his page.

Parable is one of the oldest genres, and one of the most difficult to master. It requires a wise and parental voice; a voice of reason, resonance and confidence, the voice of experience. Parable, then, is exactly the wrong voice to adopt when writing a manifesto. A manifesto is declamatory, righteous, sometimes angry, always loud. From the beginning of his "manifesto" Griffith

had his hands on the wrong holds. He was bound to fail.

And fail he did — sooner than even the most average writer. Try to read his first paragraph again! It is filled with amateurish effort, lazy sentence structure, and poor, if not wrong, imagery. More extensive criticism would spill onto four or possibly five pages, but it is obvious that Griffith cannot wield metaphors like his bolt hammer. Instead, he relies on similes, which nearly always require the use of "to be," and he further inflicts pain on the reader with his repetitive, "It was like..."

For *Climbing* to become a higher quality magazine, such poor writing needs to be chopped, as some of Griffith's routes need to be chopped. For the similarity between the artificial nature of Griffith's careless climbing ethics and his careless writing style is

wildly poetic. I recommend that you limit his voice to reporting new routes.

— John Blumenthal, New York

Dear Editor,

I'd like to comment on Christian Griffith's essay, but I don't want to violate your new guidelines on slander and vituperation, so I'll just skip the philosophy department altogether, and stick to something I know something about: literary style. Griffith's style is utterly — well, it's indescribably — hmmm. Do the words "pom-pous twaddle" mean anything to you? Someday perhaps the level of writing in *Climbing* will approach being as good as the photography (which is excellent), and on that day I will have lost a rich source of laughter.

Speaking of style, didn't anyone notice the latest daring defiance of the stick-in-the-mud free-climbing walruses? I refer to the 3X3 foot wooden platform placed on *The Prow* at Cathedral Ledge. This clever innovation prevents chafe marks from developing in one's expensive lycra during those tedious hanging belays. But why stop there? The next generation, in their courageous defiance of tradition, will evolve from this humble beginning the Belay Pod, a total R&R unit with bar, video, waterbed, and mirrored ceiling. A bit anti-environmental perhaps, but why should climbing necessitate something as gauche as discomfort, boredom, or pain, or for that matter, real courage, risk, and danger?

But, I ask myself, do I have the right to carp? I'm just a weekend hacker, too old now ever to ascend into the rarified environs of 5.11 and above. Maybe the view is different up there. When you're sitting on that platform you don't see it all. But I've got some good photographs of that beautiful cliff, and right in the middle, there's that little square blot, like a speck of dirt in my eye.

—David Rockwell, Falls Church

## Contributors Wanted

Dear Editor,

Editors Steve Roper and Allen Steck are again looking for articles and photographs for a new volume of *Ascent*, to appear in the fall of 1988. Design and content will be along the same lines as the 1980 and 1984 volumes.

If you are interested in submitting material for *Ascent 1988*, please contact the editors at: 335 Vermont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707. (415) 525-9538.

— Allen Steck, Berkeley

Letters are welcome; please include full name and telephone for confirmation. *Climbing* reserves the right to edit all letters according to available space.



## A Tragedy

**Tragedy:** 1a) a tale describing the downfall of a great man. b) a serious drama describing a conflict between the protagonist and a superior force (as destiny), and having a sorrowful or disastrous conclusion. 2a) a disastrous event: CALAMITY.

You might call him a jack-of-all-trades of this esoteric discipline of free-climbing. He had come to appreciate the different flavors of many approaches, and had developed friendships with many types of climbers. Indeed, he took pride in his ability to understand other artists of this peculiar medium, rock.

Obviously, then, he was no "traditionalist" in the current usage of that word; in this young discipline that term is a trick. He mistrusted the usual discussions of ethics because he knew from experience that any disputant will harbor unconscious prejudices, will be directed by complex and subtle attachments to a particular mode of expression or repertoire of achievements. Argument always has its goal; practice alone conveys authentic meaning.

He was a connoisseur of difficult bouldering routes. He loved the daily practice, the aerial exuberance, the smell of dust and chalk and pine in the late afternoon sun. Or you might catch him free-soloing in the Shawangunks or Tuolumne, pursuing that martial element, balancing on a slim edge.

He might be found on a brilliant arete at Smith Rocks, with its uncompromising mental intensity very different from the soloist's, encompassing unconscious sentiments about life and future which the martial artist cannot retain. He had known the sculptor's pride in a series of bolts perfect in their relationship to the rhythm of ascent and their emphasis of the gymnastic highlights of the route. He had also spent patient hours beneath the pigeons in Eldorado, letting subtle nutcraft and repetition establish a foundation for success, discovering a devious combination of slanting holds.

