

itches), we thought the route warranted a grade of TD-. We stopped on reaching the ridge and rappelled the route.

ANTHONY BARTON, U. K.

*Nevado Chugllaraju, west face.* American Thai Verzone and Australian David Clinton climbed a new route on Nevado Chugllaraju's west face. Their route angles up and right, atop a prominent hanging glacier from the lower left side of the face on 45-60° snow and ice, then climbs a 60-75° runnel for five pitches to the ridge at the left-side base of the summit pyramid. It follows the ridge for 30m to the summit.

*Churup, Northwest Ridge, direct variation.* On May 24 Ben Ditto and I climbed a direct line up the northwest ridge of Nevado Churup (5,493m), beginning on the west side of a squat rock buttress separated from the main peak by a narrow col. We dubbed this formation the "Entrance Stool" and climbed it in six short pitches, with a downclimb and rappel into the snow gully that drops from the north side of the col.

From this notch we climbed a low-angle mixed pitch, followed by several pitches of steep and, in places, rotten rock. I crept up the first (and worst) of these pitches using tools and crampons, then happily relinquished the rack to Ben in our single pair of rock shoes. Seeking solid rock, he traversed left to the very arête of the ridge in a wandering pitch, which I scratched and sparked my way up wishing for sticky rubber of my own. The next lead angled up and sharply right to reach the snowfields on the upper ridge, near their highest point. With darkness settling in, we climbed four long pitches up the snow ramp to the summit slopes.

For the real adventure, we descended the '76 American Route, which follows a wide, mixed gully on the right side of the southwest face. We renovated a number of old anchors and built new ones, as we rappelled through the night over a jumble of loose rock and rotten snow. We returned to our camp at the lower lake 30 hours after leaving it, having encountered difficulties of 5.9 M4 R/X 65°. The descent was more frightening than the climbing. From the research I've done, both in Peru and through the AAC library, the pitches on the rocky lower half of the northwest ridge appear to be a new variation.

Given the great Andean thaw, over the last few seasons this once-classic mixed objective has dried considerably, exposing lots of exfoliating rock. While the climbing on the lower Northwest Ridge is less than superb, the climb's position and awesome views, including that of a lone condor buzzing us at the col, made for a fine outing easily accessible from Huaraz.

ADAM FRENCH, AAC

*Cayesh, Slo-Am Route, and other activity.* In May, Marko Prezelj and I visited Peru, where neither of us had been. We started our acclimatization with cragging on La Esfinge (5,325m). We first climbed the first three pitches of Cruz del Sur, originally graded 7c+ (5.13a), 7a (5.11d) obligatory, 800m, to ascertain the rock quality and the protection.

The next day we climbed the Original Route, originally graded 5.11c, free, onsight, in five-and-a-half hours, with the rarely done direct finish, which provided some of the best climbing on the route. After two days of rest, on June 1 we climbed Cruz del Sur free (onsight except the first three pitches) in seven hours.