

CLIMBING



No 135 December 1992/January 1993

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George Lowe

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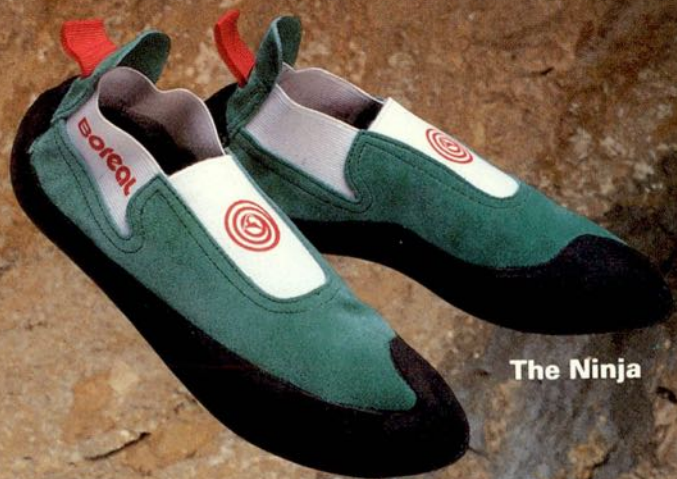
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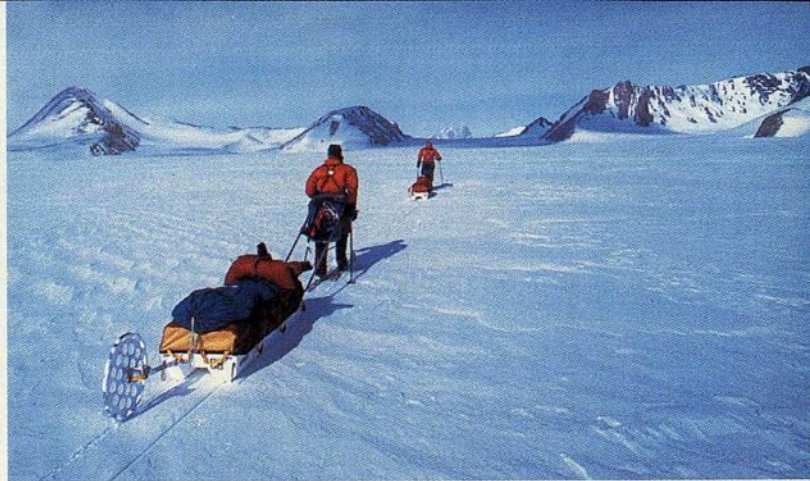
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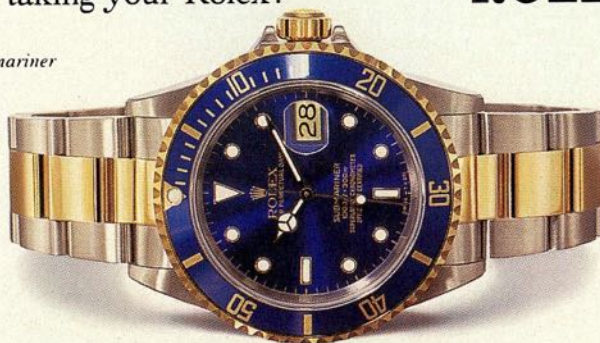
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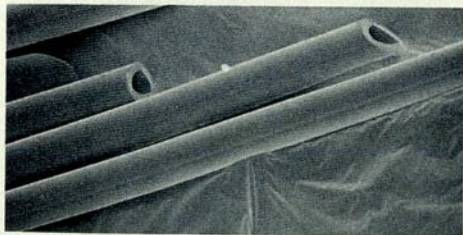
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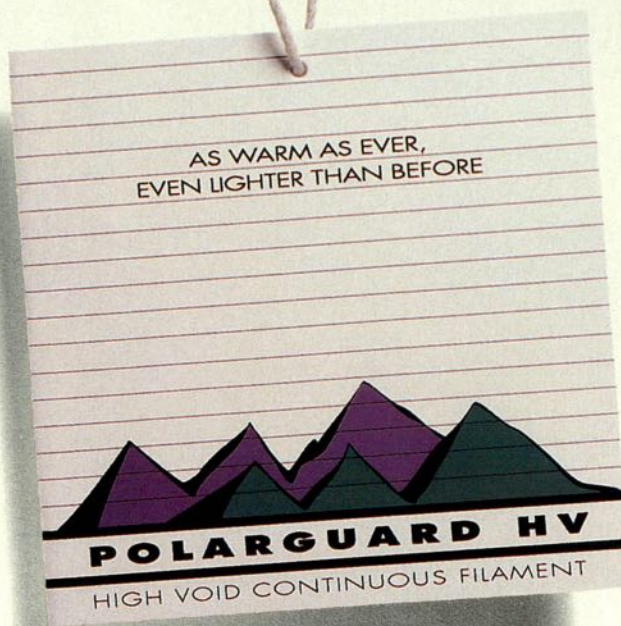
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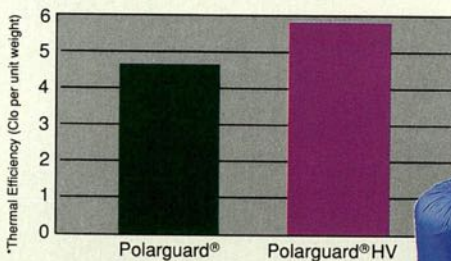
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Photo: Michael Kennedy**

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Photo: Brian Bailey**

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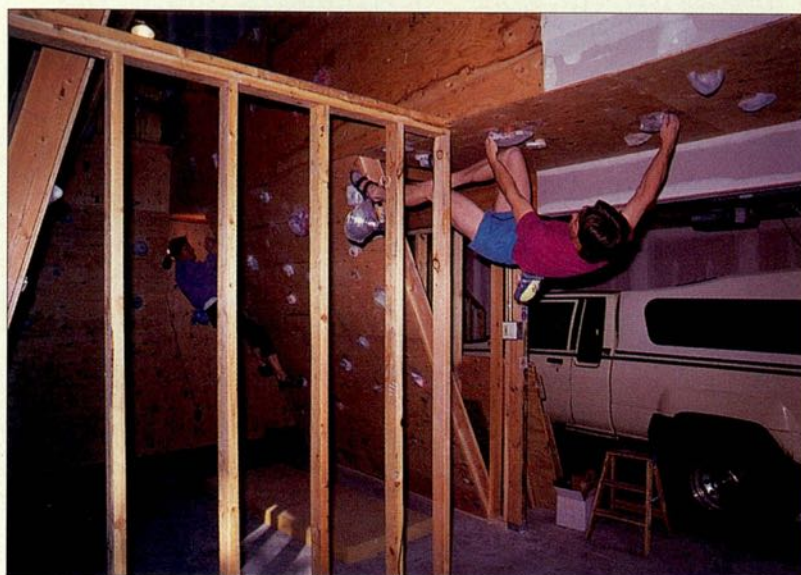
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DEPARTMENTS



It may not help the resale value or impress your landlord, but a little home improvement — an indoor climbing wall — will pay dividends in your leading level (see Technique).

Photo: Michael Kennedy

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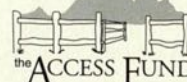
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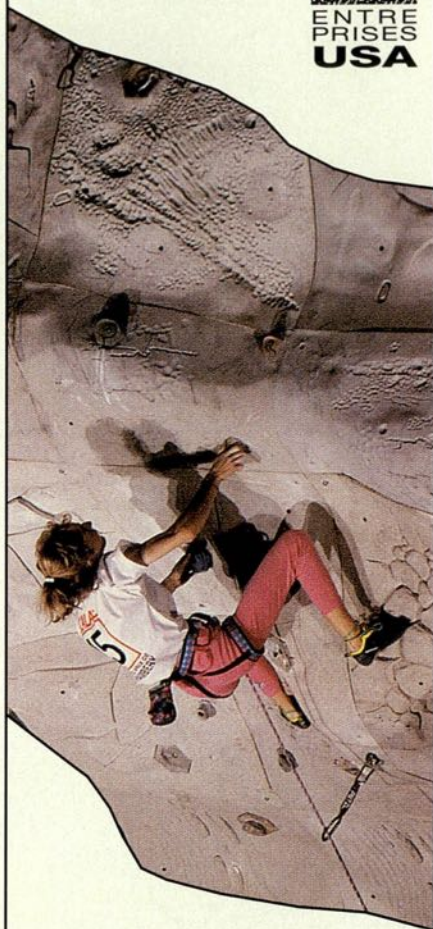
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Editorial

Coming back for more

Many of our experiences in the mountains and on the crags are downright uncomfortable: the unplanned bivouacs, the fear of making a hard move 20 feet out from dubious protection, the frustration of failing on a route. But memory is a funny thing. Although the epic times always figure prominently in our stories of climbs past, it is those sublime moments when all is right in our vertical world, when gravity's pull seems insignificant, that haunt us with their intensity and keep us coming back for more.

Working on this issue brought back some particularly vivid memories for me. In 1977, when I first climbed with George Lowe (profiled by senior editor Alison Osius starting on page 76), I was proficient but unseasoned. Sure, I'd done a few walls, some hard winter climbs, and a number of first ascents, but nothing like George's routes on the North Face of North Twin or the South Face of Devil's Thumb. I hadn't even been to the Alps. So while I had dreams aplenty, I didn't have too many preconceptions about how they might be fulfilled, and this naiveté allowed me to be a lot more open to the experiences that George and I were to share in Alaska.

The full story of our climbs is too much to tell here, but three incidents still stand out for me. After a series of misadventures (including a retreat from 4000 feet up when a cornice broke under George's cousin, Jeff Lowe, dropping him 60 feet to an ankle-breaking stop), George and I completed a new route on Mount Hunter's North Face, traversed over the summit, and descended the mountain's West Ridge. It was a major snow-and-ice climb, and the biggest route I'd ever been on. We were both pleased to have done it, but our second objective — the rocky 9000-foot South Face of Mount Foraker — was a more intimidating prospect. The route was significantly longer, it would involve much more technical climbing, and Foraker's summit was nearly 3000 feet higher than Hunter's. We also felt weaker as a team without Jeff, and after considerable discussion, our reluctance to take on the risks and uncertainties of this new route eventually won out. We decided to go for the Cassin Ridge on Denali instead.

But a nagging doubt persisted. As great a route as the Cassin is, it wasn't what we'd come for. An hour before leaving that night, we made the final decision: Foraker it would be. Otherwise, we reasoned, we'd always wonder if we really could have achieved our dream.

Five days and 6000 feet later, we found our-

selves in a frightening position. Rotten rock barred any progress to the left, and the rib of ice we'd followed all day had gradually been squeezed down to nothing against the churning gray void on the right. We'd been climbing for 18 hours without a break and desperately wanted to bivouac, but there wasn't a ledge in sight. Retreat was completely out of the question. The only way out was a hideous-looking mixed gully, festooned with icicles and pouring almost continually with spindrift. And it was my lead.

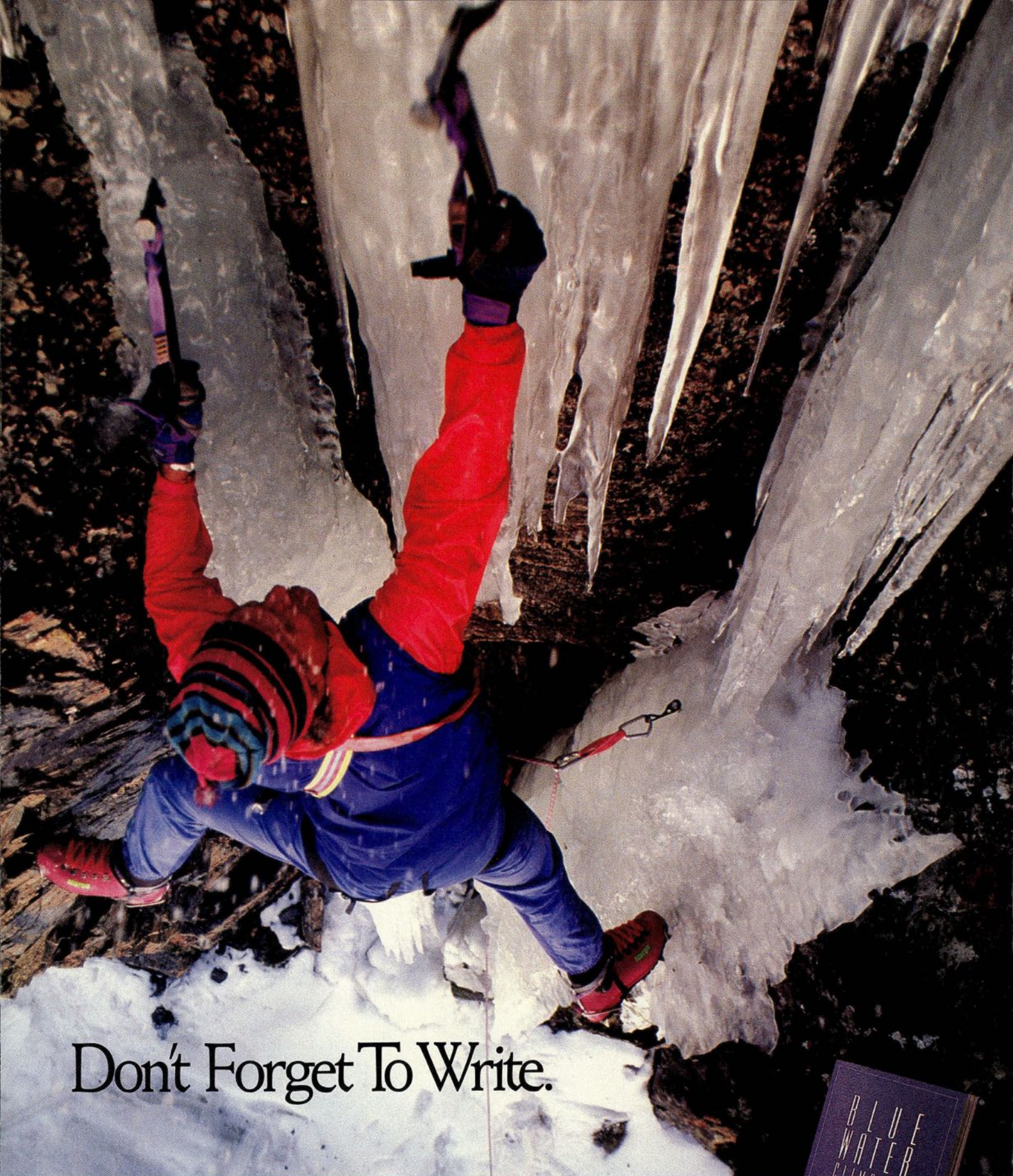
I remember calming my mind, visualizing myself climbing, and then starting up the pitch. My next clear memory is of hauling my pack and belaying George — I'd gone way beyond what I'd thought were my limits, even my own consciousness, and climbed intuitively as I never had before. It's a feeling I've searched for — and found only a precious few times — in the 15 years since.

After a few cold minutes on the summit several days later, we headed down Foraker's Southeast Ridge, losing elevation quickly and feeling stronger with each step. All too soon we came to a heavily-corniced section that we knew would be the crux of the descent. Very leery of these huge, unstable waves of snow, we moved slowly and carefully around them. George was ahead, 30 feet below the crest of the ridge, when he came to what he thought was a small crevasse. On hands and knees, he probed it, then gingerly crawled across and stood up. An instant later a dull crack boomed out, and a fracture ran along the ridge for 100 feet. The cornice dropped, taking George with it. The rope came tight and jerked me off my feet. I arced along one side of the ridge while George plunged down the other amidst tons of ice.

The rope pulled harder, dragging me up towards the crest, and I had the horrifying vision of shooting over the edge and the two of us falling helplessly to the chaotic glacier 8000 feet below. But we stopped. I was only 20 feet from the edge, and despite his long fall, George was unhurt. Even more cautious now, we managed the rest of the descent without further incident.

In many ways the Infinite Spur (as we christened our route) remains my favorite climb, certainly the one I learned the most from. For me, it was an adventure in overcoming uncertainty and doubt, a revelation of the spiritual consequences of a misstep — and a rich source of memories to inspire further explorations, both in climbing and in daily life.

— Michael Kennedy



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Just for fun

Alison Osius made some excellent points about the need for standardization in competition categories ("What's in a Name?," *Climbing* No. 131). However, I would like to argue in favor of using "recreational" rather than "beginner" for the easier category.

Labels in more difficult categories such as "intermediate," "advanced," and "elite" focus on skill levels. However, when someone is called a "beginner" it generally refers to how long they have been involved in a certain activity.

There are many weekend climbers who have enjoyed the sport for years without being able to flash a 5.9. Yet they must be able to do just that — climb 5.9 — to be competitive as an intermediate in most competitions. They must choose between being quickly eliminated as an intermediate or having well-meaning friends question why they are competing as beginners after climbing for several years. Under these circumstances, many will choose not to compete at all.

Even climbers who never intend to enter a competition are hurt when the label "beginner" is slapped on anyone who can't climb 5.9 (except for occasional low-gravity days). Members of the "5.8 and proud" crowd don't mind being called recreational climbers. Just don't call us "beginners."

— Lenore S. Sobota
Normal, Illinois

More balance

I was pleased to see the Tatshenshini/Windy Craggy mining proposal receive some coverage outside Canada, as this could be a monumental environmental disaster on both sides of the border (Conservation, *Climbing* No. 133).

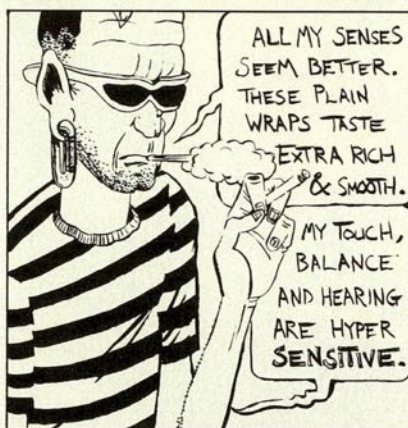
While I agree with author Michael Down's stance, it would have been more appropriate for a *Climbing* staff member to interview Down and his opponents in the B.C. government, rather than publish an article written by the head of the avowed preservation group, without response from the opposition. Perhaps a bit more balance would be order in the future.

— David Way
Vancouver, British Columbia

Editors' note: Down's position as president of Tatshenshini Wild was noted in the article.

Landowner thanks

I would like to express my appreciation to all those who helped out with the



Mountain Road access to Moore's Wall in North Carolina. Your labor and money will go a long way toward keeping good relations with other landowners. Special thanks to my good friend David Petree, whose skill with the tractor accomplished the most significant road repair done in the last 12 years.

I encourage everyone who camps in this area to use my property, which is the three acres above the last section of Mountain Road. If you must have a fire, please use the Hanging Rock campground instead.

If you have a problem with one of my neighbors or a car break-in I would like to hear about it. Contact me at 13 Bon-durant Street, Martinsville, VA 24112.

— Timothy L. Fisher
Martinsville, Virginia

Got his money's worth

I was pleased to see John Michaud's article "Money for Nothing" (*Climbing* No. 130), because on July 3, 1991, I summited McKinley with him. Without his presence on the mountain, I probably wouldn't have realized the goal for which I had trained and planned for over two years.

That summer, my 18 year-old brother and I charged out of Kahiltna Base, a young and inexperienced team, although we had been bagging summits in the North Cascades for years. Eventually, we both succeeded, but it might be said we had no business being on the mountain.

After three summit attempts, being beaten back by storms each time, we had spent almost two weeks at 17,500 feet waiting for our chance. With my brother alone in a ice cave at 14,200 feet recovering from altitude sickness, I set out on a fourth attempt with Michaud and his one remaining healthy client. We were beaten back again at 19,700 feet. Finally, on my fifth attempt, Denali allowed the three of us 15 minutes on her crown before the storm clouds gathered again.

When I read in "Anatomy of a Shut-down" (*Climbing* No. 133) that the National Park Service had put Michaud and the rest of his fellow Genet guides out of work, I was astounded. The point is simple: when you reduce the number of guides on Denali, you've reduced the amount of guidance available. As this year's tragic consequences show, more guidance is sorely needed for individuals who walk up Denali's fatal glaciers powered by brazen arrogance and turbocharged ego.

Mountaineering is a bad teacher — you begin the test before you get the lesson.

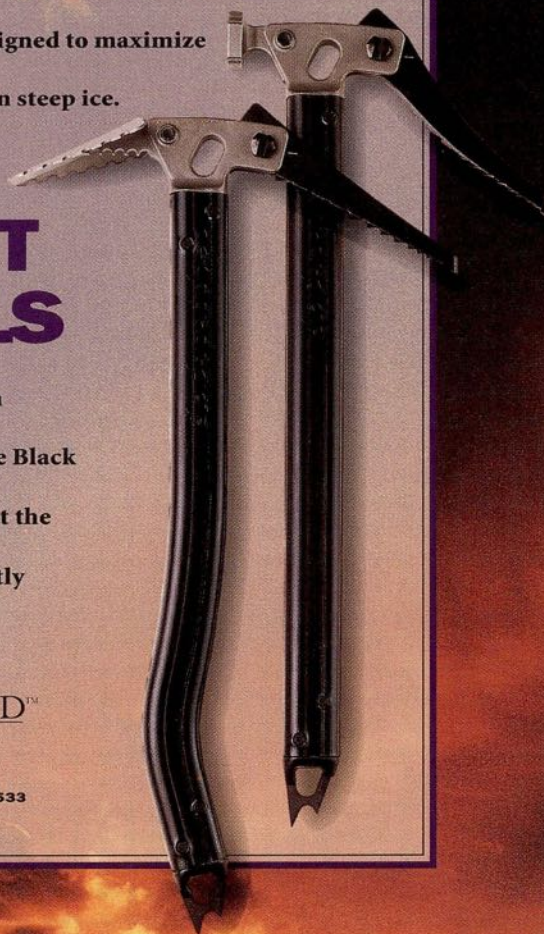
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Rave reviews — the sequel

What do you like and dislike about Climbing's equipment reviews? How accurate have you found them? Are there certain products we've not reviewed that you'd like to see us cover? How much do you use these reviews? And what can we do to make them more helpful? We asked readers these questions in our editorial in Climbing No. 133. Here is a sample of their responses:

I'm a 47-year-old climber and gear junky and, as such, I'm happy to give you some feedback on your equipment reviews. First, the technical, quantitative data that you gather from the manufacturers is certainly convenient. However, what I value most is the softer data, the reactions you and your staff have as climbers when you actually use a piece of gear. After all, this is exactly what climbers do when they're interested in buying gear — talk to other climbers who've tried it.

As for the gear producer who decides to pull his advertising because he can't stand criticism, he's only fooling himself. Word gets around about what works and what doesn't, what's comfortable and what's not, what's a value and what isn't. Keep telling it like you see it, *Climbing*! P.S. I wish I only spent \$400 per year.

— Werner Braun
Midland, Michigan

You state in your editorial that *Climbing's* reviews are a matter of opinion. As a retailer, I value your opinion. Reviews are a good tool to help me judge the market, and make my fact finding a much easier job.

But many people are not knowledgeable enough to use this kind of information in a responsible manner. Unfortunately they

use reviews — *Climbing's* and others — to tell them which product to purchase. Numerous times we've had people demanding a product that they read about in a review. They do not realize that the testers have different abilities and needs. All they know is that *Climbing* said something was good.

A subjective review needs to be written as such. It must be stressed that your findings are opinion. Even better would be reporting on the opinions of several of the testers involved.

Equipment reviews are important. A good review can do your readers a great service, but a bad one can cause them frustration and cost them money. I hope you keep the reviews coming and wish you continued success on a great magazine.

— Jeff Singer, Manager
Backcountry Experience
Durango, Colorado

Your 20th anniversary issue got me interested in climbing and opened a huge door for myself and friends. I enjoy most of the articles in *Climbing*, especially your non-biased, advertiser-may-care equipment reviews. So sign me up for another two years.

— Mike Stull
Annapolis, Maryland

I think *Climbing* does a better job with equipment reviews than any other outdoor sports magazine I've seen. The most valuable service you provide is standardized tests for equipment from various manufacturers. For example, rope abrasion tests may vary slightly between manufacturers, so only when *Climbing* applies an identical test do you really know how various prod-

ucts measure up against each other.

Ignore the manufacturers who protest bad reviews by pulling advertising — you would be doing your readers a tremendous disservice if you bowed to such pressure.

Your reviews were directly responsible for several of my recent purchases. I think highly enough of your magazine that I'm subscribing to it now that I've moved back to England. Keep up the good work.

— Dan Bedford
Manchester, England

Congratulations to the entire *Climbing* staff. You publish a fantastic magazine. The equipment reviews are honest, not a company's words about their products.

Alpine gear seems a little neglected, however. You should review avalanche transceivers, shovels, bivvy sacks, and technical mountaineering clothing.

— Michael Spilotos
Vancouver, British Columbia

As a long-time subscriber I still enjoy *Climbing*. Indeed, I think it's come a long way since I bought my first copy in 1982. Sure, I find certain sections (competitions) less interesting than others (like the letters section), but by the time I receive my next copy I have thoroughly read every page of the previous issue.

Until about six months ago, I found *Climbing's* equipment reviews dull and not nearly critical enough of poorly designed equipment. But recently (the carabiner review is a good example) I have been impressed by the more critical tone. I would like to encourage *Climbing* to continue to move further in this direction.

— Martin Ziebell
Terlingua, Texas

Eliminating guide services while pointing to unavoidable accidents only results in the likelihood of even more accidents.

— Steve Erdman
Gold Bar, Washington

Ripped off

John Michaud is a wonderful individual and a guide of the highest order, and I'm sorry that he and others have felt negative repercussions resulting from the National Park Service's decision to revoke Genet Expeditions' permit. But after reading "Anatomy of a Shutdown," all I can say about Genet Expeditions is good riddance.

In 1991 I paid Genet Expeditions \$2800 for a guided climb of Denali's West Rib. The trip ended before it really began (the other client's abilities were limited to writing checks). Many phone calls later,

Genet agreed to fully credit me with a trip on the West Rib in 1992.

In late March 1992 I was contacted by Genet and told that there might be a small problem, but not to worry. By mid-May Genet's phones had been disconnected. The owner of Genet, Harry Johnson, owns two other businesses in Anchorage where I have called and left polite messages 20 times. On one occasion I did catch him by surprise, but he cut our conversation short and followed it up with a letter saying that there was nothing he could do for me regarding the now-cancelled trip.

The National Park Service has backed up its decision to revoke Genet's permit with some minor safety violations. My experience with Genet Expeditions suggests that operations of this sort have no right conducting business within our

National Parks. Perhaps that is why a new company will be on the mountain in 1993 and Johnson will still be dodging phone calls in Anchorage.

— Todd Ritter
Midland Park, New Jersey

Happy camper

The demise of Genet Expeditions was the obvious conclusion to a story which seems to be filled with poor judgement. If guide services made people aware of their accident history it would not be left to the park service to revoke permits. The companies with poor records would fall by the wayside due to lack of business.

Ten years ago I was looking for a guide service to introduce me to Alaskan climbing. After contacting every one imaginable I mulled over the information that I had

received. One company, Fantasy Ridge Mountain Guides, forwarded what they called a "full disclosure statement." This sheet included very detailed summaries of all guided trips that Fantasy Ridge had been involved with to date, and listed various types of incidents that had occurred and how they were dealt with. I was amazed at how few accidents had occurred in relation to the number of "client days" experienced in mountains all over the world. There was no question in my mind as to the guide service for me.

Let the client be the judge of what is an excellent record — give him the facts and not the hype. Accidents will happen in the mountains, some with drastic conclusions, but when prospective clients are aware of the history and performance of a guide service, they can make an informed decision as to which one to choose.

— Tom Rainey
Renton, Washington

Expedition extras

John Michaud's "Expedition Primer" (*Climbing* No. 130) was comprehensive; however, to be encyclopedic it also should contain the following:

1) Sewing kit: Add a small tube of Superglue or Crazyglue. Lay a bead of glue over the lousy stitching you'll do when fingers are numb.

2) Windmilling: Michaud mentions foot swing place-kick moves to warm the toes; add windmilling of arms to warm fingers.

3) Sleep: Bring foam earplugs; these weightless objects reduce the deafening roar of high winds.

4) Pee bottle: Indispensable; narrow mouth preferred.

5) Boredom: Try a tiny short-wave radio with ear plugs. It beats a cassette player in the weight-to-entertainment ratio.

6) Hemorrhoids: Big peaks set many climbers up for a horror show through the combination of dehydration from perspiring and overbreathing, thickening of blood at high altitude, freeze-dried food, the urge to expel rapidly in order to get out of the cold, and dreadful hygiene.

Prevention is the key. Drink plenty of fluids to minimize constipation (water also helps reduce altitude malaise). If you use freeze-dried foods make sure they are overcooked, otherwise those indigestible grains will go through you with little nutritional value. Pre-mix some all-bran into breakfasts. The lack of bulk in most freeze-dried foods can also be compensated for by taking a few "Fibercon" tablets (a roughage pill available over the counter) twice a day; take a non-prescription stool softener,



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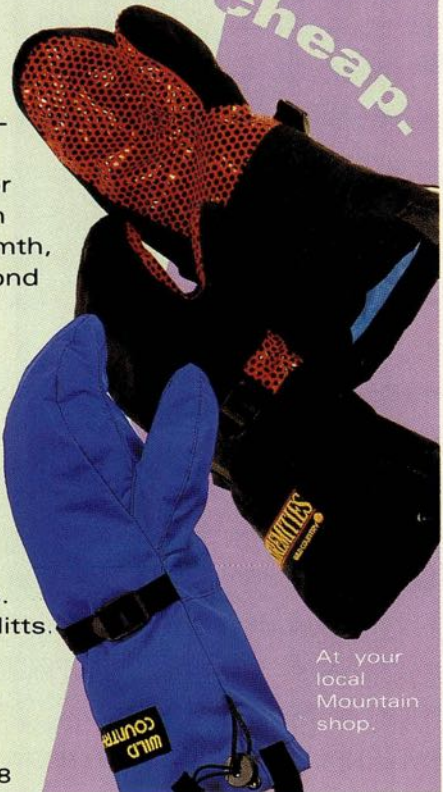
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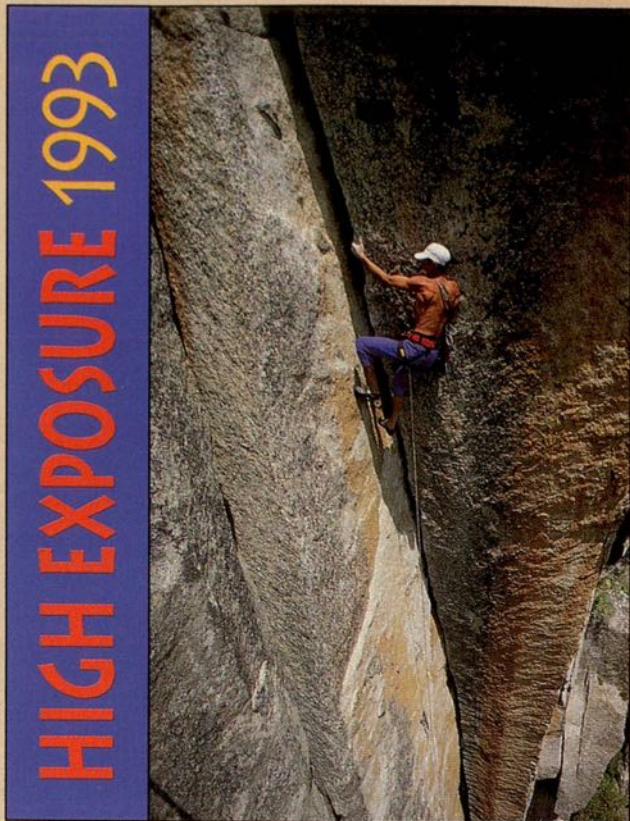
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such as Colace, once a day beginning at base camp. Lastly, bring plenty of moist Handiwipes or Wash 'n Dries.

7) Altitude blahs: Respiration alkalosis of the blood is caused by hyperventilation and produces the usual malaise experienced prior to full acclimization. The preventive remedy is simple. Use Diamox (acetazolamide; prescription required) to restore normal pH values, upon the advice of a physician.

8) Good hot drink: A packet of fruit-flavored Jello in boiling water beats tea for quick energy.

— David Padwa
Santa Fe, New Mexico

South Africa info

I work at an outdoor centre, The Grey-stone Adventure Centre, which is very close to the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa. I would be happy to help climbers from your country with information on where to climb and stay in my country. If I can not help I would know who to put them in touch with. P.S. Best mag out.


— Andrew Hoy
165 Clovelly Road, Greenside 2193
Johannesburg, South Africa

Corrections. In Climbing No. 133, in John Middendorf's article on Angel's Landing in Zion, Utah, the route overlay on page 42 should be shifted left and down, and the topos were cut off at the bottom. Also, the rack for the Northeast Buttress should include 1 1/2 full sets of Friends. (Complete information can be obtained through A5 Adventures, 1701 North West St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004; send SASE.)

In "Party of One" on page 85, the Shield Headwall is said to be "30 degrees beyond vertical." In fact, its angle is about 93 degrees, though the Shield Roof is approximately 160 degrees. Readers have also expressed some confusion over the carabiner companies of Kong-Bonaiti and Salewa-Kong listed on page 110. Although these two companies bear similar names, they are separate entities.

In Climbing No. 134, the photo on page 49 shows Hans Florine not seconding, as stated, but leading the King Swing during his and Lynn Hill's rapid ascent of The Nose on El Capitan last summer. Also, the number given for Table Rock State Park in South Carolina (Access, page 56) was incorrect; the correct number is (803) 878-9813.

We welcome letters to the editor as well as any published articles related to our sport that you feel our readers may find of interest. Letters may be edited for clarity and available space. Please include full name, address, and daytime telephone number. Please send to: Letters, Climbing, P.O. Box 339, Carbondale, CO 81623.



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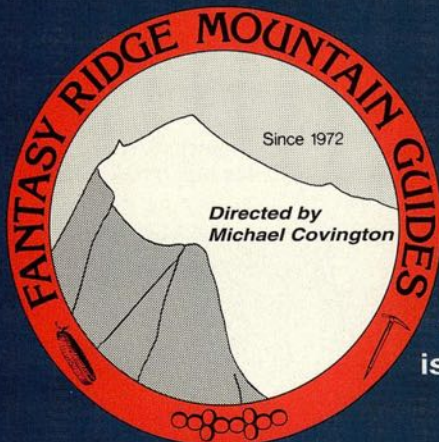
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OFF THE WALL

Compiled by Alison Osius

Happenings

■ **Making movies.** Marc F. Twight, an alpinist from Seattle now living in Chamonix, France, is starring with Fiona Gelin in a flick in



Marc Twight, now in the flicks.

Europe, *Pushing the Limits*, directed and filmed by Thierry Donard. In the film, Xigor Copeland (Twight), an ice climber, and a group of friends with equally extreme interests — skysurfing, snowboarding, and base jumping — fall under the influence of an evil television executive, who keeps pushing them to take their stunts further and further.

There are a death, assorted injuries, Xigor's alienation from his friends, a love interest, and sequences of him soloing various waterfalls and seracs. The driven Xigor ends up alone on a quest to find his limits..

Filming is in France, Switzerland, Bolivia, Argentina, and Canada. *Pushing the Limits* is slated for release in France in February, and the United States by autumn.

Media Watchdog

■ **Mystery man.** Seems like many climbers are dying to know who the climber is on NFL Football every Sunday in a new Chevy truck "Like a Rock" ad. (What are you guys doing watching football on a Sunday afternoon, anyway?) The commercial has also played during college football games and the

Country Music Awards. The ponytailed guy

(some have guessed Merrill Bitter) is pictured heel hooking, pulling over a roof, and dicing up a slab.

The mystery climber is Jeff Walker, a registered nurse from Seattle and a climber of eight years, who was picked for the commercial after a talent agency held an open casting call at the Vertical Club there. The low-key Walker, who specializes in spinal-cord injury rehab, often works evening shifts, and says he was at the climbing gym that day "to climb, as much as anything." He says he was surprised to be chosen. "I've never done anything like this." He doesn't have a tape of the commercial. He doesn't have a TV.

The commercial was filmed in Icicle Creek Canyon, Leavenworth, Washington, on the route *The Visor*.

When told that people were curious to know the climber's identity, Walker said, "Tell them it's nobody."

■ **Separated at birth.** You would swear that the woman climber on this Vivitar Lens brochure was Canada's Julie Leino. In fact, her evil twin (grabbing the rope's knot, and being a few ounces heavier than the lithe Ms. Leino) is a non-climbing English model. The

photo was shot in Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, England.

■ **Stunt woman.** In late August, Shelley Presson of Sacramento, California, who had just done climbing stunt work for the TV film *Double Jeopardy* (Climbing No. 134), took another dive for the cameras. This time she lobbed 25 feet from a bolted-on route up an 80-foot freeway overpass, doing a promo spot for the Discovery Channel. It should be airing this month.

■ **Third time's a charm ... maybe.** You probably won't believe this, after reading two wrong air dates for the ESPN Expedition Earth program about climbing Aratitoye in Venezuela, but we've now got two more, though at weird times.

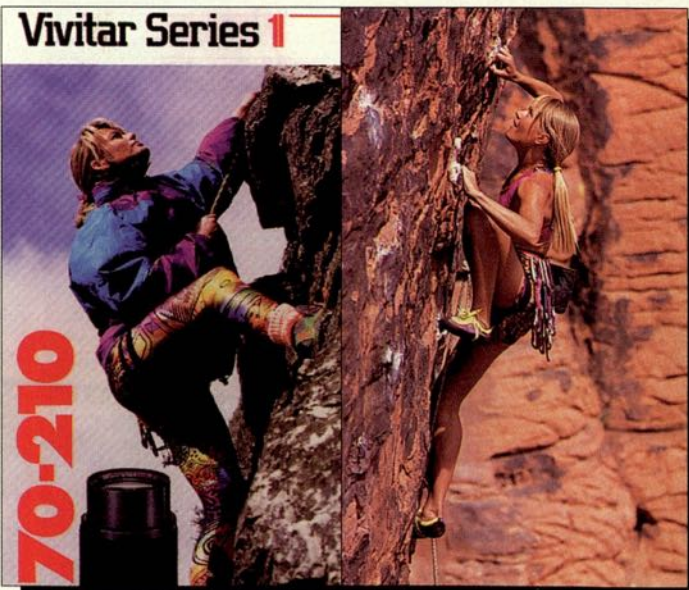
Unfortunately, ESPN has been changing its air dates around, mostly in favor of hockey games. The Venezuela show did run, but three days later than last scheduled. You can still catch (or tape) it, December 10, 1:30 a.m. EST or December 24, 3 p.m. EST. Or you could call American Adventure Productions at (303) 920-3777 for information about how to get a tape.

■ **Writing home.** *The American Philatelist* (April) had a cover on climbing, showing two commemo-

Overheard

"You, 168? You look more like a greasy, 12-sandwich-eatin', non-vertical, crimper-crankin', bolt-drillin', sucker-punchin' 180 to me"

— Colorado's Jeff Fassett to Bob D'Antonio. (To which D'Antonio responded, "What are you trying to say, I'm overweight?")



Julie Leino (right) and her evil twin.

Photo: Ed Pope

Photo: Greg Epperson

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Pangaea clothing is the result of years of refinement. We've used our down jackets on K2 and at Smith Rocks in the winter. We've abused our pile gear in the canyonlands of Utah and on the glaciers of the North Cascades. Our shells have survived the granite of the Bugaboos and the iceflows of the Canadian Rockies.

The name is new, but Pangaea isn't a new company. Climbers you know already wear Pangaea clothing. Alex Lowe. Jim Karn. Marc Twight. Scott Fischer. Dale Goddard. Ed Veisters. Phil Erschler. Geoff Weigand. Mark Bibie. Andy Selters. Jason Karn. Eric Pahota. Doug Ingersoll. Eric Pahota. Steve Matthews. Sport climbers. Ice climbers. Alpine climbers.

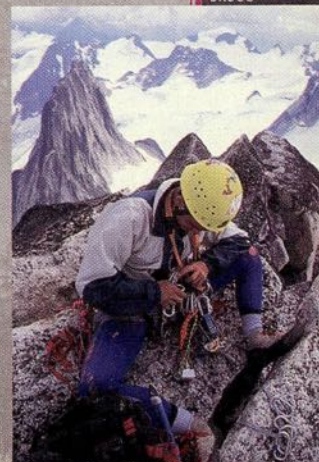
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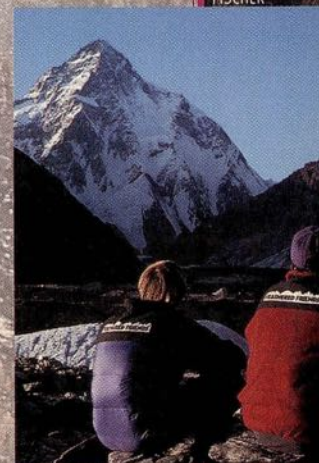
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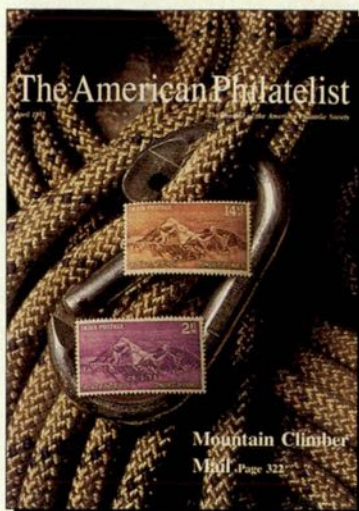
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SALTERS



Doug Ingersoll and Forrest Murphy on their route Pangaea (III, 12a), South Early Winters Spire.
© CARL SKOOG



Climbing makes another cover: *The American Philatelist*.

Overheard

"When you do a hard climb, you just want it to be over with. When you catch a good wave you never want it to end — you always try to milk something more out of it. Can you imagine being on rock, looking for more hard moves to do?"
— Russ Clune, former diehard climber, now combo surfer/climber.

rative stamps issued by India to honor the first successful climb of Mount Everest. Within is an article called "The Rise and Decline of Himalayan Climbers' Mail."

"The sport of mountaineering has always attracted literate practitioners," Armand E. Singer begins. "Literate people like to tell their stories. They also like to write their stay-at-home friends and relatives." He writes about mountaineering letters from as long ago as 1280 (though he doubts the veracity of that particular mountain adventure, which featured a dragon), and produces dozens of tales, postcards, letters, expeditions' rubber stamps, letter labels, flag stickers, and tales from on high.

■ **The longest ski tour.** The four members of the American Women's Trans-Antarctica Expedition, who plan to ski 1500 miles across Antarctica, without dogs, have been getting some good press, the latest an article from the Knight-Ridder wire service.

The women, among them an experienced climber, Sue Giller, 44, of Boulder, Colorado, will be the subject of research by specialists studying their reactions to the cold, exertion, ultraviolet radiation, and stress during the four-month trip. Team members have also developed study plans with teachers, and as many as 100,000 schoolchildren will be following their progress.

The trip left at the end of October. As you read this in your nice cozy house, think of the four — in wind up to 100 mph, and temperatures down to 50 below.

Scree

■ Animal farm.

— Hoggin'. Behold: a greeting card featuring a rock climbing pig. This, for your information, is an extremely gifted pig, Bacon, who, partnered with Porkchop, forms a performing duo of potbellied pigs, the Happenin' Hogs. Bacon does impressions of a spy and of Michael Jackson and plays the hogsaphone (a row of bicycle horns).

"They are the best trained pigs in the nation, the most talented pigs," says their proud owner, Lynn Vincent. They have been on the cover of *Pigs* magazine, have starred in two videos, and have three agents.

(You can order the cards, which are blank inside, from Hoggin', 9191 West Hialeah Place, Littleton, CO 80123, for \$4.95 per package of five cards, plus \$2.00 shipping for the first package and \$.50 for any others.)

— The real crag rat. Peaches the white rat goes on climbing road trips with Sondra Utterback of Gardnerville, Nevada. Utterback once took Peaches, who usually rides in her sleeve, along up *South Crack*, a Tuolumne 5.8. When Peaches at one point poked her head out of Utterback's collar to take a look, Utterback's companion, TM Herbert, half jumped out of his skin: "You brought that thing up here?!"

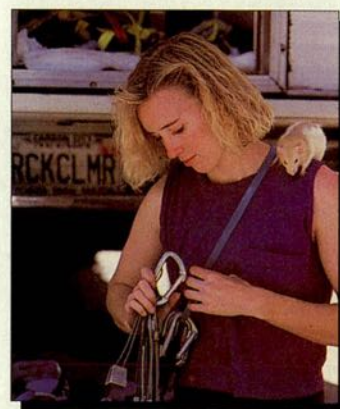
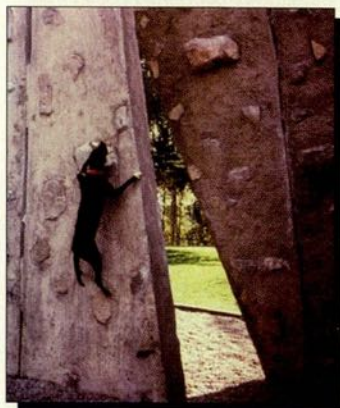
Peaches, who is 18 months old, has done other climbs, even some peaks. She knows when — say, if Utterback makes an undercling or other move where her arm presses to the side — to get out of the way. — Hangdog. This pooch showed up at the University of Washington Practice Rock and showed the dogs there some tricks.

■ **Excerpt.** "[Since] my time and efforts to contribute something positive outside my career seem more appreciated when applied to things so much less serious and important than competition and sport climbing (service on the Navajo reservation, resettlement of 50 Tibetans I directed in Salt Lake, the AIDS hospice, Access Fund Coordinator, etc.), I think maybe I'll drop all of those and beg forgiveness." — from a letter by Bob Palais to the American Sport Climbing Federation. Palais, ASCF judge (who had waived the judge's fees to make sure others were paid) for this year's

Snowbird competition, left the country before the finals. He had cleared his early departure with competition officials, though ASCF officials contend he should have informed them.

■ **Correction.** John Bachar phoned *Climbing* to make a correction on our account of a tussle he and Ed Barry got into at this year's Snowbird competition. Bachar wishes to clarify that it was not his hands, but his shoulders (and that one hand was in fact in a pocket) that Barry pushed.

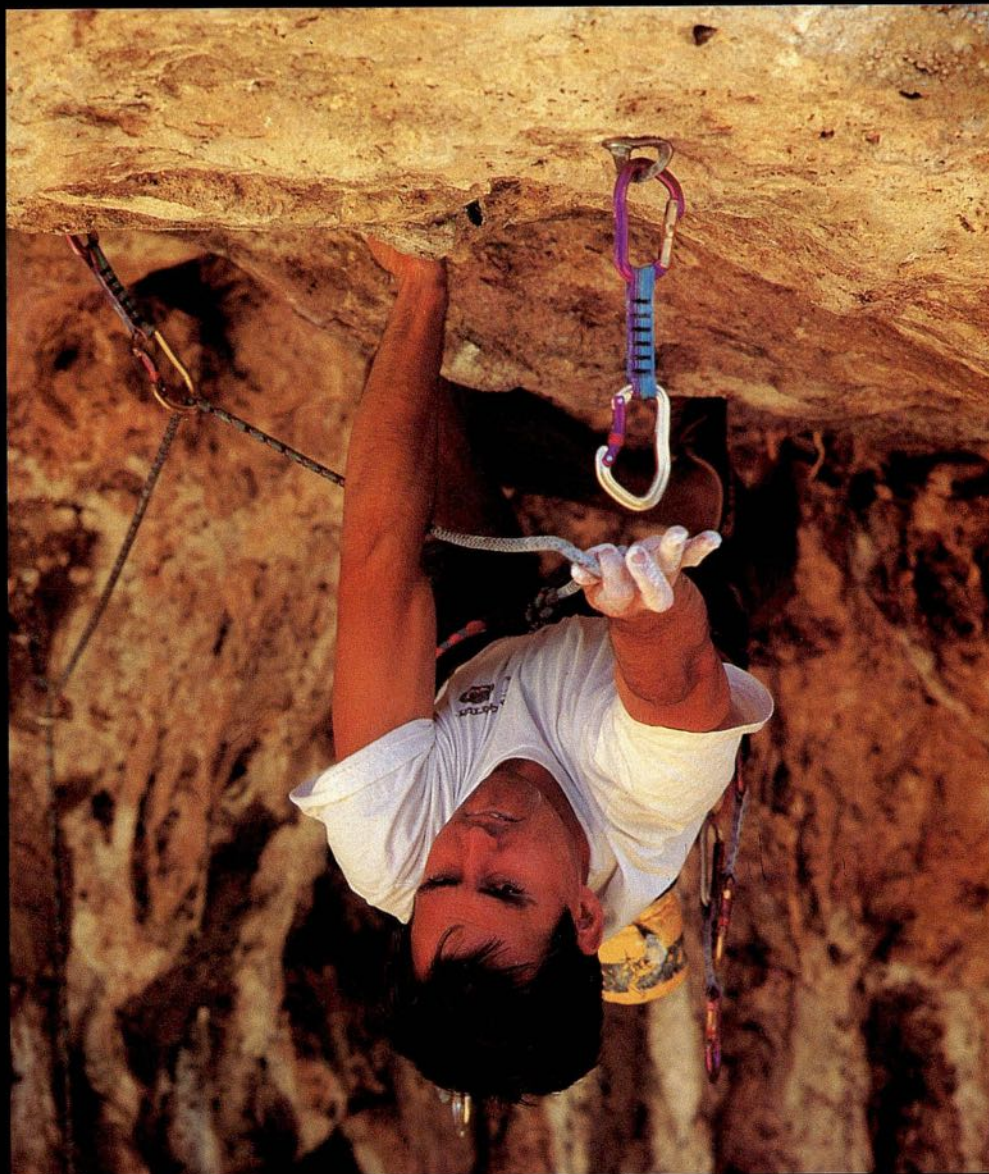
The seated Barry, who had made an inflammatory comment, had thought he was going to be



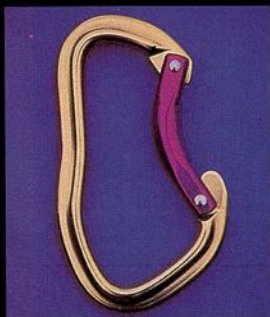
The climbing pig, the real hangdog, and Peaches the crag rat.

The Choice Of Champions

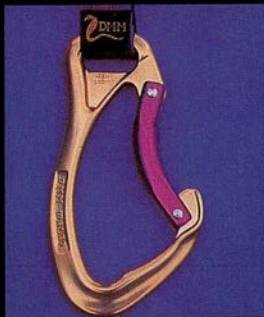
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- Itmite - B.U.
- Randy Leavitt
- Bobbi Bensman
- Ben Moon
- Fliss Butler
- François Petit
- Mick Lovatt
- Carol Nash
- Steve Petro
- Lisa Gnade



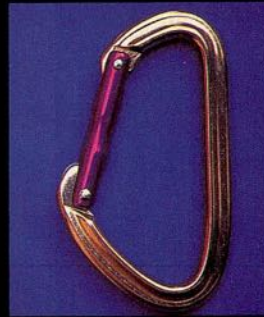
Randy Leavitt on Holy Power 5.13a, Kern River Limestone, California. Photo: Bill Freeman



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Overheard

Chip Chace, recovering from a 40-foot fall onto the belay anchors while rope-soloing the King of Swords on the Diamond, to a couple having a loud relationship meltdown on the nearby Yellow Wall: "Excuse me, but would you mind keeping your epic to yourselves? We're all having a bad time here."

sucker punched, and got to his feet, pushing Bachar back.

Says Bachar, "I defended myself." The men's stories differ. But, finer points aside, it is safe to say that neither man is anything but rueful about the incident.

■ Kudos to:

— the Mountain Chalet, who asked all comers to bring in old shoes and boots and trade them for a new pair of socks and a \$10–\$20 discount off new boots. The used boots then went to the villagers of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, delivered by a Colorado Springs climber, Mike Houston.

— Jack Bennet, Tom Bennet, Greg Borges, Joe Elliot, and Warren Grill, all of Ohio, and Dave Peterson of Moundsview, Minnesota, who dedicated a climb on Mount Logan in Canada's Yukon Territory to the international health organization Project HOPE. The men financed their successful trip themselves, and raised over \$1500 for the charity.

— Alexander S. Friedman, a climber who is a senior at Princeton, who found mountaineering to be a metaphor for the struggle against AIDS. Next June, he and eight other Princeton students (including four women) plan to climb Denali in hopes of raising \$250,000 for the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Passages

■ Died.

— Jeff "Jeef" Lemoine, killed by rockfall on the north face of the Dru, Chamonix, France, July 28, while instructing a group of young alpinists. Lemoine was an excellent climber, alpinist, and guide, and served as a leader in the Federation Francaise de la Montagne and Federation Francaise de l'Escalade, and in organizing national and international climbing competitions.

— the Scottish climber Graham Tiso, 57, in the West Indies. Tiso had been working on his sailboat/home when he received a fatal electrical shock.

Owner of a boot and retail conglomerate, Tiso made first ascents of Scottish routes such as *Parallel B Gully*, Lochnagar, in 1958, *Smiths Gully* on Creag Meaghaidh in 1959, and *Vanishing Gully* on Ben Nevis in 1961. In 1965 he made the second winter traverse of the

Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye, an adventure immortalized in one of the funniest chapters in Tom Patey's classic, *One Man's Mountains*.

— Tom Walter, 34, and Ritt Kellogg, 24, on the *Pink Panther Route*, the southeast ridge of Mount Foraker, Alaska Range, June 18. The two and Colby Coombs were moving quickly, trying to finish the route in deteriorating weather, when an avalanche struck. All three were tossed 1000 feet down the mountain, and only halted when the lead rope snagged. Coombs was seriously injured, but was able to extricate himself.

The deceased were extremely accomplished climbers. In Pakistan in 1987, Walter, with Tony Jewell made the first ascent of the Ogre Stump and second ascent of Gamma Sokha Lumbum. With Greg Collins, he got close to the summit of Latok 1 in Pakistan. In Nepal in 1988, Walter and Andy Selters climbed two new routes on Cholatse. Walter had lived in Alaska for many years, though he had lately moved to Missoula, Montana.

Ritt Kellogg, from New Jersey and a recent graduate of Colorado College, Colorado Springs, had repeated the *Lowe/Kennedy Route* on Mount Hunter in Alaska just prior to the Foraker tragedy.

— Ron Palmer, age 61, of Santa Fe, on the classic knife-edge ridge of Capitol Peak in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. Palmer had made ascents in the United States, Great Britain, Alaska, Peru, and Nepal. He was climbing the peak with his teenaged son, Geoffrey, and a friend. Geoffrey was on another part of the mountain, his father having forbidden him to do the knife edge.

■ **Sympathies.** In *Climbing* No. 133 we wrote that Corinne Labrune and J.B. Tribout of France were to become parents in September. We are sorry to report that during the summer, they lost the baby.

■ Engaged:

— Carlos Buhler, longtime and respected mountaineer from Bellingham, Washington, and Anne Rochwold, a biologist from Seattle, to marry sometime next year.

— Scott Franklin and Gea Phipps, nomadic climbers very loosely based out of Bend, Oregon, also to wed next year.

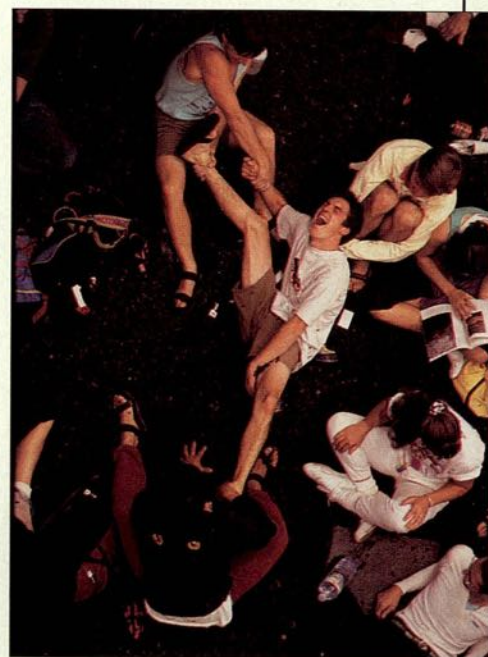
— George Squibb, member of Team JRat and an environmental engineer, and Libby Heselton, graduate student in higher education at Denver University, to marry next August.

■ **Done deal.** Brian Bailey, leading climbing photographer, wed L.A. Phillips in June in Aspen. The two live in Snowmass, Colorado.

■ **Born.** To Alex and Jenny Lowe, Samuel Paul Lowe, in August. "Seven pounds, 13 ounces, Herculean grip, acclimatizes well," says his dad.

We welcome readers' contributions to this section. Please send original news items, ad copy, and photos to Off The Wall, Climbing, P.O. Box 339, Carbondale, CO 81623.

OFF ROUTE



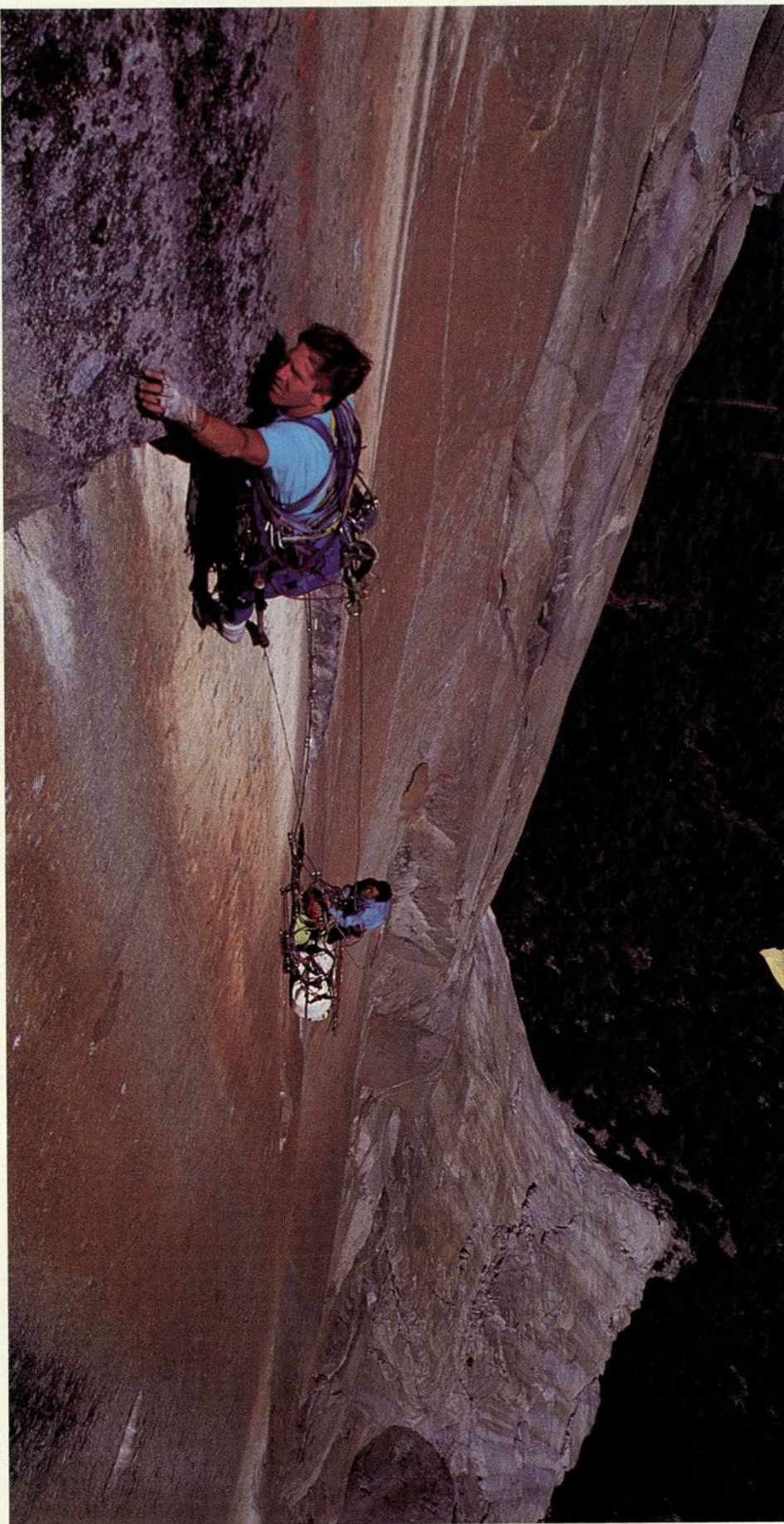
"Make a wish." Scott Franklin and Tony Yaniro give Jason Karn a stretching lesson at the U.S. Nationals at CityRock Climbing Gym, California. Yaniro, bottom, is collecting cut-rubber flooring, apparently known for its tonic qualities when stuffed into pants.

Please send humorous, dramatic, or blackmail shots to Off The Wall c/o Climbing, P.O. Box 339, Carbondale, CO 81623.

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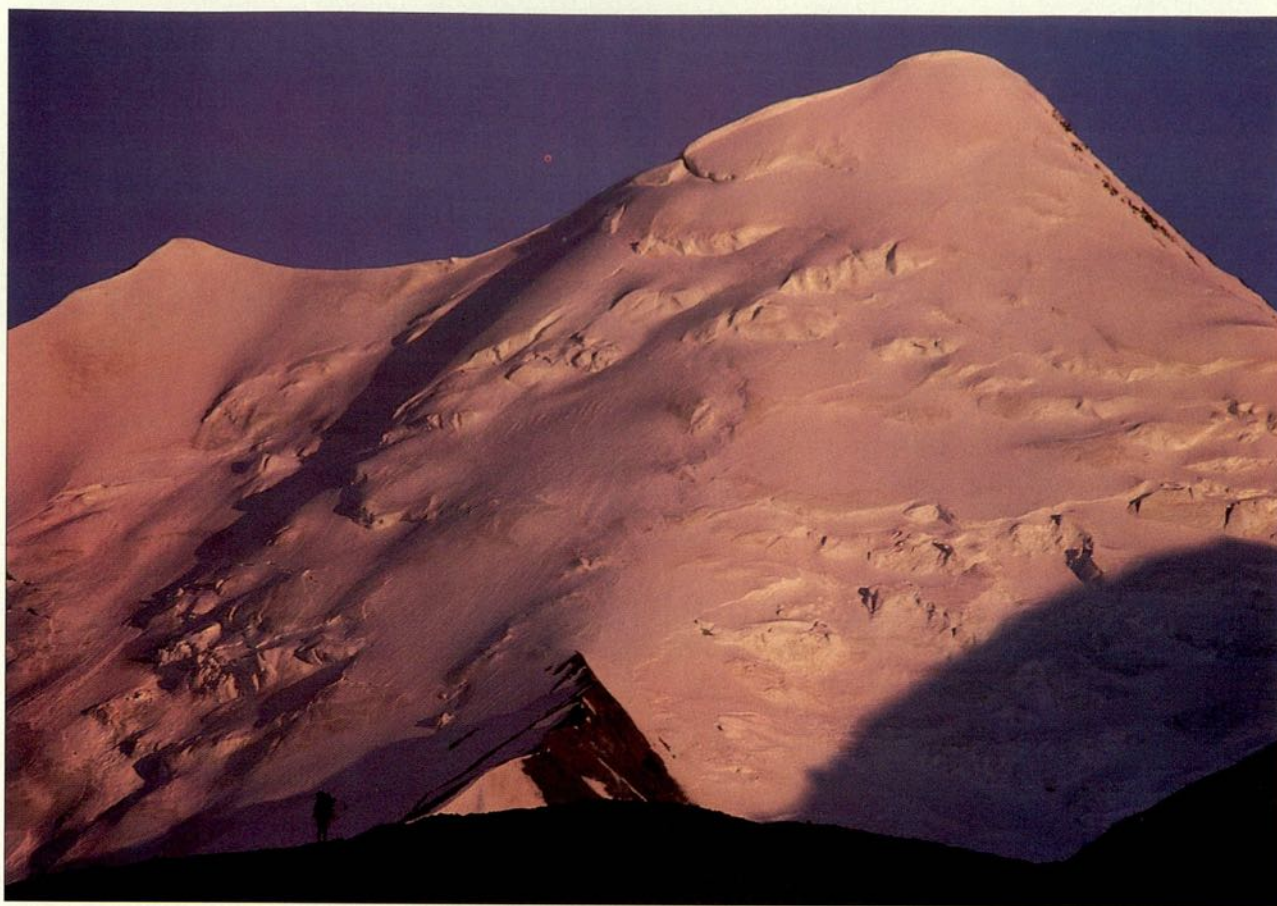


Photo: John Burcham

In the shadow of the giants

Smaller Peaks of the Alaska Range

We called it the Death Ridge. Someone before us had named the route "Banana Split," and no doubt someone after us would call it something else. However, from our perspective at 7000 feet, the more nefarious name seemed appropriate for the knife-edge leading up into the clouds. Sheer drops flanked either side of the ridge, and delicate clouds shrouded its upper limits so that the ridge truly appeared to lead to nowhere. The surrounding whiteness blurred any distinction between heaven and earth. We sat on the ridge and waited, paying homage to the forces of Nature.

From time to time the cumuli would lift and we'd catch a tantalizing glimpse of our goal, Scott Peak (8800 feet), off in the distance. Then the clouds would waft gently back into place, enveloping the peaks, our surroundings, and us, in the mist. We huddled under a makeshift

shelter for hours until, tired, cold, and hungry, we made the reluctant decision to descend. Over dinner at our base camp, we watched as the clouds dissipated and Scott Peak shone brilliantly in the evening light, mocking our attempt.

My companions would have another chance to summit, but I had to work my shift at the Denali National Park visitor center the next day. So, after a few hours of sleep, I groggily packed up my gear before dawn. I hoped it would only take me a few hours to reach the road, where I could catch a ride on the park's shuttle bus. The entire Alaska Range sparkled in the early morning light. The frigid water of Sunset Creek jolted me fully awake, certainly more than the handful of granola in my pocket. I crossed a small plateau dense with willow, singing a Joni Mitchell tune as loudly as I could to alert any grizzlies lurking in the brush of

my presence. Instead I startled a pair of gyrfalcons nesting by a small kettle pond, which then dive-bombed me until I was well out of range. As I scrambled up the final slope to the road, 20,320-foot Mount McKinley was just vanishing into the clouds. After such a rainy, overcast July, I felt privileged to witness this brief appearance of the mountain. As I boarded the bus, I noted that of all the mountains fading into the haze, only Scott Peak remained resolutely cloud-free.

Denali National Park in central Alaska boasts some of North America's highest and most renowned peaks, including Denali (officially Mount McKinley), Foraker, and Hunter. Expeditions to

The North Face of Scott Peak, one of the many excellent "lesser peaks" in the Alaska Range offering solitude and plenty of challenge

THE TRIP did not go as planned.

"Dear Doug:

The trip did not go as planned. When I arrived in base camp on 2 Oct., Carlos had a bad case of bronchitis. Dainius had stepped into a crevasse and torn the medial collateral and cruciate ligaments in his knee. A major storm moved in causing substantial avalanche hazard. At this point the other expeditions abandoned the mountain.

As a result I ended up soloing the standard route, taking four days round trip from the col at 5600m and arriving at the 8167m summit on 19 Oct. at approximately 2 p.m. The descent to my tent at high camp was a bit of a nightmare as strong winds and snow severely restricted visibility. I ended up getting lost, it became dark, and I didn't find my tent until three hours after dark.

I was quite pleased with the performance of the MontBell Storm Cruiser. I wore it from 5600m to 7300m as wind gear and then under my down suit in going to the summit and on the descent below high camp. The extremely light weight was very important since I ended up soloing the mountain. If I could have saved a factor of two in the rest of my gear like I did in using your Storm Cruiser, it would have made the effort significantly easier.

We would be very interested in using your gear on the East Face of K2 next spring."

George

George Lowe



At 6400m Nuru Sherpa snapped George in his Storm Cruiser, then descended.

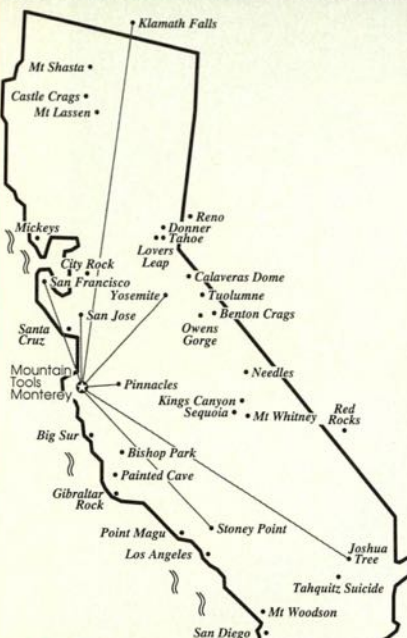
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Scott Peak — the East Ridge ascends the left skyline.

these peaks can be lengthy, costly, and dangerous, testing the limits of even the most seasoned mountaineer. While not as well known as their lofty, airplane-accessed neighbors, peaks in the seven- to nine-thousand-foot range, like Scott Peak, Fang, King's Crown, and Peak 7110, offer a unique experience: the combination of wilderness backpacking with Alaska mountaineering.

A 90-mile dirt road, served by shuttle bus, provides access to most of Denali's backcountry; you can virtually step off the road into the wilderness. Approach hikes average 10 to 20 miles. You can camp on the tundra, yet remain within range of the peaks. Of the smaller summits, Scott Peak is probably the most well known and oft attempted, but there are many other peaks accessible from the park road.

Many of the lesser peaks in the Alaska Range were initially climbed in the 1950s when the park was extensively surveyed, largely through the efforts of Bradford Washburn. A glance through the record books in Talkeetna will reveal the names of Bradford and Barbara Washburn over and over again, underscoring their significant contribution to Alaska mountaineering. Yet there are countless new routes and summits waiting to be climbed, and whether you are the first or the fiftieth person to summit a peak, the feeling of discovery is still there.

Smaller doesn't necessarily mean easy, however. These mountains contain all the same hazards of their larger neighbors: exposure, glacier travel, and high-mountain weather. But for casual climbers, or mountaineers preparing for a larger expedition, this is a great introduction to the Alaska Range.

Traveling Denali's backcountry is challenging. Without trails, signs, bridges, or shelters you are forced to rely on your navigational skills, and brave grizzly bears, frigid

glacial-fed rivers, and rough terrain. But the rewards are great: pristine views, an abundance of wildlife, and a feeling of solitude.

Denali preserves its wilderness with strict backcountry regulations that limit access and reduce human impact. Bush pilots are permitted to land on the glaciers on the south side of the Alaska Range (e.g., the Kahiltna, the normal basecamp for the West Buttress of Denali), which lie outside the formal "wilderness" boundaries. But while there are numerous ways to get to the park entrance by land — trains, buses, van services, and hitchhiking (said to be relatively easy) — from there there is only one way to gain access to the wilderness in the northern part of the park: shuttle bus. A shuttle-bus coupon is virtually guaranteed to backpackers and climbers once they secure a backcountry permit. The backcountry desk, where the permits are given out, is also the source of information on any topic pertaining to the backcountry.

The park is divided into a series of units, each with a quota of people who can camp within its boundaries on a given night. While this may seem restrictive, it is to the benefit of both wildlife and humans: once you step off the road, the chance of seeing another person is slim.

Late May and June, when the crowds are at a minimum, are perhaps the best months to visit the park. The weather is generally fair, and snow conditions are optimal.

Some people arrive at the visitor center with very specific trip plans. They are the ones most often disappointed by "full" signs on the units they want. Plan for this by having several alternative trips or climbs in mind. There is no one spot in the park more beautiful than any other, nor is the wildlife concentrated in any one area. Bear, moose, and other animals occasionally patrol the parking lot of the visitor's center as well as the secluded valleys.

Photo: John Burcham

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Denali climbers' memorial

Talkeetna, Alaska

Ace Ebling is not a mountaineer. Never has been, never will be. Yet the 67-year-old Talkeetna resident feels a special kinship with those who pass through his town — the “Gateway to Denali” — each year, hoping to ascend Mount McKinley and other Alaska Range giants. So Ebling is building a memorial to those killed climbing in the Alaska Range, “as a tribute to the young climbers who have graced our town and nearby mountains throughout the years.”

A retired Air Force sergeant who earned two Purple Hearts in Vietnam,

four-foot, chain-saw-carved climbers complete with ice axes, crampons, and ropes, are ascending the pole. When it's finished, the memorial will also include a 10-foot-high silhouette of McKinley, 14,400-foot Mount Foraker and 14,571-foot Mount Hunter, as they appear on the horizon when viewed from Talkeetna. The three great peaks will be surrounded by a garden of forget-me-nots, and an engraved list of all who have died on McKinley and surrounding mountains will be put on permanent display. Though incomplete, the memorial was officially dedicated on September 19, 1992.

