

night, we descended. On the descent I hit a patch of ice while glissading and covered the final 2000 feet to the bottom of the face faster than I cared for! We left Base Camp on September 29 after a severe storm and a spell of particularly bad weather. During our stay, our team worked with the Everest Environmental Expedition in cleaning up the Base Camp and Advance Base on the Middle Rongbuk Glacier. We also removed 1200 pounds of trash on the route between Advance Base and Camp I. To our dismay, we found a great deal of litter left by two 1990 pre-monsoon expeditions from New Zealand and the USA at this site. Apparently no effort was made by either team to remove trash away from the camp site or to crevasse it. It was ironic, given the laudable efforts of the Everest Environmental and the Peace expeditions, to find trash from an American team, and a commercially guided one led by premier guides at that!

MARK B. HESSE, *Unaffiliated*

Changtse, Southeast Face, 1986. I made an unreported ascent of Changtse in 1986 up a new route, the southeast face. This was the fourth ascent of the mountain and the first American one. I first tried a new line on the right of the southeast face on August 26, 1986 but was defeated by thin snow over shale at about 23,500 feet, just below the intersection with the German northeast ridge route. After a rest day, on August 28, I soloed a new route in the center of the face, up a prominent snow gully between two rock buttresses before angling to the right across the face and joining the northeast ridge, which I then followed to the top. I climbed the initial avalanche-prone gully at night by headlamp. The entire round-trip to the summit and back to Advance Base at 20,100 feet below the North Col took 15 hours.

ED WEBSTER

Changtse Correction. In *AAJ, 1989*, page 278, it stated that Italians had climbed a new route on the southeast face rather than to follow the whole of the very long German northeast ridge. Further clarification by the Italians shows that they did not climb the southeast face. They made a new variant of the northeast ridge route, climbing up the east face of the long ridge, which they crested at 6900 meters, where they placed their Camp III. They then followed the ridge to the summit.

Changtse, Southeast Face. We completed the second American ascent of Changtse by a route previously climbed by Ed Webster solo (see above), the southeast face. We also made a significant achievement in using the Gamow Bag as a treatment for cerebral edema. After our 1988 attempt on the tediously long northeast ridge and Keith Brown's nearly successful 1988 attempt on the southeast face (*AAJ, 1989*, pages 278-9), we organized a second expedition. We reached Everest's traditional Base Camp on April 20. We established Camps I,

PLATE 64

Photo by Trevor Pillings

**Webster's first attempt on
CHANGTSE is on the right and
his ascent in the center. Everest's
North Col is at the left.**



II, III and Advance Base at 18,000, 19,000, 20,000 and 21,000 feet on April 25, 27, 29 and May 1. We placed Camp IV at 21,400 feet and on May 3 had Camp V near a prominent buttress at the center of the southeast face about 300 yards from the base of Everest's North Col. On May 7, 1800 feet of line were fixed up Changtse's 50° to 55° southeast face to within 800 feet of the crest of the northeast ridge. On May 8, following an ascent of 500 feet of a 45° slope, John Cleary and Don McIntyre fixed an additional 300 feet of line up the final 70° headwall to the ridge. On May 9, McIntyre, Cleary, Doug Nixon, and Jerry and Michael Sisk reached the summit (7583 meters, 24,879 feet) at 8:30 P.M. after an 11-hour climb. The descent to Camp V took another six hours. Tragedy, meanwhile, nearly overshadowed success. On the morning of May 5, one of our members had to be evacuated from Camp IV to Advance Base with symptoms of cerebral edema. There, Dr. Sam Shields innovatively utilized the Gamow Bag as a treatment device not only to induce the injured climber's survival but also to restore him to a level of condition enabling me and four others to assist him down the mountain using the Gamow Bag along the way on May 7 and 8. The decision to use the bag in this manner, in combination with other vital medical treatment, was necessarily mandated by the condition of the patient who could not otherwise be moved from Advance Base without risk of death. The injured climber was evacuated from Base Camp to Kathmandu. The other members of the expedition were Dan Damon, Scott Dinham, R.J. Secor, Stan Horn, Dean Blanca and Scott Edwards.

PAUL PFAU

Changtse Attempt. An expedition led by me comprised Britons Andrew Elliot, Bill Bennett, Jeremy Edwards, Edward Morgan, Peter Wilson and Americans Paul Dornisch and Russell Lee. We attempted the southeast face. After fixing 1000 feet of rope, on October 21 we made a single push from camp on the East Rongbuk Glacier at 6400 meters. We reached 7200 meters in five hours, where dangerous windslab and breakable crust forced us to abandon the attempt.

STEPHEN BELL, *Himalayan Kingdoms, England*

Cho Oyu, Southwest Face and Shisha Pangma Central Summit, South Face. These excellent new routes by Kurtyka, Troillet and Loretan are described in a full article earlier in the volume.

Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma Central (West) Summit. Our expedition was composed of leader Benoît Chamoux, Frédéric Valet, Yves Detry, Pierre Royer, French, Mauro Rossi, Italian, Josef Rokoncaj, Czechoslovakian and me, British. All seven climbers were together on the summit of Cho Oyu on April 30 and twelve days later, on May 12, were all on the top of the central (not the highest)