

bottom of the route and then roped up for four pitches, taking the rope off for the final three or four rope-lengths on the glacial headwall. (Canadian Grade 3.) There can be objective danger from rockfall caused by melt-out on the headwall. We found six screws sufficient, giving two for each belay and two for runners. On the top of the headwall we joined the normal route at 17,000 feet and continued on to the top of Orizaba. We descended the normal west-face route without difficulty.

BARRY BLANCHARD, *Alpine Club of Canada*

NICARAGUA

Monte Cuisaltepe. On November 2, William T. Hunter and I made a new route on the west buttress of Monte Cuisaltepe near Los Cocos. We used no protection on this 5.5 climb. Our plans to climb the south face were thwarted by unprotectable, overhanging, friable rock. At Masaya there are several sections of unvegetated wall surrounding the lake and volcano of the same name. On November 5 and 6, we did one route of 5.7 near the southwest shore and half of another on beautiful, thinly-seamed, dusty, difficult rock.

DAVID PAVLICK, *Unaffiliated*

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

Alto Ritacuba, North Face Ascent and Tragedy, Sierra Nevada de Cocuy. A Polish-Colombian climb of the north face of Alto Ritacuba (5464 meters, 17,928 feet) ended in disaster. We were Marek Danielak, Zbigniew Kaleta, Edward Krauzowicz, Krzysztof Oleksowicz, Stanisław Szczerba and I from Poland and Jairo Guerrero and Krzysztof Szafranski from Colombia. On April 15, Danielak, Oleksowicz Szczerba and I climbed the 450-meter-high south face of Pico Sin Nombre (5000 meters, 16,404 feet). On April 17, Danielak, Guerrero and I started up a new route on the center of the 700-meter-high north face of Alto Ritacuba. The first bivouac was beneath a big overhang in the upper part of the lower rock wall. The next day, we climbed the overhang and 300 meters of mixed terrain (UIAA V + , then III-IV). A second bivouac was made 150 meters below the summit ridge. On April 19, tragedy struck. The summit sérac barrier broke and caught Danielak and Guerrero, who were instantly killed and hurled to the foot of the face. I escaped and climbed to the ridge and summit. The bodies were found on April 23 and buried in a crevasse. Danielak had taken part in three Himalayan expeditions and had climbed Cho Oyu. Guerrero was an experienced mountaineer and president of the Colombian climbing club, *El Escalador*.

RYSZARD GAJEWSKI, *Klub Wysokogórski, Zakopane, Poland*

Peru—Cordillera Blanca

Santa Cruz, West Face. This summer, after two attempts with different partners, I was finally able to climb the west face of Santa Cruz on August 13. The route stayed on the west face rather than traversing to the west ridge, which is what the original party seems to have done. On my second attempt with Andreas Berliner, we started from the Quebrada Yuracocha rather than straight up from Laguna Raucolta, as I had done with my previous partner, Thor Kieser. Thus we avoided the sérac-threatened amphitheater at the base of the west face. We worked our way around schrunds on the lower face and finally bivouacked at the highest. From there we climbed 1000 feet of 60° icy flukes to the final 50° slopes below the summit plateau.

ROGER GOCKING

Huandoy Norte Correction. In *AAJ, 1988* on page 158 and on Plate 34 the climb described was incorrectly identified as being of Huascarán Norte when in actuality it is the north (or northeast) face of Huandoy Norte. This must certainly rank as one of the most significant ascents in the region last year.

ERIC HOBDOY

Taulliraju and Other Peaks. Our High-Mountain Military Group expedition was made up of Captain Jean-Pierre Charles, Dr. Emmanuel Cauchy, Adjutants Lionel Mailly and Hervé Farges, Sergeants Yves Tedeschi, Bruno Prom, Jean-Marc Gryska and Dominique Gleizes and me as leader. After an ascent of Rasac in the Cordillera Huayhuash on May 25, on June 13 we set up Base Camp at the Llanganuco Lakes. We made the following climbs: Pisco on June 14, Chopicalqui on June 16 and 17, Huascarán Norte by the Barrard route on June 15 to 17, Huascarán Norte by the north face on June 20 and 21 and Yanapaktsa on June 26. From June 20 to 22 a team climbed Huascarán Sur to allow me to jump by parachute onto the summit. I took off from Anta in a Cessna, jumped at 7200 meters and landed on the summit at eleven A.M. on June 21 despite a strong wind and cold temperatures. I then descended to Yungay by paraglider. On July 3 and 5, two teams climbed the southwest face of Alpamayo. On July 3 and 4 Prom, Gryska and Gleizes climbed a new route on the southwest face of Taulliraju, an obvious couloir on the great buttress on the right of the face. The first two pitches were of 80° to 85° to gain the 70° couloir with steeper steps. The exit from the buttress was on snow-covered rock. From the summit they descended the normal route.

