quality and features large quantities of thin nailing and heading in weathered, diorite-type granite. We called our route *Reason Beyond Insanity* and graded it VI 5.7 A4.

DAVID SHELDON, *unaffiliated*

The Sentinel, Direct North Face, Free Ascent. In early October I began a two-week effort to free the Sentinel. Grant Farquar (UK), Steve Jeunavene, and one other person came to belay on the first six pitches. Kevin Thaw led pitch seven and 10. I led all the other pitches over the first two weeks of October, 1994. Bolts were placed to back up existing bolts on belays. No bolts were placed otherwise. Pitches three and six were aided and cleaned of moss, loose rock, etc., before being free climbed. All the other pitches were freed on sight. It is now possible to rappel off the Sentinel as rappel rings were placed on this route. The free rating is V 5.12a.

ADAM WAINWRIGHT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Sierra Nevada

Peak 12,960+, South Face, Zig-Zag Dihedral. This peak has also been referred to as Peak 13,016 and Peak 3985 meters. Its large south face, about one mile west of the South Face of Lone Pine Peak, already had two long routes, done by Rowell, Jones and Faint in 1970 and Kearney, Nelson and Foster in 1976. Our route goes up between these routes starting with the easy approach climbing of the left (Rowell) route. Where that route goes left, we went straight up, following a right-facing zig-zag dihedral for several sustained pitches. Higher up, the other two routes converge into our line, and all three routes finish with the same easy pitches. Bruce Binder and I climbed it in July, rating it IV 5.9. It would be a Grade V if you went all the way to the summit of the peak.

PAT BRENNAN, *unaffiliated*

Sierra National Forest, Balch Camp Flake, JCA's Wide World Of Sport. Normally I wouldn't bother to report such a short route, but the uniqueness of this climb makes it significant. Balch Camp Flake is a 240-foot free-standing flake above the road to Black Rock Reservoir. It was first climbed in the 1950s via a bolt ladder on the southeast arête. It is split on its southeast side by a clean, striking, overhanging off-width splitter crack, easily visible from the road. The first pitch is 5.12b and passes 10 bolts to a bolted stance on the left. The second pitch (5.11) continues past six more bolts to

the top. Despite the 16 protection bolts, a number of wide pieces (up to 10 inches) were also used. Jay Anderson led the route in March 1995 (no falls) with Brad Jarrett following. Approach via several rappels (60 meter) behind the flake from the abandoned dirt road/trail above. This is a classic must-do for wide crack enthusiasts (I, 5.12b).

RICHARD LEVERSEE, *unaffiliated*

Whitney Portal Area, Mushroom Tower, New Routes. This attractive formation is about one mile west of Whitney Portal Buttress. It is recognizable by a boulder on its summit. Approach it from the Mount Whitney trail by going up the drainage before (east of) the drainage leading to the Boy Scout Lakes and the east side of the Mount Whitney massif. A tree-covered ledge runs along the bottom of the formation. From the high point of a 'hill' above this ledge the route *Sparky* (III 5.8) wanders up the center of the formation for seven pitches. Eric Tipton and I climbed it in August 1995. *Roper's Vagueness.* Previously unreported is a route (III 5.7 A2) Bruce Bindner and I did on this formation in June 1979. Starting from the right side of the tree-covered ledge climb a corner, then move left to another corner. Higher, a gully is reached. Go down and right a bit, then climb more corners up until one can walk off the right side of the formation. This climb does not go to the summit, and we climbed it mistakenly thinking we were doing the old Fred Beckey route called *Wrinkled Lady.*

PAT BRENNAN, *unafilliated*

UTAH

Climbing Activity in Zion National Park. The climbing seasons of 1995 were affected by heavy spring rains, the typical scorching hot summer, and Peregrine Falcon closures. Many of Zion's cliffs are closed from February to July 15 for their breeding period, and most of the available climbing takes place in the upper canyon (the Temple of Sinewava). *Moonlight Buttress* (V 5.12+/13-) received several free ascents, the first since the original free ascent in 1992 by Peter Croft and Johnny Woodward. Alan Lester and Steve Levin did the second free ascent in the spring, Seth Shaw and Beth Malloy climbed the third free ascent in the summer, and Mia Axon and Topher Donahue climbed the fourth free ascent over Thanksgiving weekend. Eric Rasmussen and Jimmy Haden climbed the beautiful North Face of Lady Mountain, establishing *Ghost Dance* (VI 5.9 A3+, 15 pitches). John Middendorf and Carl Tobin climbed *The Mountaineer's Route* (IV 5.10) in Oak Creek, a fine jaunt up to the big plateau between the Altar of Sacrifice and the Sundial. Jim Funsten, Doug Beyerly and Brad Quinn climbed

Jay Anderson in *JCA's Wide World of Sport.*
Richard Leversee