

Igor Chaplinsky and Andrey Rodiontsev attended the Piolet d'Or ceremony. Their nomination seemed surprising, considering their shortcut. But maybe nobody knew, since Chaplinsky wasn't up front about it and drew a continuous line on all the posted photos. But anyway, the PdO? Whatever (again.) Cool, go for it guys, have fun.

Orest, the young guy who we sensed was the team's rope gun, couldn't take it anymore and finally came clean. He didn't go to the PdO ceremony, saying he stayed home because they had not reached the summit, stopping 100m below and—contrary to the hype—that they therefore “had no moral right to be among the nominees.” While he could have been honest a bit earlier, once the ball gets rolling, especially with him being the youngster alongside two older and “respected” climbers, this couldn't have been easy.

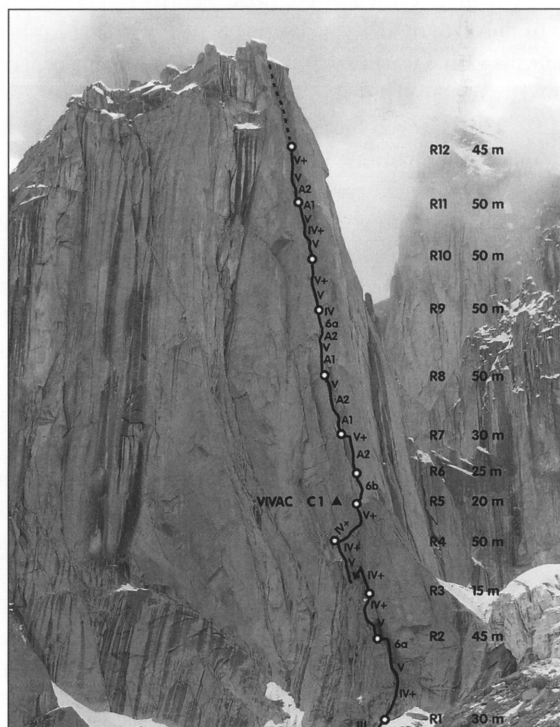
In contrast to his initial demeanor, Igor Chaplinsky stopped replying to, at the least, *www.mountain.ru*, *Montagnes*, *Alpinist*, and *Climb* magazines, and the *AAJ*. I hope they enjoyed their 50 grams of fame before Orest had the courage to speak up. History tends to forget the corrections, the after-the-fact details, favoring the now-sexy hype. So it goes, good for them. The north ridge of Shingu Charpa remains unclimbed.

Yes, I know, it's just climbing. And so I have to wonder: If you can't even be honest about this, then what else in life do you lie about?

KELLY CORDES, AAC

*Changi Tower, attempt.* Previously unreported from 2005 is the ascent, but not to the summit, of a previously unclimbed line up the east pillar of one of the formations that makes up the Changi Tower. Jordi Comas from Barcelona, Oriol Ribas, and I from Andorra reached the Nangma Valley in July 2005. In the 24 days that we were in the valley, there was much rain and snow, and it was only possible to climb on 10. After placing a camp near the base of the wall, we fixed 200m of rope and then made a second camp at the foot of the upper pillar. We spent six nights on the face to complete our 12-pitch climb. However, we didn't reach the summit. On the last day we were hit by a savage storm when only 50m below the top and were forced to descend. We grade the route TD+ 6b A2.

XAVI BONATTI, *Andorra*



The incomplete Andorran-Spanish route (TD+ 6b A2) on the east pillar of an unnamed rock formation that forms part of the Changi Tower massif, Nangma Valley. Xavi Bonatti