ALAIN ESTÈVE, *Capitaine, Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne*

Cerro Parón, South-Southeast Face. On August 14, Iñaki San Vicente and I made a new route on the nearly vertical south-southeast face of Cerro Parón or Colca (5325 meters, 17,470 feet). I knew this mountain well, having climbed the east buttress in 1985. We started with Onofre García, who after 200 feet

injured his wrist and had to quit. San Vicente and I climbed the remaining fifteen pitches on the face (UIAA VI, A3; 700 meters high). The peak is also known to some climbers as La Esfinje ("The Sphinx").

ANTONIO GÓMEZ BOHORQUEZ, *Murcia, Spain*

Ski and Paraglider Descents. Twenty-four Slovene climbers, extreme skiers and paragliders visited the Cordillera Blanca in May and June. The outstanding ski descents follow: Palcaraju Sur via the south face (normal route) to the Cojup valley from the summit by Borut Črnivec and Andrej Terčelj and from 300 meters below the summit by Dejan Ogrinec and Andrej Zorčič on May 24; Artesonraju via the Parón Glacier by Črnivec, Terčelj and Ogrinec on June 1; Pirámide Norte via north ridge and north slopes to the Parón Glacier by Zorčič; Chacaraju Este via the American route from 100 meters below the main east-west ridge crest by Ogrinec and Zorčič on June 16. All ski descents were of about 1000 vertical meters. They were first ski descents, except for the one from Artesonraju, which was a third; it was first done by Frenchman Patrick Vallencant. A paraglider descent from Artesonraju to Laguna Parón was made by Klemen Kobal on June 1.

BORUT ČRNIVEC, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

Cayesh, New Route on West Face and Huascarán Norte Northwest Ridge. On June 30, Malte Roeper and I climbed with a porter and two donkeys to the head of the Quebrada Cayesh. The next day, the porter helped us pack to a glacier camp at 5100 meters. On July 2, we studied the route and on the 3rd we climbed to bivouac at 5500 meters in twelve hours. We climbed a 60° icefield to a prominent ramp, which we followed for four pitches (UIAA IV) to the yellow Italian fixed rope. We continued up the fixed rope for one pitch until it turned to the right. We traversed left to a dihedral (VI-) to reach mixed terrain, somewhat easier though with some 70° ice, to our bivouac. On July 4, we climbed with light packs to the summit. Three difficult pitches (V to VI-) took us to the ridge to the south of the summit. We followed this delicate ridge with its icy rock and steep snow to the summit, traversing around the foresummit on the left. We rappelled that same day to the glacier down our ascent route. Some of the rock was friable and some extremely compact. We needed knife-blades, Friends and Microfriends. The leader normally climbed the rock pitches in rock shoes. The Freiberg climber Max Krause and the Peruvian Antonio Simangas, who had attempted unsuccessfully last year to complete the Italian route, had made route suggestions. We feel our route is the most logical and possibly the easiest way to the summit. American Charlie Fowler climbed a route to the left of ours some ten days later with two bivouacs on the face. On July 14, we headed for Huascarán Norte, with the Spanish pair Ana Sese and Manuel Anson, hoping to climb either the Paragot north-face route or the Italian ridge on the northwest edge of the face. On the 15th, we climbed to the glacier, where Roeper developed a severe cold and had to descend. I joined the Spanish rope. In six

hours on the 16th, we climbed the broken icefall to the foot of the snow slope. The access to the Paragot route seemed cut off by crevasses and the Italian route was too heavily corniced. We therefore climbed 60° firm snow and mixed terrain on the slope left of the ridge to bivouac in a bergschrund. On July 17, we ascended *penitentes* for ten hours to a narrow 85° couloir, which we ascended for two rope-lengths. We ascended snow and ice to join the Paragot route, where we hacked out a platform for a bivouac. On the 18th, we climbed the narrow ridge, a difficult rock step and a large snowfield to the fixed ropes where the Italian and Paragot routes join. We climbed another three pitches to a crevasse bivouac at 6500 meters. On July 19, we got to the summit over easy terrain and descended the normal Garganta route. We got good help for transport, etc. at the Casa de Guías in Huaraz. We did have dysentery problems and suggest choosing carefully the local restaurants.

JÖRG STEINSBERGER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

P 5697. In July, Jostein Maardalen and I nearly completed the first ascent of P 5697 (18,691 feet) via the south ridge. The peak lies a kilometer south of Shaqsha. The climb was of nine rope-lengths on 45° to 60° snow and ice. The last 20 meters of the ridge had such dangerous snow conditions that we did not attempt to traverse them.

