**Dhaulagiri VI, Southwest Buttress.** On October 9 Dan Griffith, Peter Carter, Albi Sole and I reached the summit of Dhaulagiri VI (7268 meters, 23,846 feet), via a new route on the southwest buttress. The ascent was made alpine-style in six days from Base Camp at 4100 meters. The fifth member, Mike Down, had performed strongly during the acclimatization phase, but he opted out of the final push because of an old injury. The route, reached after a lengthy glacier approach, followed an elegant and objectively safe ice buttress. The climbing was exclusively in deep snow or on alpine ice. The weather was quite unsettled this fall with heavy snowfall, and we were fortunate to sneak the climb in between storms. A more complete report will appear in the *Canadian Alpine Journal 1984.*

ROBERT RHON, Alpine Club of Canada

**Churen Himal Tragedy.** On September 14, a 15-man German Alpine Club (DAV) expedition led by Gustav Harder began its approach. The purpose was to train experienced climbers from the Alps to climb in the great mountains of the world. The south ridge of Churen Himal seemed objectively so dangerous that they hoped to reach the upper part at 7000 meters via the southwest face. Three camps were set up. On October 9 the lead climbers fixed rope to 6800 meters. They returned to Camp III at 5800 meters where they were pinned for several days by a severe storm. On October 12 a three-foot-thick windslab broke loose just above them. Herbert Jans, who happened to be out of the tent, was dragged 200 meters down the slope. He freed himself and climbed back up to release Dieter Elsner, Christoph Kruiis, Thomas Höss, Walter Fichter and Uwe Schmidt. However, Hans-Peter Hamm and Christoph Haulitschek were dug out dead. The survivors could not find boots or clothing but managed to descend despite the deep snow and avalanche danger. All suffered frostbite.

**Changla Attempt.** A joint Japanese-Nepalese women’s expedition led by Mrs. Kyoko Endo failed to make the first ascent of Changla (6721 meters, 22,051 feet). There were seven Japanese and three Nepalese members. The women were supported by two high-altitude porters. After establishing four camps above Base Camp on the southwest ridge, four members and two Sherpas reached a high point of 20,675 feet on May 28 but the climb was abandoned because the sharp snow ridge above them was very difficult, had hidden crevasses and occasional ice sections. The Sherpas would not climb without fixed rope and the rope supply was exhausted. Fuel ran out and they had little time left. The peak lies in western Nepal in the Gorakh Himal. They approached from Simikot.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, Himalayan Club, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

**Api, Winter Ascent and Tragedy.** Api (7132 meters, 23,399 feet) is difficult to approach and the climbing route is long and dangerous. It was first climbed
in 1960 by Katsutoshi Irabayashi, Gyaltsen Norbu, M. Terashi and Y. Tsuda from the northwest; Italians made the second ascent in 1978 from the southeast. Other attempts have failed. In December 1983 a Polish expedition of 11 men, led by Tadeusz Piotrowski, made the third ascent, the first in the winter. Base Camp at 9850 feet and Advance Base at 13,125 feet were established on December 10 and 12. Camps I and II were placed on the first-ascent route at 16,400 and 18,050 feet on December 14 and 19. On December 22 Piotrowski, Andrzej Bieluń and Zbigniew Terlikowski started up the northwest ridge toward the summit, bivouacking at 19,025 and 19,700 feet. On December 24 the trio began the final push. Terlikowski climbed slowly and Piotrowski accompanied him, while Bieluń pressed ahead. At 5:30 P.M. he was seen reaching the summit. At 21,000 feet Terlikowski gave up but Piotrowski kept on, getting to the summit at seven P.M. He did not meet Bieluń. His descent was made in darkness, cold and wind. He lost his way, slipped and fell 150 feet, but was not injured. He spent Christmas Eve in a snow hole. The next day he reached Camp II. Terlikowski was there but Bieluń was not. They searched for him in deteriorating weather. They waited for him for 2½ days in vain. While searching for Bieluń, on December 28 Wojciech Jedliński, Ryszard Kowalewski and Jacek Gocyla climbed P 6050, a high point on the ridge, to look for him.

JÓZEF NYKA, Editor, Taternik, Poland

Himalayan Traverse. On June 15, 1982 Hugh Swift and I completed a nine-month, 2000-mile walk across the Himalayan regions of Bhutan, Nepal and India, the first Americans to complete such a trek. The traverse began on September 20, 1981 at Tashi Yangtsi Dzong in northeastern Bhutan. The route we followed passed through Lhuntse Dzong, Wangdiphodrang, Thimphu, Chomo Lhari Base Camp, Gangtok and Runtek with border crossings by vehicle. Then we walked continuously from Ilam in eastern Nepal to Lamayuru Monastery in Ladakh, India via Dhankuta, Namche Bazaar, the Rolwaling Valley, Gosainkund Lake, Trisuli, Pokhara, Dhorpatan, Jumla, Baitadi, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Ukimath, Uttar Kashi, Rampur, Malana, Manali, Kyeclang and Padum. Immediately following this, John Mock joined Hugh Swift to trek for 3½ weeks across the Baltistan region of Pakistan from Goma to Rupal, directly beneath Nanga Parbat, the westernmost peak in the Great Himalayan Range.

ARLENE BLUM

India-Garhwal

Kamet and Abi Gamin. In the pre-monsoon period, I led an expedition to Kamet. We left Joshimath on May 28 in two separate groups. One, led by Captain S.B. Dalal, went to the virgin west face. Captain Dalal, Naik Dhan Singh and Naik Rajinder Singh made a route along an icefall and up very steep