

Mailbag

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Greenland was green

Swiss Review 04/2002, p. 7



I am dismayed to read in the "Swiss Review" 4/02 the common eco-idiot statement that global warming is a result of human activity, an opinion propagated by the hoodwinked Swiss press. It is true that many modern human activities are damaging to the environment, such as lead poisoning and sulphite and nitrate emissions. If somebody wants to explain global warming, he better explain the extraordinarily warm period from 1000 to 1300, when the Vikings crossed the Northern ocean in open ships, Greenland was green and Newfoundland was Wineland, and the people of Uri, tempted by the prospect of almost 12 months per year collecting tolls on a Gotthard road, enlisted the help of the Devil and built the Devil's bridge.

*Heinrich W. Guggenheimer
West Hempstead, USA*

Beautiful mountains!

SR 04/2002, Focus

Many thanks for the wonderful pictures of Swiss mountains in the last "Swiss Review".

*Gretel Prescott-Künzli
London, UK*

Thank you, Switzerland

SR 04/2002, Focus

We found refuge in Switzerland in our thousands, and we came with nothing. Fortunately Switzerland has remained neutral, otherwise what would have become of all those refugees who faced death? Switzerland – roughly half the size of a small

US state – would soon have been occupied. I don't know what the Americans think about Switzerland, but I know that everyone whose life we were able to save thanks to Switzerland still owes a debt of gratitude to that country.

*Marie Haas
Annemasse, France*

No longer a role model?

SR 04/2002, Editorial

You write: "Expo.02 reflects the image of a country which no longer wants to act the role of paradigm which fate has handed it, but simply be part of the world." The contents of this sentence represent a major problem for Switzerland. A small country with no natural resources must always strive to be first or at least first among equals. If Switzerland can no longer do so, it will more or less rapidly become a mere "Heidi Land" with no prestige or recognition, and lose its relatively high standard of living.

*Albert Schnarwiler
Pedra Branca, Brazil*

Job well done

SR 03/2002, Focus



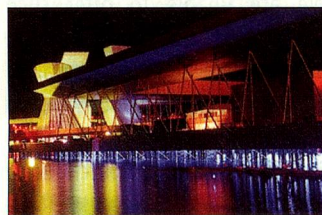
Criticism of the report is focused on the Swiss leaders (Federal Council, business, elite) who are alleged to have

failed in their duty. If, however, one has lived through that wartime period and witnessed the actions of our government, parliament and business sector, one knows that they acquitted themselves with merit through a diverse series of political, economic, military and other measures, and achieved their main objective of keeping Switzerland out of the war. Seen in this light, the errors of omission which are inherent in every government action, especially in difficult times, pale into insignificance.

*Heinz Langenbacher
Former Ambassador
Stettlen, Switzerland*

Expo.02: the Dutch missed out

SR 04/2002, Page 15



Our national daily paper also published an excellent article on Expo.02 – unfortunately, however, at a time when most Dutch had returned from their holidays. The National Exhibition would certainly have attracted the interest of the Dutch, who everyone knows are inveterate travellers and full of curiosity – if they had only known about it in time. Pity!

*Marlène Becht
Bergen op Zoom, Netherlands*

Sympathy with Switzerland

SR 04/2002, Editorial and Focus

I would like to confirm what you said in your "Editorial". Our ballot slips from Schaffhausen normally arrive about ten days before the voting date, and if I cannot find anyone who happens to be travelling to Europe or the USA and can post the ballot slips at an airport, our good intentions are in vain. The Internet will make things much easier for anyone who is connected.

Re. the Bergier Report: The Swiss nation's fear of starvation was very real. We (first-generation Swiss Abroad) arrived in Switzerland (as a mother with six children aged between two and ten) from France in the early 1940s. The border processing was exemplary. However, the Swiss gave us to understand that this country was not in a position to cater to even more people. That was hard for me, who was on the threshold of adolescence and who knew Switzerland in a completely different light, having spent various vacations there. I now understand that fear better than I did at the time.

Elizabeth Vogel-Meier, Venezuela

Annoying mix-up

SR 05/2002, Mailbag

I believe someone may have misrepresented me in a vitriolic anti-Swiss letter to your magazine, and I would like to set the record straight.

My name is Matthew Doebler and I live in Long Island. I have been married to a wonderful Swiss girl for many years. It is she who drew my attention to your regular readers' letters, more specifically to one signed by Lloyd W. Doebler, who also claims to be married to a Swiss woman and then proceeds to spew out a litany of hate against

A request to our readers

*We continually receive lots of letters from our readers and enjoy reading them! However, since our space is limited we can only publish a few of the letters we receive. The editorial team also reserves the right to shorten the texts. If you write to us, please keep it concise, and don't forget to include your name and address.
Many thanks!*

Editorial team

all Swiss and Switzerland itself. I am startled that such an expression of hate against an identifiable group would be printed in your Review.

Nothing could be further from the truth than what my hatemongering impersonator has written to you. We Americans, we true and solid Americans, love Switzerland, stand by you, and root for you. You have been an inspiration to us for a long time. Let the haters say what they want. They do not speak for me, Mr. America.

Matthew Doebler, Long Island (USA)

The editorial team has received several angry responses to Lloyd W. Doebler's letter. Readers' letters with defamatory content are not published. We should like to remind our readers that the

opinions expressed in readers' letters do not always reflect the editor's opinion.

Swiss voters say "no"

SR 04/2002, p. 7

I am very concerned about the environment – there is evidence world-wide of global warming due to pollution, especially vehicle emissions. I recall the UK member of the EU, Neil Kinnock (who was/is their Transport Minister) demanding free passage of all vehicles through Switzerland as a condition for joining the EU. Thank goodness the Swiss voters had the good sense to say "no". He could not care less that his demands would have resulted in just such a scenario as Pablo Crivelli has described.

Doreen Chiaverio, Kent, UK

Praying for the home country

SR 04/2002, Pages 12/13



A simple little monk who lives in the heart of Burgundy would like to express his gratitude for the "Swiss Review" which, with its beautiful photographs of alpine landscapes, brought a breath of fresh air from the homeland. It prompts me to pray for my country, which at times tends to focus on economic and popular benefits rather than its humanitarian actions. What a pleasure it was for this monk from the Valais to see the Swiss enthusiasm for the papal guard; nowadays the Pope's importance is such that it is no

mean task to serve someone who watches over humanity. To leave one's country to serve in this capacity is no small sacrifice.

Brother Johan, Fley, France

Fortunate

SR 05/2002, Mailbag

I cannot agree with Ueli Lehmann, who does not participate in elections and referenda. Rather, I am pleased to exercise my right to vote in Switzerland even if I do not directly benefit from the outcome of popular votes. I have at least taken advantage of the option offered to Swiss Abroad to participate in this social process, because we are fortunate to be able to take part in a unique democracy and feel truly Swiss by helping to shape decisions which are frequently viewed by the rest of the world as exemplary.

Philippe Stutz, Montereau, France

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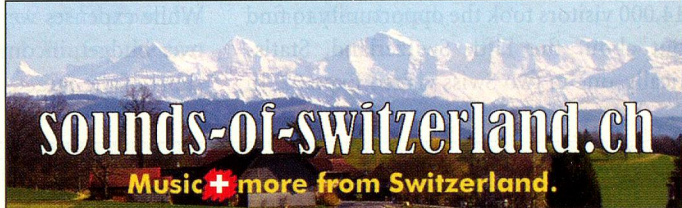


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