

APRIL 19TH - BASECAMP

BREAKFAST AS USUAL AT 8.30AM AND THEN I HEADED OVER TO CHECK OUT THE NEW HELIPAD THAT HAS BEEN RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED HERE. TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, I COULDN'T ACTUALLY FIND IT, BUT I HEARD THAT IT WAS ADJACENT TO THE CRASHED RUSSIAN WRECKAGE - A NICE CHEERFUL REMINDER!

THE ICEFALL IS OPERATIONAL AND OUR SHERPAS MADE IT TO CAMP 2 AND BACK FERRYING SOME MORE LOADS. ANDREW LOCK FROM DISCOVERY CAME OVER AND WE BOTH HAD A LONG CHAT. I LOVE GETTING HIS ADVICE AND I THINK HE IS A GREAT PERSON TO HAVE CLIMBING WITH YOU, NOT TO MENTION WHAT AN UNASSUMING AND TALENTED CLIMBER HE IS WITH 10 OF THE 8,000 ERS COMPLETED WITHOUT OXYGEN. HE IS GOING TO FILM ME GOING TO CAMP 3 (HELP) I HEAR IT IS REALLY ICY, HAVING CONFRONTED A SHERPA IN THE ICEFALL TODAY. I HEARD THAT DAVID BREASHEARS AND CO ARE AT CAMP 3 ALREADY.

LOU ANNE THE DOCTOR CAME OVER TO OUR CAMP AFTER LUNCH AND DISCUSSED THE MERITS OF TAKING VIAGRA AT ALTITUDE. BEING IN THE FEMALE MINORITY HERE, I DREAD TO THINK WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL THE MEN AT BASECAMP!! ON A SERIOUS NOTE, THERE ARE RESEARCHERS HERE FROM CANADA AND THEY DO THINK VIAGRA IS INSTRUMENTAL IN CURING HAPE AND CEREBRAL EDEMA, SO I WON'T LAUGH TOO MUCH AS IT HELPS GIRLS TOO!!

I THEN WENT AND WATCHED NOTTINGHILL (I FINALLY GOT MY HANDS ON A CHICK FLICK, HAVING BORROWED FROM ELAINE AND DOUG AT DAVID BREASHEARS CAMP) ELAINE AND DOUG CAME OVER TO OUR CAMP FOR DINNER AND THE BOYS RUSTELED UP SOME VERY GOOD ENGLISH TO IMPRESS ELAINE!!!

IVE GOT A SLIGHT CRISIS GOING ON, IN THAT MY MILLET HIGH ALTITUDE BOOTS WHICH I NEED FOR MY SUMMIT ATTEMPT AND FOR CAMP 2 TO CAMP 3, ARE WAY TOO BIG AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE ICEFALL YESTERDAY AS I REPEATEDLY KEPT ALMOST STEPPING RIGHT OUT OF MY BOOTS WHILST ASCENDING (I CANT HAVE THIS HAPPEN ON THE LHOTSE FACE) IVE BEEN FRANTICALLY TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR A PAIR TO BE SENT HERE AND THE EXPERT IN THIS MATTER IS ANDRONICO WHO SHOWED UP TO BASECAMP WITH 2 RIGHT FOOTED BOOTS.. SO HE KNOWS THE WHOLE DRILL FOR GETTING MILLET BOOTS TO BASECAMP. IT INVOLVES HIS POOR SON LUCO, IN BOSTON PICKING THEM UP FROM A MOUNTAINEERING SHOP AND FEDEXING THEM TO KATMANDU!! FINGERS CROSSED WE CAN GET THIS SORTED..

TOMORROW WE ARE BACK IN THE ICEFALL FILMING AGAIN AND THE PLAN IS THAT WE MOVE UP TO CAMP 2 ON 22ND FOR A FEW DAYS..

ITS FREEZING AGAIN AND IM NOW IN MY TENT, AT NIGHT WE HEAR CONSTANT AVALANCHES FROM THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS NOT TO MENTION THE ICE MOVING UNDER OUR TENTS AS THE GLACIER MOVES.. WE HAVE A CREVASSE ON OUR CAMPSITE, WELL, EN ROUTE TO THE LOO IS A HUGE HOLE IN THE ICE WITH

NO APPARENT BOTTOM - YOU EVEN HAVE TO BE VIGILANT WHILST MAKING YOUR WAY TO THE LOO AROUND HERE!!!

THE POOR INDIAN GIRL I MENTIONED WHO SPENT 11 HOURS GETTING TO CAMP 1 IS VERY SICK WITH EITHER SEVERE EXHAUSTION OR ALTITUDE RELATED PROBLEMS..OUR DOCTOR WENT OVER TO SEE HER TONIGHT AND WE THINK SHE WILL HAVE TO GO DOWN TO PERICHE TOMORROW. NOTHING ELSE FROM HERE!!