

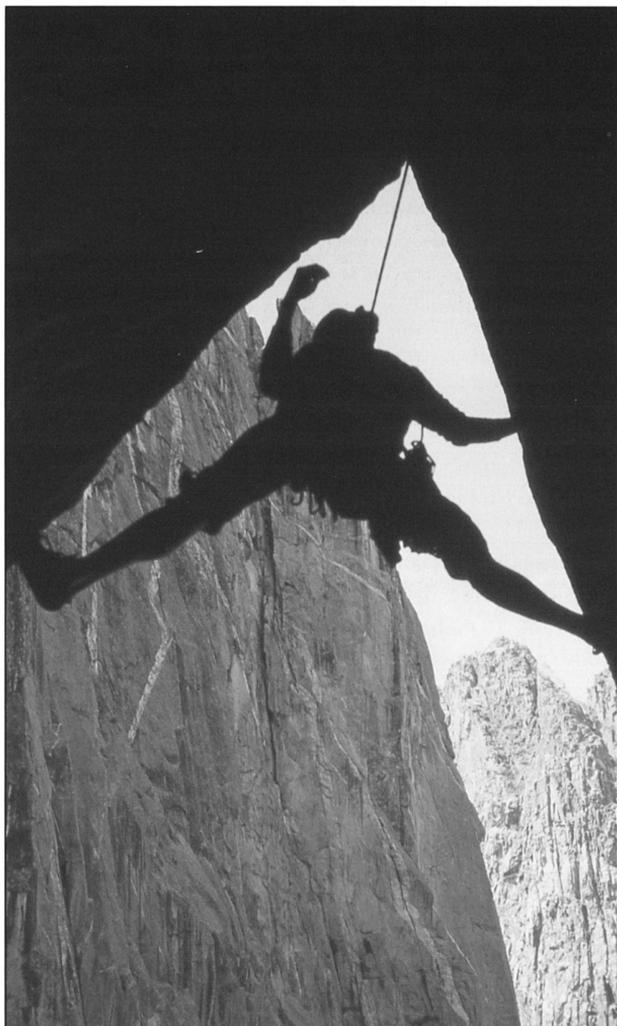
pel anchors. It appears that the party before us retreated below a pegmatite band on the second pitch. We climbed through the horrendously rotten peg band via unprotected free climbing and aid. From the top of the pegmatite the route continues into a steep 5.11 corner and then into another difficult thin crack. We resorted to several moves of aid on this pitch. Once easier ground was gained, we traversed to the right on pegmatite to access a prominent corner system. We followed this corner for several pitches to an overhanging finger crack. We chose not to climb this crack, as it was full of hundreds of wasps. Instead we down climbed and tensioned to the right to gain a right-facing corner system. We followed the corner for several hundred feet to a large undercling flake and followed it to the top. We thought we had joined No Pig Deal for its final pitch, but after speaking with Jonnathan Copp, we think that the routes are independent lines.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

*North Chasm View Wall, Rotten Piggy.* In September Chris Kruthaupt and I climbed the new route Rotten Piggy between No Pig Left and No Pig Deal. It begins in a large gully/chimney system 100 feet to the right of the Comic Relief buttress. Ascend the vegetated gully via third-class climbing for 500 feet to gain a large ledge. From this stance climb up and right in a hand crack with big loose blocks to a spacious ledge. Traverse directly to the left and up to another ledge. Move right, traversing and down climbing, to gain a deep chimney. Climb this evil-looking chimney with poor protection and loose rock for two pitches. Near its top exit right to gain better rock and more enjoyable climbing. From the top of this chimney the climb wanders from system to system, generally trending right. I believe the route crosses No Pig Left and then continues up between No Pig Left and No Pig Deal.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

*Painted Wall, Journey Through Mirkwood.* In August Jonathan Copp and I descended the S.O.B. Gully at 3:00 a.m. hoping to make the first free ascent of Journey Through Mirkwood on the Painted Wall. This 2,000-foot route was one of the few older routes on the Painted Wall that had not been free climbed. Tom Pulaski, Jimmy Newberry, John Pearson, and John Rosholt made the first ascent over three days in 1977. For many years it saw few ascents. As we descended the S.O.B Gully first light awakened the canyon, and dawn illuminated the aptly named Painted Wall looming above us, dubbed for the many rotten pegmatite bands scarring its face. The pegmatite may compromise the rock's structural integrity, but it gives it the flavor and excitement of no other rock wall. Jonathan and I began our climb at first light, simulclimbing the first three pitches. We carried only a rope and a small rack. Several more long, moderate pitches took us to just below the crux of the route, the Roofs of Mordor. This was the only section of the route that we were unsure about climbing without aid. I stared up at the roofs, a bit intimidated, but as Jonathan climbed to the belay he had the look in his eye! I knew we would not only finish the climb in a day, but it would go free. Jonathan took the sharp end, making short work of the crux pitch. The climbing through the roofs was gymnastic and powerful. Climbing through the final moves near the top of the overhang, Jonathan's feet cut loose, forcing him to climb on small holds hanging from his hands. Somehow he held on, and as I yelled up encouragement, I wondered if I would be able to get up this pitch. When I arrived at the belay, I applauded his



Andy Donson in the Black Hole, South Chasm View Wall, Black Canyon of the Gunnison. *Jonathan Copp*

impressive lead, and we both screamed with excitement. Regardless of our sense of accomplishment, we still had over 1,200 feet to go and not a lot of daylight. Luckily, the climbing above was relatively moderate, and we were able to finish in four long pitches. We were happy to have completed the first free ascent of a climb on the Painted Wall, without fixing ropes, working pitches, or adding bolts.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

*South Chasm View Wall, The Black Hole.* After years of longing gazes and idle dreaming, Jonathan Copp and I found ourselves looking up with apprehension at the vast leaning dihedral of The Black Hole (ca 2,000' V+ 5.12b). A wide crack, at first green with slime, continued up to a large roof about 400 feet up. This feature, which looms over the lush meadow at the base of the South Chasm View Wall, had repelled attempts by a number of suitors, earning the title The Janitor's Victim's Corner. We had obtained this worrying

information, along with a crucial Big Bro, from Jeff Achey over breakfast an hour earlier.

Things started badly. Fifteen feet off the deck I was pumped silly and about to call it a day. However, a more direct approach—taking the slime head on—paid off, and I soon found myself, coated in green paste, belaying off the fixed hex that marked the high point of earlier attempts. The next two pitches of offwidth were dirty but dry. This short day climaxed in a roof crack demanding wide hands, wide stems, and our remaining drive. We fixed our 60-meter lines end-to-end from a small ledge above the roof and just made it down to the slabs above the meadow. We recrossed the river and hiked back up to the north rim for a brew and some sleep.

On the following morning, May 27, we were back at our high point. The pitches from here to the rim were a huge contrast to the horrors below. No wideness, just perfect clean rock,