

*Mount Everest, South Col Clean-up.* A pre-monsoon cleanup effort by 15 Sherpas, headed by Sonam Gyaltsen and organized by the Nepal Mountaineering Association and the Nepalese government, carried away 1800 kilos of rubbish discarded by hundreds of mountaineers from the South Col and lower camps. The trash, which was brought to Kathmandu by helicopter, included oxygen cylinders, food cans, tent poles, broken ladders and plastic bags, plus a piece of an Italian Air Force helicopter that crash-landed between Camps I and II in 1973. They estimated that at least 15,000 kilos of trash remain to be taken off of the Nepalese side of the mountain. (No one is known to have calculated the amount of rubbish that is strewn about the Base Camp area and up and down the mountainside in Tibet.)

The Sherpa team also removed from near Camp II and cremated below Base Camp the several-years-old body of an unidentified man which they found in a sleeping bag wrapped in plastic. The president of the mountaineering association said "Our cleaning campaign next year will concentrate on removing other bodies."

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Mount Everest, Attempted Ski Descent.* A six-member Slovenian expedition under the leadership of Viki Groselj attempted an ascent of Everest via the Messner route with the goal of skiing from the summit. Davo Karnicar was the designated skier. The other members were Stane Klemenc, Damjan Mesko (doctor), Tone Skarja and Croatian Stipe Bozic. The team also had seven Sherpas.

On April 28 we reached Base Camp at 6450 meters. On April 30 we put up our camp on the north ridge at 7050 meters. On May 8 our camp was pitched at 7800 meters on the snowfield below the Great Couloir. On May 9 Davo Karnicar reached a place in the Great Couloir where we were supposed to set up our last camp at 8200 meters. Unfortunately, although he used oxygen, he got bad chilblains on his hands during his ascent. He descended to Base Camp on the same day, but his chilblains were so bad we had to give up the idea of repeating the ascent. Since he as extreme skier was the key personality of the expedition, we decided to end it.

On May 16 we left Base Camp and on June 4 returned to Slovenia. Karnicar lost two fingers, but plans to return in 1997. His best achievement so far is the first ski descent of Annapurna I with his brother Drejc in 1995.

VIKI GROSELJ, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Mount Everest, Tenth Ascent by an Individual.* I started my career as a mountaineer about 15 years ago, spending most of the season holding an ice ax and rope, crawling on the snow and making way for climbers to get to the summits of peaks. In 1980 I first climbed Dhaulagiri (8167 m) with a Spanish team. I scaled Mount Everest for the first time with an American team in 1983. I have climbed Cho Oyu (8201 m), Kangchenjunga (8594 m), Makalu (8406 m) and other major Himalayan mountains in Nepal and Tibet.

On May 23, with a Swedish team, I became fortunate enough to set the world record of 10 times on Everest's summit without ever having used bottled oxygen. What I have earned is the wealth of experience in mountaineering which I would be very delighted to share with the mountaineers of the world.

ANG RITA SHERPA, *Nepal*

*Mount Everest, Avalanche and Tragedy.* On September 21 an avalanche of snow and ice fell