

DEVIL ROCK
THE ANTI-GUIDE

SECOND EDITION

Carl Johnson
and
David Smart

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FAUST'S CHOICE: (A DISCLAIMER)

The authors of this guide book take full responsibility for your fortunes while climbing here, be they good or bad, regardless of how inexperienced, foolhardy, ill-equipped or ritually unclean you may be, *provided* that you send them in advance a notarized letter promising them your mortal soul for all eternity.

Should this not be an attractive prospect, keep in mind that even the best guidebooks are notoriously difficult to use, and are often inaccurate, despite the best efforts of the authors. Moreover, the preceding caveat presumes — rather naively we believe — the absence of any willful attempts at duplicity on the part of the authors.

CLIMBING IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, AND SHOULD YOU SUFFER A MISHAP, YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO BE RESCUED FROM THIS LOOSE, HIGH, REMOTE CRAG.

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THE ROUTES

AN INTRODUCTION

ON DEVIL ROCK

Devil Rock is a 150m high granite outcrop rising from Lake Temiskaming, 20 km south of New Liskeard in north-eastern Ontario. It offers some of the province's longest multi-pitch routes in a wild setting only a fifteen minute walk from the road. The views are spectacular, and the routes are, on the whole, exposed and worthwhile adventures. Although the majority of the routes recorded below were apparently first climbed by the authors, climbing at Devil rock has a history dating back to the 1920's. Only vague information about the early history is available, however. The authors offer this book in response to many inquiries about route information, but do not pretend to know the origins of all the climbs on the cliff.

HISTORY OF CLIMBING AT DEVIL ROCK

Prepare for demon seed insertion
The Devil's Minions, *Guidelines for Goat Roasters*

The first person to climb at the cliff for recreational reasons was Aleister Crowley, English alpinist, occultist, pornographer and guidebook author. He visited the cliff while touring North America in 1929. During his visit he searched northern Ontario for Indian pictographs which he believed to have occult power. Not coincidentally, Crowley was attracted to the walls of Devil Rock, and appears to have attempted the Finger of God via the route now known as **Samson**, where one of his chockstones was later found.

Several decades later, John Turner, the famous English *émigré* hardman also visited, although no one knows what he climbed. In the sixties, Club Cougar, from Ville Marie in Québec climbed at various crags in the region. There was also a visit by hotshots from the Federation de Montagne de Québec in the seventies. These French Canadian climbers' activities are obscure. It is probable, on the basis of some fixed equipment found on the cliff, that they attempted the first pitch of **Carmina Burana**, and possibly some easier routes on the far right side of the cliff. Canadian Shield pioneer Uwe Embacher visited in the seventies, and his activities remain predictably mired in obscurity. The cliff was visited by Rob Chisnall and Jean-Marc Filion in the early eighties.

On the evil 13th day of August, 1993 David Smart visited and became the first person to make a forced bivi on an Ontario rock climb when he made the impressive, if perhaps ill conceived, aid-solo first ascent of **Leather Goddesses of Phobos**. He returned with the Revd Philip May in 1994 and the pair made missionary attempts at developing the crag, particularly succeeding on the last half of a climb which they named, after their evening exploits in the Tri-towns, **Play Rough with Me**. Defrocked

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and cast out, the pair was not to return again for two years.

The major impetus for development of the cliff lay with Carl Johnston. Invariably spurred on by the ever-truculent Smart, whom he usually managed to sober up enough to do half of the leading, the foolhardy Johnston was able to lay claim to many of the cliff's best lines to-date. The pair's recent efforts have extended to wilderness routes on bigger and more remote crags further down the Ottawa River as well. So far, the most popular Devil Rock route completed by the Johnston/Smart team is Siegfried's **Difficult Way to Brühilde**, an enjoyable 5.8. Their most intimidating route is the overhanging crack line of **Carmina Burana**, with sustained traditional climbing through pitches of 5.11b, 5.12b, 5.11a and 5.11b.

The Goat Roast, an event where fifteen Toronto climbers descended upon the crag, took place in 1997. Piked heads, repeats of some of the routes and the barbari-que ensued, ushering in the new dark ages of climbing at Devil Rock.

As for the future, there is much rock, and many possibilities. The opportunity for new routes at Devil Rock is huge. It is the hope of the authors that Devil Rock's development will inspire a renaissance of wilderness rock climbing in Ontario.

Whether the taste for adventure climbing in Ontario will re-assert itself remains an open question. Devil Rock is sure to play a part in such a future, however.

TRADITIONAL, OR ADVENTURE CLIMBING

Hot and thirsty and hard was how it was. Like it always was. You can put that down in your goddamn book.

Cowboy Shorty McAdoo in Guy Vanderhaeghe's,
The Englishman's Boy

Devil Rock is, by the accepted definitions, what is now described as a traditional climbing area. This means that the routes are almost entirely protected by hand-placed, natural protection, with bolts restricted to protectionless difficult sections and belays. Protection, on the whole, is quite good, but protecting oneself on the routes requires skill and experience.

All the routes that have been done here have, at least subsequent to the first ascent, been cleaned on rappel. Most belay anchors are fully equipped. This expedites retreat in case of a problem, and makes the routes much safer. Expect only occasional—if any—protection bolts.

The proliferation of closely packed, densely bolted routes with glued and sculpted holds, coldshuts, and the like (as seen on southern limestone) would be, at best, incongruous here. As this is a major tourist attraction for the Tri-towns, it would probably also be unwelcome, as non-climbing landowners have found it at places like Old Baldy on the Niagara Escarpment.

New routes will continue to be a part of climbing at Devil Rock for some time. Massive new-route potential remains. Although the authors do not wish to be arbiters of style, they hope that any new routes will match the standards of safe belays and relatively stable rock that have been set at Devil Rock so far.

ETHICS AND THE CLIMBING ENVIRONMENT

No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character.
Robespierre, *Critical Miscellanies*

To be frank, years of trundling and throwing trash off the Lookout have shown that the cliff has not exactly been revered by the locals. Climbers for their part do not have the privilege of ignorance of the environmental cost of such activities. Climbers could make a good impression by continuing the effort to haul trash off the cliff. This being said, the cliff is on crown land. This means that access is assured, and that Ontario residents have the legal right to create paths on the cliff (routes) for recreational purposes, a process which may include the removal of trash, vegetation, and loose rock from the proposed path.

Although at Devil Rock we climb on Crown Land, the goodwill of the locals, the *de facto* land managers, will probably determine how welcome we are in the Tri-towns. So far, locals have seen the benefits of climbing, another facet of local tourism. Bad behaviour at the crags could change that.

STAYIN' ALIVE WITH THE DEVIL

Those who neglect warnings and profane the sanctuary of nature have no other than themselves to blame for the formidable and irremediable disasters which infallibly destroy them.

Aleister Crowley, *The Book of Thoth*

Don't kid yourself, you need to know the following things to survive climbing anything but a few of the top-rope routes here, in addition to standard advanced climbing skills: wilderness first aid for climbers; how to haul up the second if they can't do the route; how to get free of the belay; how to get your partner down a multi-pitch route if they are hurt; how to do multi-pitch rappels; how to do hanging belays; how to identify dubious rock; how to climb on dubious rock; how to fix ropes safely for ascending, how to use mechanical ascenders (as Chris Oates said, "prusiks look great.. in manuals"), how to read the weather, and what to do in the case of an electrical storm, rain or snow.

You need the following items in addition to a standard rack and rope: this book, more nuts and draws than you carry at Bon Echo or on the Escarpment, ascending gear, a good wilderness first aid kit, an extra rope, a helmet, rain gear, extra clothes, water and a headlamp.

Carefully read over the route descriptions and assess whether you really are prepared for your chosen objective. Devil Rock is not a good place to "have a go" at something, as getting out is quite difficult.

WEATHER

All the damned are brought: and feel by turns the bitter change of fierce extremes, extremes by change more fierce.

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

The season at Devil Rock is shorter than it is in more southerly crags, extending more or less from sometime in late April until early October. Snow is still possible in May in some years, and snow squalls have occurred in late September. Devil Rock climbers enjoy cool and shady summer conditions when even the latest ultra-baggy fashions cannot save Escarpment climbers from baking. The weather can change quite frequently however, and the late afternoon showers that blow in off of the lake can bring brief periods of lightning. The barbed cedars visible in some parts of the cliff are testimony to the dangerous nature of these squalls. Fortunately they are often visible from afar. Prepare for changeable weather, even in the summer.

Black flies and mosquitoes are in evidence in the region from mid-May until the end of June. The breezes at the cliff make them less problematic while climbing, but they are certainly a pest while walking in and camping. A good bug repellent will be necessary.

PEREGRINE FALCONS

Peregrine Falcons are an endangered species in Ontario, and are now making a recovery. They have nested for several years on the North Wall. These aerial killing machines, the fastest animals on the planet, make suitably harpy-like mascots for the Dark Lord's crag. It is illegal to disturb nesting sites, so the 300m wide North Wall, where they nest, is to be avoided by climbers from May 1 until August 15. Since there are presently no routes on this part of the cliff anyway, this is a small price to pay for witnessing their bloodthirsty antics all summer long. Should you come upon new nesting sites on another part of the cliff, please indicate the location in the summit register on the Finger of God. See *Climbers and Raptors* (Access Committee of the American Alpine Club, 1997).

GEOLOGY

Devil Rock is part of the Canadian Shield's Southern Geological Province. In fact, it is the extreme eastern-most visible edge of the Southern Province, which extends in a band along the North Shore of Lake Huron, through Killamey, past Sudbury and North Bay and the Temagami areas. The Southern Province comprises less metamorphosed, higher quality rock than is evident in some regions of the Shield. Lake Temiskaming and the Ottawa River form a rift between the Southern Province of

the Canadian Shield and the younger axis of granite on the Quebec side of the Lake which connects with the granitic batholith of the Adirondacks. The different character of the rock on the other side of the Lake is evident in the crags visible in the distance from the top of Devil Rock.

NOTES CONCERNING ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

There are lies, there are damn lies, and then there are statistics.
Mark Twain,

The routes are given Class and Yosemite Decimal System ratings, as well as ratings for commitment (Grade) and protection. Class and the YDS are well known; commitment grades, while also widely accepted, are new to Ontario. They give the approximate time a route would take a competent party who are climbing efficiently and well within the limit of their ability. They also reflect commitment factors such as the remoteness of a climb and the difficulty of retreat. This system, as described in Ed Webster's *Rock Climbs of the White Mountains of New Hampshire* (1985) is as follows:

Commitment Rating Key (Grade I-VII)

- I: Short route, up to several hours, straightforward climbing.
- II: From several hours to a half day, more involved climbing.
- III: Takes a long half day, a complex and serious climb.
- IV: Takes a full day, a major undertaking.
- V: Requires a bivouac, a 'wall' climb.
- VI: Requires several bivouacs.
- VII: Requires many bivouacs and is situated in areas of extreme remoteness and hostile conditions.

Above grade III, there exists a significant practical difference in difficulty and commitment between grades. In the particular case of grade III and grade IV climbs, it is the difference between a 'back-by-lunch' route and a 'don't-expect-me-for-dinner' route. Many of Ontario's long wilderness routes tend to fall into this grading limbo. The introduction of a III+ grade as an intermediate grade is proposed by the authors for additional clarity: this simple distinction would seem to be useful.

It is unlikely that any climb longer than a grade IV, or possibly at some relatively unexplored cliffs in remote areas, grade V, will ever be done in Ontario. Nonetheless, due to the nature and difficulty of climbs at areas such as Devil Rock, even relatively short routes only four or five pitches in length may easily rate at up to grade III. For climbers with inadequate equipment, insufficient skill or route foreknowledge, or just bad luck, even a 200m grade III offers the potential for a serious epic. Practically, this requires parties to be much better equipped than would typically be the case for a cliff of this height.

