

Climbers (Continued from P. 2)

into the air, frozen into a pristine wave.

Conditions for our descent below Camp Four could not have been better — 1 520 vertical metres of heavy powder. We were inspired to carve a short series of turns, always ending hunched over our ski poles, gasping for breath.

We arrived at base camp and celebrated our success with probably the most appreciated banquet of the entire expedition. Mr. Song and Mr. Tien had seen us descending and prepared a feast of stir-fried vegetables (they had brought a wok with them) with rice and Kinjiang Pijiu, a Chinese beer.

After the climb, we spent a week in the Sarikol Valley, where we enjoyed Kirghiz hospitality. People invited us in to their felt-covered yurts for tea and fermented yak's milk, and through sign language we managed to develop friendships.

Back in Beijing, six weeks after our expedition began, we were addressed and congratulated by Shi Zhan Chun, vice-president of the CMA, who himself climbed Muz Tagh Ata in 1956. He toasted us in the Shaanzi Province room of the Great Hall of the People: "I hope that through this expedition, friendship between Chinese and Canadians will continue to develop."

News briefs

Energy, Mines and Resources Canada has approved the drilling of a wildcat well approximately 300 kilometres east of St. John's, Newfoundland. The well, named Mobil et al Bonanza M-71, will be drilled with the semi-submersible drilling unit *Zapata Ugland* in an estimated 201 metres of water to a projected depth of 564 metres. Mobil Oil Canada Limited will be the operator of the well. Petro-Canada Exploration Incorporated and Gulf Canada Resources Limited will also participate.

An additional one million homes across Canada are now eligible for grants under the federal Canadian Home Insulation Program (CHIP). The announcement changes the eligibility date in most provinces from January 1, 1961 to January 1, 1971 — adding to the insulation program all of the homes built in Canada during the 1960s. CHIP provides up to \$500



Claudia Kerchhoff (right) winces as she splashes through the rapids in her kayak as companion Dirk Van Wijk (left) watches before he makes the same venture. Both are members of the Canadian Whitewater Kayaking Team and were practising the sport along the Jock River near Ottawa.

for insulation improvements in homes of three storeys or less.

Digital Equipment of Canada Limited of Kanata, outside Ottawa, has added a new small computer system to its product line. The VAX-11/730, with prices starting at about \$60 000, operates on the same programs as the three larger members of the family. This means that computer users who bought the more powerful VAX-11/750, 780 and 782 systems can use the new "super minicomputer" in remote locations.

Health and Welfare Canada has announced grants totalling \$2.2 million for 316 New Horizons projects. Twenty-five groups will use the funds being presented on the tenth anniversary of the New Horizons program to dispel some myths about old age. Since its beginning, the program has funded about 17 000 projects chosen by groups of retired people for the benefit of themselves and others in the community. New Horizons encourages self-determination and community involvement of retired people with the accent on local needs and interests.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) provided insurance, guarantee and financing services totalling \$4.4 billion in 1981, a record high and a 26 per cent increase over the 1980 figure. In the corporation's annual report, tabled recently in Parliament, Sylvain Cloutier, chairman of the board and president, described 1981 as "a year of determined effort and notable achievement". EDC is a Canadian

Crown corporation that provides a wide range of insurance and bank guarantee services to Canadian exporters and arranges credit for foreign buyers in order to facilitate and develop export trade.

Freelance science writer Lydia Dotto has won the Ministry of State for Science and Technology's annual Science Journalism Award. The \$1 000 prize was presented at the Canadian Science Writers' Association annual meeting in Montreal and was awarded in recognition of Ms. Dotto's article *Thinking Small* which appeared in the November/December 1981 issue of the University of Toronto publication *The Graduate*. The award is designed to encourage excellence in science writing and to promote public awareness of science and technology.

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