

Washington

Lichtenberg Mountain, West Face. During a late summer hike north of Stevens Pass, my son Nik and I looked up at the unclimbed west face of Lichtenberg Mountain. From Stevens Pass, it is seen on the horizon as a sharp rock spire. It was already noon, but we decided there was enough daylight left to give the nearly vertical face a try. We skirted picturesque Valhalla Lake on the south side and hiked up steep scree. A short fourth-class scramble put us on a large, sandy ledge, where we roped. We chose a large, diagonal ramp/dihedral. The first short pitch took us to a long 5.7 friction slab. The third pitch began at a large horizontal ledge with a tricky 5.8 overhanging move. Pitch 4 continued up a 100-foot easy ramp and descended 30 feet on a ramp to the right. Pitch 5 was up a major chimney with good handholds. Pitch 6 turned the southwest crest of the face, just below the summit. We were on the face four hours and returned to Stevens Pass before nightfall. (II, 5.8)

ALEX BERTULIS

Cutthroat Peak, "Portly Gentleman's Route." On August 28, Brian Buck and I left the North Cascades Highway 1.8 miles west of the Washington Pass scenic turnout, crossed State Creek and ascended steep alpine meadows as if heading for the west-ridge route. At the basin southwest of Cutthroat's summit area, two prominent gullies lead toward the main (north) summit. We entered the first, the south gully and the most direct line to the main summit, past grassy ledges and on until it widens into a steepening clean face below the orange west face. We climbed several pitches of low fifth class to a spacious ledge below a left-facing corner. Thirty feet left of the corner, we face-climbed to an easy rightward-slanting ramp, which we followed for 20 feet to a belay ledge. We continued leftwards up easy slabs to the shoulder of the west ridge. We climbed the face and gained a short chimney. We climbed the obvious 5.10+ overhanging hand-crack above until it became off-width, where a 10-foot face climb left took us to a large block to belay. Left around a corner we found a 20-foot hand-crack, which was followed by a short scramble to the summit. (III, 5.10+.)

FLETCH TAYLOR, *Portly Gentlemen Alpinists Association*

Mount Rainier, Sunset Amphitheater Headwall, 1993, Correction. On page 133 of *AAJ 1994*, a route was described as being new. It seems likely that this route was previously climbed by members of the 1974 Pamirs expedition as given in Robert W. Craig's *Storm & Sorrow* on page 18.

JAMES SPRINGER

University Peak, Bear Raid Wall, No Bear Wall. Matt Graham, Barbara Presteridge and I climbed the direct north face (III, 5.8) of University Peak in

July. The route started near the right side of a large tarn in the basin below the face. We headed up scree for 1000 feet to a large gendarme and climbed to the right around it. We continued up steep fourth-class, staying right of the rock outcrop. At the top of the outcrop, we moved left to a prominent arête just east of three large gullies. Two crux pitches went up the arête to easier climbing and the summit. In July, we three climbed Bearly Done (I, 5.10a) in the Bear Raid Wall, which is just off the Kearsarge Pass trail, a short distance past Flower Lake. We started at the lowest part of the wall and climbed an arête to a ledge below an offwidth crack. We moved right and over a bulge to a layback crack, which went up and right to a large ledge. An easy traverse took us right into a gully leading to the trail above the cliff. No Bear Wall is the south-facing wall west of Bench Lake in the Kearsarge Pass area above the waterfall seen from Bench Lake. It has many crack systems. In July, we same three climbed ten short routes on this wall on the north side of the valley.

MINGO MORVIN

California—Yosemite

El Capitan, Muir Wall, Attempted Free Ascent. On April 15, Kurt Smith, Greg Epperson and I embarked on a ground-up free ascent of the Muir Wall. Our plan was to free-climb each pitch in redpoint or pinkpoint (gear left in place) style. We personally felt this was the rawest form of free ascent and necessary for a route of this size and difficulty. We intentionally did not preview or rehearse pitches from above. Free ascents of the Nose and Salathé routes relied heavily on those tactics. No member of the team had previous knowledge of the route. By keeping to these rules, the adventure level remained high. To preserve the integrity of aid climbing, we often had to rely on marginal protection to avoid placing bolts. We added only one bolt to the original ones on the route, although bolts were placed to badly damaged anchors and also on our own variations to the route. We reached Mammoth Terraces on April 29 and fixed ropes back to the ground. The climbing to this point would make an excellent one-day free climb, with three pitches of 5.12+ and one of 5.13. Delayed by rain and snow, we didn't resume climbing until May 9. We then freed to one pitch above Grey Ledges by May 13 and again fixed ropes to the ground. On May 20, again after a delay by weather, we began working on what we thought would be the crux pitches. Kurt freed the long dihedral above the Grey Ledges, and I freed the traverse right out of the dihedral, following a line below the original bolt ladder. We reached the Grey Bands on May 26. Between May 26 and June 4, we jümaired 45 gallons of water and 20 days of food up to our high point. On June 4, we tossed our ropes and committed ourselves to a grand adventure. We followed the Muir to the top of its 21st pitch, then did a five-pitch variation to the right. We crossed back left over the Muir in its 26th pitch to reach the "Ledge for Two," left of the Muir. From here, Kurt led a full-pitch face traverse left across the Shield headwall to reach Chickenhead