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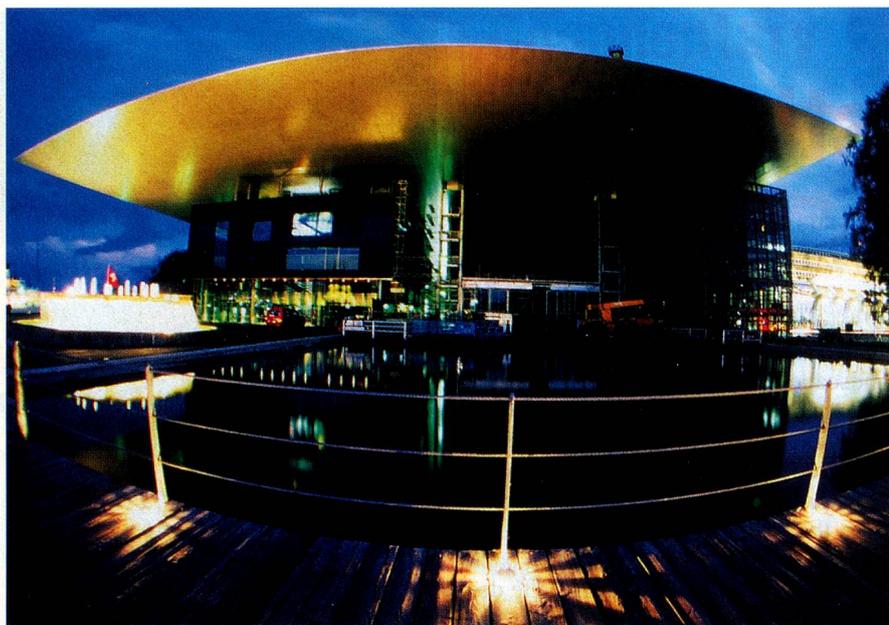
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New cultural symbol for Lucerne

The city of Lucerne, with 60,000 inhabitants, has inaugurated its new Cultural and Congress Centre: a breathtaking piece of architecture by the well-known French architect, Jean Nouvel. 1,840 seats in the auditorium and extraordinary acoustics promise unforgettable impressions. This cultural cathedral – which cost 205 million – is a home for the Festival but also for congresses and exhibitions (it offers 2,270 places for congress guests and 2,500 m² of exhibition space). The ship-like building is intended as a home for the Berlin Philharmonic, but also for local

cultural associations and other organisers.

The creation of a building like this is the dream of every big city. To achieve it, the city of Lucerne has contributed 94 million and the canton 24 million. The remainder has been put up by a foundation funded by companies in Central Switzerland and local hotels. The value of the jumbo building to tourism is important for the hotels: panoramic windows offer a wide view over the city, and a flying roof projects far out over the Lake of Four Cantons. ■



People

Paediatrician **Marie Meierhofer** has died at the age of 89. Like the Maria Meierhofer Institute she founded in 1957, the internationally recognised doctor stood for children's well-being and their rights. During the war years she worked with the Red Cross Children's Aid Actions and helped to set up the Pestalozzi Children's Village.

The 61 year-old Basle professor in government and international law, **Luzius Wildhaber**, has been chosen as president of the new permanent Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. The Court has 40 members, delegated from the same number of countries.

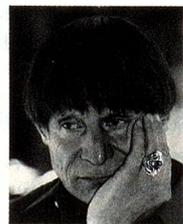


Katharina Hasler from Zumikon, Zurich, member of the Green Party and wife of the director of the Employers' Association, Peter Hasler, succeeds Margrit Krüger as president of the Consumers' Forum.



The internationally active 52 year-old Berne stage designer, **Werner Hutterli**, has received the 1998 Hans Reinhart Ring. This is considered Swiss theatre's most important award.

The "Aargauer Zeitung" has awarded a culture prize for the first time. It goes to clown **Dimitri** and his wife Gunda, with the Scuola e Teatro Dimitri. The prize is endowed with a quarter of a million francs.



Poet and painter **Dieter Roth** is dead: this 68 year-old Basle artist died unexpectedly after designing and opening an exhibition. With him Switzerland has lost one of its most important artists. ■

*Text: Alice Baumann
Photos: Keystone*

SRI: End of Omnidirectional Shortwave Transmissions for Europe

At the end of October, continuous programming for Europe on 6.165 MHz (49 m) via Lenk will be terminated. Daily directional transmissions for audiences in particular parts of Europe will continue, however. Please consult the latest SRI programme guide for details.