HELGE MARTENS, *Norsk Tindeklub*

Peru—Cordillera Huayhuash

Jurau, West Face. A British expedition had hoped to climb the previously unascended west face of Siulá Chico but failed because of bad weather and health problems. However, Brian Barker and Jonathan Preston did complete a new route on the difficult west face of Jurau D (5674 meters, 18,616 feet). This was a 15-pitch climb on steep ice with a vertical section of Scottish Grade 5. A full report is in *Climber and Hill Walker* of December, 1988.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

A Sendero Luminoso Visit to a Canadian Base Camp. At five A.M. on July 29, our Base Camp at Jahuacocha was alarmed by the blast of a grenade! We were victims of a Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla visitation. The guerrillas had word that two policemen were associated with our expedition. This was not the case, but two policemen, dressed in typical peasant clothing were rounded up with all the others in the vicinity of our camp. During the first few minutes of our interrogation by the guerrillas, their leader was shot at point blank range in the groin. The crossfire lasted some four minutes and ended with the two police fleeing down the valley. That left our expedition unprotected. The wounded guerrilla leader told me at gunpoint to administer first aid to his two critically injured comrades. One man had been shot twice in the leg and in the

← Peak 5697

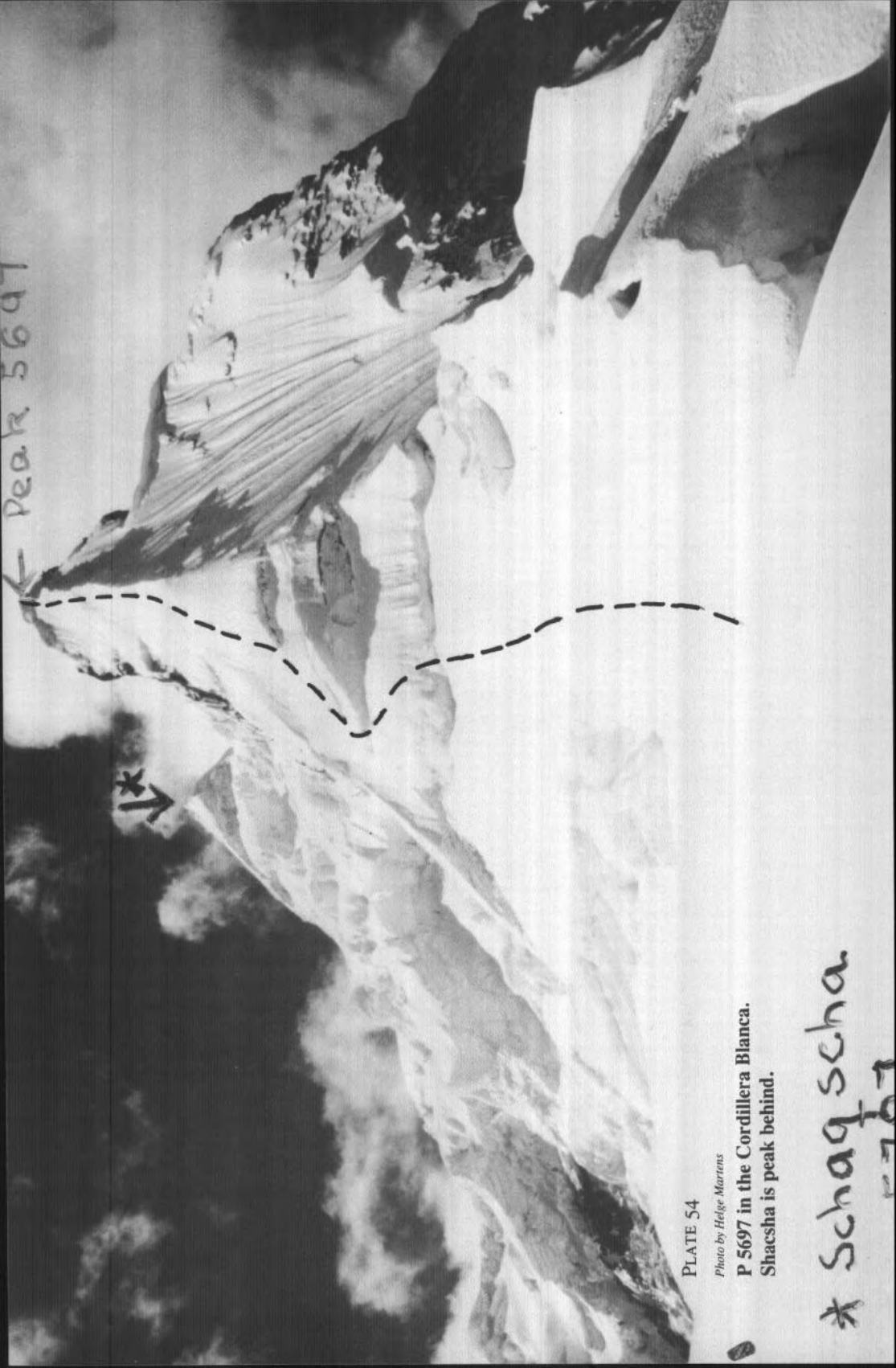


PLATE 54

Photo by Helge Martens

P 5697 in the Cordillera Blanca.