The protection rating system, originally proposed by Jim Erickson in **Rocky Heights, A Guide to Boulder Free Climbs** (1980) and modified by others, has been less widely accepted but is nonetheless often useful. Using a movie-type rating system, a climb's protectability by an experienced 'trad' leader with appropriate gear, is rated as G, PG, R or X, as described below. The safest rating, 'G', is assumed as the default in this guide. Note that these ratings apply to the *crux* sections of a pitch, not to easy terrain: even a G-rated 5.9 climb may have a run-out 5.6 section.

Protection Rating Key

- G: Very safe. Climb protects with frequent, reliable placements.
- PG: Fair pro. Occasional run-outs or marginal placements.
- R: Dangerous. Sizable run-outs/limited pro. Long fall potential.
- X: No pro, no falling, no low. Ground-fall or ledge-fall probable.

Climbs of better than average quality are indicated using the following Quality Rating Key, adapted from John Sherman's **Hueco Tanks: Climbing and Bouldering Guide** (1995):

Quality Ratings Key

- ♦ An awesome route
- ♦♦ An awesome scary route with bad pro
- ♦♦♦ An awesome scary route with bad pro which was first ascended by the authors

Finally, both topographical *and* written route descriptions are included in the interest of greater clarity. Topos follow the conventional format developed in George Meyers' *Yosemite Climbs*, and still in general use. A legend is provided. Naturally, a considerable amount of skill is required to actually correlate any description with the rock itself.

HOW TO GET THERE

God — *Where have you been Satan* — *Wandering the face of the Earth.*
The Book of Job

If you are approaching from Southern Ontario, take **Highway 11 to North Bay**. From Ottawa or the west, use Hwy 17. Follow Hwy 11 out of North Bay until just north of **Latchford**. Driving time is approximately an hour. Turn east onto **Highway 11b**, and follow it to **North Cobalt and Highway 567**. Haileybury and New Liskeard are further along. Take Hwy 567 south, and after about 2 km you will see a sign for Bucke Park Campground with the tempting offer of "Devil Rock Information". Stan, the proprietor, will be happy to tell you everything he knows about the cliff ("It's over there").

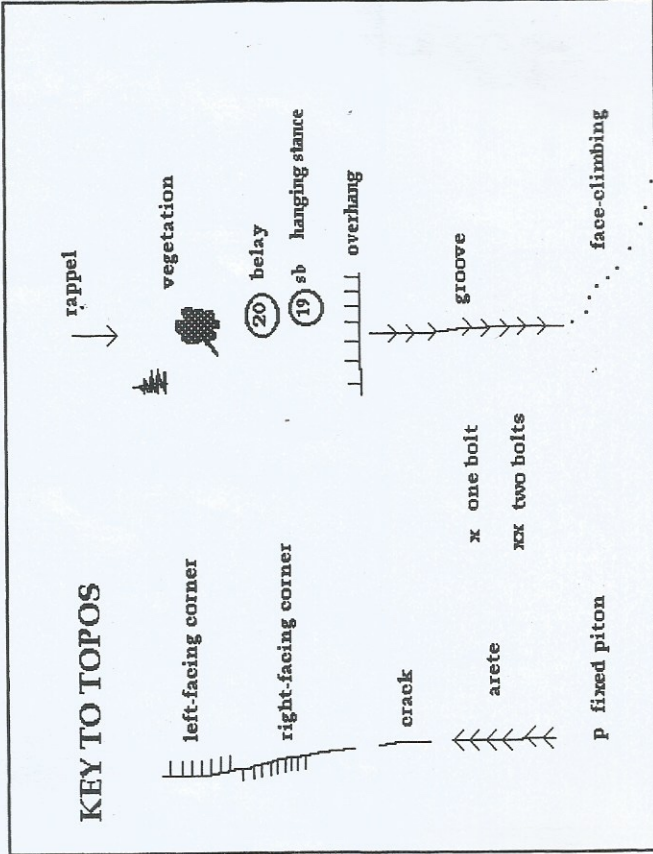
"bump" sign. Park at the pullout here, but don't block the trailhead. Walk for 15 minutes on the obvious path. Where the trail branches, keep to the right, on the main fork. The trail ends at the top of the cliff at the Lookout.

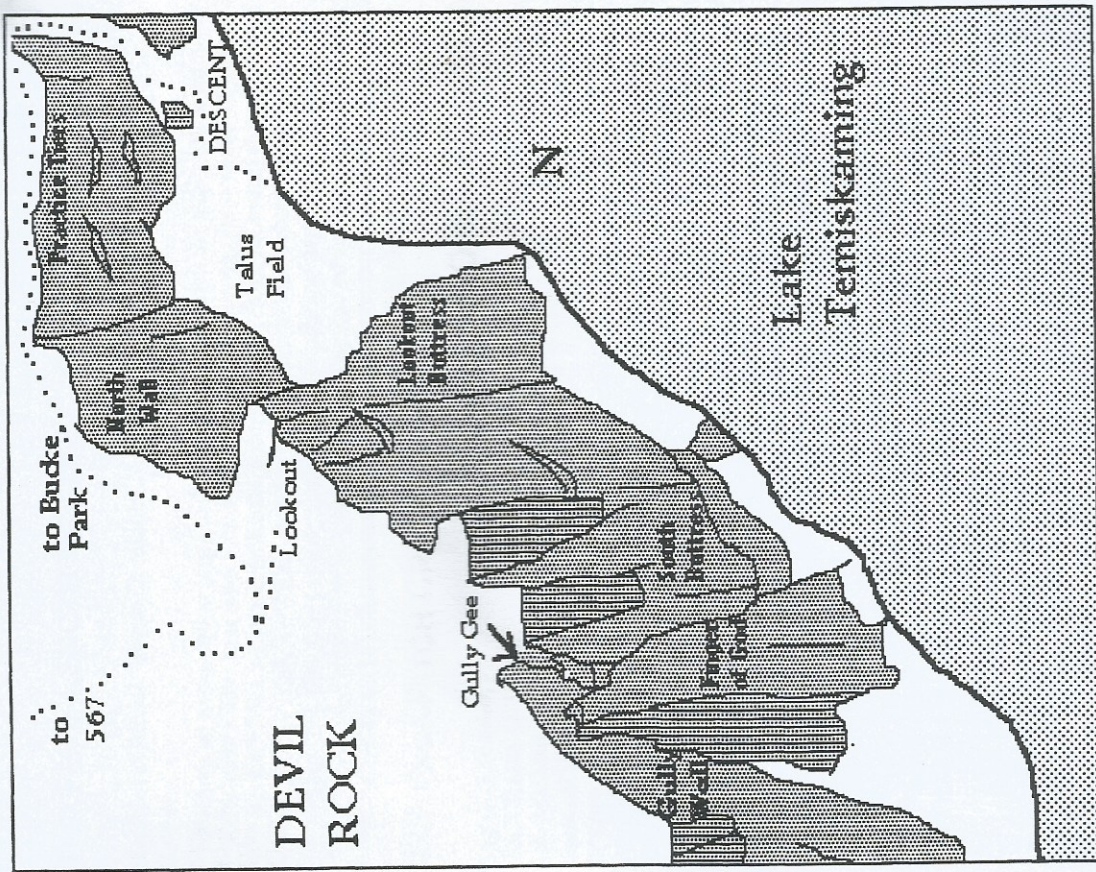
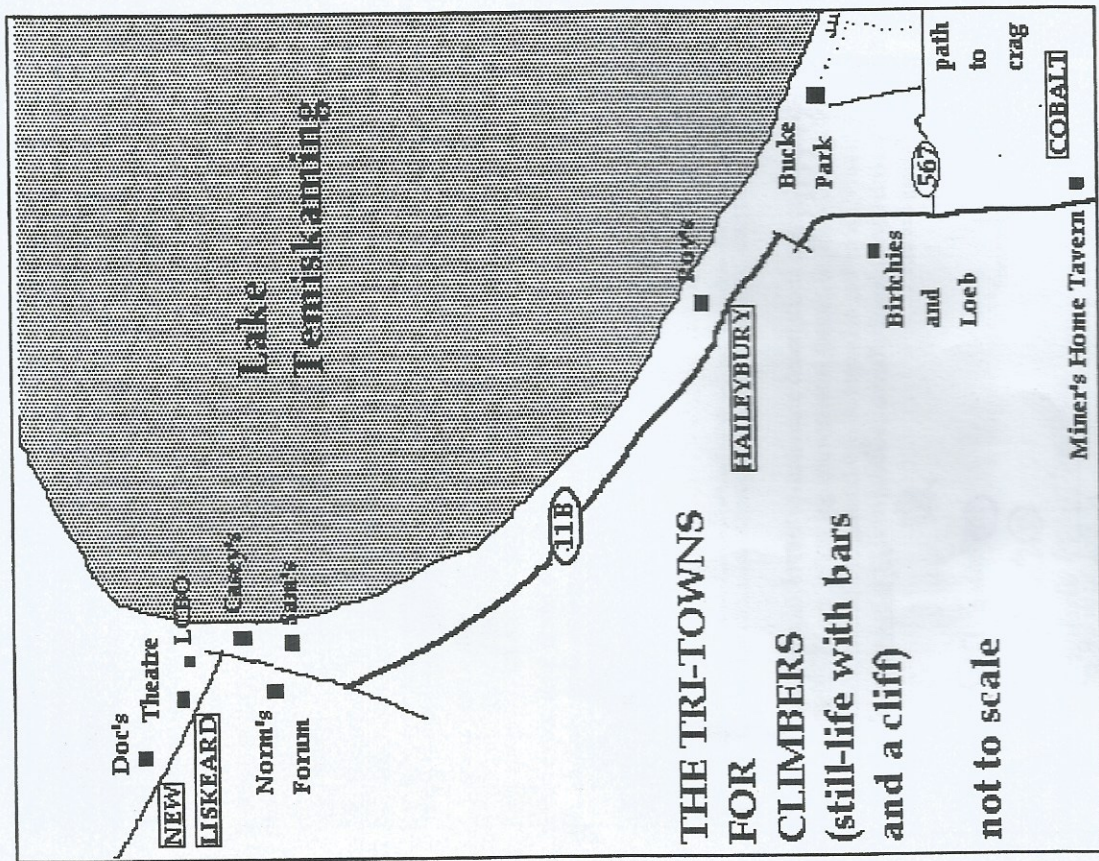
THE DESCENT ROUTE

Access to the routes is most conveniently made by rappel. All the long routes can, however, be climbed from the bottom up. Should you have to back off a route, you will have to walk out, unless you have left fixed ropes and have the equipment and the skills to ascend them, possibly in bad weather. What follows is a description of the easiest way to and from the base:

For *North wall* routes, follow the cliff top which heads north and then curves east to the far end of the Practice Tiers, the broken, south-facing end of the cliff. Descend through a break in the rocks and continue south-east down the slopes until you can break west back towards the cliff, under the base of a short wall with a hand crack. Thick brush is traversed until you reach a talus field below the North Wall.

To reach the *Lookout Buttress*, descend to the lake as for the North Wall above and walk along the shore until you reach the buttress itself, a few metres above the lake. For the *South Buttress* routes as far south as **Samson**, continue along the base, climb a short 5.0 section then a class 4 step, and you will be below **Play Rough with Me**. The other routes are a little further along.





THE ROUTES

Yardy Hoo!...And Away!