Other memories: the confidence and open rhythm of a difficult crack ascent in Canyonlands, four stacks in a row holding by an act of cool will, because they were instructed to hold. The wilderness of the Black Canyon and the Wind River Range, the roar of the river through the midnight gloom, a saxifrage on a mossy ledge against warm, white granite, covering two thousand feet in ten hours.

Enough. Our protagonist's thoughts are less important here than his actions. It is surprising though, and important to this tale, how many climbers choose to lump all these conflicting temperaments together and speak of a single essence. It is significant that our protagonist had known fear, joy, and companionship in the company of those who had chosen one or several of these subdisciplines as their home. But a tragic thing happened, and we may come to view this man as our enemy.

His skills developed through their adolescence in the Boulder area, with its unique rock and rich history; he had retained an affinity for the climbing there despite his travels. In recent years a new wave of route development had occurred. The lingering styles of the seventies had been rejected outright by a small but colorful group; they employed rappel-placed bolts to protect many of their climbs, first as replacements for weak and aging aid bolts, later adding new bolts to some older aid climbs, then constructing well-protected leads from previously unprotected lines.

Most of these climbers had visited or read about other areas, especially France, where these techniques were common; they became enthralled by the difficult and spectacular routes these techniques yielded. "Third Force" ethics, some called it, after that modern existential movement in psychiatry which had such liberating effects. Though many of his aspirations lay elsewhere, our protagonist had experienced some fine moments on such routes, and recognized many of them as legitimate, even brilliant modern statements.

Recently, however, something had begun to feel awry. In hindsight it was predictable, but against the passion of innovation the words of protest had seemed like sour grapes, the rhetoric of aging has-beens.

Suddenly, like an epidemic, the sweeps of rock which had molded our protagonist's sense of "someday" were vanishing, falling away into new and less demanding interpretations. He had a particularly bad experience on a gnarly old nemesis called the Book of Numbers, a technically-difficult and psychologically-daunting prospect on Redgarden Wall.

He had tried the route before, as had many; a section above a small overhang on the second pitch appeared to require 5.11 or 5.12 climbing in quite demanding circumstances. It was an alluring challenge, something to train for, one of the last of Eldorado's historic aid routes. At the base of that climb one cool fall day our hero discerned several new bolts. Later, he spoke with the climbers who had done this first free ascent. He watched their eyes as they spoke of opening up the route; indeed, it had seen four ascents that week, was something of an instant classic.

He hadn't anticipated this new twist to the game. The "Third Force" had erased a challenge that was to be his; he'd been denied a fair attempt. He began to wonder to whom this rhetoric of freedom really applied, though he still despised the concept of a rigid set of "rules." Eventually, he climbed the route anyway, bypassing the bolts.

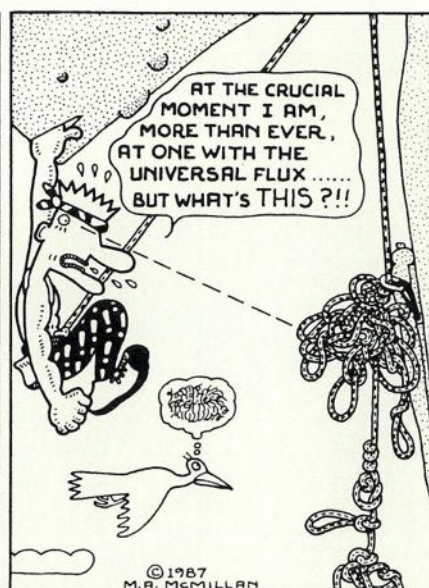
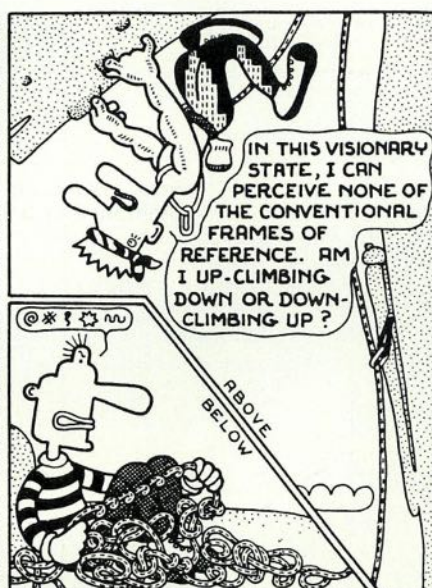
But, if the truth may be told, it was an experience of hideous perversity. His commitment was conditional, he was ready to clip if something went wrong (he denied this, of course). A bolt glinted at him, refusing to disappear. He made a particularly delicate move, then saw a hold he'd missed; he wondered how he had missed it, and uncertain about the answer, realized the total folly of this game. He reached for a carabiner, trembling slightly, then rejected this intelligent concession and resolutely finished the lead. This incident marked the beginning of the end.