Shacscha is peak behind.

* Schacscha

stomach. A bullet had exited his back, near the kidney. Another had been shot through his knee and upper leg. A bullet had hit the leader's testicles and passed within millimeters of his femoral artery and exited his right butt cheek. As first aid was being administered, three other guerrillas, one a woman of about 16 years, guarded the team. After two hours, the six guerrillas left our Base Camp with two horses to carry the wounded. The leader thanked me for our generous donation (?) of food, cigarettes and two watches as well as the help we had given them in first aid! Over ten shots had been fired into our group of eight persons. One bullet passed between the heads of two of our members. Our Peruvian staff of three was threatened with their lives and would be executed if the guerrillas saw them again with "gringo capitalists" in the future. Ten hours after the guerrillas had left, eight policemen rode into our camp armed with automatic weapons and the next day others arrived. Several hours later they returned with a body, covered with a poncho and draped over a horse. This was the man with the leg and stomach wound. He had been a biology professor at San Marcos University in Lima. A few days after this event, the Huayhuash area was closed to climbers and trekkers by the Chiquián police.

SHAUN PARENT, *Alpine Club of Canada*

Sarapo, South Face Ascent and West Face Ski Descent. Italians Toni Valeruz and Tita Weiss made the ascent of the west face of Sarapo in seven hours in late June. Valeruz had intended to descend by paraglider, but the winds seemed too strong. Instead he skied the very difficult west face, which in places was nearly 60°. The first ascent of the west face had been made some years ago by an Italian expedition led by Casimiro Ferrari.

Southern Peru

Pucacocha and Other Peaks, Cordillera de la Viuda. These rock-and-ice peaks lie between the Jatúnchacua range in the north, the Cochabambas system in the east and south and the desert valleys of the Lima hinterland to the west. In January 1987, I made solo the first ascent of the rock pyramid Incacancha 5146 meters, 16,885 feet), northeast of the Chinchán railroad station. I then noticed several knots of fine peaks, which I made a point of visiting in June 1988. From Chinchán I trucked and walked to the base of these peaks, which were near Rajuntay, the highest in the range. Besides some pleasant repeat climbs, I made solo the first ascents of Cerro Llaguapucro Chico by the northwest glacier and north ridge, Nevado Pucacocha by the west glacier and south ridge and an unnamed peak south of the latter to which I traversed from Pucacocha. All three are given as 5150 meters (16,897 feet) in the Peruvian sheet *Matucana* 24-K.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Ausangate and Other Peaks, Cordillera Vilcanota. Five Poles climbed in the Cordillera Vilcanota in June. We were Maciej Karoń, Andrzej Makaran,

Andrzej Pieta, Wiesław Szczepanek and me as leader. Yanajaja II (5400 meters, 17,717 feet), Santa Catalina (5808 meters, 19,056 feet) and Huamantilla II (5425 meters, 17,798 feet) were climbed. Two teams ascended Ausangate (6372 meters, 20,905 feet) by different routes: the right side of the south face by Szczepanek and me on June 23 and the east face and southeast ridge by Karoń and Makaran. The latter was a new route, mostly on snow and ice.

KRYSZTOF IGNAS, *Klub Wysokogórski Rzeszów, Poland*

Salcantay, North Face, Cordillera Vilcabamba. From June 19 to 21, Peruvian Alberto Callupe and I made a new route on the north face of Salcantay. We approached in three days from Mollepata to the north side of Paso Palcay. The southeast and the east ridges make a triangle which join at 5800 meters. On the right side, there is a large snow saddle in the east ridge which we reached easily by the glacier below the rock buttress for our first bivouac. From the saddle, we traversed horizontally for 300 meters into the lower part of the north face. Right of a rock ledge with dangerous séracs above it, we climbed a 40° ice gully for 100 meters to an ice ridge at the foot of an immense amphitheater of snow slopes that culminated in a giant rock tower that wore a hat of séracs. We ascended the slopes to the right edge of the tower where we escaped into a steep ice gully which led for 120 meters up beside the tower to the upper platform of the face. We traversed 200 meters to the right and climbed the final snow slopes more or less straight up to the flat east ridge, which led to the east summit. There were good bivouac sites on the way to the ridge. With this alpine-style ascent, Callupe made the first Peruvian ascent of Salcantay. He was the first Peruvian to make the direct west face of Yerupajá in 1983 and the southwest face of Sarapo in 1986.