Errol Flynn, *Captain Blood*

All routes in this guide are listed south to north (left to right) as they occur on the cliff. Many of the harder routes are unrepeated and only several have seen even a handful of ascents. For this reason, all grades should be considered approximate. Moreover, the YDS ratings are indicative only of the physical difficulty of the climbing. Despite the high-quality of the rock on most routes at Devil Rock, this is a cliff with a distinctly alpine character, and climbers unfamiliar with climbing on rock which may be loose, vegetated or without easy retreat, should adjust their interpretation of the grades and nature of the routes accordingly.

A NOTE ON AID CLIMBING

Anything worth doing well is worth doing badly

G.K. Chesterton

Some of the harder routes on the cliff will definitely represent a formidable challenge to the average rock climber. For those with any doubts about their ability to accomplish these routes as free climbs, an excellent alternative is to attempt them as aid climbs, instead. Although aid climbing is not nearly as commonly practised on the limestone crags of Southern Ontario as is free climbing, the easily protectable granite cracks of Devil Rock offer aid climbers an excellent opportunity to ascend the cliff's most dramatic and exposed lines while honing their skills. Most routes are easily aided (A1 or better) with the exception of the short sections of hooking or face climbing required to link crack systems.

Naturally, you need much more equipment: on average three times as many nuts as you would bring on free climbs, mountains of carabiners, aiders, jumars, belay seats on routes with hanging belays as the leader will take much more time to complete each pitch, as well as the usual accoutrements of a climb at Devil Rock.

All of the routes have been done clean, and so it is undesirable that they should be nailed, both because nailing will ruin them as free climbs, and because it simply isn't necessary. Fixed gear will be found where pitons or bolts are required.

Finally, don't neglect the potential for glorious suffering offered by winter aid ascents of the longer routes at the cliff. With the ice and snow, and the air conditioning provided by the wind whipping down Lake Temiskaming, as well as the incredible exposure, heightened by the cold and the lack of vegetation, you're sure to have a wonderful time. Bring warm clothes and your will to survive.

THE FULL-LENGTH ROUTES

Siegfried's Difficult Way to Brünhilde II 5.8 ♥♥
Delilah II 5.9 PG ♥♥
Samson II 5.10c ♥
Bombay Sapphire III+ 5.11b ♥♥♥
Carmina Burana III+ 5.12b (5.8 A2) ♥♥♥
Leather Goddesses of Phobos III+ 5.11b (5.8 A2) ♥
Play Rough with Me III 5.9 R A1 ♥
Play Rough with Me (last two pitches) I 5.9 ♥♥
L' Ange en Feu II 5.8 ♥♥♥

THE ONE-PITCH CRACK ROUTES

The Goat Butcher I 5.11b ♥♥
The Cleaver I 5.10c ♥
Ich Will Daß I 5.11b (tr)
Practical Falconry I 5.10b
L' Ange en décomposition I 5.11b ♥
Aqueel the Fishlayer I 5.8 PG
The Cleaning Lady I 5.9 ♥
The Awe-Inspiring Rites I 5.12 A1 ♥♥♥
Wendigo I 5.10b
Nanabush I 5.10b

The last pitches of all of the full-length routes can also be done, of course, as often excellent single-pitch climbs.

SPECIAL CATEGORY

Gully G I 5.6 X(tr)
Stephan Brendan and Joey's Big Mess I 5.8
Rastrakha I 5.6

THE LONG ROUTES

*Now for the ascent of that steep savage hill did Satan
Journey to earth*

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Long Routes: The Finger of God

The following four routes all ascend the prominent, impressive pillar which is found about 70m south of the Lookout. It is one of Ontario's only 'independent summits', and it has a summit register. Please sign the register and replace it under the 'philosopher's stone'.

The Finger offers its own challenges for escape in the event of bad weather. Two rappels put you on the talus, which can be traversed—but not easily—past the South Buttress to the main talus field, which can be climbed up to the rim (see page). A better plan is to leave a fixed rope down the ridge which is rappelled as part of the Strangelove Traverse, which is the access route to Delilah and Samson, and the easiest way to climb to the top of the pinnacle. All routes climb this ridge to finish.

Siegfried's Difficult Way to Brünhilde II 5.8 ♥♥

Devil Rock's most popular route has good belay ledges, good rock, exposure, varied and interesting climbing, satisfactory protection, and a Wagnerian conclusion on top of the Finger of God. Rappel the gully behind the Finger to a ledge on the right (50m + 5m exposed 3rd class), traverse 5m across it to a right-facing corner. A few wired nuts and some cams, including a couple of 3"-6" units, will suffice.

P1—Climb the corner to an overhang, move right to an optional belay (useful when guiding the route) on a large ledge. Layback a strenuous large crack on the left, and clip a low bolt around the corner. A hard move leads left to a thin crack which ends at a good ledge with two bolts. (30m 5.8)

P2—Climb a pillar and make face moves up an exposed arête to a bolt. A couple of hard moves lead to two short, easy steps and the top. Belay off the bolts in the north pillar. (25m 5.8)

P3—Carefully downclimb the back of the Finger to the col separating it from the main cliff. Climb the ridge to the rim. (30m 5.4PG)

F.A.: Carl Johnston, David Smart, May 27, 1997

The Strangelove Memorial Traverse I 5.3

The original ascent route for the Finger, the easiest route to its summit, and the best way off.

P1—Rappel down the prominent ridge leading from the main cliff towards the Finger of God. A piton helps keep the rope in place. From the narrow col climb up and right to the summit. Reverse the exposed route to get back to the rim. (5.4 PG, in reverse)

F.A.: Carl Johnston, David Smart, Sept. 4, 1997

Delilah II 5.9 ♥♥

The first pitch is the closest thing to a Yosemite fist-crack that you'll find in Ontario. With a couple of large cams the route is well protected. It has good rock, good belays, and exposure. To approach it, do the Strangelove (the climb, not the obscure disco move), and make a long rappel from the south end of the summit (directional bolt) to two bolts at a small triangular ledge on the summit's east face. Pro. to 6", several 4-6", tape recommended.

P1—Sacrifice yourself to the soul-destroying wiles of the clean fist and offwidth crack. Climb easier cracks up and right to two bolts in a niche. (25m 5.9)

P2—Climb thin cracks on the left to a ledge. Climb up and right to a good belay below an overhanging corner. (20m 5.8)

P3—Strenuous moves up the corner until level with a ledge on the left. Step right with extreme exposure, and, having avoided betrayal, climb easily to the top. Alternatively, heading left at the ledge affords a tantalizing (5.0) escape. Belay at the north pillar bolts. (15m 5.9 PG)

P4—Reverse Strangelove to the rim. (30m 5.4 PG)

F.A.: Carl Johnston, David Smart, April 29, 1997

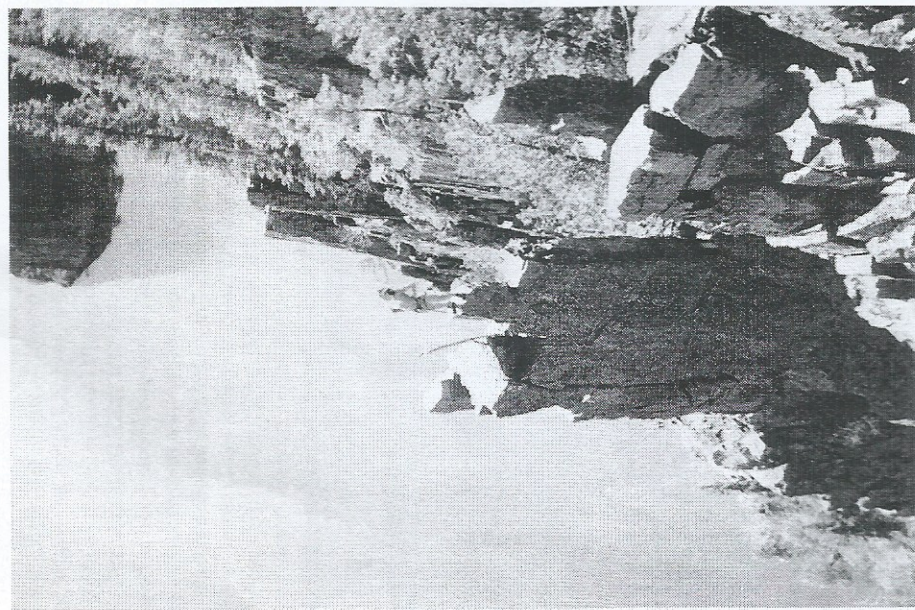
Samson II 5.10c ♥

The last pitch of this route ascends the spectacular and burly hand crack slicing the upper section of the Finger, which is visible from the main cliff. Approach as for Delilah, except rappel from the north end of the summit of the Finger. The 50m rappel will take you to a large sloping ledge on the north face of the Finger. The route starts in a dark corner on the left, where there is a belay bolt. Pro. to 4", hair to 20".

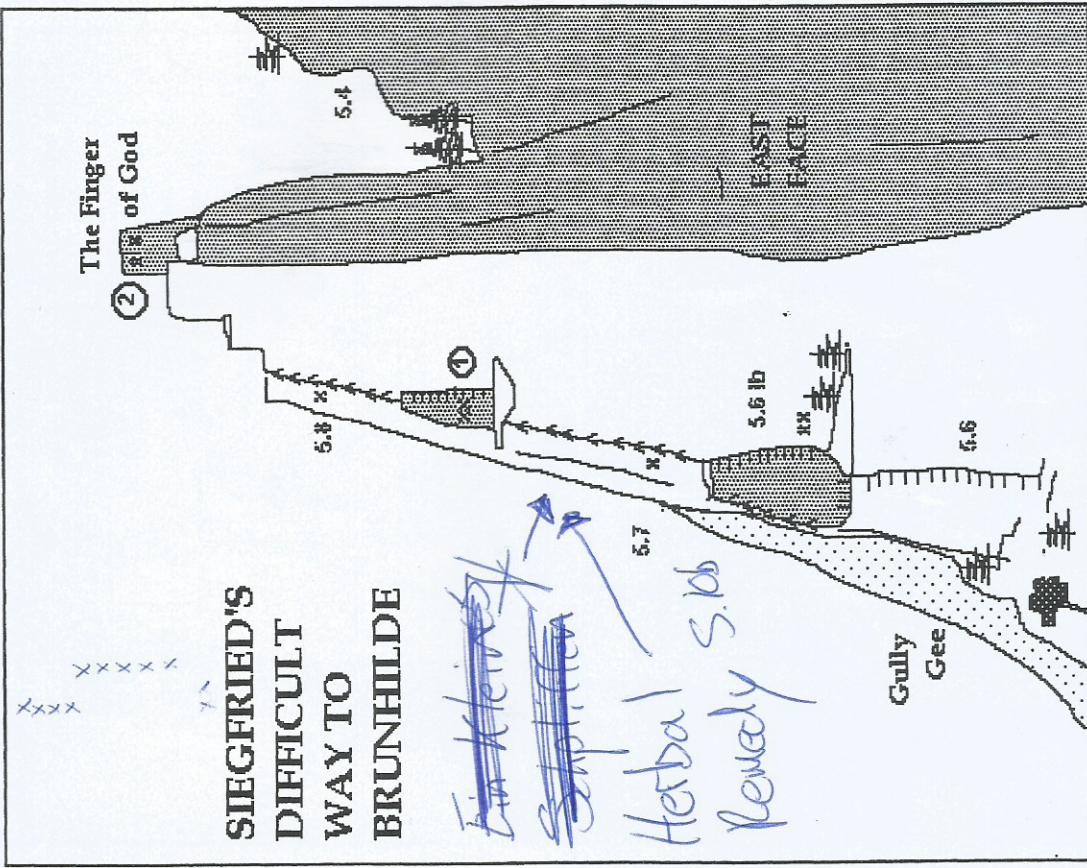
P1—Climb the right-facing corner to a ramp. Climb up and right past a block which rocks but does not roll, and belay at bolts. (20m 5.9)

