

sustained desperate moves create an incredible pitch protected exclusively by natural gear.

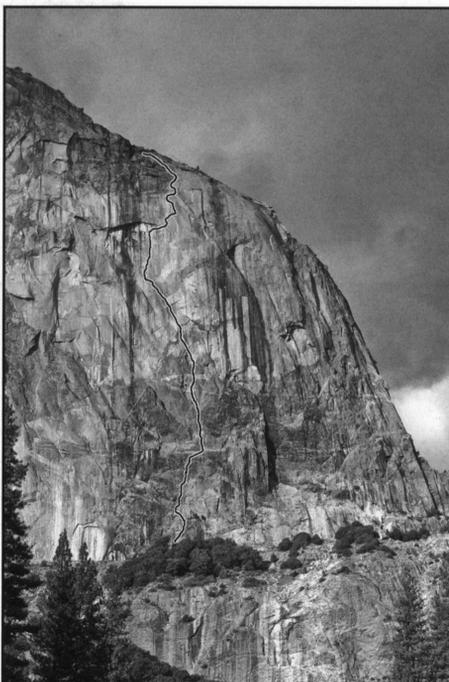
I led all of the pitches during the continuous free ascent, with Jason seconding everything cleanly except the A1 Beauty. During the six-day ascent, we were hammered by a severe four-day storm. After 80 hours of squalor on the port-a-ledge, the A1 Beauty pitch (free at 5.13d R) pushed me to my limit. It is the most perfect pitch I could ever have imagined—such an aesthetic line in an unequalled position, so desperately thin, and painfully close to my limit. If I never climb anything harder, I will not be disappointed. The Prophet was a dream come true.

LEO HOULDING, U.K.

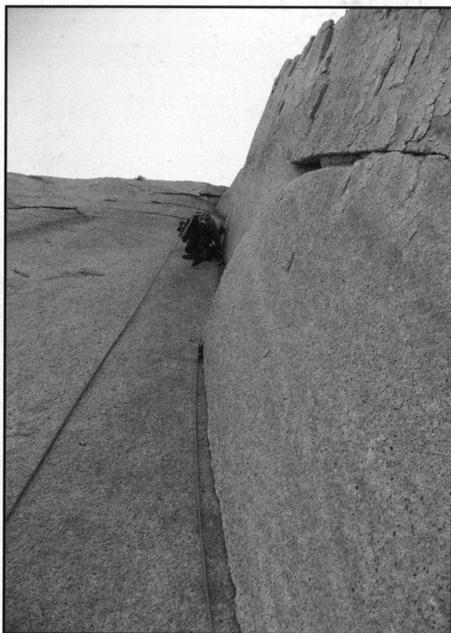
*Liberty Cap, Scarface.* In late June, Steve Bosque and I completed a 13-pitch independent line on the west face of Liberty Cap. The route follows a long crack system that shoots straight through a huge, white scar, the wall's most prominent feature. Steve and his wife, Paula, started the climb in 2004. Soon after, Chuck Clance joined them before an injury forced them to fix and descend from the top of pitch three.

Steve mentioned the line in early spring and we headed straight for it, replacing the fixed lines and establishing a fourth pitch, which brought us to the base of the scar. We returned in late June for the final push.

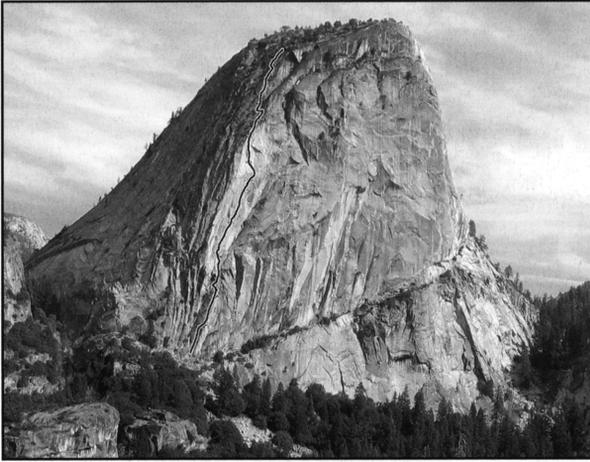
We were greeted by impeccable cracks cutting through the bulletproof rockscar. Late on the third day, with a heat wave moving in, Steve made a great effort on pitch seven by drilling eight rivets and then nailing straight up into an A2 corner crack that ended at the base of the "Cubano Corner." After adding a belay bolt, we hauled the bags and I racked up for the most impressive corner I have climbed. Laser cut and vertical, the corner leads to very thin A3 beaking and a bit of loose free to a belay on a decent ledge. By then we were cooked. White rock, nuclear sun, and long days



The Prophet, El Capitan. John Dickey, *Rock and Ice*



Josh Mucci on pitch 8 of Scarface. Steve Bosque



Scarface, on the west face of Liberty Cap. *Joe Hornof/qitnl.com*

energy to climb the 600'+ to the summit. The next four pitches were a blur for weeks afterward; we moved fast and tried to beat the sun to the summit. Parched, we collapsed under the first shade in five days, not looking forward to the slabs and descent. It took us hours to reach the river. A fine gentleman saw us coming out of the woods and immediately offered his water pump.

We returned soon after and retrieved the bags and got a sober look at the upper four pitches. Not so bad! Scarface (13 pitches, V 5.8 A3).

JOSH MUCCI

#### SIERRA NEVADA

*Kings Canyon National Park, Tehipite Dome, Tehipite Sanction.* California sunshine, stable weather, and perfect Sierra granite were the ingredients for our new route, Tehipite Sanction (5.12 C1), on Tehipite Dome. The massive south face and upper dome rises out of the majestic and lonely Kings Canyon. In July, Ari Menitove, Mike Brumbaugh, and I horse packed 13 miles to a base camp in the forest below the upper dome.

We were alone in the recently burned wilderness, and an eerie feeling lingered in the dead forest as we hiked back and forth to camp during our five-day stay. To start, we hiked down a gully to the ledge system just above the middle of the wall and rappelled to the base [Farther east, the rock drops to the toe of the complete 3,400' south face—Ed.]. From there we scrambled about 600' up an obvious gully, then established 12 pitches connecting the steepest part of the wall to the upper dome. Ari and



Ari Menitove on the crux pitch of Tehipite Sanction. *Andrew Burr*