HANS ZEBROWSKI, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Cleaning and Maintaining Climbing Base Camps in South America. In South America there are many beautiful climbing areas that are utilized by a large number of climbers. One feature that all these areas have in common is a lack of facilities for human waste and garbage. Feces and toilet paper are haphazardly and dangerously strewn throughout and near camp, often around water sources. While some climbers dig shallow pit toilets for their stay, little attention is paid by others to preserving sanitation, causing a serious health hazard. I believe that centrally located pit toilets would do much to alleviate the present problems. Using local labor or volunteers under proper supervision would cost little and vastly improve base camps. Digging holes with hand tools and constructing simple wood and metal toilets would be the simplest method. Signs showing the direction of the toilet would insure that the maximum number of people would use it. The problem of trash in base camps is also worldwide. Many people are not educated, not attuned or simply too lazy to deal with their own trash, let alone anyone else's. For those not inclined to haul out their own trash, it is necessary to establish a central dumping location in the base camp so that the

trash does not end up in every nook and cranny around camp. A central trash dump would do two things. It would keep the camp clean. It would centralize trash in a place where it would be easy for a clean-up crew to remove. Many pack animals which haul in food and gear for people go out empty. For a small cost, it would be possible to hire these animals to pack out bags of trash. Areas which I feel particularly should be attended to are as follows. Cordillera Blanca: Pisco road camp; base camps at Allpamayo, Pisco, Chopikalki, Huascarán, Ishinca; Cordillera Huayhuash: Jahuacocha; Aconcagua: all sites; Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre base camps; Torres del Paine base camps.

GLENN DUNMIRE, *Unaffiliated*

Bolivia

Cololo, West Ridge, Cordillera Apolobamba. We approached the Cordillera Apolobamba by jeep via Nubi Pampa. From Base Camp at 15,000 feet, David Hick and I made a new route, the west ridge, on Cololo (Ccachuca; 5916 meters, 18,734 feet) on August 9. Four days later, we two made the second ascent of Nubi (5710 meters, 18,734 feet), probably following the Austrian route of 1957. The other members were Harvey Lomas, David Martingale and John Sterland.

MICHAEL SMITH, *Yorkshire Ramblers, Sheffield, England*

Chile

Licancabur and Llullaillaco. On December 31, 1987, Americans Chuck Huss, Bill Koener, Gordie Vernon and I and Chileans Gastón Oyarzún and Peter Schlotterbeck climbed Licancabur (5921 meters, 19,424 feet) by the east ridge, a long trudge on loose scree. On January 5, 1988, Huss, Koener, Oyarzún and I reached the summit of Llullaillaco (6713 meters, 22,058 feet) via the large icefield on the northwest face.

KEN NOLAN

Cerro Azul, Maule Region, Winter Ascent. Cerro Azul (3800 meters, 12,467 feet) was ascended in winter and descended on skis for the first time on August 2 by José Loyola, Ricardo Bustos, Patricio Peñaloza, Alejandro Avedaño, Juan Cárdenas and Germán Thumm. The peak is near the Volcán Descabezado Grande. The ascent took seven days and was made by the northeast ridge and on snow-and-ice slopes up to 50°. The summit was of reddish volcanic rock. From their top camp, it took them six hours.

IVÁN VIGOUROUX, *Federación de Andinismo de Chile*

Argentina

Cerro Bonete Chico and Pilar de las Pailas, Northern Andes. Remote Bonete Chico (unofficial name) in Catamarca Province was ascended for the third time. Seven members of the Club Andino La Rioja approached via the Río de Oro and

placed a high camp at 17,000 feet, from which Gustavo Planes and Enrique Steenhus reached the summit at the end of March 1987. There have been widely differing altitudes given for the mountain: from 6395 to 6870 meters (20,980 to 22,540 feet). Previous ascents were by the 1973 Cicchitti and the 1986 Reinhard expeditions. Pilar de las Pailas (5900 meters, 19,357 feet by altimeter) was ascended for the first time on April 18, 1988 by T. Dragone, F. Elpezza, A. Hernández, V. Juárez, G. Lissi, L. Moya, E. Turú and C. Vitry. The peak is west of the Nevado de Cachi.

GUILLERMO RAYNIE, *Club Andino Mercedario, Argentina*

Aconcagua Southwest Ridge. Milan Romih and I climbed in Argentina around the beginning of 1988. On December 31, 1987, I made a new route on the south face of Vallecitos (5340 meters, 17,520 feet), while Romih climbed the normal route. This lies in the Cordón del Plata. After an attempt on the south face of Aconcagua on January 8 and 9, where we turned back because of heat and bad rock, we started up the southwest ridge of Aconcagua on January 10. We found difficult climbing on the pyramid above the col (UIAA VII, 90° ice). Romih was injured and had to descend and so I went on to the west summit alone on January 12. The next day, I descended the French route on the south face. From January 31 to February 2, we worked on a new route to the right of the French route on the south face of Aconcagua. Because of the extraordinary objective danger and bad weather, we did not complete the route after ascending 1700 meters but descended the French route.