- P2—Climb the overhanging left-facing corner on the right to cracks which lead to a small belay ledge with two bolts. (20m 5.10b)
- P3—Climb a corner past a wedged block which is easily avoided. Jam heroically over the roof and up the summit block to the top. (15m 5.10c)
- P4—Reverse Strangelove to the top. (30m 5.4 PG)

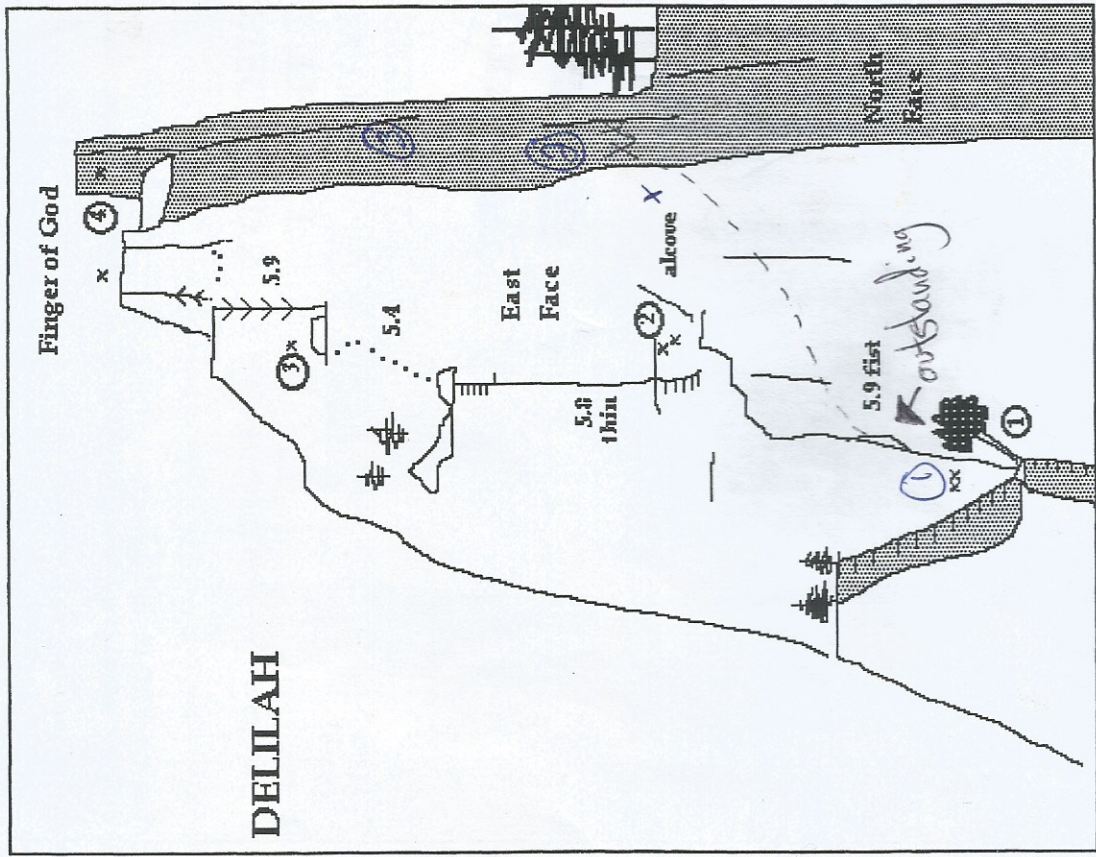
F.A.: David Smart, Carl Johnston, May, 1997



Carl Johnston, after the first ascent of the Finger of God. D. Smart

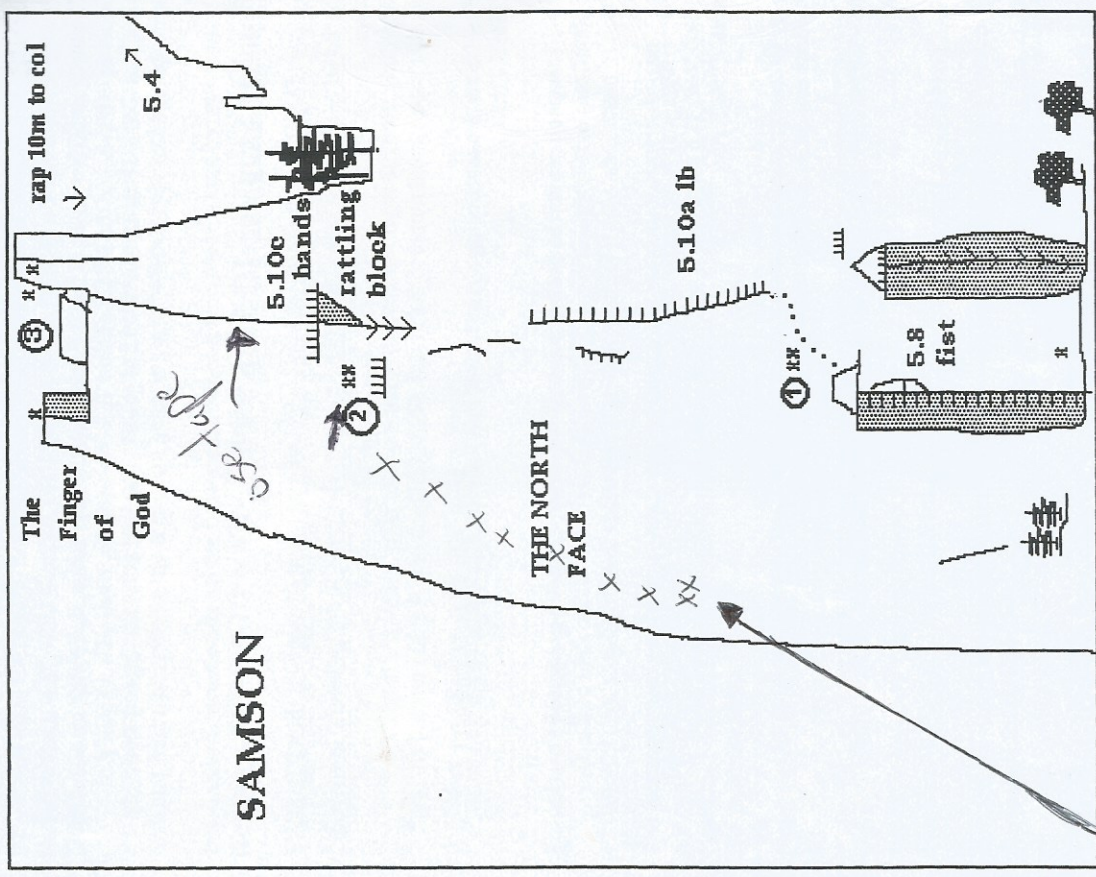


Sep. 25th/99 Bolted. 8 bolts
and anchors
F.F.A. 26th/99 Stephan Scherzinger
+ F.A. with Steve Johnson & Karl Seidenbuschmitt,
DEVIL ROCK, THE ANTI-GUIDE 15



--- possible link up to "Send me your money."

- 1st pitch "Delilah" (5.9)
- 2nd pitch is "Send me your money" (5.10b)
- 3rd pitch is "Samson" (5.10c)



Send me your money and your pins shall

be forgiven 5.10 ~~5.10~~ finish on Samson
 cleaned and bolted with a hitidrill on Aug 9/99
 F.A. + F.F.A Stephan Scheizinger, Megan Wells Aug. 5/99
 7 bolts + below anchor

Long Routes: The South Buttress

The most notorious routes at Devil Rock climb the impressive, sheer rock between the Lookout Buttress and the Finger of God. It is overhanging, riven with a handful of prominent crack systems, and devoid of good ledges, and provides some of Ontario's best routes.

Bombay Sapphire III 5.11b ♥♥♥

This is, perhaps, Ontario's best all-crack route. This beautiful natural line incorporates the finger crack in the steep slab to the right of the Finger, and the sweeping, left-facing corner above. It has exposure, good rock, and some superb climbing. Descend by rappelling from the region of the fixed piton on the Finger Ridge to a ledge. Tie another rope on and rappel to the brushy sloping ledge below the thin crack. Pro. to 6".

P1—Climb the crack using a sequence of thin jams to a small belay ledge with bolts. (25m 5.11b)

P2—This pitch avoids the floating block above, which is shaped something like Ontario, and only marginally smaller. Climb shattered rock on the right past a poor piton to better rock, which leads up and right past a bolt to a hanging belay. (15m 5.9)

P3—Climb a crack on the left to a roof. Traverse left to an overhanging thin crack which leads to a small stance at the base of the giant corner with a bong piton, but no bolts. (20m 5.10c)

P4—Climb the impressive corner above past a few fixed pitons to the crux, which deposits one on an excellent belay ledge with two bolts. (25m 5.11a)

P5—Climb the wall on the left up and right into the final corner which leads to the top. (10m 5.7)

F.A.: David Smart, Cort McElroy, August 19, 1996

Carmina Burana III 5.12b ♥♥♥ (5.8 A2 ♥♥♥)

New Hampshire has the **Prow**, Eldorado has **The Naked Edge**, and now, Ontario has this amazing route. This climb has excellent jamming and rock, is continuously difficult and varied, and has the best line on the cliff. Every pitch is hard. To access the base, find an open area 10m north of the ridge leading down to the Finger of God. A 50m overhanging rappel leads to the bolts of the first stance; a second long overhanging rappel leads to the base. Pro. to 4", many 1/2" to 1". Tape recommended.

P1—Climb the right side of a pillar and jam up the overhanging finger crack (rest near the top) to a three-bolt sling belay. (25m 5.11b or A1)

P2—Climb up to a fixed nut, then left to a steep bolt-protected face (5.11) which leads to an overhang with a thin crack (5.12). Follow the thin crack to a small belay ledge. (20m 5.12b, or 5.7 A2)

P3—In a situation of extreme exposure, extrude yourself up through the overhanging flare and fist crack splitting the arête, and belay at a good ledge. (15m 5.11a or A2)

P4—Layback strenuously up the flake on the left to a bolt. Make a hard move left to the easier arête. (15m 5.11b or A2)

VARIATIONS: It is possible to escape from the top of the third pitch, to **Big Mess**, which gets one onto easier rock, but the first 10m of climbing to reach that route are extremely loose 5.9. A more useful variation is to escape from the last pitch by climbing **Practical Falconry** instead of the regular route, thus eliminating one of the 5.11 pitches.

F.A.: Carl Johnston, David Smart, Sept. 3, 1996

Leather Goddesses of Phobos III 5.11b ♥ (or 5.8 A2 ♥)

The first long route on the cliff, this route has been superseded in popularity by the previous two routes which are more direct. Nonetheless, this is a good, difficult expedition combining worthwhile elements of both of the later routes. Access as for **Bombay Sapphire**.

P1—First pitch of **Bombay Sapphire**.

P2—Second pitch of **Bombay Sapphire**, hanging stance.

P3—Climb up right from the hanging stance, past a bolt to a crack in the roof. (20m 5.8 A2)

P4—Third pitch of **Carmina Burana**.

P5—Fourth Pitch of **Carmina Burana**.

F.A.: David Smart, aid rope-solo, October 1993—the history of the freeing of most of the route is found elsewhere.

Play Rough with Me III 5.9R A1 ♥ or I 5.9 ♥♥ (last two pitches)

A good route that goes the whole length of the crag. The second pitch should go free, and has many pieces of fixed protection. Please leave these in place. The last two pitches are popular as a good short climb. The final chimney, 'Mulroneys' Crack', is one of the most striking features on the cliff. It is possible to get to the base by rapping the route (two 50m rappels). If approaching from the lake via the main descent route, locate the upper pitch by looking for 'Mulroneys' Head'. Pro. to 4".

