

had been a guide for 24 years and knew how to use his axe. At a lower altitude, he would doubtless have self-arrested. We were all back in Base Camp on September 28 and left on the 30th.

R.D. CAUGHRON

*Dhaulagiri Winter Attempt.* Swiss Franco Dellatorre proposed to make a solo winter attempt on Dhaulagiri's normal northeast ridge. He assumed he would be able to make use of the fixed ropes of the teams that had summited in October, but scanning the ridge from Base Camp, he determined that he would need to fix about 400 meters of new rope because most of the autumn ropes were either not visible or now hopelessly off the route. He sent a message to his trekking agent in Kathmandu to provide him quickly with rope. In the meantime, he climbed alone to 6500 meters to acclimatize. On the descent to base, he found no rope had arrived. He waited another day and still no rope arrived and so he abandoned his climb, presuming the message had not reached Kathmandu. However, when he got to the nearest village, Marpha, he found there his liaison officer—and his rope. A very angry Dellatorre claims that the liaison officer told the man who had brought the rope from Kathmandu that the rope would not be needed since the Swiss climber would be back in Marpha en route to Kathmandu on December 10, which happened to be the very day that Dellatorre actually reached his highest point before descending to Base Camp to pick up his rope.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

## India—Garhwal

*Nanda Devi East.* Because of the closure of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, the only access to Nanda Devi East is from outside the sanctuary. There were four expeditions to the mountain. *Britons* Julie-Ann Clyma and her husband Roger Payne hoped to climb a new, difficult route on the northeast ridge. After a long time in the area and much bad weather, they climbed the south ridge alpine-style, reaching the top (7434 meters, 24,390 feet) on October 6. They gave a disturbing report on rubbish at Base Camp which had been left there since 1993. The route on the mountain is littered with rope. [See below.] *Spanish Catalans* led by Ferràn García on June 27 completed the seventh ascent of the first-ascent route via Longstaff's Col. [See below.] *Spanish Basques* led by Montxo López de Ipiña got to 6900 meters on the same route, finding the weather too cold and windy. Their high point was reached on October 4. *Indo-Americans* led by Krishnan Kutty and Tom Ball failed to climb the mountain, withdrawing in mid September.

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