

ZANSKAR/LADAKH

Rupshu-Shara Shuwa, Second Ascent. It was reported that Annelies Ascharbl and Leo Graf from an Austrian expedition summited Shara Shuwa (6236 m) on July 27 via the east face. This was the second ascent of the mountain. The third was made the next day by Gertrude Olmüller and Vera Lindenberg from the same expedition. (*High Mountain Sports* 174)

Nun-Kun Massif, White Needle. Cesar Fernandez Perez, Alfonso Vaquero Marin and Gustavo Vazquez Fariña climbed White Needle (6500 m), situated beneath the Nun-Kun Massif, as part of a commercial expedition organized by Terres de Aventure. They summited August 11, 1995.

ALFONSO VAQUERO MARÍN, *Spain*

NEPAL

Api and Nampa, New Routes, and Bobaye, First Ascent. A Slovenian team mounted an expedition to a remote mountain group in western Nepal during the post-monsoon season, establishing three new routes on still-unclimbed faces, including one virgin summit. From a Base Camp at 3650 meters, Tomaz Humar made a solo first ascent, over a day and a half, of Bobaye (6808 m) via the northwest face, topping out on November 2. He named the route of ascent *Zlato srce* (Golden Heart, V, up to 85°) and dedicated it to his wife, who "patiently waited for him at home," and the line of the descent (V+, up to 90°) to the late Vanja Furlan. On the south face of Nampa (6755 m), Matic Jost and Peter Meznar climbed *Jagodna polja* (Strawberry Fields, TD 85°). The most dangerous and hardest part of the route was the couloir in the lower section of the face, which they climbed at night. They bivouacked twice, summited on November 3, and descended via the Japanese route. They dedicated their route to Slave Svetcic, who disappeared during a solo attempt on Gasherbrum IV in June, 1995. On Api (7132 m), Dusan Debelak, Janko Meglic and Tomaz Zerovnik climbed *Alpos-Facig-Solza za Jasno* (2600 m, TD+ V+ 95°) on southeast face. Alpos and Facig are companies who supported them financially and *Solza za Jasno* means Tears for Jasna, for Jasna Bratanic, who died in the Julian Alps with Stane Belak-Srauf in December, 1995. They spent three days reaching a serac at 6050 meters. The next day, only Debelak and Meglic continued. The crux (verglassed slabs) was at 6800 meters. They summited in strong winds and returned to the tent at 6050 meters the same evening. All three descended the next day to Base Camp. A full account of the expedition appears earlier in this journal.

Annapurna I, South Face, Attempt and Ascent. On the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence, the Ukrainian Federation of Alpinism organized the First National Expedition to the Himalayan peak Annapurna I (8091 m). The People's Deputy of Ukraine, Valentine Simonenko, headed the organizing committee, which successfully lobbied for government support and the help of sponsors. Our team was going to climb the south face of Annapurna from 7000 meters to 7600 meters by a new variation through the center of the wall, but a great snowstorm broke our plans and we were obliged to go by the route of Chris Bonington.

On August 28, the airline Fly Service (Odessa) delivered 12 participants and two tons of supplies to Kathmandu. On September 8, supplies were dropped by helicopter to a Base Camp located beneath the South Face Glacier, at 4300 meters. This camp is 1000 meters closer to the



The south face of Annapurna I, showing line of ascent. Mstislav Gorbenko

south face than usual. The route from ABC (4800 m) to Camp IV (6800 m) was established by three alternating groups. The first group consisted of Sergei Bershov, Vladimir Alperin, Sergei Kovalov, and Igor Svergun. The second: Vadim Leontiev, Mstislav Gorbenko, Roman Koval, and Vasily Kopitko. Climbers in the third group were Vladimir Gorbach, Gennady Lebedev, and Igor Chaplinsky.

On September 15, Camp I (5300 m) was established, and on September 17, Camp II (6100 m). Above, up to 6800 meters, the ridge presented a dangerous series of cornices and ice "mushrooms" with snow tops. Camp III at 6500 meters was established on September 23, and Camp IV on October 2. The first powerful snowfall, which began on October 2, practically erased our three week's work on the route. Seven days were required to restore the path, and on October 15 we set up an additional Camp V at 7000 meters in a "bergschrund" (an overhanging crevasse). Here we had to relinquish the plans for making a first ascent of the cliff from 7000 to 7600 meters as it was in terrible condition, covered by snow and ice. We were forced to advance by the Bonington Route. On October 17, five climbers set up Camp VI at 7350 meters, and on October 19 established Camp VII at 7700 meters. At the seventh camp they dug out a snow cave. On October 20 at 4:10 p.m. Sergei Bershov, Igor Svergun, and Sergei Kovalov reached the summit. Vladimir Gorbach, and Igor Chaplinsky came to within 200 meters of reaching the summit. Two days later the second group undertook to storm the summit, but on the night of October 22 a major blizzard broke out that lasted six days. With great effort all the climbers were able to descend without trauma or losses. This was a huge success for the All-Ukrainian Team!

In May, a Russian expedition tried the same variation, but their attempt was unsuccessful and they did not reach the summit.

MSTISLAV GORBENKO, *Director, Alpine Club "Odessa"*

Annapurna I, South Face, Attempt. Mountaineers from Ekaterinburg, Russia, headed by S. Efimov, tried to climb Annapurna I (8091 m) from the south by Bonington's route but owing to very bad weather only two of its members, Yuri Ermachek and Alexey Bolotov, managed to reach the height of 7100 meters. The expedition worked from March 30 to June 10. Base Camp was set up on April 9, Camp I (5100) on April 11, Camp II (6100 m) on April 17, Camp III (6400 m) on April 20, Camp IV (6800 m) on April 30. Ropes were fixed from 5500 to 7100 meters.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

Annapurna I, Northwest Ridge, New Route. A 10-member expedition (eight Poles, one Ukrainian and one American) led by Michal Kochanczyk, successfully surmounted the formidable unclimbed northwest ridge of Annapurna I, the world's tenth highest mountain (8091 m). Kochanczyk says this ridge should become the standard ascent route on Annapurna I "because it is logical and safe." It is very much safer than the nearby northwest buttress, which has been fatally attempted by several expeditions over a number of years. But it is "much worse—more difficult—than the west ridge of Everest," in the opinion of one of this team's summiters, Andrzej Marciniak, who made an ascent of Everest in May 1989 by its west ridge and says this Annapurna I route is the most difficult he has ever climbed.

Marciniak and his Ukrainian teammate, Vladyslav Terzyul, summited on October 20, which turned out to be the last day of weather good enough for a summit push before heavy new snowfall and strong winds set in. They and their fellow members (they had no Sherpas to help them on this climb) had fixed a total of 2000 meters of rope, most of it above their third camp at 6100

meters on the very sharp cauliflower ridge and then up the most difficult section, a rock barrier that began at 7400 meters and took four days to fix. The summit pair made their final push to the top without bottled oxygen from the expedition's highest camp, Camp V, which had been pitched on October 15 before the rock barrier just below the northwest ridge at 7100 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri I and Annapurna I, Solo Ascents. For two months, I made a trip into loneliness as I lived in deep contact with the mountains with no other communication than with my small team (sirdar, cook) in Base Camp. It was a trip with adrenaline. It's always a tough job to climb these giants in alpine style with no Sherpas and without altitude camps, going from Base Camp to summit within a day.

On April 5, we reached Dhaulagiri Base Camp. After three missed attempts due to conditions and weather, I started climbing on May 3 at 5 p.m. and walked throughout the night. At dawn I reached 7300 meters. At 12 p.m., I was on the summit. I had climbed from Base Camp to summit in 19 hours and returned in six. On the top, there was a dead man, Albrecht Ammann, left up there since last year's expedition of Norbert Joos. There was not a soul on the mountain as the Koreans had left.

