

INTERVIEW ■ Peter Hillary, son of mountaineering legend

Renowned climber hopes to inspire young Bermudians

INTERVIEW BY JEANNINE KLEIN

MOUNTAINEER Peter Hillary has arrived in Bermuda to take part in events this weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of his father Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's first ascent of Everest. Just prior to his arrival, Mr. Hillary spoke with the Bermuda Sun about his planned appearances, his mountaineering and charity work. He will be the keynote speaker at the White Ice and Fire Gala on Saturday evening; he will also address schoolchildren on Friday at Cedar Bridge Academy and give a public lecture at the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute on Sunday. Mr. Hillary was the first son to ever

follow his father's footsteps up the world's highest peak, completing his own summits in 1990 and again as part of a National Geographic documentary in 2002. He has taken part in more than three dozen expeditions and alpine seasons including a trip to the North Pole in a small aircraft with Neil Armstrong and Sir Edmund Hillary and in 1999 skiing a new route 1,500 kilometers across Antarctica to the South Pole. Funds raised during the weekend will be split between Mr. Hillary's, Hillary Himalayan Trust and the Bermuda based charity, the ISIS Foundation. Both foundations work directly to improve the lives of communities in the developing world, and in particular the children of Nepal.

Why celebrate your father's success in Bermuda of all places?

Bermuda is perhaps not well known for celebrating major alpine feats such as the ascent of Mt Everest, but it is an extraordinary community. Audette Exel, [Mr. Hillary's friend, who co-founded the ISIS Foundation] is one of those extraordinary people living here and she does a lot of work in Nepal and Uganda. We were talking about our cross over interests in those areas because I'm involved in a number of foundations and she came up with the idea. While all the celebrations elsewhere around the world are over for the 50th anniversary of the ascent of Everest, it seemed

like a wonderful idea to have one final celebration and why not have it in Bermuda?

Will this be a big celebration for the climbing community?

For the climbing community there have been a lot of celebrations but there are quite a lot of climbers coming. Everyone is excited and it is going to be a lot of fun but this is more to do with helping people who helped us on expeditions and raising useful amounts of money to support the schools and hospitals in the various community efforts that we're all involved in. A lot of climbers have gone to a place like Nepal and really enjoyed it and climbed the mountains

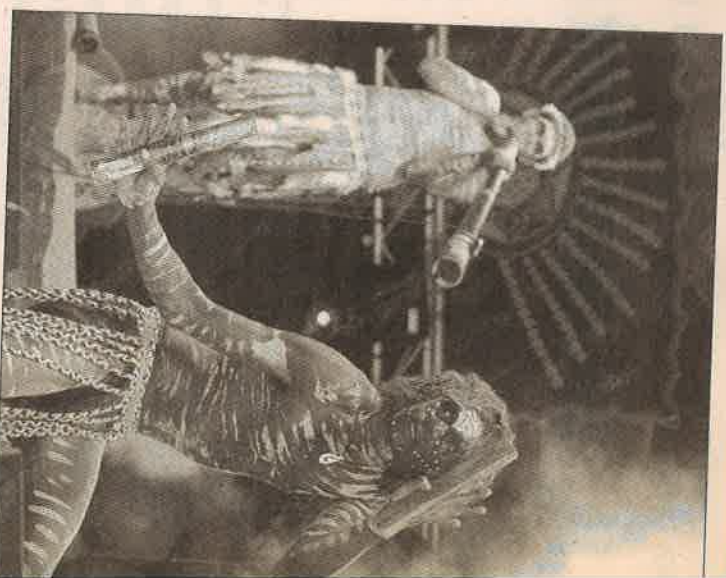
and had a lot of fun. They got a lot out of it themselves but this particular celebration is very much about a group of people who want to put something back.

What message do you hope to impart in Bermuda?

