

*Gyachung Kang, north face, second ascent of Slovenian Route.* Mr. Yasushi Yamanoi and his wife Taeko were hospitalized in Tokyo for the amputation of dozens of fingers due to frostbite. Taeko and Yasushi, two of Japan's premier alpinists, climbed Gyachung Kang (7,985m) via the Slovenian Route this October. They arrived at base camp on October 5 and proceeded to an advanced base camp at the foot of the Slovenian Route. On October 6 they climbed mixed terrain (50°–60°) to 7,000m and bivouacked. On October 7 they continued climbing to 7,500m and bivouacked. On October 8 it began snowing and at 7,600m Taeko gave up climbing and decided to wait for Yasushi. Yasushi returned after reaching the summit solo, reunited with Taeko, and made another bivouac. Snow continued on October 9 and they descended to 7,200m and bivouacked. While descending in the continuous snow on October 10, Taeko was hit by avalanche, losing her right glove and vision in her left eye. Later the same day Yasushi also lost vision in both eyes making their descent extremely difficult and forcing the pair to bivouac again. Vision in Yasushi's left eye returned the next day while Taeko had now lost vision in both eyes. They managed to descend to their advanced base camp where they found none of their support team members. A 10-hour descent on October 12 led them to a bivouac on the glacier; Taeko still had no vision. On October 13 they arrived at their base camp to learn that their support team had assumed they had disappeared and would not return. They were immediately taken to a hospital in Kathmandu and were flown to a hospital in Tokyo on October 18, where they recovered other than Yasushi's loss of toes and fingers. Gyachung Kang is located on the border of east Nepal and China (Tibet) at N 28° 06' and E 86° 45', 33 km north of Namche Bazar. The first ascent was made by a Japanese party on April 10, 1964.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japan Alpine News*

*Ngozumpa Kang II, west face, Bearzi death.* Two Americans, Mike Bearzi and Bruce Miller, planned to make the first attempt on the northeast face of 7,952m (26,089') Gyachung Kang, which is on the Tibetan border between Cho Oyu and Everest. But before attacking this nearly 8,000m mountain, they did some acclimatization climbs on several peaks in Tibet very close to it. On the last of these, the two men summited Ngozumpa Kang II, 7,646m (25,085'), via its west face on May 9. As they were descending in the late afternoon, Bearzi was slowing down noticeably. At about 7:00 p.m., when Miller could see their bivouac below at 7,000m, Bearzi, who was behind him, fell at a steep place and couldn't stop himself. His death-fall ended 600m (1,900') down on the glacier west of their route. (See "An Optimistic Plan" earlier in this Journal for the story.)

ELIZABETH HAWLEY, *Nepal*

*Cho Oyu ski descent and discussion of 8,000-meter ski descents.* Fewer than 40 people have skied from an elevation of 8,000m or greater. In 1978 Nicolas Jaeger and Jean Afanassieff quietly made tracks into history when they strapped their skis to their feet at 8,200m on Everest and skied down. By 1999, 31 people in the world had descended from an elevation of 8,000m or greater. In 2000 the Marolt brothers from Aspen, Colorado reached what their altimeters had indicated as the shoulder or central summit of Shishapangma. Their descent marked the first from above 8,000m for anyone in the Western Hemisphere. As the fall of 2000 faded to winter, Laura Bakos of Telluride, Colorado became the first person from the Western Hemisphere to