

*Gasherbrum II.* Charlotte Fox became the first American woman to climb Gasherbrum II, summiting in August via the southwest ridge with a team of three Norwegians (the first Norwegians up the mountain) and one Ukrainian (the first from his nation up the peak).

CAMERON BURNS

*Gasherbrum II Attempts.* Five Austrians led by Helmut Gaubmann failed at 7400 meters when Norbert Fischbacher contracted cerebral edema. He was evacuated in a delicate operation with the help of the Swiss expedition that had been cooperating with them. A German IMC commercial group was formed by an Austrian couple and a young German, led by Mexican Hector Ponce de Leon. They failed at around 6500 meters.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Gasherbrum IV, West Face Solo Attempt and Tragedy.* Slavko Sveticic died while attempting to climb solo the west face of Gasherbrum IV (7925 meters). We were: Slavko Sveticic, Milan Zver, Jurij Oblak, Pakistani liaison officer Capt. Mohamad Umar, cook Nazir and me. On May 28, we started from Tongal (near Askole) with 52 porters and arrived at Base Camp on Gasherbrum IV Glacier below the west face on June 3. In BC (4800 meters) we met the Korean Gasherbrum IV Expedition led by Mr. Cho Sung Dae who accepted us with friendliness and warmth and gave us full support during the whole expedition. The next day Slavko started with his first acclimatization climb. He planned to acclimatize on the west ridge of Gasherbrum IV and then start his solo climb on the west face. On June 5, we established Camp 1 in Hidden Cwm (5500 meters) below the west face and on June 7, Slavko reached 6600 meters on the west ridge and returned to BC to rest. He started his third acclimatization climb on June 9 and on June 10 reached 6900 meters on the west ridge, spending the night in winds on the ridge. In the next days the weather was bad. We waited in BC with Slavko, who decided to start his solo climb with the first day of good weather. On June 15 we left BC and climbed together with Slavko to Camp 1. The weather was fine and next day on June 16 Slavko started his climb direct from the Hidden Cwm up a very steep couloir, in which he found pitons up to about 6200 meters. On the first day he reached about 6500 meters and bivouacked. The weather was clear and we could follow his climb with a telescope. The next day he climbed to 7100 meters. On the last part we could not see him; clouds covered the upper part of the mountain. In the evening he reported he