

of) a major pinnacle on the south face. A chimney pitch followed, which involved an exciting finish (5.10b) to surmount a massive chockstone at its top. The angle then relented, giving way to a short 5.9 corner pitch and a 4th-class scramble past a loose but easy white feldspar band. After traversing left for 60m onto the west face, we crossed a snow gully and climbed a short, steep chimney (5.10a) to gain easier ground and the summit ridge.

Many of the Gothic peaks have tall, sunny south faces but short, snowy north faces, making for quick, easy descents. We descended the easy Northwest Ridge (Ferris-Kauffman-Putman, 1948) in two rappels and some down-climbing to reach the Gothics Glacier, Thor pass, and base camp by dark.

JEREMY FRIMER, *Canada*

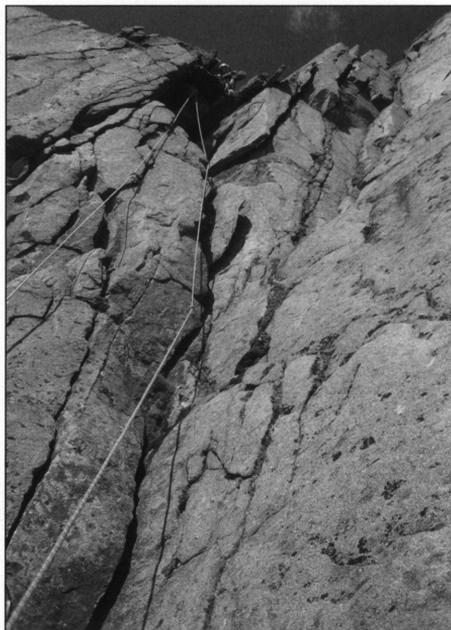
*Bugaboos, Snowpatch Spire, Johnston-Kruk.* My time in the Bugs was running slim when my friend Crosby Johnston showed up, training for an ACMG exam. Crosby is a totally undercover brother and a glissading champion; I was psyched to rope up with him for one last mission. But Crosby first had to shadow a guide and his clients up Pigeon Spire, which meant I could sleep till 10.

I was on my eighth shot of espresso when I saw a lone figure straight-shot boot-ski down from the Bugaboo-Snowpatch col and laughed at BC Parks' ridiculous proposal to install a via ferrata beside this 40° snow slope. I grabbed my pack and ran off. We met at 11 a.m. on the glacier below the east face of Snowpatch to try a new line on the left side of the face.

We ninja-cowboy-grizzlyed while balanced on the edge of the moat, and Crosby's grizzly impersonation mauled my ninja, so he won the first lead. It followed the Beckey-Mather route's first pitch (TD+ 5.10 A2, 1959) and proved to be the hardest, with Crosby whipping off the last moves when he broke a handhold.

I followed free at 5.12-. The rest of the initial two-thirds of the route linked wet 5.10 and 5.11 corners with runout 5.10+ face climbing, sometimes in the vicinity of the Beckey-Mather or Vertical Party (TD+ 5.9 A2, Arbos-Clotet, 1993), sometimes on virgin ground.

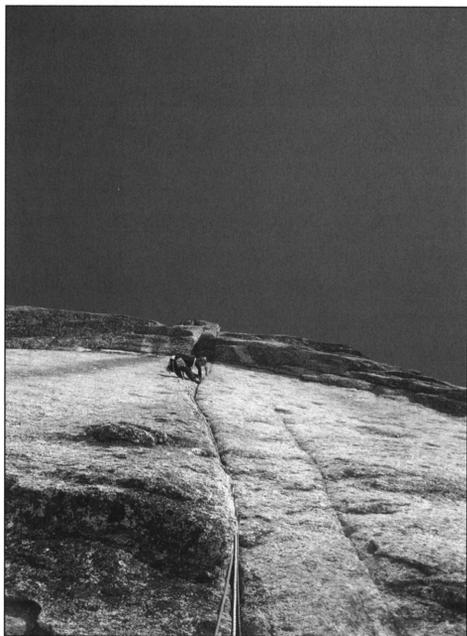
The soaking wet 5.11-tips-corner fourth pitch ended at a roof and bolts of unknown vintage. Crosby then swung from big hand jams out the roof, and I wondered where the hell we



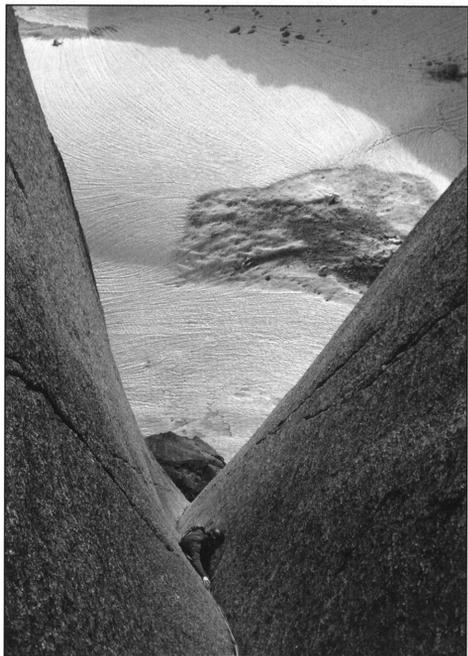
Steve Swenson leading the final pitch of Ostrogoth.  
Jeremy Frimer



Crosby Johnston on Snowpatch Spire.  
Jason Kruk



Nico Favresse freeing pitch 2 of Doubting the Millennium. Sean Villanueva



Nico Favresse on the final pitch on Lost Feather Pinnacle. Sean Villanueva

were. I think the most recent guidebook may have drawn the routes incorrectly, but I'll leave it to someone smarter and more interested than me to figure out exactly who climbed what and when. The upper half of the face had confusing, lower-angled crack and corner systems. We followed the cleanest and driest to the top of the wall, never finding much of either.

We topped out (700m, 14 pitches, V 5.12- A0; I'd guess half the route new) and ran the ridge north. We hit the fixed raps of Sendero Norte as it was getting dark, and the descent tested our onsight rappelling skills, but we made good time and soon swung across the moat and high-fived at the base.

The Bugaboos are a gift to climbers. Where else can you find splitter walls a short stroll from your tent and enough good weather to facilitate 10 o'clock sleep-ins, crux-out high above a glacier, and know that cocktails are never far away?

JASON KRUK, *Canada*

*Bugaboos, various ascents.* In August we started up an aid route called Doubting the Millennium (600m, 11 pitches, 5.10 A3) on the Minaret. After four pitches we gained the main dihedral, but after half a pitch we got lured by a big hollow stalactite followed by big hollow flakes on an overhanging wall to the right. We ventured on new ground for 4–5 pitches until we joined the Southwest Pillar route, which we followed to the top of the Minaret. We onsighted every pitch except one, which we redpointed, alternating leads and naming our variation Millennium Escape (600m, 11 pitches, 5.12-).

We later returned to free the original Doubting the Millennium at about 5.12c, the crux pitch being a technical thin crack protected by a rivet and three copperheads. We also climbed a new three-pitch direct finish to the original line and continued to the summit of South Howser Tower (200m of