

MAY 3RD - BASECAMP

WE HAD BREAKFAST AND LISA STILL HAD A SIGHT HEADACHE SO ANDRONICO AND I DECIDED TO GO TO GORAK SHEP FOR A QUICK ACCLIMATISATION HIKE, ANDRONICO IS NOW FULLY RECOVERED. LISA AND PLERN STARTED OUT WITH US AND THEN TURNED BACK AND WE CONTINUED TO GORAK SHEP HAVING TAKEN A "NEW ROUTE" WHICH RESULTED IN SOME VERY STEEP SCRAMBLING UP A MOVING SHALE ROCK FACE - NOT FUN!! I HAD A SPRITE AND BROUGHT SOME PRINGLES AND I SPIED MY PICTURE ON A STICKER BEHIND THE COUNTER!! I REPRESENT POOL PLUS THE VITAMIN COMPANY AND ANDRONICO HAD PERSUADED THE GUY TO STICK MY PICTURE BEHIND THE CASHIER - HE KEPT POINTING AND LAUGHING AT ME AS HE MADE THE CONNECTION (NOT MY BEST PICTURE!!)

THERE ARE 80MPH HIGH ON EVEREST AT THE MOMENT AND THEY ARE DUE TO STAY UNTIL AROUND 9TH MAY, ALTHOUGH I HAVE HEARD OF ONE GUY CALLED TED GOING FOR THE SUMMIT SOMETIME SOON. OUR GROUP IS HEADING DOWN VALLEY TOMORROW TO DROP THE GIRLS OFF IN PERICHE WHERE THEY WILL GET A HELICOPTER BACK TO KATHMANDU AND WE WILL REMAIN DOWN UNTIL 8TH MAY - IM HOPING TO GAIN SOME NEW OXYGEN LOADED BRAIN CELLS BACK!

POOR ANDREW IS SICK, I RADIOED HIM THIS MORNING AND HE SOUNDED AWFUL, I DIDNT FIND OUT WHAT WAS WRONG. ITS REALLY WORRYING WHEN YOU GET SICK NEAR THE SUMMIT WINDOW.

YOU PROBABLY WONT HEAR FROM ME FOR FOUR DAYS UNTIL IM BACK AT BASE CAMP - I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE WE ARE OFF TO.. OUR DOWN VALLEY TRIP SEEMS TO EMPHASISE THE WHOLE SUMMIT DEAL EVEN MORE TO ME AND IM REALLY STARTING TO GET NERVOUS NOW..THE THOUGHT OF GOING BACK INTO THE ICEFALL AGAIN...OVER AND OUT FROM EVEREST BASECAMP AND ILL REPORT IN AS SOON AS I GET ON LINE...