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SNIPPETS

THE CENTRAL THURGAU RAILWAY (MITTELTHURGAUBAHN MTHB) IS IN FINANCIAL STRAITS:

The management, central government and canton are desperately trying to stave off bankruptcy. Those in charge promise there will be no "grounding".

SWISS ON TRACK: For the first quarter of this year the airline was CHF 100 million up on the target defined in its business plan.

NEW BSE CASE: Switzerland's ninth case of mad cow disease this year was discovered in the canton of Aargau. The latest BSE case was found in a seven-year-old cow from a stall in the Aargau district of Muri, following a voluntary post-slaughter test initiated by private individuals.

SAIRGROUP IN DEBT: The liquidation of Swissair is causing more ripples. Claims amounting to CHF 38 billion had been submitted by our copy date.

DOWNSIZING AT CS: The Credit Suisse financial group is to shed another 500 jobs in its Financial Services division in addition to the 700 to 800 jobs already announced. The reduction is to be achieved largely through natural fluctuation.

GLARUS CELEBRATES: After the older cantons of Uri, Schwyz, Ob- and Nidwalden, Lucerne and Zurich, it is now the turn of Glarus to celebrate: it is now 650 years since the canton joined the confederation.



BAD MARKS FOR READING: Some 40% of school leavers in Switzerland are unable to read and understand a simple text. The Federal Office for Culture has now launched an initiative for a campaign against illiteracy.



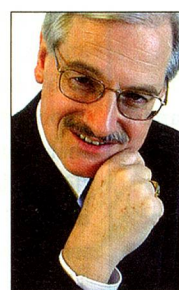
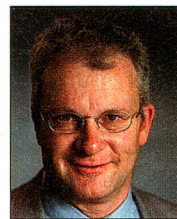
The number of employees in the **WATCH INDUSTRY** has exceeded the 40,000 mark. This corresponds to an increase of 2720 employees or 7.3% more than the previous year, making it the highest headcount since 1981.

HEALTH INSURANCE TO PAY FOR HEROIN: From next July health insurances will be obliged to pay more towards the cost of issuing heroin. This is the decision reached by the Federal Office for Social Security.

NESTLÉ THE GREATEST: With revenues soaring to CHF 84.7 billion in 2001, the Swiss food group advanced further up the Handelszeitung's Top 500 list.

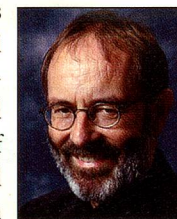
PEOPLE

Ueli Haldimann: Ueli Haldimann (49) is the new editor-in-chief of DRS television. The SRG board of directors selected him unanimously at the recommendation of TV director Peter Schellenberg. Haldimann has been ad interim editor-in-chief since the departure of Filippo Leutenegger. A typical product of the 1968 generation, Haldimann is somewhat more introverted than his predecessor.



State Councillor **Rico Wenger** is dead: Schaffhausen SVP State Councillor Rico E. Wenger has died at the age of 57. The businessman had been a member of the Council of States since 6 December 1999.

Ruedi Baumann is standing down: Ruedi Baumann, Bernese National Councillor and former president of Green Switzerland, will not be campaigning in the National Council elections in autumn 2003. He wants to concentrate on his farm in south-western France, which he has



VON ROLL SLIDES: With equity ratio now only 17%, the media are accusing the company's directors of mismanagement.

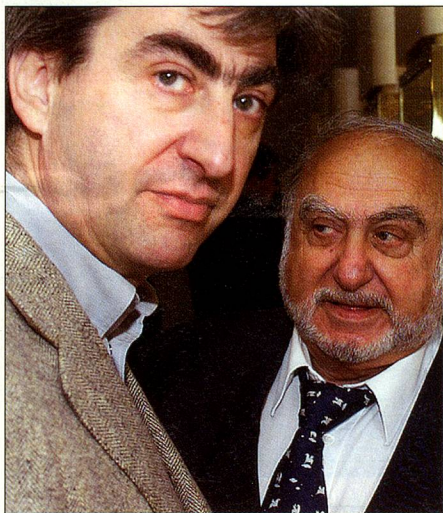


SEAGULL DIVES: Mövenpick, the gastronomy and hotel group with the seagull logo, slipped into the red last year. Now revenues are to be improved on all fronts, and preparations are under way to sell off the gastronomy and food divisions.

been managing for over a year. He also wants to focus more on integrating in France.

Financial group Rentenanstalt/Swiss Life has a new member on board. The new man is **Bruno Pfister** and worked for Credit Suisse Financial Services for many years. In mid-August 43-year old Pfister takes over from Dominik P. Morax, who for some time has been juggling two positions as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer.

Silvia Steiner, head of the Zurich Criminal Police, has been accused of acting as an accessory after the fact. Her husband caused a car accident under the influence of alcohol. Now the authorities are investigating the possibility of a cover-up.



New Swatch head: **Nick Hayek** (47) is ready to follow in the footsteps of his father, **Nicolas G. Hayek** (74). The Swatch group currently employs some 20,000 staff.

Point of view

"Sport is dangerous and unhealthy. And sweating is indecorous."

Swisscom CEO **Jens Alder** in "Schweizer Illustrierte".


Text: Gabrielle Keller
Photos: Imagopress/Keystone/
Michael Stahl

Translated from the German.



Francine Jordi flops

With her fiery Latino popsong, Latvian singer Marie N. was the surprise winner of the 2002 Eurovision Song Contest held in the Estonian capital of Tallin. Singer Francine Jordi (24) of Berne suffered a bitter blow, coming in third-last despite her highly confident performance on stage. She won the Swiss "heats" with ease and has scored previous international successes, winning the Grand Prix of Folk Music in

1998. But her ballad was not to the taste of the televoters, who heard mostly English-language songs. There was confusion over the number of points for Jordi. While the TV leader board showed 15 points, the Eurovision Internet page showed 16, and news agency DPA corrected the total from 15 to 12 on the advice of the organisers. All, however, ranked Switzerland as No. 22 overall. 

Jura under shock

Tornos, the traditional Moutier-based mechanical engineering company, is facing bankruptcy and seeking rescue with the aid of banks and a radical restructuring plan. 367 jobs are to go. The management has stated that, for economic reasons, the redundancies cannot be financially compensated

in the usual manner. Staff who lose their jobs with the manufacturer of lathes and drilling/boring equipment will leave without a social plan. The canton of Jura has expressed concern at the latest wave of redundancies at Tornos. 