Long Routes: The Lookout Buttress

The Lookout Buttress has only a few routes now, but it is apt to have many more in the future. It is the large buttress below the fenced lookout. It is identified from above by the large ledge 20m down the cliff, just below the Lookout. In 1992, two haulbags of trash, as well as a 50m section of chain link fence were hauled off of here. This part of the cliff is vulnerable to trundled objects of all descriptions. Wearing a helmet will help if the object hits your head.... The locals usually cease fire if you shout up at them. We've also contemplated hanging a sign on the fence, but would expect it to be the first projectile. If you tell them to stop trundling and they won't desist, just tell them you know Stan. (Not to be confused with knowing Satan, who has less pull in the Tri-towns.)

Access to the Lookout Buttress Routes: You have the option of walking down, as described in the introduction. The usual approach is to rappel. Rap once to the bolts at the top of pitch 4 of L'Ange en Feu. Rap down to the right of the Finger of Stan, using the high bolt to keep the rope clear of the crack. Continue over to the bolts in a corner. Rap again to the bolts at the ledge directly below. The rock below here is still being explored, so by the time you read this there may well be pitches from the ground up.

L'Ange en Feu 5.8 ♥♥♥ (project)

This route deserves to become one of the cliff's most popular excursions.

P1— Traverse left to a right-facing corner. Climb it to a small ledge, step right to a thin crack in an overhang, and climb it up a steep wall to the sentry-box. (20m 5.8)

P2— An easy pitch up and left to a belay below the wide crack on the right side of the Finger of Stan. (12m 5.1)

P3— Struggle up the crack, noting the floating block on the right, and clipping the bolt at the top to keep the rope from jamming. Next, up and left to a belay behind the Finger of Stan. (30m 5.8)

P4— A particularly good pitch follows the crack up the slab, and an overhanging strenuous corner above to the rim. (25m 5.8)

LE CONFSSIONAL VARIATION: From the top of pitch 3, venture up and right through the 'confessional' to join **Aqueel the Fishlayer**. (Two pitches, 5.9.) Don't steal the 'STOP' sign!

F.A.: Pitch 4, David Smart, Rosalind Chaundy, September, 1997

F.A.: David Smart, Carl Johnston, December 16, 1997

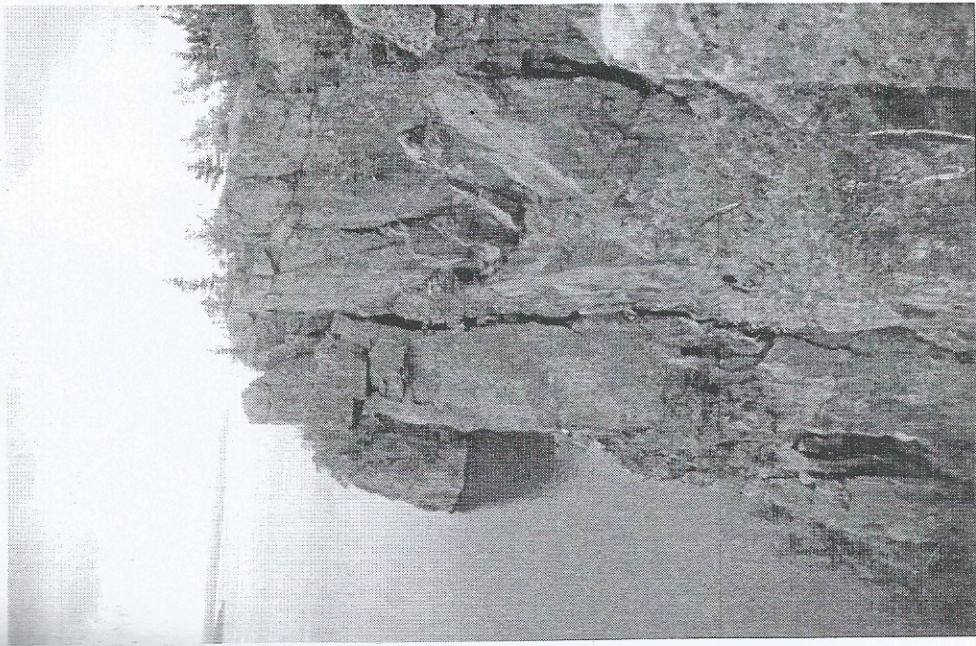
L'Ange en Decomposition 5.11b ♥ (project)

Varied and difficult climbing up the steepest sections below the Lookout. Another

Devil Rock route with many difficult pitches.

P5— Climb over the overhang and up the slab until an overhanging thin crack on the right wall is reached. Climb this via difficult moves, clipping a pin near the top. (25m 5.11b)

VARIATIONS: It will also be possible to integrate some of the easier pitches of L'Ange en Feu to make a less fierce route.



The South Buttress and the east face of the Finger of God. D. Smart

ONE PITCH CRACK ROUTES

Mungo no let go. Mungo strong.
Campus board graffiti

The Gully Area

This is the wall opposite the rear (south face) of the Finger of God. It is best viewed from the top of the Finger, from which **The Cleaver** is clearly visible, but access is as described below. Several attractive crack lines here remain to be climbed.

The Goat Butcher I 5.11b ♥♥

A superb, strenuous overhanging hand and finger crack. Walk southeast (downhill) through the talus on the top of the cliff (*sic*), from the top of the gully, until an open area is seen on the left, with a view north to the Finger. To the south can be seen an overhanging wall, which is split by a crack. Rappel to a large sloping ledge with a bolt. Pro. to 4".

P1—Battle your way up the crack. Tape recommended. (20m)

F.A.: David Smart, Carl Johnston, June 20, 1997

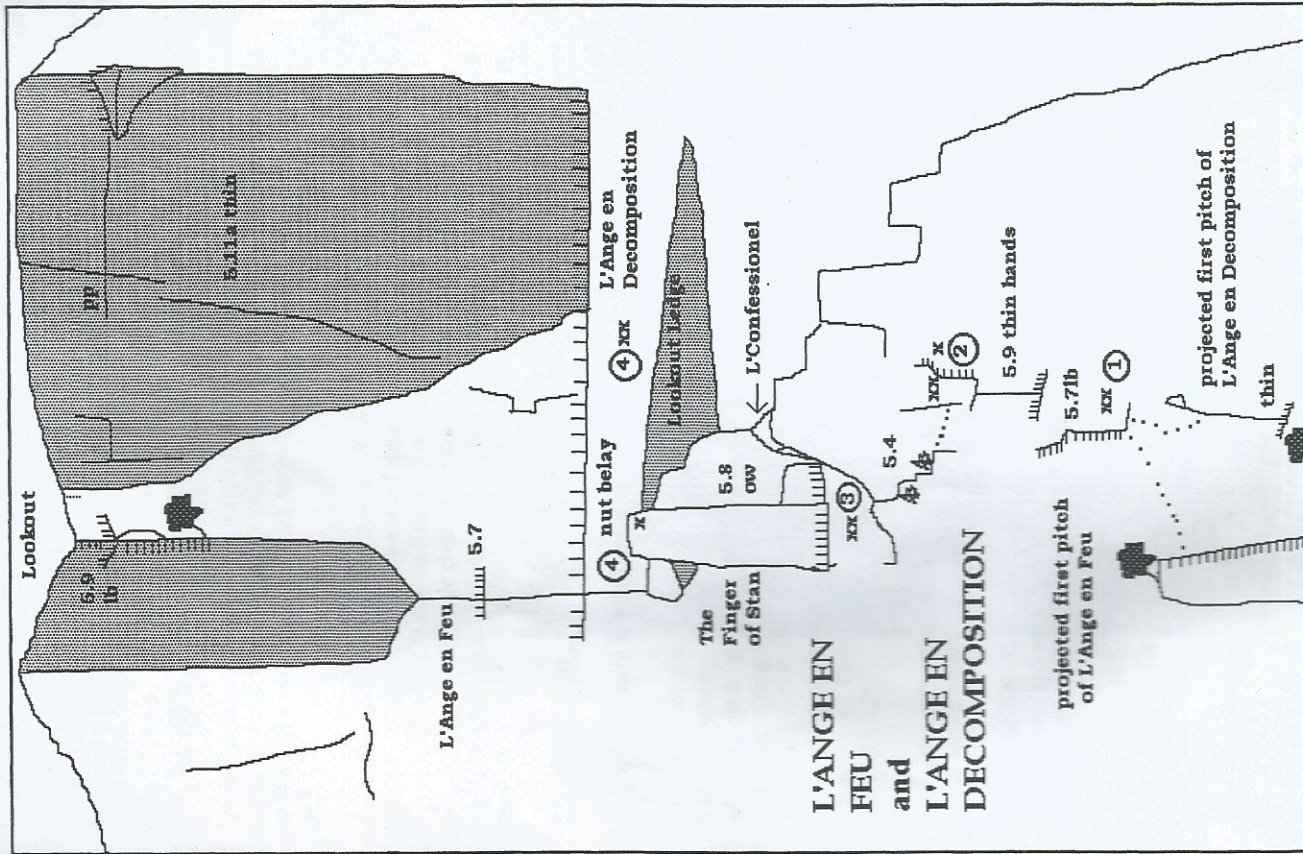
Mmmmm, fresh meat!
The Butcher, Level 2, Diablo