SLAVKO SVETIČIČ, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

Aconcagua, New Route on the West Face. The west face of Aconcagua is seen at advantage from the Plaza de Mulas. It is very wide and has room for many variants. After leaving the Plaza de Mulas, Argentines Daniel Alessio and Daniel Rodríguez placed three high camps. They found 150-foot rock walls alternating with gullies of rotten rock, ice cascades and tongues of very hard frozen snow (UIAA IV to VI). On January 11 in the last 500 feet they reached the southwest ridge and the summit.

LUIS A. PARRA, *Club Andinista Mendoza*

Aconcagua. On January 14, we were on top of Aconcagua. Our intention had been to do the Polish route, but a shortage of time, inflexibility of airline tickets and uncertainty of mules led us to do no more than the normal route. I was surprised to find the technical simplicity of the route and by the number of people on the route. I counted 80 tents at Plaza de Mulas! I was also surprised to find mountain-bike tracks all the way up to the Berlin Camp. To complete the scene there were daily paragliding descents. The mountains are not what they used to be!

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

Pata de Indio and Cerro Agua Negra, Central Andes. The newly opened international pass of Agua Negra, connecting San Juan, Argentina with La Serena, Chile, has made for easier access to the mountains. Alfredo Ceballos and I walked from the hamlet of Las Flores to the base of remote Pata de Indio. On October 7, Ceballos climbed it by a variant of the normal route while I ascended the steep ice gully of the south face. We met near the summit (5205 meters, 17,076 feet) and had a cold bivouac on the descent. On December 5, Fabio Pascual and I made another new route, that of the rocky north-northeast ridge of Agua Negra (5484 meters, 17,991 feet).

MARCELO SCANU, *Centro de Investigaciones Arqueológicas de Alta Montaña, San Juan, Argentina*

Cerro Morro Overo, Central Andes. A number of medium-sized but bold rock peaks near the Mendoza frontier with Chile remain unclimbed, in part because of poor rock. In late December, I entered several relatively unexplored valleys north and south of the international highway to Santiago. On December 26, above the Quebrada Mistay on its northern rim, I climbed P c. 4400 (14,436 feet; "Cerro Peñas Amarillas"). Four days later, I ascended P 4180 (13,714 feet), south of beautiful Lake Potrero Escondido. I named this "Cerro Peñas-coso." Above Quebrada Navarro, south of the highway, on January 10, 1989, I climbed the striking rock pyramid adorned with black-and-yellow bands of P 4437 (14,558 feet), which was christened "Morro Overo." The route was up the north face and north gully and was extremely unstable.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Argentine—Chilean Patagonia

Southern Summer in the Fitz Roy-Cerro Torre Region, 1988-9. Until now (January 26, 1989), there has been little news except for the accidents which have occurred. On November 4, a rubber boat capsized in the Río de las Vueltas below the Madsen ranch. A park ranger, a fellow called Ruiz and the well-known climber Eduardo Brenner were drowned, though the other three, including the climber Silvia Fitz Patrick, were saved. (Elsewhere in Argentina, two died in an accident in Bariloche, one on Monte Olivia near Ushuaia and one on Aconcagua.) In the south, the weather has been very bad. In November, two Spaniards from Valencia climbed Fitz Roy and Aguja Poincenot by a new route, other Spaniards and two Californians ascended Cerro Torre by the Maestri bolt route and two Italians made the ascent of the Argentine route on Fitz Roy. Before he died, Brenner had been planning to climb Cerro Torre by its west face but he was surprised to find that the ice on the whole face had peeled off and left a rock wall, not the ice face which Bonatti, Ferrari and others had had on the side of Cerro Torre which rises from the Continental Icecap.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

Peaks near Cerro Torre and San Lorenzo, 1987. An Italian expedition made a number of excellent ascents in the Fitz Roy-Cerro Torre region and near San Lorenzo in late 1987. The members were Davide Brighenti, Monica Malgarotto, Alberto Rampini, Stefano Righetti, Sergio Valentini, Maurizio Venzo and Roberta Vittorangeli. On October 28, 1987, Rampini, Venzo and Malgarotto made a new route on the left of the east buttress of El Mocho. On the 29th, after a bivouac on the saddle, Brighenti and Valentini were among the many who in the southern spring of 1987 reached the summit of Cerro Torre. Venzo, Rampini and Malgarotto headed to the base of Piergiorgio. On November 1, they hoped to repeat the Argentine route but they did not reach the summit because of bad weather. On November 3 and 4, Brighenti and Rampini made a new route on the south-southeast spur of Cerro Nato. The route was primarily on snow and ice. Meanwhile, Valentini teamed up with Maurizio Giordani and Rosanna Manfrini (not of the expedition) to make a new route on the west face of Aguja St. Exupéry. The route ascended a long snow couloir and then the western spur. Venzo and Malgarotto made an unsuccessful attempt on a tower near El Mocho. Venzo then joined Giordani and Rosanna Manfrini in an ascent of the 1984 Argentine route on Fitz Roy. Rampini and Brighenti traveled north to the San Lorenzo group where they made an ascent of Cerro Dos Picos (2275 meters, 7464 feet) by its south face on November 21. An attempt on San Lorenzo failed in bad weather. The expedition finally headed for the Paine group where an attempt on the North Tower of Paine was frustrated by bad weather. (A fuller account appears in *Lo Scarpone* of March 16, 1988.)

