

duties were performed by her husband, who runs a trekking agency and has been an active mountaineer; he was one of the Sherpa climbers.) Last year, she was a member of an expedition led by Marc Batard, but at that time she failed to climb to the summit and claims that Batard had prevented her from trying it. Despite two summit bids, on both of which she used artificial oxygen, Mrs. Sherpa was unable to reach the summit. On her first attempt, she got to the south summit on September 30 in the company of several of her group. They decided the wind was too strong to continue. On the second attempt, she got only to the last camp on the South Col. Some of the foreigners in her party were not enthusiastic about their experience. One French member said that he had to sleep in the tent of another expedition at the last camp on the night of September 29. Mrs. Sherpa's husband explains that the Frenchman was supposed to be in the second summit party, not the first.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Fees Collected for Preparation of the Route through the Khumbu Icefall. Much of the work of making the route through the Khumbu Icefall was performed by the Sherpas employed by Mrs. Pasang Lhamu Sherpa and a Spanish expedition. For their work in the icefall and for the ladders and other equipment they supplied to do it, these Sherpas demanded from other expeditions to Everest and Lhotse some payment in cash or in kind, preferably \$300 per foreign climber using the route. This was not the first time that those who had established the route had asked for contributions from others, and as long as permits are granted to a number of teams to climb this route at the same time, it is likely not to be the last. According to German Hans Eitel, four or five Sherpas were posted at the beginning of the route to stop those from using it if they had not paid. "This situation is not good for climbing," he commented angrily later; he said that he gave \$1,700 and 1000 meters of climbing rope. He was not the only person to object. The Russians, who were on a very tight budget, refused to pay and made their own Icefall route, which was dangerously close to avalanche-prone slopes. According to a Sherpa involved in making the general route, the Russians went their own way several times and then switched to the normal, safer route, wrapping their faces so that no one could tell whether they were people who had paid or not.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest. Our expedition was composed of former Soviets Vladimir Balyberdin, leader, Anatoli Bukreev, Gennady Kopieka, Roman Giutashvili, Vladimir Gorbunov, Aleksei Klimin, Yelena Kunshova and Americans Kevin Cooney, Greg Smith and me. I belatedly joined the group in Base Camp on September 21 after negotiations in Kathmandu as a late addition. By September 23, we established a new Khumbu Icefall route because we were unwilling to pay \$300 per person to the Nepalese-French expedition for use of fixed lines and ladders. The "Russian route" was wiped out by a massive avalanche from the Lho La at

6:15 A.M. on the 30th. Balyberdin and Bukreev attained the summit without supplementary oxygen on October 7, while Cooney turned back at the Hillary Step. Giutashvili, 54-years-old, and I summited with oxygen on October 10 at 5:20 P.M. On the descent, Giutashvili collapsed in blowing snow and darkness at 8:05 P.M. I dug a snow hole for him, left the remaining oxygen and stumbled to the South Col, where I had seen a light. After four hours and several forays, Kopeika and Klimin, who had been waiting out the storm, managed to locate Giutashvili and carry him back to the col uninjured. Upon return to Kathmandu, Giutashvili announced that he had had the use of only one lung since the age of 10. Bukreev and Balyberdin had as their goal the establishment of a new Everest record by ascending the 3500 vertical meters to the summit from Base Camp and returning in less than 24 hours. They wanted to break the French climber Marc Batard's record of 22 hours and 29 minutes. After their summit climb, Bukreev set out on October 12 at five P.M., climbed through the night and managed to reach 8300 meters at eight A.M. before terrible winds forced him to retreat. He was safely back in Base Camp 24 hours after he had left it. Balyberdin took 17 hours on October 17 to cover the same distance. When he left Base Camp alone at six A.M., he actually intended only to go part way up and bring down a tent and other gear, but when he saw how fine the weather was, he kept on going. He was climbing without crampons which he thought he would not need when he set out. When he reached 8300 meters at eleven P.M., he found it impossible to go higher on the very hard snow and in gusting winds without crampons. He stopped and spent the night in a thin sleeping bag and a thin down jacket. At daylight, he descended, safe and well—with no frostbite!

DANIEL MAZUR

Everest and Examples of Self-Sacrifice. A Spanish expedition led by Juan Carlos Gómez successfully completed the ascent of Everest on October 6 when José Antonio Garcés, Francisco José Pérez and Rafael Vidaurre reached the summit from the South Col. Gómez stated that he was clearly bemused by the French group led by Denis Pivot, which he described as not really a team but a collection of individuals, each doing his own thing. Although he did not explicitly say so, he clearly has a different philosophy and his party closely supported each other. An Australian climber commented with some amazement how one Spaniard, Lorenzo Ortas, carried two oxygen bottles to 8500 meters where he deposited them, not for his own use but for that of his teammates to enable them and not him to reach the summit. The leader Gómez did not quite reach the top because when he was on the Hillary Step, he met Vidaurre, who was beginning his descent but was now nearly blind because of sun and wind blowing into his eyes. Vidaurre was weeping in his distress and begged Gómez to help him down. Gómez did not tell him to wait for a bit while he went to the nearby summit but immediately abandoned his summit bid and helped his friend descend without any accident.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY