

*Yanapacha, West Face.* It was reported that the three-man team of Caffarena/Kleinberg/Mauriz climbed a possible new route on the west face of Yanapacha (5460m) in the Llanganuco Valley. The route had sections of 80° and a rock pitch V+ that was avoidable; they climbed it on July 24, 1996. It is unclear how this route relates to the 1959 American route on the left side of the face. (*High Mountain Sports* 177)

*Pucaraju, Ascents.* It was reported that, in 1995, Cordier and Maynet climbed *La Princesse au Petit Pois* (TD) on the 300-meter south face of Pucaraju (5090m) on a gully line immediately to the right of the 1995 route *Hot Line*. In 1996, Abramowski and Carrard repeated *La Princesse* on May 27. The next day, they climbed *Adam and Eve* (TD-) to the left, establishing anchors on the route. On June 11, a Swiss party repeated *Hot Line* and made a descent of *Adam and Eve*. On July 12, Kike Ortuno and Gilbert Salvador climbed the remaining (left-most) gully on the face, naming their route *Mururoa* (TD+ 85°, with a rock section of V+). They descended via the *Adam and Eve* rappels. (*High Mountain Sports* 177)

*Pucaraju, Hot Line.* In May and June, Nahuel Campitelli and Marcos Frischknecht from Bariloche, Argentina, made a (possible) third ascent (with some new pitches) of *Hot Line*, a couloir/gully with decomposing rock and little ice on Pucaraju (5400m). They descended the east ridge.

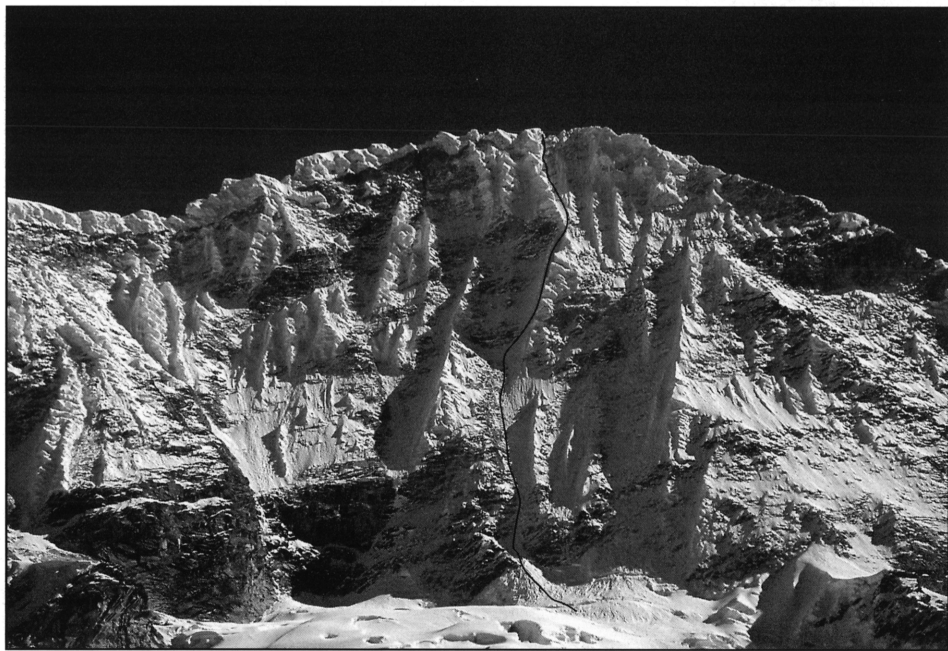
FACUNDO JOSE, *CLUB ANDINO BARILOCHE*

*Chopicalqui, North Ridge.* It was reported that a 12-man Italian team made the first integral ascent of the north ridge of Chopicalqui (6345m). Tarcisco Bello and Giuseppe Tararan reached the main summit on August 1, 1996. The team began seiging the lower section of the north ridge to the northerly foresummit on July 21. Ropes were fixed and three camps established starting from the col at 5050 meters. The climbing involved friable rock down low (5.4-5.5) and a problematic serac above Camp II (30m of 85-90° ice, once section 95°). The two climbers left Camp III (5970m) on July 30, making two more camps before reaching the summit. They descended the 1932 Southwest Ridge route. (*High Mountain Sports* 177)

*Huandoy, South Face, Demaison Route, Second Ascent, and Other French Activity.* In June, Y. Graziani and J. Blanc Gras made the second ascent of the Demaison route on the South Face of Huandoy, taking 11 days. Further details are lacking, but this route is one of the most technical in the Cordillera Blanca and a second ascent has long been anticipated. In May, the following ascents were also made by French climbers. Gael Boucquet made two solo ascents on Point 5300m on the south face of Nevado de Copa: *Goulloumme Labouthe* (6a, 400m) and *Au Pays des Twins* (6a+, 400m). On the same point, G. Boucquet and G. Gindler climbed a new route, *Top 93* (TD, 600m). On Point 5900m, G. Boucquet and S. Goriatcheff climbed the mixed route *La Marguerite* (90° ice ED, 1300m).

JEAN-MARC CLERC, *France*

*Caraz III and Santa Cruz Norte.* On July 15, Brett Wolf, Kris Erickson and Patrick Knoll completed a new route on the south face of Caraz III (5720m) in the Parón Valley. The route, *The Usual Suspects* (ED mixed V 85°, 600m), followed a line linking two couloirs up the central portion of the face. Several pitches of snow gave way to increasingly steeper ice and mixed climbing. The south face had been attempted in 1987, but the summit was not reached by several rope lengths, due to the lethal knife-edge ridge. Our line met the ridge only two or three meters below the atmospheric summit mushroom.



*Caraz III, showing The Usual Suspects.* KRIS ERICKSON

Several weeks later, Erickson joined me for another project in the Yuracohcha Valley. On July 29, in a 21-hour push, we climbed the southwest face of Santa Cruz Norte (5829m) via *Caveat Emptor* (ED, mixed 90°, ice to 95°, 750m). We were stopped short of the summit (which was about 100 meters higher) due to deep unstable snow on the double corniced ridge. I had attempted this line in late May with David Sharman, but I fell ill and was forced to retreat.

BRETT WOLF, *unaffiliated*

*Palcaraju Sur, New Route.* Palcaraju Sur (6100m) is at the end of the Cojup range in the Cordillera Blanca. Pedro Gonzales Bris and I established base camp at 4300 meters on July 3 in the ruins of the site Electroperu once used to modify runoffs into the lake that retains the water from the glaciers. After acclimating by going up Jacomontepunku (5400m) on July 4 and resting the next day in base camp, we started our ascent on the 6th. We slept in an ice cave on the glacier so we could begin the climb at five in the morning on July 7. We started the climb on the right of a rocky pillar, which gave a more protected and safer line, then traveled to the left to get to the most direct line that comes down from the south summit. The first third of the route was done over ice with a moderate incline of 65-70°, then we found a mixed area that was steeper and with poorer ice conditions (80°) which made the ascent slower and more precarious. After this section we were benighted and had to bivouac in an ice cave below a meringue-like cornice formed typically in this area. The next morning, after a short section of rock (V+ AO) and an upward traverse on vertical ice, we arrived at the summit of Palcaraju Sur. Our intent had been to follow the summit arête until the joining of the main and southern summit points and then to descend from the main summit. But due to the instability of the arête, which was formed by meringues of rotten powder snow, we decided to descend on the

*Santa Cruz Norte, showing Caveat Emptor to its high point.* KRIS ERICKSON