

*Nanga Parbat, Various Attempts.* Three Italians led by Oscar Piazza failed at 6800 meters on the Kinshofer Route. Three Canadians (who got their permit from Americans who had canceled their expedition) are reported to have failed on the Kinshofer Route. Japanese led by Tadakiyo Sakahara (Diamir flank) failed at 6800 meters. There was no news regarding a Japanese expedition led by Khиро Hasada on the Diamir flank.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Haramosh II, First Ascent and Tragedy.* Our trip was run in as light-weight style as possible. The cost was initially estimated by a remarkably simple calculation: "Nunn's Law," which states that the net cost per head of any expedition is about "a thousand quid." Of course, bigger and more distant objectives are more expensive, but Nunn's Law recognizes that the scope for external funding is also greater, thus leaving the net cost roughly constant. If a trip costs significantly more, then there's something wrong with its objective, style or planning.

We had decided to approach our mountain via the Chogo Lungma glacier. After ten days in ABC waiting out bad weather, it was time to do some climbing. After an initial reconnaissance, Brian Davison, Colin Wells and Dave Wilkinson began climbing, followed by Paul Nunn and Geoff Tier, and reached the crest of the middle part of our spur. An easy snow ridge then led to level ground where we made our Camp 1. We had climbed 1000 meters with full loads. Before Paul and Geoff joined us, it had closed in, and it snowed for the next 24 hours. After our enforced rest day, we decide to blitz it to the top and back in one day. We left camp at midnight in the same teams of three and two. We had seen nothing fall in all our scrutiny. The big snow dump of the previous fortnight was only part settled, and gave us a few worrying moments. A corniced ridge led to a flat place. Across this a snowy bump with a sharp-ridged top was the summit, which we reached at about 10 a.m. Creeping cold encouraged us downward. After 20 minutes, we met Geoff and Paul on the upward trudge, and stopped for a brief chat. The team of three got back to Camp 1 at about 3 p.m. Soon the others appeared below the skyline following our tracks. They will have reached the top about mid-day. The snow was softening in the sun, and they climbed down slowly but surely. They were out of sight below the bump in the ridge above us, but we could hear their voices. A brew was put on for them. Then we heard the crash of a detaching serac fall. At first it seemed a routine matter on this serac-swept mountain, but Brian popped his head out of the tent in time to see it fall. When the noise died away, the silence was ominous. In mounting worry,

we put our boots on, grabbed axes, and staggered up the bump in the ridge to where we could see. No sign of them. Instead the slope was covered in a mass of car-sized blocks of ice, with a line of footprints above and below. Their fate was clear. The light faded as we stood in dumb witness to this icy grave of our friends. If mountaineers must die in action, this wild spot would be a fitting place for burial. The three survivors were then trapped at the camp by two further days of snowfall before they were able to return to Base Camp.

DAVE WILKINSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*P 6400 and P 5900 Ascents, and Bublimotin Attempt.* Americans Lois Remington, Tim Dolan, Doug Lubes, and Scott Burch, after receiving permission from Pakistani authorities in Gilgit, established Base Camp at 3950 meters under P 6400 in the Chapchingal group south of Kunjerab Pass. After two high camps, all four climbed on unconsolidated snow and 60° ice to reach the summit on October 31, 1994, via the southwest ridge. They descended via the south face. The next day, Burch climbed Peak 5900 via its southeast ridge. Remington and Burch returned to Hunza in mid-November to climb Bublimotin from the Hasanabad Glacier. They were unsuccessful due to much new snow and dangerous avalanche conditions.

SCOTT BURCH, *unaffiliated*

*Istoronal, Southwest Ridge.* Reinhold Stauber led a nine-member Austrian expedition on the second ascent of Istoronal (7403 meters) via the southwest ridge, reaching the summit on July 19 at 10:15 a.m. The team experienced mixed climbing with the crux between Camp 1 (5400 meters) and Camp 2 (6400 meters) where fixed ropes were used due to loose rocks. The rest was mixed (55°). The expedition made Base Camp at 4500 meters, Camp 1 at 5400 meters, Camp 2 at 6200 meters, and Camp 3 at 7000 meters. Other members were Dr. Haymo Uhl, Hans Matweber, Guenther Pischelsberger, Karl Tortschanoff, Alois Stueckler and Mrs. Gudrun Stauber.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

*Tirich Mir, Ascents and Tragedy.* On June 14 the three Japanese members of the "Barbarian Club Tirich Mir Expedition" led by Ayumi Nozawai arrived at Base Camp (4800 meters). Despite an initial period of unsettled weather they climbed in a lightweight semi-alpine style, establishing caches of food and equipment at 5500 meters, 6200 meters and 6600 meters before