It was a seven days' walk to Annapurna's Base Camp. On Annapurna, there was no one; I was all alone in Base Camp and on the mountain. My first idea was the west face, but it was really out of the question as it was covered with pure ice.

On May 14, a new departure: I went via the Spanish route on the north face. For one and a half hours, I walked under enormous ice towers. What a fright! It snowed slightly during the whole night, and I walked with difficulty; the snow reached my knees. From time to time, I toddled, going around ice cracks, in the mist. At dawn, I reached 7200 meters. Afterward there was less snow and at 11 a.m. I reached the summit in the midst of a storm. It was the end of the world: 22 hours to reach the top. At 6 p.m. I was back on the great plateau. I was really alone on the mountain. It was a great happiness to have succeeded, with a stay of only five days in Base Camp.

In the autumn I wanted to climb Makalu, but a paragliding crash squashed my vertebrae and left me with broken ribs, a broken ankle, and an open skull. After a week's rest in Base Camp, I climbed up to 7000 meters and abandoned the attempt. It was a very hard walk back to Kathmandu.

ANDRÉ GEORGES, *Switzerland*

Annapurna IV, Attempts and Tragedy. Americans Alex Lowe and Conrad Anker had as their objective the unclimbed southeast pillar of Annapurna III, a 7555-meter peak to the east of Annapurna I. Since they planned to scale their challenging pillar in pure alpine style, they first did an acclimatization climb to 7200 meters on the south side of neighboring Annapurna IV. They then found themselves isolated for a week in a snow cave when heavy snowfall made it too dangerous to move; they finally managed to descend to their advance Base Camp, where the snow was waist-deep, and down to base, where torrential rains fell during another week of bad weather. When they returned to their advance base to make their ascent of Annapurna III, they saw there was far too much snow for a safe attempt on their pillar, and they abandoned their mountain without ever having gotten onto it at all.

A larger American party on the north side of the Annapurna range attempting Annapurna IV (7525 meters) lost two of its members very early one morning when the tent they were sleeping

in at their first high-altitude camp at 5400 meters collapsed under a heavy load of snow and they were smothered to death. The leader of this group, Cleve Armstrong, was in another tent six meters away from the one in which Richard Davidson and Debbie Marshall slept the night of October 3-4; he cleared snow off his tent several times and survived the night, but the next morning, when he went to find out why the other two had not joined his walkie-talkie conversation with Base Camp, he found that the weight of at least a meter of fresh snow had forced their tent down on top of them and suffocated them in their sleep.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri I and Annapurna I, Ascents. A Korean team of four climbing members and an equal number of Sherpas under the leadership of Sung Soon-Je, who himself did not climb, scaled both Annapurna I and Dhaulagiri I in the pre-monsoon season. They went first to Dhaulagiri I, but when bad weather was consuming too much of their time, they split into two parties. On May 1, Deputy Leader Um Hong-Gil summited Dhaulagiri I with Ngati Sherpa, and two days later Kim Hun-Sang and Park Young-Seok with two other Sherpas, Kazi and Gyalzen, were atop Annapurna I. They used no bottled oxygen to reach either peak, and this pair of neighboring mountains were not the first 8000ers "conquered" by two of their team. Um had already summited Everest plus four others, Park, Everest and Cho Oyu; both give climbing as their occupation.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri I, Solo Ascent. The Dutch climber Bart Vos reported he reached the top of the seventh highest mountain in the world, Dhaulagiri I, alone on October 17, the first Dutch mountaineer ever to gain this 8167-meter summit. He had chosen to ascend Mount Dhaulagiri I by a seldom-attempted route up its east face and to climb entirely alone without any teammates, Nepalese Sherpa helpers, artificial oxygen or any fixed camps above 5780 meters in one week of successively higher bivouacs. He then descended the normal route via the northeast ridge. (His ascent was not strictly solo since other teams were on the mountain at the same time as he. All of the others climbed the standard route; Vos's route of ascent joined their ridge at about 7900 meters for the final distance to the top.)

Vos said that he encountered technical difficulties for about 200 vertical meters on the face above an altitude of 7600 meters, "but the real difficulty was the duration [of a week] and the weather," which was often very windy with fresh snowfall. This was the third time Vos had gone alone to Dhaulagiri I. He had been the only person anywhere on the mountain in the spring of 1994 in a truly solo attempt; in the autumn of 1995 he had used the standard route, which others were also climbing at the same time, but he moved independently of them.

Vos is perhaps best known for his claim to have summited Mount Everest in October 1984 as a member of a Dutch expedition. He and others from that team climbed together from their highest camp toward the summit. His companions turned back before gaining the top, but he went on alone and said he had reached the highest point on earth. His summit claim was publicly questioned in the Netherlands at the time, but it was also stoutly defended.

Having one's claim questioned when one goes to a summit alone is a common problem for soloists, and Vos prefers to climb by himself. His assertion that he summited Dhaulagiri I was not immediately accepted by Nepalese tourism ministry officials, who routinely issues certificates to summiters but who asked Vos to send them photos to substantiate his statement.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri I, Ascent. On September 13, an expedition of 13 members from St. Petersburg, Russia, left for the mountains. Ten days later they pitched Base Camp at 4700 meters. It was decided to climb the summit by the classical route up the northeast ridge. In a week's time two camps were organized at 5800 and 6600 meters. Heavy snowfall for four days did not stop the participants and on October 6 they continued to climb. At 7200 meters they put up two tents. Permanent wind was so strong that it would make people lay down literally flat on the slope. It snowed periodically, with snow accumulations reaching one to one and a half meters. Three participants started from the last camp but the summit was reached only by one, Anatoli Moshnikov, on October 21 at 3:30 p.m.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

Gurja Himal, First Spanish Ascent. From August 25 until October 4 the first Spanish expedition to Gurja Himal (7193 m) in the Dhaulagiri region of Nepal took place. The group (Pedro Nicolás, Leader, and Jose L. Fernández, Club Peñalara de Madrid; Inmaculada Fernández, Club Mulhacén de Granada; Salvador García Atance, Javier Madejón, and Juan Martínez, Club Horma de Madrid; Miriam Ferrer, Expedition Doctor; Eduardo Martínez de Pison, Geographer; and Javier Ferreira) was formed by six climbers, a doctor, a scientist and a companion. The trekking started in Baglung, in the Kali Gandaki Valley, on August 30, with almost 60 porters. The Base Camp was established, after 10 days of trekking, at 4350 meters in the Kaphe Kola Valley. This camp is the same for Churen Himal, Dhaulagiri VI, and Gurja Himal.

On September 13, one of the climbers had to be evacuated to Kathmandu by helicopter due to pneumonia, and he was accompanied by another member. So, the climbing team was reduced to four members.



The unclimbed south face of Gurja Himal (7193 m). Juan Martinez Goytre

The climb followed the route of the 1969 Japanese expedition during the first ascent of the peak. C I was established at 4950 meters on the Kaphe-Kola Glacier. C II, at 5800 meters, was set up on September 18 on a ridge, just on the top of a rocky buttress that rises from 5000 meters up to 5750 meters. During the climb of this buttress we found fixed ropes, but most of them had to be replaced since they were in very bad condition. We put almost 500 meters of new ropes on this section.

From CII we had to descend almost 100 meters down to a three-kilometer plateau. We had carried snow pickets for this section, but found them to be worthless. The plateau took us to the bottom of the Gurja Himal pyramid. From here to the summit we found very deep snow, which made the ascent very strenuous. We put CIII at 6100 meters on September 19 on the northwest side of the pyramid. The next day, with good but very cold weather, we left CIII for the summit at 4 a.m. By 11 a.m. we reached the west ridge at 6800 meters. Here, we could see the impressive 3000-meter-plus south face of the Gurja Himal, which remains unclimbed.

