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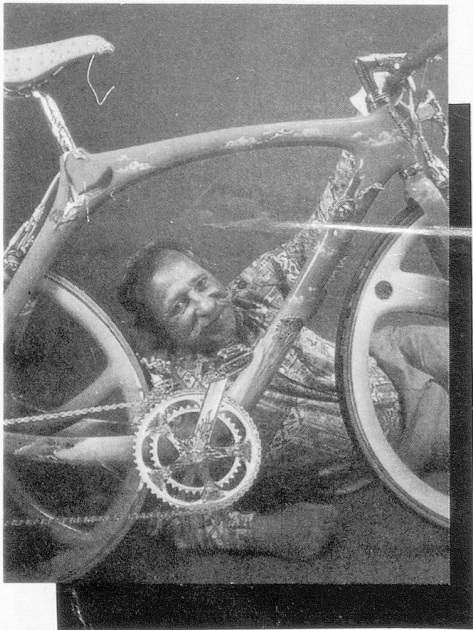
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## MILLION DOLLAR BICYCLE



"For a million dollars you can have it" says the Geneva jeweller, Volker Rheinisch, 55. What he offers is the world's most expensive bicycle. Gold, silver, platinum, diamonds and other gemstones are so well mixed into the construction of the bike that you may not only admire it, but you can also ride it. However, it would not be recommended to leave the bike out of your sight, even if chained to a lamp-post!

### SAMSTAGERN-SCHINDELLEGI

The "SOB" or Schweizerische Südostbahn (what else did you think it meant?) has just opened a dual carriage-way between Samstagern (Zurich) and Schindellegi (Schwyz) as part of a reconstruction programme to extend as far as Biberbrugg.

The purpose is to triple the capacity of this railroad to absorb the increasing traffic between Rapperswil and Arth-Goldau as well as the new S-Bahn service between Wädenswil and Einsiedeln.

## NO MORE TANKS

The tank factory (Panzerfabrik) Thun which up to now produced mainly heavy tanks and canons for the Swiss army will diversify its production by moving into the manufacturing of control and security equipment.

## REPORTS FROM THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN WELLINGTON

New President of the Federal Council (Bundespräsident) for 1993: Adolf OGI. He was elected comfortably with 185 votes (absolute majority 105). New Vice-President is Otto STICH with 134 votes.

Cantons which grant the Swiss abroad the right to vote on local matter (Kantonal & Gemeinde):

At the moment there is only one Canton (Solothurn) that allows Swiss abroad the right to vote on all matters (Kantonal & Kommunal Stimm & Wahlrecht). Two more Cantons: Geneva and Jura have given them the "Kantonal Stimm & Wahlrecht" but not the "Kommunal Stimm & Wahlrecht". All the other Cantons have not (yet) granted any such rights to their citizens living abroad..

## WAR OF THE CASINOS

The French casinos of Divonne, Evian and Annecy, who are heavily patronised by Swiss gamblers, are getting worried about the possible move by the Swiss Government to liberalise gambling in the Swiss casinos by lifting the limits of the stakes and thus bringing the Swiss casinos in direct competition with their French, German and Italian counterparts.

Sensing the danger, the casino of Annecy, the furthest away from Switzerland of the three, has launched an all-out publicity campaign aimed particularly at Geneva. Over 940 posters have appeared on bill-boards and over 30.000 leaflets have been distributed to households throughout the city. Furthermore, four times a week, a luxury coach will take any bona-fide gamblers from Geneva to Annecy and back totally free of charge. Gambling is certainly big business (at least for those you have got the money).

## SULZER RETRENCHING

Sulzer sees no profitable future anymore for its heavy iron foundry works and therefore decided to close its factory in Oberwinterthur, the last heavy iron foundry in Switzerland. The reasons for this move are the general reduction in demand for iron from the Swiss machinery industry, the replacement of iron by new materials and above all the high salaries which all make the production uneconomical. Over 370 workers will lose their jobs by mid 1993 with a further 150 jobs being at risk at a later stage.



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