At a party our hero confronted his friends with his complaint. Many of the local climbers were present, and became involved in the discussion. It was a fairly typical affair: lycra or blue-jean clad athletes leaning against the kitchen doorway, under the pull-up bar, against the refrigerator, the warm air smelling faintly of sweat and stale beer. It seemed at first that everyone was making a genuine effort to understand the opposing point of view. But the Third Force climbers, it became increasingly clear, had nothing to gain by compromise, and began to tire of the discussion. Some wandered off; this talk had become a waste of good beer, there was no inspiration to be had here.

A familiar sentiment was all that remained: "You climb your way and I'll climb mine." Our hero felt the futility of this concern for other's actions, hanging like a lead weight around his neck. Behind their every phrase was the machismo implication of the activist: "Why don't you just climb?" He should have known, but it was nevertheless a humiliating moment when he realized that no one present was going to change their actions. Their aspirations were different, and passion blinded them. If anyone worthwhile was getting stepped on, they didn't care or didn't notice.



# LOOSE BOLT COMICS



He knew of a wall back in the foothills. He had bouldered out the initial overhang on several occasions, and had made some progress on the wall above. There appeared to be a few good nut placements about two-thirds of the way up. He thought of Dave Breashears and Perilous Journey as he shouldered his rucksack and with his closest partner, headed up toward his wall.

But it was no longer 1975. At the end of that hour-long hike, he was stunned to discover that the wall had already been climbed. Seven bolts marked the chalk-smeared line. For a moment the two climbers stood silently, then looked at each other, mourners at the wake of a dream. He felt a wave of disgust. He realized that his vision of climbing was no longer tolerated; his art, this casting of soul into stone, was a mere anachronism.

At that moment his good nature began to sour. "They" accepted his "horror-shows" (an insulting term born of ignorance) only as long as the ascent was completed before anyone else took an interest. In addition, "they" were making sure he did not get there first, condemning these fine "problems" to such an unorthodox and unpleasant fate. They wanted every inch of attractive rock.

"It's no conspiracy," said his partner, "just a way to knock two full grades off the difficulty of this wall." "How am I to respond to this oppression?" he asked himself.

He was no grumbling has-been; not his past achievements, but his future aspirations were at stake. Why should he lay down like a lamb before the dictates of the status quo? He would extend the central inspiration of the Third Force. He himself would cast aside the stifling bonds of tradition. As he stood by complaining, the Third Force had ignored him: they'd been out bolting. His inaction itself had been a choice, an implied consent. He would remove these bolts! Perhaps he would remove *all* bolts.

Sitting silently on a boulder, he turned this thought over in his mind. He envisioned the ensuing war, juggled the possibilities. What of the rock? He would fill the holes, make an art of it. It would not be perfect but there would be less chalk, fewer rotting retreat slings. Social sanction? Perhaps, but it would be interesting to see the Third Force on the defensive, a bitter-sweet substitute for the freedom to create of which he had been deprived.

He knew, also, that many would back him if he set the precedent. A rock climber's Green Peace, opposing the exploitation of the New Right (a better euphemism than "Third Force," fighting a guerrilla war to preserve that endangered species of style which had served so many.

It would be war, but was not one side armed already? Had they not presented a "Manifesto" in their actions, and even in writing?

Visions flashed through his head: the midnight forays, the unfortunate but necessary slaying of the New Right's creations, the posted watches, searchlights in the cool Colorado night. Yes, strength must be met with strength. As bolts vanished, and rumors of sabotage surrounded those that remained, toppling or clean leads without bolts would become the only reasonable way to climb these routes. One thing was certain: this new change of rules put the Third Force at a distinct disadvantage.

Our anti-hero mustered up his allies in a discrete meeting. One bright winter day, fourteen rappel-bolting routes vanished in one master stroke. The first blow of the Resistance had been struck.

