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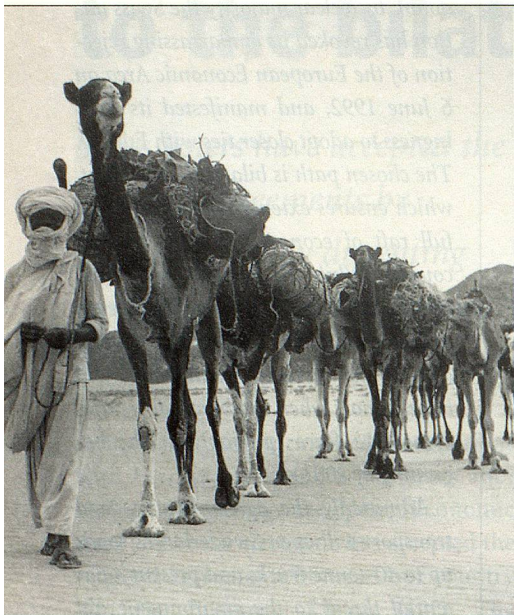
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# North and South in word and image

# SNIPPETS



*René Gardi, the desert wanderer, is dead.*

**"NO-ONE RETURNS** from the desert the same as he entered it, because the vast primeval landscape changes everyone, willingly or unwillingly." This was the firm conviction of Bernese René Gardi, formerly secondary school teacher, then author, photographer, and devoted Africa expert. He travelled untiringly through other countries, studying the cults, customs and traditions of different peoples. Beginning in 1936, he published the fruits of his countless expeditions to the north and south of the continent in word and image. René Gardi embarked on his final journey at the age of 91.

**RTL/PRO7 WINDOW CLOSED:** After only seven months the Swiss programme of RTL/PRO7 has been axed, leaving 73 media workers without a job. Only the week before, private channel TV3 disbanded its news programme.

**FILM PRODUCER HONOURED:** US-based film-maker Arthur Cohn has been awarded his sixth Oscar, this time for the documentary film "One Day in September".

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR BUSCHOR'S SUCCESS:** A teaching university is to be founded in Zurich. Rather than being trained at teachers' training colleges, teachers are to be trained at a special teaching institution which is closely affiliated with the university. This gives Zurich teaching diplomas national recognition.

## PEOPLE

Surprise stepdown: **Ursula Koch**, President of the Swiss SP since 1997, has finally thrown in the towel for health reasons and is giving up her National Council mandate with immediate effect. For months a regular power struggle has been raging in the top ranks of the SP.



based on the novels of Jeremias Gotthelf, as well as in many other films and TV productions.

39-year-old German **Christoph Becker** is the new director of the Zurich Kunsthau. His unexpected appointment concludes a period of heated debate and petty rivalry.

**Selina Chönz**, the Rhetoromanish authoress and writer of the legendary children's book "Schellenursli", died at the age of 89 in Samedan. Her world-famous books were illustrated by Alois Carigiet.



**HOPS AND MALTS RUN OUT:** Feldschlösschen Hürlimann Holding is auctioning off Switzerland's largest brewery to concentrate in future on the real estate business. The move puts 2600 jobs at risk.

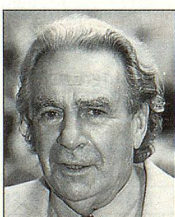
**EMIGRATED:** Sports shoe manufacturer Raichle has transferred production abroad, shedding 65 jobs.

**BREAD LIBERALISATION:** The state is renouncing its monopoly on the trade in bread cereals. This dates from the first and



The sacrament from the fairer sex: **Denise Wyss** has been ordained as the first Old Catholic priest in Switzerland. She is the first woman in Switzerland to be permitted to celebrate the Eucharist and administer the sacrament.

"Ueli der Knecht" is dead: **Hannes Schmidhauser**, actor and former member of the Swiss national soccer team, died at the age of 73 in Monti above Locarno. The legendary and charming actor worked with Franz Schnyder on a number of dialect films



The new coach of the Swiss national football team is **Enzo Trossero**. The Argentinian will appear in his official capacity for the first time at the World Cup qualifying match against Russia in early September.

The founder of the Terre des Hommes and Sentinelles relief agencies, **Edmond Kaiser**, died in India at the age of 86 after a life devoted to helping disadvantaged children.

Former State Secretary **Paul Jolles** has died at the age of 80. Between 1966 and 1984 he was Director of the Federal Office for Foreign Trade.

## Point of View

"When I became successful in the 70s, every musician was anti-establishment. In the 90s people are no longer interested in the protest song. Maybe because they've noticed that you can't really change anything this way. If I want to stir things up, I write a newspaper column."