A portion of Talkeetna's cemetery has held monuments to climbers for at least a decade. There's a memorial to McKinley legend Ray Genet, who died on Mount Everest in 1979. An iron cross was erected in honor of Czech climber Jiri Novotny in 1980. And a bronze plaque is dedicated to two Koreans, Ko Sang-don and Lee Il-kyo, who died on McKinley in 1979.

It was the presence of those memorials, as well as cemetery visits by other climbers, that prompted Ebling — who formed the Talkeetna Cemetery Association nearly two decades ago — to begin his project. “Every year, we get climbers who come to the cemetery, looking for something or someone,” he says. “All those climbers coming in and out of here gave me the idea that we need some place where they can go to reflect, spend some quiet time with their thoughts and memories.”

“All the people remembered here were seeking joy and pleasure in the mountains,” says Brian Okonek, a mountain guide who lives in Talkeetna. “It's very sobering to read the list; it makes me think of all the people I've known who have died in the mountains. Here we can remember what they meant to us. A special place like this can help us to heal.”

— Bill Sherwonit

Those wishing to contribute to the upkeep of the Denali Climber's Memorial may send donations to the Talkeetna Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 38, Talkeetna, Alaska, 99676.



Artist Ace Ebling at the dedication of the Denali Climber's Memorial in Talkeetna, Alaska.

Ebling is intimately acquainted with heroism and tragedy. “Having been in the service, I've seen lots of deaths,” he says, “I know how it is ... it gets to me.”

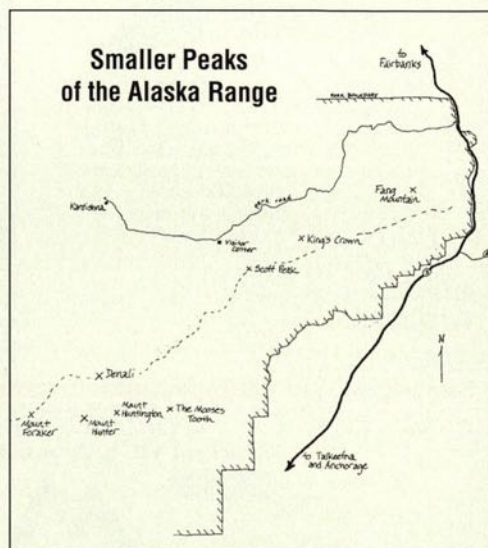
Since 1932, when Allen Carpe and Theodore Koven were killed in a crevasse on the Muldrow Glacier, 75 people from 13 nations have died on 20,320-foot McKinley (also known as Denali), including 11 this year. Another 20 have perished on nearby mountains. The bodies of 33 climbers — including those of Naomi Uemura and Mugs Stump — remain on the slopes of North America's highest peak.

Ebling's memorial so far includes a 30-foot-high cedar telephone pole, placed in a corner of Talkeetna's cemetery and painted white, to symbolize McKinley's ice and snow. Two

When planning a trip, scale down your mileage. Five miles a day may seem ridiculous if you're used to trails, but a few hours of tussocks and talus slopes may change your mind. Three to five days is probably the average trip length, but a longer excursion increases your chances of climbing success. Be sure to inform the rangers of your climbing plans when you obtain your backcountry permit.

Just as there are no trail guides to Denali, neither are there climbing guides to the smaller peaks. This is a good thing, since such a publication would concentrate people in specific areas and on certain routes, irreversibly damaging the land and wildlife. Without a guidebook you must rely on your own imagination, instead of following pre-established routes and another person's advice. Decisions regarding area, peaks, and routes are left wide open, and the rich variety the range offers can be truly appreciated. With that in mind, the following is not meant to summarize the possibilities or recommend particular routes, but rather to reflect the flavor and diversity of the Alaska Range.

A hike down almost any drainage south of the park road will reveal numerous climbs. Most of the river valleys end in a cirque of ridges, which provide ample climbing opportunities. Glaciers stretch down in the furrows, supplying the rivers with a constant flow of silty runoff. Your choice of area may depend largely on how much time you can afford to spend on the approach — distances to a suitable base camp vary. A series of jagged peaks off the Polychrome Glaciers, locally known as King's Crown (approximately 7200 to 7900 feet) may be the closest to the road, with only a five- to six-mile hike in. But distances are deceiving in this vast land. What may first appear to be only a few hours hike may last the better part of a day.



In contrast, peaks down the Glacier Creek drainage may take two days to reach, but you're rewarded with spectacular views of Mount McKinley. Take a close look at a topo map, with an eye for adventure.

Snow line gradually creeps up the mountains throughout the spring, and stabilizes at around 7000 feet by mid-July. Routes change as ice and rock are exposed. (A snow climb in May can turn into an ice climb later on, for example.) The constant sunlight of summer in the far north can make snow conditions mushy and melt snow bridges on glaciers, but affords climbers visibility to travel at night during June and July. And don't underestimate the significance of latitude when judging the loftiness of a peak: a 7000-foot peak in Alaska is farther above timberline than a 14,000-foot peak in Colorado.

A common complaint regarding Alaska Range peaks is their rotten rock. An excellent example is the aptly named 6736-foot Fang, a pile of rubble rising straight out of the tundra. If you attempt this peak be prepared for a technical climb on loose hand- and footholds.

Most any peak has several route options of varying technical difficulty. Pick your line. Any climb on these peaks requires thoughtful planning, and the results are usually educational and rewarding. Your trip can be a litmus test for a longer expedition, a stepping stone to a more challenging mountain. Whatever the objective, the combination of a trek through Denali's backcountry and a climb in the Alaska Range results in a true wilderness mountaineering expedition.

—Deb Greene

For backcountry information and maps contact: National Park Service, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755; (907)683-2294.

The park also maintains a ranger station in Talkeetna as a resource for climbers attempting the larger peaks in the range, such as Denali or Foraker. You don't need to register for a climb on the lower peaks, but a stop at the ranger station may be worthwhile. The mailing address is Ranger Station, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 588, Talkeetna, AK 99676; (907)733-2231.

Both the Talkeetna ranger station and the backcountry desk at Denali have Washburn photographs of the smaller peaks in the Alaska Range, with various routes illustrated. In addition, anyone planning a trip through Denali park would be wise to pick up a copy of The Backcountry Companion, by Jon Nierenberg, a ranger at Denali with considerable backcountry experience. The book is available through the Alaska Natural History Association, 250 Cushman Street, Suite 1A DENA-C, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

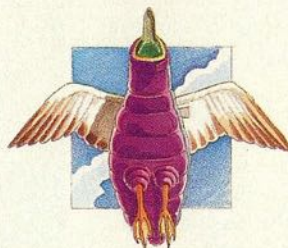
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Miner for a heart of cold — San Juan ice

Telluride, Colorado

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, a handful of miners spent long cold winters swinging their picks, exploring for gold and silver in the San Juan Mountains. Nearly 100 years later, ice climbers demonstrate a similar spirit of adventure as they set out to sink their picks into the mother lode of ice in the San Juans.

Climbers are not alone in their attraction to Telluride, Colorado, elevation 8748 feet. This picturesque box canyon also draws skiers and tourists seeking change from the ordinary. The winter season is long, beginning in mid-November and going through to early April. An abundance of winter activities, from sleigh rides to mountain guide services to lift-served ski runs such as the infamous Spiral Stairs, awaits the winter visitor.

It's true that most visitors are content to take guided tours, ski the big bumps, or just admire the views, but climbers will find adventure in the surrounding peaks and valleys. Telluride offers numerous ice-climbing possibilities, many within walking distance of the tiny downtown area.

Two of Telluride's best-known climbs — *Ingram Falls* and *Bridalveil Falls* — form on the box canyon walls just east of town. In past years these climbs have been illegal due to access problems with the Idarado mining company, which owns much of the property in the area. This hasn't stopped climbers though, as numerous parties have made clandestine ascents of both.

The Idarado mining company, the town of Telluride, and Eric Jacobson, owner of the Bridalveil power station, are presently negotiating a climbing policy for *Bridalveil Falls*. As yet, though, no agreement has been reached, and climbers interested in climbing the falls should check with the sheriff's department before trespassing.

Telluride super classics, like the *Ames Ice Hose*, *Bridalveil Falls*, and *Ingram Falls*, saw their first ascents long ago, but a myriad of short and technically difficult routes have been recently discovered in the surrounding hills. A little intuition, desire, time, and sometimes just gut instinct led explorers through the trees to majestic ice pillars tucked away in the sandstone corners of this valley world.

The following guide provides adequate directions, roadheads, and route descriptions to ice climbing in the Telluride area. But it is no substitute for good judgement,



Tristan Newbon in Cracked Canyon, near Telluride, Colorado.

proper knowledge of climbing techniques, common sense, or remembering to bring your crampons; it's meant to help expose you to some of the fantastic possibilities in the Telluride area.

Telluride is easy to find, if sometimes arduous to reach in winter. Most of the following directions begin from Gregors Cafe, located on the northeast end of Telluride's only main street.

Groceries, medical care, information, and gear are all available in Telluride. Expect to pay hefty resort prices.

For more information (and because Charlie wants to sell his guidebook) see *San Juan Ice Climbs*, by Charlie Fowler. And remember, as Fowler prophetically warns in his guide, "ratings don't mean shit."

— Doug Berry

(continued on page 32)

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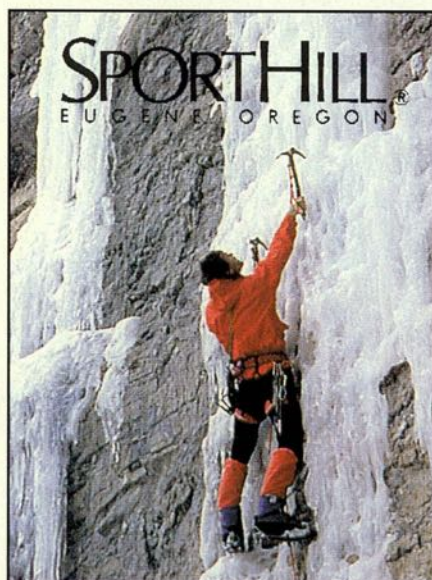
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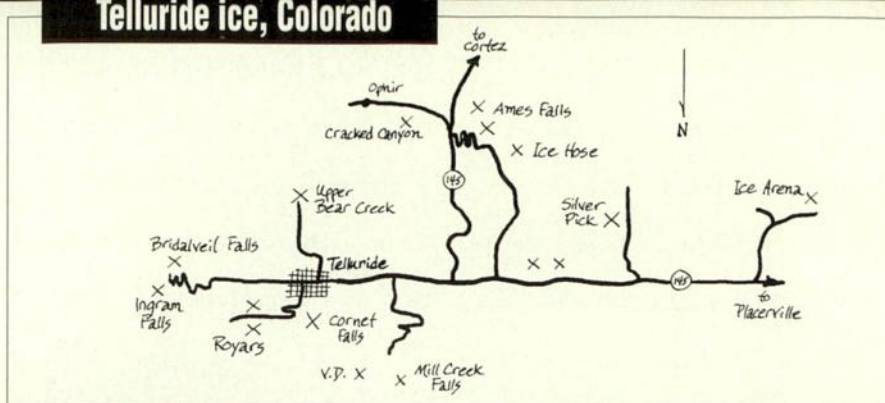
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Telluride ice, Colorado



East Telluride

Cornet Falls (V, 110 feet)

Bear Creek Gorge (IV/IV, 80 feet)

Upper Bear Creek (III/IV, 100 feet)

Upper Royer Right (IV, 200 feet)

Middle Royer (IV, 60 feet)

Lower Royer (III, 60 feet)

The Fang (V, 70 feet)

Bridalveil Falls (V, 360 feet; illegal)

Bridalveil Left (V, 250 feet; illegal)

Ingram Falls (V, 250 feet; illegal)

Cornet Falls. Enjoy a cup of coffee at Gregors Cafe, then walk 10 minutes northwest until you hit North Aspen Street. Follow it up to the Jud Weibe Trail entrance. Stay right and follow the trail up to *Cornet Falls*. Because of its accessibility this route sees as much traffic as Gregors Cafe on Saturday morning. The route spills out of a polished sandstone gully and, due to its southern exposure, is rarely more than an inch or two thick at the top. *Cornet* can be seen from Lift Seven at the ski area, as well as from the deck of Leimgrubers Bierstrube — before downing a few brews, that is.

Bear Creek. Walk 10 minutes east from Gregors Cafe, then follow the footpath through the town park, up and over into Bear Creek Gorge. The Gorge is full of exciting challenges for beginners and experts alike. This 300-foot-wide-by-80-foot-high flow sports dozens of problems, and the walk in, climb out, and return can be done on a lunch hour. These climbs may be easily top roped from the Bear Creek Road. *Upper Bear Creek Falls* has a longer approach, and yields longer climbs as well as some low-angle ice. To reach upper Bear Creek ski or hike Bear Creek Road to its terminus. Beware of avalanche danger in this area.

The Royers. An hour's walk or ski up the Tomboy road will bring you to upper Royer Gulch. There are a few climbs to choose from here.

Upper Royer flows: Right Royer. This is a perfect first-time-out lead. When it forms, the left side is usually thinner and more difficult.

Lower and Middle Royer. These two pillars are accessed from Highway 145, which is also Telluride's main street. Go east out of town for less than a mile, keeping your eyes peeled to the north for the lower pillar. Hike up the drainage to the *Lower Royer*. After climbing the *Lower*

Royer, continue hiking directly north to the *Middle Royer*, which tends to be a grade harder than the lower. From here it is possible to bushwhack up and onto the upper Royer flows.

The key to success on these south-facing routes is beating the sun.

The Fang. This steep and strenuous route is found further east, past Mount Ballard's north face.

Bridalveil Falls. This obvious monster sits at the eastern end of Telluride's box canyon and is, as previously stated, illegal to climb.

Bridalveil Left. Also illegal, this route drools down and over low-angle slabs left of *Bridalveil*. Trespassers should watch out for power cables frozen under the ice.

Ingram Falls. This beautiful ice curtain, which can be seen from virtually anywhere in town, has a nasty habit of touching down one day then falling the next. It is often mistaken for *Bridalveil* because of its location at the head of the valley.

Since all of the climbs in the eastern part of the box canyon are surrounded by private property, always inquire locally as to the present restrictions. Obey all No Trespassing signs.

West Telluride

Mill Creek Falls (IV, 200 feet)

V.D. (IV, 200 feet)

Mill Creek. One mile west of town off 145 is the Mill Creek drainage, last bastion of unpolluted, unmined, non-toxic drinking water, and the source of more fine climbs. Wonderful views of the Wilson range are all that accompany you here. A four-wheel-drive vehicle can take you as far as the water treatment plant on the north side of Highway 145. From here the two-mile approach on snow shoes or skis will deter all but the stout at heart. *Mill Creek Falls* is found to the left (west) of the obvious Mill Creek Spire, and *V.D.* is found to the right (east) of the spire. The first pitch of *V.D.* climbs through a rare arch of San Juan tuff.

Ophir/Ames

Ice Hose (V/VI, 600 feet)

Lower Ames Falls (III/IV, 70 feet)

Ames Falls (V, 70-90 feet)

Cracked Canyon (V, 250 feet)

To get to the Ames area, turn left off Highway 145 at Society Turn and travel south, enjoying views of Mount Wilson, Sunshine

Peak, and Lizard Head. From the lookout across from the Ames Wall you can scope out the *Ames Ice Hose*. This climb varies from year to year. If the *Ice Hose* is too big an undertaking or is not looking up to your standards, drop into the townsite of Ames directly across from the Ophir turn. Park at the power plant and hike directly behind the station. There's plenty to do here: short low-angle pitches abound in both the lower and upper parts of this drainage. Try the main falls on toprope, or lower in and pull your line for the lead, but be confident — if you don't make it you'll have to swim out.

If Ames isn't enough, head back up the Ames road to Highway 145. Directly across the highway you'll find the Ophir road. Less than a quarter mile up this road, on its northern side, looms the infamous Ophir Wall. Here you'll find Cracked Canyon. Hike up into its chilly depths and you'll find a Salvador Dali-like masterpiece of ice, a beautifully contorted mixed line sporting opening rock moves, then a thin gully snaking up to a wonderfully exposed finish on a pillar. The sun may melt this one out from under you, so be early and be quick.

Down valley

Silver Pick Falls (V, 85 feet)

The Bone (IV/IV, 95 feet)

The Three Elephants (IV, 85 feet)

A left on Highway 145 at Society Turn will take you down the Keystone hill towards more fantastic ice climbing. Just past the county maintenance barn, cross the river (the crux) to some enjoyable gullies with short steep sections. Farther down valley turn left at the Silver Pick access road, cross the bridge, then hike a quarter mile up and left, across the stream bed, to *Silver Pick Falls*. After the quick approach, 80 feet of vertical climbing brings you to the top of this ice sword. Farther down the valley you'll find what locals call the Ice Arena. This hidden ice Shangri-la is tucked up in a north-facing valley shrouded in tall pines, Douglas fir, and aspen, and is barely visible from the road. To get there turn left down the only road one mile west of the Blue Jay Cafe, into a small housing development. Cross the bridge and park before the private road sign. Follow this road on foot, taking a left between the last two houses on the road. If you're lucky, some of the local dogs will accompany you on the 10-minute approach into this hidden valley. Please respect private property as you walk up the drainage.

The Bone is one of the finest pillars, pound for San Juan pound, in the Telluride area: dead vertical, with pleasant cauliflower in-cuts. Don't miss this one. To the right of *The Bone*, and in the sun, you'll find *The Three Elephants*, which follows a series of three pillars. The two ledges connecting the pillars are conveniently located after each crux, with plenty of room to sit down and stretch out.

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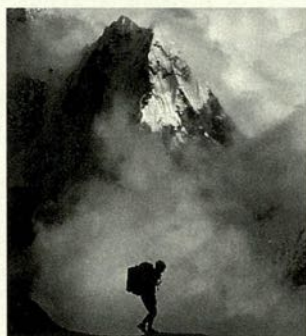
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Looking for a home: an AAC update

Denver, Colorado

The American Alpine Club — still planning to move from New York to the middle mountain states — is looking hard at an office property in Lakeside, Colorado. The Manhattan clubhouse is now up on the block.

"We're committed to the move," says Jed Williamson, AAC president. "Operations should be in the Denver area in early 1993." The move is intended to bring all AAC resources to a location where more climbers could use them.

The club has been looking at office space, mountain property, and mansions. One possibility is to combine forces with the Colorado Mountain Club to buy a building, with each organization to maintain separate space.

Another possibility is that some proceeds from the sale could be used to develop a climbers' ranch in Rocky Mountain National Park, like the Climbers' Ranch in the Tetons, Wyoming, where climbers and family members can stay overnight for only \$5.

Other discussions at an AAC board of directors meeting (held at the Colorado Outward Bound headquarters in Denver on September 12) focused on newly jacked-up Himalayan peak fees and conservation efforts, a revitalized publications program, and tricky questions about membership requirements.

The Nepalese Ministry of Tourism has announced that beginning in 1993 the fee for climbing Mount Everest is to go from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for a team of one to five members, with a charge of \$10,000 each for an additional sixth and seventh member. Only one team will be allowed on each route.

Kitty Calhoun Grissom, head of the AAC Expeditions Committee, discussed the fees and the increasing commercial element in the expedition world. These days, three kinds of groups are applying for Himalayan permits, for which they need approval from either the American Mountain Foundation (AMF) or the AAC. There are traditional, amateur groups and two kinds of commercial expeditions: break-even scenarios in which guides make enough to earn themselves a free trip, and for-profit trips, wherein, for example, a leader/guide might charge someone \$35,000 to try Everest. The AMF does not endorse either type of commercial trips.

Grissom suggested that the AAC's focus

be to support amateurs, for whom matters have become much more difficult. Said Grissom, who fields many calls from media, individuals, and companies seeking information on expeditions that have asked them for support, "We can tell a company [when an expedition is] commercial and suggest that it support an amateur instead."

Bob McConnell, reporting as co-chair of the AAC Conservation Committee, then related how he and Jed Williamson sent letters to climbing organizations in 50 countries trying to build a consensus on some environmental-preservation items prior to a meeting of the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission in Kathmandu in May (see *Climbing* No. 134). The letter urged that portions of peak fees should be set aside for cleanup work on the mountains visited; and that peak fees should be structured to encourage small alpine-style expeditions.

"The response," said McConnell, "was zippo." Only the British Alpine Club replied.

McConnell's own suggestions are that the AAC continue to advocate the same suggestions, and to take a strong position on various issues. He felt that when the club receives evidence of an environmental violation by an AAC-endorsed expedition, the expedition should receive a warning (a letter that could also be published in the AAC News). Upon the second violation, the AAC would refuse future endorsement of those involved. Although only Nepal requires expeditions to receive approval, McConnell urged that letters should also go out to people guilty of violations in other countries.

In other matters, under new chairmanship by Jon Waterman of Crested Butte, Colorado, author and journalist, the AAC press's new lineup includes a guidebook series. Titles will include a book on bouldering by John Sherman and a book on selected sport climbs by Dale Goddard, co-author of the upcoming *Training for Rock Climbing* (Stackpole Books). The AAC press has received a \$50,000 grant from Gore-Tex, and the AAC board has contracted Waterman's services in working with authors and overseeing production.

Further, Franc de la Vega, longtime and loyal executive secretary for the club, will not be moving from New York to a western-state location. A job search has begun for a new fulltime AAC staff position, an executive director who will be responsible for all

day-to-day operations of the club. Interested persons should send resumes to the Search Committee, American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10128-1589.

Finally, debate was prompted by the wishes of the current leadership of the board to greatly increase membership.

As of now, to join the club, a person must fill out an application. Current by-laws list three categories of membership: honorary; active, for people who have climbed a germane amount; and general, earmarked as a non-voting category, for mountain enthusiasts who need not be technical climbers. Annual dues are \$65, \$25 if under age 24, or \$35 for age 65 and over.

One board member, Alison Osius, proposed that all membership requirements and categories be abolished, with anyone welcome to join and vote, and said that any exclusivity is undesirable. Two-thirds of those present voted that open doors are more in line with the club's goals (to provide service, information, camaraderie, and encouragement of climbing).

Still, various others felt as strongly that the AAC should delineate an emphasis on experienced climbers. Sue Giller, a past board member, maintained that membership in the club serves as a credential. Others have said they joined the AAC to meet and associate with other climbers, and that there are organizations such as the Sierra Club for outdoorspeople who do not climb. One person commented that having some cachet separates the club from charities asking for funds. It was also pointed out that organizations such as the Explorers Club or academic societies have membership categories or qualifications.

Whether to make joining the club as simple as ordering a subscription or to have a list of criteria remains an issue. Two thirds voted to put the question to a committee and possibly a membership vote. Meanwhile the club would welcome opinions from both members and non-members. Please call the AAC at (212) 722-1628, or write Jed Williamson at its address, listed above.

The AAC's annual meeting will be held in Framingham, outside Boston, December 4-6, featuring as speakers Chris Bonington on his and Stephen Venables' first ascent of Panch Chuli, India; Rick Ridgeway on climbing the East Face of Aratitipe, Venezuela; Galen Rowell on a recent 17-pitch arete climb in the Cirque of the Unclimbables, Canada; John Turk on Baffin Island; and Barry Rugo, Guy and Laura Waterman, and Peter Lewis on New England rock and ice.

— Alison Osius

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A climber's nightmare/dream

Cortina, Italy

When we heard that during the filming of Cliffhanger, the Sylvester Stallone film featuring climbing, Georgia "Gea" Phipps was going to take a 300- to 400-foot screamer, the first thing we wondered, aside from how it was going to be done, was what it would feel like. When she returned in late summer from three months in the Dolomites, we asked her to tell us.

2:00 p.m. I was riding the exercise bike at work, Red Point Climbers' Supply, during the slow time of the day in the slow season at Smith Rock, Oregon, when I got a phone call. Huffing and puffing, I said, "Hello." It was my mom.

"Some guy just called and wants to know if you want to go to Italy," she said with muffled enthusiasm.

Could this be it? She gave me the number. Now my heart was really pumping.

I called the production company, Carolco. "Hi, you called about me going to Italy? ..."

The voice on the other side confirmed the unbelievable. I would later find that the man, Joel Kramer, was one of Hollywood's hottest stunt coordinators, and Arnold Schwarzenegger's stunt man for many years. He mentioned something about a 300- to 400-foot fall — what did I think about it?

"Sounds great. No problem," I said over and over as he laid out the details. Was I kidding myself? I don't know and it really didn't matter — I was on my way to Italy.

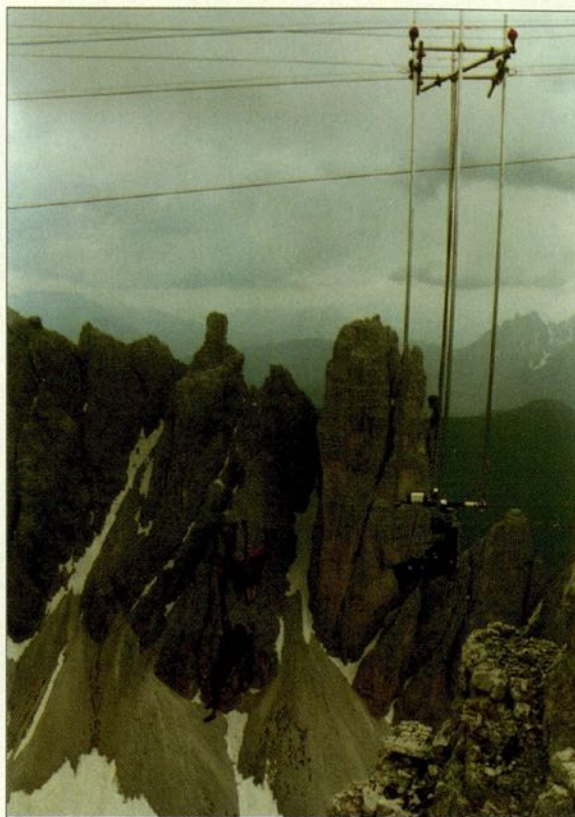
Carolco had called Metolius Mountain Products in Bend months beforehand to get climbing equipment for the upcoming Sylvester Stallone film *Cliffhanger*. My friends there and I all sent in photos and letters in hopes of being chosen to do stunt work or rigging. Even though the guys hadn't mentioned anything to me because it was a "burly man's" movie, I had overheard their conversation, and knew that no matter how many macho guys were involved, there had to be at least one woman in the picture. I hoped she'd look like me.

The movie was slow to get off the ground, so we didn't hear anything for months, and actually forgot about it, figuring it wasn't going to happen. Then out of the blue, the production office called. They also hired one of my best friends, Brooke Sandahl, to rig.

I had no idea initially what my job would be, only that I was hired to do "the"

fall. Apparently when the producer and director saw my picture they knew I was their "gal" — I have a remarkable resemblance to two of the actresses, Janine Turner and Michelle Joyner, and a similar enough body type to do stunt work for all three actresses in the film.

I flew to Milan, Italy, in high style on a



Gea Phipps about to take the big one — a 400-footer — for *Cliffhanger*.

huge jet, then was driven four hours to Cortina, one of the most expensive and beautiful towns in Europe and the movie's base of operations. It took about a day to get used to the deluxe accommodations, and only a bit longer to accustom myself to the tremendous catering service provided. When you start your day at 5 a.m. and finish at 10 p.m., it becomes normal to eat 15 meals a day.

I worked on "second unit" — stunts and action. First unit is for the principal actors. Working on location usually meant being flown by helicopter to a spectacular and remote mountain in the Dolomites, one of about a dozen different locations.

We'd often have multi-course hot lunches, complete with various salads, snacks, and rich Italian pastries flown up by helicopter, and served to us in a small white tent. We'd wolf down double and triple servings as we sat perched on jagged

limestone rocks, high above the world. Lunching with David Breashears, Jim Bridwell, Kevin Swigert, and other climber and movie types, filled my imagination with fascinating journeys and feats. Other days, when we were going high in the mountains, we'd only get bagged lunches, complete with tasty chocolate bars that we

learned to despise (because we ate so many of them), yet still consumed, as we froze our butts off for hours on end.

Out of all the wild, mild, and hairball stunts I did — lowering out of helicopters, doing single-rope pendulums (with Wolfgang Gullich, another climbing stunt double) on slabby rock faces, or standing on foot-wide ledges for hours, 200 feet below the summit of a 2000-foot cliff — the fall was the Big Deal. I hadn't realized at first that it was such a major stunt. But my stunt crew (who both did and rigged stunts) clued me in, as they beefed up the pressure.

"A fall like that is one of the biggest stunts you can do in Hollywood," they told me. My boss said girls in Hollywood would *pay* to do it. Lane Leavitt, who designs some of the best stunt equipment in the world, told me that top-notch stunt people who've been in the business 20 years almost never get a chance to do a coveted stunt like that. They never let me forget how fortunate I was.

(I never have, either.)

To practice for the big fall I rehearsed one day several weeks beforehand by taking 70-foot whippers in a forested mountain location in the eastern Dolomites. The big one was to be between twin 1000-foot towers at Torre Divise, near the Tre Cime.

I was eager to take the falls because I figured it meant we were closing in on filming the big one. I felt like a kid at an amusement park, about to go on the ride of my dreams. I was scared and excited and ready.

During the practice sessions, I was a bit surprised by the speed of the acceleration. It felt as though my insides flew out of my head. I was almost sick. Afterwards, I kept that to myself. I told everyone, "Oh, yeah, way fun. Ha, ha..." But inside, I couldn't fathom taking a ride six times that distance. I didn't know how I was going to get through it.

I constantly thought about the fall and sometimes had trouble sleeping. On one

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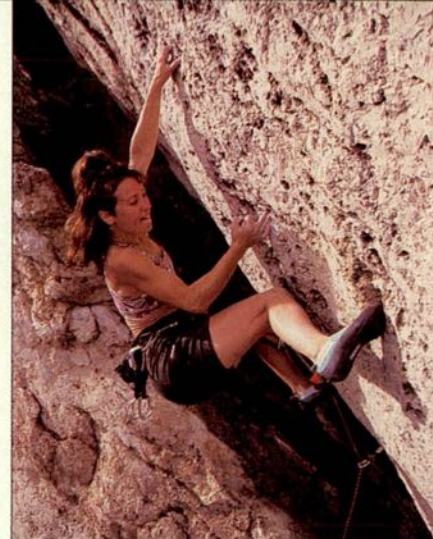


Photo: Scott Franklin

Phipps relaxing after it was all over, on Babalouie (5.12c), Wild Iris, Wyoming.

hand, I wanted to do it very much; on the other, I was, well, *concerned*. I could die, I could lose my mind, I could blow the chance of a lifetime, or I could ride the chance and make it.

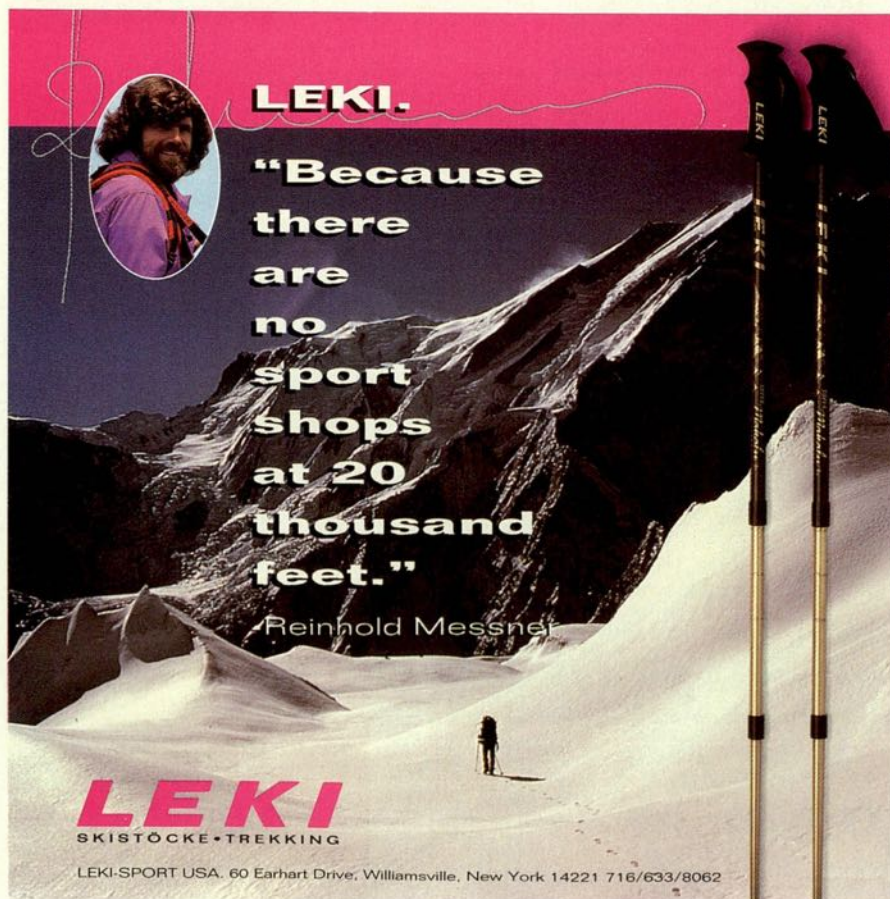
Right before we were going to film the fall, the weather turned ugly. There were days of rain, snow, thunder, lightning, hail, and sleet, and fog so thick you couldn't see 100 feet around you. The weather would break for an hour or so — and then start all over. It went on for the next three weeks, with Torre Divise always socked in.


Everyone from the producer to me was on edge. We had already been a month behind schedule due to weather and were supposed to end filming in a couple of weeks. It seemed as though we would never get back up to Torre Divise to shoot those crucial scenes. The weather finally broke for a few days. We would be able to finish filming the "wire sequences" on a Tyrolean traverse, including the fall.

If a reality, the Tyrolean wire sequence would be a climber's nightmare, or for that matter, anyone's. The scene was of a desperate rescue situation in which Stallone's character, Gabe, attempts to save a novice climber played by Michelle. The story line was so terrifying and Michelle's acting so realistic (she did a lot of the work on the Tyrolean cable herself) that it scared everyone on the set. I had to keep telling myself, "It's only a movie."

Trade secrets being what they are, I can't disclose the setup for the fall in full, but I had to wear a corseted costume that made me feel like vomiting. This was not only because it squeezed my guts so tight, but the fact that I was wearing it so I could be hurled hundreds of feet down a canyon.

The day came, and then there I was, hanging by one hand in the middle of a 200-foot Tyrolean traverse with 1000 feet of air below me, all cameras rolling. We had to get everything right. Because this





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was a high-risk stunt, it could only be shot twice. Everyone was on the line: me, the directors, my stunt coordinators, camera operators, wardrobe people — 50 all told. I had absolutely no idea what to expect. I was just terrified and exhilarated.

If I had only wanted to fall 200 feet, I could have. But, even as afraid as I was, I had a sense that if I was going to go for it, I might as well *really* go for it, and said I'd do the maximum 400.

My part was to flail my body, arms, and legs about. "Flail well," I told myself, "this is the big one. Don't f--- it up!"

My stunt coordinator yelled, "One ... two ... three." My chance to renege was over. On "three," they cut me loose and I took the flight of a lifetime, screaming and thrashing for 400 feet.

I got to the end of the line and yelled, "Yes!" to let everyone know I was all right. I was thrilled to still be in one piece. The tiny cable had held me! Everyone was psyched, screaming and carrying on. As I was winched back up I realized I hadn't felt a thing — I had been concentrating so hard that there was no nausea, no fear, no pain, and no sense of acceleration, and I was going fast. It only took about six seconds to fall the entire 400 feet.

I was to repeat the fall immediately. This time I knew what to expect, but it didn't seem to change matters — I was still in that heightened state of awareness. Then I was hanging by one hand again.

"One ... two ... three."

I was flying back down the canyon. Again no sensation, just complete attention and absorption.

After I was winched back up to the Tyrolean, Kevin Swigert, one of the leading climbing stunt and safety men, came out on the Tyrolean to help me back to earth. He said casually, "We just made cinematic history with that fall." It was the longest fall without a parachute ever taken by a woman, and one of the longest of that type ever taken in moviemaking.

We smiled at each other, then to ourselves. It was a good day's work. We hugged each other, feeling a tremendous relief that it was all over.

The fall was a huge success all across the board. I felt as though a great weight had been lifted off me. I was high on adrenaline and excitement, smiling so much my face hurt. The fall happened so fast that I was surprised when I watched it on video, and saw how I just kept going and going. I've yet to fully comprehend how far I actually went — it seems inconceivable to fall for so long and live.

People ask me how the fall felt. It was bizarre — because, really, I felt nothing at all.

— Georgia Phipps

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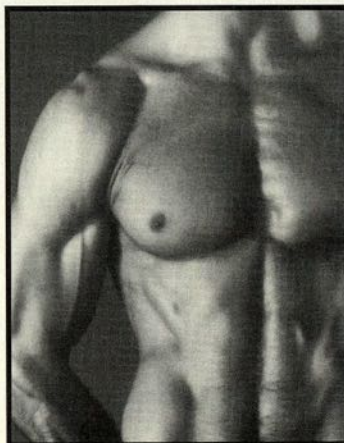
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In the path of the devil

Catskill Mountains, New York

Living in Manhattan, I faced two obstacles when I decided to pursue ice climbing.

The first proved the easier to overcome: my boyfriend at the time was a CBS-TV news reporter, who prided himself on sophistication and urbanity. He once said, seriously, that his idea of roughing it was an outdoor opera. When I suggested a weekend in New Hampshire to go ice climbing, he made it clear it was ice climbing or him — when put that way, an easy choice.

The second obstacle was tougher: traveling to New Hampshire or the Adirondacks from Manhattan is a long haul, at least for a corporate employee with limited vacation time. If I wanted to ice climb, I'd have to find good ice closer to home.

But the next winter, I solved both problems: I found a more supportive boyfriend — who incidentally also climbed ice — and discovered the Catskill Mountains in central New York State. Two hours north of the Empire State Building and Wall Street, the Catskills are one of the Northeast's major ice-climbing areas, offering quality routes in a wide range of difficulty.

Despite its proximity to New York City, the countryside is beautiful and surprisingly pristine. Much is designated state park land, with an abundant wildlife population of deer, otter, mink, porcupine, and even black bear. The terrain is rugged and steep, superb for forming ice flows. Driving through the area, you see ice everywhere.

The trick is knowing where to go — unfortunately, many fine ice routes are on private land, and others are highly prized secrets of local cognoscenti or, like blind dates, can look much better from afar than up close.

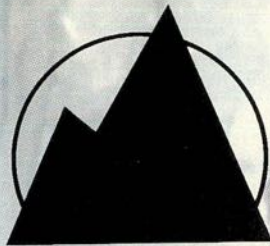
The two most popular (and legal) areas are Stony Clove and Kaaterskill Clove, close to the Catskills' biggest ski resort, Hunter Mountain, and the towns of Hunter and Tannersville (about a 20-minute drive apart). Together they offer varied routes for beginners and experts alike. "Clove" is a local term, originating from 17th-century Dutch settlers, for the area's steep rock clefts.

Words of caution: Catskills climbing is serious, even on lower-graded routes.



Eric Wahl leading steep ice in the Catskills, New York.

Photo: Jeffrey Seckendorf



Climb High



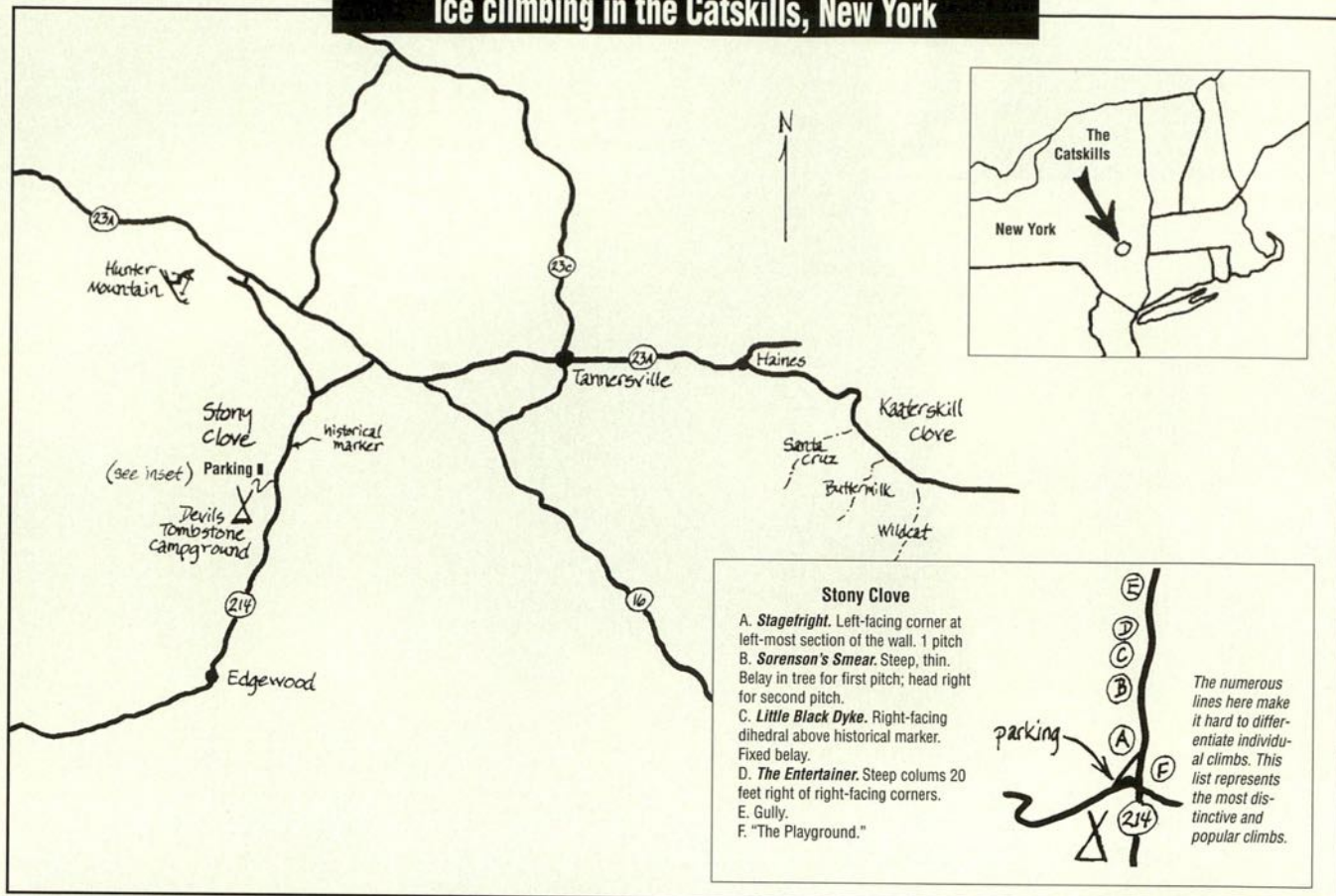
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Mark Twight on "Desperado." Photo Gary Digham

Ice climbing in the Catskills, New York



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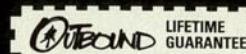
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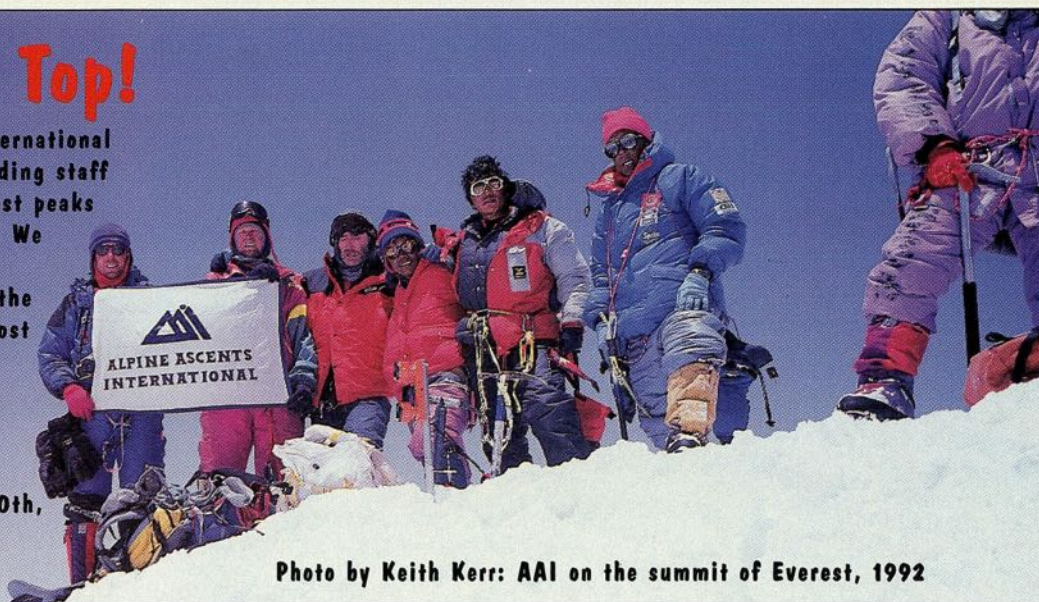


Photo by Keith Kerr: AAI on the summit of Everest, 1992

Conditions are less predictable than farther north, so gradings and protection availability can change quickly. Climbers must also be self-sufficient in the case of an accident, particularly in Kaaterskill Clove, where seclusion and long bushwhack approaches heighten the commitment level.

Local ethics are firm: don't toprope virgin ice. Don't hack at ice clearly above your ability, even on toprope. Catskills ice doesn't recover as quickly — or at all — as ice further north.

Beyond climbing, the Catskills are also rich in colorful history: it is said that Rip van Winkle slept in the eery Catskills forests for 20 years, and here it was also that the Headless Horseman chased poor Ichabod Crane (legends later immortalized into American literature classics by Washington Irving).

How many climbing areas can boast that 300 years ago they were inhabited by the Devil? And the rugged Catskills terrain, particularly around Stony Clove, is still among the wildest in the Northeast. In the pre-Footfang days of the 1600s, merely traveling through the area was so hazardous that the settlers concluded only the Devil — with his special abilities and cloven feet — was safe.

Nowadays, Catskill climbers have to rely on the less reliable method of frontpointing.

— Susan E.B. Schwartz

Logistics

Season. Mid-December to late February/early March. However, the area's relatively southern location makes it more susceptible to warming. Conditions can be unpredictable, even in peak season.

Accommodations. Budget motels and quaint (pricier) bed-and-breakfasts abound. For best prices, try motels on Route 28 (like Ter-

race, in Shokan, at \$35 per night; or the slightly nicer Trail Motel in Boiceville.) The numerous motels on Route 23A are usually more expensive due to greater convenience to the ski areas, such as Hunter and Windham, catering to weekend New Yorkers.

For more lodging or hiking information, contact the local Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 177, Hunter, NY 12442; (518) 263-4900.

Camping. The state campgrounds are closed in the winter, so for information contact Rock and Snow (the closest climbing shop) at 45 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561; (914) 255-1311.

Eating. For good value and decent atmosphere, try the Landmark in Boiceville (budget Continental), Judy's on Route 28 (health-food breakfasts and lunches), and the numerous pizzerias and delis on routes 28 and 23A.

Guidebooks. The area's only ice guidebook has been out of print for several years. Information is spread word-of-mouth, or by Rich Gottlieb at Rock and Snow.

Stony Clove (Grade 2-5, mostly 3-4)

Best known, most extensive, and most popular ice climbing area in the Catskills. It offers numerous one- to two-pitch routes, from beginner to advanced, and short approaches.

There are two separate areas. On the east side of Route 214, The Playground is ideal for beginners (easy approaches, terrain, and descents). However, depending on conditions, the nearby Columns offer 60- to 130-foot Grade 5 climbs (located directly across from Notch Lake).

Most climbers head to Route 214's west side (Grade 3-4+). Climbs are less than vertical, but not pushovers: characteristically delicate, thin, and hard to protect. Descend by rappel (two ropes useful on many lines).

Stony Clove's popularity is its drawback. It can be a "scene." Heavy traffic can chew up moderate routes by mid-season, and generate lines longer than a midtown Manhattan sale. Also, beware: the short talus-slope approach on Route 214's west slope is steep and loose.

Kaaterskill Clove (Grade 3-5, mostly 4-4+)

Located in the rolling ravines south of Route 23A, Kaaterskill Clove contains a few routes in stunning settings. The most popular are *Santa Cruz Falls*, *Buttermilk Falls*, and *Wildcat Falls*. Each involves a full-day trip.

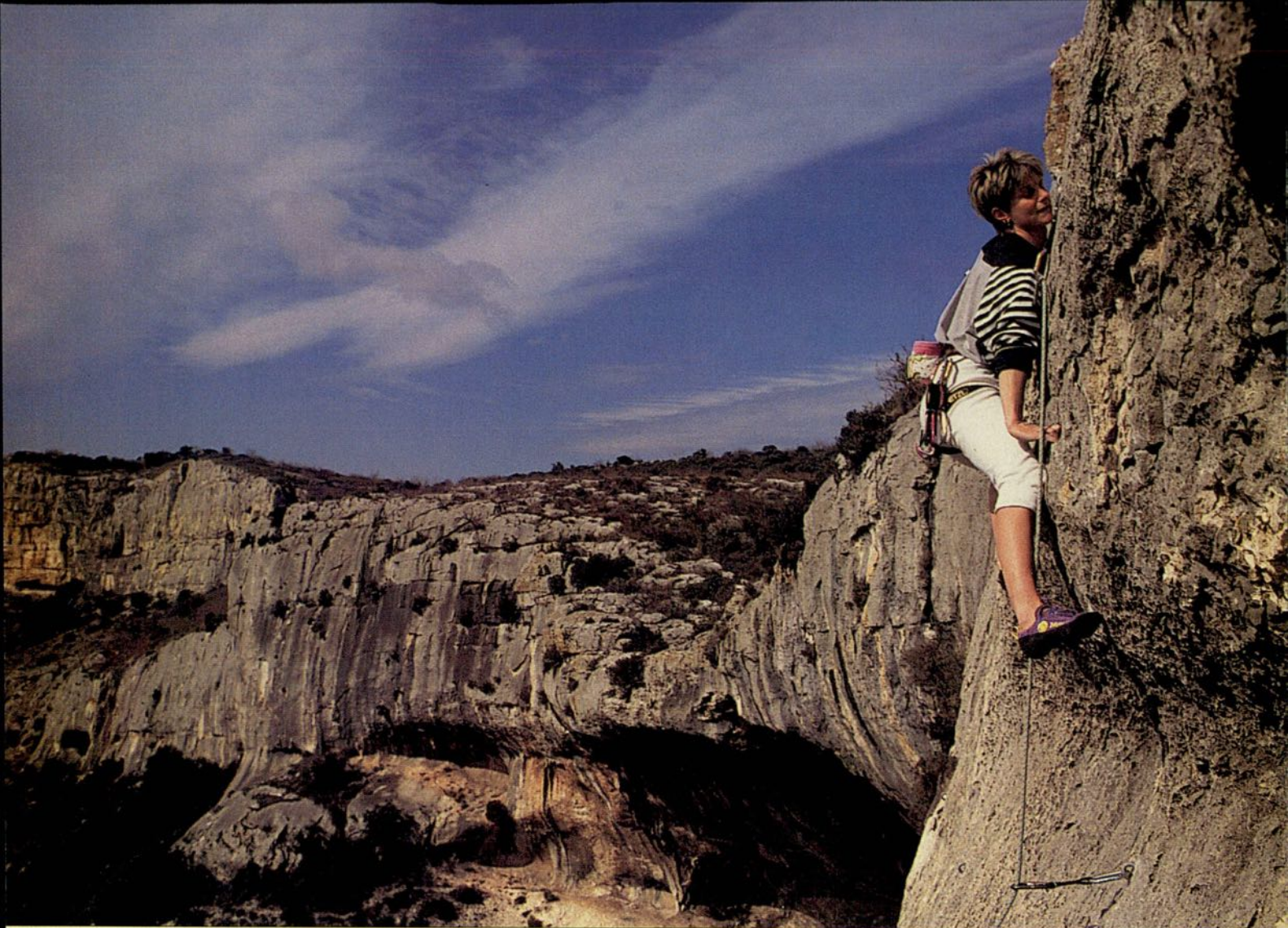
The drawbacks are unmistakable. Steep bushwhack approaches consume two to two-and-a-half hours of precious winter daylight, and require tricky route finding and creative problem-solving to cross Kaaterskill Creek when it's not frozen. (Bring spare clothes in case you fall in.)

Climbing conditions in all three areas are notoriously more unpredictable than at Stony Clove. Having trudged into a Kaaterskill Clove waterfall, you can find it's not in, or in marginal condition, and be tempted to attempt it anyway.

Santa Cruz Falls. Ice amphitheater, in good years forms numerous one- to two-pitch routes up to 120 feet. Descend by rappel or walking off.

Buttermilk Falls. In good years it has been called the Catskills' best ice climb. Five pitches: lower moderate ones lead to a vertical top pitch. As is often the case with Catskill multi-pitch waterfall routes, creek beds separate each pitch, allowing for escape; here you can exit left (east) at these junctions if necessary. Descend by walking off.

Wildcat Falls. Two pitches, separated by creek bed. In lean conditions, the top pitch is steep, aerated, and Grade 5. Descend by walking off.



Winter haven shielded from the mistral

Russan, France

A cliff in a circular arc, above a meander of the Gardon River, sheltered from the mistral and continuously exposed to the sun: this is Russan, a little heaven in the South of France. It's not as well known as Buoux, as high as the Verdon, or as hard as Cimai, but Russan has its own qualities.

Located in Gard, this cliff is one of the best places in Europe for winter climbing. When the mistral, a strong, cold, dry, northerly wind, blows, it clears the sky. The lucid skies let you appreciate the sweet caress of the sun and, even though it's winter, climb wearing shorts! It's not a place for summer, unless you want to look and feel like a chicken roasting in an oven.

Another attribute of this cliff is the unique rock. Russan is made up of striated or columnar limestone. All the hardest routes follow columns — grip a small overhanging column and nothing is guaranteed until you reach the top. In the middle of the cliff is an enormous roof, la Baume Precee, originally used for artificial climbing.

The overhang is parallel to the ground at 30 meters high and is so difficult that it features only three routes, one not yet realized. *Auto Portrait* (8b+, or 5.14a), is the hardest route on the cliff. Jacky Godoffe, on his first visit here, opened *Auto Portrait*, a 50-degree overhang that runs for 20 meters on the left side of the roof. Unfortunately, you must get lucky with the weather to try it because the route is often wet.

The majority of the cliff is composed of routes between 6a (5.10a) and 7c (5.12d). Most of the routes begin with slabs and finish with a more or less difficult overhang. Each climber can find treasure adapted to his or her form. Be careful of your fingers: the limestone is very abrasive — after two or three days climbing, you'd better take one for rest. Use your day off for visiting the region. The tourist office in Nîmes (Place des Arènes 30000) will give you all the information you need to go for a walk or visit some historic places around the city.

— Christophe Gaillard

Logistics

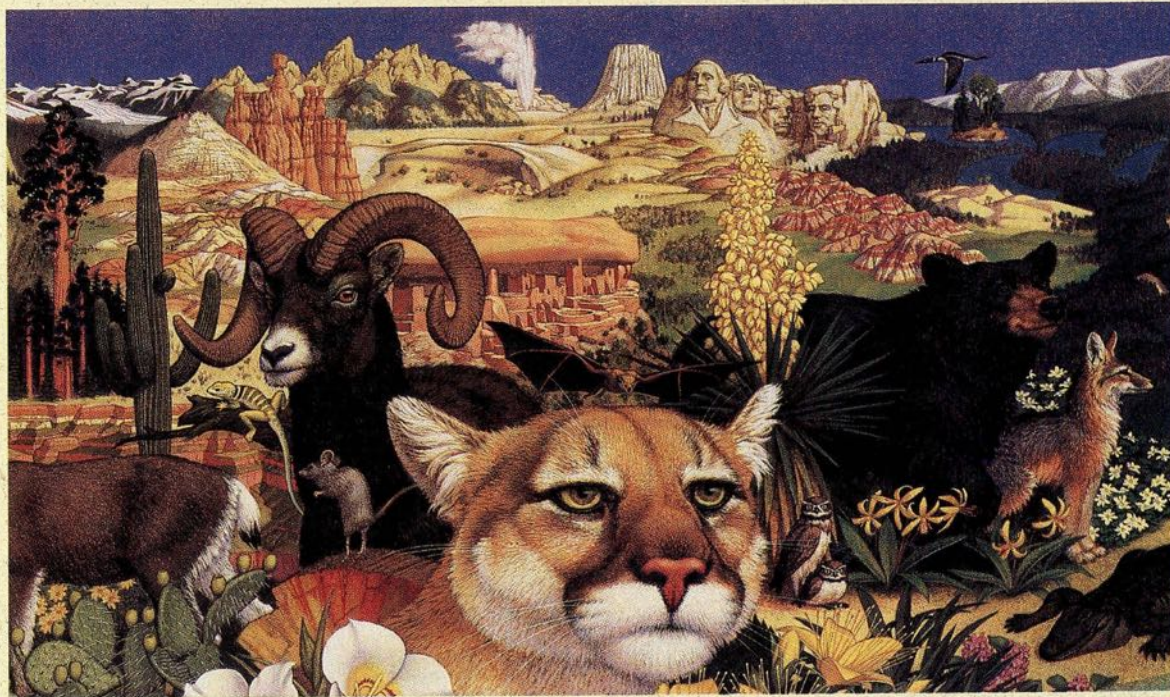
Getting there. Russan is 17 kilometers north of Nîmes. When you arrive in France, the first thing to do is buy some maps. For Russan, you must buy the Michelin No. 80. From Nîmes, take the D418 for 17 kilometers until you reach Russan-Sainte Anastasie. In the village, take the road called "rue de Castellas." Follow the signpost "Castellas" to a dirt road on your left. After three kilometers you arrive at the parking area. Be careful not to leave anything of value in your car. Walk 10 minutes, following the red points on the path to the cliff.

Camping. There are a lot of hotels and campgrounds near Russan, in the towns Collias, Remoulins, and Nîmes. For example, Formule 1 in Nîmes offers rooms for one, two, or three people for 130 francs (about \$25) a night.

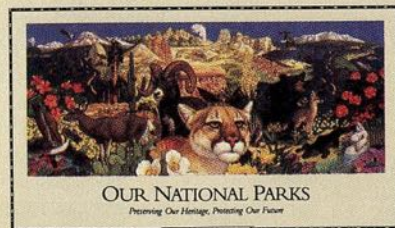
Ah, the South of France in winter — Russan is yet another excellent limestone crag, offering a little something for everyone.

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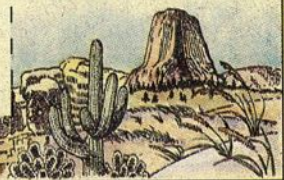
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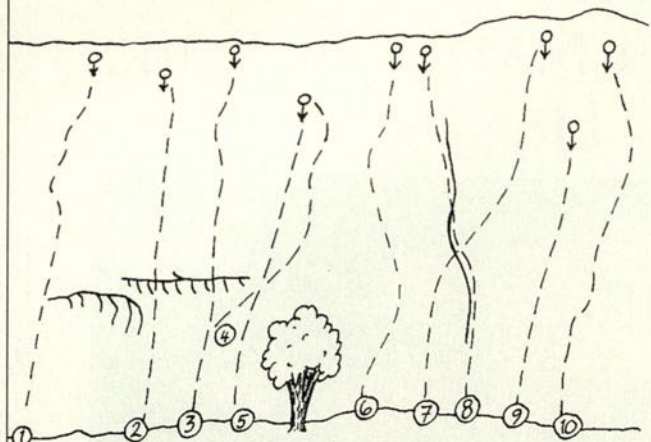
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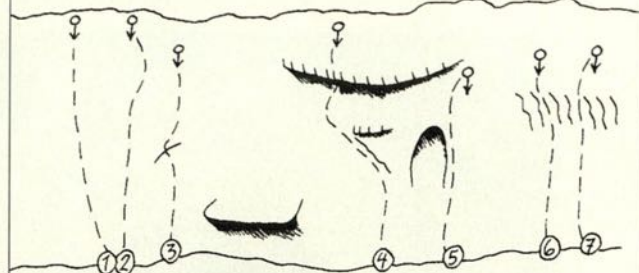
Russan, France

SECTEUR CHANTOISEL



1. Le Plomb, le but et le Mutant (7a+)
2. Le 3 Chez Chautoisel (7b)
3. Lorsque tu me Liras (7b+)
4. Qual (7a)
5. C'est a Prendre ou a Laisser (7b)
6. Le Souvenir, le Savoir et l'Oubli (7b)
7. Saver du Soir (6c+)
8. Pulsio d'une Jour (6a)
9. Les Beaux Gestes Sout si Rares (8a)
10. Salade de Style (6c)

SECTEUR MAELSTROM



1. Quart de Siecle (8a+)
2. Macumba (7c)
3. Maelstrom (8a+)
4. Eau de Colonne (8a+)
5. Pipe Line (8a+)
6. Decadence (7a+)
7. Unnamed (7b)

Amenities. In the center of Russan-Sainte Anastasie, you'll find everything you need: the post office, a little grocery, a bakery, and also the cafe de l'Av l'Avenir, where you can have a drink after climbing and espe-

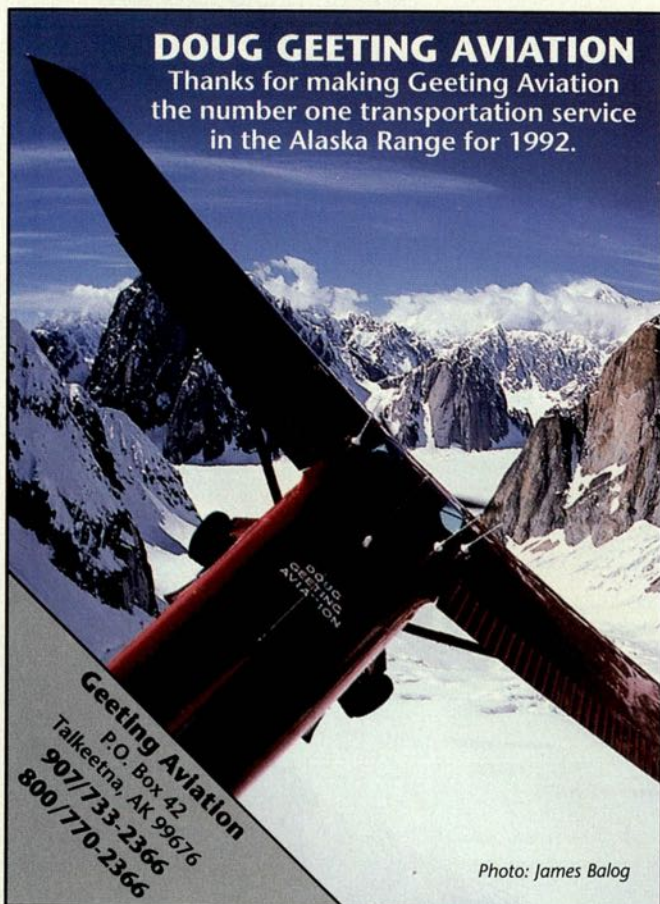
cially write a little message in the climber's register. Supermarkets are at Nimes, near the highway.

Climbing. A topo is edited by the association Roc Envol, rue de l'Eglise 30190 Vic

Sainte-Anastasie France and sells for 50 francs (about \$9). There are about 250 routes from 5a (5.10a) to 8b+ (5.14a). A 55-meter rope is necessary. The cliff is divided into several areas. Above are two.

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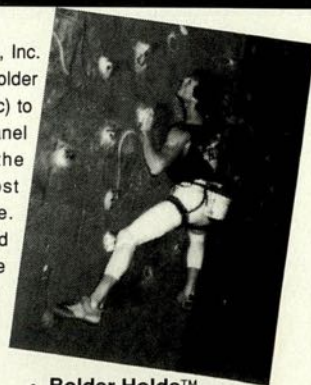


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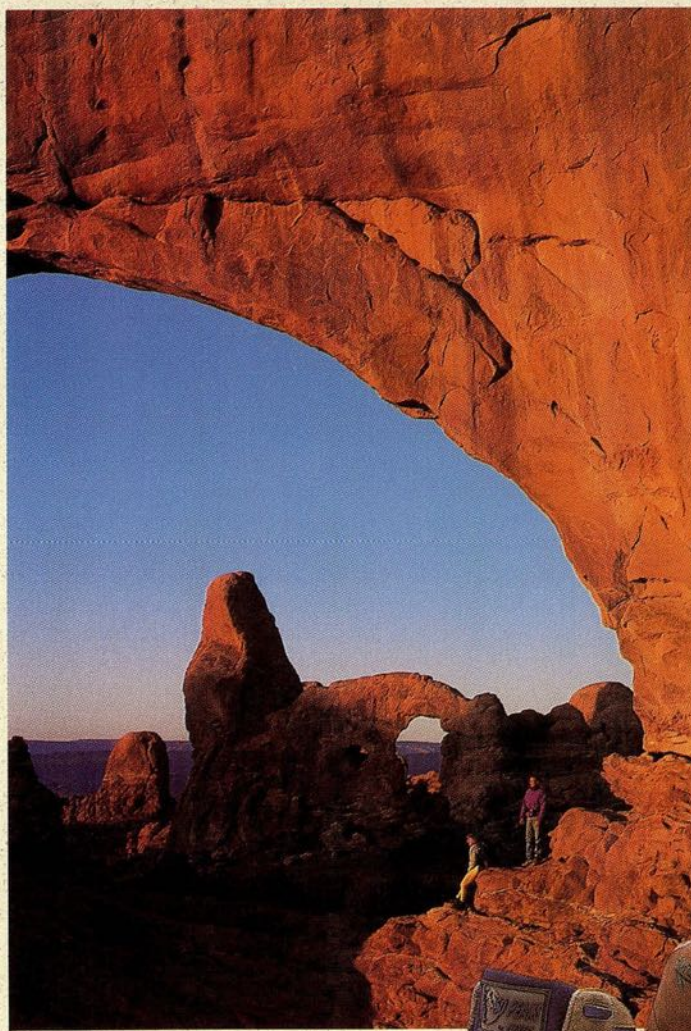
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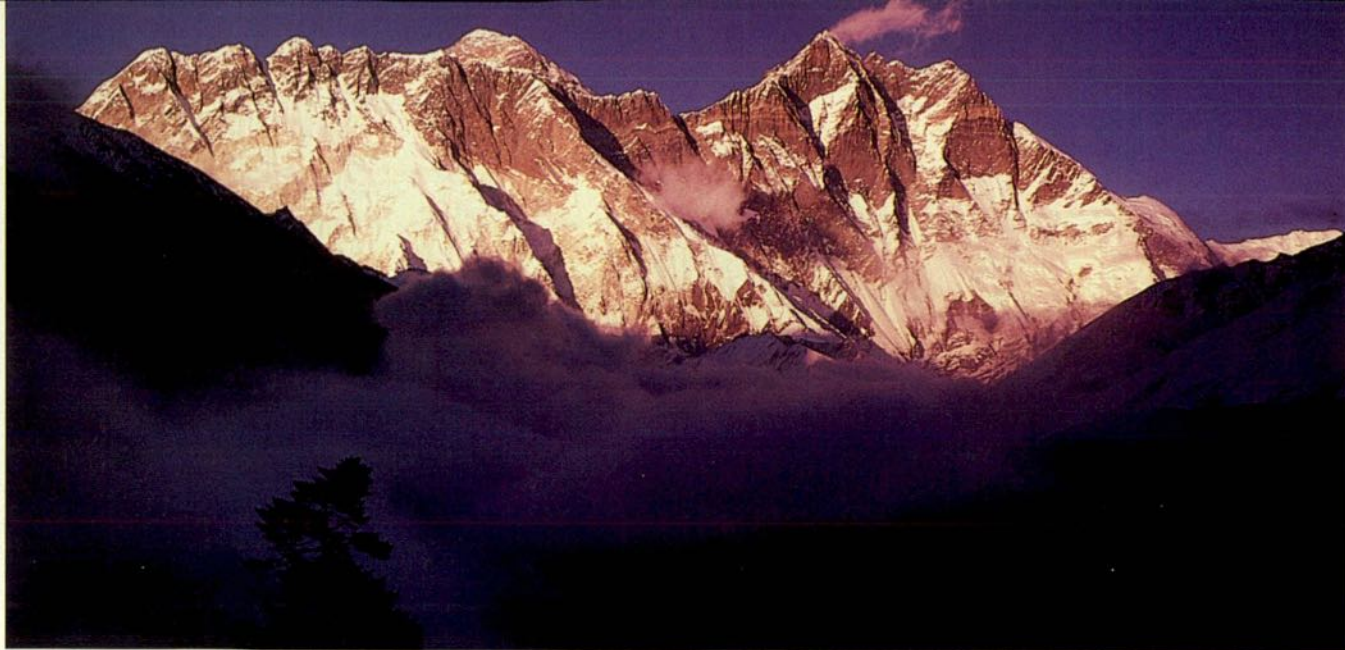


Photo: Michael Kennedy

Rudeness reigns on Everest

Khumbu Himalaya, Nepal and Tibet

May 12, 1992, was a day of high drama in the Nepalese Himalaya. Not far below the summit of Mount Everest, a queue of climbers from around the world waited for an hour or more for their turn to scale the Hillary Step and stand at the top of the world. When the afternoon was over, an astonishing total of 32 persons had reached the highest point on earth.

On the same day that so many stood on top of Mount Everest, dramas of another sort were being played out on two of Nepal's other 8000-meter peaks. To the east, on Kangchenjunga (8586 meters), the world's most experienced female Himalayan mountaineer, Wanda Rutkiewicz of Poland, was last seen alive as she bivouaced at 8300 meters before her summit bid. (See Obituaries, *Climbing* No. 135.) And to the west two Romanian women, Taina Coliban and Sandita Isaila, disappeared while making an attempt on the Northeast Ridge of Dhaulagiri I (8167 meters). Kazi Sherpa, who had assisted the two in carrying supplies to the base of the route, observed them at about 6500 meters on May 11, moving slowly upwards towards their next camp some 500 meters higher. Clouds obscured any view of their progress that afternoon, and he saw no further sign of them for several days. On May 23 a big storm moved in, and Kazi finally left basecamp on May 29, leaving food and fuel there just in case Coliban and Isaila miraculously got back down.

Back at Everest, the scene was not one of unmitigated joy either, but for different reasons. The basecamp area was crowded with 268 climbers and numerous Nepalese staff belonging to an unprecedented total of 13 expeditions. One team, the British

Joint Services Everest Expedition, acted as mediator amongst the others and early on suggested areas where teams should sleep, where the toilets should be, and where a path should run between the various expeditions. This last suggestion was made after Spaniards and Dutchmen threw stones at each other for walking through their camps.

American and New Zealand expedition leaders complained about a Russian team pushing ahead of them on the South Col route (which the Russians didn't have a permit for), despite the Russians' repeated promises to wait for those who did have a permit to move up first, and in contravention of the Nepalese authorities' instructions to stick to their permitted route, the Southwest Face. Subsequently, eight Russian summiters and their leader were banned from Nepal for five years. The Russians in turn complained that the American and New Zealand leaders were making large profits conducting incompetent clients whom they had charged \$35,000 each for a guided ascent of Everest.

The British made a formal complaint about a Czech climber who "was wandering all over the mountain." A New Zealander, whose commercial expedition caused much of the long delay at the Hillary Step, said he had "the most frightening time of my life" while descending the Step. A team of Indian climbers, who were roped together but to nothing else, were grabbing him for a handhold when they slipped. "I could see myself falling down the southwest face tied to the four of them," he said.

A general complaint by well-organized, well-financed, and well-equipped teams

was that others climbed on their backs. It was widely felt that many of the climbers involved in these incidents would never have made any progress on the mountain, and some of them would have perished, if others had not been there to aid them. There were charges that the Russians helped themselves to other people's food and tents; a Dutch climber refused entry to his small tent at 7200 meters during a storm to a Russian who said he couldn't find his tent at that camp when, the Dutchman said later, there was no Russian tent at the camp. (An American eventually took the Russian in.) When a Frenchman became seriously ill because of high altitude, his radio-less team's leader asked the British to send word down to basecamp on their radio, and to supply the oxygen-less French team with three very expensive bottles of oxygen, medicine, a stretcher, and much of the manpower needed to carry the sick man through the exceedingly difficult Khumbu Icefall to basecamp. The British reckoned that only about five of the 13 parties on the mountain were truly equipped for the task.

All except one of this spring's summiters used artificial oxygen. The exception was Ang Rita Sherpa, who went to the top on May 15 for his record-breaking seventh ascent of Everest, and who says he has never used oxygen on the mountain. All but one of the eight successful teams from

Mount Everest, rising beyond the immense Nuptse-Lhotse ridge in the picture above, has suffered the onslaught of an ever-increasing number of well-financed expeditions. Partly in response to the crowds on the world's highest peak, Nepalese authorities have raised the price of an Everest permit to \$50,000.

DREAMS...