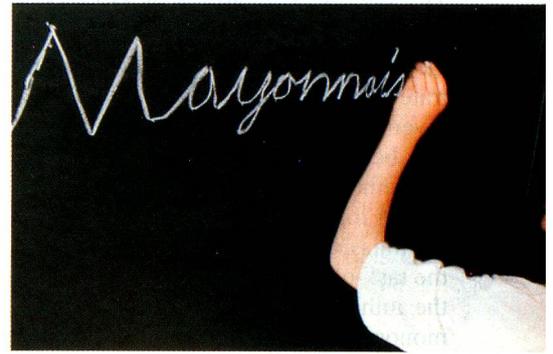
In Europe, four continuous SRI broadcast channels are available via satellite (Astra for English and German, and Eutelsat for French and Italian). This is an economical, high-quality service of particular interest to the Swiss Abroad. Coverage via the Internet is to commence shortly.

Contact: SRI, Communication and Marketing Services, tel. (+41 31) 350 9222 fax (+41 31) 350 9544 e-mail: marketing@sri.srg-ssr.ch

New German spelling introduced

On Switzerland's national day, not only were there fireworks but the new regulations for written German came into force. But those who oppose the reform have time to grow accustomed to the linguistic changes. Until July 31, 2005, both ways of writing will be considered correct. Those who apply the old rules will merely be considered "traditional". Swiss Review will use the new orthography from January 1, 1999, taking its lead from the federal administration. But Switzerland will maintain the old way of writing for borrowings from the other national languages (Portemonnaie instead of the new Portmonee).

As one of the innovations, combination words will keep all their letters; examples Schiffahrt, Bestelliste and Kaffeearnte, but hyphens may be used for greater clarity: Tee-Ei. The spelling of derived words will be aligned with that of their root: platzieren with Platz, potenziell with Potenz, substanzuell with Substanz and nummerieren with Nummer.



Word combinations made up of a noun and a verb will increasingly be written separately: Rad fahren, Eis laufen and sitzen bleiben. Adjectives and adjectives as nouns will take an upper case initial: in Bezug auf, im Dunkeln, as also languages: Englisch sprechen. In expressions made up of a noun and an adjective, the latter will always have a lower case initial: schwarze Liste, schwarzes Brett, erste Hilfe. There will be exceptions for titles (Technischer Direktor), historical events (Zweiter Weltkrieg), biological classifications (Roter Milan) and special dates (Erster August). In future, nouns used as figures and adjectives referring to a number or language will have upper case initials: als Fünfte sprechen, die Nächste, der Einzelne, die Einzige, auf gut Deutsch.

At the end of a line, words will be split according to syllable: Zu-cker, Hus-ten. Combinations with numbers will need a hyphen: 15-jährig, 8-Zylinder, 99-prozentig. The comma will disappear after und/oder and before infinitives with zu. It can be put back in, however, for easier readability. It will be mandatory after direct speech and quotations: "Warum?", fragte sie ihn.

So a sentence like this may be the result of the reform in writing: "Morgen Mittag werden die Gämsen und der sich schnäuzende Rauhaardackel behände um die Stängel herumspringen. Danach wollen sie einen Tunfisch fressen. Das wird ein Presse-Kommunikee geben." Hitherto: Morgen Mittag werden die Gemen und der sich schneuzende Rauhaardackel behende um die Stengel herumspringen. Danach wollen sie einen Thunfisch fressen. Das wird ein Pressecommuniqué geben. (Tomorrow at midday the chamois and the rough-haired dachshund blowing its nose will jump quickly around the stalk. Afterwards they will eat a tuna fish. This will result in a press communiqué).

Snippets

More divorces. The Swiss divorce rate has again risen, and for the first time since 1985 the number of marriages has fallen below the 40,000 level (down 4%). Out of every 100 marriages, 41 break up. On our continent only the Northern European countries have a higher divorce rate.

Television fever. Some new TV projects are out to put the wind up the Swiss Radio and TV Corporation (SRG). Radio pioneer Roger Schawinski has started Tele 24, and the German private station SAT1 has received its licence for a programme window with sport and entertainment. Also participating in the struggle for public favour are TA Media AG, the two German stations, RTL and PRO7, and a number of local TV stations.

Job losses. The Swiss Telecommunications' Company, Swisscom, is cutting jobs with a view to its stock market launch. It has set aside 1.3 billion francs for the early retirement of almost 3,000 employees, and this has led to losses of 415 million francs for 1997.

Good prospects. The recovery continues: the OECD estimates that the Swiss economy will grow in 1998/99 by 1.5% to 1.8%. In 1997, it grew by only 0.1%.

Drinking and driving. Soon the 0.5‰ rule – which is applied in most European countries – will probably be introduced in Switzerland too (the present limit is 0.8‰). This is equivalent to about one glass of wine or beer. It is hoped this rule will avoid 20 deaths or 500 injured.

Pictures and text for the whole world. The news agency Associated Press (AP), established in New York, is celebrating its 150th birthday. Its branch in Berne has existed for 17 years.

Point of view

"Switzerland is like a body which has been spared from every possible disease, protecting itself from contagion, under the fair sign of neutrality. Now Switzerland has no answer to criticism, and indulges in a tantrum."

ETH literature professor and author Adolf Muschg on the Holocaust debate.