Aguja Saint Exupéry, West Face, and Fitz Roy, 1987. After the ascent of Cerro Torre from October 27 to 31, 1987 by Rosanna Manfrini and me, in which she made the first female ascent of the very difficult peak (*AAJ*, 1988, page 174), good weather returned on November 3. This let us carry out our second objective, the west face of the Aguja Saint Exupéry, an unclimbed 1000-meter-high granite wall. We added Sergio Valentini, a friend we found in the region. On November 4, 1987, we attacked the central pillar of the immense face, which we managed to climb entirely free. We reached the summit on the second day by this new route and thus completed the fifth ascent of the tower. We began the descent immediately in the evening of the 5th to avoid being caught in a threatening storm. The ascent rose 960 meters and was of 5.9 to 5.11 difficulty. From November 20 to 22, Rosanna, Maurizio Vanzo and I climbed the 1984 Argentine route on Fitz Roy in doubtful weather.

MAURIZIO GIORDANI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Aguja Rafael, West Face, and Saint Exupéry, North Face and Upper East Ridge. On January 25, my wife Sue Harrington and I climbed 14 pitches up the British-American route on the west face of Aguja Rafael, which has also at times been called Torre Innominata. We began climbing at noon and followed the



PLATE 55

Photo by Michael Horan

**CERRO TORRE, TORRE EGGER,
CERRO STANHARDT.**

first-ascent line except on pitches 12, 13 and 14. Here we climbed a giant right-facing corner that involved squeeze chimneys and a poorly protected off-width crack (5.10b). Like the first ascent-party, we underestimated the amount of climbing on the diminutive tower and spent a cold night rubbing each other's feet and hoping the wind would die down. Shortly after sunrise, Sue led the first of seven pitches to the summit on the southwest ridge. Varying slightly from the first-ascent line, we climbed strenuous cracks mostly free with some aid and made the top at two P.M., completing the second ascent of the mountain. The descent required 19 rappels. Without water, it was a long, dry day. We reached our high camp in the lee of a huge boulder at midnight. After a short rest in Base Camp, we hiked back up gullies and talus to a boulder bivouac below Saint Exupéry's north face. Earlier in the season an Italian party had picked off the unclimbed west face and an Austrian pair the untouched south pillar. Naturally I was miffed to find old pitons and slings half-way up the north face. The line Sue and I chose had excellent climbing in good cracks, corners and ramps. Our first night on the wall was reasonably comfortable with the aid of one stove and a single bivy sack for both of us. In the morning of January 30, we climbed past the last piton. (We later found that an Argentine party had tried the climb around 1978.) Triumphantly we gained the corner of the east ridge. As the rain started falling, I screamed at Sue to lead her pitch faster. I hogged the remaining leads to the summit. (Grade V, 5.10b, 19 pitches.)

ALAN KEARNEY

Torre de la Media Luna. This tower rises between El Mocho and Cerro Torre. It was first climbed on February 4 by Mark Houston and Kathy Cosley in seven pitches (5.10c, A1).

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Cerro Riso Patrón. This elegant rock-and-ice pinnacle (c. 3000 meters, 9843 feet) was climbed for the first time on August 15 in the Southern Hemisphere winter by Casimiro Ferrari, Bruno Lombardi and Egidio Spreafico. They ascended the very difficult east-southeast ice face from a camp at 1300 meters. They approached from the Fiordo Falcón and returned via the Upsala Glacier to the Estancia Cristina, crossing the Patagonian Icecap. There were eight people in the expedition.

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Monte Balmaceda Attempt. I accompanied a nine-member expedition of the Federación de Andinismo de Chile to the east-northeastern side of Monte Balmaceda (2050 meters, 6726 feet) in Chilean Patagonia in February. The members were Claudio Gálvez, leader, Carlos Fuentes, Rodrigo Arancibia, Alfredo Mancini, Cecilia Castillo, Dr. Claudio Daza, Victoria Morales, Leon-

ardo González and me. We first tried to reach the base of the east face of Balmaceda by the Serrano Glacier but abandoned the attempt because of falling séracs on the glacier. With logistical support from a Zodiac boat of the cutter *ZI de Mayo*, we ferried equipment further north to a point near the entrance of Río Serrano into Última Esperanza Sound. We made a rough track through the nearly impenetrable *selva* to an unnamed glacier at 800 meters on the northeast side of the massif. The approach from the northeast to the north was blocked by a secondary ridge of peaks with icefalls and objective dangers which complicate access to the north ridge of the principal peak.

