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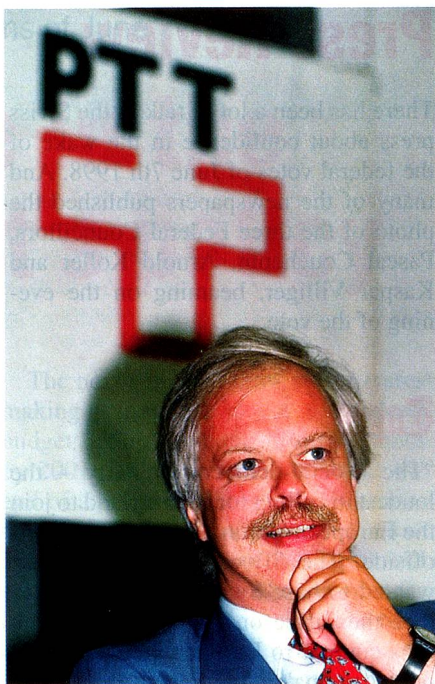
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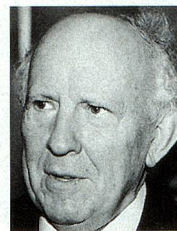
Good-bye Post director Jean-Noël Rey

Jean-Noël Rey stumbled over a few unclear situations after which he came under pressure and resigned his post. Among other things he was wanting to introduce Urs Haymoz as deputy general director. On the basis of the negative press report Haymoz had to leave before his first day of work with a golden handshake of 277,000 francs. Rey also had to resign as co-president of the Sion 2006 Olympia Committee. Confronted with the West-Swiss media, Rey interpreted the series of events about his person as a campaign by the Swiss-German press against French-speaking fellow citizens. ■



Western Switzerland has lost a great author: **Alice Rivaz** has died at the age of 96. She published novels and short stories for which she received the great Ramuz prize and the Schiller prize twice.

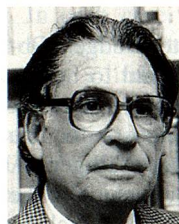
Journalist **Martin Schlappner** has died in Zurich at the age of 79. He made criticism of home-made and foreign films fashionable in Switzerland. He was a film critic, author and former editor of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. He wrote with an emphatic often stubborn and authoritarian pen and was always very impassioned.



The Willisau graphist **Niklaus Troxler**, will in future teach in Stuttgart. He was appointed professor for communication, design and illustration in the State Academy in that city.



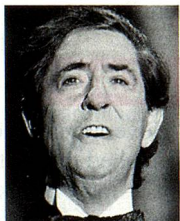
People



Historian and journal **Werner Rings** has died in Ticino at the age of 87. He immigrated to Switzerland from Germany in 1933 and was the author of standard works such as "Switzerland in the War" and "Stolen Gold from Germany".

The experienced music educationist **Daniel Fueter**, is to be director of the Conservatory and College of Music in Zurich. The 49-year old son of actress Anne-Marie Blanc is considered a talented composer for the theatre, both at home and abroad. Fueter succeeds Hans Ulrich Lehman.

The television star of light entertainment **Vico Torriani**, has left the big screen at the age of 77. He died in Agno near Lugano. He originated from Grisons and adopted Ticino. Having Italian roots, he played the guitar and the hand organ and sung catchy tunes like "Caprifisher" which became known to millions. He sold over 20 million records, these mostly in Germany.



Women in the army have a new boss: this is 45-year old **Doris Portmann-Gilomen**, who succeeds Brigadier Eugenie Rose Pollak. She too has been promoted to brigadier. In her main career she was as a lawyer and she has been in the army for 25 years, since 1995 as a colonel. In the same year she became Mrs. Pollak's deputy.

Internationally successful detergent manufacturer ("Sipuro oho!") and well versed canvasser for God **Heinrich Rohrer**, has died at 77 in Münsingen. He invested a large part of his business earnings in poster and advertisement design for God. Over 60 Swiss dailies were served by him regularly with Bible extracts.

The new director of the High School for Technology and Architecture, formally the Engineers School, in Biel, is **Christine Beerli**. The 45-year old States Councillor and head of the FDP parliamentary group succeeds Fredy Sidler.



The Langenthal Design Center will in future be run by historian and sociologist **Eva Gerber** and clerk **Edith Stadler**. They succeed Christian Jaquet. ■

Point of view

"Huge changes are going to come to this country. An opening-up will occur towards Europe..., so I see a country which is being torn away from its customs and the things it used to take for granted. The Swiss are very nice, but they also have something stiff about them, something very private. This will finally change."