He found the wild outrage comical. It sounded strangely familiar. However we might judge him, our protagonist was no longer impotent, no longer a bystander pleading pathetically for restraint. His proclaimed goal was to preserve diversity of expression, but he knew that only after a long and ugly war could this goal be achieved. To avoid conflict, a crowded world required compromise, and compromise had not been forthcoming. Disrespect, as the Third Force climbers themselves had said, calls up disrespect, and anarchy without empathy is a state of violence.

In two weeks over 150 bolts were removed in the Boulder area; the hangers were re-sold to "Third Force" climbers in the northwest, a celebration trip to Zion was financed. Our protagonist sacrificed two of his own routes, pending the New Synthesis. Threats had been made, but little actual violence had broken out; a few cars had been vandalized, some gear stolen.

In many ways these were fine days for members of the Resistance, reminiscent of Eldorado's golden years with that rich camaraderie of an underground movement. The perfect mix of rock and epoxy yielding a truly invisible bolt-scar, a close call erasing some conspicuous route in broad daylight, the gleam of a crowbar in the light of the full moon, such were the nostalgic images in the days when the frontier mentality of rock climbing, with its emphasis on terrain rather than essence, finally entered its death-throes.

It was a demented, but not hollow victory. Our anti-hero longed for the days of *laissez-faire* as much as anyone, but he greeted modern times with conviction instead of despair. Like any clear-minded reactionary he was painfully aware of his own perversity. But it was a necessary perversity, a sign of dark times where selfishness had consumed restraint and understanding, where respect was neither given nor expected.

—Jeff Achey



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That is how the AAC really works. Climbers, like you, process the paperwork necessary to put expeditions into the field. Others confront the bureaucracies which control access to, and even the continued existence of, climbing areas. Still others—always without compensation and sometimes at personal expense—edit our prestigious Journal, assemble safety data and edit our News, while others assess requests for research grants. Volunteers travel at their expense to foreign countries to represent our international interests. And so on.

Every aspect of the AAC's activities is handled by volunteers—climbers who care about climbing. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for giving of themselves and caring enough about climbing to do something extra.



