

The weather was very unusual for the time: very cloudy and a lot of snow. We tried to find a good route to Camp I, which we set up on a saddle at 5300 meters on the west ridge. The next day, we climbed up to establish Camp II. At an altitude of 6000 meters we had to stop. It was hard to progress; deep new snow and thin ice crust prohibited us from going on. Götz and Matthias kept on going to find a place for CII. After setting up that camp at 6150 meters, Frank and Olaf went higher. They told us that it was very difficult to find the route through the glacier they had to cross. It was very dangerous, because there was an extremely high possibility of avalanches all the time. The route went along a ridge with snow cornices. Two cornices in particular, each 200 meters long, on the top of an 800-meter, 60-degree wall, made us turn back on October 10. It was too difficult to keep on going and the possibility that the cornices might crash down was very high. So we went back to climb another summit, a 5800-meter peak nearby.

ANGELA HAMPEL, *Germany*

Manaslu and Dhaulagiri, Ascents. Ed Viesturs and his Finnish partner, Veikka Gustafsson, surmounted Manaslu (8163m) and then Dhaulagiri I (8167m), the world's eighth- and seventh-highest mountains, in one month of climbing. They had no Sherpas, no fixed ropes and no bottled oxygen to assist them.

They arrived at the standard Manaslu Base Camp site at 4900 meters on April 4 and placed two more camps along the normal Northeast Face route in the following eight days. They then went down to rest at Base Camp before leaving it again on the 18th to establish one more high camp on the 21st at 7530 meters, just below the summit plateau out of the wind. The next day they went to the top. They were on Manaslu's summit on the 22nd despite very strong winds that "almost knocked us over a few times," according to Viesturs.

With the help of a helicopter, they arrived at Dhaulagiri I's Base Camp site on April 30 and on May 4 they were on its summit. They generally followed the standard climbing route along the northeast ridge but in getting to the ridge, they took a shortcut around an icefall and its crevasses and up a steep slope that avoided the usual longer route to the northeast col, where many expeditions place their first high camps. They pitched just two camps on the ridge on May 2-3 and climbed to the top on the 4th.

Viesturs has now summited ten of the world's 14 8000-meter mountains, including Everest five times and Cho Oyu twice; for Gustafsson this was his second ascent of Dhaulagiri I, but Manaslu was his seventh 8000er, including Everest twice.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

DHAULAGIRI HIMAL

Dhaulagiri, South Face, New Route. From October 25-November 3, Slovenian Tomaž Humar soloed *The Mobitel Route* (VI 5.10d A0 M7+, ca. 4000m) on the south face of Dhaulagiri (8167m). A full account of his ascent appears earlier in this journal.

Nilgiri South, Attempt. It was reported that Tadej Golob led a five-member Slovenian expedition that attempted the first ascent of the southwest ridge on Nilgiri South (6839m). The team followed a line up the south face to connect with the crest of the ridge, reaching a high