Glyn Edwards, spiritualist medium in London, in an opening address for the exhibition "Photography and New Media" in Basle.

Snippets

Rich Switzerland. The Swiss population earned no less than 44,350 dollars per head in gross income in 1996. In no other of the 130 countries included in the census did the population earn more. The second place on the World Bank's list goes to Japan, after which come Norway, Denmark and Singapore. The rear is brought up by Mozambique, with 80 dollars a year.

Swiss embassy. The Federal Council has reactivated the Swiss embassy in Algiers. The embassy staff were withdrawn for security reasons in September 1994. The staff and premises will now be guarded by 12 members of the fortress guard corps. There exist plans to strengthen economic relations between Switzerland and Algeria.

Cherished help. The Swiss Corps for Aid in Disaster has become an important component of Swiss identity. It was set up 25 years ago by then federal Councillor Kurt Furgler. In 1997, 200 volunteers gave 27,856 days in 222 actions in 44 countries. The annual cost comes to Sfr. 30 million.

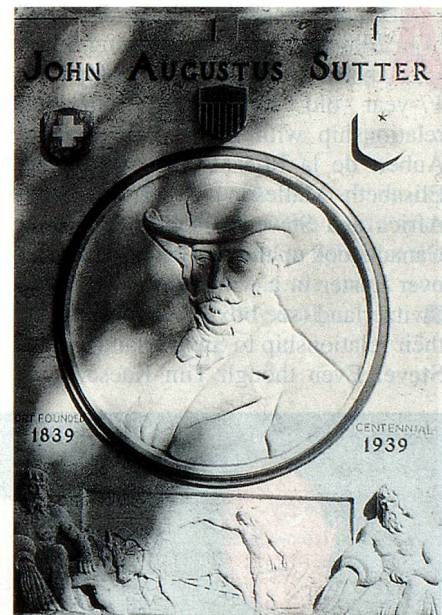
Zollikerberg murder. After years of legal dispute, the Canton of Zurich has paid compensation of 980,000 francs to the Brumann family. Their 20-year old daughter fell a victim in October 1993 to Erich Hauert in Zollikerberg. He had been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and multiple rape, and had wrongly been given parole. He used the parole to murder again.

Art altar. After Basle, Freiburg has now become a place of exhibition of the works of Jean Tinguely. The "Espace Jean Tinguely - Niki de Saint Phalle" has been set up in the former tram depot.

Tolerance. Zurich's men are today more open towards the foreign population than one generation ago. Private contacts with foreigners have increased greatly. In addition, the Swiss demonstrate less nationalism and are more given to self-criticism than before. This was shown in a National Fund study carried out between 1969 and 1995 amongst Swiss living in Zurich.

Moving abroad. Multinational firms are finding new ways to enthruse Swiss managers with posts abroad. Recently, staff have not been changing their place of residence but have run their international management duties from home. Nine out of ten firms complain that their staff are very difficult to enthruse for stints abroad. Offers have been rejected on family grounds, career problems with double earners, unacceptable destinations and unattractive salary offers. ■

Sutter's gold



A few gold nuggets were at the origin of a fictional gold-rush in the year 1848. These gold nuggets were found on the property of the Swiss Johann August Sutter. Because of a bankruptcy threat the Burgdorfer had set off for America in 1834. To his newly purchased land in California, he gave the name "New Helvetia". His son was the founder of Sacramento, today's capital of California. The life-story of this pioneer will be presented at the Castle Museum in Burgdorf until November 1st 1998. ■

Swiss researchers at top

The best research nations according to the quotation index

	1.	2.	3.
Astrophysics	USA	CH	Netherlands
Biochemistry	USA	CH	Sweden
Chemistry	USA	CH	Israel
Immunology	CH	USA	Belgium
Inform. techn.	Israel	USA	CH
Microbiology	USA	CH	GB
Molecular biology	CH	USA	Germany
Neurosciences	Sweden	USA	CH
Pharmacology	CH	New Zealand	GB
Physics	CH	Denmark	USA

Source: Science

Wf

In natural sciences Swiss researchers are amongst the best. Amongst the numbers of studies quoted, Switzerland takes a top position. In ten specialized areas it obtains a place amongst the first three worldwide. The survey in the magazine "Science" is based on 72 million mentions in 8.4 million publications of the specialized press from 1981 to 1994. ■

Texts: Alice Bauman
Photos: Keystone