Eric Shipton and Bill Tilman acted on their dreams. Theirs were bold, lightweight forays into the unknown—close-knit groups of friends joined in the belief that “any worthwhile expedition can be planned on the back of an envelope.” At variance with most of their contemporaries, Shipton and Tilman developed a style that, in time, left its imprint as the purest style of exploration. Their ventures—whether attempting a Himalayan giant, voyaging remote Arctic seas, or making a solo traverse of central Africa by bicycle—are a legacy of innovative and inspirational achievements.

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In tribute to the spirit of adventure embodied in these dreams, Gore has established the Shipton/Tilman Grant, which provides a total of \$30,000 to be divided among the three endeavors each year that are most in harmony with the philosophy of the Grant's namesakes. An independent panel of five judges, each chosen for his or her own record of laudable exploits, will select the three annual Shipton/Tilman Grant recipients and allocate the varying dollar amounts of each Grant.

Small unencumbered teams of friends with bold and imaginative goals, who plan to accomplish them in a self-propelled, environmentally-sound, and cost-effective manner, are invited to apply for a Shipton/Tilman Grant. Further information and applications may be obtained from W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc., Dept. STG, 100 Airport Road, Building 2, P.O. Box 729, Elkton, Maryland 21922-0729. The annual deadline for Shipton/Tilman Grant applications is March 1st of every year; recipients will be notified by March 31st.



Nepal climbed by way of the standard South Col/Southeast Ridge route. A group of Spanish climbers (not the stone throwers) peacefully and happily climbed alone up the South Pillar, joined the Southeast Ridge, and sent three Spanish and two Nepalese to the summit on the last successful day, May 15, when 19 climbers went to the summit.

The only others on the Nepalese side not to attempt the standard route were the British, who valiantly battled the winds on the West Ridge/North Face route, a route that has been climbed by only six of the 37 expeditions that have tried it since 1963. The British gave up at 8500 meters on May 18.

There has been considerable comment on the massive number of climbers on Everest this year. The largest number of Everest summiters in any previous season was 31 on four different days in October, 1990. This season 55 people reached the summit, also on four days, from the Nepalese side, while three more climbed to the top from Tibet.

"It is becoming so that you can go to the beach for your holidays or climb Everest," said Sir Edmund Hillary, who made the first ascent of the peak in 1953 with Tenzing Norgay, in *The Times* of London on May 13. "I am just glad that I climbed it then." Several weeks later, according to the Associated Press, he told reporters in London, "What's happening to the sense of remoteness and adventure? ... I do not like the business of paying \$35,000 to be conducted to the top of Everest."

One result of the increasing crowds has been the recently announced boost in Everest permit fees, as well as other restrictions designed by the Nepalese authorities to lessen the pressure on the peak (see sidebar).

Another negative is, of course, the four lives that were lost this spring, although the toll was small for such a large number of people. Two members of an unsuccessful Indian expedition, their leader Deepak Kulkarni and Raymond Jacob, died of exhaustion and exposure after they failed to reach the shelter of their highest camp at the South Col. For the other Indian team, a well-organized group from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, all went very well, with summit successes on two different days, until the last day they were descending to basecamp. Then an Indian who had been a cook at Camp Two and had helped carry supply loads, Sher Singh, who was not a climber, slipped on a tilting ladder about 20 meters from the bottom of the Khumbu Icefall. He had a nylon sling tied around his waist that he had attached to the safety rope along the ladder, and when he fell, it pulled tight like a noose,

\$10,000 a head for Everest

Nepalese authorities announced in July that the cost of a permit to climb Mount Everest would rise five-fold to \$50,000, effective September 1, 1993. The peak fee covers a team of up to five members; two additional members will be allowed (at \$10,000 each), with a maximum team size of seven. In addition, only one permit will be granted for each route, effectively limiting traffic to four teams per season on the Nepalese side of the mountain, where there are four recognized routes: the South Col/Southeast Ridge, South Pillar, Southwest Face, and West Ridge. The team size restriction will apply to other mountains in the Everest region, although multiple teams will be allowed on each route.

The measures were undertaken in order "... to lessen the pressure in the area and to conserve the environment," according to the Nepalese Ministry of Tourism. Expeditions to the Everest region will also be required to bring their trash out of the mountains and back to their home countries, a requirement that will be enforced by the posting of a cash deposit that will only be returned once the trash is shipped out of Nepal.

Mountaineering will also be allowed in the summer months for the first time in many years, effective in 1993. At present climbing is only allowed during the spring, fall, and winter in Nepal.

ruptured his kidney, and broke his back.

The fourth man to die on the Nepalese side was a 43-year-old Nepalese, Subba Singh Tamang, who was cook at basecamp for a Spanish team. He never went above base but suffered a fatal heart attack. There was also a death in one of the three unsuccessful groups on the Tibetan side of Everest. A joint Japanese-Kazakh team attempting the Northeast Ridge lost a Japanese member, Manabu Hoshi. He disappeared on May 23; his ice axe, jumar and rucksack were found at 8350 meters but his body was not seen.

Another body, however, was found on the Northeast Ridge by this team at about 8250 meters. It was described as that of a large person lying peacefully on his side with one hand under his cheek. Near him were various possessions including a book

with Chris Bonington's name inscribed in it and a diary with entries in May, 1982. It was in May, 1982, that two British climbers on Bonington's small expedition, Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker, were going to the summit in the first attempt ever made on the Northeast Ridge. They disappeared high on the mountain, and no one had any idea of what happened to them.

In the summer of 1988 two climbers reached the altitude where the body has now been found but they saw no sign of anyone in the deep monsoon snow. This spring the winds were especially fierce on the north side, blowing much of the snow away.

One of the Kazakhs took photos of the body and retrieved the diary and the book; perhaps the Boardman and Tasker families will soon be able to know whose son has been found. (*Editor's note: According to a report in the September, 1992, issue of the British magazine High, Bonington has seen the Kazakh photos and identified the body as that of Peter Boardman.*)

While Everest, Dhaulagiri, Kangchenjunga, and other 8000-meter peaks generally host the bulk of Nepal's expedition traffic, this year several lower, less well-known mountains saw visits as well. An American climber, Carlos Buhler, made a bold solo ascent of the seldom-climbed Dorje Lhakpa (6812 meters), reaching the summit on April 13. He had planned to climb a new route on the peak's Northwest Arete with Jon Aylward of Great Britain, but Aylward became ill with an intestinal bug shortly after the pair arrived in basecamp. While his companion rested at a lower village, Buhler took advantage of a spell of clear weather to climb the steep and exposed West Ridge in three days round trip. He and Aylward, now recovered, then did some exploratory climbing low on some of the area's other peaks, but continuing bad weather precluded an attempt on Dorje Lhakpa's Northwest Arete.

The popular Southwest Ridge of Ama Dablam (6812 meters) saw several ascents, including one on April 10 by an American pair, David Nettle and James Quirk. Two members of an eight-person Canadian team, Robert Driscoll and Michael White, reached the summit of Jannu (also known as Kumbhakarna, 7710 meters) on April 15 via the South Ridge. Nearby, the very steep East Face of Jannu (7710 meters) was attempted by Vanja Furlan and Bojan Pockar of Slovenia, but they were forced off the direct route and onto the Southeast Ridge at about 7150 meters after two days of continuous climbing and a third day waiting out a storm. The pair had made a previous attempt on the face in spring 1991. The huge West Face of Makalu

(8463 meters) also saw an attempt by a well-financed British team, but according to one observer, "They just didn't have the necessary depth of Himalayan experience. But they weren't kamikaze, they admitted the face was too much for them, and they got off it without anyone getting hurt." They then tried the normal route and reached 8250 meters before being turned back by storm.

— Elizabeth Hawley

Editor's note: The Union Internationale des Association D'Alpinisme (UIAA) is organizing a Himalayan training camp for September, 1993. The camp will be held in Pakistan and is aimed at young climbers (20 to 28 years old) with alpine experience; cost will be \$1500 excluding travel to Pakistan. For applications, which must be returned by December 31, 1992, contact Edward Becker, Grubbenweg 20, NL-6343 CC Klimmen, Holland; telephone, 31-4405-1823; FAX, 31-4405-3845.

Stop press: As we were about to send this issue to the printer, we received word that the noted French Himalayan climber Pierre Béghin had been killed while attempting a new route on the South Face of Annapurna I (8091 meters) in Nepal.

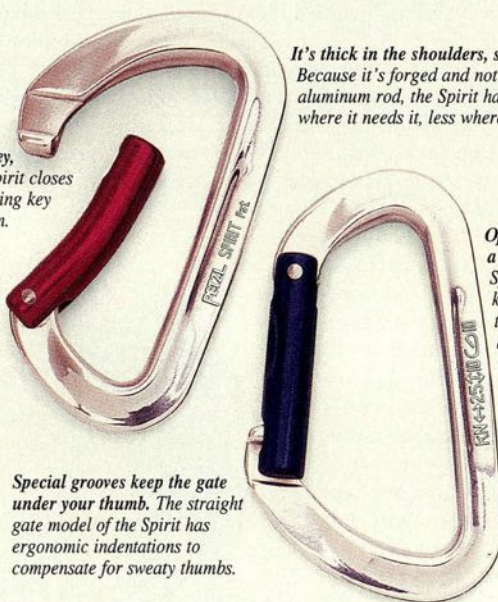
Starting on the night of October 7, Béghin and his partner, Christophe Lafaille, 28, of Gap, France, climbed to 7400 meters on a difficult line to the right of the Catalanian Route. On October 9 a storm moved in, forcing retreat. At 7200 meters Béghin's single rappel anchor pulled and he plunged some 1000 meters to his death.

Lafaille, with little food and only 20 meters of rope left, continued down, rappelling where he could and downclimbing the rest. Part of the way down he was struck by stonefall which broke his right arm. He regained basecamp on October 16 and was helicoptered out to Kathmandu on October 18. Béghin's body was not recovered.

Béghin, 40, was a research engineer in Grenoble, France, and one of the world's foremost exponents of lightweight Himalayan climbing. Among his many significant climbs, six in particular stand out: the West Face of Manaslu (8156 meters), with Bernard Muller in 1981; the Southwest Face of Kangchenjunga (8598 meters), solo in 1983; the South Pillar of Dhaulagiri (8167 meters), with Jean-Noel Roche in 1984; the North Face of Jannu (7710 meters), with Erik Decamp in 1987; the South Face of Makalu (8463 meters), solo in 1989; and the Northwest Ridge/North Face of K2 (8611 meters), with Christophe Profit in 1991. He is survived by his wife Annie.

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Wolfgang Gullich, 1960-1992

On the morning of August 29 the world lost one of its truly great individuals. Wolfgang Gullich was returning home to Nuremberg, Germany, from an early morning radio interview in Munich when he fell asleep at the wheel and crashed into a tree at very high speed. He died in the hospital 48 hours later without regaining consciousness. His death is especially tragic for his parents, as Wolfgang's brother died some years ago in a climbing accident. Wolfgang is also survived by Annette, his wife of only one year.

Wolfgang's name is synonymous with incredible climbing feats, party tricks displaying his awesome power, hilariously funny times with his friends, and acts of great generosity.

His interaction with people from the many different countries he visited makes his loss a personal one for many. At almost any cliff you will find someone who has spent time at Wolfgang's "quintessential climbers' house" in the Frankenjura. He traveled to the United States a number of times beginning in 1978, went to Australia in 1985 and 1987, China in 1987, Pakistan in 1988 and 1989, and Chile in 1990/91. He also climbed extensively in France and East Germany when not climbing in his beloved Frankenjura.

I first met Wolfgang in Australia in 1985. Even then his exploits were legendary: cranking one-finger pullups for slide-show audiences, and putting up hideously powerful first ascents all over the Frankenjura. Despite all this, his most striking character trait was his shyness. Because of this it took quite a while to get to know him. I spent the rest of the year living in Germany with "Wolfy" and his housemates, and a constant stream of visitors. During this time we became good friends, and I saw more clearly the strength of character that made him the force that he was.

His climbs, beginning with his gargantuan eight-day effort on the second ascent of *Grand Illusion* (5.13b), at Sugarloaf, California in 1983, and continuing with his first ascents of the world's first 5.13d, *Kanal Im Rucken*, in Germany in 1984; the first 5.14a, *Punks in the Gym*, Arapiles, Australia; and perhaps the first 5.13a on sight, *Yesterday Direct*, also in Australia, in 1985, formed a logical progression of

athletic achievement. Wolfgang had the ability to set a goal almost beyond imagination, and then to achieve it on the day predicted. If he had said, "One day I will fly to the moon under my own power," I would have believed him.

After this intense period of climbing he took the rest of 1985 off to finish his book, *Sportklettern Heute*, in which he described some of his then-innovative climbing and training techniques. During this time Wolfy would go out with us to



Wolfgang Gullich.

the crag, to make sure we got on the good routes, provide encouragement, and even bolt and clean at least one new route for each visitor. I'd never seen anything like it.

People would often turn up unannounced, at all times of the day and night. They were always welcome. There was a party atmosphere much of the time. Wolfy would deliver his impromptu lectures on training, climbing philosophy, and life, into the early hours of the morning, fueled by endless pots of coffee and baked goods. Though these antics weren't good from a physiological standpoint, sleep deprivation being a major problem, all involved were indelibly affected in how they viewed climbing and their lives.

One had to develop a battery of tricks to combat Wolfgang's outrageous generosity. Once, Kurt Albert loaned me his car while he was away on a trip, and Wolfgang insisted on giving me money for gas. This led to a heated discussion: "Don't be ridiculous, its not even your car, Wolfy." "Ach, don't worry Geoffy, its only money," his typical reply in matters financial.

Eating in restaurants was hilarious, as

one had to be ready for all sorts of wild spiel, most of it with full beer glasses. And the only way to fool Wolfy when it was time to leave was to pretend to go to the bathroom, and pay the bill before he realized what was happening.

During Wolfgang's period of book-writing and rest he formulated a program of training that would give him the tools for his upcoming exploits. These included upping the world standard of free climbing from 5.14a to 5.14b on *Wall Street*, in the Frankenjura in 1987; three major high-altitude rock routes, two on Trango Tower (one 5.12a, the other 5.12d), and one on the Central Tower of Paine (also 5.12d) — all the hardest free climbs ever done in the high mountains; and lastly, his latest and most nightmarish Frankenjura creation, *Action Directe*, in 1991. Ben Moon, one of the few people able to accurately judge the route's difficulty, is truly impressed with the ascent: "It's definitely the hardest route in the world. [Apparently harder than his own route *Hubble*.] I think that it really could be 9a (5.14d), but at the least I would think it is 8c+/9a. I really can't even say what a great effort it was."

Last year at his wedding party, dressed uncharacteristically chic (mostly through Annette's influence), Wolfy described *Action Directe* to me in intimate detail, complete with wild hand movements. During this, some young Frankenjura "guns" walked in. They called Wolfy over, and he gave me the "Oh Gott, they look so serious" look. After some minutes of intense discussion he returned, and I asked, "What's their problem?" "Oh, they tried *Action Directe* and they find it hard to believe that I climbed the route." "Why?" I asked, knowing what was coming. "Because they couldn't do any of the moves!" he said, with that special sly/innocent look that was only his.

I laughed quite hard; I'd been watching this same scenario since 1985. "You know Wolfy, you're such a bastard, you do nothing new for awhile so they think they are catching up, but then, just when they think they are truly close, you show them that you're still the master." "Of course Geoffy!" We laughed heartily again, as if there was ever any doubt.

Wolfgang showed the way for the

Photo: Cathy Beloeil

climbers in the Frankenjura and for the rest of the climbing world, not only with his climbing but with his attitude toward life. His loss for climbing is great, but for so many people the loss runs much deeper. The point of light that we have followed, whether we were aware of it or not, has been extinguished. We miss you very much, Wolfgang.

—Geoff Weigand

A View From Below

In rock climbing, people like Wolfgang Gullich are the equivalent of movie stars. We see their pictures in magazines and read tales of their incredible prowess: inconceivable strength, zealous determination, and nerves that never falter. In most cases, it's best that we never really get to know them — they don't stand much of a chance of living up to our expectations.

As a good (but far from great) climber, I've known quite a few rock-climbing stars. Some are nice, some are not nice. Only when I think of Wolfgang will I admit to a certain amount of hero-worship. Not because he was an amazing climber, but because, in spite of that, he was gracious to anyone who approached him.

I met Wolfgang in the fall of 1984. I was walking along the base of Sky Top, in the Gunks, when I came to *Supercrack* and saw someone climbing it while in the midst of a heated argument. I couldn't believe that someone could lead such a hard route in such obvious distraction. When I realized he and his belayer were shouting in German, I realized it had to be Wolfgang. I sat down to watch for awhile, and eventually managed to get an introduction. I ran into him occasionally over the next two weeks, and enjoyed his company immensely; he could be so serious about climbing and still have a good time.

One night I whined about wanting to get to Europe, and Wolfgang said that I was welcome to stay with him. I doubted he was serious since I hardly knew him, but warned him that I might take him up on his offer.

I arrived in Germany in late May, and after wandering around the wrong city for two days, found my way to Wolfgang's door. Wolfgang was as friendly and sincere as memory promised.

I had originally planned to spend two months in Europe, the first two weeks in Germany. I ended up staying over three months — almost all of it in Germany.

During that time many outstanding climbers stayed with Wolfgang: Kim Carigan, Geoff Weigand, Jerry Moffatt, and Martin Scheel, to name a few. I was so far removed from these people in ability that I sometimes felt as if I didn't belong. One evening I told Wolfgang how I felt and he laughed at me, saying, "Many people who stay here say they are my friends. Some of them are, but with many of them I don't know. If I were not such a good climber or didn't live here in the Frankenjura anymore, would they come to stay with me? Many would not, but I think you would. It's nice to feel that someone is here for more than climbing."

I was shocked when I heard that Wolfgang was killed. I was also surprised that I reacted so strongly. I had not seen Wolfgang since that summer in Germany, but I called him every year or so to say hello because I knew he would never call or write. (He'd told me this himself.) After thinking about it, I realized why I felt so strongly. Wolfgang demonstrated a personal integrity that I will never forget.

When he was at the cliffs he offered encouragement to everyone. You felt that he really wanted his partners to succeed. He also encouraged those who were young, or just out for a day of easy climbing. He would talk to anyone. It was a pleasure to see the delight on the faces of some of these people. I never remember him letting them down.

When you talked, Wolfgang looked directly at you. He loved a good story. I had a few stories and impersonations from working in the subways of New York that he liked. He would ask me to recite some stories three or four times, and then laugh as if he had heard them for the first time.

Wolfgang wasn't perfect. He was too impressed with his own physique, looked at his arms too much, and showed too many slides of himself at slideshows. But he was impressive and it didn't hurt anyone, so who really cared?

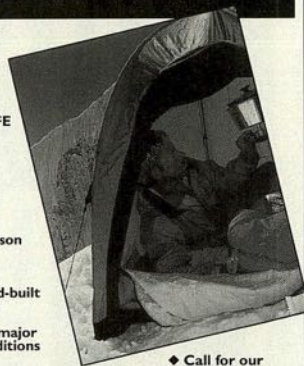
Most of us aspire to greatness, but few of us find it. If we did, how would we deal with it? I've known many climbers of less stature than Wolfgang who wouldn't lower themselves to point the way to the start of a 5.5. Integrity is a fragile quality. Wolfgang managed to retain it regardless of the company or the situation. I know I'll never climb as hard as Wolfgang did. Rather, I want to emulate his sincerity, honesty and caring.

—Frank Minunni

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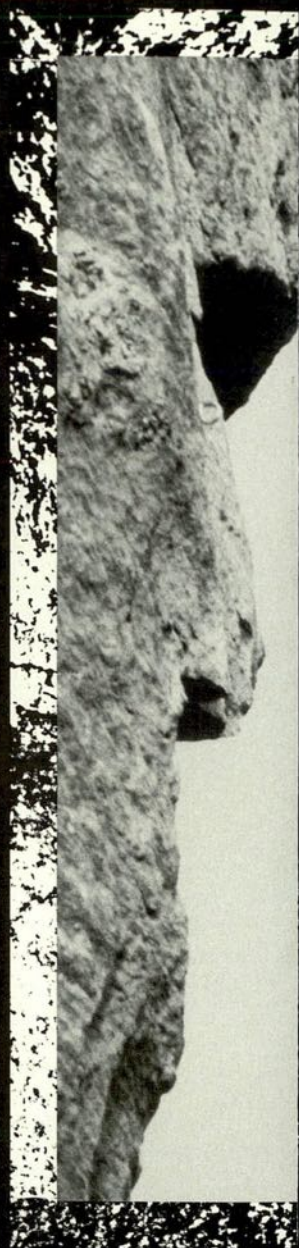
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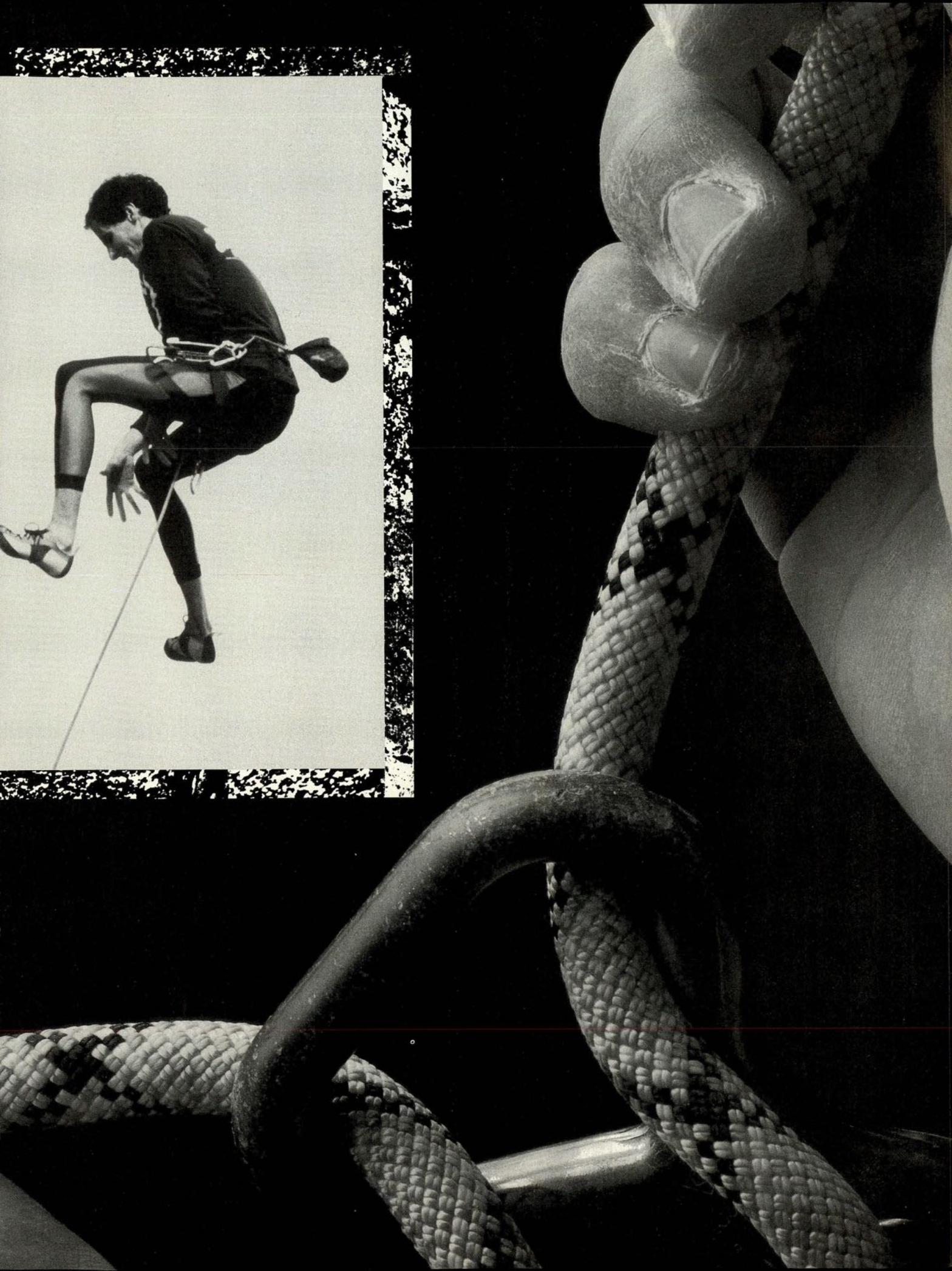
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FLASHES

Compiled by Michael Bengé

Middendorf and Bongard take *The Grand Voyage* on The Great Trango

Scott Franklin makes second ascent of *Throwin' the Hoolihan* (5.14a)

Scottish unknown snags second ascent of *Hubble* (8c+)

Wilford and Child climb new route on Nameless Tower

Mike Beck on-sighting in Europe

Doug Englekirk tames *Slayer*

High-powered action at Rifle — new 5.14?

In the Karakorum this summer, John Middendorf of Flagstaff, Arizona, and Xaver Bongard of Switzerland climbed a new route on the East Face of Great Trango Tower, *The Grand Voyage* (VII 5.10 A4+ WI3). They spent three weeks hauling gear and establishing Camps I and II on the dangerous approach — much of which could only be safely climbed at night — and fixing the first four pitches. The pair endured 18 days on the wall, climbing “capsule style” with only six ropes total. (Capsule-style refers to a modified alpine mode of ascent, where minimal fixed ropes are employed between moving camps.)

Middendorf and Bongard established five camps — four hanging and one on a snow ledge halfway up — on the sheer wall, fixing ropes above each until they decided it was safe and timely to move camp. Many of the belays were, according to Middendorf, in “suicidal positions,” exposed to ice, snow, and rockfall from above, but their camps were generally safe havens. The climbers were trapped for three days 400 feet below the top of the wall during a fierce storm, but finally summited on July 28.

The climbing involved many pitches of technical aid, and some pitches of difficult free, ice, and mixed climbing. The last five pitches below the snow ledge included vertical ice, rotten aid, and free climbing up a steep, dangerous corner system, which turned out to be a major drainage off the snow ledge. Again, due to incessant ice and snow pummeling down during the day, it was only possible to climb “Gollum’s Gulley” at night.

The rest of the route also had severe objective hazards, with

ice, rock, and snow avalanching from the snow ledge and summit seracs. Occasionally, too, huge sections of rock would exfoliate off the wall above and pound down around the climbers. The upper headwall above the snow ledge was reportedly superb, though chimneys in the final section required multiple “Harding-Slot-type” maneuvers in inclement weather at 20,000 feet. The final six pitches from the rim of the wall to the summit involved technical ice and tenuous mixed climbing, as well as a tough slog through deep unconsolidated snow to the summit ridge and onto the East Summit.

It took Middendorf and Bongard three days and 44 rappels to descend, a task further complicated when (due to dangerous all-day and all-night avalanches caused by the warming summer conditions) they were forced to rappel a buttress to the east of the approach gully.

In general, the weather was reasonable, though the climbers spent many days and nights in freezing storms in their hanging bivouacs. From base to summit, the route involved 4400 vertical feet (33 pitches with a 200-foot lead rope). In terms of expedition size, style, and technical difficulty, *The Grand Voyage* represents a new stan-

John Middendorf and Xaver Bongard’s new route on the Great Trango Tower, *The Grand Voyage* (VII 5.10 A4+), takes a line left of the lower buttress to the snow ledge, then ascends straight up the main pillar to the summit.

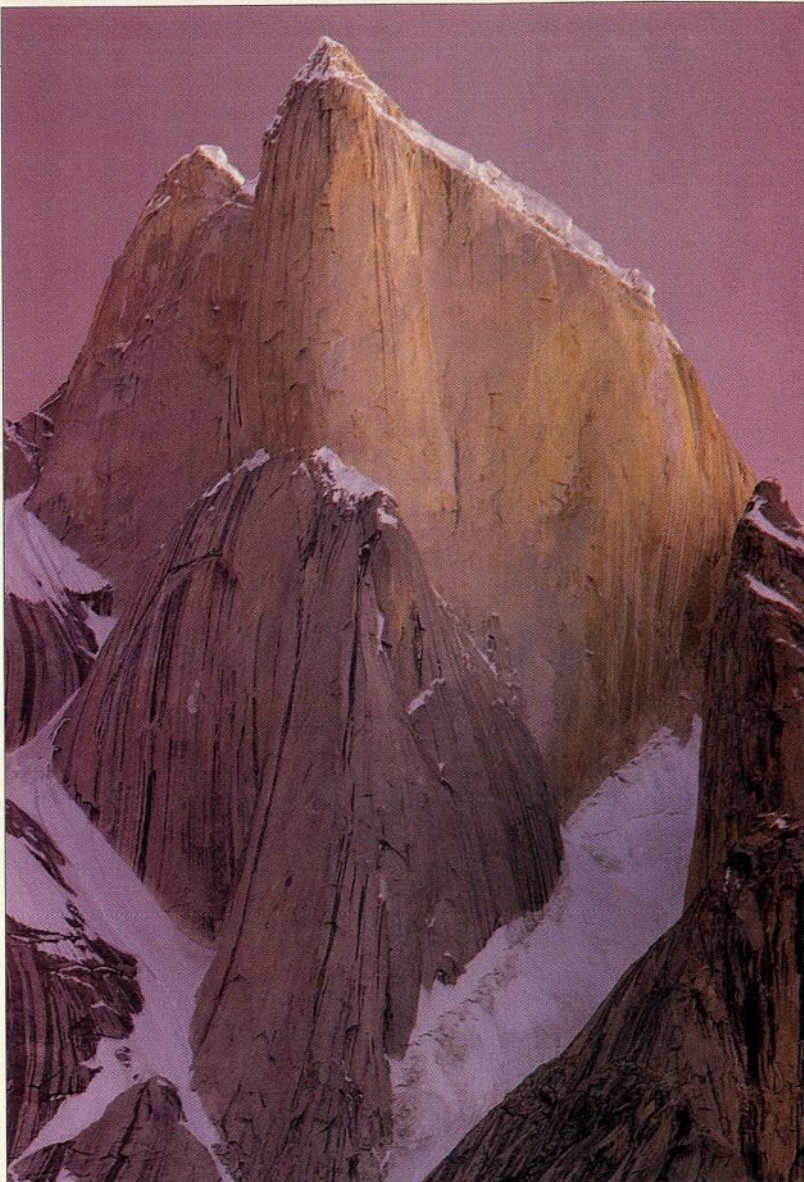
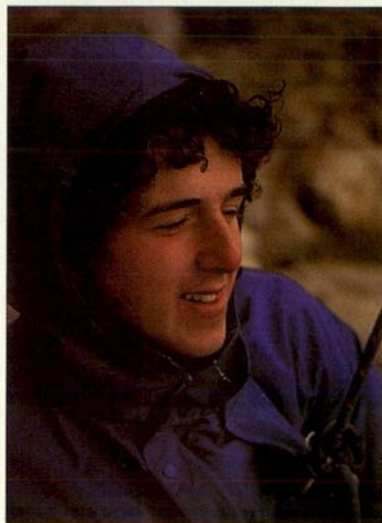


Photo: Ace Kvale



Malcolm Smith, the unknown young Scottish climber who recently made the second ascent of Hubble (8c+) — perhaps the hardest rock climb in the world.

dard for big walls in the Himalaya. The A4+ pitches indicate a high degree of danger exclusive of the objective hazards.

The team found fixed pitons and slings on rock outcroppings on the final pitches to the summit, presumably left by the Norwegians in 1985 and verifying the likelihood of their complete ascent. The four Norwegians are assumed to have fallen to their deaths on the descent.

Middendorff and Bongard's ascent, then, was the second of the East Summit, as both the Japanese and Spanish teams who repeated the Norwegian Buttress did not venture past the rim. Note: Great Trango has three summits: the Main (central) Summit (6286 meters), the West Summit (6237 meters), and the East Summit (6231 meters).

■ Scotland has a great new sport-climbing hope in the unassuming 18-year-old Malcolm Smith. After only four years of climbing, Smith is climbing with the best, on-sighting 7c+, and cranking some extremely powerful boulder problems and hard redpoints.

Smith, from Dunbar (near Edinburgh), seems — like many climbers in a rainy country — a product of indoor climbing. In the upstairs of his parents' home, Smith bolted holds to the walls and ceiling of his bedroom and put in four-hour training sessions there. The only other item in the room was the mattress he slept on. Smith has now taken up climbing

full-time, living on the dole.

A particularly smooth climber to watch, Smith recently on-sighted *Corresponce Imaginaire* (7c+), *Le Chose* (7c+), *Mirage* (7c), and *Rhodendron* (7c) at Ceuse, France. Last year, Smith made a giant leap with his redpoint of the 8b *Magnetic Fields* at Malham Cove — his previous hardest redpoint had been 7c+. Also to his credit is a redpoint of *Four-Door Dostovsky* (8a+) at Cheedale.

At Northumberland, Smith put up two boulder problems given "Fountainbleau 8a+," which translates to French 8c+. Smith's favorite pasttime is bouldering, and power moves are perhaps his best skill.

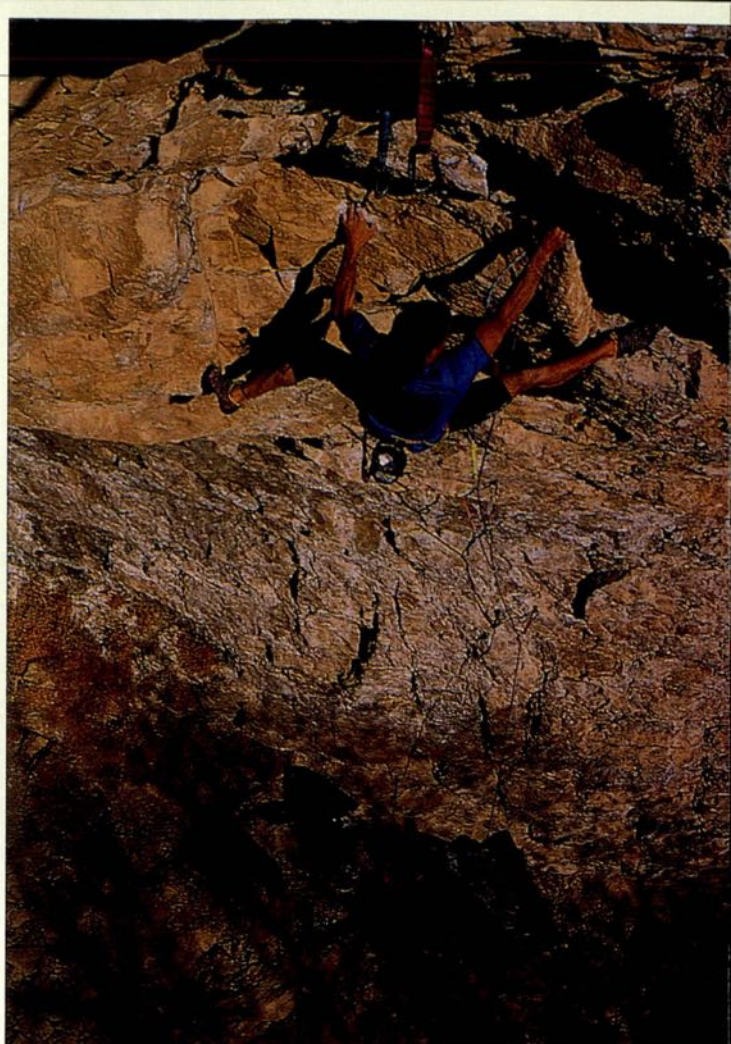
On the competition circuit, Smith's best finishes have been a ninth in the World Cup at Birmingham, England, last year and first in a national event at Newcastle.

Flash. At press time, we learned that Smith made the second ascent of Ben Moon's 1991 route *Hubble* (8c+/5.14c) — touted by many top climbers as the hardest route in the world. The only other climbs in this category are the late Wolfgang Gullich's *Action Directe* in Germany and Jean-Baptiste Tribout's *Just Do It* at Smith Rock.

■ At Wild Iris, Wyoming, Scott Franklin made the second ascent of Todd Skinner's testpiece, *Throwin' the Hoolihan*, succeeding after numerous attempts on the route's stacked series of hard boulder problems. Franklin feels the route is 8b+ or 5.14a, Wyoming's only route of such difficulty.

■ In an active summer and fall on the limestone of Rifle, Colorado, the route tally was upped almost daily while numerous visiting climbers repeated the testpieces. While many more projects are in the works, the route total is now close to 100 — with a third of those being 5.13s. And with the completion of Kurt Smith's *Slice of Life*, Colorado may have its first 5.14.

Things were especially busy on the hard new-route scene. In the Skull Cave, Smith — after filling in a previously manufactured pocket — finished off *Daydream Nation* (5.13b). Colin Lantz of Boulder snagged the second ascent, confirming the grade. Jim



Kurt Smith on his new route *Slice of Life*, perhaps Colorado's first 5.14.

Karn reportedly came very close to on-sighting the route and thought it was a bit easier than graded. Also in the Skull Cave, Jimmy Surrette completed his still-ungraded route (5.13c/d), the only route to climb completely out of the impressive cave; Jim Karn made the second ascent after just three or four redpoint attempts.

Lantz set his sights on a virgin wall aptly named The Arsenal for its continuous big-gun climbing up to 45 degrees overhanging. Lantz completed the wall's current testpiece *The Colinater* (5.13d), an unremitting 115-foot climb, which overhangs 50 feet. Lantz calls the 12 bolts' worth "the land of endless lip encounters," with much 5.12+ climbing between hard boulder-problem cruxes. Lantz also established *Sprayathon* (5.13c) in The Arsenal.

In a super fight in September, Karn came within inches of on-sighting *Sprayathon*, then redpointed it his next try. Says Lantz, "For once Karn was

thrutching, after walking everything else at Rifle." Karn also on-sighted *Rendespeew* (5.13a/b) in The Arsenal.

On an obscure wall across from the Wicked Cave, Matt Samet of Albuquerque, New Mexico, put in *Fluff Boy* (5.13c). Hidetaka Suzuki spent six days on it but failed on the redpoint, indicative of the route's difficulty. Suzuki says *Fluff Boy* is much harder than any 13c that he's tried in California.

In late September, Scott Frye returned from California to complete his project on the Project Wall, coming away with *Living in Fear* (5.13c). Will Nazarian repeated it in two days, confirming the grade.

In a flurry during the first week in October, various first ascensionists ticked their difficult projects, including *Jamboree* (5.13b/c) in the Arsenal (Lantz); *Dis Stijl* (5.13+) on the Bauhaus Wall (Mike Pont); *Doctor Epic* (5.13b/c) in the Arsenal (Steve Hong, and quickly repeated by Lantz); and *Dumpster Barbeque*



Greg Child and Mark Wilford's new route — *Run for Cover* (VI 5.11 A3+) — on Nameless Tower follows the left skyline. The arrow indicates the site of the giant rockfall that took place 150 feet from the climbers (see next page).

(5.13+) in the Crystal Cave (Samet). Several of the completed projects were the hardest routes the climbers had done to date and are therefore difficult to rate. All routes await further ascents to determine their consensus grades.

During this same week, Kurt Smith finished off his *Slice of Life* in the Wicked Cave. After working on the route for over three months and falling from the crux dyno on 50-plus redpoint attempts, Smith says he was ready to give up. But in an all-out effort, he chicken-winged his way past the crux and skipped a bolt to make the ascent just before leaving for a several-month European tour. The unrepeatable route is 90 feet long with a 30-foot crux section capped by a 13a move.

Final October climbing notes include Smith and Frye's on-sights of the new route Lard (5.13a); and Christian Griffith's on-sight of *Apocalypse* (5.13a). Fresh from making the second ascent of *Throwin' the Hoolihan* (5.14a) at Wild Iris, Franklin fired off back-to-back on-sights of a 5.12c, *Beer Run* (5.13a), *The Beast* (5.13a), and *Thieves* (5.13a) in an afternoon. Franklin also on-sighted *Drunken Monkey*

(5.12c), the straight-up variation on *Frizzle Frye* (5.13b), *Vision Thing* (5.13a/b), and *In Your Face* (5.12d).

During a June visit, the dynamic duo of Robyn Erbesfield and Didier Raboutou made a splash. In three days of climbing Erbesfield on-sighted a dozen 5.12 or harder routes, including *Pump Action* (5.12c), *In Your Face* (5.12d), *Poetic Justice* (5.12d/.13a), *Believe It* (5.13a), *Guilt Parade* (5.12c), and *Sing It in Russian* (5.12c). (In France this summer, Erbesfield, who is leading the World Cup competition circuit, continued to crank out hard on-sights. Her latest include *Madame Parsil* (7c+) in the Verdon Gorge and *Difficile a Lire* (7c) at Briancon.)

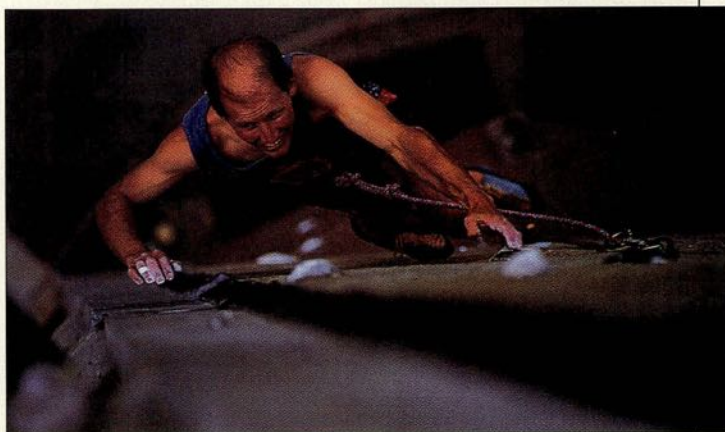
On one of his better days there, Raboutou on-sighted *In Your Face* (5.12d), *Poetic Justice* (5.12d/.13a), *Beer Run* (5.13a), and *Antiphil* (5.13a). He also on-sighted *The Beast* (5.13a) and *Family Unit* (5.13a).

The exceptional climber traffic this summer resulted in a few new requests from the Rifle Mountain Park managers. Please park in pull-offs only — not along the road — and obey "No

Parking" signs. Also, heed the "No climbing between these signs" plaques posted on sections of cliff that threaten the road with potential rockfall. Carpooling to the canyon from the campground is recommended as well. And finally, be considerate of other park users; the city council has received some complaints of climbers making too much noise or swinging on ropes too close to traffic. Climbers should also note that there is now a \$5 camping fee; proceeds will go back into the park for maintenance, signs, outhouses, etc.

Regarding new routes, please clean them during quiet times (e.g., weekdays or early or late in the day on weekends) to minimize the danger to and impact on other park users. And do a good job — remove loose blocks and holds, and put in reliable bolts.

■ Fresh from his victory at the U.S. National Championships at Emeryville, California, Doug Englekirk made the second ascent of Dan Osman's *Slayer* (originally thought to be 5.14) at Cave Rock, California. Englekirk spent several days on the route,



Doug Englekirk competing at Snowbird 1992.

and thought it is around 5.13d or 5.14a but says he needs to do more routes of that grade to be able to rate them accurately.

Englekirk, 30, has been climbing for 11 years, but had always climbed traditionally until about five years ago. Since then, he has ticked five 5.13ds, including *A Steep Climb Named Desire* at Donner Summit, California; *White Wedding* at Smith Rock, Oregon; *Desaster* in the Frankenjura, Germany; and *Treblinka* at Cimai, France.

During a recent trip to the Frankenjura, Englekirk attempted nine 5.12ds, on-sighting all of them, but says that he "picked the routes that were my kind, enduro-type, not the short, powerful kind." The modest Englekirk has also on-sighted several 5.13as, but says that he's not sure they were really that hard.

Englekirk owns a cabinet shop and construction company in Los Angeles but works "just enough to pay the bills." He is also a founding member of Solid Rock, Climbers for Christ. "That's the focus of all this for me, everything in life," says Englekirk. "My number one priority is serving God. He's the reason I'm doing well, not my own strength."

■ Shortly after Englekirk's ascent of *Slayer*, Tom Herbert fired off the third ascent in a five-day effort.

■ Also in the Karakorum, Greg Child and Mark Wilford completed a new 25-pitch route, *Run for Cover* (VI 5.11 A3+), on the 3000-foot south face of Nameless Tower (20,463 feet). Child had attempted the northeast face with Randy Leavitt and Tom Hargis in 1986 and again with Wilford in 1989. He and Wilford had suffered 13 stormy days pushing a new route to 19,500 feet before being thwarted by bad weather.

On this latest trip, Wilford and Child took advantage of good weather spells during an otherwise stormy August. Rob Slater accompanied the pair on about two thirds of the route before bowing out.

The route is a complex line of cracks, with lots of 5.10+ climbing connected by short aid sections. The upper part of the wall involved more aid than the team had hoped for, as cracks that had appeared free-climbable through binoculars often turned out to be only seams.

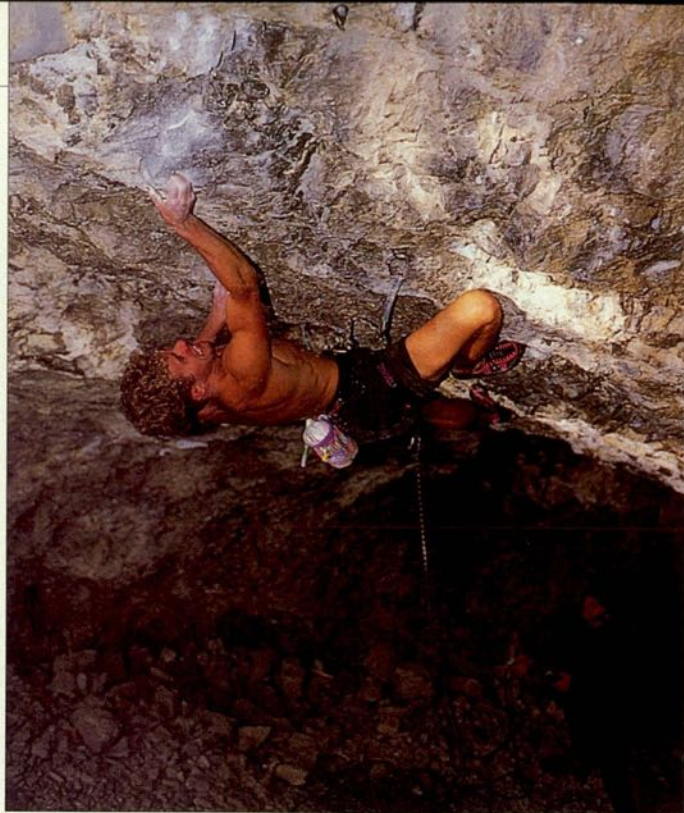
On the upper part of the wall, as the team emerged from a bivouac at 18,600 feet, a refrigerator-sized boulder thundered down from 150 feet above and passed to their right. All day, a stream of boulders and debris poured from the newly formed cavern, coming at times within 25 feet of the climbers. Ascending their fixed lines above was tedious, as every inch of rope had to be scraped free of ice. Then, when they were 1000 feet below the summit, earthquake-like vibrations rattled the flakes and rocks around them. Suddenly, what Child described as a noise like the sonic boom of a jet filled the valley, and a cloud of granite dust rose into the sky. From the adjacent Great Trango Tower, another team of climbers witnessed the massive rockfall, a slab of rock 600 feet high and 200 feet across that cut loose only 150 feet from Wilford and Child.

The final section of the route entailed more alpine climbing in iced-up cracks. The pair summited in the last minutes of daylight, made eight rappels in the dark, and endured an open bivy without sleeping bags.

Further on the descent, Child and Wilford, while dodging volleys of stones, removed the abandoned ropes of another expedition on a separate climb and filled a haulbag with trash left by past expeditions.

■ In the Frankenjura, Lynn Hill on-sighted *Simon* (X-/5.13b), one of the most difficult on-sights by a woman.

■ During a three-week visit to the United States, the relative unknown John Arran of Great Britain made some notable ascents in Colorado, including on-sights of *The Monument* with the hard finish (5.13a) in Eldorado Canyon, *Snake-watching* (5.12d/5.13a) in the



Mike Beck on *Dead Souls* (5.13d/5.14a), American Fork Canyon, Utah.

Flatirons, *Give the Dog a Bone* (5.13a) in Boulder Canyon, and *Vitamin H* (5.12c/d) at Rifle. Arran's hard redpoints included *The Webb* (5.13a, second try) and *Desdichado* (5.13c) in a four-hour effort. After making good progress on his first attempt on *Desdichado*, Arran worked the route, took an hour nap, and succeeded on his second redpoint attempt. The previous quickest ascent of the route had been by Sean Myles, in two days.

■ Mike Beck, age 22, of Salt Lake City chalked up an impressive list of on-sights in Europe last spring. In Austria, these included *Aqualung* (5.12d) at Schlier Wasserfall, *Top Flight* (5.12d) at Oberaudors, and *Optima* (5.12d) at Kufstein, where he also did *Scorpion* (5.13c) in a few tries. In Germany's Frankenjura, Beck on-sighted *Hercules* (5.13a), *Citron Presse* (5.12c/d), *Chasin' the Train* (5.12d), and *Hitchhike the Plane* (5.12d/5.13a), and came very close to redpointing *Ghetto Blaster* (5.14a).

Beck's recent European trip had been preceded by two others. At 19, Beck visited France, where he succeeded on *La*

Nuit de Lezard (5.13c) and *En Un Combat Douteux* (5.13b), both at Buoux. Last year, Beck did *Taboo* (5.13c/d) and *Reve d'un Papillon* (5.13b).

On his home turf this summer Beck made early ascents of the recent Logan Canyon test-pieces *Tweek* and *Slugfest*; both routes were originally given 5.14a (see Hot Flashes, *Climbing* No. 133). Beck also did *Crimpfest* (5.13b) on his second attempt, and on-sighted *Sportfest* (5.12d).

In early October, Beck fired off *Dead Souls* (5.13d/5.14a) and *Cannibals* (5.14a) as well.

■ At Orgon, France, the French climber Jean-Baptiste Tribout, responsible for the recent *Just Do It* (5.14c) at Smith Rock, established yet another 5.14. His recent route, called *Macumba Club* (8c, 5.14b), is an endurance problem involving 33 moves over 60-plus feet.

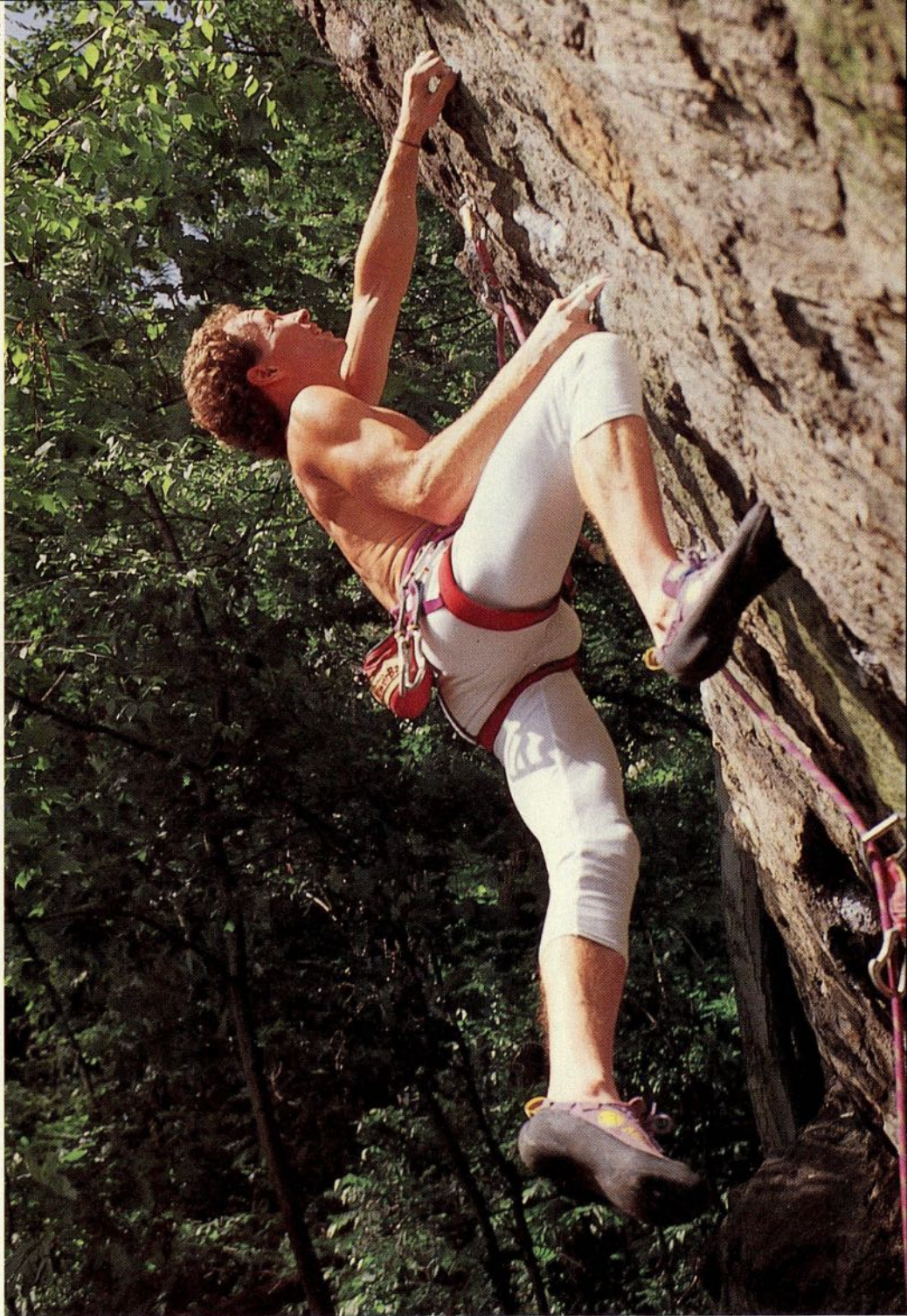
■ In *Climbing* No. 133, we reported that Jonathan Knight made the second ascent of *Dude* (5.13c) at the Virgin River Gorge, Arizona. In fact, Don Welsh of Las Vegas, Nevada, red-pointed the route the day after Scott Frye did the first ascent. Knight's was the third ascent.

Photo: Jeff Baldwin

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Competitions

Englekirk, Osius to top at U.S. Nationals

Emeryville, California

From my photographer's perch at the top of the route I could not yet see the climber, but I could hear the spectators. My heart sank as they groaned; I was expecting big things from this guy. A low fall here in the qualifier, and the only thing big for him would be the drive home.

He botched a sequence — but this guy fights, hard. Then he carries the grudge into the next round. So when I heard the crowd cheer, and saw his head peer above the overhang, I knew that this was going to be a good weekend for Doug Englekirk.

I just didn't know *how* good. The next climber on deck was Jim Karn, and with his world-class record, nobody was expecting anything less than a first place finish from him. But upsets do happen.

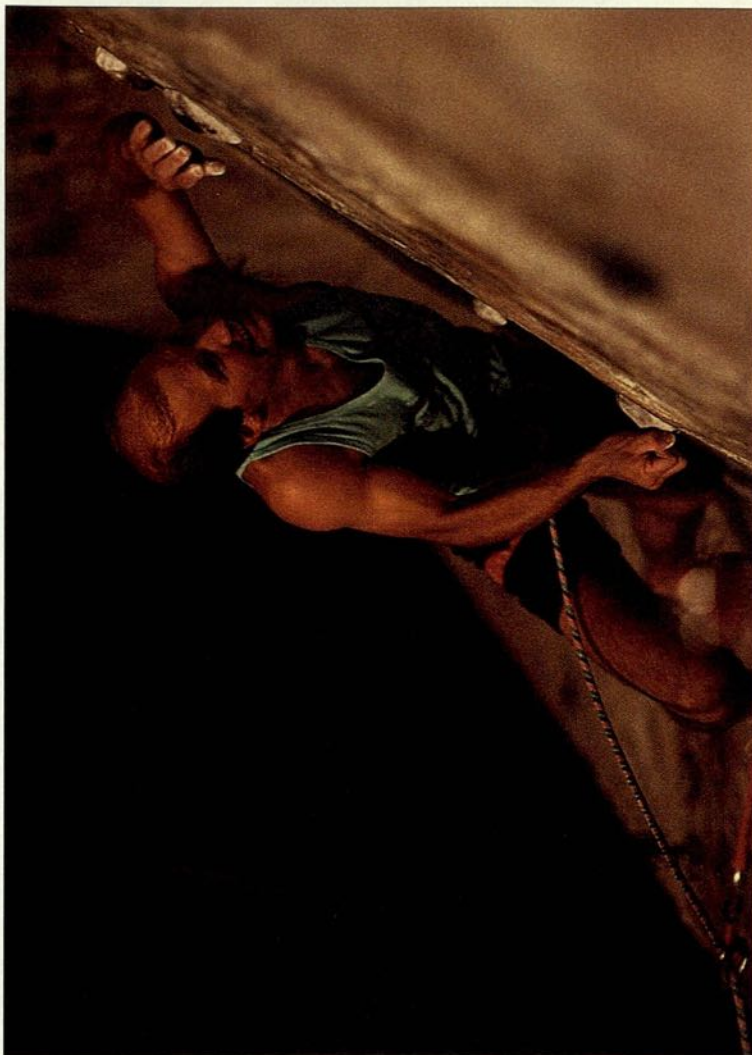
Mr. Competition himself, Hans Florine, sat out this weekend, but as organizer, he had encouraged first-time competitors by offering their entry fee's worth: the qualifier was a six-route endurance fest. Each climber was allotted six minutes per route. For the men, the routes began at mid-5.11, climaxed at 5.12c, then culminated with a cave boulder problem to sap any vestige of strength. The women's event followed a similar routine, minus two letter grades in difficulty.

The semis and finals were held the following day in a typical single-route format. Points, however, carried over from round to round, with those from the qualifier and final weighing most heavily.

The women's contest proved to be somewhat of a dud; most of the top

women from the previous month's Snowbird competition failed to show. The two who did, Bobbi Bensman and Alison Osius, lacked any serious threat. They alone flashed all the qualifier routes, then

by aggressively cranking every problem. Karn was the only other man to pull through the crux of the fourth route, a 5.12c, but faltered, then fell, on the next to last move.



Doug Englekirk taking the U.S. National at CityRock in Emeryville, California, over a very strong field.

Osius flashed the semifinal (5.12b), with Bensman only coming off as she tried to clip the anchor. In their ninth one-two matchup, Osius beat Bensman handily by capping her flawless weekend with a flash of the final (5.12b).

The business of the weekend boiled down to the men's event. Team Take No Prisoners, Kurt Smith and Tim Fairfield (who gets my vote for Rookie of the Year), grabbed the lead in the qualifier

In the semifinal, Smith kept the heat up with a flash, while Englekirk added his name to the leaders' list with the only other flash. Karn fell at the last move. Fairfield tied with Jason Karn for seventh in the field of 25.

"When Karn starts pulling hard, his eyebrows scrunch together and he looks like the devil," another photographer commented as Karn attacked the final. He was at least part right, as Karn did seem bedeviled when his right foot slipped as he dead-pointed for the finish; down he went. Englekirk climbed next with a teeth-bared struggle, snagged the crowning grip, then battled for a near eternity to muster the strength to clip the rope, falling just as he did.

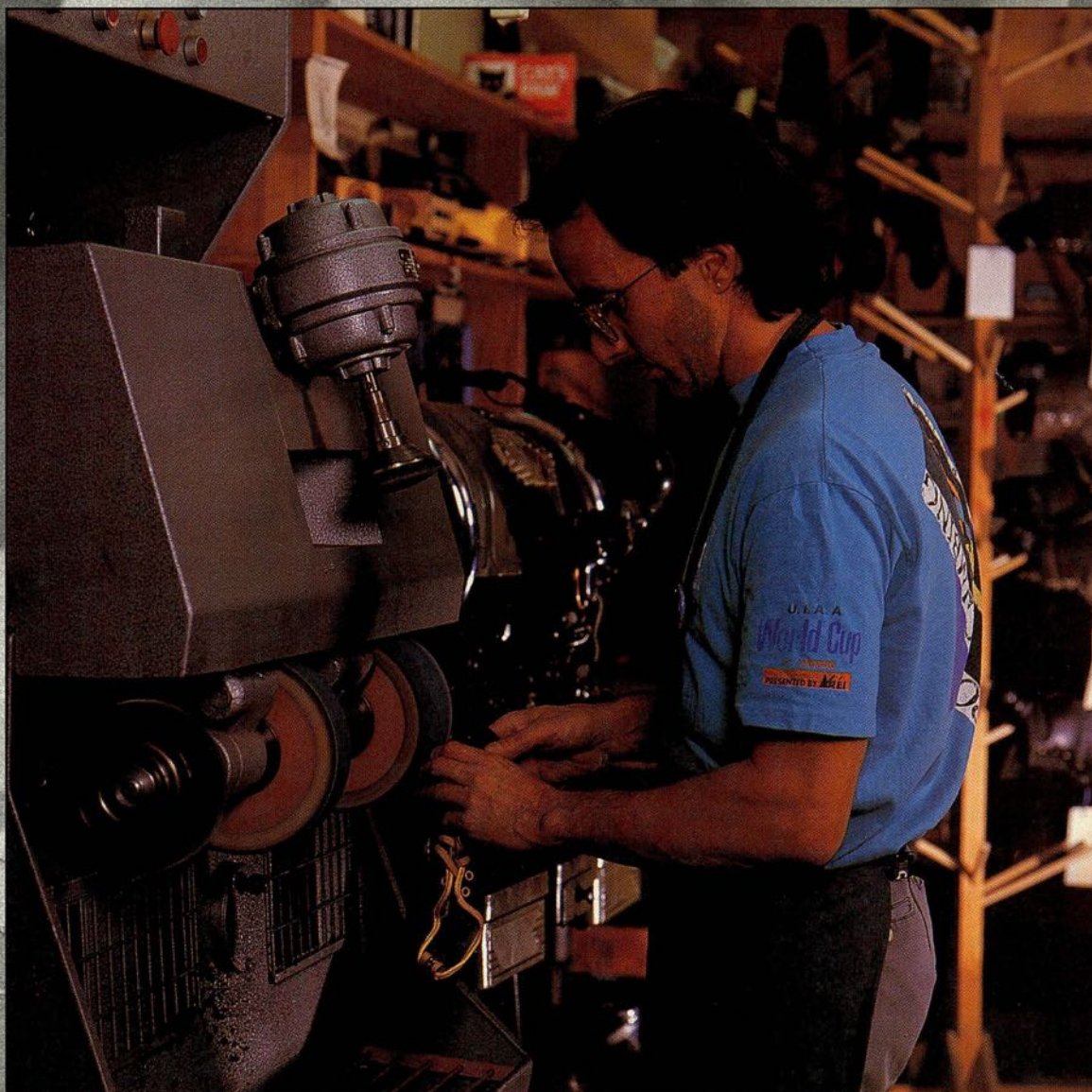
As Smith, climbing last, carried with him more overall points from the weekend, even a near flash would have given him the victory. Though no stranger to such pressure, he capitulated some eight feet short of the final draw, and sunk back into third place, just one point shy of Karn's total of 1356. Fairfield clocked in a fourth in the finals and overall.

Meanwhile, an elated Doug Englekirk, a check for \$1400 (the women's prize was the same) in his pocket, took his friends to dinner.

—John Mireles

(continued on page 66; results on page 65)

Photo: John Mireles



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Tony Puppo, Master Cobbler, Wilson's Eastside Sports, Bishop, California

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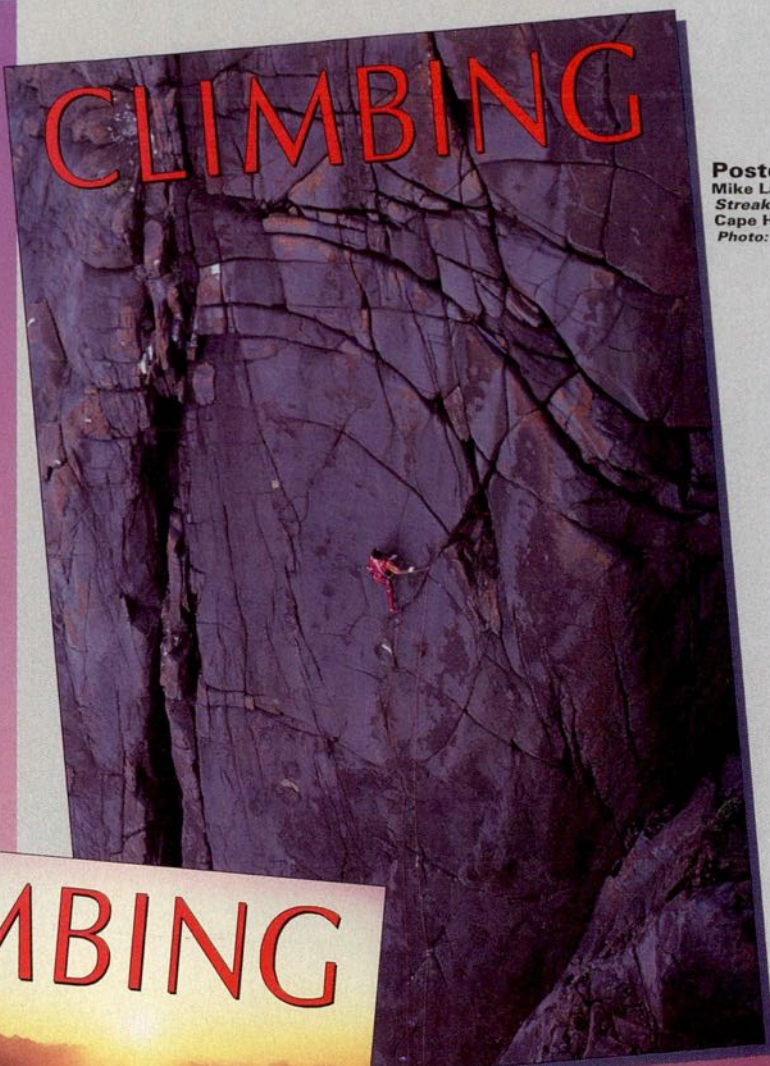
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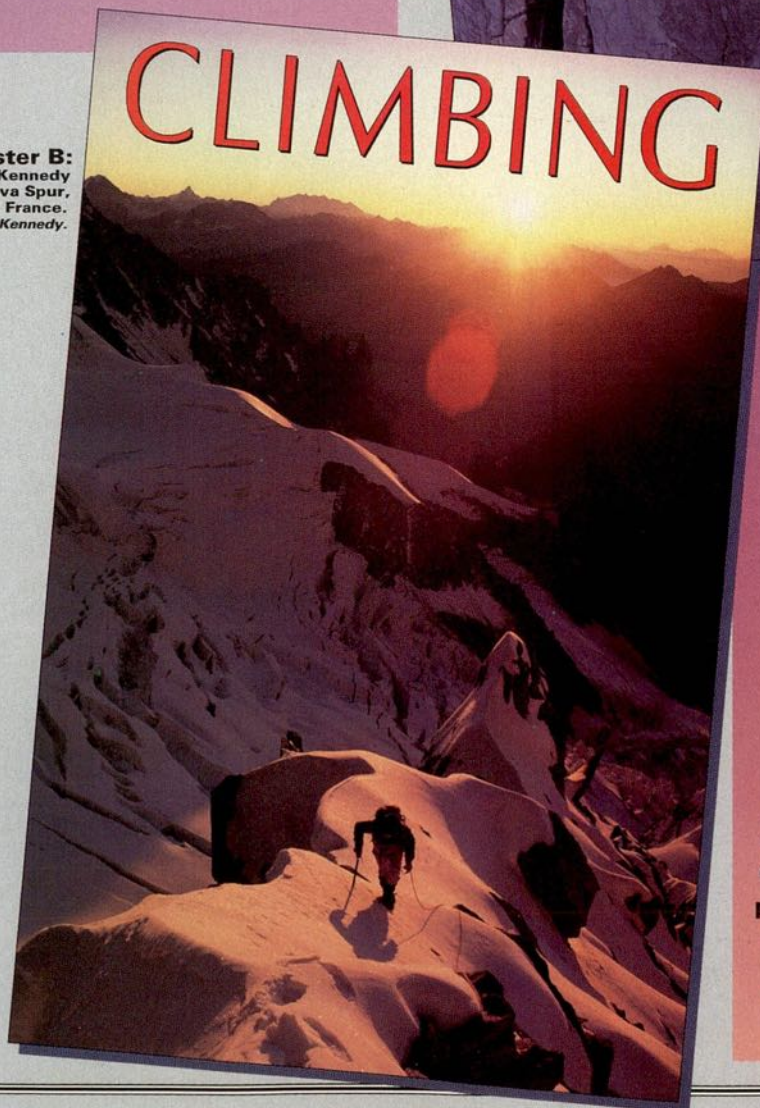
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Poster A:
Mike Law on *Vampire
Streak* (19/510, West
Cape Howe, Australia.
Photo: Glenn Robbins.



CLIMBING

Poster B:
Julie Kennedy
on the Brenva Spur,
Mont Blanc, France.
Photo: Michael Kennedy.