I would like to get across to school groups a little bit about what it is like to live in a third world country, what their lives are like and what we can do about it. The important message is that you create the life you want, particularly if you are lucky enough to live in a western country. I have certainly gone out and done that and gone on lots of expeditions of my own design and choosing. I would like to encourage young people to create lives they really want to have. As far as the banquet is concerned there are going to be a few tripping yarns from swinging on ropes on Mt. Everest to helping people in the villages scattered around the foot of it. On the Sunday I will talk about the whole issue of survival on big mountains.

What makes you climb a mountain when it can be so dangerous?

At times it scares the living daylights out of me and there are a lot of other places I would rather be, but I think it is quite a normal situation. Let's face it, we often go to



The rock band 'Yothu Yindi' will speak and perform at the NATO hangar on Saturday. The band, which leader and former Australian of the Year Mandawuy Yalamu will perform with, will be performing at the dance workshops on Sunday at Sattus Senior Auditorium of the Walkathon in Victoria Park. The group started a blend of rock and traditional Aboriginal music

huge exposures below and then sort of wake up from your little ledge and look out over the world at a view that no one else can possibly share because the only people who can get there are mountaineers. It feels pretty good.

You grew up having a very famous father. There are lots of people here whose parents are highly successful and well-known on the island. What advice would you give to the offspring of successful parents?

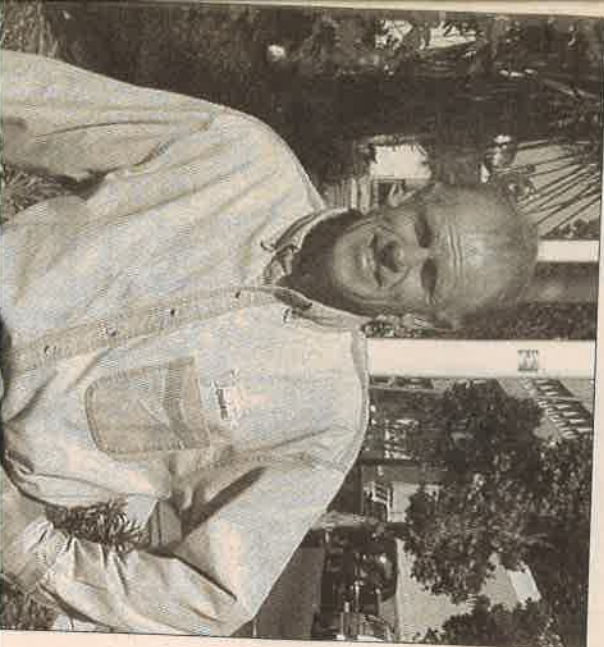
There are upsides and downsides. Enjoy it for what it is because there are people who have fathers and mothers who no-one knows about and that's not always easy either. The real message goes to the parents and the message is be inclusive. Include your children in parts of your lives. That was something my father did for me. He included me in some of his expeditions. We went on wonderful family adventures that someone only of his incredibly adventurous disposition could have dreamed up for a family excursion. He included us so at the end of the day, as a middle aged man, I have this wonderful history of the whole family doing things together and of me going with him on some of his more serious expeditions. Those as memories are really greatly treasured.

Tell me about your charity work.

The work in the Himalayas has been going on over 40 years. My father started an organization building schools and hospitals. We have 42 up in the Mt. Everest

the New Zealand Department of Conservation and the Nepalese parks system. I haven't just gone in there and said we are specialists in particular area. It has been fairly generalist approach the needs of these communities, but more important the longevity of the comment more than any one particular project or approach is one of the things we've so much in having a system that works or a decent government. You think of course there will be an education system in Bermuda in 30 years time. In many parts the world there is no "of course" there. The question is "will there be?" We have been able to provide that continuity. Yes there will be an education system in the upper valleys of the Mt. Everest area for the local people.

Mr Hillary will join for other notable mountaineers at the events this week. Alfred Gregory, 90, who was in charge of stiffs photography



LOBST

TUN
Served with

Duc

SOUP C

Carried with prints of

FRESH SEA
Lobster in the half shell, b

ANGUS S

Prime cut sirloin, s

SEAFO