

Dear Mrs. Palm,
I'm running into trouble with my route names. My new routes include Radish E1 7a, Tufa Of My Lethargy E1 5a and Drink! Arse! Girls! E2 7c. When I started to consider Chim-Chimeni Chimney I realised I was in need of help.

Owen Bowen, Aberdaron

Dear Owen
You need The Climber's Lexicon by E.Deadly. It's updated annually and will be on-line soon. Currently popular are vegetables, quantum physics terminology and (as ever) male body parts, so steer clear of these to be original - no more radishes I'm afraid.

Dear Mrs. Palm,
I've noticed foreign climbers attempting to seduce females of the climbing 'fraternity' in my local pub. Myself and a couple of mates are fighting back, to show that the home-grown talent is more than up for it. Any advice?

Tim Kneetrembler

Dear Tim,
Well you don't need an amusing nickname, do you? However, get a tan, grow your hair and tape up a few fingers... and work on your bottom. If it isn't pretty damn minute, you'll never be on equal terms with - let's guess - a Frenchman.

Dear Mrs. Palm,
Herb and I have been feeling bionic for such a long time that we've decided to sell our excess sweat in small ampoules at all climbing outlets, what d'ya think?

Herb and Lenny.

Dear Herb and Lenny,
Punters inhaling your pheromones to increase their own puny powers eh, a fascinating idea. However, if you're in a public place just after a climbing session could not some of the hoi-polloi get close enough to your armpits to get a niff for free?

Dear Mrs. Palm,
My head always aches after five minutes of exposure to dance music at climbing competitions. Should I wear ear muffs or consider sabotage?

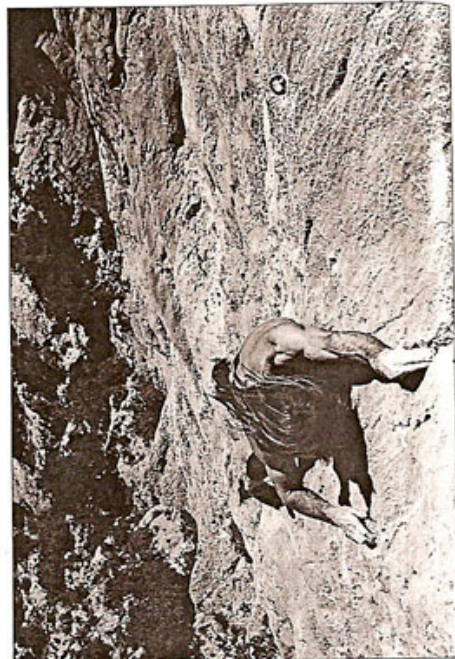
Aurally Challenged, Kendal.

Dear Aurally Challenged,
I couldn't agree more, why does it just go "tiskit - tiskit - tiskit" non-stop? Let's have some '70s funk groove or easy listening classics: Music to Watch Girls By or Up, Up and Away. The theme from The Champions would get me flashing and give the audience a good tune to sing along to. Meanwhile take some wire-cutters to the comps for emergency noise reduction.

A bientot, Mrs. Palm.

Grapevine

Leo Houlding has made the fourth ascent of Gaia E8 6c, Black Rocks in about an hour. He top-roped it a couple of times, cleaned it, pre-placed the gear at the bottom of the groove and led it. Leo also won the junior's first round of this year's British Indoor Climbing Championships; **Lucy Creamer** won the women's (a triumphant return to comps in her home town of Bristol) and **Neil Carson** won the men's. Born Slippy E8, the new version of Knockin' On Heaven's Door at Curbar, has already seen some serious attention from **Airlie Anderson** who has top-roped it clearly a number of times and is well psyched to repeat it. (See **Grimer's** article on page 38 for more about the route). **Steve McClure**, a new name to these pages, has been blasting his way through the Peak's hard sport routes recently, with a one day ascent of Zeke The Freak (now down to 8a+), Jehovahkill 8b+ in two days, Mecca 8b+ and finally Evolution 8c+. He is also looking strong on The Bastard, **John Welford's** much respected 8c at Rubicon. Abroad now and **Alain Robert**, the French climber who solos tall buildings and actually likes to be called Spiderman, has soloed Pol Pot 7c+ in the Verdon Gorge, a gnarly route for one so short where the holds are anything but positive and the crux is 250m



Above: Alain Robert, alias Spiderman, finishing the crux during his recent solo of the decidedly doubtful Pol Pot 7c+, Verdon. Gamma Agency Below: Bernabé Fernández on his new 9a, Orujo, near Malaga. David Munilla

above the gorge floor. At the end of his many building solos he usually gets locked up. The mystery is why they let him out again. Still in France, **Ben Moon** and **Jerry Moffatt** have now finished filming an advertisement in the Calanques for Mild Seven, the cigarette company that sponsor the Benneton Formula One racing team. Poor old Jerry had his leg broken when thugs attacked him after leaving a Cassis nightclub, get well soon. Speaking of Benneton, 21 Invest, a finance house partly owned by the Italian fashion family are to rescue Karrimor in a £7 million investment programme, good news for the 300 people who work for the company. **Bernabé Fernández** climbed Spain's first 9a last month, Orujo, a 40m roof in the cave of Archidona, near Malaga. Fellow Spaniard **Josune Bereciartu** became the fifth woman in the world to redpoint 8b+ with Fetuccini, Convento de Pierola, near Alava, Spain.

