

and bivouacked at 20,500 feet, above Camp II. On December 18 he left the bivouac at 7:15 and reached the summit via the southwest face at 2:15 P.M. He bivouacked on the descent and returned to Base Camp on the 19th. No further attempts were made.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Bhrikuti Unclimbed?* After considerable effort, the Austrian Himalayan Society got permission to enter the restricted Mustang area to attempt Bhrikuti, the highest of the Damodar Himal. (See *A.A.J.*, 1983, page 246 for details.) Since it was said to be an unclimbed peak, they were amazed to hear that a Japanese-Nepalese expedition had just climbed the peak in the pre-monsoon period. (See *A.A.J.*, 1983, page 245.) Rudolf Weber of the Austrian expedition has sent me a report parts of which I summarize here: "After our ascents, for which we actually did not have permission, our liaison officer certified that we had climbed Bhrikuti. That caused false press reports. We were also able to establish that the Japanese-Nepalese expedition in the spring, like ours, did not reach the summit of Bhrikuti but was certified by their liaison officer to have done so. The Japanese Base Camp was 100 meters below our camp. Following a ridge, the Japanese reached only a very much lower subsidiary summit, 'Japan Peak.' I feel that the report that on May 18, 19 and 21, 1982 eight Japanese and two Nepalese reached the summit of Bhrikuti requires correction."

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Annapurna II Tragedy.* Klaus and Jochen Schlamberger, Hans Gsellmann and I tried to climb Annapurna II by the north face and northwest ridge of Annapurna IV. We were at Base Camp at 15,100 feet on April 11 but were held there by bad weather until April 20. In the next ten days we were able to set up a camp at 18,700 feet, a snow cave at 21,000 feet and a tent at 23,000 feet. We did much of this on skis. Bad weather forced us back to Base Camp. On May 4 Klaus Schlamberger and I climbed the 6000 feet back to the snow cave for a bivouac. The next morning we got to Camp III and after a short rest climbed on toward the ridge that connects Annapurna IV and II. On the exposed northwest ridge of Annapurna IV we were surprised in what had been fine weather by sudden violent wind squalls. We were both skiing on the very steep slopes of the ridge. I ascended into a hollow 100 meters ahead of Klaus and waited for him just below the connecting ridge at 24,450 feet. The storm grew more violent and as Klaus did not turn up in 20 minutes, I left my skis and descended to look for him. It suddenly clouded in and reduced visibility to a few meters. I shouted and moved about. Hoping to find him in Camp III, I descended. I was lucky to find the camp, but he was not there. At dawn I renewed my search in fine but cold weather and climbed to where I had last seen him. From there I went straight down the 35° slope. I found his pack 1250 feet lower. His lifeless body was some 650 feet lower still. Gsellman and Klaus' brother Jochen were ascending from