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Competition Results

Note: as of press time, news came that Jim Karn (USA) had been second at the World Cup at Tokyo after a superfinal with Francois Legrand (FRA). Also in a superfinal, Isabelle Patissier (FRA) won, with Lynn Hill (USA) and Robyn Erbesfield (USA) tied for second.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAUX D'ESCALADE

Serre Chevalier, France
July 16-18, 1992

Men

1. Yuji Hirayama (JPN)
2. Francois Legrand (FRA)
3. Didier Raboutou (FRA)
4. Salamat Rakhmetov (UNIF)
5. Francois Petit (FRA)
6. V. Albrand (FRA)
7. Stefan Furst (AUT)
8. P. Mussato (FRA)
9. Frederic Coroller (FRA)
10. Frederic Nicole (SWI)

Women

1. Robyn Erbesfield (USA)
2. Isabelle Patissier (FRA)
3. Luisa Iovane (ITA)
4. Nanette Raybaud (FRA)
5. Natalie Richer (FRA)
6. Agnes Brard (FRA)
7. Venera Cheresneva (UNIF)
8. M.C. Gontharet (FRA)

THE OPEN INTERNATIONAL D'AUSOIS

July 25-26, 1992

Women

1. Robyn Erbesfield
2. Luisa Iovane
3. Venera Cheresneva
4. Anna Ibanez
5. Lawrence Guyon
6. M.A. Piat
7. M. Margarotto
8. Rafaella Valsecchi

Men

1. Salavat Rakhmetov
2. Stefano Allipi
3. Didier Raboutou
4. Ptaxi Arocena
5. J.B. Tribout
6. Yuji Hirayama
7. F. Mazuer
8. Arnaud Petit
9. A. Gnerro
10. C. Brenna

ARCO ROCK MASTER '92

Arco, Italy
September 12-13, 1992

Men

1. Stefan Glowacz (GER)
2. Francois Legrand (FRA)
3. Didier Raboutou (FR)
4. Stefan Fuerst (AUT)
5. Francois Lombard (FRA)
6. Francisco Arocena (SPA)
7. Yuji Hirayama (JPN)
8. Salavat Rakhmetov (UNIF)
9. Jibe Tribout (FRA)
10. Luca Giupponi (ITA)
11. Frederic Nicole (SWI)
12. Severino Scassa (ITA)
13. Luca Zardini (ITA)
14. Christoph Finkel (GER)
15. Guido Koestermeier (GER)
16. Francois Petit (FRA)

Women

1. Lynn Hill (USA)

2. Isabelle Patissier (FRA)
3. Susi Good (SWI)
4. Robyn Erbesfield (USA)
5. Nanette Raybaud (FRA)
6. Venera Cheresneva (UNIF)
7. Luisa Iovane (ITA)
8. Natalie Richer (FRA)

BELGIAN INDOOR ROCK MASTERS

Brussels, Belgium
September 19, 1992

Men and women competed together

1. Yuji Hirayama (JPN)
2. Lynn Hill (USA)
3. Nicola Sartori (ITA)
4. Francois Coffy (FRA)
4. Jean-Paul Finne (BEL)
6. Robyn Erbesfield (USA)
7. Arnaud Petit (FRA)
8. Michel Van Eynde (BEL)
9. Peter Horning (NETH)
9. Muriel Sarkany (BEL)
11. Kurt DeBoeck (BEL)
12. Ineke Dijkstra (NETH)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Frankfurt, Germany
September 18-20, 1992

Women

1. Susi Good (SWI)
2. Isabelle Patissier (FRA)
3. Laurence Guyon (FRA)
4. Nanette Raybaud (FRA)
5. Venera Cheresneva (UNIF)
6. Natalie Richer (FRA)
7. Karin Bless-Reith (SWI)
8. Claudine Trecourt (FRA)
9. Andrea Eisenhut (GER)
10. Yulia Inozemtseva (UNIF)

Men

1. Francois Legrand (FRA)
2. Francois Petit (FRA)
3. Salavat Rakhmetov (UNIF)
4. Elie Chevieux (SWI)
5. Klaus Buchele (GER)
6. Luca Zardini (ITA)
7. Serge Blein (FRA)
8. Frederic Coroller (FRA)
9. Pavel Samoiline (UNIF)
10. Stefano Allipi (ITA)
11. Tadej Slabe (SLO)
12. Vladimir Zurcin (UNIF)
13. Stefan Furst (AUT)
14. Christoph Bucher (GER)
14. Gunther Unterrainer (AUT)

CHAMPIONNAT DE FRANCE

Aix les Bains, France
June 27-28, 1992

Men

1. Francois Legrand
2. Francois Petit
3. J.B. Tribout
4. Frederic Coroller
5. Faycal Natech
6. A. Pecher
7. Didier Raboutou
8. F. Mazuer
9. Francois Lombard
10. J.M. Trinh-Thieu
11. C. Roumegoux
12. Arnaud Petit
13. Alexander Duboc
14. L. Thibal
15. V. Albrand

Women

1. Isabelle Patissier
2. Nanette Raybaud
3. L. Tuccio

4. Agnes Brard
5. C. Miquel
6. Claudine Trecourt
7. P. Barthelemy
8. Isabelle Palie
9. M.C. Gontharet
10. Laurence Guyon

JOE ROCKHEAD'S CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Toronto, Canada
August 23-24, 1992

Women

1. Nancy Feagin
2. Suzanne Paulson
3. Nina Wright
3. Julie Leno
5. Alish Cullen

Men

1. Will Gadd
2. Kurt Smith
3. Tim Fairfield
4. (tie) John Cronin
4. (tie) Hans Florine
6. Craig Berman
7. Cary Chang
8. Tammer El Sheikh
9. John Keele
10. Yasser El Sheikh

U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Emeryville, CA
August 28-30, 1992

Men (finalists, semifinalists)

1. Doug Englekirk
2. Jim Karn
3. Kurt Smith
4. Timmy Fairfield
5. Scott Franklin
6. Andy Outis
7. Hank Caylor
8. Harrison Decker
9. Will Gadd
10. Seth Johnson
11. Christian Griffith
12. Joseph Desimone
13. Jason Karn
14. Peter Mayfield
15. Marcos Nunez
16. Vaino Kodas
17. Rob Woolf
18. Tom Richardson
19. Scott Frye
20. Don Welsh
21. Colin Lantz
22. Mark Johnson
23. Ric Geiman
24. Jacob Slaney
25. Jim Thornburg

Women (finalists, semifinalists)

1. Alison Osius
2. Bobbi Bensman
3. Georgia Phipps
4. Kadi Johnston
5. Diane Russel
6. Melissa Quigley
7. Anne Smith
8. Y. Elaine Lee
9. Sidney Scott
10. Diana Kodas
11. Suzanne Lehman
12. Amelia Rudolf
13. Kathy Yaniro
14. Diane Connolly

CORDAGE MILL WOMEN'S CLIMBING COMPETITION

St. Louis, Missouri
September 12-13, 1992

1. Suzanne Paulson
2. Dina Johnston
3. Kadi Johnston
4. Heather Anthony

INNERFISSION COMPETITION

Waterloo, Ontario
September 26-27, 1992

Men

1. Bob Bergmann
2. Brian Senecal
3. Adam Rogers
4. Dave Carter
5. Tammer El Sheikh

4TH ANNUAL TOUR DE DEHYALITE 1992

(Peak running and rock climbing competition)

Bozeman, Montana
September 26, 1992

Individual men

1. Mike Kary
2. Doug Masterleo
3. Pat Callis
4. Curt Vogel
5. Jan Bailey
6. Jeff Johnson
7. Dan Karney
8. Chris Moffet
9. Peter Suci
10. Chris Jones
11. Karl Egloff
12. Jordan Peccia

Individual women

1. Jane Kudrna
2. Judy Baker
3. Kathy Kary

Teams (runners/climbers)

1. John Barton/Joe Stock
2. Brian Goldstein/H.J. Schmidt
3. Brian Barritt/Steve Bechtel
4. Satoshi Okabe/Jeff Cristal
5. Paul Sturman/Curt Shirer
6. Steve Syhun/Meg Hall

THE MARMOT FALL JAM

Redmond, Washington
October 3, 1992

Men

1. Wil Catlin
2. Jim Purdy
3. Charles Buell
4. David Crist
5. David Powell
6. Mark Bourdon
7. Sarkis Vermilyea

Women

1. Stephanie Smith
2. Sandi Carrick
3. Sveta Inozemtseva
4. Chris Bromfeld
4. Jessica Haines

POCATELLO PUMP

September 19-20, 1992
Pocatello, Idaho

Men's Master Local

1. Dale Rawson
2. Chuck Odette
3. Mike Engle

Men's Master

1. Stuart Middlemiss
2. Doug Mishler
3. Mike Carey

Men's Open Local

1. Steve Potter
2. Riley MacButch
3. Joseph Hawkins



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Expatriate Canadian Will Gadd of Boulder, Colorado, winning the Canadian National Sportclimbing Championships.

Gadd keeps Canada cup at home

Toronto, Canada

It was the weekend climbing came downtown, right into the heart of Toronto, as the Canadian National Sportclimbing Championships took place August 23 and 24.

Held in conjunction with Canada's biggest fair, the National Exhibition, and presented by Joe Rockhead's Climbing Gym of Toronto, the event took place on a 50-foot outdoor climbing wall designed by Brian and Bob Bergman.

The event again welcomed climbers from outside Canada, and 36 competitors (26 in the men's open, 10 in the women's) arrived from various places in North America. An undercurrent of rivalry was soon running between climbers from the Western United States, the East, and Canada, who all vied for a share of the \$5000 in cash and prizes.

The men's qualifier (5.12a) on Saturday didn't settle any scores, as flashes by the heavyweights from the East, John Cronin and Craig Berman, were matched by the westerners Hans Florine, Tim Fairfield, and Kurt Smith. The surprises came from the high placing of some of the young Canadians, including 17-year-old Cary Chang, who was very solid on the face start and through the hard roof problem before coming off below the overhanging finish, high enough to take him into Sunday's semifinals.

The women's qualifier (5.11d) also presented a steep finish, preceded by a long face traverse. Successfully completing the delicate balance route were Nancy Feagin, Suzanne Paulson, and two Canadians, Julie Leino and a local, Nina Wright.

In both categories Sasha Akalski, a UIAA competition judge, ended climbs

for technical infractions, including failure to clip and utilizing bolt hangers as aid. But because of his concise preclimb rules meeting and strict adherence to UIAA regulations there were no controversies or appeals.

On the women's final (5.12b), Nancy Feagin of Lander, Wyoming, worked impressively through a heinous overhanging arete sequence to blow off just two moves away from the top. She became this year's women's champ, with Paulson placing second, Wright and Leino tying for third, and a local climber, Alish Cullen, fifth.

Gathered to watch six men on the finals route (5.13b) was a vocal crowd of 400, mostly non-climbers and quite partisan in cheering on Will Gadd, the only Canadian still in the competition. Gadd, the only climber to complete the semifinal (5.12c), hiked the 30-foot overhanging section and stuck an around-the-corner dyno to pull the lip. He then fired for an edge, just managing to touch the same hold as Kurt Smith had.

Consistent with the new UIAA rules, Gadd's higher finish in the semis broke the tie, crowning him the first Canadian to win the Canadian nationals.

After Gadd, the West prevailed, with Smith and Fairfield second and third. Cronin and Florine tied for fourth, and Craig Berman finished sixth.

For his effort Gadd scored the \$1000 first prize jackpot from Joe Rockheads and an extra \$500 put up by Elzinga Adventures, owned by one of Canada's premier alpinists, Jim Elzinga, for the top Canadian male.

Elzinga also put up \$400 for the top Canadian female, which amount Nina Wright and Julie Leino split.

The event was very competitive and tightly run. The sport had its best foot forward when it went strutting downtown.

—Kenton Harmer

Hill grabs her crown back; Glowacz wins, too

Arco, Italy

The sixth Arco Rockmaster, held September 12 and 13, seemed perfectly orchestrated. For Saturday's on-sight route, Francois Legrand (FRA) came out last to beat the previous high point, set two climbers earlier by Stephen Glowacz, by only one hold. Robyn Erbesfield (USA) came out second to last, getting the only flash of the women's route.

Sunday's redpoint event also ran like a charm, with both men's and women's routes receiving only one completion. Lynn Hill, obviously a favorite of the Arco crowd, grinned ear to ear while lowering. Glowacz, no less loved, got to the top, and lowered off thrashing with joy and waving his fist. Both climbers' second-place performances the day before were enough to give them the overall win.

Hill had previously won Arco four times, and until she placed third there last year, it was considered "her" competition.

Isabelle Patissier, who won the event last year, placed third on Saturday, achieving a second in the final results. Third place went to Susi Good (SWI), and Erbesfield, who probably found it tough to psych up after hearing the crowd roar for Hill, was fourth.

Francois Legrand placed second and Didier Raboutou (FRA) third.

All told, it was a thrilling contest. I was invited to Arco for the speed contest, where I placed second to Jacky Godoffe (FRA); I never thought I'd enjoy not winning so much.

— Hans Florine

Boys against girls

Mechelen, Belgium

The Belgian International Rockmaster, held in Mechelen, 30 kilometers from Brussels, on September 17-19, gave all the non-European competitors a chance to compete while the European Championships took place in Frankfurt. Some French, British, Danish, and Belgian climbers attended as well.

This comp was unique in that the men and women finalists (eight and four respectively) competed against each other on the final route. Lynn Hill (USA) and Yuji Hirayama (JPN) flashed the final route, and went on to a superfinal. There Hirayama climbed to within 12 feet of the top, while Hill fell at a lower crux that had also slowed Hirayama down. Robyn Erbesfield (USA) took sixth place.

— Hans Florine

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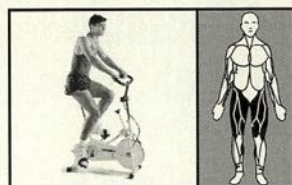
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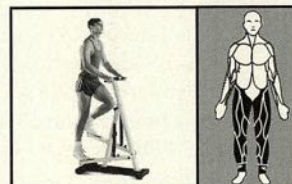
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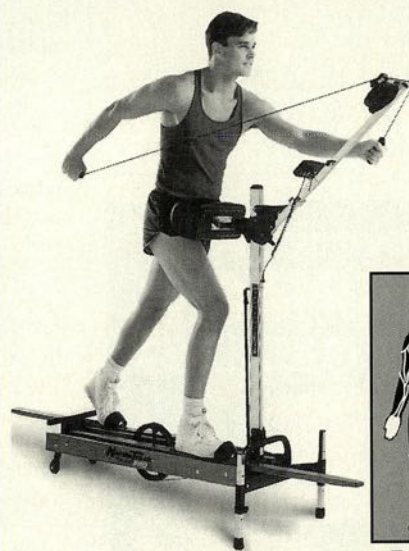


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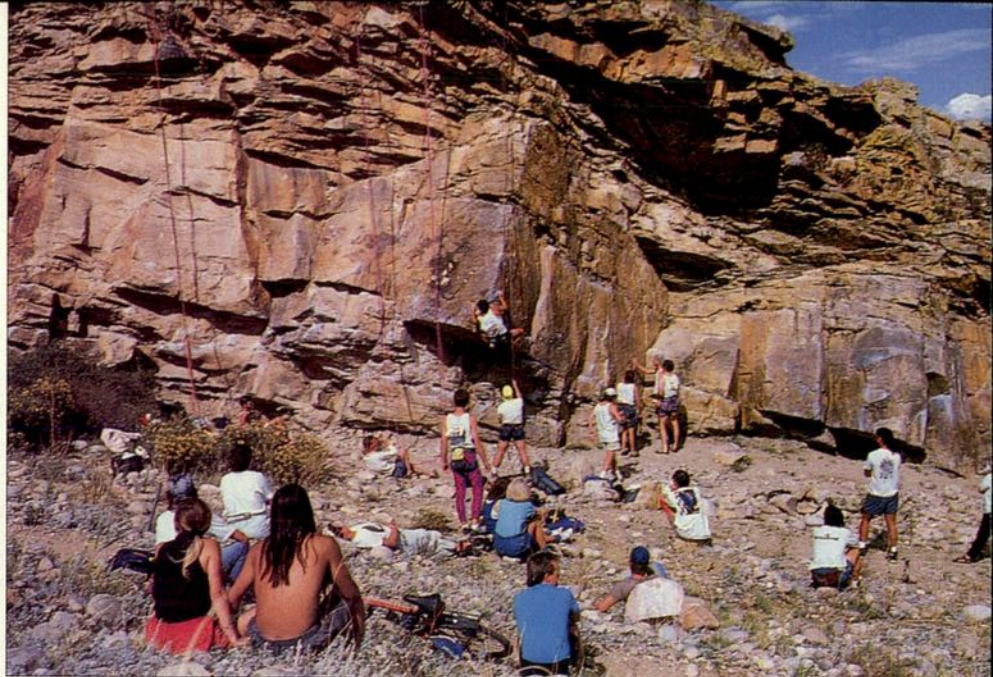
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Nearly 200 climbers competed at the second annual Horsetooth Hang.

Karn and Bensman hang 'em high

Horsetooth Reservoir, Colorado

The Second Annual Horsetooth Hang Bouldering Contest took place on September 20 in Fort Collins, but the controversy started weeks before when a few prospective elite competitors began calling to complain that there was no local/non-local distinction. Theoretically, the local elite climbers could wire the problems and hammer any out-of-towners. All the other categories included local and non-local divisions.

On paper, the results from the competition shot the controversy down, though some in the elite class seemed dissatisfied. A field of 22 men's elite climbers showed up to compete for the \$1000 first prize, but only one local climber, Jeff Ellison, placed in the top 10 — and still out of the money.

Out of the almost 200 competitors, only 58 were considered local.

The competition routes, comprised mostly of toproped boulder problems and traverses, were set at several of the many bouldering areas surrounding Horsetooth Reservoir. By the end of the day temperatures were in the 80s, but the breeze off the reservoir helped keep the climbers cool.

Every route was assigned a number of points based on difficulty, with climbers counting their best 10 climbs. They also got an additional 25 points for collecting trash — one climber even hauled off an old tire.

The performance of the day came when Bobbi Bensman won the \$1000 first prize by 127 points. Not only did she win the women's elite division by a large margin,

but Bensman's point total gave her fifth place in the men's elite. She said afterward that, after placing 11th in the men's field at the Phoenix bouldering contest last spring, her goal had been to place in the top 10 in the men's division here. Mia Axon was second in the women's elite, winning \$500, and Hillary Harris came in third to take home \$250.

In the men's elite division, with prize amounts the same, Jim Karn's score of 1135 points was 19 points higher than Scott Franklin's, and Gary Ryan took home third place.

Some veteran competitors tend to view such sprawling citizen events as the Horsetooth Hang as "fun runs," rather than accurate measurements of the best performances, since so many factors are involved. This intended attitude didn't stop them from showing a little stress, however. Complaints included the fact that locals were able to find problems much more quickly, and that luck is involved: whether climbers hit long lines and problems that are easy or hard for their points.

On the other hand, the fact that attendance had tripled since the last Hang reflects these events' popularity. Many people in other divisions, where smaller prizes meant less pressure, said they had a great time and got a good workout.

Craig Luebben, one of the organizers of the Horsetooth Hang, said they had worked hard to reduce the local advantage, setting obscure boulder problems that were worth significantly more points than some of the classic hard ones. Luebben is already thinking of ways to make next year's competition more fair.

Several other performances seemed to

Competitions Calendar

December 12, Kennewick, Washington
Tri City Court Climbing Competition, Tri City Court Club. Contact: Denise Roshto, (509) 783-5465.

February (date to be announced), Clifton Park, New York
Winter Rock Rally. Day 1 beginners, day 2 recreational and expert divisions. Contact: Rockworks, 1385 Vischer Ferry Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065; (518) 373-1215.

February 27, El Paso, Texas
1993 Hueco Tanks Rock Rodeo Bouldering Contest. Held by the El Paso Climbers Club. Rain date: Sunday, February 28. Contact: Fred Nakovic, EPCC Secretary/Treasurer, 4613 Gabriel Dr., El Paso, TX 79924; (915) 855-3099.

March 11-14, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
The North of Superior Orient Bay Ice Fest VII. Climbing competition, clinics, gear swap, slideshows, speakers, guided climbs, open climbing. Pre-Ice Fest seminars and clinics, March 8-11. Early registration date: March 1. Contact: Shawn Parent, P.O. Box 2204, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7B 5E8; (807) 344-9636.

August 26-27, Hunter, New York
ASCF Open. Hunter Mountain Ski area. Qualifier for ASCF National. Slots for 50 men/30 women. Contact: Ralph Erenzo, ExtraVertical, Inc.; (212) 865-4383. August 28-29, Hunter, New York.

August 29-30, Hunter Mountain Ski area.
ASCF National Climbing Competition. Slots for ASCF nationally ranked climbers. 30 men/23 women plus top 20 percent of Open competitors. \$12,000 purse. Registration starts March 1, 1993. Pre-registration only, first come basis. Event to be a feature presentation of Gamefair sporting festival. Contact: Ralph Erenzo, ExtraVertical, Inc., (212) 865-4383.

Important: Please note that competition dates often change. Consider them tentative until the time nears and you can confirm.

indicate that locals didn't have a serious edge. Annie Whitehouse won the women's expert division with a point total that was 54 points higher than the expert women's local winner, Laurelyn Parcell. And in the advanced men's category, Jody Berta and Gary Neptune, taking first and second respectively, both outscored the advanced local men's winner, Eric Lombardi, by over 75 points.

— Shelley Downing

Rawson and MacButch pump up the volume

Pocatello, Idaho

The Pocatello Pump cranked out a seventh annual edition under sunny skies and unseasonably warm temperatures September 19 and 20. Despite the lower-than-average turnout of 92 contestants, the action on the basalt crags of Ross Park matched the intensity of previous years.

On the first day of the competition, sponsored by the Idaho State University Outdoor Program, climbers attempt to complete as many of 65 top rope problems as possible in an hour and a half. The following day, they can lead 10 out of a possible 35 bolted climbs (from 5.9 to 5.12b/c) with their nine

best efforts scored. Competitors are allowed two falls on each problem.

The big story of the Pump was a local rising star, 13-year-old Riley MacButch, who placed second in the men's local open category with 632 points, the third-highest total of the entire competition. Riley was aided in part by his belayer, the "beta/data master" Chris Barnes; still, as we all know, info helps, but doesn't make the moves for you.

Day two saw the recreational contest, which truly exemplifies the down-home flavor of the Pump. It has the festive atmosphere of a Sunday afternoon at the park, with picnics on the grass and folks enjoying the sunshine. Many families compete

or come to cheer relatives on. The McAleese contingent was well represented by mother Mary, sons Willis and Danny, and daughter Jessica.

In the final results, Dale Rawson, local hardman, retained the title of "King of Ross Park" with a record-setting 966 points, eclipsing his former mark of 830. Dianne Connolly of Arlington, Virginia, won the women's open and the longtime champion, Nick Meyers of Boise, retained his title in the physically challenged class.

After the dust settled, competitors retired to a post-Pump party at the First National Bar for beer and a seemingly endless stream of prizes from sponsors.

— Ben Franklin



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Four runners

Denver, Colorado

Seven climbers started out in the first international forerunner's training course ever held in the United States. But after five gruelling days of climbing and several strenuous examinations, only four qualified to become UIAA forerunners.

The UIAA forerunners course took place at Paradise Rock Gym in Denver, Colorado, from June 15 to June 20. "Forerunner" is the common European name for coursesetters.

Hanspeter Sigrist, the education director of the CICE (Comite International Des Competitions D'Escalade), a committee of the UIAA, led the course.

Controversy developed right away. A forerunner must pass a written exam of UIAA rules, and be able to construct technical routes for qualifying and final rounds of international competitions over a very short period of time. Forerunners need the energy and ability to climb the routes they set and test them over and over. Trouble began when several climbers couldn't meet the requirements.

Forerunners at the international level must set routes for the world's best climbers. For example, the men's final route can be as difficult as 5.13b/c. An international forerunner needs to climb 5.12b on-sight and redpoint a 5.12d after 10 minutes of work.

"It's like being a climbing construction worker," said Christian Griffith, one of the climbers in the forerunner's course. "You have to be able to kick butt all the time — for 13 or 14 hours a day."

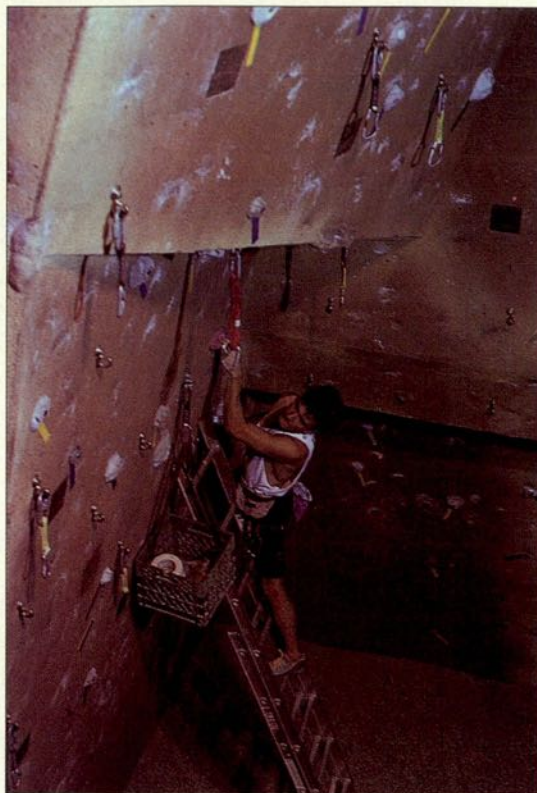
Several climbers who started the training course were unable to pass the tests for climbing ability. Participants had paid \$450 for the course and had been told by the American Sport Climbers Federation that they had to climb 5.12b. Several climbers were unaware that they had to *flash* the 5.12b — and quickly redpoint 5.12d.

Ralph Erenzo, president of the ASCF, said there was a miscommunication.

"At the start of any new sport there will be differences in expectations," Erenzo said. Communication was difficult between the U.S. and European committees of the UIAA, Erenzo said. He had received a memo stating the requirements of the course from Hanspeter Sigrist only two weeks before the course. Apparently,

several participants were never told the full requirements.

As a result, three climbers were forced out of the course because they couldn't climb at the necessary level.



Mike Pont, newly educated by the UIAA forerunners course in Denver.

But four climbers remained.

Mike Pont and Christian Griffith of Colorado, and Tony Yaniro and Steve Schneider of California endured a week of strenuous planning, discussing, climbing, and most of all route setting. These four climbers passed a written exam and the climbing test to become the first Americans qualified to set routes at an international level.

Imagine ropes hanging from half a dozen routes. And ladders, lots of ladders. Climbing holds scattered everywhere: in green milk crates, on old blankets, in satchels slung over forerunners' shoulders. At one point, a woman selling a new line of holds happened into the gym to show her product to the owner, Brian Vandekrol. The forerunners surrounded her. They fondled the holds like junkies, then went back to their projects.

Surrounded by the requisite climbing gear, they looked up from underneath their routes, discussing which footholds were too low, which holds needed to be spun and where to add others.

Sigrist, from Bern, Switzerland, is one of the top forerunners in the world, and makes his living as a forerunner and climbing judge. His wife, Gaby, the national climbing coach for Switzerland — also a fulltime paying job — helped with logistics and reports at the seminar. She also did a lot of belaying.

Becoming a good forerunner, said Sigrist, takes a high level of climbing ability, "big endurance," climbing and competition experience, and creativity. A large part of a forerunner's experience is gained putting up new routes at a cliff. He gets used to looking at the rock and finding a good line and learns to know what moves it takes to do certain types of routes. Sigrist, however, strongly advised against trying to make a copy of an outdoor route on an indoor wall.

"Each route setter has a personal style," Sigrist added. "I think these four climbers had completely new and creative ideas compared to European coursesetters. Americans are used to climbing dihedrals and corners and European climbers don't like this.

These coursesetters could make a completely different competition and challenge the Europeans."

Sigrist went on to explain the different styles of his American students. He said Pont sets routes very quickly because of his practical experience, and that his routes are "like a river flowing." Yaniro, on the other hand, sets complicated routes where a climber spends a lot of time thinking. Sigrist said Griffith sets routes in the classic style. On such a route a climber must continually attack while making quick decisions about sequences. Schneider likes to use small holds on his routes and set them on slightly overhanging walls.

"I've got a new feeling for the work and the amount of pride you need to take into it," Pont said. The forerunner is responsible for the way the route turns out. He must know the attending competitors' abilities and weaknesses, and be able to make good decisions and stand by them.

Photo: Colin Lantz

Sigrist also taught the climbers that crowd reaction counts. Competitions must be interesting to the public, and if the route is on a slab or there are too many rests, it will be boring. And a route setter must make sure the public can see the climber's face because that can change the reaction of the crowd.

The four climbers also learned to endure personality conflicts during the week, as they climbed their own routes, got tired, and then climbed their routes again. Strong personalities tested each other and the routes, and they argued. Then they apologized, conferred, belayed each other, and climbed again. They spent many hours discussing moves, sequences, and techniques with Sigrist.

"A route setter is almost like a choreographer," Pont said. "A good coursesetter knows how to incorporate both power and technique into his routes. To make a winner, you have to get the rest of the field pumped and get one person through to the top. It's bad to make routes that are impossible. But there's a fine line between impossible, barely possible, and easy."

The coursesetter must think about where people will fall off and where rests are possible, and beware of height-dependent moves.

After completing the forerunner's course, each climber received a medal and a diploma. The final step for the forerunners was to do one international competition under the supervision of a certified forerunner. Then they will be qualified to set routes at any international competition. UIAA forerunners can make about \$2500 for setting an international competition, Sigrist said.

"I can see myself going to the Olympics as an Olympic judge," Schneider said. Schneider also hopes to start a federation of national route setters and to hold seminars.

Pont said that to set routes internationally he needs to get better as a rock climber.

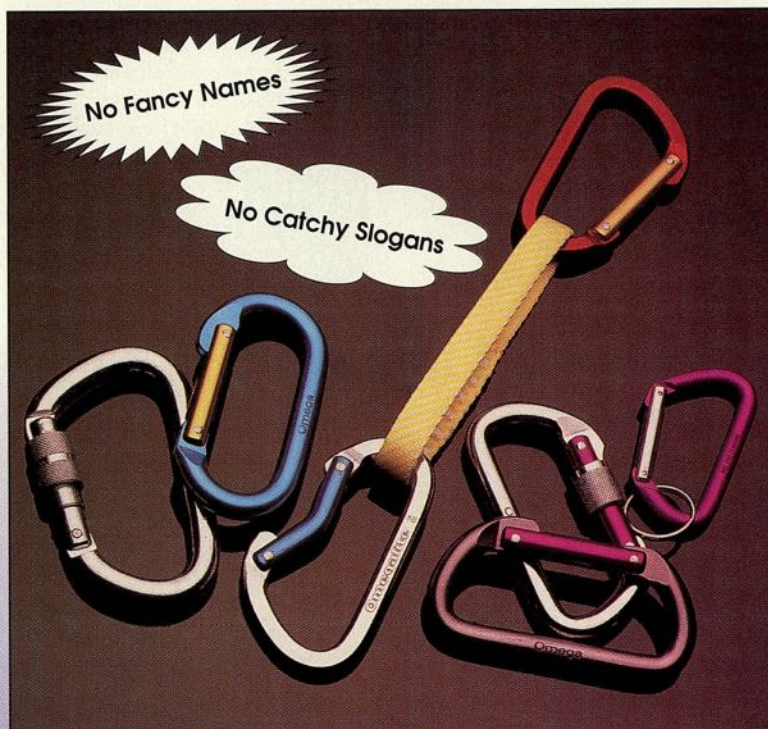
"I set routes so hard in this seminar that I thought, no way," Pont said, "but Hanspeter said that eight guys would have gotten to the top. There are people climbing in this world that are way better than anybody I know and anything I can imagine. But that's cool because that's what makes coursesetting a challenge."

Since a World Cup in the United States seems a long way off, there was some chance that the UIAA might allow the Americans to serve the required apprenticeship at a national event. Nevertheless, Tony Yaniro and Mike Pont have arranged to assist in coursesetting at the World Cup at Saint Polten, Austria, November 13 to 15.

— Shelley Downing



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Table manners

Most climbers didn't even hear of it, it happened so fast. Another climbing area was closed. No big deal, just one of the Denver-Boulder area's best winter crags. But this time the area, North Table Mountain, didn't stay closed — a few local climbers, working with the Access Fund, resolved the problem practically overnight.

The story — a sudden closure based on fears of liability — is familiar, but the denouement — a rapid re-opening of the crags to climbing — is not.

Table Mountain and environs, situated above the Coors Brewery in Golden, Colorado, are private property, but visitors are allowed: a sign at the parking area says "Walk at your own risk." Then in July, 1992, climbers visiting the area returned to their cars to find warnings from the local sheriff's department: climbing was not permitted in the area and violators would be cited for trespassing.

Local climbers Dave Field and Chris Archer began to figure out who owned the crags, and how they could be contacted. They determined that the upper mesa of Table Mountain is owned by two corporate interests, Argentine Mining and Mobil Pre-Mix. These companies maintain a caretaker's cottage in the area, and it was the caretaker who called the sheriff. Archer and Access Fund officer Rick Accomazzo drafted a letter to the owners, addressing questions about liability and recommending that the area be kept open for recreational use by climbers.

As it happens, the Access Fund's insurer, Carl Weil Insurance, also has the caretaker as a client. After talking to Weil, the caretaker was reassured that there was no need for concern over climbers crossing the property. By the end of August, Table Mountain was again open to climbers.

Use of North Table Mountain remains dependent on the good graces of the local land owners, so climbers are urged to be clean and quiet while climbing there. Weil has asked the Access Fund to provide new trailhead signs urging climbers to stay on regular trails, pick up litter, and generally maintain a low profile.

Big falls, big fun

One of the more significant climbing event of this year did not happen on rock, snow, or ice, and did not involve doubt, deprivation, or death. It was a party: the Access Fund's Climbers Rendezvous.

The 1992 Climbers Rendezvous, held on September 19 near Boulder, Colorado,

was a showcase for the Access Fund's involvement in all aspects of climbing. Brochures plugged the "Climber's Code," the conservation-based keynote of the organization's climber education campaign, while workshops underscored the Access Fund's involvement with land management at every level, and its stout record of grassroots organizing. "Besides

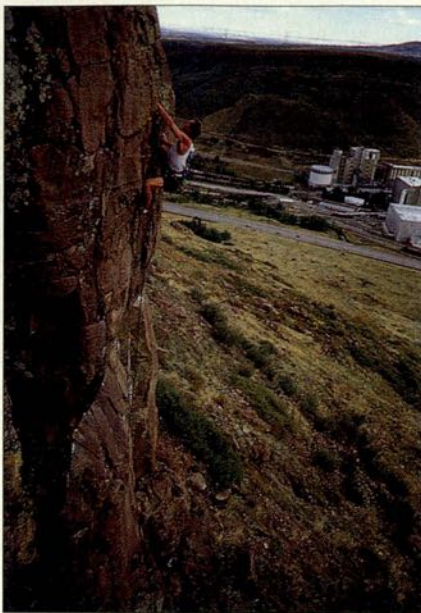


Table Mountain, near Golden, Colorado, was closed for a brief time last summer before local activists, including Dave Field (pictured here on *Industrial Disease*, 5.11c) helped convince the landowners that their concerns about liability were unfounded.

putting on a great party," said John Juraschek, the Access Fund's executive director, "we wanted to educate climbers about the connection between conservation and access."

Like last year's Rendezvous, held at the Shawangunks in New York, the 1992 Rendezvous drew climbers from across the country — some 500 came and went throughout the day. Climbing and bouldering walls kept climbers busy into the evening, vying for prizes or just getting a pump, and climbers jounced and dangled from a 140-foot bungee-jumping tower like marionettes. Everyone made at least one pass through the big tent where vendors' booths bulged with climbing gear, clothing, and literature. After an all-you-can-eat Mexican food dinner, a rousing auction of climbing gear, books, and rare memorabilia bolstered the packs and libraries of many climbers. (Original Harding bolts from the headwall of the

Nose Route on El Cap produced a spirited bidding war that ended at over \$300!) The event generated nearly \$6000 for the Access Fund, and was sponsored by climbing manufacturers, retailers, and publications (see sponsor sidebar).

Rounding out the weekend were a sponsors' dinner, as well as meetings of the Access Fund's National Advisory Council and board of directors. Highlighting the sponsors' dinner on Friday night were awards given to leading supporters of the Access Fund. This year, Nalgene, Petzl/PMI, Rock & Ice magazine, and PowerBar received "Extra Mile" awards in recognition of their major sponsorship of the Access Fund; Peter Croft and Hans Florine received "Rock Star" awards for their donation of proceeds from slide shows and competitions to the Access Fund; Sean Cobourn walked away with the "Mr. Access" award for his work in getting South Carolina state parks opened to climbing; and retiring board members Randy Vogel, Michael Jimmerson, Chris Hall, and Allen Sanderson garnered "All Work and No Play" awards for their years of volunteer service.

On Saturday morning, 65 members of the National Advisory Council debated two policy issues. Should the objective of climbing management plans (now being developed by the National Park Service and other federal agencies) be to produce a certain kind of climbing experience? And should the Access Fund be involved in the defense of climbers' access to "artificial" climbing areas such as glue-ups on concrete?

No consensus emerged on the complex issue of climbing management plans, and though the group urged the Access Fund to help preserve climbers' access to artificial climbing walls, the board voted the following day to continue studying both issues, but not to devote funds to preserving "concrete climbing" before developing a formal policy.

This column reports on news and activities regarding climbing access around the country. For more information on specific events and areas, or to report an access problem or success story, please contact Sam Davidson, The Access Fund Coordinator, 159 Nacional Street, Salinas, CA 93901; (408) 424-4705.

To receive more detailed information on access, subscribe to Access Notes, the Access Fund's quarterly newsletter, by making a donation of any amount to The Access Fund, P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308; (303) 938-6870.

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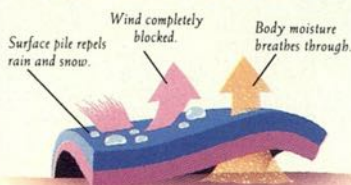
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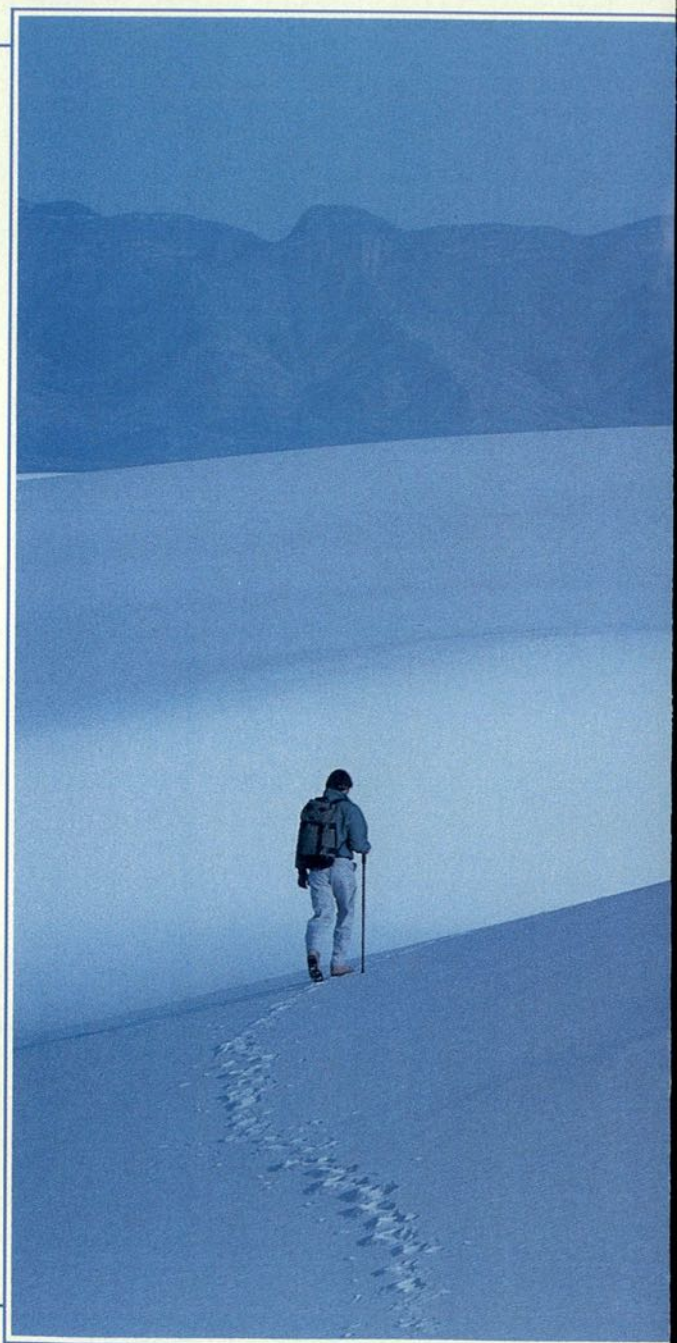


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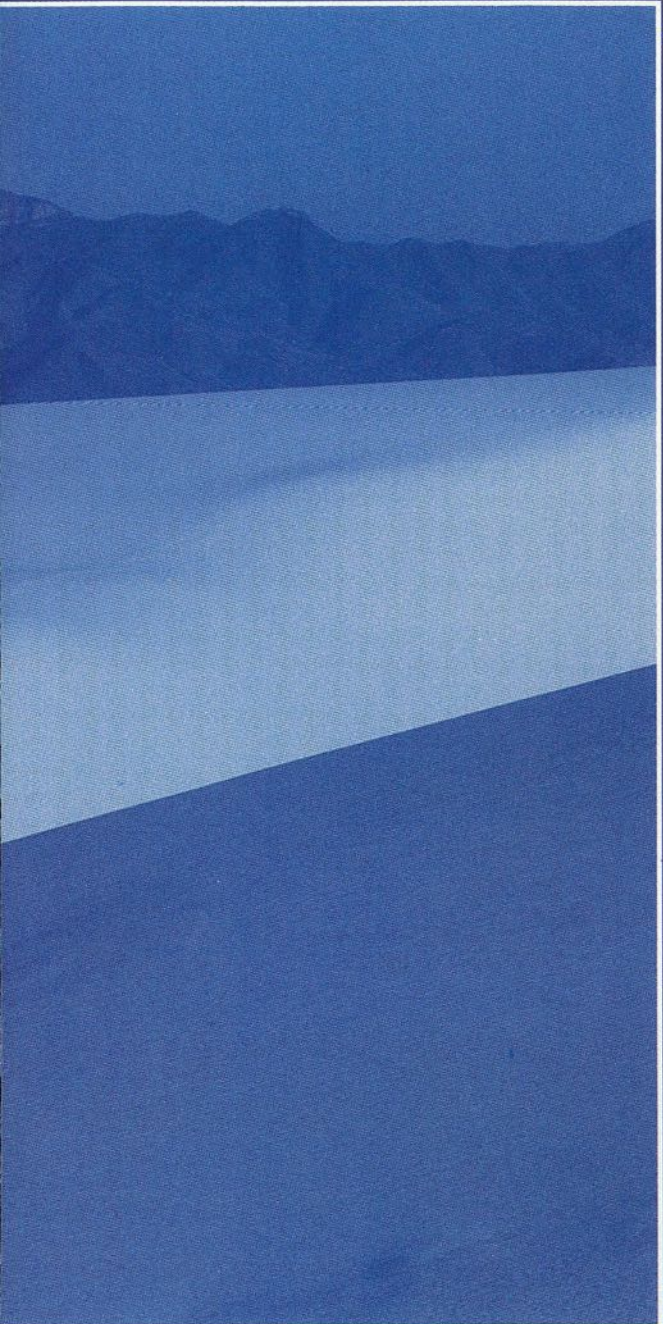
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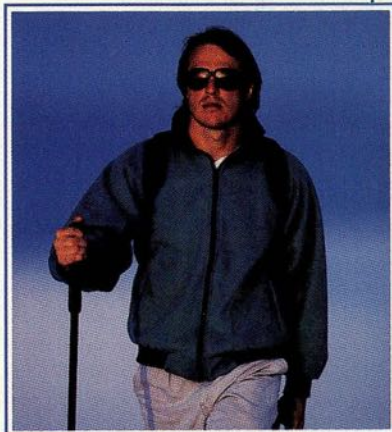
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BOY GEORGE

ON THE ROCKS, IN THE AIR, AND OTHERWISE AT HOME WITH THE ENERGIZER

BY ALISON OSIUS

At 22,800 feet on the North Ridge of Latok I in Pakistan, George Lowe and Michael Kennedy fixed two ropes up a steep 70-foot headwall and a difficult mixed traverse — the last real barriers to the peak's unclimbed summit. Beyond, a few pitches of moderate ice and an exposed ridge traverse would lead to the top, only 600 feet above. It was July 1978.

That night, as the team of four slept in a snow cave chopped out by George's cousin Jeff Lowe and Jim Donini, a storm hit, dumping a foot of snow. Hoping for a break in the weather, the climbers put off their summit attempt in the morning. The following day, still plagued by whiteout and heavy snowfall, they made a stab at the top, but, cold and moving slowly in the wind and spindrift, turned back at the end of the fixed ropes.

They had been on the mountain 21 days. Everyone was tired. Worse, Jeff had become increasingly ill during their stay in the snow cave, and was now virtually incapacitated by a recurrence of the tropical fever he'd contracted during the walk in. He hacked, vomited, and weakened.

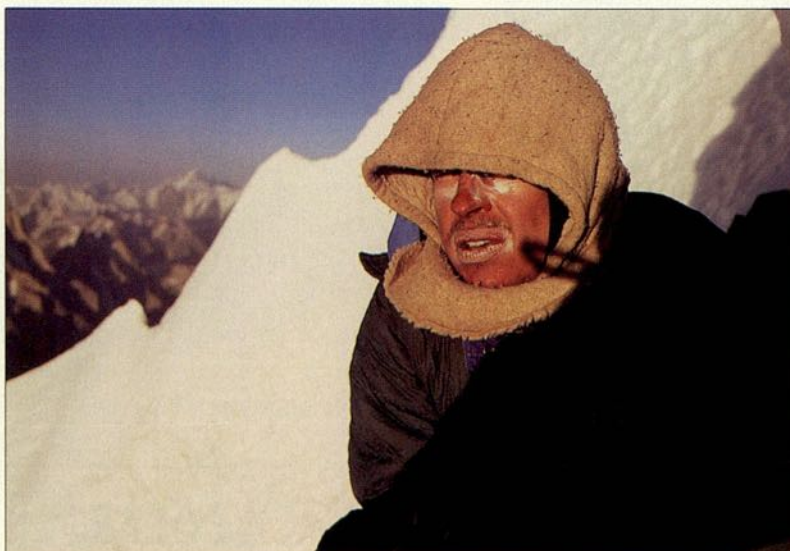
Donini concentrated on caring for Jeff. George Lowe, then 33 and the most experienced member of the party, thought everything through. He and Kennedy were probably still capable of a summit bid, but it would require a long, exhausting day, and maybe even a bivouac. The effort would weaken two more members, when the team still faced a 7000-foot descent. Without regret, Lowe gave up on the summit. The four waited two more days for the storm to clear, then began their three-day rappel.

"That was my best climb," says Lowe. "It was really great climbing, and we pushed ourselves. It was a small nucleus of good friends." And it was unlike a large expedition, where members may jockey for a chance at a summit. "You're all going to the summit together. It's much nicer."

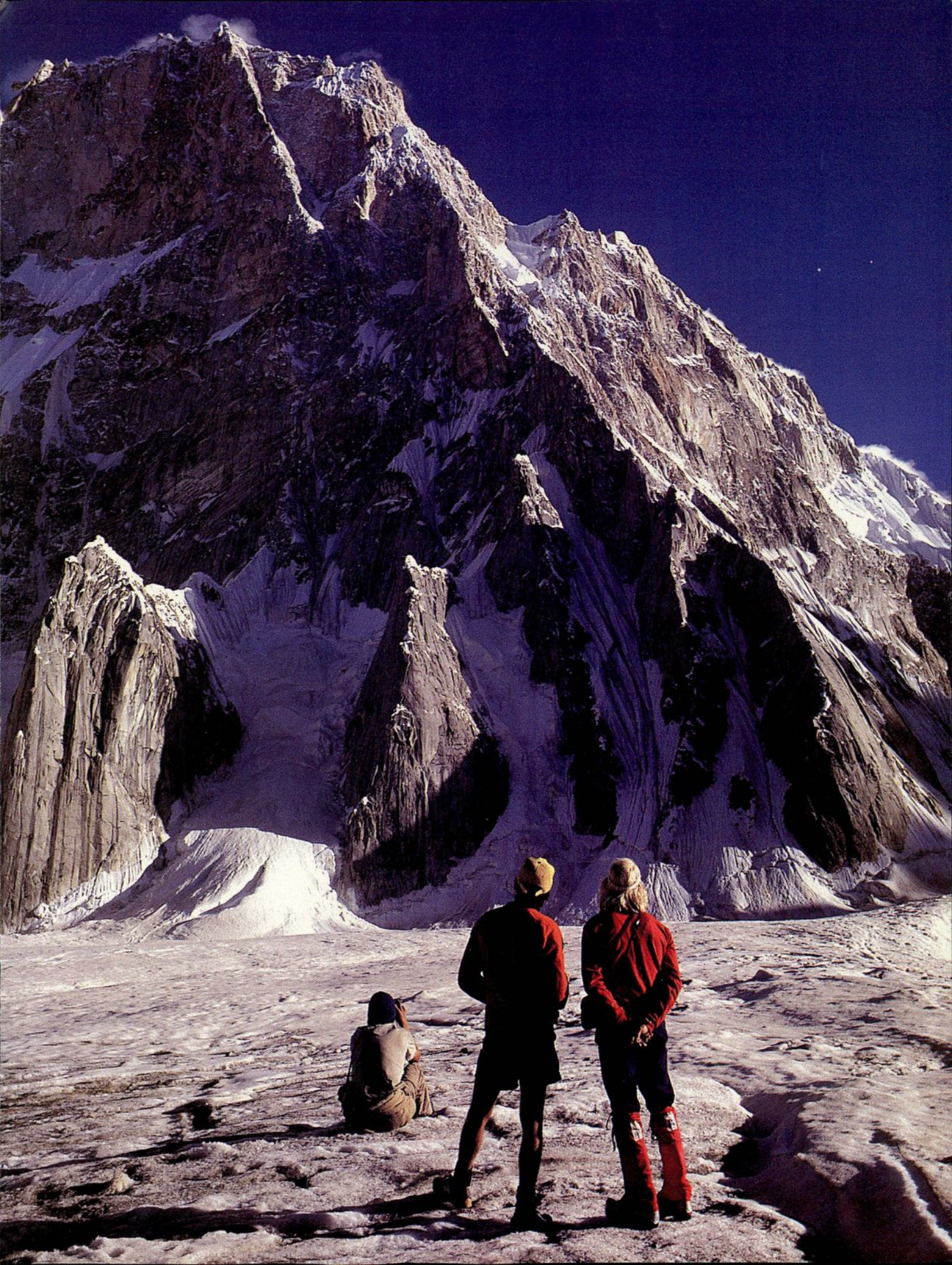
More than that, the events and decisions of the climb exemplified his own strong beliefs about partnership and responsibility. Asked if one reason he calls Latok his best

climb is that he is proud of his decision to retreat, he pauses, and says, "Yes." Which is unusual for him, but we'll get to that.

George Lowe at 22,500 feet on Latok I (left), and scoping out Latok's North Ridge from the Choktoi Glacier with Jim Donini and Jeff Lowe.



Photos: Michael Kennedy





Three things amaze you when you talk to George H. Lowe III: how much climbing he's done; how much climbing he's done even though he's earned a Ph.D in physics and is a systems engineer; and how much climbing he's still doing.

If completed, the North Ridge of Latok I would have been the hardest route yet done in the Himalaya by a small team employing lightweight tactics. Today, almost 15 years later, the route remains unclimbed. Still, for Lowe, 48, of Golden, Colorado, Latok is but one large bold image in a long procession of them, spanning three decades.

Lowe has done the hardest climbs in various disciplines across several eras. In the Wyoming Tetons during the late 1960s he did the hardest winter ascents in the country, such as that of the *North Face* of the Grand. In the 1970s he established the most difficult routes in the Canadian Rockies — the *North Face* of Mount Alberta, which has been climbed just six times since Lowe and Jock Glidden's ascent in 1972, and, in 1974, with Chris Jones, the still-unrepeated *North Face* of North Twin (established in atrocious weather, with retreat impossible, and featuring a 60-footer by Lowe). In 1977 Lowe did what was then the hardest route in Alaska, the *Infinite Spur* on Mount Foraker, which has only been repeated once, in 1989. All were done alpine style.

In the Himalaya, after Latok I, Lowe spearheaded the 1983 first ascent of what is likely still the toughest route up Everest, the immense *Kangshung Face*, and led the rotten crux buttress. Lowe attempted the *North Ridge* of K2 in 1986, and in 1990 climbed the *Northeast Ridge* of Dhaulagiri I, solo from Camp II at 6400 meters.

He has climbed in the Soviet Union, South America, Europe, and all across the United States. On rock he has done landmark first ascents like the runout *Dorsal Fin* in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah, a stiff 5.10 when the area's top grade was 5.9, in 1965; and still pulls off impressive climbs like the *Nose* on El Capitan in a day. (For a summary of Lowe's ascents, please see page 80.)

Lowe at the fourth bivouac site — "basically just a foot ledge," according to his partner Chris Jones — during the first ascent of the North Face of North Twin in 1974.

"His climbs were as bold as anything anyone was doing," says Chris Jones, an expatriot English climber now living in California, who was Lowe's partner on a number of major climbs in the 1970s. Asked what characterizes

George as a climber, Jones immediately says, "Commitment. If he decided he wanted to do something, he wanted to *do* it."

He inspired faith, too; Jones recalls that on the *North Face* of North Twin, "The only other person I knew that I would have felt equally confident in was his cousin Jeff."

After Jones and George Lowe met in 1965 in Chamonix, France, they climbed the *Bonatti Pillar* (Lowe made the first American ascent) on the Petit Dru, and, with two others, tried the *Central Pillar* of Freney on Mont Blanc, then the most notorious climb in the Alps.

"In the very spot where the storm had hit Bonatti [causing four deaths in 1961], it began to snow," recalls Jones. "We got some ropes stuck. We were shaking in our boots, just from the aura of the thing. The rest of us wanted down — George, I recall, was the most reluctant to leave. He was thinking of waiting." As it turned out, when the party got

**"MY STRENGTH IS PROBABLY MY DETERMINATION," SAYS
LOWE. "MY WEAKNESS — JUDGMENT, GOING ON TOO LONG."**

down into the valley, the weather cleared. "We could have done it," says Jones, "and it would have been a very big achievement."

Lowe has an uncanny natural ability to keep going. "Other people go up and down, move faster and then slower," says Donini. "But George always goes at about the same pace."

It takes a lot to put him off. In 1977, Lowe, his cousin Jeff, and Kennedy attempted a new route on the *North Face* of Mount Hunter in the Alaska Range. They were 4000 feet up, on a corniced knife-edged ridge, when Jeff took a 60-footer and broke his ankle. With no fixed rope to back them up they managed a long dangerous rappel down in a storm. George and Kennedy returned and completed the route when the weather broke, then rested a few days before going on to an even more ambitious new route on nearby Mount Foraker.

High on the *Infinite Spur* after several days of taxing climbing, the two were pressed by their aloneness, the size of the mountain, a storm, and exhaustion. "George kept saying, 'Oh, this is out of control, we're so far out there,' but it almost seemed like a nervous habit," says Kennedy. "When he was climbing, he wasn't perturbed at all."

"My strength is probably my determination," says Lowe. "My weakness — judgment, going on too long."

continued on page 84

SELECTED CLIMBS — GEORGE LOWE

1962

California: First roped climbs at Big Rock and Tahquitz Rock with the Harvey Mudd College group.

1963

Wyoming: *Exum Ridge* (II 5.4) on the Grand Teton, with Mike Lowe, John Lowe, and Steve Lowe.

1964

Wyoming: Winter attempt on Mount Moran, with Steve Ellsworth, Bill Isherwood, Mark McQuarrie, Tom Reese, and Court Richards.



George Lowe (standing), with Mike Lowe, Greg Lowe, and Rick Horn after their first winter ascent of the North Face of the Grand Teton in 1968.

1965

Utah: First winter ascents in the Wasatch: *Northeast Face* of Mount Ogden, with McQuarrie; *Northeast Face* of Pfeifferhorn, with T.Q. Stevenson and Richards; and *Superslab* (WI 3), an early ice climb in Little Cottonwood Canyon, with McQuarrie. In the summer, first ascents of the *Dorsal Fin* (III 5.10+) and *Coal Pit Buttress* (III 5.8 A3) in Little Cottonwood Canyon, both with McQuarrie. **Europe:** Near Leysin, Switzerland, climbed *Standard Route* (5.8 A3) on the Sphinx, with Richards, John Harlin, and Konrad Kirch; made first free ascent (5.10) of an unnamed route nearby with Royal Robbins. In the Mont Blanc area, France, climbed numerous classic routes, including the *Northeast Ridge* (D) of the Aiguille L'M and the *South Face* (TD) of the Aiguille du Midi, with Richards; the *North Face* (D) of the Aiguille Peigne and the *Frendo Spur* (D) on the Aiguille du Midi, with Nick Estcourt; the *West Face* (ED) of the

Pettites Jorasses, with Chris Jones; and the *West Face* (TD) of the Aiguille Blaitiere (ED), with Jones, Mike Kosterlitz, and Tim Lewis. First American ascent of the *Bonatti Pillar* (ED) on the Dru, with Jones. Strong attempt on the *Central Pillar of Freney* (ED) on the remote south side of Mont Blanc, with Jones, Estcourt, and Steve Miller. **Wyoming:** Rounded out the year with the first winter ascent of the *East Ridge* (II 5.6) of Mount Owen, with Stevenson, Mike Lowe, Jon Marsh, Steve Swanson, and Lenny Nelson.

1966

Utah: First ascents of rock routes in the Wasatch, including the *Great Chimney* (IV 5.9) on Middle Bell, with Ed Anderson. Numerous repeats of hard routes in Little Cottonwood Canyon, including the *Robbins Route* (IV 5.9 A3) on the Thumb, with Anderson. **Wyoming:** Summer ascents of the *Direct South Buttress* (IV 5.7 A3) of Mount Moran, with Anderson; the *North Face* (IV 5.8) of the Grand Teton, with Mike Lowe; the *Black Ice Couloir* (IV 5.6) on the Grand Teton, with Peter Lev; and the *South Buttress Right* (IV 5.8 A1) on Mount Moran, with Don Sturjohn. First winter ascent of the *North Ridge* (III 5.6) of Mount Moran, with Stevenson, Mike Lowe, Dennis Caldwell, Bill Conrod, Tom Spencer, Greg Lowe, George Gerhart, Court Richards, and Dean Johnson. **Alaska:** Visited the Saint Elias Range with Fred Beckey, Hank Mather, and John Rupley; after an unsuccessful attempt on the *North Ridge* of Mount Kennedy, the four climbed the *Northeast Ridge* of Mount Alverstone.

1967

Wyoming: Unsuccessful winter attempt on the *North Face* of the Grand Teton. In summer, new route on the lower *Black Ice Couloir* and *West Face* (IV 5.8) of the Grand Teton, with Mike Lowe. **Utah:** Early ascent of the *Great White Icicle* in Little Cottonwood Canyon, one of the first of a new generation of frozen waterfall climbs, with Court Richards, Mike Lowe, and

Bill Conrod. Several new routes and first free ascents up to 5.10 in the Wasatch. **California:** Ascents of the *Northwest Face* (IV 5.9 A3) of Half Dome, with Greg Lowe, and the *Lost Arrow Chimney* and *Arrow Tip* (V 5.8 A2), with Roger Dalke, both in Yosemite Valley.

1968

Wyoming: First winter ascent of the *North Face* of the Grand Teton, probably the hardest winter climb in the United States at that time, with Mike Lowe, Greg Lowe, and Rick Horn. **California:** Summer ascents of the *West Face* (V 5.9 A3) of Sentinel, with Cliff Jennings, and the *Direct North Buttress* (V 5.10) of Middle Cathedral, with Peter Lev, in Yosemite Valley.

1969

California: Early ascent of the *Salathé Wall* (VI 5.9 A3) on El Capitan, Yosemite Valley, with Jeff Lowe. **Wyoming:** New routes on the *North Face* (IV 5.8) of Mount Moran, with Peter Habeler, and the *North Face* (IV 5.9 A2) of the Enclosure on the Grand Teton with Mike Lowe.

1970

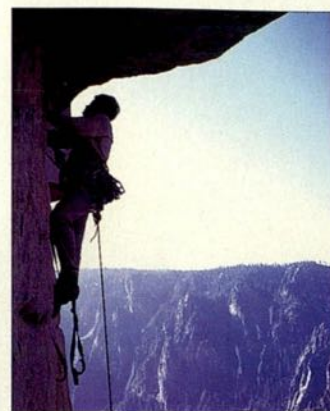
Canada: Repeats of the *North Face* (III 5.4) of Athabaska and *Northeast Buttress* (V 5.8 A0) of Howse Peak, with Jock Glidden, and first ascent of the *North Rib* (IV 5.7) of Mount Temple, with Jeff Lowe, all in the Canadian Rockies. **Wyoming:** First ascent of the *North Face* (V 5.9 A3) of Warrior I in the Wind Rivers, with Jeff Lowe.

1971

Wyoming: First winter ascent of the *Black Ice Couloir* on the Grand Teton, with Jeff Lowe, Greg Lowe, and Dave Lowe. **Peru:** Summer in the Cordillera Blanca; new routes on the *North Face* of Piramide de Garcilaso, with Mike Lowe, and on the *North Face* of Huandoy Norte, with Leigh Ortenburger, Burt Janis, Mike Lowe, and Jock Glidden.

1972

Wyoming: First winter ascents of the *West Face* (IV 5.8) of the



On the Salathé Wall in 1969.

Grand Teton, with Jeff Lowe, and Nez Perce (III 5.7), with Dave George; second winter ascent (and first in a single day) of the *East Ridge* of Mount Owen, with Peter Lev and Dave George. **Canada:** Very active in the Canadian Rockies. First ascent of *Photo Finish* (III) on Mount Andromeda, with Dave Hamre and Jock Glidden. Attempted the *Emperor Face* on Mount Robson, with Jeff Lowe. First ascent of the *North Face* (VI 5.9 A3) of Mount Alberta, with Jock Glidden. (This route, years ahead of its time, has only been climbed six times as of 1992 and is still regarded as one of the great prizes of the Rockies.) **Utah:** First ascent of the *North Face* (IV 5.8) of Peak 7750 in Kolob Canyon, Utah, with Dave Smith.

1973

Alaska: First ascent of the *South Face* (VI 5.8 A3) of Devils Thumb, a remote technical climb complicated by poor weather, with Chris Jones and Lito Tejada-Flores. While driving through the Canadian Rockies to Alaska, Lowe and Jones made the first ascent of the difficult *Super Couloir* (IV 5.8) on Deltaform. **Wyoming:** First winter ascent of the *East Ridge* (III 5.6) of the Grand Teton, with Dave Lowe and Jock Glidden.

1974

Wyoming: One-day winter ascent of Mount Owen and the Grand Teton, with Dave Lowe, Dave Smith, Pete Gibbs, and Dave George. **Utah:** First ascent of the *South Face* (V 5.9 A3) of Abraham, in Zion Canyon, with Jeff Lowe. **Canada:** First ascent of the huge

North Face (VI 5.10 A4) of North Twin in the Canadian Rockies, with Chris Jones. (Their futuristic route, which Rockies guidebook author Sean Dougherty calls "undoubtedly the hardest alpine route in North America at that time," remains unrepeatable. The face has seen just one other ascent, by David Cheesmond and Barry Blanchard in 1985.)

1975

Wyoming: First winter ascent of the *North Ridge* (IV 5.7) of the Grand Teton with Dave Carmen. **Pakistan:** Visited the Karakoram Himalaya as part of a National Geographic filming expedition,



Leading the crux A3/A4 pitch on the Kangshung Face on Mount Everest in 1981.

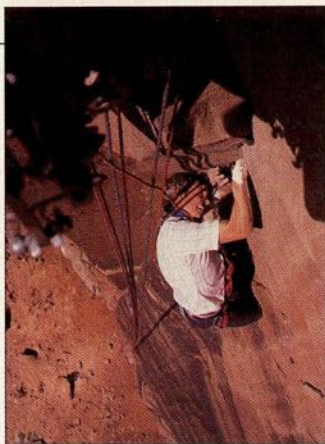
with Yvon Chouinard, Doug Tompkins, Dennis Hennek, and Don Lauria, but climbed nothing.

1976

USSR: First ascents of the *North Face* of Pik Mirali in the Finsky Gory, with Chris Jones, Slava Onischenko, and Misha Ovchenikov; and the *West Pillar* of Korona in the Tien Shan, with Craig Martinson, Vatslav Ruzhebski, and Misha Ovchenikov; solo first ascent of the *Northwest Face* of Free Korea Peak.

1977

Alaska: Back-to-back first ascents of the *North Face* of Mount



On the Primrose Dihedral, Moses, Utah, in 1986.

Hunter and the *Infinite Spur* on Mount Foraker, Alaska, with Michael Kennedy. The Foraker route, the harder of the two, has been repeated just once, in 1989.

1978

Pakistan: Attempted, to within 200 meters of the summit, the *North Ridge* of Latok I in the Karakoram Himalaya, with Jeff Lowe, Jim Donini, and Michael Kennedy. If their 26-day attempt had been successful, the route would have been the hardest yet done in the Himalaya by a small team using lightweight tactics. The route remains unclimbed.

1979

Canada: First ascent of *Aurora Borealis* (VI 5.10 A3) on the North Face of Mount Geikie, another huge Canadian Rockies route, with Dean Hannibal.

1980

Canada: Climbed the *North Face* (IV) of Mount Robson, with Dean Hannibal and Rich Henke.



Celebrating on the summit of Denali after an ascent of the Cassin Ridge in 1988.

Wyoming: Climbed the *Exum Route* on the Grand Teton, with father George Lowe Jr. and son George Lowe IV.

1981

Tibet: In a break with his history of alpine climbing, Lowe attempted the *Kangshung Face* of Mount Everest in traditional expedition style, with a large team employing fixed ropes and camps; poor weather, dangerous snow conditions, and attrition among the team stopped the attempt at about 23,000 feet. Before leaving Tibet, he and four others reached 23,400 feet on Xixabangma, thereby becoming, in teammate Geoff Tabin's words, "the first team to fail on two 8000-meter peaks in the same season."

1983

Tibet: Returned with a strong team and made the first ascent of *Kangshung Face*, thus completing one of the hardest routes on Everest. After he reached the summit in early October, Lowe (with teammate David Cheesmond) made a concerted effort to clear the mountain of fixed ropes and camps.

1986

Tibet: Attempted the very remote *North Ridge* of K2, again using fixed ropes and camps, and reached 8100 meters before being turned back by bad weather and deep snow.

1988

Alaska: Climbed the *Cassin Ridge* on Denali, with Rich Henke.

Wyoming: Five-day ski tour on the Teton crest, from Huckleberry Hot Springs to Teton Pass, with Henke and Tom Dickey.

1989

Wyoming: Six-day ski tour on the Wind Rivers crest, Green River Lakes to Sinks Canyon, via the Continental Divide, with Rich Henke and John Arnow.



On the Northeast Ridge of Dhaulagiri in 1990.

1990

Nepal: Solo ascent (from Camp II at 6400 meters) of the *Northeast Ridge* of Dhaulagiri I, with the descent complicated by storm and darkness. **Colorado:** First ascent of *Cannonball Corner* (IV 5.11) on Mount Evans, with Greg Cameron.

1991

Colorado: Ski tour on the San Juans crest, from Silverton to Wolf Creek Pass, with Rich Henke. **California:** One-day (13 hours) on-sight ascent of *The Nose* (VI 5.11 A2) on El Capitan, Yosemite Valley, with Alex Lowe. One-day (7 1/2 hours) ascent of the *Northwest Face* (VI 5.9 A2) of Half Dome, with Neal Beidleman, 24 years after Lowe first climbed this route.

1992

California: *Astroman* (V 5.11c) on Washington's Column, Yosemite Valley, with Steve Schneider. **Utah:** *Monkeyfinger Wall* (V 5.11 A0, or 5.12b), with Alison Osius.



**Lowe on the long corniced ridge above the crux pitches
of the *Infinite Spur*, Mount Foraker, Alaska, in 1977.**

Photo: Michael Kennedy



George Lowe has patrician features and manner, blue eyes, and the kind of fine gold skin that tends to fine lines. He is 5'10," 155 pounds — "150 if I'm in good climbing shape, but I never am." One of the first things you notice in talking to him is that he chronically deflects anything that even hints of a compliment, and cringes at taking credit. Sometimes you even want to give him a shake, tell him it's OK.

But that natural humility is one reason George Lowe has survived so much for so long. He's very aware of his limits, of caution, of being vigilant about the things he *can* control. If he's too tired to climb safely, he'll stop and declare, "I'm going to bivy."

Scientist and climber fuse in his methodology. Trying to find his way off Dhaulagiri two years ago, at 24,000 feet on a big face in a storm at night, he "was very hung out." Although afraid, he methodically tried to get down one gully after another, downclimbing until he ran out of snow and his crampons scraped rock, eventually finding the channel that led back to his high camp. "You just have to keep plugging, you have to work with the problem until you solve it."

"IF YOU'RE GOING TO SURVIVE IN BIG MOUNTAINS," LOWE SAYS, "YOU DON'T DO WILD THINGS IMMEDIATELY. YOU DO THEM AFTER YOU'VE LEARNED."

He also makes a case for careful preparations. "If you're going to survive in big mountains," Lowe says, "you don't do wild things immediately. You do them after you've learned."

Lowe is a Renaissance man. He can say little about his work, which is proprietary for a private company that does some government consulting, but he hired on with the arrangement to take two months a year off. He has a doctor-climber-pilot wife, Liz Regan-Lowe, a four month-old daughter, Katie Beth, and two grown children in Alaska, George IV, age 22, and Kara, 20, from his previous marriage. He has been a licensed pilot for 14 years. Lowe talks almost as much about

canyon hiking, mountain biking, long ski tours, and river running as climbing. He does every kind of climbing, although not much bouldering or sport climbing. "I like to do everything. Guess that's why I'm a systems engineer," he says.

He constantly makes darting visits to climbing areas, always on the lookout for a good hard route. In their 1990 sortie to Yosemite, he and Alex Lowe (no relation) arrived at night, were racking at 2:00 a.m., slept a couple of hours, and then did *The Nose* on El Capitan in 13 hours, on sight. Then they left. Two weeks earlier, he had spent a week in the Valley. Among a multitude of other routes, some done with Liz, he did the 12-pitch *East Buttress* (5.10) and the 19-pitch *West Face* of El Capitan (5.11b), and

on Half Dome, *Autobahn*, a dozen-pitch route of mostly 5.10, and the 24-pitch *Northwest Face* in seven and a half hours.

"Not a lot of *hard* climbing, a lot of *climbing*," Lowe insists. "I can't do hard climbing!"

The couple will fly to the Utah desert three times in a month, or from Denver to Zion for the weekend, just to do one climb. Throw a Cessna 182 into the equation and you can do a lot. It also helps to bring a nanny, which they do. "I

don't have much time. I have to use it," he says.

Hark back to the difficult *Supercouloir* on Mount Deltaform in the Canadian

Rockies, done in 1973 when Chris Jones and Lowe were on their way to the Devils Thumb, Alaska. "We had to stop for a day for car trouble or something," recalls Jones. "A lot of people would have spent the day in the pub, but George would always snatch every opportunity to climb."

Lowe is a quixotic combination of fastidious scientist and out-there *rad boy*. He's organized, ritualistic: in a snow cave packed with four smelly climbers — a disaster area of gear and boots and wet sleeping bags — he'll maintain tabs on his own spoon and cup, and get perturbed when others stick dirty uten-

continued on page 134



Lowe flying to Moab in 1986 for an ascent of the *Primrose Dihedrals* (5.11+) on Moses, made in a 28-hour round trip from Boulder.

Photo: Neal Beidleman



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BEHIND THE LOOKING GLASS

YOU'VE SEEN THEIR WORK IN THESE PAGES EVERY ISSUE. THESE ARE SOME OF CLIMBING MAGAZINE'S "WORKHORSE" PHOTOGRAPHERS — THOSE WHO PROVIDE US WITH STRIKING IMAGES, ISSUE AFTER ISSUE. WE SEND THEM TO OUT-OF-THE-WAY HOTSPOTS, OR CALL THEM UP WITH REQUESTS FOR DIVERSE AND SOMETIMES BIZARRE SUBJECTS, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL ILLUSTRATE THIS TECHNIQUE, HIGHLIGHT THAT TEXT, OR FIT JUST RIGHT IN THIS OTHER HUNGRY SPACE IN THE MAGAZINE. TIME AFTER TIME THEY COME THROUGH.

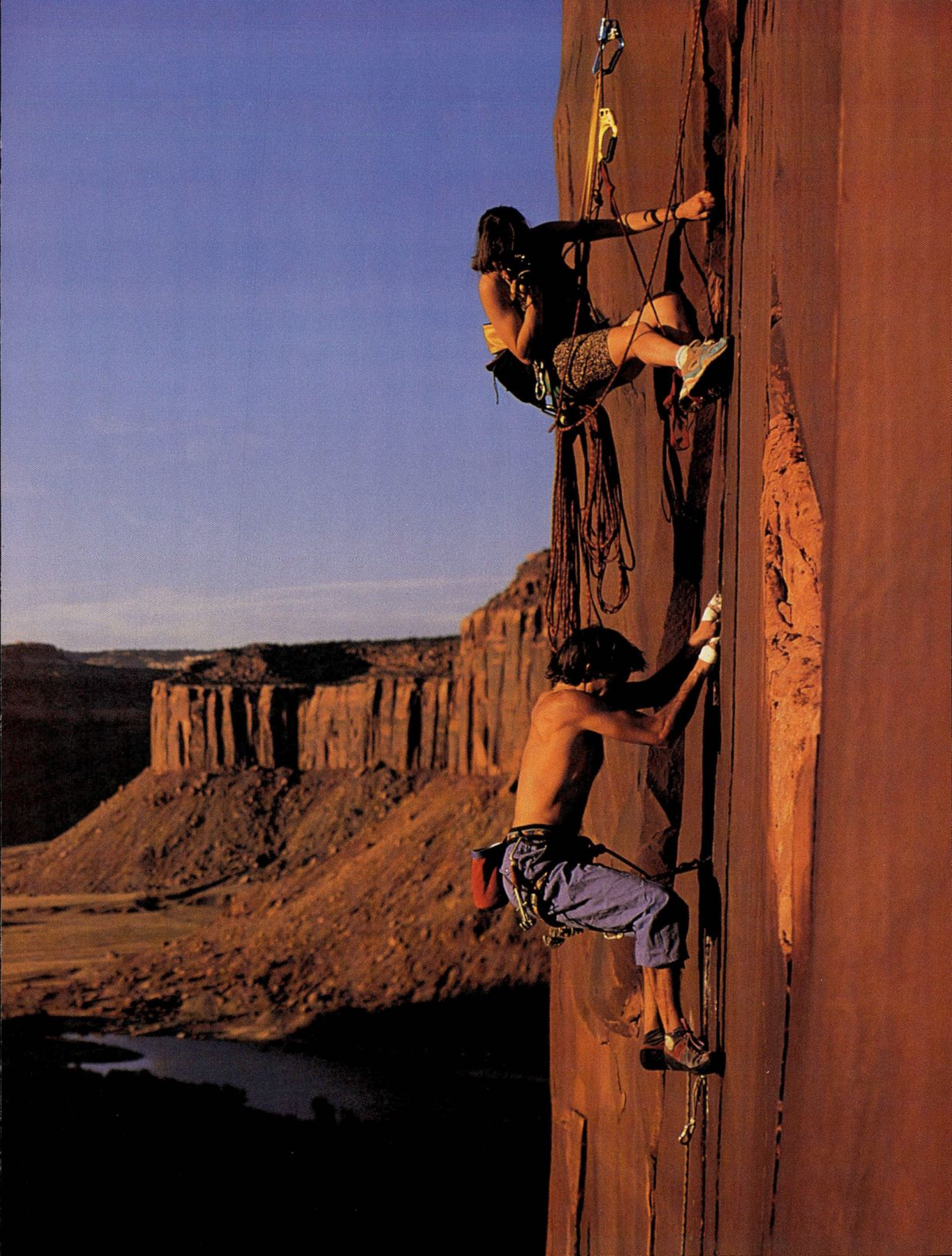
THIS TIME, WE WANTED TO TURN SOME ATTENTION ON THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE LENSES. WE ASKED SIX PHOTOGRAPHERS TO TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR LIFE AND CRAFT, AND TO PICK A FEW OF THEIR FAVORITE IMAGES. IT'S BEEN AN INTERESTING PROCESS. SOME OF THE IMAGES WE RECEIVED WERE IN THE CLASSIC INDIVIDUAL STYLES WE RECOGNIZED; OTHERS CAPITALIZED ON THE CREATIVE LICENSE THIS FORUM PROVIDED. SOME WE LIKED. OTHERS MADE US SCRATCH OUR HEADS. THE PERSONAL INSIGHTS THE PHOTOGRAPHERS PROVIDED WERE EQUALLY FASCINATING; THEY WERE VARIOUSLY UNCERTAIN, EXCITED, EXPRESSIVE, NERVOUS, SHY, AND PROFESSIONAL. ONE PREFERRED ENIGMA TO EXPOSURE — YOU'LL NOTICE THE CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF GREG EPPERSON. "IT'S THOSE UNSPOKEN VALUES THAT REMAIN INSIDE OF YOU THAT ALLOW YOU TO SEE THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE SEES," WROTE GREG, AFTER NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS FAILED TO PERSUADE HIM TO PARTICIPATE. (ANOTHER REGULAR, JOHN SHERMAN WAS ON THE ROAD, AND NOT ABLE TO SEND US IMAGES IN TIME.)

