

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 60 (1994)  
**Heft:** [6]

**Artikel:** Shorter dole queues  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945560>

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## MATTERHORN, THE HARD WAY

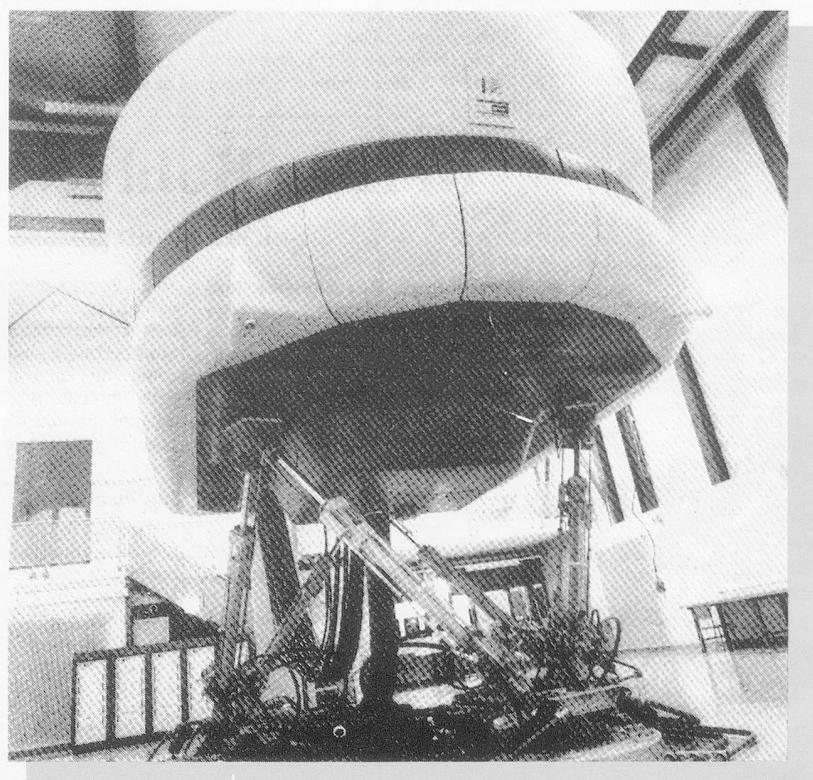
For the first time a woman, Cathrine Destivelle (France) has succeeded in a solo climb up the Matterhorn via the most difficult Walter Bonatti route. This route pioneered by Walter Bonatti (of course) in 1965 takes climbers straight up the north face of the mountain. Because of its enormous difficulties, it is very seldom used. Cathrine Destivelle, who had already climbed solo the north face of the Eiger, took five days to climb to the top of the Matterhorn.

## NO MILITARY TAX FOR HANDICAPPED

A move is under way in Switzerland to reduce or eliminate the military tax for people who are unable to perform their military duties due to a physical handicap. The argument is that mentally or

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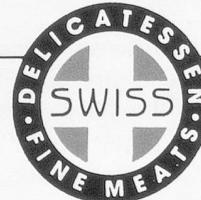
physically handicapped people have already great difficulties to get ahead in life without being burdened with a crippling extra tax which they can ill afford to pay. At the moment, only the 100% disabled are exempt from this tax.

## LA SUISSE GONE

Another well known Swiss newspaper bites the dust. The famous Geneva newspaper La Suisse, founded in 1898, almost 100 years ago, has gone under. Following certain errors of judgement by the management, the circulation dropped from 90,000 to some 50,000 copies per day and the subsequent loss in advertising made the newspaper uneconomical to produce. A sad loss for Geneva where La Suisse had been considered as a sort of local institution.

## SHORTER DOLE QUEUES

For the first time since June 1990, the number of unemployed has slightly dropped in Switzerland. There are around 187,400 people looking for jobs against some 5,300 vacant positions. The unemployment rate stands at 5.2%.



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