

MARCH 22ND - D DAY

IM LIKE A CAGED LION, ON MY MOTHERS ADVICE THAT I MUST REST MY BODY PRIOR TO THE HUGE EXERTION REQUIRED TO TRY AND CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST, I HAVE NOT RUN FOR 10 DAYS.. FOR ME THIS IS LIKE TAKING AWAY EATING FROM YOUR DAILY ROUTINE! IV BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY CONSTRUCTING MY WEBSITE, NOT ONLY TO CREATE AWARENESS AND TO FUNDRAISE FOR THE EVE APPEAL, BUT SO THAT MY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ANYONE ELSE WHOM MAY BE INTERESTED TO FOLLOW OUR CLIMB AND ABOUT LIFE AT EVEREST BASECAMP! I HAVE TO MENTION MY AMAZING WEBSITE DESIGNER, JAMES GUEST AT THE WORLDLINK CAFE IN ASPEN WHOM I SPEAK TO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE THESE DAYS!! I HAD BEEN USING HIS INTERNET CAFE FOR 3 WEEKS ( DUE TO OURS BEING BROKEN AT HOME) BUT IT WAS ONLY ONE DAY BEFORE I LEFT ASPEN, WHEN HE ASKED ME IF I HAD A LIFE OUTSIDE HIS CAFE ( I HAD BEEN BUSY DOING SOME WORK FOR ARCTERYX AND NEEDED THE COMPUTER), THAT WE MADE CONTACT AND I DECIDED TO BUILD A WEBPAGE. I HAVE TO THANK JAMES FOR PUTTING THIS ALL TOGETHER IN LESS THAN A WEEK!!

IM NOW SITTING ON THE PLANE TO KATMANDU AND THE ENORMITY OF WHAT I HAVE TAKEN ON SUNK IN AS I BLUBBED MY WAY THROUGH TWO COMEDIES ON THE PLANE, MUCH TO THE HORROR OF ANDRONICO LUKSIC. I WAS DREADING SAYING GOOD-BYE TO MY MOTHER AS WE ALWAYS HAVE TEARFULL FAREWELLS ANYWAY, BUT BY CHANCE OUR GOOD-BYE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A RESTAURANT, LUCKILY WE BOTH HELD IT TOGETHER (ISH) AND WE DIDN'T CREATE ANY HUGE DISTURBANCE WHERE UPON ALL EYES WERE ON US!

WE ARE MEETING MOST OF THE GROUP IN KATMANDU AND THEN HEADING STRAIGHT TO LUKLA ON 24TH MARCH. KIKO AND MISAIL HAVE GONE WITH OUR BASECAMP MANAGER AND MAIN SHERPA PERTEMBA TO STAKE OUT A GOOD SPOT FOR US AT THE BASECAMP. ITS GOING TO BE BUSY THIS YEAR AS OTHER EXPEDITIONS ASIDE, THERE ARE THE SCENERY SHOTS OF A BIG MOVIE BEING SHOT ABOUT THE 1996 DISASTER ON EVEREST ( MORBID THOUGHT AND NOT ONE I WANT TO THINK ABOUT) AND DAVID BREASHEARS THE IMAX GURU WILL BE FILMING. HE HAS IN HIS TEAM ED VIEUSTERS, ONE OF AMERICAS BEST CLIMBERS WITH HIM, HE IS ONE 8,000M PEAK AWAY FROM BEING THE FIRST AMERICAN MAN TO CLIMB ALL THE 8,000M PEAKS WITHOUT OXYGEN.

FROM LUKLA WE ARE TAKING A SLOW WALK IN TO ENSURE THAT WE ACCLIMATIZE PROPERLY AND YOU WILL NEXT HEAR FROM ME AT NAMCHE BAZAAR (11,000FT) IT IS ONE OF THE BIGGER VILLAGES THAT WE WILL PASS THROUGH ON OUR WAY UP TO BASE CAMP. IM DREADING THE FLIGHT TO LUKLA ON YETTI AIRLINES, I HATE FLYING AT THE BEST OF TIMES AND FLYING INTO LUKLA TAKES SOME SKILL, NOT TO MENTION THE ROLLERCOASTER RIDE THE PASSENGERS ENDURE!

I WAS LAST IN NEPAL IN APRIL 2001, AND IM LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING BACK. HAVING TALKED RELENTLESSLY ABOUT THIS CLIMB, ITS SURREAL THAT ITS ALL FINALLY HAPPENING. I AM NERVOUS AND I THINK I WILL REMAIN NERVOUS UNTIL I GO INTO THE KHUMBU ICEFALL, ITS THE PART OF THE CLIMB THAT SCARES ME THE MOST, AND I NEED TO GO AND ADDRESS THAT FEAR. THE KHUMBU ICEFALL IS THE GLACIER THAT WE NEED TO PASS THROUGH TO GET FROM BASE CAMP TO CAMP 1, SOME 3,000 VERTICAL FEET ABOVE BASECAMP AT 21,000FT.

THE ICE FALL COMPRISES OF HUGE ICE TOWERS, THAT WITHOUT ANY WARNING CAN FALL AT ANY GIVEN TIME. SOME CLIMBERS SAY ITS LIKE PLAYING RUSSIAN ROULETTE PASSING THROUGH THE ICEFALL, ALTHOUGH DAVID BREASHEARS HAS ASSURED ME THAT WITH ALL THE FIXED LINES AND LADDERS IT IS MUCH SAFER THESE DAYS. I HOPE THIS IS THE CASE.

IM A GOOD 8LLBS HEAVIER AND READY FOR MY DIET OF DAHL BAHT (CURRIED LENTILS AND RICE) ALTITUDE AND LENTILS DONT REALLY GO WELL TOGETHER BUT ITS GOING TO BE OUR STABLE DIET FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS! I WILL REPORT IN FROM NAMCHE BAZAAR!