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Died



Former Federal Councillor **Nello Celio** has died from complications following pneumonia at the age of 81. The Ticino Liberal Democrat was a member of the Federal Council from 1966 to 1973 for a short initial period at defence and then as finance minister. He succeeded Vaud's Paul Chaudet, who had to resign because of the Mirage affair, and was particularly well loved. After leaving the government he was active in the private sector and sat on many boards.

Berne's well-known architectural historian, **Paul Hofer**, has died at the age of 86. For half a century this author of numerous books on the history of art was considered as Berne's historical conscience. His work in the form of essays and drawings and his city planning initiatives were highly regarded throughout Europe.

Karl Rappan, for many years successful coach of Switzerland's national soccer team has died in Berne at the age of 90. Born Austrian, he coached Servette, GC, Lausanne and Zurich. The inventor of the so-called "Rappan defence system" won nine championship and nine cup titles at league level. Between 1937 and 1963 he was four times Swiss national coach. After 1938 and 1954, he took Switzerland into the World Cup for a third time in 1962.



Emil Schulthess became world famous through the Swissair calendar and his 360 degree photos of the Alpine peaks from various summits (Top of Switzerland). He was also co-founder of the magazine "du", which is marketed worldwide. He has now died at the age of 83. The Swiss graphic artist and photo pioneer went off the beaten tourist track and published photo albums on China, the Soviet Union, the USA and Antarctica at a time when these places were still largely unknown. The books were acclaimed all over the world, received many prizes and are considered classics of the art of photography. ■

Point of view

"I enjoyed every minute I was a federal councillor. I never suffered when something went wrong; for me there were no dramas".

The late Federal Councillor Nello Celio on his time in government.

People

The Swiss ambassador to the Council of Europe, **Gret Haller**, has been appointed by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as Ombudswoman for Human Rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is one of the most important functions of the OSCE mission in Bosnia. The former president of the Swiss National Council will occupy the post for five years. Her main task will be to investigate human rights violations, either upon request or on her own initiative.



Actor **Mathias Gnädinger** from Schaffhausen has won the Hans-Reinhart-Ring, the most coveted Swiss drama prize. Born in 1941, he is honoured for his many film and television appearances. Amongst his best known roles were those in "The Boat is Full", "Happiness Bought", "Bingo" and "The Journey of Hope".

The Centre for Contemporary Art in Basle has a new head. Forty-year old **Peter Pakesch** from Austria succeeds Thomas Kellein. Pakesch studied architecture and is also known as an artist and exhibition producer. He made his name by his work with the "Styrian Autumn" arts festival in Graz.

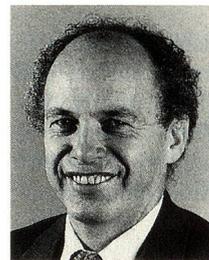
Berne's Fine Arts Museum also has a new director. Forty-nine year old **Toni Stooss** from Berne takes over from Hans Christoph von Tavel. Stooss was previously head of the Vienna Art Museum for four years. From 1982 to 1992 he was curator of the Zurich Fine

Arts Museum. He is considered an experienced exhibition producer with a wide spectrum.

The new head of the Swiss Cinémathèque in Lausanne is **Hervé Dumont**. He succeeds Freddy Buache, who established the institution. Today the Swiss Cinémathèque possesses 20,000 feature films, 17,000 short films, 900,000 photographs, 35,000 posters and 310 pieces of cinema equipment.



Sixty-year old **Christian Jaquet** has just taken over as head of the newly opened Design Center Langenthal. The first director has been a public relations consultant for 30 years. For the last two decades he has taught visual communication at the Berne School of Design.



The Swiss People's Party is now in the hands of a Zurcher. Forty-six year old **Ueli Maurer** has succeeded Hans Uhlmann as party chairman. He is a member of the Zurich branch of the party led by Christoph Blocher. ■