MICHAEL HORAN

Cerro Mano del Diablo, 1987. On January 18, 1987, French climbers Bertrand Doligez and Jean-Louis Hourcadette made the first ascent of Cerro Mano del Diablo in the Balmaceda group in southern Patagonia. They approached from Puerto Natales in a coastguard ship to an unnamed fjord south of Fiordo Peel. This five-man expedition established Base Camp and two other camps. The climbing was mixed. They ascended from a col between Mignolo and Anulare.

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Paine Towers, Various Ascents, 1987. Italians Fabio Leoni, Giuseppe Bagattoli, Michele Cagol and Josef Espen made the first ascent of the southwest buttress of the South Tower of Paine, reaching the summit after four days of climbing on November 1, 1987 on their second attempt. On the first day, they climbed seven pitches of mixed terrain to bivouac at the col at the foot of the buttress. The ice was up to 65° and the rock of UIAA V+ difficulty. From there on, there were pitches up to VI+ and A2. They gained some 1450 meters or 4250 feet. After a rest day, Leoni, Carlo Fruet and Paola Fanton-Leoni climbed the North Tower by the first-ascent route on the south buttress. Shortly after this, Espen and Bagattoli also repeated the climb. Late in November Swiss Franco De Marchi and Mosè Mercolli also made this ascent. The Central Tower was climbed on November 5, 1987 by Ermanno Salvaterra and Ginella Paganini, which was the first ascent of the Central Tower by a woman. She had climbed the difficult 1963 Armando Aste route on the South Tower in 1986. A four-man Japanese team led by Yasushi Yamazaki climbed twelve pitches on the Central Tower left of the 1984 American-South African attempt but were thwarted by bad weather. They abandoned the route. They climbed the north tower on December 5, 1987.

North Tower of Paine Attempt. In December, 1987, Matjaž Ravhekar, Ivan Rejc and I entered the Paine area, hoping to climb the northwest buttress of the North Tower. We got to Punta Arenas on December 10 and reached Base Camp

on the 18th. The weather was fine only on the first day of our climbing. In spite of bad weather, we managed to climb the most difficult 350 meters of the lower wall (VI+, A3 or A4). The rock was bad there. We tried three times to climb the easier upper wall in alpine-style. Each time the weather turned us back. On the attempt on January 14, we bivouacked on the wall in a very heavy snowstorm. The high point was 500 meters up the face, still 200 meters from the top. The last 100 meters appear to be quite easy. Since we could not postpone our flight home, we left Base Camp on January 18.

EDO KOZOROG, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

Torres de Paine, South Tower, Nearly Complete Ascent of West Face, 1987. We were Antonio Prestini, Lornza Bergamaschi, Enzo Parazzoli, Luciano Maiocchi, Elio Guastalli, Caterina Delle Mese and I as leader. We got to the "Italian Base Camp" on December 10, 1987. With quite good weather, Prestini and I repeated the 1958 Bich-Pession-Carrel-Pelissier route on the North Tower on December 18. Our real objective was a new route on the west face of the South Tower, on the gray-colored northwest buttress of the bottom part. Prestini and I climbed the buttress to its top where our route joined the southwest ridge, which had been climbed a month before by climbers from Toblino. We did not continue on to the summit because of a lack of time and worsening weather. In five days of climbing, from December 22 to 27, 1987, we climbed 700 vertical meters (UIAA VI+, A2).

GIANNI CARONTI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

ANTARCTICA

Mount Minto, Northern Victoria Land. Mount Minto (4163 meters, 13,658 feet) is the highest point in Northern Victoria Land. It had been unsuccessfully attempted several times. Our climbing party was made up of Lincoln Hall, Jonathan Chester, Lyle Closs, Glenn Singleman, Chris Hilton and me. We sailed from Sydney on December 31, 1987 in a 63-foot schooner manned by Don Richards, Colin Putt, Peter Gill, Ken Scott and Margaret Werner. We were landed in Antarctica at Cape Hallett on February 1. From there our route was up Edisto Inlet to Football Saddle and thence to the Tucker Glacier. We ascended this to the Man O'War Glacier and to the base of Mount Minto. We left the coast with one motor toboggan but we lost this at the end of Edisto Inlet. From then on, we man-hauled all our equipment and supplies the remaining 130 kilometers to Mount Minto. From Base Camp at 7000 feet at the head of the Man O'War Glacier, we took a day to cross a small pass to the head of the Ironside Glacier. After a day of storm, we climbed the south ridge from 10,000 feet to the summit with a temperature of -50°C and descended to the base of