

also endowed with such tremendous courage, will ever be remembered." The King sent his own condolences. A street is to be named for her in Kathmandu, a city where most streets have no names. A Pasang Lhamu Mountaineering Institute has been established. Postage stamps with her picture are to be issued. A memorial to her is to be erected in Namche Bazar. The government of Nepal is giving the equivalent of \$10,000, a huge sum in Nepal, for the education of her children. One of the highest awards at the King's disposal, the Star of Nepal, has been conferred on her posthumously.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest Post-Monsoon Ascents and Tragedy and Lhotse.* Aside from the Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition described below, two other groups climbed Everest. A French military expedition of nine led by Alain Estève climbed the South Col route. On October 6, François Bernard, Antoine Cayrol, Eric Gramond and Sherpas Gyalbu and Dawa Tashi reached the top, followed on the 9th by Estève, Hubert Giot and Sherpas Nuru and Gombu. On October 4, Gerard Vionnet-Fuasset and Nuru Sherpa ascended Lhotse by the normal route on the west face. Eight Spanish Basques were on the South Pillar route. On October 7, leader Juan Oiarzabal and Ongda Chhiring Sherpa completed the ascent. Tragically, one member of this party, Antonio Miranda, died in a fall on October 7.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest, Age Record and Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition.* Our international post-monsoon Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition via the South Col was led by Britons Stephen Bell assisted by Roger Mear and Martin Barnicott. On October 7, Britons Bell, Ginette Harrison, Graham Hoyland, Scott McIver, Spaniard Ramón Blanco, who lives in Venezuela, Sherpas Na Temba, Pasang Kami and Dorje, and I from the United States reached the summit, followed on October 9 by Britons Barnicott, David Hempleman-Adams, American Lee Nobbman and Sherpas Tenzing, Nga Temba, Lhakpa Gelu and Ang Pasang. Ginette Harrison was the second British woman to climb Everest and Ramón Blanco at 60 years of age became the oldest person to stand on the summit. He was five years older than American Dick Bass had been when in 1985 he had set the age record. We had originally planned to attempt the summit as a single team, but an enormous avalanche on the Lhotse Face wiped Camp III at 24,000 feet off the mountain. The loss of tents and gear necessitated dividing the group for two attempts.

GARY PFISTERER

*Additional Information on Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition.* Sixty-year-old Ramón Blanco had a brush with death during the descent when his supply of

oxygen ran out as he was coming down the Hillary Step, not far below the summit. He passed out and was saved by the Spanish Basque team, who supplied him with some of their oxygen—and while reviving him, deprived one of their own members, a potential summitter, from making use of it. Blanco was helped to reach his expedition's highest camp after nightfall. He managed to descend off the mountain safely, but eight days later, I saw him in his comfortable Kathmandu hotel, still a rather tired man. The Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition was punished by the Nepalese authorities for being too successful and sending too many members to the summit. Under the new rules, not only did the peak fee go up, but the total number of foreign members permitted went down, with a maximum of seven allowed. Actually Stephen Bell's commercial, guided expedition had eleven clients and three guides, as well as 14 high-altitude Sherpas (and the unusually large total of 59 bottles of artificial oxygen, for all of which supplies and services each client paid \$32,000). Bell thought he had a way to make it possible to take 14 members to Everest at a reasonable cost. He divided them into two teams with one holding a permit for Everest with a fee of \$70,000 and the other allowed to climb Lhotse for just \$9600. He says he understood from middle-level officials in the Tourism Ministry in Kathmandu that it would be all right for those on the Lhotse list to go to the summit of Everest provided he paid the extra fee of \$10,000 for each summitter afterwards. Four of his Lhotse team went to the summit of Everest. The tourism officials deny that they had agreed to let anyone from the Lhotse list go to Everest and stated that four climbers had not confined themselves to their permitted peak but had "climbed Everest without permission," an act subject to punishment. The fine was set at \$100,000. Himalayan Kingdoms is appealing the severity of this fine on what Bell describes as an "enormous misunderstanding."

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest, Southwest Face in Winter.* The southwest face of Everest, very seldom successfully scaled in any season, saw its first ascent in wintertime by a small but highly experienced team of seven Japanese aided by 28 strong Sherpas in the unusually short climbing period of only three weeks. In the Japanese leadership were three Himalayan veterans: Kuniaki Yagihara, leader, who stayed at Base Camp throughout the climb (Everest teams on the Nepalese side are now allowed only seven foreign members, so he was at Base Camp with just a trekking permit), plus deputy leader Yoshio Ogata and climbing leader Hideji Nazuka. The seven Everest climbing members, plus Yagihara, five more compatriots and five of their Sherpa, climbed Cho Oyu in the autumn, which gave them good acclimatization. Their use of artificial oxygen when they went to the summit minimized the likelihood of frostbite. They then spent three weeks resting in Kathmandu and lowland Nepal before returning to the high mountains. When the Japanese arrived at Base Camp on November 21, two of their Cho Oyu teammates had already established the camp and supervised the arrival of 13 tons