

*Annapurna I Attempt.* Jean-Christophe Lafaille went back to the south face of Annapurna I where he had been with Pierre Beghin three years ago when Beghin fell to his death and Lafaille had an extremely difficult descent alone. Now he was on the Bonington Route, to the left of the line he and Beghin had been attempting, and he was trying to make the first truly solo ascent of the mountain from his first camp at 6200 meters to the 8091-meter summit. There was no one else anywhere on Annapurna I except his small film team at Camp 1. Though he had trained very hard and planned thoroughly for this climb, he was unlucky with the weather. Fresh waist-deep snow on the mountain and new snow and clouds every afternoon when he was ready to make his dash for the summit defeated his summit bid after he had already reached 7600 meters. He believed that at that point he had already surmounted all the difficulties. "I'm angry I stop at 7600 meters, but it's a game," he said. "It's a very nice route, not very dangerous, an interesting route."

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Singuchuli, East Face.* Until our visit, the east face of Singuchuli remained unclimbed. The face is 1450 meters high with an average angle of approximately 65°, and characterized by narrow couloirs, especially in upper part of the face. Over the east face hang huge seracs. We set up basecamp at approximately 4250 meters on the right moraine of West Annapurna Glacier. Ziga Petric and I started the ascent on October 6 at 9 p.m. from the tent we had on the glacier (5000 meters). At 9:30 p.m. we started to climb the east face (5050 meters). We proceeded straight into the real face and climbed continuously during the night until 6:30 a.m. on October 7. The face became steeper and steeper (70°), and the last three pitches we belayed. The climbing was mostly mixed, 80° ice and grade IV rock. We rested and cooked until 11:30 a.m. and then proceeded to climb. The last three pitches were the hardest: mixed climbing with some pure rock passages (90°) and a very unstable ridge. We climbed in pure alpine-style. All together we belayed just six pitches; the rest we soloed. We were on the top of Singuchuli (6501 meters) at 3 p.m., waited half an hour for pictures and at 3:30 p.m. started the descent. We rappelled the line of ascent. We rappelled three-quarters of the face and the last quarter we climbed down freely. At 8:30 p.m. we were at our tent on the glacier. The next day, October 8, we descended to basecamp. We named the route *Erun's Route* and graded it VI+ 90°.

BOJAN POCKAR, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Dorje Lhakpa, Winter Attempt and Tragedy.* Americans Andy Selters, Kurt Schmierer and Greg Collum and one German attempted the unclimbed