

APRIL 29TH - BASECAMP

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND WE HAD BREAKFAST AT 9.00AM , I WAS WORKING ON MY JOURNAL WHEN THERE WAS A BIG COMMOTION IN OUR CAMPSITE AND I WENT OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS TENT TO FIND DAVID BREASHEARS DRESSED IN A BLACK CAPE, BANDANAS AND A SWORD IN HIS HAND CHALLENGING ANDRONICO TO A DUAL OF WHO HAS THE BEST JAMON!! DAVID HAD STARTED THIS DEBATE YESTERDAY AS HE POSSESSED SOME PATANEGRA HAM (ITS SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST HAM IN SPAIN) AND WE HAD IN OUR HUGE DELICETESSEN JAMON SERRANO IVERICO. THE DUAL WAS THAT THE BASQUE TEAM WERE GOING TO BE BLINDFOLDED AND JUDGE WHOSE HAM WAS THE BEST! DAVID WAS WAVING HIS SWORD AT ANDRONICO AND CHANLLENGING HIM SPORTING HIS BULL FIGHTING OUTFIT WHEN ANDRONICO SAID HE WAS GOING TO CHANGE HIS CLOTEHS TO RETALIATE THE CHALLENGE. HE DISSAPERARED INTO THE TENT WITH DAVID CONFIDENTLY WAVING HIS SWORD OUTSIDE, AND WHEN HE RE APPEARED HE COMPLETELY UPSTAGED DAVID! HE HAD ON HIS YAK SKIN WAISTCOAT AND HIS MOCCASIN BOOTS AND A NEPALESE KNIFE AROUND HIS WAIST AND THE TWO OF THEM WENT OFF TO FIND THE BASQUES WITH RODRIGO JORDAN BEING OUR SERRANO HAM CARRIER. AS THIS MOTLEY CRUE OF PEOPLE LED BY DAVID AND ANDRONICO WENT THROUGH BASECAMP ALL THE SHERPAS CROWDED ONTOP OF THE HILLS TO WATCH THESE MAD WESTERNERS WHO THEY PROBABLY THOGUHT THE ALTITUDE HAD FINALLY GOT TO. WE MET THE BASQUES HALF WAY ACCROSS BASECAMP AND JUAN WAS BLINDFOLDED AND INSTRUCTED TO TASTE BOTH THE HAMS, DESPITE MUTUAL BRIBING, IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT WAS A DRAW! WE ALL WENT BACK TO DAVIDS CAMP AND HAD THE REST OF THE HAMS,SOME SPANISH CHEESE AND RED WINE - FOR A BRIEF MOMENT THERE IT FELT LIKE WE WERE SOMEPLACE OTHER THAN EVEREST BASE CAMP!!

ED VIEUSTERS AND VEIKKER CAME AND HAD A BEER WITH US AND WE STAYED CHATTING FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND LOOKED AT THE PHOTOS OF DAVID AND ANDRONICO WHICH WERE HILARIOUS. IM NOW BACK AT OUR CAMP WAITING HOPEFULLY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF MY GIRLFRIEND LISA WHO IS MEANT TO BE HERE TODAY.. I NEED MY MAGAZINES AND DVD'S THAT SHE IS BRINGING...

MOST PEOPLE ARE AT BASECAMP NOW OR ARE PLANNING TO GO DOWN VALLEY TO DINGBOCHE TO TRY AND GET READY FOR THE SUMMIT PUSH.. WE ARE ALL WAITING FOR THAT WEATHER WINDOW NOW.. IM PLANNING TO GO WITH ANDRONICO TO EITHER KALA PATTAR OR TO PUMORI BASE CAMP TO JUST KEEP OUR ACCLIMATISATION TICKING OVER, IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE A COUPLE OF HOURS... SIGNING OFF NOW FROM EVEREST BASE CAMP TO GO AND EAT SOME OF OUR JAMON BEFORE THE TEAM FINISH IT!!!