CLIMBING PHOTOGRAPHER IS AN ODD PROFESSION, FULL OF STEEP ROCK AND AIR, LONG HOURS SPENT IN STRENUOUS, AWKWARD PLACES, SIXTH-SENSE SENSITIVITY TO THE EVER-CHANGING PLAY OF LIGHT AND SHAPE. FRUSTRATIONS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS ABOUND. FEW IMAGES EVER LEAVE THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EDITING TABLE AND FEWER STILL WILL EVER SEE THE GLOSSY PAGES. YET THEY LOVE THEIR WORK.

CLIMBING PHOTOGRAPHY HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE PAST DECADE, AND THESE PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE HELPED LEAD THE WAY. WITH THEIR FINGERS ON THE SHUTTER THEY HAVE TAKEN THE PULSE OF THE SCENE, AND FELT ITS MANY CONTOURS — NATURAL, SOCIAL, PERSONAL. A PHOTOGRAPHER ILLUSTRATES, BUT ALSO INTERPRETS. THROUGH THEIR TECHNICAL SKILL AND ARTISTIC CHOICES THESE PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE HELPED DEFINE THE CLIMBING EXPERIENCE. WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE.



Photo: Brian Bailey



BRIAN BAILEY

ASPEN, COLORADO

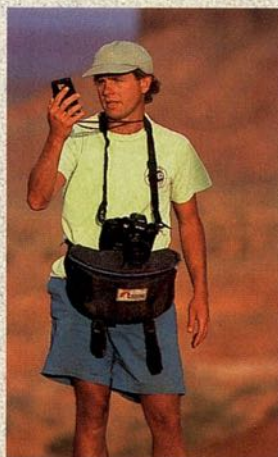
I HAVE LONG BEEN FASCINATED WITH THE IDEA OF CAPTURING THE SPORT OF CLIMBING ON FILM — THE TEXTURE, COLOR, AND CLIMBERS' EXPOSURE HAS ALWAYS CAPTIVATED ME.

IN 1988 THE APPEAL OF PHOTOGRAPHING CLIMBING BECAME TOO MUCH, SO I PACKED MY BELONGINGS IN A VW MICROBUS AND SET OFF FROM SAN DIEGO ON A PILGRIMAGE. ARMED ONLY WITH CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND A MULTIMEDIA SLIDE PRESENTATION I USED TO SUPPORT THIS SOJOURN, I MADE AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF SOME OF THE HOTTEST CLIMBING SITES IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES. THERE WERE SOME SHOE-STRING TIMES — I REMEMBER ROLLING INTO BOISE, IDAHO, WITH FIVE DOLLARS LEFT IN MY POCKET, SPENDING THE NIGHT IN A PARKING LOT, AND CASHING MY SLIDE SHOW CHECK THE NEXT DAY SO I COULD BUY FOOD AND FILM FOR CITY OF ROCKS. I FINALLY ENDED UP IN COLORADO, AND BEGAN THE TRANSITION FROM CLIMBING BUM TO PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

I SHOT CLIMBING EXCLUSIVELY FOR MY FIRST TWO YEARS BECAUSE I WANTED TO CONCENTRATE ON A FAMILIAR SUBJECT. BUT THE ROCKIES' MYRIAD OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CAUGHT MY EYE — PEOPLE SKIING, FISHING, BACKPACKING, AS WELL AS CLIMBING. BEING BASED IN ASPEN HAS ALLOWED ME TO LIVE IN THE ULTIMATE OUTDOOR STUDIO. OUTDOOR SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY HAS BEEN MY BREAD AND BUTTER BUT I'VE RECENTLY BROADENED MY PORTFOLIO TO INCLUDE MORE PEOPLE AND "LIFESTYLE" IMAGES.

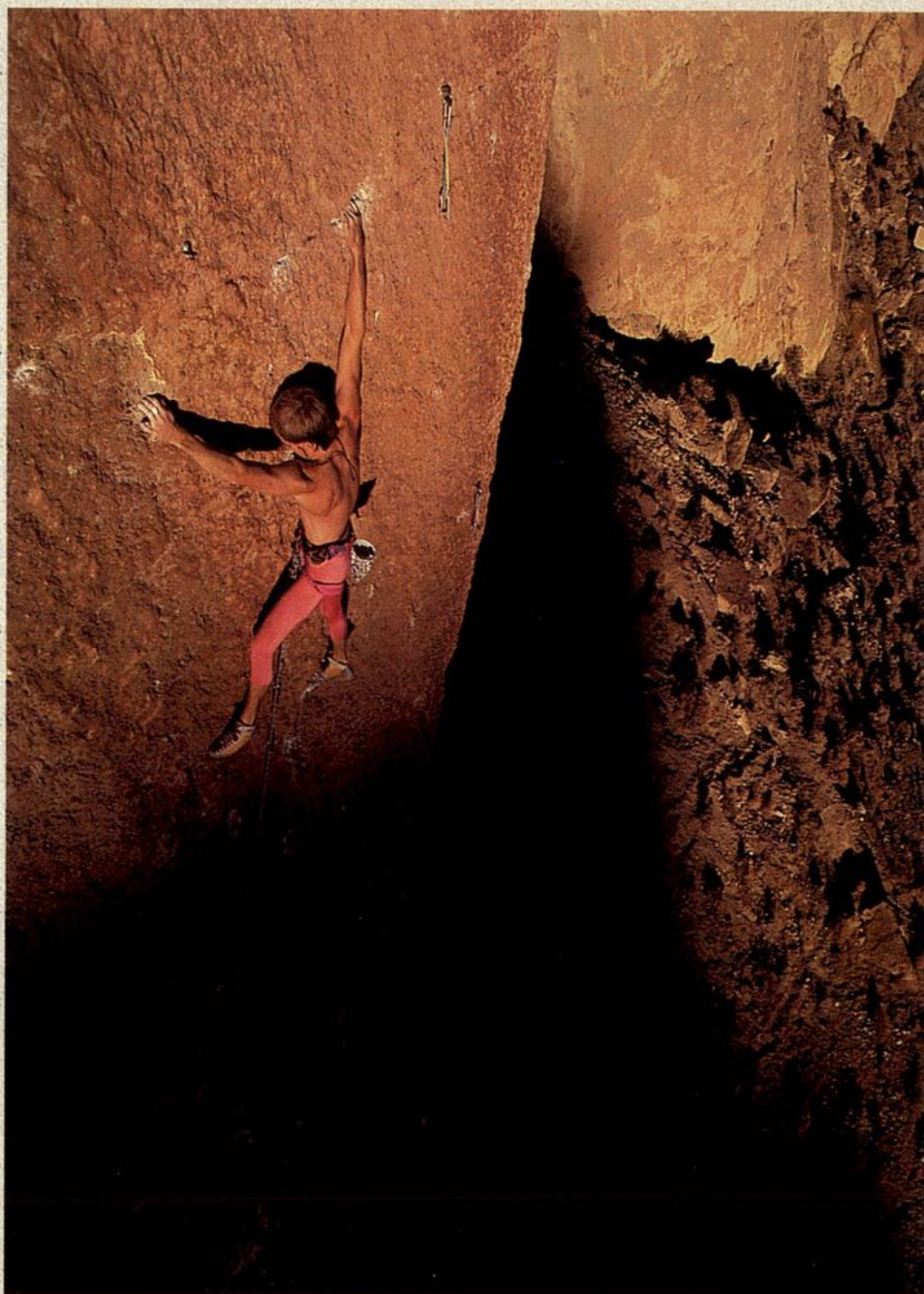
MY ASSIGNMENTS HAVE TAKEN ME TO EXOTIC PLACES LIKE CHINA AND FINLAND, AND WHILE FILMING THE FIRST SNOWBOARD DESCENT OF THE MOOSE'S TOOTH IN ALASKA,

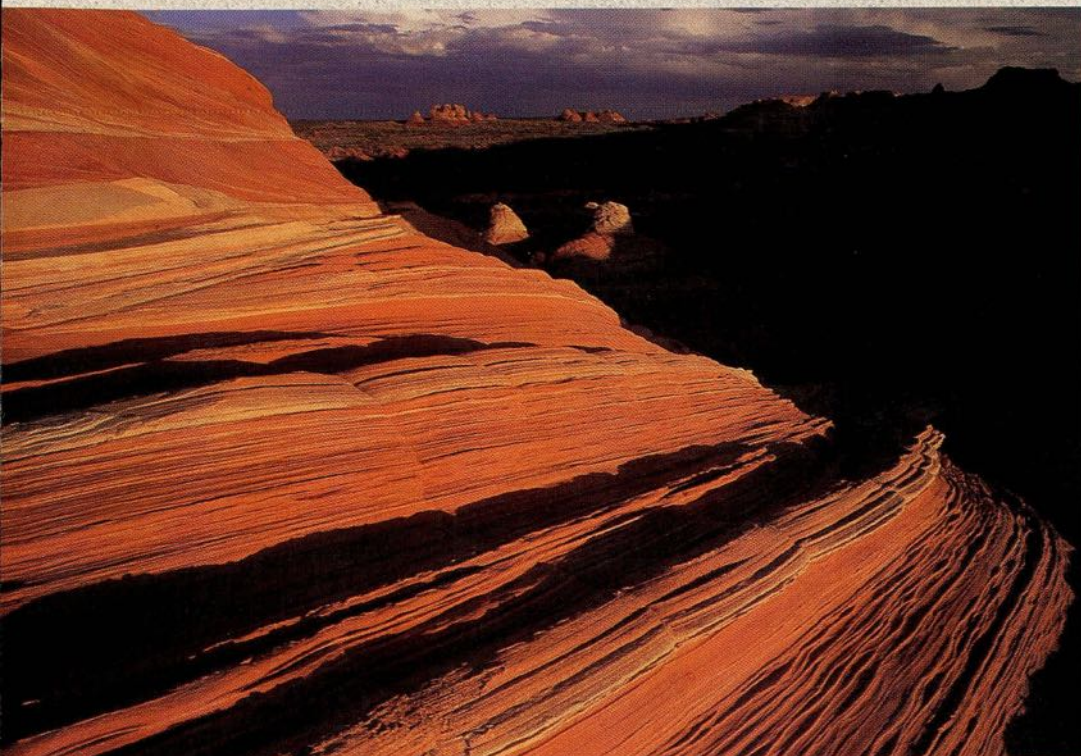
I WAS ALMOST KILLED BY AN AVALANCHE. BUT THESE ADVENTURES ARE TANGENTIAL TO MY MAIN FOCUS. I LOVE LIVING AND WORKING IN THE WEST, AND THE HEART OF MY WORK WILL ALWAYS TAKE PLACE HERE.



THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE CLIMBING IMAGES BECAUSE IT COMBINES SO MANY ELEMENTS THAT MAKE A GOOD CLIMBING IMAGE FOR ME — INTERESTING INTERPLAYS OF SHADOW AND LIGHT, EXCITING EXPOSURE, CONTRAST, AND A STRONG GRAPHIC DESIGN.

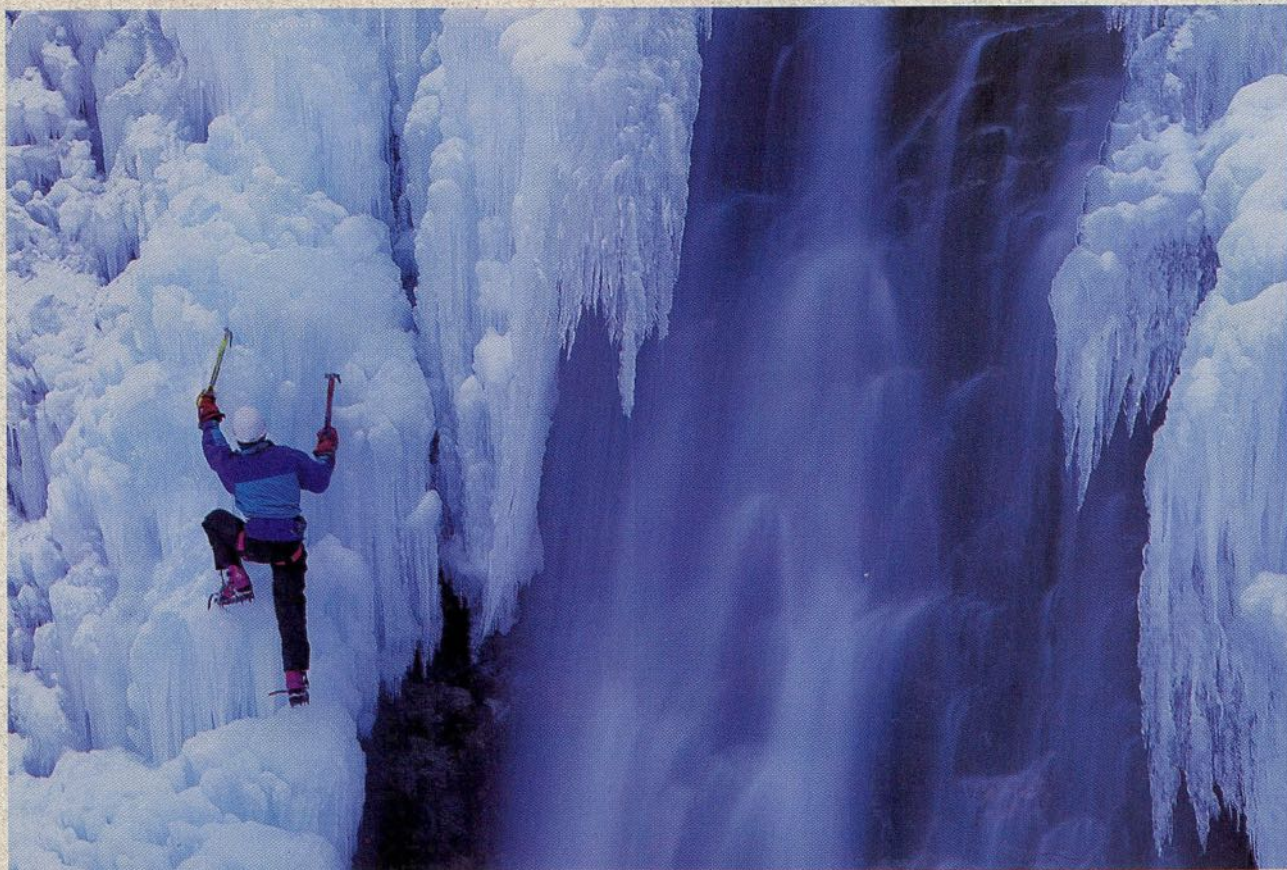
Mark Cartier, *Churning in the Sky* (5.13b), Smith Rock, Oregon.





THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS IMAGE TO ME IS THE LOCATION. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DRAWN TO THE MAGIC OF THE CANYONLANDS. THE NAVAJO SAY, "I WALK WITH BEAUTY ABOVE ME. I WALK WITH BEAUTY BELOW ME. I WALK WITH BEAUTY ALL AROUND ME." ALTHOUGH THIS IS ONLY ONE EXAMPLE, THE SPORT OF CLIMBING TAKES US TO SOME OF THE WILDEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES ON THIS PLANET. TO ME, THIS IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN REACHING THE BELAY.

Canyon country, southern Utah.



Charlie Fowler, Upper Ames Falls, Telluride, Colorado.

I RETURNED TO THIS LOCATION A YEAR AFTER I HAD MADE A SIMILAR IMAGE, HOPING TO CREATE A STRONGER COMPOSITION. I HAD LIKED THE WAY THE WATER CASCADED DOWN THROUGH THE ICE. I NORMALLY WOULD USE FILTRATION IN A SHOT LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF THE EXCESSIVE BLUE LIGHT FROM THE SKY, SNOW, AND ICE, BUT I FELT IN THIS CASE THE ICY BLUE LIGHT COUPLED WITH A VERY SLOW SHUTTER SPEED CREATED A SURREAL IMAGE.

BETH WALD

BOULDER, COLORADO

ALTHOUGH MY PHOTOGRAPHIC CAREER GOT STARTED IN THE CLIMBING WORLD, THERE ARE ROOTS THAT REACH BACK TO MY EARLY INTERESTS IN PAINTING, DRAWING, AND WRITING, AND TO AN IRREPRESSIBLE WANDERLUST. GROWING UP NEAR MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, I ESCAPED AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO THE NORTHERN WILDERNESS, AND FIRST FELT THE LURE OF THE MOUNTAINS AT AGE 16 DURING A SCOUT BACKPACKING TRIP TO COLORADO. AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I SPENT THE SUMMER OF 1978 ON THE JUNEAU ICE FIELDS OF ALASKA AND WANDERING AROUND CANADA.

I WAS HOOKED ON BOTH TRAVEL AND THE HIGH WORLD OF MOUNTAINS AND CRAGS, BUT IT TOOK SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE I MADE THOSE TWO ELEMENTS AN INTERGRAL PART OF MY LIFESTYLE. FROM 1979 TO 1983 I STUDIED BOTANY, ECOLOGY AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, BUT I TOOK FREQUENT, OFTEN EXTENDED LEAVES — TO EXPLORE THE HIMALAYAS, CLIMB ICE IN CANADA, CLIMB MOUNTAINS IN EUROPE, CLIMB ROCK IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES. IN THE AUTUMN OF 1983, I DIDN'T RETURN TO THE BOOKS, BUT STAYED ON THE ROAD.

IN MY TRAVELS, I WAS CONSTANTLY FASCINATED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE PLACES WHERE I WAS CLIMBING — DEVIL'S TOWER, THE NEEDLES, JOSHUA

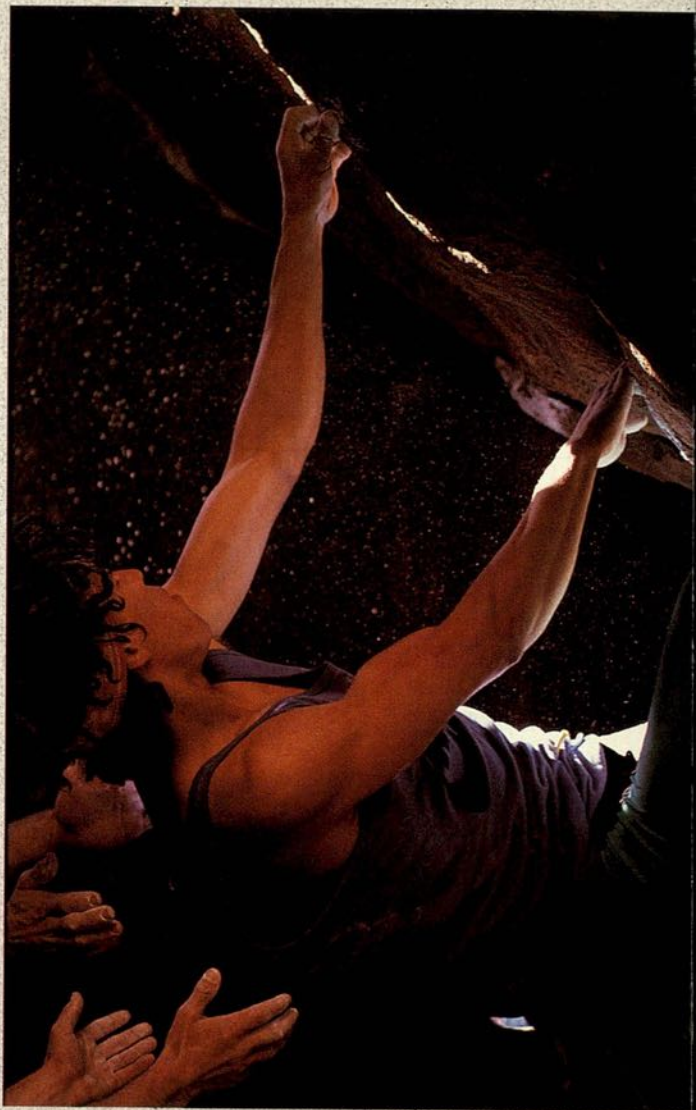
TREE, HUECO TANKS, YOSEMITE — BY THE UNIQUE, SOMETIMES BIZARRE CHARACTERS I MET AT EACH AREA, AND BY THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE NOMADIC LIFESTYLE. I BEGAN PHOTOGRAPHING THE CRAGS AND ENVIRONS, ROUTES AND PEOPLE, AND WRITING ACCOUNTS OF TRAVELS, CLIMBS, AND

CLIMBERS. MY FIRST ARTICLE, ABOUT DEVIL'S TOWER, WAS PUBLISHED IN *CLIMBING* MAGAZINE (NO. 91); MY FIRST PUBLISHED PHOTO, OF FREMONT CANYON, APPEARED IN THE NEXT CHOUINARD CATALOG. AROUND THE SAME TIME, TODD SKINNER AND I PUT TOGETHER AND TOURED WITH A SLIDE SHOW OF CLIMBING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. GRADUALLY, PHOTOGRAPHY (AND TO A LESSER DEGREE WRITING) BECAME A VIABLE WAY FOR ME TO KEEP CLIMBING, TRAVELING, AND ADVENTURING, AND A VEHICLE TO SHARE THE ADVENTURES WITH OTHER POTENTIAL GYPSIES.

AS I BEGAN SHOOTING MORE, IT BECAME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO COMBINE SERIOUS PHOTOGRAPHY WITH MY PERSONAL CLIMBING AMBITIONS. BETWEEN 1987 AND 1989 A SEVERE CASE OF TENDINITIS KEPT ME OFF THE ROCK AND MADE ME REASSESS MY PERSONAL CLIMBING GOALS. BUT THAT DIFFICULT TIME WAS A GIFT TO MY PHOTOGRAPHY, AS THE DEVOTION AND PASSION I HAD APPLIED TO CLIMBING SWITCHED TO MY WORK WITH THE CAMERA. I MADE A PERMANENT BASE IN BOULDER, COLORADO, AND STARTED SHOOTING ALL THE TIME, EXPLORING DIFFERENT SUBJECTS AND DIFFERENT WAYS OF SEEING.

SINCE 1989 I HAVE PHOTOGRAPHED LESS CLIMBING THAN IN THE PAST AND MORE OF OTHER SPORTS. MY INTERESTS HAVE ALSO GRAVITATED TOWARD DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY OF TRIBAL CULTURES, FOREIGN LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THIS HAS TAKEN ME BACK TO THE SOVIET UNION (RIGHT BEFORE IT FELL APART), TO THE SIERRA MADRE TO DOCUMENT THE TRADITIONAL CULTURE OF THE TARAHUMARA INDIANS, TO CENTRAL AMERICA TO PHOTOGRAPH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO DOCUMENT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF OUR OWN FORESTS.

BUT CLIMBING — VISUALLY, PHYSICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY — STILL HOLDS ME IN ITS SPELL. FAR FROM LEAVING IT BEHIND, I HOPE THAT, BY EXPANDING MY FIELD OF VIEW I WILL BRING NEW VISION TO MY PHOTOS OF THE VERTICAL WORLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.

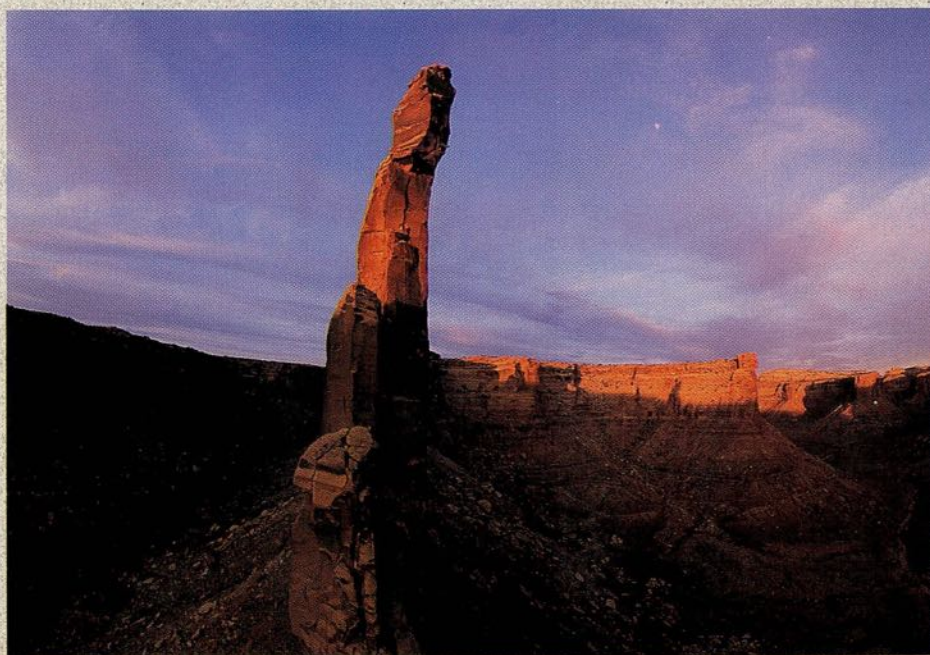
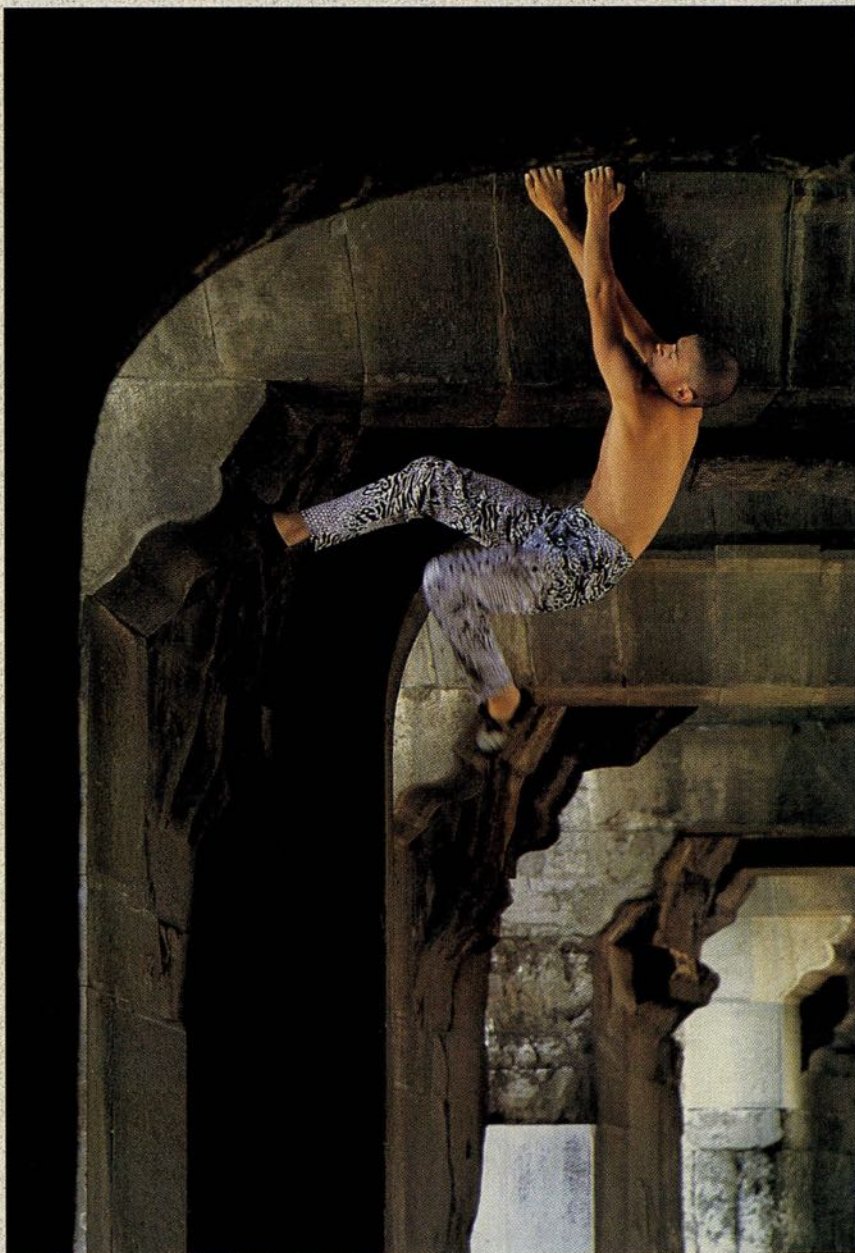


Chris Hill bouldering in the Dark Heart, Hueco Tanks, Texas.

THIS IS ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE CLIMBING PHOTOS, SINCE IT INCORPORATES THREE ELEMENTS I ALWAYS STRIVE FOR: RELATIONSHIPS, INTERESTING LIGHT, AND A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW. WHAT SURPRISED ME ABOUT THE SHOT IS THE SENSE OF INTIMACY BETWEEN THE SUBJECTS, SOMETHING SELDOM SEEN IN CLIMBING PHOTOS, BUT EXPERIENCED BY ALL OF US WHEN BOULDERING, ON BIVY LEDGES, AT TIGHT BELAYS, EVEN CRAMMED INTO CARS ON ROAD TRIPS. THIS PHOTO IS, FOR ME, EMBLEMATIC OF THE TRUST WE ALL PLACE IN OUR PARTNERS.

Jason Stern climbing in the Roman Coliseum, Nimes, France.

THIS WAS A STAGED PHOTO, FIRST IMAGINED THEN CREATED. THE IDEA CAME TO ME AS I WAS WANDERING AROUND THE NIMES COLISEUM, A ROMAN-BUILT ARENA, DURING A LULL IN A CLIMBING COMPETITION. THE ANCIENT ARCHES FORMED FROM MASSIVE STONE BLOCKS INTRIGUED ME, AND I LIKED THE DIFFUSE, REFLECTED LIGHT. SKIN TONES GLOWED WARM AND SMOOTH IN CONTRAST TO THE COOL, SOMBER COLORS OF THE ROUGH STONE ARCHES. JASON STERN, WITH FRESHLY-SHAVEN HEAD, WAS THE PERFECT CLIMBER/GLADIATOR TO TOSS INTO THE SETTING, HIS BARE HEAD AND BACK JUST SLIGHTLY PRIMITIVE OR TIMELESS.

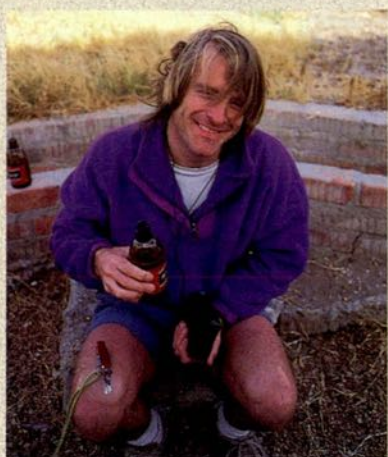


SINCE I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF MUCH OF A LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER, THIS IS AN UNUSUAL IMAGE FOR ME. IN THE CANYONLANDS YOUR EYE IS CONSTANTLY SMITTEN WITH DRAMATIC, GRAPHIC FORMS AND SPECTACULAR LIGHT; THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S JOB IS TO SELECT AND COMPOSE. I LIKE THE WAY THAT THE LANDSCAPE OVERWHELMS AND DWARFS THE CLIMBERS, BECAUSE THAT IS HOW I FEEL IN THE DESERT. THIS PICUTRES WAS MADE FROM AN ADJACENT SPIRE JUST AFTER THE SUN DROPPED BELOW THE HORIZON. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TOWER AND THE SURROUNDING CANYON IS LESS THAN IN DIRECT SUN, SO THE TEXTURES AND SHAPES OF THE CANYON EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS, WITH THE CURVE OF THE DRY WASH AND THE HORIZONTAL CLIFF BAND IN THE DISTANCE BALANCING THE VERTICAL TOWER.

Moses Tower with climbers, Canyonlands, Utah.

BILL HATCHER

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA



IT'S NOT TOO SURPRISING THAT I GOT INTO PHOTOGRAPHY. MY GRANDFATHER, A PHOTOJOURNALIST, USED TO RELATE WILD TALES ABOUT HIS VISITS TO STRANGE COUNTRIES AND EXOTIC PLACES. I REMEMBER HIS PHOTOS OF EXTENSIVE TRAVELS IN AFRICA, A TRAIN RIDE THROUGH RUSSIA TO MONGOLIA, AND OTHER TRAVELS TO CHINA, THE ORIENT, FRANCE DURING WWI, SOUTH AMERICA ... THE LIST GOES ON. ONE STORY I PARTICULARLY REMEMBER TOOK PLACE WHEN HE, WITH TWO OTHER JOURNALISTS, LOADED UP A FORD WITH FOOD AND GUNS, THEN DROVE INTO MEXICO DURING THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION. THE AIM WAS TO GET AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PONCHO VILLA. HE DIDN'T GET THE INTERVIEW, BUT HE FINALLY RETURNED TO THE PAPER, LONG OVERDUE, WITH STORIES OF BEING INVITED INTO A BANDIT'S CAMP, AND A RUN-IN WITH MOUNTED MEXICAN FEDERAL TROOPS.

I DIDN'T START PURSUING PHOTOGRAPHY SERIOUSLY UNTIL I WAS 19, AROUND THE SAME TIME I BEGAN CLIMBING. I HAD BEGUN SCHOOL AT AN OVERSEAS BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND IN MUNICH, ABOUT 45 MINUTES FROM THE ALPS. FOR TWO YEARS I PLAYED IN THE MOUNTAINS AND SHOT A LOT OF BAD PHOTOS. THE FACT THAT OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS IN SCHOOL THOUGHT MY WORK WAS AWFUL DIDN'T STOP ME — I WAS OBSESSED WITH SHOOTING

PHOTOS AND LEARNING AS MUCH AS I COULD ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY. I GREW UP IN A FAMILY THAT ENCOURAGED ART — MY MOM IS A PAINTER — AND IT WAS ALWAYS STRESSED THAT YOU NEED TO BECOME TECHNICALLY PROFICIENT IN YOUR MEDIUM IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE FREE FLOW OF CREATIVE IDEAS. IT DIDN'T MATTER IF IT WAS A PENCIL, PAINT BRUSH, OR CAMERA. SHOOTING THOUSANDS OF PHOTOS HELPED ME TOWARD THIS END.

MY FINAL TWO YEARS OF SCHOOL WERE SPENT STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING WHERE I FINISHED A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE. HERE I MET OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS, GOT INVOLVED IN THE JOURNALISM PROGRAM, AND MET A NUMBER OF CLIMBERS INCLUDING TODD SKINNER AND PAUL PIANA, WHO I LATER JOINED IN SEVERAL EPIC ADVENTURES. IN 1987 I DECIDED I NEEDED TO BECOME MORE COMMITTED TO MY PHOTOGRAPHY, AND IN A STROKE OF CRAZINESS, BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND, POOLED MY LIFE SAVINGS (\$400), BORROWED SOME MORE MONEY, AND MOVED TO FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, TO START A CAREER AS A FREELANCE MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHER. THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS WERE DESPERATE BUT I GRADUALLY GOT ESTABLISHED DOING WORK FOR A NUMBER OF MAGAZINES AND OUTDOOR COMPANIES.

AT 32 I SEE MY PHOTO CAREER AS JUST BEGINNING, AND IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS I PLAN TO SHOOT AS MUCH OUTDOOR-ADVENTURE PHOTO DOCUMENTARY AS POSSIBLE. AT THE TOP OF THE LIST WILL BE CLIMBING, A SPORT THAT I STILL BELIEVE TAKES PEOPLE TO THE LONELIEST, WILDEST, AND MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN THE WORLD.

DEVILS TOWER, WITH ITS HUNDREDS OF PERFECT CRACKS AND DIHEDRALS, IS A CLIMBER'S DREAM. THAT, AND BECAUSE THE TOWER IS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD, MAKES IT ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES TO SHOOT ROCK CLIMBING.

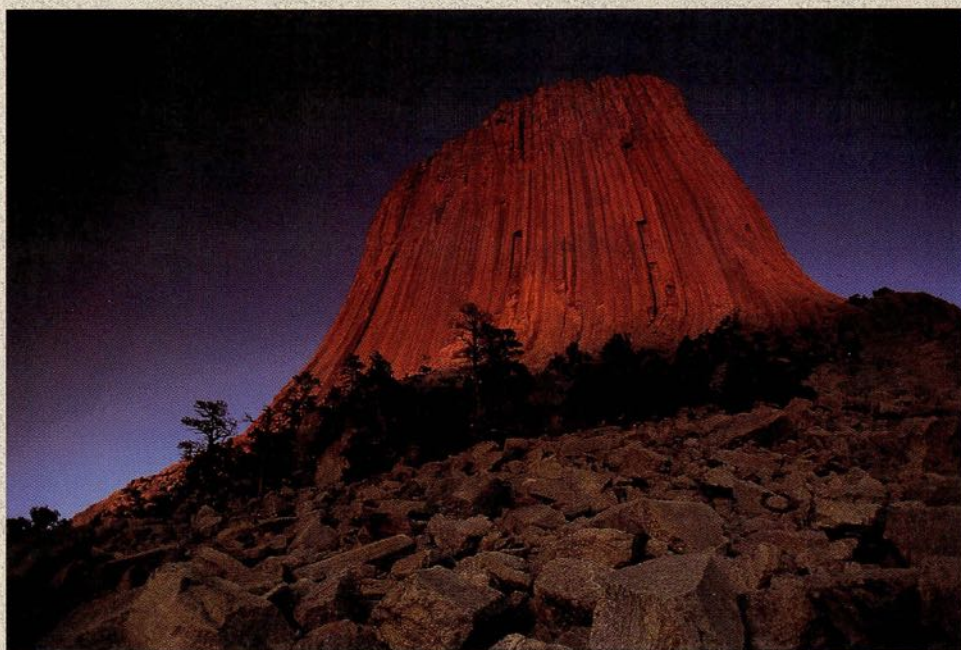
Catherine Destivelle on Mr. Clean (5.10+), Devils Tower, Wyoming.





Heidi Badaracco, aspen glade, Wild Iris, Wyoming.

DURING AN OCTOBER VISIT TO WILD IRIS, THE ASPEN TREES WERE JUST REACHING THEIR PEAK COLOR, AND I KEPT MY EYES OPEN FOR ANY CLIMBS NEAR COLORFUL GROVES. AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS I FOUND THIS PERFECT LOCATION. I STUDIED THE CLIMB FROM A DOZEN ANGLES AND FOUND THAT THE BEST POSITION TO CAPTURE BOTH THE CLIMBER AND THE TREES WAS FROM THE TOP BRANCHES OF A PINE TREE 100 FEET BACK FROM THE WALL. THE NEXT DAY I RETURNED TO THE CLIMB WITH HEIDI, AND PHOTOGRAPHED HER JUST BEFORE THE EVENING LIGHT LEFT THE WALL.



THIS SHOT WAS TAKEN AS THE LAST LIGHT OF THE DAY ILLUMINATED THE FACE. HAZE FROM NEARBY FOREST FIRES WORKED TO EXAGGERATE THE INTENSE RED LIGHT. I USED A NEUTRAL-DENSITY FILTER TO HELP MAINTAIN DETAIL IN THE LICHEN-COVERED BOULDERS AT THE BASE OF THE TOWER. OF ALL THE SCENICS I'VE TAKEN OF THE TOWER I LIKE THIS ONE THE BEST SINCE IT HIGHLIGHTS WHAT A WEIRD AND UNUSUAL FORMATION DEVILS TOWER REALLY IS.

The west face of Devils Tower.

KEVIN POWELL

MORENO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

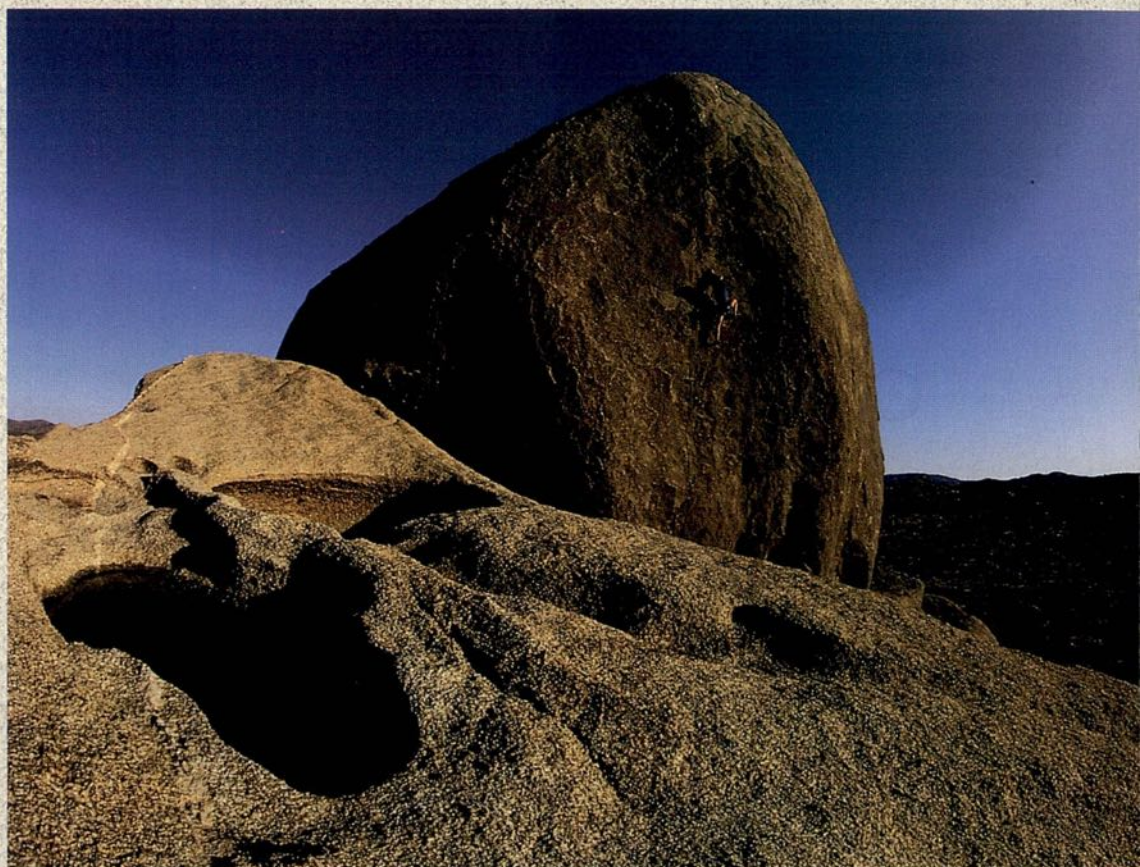


IT'S POWELL, NOT ROWELL, AND HERE ARE THE FACTS! PRESENT AGE: 34 (COMPLETE WITH ARTHRITIS, TENDINITIS AND OTHER CLIMBING RELATED AILMENTS). OCCUPATION: FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC. RESIDENCE: MORENO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA (THIS IS NOT SO CAL WHERE MY CREATIVE ENERGIES BENEFIT FROM THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, HOT, SMOGGY DAYS, AND GANG VIOLENCE). MARITAL STATUS: DESPERATE. DESIRES: TO BE A FULL-TIME, BIG-NAME PHOTOG DUDE AND SCOOP ALL! PEOPLE WILL BE SAYING THINGS LIKE, "POWELL HAS GOTTEN INSIDE HIS ROLL OF FILM AND IS LOOKING OUT."

I BEGAN CLIMBING IN 1972 AT THE AGE OF 13, MOTIVATED BY THE LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME MY BROTHER AND I SPENT WITH OUR SCOUT TROOP, BACKPACKING ALL OVER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND IN THE HIGH SIERRA. WE STARTED OUT WITH COTTON ROPES, HIKING BOOTS, AND RUDIMENTARY PITONS, HAMMERS AND CHOCKS THAT WE MADE IN METAL SHOP AT SCHOOL. WE TESTED THESE AND OUR OWN METTLE ON THE BOULDERS NEAR OUR HOUSE, AND AT THE LOCAL CLIMBING AREAS. WE LEARNED THROUGH TRIAL AND ERROR, FORTUNATELY SURVIVING MANY "UNEXPLAINED HAPPENINGS."

CLIMBING SOON BECAME MY ONLY FOCUS, WITH EVERY SPARE MOMENT SPENT ON THE BOULDERS OR AT THE CRAGS. IN 1975 I MET MY LONG-TIME FRIEND AND CLIMBING PARTNER, DARRELL HENSEL, WITH WHOM I CLIMBED INTO THE REALM OF THE THEN "BIG NUMBERS," 5.11, ON AN EARLY ASCENT OF *NEW GENERATIONS* AT SUICIDE ROCK. THE NEXT YEAR WE ESTABLISHED JOSHUA TREE'S FIRST 5.12, CALLING IT *JUST SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF OUR TIME*. WE WOULD GO ON TO ESTABLISH MANY OTHER FIRST AND FIRST FREE ASCENTS TOGETHER THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA.

CLIMBING HAS REMAINED AN OBSESSION, BUT IN 1981 I DECIDED TO BECOME A MIDDLE-CLASS CITIZEN AND MAINTAIN A FULL-TIME CAREER, INITIALLY AS A PARAMEDIC AND NOW AS A FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC. FORTUNATELY THIS OCCUPATION GIVES ME PLENTY OF FREE TIME TO "GET SCARED," AND TO PURSUE IN EARNEST MY INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY, WHICH BEGAN 12 YEARS AGO. INITIALLY I SOUGHT SIMPLY TO RECORD PLACES AND EVENTS, WITH ONE CAMERA AND LENS. NOW I WANT TO SHARE WITH OTHERS "A DIFFERENT WAY OF SEEING," MY INTERPRETATION OF WHAT AND HOW I SEE THINGS, WITH NO USE OF FILTERS OR MANIPULATION OF THE FILM MEDIUM, SAVE FOR THE OCCASIONAL USE OF A FLASH. A FUTURE GOAL IS TO EXPAND MY PHOTOGRAPHY INTO A NEW CAREER, PHOTOGRAPHING OTHER HIGH-ADVENTURE SPORTS IN LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

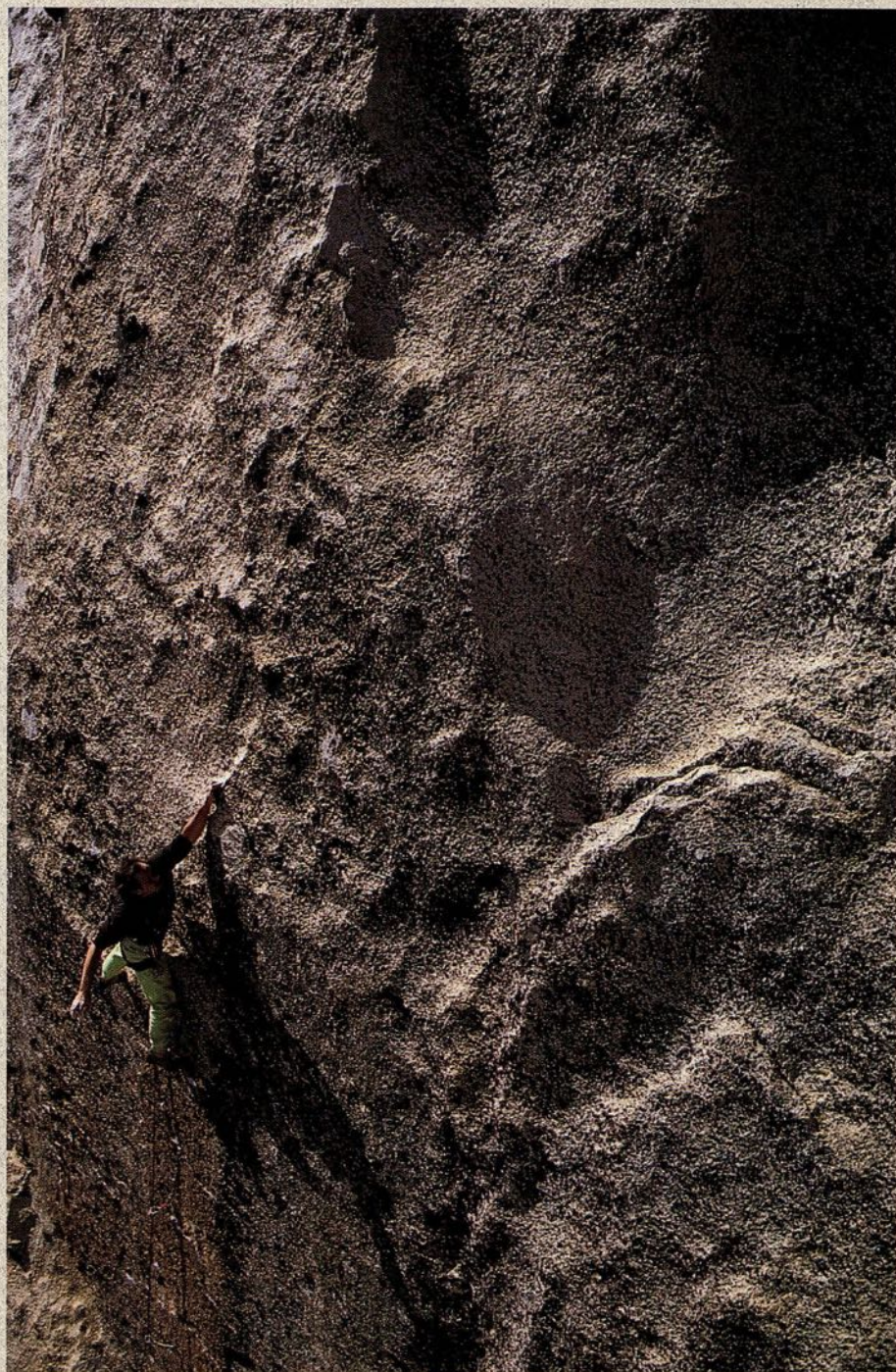
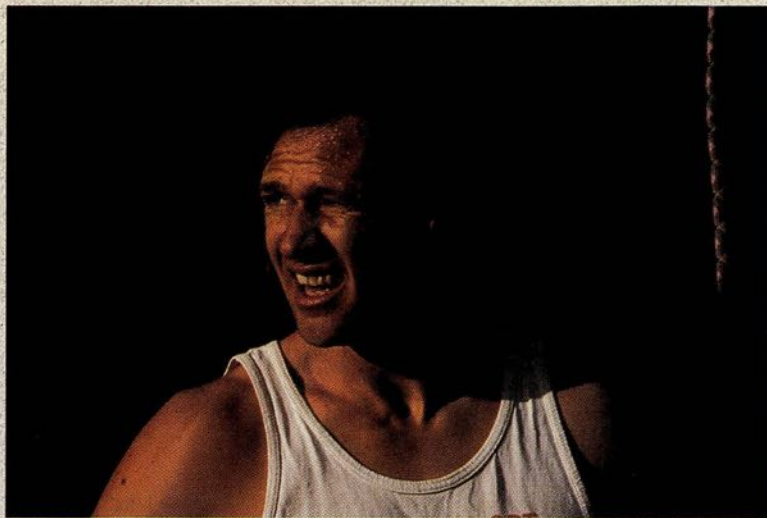


Jonny Woodward on *Pope on a Rope* (5.12d), Pope's Hat, Joshua Tree, California.

JONNY HAD COME DOWN FROM SALT LAKE CITY SPECIFICALLY TO FINISH THIS ROUTE. I HAD CLIMBED UP ON SOME FORMATIONS BEHIND THE ROUTE WHEN I NOTICED THESE LITTLE POOLS OF WATER WITH ICE ON THEM. I USED A FISH-EYE LENS, LAY DOWN ON THE ROCK BEHIND THE LITTLE POOLS, AND FRAMED THIS SHOT WITH THEM AS THE FOREGROUND. FORTUNATELY THERE WAS ENOUGH LIGHT ON ALL THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN THE PICTURE TO MAINTAIN SHARP FOCUS AND GOOD CONTRAST, AND THE SUN CAST A SHADOW OF EMPHASIS ON JONNY'S MOVEMENT.

MIKE HAD JUST FINISHED SEVERAL TOPROPED ASCENTS IN A ROW OF *DESERT SHIELD* (5.13A) (AS A NUDE PHOTO SHOOT TOOK PLACE JUST AROUND THE CORNER). AFTER UNTYING FROM THE ROPE, MIKE STEPPED OUT INTO THE EVENING SUNLIGHT, CREATING A PERFECT SET UP FOR AN EXISTING-LIGHT PORTRAIT. WHEN I SAW THIS ON THE LIGHT TABLE A FEW DAYS LATER I CALMLY SAID TO MYSELF, "THIS IS THE BEST PICTURE I HAVE EVER TAKEN."

Mike Lechlinski at Joshua Tree.



THIS IMAGE CAPTURES THE CULMINATION OF 12 DAYS OF WORK BY DARRELL AND MYSELF IN ESTABLISHING THIS NEW ROUTE. THIS IS THE HARDEST "BOULDERING" PROBLEM I THINK DARRELL HAD EVER DONE: AFTER GETTING STANDING UP ON A NEAR-VERTICAL HEADWALL HE HAD TO LET GO AND FALL, CATCHING THIS HOLD ON THE WAY BY. I SHOT THIS FROM THE TOP OF PIASANO PINNACLE ON ONE OF DARRELL'S MANY ATTEMPTS TO PUT THE WHOLE THING TOGETHER. I LIKE IT BECAUSE OF HIS DRAMATIC BODY POSITION, AND BECAUSE IT CAPTURES A MOMENT OF SUCCESS THAT INVOLVED GREAT EFFORT TO ACHIEVE.

Darrell Hensel on *Someone You're Not* (5.12d), Suicide Rock, California.

CHRIS FALKENSTEIN

EL PORTAL, CALIFORNIA

I WAS BORN TO AN UPPER-MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY AND GREW UP IN CONNECTICUT. I STARTED CLIMBING IN 1969 AT THE SHAWNGUNKS. IN THOSE DAYS 5.9 WAS PRETTY HARD, AND THAT WAS ALL WE COULD CLIMB. I MOVED OUT TO YOSEMITE IN 1972, WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK JUST FOR THE SUMMER SO THAT I COULD GO BACK TO PREP SCHOOL IN CONNECTICUT IN THE FALL. I NEVER RETURNED.

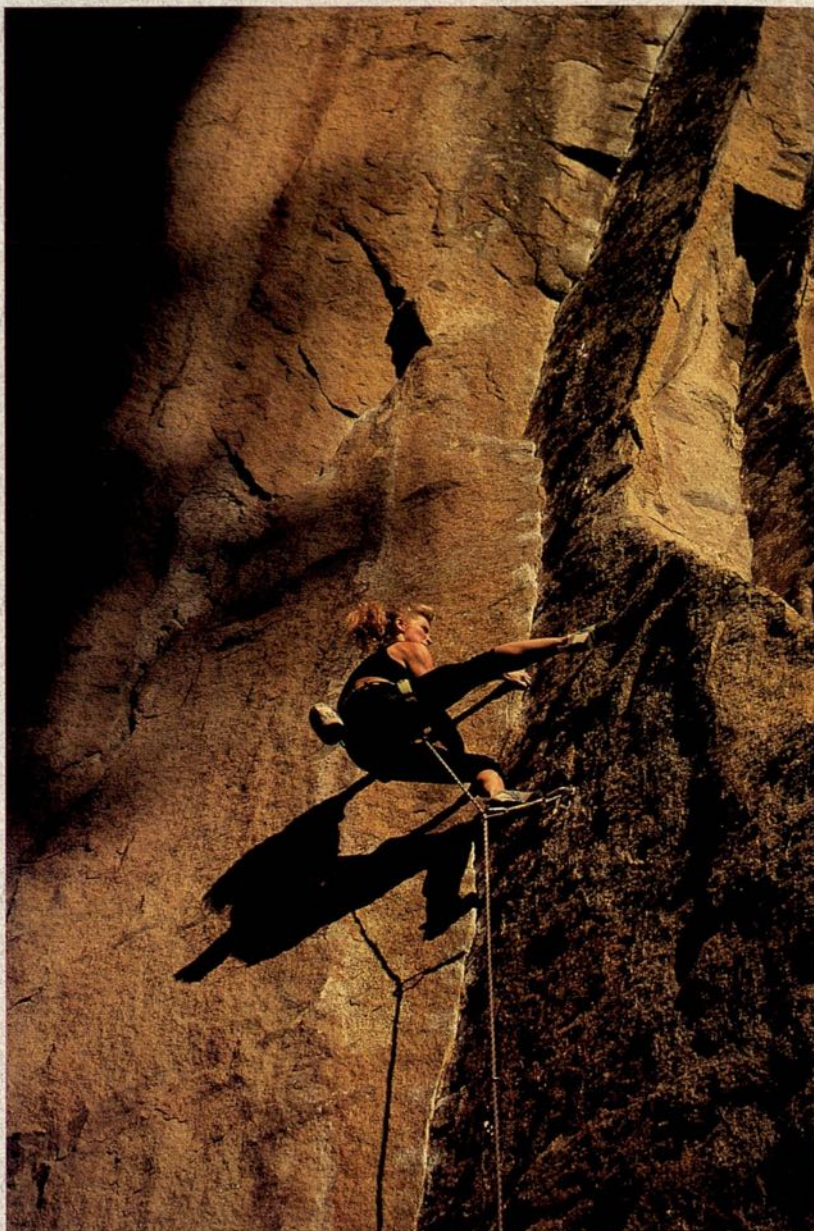
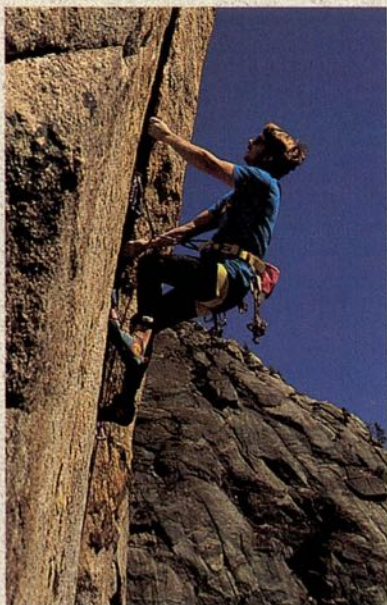
I HAVE LIVED IN YOSEMITE EVER SINCE AND I AM NOW MARRIED AND HAVE A FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILD. I WAS INVOLVED IN PHOTOGRAPHY IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE I WORKED PRIMARILY IN BLACK AND WHITE, SHOOTING SPORTING EVENTS. I ALSO DABBLED IN TAKING SOME SHOTS ON OUR OUTINGS TO THE GUNKS, BUT WAS NEVER VERY SERIOUS ABOUT IT. ONCE I MOVED OUT TO YOSEMITE I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN THE CLIMBING SCENE THAT I NEVER TOOK THE CAMERA ALONG.

LOOKING BACK NOW THIS WAS A HUGE MISTAKE — THAT WAS THE GOLDEN AGE, WHEN YOSEMITE WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CLIMBING, AND NOT IN THE BACK SEAT LIKE IT NOW IS. WE HAD OUR CHOICE OF FIRST ASCENTS OR AID CLIMBS TO FREE. THERE WAS THIS UNBELIEVABLE CAMARADERIE, WITH THE DAILY ATTACK PLAN FORMULATED EVERY MORNING IN

THE LODGE CAFE. BRIDWELL, BARD, KAUK, SLINGS, LONG, CLEVENGER, WORRALL, AND JARDINE — JUST TO NAME A FEW OF THE NOTABLES — WOULD GATHER EVERY MORNING AT THE CAFE AND THEN GO FOR BROKE AT THE OLD MOUNTAIN ROOM BAR IN THE EVENING.

IN THE MIDEIGHTIES, AFTER THINGS SETTLED DOWN, I GOT SERIOUS

ABOUT TRYING TO CAPTURE THE CLIMBING LIFE OF YOSEMITE ON FILM. I'VE BEEN HARD AT IT EVER SINCE. I WORK WITH TWO STOCK AGENCIES AND HAVE TRIED TO DIVERSIFY MY WORK OVER SEVERAL SUBJECTS: KAYAKING, SKIING, WINDSURFING. IT'S TOUGH OUT THERE, WITH LOTS OF COMPETITION; ITS TOUGH TO SELL IMAGES. IT TAKES PERSEVERANCE AND LOTS OF FILM AND PATIENCE.



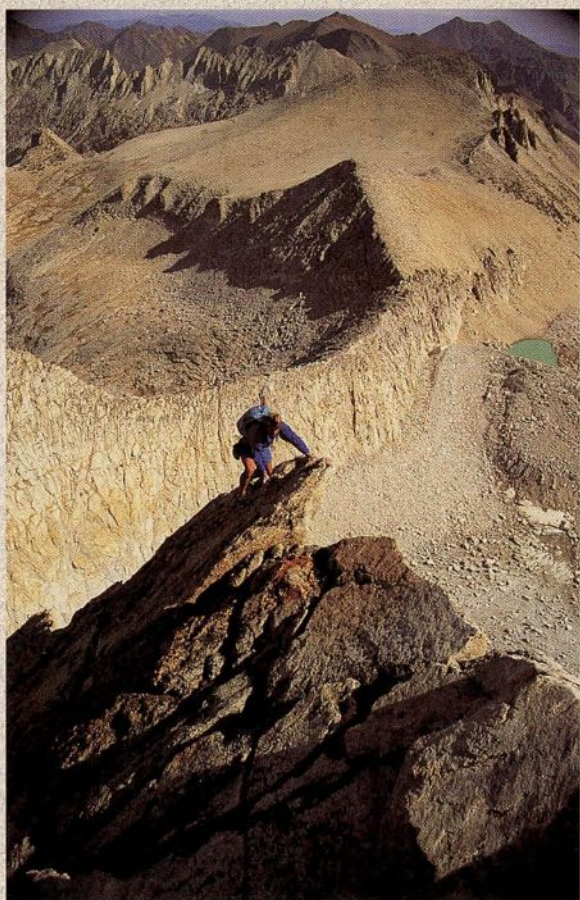
Karine Nissen on *Cookie Monster* (5.12a), Yosemite Valley, California.

ANYONE WHO HAS DONE THIS FABULOUS CLIMB KNOWS HOW HOT IT CAN GET AND HOW CRUCIAL IT IS TO DO IT WHEN IT'S IN THE SHADE. FOR PHOTOS, THOUGH, THIS ISN'T THE MOST FLATTERING LIGHT. DURING THE WINTER MONTHS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LIGHT FILTERS DOWN INTO THE CORNER JUST BEFORE THE SUN DROPS BELOW THE RIM IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. I SET THIS PHOTO UP WITH LOCAL CLIMBER KARINE NISSEN, AND SHOT IT JUST AS THE SUN SET.



Clearing storm over Fairview Dome, Tuolumne Meadows, California.

I'M LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS, SO I CAN WAIT FOR THOSE OPPORTUNE TIMES WHEN THERE IS GREAT LIGHT. I'LL WAIT FOR THE THUNDERSTORM TO ROLL THROUGH AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND THEN BOOK IT TO THE TOP OF SOME DOME FOR THE KILLER SHOT. A RAINBOW IS ALMOST GUARANTEED IF THE STORM HANGS OVER THE CREST AND THE SUN DIPS DOWN BELOW THE CLOUDS.



WE ALL KNOW PETER FOR HIS SOLOS OF DIFFICULT FREE CLIMBS, AND FOR HIS SPEED ASCENTS OF WALLS. THIS SUMMER HE WAS WAY INTO SPEED SOLOS OF SIERRA PEAKS. PETER WOULD OFTEN START AT THREE A.M. AND HAVE SEVERAL SUMMITS UNDER HIS BELT BY TWO IN THE AFTERNOON. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SET UP THIS EARLY MORNING SHOT WITH PETER ON ONE OF HIS FORAYS.

Peter Croft on the North Ridge of Mount Conness, Sierra Nevada, California.

Metolius

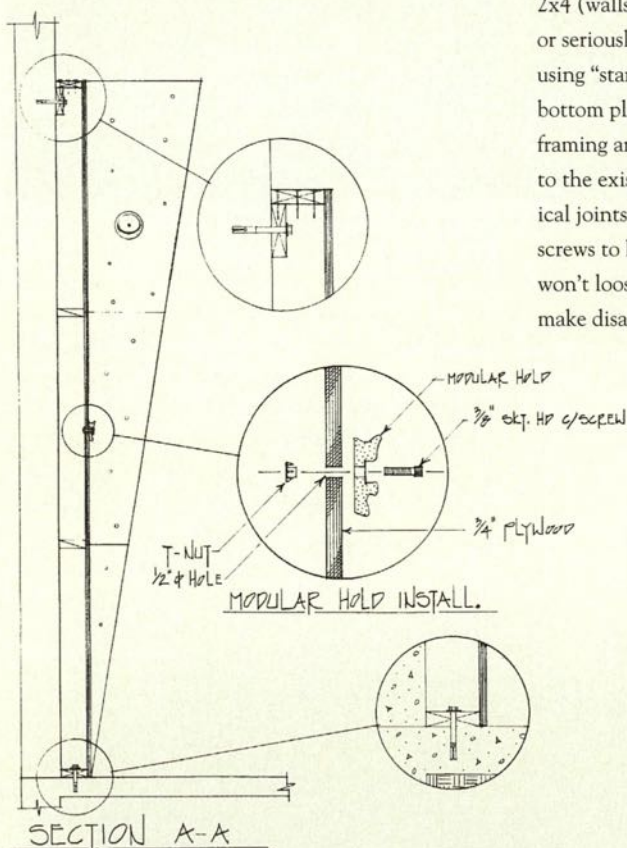
The first time you step on to your own climbing wall you may never return to real rock again. Well probably not, but you can climb in in the rain, when it's too cold, at night or watching the kids. If you're new to the sport and want to develop movement skill or an advanced climber who wishes to develop stamina and power, building a climbing wall is a fun and easy solution.

How To Do It

Select a spot: the essentials are a good solid structure to attach your wall to and a clear landing zone. Make a drawing of what you would like your wall to look like. We recommend that you design a bouldering wall (under 12' tall) with some simple topography built into it. Next, build the framework for your wall. Use 2x4 (walls under 8' tall) or 2x6 (walls up to 12' or seriously steep walls) lumber, put together using "standard framing techniques" (top and bottom plates with studs every 16"). Use framing anchors as needed to attach the wall to the existing structure or give support to critical joints in the wall. Use self driving wood screws to hold the frame together. Screws won't loosen up the way nails can, and will make disassembly or modification of the wall

much easier. Once the frame is in place, cut 3/4" plywood to fit and screw it to the frame. Be sure to put the "T" nuts in the back side of the plywood before screwing the plywood to the frame. We recommend using 20 or more "T" nuts per sheet of plywood, placed randomly, yet well distributed across the sheet. This enables you to move the holds around to create different boulder problems. Inset holds should also be installed before the plywood goes on. Hold density for most walls is in the range of 6 to 10 holds per 4'x8' sheet of plywood. Put the finishing touches on your wall by using wood putty (to fill any gaps between the plywood) and paint. A nonskid textured paint is preferred. However, 95% of your climbing will be done on the holds, not the plywood. So while a textured surface is nice, it is not a must.

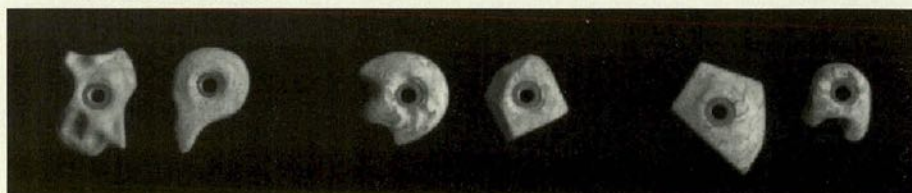
If you have questions about climbing walls please call or write (include a photo of your wall), we would love to hear from you.



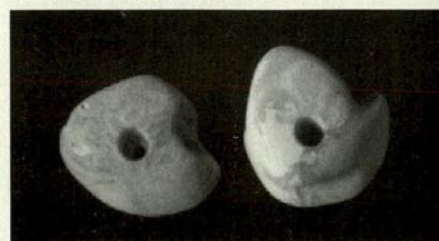
Metolius Hold Line: Superior Shapes, Quality Construction, User Friendly Forms, Exceptional Value, Plus New Inset Holds

A complete line of holds designed with climbability and fun in mind. We left out the sharp edges and painful tweeking attitudes and built in rounded contour transitions and shapes that work out your muscles, not your skin and tolerance to pain! Pockets, edges, slopers, incuts, crimps, pinches and big buckets are all holds you find out climbing and all holds that we make. In addition the new Metolius Inset Holds offer unsurpassed realism to your climbing wall as well as being affordable and easy to install. Check out the Metolius line of holds at the dealer nearest you.

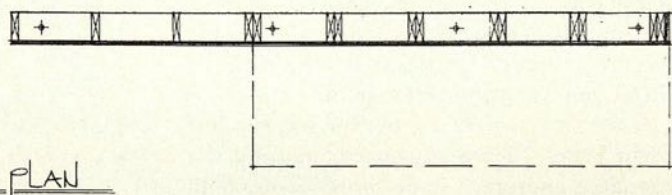
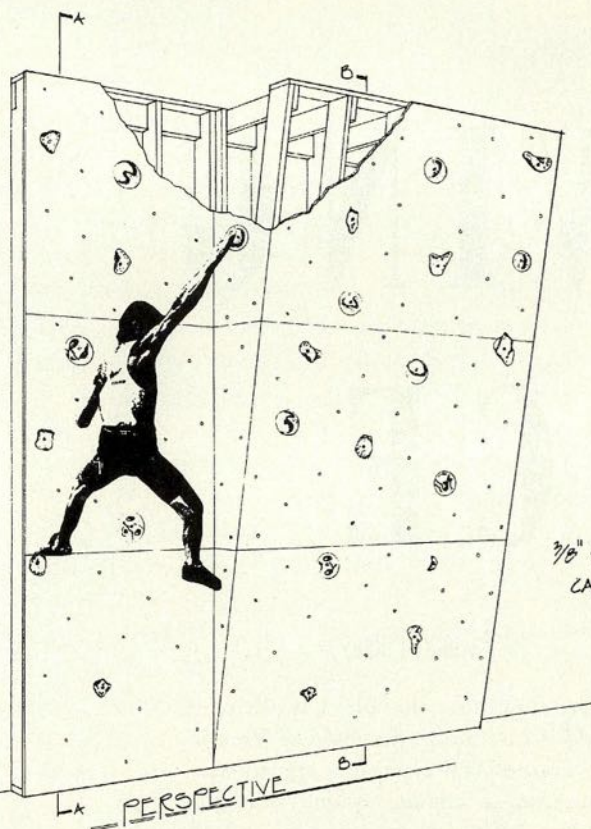
MICRO HOLDS



MODULAR HOLDS



BUILDING A CLIMBING WALL



WOODEN BACKING PLATE
GLUE BOTH SIDES
3/4" PLYWOOD
PRE-DRILL

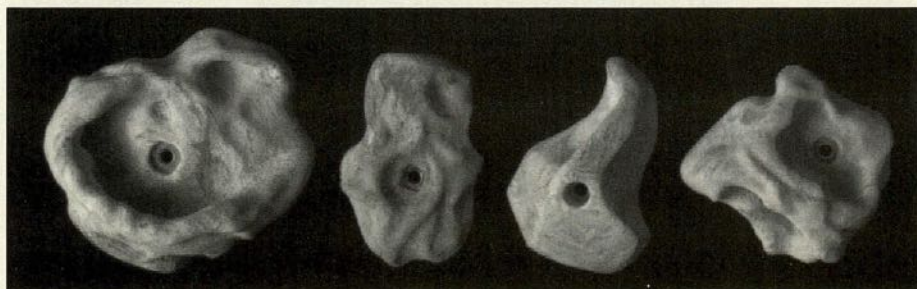
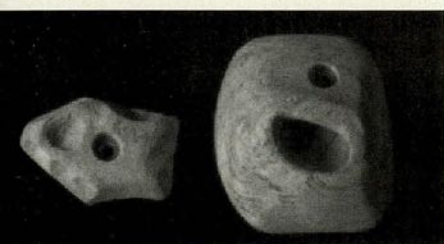
3/8" SKT. HEAD
CAP SCREW

INSET HOLD INSTALL.

