

lowed to the summit (5592m). It was the first British and possibly the second-ever ascent of the mountain. We descended to a dry spot between two lakes surrounded by a glacier due south of Katantica Este.

On May 27, we climbed up to a col on the northeast ridge of Katantica Sur, then headed northeast to reach P.5200 (PD), a probable first ascent. We crossed the glacial basin and followed the southeast ridge to Katantica Sur (5300m), finishing up on loose rock (AD-, 45°). It was a new route, the first British ascent, and (probable) second ascent of the mountain. We descended the German route (north face), returned to camp, and crossed the extremely broken glacier to get back to first camp. The next day was spent descending to the road, and the following day we squeezed onto a bus going down to Pelechuco. The team then had to wait in Pelechuco for four days while the presidential elections took place (there is only one bus a week out of Pelechuco and all transport is suspended while elections take place). The three of us then attempted the traverse of Illimani but bailed because of strong winds on day three, having climbed 3000 meters of vertical to reach the base of Pico Layca Kholu, the first peak of the five-peak traverse. Morale had not been helped by the discovery the previous day of the remains of a Spanish climber, José Ignacio Zuazubiscar Eguidazu, reported missing in September, 1994. He appeared to have soloed the normal route, got lost on the summit and descended in the wrong direction, falling 300-400 meters to his death.

Andy MacNae (U.K.) and Kevin Dougherty (Kenya) put in a couple of productive weeks in the Apolobamba, climbing A Glacier on August 11 and then, on August 14, climbing *Radioaficion* (second ascent) from the northwest (AD+) to reach a ridge. They then continued traversing Bures, Apollo and Presidente. On August 16, they climbed the south ridge of Montserrat South and continued along the ridge to ten meters below Montserrat North, where they were stopped by an overhanging section. This was farther than the 1969 Spanish expedition got and included a new route up the south ridge of A Suches. They descended via a snow gully between A Suches and Montserrat North. The next day, they climbed the impressive south ridge of Soral Oeste and continued to traverse Sulka, Manresa, Quire and Montserrat North before heading back to a pass west of Manresa and dropping back down to a camp on rock above the Collado Ingles. MacNae went on to make an attempt on a new route on Pico Norte of Illimani with Pete Grosset and me but was beaten back by bad weather. Dougherty failed to make an attempt due to the attractions of La Paz nightlife and a combination of giardia and alcohol poisoning.

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

Condoriri East Peak, Illampu West Face, and Climbs in the Apolobamba. The 1997 University of Edinburgh Apolobamba Expedition comprised Tom Bridgeland, Sam Chinnery, Rob Goodier, Jane McKay, Heather Smith and me. We spent July and August climbing in Bolivia's Cordillera Real and the Apolobamba Range. We first went to the Condoriri area and climbed Pequeño Alpamayo (5370m) and the main summit of Condoriri (5648m) by the normal routes. Condoriri's East Peak (Ala Derecha, 5330m) has four prominent couloirs visible from base camp. The right-hand couloir is the most obvious and was climbed by Mesili in 1976, but now appears to be badly melted out. On July 16, Sam and I climbed the narrow left-most couloir (Scottish VI/6, 450m) of the four (possible second ascent). This was an excellent line, reminiscent of classic Scottish gully routes. There were three sections of vertical ice and a hard mixed section where the ice was discontinuous. We think this is probably the *Couloir Colibri* climbed by Gabbarou and Astier in 1989 (who reportedly found it hard). On the same day Rob and Tom climbed the second couloir (Scottish III/4, 450m) from the left (sans ropes), which

was mostly névé with sections of steeper ice. It was probably a first ascent.

On July 19, Jane and Heather climbed Huayna Potosi (6088m) by the normal route on the east side, while Rob, Tom, Sam and I climbed the West Face (1000m of 55° névé). Jane and Heather then climbed Illimani (6438m) by the standard route. After this Sam and I traveled to the Illampu region, and on the east side of the range we climbed, together with Jenz Richter, the Austrian Route on Pico del Norte (6045m). This was an excellent 1000-meter ice face, beginning with 55-60° névé and leading to an upper rock band where a right-hand exit was taken, resulting in several hundred meters of water ice up to 70°.

On August 19, Sam and I did the probable second ascent of the French Direct Route on the West Face of Illampu (6438m). This 1000-meter line was first climbed by Gabbarou and Villerroel in 1990. The bottom half of the original ice ramp was badly melted out, so we opted for a thin ice ribbon cutting through the first major rock band well to the left of the French Route. This involved a short overhanging section (Scottish technical 6) to enter the narrow couloir, then several pitches of good ice to eventually join the French Route. The upper ramp was mostly 65° ice with very little snow or névé. The weather deteriorated in the afternoon and we had to climb through blizzards and whiteout. We reached the summit in a storm at midnight, and were forced to bivouac with no food or bivy gear. We descended the normal route the next day.

While Sam and I were in the Illampu area, the others traveled to the Sorel Oeste region of the Apolobamba range. On August 6 the foursome did the first ascent of the beautiful Southwest Face of Sorel Oeste (5471m). They approached the face by ascending the west side of the glacier on the south side of Sorel Oeste. The lower section of the face was 300 meters of 50° snow/névé, while the upper section was an icy runnel to the summit, with about 200 meters of 60° ice. Finally, from August 10 to 14, Rob and Tom did a four-day traverse of the Palomani group.

PAUL SCHWEIZER, *University of Edinburgh Mountaineering Club*

CORDILLERA REAL

Illampu, West Face, New Route. It was reported that a French pair climbed a new route, *Entourloup* (TD, 800m+) on the west face of Illampu (6368m) in September, 1996. Further details are lacking. (*High Mountain Sports* 176)

Cordillera Real, Overview. In the Cordillera Real, snow consolidated on the normal routes to give perfect conditions for most of the season. The normal route on Huayna Potosi was regularly climbed by guided parties in four hours from high camp and the Illimani normal route in five hours from high camp. A bad weather period during one week in August was blamed on the El Niño phenomenon, as are most things at present. There was a major theft problem from tents at Camp I (Puente Roto) on Illimani in July, but decisive police action appeared to put an end to that. However, climbers should make sure everything is inside the tent (not the vestibule); tying packs together seems to work.

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

The Jallawaya/Nigruni-Mountains, Various Ascents. The Jallawaya/Nigruni-Mountains, part of the Cordillera Real, have a lot of small glaciers. The highest peak is Jallawaya (5660m). A small rough road accesses the range, but if there is a lot of rain and snow, the "road" is impassable (there are a lot of river crossings, with no bridges and stoneslides and landslides).