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Hours of prickly work. Hundreds of flowering roses are stitched into the train of this evening gown.

WORLD RENOWNED FLORAL DESIGNER

Nichole von Boletzky, 25, from Zurich, has become a world renowned designer in the floral art. At 15 she began her training as a florist. At 18 she finished her apprenticeship well at the top of her class and at 22 she already published her first book on floral designs. For 3 years she also managed Switzerland's largest Bonsai centre.

Today Nicole runs her own school in floral designs where over 1000 florists and decorators from all over the world come to study each year. One of Nicole's specialities is to create floral evening dresses and bridal gowns. Nicole von Boletzky is recognised as the world's top floral design trendsetter.

The result is magic, but unfortunately very short lived. Sitting down must certainly prove to be a tricky (or else prickly) undertaking...

The "Gemeinde" of Olten has accepted the offer from the "Schweizerische Kreditanstalt" SKA to take over the bankrupt EKO "Hypothekar und Handelsbank Olten". This local Bank got into trouble, like quite a few others, through dicey credits and the general downturn in real estate prices.

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THE MOST POPULAR SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND

- Hiking (Wandern) 37.6%
- Swimming 37%
- Skiing 32.3%
- Cycling 31.1%
- Jogging 22.8%
- Gymnastics 21.7%
- Fitness 13.6%
- Badminton 11.8%
- Ice-skating 10.6%
- Tennis 10.5%

WHO ARE THE LARGEST WINE DRINKERS IN EUROPE ?

Here is the list with the number of litres of wine drunk per year per head of population:

- France 72 litres
- Italy 63 litres
- Portugal 54 litres
- Switzerland 46 litres
- Spain 41 litres
- Austria 36 litres
- Greece 33 litres
- Germany 26 litres
- The Netherlands 16 litres
- Sweden 13 litres

TIME BOMB FOR 5 SFR

Wenn an elderly lady was forced to give up her household in Uster, the removal people discovered an old grenade dating back to the first world war which could have exploded at the slightest touch. The removal people were quite amazed when they found the grenade sitting on a window sill. The lady had acquired it many years ago as a souvenir for a mere 5 SFR. As far as could be established, the trigger mechanism was still intact. Bomb experts finally detonated the grenade.