SECTION B-B

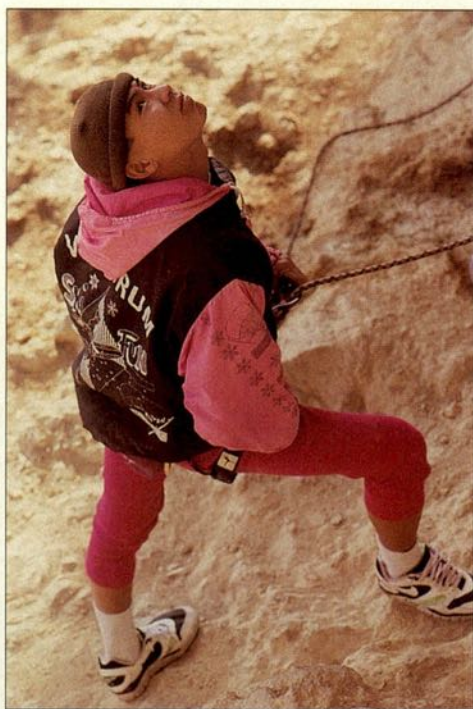
Metolius

MACRO HOLDS



HE CAME, ALONE,
FROM FAR AWAY
AND FEW CRAGS.
HE KEPT THE FAITH.

ACHIEVING GRACE



Right: Yuji Hirayama on *Tabou Zizi* (8b), Buoux, France.

BY GEORGIA PHIPPS

One year ago, in the black hole of a bolt-studded cave above the town of Volx in southern France, Yuji Hirayama argued with Jim Karn during a training session. Hirayama, who had just returned from a six-week visit to his native Japan, lamented his lack of fitness while his American friend urged him to compete at Arco.

Hirayama had been invited to the private event, the most prestigious competition on the circuit, but was planning to opt out.

"Look, if you have a problem, you can just go to ISPO," Karn suggested, naming the attendant enormous trade show. "You could do some work for your sponsors," said Karn, adding that if Hirayama worked, the sponsors could pay for his travel.

"Oh, come on," Karn said.

Hirayama succumbed, and drove with Karn to Arco.

Before Hirayama tied in to try the competition's rehearsed route, he was thinking that he

Photos: Beth Wald



THE FEELING OF
PROGRESS AND SUCCESS
IS A HUGE MOTIVATOR
FOR HIRAYAMA.
AND THOUGH
A MAJOR PLAYER
IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE,
HIGH-LEVEL CLIMBING SCENE,
HIRAYAMA MAINTAINS
AN INNOCENT
EXUBERANCE
TOWARD THE SPORT.

could still drop out. He got on and liked the route, with its small edges and flexibility requirements. He decided to stay. In fact, he climbed so much higher than anyone else on that route that even though he placed poorly in the on-sight climb, he won the event.

For a long time, Hirayama has been beating odds and expectations, surprising himself as much as others. He comes from Japan, a country with neither spectacular nor varied cragging potential. Living in France, with a visa to study French, he has essentially developed alone.

As an unknown, Yuji charmed all watchers with his modesty and fresh enthusiasm at the 1989 Nuremberg World Cup. Then, he blew their minds by stealing the title out from under the noses of their favorites. (His previous wins had been three national championships in Japan.)

A year later he decided not to go to Nuremberg, again feeling unfit after a trip to Japan. Once more he was persuaded to go at the last moment because his friend Akiko Ohiwa, also of Japan, had an extra space in her car. Hirayama placed second.

Today Hirayama is one of the world's top sport climbers, with his latest competition win a World Masters Tour event in Serre Chevalier, France, in July.

Yuji Hirayama: in Japanese his last name means Flat Mountain, his first, Big Open Mind. At first sight Yuji appears like a Japanese doll, very friendly and cute, with a bright, sincere smile, jet-black hair, and smooth gold skin. He's positive and energetic, and seems relaxed and non-competitive. Nonetheless, in time, his single-mindedness and intensity reveal themselves. A strong undercurrent of competitiveness inspires him, and pushes him — and his partners — to greater levels of athleticism.

Hirayama speaks and thinks mostly of climbing. If he's not actually climbing or training, he is doing something else with climbing in mind, such as stretching, running, or bicycling. He spends 95 percent of his energy on climbing, five percent on pure

fun. While climbing is fun for him, it is also a discipline.

When he is climbing or training his energy seems boundless, but at the end of a long hard day he downshifts, relaxing, stretching, and eating. He is an avid cook, specializing in Japanese fare. He loves to eat, and carefully prepares beautiful, healthy meals for himself and whoever else is around and hungry. A generous, even sweet, person, Yuji has a genuine desire to befriend people and be sociable.

The feeling of progress and success is a huge motivator for Hirayama. And though a major player in today's competitive climbing scene, he maintains an innocent exuberance toward the sport.

Hirayama declares, "I like competitions for climbing, not competition. [It's fun to do] on-sights and be part of the show. If I make money, well, I'm lucky. I don't like it when [competitions are] so intense you can't talk with each other."

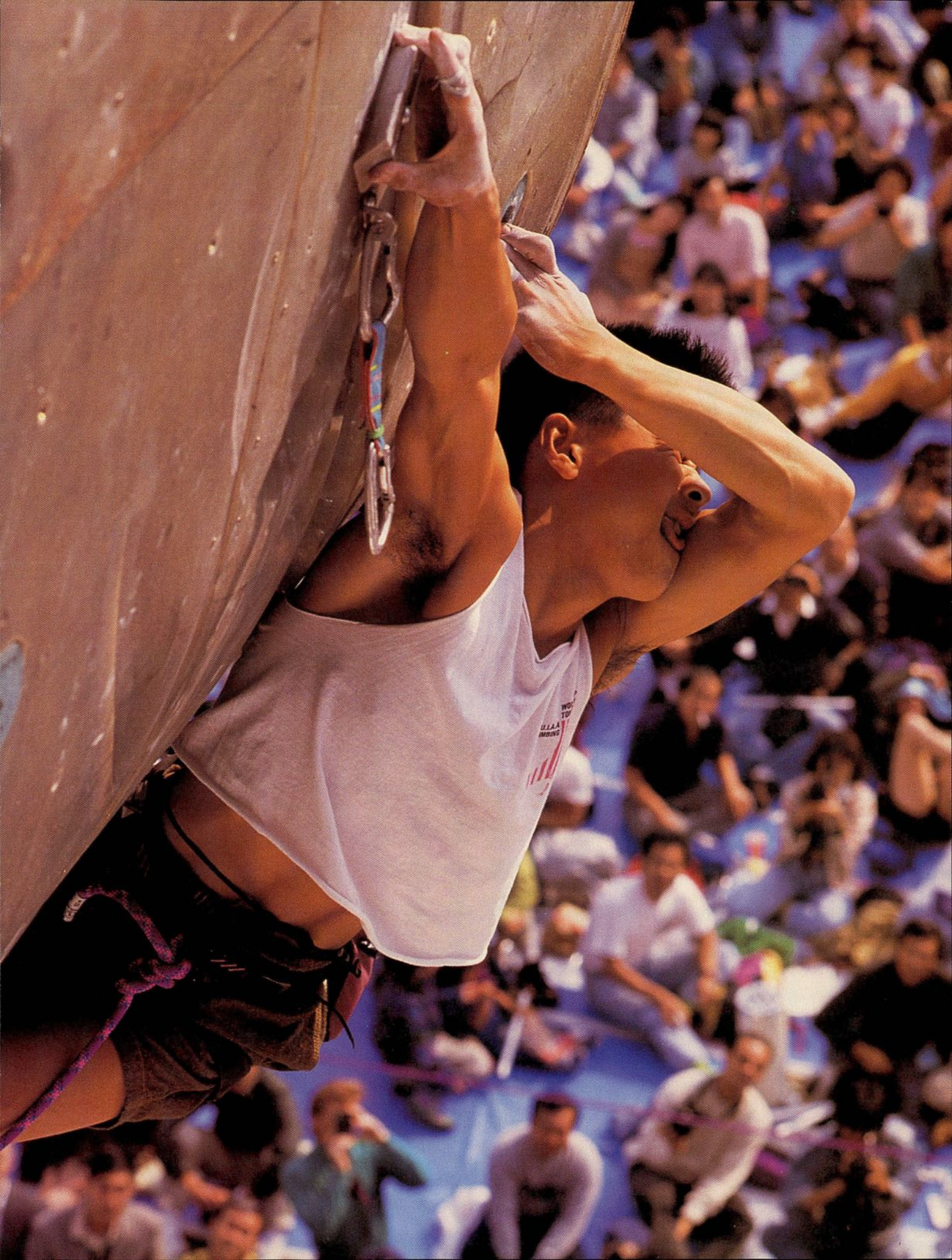
Asked if he is competitive, he says, "I don't think so. I am not angry person." Yet he says he approaches any event intending to give it his best shot. "I like to try to win competition!" he offers.

Six years ago this solitary figure ventured from his island home of Japan on his first pilgrimage to climb the hardest routes on the best crags in the world. Yuji Hirayama was 17 years old and had been climbing for only two years. For a junior in high school, leaving home and family for an uncertain future was a giant step of courage, integrity, and faith.

Without a steady partner or close friends, Hirayama, now 23, has spent most of the last five years in Europe, immersed in cultures much different from Japan's. Living and maturing on his own, far away from the comforts and familiarity of home, he has often been ridden with isolation and loneliness. The language barrier has been the biggest hurdle, and Hirayama continues to struggle with it. Traveling alone has its share of downs, but it does mean he can go wherever he wants.

"It's hard to not have close friends or coach to talk with when times are tough, or doubt and confusion

**Hirayama on his way to victory
in his homeland — Tokyo World
Cup, October 1991 .**



HIRAYAMA

MIGHT HAVE RELAXED,

BUT HE GREW MORE

DETERMINED THAN EVER.

HE FELT

HE WOULD HAVE TO

WORK EVEN HARDER,

AS THERE

WERE MANY

STRONGER CLIMBERS.

fill my mind," he says.

It's often an everyday "epic" to find someone to climb or train with. Since Hirayama moved to Europe he has had a multitude of partners with a wide range of personalities and abilities.

Yuji views disappointments, struggles, and time alone as opportunities to further advance his craft. "When Yuji's down, he pools all his energy into climbing and training," says an American friend, Scott Franklin.

In any case, his passion for climbing has made it impossible for him to follow any other path.

Though he has done most of his climbing away from Japan, Hirayama's love for the sport began there. In crowded, fast-paced Tokyo, where he grew up, there wasn't much opportunity for a young person to discover rock climbing. However, at 15, Hirayama chose mountain climbing for his school sport. The class prepared the students for alpinism by taking long hikes in the mountains. Though actual rock climbing wasn't allowed, Hirayama and a classmate were overwhelmed with curiosity and made stealthy plans to discover the forbidden terrain above the hiking trails.

The two went to a climbing store where a rock-climbing instructor from a local club asked whether they were interested in climbing. "Of course, but we have no money for guides," replied Hirayama. The instructor generously offered to teach the youngsters for free.

After riding the train to Hiwadayama, the two saw an area of small, tree-shrouded cliffs that was neither impressive nor beautiful, but in their beginners' eyes it was both. On Hirayama's first day of climbing, he was within moves of flashing the hardest route in the area, a 5.11b. He was captivated by the intensity of the sport. Within a couple of months he had bagged the whole area.

His drive to climb and be challenged increased. He wanted to go to America. Hirayama got a job cleaning office buildings to save money for the trip, continued with school, and climbed on the weekends.

Finally, in 1986, he and a friend from Japan headed to America for six months. Having already climbed

Japan's hardest route (5.12c), Hirayama's goal was 5.13. He started out in Yosemite doing many classic long routes. Next stop, Colorado, where Hirayama had his first insight into sport climbing while browsing through a climbing magazine. With interest sparked, the pair journeyed to Smith Rocks. In cracks Hirayama had been able to lead hard 5.12s, but in the heat of a Smith Rock summer, he could barely move on the grease-laden face holds of the "easy" 5.12 classics.

Mystified, Hirayama left Oregon, heading back to the Yosemite cracks, where he felt

more at home. He climbed *Cosmic Debris* (5.13a) and *Phoenix* (5.12d), among others, but face climbing clung to his mind like a savage itch. Joshua Tree was the last tick on his agenda. Hirayama attacked the face climbs there with fervor, despite the resounding slap downs. Still, 5.12 stood its ground, at least for the first week.

Persistence won over defeat as *Sole Fusion* (5.12a) and *Baby Apes* (5.12c) succumbed to Hirayama's increasing technique and strength. He also managed both *Equinox* (5.12c) and *Acid Crack* (5.12c) first try on top rope.

Fully stoked, Hirayama returned to Japan and immediately made plans to go to Europe. "In America I had seen European climbers getting up the hardest routes using all sorts of bizarre body positions, standing on every kind of footholds," he says. "I had to go there and learn." He spent 1986-1987 finishing high school, establishing numerous hard routes in Japan, and preparing for Europe.

At 19, he headed to Buoux, France. In one month he went from redpointing 7b to 8b, doing the super-technical *Les Main Sales* in five days. He also battled his way up *Les Specialists* (8b+, or 5.14a) and made a remarkable on-sight — the first — of *Orange Mechanique* (8a, 5.13b) in Cimai.

He camped out for a year, traveling with various people, and experiencing the well-known "dirt bag" climber existence: little money, little food, lots of living.

Towards the end of Hirayama's stay in Europe, word of the talented young climber got back to Naoe

(continued on page 144)

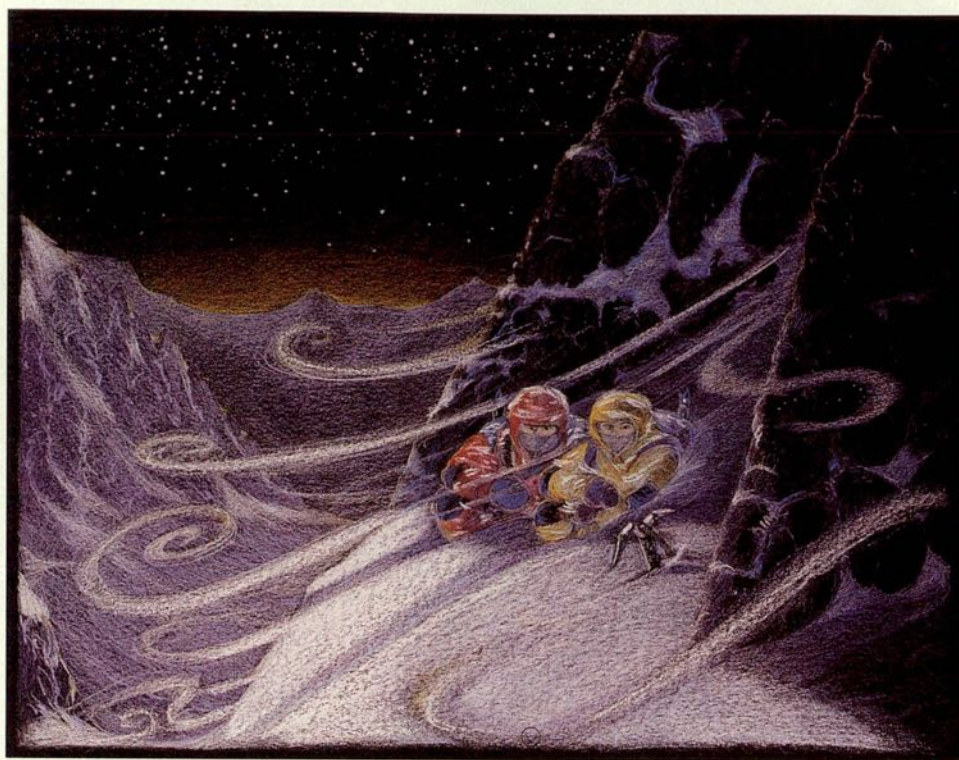
**Hirayama training in the
cave of Volx, France.**

Photo: Beth Wald



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THE WAIT



BY BRAD WROBLESKI

On top — finally. I turn my frozen face into the wind to catch some warmth from the fading light. The sun teeters on the horizon. My mind contains a single thought: we've got to get out of here! Click. The stopwatch in my head begins to run: tick, tick, tick. My ass hits the snow. I wrap the frozen rope around my body as a belay. *Come on man, come on* — “CLIMB!” The light is so low now I take off my sunglasses. On the other end of the line The Quiet Man's axe enters the ice. I winch up the stiff rope as the sun slides lower. Come on, man! First his arm, then his ice-encrusted face emerges from below the snowy lip. He's up; I'm up. We're gone — running. Let's go; faster, faster! Everything has to go faster! We run, stumble, curse, and continue running as fast as we can along the edge of the summit plateau. To the south lies a barren, seemingly infinite white ocean of ice. To the north looms the jagged edge of the glacier: beyond, only air. We run past a hole in the cornice.

I think of the two guys who passed this stretch a couple of years ago — one of them walked right off the damned edge! “What the hell were they doing unroped?” people asked. Oh well, I'm not going to walk off the edge. At least not today. We

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OUR HEADS HANG FORWARD ABOVE OUR THIGHS, ARMS
CROSSED AND PRESSED TO OUR TORSOS AGAINST THE
CHEWING WIND THAT DRAGS SNOW OVER OUR BODIES...
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

keep running. Tick, tick. Why is there never enough time? The rope suddenly pulls hard against my harness, pressing into my bladder. Dazed, I look diagonally down the rope. TQM has gone crevasse spelunking. He crawls out. In a second, he's up and running. We are both headed for the finish line — the descent couloir.

Our lungs fill with air again when we stop at the corner where the dome of ice wraps itself around rock and squeezes down, valley-bound, to form the glacial tongue. Decision time. Like some arctic game show: Door Number One — the descent couloir, or Door Number Two — the maze of deep crevasses that creates the main plain of the Columbia glacier. Either choice means a desperate, dangerous, dark grovel to reach the car. As the planet rolls us into night, we glance over our shoulders to check the fading solar clock. The western sky looks like Mephistopheles' rainbow; a spectrum of morose colors. My eyes follow them upward to infinity: light blue to royal blue, navy to black. The yellow has pulled westward, its warmth, light, and security heading for Asia. Click. No more need to think about the clock.

Within seconds the fact starts to creep in. I had tried to keep it buried deep in my subconscious. I tried to subdue it, to change its meaning and even to ignore it. If I didn't think it, it wouldn't exist. I never even mumbled the word today. I kept it hidden. Descartes goes alpine.

"Looks like a bivy," says TQM.

What did he say? It must have crept forward and jumped out from behind his teeth. I'm scared.

BIVOUAC.

Forget that. I'm not staying up *here*! I have dealt with this mountain all day. I don't want to confront its secrets at night. TQM looks off into the distance. Realizing the truth, I silently bid adieu to the invisible sun.

Like two political prisoners preparing their own graves, we drop to our knees and start digging, breaking the crust with our helmets. Spindrift lashes our exposed faces. As we dig, I half expect to see a cold-eyed soldier over my shoulder, guarding our progress with his black AK-47. By the fading light of frozen-battery headlamps we heave the last lumps of snow to the surface, take a deep breath, crawl down into our glacial coffin, and begin the long wait for light.

Two-and-a-half feet below the surface we sit, side by side on frozen ropes, legs outstretched. Our heads hang forward above our thighs, arms crossed and

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
MY HEART BEGINS TO DIVORCE ITSELF FROM THOSE DIS-
TANT APPENDAGES. WE SIT CLAPPING HANDS AND FEET
TOGETHER TO KEEP THE BLOOD FLOWING.
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

pressed to our torsos against the chewing wind, which drags snow over our bodies. I feel like a penguin sitting out an Antarctic storm.

"What time is it?" TQM asks.

"It's 7:43, don't you have a watch?" He gives no answer. Why is there always only one watch on bivouacs?

"Hey, fella, what's that neck thing for?" TQM asks, eyeing the spectrum-colored scarf around my neck.

"It represents the circle of day to night, night to day — eternity. The idea came to me in a dream. It signifies life. It's to help me come back."

"Oh," he says.

Within an hour the cold comes. We knew it would. It is inevitable, we just hoped for later rather than sooner. Cold air, cold snow, cold ground. It attacks first by pushing its way through plastic boots, insulation, and socks to the vulnerable pink flesh of my toes. My heart begins to divorce itself from those distant appendages. We sit clapping hands and feet together to keep the blood flowing. I feel like a performing circus seal. At any moment I expect a dead fish to be tossed into the hole.

"What time is it?" TQM asks.

I dig through my clothes, find the light button, and read off the reality; "10:56. What time does the sun come up?"

TQM doesn't reply.

"Hey, man, the most important thing is to keep the blood flowing and not fall asleep," I say confidently, remembering a few lines from a book written by two guys who survived a winter airplane crash.

We lean in toward each other, my left shoulder pressing against his right. We huddle together for warmth, two humans against nature. We had come out to challenge ourselves and to battle the rock and ice massif — now we are stuck with more than we bargained for. Our confrontation has become a war, a high-altitude battleground, an arctic Gallipoli.

Above our crystal rectangle, the wind blows cold and the sky is dark. The moon has gone with the sun. The sky is just stars matted on a canvas of infinite black.

I tilt my head sideways to stare up into the night. If I strain my neck muscles I can look over the talus and down the glacier. I see the headlights of an occasional car glide soundlessly past far below. They appear out of the rock rib to the left, arch

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
THE GENTLE OCEAN BREEZE BRUSHES SAND AGAINST OUR
SKIN. THE BLUE SURF BREAKS WITH A CRACK UPON THE
GOLDEN BEACH. "LET'S STAY HERE FOREVER..."
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

to the right, and disappear into the northwest shoulder of Mount Andromeda. Behind those lights are probably tourists coming back from a day in Jasper. They have wandered down the main street, looking at all the beautiful things. They may have looked up to the north face of Edith Cavell, saying, "I hear they climb that."

"How do they do it? Why do they do it?" They amused themselves with the thought and then trundled off to the nearest cafe for coffee and a chat about themselves, their futures, and all of their extraordinary plans. Then they began the long drive back in time to get up for work.

Their eyes stare into the oncoming headlights. The passenger is asleep, worn out by the long day in the "mountain air." The engine pushes warm air onto their feet and against the windows. The glow from the dash illuminates prominent features in their faces. Soft music flows from the radio. The driver doesn't hear it. He just stares ahead into the dark beyond the headlights, passing my limestone window. They are comfortable.

TQM and I bury deep into our heads to numb the reality, thinking hard about the past and harder about the future. The present is out of our hands. My watch reads 12:20 a.m. TQM shivers to shake off the cold. He is quiet — quiet and strong. I can hear him breathe. What is he thinking? God, I've been through a lot of stuff with this guy: Denali, Bryce, Shooting Gallery, rock climbs, ice climbs, and now this. We work well together. Where I'm weak he's strong and vice versa. Strange, I don't even know where he was born or what kind of shit he got into as a kid, but I know him well. We are relatives by obsession; brothers in alpinism. He coughs. "Hang in there, man," I say. I press closer.

It's getting colder — always colder. Christ, how much colder can it get? The glacier has squeezed its negative energy up through my suit and into my spine. I break into another session of life-or-limb aerobics. I pump, bend, twist, flex, and pump again with stiff joints, trying to resurrect my toes and fading fingers. Minutes later I fall against the back wall of the hole, exhausted. TQM swears. The cold has a hold of him too. My body battery is running low — it's time for a little fuel. With numb fingers I fumble a PowerBar out of my pocket. I rip open the foil package with my teeth, and try to bite. I may as well have tried to take a bite out of my ice axe; it is frozen solid. Bending the bar, I snap it. I pass a chunk to TQM. He accepts it with the slow opening of a stiff blue mitt.

(continued on page 160)

Quick Clips

Finger bored

Why pay upwards of \$100 for a fingerboard when you can custom make your own for next to nothing? Cut a piece of 3/4-inch plywood to the size you want your board to be, drill a level grid of 1/2-inch holes, set



A portable fingerboard that you can custom-make for next to nothing.

T-nuts in them, and bolt on your favorite modular holds. If you want a portable board that you can tie to a pull-up bar or tree limb, keep the corner holes empty and thread webbing through them. A board mounted this way will swing a bit (it's a little like using free weights versus a weight machine), but works fine once you learn how to steady yourself. If you want to permanently mount the board to a wall, you'll have to screw a 1/2-inch-thick spacer frame along the backside to prevent the holds' allen bolts from digging into the wall. Use large lag bolts to screw this board to the solid framework above a doorway.

Start pulling. When you get bored with the holds, simply switch them for fresh ones. Another even more economical option is to fabricate your own holds out of wood, using one-inch stock for small edges and two-inch for larger holds (round the sharp edges down with sandpaper). Mount your "woodies" to the plywood board using drywall or decking screws.

— Jack Spleen
Kansas City, Missouri

All washered up

On beat-out aid routes, like *New Dawn* on El Cap, climb-

ing the old, decrepit rivet and bolt ladders can be the crux of the climb, as these anchors are usually so badly mangled that getting a tie-off or rivet hanger to stay on them is desperate. Solve this problem by buying a fistfull of steel washers (get the ones that fit over a 1/2-inch bolt), and then file down one of the inside edges so it is nice and sharp. Finish the washer by tying a short loop of webbing through it to serve as a clip-in point. Use this "hanger" by slipping it over the trashed-out bolt or rivet so that the sharp edge seats on top of the bolt. Washer hangers bite into the placement, are



A simple solution for using mangled rivets.

far more secure than any other jury-rigged hanger, and even work on partially chopped anchors that only have two or three threads left exposed.

— Aleister Kurtz
London, England

Cheap skate

Want to belay or single-rope rappel but don't want to pay the big bucks for a fancy belay plate? Try using a 3/8-inch diameter steel chain link instead. A link this size holds around 8000 pounds and works fine for both belaying and rappelling on a single strand of 10- or 11-millimeter rope. And best of all, one of these links, available at almost any hardware store, only costs about 10 cents and lasts practically forever. Use

your chain link just as you would any single-rope belay/rappel device. Be sure you pick out a link that's smooth inside, and if you need to, use a round file to eliminate any sharp or rough edges.

— Onan J. Goat
Hell's Kitchen, New York

Achieving linkage

Nests of old slings around boulders or tangled through fixed anchors are common in the Canyonlands and elsewhere. The webbing on these anchors gets burned each time a rappel rope is pulled through, and if you thread enough webbing to be safe the rope can be almost impossible to pull at all. You can quickly equip an old rappel station with descending rings, but without carrying a hammer or untying slings, by bringing a few 5/16- or 3/8-inch lap links, available at most hardware stores for around 69 cents each, pounded almost flush, but with enough room left so you can slide a piece of webbing in. Thread the links onto the best three or four slings and you're ready to go.

— Jeff Achey

Cord a what?

On big walls and multi-pitch climbs, setting up belays can eat up slings and rope, and takes valuable time. A "cordelette" makes rigging belays simple, saves your runners, and frees your lead rope so you can always make it to the belay anchors on 165-foot pitches. A cordelette consists of 17 feet of seven-to-nine-millimeter perlon tied into an eight-foot sling. You use it by clipping the sling through all the belay protection, and then take the remaining cord and tie it off with a figure-eight knot so it forms a large overhand loop, which becomes the anchor point for the belayer. Besides



A "cordelette" simplifies belay rigging and saves precious rope on long pitches.

being simple, the cordelette also helps equalize the strain on the placements. Be sure to bring two cordelettes, one for the leader and another to leave at the belays.

— Jeff Jackson
Austin, Texas

Stickier shoes

If you want your old shoes to stick like new, try this trick borrowed from drag racers. First, wire brush the soles to clean them. Then rub the soles with a lint-free rag soaked with liquid bleach (Purex works well). Work the bleach in until the soles are completely black. Wait a couple of minutes, then wipe the rubber dry with another lint-free rag. Once the rubber dries, you'll find that it's as sticky as new. And don't worry, the bleach only softens the outer skin of rubber, so this process won't hurt the soles and can be repeated as often as needed.

— David Vaughan
Bozeman, Montana

We pay \$25 for tips published here. Please send to *Quick Clips*, Climbing, P.O. Box 339, Carbondale, CO 81623. Include name, address, phone number, and Social Security number.

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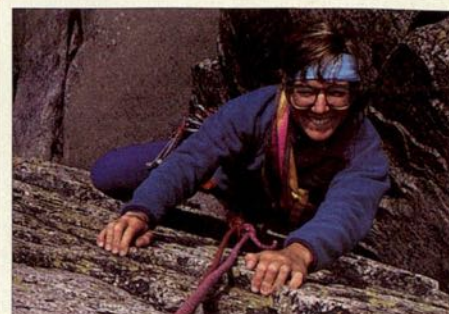
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Adventure Medical Kits

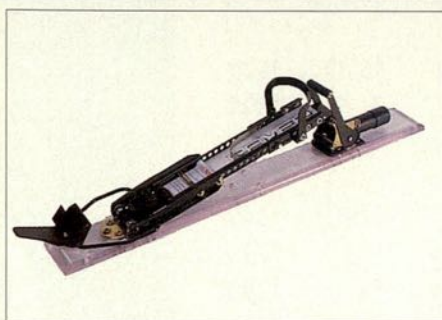
The Comprehensive Adventure Medical Kit designed by Dr. Eric A. Weiss of the Himalayan Rescue Association, is the most highly regarded expedition first aid kit commercially available. Ideal for adventurers to Third World countries and remote wilderness areas. For a free catalog on our complete selection of medical kits, components and their prices contact: Adventure Medical Kits, P.O. Box 2586, Berkeley, CA 94702; (510) 531-9610.

Here's a chance to take some of the work out of your holiday shopping. These pages contain a collection of climbing and outdoor items, any one of which might work perfectly for the outdoor enthusiasts on your list. Items include phone numbers, so ordering is even easier. Most are also on display at your local specialty outdoor store. Check 'em out, and enjoy the holiday season.



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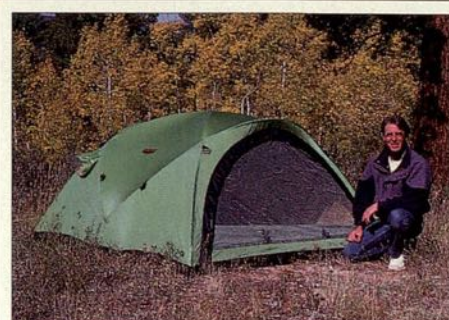
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The new Ramer MT-2000 is the best Adventure Skiing Binding that money can buy. Only 3 1/2 lbs. per pair, it fits any ski or mountaineering boot, and has independent DIN lateral and vertical release and five touring and climbing positions. American made, \$259. Ramer Products, 1803 S. Foothills Highway, Boulder CO 80303; (303) 499-4466 (8am-4pm, M-F).



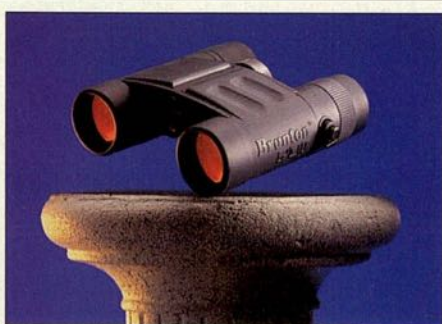
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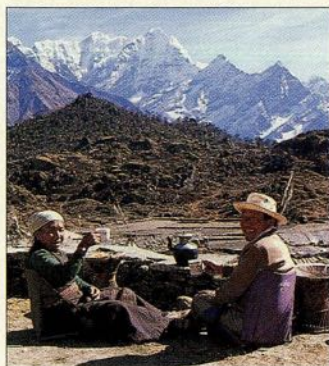
Caribou Mountaineering marked its 18th year of outdoor gear design in 1992. Many of Caribou's original products are still in active use on the trail, at school or traveling the world. All of our products are made in the USA. of functional and durable materials. Our products are carefully tested and fully guaranteed. Caribou Mountaineering, Inc., P.O. Box 3696, Chico, CA 95927; (916) 891-6415.



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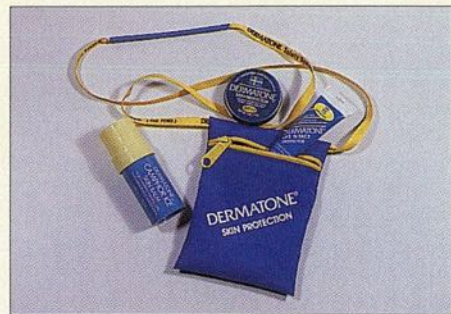
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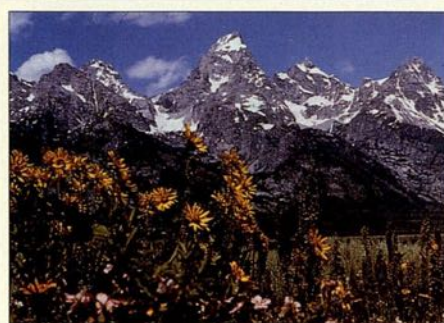
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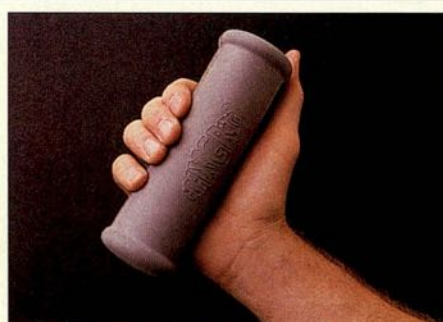
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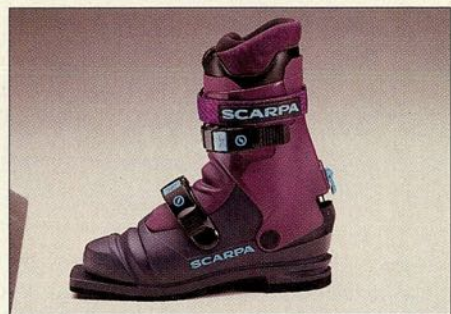
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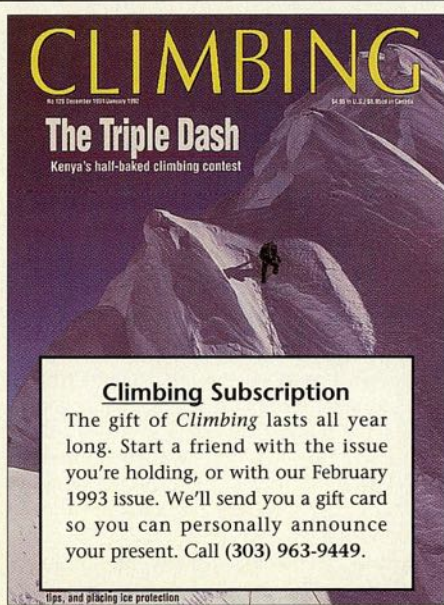
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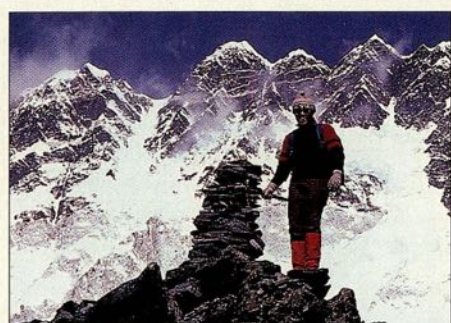
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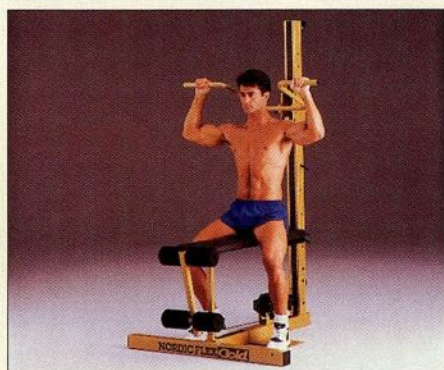
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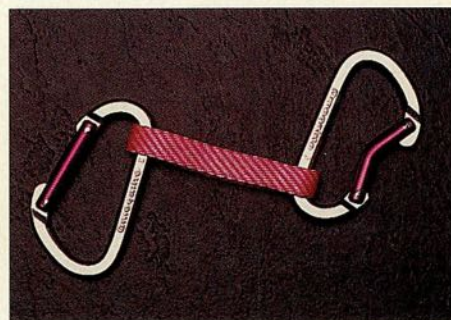
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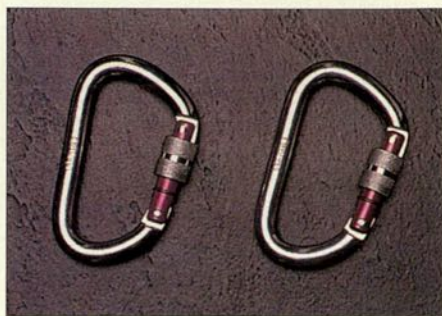
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Omega Pacific Omegalite 2

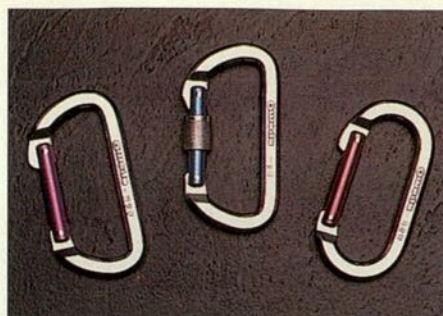
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Omega Pacific

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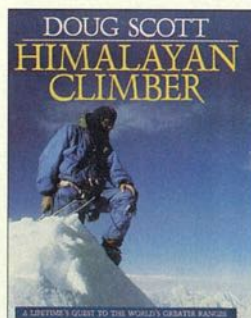
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Introduced in 1991, the now-famous GRIGRI has secured a niche in the sport climbing arena and freed many from fears of a flaky belay partner. For use only with UIAA 10-11mm ropes, the GRIGRI locks onto the rope in the event of a fall, arresting the climber's plunge. For more information, call or write: Pigeon Mountain Industries, P.O. Box 803, Lafayette, GA 30728; (706) 764-1437.



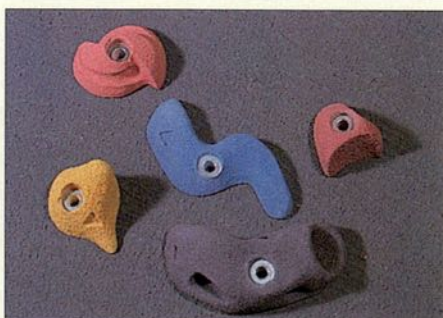
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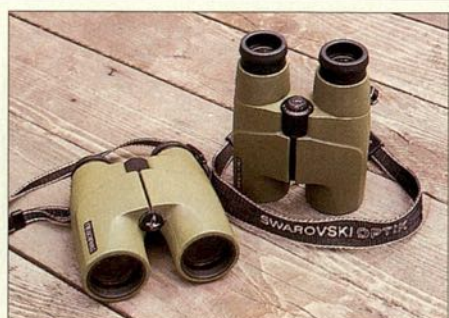
Sierra Club Books

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Straight Up is a full-service climbing wall company, offering complete design/build services as well as a full range of climbing wall products, including our famous Bolder Holds™, HyperGrip™ panels and Quantum 3-D panels. Bolder Holds™ have won praise worldwide as being innovative and durable, with a fantastic texture. 5854 Rawhide Court, Boulder, CO 80302, or call us at (303) 440-3980.



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



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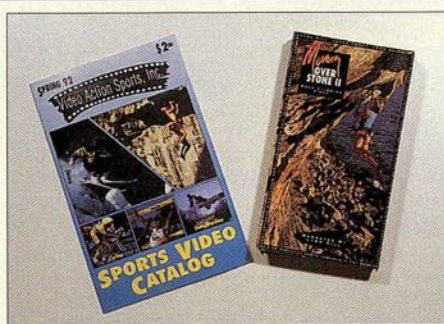
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Topographic Chocolate Co. produces unique scale model chocolate maps of states, cities, countries, mountains, national parks and attractions from USGS topo maps. Made with high quality Guittard chocolate, they are 6 oz of pure chocolate delight. Great holiday gifts for only \$9.95. Within Colorado call (303) 292-6364; Outside Colorado call (800) 779-8985.



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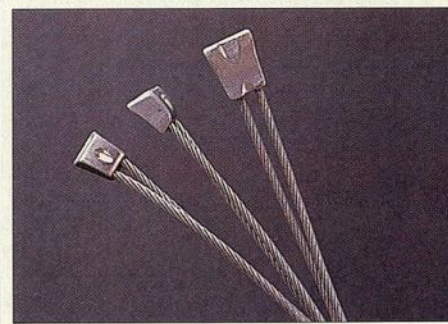
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CLIMBING

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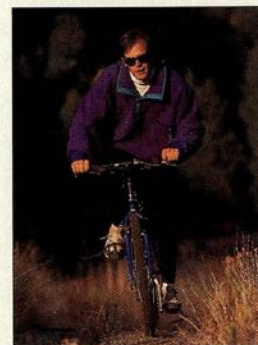
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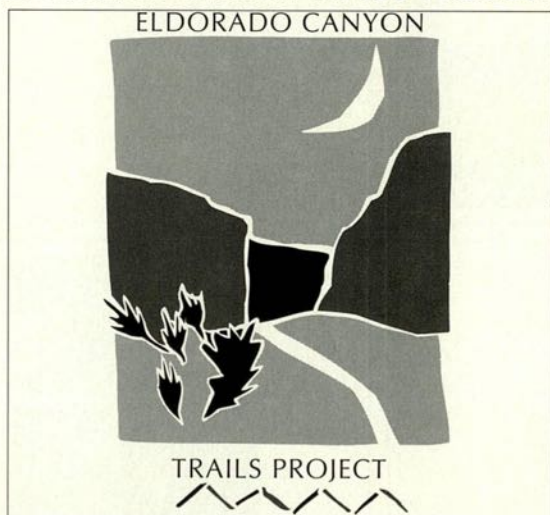
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The modular squad

A real look at fake holds

by Duane Raleigh

a continuous, almost rhythmic thumping. But it's not Keith Richards reefing through his "Main Offender" on the boom box. It's climbers climbing in a basement, swinging from plastic holds bolted to rubber-streaked plywood. Outside it's nine degrees and snowing.

The air is stuffy, even a little gamey. Someone croaks, clears his throat, and groans. You can hear

Modular holds that feel only slightly sharp at first can have you cringing pronto because on an artificial wall you crimp off the same holds over and over and, free from the hassles of weather and setting protection, you climb at a frenzied pace you'd never match on a real cliff. Thus, a hold's rough features get glaringly magnified. That's why we liked holds with thick, round, and contoured shapes and beveled edges that don't pinch or tear flesh or torque knuckles. In short, we opted to save the bleeding and tendon snapping for the real thing.

We found comfortable and painful holds in every brand tested with the exception of the McUsic Fabrications Woodies, the Climb It Jim Karn Holds, and the Metolius Macros. All of these holds are nicely rounded and ergonomically sculpted so your fingers fold naturally around them without being pinched.

If you buy your holds by the set, which can save you up to 25 percent over getting them individually, you'll find a generous portion of finger-friendly ones (you'll still get a few that bite, though) in the Metolius Modulares, Entre Prises Regular Training Holds, Trango Yaniro Powerholds, Vertical Concepts Jugs, and Advanced

Base Camp Large Knobs.

You can avoid abusive holds altogether by selecting and buying holds one at a time. (You will, however, pay an extra buck or so per hold.) If you've climbed on artificial holds you'll know which ones to cull, but if you haven't you can bet that the nastiest holds imitate actual rock, such as spiny limestone. Other holds that make good paperweights are the ones with thin, incut edges and pockets with sharp lips.

Texture can leave you grimacing, too, although even the most abrasive surface eventually wears smooth — a process you can accelerate with a scrap of sandpaper (beware, however, smoothing a hold with sandpaper is an irreversible process).

Typically, smooth-surfaced holds, like the EntrePrises, retain much of their original texture, while coarse holds, like those by Straight Up, get noticeably smoother. Our chart notes holds with extra-smooth or coarse textures.



Modular holds have come a long way in the past year. Herein, we look at the plethora of hods available — from wood to clay to plastic to real rock.

Climbing first reviewed artificial holds three years ago when only a handful of companies made them. That's all changed now: well over a dozen manufacturers are latching onto the indoor-wall mania that has legions of fluorescent-skinned plastic thumpers, some of whom almost never touch real rock, pulling down at indoor "crag" in areas hitherto as unlikely as Houston and Chicago.

But what makes a good fake hold? To answer that question we gathered samples from 14 companies, wrenched their products onto an indoor wall, and pulled. It didn't take long for us to discern the holds we liked climbing on from the ones we didn't.

Comfort first

User-friendliness became our chief concern after a pack of carnivorous modulares gashed and gnarled our fingers.

Artificial Holds

ADVANCED BASE CAMP

Knewts	7 for \$29.95	7 shapes; small; mostly linear shapes for vertical to slightly overhanging; good texture and finish; fair aesthetics & comfort
Knubs	7 for \$49.95	7 shapes; small; mostly smear knobs and rounded edges for vertical to slightly overhanging; generally comfortable; good texture and finish
Knerls	7 for \$59.95	7 shapes; medium; very comfortable; mostly knobs and slopers for vertical to overhanging; some incuts; good texture, finish, & aesthetics
Knobs	5 for \$59.95	5 shapes; large jugs; very positive and comfortable; for severe overhangs and roofs; good texture; finish & aesthetics

CLIMB-IT

Jim Karn	10 for \$52	30 shapes; medium to small; mostly sloped knobs and rounded edges; comfortable; good texture; above average finish & aesthetics; lacks jugs
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ENTREPRISES

Shop	10 for \$45	25 shapes; mostly fingery, small incut and rounded edges for vertical to slightly overhanging; some larger holds; average comfort
SN	10 for \$59	20 shapes; medium to small; fingery pinches and edges for vertical to slightly overhanging; average comfort; good aesthetics & texture
PE	10 for \$55	20 shapes; small, fingery incut and rounded edges; good comfort for their size; good texture, finish & aesthetics
Regular Training	10 for \$99.50	60 shapes; large; diverse shapes for any angle; good jugs; usually comfortable; smooth texture; good finish & aesthetics
Small Training	10 for \$47	20 shapes; medium; mostly sloped knobs for vertical and slightly overhanging; typically comfortable; smooth; good finish & aesthetics
Animal Holds	10 for \$84	20 shapes; unusual; not functional for training; painful; good for heel hooking; above average finish & aesthetics

GRIP HEAD

Wall Rox	10 for \$70	unlimited shapes; ceramic; rock-like texture; mostly medium edges; few jugs; below average comfort & aesthetics; custom shapes available
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MCUSIC FABRICATIONS

Woodies	10 for \$60	16 shapes; medium wood disks for any angle; excellent jugs and pinches; extremely comfortable; good finish & aesthetics; can't use outside
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METOLIUS

Modulars	15 for \$87.95	45 shapes; medium; diverse shapes for any angle; typically comfortable; good texture, finish & aesthetics
Micros	4 for \$17.95	16 shapes; small; mostly fingery edges and slopers for vertical to slightly overhanging; good footholds; average comfort; good texture & finish
Macros	10 for \$82.50	15 shapes; large; very positive buckets for severe overhangs and roofs; comfortable; good texture, finish, & aesthetics
Insets	10 for \$147	11 shapes; medium; flush mount; price includes brackets; diverse shapes for any angle; good texture, finish, & aesthetics

NICROS

Macros; Humongos	1 for \$8.95	27 shapes; large; very positive for overhanging to roofs; average aesthetics; good texture & finish; all Nicros are available in colors
Grippies	1 for \$6.95	18 shapes; medium; mostly edges and slopers for vertical to slightly overhanging; comfort varies; average aesthetics; good texture & finish
Nicros	1 for \$4.95	20 shapes; small; mostly edges and slopers for vertical to slightly overhanging; comfort varies; average aesthetics; good texture & finish
Micros	1 for \$3.50	12 shapes; small edges and smears make good footholds; average aesthetics; good texture and finish

PETROGRIPS

Granite Bucket	1 for \$4.50	rock; unlimited shapes; medium; generally incut for overhanging; durable; fair comfort; good texture and finish; average aesthetics; chunky
Granite Micros	1 for \$3.25	rock; unlimited shapes; small edges for footholds; durable; good texture and finish; average aesthetics; painful as handholds
Roof Buckets	1 for \$9.50	rock; unlimited shapes but most are large flakes; buckets for roofs; durable; fair comfort; good texture and finish; average aesthetics
Limestone Pockets	10 for \$88	rock; unlimited shapes; generally incut pockets for overhanging; excellent aesthetics and finish; slick; fair comfort; chunky

Cost second

No matter how you shake it, the holds on a wall cost far more than the wall itself. The amount you pay for a hold, between \$3 and \$17, isn't a fair indicator of its quality or usability. Rather, price usually reflects size, with mondo jugs being far more expensive than small footholds. The type of material the hold is carved, cut, or

molded from also contributes to price: the plastic modulars generally set you back more than equivalent sizes of rock, ceramic, or wood ones.

Also important: form and aesthetics

A hold's shape and look help determine how often you use it. Holds that are aesthetically nice and have hidden features or

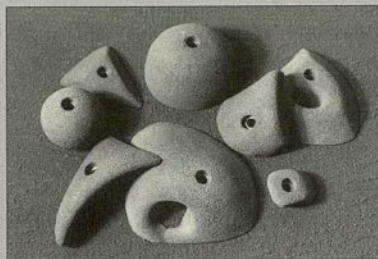
unusual gripping positions are more thought-provoking and inspirational to climb on than mere chunks or blobs. Indeed, we were more inclined to use cleanly sculpted holds over the free-form ones, some of which worked okay but look like aborted arts-and-crafts projects.

Climbing inside is fun when you're still new to the game, but even the most

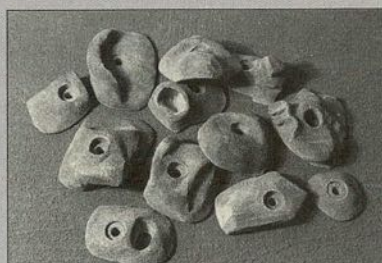


Advanced Base Camp
Knewts,
Knobs,
and Knerls
(left).

Climb-It
Jim Karn
holds
(right)



Entre Prises
Shop, SN,
and PE
holds (left),
Regular and
Small Train-
ing and Ani-
mal Holds
(right).



Grip Head
Wall Rox
(left).

McUsic
Fabrications
Woodies
(right)



Metolius
Macros and
Insets (left),
Modulars
and Micros
(right).



Nicros
Macros,
Grippies,
Nicros, and
Micros
(left).

Petrogrips
Granite
Buckets
and Micros,
Limestone
Pockets
(right)



enthusiastic among us eventually gets bored. To keep your motivation high and to ensure that you can set any sort of course you want, purchase holds from as many companies as you can afford, and get a good mix of plastic, wood, rock, and ceramic. Go for diverse shapes, but if you want to set up a series of redundant moves to target a specific muscle group, pick up

a half-dozen or more of one particularly comfortable hold.

Before you buy holds, think about the angle of the wall you'll bolt them on. If your wall is just vertical, go heavy on low-profile and sloping holds. These will make for more technical climbing than protruding knobs and incuts, which will force you into setting either

very easy or heinous-reach problems. For footholds, the smallest crimpers, like the Vertical Concepts Micro Chips and Dots, the Nicros Micros, or the extremely durable Petrogrip Micros, made from real granite chips, are less expensive than larger holds.

As the wall's angle increases, your holds need to be more positive. On overhanging walls and ceilings, sloping holds are next to worthless, so instead get plenty of jugs, incuts, and pockets that you can bury your fingers in (Metolius, EntrePrises, McUsic Fabrications, Advanced Base Camp, and Vertical Concepts all produce numerous comfortable honkers), and for toe and heel hooking be sure to throw in a few horn-like holds.

What they're made of

Most artificial holds are cast from polyester resin (plastic) with crushed rock or sand mixed in for texture, although some are made from wood, real rock, or ceramic clay. (All holds in chart are plastic unless noted otherwise.)

Plastic. These are unmatched for variety, coming in an endless array of shapes including finger-wrap tunnels, mono- and bi-doight pockets, elephant-ear slopers, and balls. Better still, plastic holds usually have diverse gripping positions and hidden features. They're also the best holds for setting "routes" or competitions, where, if a hold breaks, you can replace it with an identical modular — a repair you can't do with real rock or ceramic holds because no two are exactly alike. On the flip side, plastic holds are the most expensive, wear down the quickest, and can burn the skin off your fingertips well before your forearms give out.

We checked nine makes of plastic holds and ended up liking them all well enough to continue climbing on them once the testing was over. We did, however, find advantages and disadvantages (see chart) to every brand.

Among the hundreds of holds, some of our favorites were the insets made by Metolius and Vertical Concepts. These holds recess into the wall so that their outside surface is flush with the panel, making route finding less obvious and forcing you to toe into the holds as you do on actual pocketed rock, rather than merely plopping your foot onto a protruding chunk.

We liked both brands of insets equally, finding their texture and hold designs, which run from incuts suitable for hori-

Artificial Holds

RADWALL

Modulars	15 for \$85	30 shapes; small to medium; mostly rounded edges and slopers; few jugs and shallow pockets; average aesthetics & finish; fair comfort; coarse
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REAL ROCKS

Modulars	20 for \$59.95	rock; unlimited shapes, but most are thick edges for vertical to slightly overhanging; sharp; brittle; chunky; crude
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SNOW MONKEY

Standard	15 for \$94.10	ceramic; unlimited shapes; medium; mostly rounded edges and smears; vertical to slightly overhanging; coarse, crumbly texture; fair aesthetics
Techno	15 for \$67.10	ceramic; unlimited shapes; medium; mostly edges for vertical; good texture; sharp; below average aesthetics and design

STRAIGHT UP

Small	10 for \$35	15 shapes; small; mostly edges and smears for footholds; coarse; fair comfort; good finish & aesthetics; all Straight Up holds available in colors
Medium	10 for \$47.50	15 shapes; medium; mostly edges and smears with some pockets; vertical to slightly overhanging; coarse; fair comfort; good finish & aesthetics
Large	10 for \$67.50	15 shapes; large; mostly roof jugs; coarse; good comfort, finish, & aesthetics

TRANGO

Yaniro PowerHolds 15	for \$138.95	28 shapes; small to large; diverse shapes for most angles, but lacks roof jugs; generally comfortable; average finish & aesthetics; smooth
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VERTICAL CONCEPTS

Dots	20 for \$85	20 shapes; medium edges, shallow pockets and smears for vertical to overhanging; fair comfort and aesthetics; good finish; no roof holds
Micro Dots & Chips	6 for \$18.50	18 shapes; small edges, knobs, and smears; good footholds; most are too crimpy and sharp for handholds; good finish and aesthetics
Krimpers	4 for \$18.50	24 styles; small to medium; angular flat and incut edges; vertical to slightly overhanging; good comfort for size; good finish and aesthetics
Insets	1 for \$8	10 styles; medium; flush mount; bracket is \$12; pockets and edges for vertical to overhanging; fair comfort; good finish and aesthetics
Jugs	1 for \$10	10 styles; large; positive roof jugs; good comfort, finish, and aesthetics; good texture

zontal ceilings to nearly featureless smears, to be similar. They also cost about the same, give or take a couple dollars if you buy them individually. You can get mounting brackets from either company for about \$12 apiece, or make your own from wood (see page 156). Mounting the bracket isn't difficult, but does require access to the back of the panel and a jigsaw or a special drill bit to cut out the holes (six-inch diameter hole for the Metolius inset, and four inches for Vertical Concepts').

Insets may seem an expensive hassle, and they would be if you used a lot. But you don't need to go hog wild: two insets per four-by-eight-foot panel are adequate to add variety and realism to your wall.

Wood. As long as 20 years ago, devoted climbers screwed wood holds on the first crude walls. Wood is back. We couldn't believe how well the McUsic Fabrication Woodies worked. For training they are unbeatable: their nonabrasive surface lets you climb until your muscles, not your skin, give way.

Woodies come in a 10-pack (\$60) of well-crafted, ergonomically shaped holds, including juggy incuts suitable for hori-

zontal bopping, less positive ones that look improbable but still work on a 45-degree overhang, and squeezable disks that deliver a wicked pump even on a vertical wall.

We expected wood holds to be very slick. They do take some getting used to, but we found that Woodies grip about as well as medium-grit plastic holds and friction against rubber like the smoother plastic modulars. (When Woodies get polished, a few strokes with a piece of coarse sandpaper will restore the texture.)

Besides being inexpensive and comfortable, Woodies won't break the way plastic, ceramic, and rock holds can when you drop or over torque them.

The hitches are: you can't use Woodies outside (they delaminate in the rain), and they only come in 16 disk-like styles. McUsic Fabrications assured us, however, that more designs, including insets, are in the works.

Rock. Holds hewn from real pieces of rock, like Petro Grips and Real Rocks, can save you a few dollars, and as you would expect, have a texture just like the limestone, sandstone, granite, or shale they're made from.

We never expected rock holds to have the variety of plastic ones, and sure enough they are on the redundantly blocky side. Still, we were surprised at the number of shapes from Petro Grips: humongous roof buckets (\$9.50 each), to piss edges (good footholds at only \$3.25 apiece), to limestone pockets (\$7.50 per) and the most interesting pockets we've seen, although some are sharp and all the holds are very bulbous).

Petro Grips are heavy, but don't worry about freight costs: the company will ship any number of these holds to you for a maximum of \$10.

The Real Rocks are cheap (about \$3 each), but that's their only redeeming quality. We found these chunks of shale uninteresting, fragile, and steak-knife sharp. Also, some of these holds were so crude they lacked the flat side necessary for mounting them on a wall.

Ceramic. The Grip Head Wall Rox and the Snow Monkey Holds are formed from clay and then fired in an oven, creating a texture similar to real rock, but allowing shapes more akin to plastic holds than do the Petrogrips or Real Rocks.

All of our testers found the Rox a nice



Radwall Jug, Crimp, and Smear holds (left).

Real Rocks (right)



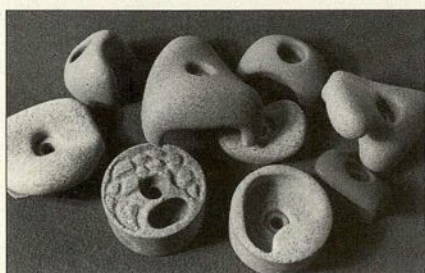
Snow Monkey Standard and Techno holds (left).

Straight Up Medium, Large, and Small holds (right)



Trango Yaniro PowerHolds (left).

Vertical Concepts Dots, Krimpers, Micro Dots, and Chips (right), and Jugs and insets (below)



relief from plastic. They are neither slick nor abrasive, and hold up well to chalk and wear. Their shapes, although functional and far from primitive, are typically simple and blocky. In the set we used we found holds for every wall angle, but noticed a deficiency in the jug department and thought that the majority of pockets were sharp.

Snow Monkey suggests "tuning" its ceramic holds by scraping them against one another prior to mounting them. So do we — out of the box these holds have a crumbly Grape-Nuts texture that makes them virtually unusable. Tweaking the holds as recommended removes most of the loose matter (you'll still skate off them for a while, however) and takes some of the bite out of the edges.

But even after you debarb them, their "Techno Holds" are still like cranking on sharp brick edges. Snow Monkey's free-form Standard holds are better, being generally comfortable and varied, although we didn't find any that worked as hand-holds on radically steep walls or roofs.

Snow Monkey holds are promising, but we'd have to see refinements, namely in the texture, before doling out our money.

Maintaining a grip

Most new plastic holds seem slick. That's because they are frequently covered with an oily release agent left over from the molding. When that's the case a few chalkings will bring the grip up to where it should be. And when a hold gets slick from chalk deposits, don't hesitate to scrub it with a nylon-bristle brush (avoid metal bristles unless you want your holds to get smoother). When a hold is beyond simple brushing, a thorough scrubbing in hot soapy water will usually improve its texture by removing ground-in oil, dirt, and rubber. As a last resort you can take plastic holds to a sandblaster, where for a nominal fee, you can have them texturized with any grit you desire.

Hold manufacturers and distributors

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Climb-It, Inc.

4121 Redwood Avenue, Suite 102
Los Angeles, CA 90066
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EntrePrises U.S.A., Inc.

550 NW Hill St.
Bend, OR 97701
(503) 388-5463

Grip Head Wall Rox

HCR 2 Box 45 Route 212
Mount Tremper, NJ 12457
(914) 688-7157

McUsic Fabrications

7023 Triola
Houston, TX 77074
(713) 224-1028; (713) 774-3850

Metolius Mountain Products

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(503) 382-7585

Nicros

2817 Sun Terrace
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(612) 426-3878

Petrogrips

108 E. Cherry Lane
State College, PA 16803
(814) 867-6780

Rad Wall

4401 San Leandro Boulevard, #5
Oakland, CA 94601
(415) 261-1455

Real Rocks

1450 E. 12th Street
Rifle, CO 81650
(303) 625-1788

Snow Monkey

1491 Second Street Suite A
Sarasota, FL 34236
(813) 955-6652

Straight Up

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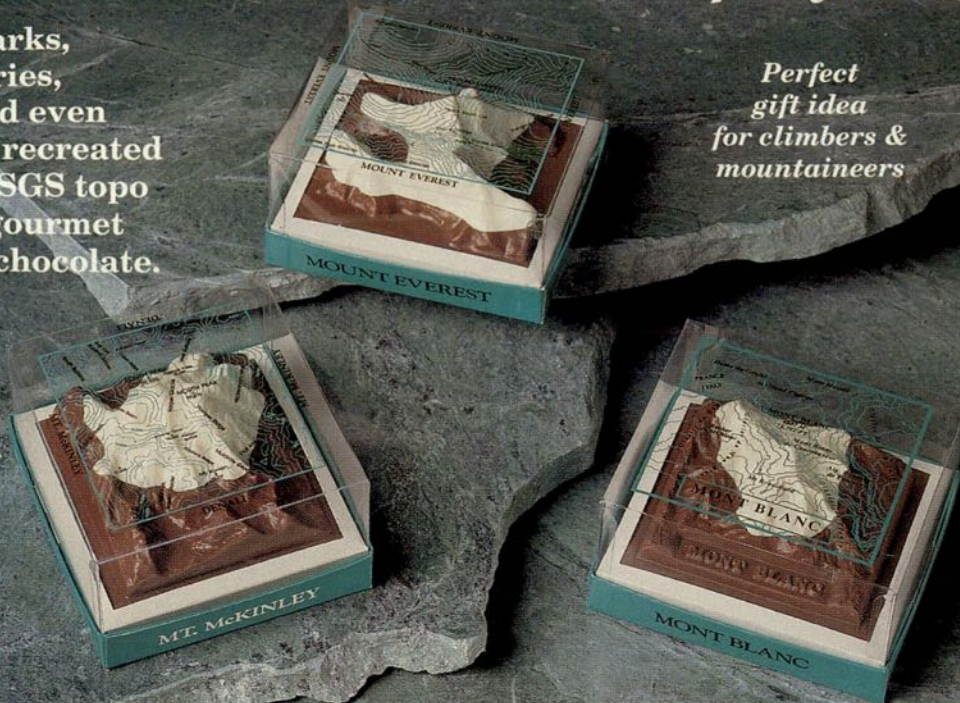
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Sticky business

The nuts of bolts, part II: glue-in bolts
by Duane Raleigh

You've finally mended after decking out when your flimsy bolt failed. Your accident, made famous when the last issue of *Climbing* used it to exemplify careless bolting, has people jeering you from Pig Rock to Kaymoor. Eager to redeem yourself, you seek out a new crag. You find one, too. Way overhanging and just minutes from the road, "your" cliff has all the trappings of a fashionable sport crag.

Only one problem: the rock is a little soft.

"No biggie," you say, "I've got glue-ins."

But what are glue-ins? And are they safe?

As you might guess, glue-in bolts are glued into the rock. And as you can surmise, not just any glue and bolt will do — use the wrong ones and you'll likely wind up on crutches again. To determine which adhesive anchors are applicable to climbing, we set a batch of every promising type we could find and then tore them out of specially made testing blocks just as we did with mechanical bolts in part one of this article. Here's what we found.

Adhesive bolts work because the glue used with them penetrates the rock where it forms a chemical coupling. With the right glue, this molecular linkage can be as strong as the rock itself, meaning that a chunk of the cliff has to break loose for



Glue-in-bolt paraphernalia.

less greenbacks, glue-in bolts are difficult and tricky to set, virtually mandate using a power drill, and take a full day to cure to strength, a fact that precludes placing them on lead. Still, in soft rock, the high strength and reliability of adhesive bolts far outweigh their flaws.

(Note: the glue systems we tested are specifically designed for heavy-duty bolting. Do not experiment with the numerous two-part adhesives you can find at hardware stores — these glues appear similar to the ones in this review, but they are very different and are made for lightweight tasks, like patching broken coffee mugs, and will not sustain the loads associated with climbing.)

The glue

Glue systems come in two styles: cartridge and capsule. Cartridge glue dispenses like toothpaste, via a caulking gun. To use this glue you drill the hole, fill it half full with glue, run a bead of glue down the bolt shaft, and then twist in the bolt (Figure 1).

Cartridge glues. Like all bolt glues, cartridge glue consists of two parts: one of the actual glue, and another of a hardener. Separately, the two components will hold about as well as syrup, but mix them together and the resultant chemical reaction turns them into a powerful adhesive.

The worst cartridge glue is the Raul Chem-Fast, which forces you to mix all of the glue at once (the smallest cartridge holds enough glue for eight, 1/2-inch bolts). Activated glue hardens in mere minutes, so unless you can set bolts at lightning speed, you're bound to waste more Chem-Fast than you'll use, putting the cost for the glue alone at as much as \$6 per bolt.

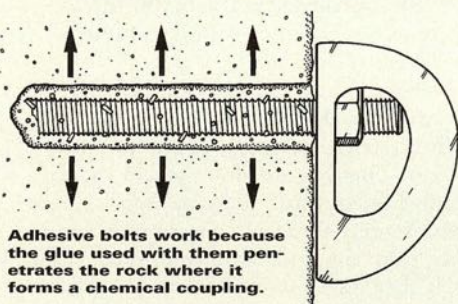
Hilti C-100 and Ramset/Red Head Epcon Ceramic 6 cartridge glues are more practical. These systems use special dispensing nozzles that let the glue mix outside the cartridge as you need it, so there's far less waste. (At presstime Raul introduced their new cartridge glue, the Raul/Sika Foil Fast. We didn't test it, but the dispensing tool alone cost \$325.)

Used in conjunction with Hilti 1/2-inch by 5-inch all-thread rods in medium and hard rock, both glues are stronger than any bolt hanger. Ceramic 6 claims a higher pull-out strength than C-100, but in our tests in soft, 1000-psi concrete both glues failed at around 4000 pounds in pull-out when the "rock" gave way.

Disadvantages to C-100 and Ceramic 6 include the special caulking guns required (cost around \$60), and the fact that you're sure to cover yourself and your gear with glue, which invariably dribbles out of the dispenser. And you're still bound to lose several bolts' worth of glue and ruin a couple of nozzles (spares are about \$1) with every tube, as some glue will always harden in the nozzle before you can inject it into the hole. (You can cut your losses by pre-drilling all your holes and getting an efficient installation system down.)

Do not administer C-100 in damp rock — some of the glue will bond to the water molecules instead of the rock, reducing the anchor's holding power. Conversely, Ceramic 6 and the capsule glues (discussed later) are, according to their manufacturers, scarcely affected by moisture. If you've ever snapped off a hold climbing on damp limestone or sandstone, however, you know these rocks weaken when they get wet, which also reduces the holding power of any bolt.

The Ceramic 6 and C-100 glues cost roughly the same: around \$2 for glue enough for a 1/2-inch bolt. We liked the C-100 because we couldn't stand the putrid smell of the Ceramic 6, which stays on your hands for days. In favor of Ceramic 6, Ramset/Red Head says their product has a longer shelf life than



Adhesive bolts work because the glue used with them penetrates the rock where it forms a chemical coupling.

the bolt to pull out. Further, the glue reinforces loosely layered or fractured rock, giving adhesive bolts a decided edge over mechanical anchors. And glue-in bolts age better, too. Mechanical bolts loosen and weaken under the stress of repeated loadings and temperature changes. But in tests conducted by the fastener company

Glue Systems

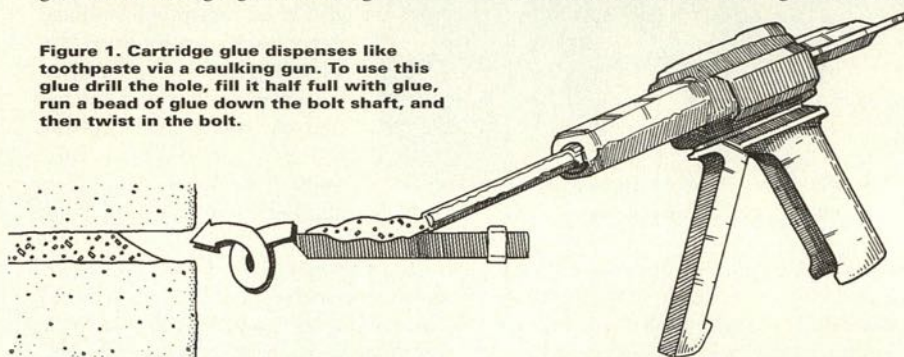
		Price (1)	Type (2)	Advantages	Disadvantages
Hilti	C-100	\$2	C	bolt is set by hand; easy to use	weakens in damp rock; messy; high waste; gun is \$60
	HEA	\$2.50	CP	strongest bond; unaffected by moisture; no waste	difficult to use; requires power drill and adapter to set rod
Rawl	Chem-Stud	\$2.50	CP	strongest bond; unaffected by moisture; no waste	difficult to use; requires power drill and adapter to set rod
	Chem-Fast	\$6	C	bolt is set by hand; easy to use; uses regular caulking gun	weaker than capsule glue; messy; very high waste
Ramset/Redhead	Ceramic 6	\$2	C	bolt is set by hand; easy to use; unaffected by moisture	messy; high waste; smells; gun is \$57 and breaks down

Notes on the chart: 1) Cost of glue for one 1/2-inch bolt.

2) C — cartridge; CP — capsule

C-100, and sticks to a dusty hole better, so you're less likely to get a bad placement. Both glues have their pros and cons, but the caulking guns cinched our choice. The cheesy plastic one from Ramset/Red Head gummed up, cracked, and then quit working after only six bolts. The sturdy metal gun from Hilti never broke down, although it too can gum up with leaked glue, necessitating a good cleaning.

Figure 1. Cartridge glue dispenses like toothpaste via a caulking gun. To use this glue drill the hole, fill it half full with glue, run a bead of glue down the bolt shaft, and then twist in the bolt.



Capsule glues. Like the cartridge glues, capsule systems use a two-part glue, which activates when you mix the components. Unlike cartridge glues, though, capsules encase the glue and hardener in a single glass vial (Figure 2), which you insert into the bolt hole, suppository style. (On overhanging walls wrap a small piece of cloth tape around the end of the capsule to prevent it from falling out of the hole.) Shoving the bolt in the hole and then spinning it breaks the vial and mixes the two glue components.

For climbing, we found that the capsule glues we tested — the Hilti HEA and Rawl Chem-Stud (\$2.50 a capsule for a 1/2-inch bolt) — have several advantages over cartridge glues. Primarily, they make stronger anchors. Also, the glue for each bolt is self-contained, so there's zero waste, no dispenser to mess with, and you can drill and set the bolts at your leisure.

The disadvantage to capsule glues is that you're supposed to spin the bolt with a power drill to insure a good glue and hard-

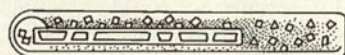


Figure 2. Capsules encase the glue and hardener in a single glass vial, which you insert into the bolt hole, suppository style.

ener mix. With threaded rods this isn't a big deal as you can buy a special chuck attachment (\$20 to \$40) that converts your Hilti or Bosch into a setting tool. You can't, however, set eyebolts, like the Petzl Ring, with a power drill. You have to instead hammer an eyebolt into the capsule and then manually turn the bolt (spin it about 25 times) to mix the glues — a practice both Hilti and Rawl warn against. Indeed,

capsule-glue hand-set ring bolts did prove weaker in our tests than threaded rods spun with a power drill. The threaded rods we tested, however, were about twice as long as the eyebolts, and this fact certainly contributes to the difference in strength.

The bolts

You have two choices of bolts for adhesive anchors: threaded rod and eyebolts. For soft rock, which is likely the only place you'll ever use glue-ins, threaded rods are stronger because their extra length gives them more contact area. In medium and hard rock either bolt will suffice, making the cost per anchor the deciding factor for most climbers.

Threaded rod. You can get threaded rod made for use with glue in 1/2-inch and 3/8-inch stock from Hilti, Rawl, and Ramset/Red Head. The rod usually comes in 5 1/2-inch lengths, but it can be longer. If the rod is longer than your drill bit you'll need to cut it down so it doesn't stick too far out of the rock. So you don't bugger the threads that the nut goes on, trim the excess length off the end of the rod that will go into the hole. If you are using capsule glue be sure you regrind the

end to a sharp point so it can slice through the glass vial with minimal resistance, insuring a thorough glue mix.

