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GUT-BUSTING IN THE ALPS

by Bill De Lano



Alpinist De Lano on the Arête Cosmique

Imagine waking up at 7am with four hours of sleep and seven hours of disco dancing and drinking behind you. Would you want to drag yourself out of bed to face eight straight hours of climbing? Evidently I did because I was soon outside and joined by two other climbers. Up the mountain we strode towards the huge limestone cliffs that promenade over the Swiss resort town of Leysin. During the next six days I made

climbs of towering rock buttresses, high-altitude ice couloirs, rock and snow arêtes, misty fog-shrouded peaks, and even in the rain.

Gary Glueckert, one of my roommates here in D.C., joined me on this trip. We were guided on our climbs by Pete Boardman, direct of the International School of Mountaineering, and by Gordon Smith, one of his instructors.

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