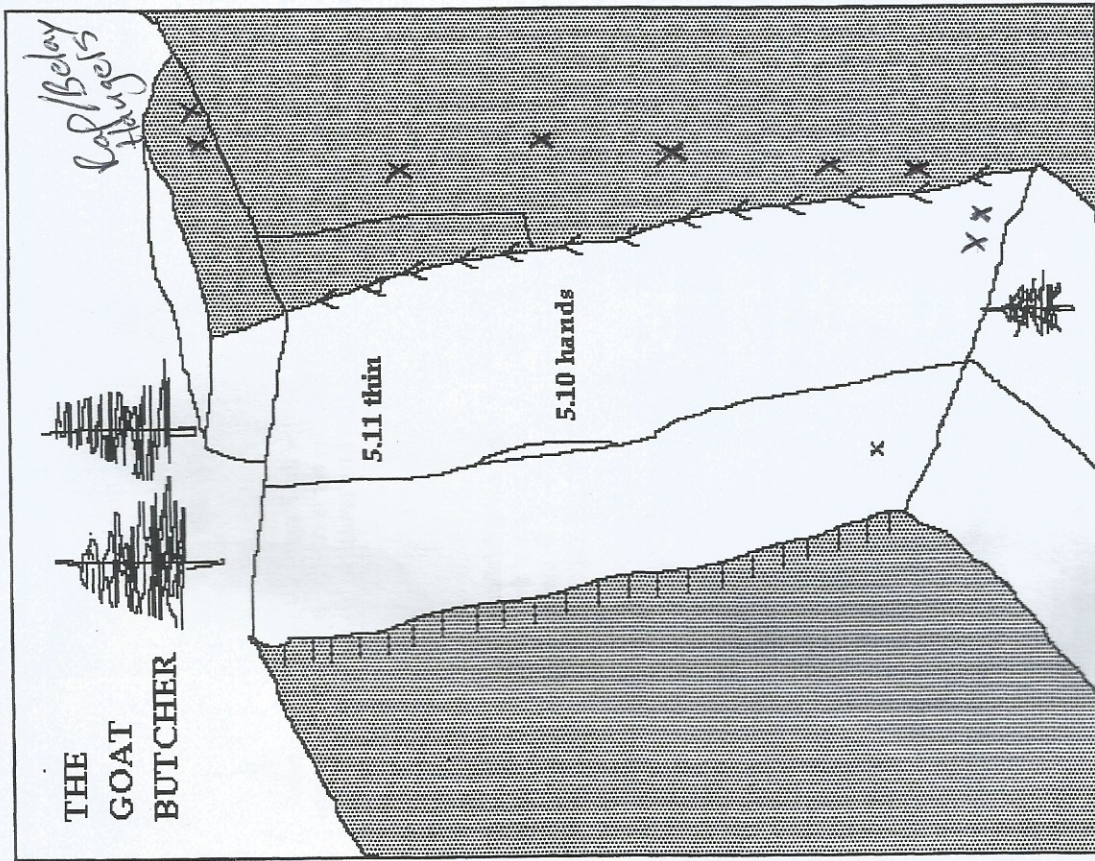
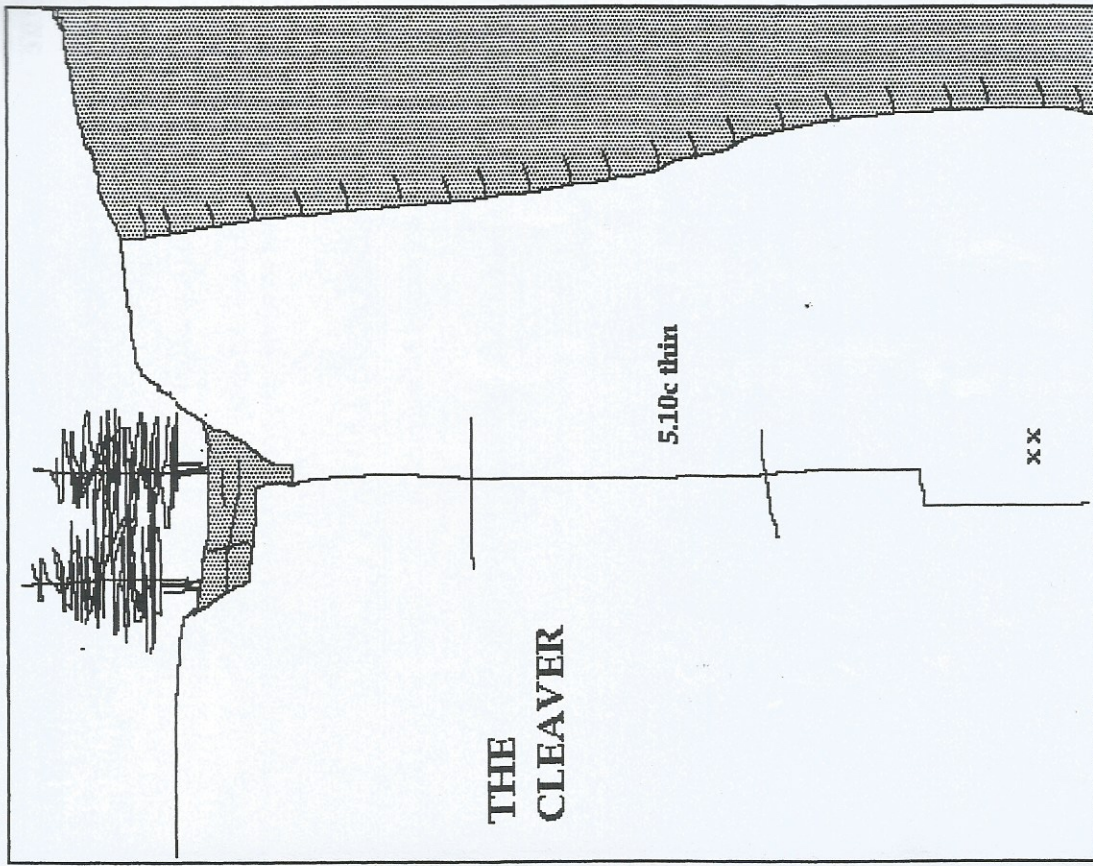
The Cleaver I 5.10c ♥

A beautiful crack appears to be almost impossibly thin from the summit of the Finger. From the top of the gully, walk south through the bushes for about 15m until a small depression with several birch trees on the edge of the cliff is found. Rappel down the wall with the clean finger crack to a small ledge with two bolts. Pro. to 2".

P1—Climb the sustained crack which saves the crux for last, moving left over dirty ledges at the top. (15m) Optionally, inspect the belay bolts by pitching off the easy finish moves and plummeting the 15m, speed cleaning your *pro en route* (recommended).

F.A.: Carl Johnston, David Smart, June 21, 1997





Demonic Mosquito 5.10a
 Bolted w/ HiHi on rap - May 13/2000
 F.A.T.F.A. Stephan Scherzinger, Johanna Pohl
 May 14/2000

One Pitch Routes: The South Buttress

This is the area north of the Finger of God and south of the Lookout Fence.

Ich Will Daß 5.11b (top-rope)

The right wall of the final corner of Bombay Sapphire has been top-roped. It awaits a leader with a will powerful enough to bring a new order of boldness into existence. (15m)

Carmina Burana (last pitch) I 5.11a ♥

This arching crack left of Practical Falconry (below) can be done from the same stance. Pro. to 2".

P1—Climb the layback crack to a bolt, make a hard move left to the arête, and climb to the top. (15m)

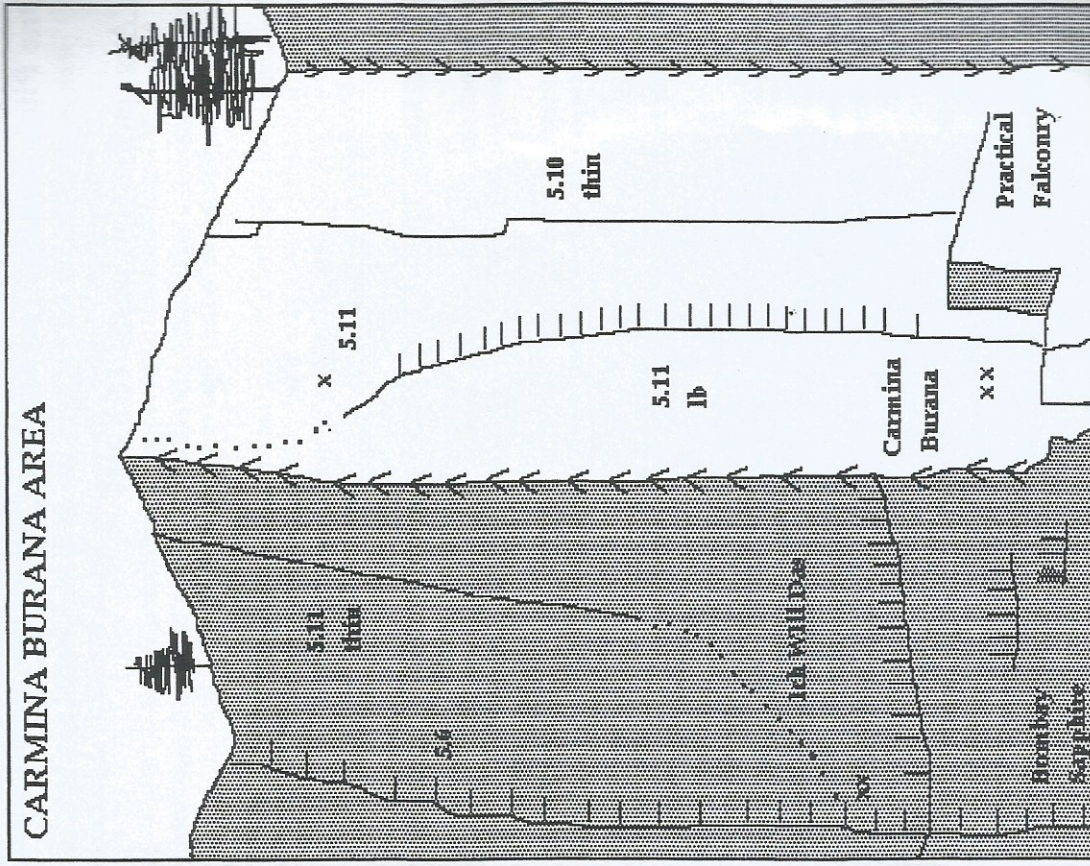
F.A.: See Carmina Burana.

Practical Falconry I 5.10b

Ten metres north of the ridge leading down to the Finger of God there is an arête. Three or four metres north of this is a finger crack. Rappel to a ledge with bolts, the final stance for Carmina Burana. Pro. to 1".

P1—Mantel a ledge on the right and climb the double thin crack to the top. (15m)

F.A.: David Smart, Philip May, May 1995



One Pitch Routes: The Lookout Buttress

L'Ange en Feu (last pitch) I 5.8 ♥♥♥

Below the Lookout is a large ledge (the Lookout Ledge). Rap at its far south edge to a stance behind a pillar known as The Finger of Stan. Pro. to 4", 'STOP' sign.

P1—Climb left to a crack and follow it up the slab. Continue up the overhanging and strenuous right-facing corner system to the rim. (25m)

F.A.: see L'Ange en Feu

L'Ange en Decomposition (last pitch) I 5.11b ♥

On the north side of the Lookout Ledge is a steep wall with a thin diagonal crack. Rappel down it to bolts. Pro. to 1".

P1—Climb over the overhang and up the slab until an overhanging thin crack on the right wall is reached. Using decadent moves, climb this, clipping a pin near the top. (25m)

F.A.: David Smart, August, 1997.

Aqueel the Fishlayer I 5.9 PG ♥

Classic offwidth and chimney climbing. Just north of the Lookout there is a 2m drop. The deep slash in the cliff here is the route. Rappel to the lower ledge. Pro. as big as possible. Some of the original chockstones are missing after a fishing foray by the first ascensionist.

P1—Climb the chimney past a birch tree to the top. It is usually led by running it out. (25m)

F.A.: Aqueel Zaman, Noreen Holmes, Cort Mc Elboy, August 1996.

The Cleaning Lady I 5.9 ♥

One of the most popular routes on the cliff. Rappel 15m to a good ledge on the north face of the Lookout Buttress, just left of an anvil-shaped block. Pro. to 3".

