

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 61 (1995)
Heft: [5]

Artikel: High altitude dishonesty
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945038>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: **SEPTEMBER 1995**. All contributions must be in by 15 August. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

HIGH ALTITUDE DISHONESTY

Modern life thuggery and vandalism is climbing up the Alps. The Alpine Club who operates most of the Alpine huts is dismayed at the new trend of vandalism that is creeping up the mountain paths and into its Alpine huts. Mountaineering used to be a sport of gentlemen, a sport where people respected the amenities provided by the Alpine Club, where the huts and refuges were welcomed for a night or two, where every climber took pride in leaving the huts in good condition after use so that the next fellow climber could enjoy them too.

There was a fraternity amongst mountain climbers who also realised that a fully equipped and operational Alpine hut could mean the difference between life and death for some mountaineers in case of emergencies..

Sadly to say, these feelings seem to have gone. Vandalism has reached the Alpine peaks. Unattended huts have now become the target of louts and vandals who take pleasure in smashing in windows, ripping out toilets and sinks, breaking doors, dismantling solar panels and stealing anything inside the huts that can possibly be carried away including the telephones, the most important items in case of an emergency. They simply destroy everything for the pleasure of destroying.

Even in attended huts, the guardian in charge has difficulties in controlling the vandals. Often he is alone against a whole bunch of hooligans with help from the police hours away.

No longer is it possible to take a mountain trip with the safe knowledge that you will find a fully equipped refuge at the end of the day. More often than not, you will face a broken down hut with part of the roof missing, windows and doors smashed in and the inside of the hut totally stripped of every content. If you are unlucky to arrive at such a hut in the middle of a snow storm, it could well mean tragedy for you as the hut no longer offers you the shelter you had expected to find. And with the telephone

If undelivered please return to:
The Secretary of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.),
122A Waipuna Road East, Mt. Wellington, Auckland

Postage paid
Auckland NZ
Permit No: 5844

(Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Magazine)

Monthly Publication of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.)
Group New Zealand of the Helvetic Society

ripped out or smashed to bits, you cannot even call for help.

The worst is of course that on the whole, the vandals remain unpunished. The police is powerless. They have not the necessary resources to patrol the mountains to keep an eye on every mountain hut. For this they would need many helicopters and even if this were possible, they could not possibly inspect every hut every day. Given the weather conditions in the Alps, helicopter flights are not possible on a daily basis.

The Alpine Club can only appeal to the honesty of its members and hope that some sanity will return into people's minds.

THIS IS YOUR TRAIN DRIVER SPEAKING

The all too familiar announcement "This is your captain speaking" which you can hear on practically every flight, has now also been taken over by the SBB/CFF.

A trial run is in progress on certain trains where loudspeakers have been installed in the passenger coaches together with a microphone for the train driver to give a running commentary on the progress of the journey, to advise the name of the next stop (a job which

the now defunct ticket controllers used to do), the duration of the stop plus any particular information about possible delays en route.

The first reaction from the passengers was non-committal. Many commuters thought that they did not need all this information and would have preferred to be left alone. Others felt uneasy about the train driver giving too much attention to his speech rather than to the signals ahead.

Although the human voice over the loudspeaker gave the passengers at least the assurance that someone was still there up front driving the train, most passengers would have preferred the return of the good old ticket controller who used to walk through the train and gave people the feeling of a personal contact with the railway company.

With the present hooliganism and vandalism that seems to flourish in most countries, passengers on trains, in the absence of any uniformed official, feel insecure and vulnerable. The soothing voice of the train driver is no help at all to them if they in return cannot get in touch with him in case of some disturbance or mugging inside the carriage.



Swiss Chalet
Restaurant & Bar

Your Hosts

MONIQUE & PETER CANZIANI

New to New Zealand

The Egmont Gourmet Dinner

- ★ Continental Cuisine
- ★ Swiss Specialities

- ★ Smorgasbord
- ★ Daily Specials

★ REMEMBER ★

We Cater for • WEDDINGS • ANNIVERSARIES
BUSINESS FUNCTIONS • LUNCHES • A-LA-CARTE

DINE AND DANCE
Accordion Music by Proprietor



165 RIDDIFORD STREET
NEWTON - WELLINGTON • TELEPHONE (04)389-4623



Telephone 473 0163

Cooked Breakfast
Morning and Afternoon Teas
Luncheon -
Blackboard Menu
Home-Made Cakes
Open from 7.30am Monday to Friday

Jürg & Ursula Stucki