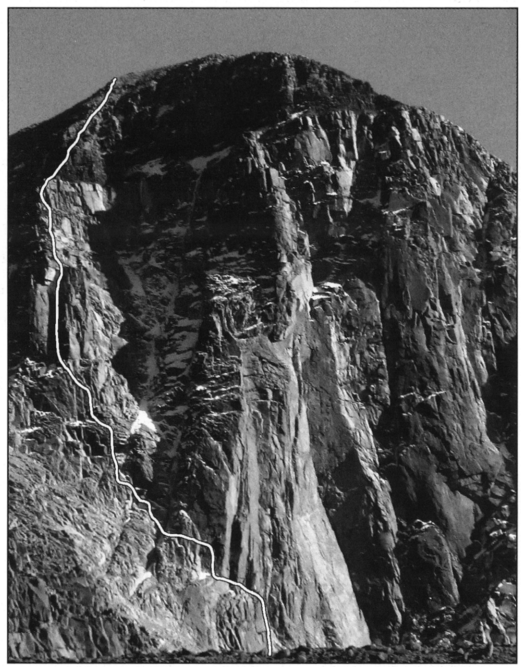
Argentina and Chile

NORTHERN ANDES

Chañi Chico, Siete Dolores. This 5,571m mountain in Salta is a minor summit in the Chañi massif (5,896m), Argentina. Its incredible south wall has been a dream for many generations of Argentine climbers. Argentines Humberto Vázquez, Fernando Gutiérrez, and Facundo Juárez opened the remarkable Siete Dolores (Seven Pains; 960m, 16 60m pitches, 6c (minimum 5+)) on September 9. They began at 8:15 a.m. and finished 12 hours later. The rock was rotten, with much rockfall and many cracks filled with hard ice. On the shoulder, near the summit, they bivouacked before rappelling the route the next day and reaching the base at 4 p.m.

MARCELO SCANU,
Buenos Aires, Argentina



Siete Dolores, on the south face of Chañi Chico. *Humberto Vázquez*

Cachi, north face. Cachi is a sacred 6,380m mountain in Salta, Argentina. Nicolás Pantaleón and Nicolás Yannito, both from Salta, ascended the virgin north face in November. They began on November 8, and continued marching until switching to the ridge for the final two camps. On November 13 they reached the summit at 10:45 a.m. and descended quickly, in harsh weather, reaching Salta the next day.

MARCELO SCANU,
Buenos Aires, Argentina

CENTRAL ANDES

Cuerno Blanco, South Face. In December 2007 Valentino Rota, David Valdez, and I climbed a new route on the south face of Cuerno Blanco (5,050m). It is a beautiful, rarely climbed mountain in Chile's Yeso Valley, east of Santiago. On December 20 we started walking north, in the Termas del Plomo (2,900m), through the Yeso Valley. After five hours we reached the Bello Glacier (3,900m) and installed base camp. On December 21 we walked three hours to the bergschrund and started climbing on the right side of the south face. The first half is 50° and the second half 65°. We reached the east ridge 300m below the summit, scrambled through easy little rock

Cuerno Blanco's South Face route. *Rodrigo Ponce Rementerìa*

bands, and reached the summit (5,050m). We descended the Normal Route (west ridge), returning to base camp on December 22 at 9 a.m.

RODRIGO PONCE REMENTERÌA, *Club Andino Universitario, Chile*

Incahuasi, Ruta de las Peladas. Incahuasi (6,638m) lies on the Chile-Argentina border in the central Andes and is one of the highest volcanoes on earth. It was also one of the highest points ascended by the Incas for religious purposes. On April 19 Guillermo Almaraz, Eduardo Namur, and Nicolás Pantaleón opened a new route from the southeast. They approached by the Valle de Las Peladas to the mountain's base at 4,600m. Previously the south face had been visited by two expeditions, but this one took a gully to the southeast. They erected camps at 5,200m and 5,750m and ascended névé with 50° ice and some shorter more technical passages, reaching the summit plateau at 6,250m, before continuing to the 6,638m summit. The last meters consisted of loose rock where a simple Inca temple was erected 500 years ago. Also, before the climb they made the first ascent of the nearby Cerro de las Peladas 4,650m.

MARCELO SCANU, *Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Aconcagua (6,962m), 2008–2009 season overview. Fewer climbers visited Aconcagua this season than last (4,041 versus 4,548), likely due to the economic crisis. Eighty-four percent of the climbers came from outside Argentina. There were nearly 300 rescues (278 last season) and six deaths. An Argentine guide and his Italian clients had an accident that led to the biggest rescue ever on Aconcagua. The guide and an Italian woman died. A video of the rescue, which shows two and a half minutes of the five-day rescue, led to a media circus. The body of a climber, who died maybe 10 years ago on the Polish Glacier, was also found.

Some of Aconcagua's self-named porters (who are really leading Argentine climbers) made outstanding climbs. Fernando Arnaudi, Ariel di Carlantonio, and Mariano Galván made the second ascent (30 years after the 1978 first by Argentines Vieiro, Porcellana, and Jasson) of