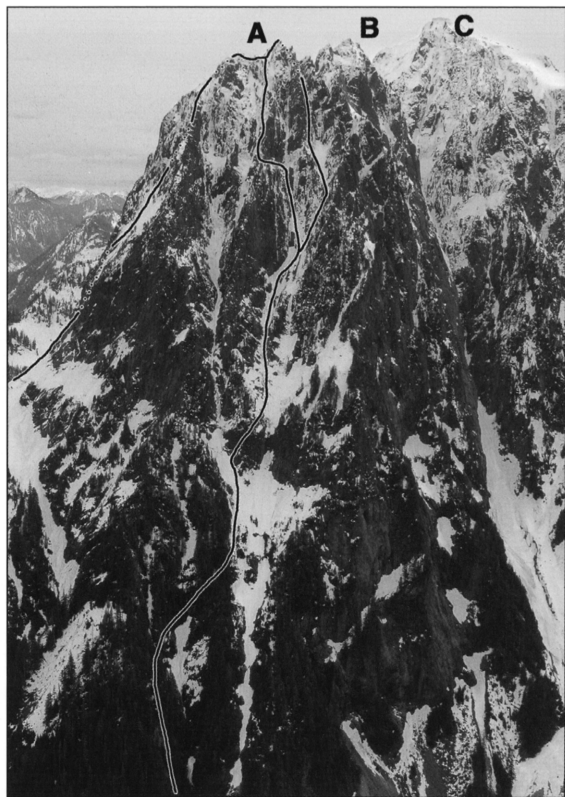


descending into and climbing out of many crevasses. Loren led a pitch of AI3 to pass the final obstacle. A rock ramp gave access to the base of the northeast buttress snow arête. Three simul-climbed pitches of AI2 led to its crest, where we joined the 1951 and 1957 Northeast Rib routes. We reached the summit at dusk and made our descent under headlamp, via the East Ridge route. Just below the Cascade-Johannesburg col, after 22 hours of continuous climbing, we made an open bivouac. Forecast rain held off for 18 hours, and we enjoyed a cold but dry bivy and descent via Doug's Direct. We rate the route V 5.10b AI3. Pictures and a trip report are available at www.cascadeclimber.com/theckroute.htm

LOREN CAMPBELL AND JENS KLUBBERUD



Mt. Index's North Peak (A), Middle Peak (B), and Main Summit (C). From left to right: North Face (Chute-Kaartinen, 1929; first winter ascent, Callis-Davis 1963), Murphy's Law (Miller-Taylor, 2006), EDM/Supercouloir (Nelson-Bebie, 1988). *John Scurlock*

with the EDM bivy site (as marked in Nelson). We bivied at the top of the snowfield, below a rock buttress.

It wasn't possible to continue up the runnels, the next pitch being discontinuous snow. Failing upwards, we traversed left about half a ropelength across the snowfield and climbed another ice system on the left side of the buttress. From there the route stays to the right and

Mt. Index, Murphy's Law. Stuart Taylor and I went in to check out the west face of the North Peak of Mount Index (5,353') on Friday, February 17, 2006. We planned to attempt the unrepeated Eve Dearborn Memorial (EDM)/Supercouloir route. The approach wasn't that bad although the bushwhacking up the lower part of the face was tedious. We soloed the lower gully and bypassed the second ice step by mixed terrain to the far left. From there we simul-climbed the left fork of the couloir, to above where it is split by a small rock spur.

We climbed higher but moved left too early, thinking we were higher on the face than we were, essentially mistaking a lower snow patch for the upper one described in Jim Nelson's guidebook. Call it ineptitude or an inexplicable enthusiasm for steeper terrain.

The route we took leaves the EDM approach couloir and climbs an ice step, before heading up an ice runnel on the left side of the couloir. This leads to a snowfield level

climbs steep snowfields and ice smears for four pitches. It finishes immediately to the left of the North Peak; another ropelength leads to the summit.

After a brief trip to the summit, to make sure we were descending the right way, we traversed the ridge to the false summit of the North Peak. This required a short but awkward rappel to get across a notch in the ridge. We made it about 200' below the false summit before nightfall, and bivied. The following morning we descended the North Face route, rappelling off trees almost the whole way. We used some existing fixed anchors lower on the face. Murphy's Law (V, snow and ice to 80°, steep mixed ground).

ADE MILLER, *Redmond, WA*

Oregon

Oregon, various activity. On Mt. Hood's Illumination Rock, on April 24 Mike Layton and Marcus Donaldson climbed a route that starts to the left of the south chamber on the south face of the south-west ridge. It follows a series of chimneys and crack systems for 800 feet of sustained dry-tooling on andesite rock and rime gargoyles to a point west of the main summit. They believe the line to be new (Bitchin' Camero, M6 AI4), and say it's one of the best mixed lines in the Cascades.



Bitchin' Camero on Illumination Rock. Mike Layton

The winter of 2005-06 produced rare cold snaps in December and February, allowing several significant ascents of ice in the Columbia River Gorge outside of Portland. Though the *Journal* rarely reports on ice routes this short, we note these routes for their rare nature and the world-class potential of the Columbia River Gorge as an ice-climbing destination. Granted, the ice hardly ever forms, but we read that climate change might actually make some areas colder, so who knows?

Many routes in the Gorge saw repeats, and in addition to several new single-pitch lines being established, the oft-tried, north-facing Ainsworth Falls (600', WI5) received its first complete ascent on December 16, by Hal Burton and Marcus Donaldson. The next day, Lane Brown and Wayne Wallace established Black Dagger (600', M4 WI5+), located two miles east of Multnomah Falls. The impressive line (some had dubbed it "Black Diamond") has reportedly never connected, and the pair started from the rock on the right.

California

Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, free ascent of the Nose and monster linkup. On October 30-31, in a 23-hour and 23-minute continuous push, Tommy Caldwell freed both the Nose (5.14a) and Free Rider (5.12d). Earlier in October, Caldwell and Beth Rodden swung leads on a free ascent