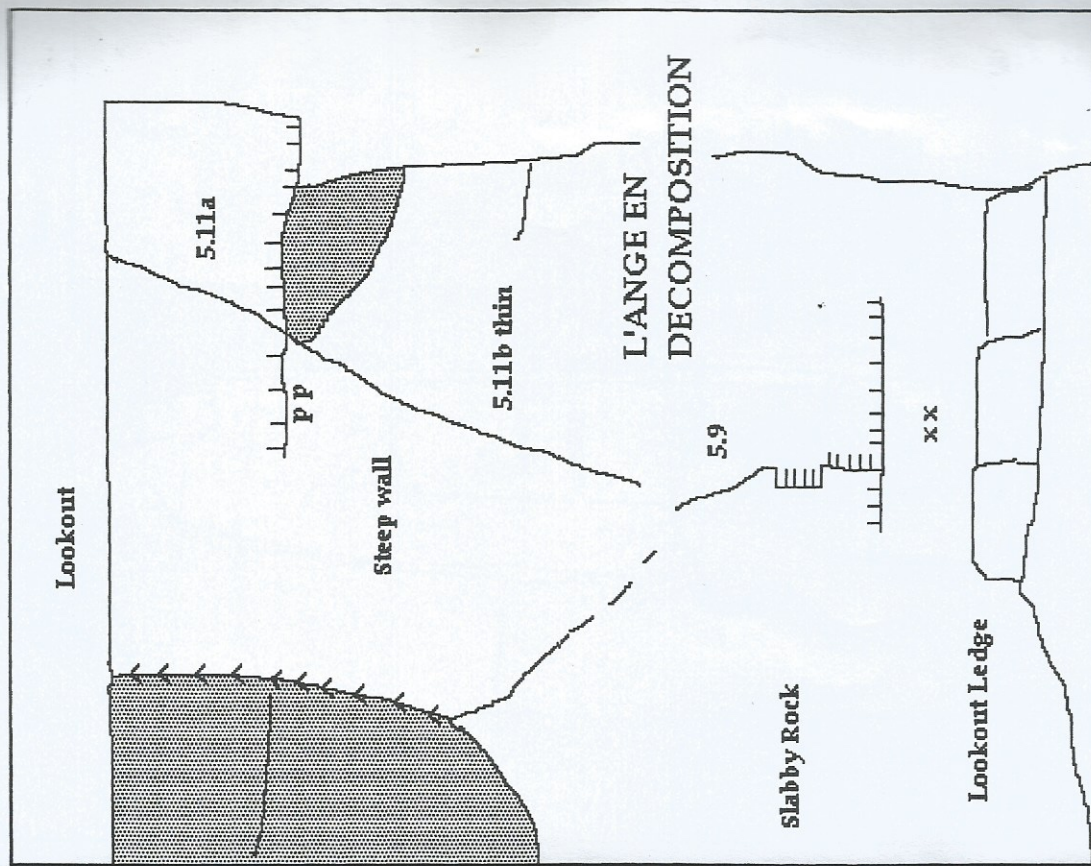
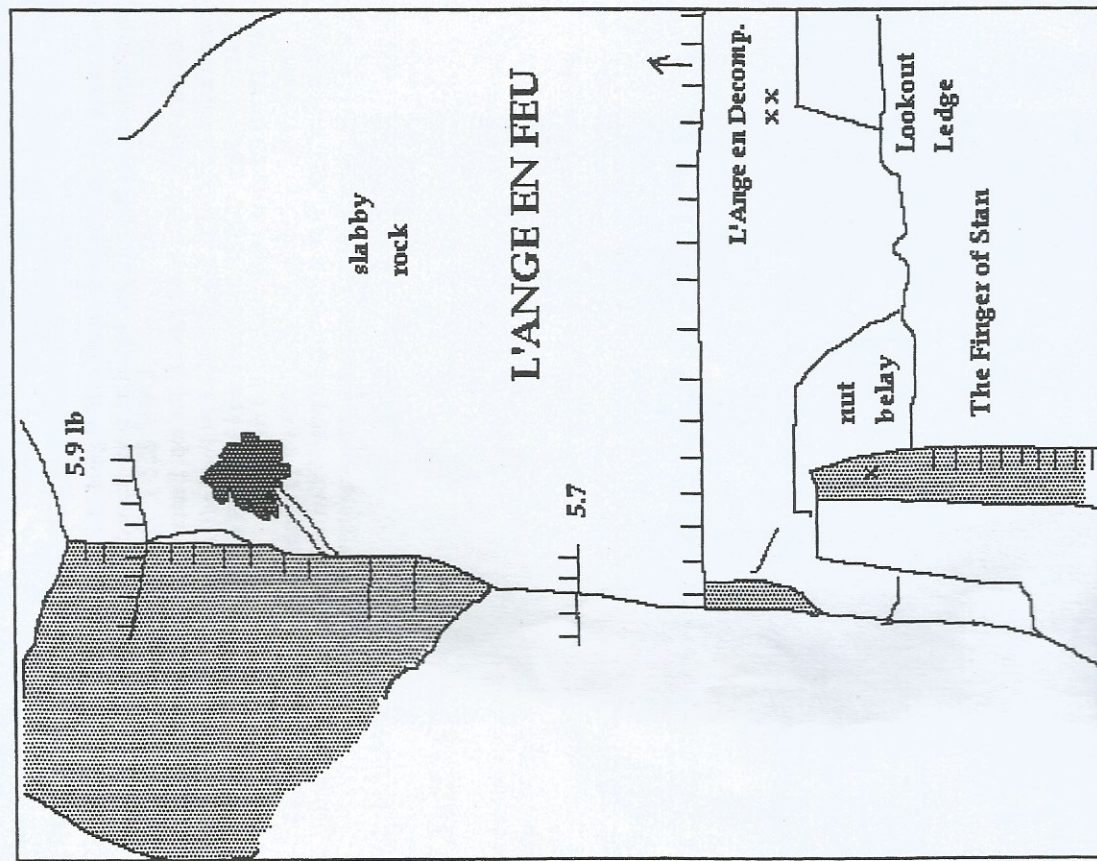
P1—Climb a flake, then a hand crack to the top. Easier if you start from a ledge on the right. (15m)

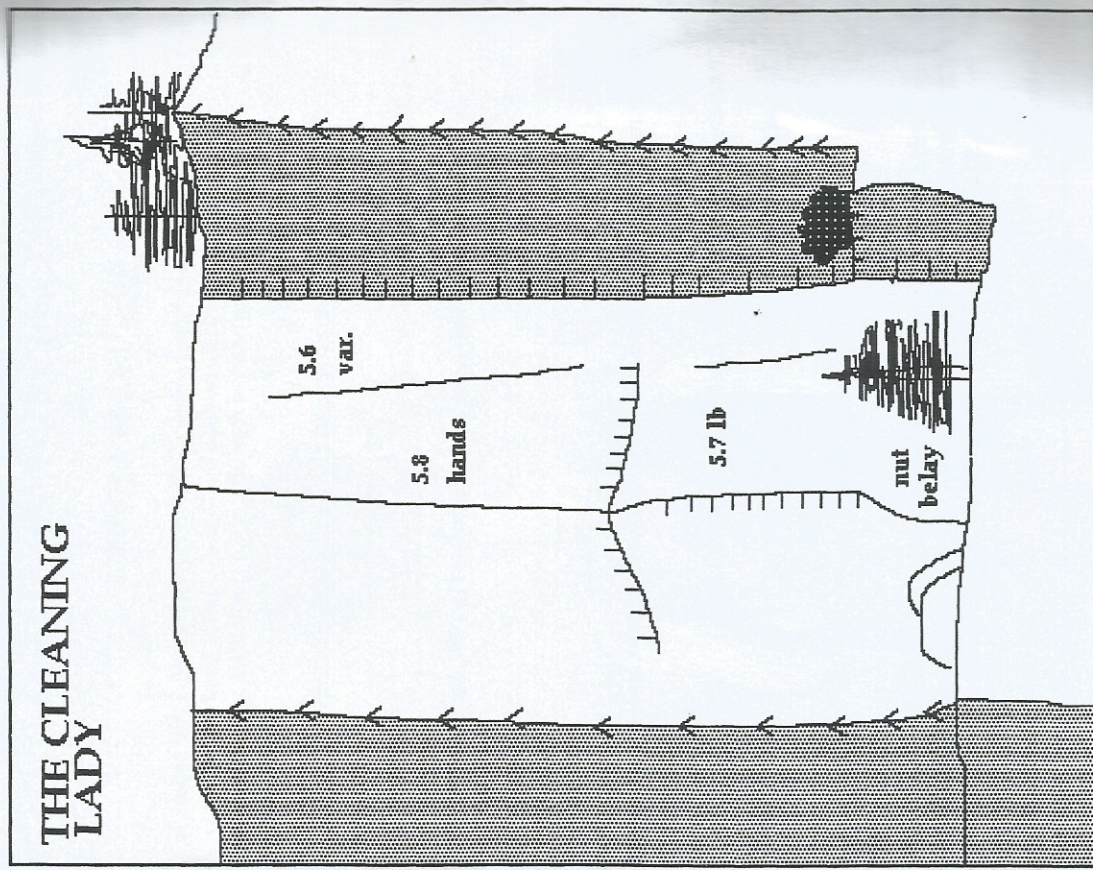
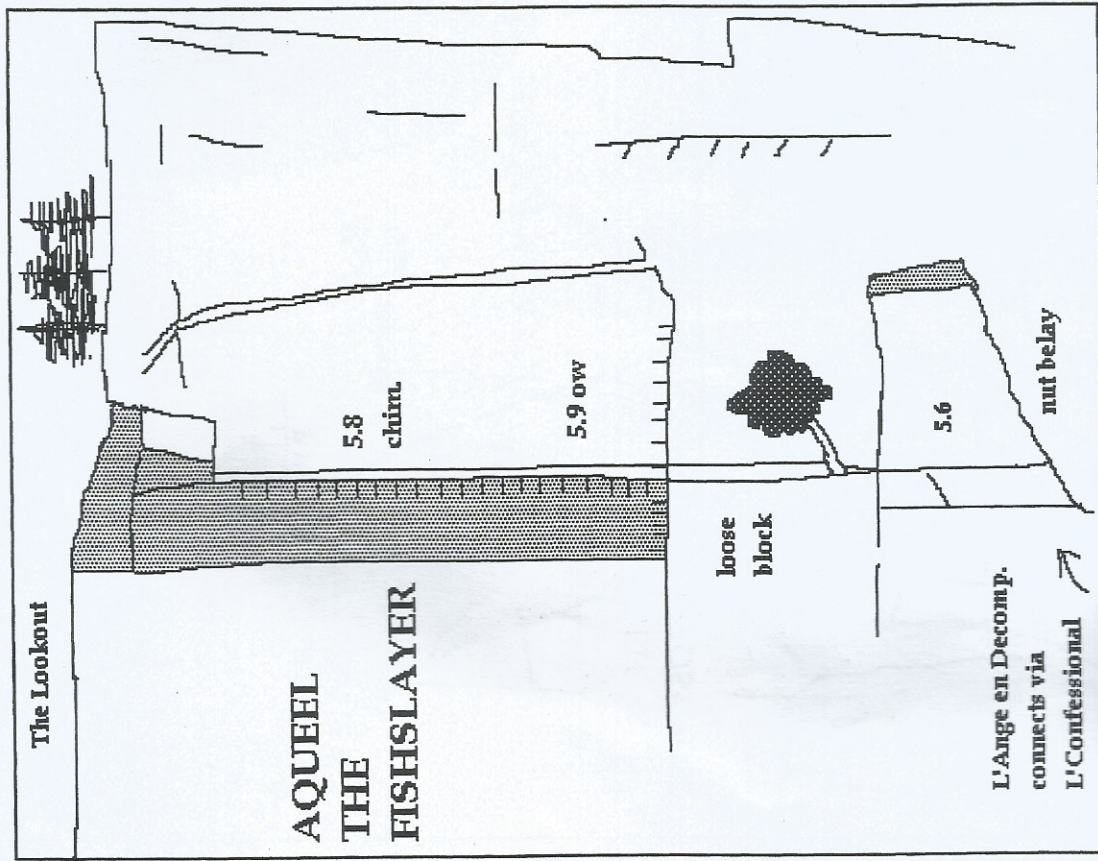
VARIATION: Climb the thin crack on the right (5.6).

