

moves to a steep and not too solid pillar (5.10), continuing on into the crux of the climb: crumbly aid placements, a couple of rivets and a string of tied-off knife-blades and Rurps through an overhang, to an uncertain landing (A4+). The "Golden Corner" pitch followed and was disappointingly crumbly at the bottom, requiring six rivets. Then it livened up with marginal copperheading and pitons, followed by two overhanging hook moves that led to nailing an expanding roof (A4). The rest was straightforward aid and joined the Wall of Early Morning Light just below the prominent ceiling above Pitch 24 on the New Dawn topo in the Yosemite guidebook.

ERIC M. BRAND

*Half Dome, Northwest Face, 1989.* A new and very difficult route is described in a full article by Jim Bridwell earlier in this volume.

*Half Dome, Northwest Face, Kali-Yuga, 1989.* In early October 1989, I arrived in Yosemite with no specific plans and met Walt Shipley, who had just finished carrying his gear down the Half Dome slabs after a solo attempt of a new route to the right of Tis-sa-ack. I convinced him that his fixed ropes, up to pitch 5, would be unsafe if left over the winter and we teamed up for the ascent. For the next three days we carried gear up the slabs to the base. After seven days and six nights on the wall, we topped out on a beautiful full-moon night. The last pitch exits through the steepest section of the final overhangs but required no bolts. The 17-pitch route is completely independent of all others, though it crosses Tis-sa-ack at two-thirds height. We had good climbing including a blind chimney, a wild pendulum, 5.10 climbing on a thin flake and much sporty A3+ nailing, copperheading and hooking. (VI, 5.10, A4.)

JOHN MIDDENDORF, *A5 Adventures, Flagstaff, Arizona*

*Washington Column.* In August, Stewart Irving and I climbed a new 8-pitch section on the east face of Washington Column between Mideast Crisis and the Great Slab routes, which we call *Saddam Hussein* (V, 5.9, A4). After a 5.5 pitch, we climbed steep but moderate aid (A3-) over a ledge leading to an intricate section (5.7, A2), involving some loose flakes. We then started out on a ramp to a rubble-covered ledge system and a blocky tower. This Irving climbed on a loose pile of "refrigerator doors." The fourth pitch was the crux. We ascended from the ledge to an awkward overhanging A2 flared bomb-bay roof and then to 30 feet of hooks on loose flakes, drilled holds and poor rivets (A4). Here we joined the Great Slab route for less than a pitch (5.7). We then followed a prominent dihedral to the right of the Great Slab. The "Weed-eater" pitch was followed by the "Hanging Gardens of Babylon" (A3 and A4). We headed for the big, clean roof above the Great Slab, which we found was blank. We considered drilling up the wall after climbing the roof, but because this would take so much time, we rappelled off four-fifths of the way up the face. We did climb under the