At this point two of the climbers decided to return to CIII due to the deep snow. The two others kept climbing the ridge. At 2 p.m. Pedro Nicolás, the team leader, reached the summit, where he stayed for a few minutes. On the descent he met Jose L. Fernández, and both together decided to turn around and go down. After a short rappel Fernández fell 300 meters down the steep north face, creating a snow avalanche. Due to the deep snow he suffered only minor injuries. Both climbers reached CIII by 6 p.m. The next day the four climbers descended to BC. On September 26 the group started the return, reaching Baglung four days later.

PEDRO NICOLÁS, *Club Peñalara de Madrid*

Mount Ratnachuli, First Ascent. The first mountaineers ever to set foot on Mount Ratnachuli were this autumn's expedition from Japan's Shinshu University and the Nepalese Police Mountaineering Foundation. Their 7035-meter peak stands on Nepal's border with Tibet north of Mount Manaslu and was forbidden to any climbers until the police managed to get the Nepalese authorities to put it on the permitted list for this climb. This expedition of eight Japanese and four Nepalese members under the leadership of Mitsunori Watanabe and the climbing leadership of Osamu Tanabe, both Japanese, made their approach from the west and surmounted the west peak and west ridge to reach the top in three waves of summiters on October 14, 16 and 18 after heavy snowfall had subsided. All eight Japanese members (who were aged between 20 and 54 years), three Nepalese members and five Nepalese high-altitude porters succeeded on their very long but not technically difficult route.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu, Ascent, and Fourth Person to Climb All 14 8000ers. On Manaslu, Mexican Carlos Carsolio on May 12 became the fourth person ever to scale all 14 8000ers—and the first of the four to come from a non-European country—when he and his brother Alfredo, the only climbing members of their team, gained this mountain's 8163-meter summit. At 33, he is the youngest of the four who have summited all the 8000ers: the previous youngest was a Swiss, Erhard Loretan, who was 36, and those before them, Reinhold Messner of Italy and Jerzy Kukuczka of Poland, were 44 and 39 years old respectively. Carlos is also the only person to have reached the tops of as many as four 8000ers in a single year (he summited Annapurna I and Dhaulagiri I last spring and Gasherbrums I and II last summer).

During their ascent of Manaslu by its normal northeast face route without any supplementary

oxygen, he and his brother felt the fury of the storm of May 10-11 and were forced to stay an extra day in their tent at 7100 meters by the new snowfall, strong wind and static electricity in the air. They were able to resume their ascent in the evening of the 11th although it "was very difficult to orient ourselves [in continuing stormy weather] and the snow was very deep so we were very slow," he said. They climbed on through the night and into next morning. When they reached the summit plateau, the snow had stopped falling, so "at least we could see," but the winds continued to blow—"it took us the whole day to get to the summit because we had to fight with the wind." They finally were on top at 6 p.m., May 12, and found there the Buddhist prayer flags a Tibetan team had left a week earlier. They spent their summit night in a very windy bivouac without tent or bivouac sack, moving about and talking to each other. When daylight came, the skies were clear but still the winds blew. They at last reached their 7100-meter camp at 3 p.m. that afternoon and "then we were safe." Now they could sleep for the first time since 8:30 p.m. on the 11th.

"I am very happy, very satisfied to have done all the 8,000ers," Carlos said after returning to Kathmandu. What next? "There are many Himalayan faces to be done" one day.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu, East-Northeast Face, Ascent and Tragedy. We (Sergio Martini, Leader; Renzo Benedetti, Luca Campagna, First Group; Abele Blanc, Marco Camandona, Paolo Obert, Adriano Favre, Claudio Rosset, Second Group) left on foot from Gorka on September 1. Benedetti, Campagna and I went up the Bhuri Gandaki, reaching BC (4900 m) on September 10. The caravan, besides us, included the Liaison Officer, one Sherpa, one cook, a kitchen boy and about 40 porters. The other five members of the expedition reached BC 15 days after our arrival. On September 13, we made CI at 5700 meters; on September 20, CII (6600 m); on September 25, the north col bivouac, at 7050 meters; on September 26, CIII (7400 m). The preparation of the high altitude camps was made easier thanks to the fixed ropes placed by the Japanese Konishi-Ishikawa expedition, which was already present. Between the north col and the beginning of the highest plateau, the itinerary we followed was more to the right than the original route.

An area between CI and CII, at about 6300 meters, was extremely dangerous because of serac fall. On September 27, at 4 a.m., we left CIII, which consisted of a small tent mounted on a small snow foothold close to an overhanging serac. After two hours of climbing along very steep slopes, we reached the plateau at 7600 meters. Then, not far from the unstable highest slopes, we joined the Japanese Ishikawa with his two Sherpas and a Korean with his Sherpa. We covered together the last stretch to the summit of the mountain, which we reached at 11:30 a.m. Shortly thereafter my two expedition mates arrived also.

Since the early hours of the morning the weather had been getting progressively worse. Sleet and strong wind blowing in gusts characterized the day. The poor visibility made tracking down the way back through the plateau seriously difficult. After another overnight stay at C2 we returned to BC.

The Japanese Konishi, a well-known figure in the West, disappeared on the descent from the summit on the highest plateau.

Three members of the second group of my expedition (Blanc, Favre, Obert) reached the summit on October 13 after a lengthy bad weather period, during which many tents of different camps were destroyed by the heavy snowfalls.

SERGIO MARTINI, *Italy*

Manaslu, Ascent. After her Pumori and Lhotse ascents (*see below*), Chantal Mauduit flew by helicopter to the foot of Manaslu and with one Sherpa, Ang Tshering, attacked her third Himalayan mountain of the season, here too following the standard route. On Manaslu she again went to the top alone: Ang Tshering became very tired on their final push to the summit on May 24 because he had been breaking trail for hours in deep snow, and he stopped an hour and a half below the very top to rest and wait for her. Like the Carsolio brothers, Mauduit reported finding prayer flags on the summit. She was the first Frenchwoman, and only the sixth woman of any nationality, to succeed on Manaslu. After completing her hat trick, she had summited her fifth 8000er and was keen for more.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu, First Tibetan Ascent. On May 3 and 4 a band of eight strong Tibetans (led by Samdruk) who spend their lives on the high Tibetan Plateau needed no artificial oxygen at all to succeed in the first attempt on Manaslu by Tibetans or any other Chinese citizens. This team is waging a campaign to "conquer" all the 8000ers, and most of them have now reached the tops of six, including Manaslu.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu, Ascent. Italian Sergio Martini on September 27 summited Manaslu, at 8,163 meters the world's eighth highest mountain, via its standard northeast-face route, thereby gaining his twelfth 8000-meter summit. He now has just two more of these giants to "conquer," Everest and Lhotse, and is only the seventh person ever to reach at least twelve 8,000-meter summits.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu, Ascent and Tragedy. Japanese Masatsugu Konishi gained the summit of Manaslu on September 30 with two teammates from their party of five Japanese climbers and five climbing Sherpas. They had made a late start for the summit because of strong winds, and their descent was late and very slow because of exhaustion. Well after nightfall, after having gone down to an altitude of 7900 meters, Konishi stopped and bivouacked for a few hours, far above their highest camp at 7650 meters, and then in a confused state because of the high altitude, he moved briefly upward and later finally disappeared completely. His body was not found.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dorje Lhakpa, West Ridge, Attempt. It was our objective to climb Dorje Lhakpa (6966 m) by the west ridge. Ours was the first British attempt. We approached from the Jugalnral side in the south. Dorje Lhakpa can only be climbed as a joint Nepalese venture; permits and permission had to be obtained from the Nepalese authorities. Alan Kay, Club Treasurer and nominated Expedition Coordinator for the YRC, took care of the formalities. Rimo Expeditions acted as our agents in Nepal. We arrived in Kathmandu on October 1. On October 4 we left Kathmandu for Chatura, 60 kilometers north of the city. Porters were organized there. We approached the higher ranges of the Jugal Himal by a series of ridge systems high above and to the west of the Balephi Valley. From Chatura our caravan took us through the village of Gangland up to the Rhododendron Forests and leech-infested scrub of the Kamicharka Danda to Panch Pokhari ("Five Lakes"). From the sacred lakes of Panch Pokhari we left our trekking team members and traveled the so-called "five combs" high above the impenetrable gorges of

the Balephi River to the eventual Confluence of the Balephi and Lingshing Rivers below the mouth of the Lingshing Glacier.