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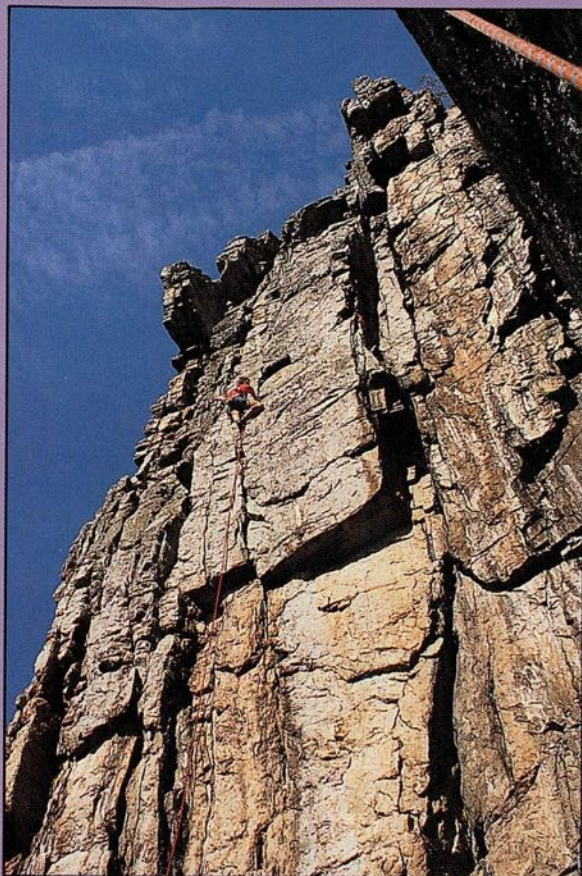
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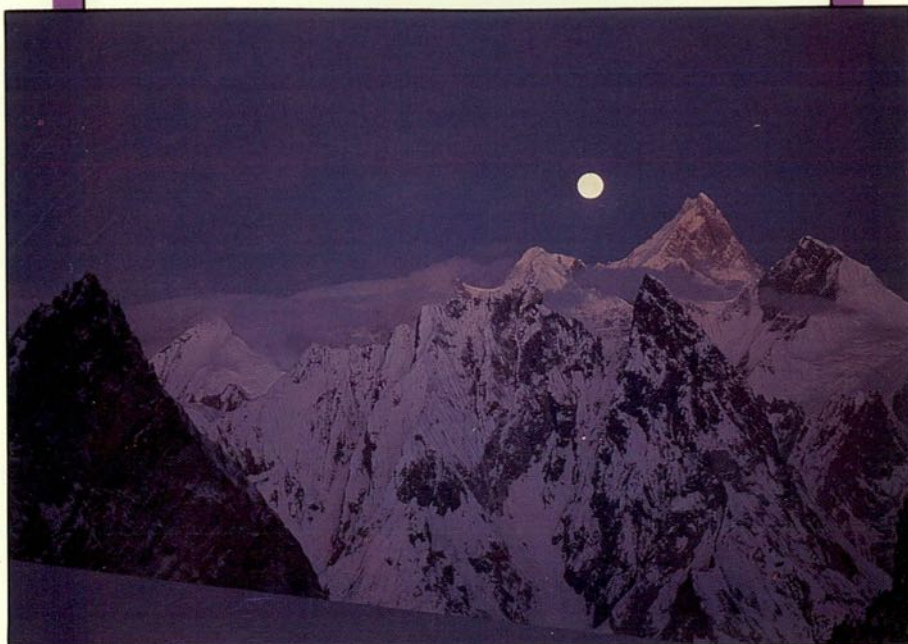
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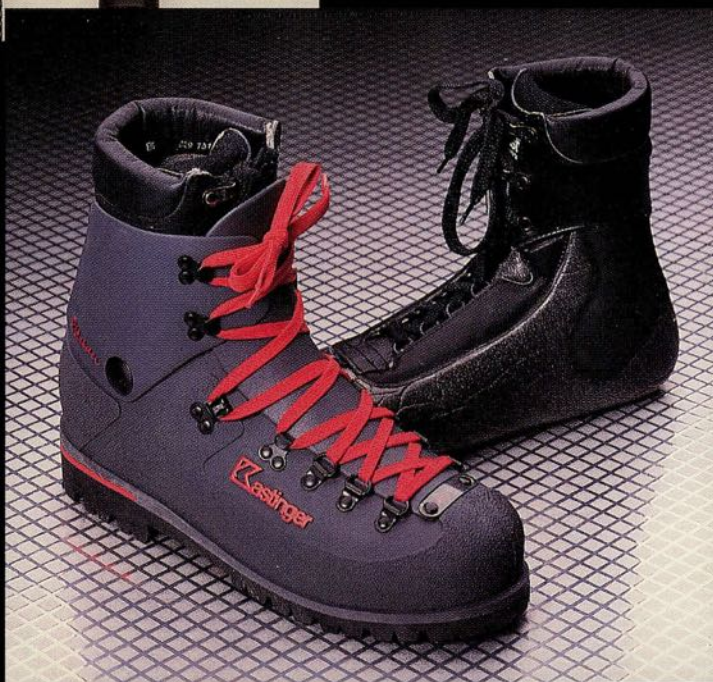
## On top of the world.

Your boots can mean the difference between success and failure, enjoyment and suffering. Whether your expedition takes you to the top of Mt. Rainier or the summit of Everest, KASTINGER is the choice that makes the difference.

*Robson:* Excellent year 'round mountain boot—softer flex.

*Peak:* Warmer, technical boot for steep ice—stiffer shell.

*Karacorum:* Lightweight, serious expedition boot—alveolite liner.



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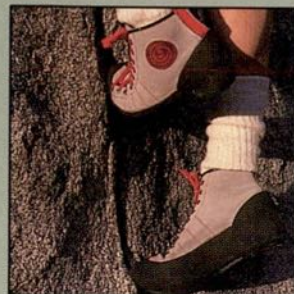
**CLIMB HIGH INC.**

P.O. Box 9210C, South Burlington,  
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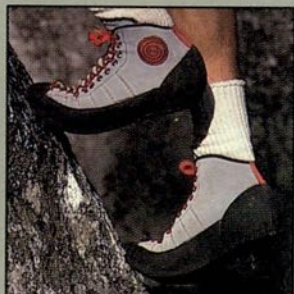
# The freedom of choice.

## FIRE



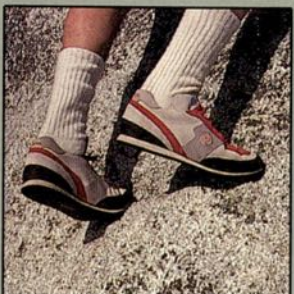
FIRE

The boot that revolutionized free climbing footwear in the eighties, this all around free climbing boot features full-grain leather uppers, 'sticky' rand, width sizing, and an anatomical shape that gives the Fire the form of your foot. The regular Fire is specifically designed to excel in flaired pockets and thin jam cracks. The best crack climbing boot in the world!



