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Well done

Well done to Mr Ribi for his article on popular Federal Council elections. It would be good if leading newspapers, such as the "Tages-Anzeiger" and "NZZ", were to produce features of this quality and objectivity a little more often.

DARIO CAVEGN, TALLINN, ESTONIA

More diversity, please

Whilst I look forward to every issue of "Swiss Review", I think the magazine could greatly benefit from being more inclusive by reporting on "minority" issues as they are often of wide interest and relevance to all Swiss Abroad.

It would be great to see articles on inspiring or successful Swiss citizens who are of other sexualities, religions or abilities.

We often see interesting proposed legislation in the referendum, such as the Registered Partnership Act (Eingetragene Partnerschaft) for same-sex couples, but we don't seem to hear why the Act was important and what changes it has brought.

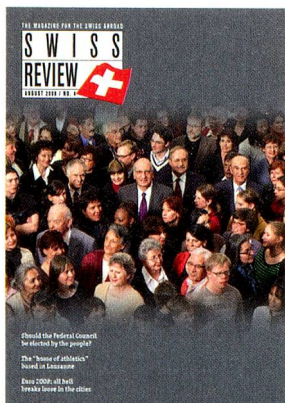
Why not an article on what it is like living in Switzerland when you are not in the "majority": how alternative families, non-Christians, or people with disabilities experience life in Switzerland?

For a small country, Switzerland is very diverse. Can we have a more diverse "Swiss Review", please?

E. MCLAREN, NEW FOREST,
UNITED KINGDOM

Fascinating tales

I have just finished reading the editorial in the April issue. It says that the reasons why



Swiss people move abroad are not included in the statistics on Swiss expatriates. It would be good if the Swiss representations could find out about the activities of Swiss people abroad and their reasons for

moving away. I am sure it would produce some entertaining and interesting stories, as my case shows. I am Swiss and a lecturer in ikebana at the University of São Paulo (ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging). Japanese people have lived in Brazil for 100 years and I, a Swiss, am the Vice-Director at the Ikebana Sogetsu, where most of the members are Japanese.

I am sure there are lots of much more interesting Swiss tales from around the world and it would be great if we could read about them.

URSULA ALTENBACH, SÃO PAULO,
BRAZIL

Why not today?

When I read the article about the Cervelat sausage in April's issue I was worried that next time I come to Switzerland there will be no more Cervelats, my favorite sausage. But actually I just wonder what butchers did in 1891... I am sure they did not have Brazilian cows' intestines at that time. Why not go back to the old way – forget about the political route and save money! In today's world everything has to be imported instead of making use of what we have. It was good enough in 1900 – why not today? This is the view of a Swiss housewife and not of a politician.

HEIDI SIEGEL, FERNLEY NEVADA,
USA

Rock from Lausanne

There are rock groups who against all the odds continue to produce sweet melodies rich in guitar sounds year after year. In Switzerland, alongside such greats as Krokus (the Swiss AC/DC), a sextet from Lausanne has survived in the jungle that is independent rock. For fifteen years, Favez has been on the Swiss and European scene, performing its melodic rock with gripping energy. At the big summer festivals, the group now appears on the main stage with the headline acts. This year they played the Paléo Festival, sharing the stage with REM and Ben Harper, and went on before Lenny Kravitz at the St.Gallen Openair. With its sixth album, "Bigger Mountains Higher Flags", Favez continues to draw on the fury of rock from within and its multiple rhythmic nuances. Vocalist and guitarist Christian Wicky sings English like a native

as his mother comes from the USA. The other band members are

Guy Borel, on guitar, Yvan Lechef on bass, Fabrice Marguerat on drums, Jeff Albelda on the keyboard and Maude Oswald on the organ. The interplay between the musicians unfolds on stage. After



a period of development in 2005, when Favez took two new musicians on board, the group has come back stronger and more inspired with its latest album. "We wanted to be true to ourselves and not young punks at the age of 36", said Chris Wicky. "There is more keyboard and we will continue in this direction with a broader-based sound." In less than a year, Favez has already done some forty gigs (including a tour of Germany, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands) and has performed almost a thousand concerts since starting out. For "Bigger Mountains Higher Flags", the Lausanne band turned to Australian producer Greg Wales (responsible for concert recordings of Metallica, Muse and Radiohead in Australia). He only produced one album in 2007, that by Favez. And if your musical tastes are more folk, you will find an incredible combination of melodic qualities in the acoustic album "A Sad Ride On The Line Again" (1999). At the end of the year, Favez will start working on its next album, which Chris Wicky says will be a patchwork of collaborations and duos with other European groups. Paradoxically for a band from Lausanne, Favez has always enjoyed more success in German-speaking than in French-speaking Switzerland. But with an average age of 35, they still have many years ahead of them. Long live rock.

ALAIN WEY



The album "Bigger Mountains Higher Flags" (dist.: Irascible, www.irascible.ch) can be listened to at www.favez.com and www.myspace.com/favez. Favez tracks can be downloaded on iTunes.