At the "Confluence Camp" on October 11, we made a comprehensive exploration of both west and east sides of the Lingshing Glacier. The west appeared absent of avalanche threat from the slopes of Dorje Lhakpa II above. Unfortunately, access to the Glacier was impossible. The Ablation Valley on the east side however hosted a very promising site and access to the glacier proved relatively simple. Tins and other artifacts were evidences of a previous camp.

Base Camp was established at 4500 meters on Friday October 13 with marvelous views of Dorje Lhakpa from the crest of the lateral moraine of the Lingshing Glacier.

From Base Camp, the Ablation Valley was followed to an eventual descent to the Lingshing Glacier. Our Advanced Base Camp up the Lingshing Glacier was established October 15. Camp I was established on October 16 at 5300 meters just below Tilman's East Col that marks the start of Dorje Lhakpa's west ridge. From Camp I we ascended the gradual snow slope to the right of the ridge. Access to the ridge proper was gained via a 45° slope initially christened the "Scottish Grade II." From the top of this, the ridge rose broadly and then crested with large cornices overhanging the Lang Tang side of the mountain. We were mostly forced on to the southern side of the crest on steep ice- and snow-covered ground. Ropes were fixed on the steeper sections and by October 24 Camp II was established on the section of the ridge at 6100 meters where the ridge levels out before rising sharply again.

On October 24 and 25, exploration began on the ridge above Camp II. Snow conditions began to deteriorate substantially. There appeared to be no reasonable way forward. On October 25, the decision was made not to go on. On October 28, the expedition left Base Camp. The entire journey to Kathmandu took six days. The expedition flew home to England on November 10.

GED CAMPION, *Yorkshire Rambler's Club*

Dorje Lhakpa, West Ridge. It was reported that the west ridge of this peak was climbed on March 15 by a Japanese team led by Yuji Ishikawa from Hokkaido University. Summiters were Ishikawa, Naomune Ogura and Masataka Shiraishi, all from Sapporo. (*High Mountain Sports* 167)

Pasang Lhamu Chuli, West Ridge. Pasang Lhamu Chuli (7351 m), also known as Josamba I and Nangpai Gosum I, was one of five new peaks opened for foreign expeditions in June, 1995. Its location is about five kilometers west-southwest of Cho Oyu. It was not easy for us to identify. Soon we learned it is nothing but a peak that has been known as Cho Aui and had already been climbed from the Tibetan side in 1986 by a Himalayan Association of Japan expedition. In the post-monsoon season of 1995, a Korean expedition tried from Nepalese side but was forced to retreat from a height of 6900 meters.

Our 1996 expedition, sponsored by the Osaka Alpine Club, aimed to climb this peak from the south or via the east ridge. On September 6, after irritated waiting in Kathmandu due to the prolonged monsoon weather of this year, the first flight brought us to Shangboche, and we stayed for three days at the Everest View Hotel. Then we proceeded to Thame village, where we spent seven more days at our sirdar Ang Phurba's lodge for rest and acclimatization. We started for Chhule on September 16, and established our Base Camp (5400 m) on the central moraine of Nampa La Glacier. About one and a half tons of climbing gear and food had already been carried up to BC by a few Sherpas and local porters prior to our arrival. As the nearest couloir, which leads directly to

the southern col (5720 m), and the Korean couloir up to the 6650-meter col, were both incessantly raked by big avalanches, we decided without hesitation to change our route to the west ridge. We placed Advanced Base Camp at 5600 meters at the foot of the west ridge near Nampa La.

On September 23, we began to make our way up the 6739-meter peak. After a week, on October 1, we pitched Camp I (6700 m) on the ridge just past this peak. Then, a temporary Camp II was placed near the second col (6250 meters) on October 9. The next three days were spent putting seven pitches of fixed rope on the knife-edged, "cock's comb" ridge. It was the most difficult stage of the expedition.

On October 13, the first summit push was made from the temporary Camp II, but failed mainly due to lack of fixed rope and snowbars. All six members, including four climbing Sherpas, went down to BC for rest and supplies.

The second stage of climbing began on October 17. The next day, after a long, struggling traverse, we placed a new Camp II on the snow hump just behind Triangular Rock Peak (7100 m). As two climbing Sherpas returned in bad physical condition on the way, the remaining three occupied Camp III. It cleared up splendidly on October 19, and the temperature fell to 20°C. The proposed direct ridge route to the summit was abandoned because of its difficulty in passing through overhanging rocks. However, we found an alternative route that traversed to the right side. It seemed to be the most feasible route to avoid rock obstacles and get to summit ridge.

Three members, M.Tanigochi, T.Kitamura and a Sherpa, left Camp II at 7 a.m. After a few pitches climbing up the steep snow ridge, one Sherpa dropped out of the party with too much fatigue. Then we traversed about 300 meters to the right and were lucky enough to get to the last summit ridge, from where direct climbing up three more pitches led us to the real summit. We reached the top at noon.

The highest point was so small an ice pyramid as we could only hold it with our arms, not stand on it. We enjoyed an unexpectedly close view of Mt. Everest and lots of high peaks around us. Expedition members were Tamotsu Ohnishi (Leader, 54), Mamoru Taniguchi (48), Keiko Nishihira (44), Takehiko Yanagihara (35), Toshiyuki Kitamura (34), Ang Phurba Sherpa (Sirdar, 36) and three others.

TAMOTSU OHNISHI, *Osaka Alpine Club*

Pasang Lhamu Peak, Second Official Ascent. On April 22, 1993, Pasang Lhamu Sherpa became the first woman of Nepal to climb to the summit of Everest; unfortunately, she died while descending. In Nepal, she became a national heroine. The government of Nepal, in order to celebrate the third anniversary of her death, gave her name to a beautiful 7352-meter summit and opened it to expeditions. It is located in a zone which had previously been protected, a little distance from the Tibet border before Nangpa La, three days from Thame and four from Namche Bazaar. Pasang Lhamu Peak faces Cho Oyu and ends the long ridge of Nangpa Gosum.

Montagnes de la Terre and Club Alpin Français obtained authorization last autumn and 11 participants led by Michel Zalio left for this peak.

The ridge that leads to the summit was a long cornice and more difficult and engaging than foreseen. Base Camp in Dsazamba was at 5200 meters. Camp I, near Nangpa La, was at 5650 meters. Camp II was established on the ridge at 6200 meters. Camp III, before the summit, was at 6600 meters.

Two mountain guides and three Sherpas reached the summit on October 18: Rémi Thivel and Arnaud Guillaume, with Galsen Sherpa, Zangbu Sherpa and Tsiring Dorje Sherpa.