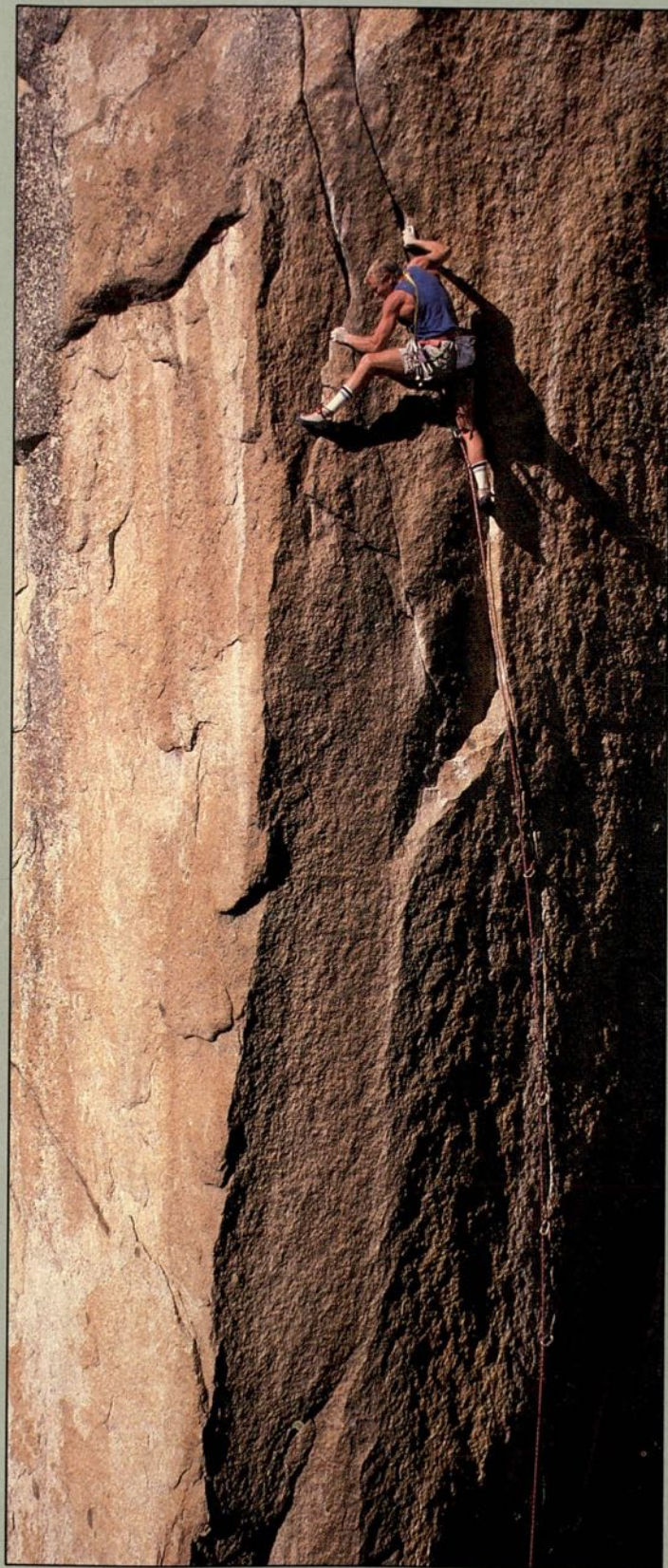
FIRE CAT

The Cat is slightly stiffer and offers more support than the regular Fire. This boot features canvas-lined leather uppers to eliminate stretch, 'sticky' rand for jamming, parted heel rand for prevention of heel-lift, and width sizing to ensure you a proper fit. A great all around boot, the Cat is made for face climbing and severe edging problems.



NEW FIRE FLYER

New for 1987, this all terrain shoe is a hybrid between a running shoe and a rock climbing boot. All leather uppers, 'sticky' Fire soles, polyurethane midsole, removable EVA insole, and protective heel and toe rand make the Flyer a great shoe for scrambling, easy rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, or any activity where having a high-friction sole would be advantageous. The possibilities are endless!



John Bachar on "Phantom" (5.13a).

"With it's sticky rand and thin toe profile, the regular Fire is the best choice for the heinous toe jams on this route." — John Bachar

**Sole Survivor**

4183 N. Southbank • Oxnard, CA 93030 • 1-800-262-SOLE in CA • 1-800-448-FIRE Nationwide.