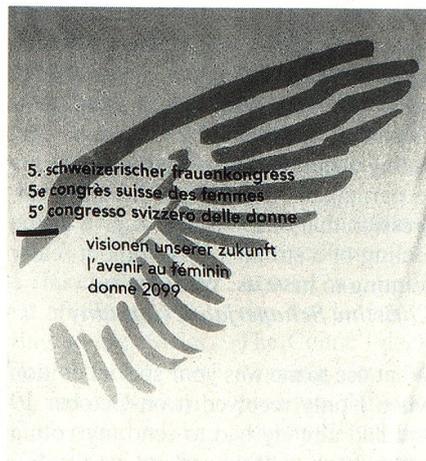
NEW ON THE INTERNET



- The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is providing Internet information on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), of which Switzerland is president for 1996. The address: <http://www.fsk.ethz.ch/osze>
- "Basel International City Guide" is sending homesick Baslers comprehensive information about their city on Internet site <http://www.access.ch/bsweb/basel/d/basel.htm>
- You can visit the Internet home page of the Swiss embassy in London at <http://www.swissembassy.org.uk>

Berne firmly in women's hands

2,300 women of the most varied political hue and every age have said thumbs up to a future open to the world, solidarity and forging ahead. Without illusion but filled with bold vision they were taking part in the fifth Swiss Women's Congress. Its slogan: "Women Look to the Future" ("L'avenir au féminin – Visionen unserer Zukunft – Donne 2099" in Switzerland's three national languages). Just as at the last women's congress 20 years ago, the main subject was genuine equality between men and women in professional, political and private life. Many resolutions were passed. For example, they demanded



Swiss UN membership and an equitable division of professional and domestic labour between men and women.

In addition, the 25th anniversary of women getting the vote has been in the headlines. On February 7, 1971, 65.7% of all Swiss men who voted said Yes. But this gesture of equality is still not reflected in fair distribution at the top. There are only 42 women in the National Council and 8 in the Council of States. In percentage terms there are even fewer in prominent economic and scientific posts. And 10% less women vote than men. ■

Paying for pipedreams

Graben AG nuclear power stations is receiving Sfr. 227 million from the federal government as compensation for its power plant which was never built. This settlement before the Federal Supreme Court ends a 15-year long legal battle between the two parties. The power station company had originally demanded an indemnity of Sfr. 300 million plus interest. With the sum of Sfr. 227 million awarded only a quarter of the loss is covered, says Rudolf von Werdt of Berne's Graben AG.

This means that the federal government must for the second time pay out

taxpayers' money for a non-built nuclear power plant. When Kaiseraugst was dropped it cost the government Sfr. 350 million. That was seven years ago. But unlike Graben AG, Kaiseraugst AG was already in possession of general approval and not just site approval.

A 58% majority holding in Graben AG belongs to BKW, the Berne power station company, and thus to Canton Berne. It will now be dissolved. It is not yet certain what will happen to the five-hectare site on the River Aare outside Graben. Perhaps it will simply stay as it is: pastureland. ■

Elektrowatt snaps up Landis & Gyr

To celebrate its 100th birthday Elektrowatt has bought the Zug electric engineering company, Landis & Gyr, for Sfr. 1.8 billion. This will greatly improve Elektrowatt's position in the field of buildings technology and give it added advantage in world markets. Landis & Gyr at present employs 15,500 staff, but it is not yet known whether the new synergies will lead to redundancies. ■

Job losses at Oerlikon-Bührle

The Oerlikon-Bührle armaments firm has announced that it will be abolishing one out of seven workplaces in the current year, amounting to 225 job losses. The international arms market is given as the reason. Since the mid-1980s this has shrunk from Sfr. 70 billion to Sfr. 20 billion. As a result company sales have fallen by two-thirds within a few years, and the number of employees has dropped from almost 10,000 to just 3,300. ■

First of August badge: a symbolic button

The 77th national day badge in the form of a simple button may seem banal, but it is very symbolic and incorporates technical precision. The button is also redolent of everyday life. It should encourage us to look for the special in the mundane. It is directly targeted towards saving valuable small historical buildings throughout the country – barns, baking and oven houses, mills, sawmills, bridges, chapels, etc. – which is the main purpose of this year's August 1 national collection.



Since 1923 the First of August badge has been a symbol of Swiss unity and solidarity. The revenue from it goes to the cultural and social works of the Pro Patria Foundation. Increasingly the Swiss Abroad have also benefited from it. Until 1991 Pro Patria was the main financial backer of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad. In 1994 it earmarked Sfr. 800,000 to promote Swiss schools abroad.

You can buy the First of August badge at any Swiss embassy or consulate. If there should be any supply problem, those interested can also apply directly to:

Pro Patria, P.O. Box, CH-8023 Zurich
Tel: 41 1 251 79 50;
Fax: 41 1 251 75 13 ■

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Photos: Keystone, Max Baumann