

opportunity arose when a Spanish Young Alpinist Federation team also planned to go to the same area. Not wanting to travel alone, I contacted them to see if I could share transport and the approach march with them. It is one thing to be alone on a wall, but it is harder to go from Delhi to the mountains, and do all the organization in a country like India, on one's own. They agreed and were the best travel companions I could have wished for. Thanks guys!

They set up camp at Phalphu (3,900m) in the main (Miyar) valley. From there to my base camp at 4,400m was a one-and-a-half-hour walk up a subsidiary valley toward the Tawa Glacier. I decided to climb the north-northwest wall of Castle Peak, because it is steep and therefore easier for haul bags. I used a different system for hauling my two bags, because I weigh only 46kg and each bag weighed at least 50kg. I used a mobile pulley on the haulbag, which meant I needed double the amount of rope, and the system weighed more, but it preferable to not being able to haul at all, simply because I was not big enough.

I fixed the first 70m on September 17 and established my first portaledge camp at the top of pitch two. Next day I started a capsule ascent and spent 12 days (11 bivouacs) on the wall, finishing the route the 29th. I used only two camps on the wall, with the second at the top of pitch five.

There is an overhanging section, like a diving board, that takes you to the top of the face at 5,000m. I finished with the last 15m of the 2002 Slovak route Sharp Knife of Tolerance. From there it is possible to follow a ramp to a ridge. This ridge, which would be technical, could be followed for over 1,000m to the top of Castle Peak. Like the Slovaks, I didn't climb it and the next day rapped my route.

In terms of weather I had some good days and some bad days, but even on good days there was only one hour of sunshine on the wall. It was really cold, and ice on some of the compact walls made climbing difficult.

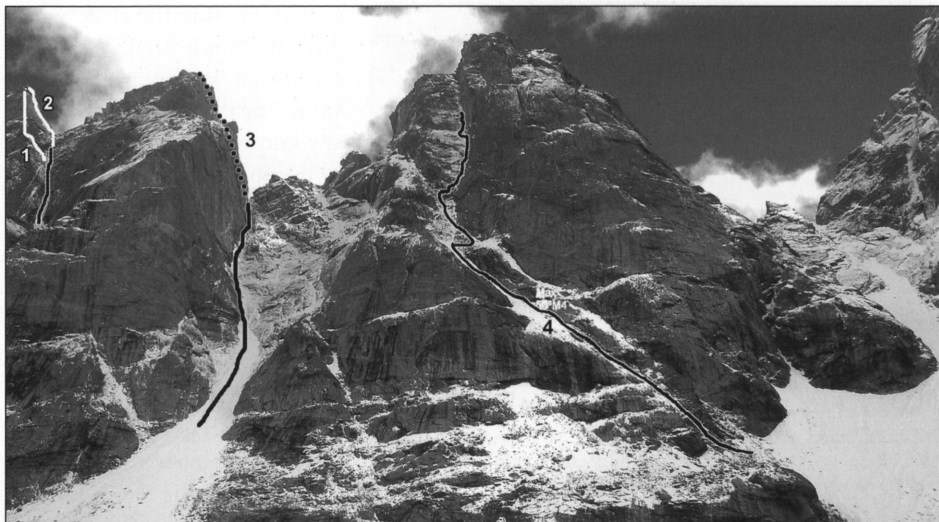
Climbing solo is different. You can share neither problems nor happiness. The feelings you experience are entirely your own. It is very intense, the best and the worst. But I had lot of fun up there.

SILVIA VIDAL, *Spain*

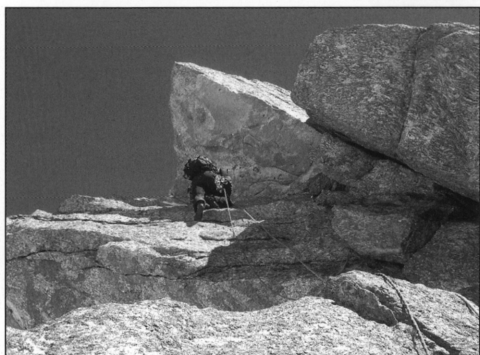
*Paolo's Peak, first ascent, Via Pallaresa; Paolo's Peak, No Spice!; Pt 5,930m, first ascent, Anti-parques; Iris Peak, Tinc Por; and "Brouillard Pillar," Tocati di Bola, Ocells a Vent.* Last summer marked the end of the 2004-2005 course for members of the Young Alpinist group of the Spanish Mountaineering Federation (FEDME). The reward was a trip in September to the Indian Himalaya and unclimbed peaks of the Miyar Valley. We traveled with Silvia Vidal. Silvia knew the area, having been there in 2004. Thanks to her, the organization and logistics of reaching base camp was much simpler than if we'd had been on our own. Using her agent in Manali, we arrived at Phalphu (3,900m) in the main valley and set up base camp.

During the first week the weather was bad, but this allowed us to acclimatize at base camp. We then began to look for interesting lines. Oscar Cacho and I first went up the Tawa Glacier and made the first ascent of Paolo's Peak (5,460m), which is the third rock peak left (northwest) of Neverseen Tower. We climbed the narrow gully between the peak and Pt 5,700m to the right (M5 80°), then near the top slanted left up the rock of the southwest face to the summit (6a+). Via Pallaresa was 680m and TD.

