

ity and sculpting of ice. Two further days of climbing saw us on the summit (6259 meters) at 4:30 p.m. on August 13 (the same day as the K2 tragedy) in a terrible wind. Three hours were required to rappel 18 pitches to the shoulder camp. On the rappels I began to feel odd and on arrival at the shoulder my lungs began to gurgle. After a bad night I felt worse, gurgling more. It was pulmonary edema in an acclimatized person, descending. The remaining rappels were very difficult for me but we had help from the Women's Expedition in getting our equipment and fixed rope down.

After a few days at Base Camp my lungs recovered enough for us to beat a hasty descent to Skardu. Wainwright and Pritchard, along with three of the British Women's Expedition, were subsequently barred from Pakistan for four years for diverging from regulations. Wainwright and the three women left Base Camp four days early to get home for work commitments. Pritchard broke no rules but was barred as leader. It is very common for some of the team to leave early and it does not usually end so.

PAUL PRITCHARD, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Trango Nameless Tower, Slovene Route.* It was reported that the Spanish team of Txuma Ruiz and Julián Beraza repeated the Slovene Route. Further details are lacking.

*Trango Nameless Tower, Slovene Route Attempt.* Celia Bull, Donna Claridge, Kate Phillips, and "Grandma" Geraldine Westrupp attempted to make an all-women ascent of the Nameless Tower. We arrived at the Dunge Glacier Base Camp (4200 meters) on July 9. From July 10-24 the team established two camps on the Dunge Glacier side of Trango Tower. Camp 1 (4600 meters) was established on a relatively safe grassy spur at the head of an unstable rock gully. We established Camp 2 (5100 meters) on a glaciated couloir. This couloir was constantly threatened by rock and serac fall so all load carrying was restricted to nighttime and the early hours of the morning. Poor weather prevented the team from pushing on up to the snow ledge (our shoulder camp at 5500 meters). The dangerous conditions on the Dunge side made us revise our plan and we cleared Camp 1 and carried loads round to the Trango Glacier. We climbed to the shoulder on August 3. Gerry and Kate waited on the shoulder for good weather to descend and retrieve our equipment from Camp 2 on the Dunge side. Meanwhile Donna and Celia carried the remaining equipment up to the shoulder from the Trango Glacier Base Camp. Unfortunately the weather did not become good in time and we were forced to decide between one day of climbing on the route or getting our gear back out and home. The gear won and Gerry and Kate cleared the Dunge side while Donna and Celia cleared from Trango Glacier. Due to

work commitments and porters not arriving as expected, Donna, Gerry and Kate had to head home, leaving Celia to wait for the arrival of the porters. They were a week late. As a result we were banned for four years.

CELIA BULL, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Trango Nameless Tower, Free Ascent.* On September 7, an all-Wyoming Team topped out on the summit of the Nameless Tower (20,500'). The team members Todd Skinner, Mike Lilygren, Jeff Bechtel and Bobby Model spent 60 nights on the wall in order to free climb each pitch. The group climbed to the shoulder via the Slovenian Route, then climbed a variation into the Swiss-Polish route. The route was first aided for reconnaissance and to clean some cracks so they would be free climbable. Lines were fixed from a couple of pitches below the summit to the glacier. Team members freed individual pitches while others went on recon missions higher up. Some pitches were projects worked on individually. At least one person on the team free climbed each pitch. The team named the free version of the route *The Cowboy Direct* (VII 5.13a).

We started from basecamp on the Trango glacier in mid-July, after Steve Bechtel returned home due to illness. His position on the team was later filled by his younger brother Jeff, who was brought along only to manage Base Camp. Jeff had climbed only a few times before. With the help of a porter, the group ferried gear to the base of the tower and began climbing. The ascent was prolonged by both the difficult free climbing, and several week-long storms that pinned them on the wall. The team spent 75 percent of the time camped at the shoulder and the other 25 percent camped in portaledge at the "Pyramids" at two-thirds height. The top third of the tower yielded some of the greatest climbing known to man. The "Fantastic Crack" split through the top third of the tower as if it had been cut by a laser. Overall, the climbing consisted of numerous pitches of 5.11 and 5.12, and one pitch of 5.13. Bolts were added at belays and at sections of blank wall. The nature of the climbing, however, required very few bolts. Food poisoning and edema nearly wiped out Skinner and Model; each of the members lost at least 20 pounds. The team's permit was extended four times by liaison officer Maj. Adnan Hafeez. (*See topo on following page.*)

ROBERT MODEL, *unaffiliated*

*Skilbrum Attempt.* The only known climb of Skilbrum (7360 meters) was made in 1957 by Marcus Smuck and Fritz Wintersteller, during the famous expedition of Hermann Buhl and Kurt Diemberger to Broad Peak.