

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 18 (1991)
Heft: 3

Vorwort: The youth of today
Autor: Lüthi, Ruth

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



Impressum

Swiss Revue

Magazine for the Swiss Abroad

18th year of issue

Published quarterly in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish, in about 30 regional editions.

Printing: Berne, Lugano, New York, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires
Total circulation: 254 900

Editorial staff:

Dr. Stephan Müller, Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Berne
Heidi Willumat, Service for the Swiss Abroad, Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne
Jacques Matthey-Doret, Radio-Télévision Suisse romande, Lausanne

Translation:

Helen Baumer, John Miles

Publisher, central editorial offices and advertising administration:
Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Telephone 031 44 66 25
Telex 912 118 asse ch
Telefax 031 44 21 58
Postcheck (Swiss national giro)
account: 30-6768-9

Printing-office:
Buri Druck AG
CH-3001 Bern



The disco – the much decried and passionately loved leisure activity par excellence of young people between 14 and 20.
(Photo: Michael von Graffenreid)

Editorial

The Youth of Today



Swiss and German surveys carried out in recent years have all shown that the youth of today is in general contented. The youngsters aim at getting a good job, social relations are important to them – though not so important as money – and they have little interest in politics and ecological problems (women somewhat more than men). Individualistic aims are well to the fore. They are optimistic and believe that they control the most important areas of their lives. The "post-materialist" era predicted 20 years ago does appear to be coming into being.

This means that young people have again become a good consumption potential for economic interests. Their desires and interests have been well catered for. Whether clothes, sport or cultural activities, offers – and even the dictates of fashion – are available in plenty and are taken up in order to be "with it". In addition these norms are also being adopted by the older generations: to be youthful, to behave like young people, is a desire not confined to any specific age group. There are also counter-movements to this consumer-oriented, contented, individualistic youth: dropouts who prefer a simple life-style with social and ecologically responsible activities to a materialistic one which uses up resources; young people looking for a meaning to life, no longer found in the present-day society which primarily strives for growth. There are young people seeking asylum, and there are others who strongly plead for a more humane Swiss policy towards these asylum-seekers. Finally the picture of a contented and satisfied youth is disturbed by young drug addicts and the growing number of youngsters committing suicide.

On the one hand young people are regarded as the initiators of a new society. Anyone who wants to help shape the future of our country will do well to take notice of all these pictures from the youth scene. On the other hand young people are also a mirror image of a society, moulded by its standards and values. The young people, who mostly react more spontaneously to environmental factors than adults, can be regarded as indicators of the positive and negative aspects of our political and social life. Whether intensively pursuing leisure-time activities, whether working unreservedly for their fellow men and women or whether sincerely seeking the meaning of our life – youth is a good pointer to the health of our country.

P. Lüthi

Dr. Ruth Lüthi, Institute of Psychology, University of Berne

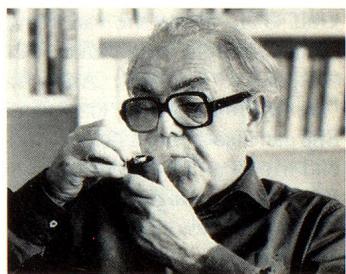
Contents



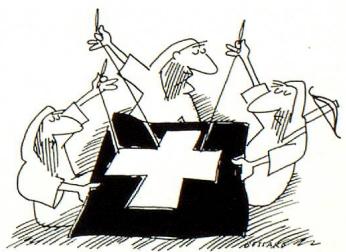
Forum:
Swiss youth **4**

Mosaic **9**

Green pages:
Local News



Culture:
Death of Max Frisch **11**



Political science **13**

Switzerland's
700th anniversary **14**

Communications
from the ASS **15**

Official
Communications **17**