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The Swiss economy in good shape

The interview with Silvio Borner in the April issue was excellent. Heinz Eckert showed great style the way the interview was conducted. My praise goes to Silvio Borner who presented the whole financial crisis in a very practical way. I wholly endorse his thinking and only wish we had the same philosophy here in the US. As a native conservative Swiss, it makes me cringe the way things are developing here. We could use someone like Mr. Borner as an advisor for our government.

H. HAEMISEGGER, HOUSTON, USA

Thank you

I would like to thank you for your highly informative magazine. My closest friend, who comes from the Canton of Valais, regularly gives it to me to read, after which I pass it on to my parents who also really enjoy it. Through my friend, I have come to know and love Switzerland and its people, and "Swiss Review" has played a big part in this.

J. LEIPERT, GERMAN NATIONAL

Go on

As a communications consultant who often works with print media for clients in Switzerland and the USA, I appreciate the quality and depth of reporting that the "Swiss Review" team man-

ages to put together for each issue – go on!

For Swiss living abroad (like me), it's good to have a periodic look at what's happening in Switzerland that does not tie me to the computer monitor.

P. KRAUS, FAIRFIELD, USA

Keep the printed issues

I am a Swiss citizen from Berne and have been living in the San Diego area for 20 years. I have been receiving, reading and enjoying "Swiss Review", as it connects me with current events and trends in Switzerland, as well as provides me with high-quality background analysis on political and cultural events "back home".

I read that financial limitations are driving a consideration to eliminate the printed copy in favor of an online-only version. I would like to add my vote in favor of keeping the printed edition, even if it means charging for it. I read the Review when I travel, when I wait for someone in the car, or simply out by the pool, i.e. in many locations where reading online is either impractical or impossible.

Please consider asking your readership how many would be willing to pay for a subscription before you cease to print the issues!

J. CHARVAT, ALPINE, USA

Bells of home

EVERYONE IS BOUND to be familiar with the sound of the bells of home, which have rung in Sundays every Saturday evening for decades on Swiss radio from one of Switzerland's many church steeples. Radio producers only realised just how popular this traditional broadcast was when they changed the schedule to leave ringing in Sunday until Sunday morning. There was such an outcry from the radio audience that the decision had to be reversed and the church bells were immediately put back to their original slot. The peal of the bells is so popular among listeners that the radio broadcaster "DRS Musikwelle" has placed the sound of the church bells, which is recorded and digitised every week throughout Switzerland, on the Internet. Anyone who associates church bells with their childhood and a piece of their homeland can now access this sound individually from all over the world at any time of the day.

Where possible, the names of the bells and other details, such as pitch, weight, year of manufacture and name of the foundry, are given for all the churches where the sounds are recorded. Each sound is also described. For example, for the Roman Catholic church of St. Martin in Olten the description reads: "volute six-pitch peal in a marvellous sequence with

under-fourth". And the church of St. Mauritius in Naters has a "polyphonic, distinctive peal with high scarcity value".

Some of the bells date back to the Middle Ages, such as the one in the reformed church in Matt in the Canton of Glarus, which was cast in the 13th century. It is described as "a charming gentle peal that has remained unchanged for centuries and is



very well suited to this mountain-valley church". Of course, the heavyweights of Berne cathedral are also featured on the site. They give "Switzerland's loudest peal with an extremely diverse range of bells from seven different centuries". And what is more: "The two large bells are closely related with their charming, typically Bernese Renaissance decoration and exceptional sonority. The executioner's bell, which was sounded a total of 65 times between 1734 and 1861 to herald hangings, is also striking."

Other bells of major significance on the website are the Heinrichsglocke of Basel cathedral, the Herrgottsglocke of the church of St. Laurentius in Herisau and the chimes of the monastery in Rheinau.

Unfortunately, the website does not feature church bells from French-speaking Switzerland or the beautiful melodies of the churches in Ticino. However, the site is constantly being updated. If you are missing a particular bell sound, you can order it from the radio station. The requested peal will be uploaded and made available within a short space of time.

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VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

Readers are constantly calling for us to launch a donation appeal for "Swiss Review" now that federal government has cut the budget by CHF 500,000, which means only four editions can now be published each year. We are, of course, grateful for any financial support, although we do not believe that the financial basis of "Swiss Review" can be secured through voluntary donations.

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Thank you for your solidarity and support.