MICHEL ZALIO, *Club Alpin Français*

Kwangde Shar, North Face. The French team of Samuel Beugey, Christophe Profit, Andre Rhem and Jerome Ruby made an alpine-style ascent of the north face of Kwangde Shar (6093 m) from November 27-December 1. The 1300-meter, 38-pitch route, *Extra Blue Sky*, ascended the center of the face before joining the northeast ridge. The team encountered sections of rotten snow on rock, very thin and steep (up to 90°) ice, delicate mixed climbing and pure rock and ice pitches. They bivouacked three times on the wall (at 5400, 5600, and 5800 meters), then once more on the descent. (*From the team itinerary*)

Lobuje East, West Pillar. It was reported that Spaniards Manolo Miranda, Carlos Miguel and Eduard Sanchez followed a line to the left of one established in 1991 by American Eric Brand and Nepalese Norbu Sherpa on the lower half of the west pillar of Lobuje East (6119 m) to reach a prominent shoulder, where they established camp. They then moved to the right of the original route for most of the upper rock section. The upper ice arete, which is also shared by the original route, led directly to the summit and involved a pitch of 80 degrees. Altitude sickness inhibited Miranda early on, so only Miguel and Sanchez completed the route to the summit, which they reached on October 23, 1995. Of the 16 pitches of rock encountered, only one was aided; the rest went free at up to 6b+. (*High Mountain Sports* 167)

Ama Dablam, Northwest Face, The Stane Belak-Srauf Memorial Route. Vanja Furlan and Tomaz Humar climbed the central part of the northwest face of Ama Dablam (6828 m) in alpine style in April and May over two attempts. Their first attempt, which took place between April 21 and 25, was abandoned at 5700 meters because of bad weather. The second attempt started on April 30. The pair spent the first night on a serac at 5630 meters; a 300-meter rock barrier above it was the crux of the route. They climbed it in one and a half days, encountering ice between 70 and 90 degrees and two rock pitches (V+, A2+). The upper part was easier, but another two and half days were spent before they summited on May 4 at 4:45 p.m. They descended via the normal route and returned to Base Camp on May 5. The ascent was awarded the *Piolet d'Or* by Groupe Haute Montagne and Montagne magazine in December 1996.

Later in the summer, Vanja Furlan died after a long fall on a moderate route in Velika Mojstrovka in the Julian Alps. A full account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

Ama Dablam, North to South Traverse. It was reported that a team of climbers summited Ama Dablam via the north ridge and descended along the southwest ridge. The north ridge had not seen a successful ascent in 13 years, but on October 19 Friedl Huber, Max Berger, Lois Badengruber and Roman Dimbok summited after leaving Base Camp on the 15th. It was the goal of the party to climb with minimal equipment in alpine style. The descent down the southeast ridge took the party a further two days leaving no equipment behind. (*Klettern* 97)

Ama Dablam, Various Ascents in the Post-Monsoon. One-fourth of all the expeditions in Nepal in the post-monsoon season went to just one lovely 6812-meter peak in the Everest region, Mount Ama Dablam. Altogether 70 people from 14 of the season's 19 Ama Dablam teams reached its summit (three men even went to the top twice), sometimes struggling through waist-deep snow for over two and a half hours to gain 200 vertical meters (655 feet) to reach the top. This was not quite a record-breaking total number for Ama Dablam, but it was an impressive



The south face of Purneri. A: Czech Route (Michalec-Sulovsky, 1996); B: Lowe Route (Jeff Lowe, 1983); C: French Route (Lescure et al, 1975). D: Scottish Route (Allan-Allen, 1986). A Japanese team climbed the face in 1973; details of where their route went are lacking. Zdenek Michalec

accomplishment given the snow conditions. Those who feared that there would be problems with over-crowding on the narrow ridge were pleasantly surprised that almost everyone got along well together. "We were like a big family" at Base Camp, said an Austrian leader, Roland Mattle. All the summiters followed the standard southwest-ridge route.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Pumori, Southeast Face, and Other Ascents. The Czech Mountaineering Expedition Spring '96 engaged in alpine-style climbing without a Base Camp and made ascents of Island Peak (6160 m) via the normal route, Ama Dablam (6812 m) via the south face (second ascent of the 1994 Russian route); stopped on the southeast ridge at 6550 m) and Pumori (7145 m) via the southeast face—a first ascent*. The members were Zdenek Michalec (34) and Leopold Sulovsky (41).

From a Base Camp at Thengpoche in the Lodge, we acclimatized below the south face of Ama Dablam and made a visual exploration of the wall. On April 24, we transferred to Dingboche and set up Island Peak Base Camp the next day. On April 25, we camped below the summit ice field (5900 m), then made our ascent to the top of Island Peak (6160 m) and descended to Chhukung on the 26th. After resting in Tengpoche, we transferred to Ama Dablam Base Camp, using only one porter, and set up camp on the glacier below the south face. We made the second ascent of the Russian (1994) route on May 2, encountering rock to IVV and 80° ice. We made camp on the southeast ridge (6450 m), then continued on the east ridge up to about 6550 meters. In this season the ridge ends with huge seracs that are impossible to pass without undertaking extreme risk. We decided to descend and the same day (May 3) were back in Tengpoche.

On May 11 and 12, after a rest in Tengpoche and transfer to Pheriche and Pumori Base Camp (only one porter used), we made a visual exploration of the southeast face of Pumori. The next day we started climbing, making Camp I at 6100 meters. On the 14th, we climbed in vertical ice, and established Camp II at 6500 meters. We continued climbing in ice and rock on May 15. In fog we got to easier terrain close to the summit, but had problems with orientation and made Camp III at 7000 meters. On May 16 at 7:40 a.m. we reached the top of Pumori (7145 m) and descended by the normal route to Base Camp.

ZDENEK MICHALEC, *Czech Republic*

*The line of ascent shared aspects with other routes done previously on the face. See photo.

*Pumori, East Face, and Lhotse, First Female Ascent**. On April 15, our Pumori team was established in Base Camp at 5300 meters. Our chosen route was the east face of Pumori. On April 27, Chantal Mauduit, Mike Pearson, and Daniel Mazur climbed from Camp I through mixed snow and ice to Camp II at 6700 meters. Mazur stopped to establish a tent and spend the night, while Mauduit and Pearson carried on to reach the 7161-meter summit at 1:30 p.m. The next day Mazur climbed to the summit. He was accompanied by six Greek climbers from Athens, who had arrived at the high camp the day before.

On April 30, four Pumori members transferred to Lhotse Base Camp. On May 10, Chantal Mauduit, Tim Horvath, and Stephen Koch made a push for the summit in high winds and blowing clouds. Only Mauduit succeeded in reaching the summit, the other two turning back due to cold feet. On May 22, Jon Pratt and Scott Darsney climbed to the summit. On May 23, Daniel Mazur climbed to the summit. All of our ascents were accomplished in lightweight style with no high altitude porters, no artificial oxygen, and placement of no fixed rope.

DANIEL MAZUR

*There is some skepticism regarding this ascent on the part of a man who watched her, climbing alone, disappear from sight into the couloir just below the summit and re-emerge from it in her descent rather soon afterwards. —Elizabeth Hawley

Mounts Everest, Lhotse, and Nuptse, "Trilogy" Attempt. A predominantly German expedition had a plan for what they called "a trilogy" of three summits: Everest, Lhotse and Nuptse. They succeeded in summiting only Mount Nuptse, the lowest of their three peaks.

