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**Blocher: not an anti-European!**

Swiss Review 06/2003, Editorial



For the first time ever, your editorial prompted me to throw aside the "Swiss Review" in disgust!

In the second last paragraph you write "With anti-European Blocher on the Federal Council"! Mr Blocher is not anti-European. He merely opposes Switzerland's membership of the EU. If you look at developments in EU countries, and all the inflated egos in Brussels (all politicians who have been cast aside to end up in the EU Parliament!), then so far his position has been justified. I believe it is poor journalistic practice to accuse a politician who has been legally elected to the highest Swiss organ of being "anti-European".

*Werner Bolfing  
Schönwald im Schwarzwald,  
Germany*

**There is a time for everything**

Swiss Review 6/03, Editorial

Gabrielle Keller's editorial expresses my sentiments exactly. A black day for politics: Blocher was elected to the Federal Council, a brilliant young politician is forced to stand down, and another old man joins the government. A shocking state of affairs: yet again we must force ourselves not to give up hope and patiently hold our breaths, difficult though it is. But it is part and parcel of the Christian

ethos not to allow ourselves to be beaten by degrading politics. There is a time for everything: even Blocher. And that, too, will eventually come to an end.

*Christian Theile  
Neugnadenfeld, Germany*

**Successful balancing act**

Swiss Review 06/2003, Editorial

I congratulate you and your colleagues on the way you put together the "Swiss Review". I greatly enjoy reading your publication and believe you have achieved a successful political balancing act, enriched with personal opinions (e.g. your editorial, "Move over, Madame", on Page 2).

Keep up the good work and Happy New Year. A loyal reader and "Swiss-German-speaking Berliner".

*Franz Grass  
Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany*

**Adieu beloved Appenzell!**

Swiss Review 6/03, Editorial

As a child growing up in St. Gallen, one soon learned about the two half-cantons Appenzell Innerroden and Ausserroden. "IR" was ultra-conservative, while "AR" was progressive-liberal. Then, one day, voters in conservative Innerroden elected a young woman to the regional court, then to the cantonal court, then to the cantonal government, from where she went on to win a seat on the Federal Council. But that was too progressive for the rest of Switzerland. After only a few years in office, she was thrown out. And to make absolutely sure that they would not also be seen as too progressive, voters in Ausserroden replaced her with the most conservative and fur-

thest-right older man they could find in and around Herisau. As a resident of St. Gallen, one always looked upon the two Appenzells with some amusement. Now, that amusement has been replaced by bemusement and downright puzzlement. It's a great pity, because the landscape is beautiful. But the politics are another matter.

*Georges M. Teitler  
Sydney, Australia*

**Battle for the Swiss image**

Swiss Review 5/2003, Focus

I believe that (apart from a brief glorious period in skiing), sport does not play a decisive role in the Swiss image. International cultural relations, on the other hand, have made their mark on Switzerland's image and refuted the concept of a "peasant culture".

*Tino Walz,  
Munich, Germany*

**Solo around the world**

Swiss Review 05/2003, Focus

In regard to the article "Athletes who boost Switzerland's image", I am surprised to notice the complete absence of any mention of what was perhaps

one of the all-time greatest achievements by any Swiss athlete in an event that arguably requires more endurance and mental and physical discipline than any other sport I know: namely the solo round the world race, convincingly won by a Swiss named Bernhard Stamm. It seems this feat is little known in his homeland compared with Alinghi, which had little input by Swiss athletes (all good sportsmen nevertheless).

*Albert Buehler  
Auckland, New Zealand*

**Lack of communication**

Swiss Review 06/2003, Focus and Dossier

I wish the friendly and inspired team of "Swiss Review" all the best for the New Year. I particularly enjoyed the subtle juxtaposition of the articles entitled "Political storm clouds over Switzerland" and "Grüezi, do you speak Swiss-German?" in your 06/2003 issue. It appears obvious to me that both topics are closely related, since people only vote for a "nationalistic, anti-foreigner right-wing party" if they lose the ability to communicate with their compatriots and the rest of the world.

*CP. Enlart  
Colline-Beaumont, France*



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