Matias Cuesta and Jonathan Larrañaga made a second ascent of Paolo's Peak, by con-



From left to right on the Tawa Glacier, Miyar Valley: Paolo's Peak (5,460m), Pt 5,700m, Grandfather Ezio (5,750m). (1) Via Pallaresa (680m, TD, Baro-Cacho). (2) No Spice! (680m, TD, Cuesta-Larrañaga). (3) Denni-Marcheggiani (600m, 6c 70°, 1996). (4) West face attempt (700m, ED 6b A1 M5, Baro-Cacho). *Oriol Baro*

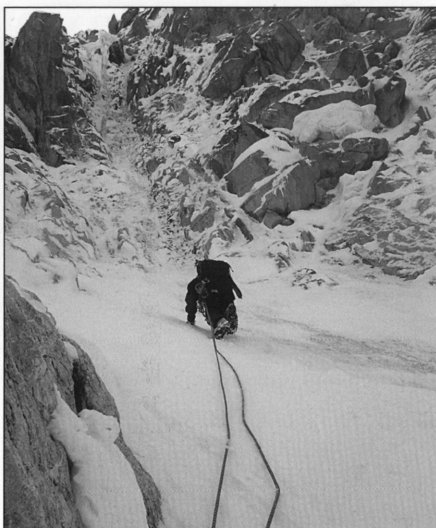


The final pitch (V) of Via Pallaresa on Paolo's Peak. *Oriol Baro*

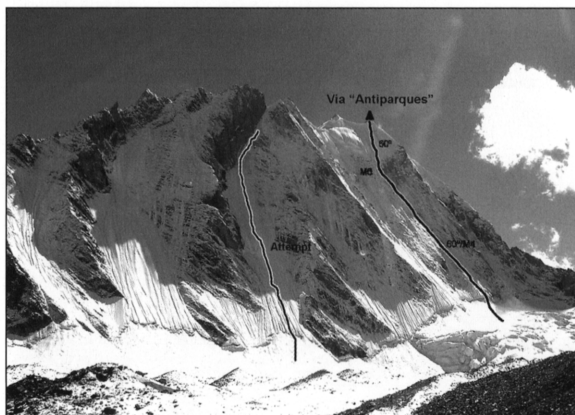
tinuing up the last section of the gully to the col at the top and climbing the southeast ridge. No Spice! (5+ M5 80°).

Cacho and I then attempted the west face of Pt 5,750m, immediately left of Neverseen Tower. We climbed a diagonal mixed line (50° and M4) left, into the base of a huge left-facing corner. We retreated about half-way up this corner and around 700m up the face. This was certainly the best climbing I did throughout the trip; to our high point the grade was ED 6b A1 M5. [This is the same peak the Italians (see below) dubbed "Grandfather Ezio"—Ed.]

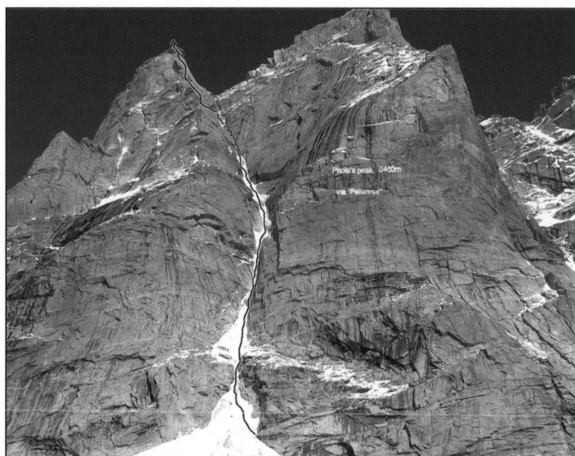
After another spell of bad weather, we had a look into the valley opposite. This neces-



Approaching the crux section (M6) of Antiparques on Pt 5,930m, Miyar Valley. *Oriol Baro*



The north faces of Pt 5,800m (left) and Pt 5,930m, Miyar Valley. Marked are the attempt to climb Pt 5,800m by Cuesta and Martinez, and the new route, Antiparques (950m, TD, Baro-Cacho). Oriol Baro



The west face of Paolo's Peak (5,460m) showing the line of Pallaresa. Oriol Baro

sitated crossing the river, which proved complicated. We set up a Tyrolean. We discovered a fine snowy peak of 5,930m without any known name and climbed it by the north face, which was cold. Our route, Antiparques (950m TD), required 19 hours of activity. We descended in 18 rappels.

Other members of the group made the following attempts and ascents: On a steep buttress on the flanks of Iris Peak, Victor Sans and Ferran Rodriguez climbed Tinc Por on September 18 (980m 6b). They reached the top of the buttress but did not continue towards the summit of Iris Peak. On a rock formation dubbed the "Brouillard Pillar" (5,240m) Cacho and Sans climbed Tocati di Bola (400m 6b A2). Both climbers returned with Larrañaga and Rodriguez to add Ocells a Vent (340m 6c A2). [Both routes lie on the steep wall left of the 2004 Urtasun-Viscarret route, Shakti (5+ A1).] On the north face of Pt 5,800m, the summit immediately left of Pt 5,930m, Cuesta and Martinez retreated at around three-quarters height after climbing a broad snow couloir and, halfway up, a right-slanting mixed ramp.

ORIOL BARO, *Spain* (WITH

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FROM XAVIER LLONGUERAS)

*Editor's note:* A Spanish couple from Navarra, Alberto Urtasun and Patricia Viscarret, also made a return visit in 2005 and climbed a new route on Iris Peak (ca. 5,300m), right of the existing lines put up by Italians and French in 2004. Ananda gave 800m of climbing at 6a+ and A2, apparently finishing on broad terraces some distance below the summit.

Buttress 5,650m, first ascent, via west face (Million Indian Stars); Pt 5,750m ("Grandfather Enzo Peak"), south face-southeast ridge. In August an Italian expedition led by Massimo Marchegiani, and which included Nadia Benedettini, Mariano Fabrizi, Massimo Natalini, and I headed back to the Miyar Nala. After expeditions in 1992 and 1996, when he climbed four virgin