The peaks were to be attempted from the same 6450-meter Advance Base Camp in the Western Cwm at the feet of the three mountains. Nuptse was the first summit attempted, and it was successfully scaled on September 17 by Dujmovits and a German member, Axel Schloenvogt, by the normal route. The summit of Everest was not reached by any of Dujmovits' people, and none of them made any attempt to go to the top of Lhotse.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest, Correction. In the 1996 volume of this journal, on page 29, a photo caption for a photo of Anatoli Boukreev and Martin Adams on the summit of Mount Everest read, "The first Kahzahki flag at the top of the world: Anatoli Boukreev and Martin Adams (U.K.) in 1986." The date was incorrect. It should have stated 1996.

Mount Everest in the Pre-Monsoon. Besides the May 10 tragedy on Mount Everest, a number of significant mountaineering accomplishments were achieved. Among the best were Hans Kammerlander's 17-hour ascent of the North Col/North Ridge route and subsequent first-ever glisse descent and the first ascent of the north-northeast couloir by a Russian team led by Sergei Antipin from Siberia. Accounts of Everest in the pre-monsoon appear earlier in this journal.

Mount Everest, From Sweden by Bicycle. I wanted to climb Everest by my own strength from my home to the top and back again. That's why I started October 16, 1995, from Stockholm, Sweden, with my bike and a specially made one-wheeled trailer behind, carrying all I needed for my climb. Before me I had one year and eight days, 17000 kilometers, 68100 meters uphill, 140 flat tires and much more. . . .

My trip went as follows: Germany - Czech Republic - Slovakia - Hungary - Romania - Bulgaria - Turkey - Iran - Pakistan - India and finally Nepal. The roads were OK to the Pakistan border; after the border they were quite interesting. I also faced some problems with the people in Iran and Pakistan (they threw stones, tomatoes, etc.). When I had arrived in Kathmandu I rested for three weeks and gained a couple of kilos. From there I cycled to Jiri, where the road stops and the walk-in starts. From Jiri I carried everything (65 kilograms) to Namche Bazaar, which took 13 days; from there I carried to Everest Base Camp two times. To avoid all fixed ropes and ladders I did a new variation through the Icefall (below Lho La and the West Shoulder). I followed the South Pillar Route, but made a traverse to the South Col. On May 3 I made my first attempt, but failed just below the South Summit; I was too tired and the time (2 p.m.) was too late. My third attempt was successful. I reached the top together with Ang Rita Sherpa at 1 p.m. on May 23, without oxygen. After the climb, together with my girlfriend, I went home, on bicycle, via Russia.

GORAN KROPP, Sweden

Mount Everest, South Col Clean-up. A pre-monsoon cleanup effort by 15 Sherpas, headed by Sonam Gyaltzen and organized by the Nepal Mountaineering Association and the Nepalese government, carried away 1800 kilos of rubbish discarded by hundreds of mountaineers from the South Col and lower camps. The trash, which was brought to Kathmandu by helicopter, included oxygen cylinders, food cans, tent poles, broken ladders and plastic bags, plus a piece of an Italian Air Force helicopter that crash-landed between Camps I and II in 1973. They estimated that at least 15,000 kilos of trash remain to be taken off of the Nepalese side of the mountain. (No one is known to have calculated the amount of rubbish that is strewn about the Base Camp area and up and down the mountainside in Tibet.)

The Sherpa team also removed from near Camp II and cremated below Base Camp the several-years-old body of an unidentified man which they found in a sleeping bag wrapped in plastic. The president of the mountaineering association said "Our cleaning campaign next year will concentrate on removing other bodies."

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest, Attempted Ski Descent. A six-member Slovenian expedition under the leadership of Viki Groseelj attempted an ascent of Everest via the Messner route with the goal of skiing from the summit. Davo Karnicar was the designated skier. The other members were Stane Klemenc, Damjan Mesko (doctor), Tone Skarja and Croatian Stipe Bozic. The team also had seven Sherpas.

On April 28 we reached Base Camp at 6450 meters. On April 30 we put up our camp on the north ridge at 7050 meters. On May 8 our camp was pitched at 7800 meters on the snowfield below the Great Couloir. On May 9 Davo Karnicar reached a place in the Great Couloir where we were supposed to set up our last camp at 8200 meters. Unfortunately, although he used oxygen, he got bad chilblains on his hands during his ascent. He descended to Base Camp on the same day, but his chilblains were so bad we had to give up the idea of repeating the ascent. Since he as extreme skier was the key personality of the expedition, we decided to end it.

On May 16 we left Base Camp and on June 4 returned to Slovenia. Karnicar lost two fingers, but plans to return in 1997. His best achievement so far is the first ski descent of Annapurna I with his brother Dreje in 1995.

VIKI GROSELJ, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Mount Everest, Tenth Ascent by an Individual. I started my career as a mountaineer about 15 years ago, spending most of the season holding an ice ax and rope, crawling on the snow and making way for climbers to get to the summits of peaks. In 1980 I first climbed Dhaulagiri (8167 m) with a Spanish team. I scaled Mount Everest for the first time with an American team in 1983. I have climbed Cho Oyu (8201 m), Kangchenjunga (8594 m), Makalu (8406 m) and other major Himalayan mountains in Nepal and Tibet.

On May 23, with a Swedish team, I became fortunate enough to set the world record of 10 times on Everest's summit without ever having used bottled oxygen. What I have earned is the wealth of experience in mountaineering which I would be very delighted to share with the mountaineers of the world.

ANG RITA SHERPA, *Nepal*

Mount Everest, Avalanche and Tragedy. On September 21 an avalanche of snow and ice fell

very near Nuptse's north face. The avalanche roared down the west face of Lhotse, striking a group of men headed for the South Col. It left uninjured one Japanese and several Sherpas in its path, but it suddenly changed direction when it hit the yellow rock band and apparently carried with it the fixed ropes that two other Sherpas and a Frenchman were using at that moment. It swept these three men down the face to their deaths.

One of the Sherpas who died was the well-known Lobsang Jangbu, who had summited Everest four times, most recently last May 10, when five people died during their descent and he attempted to rescue the leader of his team, Scott Fischer. He was last working for a Japanese climber on Everest. His body was not found during several days of searching. The other Sherpa, named Dawa, was with a South Korean Everest team, and the Frenchman, Yves Bouchon, was a member of a French-Belgian-Swiss Everest expedition.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest, Post-Monsoon. In the post-monsoon, on the South Col route for Everest, there were three parties: seven South Koreans with an equal number of climbing Sherpas; a team of four French, two Belgian and one Swiss with four Sherpas; and one Japanese with his Sherpa, Lobsang Jangbu (see above). Of all these teams, only the South Koreans were successful. They carried on despite "every day snowing and every day avalanches—no good weather conditions," as their leader, Lim Hyung-Chil, described it. On October 11 two Koreans arrived at the summit with two Sherpas and soon were followed by one more. All three Sherpas had already become Everest "conquerors" before this season.

On the Tibetan side there were also four autumn expeditions, all on the normal route, and of these only one, a very small Indonesian party, sent anyone to the summit. In addition, there was an international group who had begun their effort during the summer, in July, but had carried on into the autumn and did not give up until late September.

The summer-autumn group were six climbers led by Jean Troillet of Switzerland, who planned to make his descent by snowboard; a French member of the team, Pascal Arpin, intended to come down on skis. Their first choice of route was up the north face by way of the Japanese and Hornbein couloirs, which Troillet knew well from his rapid ascent and even more rapid descent in August 1986 with Erhard Loretan. But they abandoned that line on September 9 at 7300 meters because the wind was very strong, there was serious danger of wind-slab avalanching, and the wind had swept away the softer snow that they had to have for skiing and snowboarding. They then made two attempts to climb the normal route via the North Col, north ridge and north face, but again the wind was removing the snow and was becoming increasingly fierce and difficult to withstand. Troillet, another Swiss, Dominique Perret, and two Nepalis had reached 8300 meters on September 25 when they finally gave up.

