

mit at 6:45 a.m., making use of bottled oxygen; a Slovenian teammate and two Nepalese Sherpas summited at about the same time and went down on foot. At 8 a.m., he pushed off alone from the top on skis. He dropped the oxygen equipment and its six kilos of weight 20 minutes later at the South Summit (8748m). His biggest problem was a steep section just below the Hillary Step. He passed the Step beside fixed ropes along one side of it, but when he came to a difficult part below it, he had to descend one step at a time with his skis sideways to the mountain. At 8:40 a.m., he was down at the South Col at 7900 meters, where his Camp IV was located and where he picked up a three-kilo camera to mount on his helmet. Other cameras were placed at several spots along his route.

Karņiĉar reached Camp II (6500m) at 11 a.m., where he stopped to drink something and to wait for movie cameras at base camp to be ready for his final descent. At 11:30 a.m., he was off again. At 11:50 a.m., he passed Camp I (6000m) at the top of the famous Khumbu Icefall. The impenetrable Icefall, with its gaping crevasses and huge unstable towers of ice, would be impossible to overcome, so he didn't try. Instead, he bypassed it by skiing along its very edge at the bottom of Everest's southwest face and Lho La. He moved here just as fast as he safely could and fervently hoped that a falling serac would not happen to arrive at the same place at the same time as he. Finally, he was at base camp at the foot of the mountain (5350m) at 12:40 p.m. Total elapsed time: four hours, 40 minutes. He had had no sleep from the time he started his ascent from Camp IV toward the summit at 10:30 p.m. on October 6 until his return to base camp on the 7th, and there the merry celebrations with the champagne flowing postponed his sleep for a lot longer.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Ama Dablam, Possible Variation and Traverse.* Ama Dablam (6812m) attracted 12 expeditions in the spring, 11 of which attempted the standard Southwest Ridge route. Of the only three that succeeded, one, from New Zealand, went up an exceptional way. The team climbed via the northeast spur to the north ridge, making a series of bivouacs along the ridge to the summit. They then descended the standard route. All five of the New Zealanders, including the leader, David Crofts, gained the top on May 4 on difficult rock and ice, sometimes mixed, all good quality, and Crofts described their ascent as "a pleasure." They had made the first ascent of their mountain this season after most of the other Ama Dablam expeditions had already left the mountain.

David Crofts does not consider his team's route a new one. Whether it is or not depends on how you define a new route. What is certain is that they used a very seldom-climbed route and made the third traverse of the mountain from north to south.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kangtega, North Face, New Route.* From May 20-28, Valeri Babanov established a new line on the north face of Kangtega (6799m). His efforts ended at 6600 meters on the northwest ridge, where he connected to a line climbed by a Japanese team in 1979. A full account of his climb appears earlier in this journal.

*Lobuje East, East Face Couloir, Ascent and Observations.* Andy Gresh and Steve Su climbed Lobuje East via the East Face Couloir in October. Though the route is praised in *Trekking Peaks of Nepal* as a good couloir route, Gresh and Su found it to be very, very thin and quite