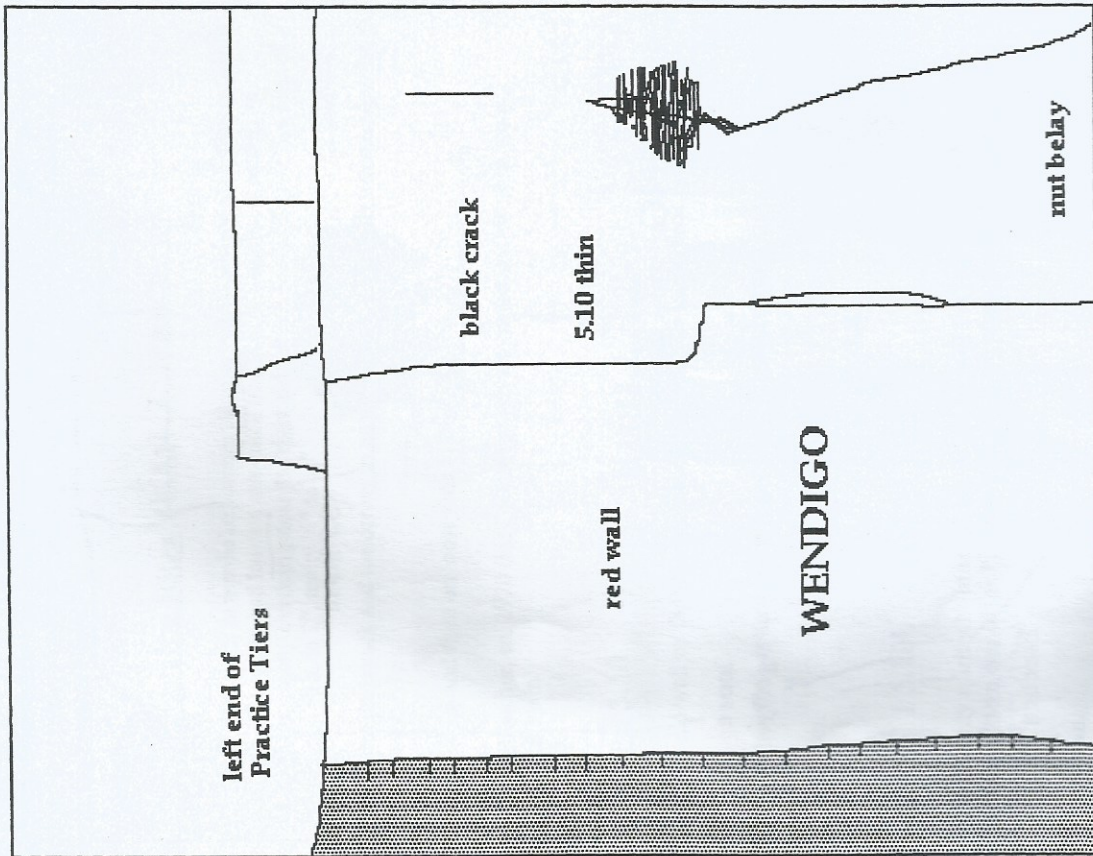
F.A.: Cort McElboy, Noreen Holmes, August, 1996.



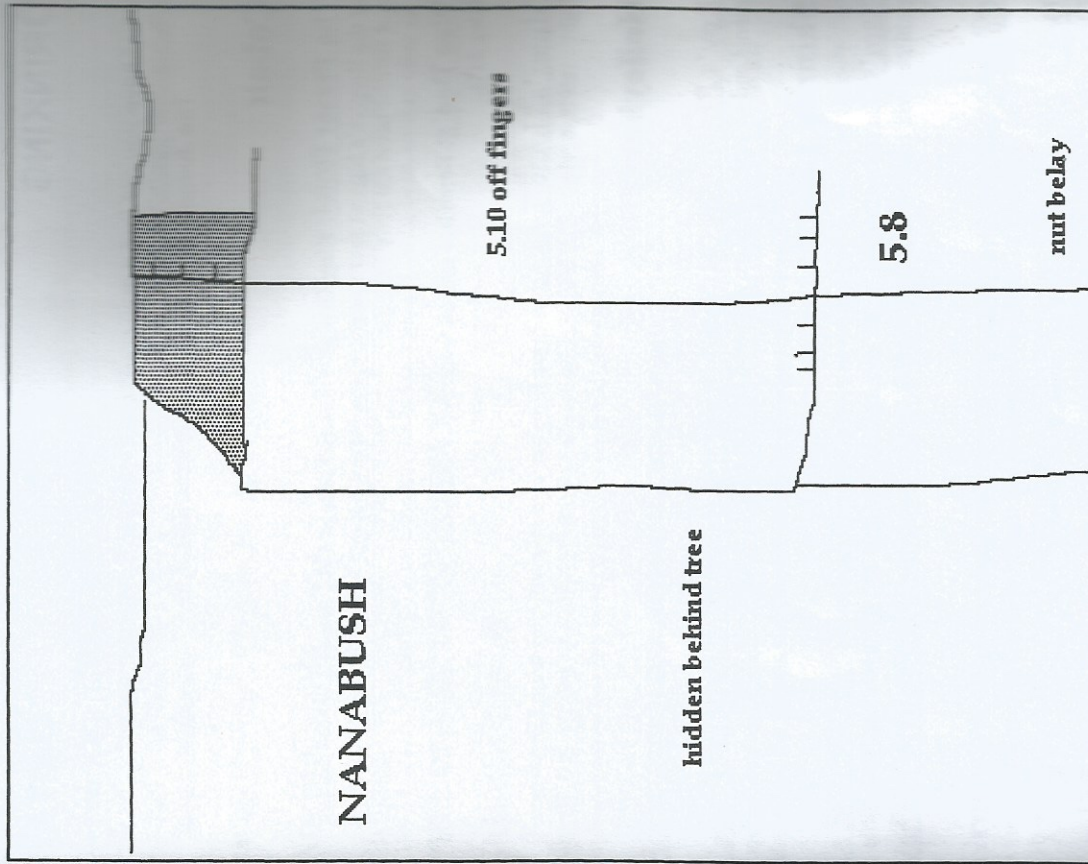
Dave Smart and Cort McElboy on the fourth pitch of Bombay Sapphire. N. Holmes







DEVIL ROCK , THE ANTI-GUIDE 42



DEVIL ROCK , THE ANTI-GUIDE 43

DRINKING

What have you got that a man could drink with just a minimum risk of blindness or death?

The Judge, Cormac McCarthy's Blood Meridian

Cobalt

The Fraser Hotel: King George V lunched here in 1912 when he visited the site of the Empire's biggest ever mineral scam. Now it's tough and seedy with pool tables and bottled beer. On Hwy 11B.

Wee Bee's: Some live acts on weekends. Plastic deck furniture, concrete floors. On Hwy 11B.

Miner's Home Tavern: A mean little bar with no draft, throbbing Christmas lights, red Naugahyde and Karaoke. Lost souls only. See you there. On Hwy 11B. ♥

Haileybury

Roy's Restaurant: Old theatre with red velvet, tropical paintings, 3m high plastic plants and an alpine-style carved wood bar. On Hwy 11B (the main drag).

Skinned Lizard

Sam's: On the main strip, "new" country. Comfortable bar, live c+w. Sam the affable publican will regale you with tales of his travels (he's been to Toronto). On Hwy 11B. ♥

Casey's: see **Eating**, below. ♥♥♥

Doc's: Climbers' favourite. Pool tables, draft, whiskey. Open Thursday to Sunday. A Blues night, Rock Night, Folk Night, Karaoke Night, etc... (Bar Fight Night is every night.) Disco night has to be seen to be believed. On Hwy 11B. ♥♥

Brown Paper Bag

LCBO: In all three of the Tri-towns. ♥

EATING

—see also **DRINKING**, above

The only good reason for a man to leave a bar is that the food isn't usually very good.
Ernest Hemingway

Ratings (♥=recom., ♥♥=good, etc) [to be completed]

North Cobalt

Birtchies: Best diner food in North Cobalt/Haileybury. On the north side of Hwy 11B, 1 km east of Hwy 567. The coppers like to track people down here, so stay clear if the heat is on. Open early and close to the crag. ♥♥♥

Skinned Lizard

Norm's Forum: Go Hab's! Breakfast, diner style. Icon-bedecked shrine to local boys who made it to the hockey bigs. On Hwy 11B, downtown. ♥

Horny Tim's: Opposite Norm's. A taste of home.

Casey's: At the Waterfont Inn, (on the waterfront!) 2 blocks from Hwy 11B. Yuppie food service reminiscent of *après* climbing circa 1982. Good draft, great patio on the lake. Good for groups and those who prefer obsequious service. ♥♥

La Brochette: Sepulchral atmosphere but convenient hours. Close to Casey's.

Various Franchises: North of the Lizard on Hwy 11b.

Groceries: There are several supermarkets in the area, the closest one to the cliff is the Loeb's next to Birtchies, others are located in the Lizard or just north on HWY 11b. Bucke Park has a (very) few items, as does the corner gas station. ♥

CAMPING AND AMENITIES

Nobody kills anybody in my place of business except me and Zed.
Maynard, Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*

Bucke Park Campground: Also known as the Republic of Stan. Communal tent site. Showers, some food, beach, water (the lake water has too much arsenic in it to

drink, a small price to pay for two days worth of paper for the Tokyo Daily News). Paddle boat and carnivorous canoe for rent. **No public phones.** Nine bucks a night. Do right by Stan, and he'll do right by you. You can take a trail from the campsite to the top of the cliff which takes about 30 minutes. Stan neither condones nor strongly opposes nude bathing. Phone ahead for the red carpet.
Phone: (705) 672-2611.

Unserviced camping: The cliff is on Crown land, so if you're circumspect, rough camping can be had *por nada*. Good luck finding a flat, clear spot: hardmen only. Best odds near trailhead parking.

Gas: The closest gas station to the crag is at the corner of Hwy 11B and Hwy 567 in North Cobalt. Limited hours.

Phone: The closest public phone to Bucke Park is at the gas station at the corner of Hwy 11B and Hwy 567, about a 2km trip. For those onerous calls home, a slightly more private pay phone can be found in the Loeb's beside Birtchies.

Laundry: The closest laundromat is just beside Birtchies restaurant in North Cobalt.

CLIMBING GEAR, AMMO, AND CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Canadian Tire: Ammo (limited selection, no 12 gauge slugs or bear loaded 30-06) and camping gear. Also some hardware that can be fashioned into fun facsimiles of real climbing equipment. Hwy 11 north of the Lizard.

T.I.M.E. Contractor's Supply: Hilti bolts, limited selection but better prices even than Many Equipment Companies. Hwy 11B north of the Lizard.

OTHER FUN TRI-TOWN ACTIVITIES

A recent advertisement in a Toronto paper for an accounting job in the Tri-Towns described the areas as "combining sophisticated urbanity with a proximity to some of Canada's premiere outdoor tourism areas." Rainy days give you the opportunity to test the former premise!

Timiskaming Mission: Nothing to see.

Silver Trail/Glory Hole/Nip Lookout: Follow the path of the mining boom that helped turn the landscape around Cobalt into a 'lunarscape', and made the banks gloriously richer! For levity during this depressing tour, drop by the local crag: a read-out on the right that is preferred to Devil Rock.

Cobalt Museumland: The Military Museum, the Fire-Fighting Museum, the Mining Museum—you're in the museum capital of the North! Visit 'em all! Walking distance from the LCBO.

Movies: The theatre in Skinned Lizard (Hwy 11B, where else!) shows a good selection of films, at least if you were impressed by the film quotes in the recent Escarpment sport-climbing guide. Keep your knees off the seat backs or prepare to taste some real Northern Justice.

Highway Bookshop: On Hwy 11 before the Cobalt turn-off. Incredible selection of new and used books, from trendy post-modern literary theory to their in-house publications on local history. Pixel Board! Great prices! Hang around for hours! They sometimes sponsor local vintage film showings.

Pool/Billiards: "PROFOUND LANGUAGE PROHIBITED". The billiard hall on 11B in Skinned Lizard seems to be always open. If local climbers ever get their act together, this seems destined to become a major sport-climbing hangout due to the ban on 'problem' language.

April Wine: Bands from the seventies don't die, they tour northern Ontario! Frequent concerts at the Haileybury School of Mines are attended by large, enthusiastic groups of curiously mole-like students.