

BAFFIN ISLAND

Auyuittuq National Park

North Tower of Asgard, North Face, Nunavut. From July 4 to 21, 1996, Txus Lizarraga, Raul Melero, Natxo Barriuso and I (all from Basque Country, Spain) put up the route *Nunavut* (VI 5.8 A4, 800m) on the north face of Asgard's North Tower. (See note in the 1997 AAJ, p. 210.) The route is between the Swiss Route and *Hyperborea*. It follows the obvious roof and dihedral in the middle of the wall. The beginning is situated in a flake; to continue, follow the wall until it reaches the roof. After the dihedral, continue up the wall to reach a system of cracks that leads to the summit. We climbed in capsule-style: one camp at the foot of the route and two camps in hammocks on the wall. We rappelled the route. We experienced 17 days of climbing and one of descent. We approached Asgard by helicopter; we returned by walking and rafting to the sea, making a descent of the Weasel River in the process.

MIGUEL BERAZALUCE, *Basque Country, Spain*

NORTH CASCADES

Slesse Mountain, East Face. Slesse Mountain (8,002') is a dark fang of granodiorite standing in a spectacular alpine environment. Dave Edgar and I were privileged to make the first ascent of the awesome east face in July, 1997. The route (VI 5.9+ A3+, 23 pitches) begins in the center of the face from the head of a pocket glacier and terminates at a notch just short of Slesse's summit. The climb required nine days, with each bivy requiring a portaledge. Twenty-three belay bolts and 30 rivets were placed. Free climbing shoes and a modern wall rack are required. An impressive moment occurred when we watched the pocket glacier beneath us rip out and run into the valley below. The climb is a little run out in places. There was some big excitement when Dave took a 50-foot tumbler. It was quite the show: a big scream, then yellow-and-red Gore-tex blending together as he bounced off a few ledges. The wild thing was his only pro for the last 30 feet—the piece that stopped him—was a short knifeblade in a diagonal seam that wasn't fully driven. It bent at a 70° angle. Luckily, it held.

SEAN EASTON, *Canada*

GREENLAND

Tupilak East, New Route. It was reported that in September, 1997, Kurt Albert, Stefan Glowacz and eight others put up a 700-meter route on the south face of Tupilak East (2264m) in the Tasermiut Fjord area of east Greenland. The 22-pitch route was climbed with maximum difficulties of F7a. Approach was made by kayak. (*Desnivel* 141)

Ulamertorssuaq, Jacques Cousteau. It was reported that in 1997, Spanish climbers Miquel Angel Gallego, José Luis Clavel, José Matas and José Seiquer put up *Jacques Cousteau* (F6c A4, 1000m) on the left side of Ulamertorssuaq's west summit. Further details are lacking. (*High Mountain Sports* 195)