Do not use 3/8-inch threaded rod in soft rock — the small bolt diameter doesn't supply a large enough bonding area between the glue and rock. (In hard rock 3/8-inch Rawl Bolts and Hilti HSL bolts are stronger and less expensive than 3/8-inch glue-ins, which also suffer from work fatigue due to their external threads.) If the rock is the least bit questionable, 1/2-inch threaded rod (which requires a 9/16-inch hole) is your best bet.

You can get 1/2-inch rod in three materials: regular carbon steel, high-strength steel, or stainless steel. In dry climates, carbon steel rods (\$1.50 each) or high-strength steel rods (\$2.50 each) work fine. Stainless-steel rods are suitable for corrosive environments, like sea cliffs and swampy or industrialized (acid rain) areas, but are more expensive (\$3 to \$4.50 apiece).

The only bolt hanger that works with 1/2-inch threaded rod is the Petzl Coeur P38150. Other hangers, like the Metolius S.S. and Petzl P34050, can be drilled out to fit 1/2-inch rod, but this is a laborious process that can potentially ruin the hanger. For lowering-station anchors, the Remulak 5, 1/2-inch Gold Shut and the Humphrie Hanger (a new product we received at presstime that lets you thread the rope for lowering without untying) also accept 1/2-inch rod.

Eyebolts. These let you thread the rope directly through them so you can retreat without leaving slings or carabiners behind. That feature alone makes them worthwhile, especially at belay/rappel stations. Another advantage of eyebolts is that since they are made from one piece of steel, they aren't susceptible to galvanic corrosion as are threaded rods and hangers.

The stainless-steel Petzl Collinox (\$12) and the zinc-plated Ring (\$9) are the only climbing-specific eyebolts we tested. DMM and Trango have similar products, but these were unavailable for inclusion in this review.

The Petzl eyebolts we tested are too short to trust in soft rock — they have a

2 1/2-inch-long shaft (most 1/2-inch threaded rods have a 5-inch-long shaft). In medium and hard rock—where you're unlikely to use them—both Petzl glue-ins are bomber, although you still have to be very careful when you place them, as their short length allows little room for placement error.

The Collinox's less obtrusive appearance gives it points over the unsightly Ring. Strengthwise you'll never break either bolt, and their pull-out capacity depends on the glue you use. In our tests the Collinox and Ring pulled out of soft rock at about half the load of a 1/2-inch threaded rod when all the anchors were set with capsule glue, which is what Petzl recommends.

The Petzl Ring and Collinox are metric, but you can use cheaper, easier-to-find standard drill bits rather than metric ones. Petzl suggests substituting a 15/32-inch bit (about \$18) for the 12-millimeter one needed for the Collinox, and a 11/16-inch bit (about \$23) for the Ring's 16-millimeter one. Note: glue-in bolts are the only ones you can substitute standard for metric bits with—you *must* use the manufacturer's specified metric bit with a metric mechanical bolt.

As an alternative to the Petzl ring anchors you can round up your own threaded, forged eyebolts from a bolt-specialty store. The industrial eyebolts we tested were 1/2 by 3 1/4 inches, and cost \$4 each. The bolts we purchased were galvanized, but they are also available in stainless steel for about twice the price. These eyebolts, also tested with capsule glue, held a little more than the Petzl ones in soft rock, but because they are also short, they still weren't as strong in pull-out as the longer threaded rods.

If you use industrial eyebolts be careful to get forged, not the much weaker cast eyebolts, and check the manufacturer's listed strength, which, by convention, is usually only about 25 percent of the actual breaking strength. Our eyebolts listed a 2500-pound working load, which, in theory, means 10,000 pounds ultimate strength. To be safe, get eyebolts at least this strong. Don't get welded or unwelded eyebolts either. You never know how good the weld is—and the unwelded ones can straighten under body weight. Only use forged eyebolts with threads extending at least halfway up the shaft; smoother shanks won't let the glue stick to them.

Half-inch forged eyebolts require a 9/16-inch diameter hole. To let the eye recess slightly into the rock, drill two vertically aligned grooves on the outside of the hole.

Adhesive-anchor setting recommendations

No matter which glue-in system you use you need to follow strict placement recommendations to insure a strong glue-to-rock bond.

1. Drill the hole to the dimensions specified by the manufacturer. (With glue-in bolts you always drill the hole larger than the bolt rod.) If you drill the hole too small or too large you'll wind up with either too little or too much glue in the hole. In either case, the anchor is weakened.

2. Clean the hole thoroughly. Glue bonds with whatever it contacts first. If this is dust or water, then you're in trouble. Blow the hole out first with a blow tube, and then scour the hole with a nylon brush made for this use. Don't use a wire brush, which will polish the inside of the hole (glue doesn't stick to smooth surfaces as well). Finally, blow the hole out again with the blow tube; if dust keeps coming out, keep cleaning.

3. When using cartridge glue fill the hole about half full, run a bead of glue down the rod, and then hand twist the rod into the hole. Some glue should flow out of the hole as the rod goes in—if it doesn't you don't have enough glue in the hole and will have to pull the rod out and squirt in more.

4. With capsule glue make sure you set the threaded rod with a power drill set in its hammer mode. You can't twist threaded rod by hand and pushing the rod in manually won't properly mix the glue and hardener. Hammer eyebolts into the capsule and then spin the bolt at least 25 times by hand—a cursory twist or two isn't nearly enough to mix the glue components.

5. Once you activate the glue, place the anchor as quickly as possible and then leave it alone. Don't jiggle the anchor during the first eight hours of drying—disturbing the anchor during this time will break the glue bond.

6. Let the glue dry for at least 24 hours before loading the anchor. In our tests, bolts cured overnight were twice as strong as those that we let dry for only eight hours.

7. Glue, especially capsules, has a short shelf life. Check the expiration date of any glue before using it, and don't use a capsule if the glue inside doesn't flow.

8. Use threaded rod supplied by the manufacturer for the glue system you're

using—similar-looking rod from the hardware store is much weaker. It's especially important that you don't use blunt-ended cartridge rods to mix glue capsules, which *must* be mixed with a pointed or chisel-end rod. (It's okay, however, to use the pointed capsule rods with cartridge glue.)

9. Align eyebolts so the eye sets vertically. Placing the eye horizontally increases your chances of accidentally coming unclipped, and lowers the bolt's shear strength.

Gluing mechanical bolts. We recommended in part one of this article that you not use externally threaded sleeve bolts. Still, the Hilti 1/2-inch Sleeve Anchor (you can't use the HSL and Rawl Bolt with glue, as it will clog their threads) used in conjunction with Hilti C-100 adhesive, is a popular bolt at several soft rhyolite climbing areas in New Mexico.

To test this set-up we placed five, 1/2-inch Hilti Sleeve Anchors in our softest concrete block, then set an equal number in the same block but filled the bolt hole half full with C-100. One day later, after the glue had time to cure, we pulled all 10 bolts to failure and found the glued-in bolts had pull-out strengths of about 3000 pounds, compared to the nonglued bolts' 1800 pounds.

Although this jury-rigged system sounds strong, you are still better off using a real glue-in bolt, which is over twice as strong as a glued-in Hilti Sleeve Anchor. Furthermore, if you let the glue harden slightly (this can happen in a matter of minutes), or gum up the bolt threads with glue, then the expansion sleeve won't spread, and you'll have an anchor that is weaker than if you never used glue in the first place.

If you insist on employing this risky method, make sure you use Hilti C-100 glue (other glues don't stick to the bolt as well), and the Hilti 1/2-inch Sleeve Anchor, which is the only one we found with large enough cut outs in the sleeve to let the glue bond to the inside of the bolt. (Again, *don't* use glue with the Rawl Bolt, or Hilti HSL, or with any other non-glue-in bolt including the wedge bolts—the glue will prevent these anchors from expanding, and will cause them to fail at below-normal loads.)

Glue-in Bolts

			Price (1)	Materials (2)	Rock Type (4)			Comments
					soft	medium	hard	
Petzl	Collinox	(12 x 65mm)	\$12	SS	●	○		use with capsule glue; can thread rope through eye; too short for soft rock
	Ring	(16 x 65mm)	\$9	ZS	●	○		use with capsule glue; can thread rope through eye; too short for soft rock; obtrusive
Hilti	Sleeve Bolt	(1/2 x 4")	\$1.50	ZS	●	●		use with Hilti C-100 glue only; requires bolt hanger; not as reliable as 1/2" rod
Forged Eyebolt		(1/2 x 3 1/4")	\$4-\$8	ZS, SS	●	●		use with capsule glue; can thread rope through eye; too short for soft rock; use ones rated to at least 2000 lb. work load that are at least half threaded
Threaded Rod*		(1/2 x 5 1/2")	\$1.50-\$4.50	ZS, HS, SS	○	○	○	use with capsule or cartridge glue; most reliable glue-in bolt; requires bolt hanger
Threaded Rod*		(3/8 x 5")	\$1-\$4	ZS, HS, SS	●			use with capsule or cartridge glue; subject to work fatigue; requires bolt hanger

Notes on the chart: * Threaded rod made specifically for glue-ins is available from Hilti, Rawl, and Redhead/Ramset. 1) Lower price is for regular steel; higher price is for stainless steel. 2) SS - stainless steel; ZS - zinc (galvanized) steel; HS - high-strength 3) Suitability in various rock types: ○ - good; ● - fair; ► - may be suitable, depending on conditions

Bolt removal and replacement

Every bolt will eventually need replacing and it's a safe bet that any drilled anchor set over 10 years ago — and all bolts under 3/8-inch diameter — could stand an upgrade.

To reduce rock scarring it's best to remove the old bolt and enlarge the existing hole to accept a larger bolt, but in the case of poorly situated anchors or placements rendered unusable, this isn't always feasible. Going from a 1/4-inch-diameter bolt hole to a 3/8-inch one is fairly easy to do by hand, although it is certainly quicker if you have a power drill, which you should consider essential if you plan to install a 1/2-inch or larger bolt.

Before you start bashing away at a bolt you should first determine the best method for getting it out. If the anchor has a hex head, like the Rawl Bolt, Hilti HSL, Metolius S.S., and USE Taperbolts, you may be able to simply unscrew it. Bolts like these usually leave a sleeve or expansion cone in the hole, which you then have to fish out with a hooked piece of wire or needle-nosed pliers. If you can't get the expansion cone out this way you can try engaging its threads with a long piece of threaded rod, and then pry the rod and cone out with a crowbar. When a bolt part is unretrievable you may be able to drill through it using a power drill and a sharp, high-speed metal bit.

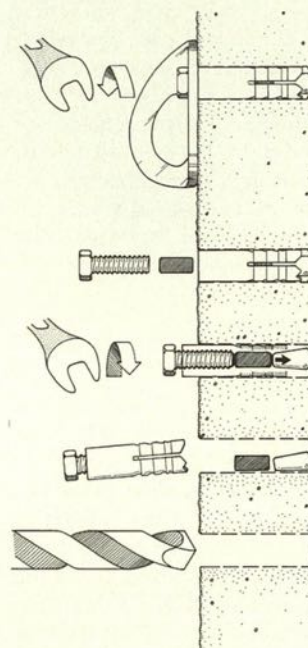
You can usually extract bolts with round heads, like the 1/4- and 5/16-inch button-head Rawl Drive, by tapping the hanger around until the bolt loosens slightly and then slipping a beefy crowbar under the hanger and

prying. Larger round-head bolts, such as the 1/2-inch (or 12-millimeter) Petzl Long Life, probably don't need replacing, but if they do you'll have to drill into the rock around them until they loosen enough to pull out. After you do this you'll need to patch over the hole, which is now too large for any conventional mechanical bolt, and place the new anchor in a slightly different location. (You can make a good, inexpensive patching mixture by blending pulverized rock and rock dust with Bondo, which you can find at K-Mart or Wal-Mart in the auto-body repair aisle.)

If a bolt won't succumb to any of the former tactics there's still hope, but your chances of reusing the hole diminish. Bolts that are problematic to remove include glue-ins, self-drills, wedge bolts, and externally threaded sleeve bolts.

The only way to remove glue-in bolts is to drill a series of small holes in the rock next to the bolt until it loosens enough to pry out. Fortunately, glue-in bolts, being the most durable of all anchors, seldom need replacing. Unfortunately, removing them almost always ruins the placement, which must then be patched. You can pry out loose self-drills with a stout crowbar under the hanger, but when the bolt won't budge, unscrew the hanger and insert a small plug made from a ground-down machine bolt, and follow the above illustration. Redrill 1/4- and 5/16-inch self-drill holes to fit new 1/2-inch bolts. Redrill 3/8-inch holes out to take 5/8-inch bolts.

Unless a wedge bolt or externally threaded sleeve bolt is loose enough to pry out, the only way to remove these



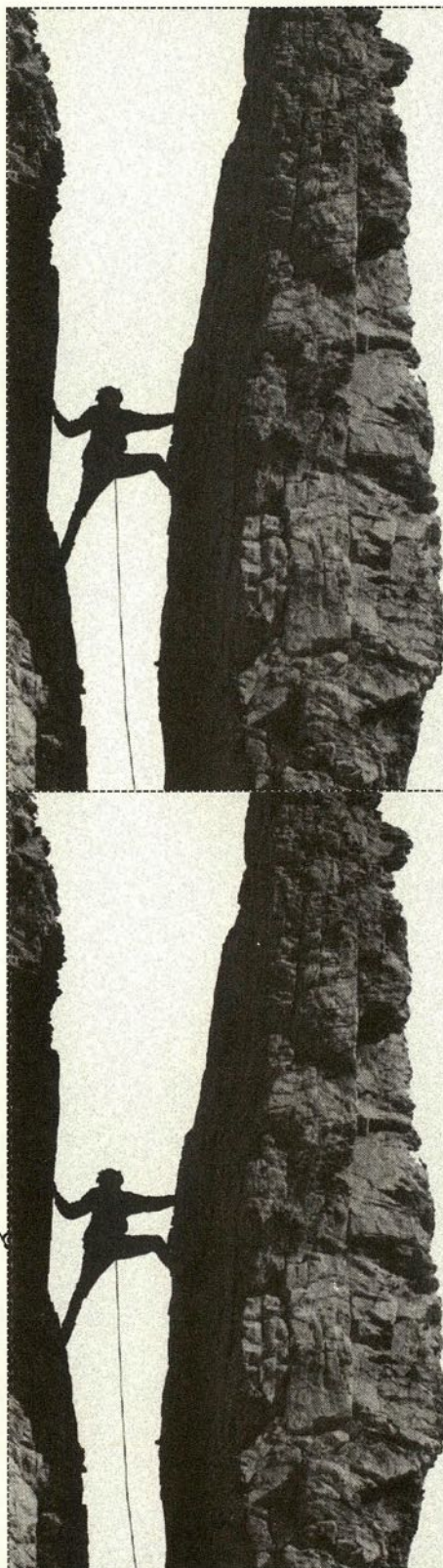
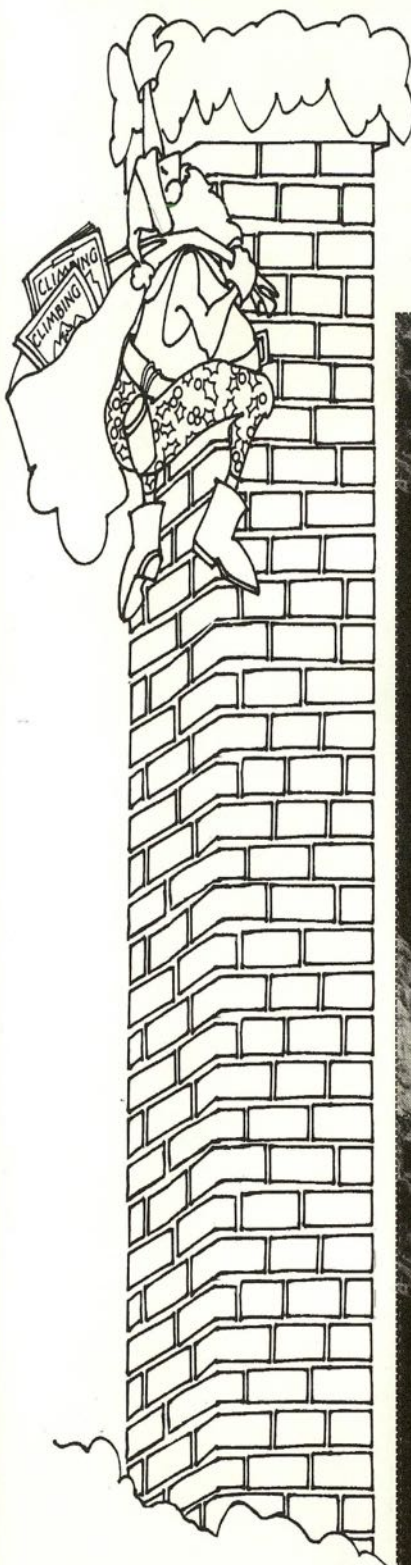
Removal method for self-drill bolts

1. Unscrew bolt and hanger.
2. Insert small plug made from ground-down machine bolt.
3. Tighten down original bolt, forcing expansion cone out of the drill sleeve.
4. Pry out loosened sleeve and fish out plug and wedge with needle-nose plier.
5. Redrill hole.

anchors is to drill around them. With 1/4- or 5/16-inch bolts this is an option to consider if you can salvage the hole by redrilling it to take a 1/2-inch bolt. If you are replacing a 3/8-inch bolt, however, the drilled-out hole will likely be too large for anything smaller than a 1/2-inch glue-in. If you don't want to go with an adhesive bolt the best solution in this case is to tap the exposed portion of the bolt back and forth until it shears off, countersink the remaining shard, patch the scar, and drill a whole new anchor.

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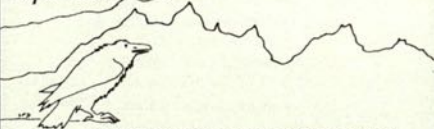
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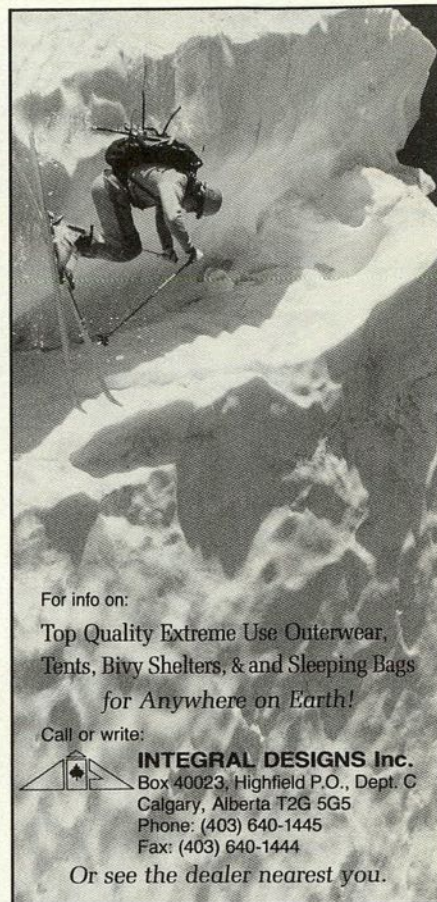
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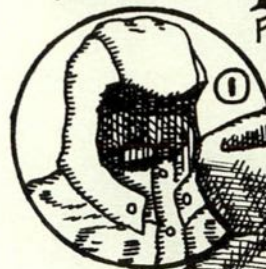
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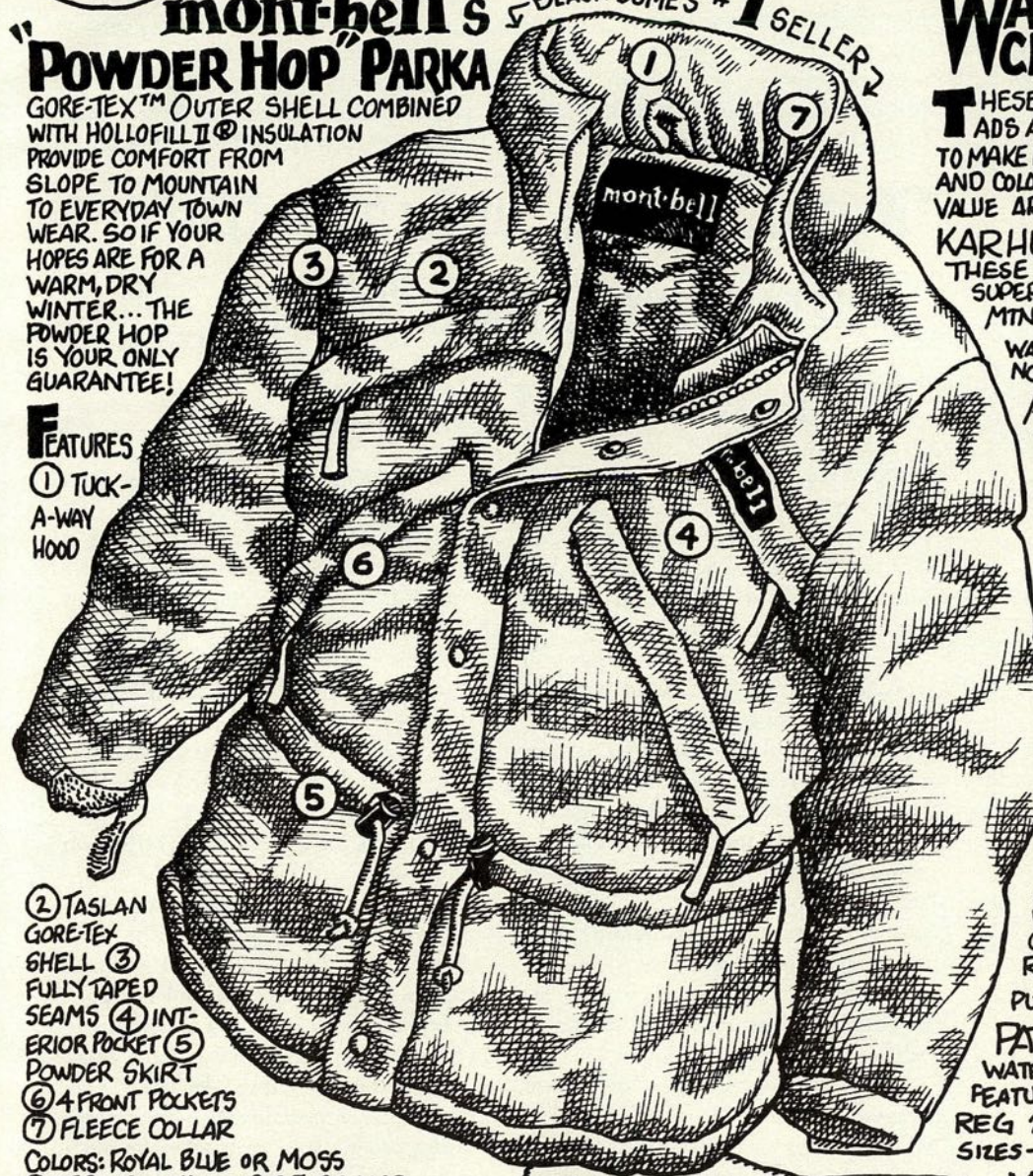
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The climb was a great success. Two of the six members, Kitty Calhoun-Grisson and John Schutt, summited without oxygen on May 18, making Kitty the first woman to reach the summit of Makalu.

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Kitty Calhoun-Grisson
And The 1990 American Makalu Expedition



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Boy George

continued from page 84

sils or fingers into the peanut butter. Yet he's quite unconcerned that big globs of zinc oxide are dropping off his face.

He is also a person of rectitude. Jones, who met Lowe nearly 30 years ago, remembers a cleancut, but not socially polished, young man, with a Mormon background that was peculiar to the others in the Chamonix climbers'

brood of eight, which included Jeff, Greg, and Mike Lowe.

Jeff Lowe, who was to become one of George's mainstay climbing partners in the 1970s, climbed the Grand Teton at age seven and has since amassed a lifetime of important ascents. Throw in Jeff's brothers Greg and Mike, each with an enviable record of ascents, and a

"WE CLIMBED TILL DARK," SAYS LIZ FIRMLY. "THAT'S A RULE WITH GEORGE," SHE ADDS. "IT'S ONLY A PARTIAL—CREDIT DAY IF IT'S NOT DARK."

camp. "He was different, he didn't drink any beer or wine, I don't think he drank coffee — his habits were quite odd to the British." Some have recalled him as the only one who did not smoke pot at certain high bivies.

He is so brainy and sharp that you can feel incompetent around him. He mentions Mount Geikie; you say you don't know of that mountain, then fear you should. His convictions run deep. He unself-consciously challenges or corrects others, and his questions can sound admonitory. Yet he is essentially kind and sympathetic; he usually feels a strong connection to his climbing partners, and is openly disturbed by expeditions where the climbers seemed isolated from each other. His keenness can be exhilarating once you relax.

Lowe is humorous, often at his own expense. His shoulders move like a kid's when he laughs. He is reserved, courteous — and then, in the mountains — goes for it.

few other assorted brothers who climbed, and you have a name surrounded by mystique, a name that inspired young climbers to do the routes the Lowes had done.

George first bouldered at age 10 or 12 with his Uncle Ralph, and did his first roped climbs in 1962 at Tahquitz and Big Rock when he went off to college at Harvey Mudd, in Claremont, California. Harvey Mudd is a respected school for studies of science and math, but Lowe didn't like it: too many people, too much smog, and too far from the mountains. Consequently, he transferred to the University of Utah, where he completed his undergraduate and graduate studies, and climbed on school breaks.

Lowe married at 23, not uncommonly young among Mormon families. "But I was emotionally young," he says. There were times, especially after his divorce during two separate years when he was a single father, when he did not climb at all. He mostly went camping with his children. Later, when they were older, he took them climbing in Tuolumne.

But Lowe always came back to his climbing, and these days is constantly planning new forays. He and Liz live in the foothills of Golden, commuting to work in Denver. Their home, on a quiet, open hillside, is a sizeable cabin Liz calls "hodgepodge," which they intend to redo. Here her collection of Lladro Yadrux porcelain figurines line

George III was one of six children in a Mormon family in Ogden, Utah. His father, George, was a surgeon and his mother, Beth, a nurse. George grew up camping, hiking, and river running with his Uncle Ralph and his

the window sill, while his mountain photos march along the hall. The hall's doorway is topped by a hangboard.

"Climbing with George, you don't miss a day," says Liz. She is a serene person who usually speaks in measured, thoughtful tones, but is prone to sudden demonstrations of backbone. Recalling a European vacation in 1989, during which they had climbed in the Dolomites and the Verdon, she now does an exaggerated imitation of a conversation between them, herself whimpering, "When do I get a rest day?" and the ferocious rejoinder, "When I get a new climbing partner!"

"The only rest days were driving days," she says.

He says, "Those were rest days, dear," and then remembers something significant. "We had a half day in Venice!" She rolls her eyes. "We did. A half day."

The two met climbing, through a blind date arranged by some doctor friends. Originally from Boston, she is 39, an orthopedic surgeon. Their first time out was "a classic George date," she says. "He picked me up at the crack of dawn. We went to the South Platte, we bushwhacked in, and climbed until dark. Then we bushwhacked out."

"Not 'until dark," protests George.

"We climbed till dark," says Liz firmly. "That's a rule with George," she adds. "It's only a partial-credit day if it's not dark." He blusters but laughs.

On their second date, George took her on a two-day trip to a place called the Black Hole, White Canyon, Utah, where she found herself swimming 200 yards, pushing her pack, through a canyon so narrow she couldn't see the sky. On another hot date, Lowe took her to climb the Totem Pole in Monument Valley, Utah, where they were arrested for trespassing and fined \$100 each. "If you ever go climbing with George," she warns, "bring a headlamp."

In 1990, when George and Liz made wedding plans, they decided to spend their honeymoon in Death Hollow, in the Utah desert. Then, when Carlos Buhler's partner for the East Face of Dhaulagiri cancelled, he called Lowe.

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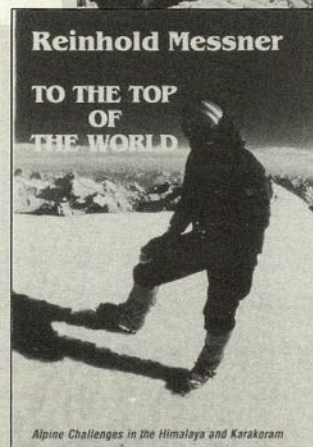
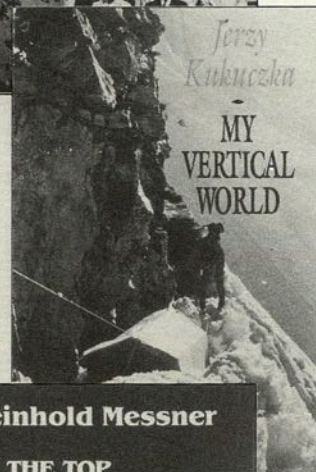
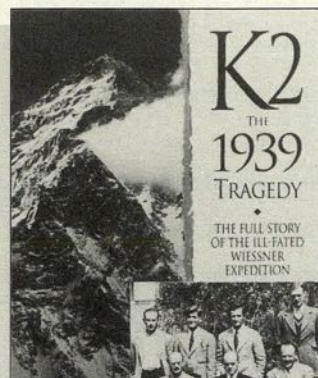
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Lowe agreed to go, as did Liz (thinking that she was being awfully flexible).

The wedding date was set for early August, and the invitations were already ordered when Buhler called and asked, "Can you get Liz to move up the date?" George looked sideways. Liz was watching him. "No," he said.

After the wedding, George and Liz had a wonderful walk to the mountain, around its west face. They arrived at the north side and the standard basecamp to find seven expeditions and huge piles of garbage and feces.

Lowe speaks fervently against the trash and of the abuse of natives he witnessed by others on the mountain. For example, members of one expedition, he says, sent their Sherpas back up to Camp 4 for their oxygen in one day, saying they wouldn't pay them if they didn't go.

"I want to be with people who want to be on the mountain," says Lowe. "I would rather not climb with people who are paid to take risks on your behalf. If you can't climb the mountain otherwise, you ought to think about

"I WOULD RATHER NOT CLIMB WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE PAID TO TAKE RISKS ON YOUR BEHALF." SAYS LOWE. "IF YOU CAN'T CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN OTHERWISE, YOU OUGHT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOUR MOTIVATIONS ARE TO CLIMB IT."

what your motivations are to climb it."

He and Liz also found that Buhler was ill with bronchitis, and the third team member, Dainius Makauskas from Lithuania, had stepped into a crevasse and torn a knee ligament, the anterior cruciate. Liz examined him and told him he should not even walk out on it.

Buhler descended to lower altitude in hopes of recovery. Lowe would have preferred to climb with someone, but it was late in the season and all the other climbers had left. He hoped to solo a route on the harder East Face, but due to avalanche hazard, decided to take the standard Northeast Ridge. Nuru Sher-

pa, the expedition's sirdar, climbed with him to Camp II, and from there Lowe went on alone to the top.

Lowe says he gave Nuru the choice of whether or not to accompany him to the summit. Sherpas, Lowe says, are very conscious of wanting to progress, to do better climbs and improve their reputations, and, culturally, they feel responsible to take care of the sahibs. "He said words to the effect of 'Climbing Everest [but not Dhaulagiri] is worthwhile to my career. I think there's too much risk,'" says Lowe. "And that was fine."

Lowe and his wife then left the mountain, and afterwards Buhler,

Nuru, and Makauskas climbed it. Makauskas disappeared on the descent, possibly slipping at a tricky spot on the summit ridge. Buhler and Nuru suffered extensive frostbite; Buhler lost part of one toe, Nuru all of his toes.

Lowe is in some ways more dismayed by Nuru's fate than Makauskas', since he feels that the determined Makauskas had made more of a personal choice. With feeling, but some delicate circumlocution, he indicates his disagreement with Buhler. "When Nuru saw the condition the others were in," adds Lowe, "he [must have] felt like he had to go."

Buhler responds that when he asked Nuru if he wanted to go up on the mountain again, the invitation did not necessitate a summit bid, and on the summit day, "There was never a point when someone couldn't say, 'I'm going down.'" Nuru, he says, later told him that he didn't turn around because he wasn't cold on the way up, only later, coming down. Buhler says that Lowe himself put Nuru at risk by taking him across avalanche slopes and, several times, through the mountain's icefall.

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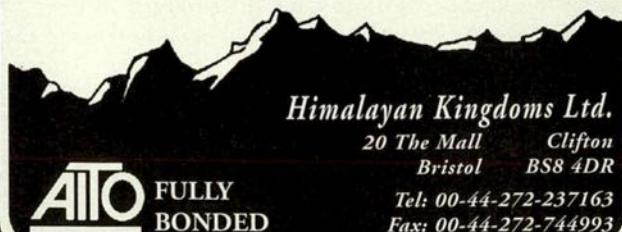


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Finally, Buhler, who has climbed with Sherpas many times, points out that it was Lowe's first trip to Nepal, and believes that Lowe and many other climbers assume that Sherpas are less-informed mountaineers. "I look at Sherpas more as individuals than a culture," says Buhler, "and I get a feeling for who is able to make decisions and who isn't."

At a later time, Lowe is asked whether soloing Dhaulagiri was a high point in his career. "Nah, it was pretty straightforward," he says. "In some ways, because of what happened afterward, it was a low point."

After the incident, Lowe, Liz, Buhler, Buhler's mother, and a trekker friend chipped in to pay Nuru's medical expenses and a year's wages. Buhler later hired Nuru to go to the mountain Dorje Lhakpe, and has started a trekking business, Sherpa Professionals, with Nuru and another Sherpa.

Last year, George was invited to go to Gasherbrum IV with Alex Lowe and Steve Swenson, but declined when Liz became pregnant.

As he sits in his living room with Katie Beth on his lap, both of his stocking feet under the table bounce with restless energy. Lowe says he and Liz have agreed there will be no more big mountains for him. "I've said things like that before, though," he adds with a laugh. "But kids are important. I didn't really get to see my kids grow up and I missed that."

"I've evolved," he says. "You find yourself less willing to take risk when you get older. Too many of my friends have died." Dave Cheesmond, Catherine Freer, Nick Estcourt, Mick Burke, John Harlin — all close friends, all killed climbing. When George was 21, he lost Mark McQuarrie, his partner from many Wasatch climbs. The two were trying a line of flakes up Church Buttress in Little Cottonwood Canyon when McQuarrie, then 17, fell and the rope cut. That was the only time George considered quitting, and he did stop, for a few months. He was profoundly affected, but he was also profoundly driven to climb.



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It's a beautiful, breezy autumn day, the leaves alight and shimmering on the trees. I wait for George and Liz at a tiny airport in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Behind me is an office that doubles as somebody's home. A bathrobe hangs on the back of the bathroom door. Outside are the black runway, a phone booth, a Texaco sign, a pile of branches, and some junked cars.

A random ambulance pulls up and I start worrying. Light planes are one of my favorite phobias.

There's a roar, and here they come, circling, angling, bouncing a bit, rolling to a stop; the parents in headphones, the baby with cotton in her ears, a scarf around her tiny head, and outrage issuing from her lips. Four is the plane's limit, so no nanny.

I steel myself. We take off.

In bumpy air, we fly over Grand Junction, and Lowe asks about the climbing there. Below, the earth spreads in layers of chocolate, then rich terra

"THERE'S A FAIR AMOUNT OF DEATH IN THE MOUNTAINS BECAUSE PEOPLE GIVE UP. IF YOU'RE CAREFUL AND KEEP IT TOGETHER, YOU JUST KEEP PLUGGING AND GET THERE."

cotta, then café au lait, with a touch of white on top. In Utah, Lowe points out the Castleton Tower, slim and elegant and separate.

"You've never been up Castleton?!" he exclaims. I mumble about not having lived in the West all that long.

We follow the Colorado River, which looks like the Nile: a thick band of green lines its rims; the dust of the desert stretches out of sight.

Here is Bryce Canyon, a long corrugated band of cliffs, as bright — strongly lit by the lowering sun — as a lantern, warm pink and orange above the moss green of shadowy, folded hills.

Fifteen minutes later, over the oddly shaped white summits and deep narrows of Zion, George points out, to Liz, a two-day climb he did with Jeff in the

late 1960s. "See? With the knob on top?" He lands in St. George, a town clustered around a bright white Mormon temple.

We rent a car, buy food and diapers, drive to Zion, and camp. In the dark, I mess up my tent's poles and inserts, partly because I haven't set it up for half a year.

"You haven't used your tent since spring?!" exclaims George.

In Zion, the Virgin River has carved a 3000-foot canyon of Navajo sandstone. Over the millennia, the undercut sandstone has broken off in vertical slabs — the Zion walls are steep.

George has picked a climb for us — the *Monkeyfinger Wall*, "the Astroman of Zion," a 10-pitch Grade V, 5.11 A1 or 5.12b on the Temple of Sinewava. Our 9-ish start, it will turn out, is overly leisurely. Lowe and Liz bid a mushy goodbye.

Lowe climbs steadily, his style not smooth or showy but workmanlike and effective. He claims he's not a 5.11 climber, but he's up his 5.11 leads quickly. On the 5.12b pitch, he grabs a sling or two without worrying about it.

On the second pitch, a brutal, debilitating sun hits us. The climb is hard work — long 5.10 laybacks and jam cracks, pitch after pitch, Friend after Friend. I've done a lot of crack climbing over the years, but the route starts to grind on me. After seconding one pitch, where I had to hang in the direct sun struggling to retrieve a buried Friend, I arrive in a belay cave wanting a drink, some food, and some rest before my next lead. I try to speak and for a suprising second nothing comes out; my dry mouth has clogged on a hunk of PowerBar. George just hands over the rack.

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I'm dying, and we have three pitches to go: 5.10d, 5.11, 5.10b.

The last pitch is rotten and bushy, with rope drag. Going over the top, I'm literally crawling. We start to descend in twilight, and are soon in utter darkness, rappelling free, sometimes spinning, down hundreds of feet. It's a black night, with bright layers of stars, abruptly cropped by the looming walls. And no moon. Nor headlamp.

We do everything painstakingly, checking and rechecking, trying not to unclip the wrong thing. A light glimmers from across the canyon on the beautiful *Moonlight Butte*, and I envy those people, imagining their cozy, blissful preparedness. Then, as many a climber has, I think if there's ever a good person to be with here, it's George.

He takes the lead, carrying the pack to make himself heavier to test the belays, which he backs up. I remove the backups.

He skips one belay station successfully, and later another, but runs out of rope 15 feet short of the anchor. Liz, with the baby, drives up just in time to

hear Dad's worrisome shout that he has to anchor himself in by feel.

Now I have to get to the interim hanging belay, pull the ropes, and rap past him. I find the station by feeling along the crack during the rappel.

George will later say, "Did you back up that belay?" No. "I probably would have," he says. I get it: no excuses allowed.

We get down at 10:15 p.m. Liz has been waiting two hours. George, as he often does, talks about how tired and hungry he is, and she, as she often does, switches from being peeved to sympathetic. Personally, I will be tired for two days (not to mention petrified when the plane bounces while landing in the dark the next night.)

To me, the three-hour rappel has been tense. I can't imagine rappelling under strain for three days. George hadn't been scared.

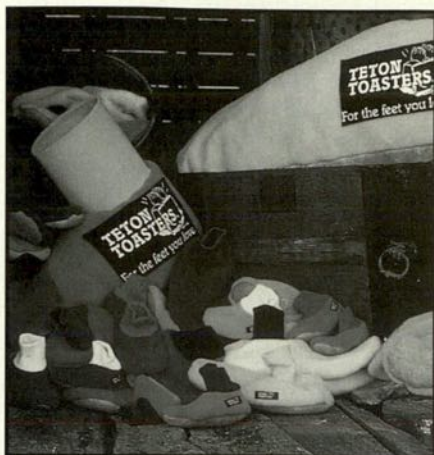
"There's a fair amount of death in the mountains because people give up," he'll say the next day. "If you're careful and keep it together, you just keep plugging and get there."

Under the picnic table, his foot jiggles. Liz and George were to have gone climbing the next morning, but she has bashed her thumb in the car door, so they plan a hike. They breakfast under a big cottonwood tree, whose waving branches Katie Beth likes to watch.

"She likes motion," says George. She'd better.

Not for the first time, I try to get Lowe to explicate the nature of what propels him. He vaguely allows for some intrinsic Mormon industriousness and a possible genetic component, then says with more force, "Our parents were always pushing for us to do the best you can do. Even if it isn't great, if it's the best you can do, that's good."

Lowe next speaks directly and with quiet dignity. "I think part of it is insecurity. If you discover something you do well, get good feedback, pleasure in achievements ... it's very satisfying.



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LOWE IS DRAWING ON SO MUCH EXPERIENCE THAT THINGS THAT ARE HIGH ON MANY OTHER PEOPLE'S SCALE OF COMMITMENT AND FEAR, ARE, TO HIM, LOW END. THE DIAMOND IS "JUST A DAY OUT ON THE CRAG."

Climbing, mountain biking, anything, it's the same sort of reward."

"I was very insecure when I went to college, a social misfit. I was a terrible athlete in school."

"But you were on the ski team," Liz protests from where she kneels on the ground, placing the baby in a chair.

"I couldn't do ball sports," he says.

Decades ago, Lowe focused on a sport in which all felt different. Climbers of yore were not jocks, not at all understood by the mainstream. There was cachet in *that*.

Now George, holding the blanketed baby, pulls a pile tube hat onto his head. Liz turns to him, sees his dark gray hair flowing from the top of his hat, and bursts out laughing.

Not knowing what the joke is, Lowe could easily become irked.

"What?" he asks, smiling, his expression sweet and easy. She laughs harder. He only tips his head.

"It looks like you have an animal on your head." He laughs.

Lowe, by nature an unrelaxed person, seems to have achieved a state of calmness (well, relative), sureness; grace.

In a way, it's all caught up. Chris Jones has observed that, in climbing, there was always a sense of great confidence in Lowe. When the two were descending from Devils Thumb in a complete whiteout, George had a very

impressive sense of the land. He simply fit in the mountains; he knew that place, and what it was.

Does he ever miss being on the cutting edge, doing things that turned the heads of the climbing world? "I miss it a little bit," he says. But he redirects the conversation. "Like climbing yesterday, that was just really pleasant. It was still pushing me physically, but the risk is not there. I'm not sure risk is a good measure of quality."

Lowe is drawing on so much experience that things that are high on many other people's scale of commitment and fear, are, to him, low end. The Diamond is "just a day out on the crag. Things can happen, but the probability is really small that I'll get myself in trouble up there in summer." Lowe can even say of the *Infinite Spur*, "I probably would feel more comfortable now, having done some things like that since."

In terms of the lifelong friendships he's gained, Lowe is like certain climbers of the old school; Chris Jones actually gets a little teary, which amuses him, talking about his old pal. Lowe seems like one of the group including Ad Carter and Pete Schoening, endangering themselves trying to bring their ill friend Art Gilkey down from K2, and who, now in their 70s, remain the best of friends.

But people can't pass off George Lowe with those measures of reverence, respect, and a tinge of condescension, as they do many others who climbed hard decades ago. He is still dragging too much out of climbing.

At one point I ask Liz, "What's George's middle name?"

"Henry," she says, then corrects herself. "Headlamp."

Alison Osius, senior editor at Climbing, has been climbing for 15 years, and has won several national sport-climbing competitions, and was pleased to stagger back in one piece from a weekend with Lowe.

Counter the negative

Training for specific power

by Tim Toulas

Yoga Powers ... To become gigantic and reach the farthest things. To change the course of nature ... To exalt senses and perceive inaccessible images, of events on other worlds, in one's deepest inner mind, or in the minds of others.

— Jim Morrison, *The Lords and the New Creatures*

My stomach went weak when I first gazed at the *Mother of The Future*, a stunning 5.13 roof

route-finding is alright. Then, what's the problem?

POWER. Extreme climbing is power and that's it, and when you got it then you can talk shit. Ultimately, you got to have power.

Now there are climbers walking upon this earth who were born ungodly strong. These "naturals" can crank one-arm pullups without ever training. Then there's you and me, placed on this earth to define the term "hard work."

Well, I was no stranger to hard work. Yet, I

wanted to work smart, with a maximum power return for a limited time schedule. At the time, I was capable of doing one-arm pullups. However, the crux lockoff demanded even more one-arm power, especially on the left side. I remembered the timeless black-and-white of John Gill cranking a one-arm pullup with over 20 pounds in the other hand. I figured if I could do that, I could surely do the *Mother*. But where could a guy like me get power like that?

"Assume the sensational! Suggest the insane!" I mused.

At which point I sought the fastest, most efficient formula for specific power gains. What I discovered might interest you. So if you enjoy hearing your friends say, "You have a grip like a gorilla," or "we were speaking about monkeys and your name came up," please read on.

Bouldering aspirations aside, I had first become intrigued by specific power training when I saw a friend, John Gault, doing an undercling pinch-grip pullup on a smooth wooden block suspended from his trailer ceiling. His whole body vibrated as an intense aura of power lifted him upward. He showed me another block with rimpled finger grooves. "I used this one for a year until I could sand off the grooves and still pull up," he said. It was an impressive display of precision power, to say the least.

I'd witnessed other examples of specific power: John Mattson's fingertip pinch pullups on half-inch kitchen ceiling furring strips, Bionic Bob Murray's B2 flashes, and Todd Skinner's mono-doight one-arms. It wasn't until the *Mother of the Future* however, that I really began to delve for the solution to my question.

I realized early on that this power game was not something you just slipped into. It required a fair amount of time, a powerful belief in the outcome,

"Studies suggest that one maximal negative contraction, lowering through the full range of motion (in complete control) but in which at no time does the lowering ever come to a stop, delivers the most profitable power gains." Jeff Johnson "countering the negative" at The Watering Hole, California.

problem at Hueco Tanks, Texas. I had just finished climbing the *Terminator* face and roof crack (5.13a) twice in one day, which should have been grounds for cockiness. I felt strong ... I *was* strong. Yet, twisting my fingers into the less-than-locker jams of this roof crack made the *Terminator* seem a 5.9 pleasure shuffle. The crux move appeared to be a finger-torquing one-arm lockoff. Cockiness vanished. The verdict: "You aren't strong enough for this, sucker!"

On any hard route certain variables, such as technique, route-finding, and strength, allow success. You may have had the revelation, as I did that day, that, yes, my technique is OK, and my

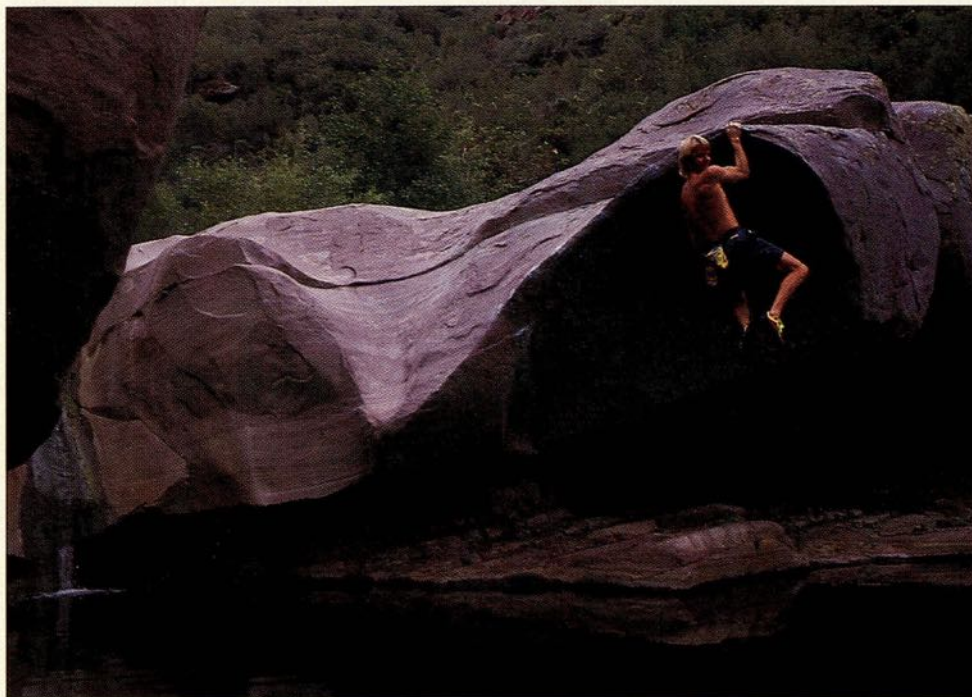


Photo: Kevin Powell

and a constant attitude toward work, coupled with the joy of minute achievements.

Properly, we should read for power. Man reading should be intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one's hand.

— Ezra Pound

My first clue how to gain power most efficiently came from a gymnastics book, which stated, "Every gymnastic power trick is first learned via the negative motion." In practice, you learn an iron cross, one-arm pullup, front lever, etc. by first learning to control the negative contraction (the lowering motion). Once you can control the negative, then it is time to "counter the negative," or learn the positive motion.

I queried an exercise physiology professor about power training. His reply was similar but more specific: "Studies suggest that one maximal negative contraction, lowering through the full range of motion (in complete control) but in which at no time does the lowering ever come to a stop, delivers the most profitable power gains."

Finally, in a Nautilus training book, I found another intriguing blurb about Arthur Jones, Nautilus inventor, exercise physiologist, and early advocate of the negative-only workout. Jones stated that anyone intent on power gains should consider how much he can lower, not how much he can lift.

My first clue how to gain power most efficiently came from a gymnastics book, which stated, "Every gymnastic power trick is first learned via the negative motion."

Jones tested his theory on a professional football player by placing the athlete on a negative-only weight-training regimen for an entire summer. For the first two weeks he worked out three times a week, with significant power gains. For the next two weeks he worked out twice a week, with more gains. Finally he reduced his workouts to only once a week, and continued to gain steadily. By the end of the summer's session, he was stronger than ever.

What's so special about the negative motion? Muscles contract at a greater intensity during the negative ("eccentric") contraction than the positive ("concentric") contraction. The muscles can control more weight in the negative than in the

positive motion — as much as 40 percent more. Negative work also reduces reserve strength faster than other methods (a good reason why you should refrain from lowering on your arms during a climb — you get pumped and lose strength faster). Furthermore, you can always lower a weight after you can no longer raise it.

Based on these findings, I formulated a regimen to "counter the negative" and positively pull down the *Mother of The Future*. Here is how it is put into practice. As a sample power task, let's use the one-arm pullup.

When you are going for max power, find your best biochronological functioning period. At seven in the morning I'm lucky to peel the skin off a banana, but come seven p.m., not even Delilah with a pair of hair shears can weaken me. Before you start, warm up thoroughly: stretch, do some pullups and light weightlifting.

Now grasp your pullup bar in a fully locked-off, chin-over-the-bar position. (You'll need a low bar to do this, or start from a chair.) Lower slowly, through the entire range of motion, all the way down to a point just shy of full extension. Avoid straight-armed hanging — this may harmfully load the shoulder joint, and contributes little to power gain. A slow, controlled, four-second lowering will build strength best. Now do the other arm. Rest for five minutes. (Five minutes? How about using these intermissions to improve your plies, splits, and high steps, psyching for the next attempt, as well as gym gene-pool scanning?)

Repeat this sequence up to 10 times, until you know you are weakening. You should notice a pyramid or bell curve in the quality of your attempts: strengthening, then weakening again. This is due to a physiological process known as "treppe:" a muscle fires maximally only after it has warmed up in a staircase fashion. Your strongest attempts, assuming you're resting adequately, will probably be between your fourth and sixth lowering. Continue the exercise until you are on the downward slope of the bell curve and you will have worked that muscle enough to gain power.

Then, to build endurance and to really exhaust the muscle, do four to six reps in a row (without rest). The first rep will be the strongest, and the others will progressively require more assistance (from an elastic cord or spotter). Continue until you are completely blown. Maintain good form through the entire range of motion. After a final five-minute rest, do another set of four to six reps in a row. (Note: Some current muscle-building books propose stopping short of complete fatigue to leave some glycogen in the muscle for faster recovery. The jury is still deliberating.)

Perform a workout of this intensity once every three days, no more. Adequate rest time is crucial for muscle rebuilding. It is during rest that strength is actually gained.

If at first you can lower at a rate just under free-fall, don't worry. You will soon be able to lower down in control, then lower down and lock, then lower and lock anywhere throughout the motion, and then finally start to pull up (i.e., counter the negative). In time, you'll be able to pull up through the complete range of motion. *Voila!* The one-arm pullup is reality.

That's the pattern. If adhered to, this program is guaranteed to improve the power trick of your choice.

Each individual workout should be a short (90 minutes or less), focused session. You should notice a significant difference in your lockoff in just two months. However, the amount of time involved to progress from the negative to positive motion depends on your ability, attitude, time input, and discipline.

It is important to mix the positive movement into your routine so the brain incorporates the raising motion. You are learning a skill, training your nervous system as much as your muscles. Neural pathways are akin to the grooves on a 33 LP (still remember these?). When you perform the positive motion you're practicing the intended application of your new power, thus letting your brain form useful grooves. Do two sets of four to six reps of one-arm pullups with each arm (help by pulling on a sling with the other hand if necessary), or a series of single reps with rest, as you did with the negative routine.

After two months of this routine it is good to go away from the negative for two to six weeks and give the connective tissue a chance to heal and grow. "Periodizing" your training forces you out of a single groove, say pure power, and into others such as endurance, endurance-power blend, or just plain fun pumping. For a rock climber who wants to stay on the rock, periodization could mean a schedule of long, medium-hard endurance routes, then hard sport routes, then extreme bouldering, perhaps followed by easy, fun, alpine routes. When you return to the power groove after being out for awhile, your nervous system will respond with a renewed push to even higher power levels.

Be aware that there are some drawbacks to negative training. It produces more soreness after a workout than any other routine, often on the second day after a heavy power-training session. Worse, the negative-only regimen can be very hard on connective tissue. Many exercise practitioners frown on negative-only training for this reason. Person-

ally, I never had a problem with this; adequate rest days and training periodization have allowed me to use this technique injury free. But be careful.

Counter the Negative theory is the crucial ligament between the rock and the gym. It explains why bouldering and

Counter the Negative theory is the crucial ligament between the rock and the gym. It explains why bouldering and hangdogging work so well as training.

hangdogging work so well as training.

You run up against a boulder problem that requires a hard move. At first you fall as you begin to reach, because your arm or fingers are too weak. So what do you do? Try the problem ... fall. Rest. Ditto. Etc. Does this sound familiar?

With every attempt at the crux, you are resisting the negative motion. Let's say in two days when you come back, you are just a little bit stronger and can do it. You were able to resist the negative motion long enough to make the move. However, if you still could not do the problem, perhaps you just needed one or two more weeks of work. The boulderer or sport climber working a boulder problem or a route crux is not just figuring out a move, but is unknowingly performing a Counter the Negative routine.

A basic fact of training is that you get good at what you do. That is, lift weights and you become a stronger weightlifter; climb cracks and you become a stronger crack climber. In training for the *Mother*, I made the one-arm pullup the crux and focus of my training session. The rest of my workout then became a fun circuit of bombing other standard weight-training exercises to insure a balanced physique.

In a three-month period, I went from being able to do a one-arm pullup holding five pounds in my free hand to a one-arm holding 20 pounds, and also learned to lower and lock off with 60 pounds in one hand. But so what? The *Mother of the Future* was my acid test.

It was my third season of attempting the *Mother*. In my first two years of attempts, I was close to getting it, but I fell short of success, driven back by time demands and failing to give the last 10 percent. I had to ask myself the one question around which success in climbing or

training often hinges: How bad do you want it?

A young man asked Socrates how he could get wisdom. Socrates replied, "Come with me." He took the lad to a river, pushed the boy's head under the water, held it there until the boy was struggling for air, then relaxed and released his head. When the boy regained his composure he asked him, "What did you desire most when your were under water?"

"I wanted air," said the boy. Socrates said to him, "When you want wisdom as much as you wanted air when you were immersed in the water, you will receive it."

Well I wanted the *Mother*, and this season, after five months of negative and positive training, I was so close. Each day my lockoff time increased by a half second. I was closer to making the reach, and just decided not to give up on it. I went away to the Phoenix Bouldering Contest, then came back four days later and gave the last ten percent.

In the final analysis, determination and persistence are the keys to training for power. There is a well-known Zen reference to tea and sugar, which goes as follows: When you add one grain of sugar to the tea, the taste of the sugar is imperceptible. Add 15 more grains of sugar, one by one, and you may still be unable to taste it. But add enough sugar consistently and you'll taste the sweetness of the tea.

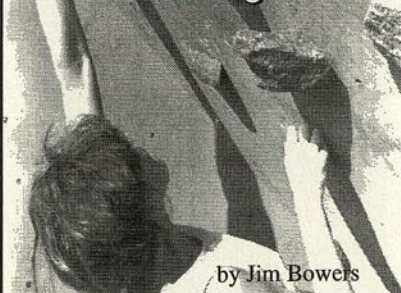
"Counter the Negative" works the same way. After the first day of training, your power goal may feel further away than a distant planet. But six months later you may have a hard time believing you were once so weak. So spotweld your focus to your goals and fight. Fight for all you're worth in the last crucial hour. For it's there where success lies.

One more thing. Get a tan. When you're white, you're weak. Ever seen Arnold Schwarzenegger pale? Get a tan.

(Author's Note: This program assumes the user already has a sound level of fitness, tendon development, and some knowledge of weight training. I have studied and tested the above program over the last four years, and it delivers results. But, it is just one of several programs that can lead to power gains. By no means is it or should it be used exclusively. I'd be interested in your feedback and results.)

Tim Toulas has climbed for a dozen years around the United States, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. He lives between Lander, Wyoming, and Flagstaff, Arizona, and is an Exum Mountain Guide, amateur exercise buff, and a grain of sugar away from completing an atlas of North American rock climbing areas.

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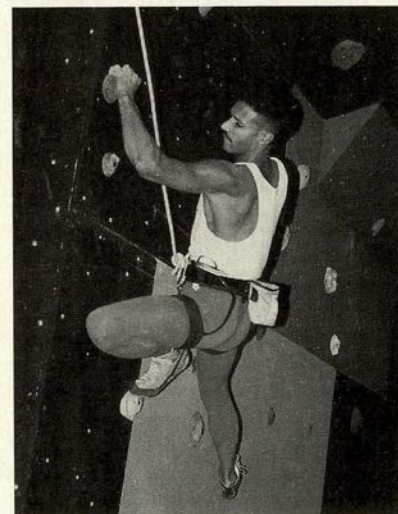


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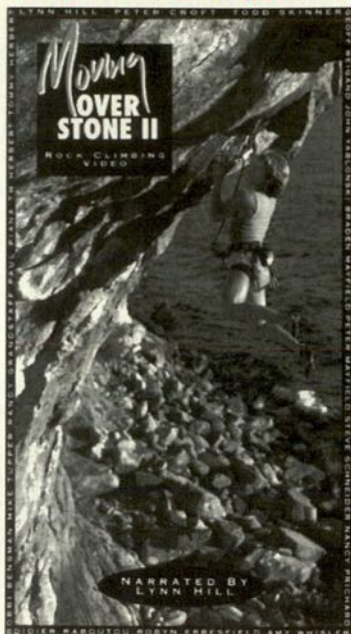


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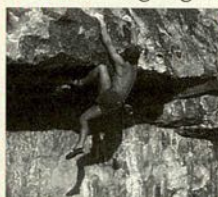


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Achieving Grace

continued from page 104

Sakashita of Lost Arrow, a major distributor of climbing equipment in Japan. Sakashita offered Hirayama sponsorship, but there was a price: Hirayama would have to complete a two-year technical school. Desperate for money, Hirayama agreed. Back in Japan, he lasted only three months training as a mechanic. When he received an invitation to compete at the renowned Arco competition, he accepted, deciding to climb while he and the time were ripe. It was 1989. Naoe understood and kept the sponsorship in effect. Rightfully so, as Hirayama placed third in the on-sight, though low on the rehearsed route. A couple of months later came the win at Nuremberg.

Yuji became more determined than ever. He felt he would have to work even harder, as there were many climbers stronger than he, and they all trained extremely hard.

"He isn't as powerful as Moffat or Raboutou, but he uses his brain, he is really relaxed as he climbs, and he has a natural way of moving that maximizes his strength," Lynn Hill commented in *Climbing* at the time.

After Nuremberg, Hirayama and Francois Legrand became roommates in a small apartment in Aix-en-Provence, France. Both were on a mission to improve and excel. While studying French at the local university, Hirayama climbed hard with Legrand: on the crags during the day and at home in the evening on the training wall they built in their apartment. This scenario preceded Legrand's rise from an obscure, talented young climber to becoming the 1990 and 1991 World Champion. Hirayama, too, came away with many high results in international competitions in 1990 and 1991, including a first place at a 1990 Japanese invitational featuring the world's best climbers, and a second all-around in the 1991

World Cup. In 1990 he made one of the first — and rare still today — on-sights of an 8a+ (5.13c), with his ascent of the *Neophyte*, a super steep, tricky, and sustained route near the Verdon Gorge in France. But it was also a troubling year for him, a time in which he often worried about what he'd do the rest of his life.

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LYNN HILL COMMENTED.**

At the beginning of the 1990 competition circuit, the obsessive training started to wear on Hirayama. After falling low in the quarterfinal at the 1990 Vienna World Cup, the season's opener, he realized he needed to slow down. "I was constantly tired and was not recovering well," he says. Injuries were creeping in and improvement was on the decline. He modified his regimen: "I lis-

tened carefully to my body's needs," he says, "and learned to take proper rest."

The summer of 1990 became a time for fun and relaxation as Hirayama worked on the film *Fire and Ice* with Stefan Glowacz, Isabelle Patissier, J.B. Tribout, and others. He climbed and trained moderately. The fall season brought precious rewards: second-place finishes at a Masters' Invitational in Briancon and the 1990 Nuremberg World Cup. He also redpointed two 8bs in Briancon in three days. That same winter Hirayama and Legrand went their separate ways. Hirayama moved out of the apartment and onto the road.

He spent spring and summer 1991 traveling and homeless in France and sultry Spain. He started the season with a good fourth-place finish in the Vienna World Cup, but entered the World Masters' Series (at Stuttgart, La Riba, Maurienne, and Serre Chevalier) with strained fingers and disoriented by his homelessness. He achieved mediocre results and did not make the finals at several events. Again, he decided something had to change.

The "wheel of fortune" spun his way as he and Scott Franklin struck gold when Lynn Hill let them house-sit her home in the south of France for the month of August. The two built a climbing wall at the house and created diabolical "routes" of extreme power and endurance. They spent their time off the wall stretching, running, and cragging, having pump fests on the Volx ceilings.

Finally Hirayama took a week off for his torqued fingers. For inspiration he reviewed videos from past competitions and read numerous training manuals.

Two weeks remained until the start of the hectic 1991 fall competition circuit. The house-sitting gig was up and in light of his damaged fingers and housing predicament, Hirayama decided not to compete in the first event, the Clusone World Cup. He rested, found an apartment, and got his psyche together. Next to come was the high-visibility Arco Rockmaster, and Hirayama, who had not been regarded as a serious threat, scored the riveting victory.

He went on to place second at Innsbruck and Frankfurt, but the most meaningful event came in October, when, under tremendous pressure, Hirayama triumphed before his hometown crowd in the first Japanese World Cup.

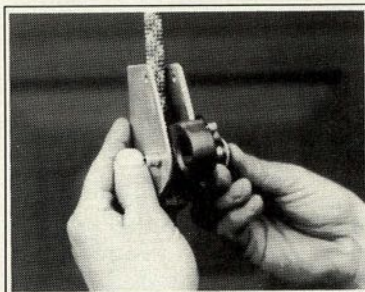
"It was my home and I climb really well (there)," he said. It was also, paradoxically, a very relaxing time. "Everyone really kindly. I feel so different, I feel like in a hot bath, so nice."

In Japan, he had the pleasure and relief of understanding everything said around him. Here, back in Europe, the language barrier remains troublesome. Good-naturedly, Hirayama acts out an imitation of himself for his peers. He puts on a blank expression, and shakes his head, asking, "What? What?!"

In the sunlight of a spring day, from the slim balcony off Karn and Hirayama's shared apartment in Aix-en-Provence, you can see white sheets and pink towels waving on the rails of the far balconies. On the balconies below bloom crimson, orange, and pink geraniums. Across a green divide of trees, tile roofs, the Cathedral d'Aix, and other spires rise above this medieval market city, long a center for artists.

Hirayama has been in this apartment for five months. "Four, five years ago it

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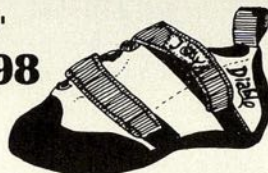
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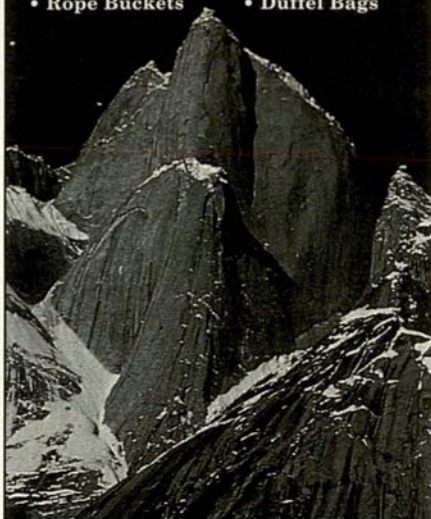
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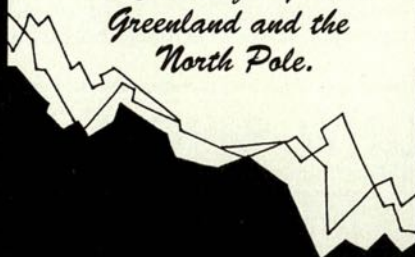


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was so hard [to live]. Now I feel comfortable, almost like being in Japan."

He reads books and magazines from home, but only when visiting friends bring them, or packages arrive from home. When asked he says he doesn't subscribe, though he adds vaguely, "but I should do that."

Today, REM is playing on the stereo in Hirayama's bedroom, which contains, beyond that, a bed, a desk, and a sprinkling of photos taped to the wall. Hirayama is moving back and forth on small wooden holds on one of three hangboards in the living room. The bouldering wall near at hand prompts Hirayama and Karn to pay their rent on time so as not to attract attention from the landlord. Climbing equipment seems to occupy more space in the room than the few pieces of furniture.

Near the front door a tiny tea table holds a couple of trophies and a yellow bouquet won by Hirayama in Zurich, where he placed third in 1992's first World Cup.

Hirayama, mentioning some top climbers in their 30s, says he expects to climb as he is for many years. "I'm all right, I am healthy to train, to make competition. [I'm] close to training place, close to competition place." He lives within an hour of four major climbing areas.

Even after he finishes competing, he says, "Maybe still I [will live] in France or somewhere in Europe. But for the moment [that] is only my idea in my head."

Through his eagerness to learn, and his multinational friends in Europe, Hirayama has gained an understanding of the differences between his own and other cultures. "The Japanese seem less opinionated and more open-minded than the Americans and Europeans," he says. "But Americans are so friendly. They're open and expressive, unlike the Japanese, who are more reserved emotionally."

Hirayama likes climbing natural rock

as much as he likes competitions, he says. "I want to remember why I started climbing. I want to climb everything from left to right, to touch every hold and feel every move." Hard on-sights, redpoints, boulder problems, first ascents, and finding new areas are all important to him. He is exceptionally flexible and has tremendous endurance. "My weaknesses are not having max

power and enough concentration, but I give good fight!" His goal is to climb 8c this year.

A key element in his climbing philosophy is the purity of the relationship between himself and the rock. He says, "To truly appreciate the cliffs made from nature it doesn't seem right to chip. If you can't do it, don't chip. Wait for the future. We must build ourselves up, get stronger, with better technique, and train much. Don't take the challenge away."

"I bolted a route in Briancon, France, and I think it may take me

nine years to do it. In the meantime I am very busy. I must train really hard. It's like at Joshua Tree, Smith Rock, and with *Le Rage de Vivre*, after being completely bouted I kept my faith and trust in myself and knew my power would return. I want to climb forever and travel to Russia, China, Africa, the South Pole. There will always be somewhere to climb, something to climb."

Hirayama lives by the Japanese motto: NASANEBANARANU. NASE BANARU. — "If we don't try we can't do it. If we try we can do it."

Georgia Phipps is from Seattle, though she mostly lives on the road, climbing. She was a professional modern-jazz dancer before climbing became her main focus. She has assisted Scott Franklin in setting competition courses at Snowbird, 1990, and at a series of Canadian nationals. She recently finished work as a stunt double in the upcoming feature film Cliffhanger.

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THE CHALLENGE AWAY."**

High and dry

Andinismo in the Puna de Atacama
of Chili and Argentina

by Gregory Horne

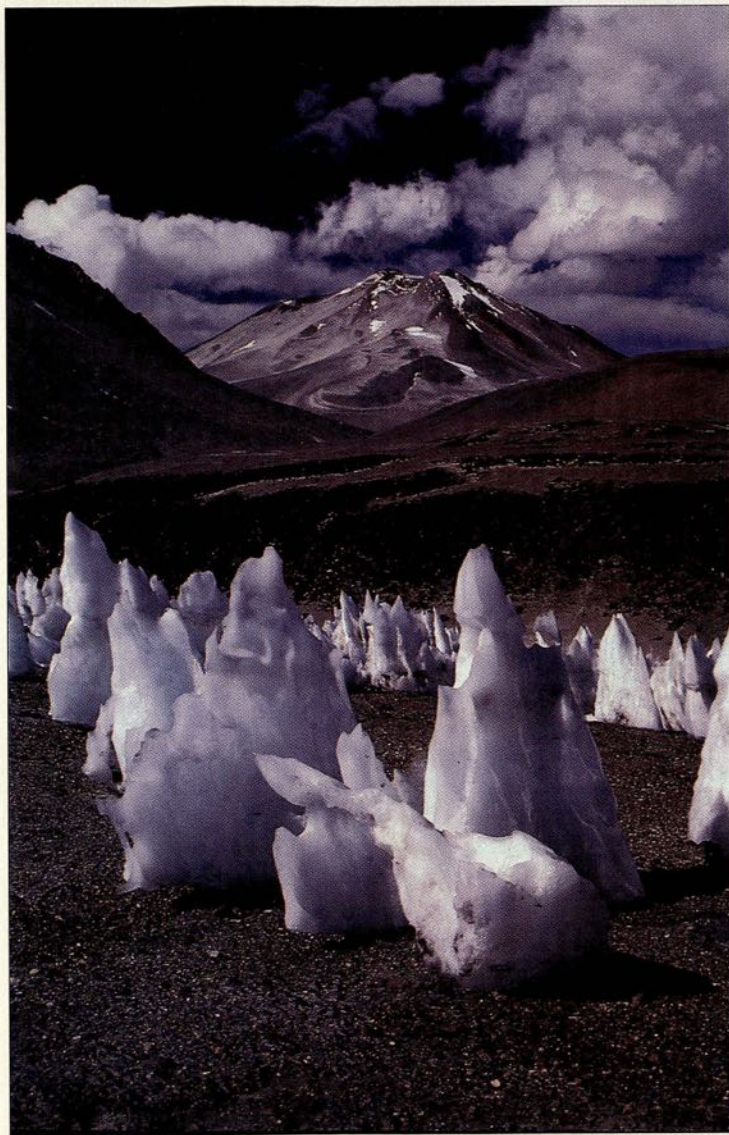


Photo: Greg Horne

"Penitentes" and Incahuasi (6620 meters), one of the numerous 6000-meter peaks in the Atacama Desert.

Three climbers, myself from Canada and two friends from Germany, had just completed a two-week expedition in the Puna de Atacama. In true Argentine style we celebrated our successful expedition to Ojos del Salado by having an *asado*, or barbeque, with our driver, the outfitter, and the local guards at the border post. From another room came a loud bang, as if a bookshelf had fallen over. No one in the room reacted to the noise. A guard then entered, looking as if he'd seen a ghost. He held up his pistol holster, its end blown out, and

pointed to his torn pant leg. His gun had gone off, the bullet just grazing his knee. Everyone laughed enthusiastically and we continued imbibing the vino and downing the sizzling steaks.

Bleak, lunar, and unforgiving are adjectives that come to mind when describing the Puna. Yet these features are what make it different and interesting.

The Atacama Desert is regarded as the driest location in the world. The *altiplano*, or high-plateau area of this desert (arbitrarily, terrain above 2500 to 3000 meters) is known as the Puna. The heart of the Puna embraces the frontiers of Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina, and includes 35 to 40 peaks above 6000 meters. Public transportation is generally poor, and vehicles must be hired. Due to the dryness and intense solar radiation, few of the peaks support glaciers, and summer snow lines reach 5000 to 5500 meters. Almost without exception all the high peaks are volcanoes, which include the highest in the world.

The region has an extensive history of mountaineering, possibly the longest on earth. The Atacameñan and Inca peoples were climbing 6000-meter peaks more than 500 years ago. They built rock shelters on summits and slopes, spending considerable time there. The reasons for these high-altitude camps certainly included human sacrifice, worship, and perhaps communication by signal fires. (See *National Geographic*, March 1992.)

The entire Puna de Atacama would require several lifetimes of exploration to know even superficially. The four areas discussed in this article have been chosen because of their relative ease of access, significant peaks, and beautiful landscapes.

