

## APRIL 13TH CAMP 1 REST DAY

AFTER A FRIGID NIGHT OF HOWLING WINDS AND HEARING AN AVALANCHE IN THE ICEFALL ( I'VE JUST FOUND OUT HOW MUCH DAMAGE THAT AVALANCHE DID..) I WOKE AT 6.00AM WITH ANDRONICO TELLING ME TO LOOK OUT OF THE TENT, THAT WE WERE SAFE AND NOT TO PANIC. I LOOKED OUT TO SEE A HUGE AVALANCHE HEADING SEEMINGLY TOWARDS ALL OUR TENTS ( THERE WERE NOW ABOUT 8 EXPEDITIONS UP AT CAMP 1) IT WAS THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT SEEING THIS HUGE CLOUD COMING TOWARDS US. I REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD HAD IT. LUCKILY THERE WERE CREVASSES THAT STOPPED THE AVALANCHE BEFORE IT WIPED ALL OUR TENTS OUT. AS OUR TENTS ARE ON A HILL I CAN SEE ALL THE OTHER TENTS, ITS NOT REALLY FUNNY BUT SOME POOR GUY WAS ON THE LOO ( WE HAVE AN ICE CONSTRUCTED LOO) AND HE SUDDENLY LOOKED UP TO SEE THIS HUGE CLOUD DESCENDING TOWARDS US AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE PULL UP THEIR PANTS AND RUN SO FAST FOR HIS TENT.

THE WEATHER TODAY HAS BEEN VERY UNSETTLED, HUGE GUSTS OF WIND EVERY 10 MINS OR SO. I WENT OVER TO THE DISCOVERY TENTS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND DID AN INTERVIEW WITH SHANNA AND THEN A SOLO CONFESSION ABOUT THE EMOTIONAL ASPECT OF BEING ON MOUNT EVEREST. I TOOK 7 MINS OF TAPE DOING MY MOUNTAIN CONFESSION, GLAD THAT THE PERSONAL ONE WASN'T INCLUDED TOO OR ID PROBABLY STILL BE THERE!!!

RODRIGO, PATO AND PHILLIPE ARRIVED UP HERE FROM BASECAMP, A PRETTY BRAVE MOVE AS MOST OF THE SHERPAS SAID IT WAS TOO WINDY TO CLIMB THROUGH THE ICEFALL. ONLY 3 PEOPLE WENT TO CAMP 2 TODAY, OUR SHERPAS DID NOT WANT TO BREAK TRAIL FOR THE 2ND DAY IN A ROW WHICH IS COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDABLE. I THINK IT REMAINS DOUBTFUL WHETHER WE WIL BE ABLE TO MOVE UP TO CAMP 2 TOMORROW. ITS ANDRONICOS 50TH BIRTHDAY ON 16TH APRIL AND I'VE INVITED HALF OF BASECAMP TO COME OVER FOR A BIG CELEBRATIONARY LUNCH ( DINNER IS TOO COLD!) RODRIGO AND PERTEMBA HAVE BEEN ARRANGING BEER AND WINE AND A HUGE FEAST - HOPEFULLY NOT DAHL BAT!!!

SO WHO KNOWS WHAT WE WILL DO TOMORROW, IM IN MY MINUS 40 SLEEPING BAG AND IM STILL COLD AND IM ONLY AT CAMP 1. THIS IS ONE TOUGH MOUNTAIN WITH A HUGE AMOUNT OF DANGER AT ALL TIMES. I PRAY EVERY DAY THAT WE WILL ALL COME BACK SAFELY. I HAVE A HUGE CRAVING FOR PRINGLES...THATS ALL FROM AN ICY COLD CAMP 1.