

31 years ago, a rainbow appeared momentarily to accentuate the beauty of this supremely wild and forgotten domain.

After rappelling down the face in the blue-gray of the near-arctic night, we crawled into our sleeping bags 28 hours after leaving them. On our trek out, we made the second ascent of Nightwind Peak, and also climbed two other unnamed mountains east of Nirvana.

JACK BENNETT

Mount Proboscis, Grendel. From mid-July to August, Chris Righter, Greg Epperson, Chris Kalous and I established *Grendel* (VI 5.10 A4) on the southeast face of Mount Proboscis, which followed a thin seam between *Yukon Tears* and the *Original Route*. The route was climbed over eight days capsule-style. Fifteen pitches were climbed, eight rivets were placed and 60-meter ropes used. The team attempted a second new route but got shut down by 16 consecutive days of snow and rain. This was the fifth route on the southeast face and the last obvious line.

KEVIN DANIELS, *unaffiliated*

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Traverse of Axel Heiberg Island, Northwest Territories. In July, 1995, the traverse of Axel Heiberg Island was accomplished between Mokka Fjord and Strand Fjord, crossing the Princess Margaret Range through the canyon lands and across the mesas and polar icefields. Peak 5500 of the Interior Divide was climbed from the eastern glacial arm to the southeast ridge. With unusually warm temperatures in the high 60s, the glacial rivers were ominously difficult to cross. Unfossilized tertiary tree trunks were found and mapped on the Strand River along with a number of gargantuan waterfalls. Climbs in the bizarre salt peaks of the east coast were accomplished as well. The expedition included ten members. It was led by Dr. Ruthmary Deuel and Dennis Schmitt.

DENNIS SCHMITT

CANADIAN ROCKIES

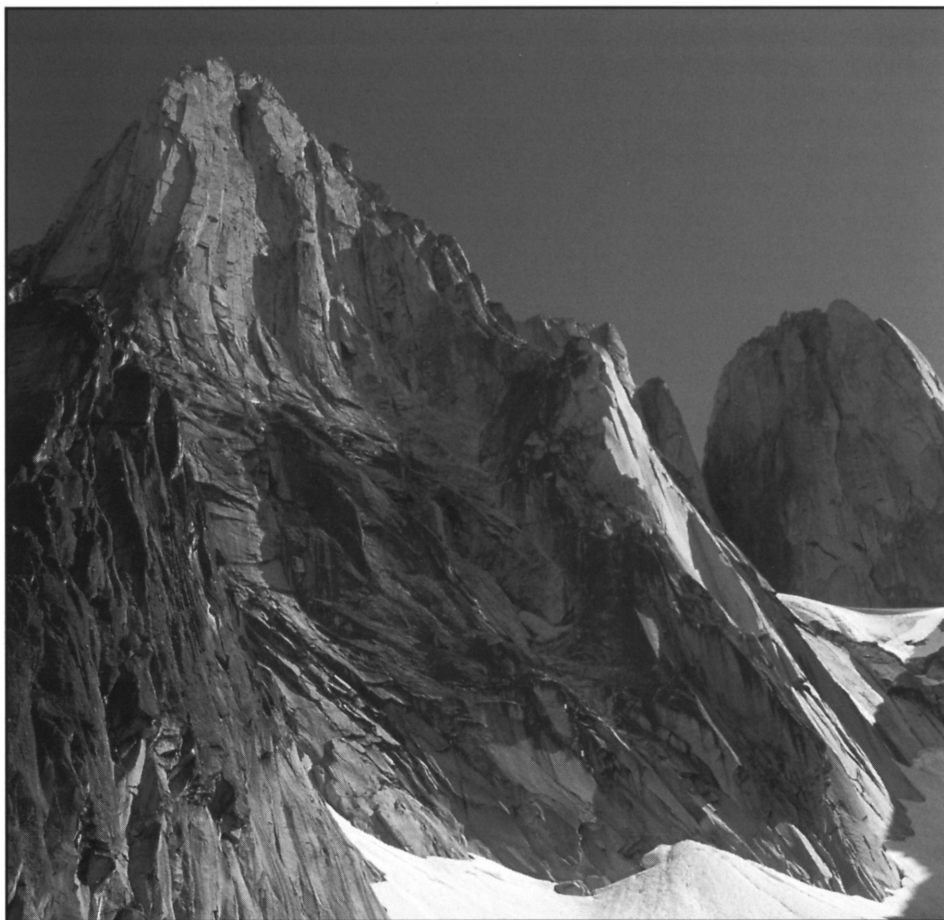
Eastpost Spire, South Face. Urban Golob and Slavko Rozic (Slovenia) climbed a new route, *Mountain Fairy Tale* (300 meters, 5.9 A3) on the south face of Eastpost Spire and dedicated it to the late Vanja Furlan.

MIHA PETERNEL, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Crescent Tower. On the Crescent Tower, Urban Golob and Slavko Rozic climbed a new route, *West Side Story* (270 meters, III 5.10a).

MIHA PETERNEL, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

North Howser Tower, West Face, First Free Ascent. On the evening of August 14, Kennan Harvey and I hiked to the Bugaboo Snowpatch Col on the way to the remote west face of the North Howser Tower. The next morning we descended to the base of the face. Prior to our attempt, a two-week dry spell left the rock relatively dry and perfect for free climbing. At the base of the face, a family of goats stood at the bottom of *All Along the Watchtower*. We climbed the first 10 pitches (up to 5.10) through nice cracks. We traversed off the *Watchtower* route to bivy at a snowpatch that provided water. The next morning, instead of downclimbing to the route, we did a long pitch of exposed 5.10 face climbing to reach the *Watchtower* dihedral. The corner that had not previously been entirely freed is 800 feet long and turned out to be sustained



North Howser Tower. Topher Donahue

5.11 with one 30-foot 5.12 section. From the top of the face, a long ridge leads to the summit. We spent a second night in the middle of the summit ridge. Six rappels down the east face finished the climb. The day we summited, our friends Mike Pennings and Cameron Tague climbed the route in one day from the Applebee Campground. They climbed everything except the crux section free. We all found the route to be one of the finest free climbs we'd ever done.

TOPHER DONAHUE, *uninhibited*

Snowpatch Spire, Power of Lard. We arrived at the Bugaboo parking lot late in the afternoon of August 23 and had our first view of the Spires. The no-see-ums and black flies ate us alive, but we didn't care. The next morning we got up early, pulled the gear out of the car and hiked up to the camp. Two days of strenuous load hauling ensued. Seventy-pound packs filled with a gasoline powerdrill, 30 bolts, two sets of friends, 800 feet of ropes and endless shit like quick-