San Pedro de Atacama and Calama — Chile

San Pedro is a picturesque oasis village famous for its museum's collection of 10,000-year-old Atacama mummies and other artifacts. Licancábur, meaning "place where there is quartz," is the most prominent of the nearby peaks. Its almost perfectly symmetrical volcanic cone rises to 5916 meters and has ruins on its summit and eastern slopes. The summit crater contains a lake claimed to be the highest in the world. One American anthropologist carried scuba gear to this lake to search for Incan treasure. No luck, but other researchers discovered species of algae found nowhere else.

There are two feasible ways to climb Licancábur. From San Pedro, drive towards a pass north of the peak. You'll need a four-wheel-drive vehicle to reach the pass; an ordinary pickup will get you to within one hour of the base of the mountain. Scramble up the boulder ridge left of the obvious scree/ash gully splitting the entire

west face. Descent of the mountain by the ash gully takes only about two hours, an advantage of this route. Another option is to take the road east of San Pedro towards the Purico sulphur mine, then head on foot to the col between Licancábur and Juriques. Climb the eastern slopes of Licancábur, passing several ruins enroute.

North of San Pedro are the Tatio Geysers, in a newly established national park. Access to this remote area is normally by tour bus from San Pedro or Calama.

Ojos del Salado — Chilean Side

Ojos del Salado, meaning "the place where the salty river begins," is considered the second-highest summit in South America. A long-standing debate purports that it might be higher than Aconcagua (6960 meters). A recent surveying expedition elevated Ojos del Salado's previous altitude of 6880 meters to 6900 meters, but not to 7000 meters as some would like to believe. Ojos does have the distinction of being the highest active volcano in the world. (Cotopaxi in Ecuador is often incorrectly cited as such.)

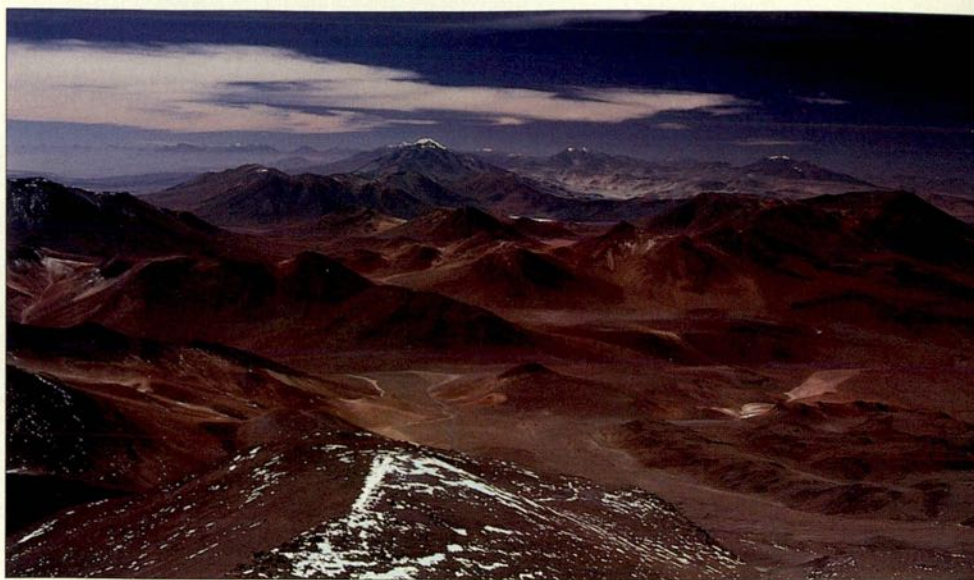
Two huts have been built on Ojos del Salado in memory of two mining company employees killed in a 1984 helicopter crash. This accident put Chile's highest mountain on the front page of the newspapers.

The huts are located at 5180 meters and 5790 meters. It may be possible to reach the higher hut with four-wheel drive. This extremely easy access mandates previous acclimatization climbs or a deliberately slow ascent to avoid altitude sickness. Altitude sickness in South America is normally called *soroche*. In the Puna de Atacama, however, it's simply called "la Puna."

The one-day climb from the highest hut to the summit has been compared to the finish on the normal route of Aconcagua — a scree and boulder gully.

Additional objectives in the area include the heavily glaciated Tres Cruces (6753 meters), El Muerto (6540 meters) — by its south face glacier — and Incahuasi (6620 meters). Dependable fresh water is limited to one stream, Agua Dulce, flowing into the east end of Laguna Verde. There is a hot spring about halfway along the south shore of Laguna Verde; turn off Highway 31 at the mummified horse tied to a post.

The normal starting point for Ojos del Salado from the Chilean side is Copiapo, near the Pacific coast. Vehicle rentals through major agencies are possible (prearrange reservations from Santiago or the United States well in advance), or hire a ride (about 250 kilometers one way). Four-wheel drive is not required under favorable road conditions.



The view to the north from Lullailaco (6723 meters), home to the world's oldest archaeological ruins.

Ojos del Salado — Argentine Side

The Ojos del Salado region may have the greatest concentration of peaks above 6000 meters outside of Asia. Most (there are more than 25) are located either on the border with Chile or south, completely in Argentina. In contrast to the Chilean side, there is almost no mountaineering activity on the Argentine side — only two or three groups per year. Lack of information probably discourages most people from exploring the area. The Argentine side has several major advantages: much more fresh water, ease of hiring mules, a developing transport hire for climbers, and many more climbing objectives.

To reach the area one must proceed to the province of Catamarca and its capital, San Fernando del valle de Catamarca. Aerolinas Argentinas has a flight from Buenos Aires to Catamarca. Continue by bus to Tinogasta and on to the town of Fiambalá. Jonson Hugo Reynoso, a local climber and director of Fiambalá's FM radio station, is the best contact. He will connect you with drivers and arrange for mules, and is the best expedition organizer I have met in South America. To ensure making contact with him, write two to three months ahead of time and phone upon arriving in Argentina. Write: Jonson Hugo Reynoso, F.M. Fiambalá — Director, Fiambalá 5345, Catamarca, Argentina. Phone: 0837-960 (the town telephone office; call in the morning and leave a message when you will call back so he can be there to speak with you).

The normal trailhead is Cazadero Grande at 3600 meters. It is a semi-permanent gaucho camp where you may hire mules. An excellent *arriero* (mule driver) to ask for is Cirilo Arancibia. Another *arriero*, Don Santiago Olmedo, probably the most knowledgeable person of the entire region, is

available for consultation. Reynoso can put you in contact with Olmedo or Arancibia.

From Cazadero Grande, head up the Rio del Cazadero for one to one-and-a-half days, to where the flowing water ends at Agua Caliente (4280 meters). Mules can continue to Agua del Vicuña at 4950 meters in another day. Then one or two more days of travel will get you to a high camp (5700 meters) on the southeast side of Ojos suitable for a summit bid. Allow six to eight days from the road to the top. Rolling foothills on the approach block a view of Ojos and make route-finding slightly problematic. Without maps or an *arriero* it may be difficult to locate water sources, or Ojos itself.

To acclimatize and learn the region's terrain, you can climb many other tempting peaks south of Ojos. A few prominent mountains include Walter Penck (6637 meters) — also called Cazadero — Nacimientos (6493 meters), and Olmedo (6241 meters). East of Ojos are El Muerto (6540 meters), El Fraile (6072 meters) and Incahuasi (6620 meters), all suitable peaks for climbing on the way out.

An enjoyable exit route back to the road follows the Rio de las Lozas, with its colorful canyons and good trout fishing. Climbers on a super-low budget may try to hitch a ride from Fiambalá with fishermen heading to Rio de las Lozas. Don't expect much traffic on this road from Fiambalá to Copiapo (about one vehicle every day or two), and consider being ready to go either direction to increase the opportunities.

Cerros Pissis and the Bonetes — Argentina

Further south of the Ojos region is another group of very high peaks. The significant summits in this area include Pissis

(6779 meters), Bonete Grande (6872 meters), and Bonete Chico (6850 meters). These peaks are veiled in mystery; their exact locations and altitudes are debated by locals and foreigners alike. Johan Reinhard proposed in the August, 1990 (No. 26), issue of *South American Explorer* that Pissis could be the second-highest peak in South America, and also stated that there is only one Bonete. His altitude estimations were based upon hand-held altimeter readings.

Señor Reynoso can arrange transport to Pissis' glaciated north side: to Laguna de los Aparejos via four-wheel-drive vehicle, then on foot or by mule (carrying water). The Bonetes are probably best reached from the south, in the province of La Rioja. From La Rioja's capital, La Rioja, bus to Villa Union and stay at Hosteria Villa Union. The owner of the hosteria, Werner Lorenz, is a German immigrant who knows the northwest of the province well. In 1991 there was no four-wheel-drive vehicle to hire so the only possibility was to go by mules from the village of Jagüe, 100 kilometers further north.

By mule, the route is up the Rio Bonete, then the Rio del Oro. A steep glacier route on the south face of Bonete Chico (the southern of the two Bonetes) has been done. The normal route is on the east side. A few days' travel further north will get you to the base of Bonete Grande.

Going by four-wheel-drive involves a completely different approach. From Jagüe head west to the Salina de Leoncito, then north to Refugio Pastillos, past Laguna Brava and on to Refugio Veladero (4250 meters). These *refugios* are stone shelters built for gauchos moving cattle from Argentina to Chile during the last century. It's about 230 kilometers from Jagüe to Refugio Veladero. It was once possible to get to Laguna Brava by ordinary car but the trip now requires four-wheel drive. Vehicles can only proceed a little way beyond Refugio Veladero. Bonete Chico could be climbed by its west side from here. A few days' walk further north is the base of the multi-summitted Pissis at 5000 meters. From a common basecamp both Pissis and Bonete Grande could be climbed in three to four days each.

Llullaillaco

Pronounced "yu-yi-yaco," this is a very high border peak (6723 meters) situated between Licancábur and Ojos del Salado. The highest known archaeological ruins in the world stand on its crater rim. You can reach Llullaillaco from either Argentina or Chile using hired vehicles. Driving is risky in this region unless you have the best maps, are carrying extra fuel and repair equipment, or are traveling in convoy.

Road maps show a route across the Andes through Paso Socompa but it is used *very* little. The most economical and reliable approach is to take the weekly train running from the city of Salta in the Province of Salta to Paso Socompa at the Argentina/Chile border. A connecting service with a Chilean train from the pass to the port city of Antofagasta, currently cancelled, might soon be reinstated. Check in Santiago at the national tourist information for updates. Argentine trains leave Salta every Wednesday morning; reservations are not possible. It is one-and-a-half to two days' travel to Paso Socompa. One or two passenger cars are tacked on to a freight train so service is not what most would expect. There are innumerable stops and delays, but the trip is one of the greatest mountain train rides in the world, and includes switchbacks, spiral tunnels, *altiplano* vistas, llamas, immense gorges, snow-capped 6000-meter peaks, and vast salt plains.

The route ends at the 3876-meter Paso Socompa. From here it's about a 50-kilometer walk to the base of Llullaillaco with not one drop of drinkable water along the way. Carry enough water to reach the snow on the upper slopes of the mountain. (I carried nine litres — three per day.). Only attempt this climb if you have spent time immediately beforehand in other high-altitude areas, as the one-week schedule to catch the next train does not permit any leeway for acclimatizing. Figure about two days' cross-country walk to the base at 5000 meters, then one or two days to climb the peak and two more back to the pass. Michael Kelsey's *Climbers and Hikers Guide to the World's Mountains, Third Edition* (see *Climbing* No. 123 for review), describes the route adequately. Lots of typical Puna wildlife will be visible on the trip. Vicuña and guanaco (related to llamas), are a common sight, as are flamingos, geese, and ducks at the salty Laguna Tecar. One station stop before Paso Socompa is the town of Quebrada del Agua. Roberto Alegre, the only permanent resident of the area, has mules for hire. Securing his services without previous arrangements will be next to impossible given the once-per-week train schedule. You may write him at: Estancia Quebrada del Agua, Provincia de Salta, Argentina.

Logistics

When to go. Climbers from both countries have their preferences and five people may prefer five different months. The region is far enough south to have a severe winter (during the northern hemisphere's summer). The winter months of May through October can bring very low temperatures, heavy snowfall, and high winds.

These are the best months for water availability, but drifting snow can close roads and rail lines and dissuade local drivers from heading into the Puna. Some favor spring — November and December — as there will still be snow left from the previous winter. Summer — January and February — can be very hot (85° to 95° F) for the lower altitude approaches and thunderstorms are frequent. Fall — March and April — will be cooler, but snow will be at its minimum unless early winter storms have hit. My first choice would be spring, followed by fall.

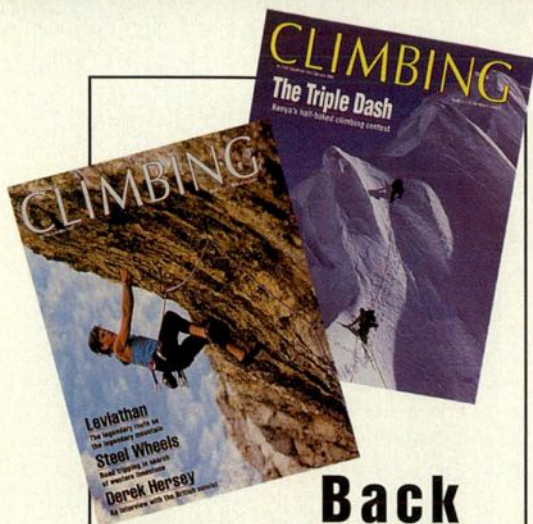
Access. From the international airports in Buenos Aires, Argentina or Santiago, Chile, domestic flights or buses will take you to the appropriate regional or provincial capitals. Unless renting a jeep or pickup, continue by local bus to the last town where a ride can be hired. Even if you've prearranged transport, expect a few days at the last town to secure a driver and vehicle to take you to the trailhead. It may also be feasible to hire mules to get to basecamp. Mules always require a driver (*arriero* or *baqueano*). Hiring mules at the last minute can be risky, but is hard to avoid.

If you are serious about using mules, make some written prearrangements (in Spanish). Hiring mules has advantages beyond lightening your pack. Your mule driver is also a guide and knows the history of the area if you care to ask. In 1991, in northwest Argentina, mules cost about \$6 per animal per day. That's a lot better than the grossly inflated Aconcagua prices of \$20 to \$25 per day. When bargaining, keep in mind that the cost of actually *buying* a mule in Argentina is \$80 to \$100.

If hiring a vehicle (with driver), ask about road conditions and whether four-wheel drive is a must or a luxury. Ask the police, tourist office, or taxi drivers for recommendations on drivers. Bargain hard, and offer cash dollars if that will sweeten the pot. Some sample (1991) prices: in northwest Argentina, \$100 for a drop-off 150 kilometers away, and \$200 for a 500-kilometer round trip; in southern Chile, \$18 for a 50-kilometer return trip.

On a 500-kilometer trip we had four flat tires and had to be rescued by the highway crew after a 24-hour wait. Keep your schedule flexible.

Maps and guides. Neither country has much to offer in terms of detailed cartography. In Argentina, 1:500,000 scale non-topographic maps cover the region: No. 2959 (Tinogasta) covers the area south of 28°00' south latitude, including Cerro Bonete Chico, No. 2769 (Fiambalá) covers north of 28°00' and includes Cerro Bonete Grande and the Ojos del Salado group.



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Adventure: North Face of K2 • **Profiles:** Robyn Erbesfield • Rob Slater • **Destinations:** Naturita, CO • Cochita Mesa, NM • Tuolumne Meadows, CA • Zion National Park, UT Index, WA • Trekking Peaks, Nepal
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Both are available at the Instituto Geográfico Militar at Avenida Cabildo 381, Buenos Aires. The Club Andino Tucumán produced a good sketch topo map and panorama of the Ojos del Salado region in its No. IV bulletin of April 1989; its address is Casilla de Correo 676, 4000 San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina.

The Chilean side of the Puna de Atacama, with the exception of Ojos del Salado, is covered in a recent series of 1:250,000 topographic maps. Map No. 2400-6715 (Sierra Almeida) provides excellent detail of the Llullaillaco area. The Chilean 1:250,000 maps usually show about 10 kilometers into Argentina. Chile's 1:500,000 series maps are

topographic, but without enough detail for complicated approaches. The Chilean Instituto Geográfico Militar's sales offices are located at Calle Dieciocho 369, San Antonio 65 or Avda. O'Higgins 240, in Santiago.

The only published guidebook in any language is Kelsey's; his 928-page guide contains 12 valuable pages on the Puna de Atacama. His sketch maps will just get you by if you are unable to pick up any of the previously mentioned maps. For general travel advice try the *South America Handbook* (published yearly) and the *Lonely Planet* budget travel guides for Chile and Argentina.

Equipment. The majority of the peaks are non-technical by their normal routes and will require only sturdy single boots and ski poles. Atypical conditions could call for ice axes and/or crampons, and double boots might be useful in the colder seasons. Plan for extreme shifts in daily temperatures from 70°F to -5°F. Refer to the Expeditions section article about southern Peru (*Climbing* No. 116) for additional equipment recommendations.

Permits. Unfortunately the paper war is creeping into this very uncrowded region of the world. As of 1991 there were no hoops to jump through on the Argentine side. However, the situation in Chile is becoming red-tape bound. A Chilean law states that every foreigner wishing to climb or explore near its border must obtain permission from the office of foreign affairs. Officials have decided to enforce this law on Ojos del Salado. One must apply in writing, three months in advance, to the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Director Nacional de Fronteras y Limites



del Estado, Bandera 52, Piso 4, Santiago, Chile (fax: 1-56-2-6983502).

Send one copy of the application to the Chilean Embassy in your country and one copy directly to its office in Santiago. The application must include the following: 1) name, nationality, passport number, address, and occupation of each participant; 2) a detailed itinerary including places and dates (be broad enough so as not to limit yourself — for example, list twice as many peaks as you expect to climb and give extra time before and after your planned schedule in an area); 3) list the activities planned for the expedition: climbing, rafting, etc. Allow at least three months for this application to be processed. Failure to have the permit may result in your expedition being turned back by police at highway checkpoints near the border (though officer discretion and your attitude can open many closed doors).

Be aware that cocaine trafficking is taking place along the borders of Argentina and Bolivia. Each month, a reported 500 kilos of cocaine and 50 tons of coca leaves are smuggled over the 4000-meter pass, Condor Huasi, on mules and burros. *Baqueanos* are earning \$100/day making night runs across the border. Trying to hire mules in La Quiaca will be difficult and possibly dangerous if successful. Climbers could easily be mistakenly caught in the crossfire between border guards and smugglers.

Gregory Horne is a frequent visitor to South America, and a regular contributor to Climbing on the region. In addition to freelancing, Horne works as a seasonal park warden in Canada's Jasper National Park.

Are things heating up?

The greenhouse effect and climbers

by John Hart

At 9500 feet in the West Elk Range of Colorado, ecologist John Harte is warming a mountain meadow with infrared lamps, to find out how soil, plants, and animals respond to a general temperature rise of two to three degrees Celsius. Harte is establishing an early warning system: if mountain meadows elsewhere start showing the

Are we looking at Armageddon? If "Armageddon" means a lifeless world, no — the planetary vessel has sailed through many climates in the past. But rapid changes in the weather can be hard on the passengers. We read every day about possible human consequences of global warming: flooded cities, dislocated agriculture, declining fisheries, failing water supplies. For many of the planet's less adaptable living things, the consequence may be extinction.

Confident though researchers are that changes are occurring, they have a devil of a time providing details. The weather systems of the world are so complex that local predictions are hazardous at best. Plainly, global warming doesn't promise a uniform temperature rise. Current computer models (at least 19 major versions are now operating) seem to predict a future world of livelier, more changeable, more energetic weather: bigger hurricanes, heavier monsoons, higher winds, longer droughts. The whole weather engine will pump harder, with results that are likely to take us by surprise. (One computer run suggests that the Gulf Stream might shift its course and cease warming the shores of northern Europe — a change that would make that region dramatically colder.)



John Harte's experiment in the Elk Mountains of Colorado may determine early warning indicators of the arrival of global warming.

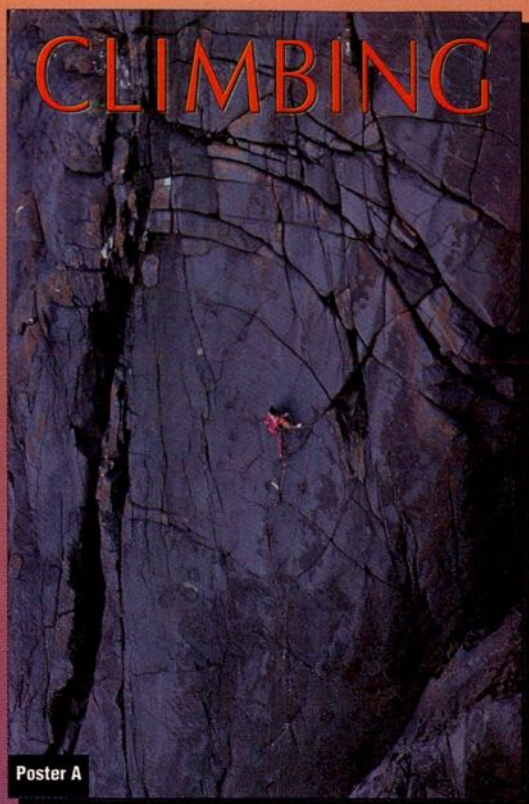
kinds of ecological changes that he has produced with his heat lamps, this will be an indication that global warming has arrived.

Politicians still debate it but scientists are convinced: the human race is altering the climate of the planet it lives on. By pouring carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" into the air, and by stripping forests, we have started a series of changes that will one day warm things up — significantly. The great experiment is underway and cannot be stopped, though an immediate sharp drop in fossil fuel consumption — which seems unlikely — might scale it down somewhat. Researchers like Harte are attempting to gauge the probable results.

How will arctic and alpine regions fare?

In most greenhouse scenarios, the territory above the 60 or 65-degree circle of latitude will undergo relatively more warming than other parts of the planet. That includes most of Alaska, the northern territories of Canada, much of Scandinavia, and about half of Russia. One possible consequence is the summer thawing of permafrost under tundra areas, creating seasonal quagmires (bad news for caribou and other summer pedestrians). But the models also show greater precipitation in these regions in winter. Big glaciers in arctic mountains might actually expand, as might the Greenland ice cap. Glaciers that reach tidewater might have their snouts

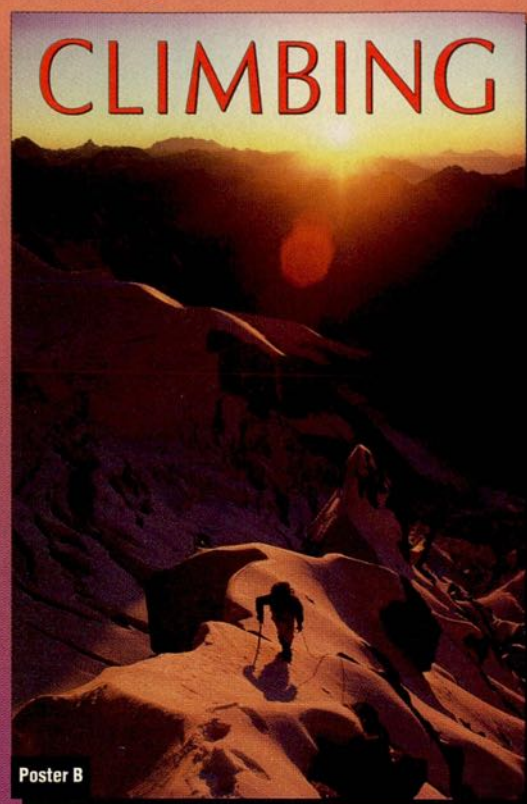
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floated by rising sea level, reducing friction and causing rapid movement of the ice elsewhere along their courses. At the other end of the planet, mainland Antarctica is thought to be too cold to change much; there has been speculation, though, that peripheral ice sheets might eventually break up, feeding the global sea-level rise.

In the warmer regions of the planet, the predicted effects are more complex. In general, "life zones" (areas of characteristic vegetation type) should move up mountains and northwards across continents. A warming of three degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) would push tree-lines 1600 feet upward; the vegetation belts below would rise accordingly. Sub-alpine fir, for example, might occur where limber pine now grows, and Ponderosa pine could invade the former territory of the fir. Where mountains are wooded islands in a sea of desert scrub, as in the Great Basin, the forested zones would dwindle. Plant and animal species that now inhabit only the highest ground on a mountain would likely go locally extinct.

One obviously endangered "species" is the alpine glacier. The greenhouse world would have few if any masses of permanent ice in the temperate zone.

In addition to these widespread temperature shifts, there may also be dramatic local changes in precipitation. Mexican

mountains and the Himalaya should become, if anything, wetter. Areas in the temperate zone — the bands between about 30 and 60 degrees north and south of the equator — seem likely, on average, to dry out. This effect should be most pronounced in the interiors of continents.

Even without changes in precipitation, many areas will become *effectively* drier, due to increased evaporation. As John Harte is finding on his infrared-warmed meadows, snow will melt sooner, plants bud, flower, and set seed earlier, and soils desiccate more completely toward fall. Drought-intolerant species will have a hard time. Verdant alpine and subalpine landscapes may take on the gray and brown tones of high desert ranges.

Are these changes visible today? Few scientists will say so — yet. Records show that the world climate has warmed since 1800, and the six warmest years on record have all occurred since 1980. But climate swings happen all the time, of their own accord, and we may not yet be seeing the effects of what the jargon calls "the anthropogenic perturbation." Moreover, the warming process is set back, temporarily, every time a big volcanic eruption pumps dust into the upper atmosphere, causing more radiation to be bounced back into space. Warming may also be slowed, ironically enough, by all the other non-greenhouse pollutants we

are pumping into the atmosphere; these, too, reflect some radiation.

Yet it's hard to suppress the feeling that *something* big is already going on. Mountain glaciers, certainly, seem to be shrinking on schedule. Everywhere you look, except near the poles, ice masses are dwindling. The Quelccaya Ice Cap in Peru, researchers say, is melting faster now than at any time in the last 500 years. The ice-covered area on Mount Kenya shrank by 40 percent between 1963 and 1987. The Palisade Glacier, largest in the California Sierra, dwindles noticeably almost from year to year. The Greenland ice cap, in contrast, may be swelling as predicted, though the data here are in dispute.

Tad Pfeffer, a climber and a glaciologist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, is appropriately reserved about the scientific data, but forthcoming in his personal observations. "Climbing seasons are shifting," he says. "Sometimes they're disappearing." He observes that the summer thunderstorm season in the Rockies seems to be getting longer, and the favorable climbing season in southeast Alaska shorter and earlier; he's encountered wet-snow avalanches on Mount Fairweather in June, "unseasonably early" by past measures, but maybe not by the standards of a warming world.

Ozone depletion: its effects and how to protect yourself

Greenhouse warming may not be here yet, but there's no such doubt about a parallel effect, ozone depletion. Various industrial chemicals, notably chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), are nibbling away at the ozone layer in the stratosphere, which filters out much of the ultraviolet light from the sun. In recent years, an ozone "hole" has developed each winter over the Antarctic; a similar gap is now predicted over the North Pole. Elsewhere, the protective layer is thinning, most notably in winter. In most northern areas the effect is rather like moving several hundred miles south (since UV has always been more intense near the equator).

We don't know yet what increased ultraviolet radiation will do to the general environment. We do know what it will do — is doing — to human skin and eyes. For every one percent decrease in ozone, the incidence of skin cancer is expected to rise two percent. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency now predicts 200,000 additional melanoma deaths in the next 50 years due to progressive ozone loss. Cataracts, too, are expect-

ed to afflict more people, earlier in life, because of the ozone problem.

For climbers, more than ever before, sun is the enemy. Fight it with sunscreens, sunglasses, and protective clothing. Fair-skinned people, and those who travel in winter, on snow, or at alpine altitudes, should use sunscreens with the highest available sun-protection factors — or total sun-blockers like zinc oxide. Sunglasses should screen both "UVA" and "UVB" (two types of ultraviolet radiation, both harmful). Some climbers wear cowl-like "desert hats" that shield the neck and ears.

The nations of the world have moved fairly rapidly on the ozone problem. The 1987 Montreal Protocol would cut chlorofluorocarbon production in half by the year 2000; several countries, including the United States, are on an even faster schedule. But even a total and immediate ban would not prevent the problem from developing further: the dose already in the system will continue to deplete atmospheric ozone for many decades. "Ozone loss," one scientist says, "will be our legacy for much of the next century."

What can we do to limit global warming? One part of the answer is to reduce the burning of fossil fuels and, in general, to use energy more efficiently. Another part is to protect existing forests and plant new ones. Fortunately, most of the measures necessary to counter the greenhouse effect are desirable in themselves: we'll come out ahead even if the warming effect proves weak.

And if global warming is strong? Hang on to your hats.

Recommended actions

Communicate your concern to your elected officials. To reduce your personal contribution to the greenhouse problem, act on the widely publicized energy-saving tips. Car pool on the way to climbs. And how about obeying speed limits? Hard advice to take, maybe, but slower speeds save lots of gas and cut carbon dioxide output accordingly. There's little the individual can do directly on the ozone front. But if you're junking an old air conditioner, car with air conditioning, or refrigerator, ask your local recycling center how the ozone-depleting CFCs these products contain can be removed.

John Hart is a member of the American Alpine Club Conservation Committee.

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Home improvement

How to build an affordable indoor wall

by Duane Raleigh

Climbing on an artificial wall can turn you into a ripped specimen of pulling sinew. That's a fact. Getting in shape on an indoor wall is infinitely more appealing than serving penitence on a fingerboard. No argument there, either. And having your own private training arena is the

vert into several bouldering-wall configurations that can keep you occupied through a nuclear winter.

Even if you live hand-to-mouth, as do many climbers, you can afford a wall. You don't have to build the whole enchilada at once — work piecemeal — get a couple of

a friend who can) and have access to basic tools, you can build a workable wall.

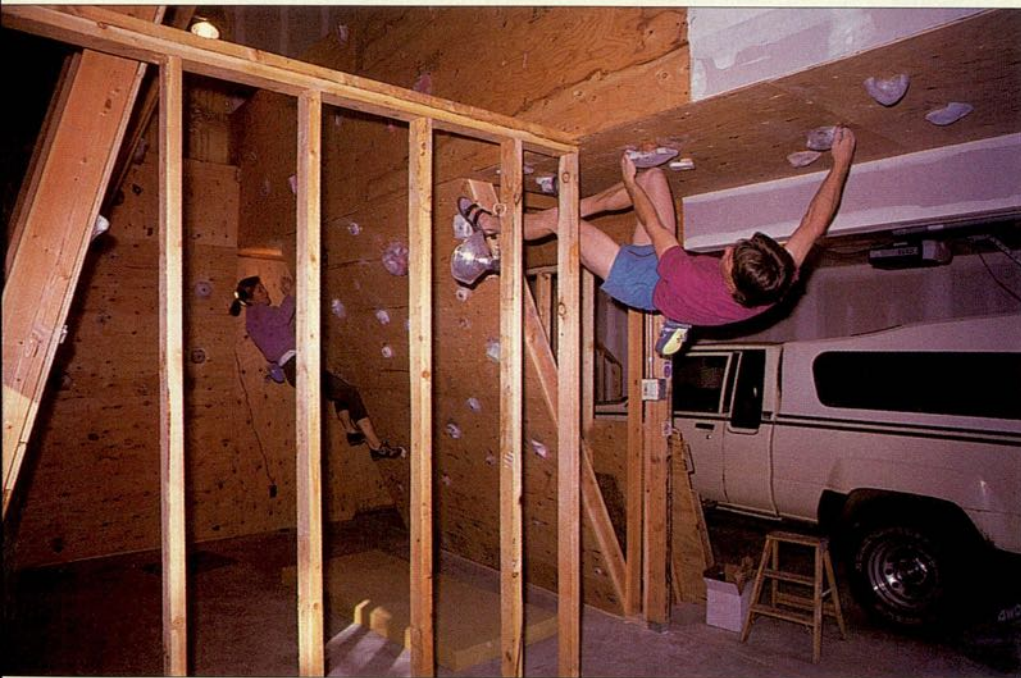
The plan

A quick and inexpensive way to get a gym up is to panel onto the existing walls and ceiling, giving you a vertical and horizontal run. To do this, screw a framework to the studs behind the drywall, and then screw the panels onto the frame. (Construction details are discussed later.) It's tempting to skip the frame and mount the panels directly against the wall. Don't do this — the bolts from the holds will punch holes into the drywall. If the studs are exposed, of course, you can panel directly onto them.

With solid concrete walls, like you'll find in most basements, you can bore a hole with a hammer drill, insert a solid-wall threaded drop-in, like the Hilti HDI, and bolt on the hold without any framing at all. Hollow-block concrete walls work much the same, but require anchors made for hollow block, like the Rawl HS Drop-In. Basements typically have exposed beams, too. You can bolt directly onto these by drilling a small pilot hole and screwing the hold on with a lag bolt. (Keep an eye on lag bolts — they tend to loosen over time.) To mount wood framing onto concrete, concrete screws like the Rawl Tapcon, which require a hole predrilled with a special bit, work fine, as do regular concrete anchors, like the Rawl Lok-Bolt.

Vertical and horizontal walls are the easiest to build, and don't take up a lot of room, but climbing on them gets boring and won't develop your power to its full potential.

An overhanging wall requires a more complex framework, making it a little more costly and time-consuming to erect. It's worth the extra effort: a steep wall makes you bend your arms, lock-off, reach, and get strong. Twenty to 40 degrees past vertical is about optimum, and lets you use most holds. But don't go berserk and make your wall too steep: a wall that kicks out over 45 degrees will force you into mostly straight-arm hanging and pivoting, which doesn't help your power, and limits the usable holds to mostly jugs and bomber incuts.



A garage holds endless potential for building a home climbing wall. Above: the *Climbing Magazine* hold-testing facility.

penultimate for improving your technique.

So where's your wall?

"I don't have the room, cash, or the know-how to build one," you moan.

Wrong.

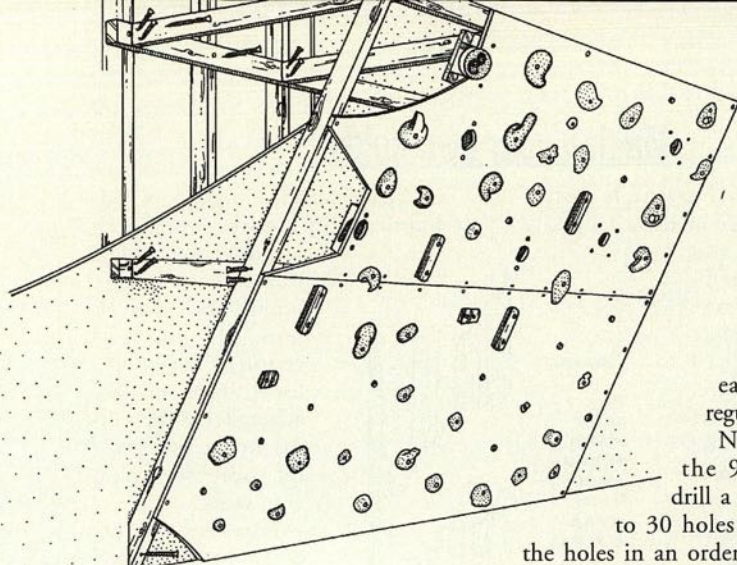
A climbing wall doesn't have to be large, costly, or complicated to be worthwhile. Sure, unfinished attics, basements, and garages are choice, but you can install a functional wall almost anywhere, if you're determined. If you have a roof overhead, an electrical plug that can handle a surge load from the Chili Peppers, and a landing area that's free of obstacles like table saws and rebar, then you have a place for a wall.

The underside of a stairway, for example, is the perfect niche for an overhanging ramp, and one wall and part of a ceiling in a standard-size bedroom can con-

panels up, and then add on when you get the funds. For example, you can build a starter gym, one that contains two, eight-foot-by-four-foot panels for around \$200 (\$30 for low-grade CDX plywood, \$120 for 20 holds, and \$50 for framing lumber and fastening hardware).

Scrounging materials will get you in for even less: look for demolition or new construction sites, ask the crew boss (the fat guy who's not doing anything) if he needs any scrap lumber carted off. Offer to haul the junk away for cheap; if that doesn't work, say you'll do it for free.

The prospect of building a wall can seem daunting if you've never swung a hammer. Worry not. Putting a wall together requires only a minimal knowledge of carpentry. If you can turn a screw (or have



An overhanging wall requires a more complex framework, making it a little more costly and time-consuming to erect, but it's well worth the extra effort.

easier to extract than regular ones.

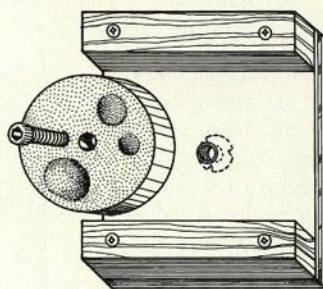
Now the panels. Use the 9/16-inch bit and drill a random spray of 20 to 30 holes per panel. (Setting the holes in an orderly fashion isn't very realistic and locks you into moving in a grid.) To prevent drilling your holes where

What you need

The tools you need for building a climbing wall are few and simple: a circular saw, a Phillips screwdriver, a stout (reversible) power drill with a Phillips screwdriver and 1/2-inch wood bit, a tape measure, a carpenter's square, a chalk line, and a hammer. If you are going to install inset holds you'll also need either a jigsaw or a four- or six-inch cut-out bit (the size depends on the brand of insets) for the drill.

For materials use 3/4-inch CDX plywood for the panels (thinner plywood flexes too much); standard framing lumber like 2 X 4s (use 2 X 6s if the wall is over eight-feet high); duplex (scaffolding) nails; drywall gripper screws (if the wall must be outside, use deck screws, which don't rust); and T-nuts for mounting the holds.

Build the frame with studs every 16 inches. Screw everything together with the drywall or deck screws. Keep nails to a



To make a frame for inset holds, screw 2x2s to plywood, install a T-nut, and screw it to your wall.

the framing will block them, mark off where the studs will run prior to drilling.

Hammer the T-nuts into the back of the panel or, better, set the T-nuts by cranking them into the wood using a stur-

Games climbers play

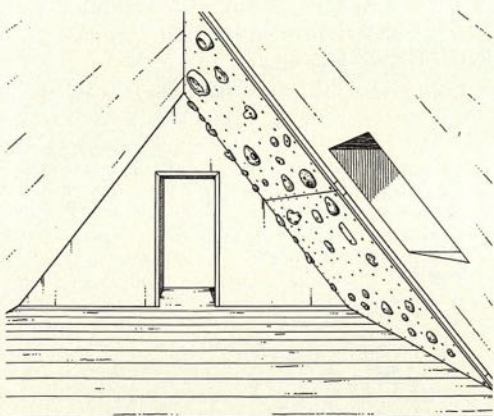
When your wall first goes up you'll be content just to get on it and climb. But as the months whip by your enthusiasm will naturally wane. Then you'll need a higher purpose.

Boredom is the prime source of indoor-wall lethargy. To combat the doldrums, throw in a TV and boom box, put up comfortable holds, and scatter a few insets around.

Marking routes with stick-on, colored dots (available at office-supply stores) is one way to stay psyched. Use the dots to delineate "on-route" holds to set up test-pieces for your friends, and projects for yourself

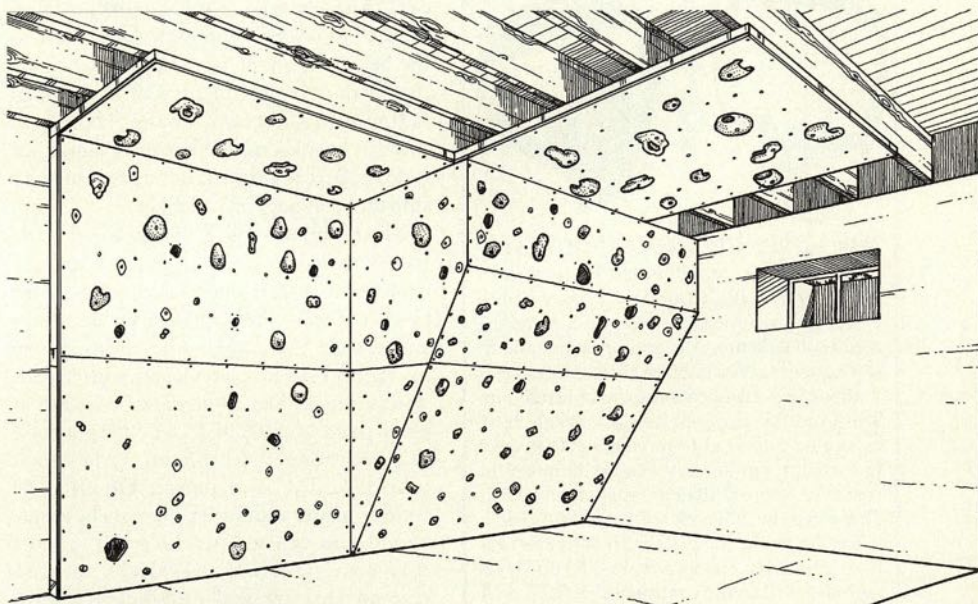
When you're climbing with a partner, games like "pointer" and "add-on" get your competitive juices flowing. Pointer develops your on sight skills and works best on traversing walls. To play it, use only the holds your partner, who walks just ahead of you, points to.

Add-on is similar, but tests your ability to memorize sequences better. It goes like this: get on the wall and do three moves. Your partner has to repeat your moves and then add on three of his own. Do your moves again, plus the three new ones, and then add three more. Repeat.

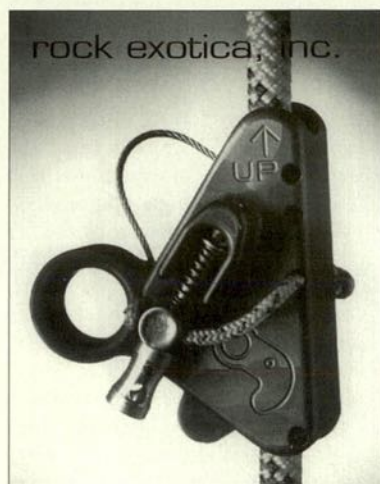


Attics are choice, easy to add a wall to, and usually offer the optimal training angle.

minimum; they loosen under the repeated loading and unloading of climbing and tear the wood when you dismantle the wall, a task you'll inevitably do. When you must use nails use duplex nails, which are



A basement offers ample space for an effective climbing wall.



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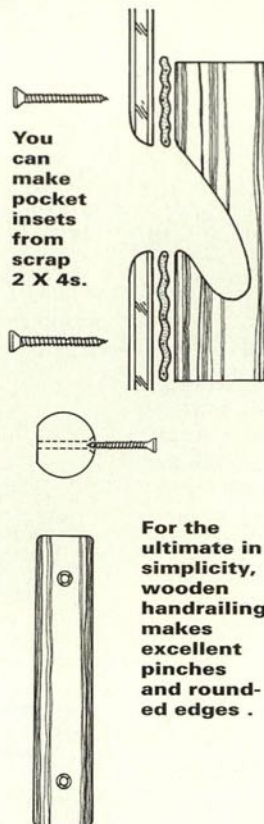
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Making your own holds

Given the relatively high cost of commercially made modular holds, it's a safe bet that almost anyone with a climbing wall has at one time tried to make holds from scraps of lumber and stone. The results of these endeavors can be good, and are certainly inexpensive, but before you commit to a frenzy of sanding and grinding, know this: making holds isn't nearly as easy as it may seem.

Real rock usually cracks when you try to drill it, and plastic (polyester resin) which is expensive, toxic, and typically gives crude, sharp results. Wood is your best bet for homemade holds. You can with a little difficulty, carve scraps of wood into almost any shape and then screw them onto a wall using drywall screws.



You can make pocket insets from scrap 2 X 4s.

For the ultimate in simplicity, wooden handrailing makes excellent pinches and rounded edges.

For the ultimate in simplicity, wooden handrailing cut to three-inch lengths and predrilled to accept two gripper screws, makes excellent pinches and rounded edges. Or, for a limestone-like effect, leave the railing intact and screw the entire "vein" onto your wall.

Edges are easy, too. Make these from 1 X 4 blocks (3/4-inch plywood also works well). Smooth down the edges and then screw them on.

You can make pocket insets by gluing (use Elmer's glue) and screwing scrap 2 X4 onto the back of the panel and then drilling into it from the front with a large bit. Rout and sand the pocket for comfort. To incut or slope the pocket, drill into the block at an angle.

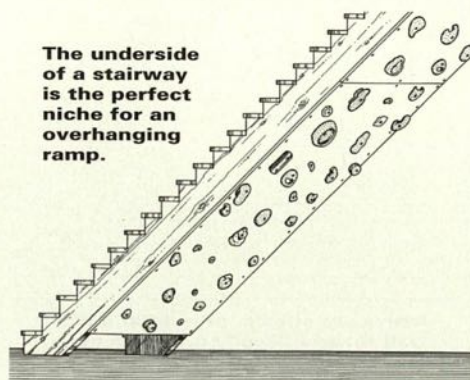
dy hold to draw them up. Then check each one to make sure it works with a hold. If you aren't going to have access to the back of the wall, it's a good idea to glue the T-nuts in situ to prevent them from falling out. (Silicon caulking works well since it won't crack when you retighten holds.) Before you mount the panels be sure and add any inset brackets.

Most climbers leave the plywood bare. However, if you desire a grippier surface, want your wall to look nicer, or need to protect it from the weather, you can paint and texture the panels. The cheapest way to do this is to mix latex paint with a non-skid additive, like Bond-Tex (available at most paint stores), and coat the plywood to give a rough and durable surface that costs around \$2 a panel. Do this, of course, before mounting the panels. Alternately you can use Rock-Tex, the stuff they coat aircraft-carrier decks with, to give an abrasive and durable surface to your panels. Rock-Tex is available from Mountain Tools and costs around \$28 for enough goo to coat one panel.

Screw on the panels. This is the hardest

part, as lifting full sheets of plywood overhead is arduous. To make the task easier, mount a couple of jug holds to each panel to serve as handles. If you're by yourself, cut the sheets into more-manageable four-by-four-foot squares.

Even short falls onto hard floors can



twang your ankles — or worse, if you don't land upright. Protect yourself by covering the floor with old mattresses, which you can usually obtain for free from hotels.

Add the holds and start churning.

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The Wait

continued from page 109

The wind blows harder now. Our shivering comes in violent waves. My teeth bang together. The hole is filling with snow. TQM shakes with equal force. When I blink, my frozen eyelashes stick together, gluing my eyes shut. With the back of a fleece mitt, I wipe at them like a child. In an urgent plea for warmth we stuff both our feet into a single pack and turn onto our sides, spooning each other. My knees rest against the back of his; his back rests against my chest. Our hands cover our faces to keep away the snow. We lie shivering and shaking and coughing up snowflakes.

What if we die here like this? They would find us in a couple of days. They would fly over in a plane and see our snowy bodies pressed together, 4000 feet above the valley floor. Two mountain warriors frozen like a couple of Pompeii fossils. Pathetic. "What time is it now?" asks TQM. I strain to look. 2:14. I touch my scarf to guarantee tomorrow's arrival. The snow continues to blow in.

"I've got to stay awake..." Ahhhh, warmth. It feels good to be here, lying next to her. I pull her close and rest my face against the back of her neck. A cool wind blows over us, soothing our sunburnt bodies. The gentle ocean breeze brushes sand against our skin. The blue surf breaks with a crack upon the golden beach. "Let's stay here forever..."

"Hey fella," TQM says, poking me in the ribs.

"Ugh. What! Oh, not again."

"Yeah, you fell asleep again. What were you mumbling about?"

"Nothing," I contend. "How's it going?"

"Not bad. A big serac just peeled off below. Didn't you hear it?" TQM asks.

"No, I guess not," I say sullenly, pissed off with myself for falling asleep.

"What's the time?"

"4:44." He elbows me in the ribs and I look up into his face. The right side of his mouth turns slightly upward. Our eyes meet. We shake off the snow, squirm out of the pack and stand up, resisting the wind's torment. My scarf flaps wildly in the gale.

In the distance, far to the east, past my alpine window, past frozen lakes, behind a billion tons of limestone, on the far-off horizon, floats the orange glow of morning.

Brad Wroblewski is a climber/writer/photographer from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Climbing has taken him to Alaska, Africa, Europe, and South America's remote Tierra del Fuegian archipelago. The adventure here occurred during an ascent of Slipstream in the Columbia Icefields of Canada.



Master of Rock: A Lighthearted Walk Through the Life and Rock Climbing of John Gill

Pat Ament

Adventure's Meaning Press
Lincoln, Nebraska, 1992
Hardcover, \$23.95, 193 pp.

Long out of print since its original publication in 1977, *Master of Rock* is back. The old version received some pointed criticism, charging that it revealed too much about the author and not enough about the subject. Even so, the book was irresistible, and quickly became all but impossible to find.

The new book is different — more comprehensive, and better. If Ament's strength is the brooding, image-dappled essay, he has certainly become a more satisfying biographer in the 15 years since he wrote the original *Master of Rock*.

In the preface, Ament frankly acknowledges past criticisms, explains his intentions for both works (claiming, interestingly, that the original subtitle, "The Biography of John Gill," was added only at his publisher's insistence), and notes the discrepant audiences he seeks to accommodate.

Though the new subtitle sounds like a foil against renewed charges of impressionism, the new book *is* a biography. Ament gives the reader just enough about Gill's mathematics, his marriages, and his friendships and family relationships to create a context for Gill's climbing. The new book is more rounded (if not more objective), and more explicit. The focus rests — as it should — on the qualities that distinguish John Gill's rock climbing.

Other climbers — from Yvon Chouinard to Jim Holloway, and nearly a dozen others, famous and otherwise — contribute their impressions of Gill or meetings with Gill's boulder problems. Ament does an admirable job making each short essay count. Included are the thoughts of those who climbed with Gill in the Tetons, Needles, and Colorado in the early 1960s, when the great legends were spawned, as well as the impressions of later boulderers who met Gill when he was as mythological a figure as a living climber could be. Tales of awesome climbing maneuvers are not absent, but Ament has edited for more important themes. The earlier recollections yield a sense of

the times, and throughout, it is Gill's personality, rather than his feats, that seems to have left the strongest impression on his partners and friends.

Sprinklings of Gill's own writings are also included in the text, though several important essays are only paraphrased. Excerpts from Gill's historic bouldering article in the 1969 *American Alpine Journal*, and his interesting writings on "kinaesthetics," absent from the book, would have been valuable complements to the more recent "option-soloing" selections. The long "fireside chat" — arguably

the exact line of the Thimble route and its alleged repeats. Many new photographs also appear: delightful period pieces from the 1950s taken in Alabama, Devils Lake, and the Tetons, as well as recent images of Gill, his family, and friends.

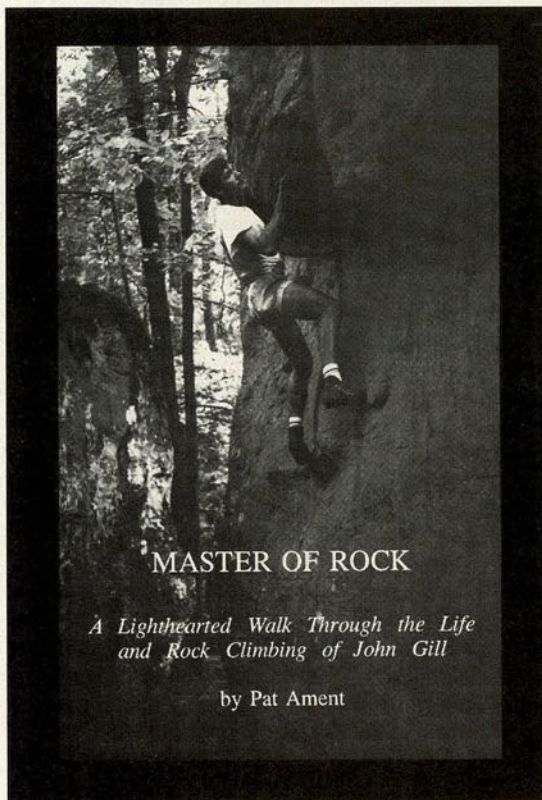
A close friend can't be an objective biographer, and the closest Ament comes to critique is calling Gill's lecturing style "humble, witty, but slightly verbose." The bias is unoffensive, but the championing — at times condescending — tone has its cost: the reader is left feeling that he must acknowledge Gill's greatness by acquiescence to the author, rather than by being allowed to appreciate the legacy of the man for himself. Perhaps Ament feels he must defend Gill as a kindred spirit — a creative soul poorly understood by the climbing mainstream.

Though such advocacy antagonizes the sympathetic reader, perhaps there is some truth to the fear. Gill's achievements might be too easily pressed into a modern mold, where ground-breaking efforts take place in a gregarious setting, inspired by shouts from below or headlines to come, and defined by a framework of technical ratings. The social bustle of the modern climbing scene has made it easy to forget a lonelier time when extreme difficulty won the practitioner alienation rather than acceptance. In reading *Master of Rock*, the reader grasps that, for Gill, difficulty has been less a goal than a byproduct of an inner quest. Gill's was a world where difficulty stalked mystical experience, where an eccentric soul walked through forests and moved taughtly across boulders, seeking moments of liberation.

Ament conjures the feel of this quieter place, for he himself perceives climbing this way. Here, the friendship between subject and biographer bears its richest fruit. Ament succeeds where it most counts: in capturing the essence — gentlemanly, inventive, staggeringly powerful, and refreshingly playful — of John Gill's approach to climbing.

Inevitable criticisms notwithstanding, *Master of Rock* is an elegant testament to Gill. That this very private person befriended a writer sensitive enough to explore and describe his genius is a stroke of luck for us all.

—Jeff Achey



the best part of the first book — is boiled down from the original's 50 pages to about three. Numerous buried gems of wisdom are lost, as is the charm of Gill in conversation.

The photography will please some and bother others. The scrapbook-like quality of the original *Master of Rock* remains. The aesthete will wish a couple dozen photographs had been omitted, but Ament, by his own admission, bows to the boulderers who will use the book as a cryptic climbing guide. Such specialists will appreciate the new photographic guidance on Gill's famous Fatted Calf "B3," as well as the thorough discussion of



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Painted Spider: Rock Climbing in the '90s

Jennifer and Mike Carville
Spire Productions Video
\$29.95, 85 minutes.

Ostensibly set in an historical framework, *Painted Spider* is best viewed as a loose collection of vignettes, some good, some bad, some indifferent.

One of the most interesting segments is a pair of interviews with Dick Leonard and David Brower — illustrated with vintage 1930s footage — recounting the early days of rock climbing in this country, including Leonard's development of belaying techniques and Brower's first ascent of Ship Rock.

Another fine clip covers the 1991 U.S. National Sport Climbing Championships at CityRock gym in Berkeley, California. Here the right combination of rapid cuts, slow motion, music, narrative, and interviews make for a viewing experience that mimics the excitement of both climbing and competition.

Dale Goddard's discourse on climbing philosophy, dubbed over his ascent of *Cannibals* (5.14a), is engaging, and works better than the narration accompanying most segments. In addition, the inclusion of his retake because of a bug crawling up his shoulder provides the video's only comic relief.

The *Shut Up and Climb* (5.13a) clip is notable for its nice mix of gripping perspectives, slow motion, and shots taken through a mini-cam on climber Bill Sinoff's head, as well as a good integration of music.

Two of the most visually impressive segments have to be Scott Frye's ascent of *Endless Bummer* (5.13b), a severely overhanging and exposed route overlooking the ocean at Mickey's Beach, and Hans Florine's ascent of *The Backbone* (5.13a) on Smith Rock's Monkey Face, where the music and camera angles heighten the knife-edge tension of this outrageous double arete.

Most of the camera work in *Painted Spider* is well done and presents a good blend: handheld close-ups, gripping exposure, judicious use of magnificent scenery, nice fades and special effects, and clever ideas like viewing the climb through the eye of a carabiner or looking up from inside a pack or a shoe.

Another nice touch is the original music by Elyzabeth Meade and James L. Richard spanning a variety of musical genres. Unfortunately, the scores don't always match the visuals. Perhaps the most blatant mismatch puts jazz guitar behind

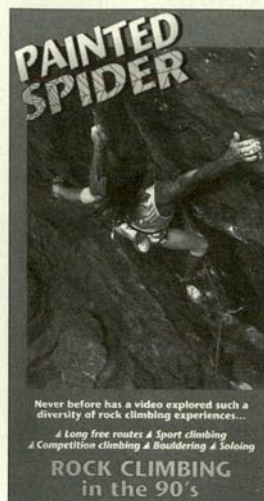
Panic in Detroit (5.12c) at Donner Summit. Arguably one of the best musical scores, it is so out of step with the style and tempo of Bird Lew's ascent, it makes you wonder if the editors even knew that matching music and movement was part of their job.

A larger problem with *Painted Spider*, however, is its lack of cohesion. The historical tone is not credible. The Leonard/Brower footage is about all the history we get before leaping into the

1990s as if nothing significant had happened in the intervening six decades. A forced segue between the 1930s and modern climbing is attempted with a description of the first ascent of Yosemite's *Astroman* — containing some excellent footage of great climbing, but drab, blow-by-blow narration and stereotypical discussions between the climbers on route. As it stands, the history becomes merely a confusing adjunct, which interferes with the video's stated purpose: "rock climbing in the '90s."

Despite its problems, *Painted Spider* is well worth seeing. Taken individually, each of the segments has something worthwhile to offer, and even when they don't hang together, certain sections will have you rewinding for more.

—Joe Ferguson



OTHER TITLES:

NOLS Wilderness First Aid

Tod Schimelpfenig, Linda Lindsey
Stackpole Books (and NOLS)
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1991
Softcover, \$12.95, 368 pp.

If *Medicine for Mountaineering* seems too technical, and other first aid books too sketchy, *NOLS Wilderness First Aid* is for you. Readable and informative, it covers first aid and related anatomy and biology with clear text and nice, non-clinical line drawings. It's a bit heavy for toting, but very field-saavy in its approach.

Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer

DeLorme Mapping
Freeport, Maine, 1992
Softcover, \$19.95, 156 pp.

Topographic maps (mostly 1:300,000 scale, 200-foot contour interval) of the entire state. Excellent overview coverage of central and southeast Alaska, not so good of the Brooks Range.

K2: The 1939 Tragedy

Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam
The Mountaineers
Seattle, Washington, 1992
Hardcover, \$19.95, 208 pp.

If you've never heard of "The 1939 Tragedy," then this piece of mountaineering detective work probably won't do much for you. But if you're an avid or aspiring alpine history buff, make sure it's on your Christmas list.

Nowhere is a Place: Travels in Patagonia

Bruce Chatwin, Paul Theroux
photographs by Jeff Gnass
Sierra Club Books
San Francisco, California, 1992
Hardcover, \$25, 112 pp.

The brief text is adapted from a lecture given by Chatwin (now deceased) and Theroux to the Royal Geographical Society in London in the 1980s. Numerous anecdotes — largely concerning Patagonian references in literature, from Shakespeare to Poe — are spun into an evocative portrait of Patagonia as the end of the Earth, a land where giant savages dwelt, mariners threatened mutiny upon approach, and later, outlaws (Butch Cassidy, et al) sought refuge.

But *Nowhere* is essentially a picture book, and the photographs, by Jeff Gnass, are stunning. Those in search of surgical close-ups of potential climbing objectives will not be appeased, but rather prodded into a broader appreciation of this outlandish region.

Logan Canyon Climbs

Tim Monsell
Logan, Utah, 1992
Paper, \$7.95, 38 pp.

Home of *Black Out*, et al, as well as many moderate routes. Check local shops or write the author: 468 East 700 South, Logan, UT 84321.

Great Rock Hits of Hueco Tanks

Paul Piana
Mountain N'Air Books
La Crescenta, California, 1992
Paper, \$6.95, 48 pp.

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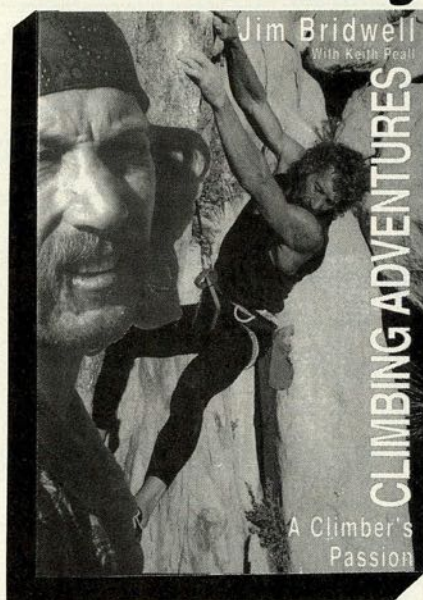
The Rockclimbers' Guide to Squamish

Kevin McLane
Merlin Productions, Inc.
Squamish, British Columbia, 1992
Softcover, \$24.95, 218 pp.

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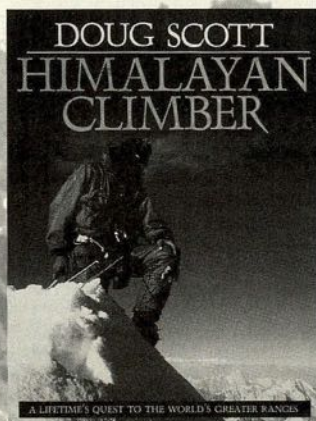
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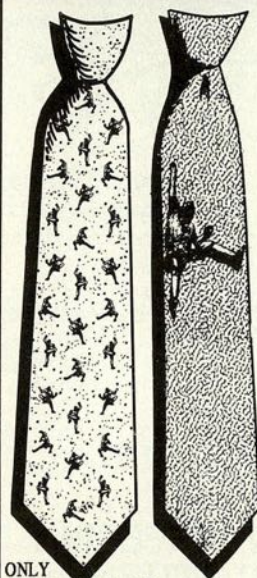
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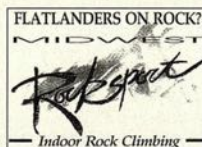
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way I look at my own resources and ability to improve the world. The higher the risk, the more I want to come away having learned something.

Separating growth from stagnation is as personal an evaluation as one can possibly make. I must not let someone else define this balance between risk and growth for me. What is risky for one person is safe for another. What is growth for one person can be stagnation for somebody else. If I make comparisons, and of course I do, between my own achievements and those of others, I must separate that process from judging my own personal accomplishments as they relate to my life.

I am not always successful at making this differentiation sharp and complete. And that scares me sometimes. Striving to make it clear-cut is a discipline I ask of myself.

Climbing focuses many disciplines that are important in life. They range from honestly evaluating our own physical and mental capacities, to digging deeper within ourselves than we ever have for strength and determination. To continue climbing in the face of enormous obstacles broadens our vision of what we can accomplish anywhere. But, unlike a foot or bicycle race, climbing makes us decide when the time is right to give up. Eight years ago, turning back from the last meters of Makalu's summit ridge denied us the finish we so wanted after completing the West Pillar. But we lived to climb many more mountains. The critical task is separating one's ego from one's development. It is one of the hardest disciplines to live by.

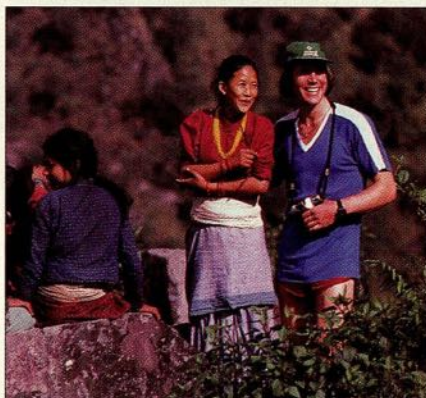
I am saddened and thoughtful to hear that Wolfgang Gullich just died in an automobile accident on his way home from a radio interview in Munich. The proximity of ordinary dangers to us all reminds me that there is never any guarantee of survival. How many times had Wolfgang calculated a risk, fingers locked on a couple of holds, his mind focused on a sequence above him? Yet a highway claimed his life,

making no distinction between him and a person whose greatest hazard is dodging traffic. There was no opportunity for gain, no balance for him to struggle with.

Andy, Mugs, and Wanda knew what they were risking, and that makes it difficult for me to go on climbing. But Wolfgang's death reminds me of the limits of what we control. To the degree that I can make a difference in how much I grow in this life, I want to exercise my options to the limit. I am looking ahead at climbing possibilities for 1993. I will plan ahead, yes, but for an unguaranteed future, assembled from a string of the best days I can create.

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lightweight tactics. Professionally, he helps corporations solve problems in organization and management with his motivational speeches.

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The balancing act

Carlos Buhler

The news this spring was devastating. Andy Fanshawe, an outstanding young British climber, died on Lochnagar's Eagle Ridge in Scotland this March while training for K2. Wanda Rutkiewicz disappeared during her summit attempt on Kangchenjunga's North Face in mid-May. A few weeks later, on May 21, Mugs Stump was crushed in a crevasse fall while guiding two clients down Denali. These people were all extremely skilled climbers. Right now, I am asking myself a lot of questions about my motivation to climb.

I find myself wanting to embrace incompatible trains of thought. One says to go for it. Above my desk I have taped a letter written by a friend during the final stages of cancer. He wrote, "I can only say that putting things off is a mistake, and to live every second is so important. Life is unpredictable, and not to live it to its fullest is a tragedy."

The other way of thinking tells me that in order to make the most of my life I ought to pay close attention to the obvious risks that are likely to end it early.

"Eat healthy food, wear your seat belt, don't drink too much alcohol, don't go jogging in Central Park after midnight, wear a helmet when you ride your bike, and don't climb mountains."

Unfortunately, "climbing" seems to fit very appropriately in both lines of reason. How can I justify leaving

mountaineering behind? But how can I go on, knowing Mugs, Wanda, and Andy were all just killed doing it? I look at my hands as I type. They are alive and moving. For a moment I imagine them dead and pale, like the hands of these three people I shared experiences with. The line seems very

Looking at the photograph, I am bewildered. I can still feel the determination and the unity of purpose mustered for that climb. Yet I understand the senselessness and the danger. What I felt I gained in having lived through a striking adventure slips through my fingers now in comprehending the risk. It leaves me

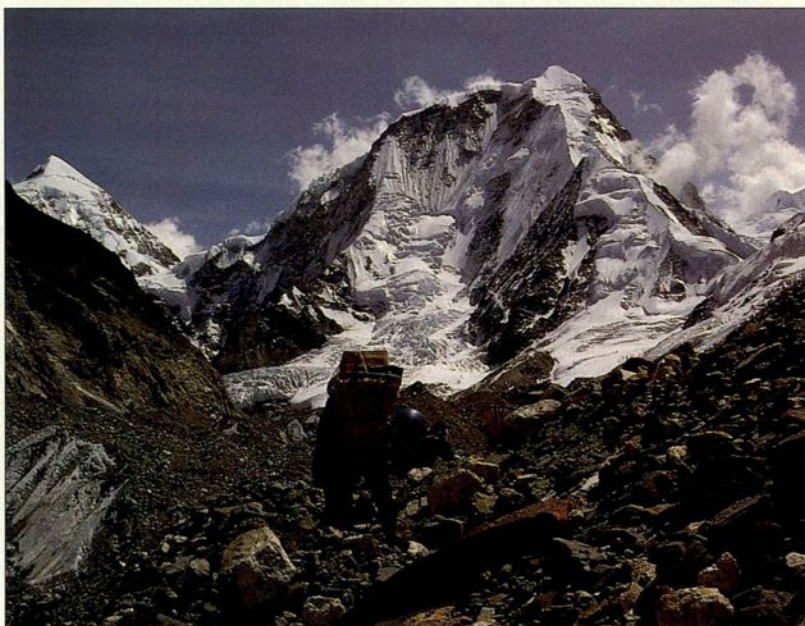
pondering, examining the shred of logic that allowed me to keep climbing that day. Lord knows, I wanted to go on. But some awfully strong voices were telling me I had traveled far enough. I'm not sure I paid enough attention to the balance.

For several days after I came down off the mountain it was hard for me to look up at the route. I was afraid to compliment myself. I felt guilty, as if I had gotten away with a crime — guilty of not listening to the right inner voices.

In the game of climbing there is

always an elevated level of risk. At the same time there can be an unusual amount of personal growth. Danger for the sake of the excitement doesn't attract me. Growth makes it worthwhile. And it has to justify the risk.

When I take risks in climbing, I can carry some things back into my life as a non-climber — a new set of problem-solving techniques; an enhanced appreciation for another culture; an insight into the strengths of a friend; or a shift, however slight, in the



"In the game of climbing there is always an elevated level of risk. At the same time there can be an unusual amount of personal growth. Danger for the sake of the excitement doesn't attract me. Growth makes it worthwhile. And it has to justify the risk." Above: Dorje Lhakpa (22,854 feet), the mountain Buhler soloed in Nepal last April.

thin to me right now. Just an instant and it's over.

On my refrigerator door I recently posted a photograph of the upper 3000 feet of Dorje Lhakpa, a mountain in Nepal I climbed alone in April. Pemba Sherpa, liaison officer for my (ill) partner and me, took it by telephoto lens from our basecamp. A tiny speck on one of the ridges is me, struggling to reach the summit. I remember that place, and fighting there with the same questions that I ask now.

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FLEX-TEX™

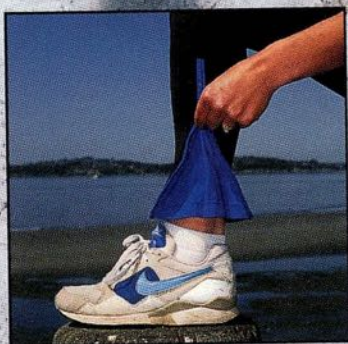
PANTS AS STRETCHY AS LYCRA® TIGHTS.

TIGHTS AS TOUGH AS CORDURA® PANTS.

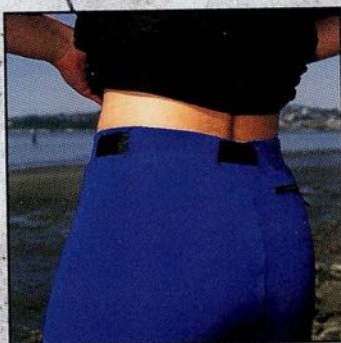
Both made from Spandura® - a state-of-the-art fabric from Warshaw that combines Cordura®, Supplex®, and Lycra®. Spandura boasts the toughness of Cordura on the outside, the comfort of a soft Supplex terry on the inside, and the elasticity of Lycra in every direction.

PANTS You expect *tights* to stretch with your every movement, but not *pants* - not until now. The freedom of movement afforded by Flex-Tex pants will absolutely astound you; even when you step up as high as you can they present virtually no resistance. Combine this elasticity with Spandura's durability, add an integral webbing belt and four zippered pockets made with Cordura/Supplex fabric, and you've got the most advanced pair of pants around.

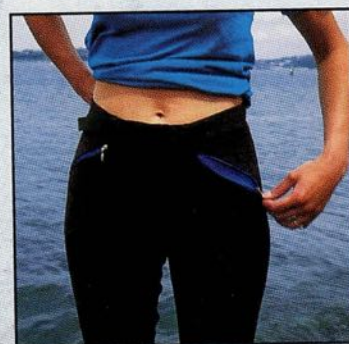
TIGHTS Just the thing for rock climbing, rollerblading, mountain biking or any other activity that often results in severe abrasion of your clothing or epidermis. The terrific abrasion resistance of Spandura ensures that these tights will live on and on through scrapes and crashes that would shred ordinary tights. The high wind resistance of Spandura makes them great for cross country skiing and cold-weather running, as well.



Flex-Tex tights have gusseted ankle zips and three zippered pockets



Integral webbing belts emerge in three places for attaching water bottles, biners, chalk bags and such.



Zippered pockets are generously sized and are constructed from Cordura/Supplex fabric for extreme wear resistance.

For all the details about our Flex-Tex™ pants, tights, shorts, gaiters, and alpine gloves, call Monica or Kirsten. Or drop us a note saying "Give me a break - clothes made with Cordura can't be as stretchy and comfortable as you claim!"



Outdoor Research
innovative designs for outdoor recreation
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SPANDURA®
CORDURA®/LYCRA®

Spandura is a reg. trademark of H. Warshaw & Sons; Cordura, Supplex & Lycra are reg. trademarks of DuPont

ESTIMATES SHOW THAT THERE ARE 10,400 MILES OF SKI TRAILS IN NORTH AMERICA.
AT ROSSIGNOL, WE FEEL THESE ESTIMATES ARE EXTREMELY LOW.



SIX TELEMARK SKI MODELS UTILIZE ROSSIGNOL'S LEGENDARY FLEX PATTERNS AND DESIGNS. TOGETHER WITH OUR COMPLETE LINE OF NNN BC BOOTS AND BINDINGS, YOUR CHOICE OF TRAILS IS ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO. ASK YOUR LOCAL SKI SHOP FOR THE LATEST IN TELEMARK EQUIPMENT FROM ROSSIGNOL.

BLACK WIDOW



HAUTE ROUTE



HIGH TOUR



ROSSIGNOL
TELEMARK