

meters, a jumping-off point for an alpine-style push for the summit.

That night we were full of optimism, but the following day, the weather seemed unsettled once again. We decided to return to base camp for a couple of days' rest while we waited for the weather to settle and then make our bid for the summit.

It wasn't to be. On the night of May 19, half a meter of snow fell at base camp. Much more must have fallen on the face. It snowed off and on for the next ten days with the mountain almost continually hidden in cloud. We were prepared to extend the expedition but there was no sign of an improvement in the weather and in the end we were very lucky to have a single clear day to rescue the equipment we had left at Camp II. We started our descent from base camp in a violent blizzard the following day.

Although the continuous bad weather had been frustrating, the area is so beautiful, our neighbors, whom we got to know well, so kind, and the team itself such a well-balanced one, none of us felt depressed as we walked back down to the road head. We were already planning our return in 1998.

SIR CHRISTIAN BONINGTON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Shishapangma, Attempt.* The main goal of the Slovenian Shishapangma 1997 autumn expedition was to climb the British route on the Shishapangma's southwest face. Besides that, we planned an alpine style ascent and a ski descent from the top across the British route. After two nice weeks when we put up the first and the second high camps on the British route, a period of bad weather forced us to give up on an alpine-style climb. The highest point, at about 7200 meters, was achieved by Blač Navranik, Mira Zori and Sandi Vaupoti. They were just about to put up the third high camp when the sudden snowstorm forced them to descend to the lower camps. In the following days, when there was no end to bad weather, we finished the expedition, and the last members left base camp on October 15.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Shishapangma.* It was reported that Goran Kropp (Sweden) led a 12-member expedition to Shishapangma on which Renata Chlumksa became the first Swedish woman to climb above 8000 meters and Cyril Destremau managed to make the first snowboard descent from the Central Summit all the way to base camp. (*High Mountain Sports* 180)

*Gaurishankar, Northeast Ridge, Attempt.* Gaurishankar (7134m) lies on Nepal's northern border with Tibet; it is visible from Kathmandu on the northeastern horizon, and it was once thought to be the world's highest mountain until the British Survey of India made more careful measurements. All climbing attempts until this autumn on this rugged mountain were made with permits from the Nepalese government, for the Tibetan/Chinese authorities did not open it to mountaineers until a few years ago. A British attempt led by Don Whillans in the autumn of 1964 did go around from Nepal's southwestern side to the northwest in Tibet and reached 6700 meters before avalanching turned them back. Since then no one had repeated this approach; in fact, the mountain is seldom climbed from any side.

In September, two well-known Japanese mountaineers, Yasushi Yamanoi and his wife Taeko (who was known by her maiden name, Taeko Nagao, until she married Yamanoi recently), went onto the northeast ridge but were quickly turned back at 6300 meters, where the ridge became very narrow and steep and numerous mushrooms blocked the way. It was not possible to escape from the ridge because of extreme danger on the north face from many falling seracs, so they abandoned their attempt on September 23. They thought the climb might be possible in colder weather in mid-October, but they do not recommend attempting