

at 21,650 and 23,000 feet. They reached 24,125 feet on April 21 but quit because of snowfall, wind and exhausted food supplies. They brought too little money and bought insufficient food in Nepal because of a shortage of funds.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Ama Dablam, Winter Attempt.* Our expedition sought to make an alpine-style winter ascent of Ama Dablam. We were Kurt Krueger, Steve Risse, Steve Jorgenson, Dan Murphy and me with Mark Knaebe as Base Camp manager. After troubles recruiting enough porters for the approach, we finally on December 3 established Base Camp at 15,800 feet. Relatively easy ground led to Camp I at 19,000 feet on the south ridge. Without Sherpa support, each team member had to make several carries before Camp I was occupied on December 9. Unexpectedly Murphy left the expedition on the 11th. Above Camp I interesting and varied rock climbing up to 5.7 along the ridge led to Camp II, established on top of the Red Tower at 19,700 feet on December 15. A mixture of rock (up to 5.8) and snow (50° to 60°) took us to Camp III at 20,700 feet. On December 22, Camp III was made on a snow plateau near the base of the summit pyramid, but because of high winds it was moved the next day 200 feet lower. The first summit bid was made on December 24 by Risse, Jorgenson, Krueger and me. Low temperatures and high winds made the 60° snow climbing miserably exciting. We continued to 21,500 feet before retreating to Camp III. Krueger and I made a second summit try on December 26 but were again turned back by cold and high winds.

ROBERT SIEGRIST, *Wisconsin Hoofers*

*Kwangde, North Face Winter Ascent.* From November 28 to December 3 David Breashears and I made the first ascent of the north face of Kwangde (6194 meters, 20,323 feet) above the village of Hungo. The face is 4500 feet high and comprised of tongues and smears of thin white ice over boiler-plate granite slabs. The average angle (taken from the Schneider map) is 65°, exceptionally steep for an ice route. In the morning we'd peek out of our Bat tents to see the sun rise over Makalu's pink granite. During the day we could trace the trade route over the Nangpa La into Tibet. In the afternoon fingers of clouds crept up the valleys toward Cho Oyu, Everest and Lhotse. Supper was accompanied by alpine glow on the tip of Ama Dablam. We spent the fourth night hacking a cave from hard ice of an old cornice just below the summit. Inside the coffin-sized hole, we wondered if the wind would rip our home off the mountain, but we arrived on the summit early the next morning, convinced that we had completed what will become a hard modern classic climb. We descended in two days via the south face, over a notch in the southeast ridge, down its east face and finally around the toe of the northeast ridge to Hungo.