Over on the Nepalese side two Belgians were discovered by the Nepalese government to have scaled the treacherous Khumbu Icefall, which rises 600 vertical meters above Base Camp, and reached the Western Cwm without any permit to go above base. For this violation of mountaineering regulations, the two, identified by the Nepalese authorities as Dirk Dansercoer of Huldenberg and Daniel Hernandez of Mechelen, Belgium, were forbidden to climb any peak in Nepal for a period of ten years because of "their attempt to climb Mount Everest without official permission," according to a statement from the Ministry of Tourism.

However they told me that they had not actually expected to climb Everest. They claimed they had trekked to Base Camp to visit a friend, a Belgian member of the French-Belgian-Swiss team, and had not done any "real climbing" but had gone up the Icefall just to see the part of the climb-

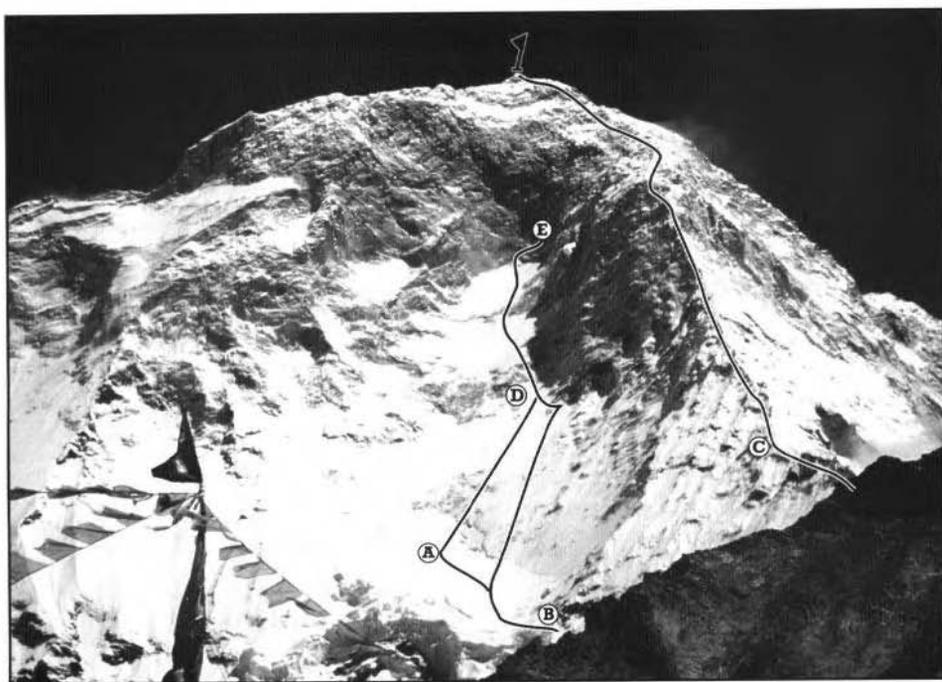
ing route not visible from Base Camp and to be at the start of an historic climb. They asserted that they had no idea they were breaking any rules in doing this without a permit. But the ministry took the matter very seriously since the Nepalese government earns substantial fees for their climbing permits, receiving a minimum of \$50,000 from each Everest expedition. The ministry could have asked them to pay a fine equal to double the Everest fee, but the officials realized there was no chance of collecting it.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Makalu, West Face, Attempt. I tried to climb solo Makalu's west face, one of the biggest problems in the Himalaya. Our team comprised Taeko Nagao, Base Camp manager, Hiroshi Aota, four t.v. staff, and me as leader and climbing member. We established BC at 5300 meters on September 6. I reached 6900 meters twice on the northwest ridge (normal route) for acclimatization. Next, on September 17, I climbed to 6700 meters on the west face to deposit climbing gear. The first attack of the west face was September 21, but bad weather forced me to return from the foot of the face. On the second attack, on September 24, I reached 6700 meters. When I reached 7300 meters on September 25, a falling stone hit my helmet. I was not injured outside but got a bad feeling, so I returned to BC the next day. That was the finish.

I had climbed the southwest face of Cho Oyu in Tibet solo with light gear two years ago. But this time heavy climbing gear made for slow climbing speed.

YASUSHI YAMANOI, *Japan*



The west face of Makalu, showing A: Lowe attempt (Jeff Lowe, 1993) and Italian attempt, (Oreste Forno et al, 1993) B: Yamanoi attempt (Yasushi Yamanoi, 1996); C: West Pillar (Robert Paragot et al, 1971); D: Lowe high point; E: Yamanoi high point. Yasushi Yamanoi

Makalu, West Face, Attempt, Ascent and Tragedy. A 30-member team that had as its goal an alpine style ascent of Makalu's west face, with Makalu via Makalu La as an acclimatization climb, was arranged in Russia last spring. The essential part of the team was from Novokuzhetsk in Siberia. Moreover, it comprised the leading high altitude climbers from Moscow, Ekaterinburg and Novosibirsk. V. Savkov, A. Foight and V. Bachkirov were the expedition leaders. Base Camp (4900 m), Camp I (5700 m), Camp II (6400 m), Camp III (7400 m) were all established on the Makalu La route, and everything was in accordance with the plan until May 10. The gale that followed devastated Camp III, tore to pieces some tents and prevented the first summit bid. The same storm made much harm to those scaling Everest 20 kilometers away. This gale killed Rob Hall, Scott Fischer and others.

On May 14 after the gale, when the leading group was at 7800 meters, A. Shlecht, an experienced ice climber, slipped on hard ice and fell to his death. Having buried the body, and deeply shaken by the tragedy, the leading party climbed down to BC. After several days, having recovered from the shock, the climbers gave the mountain one more go. Ten of them made it to the top.

On May 31 V. Bachkirov, A. Goigt, V. Stalkovski and G. Sokolov climbed up to the foot of the west face, being greatly delayed by the gale and the tragedy following it. But on June 1 the weather was appalling. It was snowing and the wind was raging high on the mountain. There was no improvement the next day. After waiting for five days the climbers decided that the monsoon had come and it was not possible to tackle the route.

So the expedition was over. Ten of the team reached the summit of Makalu by the normal route: G. Sokolov, V. Koroteev, I. Plotnikov, N. Kojemiako, V. Bachkirov, A. Foigt, S. Bogomolov, V. Stalkovski, A. Vegner, J. Outechev. Nobody except for J. Outechev used artificial oxygen. There were no high altitude porters. It was the most mass-scale attempt on Makalu.

VLADIMIR BACHKIROV, *Kaliningrad, Russia*

Nepal and Tibet Himalaya, Various Ascents. In 1996, Anatoli Boukreev made the following ascents: May 10, Mount Everest, by the South Col route, working for the Mountain Madness expedition of Scott Fischer. May 17, Mount Lhotse, 8505 meters, solo ascent, 21 hours 16 minutes, Base Camp to summit by the South Col route from the Everest-Lhotse Base Camp. September 25, Cho Oyu, 8201 meters, self-supported ascent, alone on the normal route from the Tibet side. October 9, Shishapangma, north summit, 8008 meters, self-supported ascent, alone on the normal route. [*Boukreev's views on the use of oxygen at altitude appear earlier in this journal.*]

LYNDA WYLIE, *unaffiliated*

Nepal Himalaya, Various Ascents, and Elizabeth Hawley's Law of Economic Development. This season saw more teams from southeast Asia than ever before, although they are not yet coming in large numbers. Over the years, as countries have become more affluent, they have sent increasing numbers of climbers to the Nepalese Himalaya; this was true of Japan as it emerged from the economic ruin of World War II, of Spain and South Korea in later years, and now, it seems, of Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. But the southeast Asian climbers appear to be just in the initial stage of their Himalayan skills and strength as they set altitude records for their nations. While an Indonesian woman, Clara Sumarwati, succeeded in her second attempt on Everest and became the first Indonesian ever to "conquer" the great mountain on September 26 (she summited by the standard route on the Tibetan side), she was heavily dependent on her Sherpas, who were veterans of Annapurna I and earlier Everest ascents, and she used artificial oxygen at a high rate of flow.

