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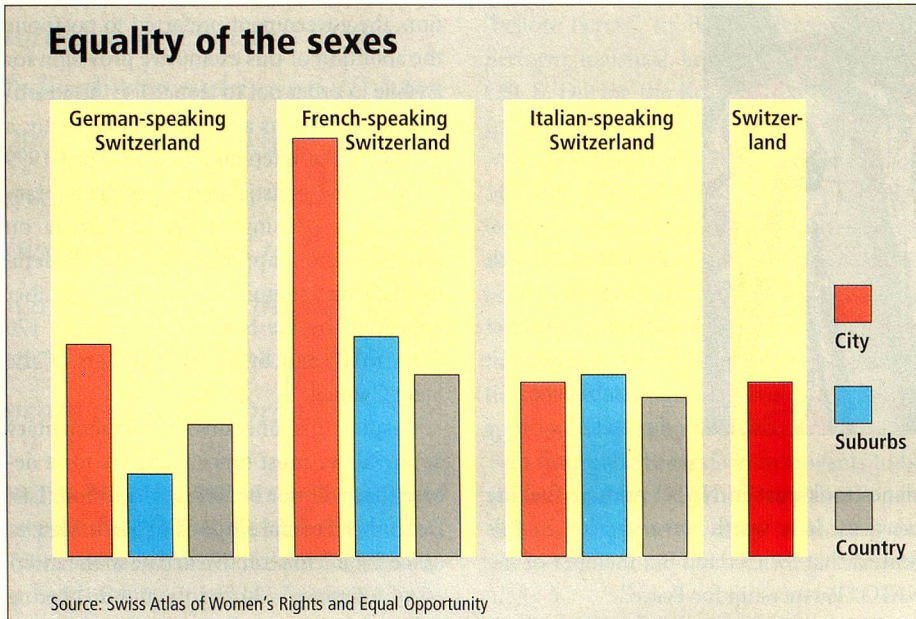
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Still not equal

Emancipation has progressed at different speeds throughout Switzerland, although the conservative family model is losing ground. It is further advanced in cities in western Switzerland, followed by German-Swiss cities and suburban areas of western Switzerland. In communities inhabited by farming families, men and women enjoy a

much higher degree of equality than in rural commuter zones and suburbs. These are the conclusions of the first Swiss atlas of women's rights and equal opportunity, drawn up by the Institute of Geography of Zurich University as part of the Swiss National Research Fund programme entitled "Future Switzerland".



Wakker winner

Uster, the third-largest city in the canton of Zurich, has been awarded the 2001 Wakker Prize for Heritage Preservation. The city was praised for its "exemplary work to enhance the living space of the agglomeration".



SNIPPETS


SWITZERLAND, A SPECIAL CASE: A survey of 20,000 recruits and over 1000 20-year-old men and women showed that young Swiss do not want an open country. They prefer Switzerland to be treated as a special case and proved more conservative than their parents towards Europe and foreigners.

ACCLAIM: The Swiss Film Prize was awarded for the fourth time at the Solothurn Film Festival. Worth CHF 50,000, the prize was awarded to Valais-born Denis Rabaglia for his sentimental comedy "Azzuro".

BERNESE BEAR DISAPPEARS: The Bernese bear has disappeared from the capital's official stationery. This and the fact that the bear is also to be removed from municipal trams and buses led to loud protests from fans of the Bernese heraldic symbol.

COMPETITORS UNITED: The German Phönix Group has taken over the Jäggi book store as well as Hanns Stauffacher AG in Berne. This makes Germany's Number 3 the lead player in the Swiss market. Both long-time rivals are among Switzerland's largest book stores.

BIG TOP TOPPLES: Louis Knie (a member of the Swiss circus dynasty who moved to Austria) and his Louis Knie Circus are broke and have filed for bankruptcy to the tune of CHF 4.4 million.

SWEET NOTHINGS: Bernese Oberland biscuit-maker Steuri-Biscuits is to disappear from the market. The family concern has sold its plant and equipment as well as recipes. 

Point of view

"We come from a rather unique country. Our formula is : CH = 4 + 4 + 26 = 1848/PL. That means: four cultures, four languages, 26 cantons, peace and liberty since 1848 – a 152-year-old success story."

Former Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi on a state visit

Poor public service

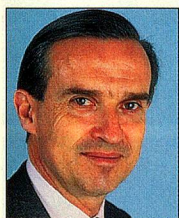
The yellow giant is streamlining its network of post offices and closing around 900 primarily rural branches, equivalent to a quarter of all post offices. The closures will be accompanied by the loss of 500 jobs. Unions expressed shock at the "clean sweep of post offices".



PEOPLE

Belpmoos pioneer **Franz Gribi** is dead. He possessed 18 pilot's licences, made 37,000 landings, transported over 5000 passengers, trained more than 300 students and survived three crashes. He died at the age of 86.

After twelve years in office, FDP President **Franz Steinegger** from Uri is handing over to Liberal **Gerold Bührer** (SH). The professional economist aims to win back voters in 2003 who "crossed to the SVP out of frustration".



Former diplomat and ABB Co-President **David de Pury**, scion of a Neuchâtel dynasty, died unexpectedly at the age of 57. His "White Paper" manifesto entitled "The courage to change" caused a sensation in business and political circles in 1995.

Martin Hürlimann, former head of the old-established Zurich brewery Hürlimann, died at the age of 77. He fought vehemently but in vain against the fusion with Feldschlösschen and the close-down of the Zurich operation.

Bernard Cathomas, Director of the Pro Helvetia Cultural Foundation, is the new director of Romansch Radio and Television. His move was prompted by the shaky structures of the Pro Helvetia organisation.




Robert Straubhaar is the new director of the Lucern Culture and Congress Centre. He takes over from **Thomas Held**, who has been appointed head of the "Future Switzerland Foundation".

The new president of the Swiss Press Council is **Peter Studer**. He takes over from media professor **Roger Blum**. Studer is a former editor-in-chief of the "Tages-Anzeiger" and of Swiss Television DRS.


Acclaimed curator **Guido Magnaguagno** is leaving the Kunsthau Zurich after over 100 exhibitions to take up office at the Tinguely Museum in Basel.

Human rights campaigner **Bruno Manser** has been reported missing since the end of May 2000. Manser, who for 16 years has fought for the right to a conservation area for the Penan tribe in Sarawak, disappeared without a trace in the jungle of Borneo and, when this issue went to press, had still not

been found. He had many enemies because he publicised the Penans' struggle against timber merchants and bulldozers.

Federal Data Protection Officer **Odilo Gunttern** is retiring after eight years in office. Previously he was CVP State Councillor for Vaud. 

Secret computer data cracked

Anonymous hackers made headlines recently by stealing 1400 credit card numbers, the passport, mobile phone and private codes of 1400 business leaders, government officials and other prominent personalities in the runup to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. They stressed that their actions were without criminal intent and that they merely wanted to "do damage" to the event. Reports of their theft were received with astonishment around the world. In addition, several thousand protestors demonstrated against the WEF in various Swiss cities. 

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Photos: Keystone