

*Khumbu Clean-Up by the Evergreen State College.* As part of its innovative curriculum, Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington, trained 18 students last spring in Nepali language and culture and sent them to Nepal for eleven months of individual study and research. The students were assisted in their studies by faculty member David Peterson, M.D. (Everest '71 and Dhaulagiri '73) and his wife Kathy. Individual projects range from comparative linguistics and ethnomusicology to folk tales and ornithology. Steve Valadez, Martha Stoddard, Rick Henderson, Don Weedon and Laurie Woodall joined Nick Langton on the action phase of his Khumbu clean-up project. After trekking in from Dharan, up the Arun and across the ranges of the upper Khumbu in 28 days, they joined their Sherpa team and spent three weeks on garbage patrol at Thyangboche and beyond. Nick Langton writes: "The clean-up was a success. We cleaned and built dump sites (huge holes) at Thyangboche, Pheriche, Lobuje and Gorak Shep. Base Camp was beyond our scope, but we managed to remove 1000 to 1500 pounds of trash, purely token. This Base Camp trash had to be carried down since at Base there was no ground soft enough to dig." It is hoped that this good work will be carried forward by future Khumbu trekkers.

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*Chinese Ascent of Mount Everest.* This expedition was made up of numerous Chinese and Tibetans. They arrived at the Rongbuk Monastery on March 13 near which they established Base Camp. Yaks were used up to 18,000 feet. Camp I was at 18,000 feet, Camp II at 19,700 feet and Camp III at 21,325 feet, at the foot of the North Col. The climb to the top of the col at 23,000 feet had changed a great deal and become more difficult than in 1960. Camp IV was eventually placed on the col. Camp V was established at 25,000 feet on April 27 but storms prevented further advance. On May 4 and 5, seven women and 33 men reached 26,900 feet, where Camp VI was placed. Three women and 17 men went on to 28,225 feet, where Camp VII was established but again storms prevented any advance. They descended to Base Camp. After a favorable weather report, they returned, raising Camp VI 300 feet and Camp VII 200 feet. An assault team of three women and 15 men, led by Tibetan Sodnam Norbu and the Tibetan mother-of-three, 37-year-old deputy leader Phantog, moved up on May 25. Two women and seven men were exhausted and had to withdraw. Sodnam Norbu, Darphuntso, Kunga Pasang and Tsering Tobgyal, all Tibetans, were to try for the summit on May 26; Phantog, Lotse, Samdrub, Ngopo Khyen, Tibetans, and Hou Sheng-fu, Han Chinese, were to follow the next day, but stormy weather changed their plans. The first group prepared the route over the Second Step, while the second group moved up to join them at Camp VII. On the 27th they all moved upwards. They were

at the top of the Second Step by 9:30. Above there it was hard but steady work until they were some 200 feet below the top; perpendicular ice forced them to a 100-foot detour. They then climbed a rock step and finally reached the summit at 2:30 P.M. Peking time (12:30 local time). There can be no doubt about this ascent of the Chinese. They mounted a 10-foot-high, red survey pole, which was found by Dougal Haston and Doug Scott four months later; it was more deeply banked by snow and the red paint had been etched away by the wind.

*Pumori, Southwest Ridge.* Our expedition was composed of Philippe and Marie Odile Bernardin, Alain Boissy, Jean Clemenson, Philippe de Nuncques, Alain Robert, Gérard Siguèle, my wife Claudine and me as leader. The southwest ridge route, which compares to the Innominata route on Mont Blanc on its rock and mixed parts and to the north face of Les Courtes on its ice, was opened by the Japanese in 1974. We left Lukla on March 27 and set up Base Camp on April 3 at 17,550 feet on the moraine below Pumori. On the 6th, after climbing the moraine, we fixed ropes up an S-shaped snow couloir of 45° which led to vast snow slopes, and looked for a site for Camp I. After several days of ferrying, we established Camp I on April 11 under an overhang at 19,700 feet on the right side of a very steep couloir, 650 feet below the ridge crest. Complicated by bad weather, twelve days were needed before installing Camp II on April 23 at 21,325 feet. The first part of this section followed an almost horizontal snow-ridge traverse for 1300 feet before we gained the rock steps which constituted the continuation of the route; we then climbed a 650-foot rock wall above which a snow slope led to a tiny platform at its top, where we could pitch a single tent as Camp II. It took five days of route-preparation to establish Camp III on April 28 in a crevasse at 22,150 feet. In this section we climbed a snow wall and a rock step to gain the steep snow of the north face in order to get onto the ridge. On April 28 Claudine, de Nuncques, sirdar Mingma Tsering and I left Base Camp for the final assault. On April 30 Claudine and I left Camp II at two A.M. while de Nuncques and the sirdar left Camp III at four. Above Camp III we all climbed two difficult rock steps to gain a lacy ridge of bad snow which ended in a 1000-foot, 60° to 65° triangle of hard snow which led to the crest of the snow ridge of the south face. Finally gentler slopes led to the summit, which we reached at 1:30 P.M. While descending on May 1 between Camps II and I we met Philippe Bernardin and the Sherpa Ang Kami on the way to Camp II; they hoped to climb to the summit the next day. On May 2 we last saw the pair when at 1:30 about 500 feet from the top they were hidden by clouds. On the 3rd we searched in vain for them with strong field glasses. At four P.M. Clemenson and de Nuncques set out for Namche Bazar to request a helicopter search