Her successful effort had been preceded in the summer month of July by that of the unsuccessful attempt of a three-man Indonesian team under the leadership of Endang Suhendra to scale Everest's neighbor, Nuptse. They did not try to climb their originally planned route up a pillar on its southern side because this looked too formidable for them, and their one climbing Sherpa, Chuldin, opened the route for them on the northwest ridge, but they were actually on the mountain for only a few days: they found it "very difficult" because this was their first time on a high mountain, and one member suffered slightly from altitude sickness. When new snow fell and avalanching resulted, they decided to abandon the climb. They said that all three of them and Chuldin had reached a high point of 7200 meters together in their brief time on Nuptse.

In the autumn, Malaysians were successful on two 7000ers, Annapurna IV and Putha Hiunchuli (7246 m). On Putha Hiunchuli, two Malaysians and a Singaporean went to the top on two different dates, October 16 and 19, but they literally followed in the footsteps of a French-Swiss team who had summited three days before them. On Annapurna IV, only one Malaysian reached the summit, and this summiter, Ramakrishnan, reported that he was tied to two of the four Sherpas who went to the top with him in order to balance him when the wind was strong, and that he used bottled oxygen part of the time on his summit day, November 10. It is quite rare for climbers on under-8000-meter peaks to use oxygen. Even so, his fingers and toes became mildly frostbitten. Coping with the rigors of extreme cold and very high altitudes can be a serious problem for southeast Asians.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Kabru, Attempt and Tragedy.

The members of the Slovenian expedition to Mount Kumbhakarna East (a.k.a. Jannu East, 7468 m) in the fall were Bojan Pockar, leader, Ziga Petric and Anda Perdan, the doctor. Bojan and Ziga were planning to climb the still-unclimbed Mount Kumbhakarna East via the east face (1950 m) in alpine style. The expedition ended very sadly with the deaths of both alpinists Bojan Pockar and Ziga Petric. They died because of a snowslide.

We reached Base Camp on the East Kumbhakarna Glacier (5300 m) on September 27. The accident happened on the hillside of Mt. Kabru (7353 m) on October 5. Bojan and Ziga were on Mt. Kabru to acclimatize and to get a better view of the east face of Mount Kumbhakarna East. When the accident happened the weather had changed suddenly. It was snowing.

ANDA PERDAN,

Planinska zveza Slovenije



Mount Kabru East (7353 m), where Bojan Pockar and Ziga Petric died in an avalanche. Anda Perdan

Kangchenjunga, North Face. Kike de Pablo, Juanito Oiarzabal, Alberto Iñurrategi and Félix Iñurrategi arrived at BC on April 1. We worked on establishing the route the first two weeks of April, putting up CI at 5800 meters on April 7 and CII at 6800 meters on the north col on April 14 and also setting up 1000 meters of fixed rope on the access wall to the north col. We made two unsuccessful attempts during the second half of April. On the first, on April 21, we arrived at CII and in the second, on April 29, we turned back from CI.

On May 2 we set off for the summit from BC. We arrived at CII on May 2. On May 4 we climbed up the north ridge, left the tower behind, and set up last camp at 7800 meters half-way between the Tower and the Crescent.

On the May 5 it was too windy for us to leave the tents. The following day, the weather cleared and we set off at 3 a.m. Alberto, Félix and Juanito reached the summit at 1:30 p.m. Kike turned back upon reaching 5300 meters. Juanito fainted due to exhaustion, complicating the descent. On the same day we went down to CIII and the following day to BC.

FÉLIX AND ALBERTO IÑURRATEGI, *Spain*

*Alberto and Félix Iñurrategi are the only pair of brothers to have scaled more than one 8000er together; Kangchenjunga was their sixth, and they are amongst only a handful of climbers to have summited the world's six highest mountains. Oiarzabal has now also scaled the six highest and has actually bagged a grand total of nine of the world's 14 8000ers, three of them last year.



Félix Iñurrategi high on Kangchenjunga. Alberto Iñurrategi

Pyramid Peak, Attempt. The Australian Pyramid Peak Expedition consisted of seven climbers (Darren Miller, leader; James Serle, Gavin Dunmall, Nicola Sunderland, Scott Welch, Jon Chapman, Morvan Grant) with the aim to make the first ascent of this 7125-meter peak (which lies north of Kangchenjunga) from the Nepal side. The mountain had been climbed by the Japanese from the Sikkim side, but as yet had not had an ascent from the Nepal side. This was to be the first attempt granted by the Nepal Ministry of Tourism.

Base Camp (Pangpema) was reached on October 8 after a 15-day approach march. The route attempted was the west (south) ridge. Advance Base Camp and Camps I, II and III were established up to October 20, at which time a cold front consisting of high winds and then snow prevented further progress. The highest point reached was 6350 meters on October 22 by Gavin Dunmall and Jon Chapman. Base Camp was disbanded on October 28.

DARREN MILLER, *Australia*

PAKISTAN

Shakhaur, West Ridge. The goal of the expedition was to climb Shakhaur (7116 m) by a new, safe route from the Northern Udren Glacier. The members of the expedition were Alfred Fendt, leader (42, Germany), and Gerhard Gritsch (26, Osterreich). The team reached Islamabad on August 6 and, after completing the administration formalities, was able to go on two days later via Dir and Lowari Top to Chitral, reaching Zundrangram in the Tirich Valley on August 9. The three-day approach march with 10 porters progressed from Shagrom (2800 m), through the Atak Gol, the Udren Valley, the Lopar Gol, the eastern moraine of Udren Darban Glacier and the Northern Udren Glacier to Base Camp (4630 m). The same day the team crossed west over the Udren Glacier to get a view of the western slope of the Udren-Zom and Shakhaur and to look for possible routes. The whole time avalanches raked the route of the Austrian first ascensionists and the Italian expedition of 1991 via the serac-area of the south glacier of Rohe-Nadir Shah, revealing the enormous objective danger of this route.

We decided therefore to explore the pillar in the west ridge of Udren Zom. On August 14 an equipment cache was installed at the beginning of a great couloir at 5000 meters. After climbing snow and ice-couloirs (up to 55°) and poor rock ridges (up to III) the team reached a suitable place for Camp I on a rock buttress (5620 m). After a stormy night in Advanced Base Camp, descent to Base Camp followed. After a break of two days the team decided to try the final climb in alpine style. After a night at the beginning of the snow couloir (5000 m), Camp I was reached on the early noon of August 21. In the afternoon the great glacier plateau between Rohe-Nadir Shah, Shakhaur and Udren Zom (6000 m) was reached (ice up to 50°, rock up to III). The night was spent again in Camp I. After reaching the plateau in the late morning of August 22, the team crossed the plateau to the north, because the way to the Col between Shakhaur and Udren-Zom was threatened by avalanches and serac fall from the north slope of Udren-Zom. The crew spent the time of extreme heat at noon in the tent and continued the climb in the afternoon to a safe place sheltered by a crevasse under the col between Rohe-Nadir Shah and Shakhaur and established Camp II (6220 m). The final climb followed the next day without technical difficulties via the Col and the smooth west ridge of Shakhaur. The summit was reached at 11 a.m. (Gritsch/Fendt) and Camp II at 2 p.m.

The way back to Base Camp was made with all the equipment on August 24. The route is mostly safe and can be recommended especially to small expeditions.

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