Polo Hofer, Switzerland's most famous dialect rock singer

Texts: Alice Baumann  
Photos: Keystone, Ursula Markus, zvg.  
Paul Senn/Bernische Stiftung für Fotografie



second world wars, when the state moved to secure the national food supply in the event of war. Thanks to liberalisation the price of bread will drop.

**SHIPPING FIRM WEIGHS ANCHOR:** Migros has sold its Basle-based subsidiary "Schweizerische Reederei und Neptun" to the German shipping firm "Rhenus". The turnover of CHF 202 million was too small for the company to remain autonomous.

**NEWSPAPER MERGER:** The two largest regional newspapers in the Bernese Oberland, "Thuner Tagblatt" and "Berner Oberländer" are being swallowed up by the "Berner Zeitung", with the loss of 70 jobs.

**TWO-CAR FAMILIES ON THE RISE:** The Swiss may be world-champion rail users, but the ratio of cars to inhabitants – including infants – is almost one to every two. The number of cars being registered nowadays is 53 times more than 60 years ago. 17 percent of all households account for half the road traffic in Switzerland, and 50 percent of kilometers per person (pkm) are travelled during leisure time. However, the number of traffic accidents continues to fall since the 1970s.

**SAIR EXPANDS:** The Swiss airline group has acquired 34 percent of state airline TAP Air Portugal.



## Pro Patria lantern

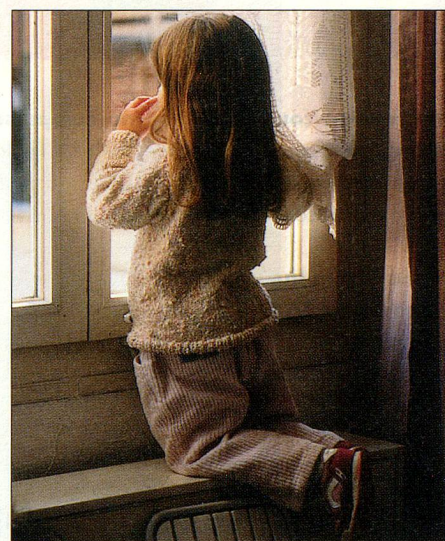
Pro Patria is dedicating its 1st August appeal to site preservation. Around twenty projects throughout Switzerland will benefit from a contribution towards the maintenance and restoration of important locales and other public areas.

## Poor parents, happy singles

*Children are at risk from poverty even in affluent Switzerland.*

**MANY PARENTS** are struggling to make ends meet. According to a survey by the Federal Office for Social Security, a child costs parents in an average-income household around CHF 820,000. Of this, CHF 340,000 is attributed to direct costs, and CHF 480,000 to loss of wages and childcare. In addition, Switzerland has "the worst family policy in western Europe," criticises Lucrezia Meier-Schatz, CVP politician and head of Pro Familia. According to Meier-Schatz, no other country spends only 1% of its gross national product on direct family benefits.

For many people this is not an issue, since marriage is on the decline and divorce on the increase in Switzerland, where 44% of single men and 38% of single women do not intend to marry. The marrying age has



reached a new high at 27.6 for women and 29.9 for men. 42 marriages in every 100 end in divorce. The birth rate continues to decline since the beginning of the 90s, with 146 children to every 100 women. To ensure a renewal of the generations this figure should be 210 to every 100 women. Help is also now available for unwanted pregnancies: Mifegyne has also been approved for use in Switzerland and allows women to abort without surgical intervention up to the 49th day. The drug must be taken under a physician's supervision.

Good news for unmarried couples: common-law partners no longer have to pay AHV contributions for their homemaker partners. Until now such partners were regarded as paid housekeepers. The practice was changed following a claim by a Bernese unmarried couple under the Federal Insurance Law.

Figures issued by the Federal Office of Statistics show that women do two-thirds of family and voluntary work: equivalent to a contribution of CHF 215 billion a year in financial terms.

## Idyll and reality

**EVERYONE KNOWS** the evergreen hills and forests, meadows and cows of the Emmental. The beauty of its landscapes and easy-going nature of its inhabitants are proverbial and its cheese enjoys a world-wide reputation. The valley is a legend. No less famous are its writers, above all Jeremias Gotthelf. A new exhibition has for once focused attention on the "common folk". Photographers like Paul Senn and Walter Studer captured the denizens of the Emmental ploughing, haymaking and chopping their way through years of war and crisis. The result is a counter-image of the "intact world" that is well worth a visit. 