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being financed with public money on the grounds that they are bringing in millions of dollars of foreign money which eventually will trickle down through the whole economy of the country.

The Trickle Down theory is a total fallacy because it overlooks some of the worst human characteristics: ignorance, incompetence, ineptitude, selfishness, but above everything, the most abject of them all: plain greed.

The combination of all these negative human traits ensures that the Trickle Down Effect will dry out very quickly in the upper levels of society. Not a drop will be able to seep through these various layers to reach the proverbial "man in the street".

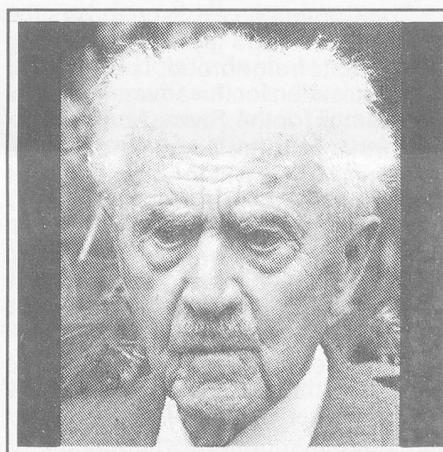
The Trickle Down Effect is a clever catch word used by local and central governments and by influential individuals to whip up the enthusiasm of the masses and make them all pay for the benefit of a few. A luxury museum in Wellington will never produce a single extra dollar for the dog catcher in Kaitaia, nor will a million dollar yacht harbour in Auckland add a cent of extra income to the little store keeper on Stewart Island.

The Auckland Aotea Centre, the cultural complex which was heralded as a great future money spinner, bringing additional prosperity and thousands more tourists to Auckland has cost the taxpayers a fortune. Originally budgeted for 40 million dollars, the building costs have spiralled to a staggering 130 million and the complex is still losing 1-2 million dollars a year. It is pathetic that, although they were forced to contribute to these staggering costs, most low income families in Auckland will never be able to afford the entry fees to see a single show at the Aotea Centre. Apart from the Auckland high society and some local government officials who get complimentary tickets anyway, few Aucklanders can claim that they have ever noticed any benefit from the Trickle Down Effect that this cultural centre was supposed to produce.

If this cultural complex had been built by private enterprise and with private funds, it would now most likely be running at a profit and the local government could have saved some 140 mil-

lion dollars of our hard earned tax money. Rather than a trickle down, it feels more like money is being constantly sucked up into the higher levels of our society.

And so we come to the final humiliation for us all. Short of cash, our government forced us all into a "users pay" system. We are now obliged to pay ourselves for the most essential requirements in our lives: our education, our health and our retirement. But when it comes to non essential amenities, suddenly there seems to be no shortage of public money. Unless we are completely daft, something seems to be wrong somewhere. If only we could put the finger on what it is.....



ALFRED VOGEL

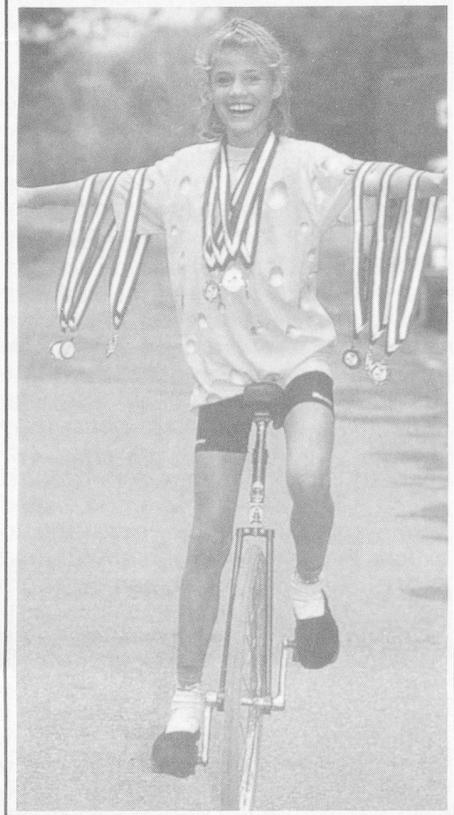
The famous Swiss doctor Alfred VOGEL has died at the grand old age of 94. There is no better tribute to this amazing man than to simply re-print part of what we had written about him in the March 1993 issue of the *Helvetia*:

ALFRED VOGEL, A LIFE FOR HEALTH

All his life, "Naturarzt" Alfred Vogel has studied the healing powers of plants. Full of life, he claimed that his extraordinary good health was due to healthy eating habits, plenty of fresh air, regular sport activities and no cigarettes. His motto was "Life must be fun, but you must never forget what you owe to your body".

What started as a small research programme in his laboratory in Teufen (Appenzell) blossomed out into a worldwide undertaking. At the age of 63, Alfred Vogel created the company Bioforce in Roggwil which has become Switzerland's largest manufacturers of health products.

At the age of 80, after having lost his first wife, he remarried and at 82, under the motto: "A new happiness needs a new home", he built, high above the lake of Zurich, his new Bio-House, free of chemicals and nature threatening elements. Although old age was creeping up on him regardless, Dr. Vogel, at 91, still enjoyed skiing on the Diavolezza. He commented on his achievement: "I have no intention, towards the end of my life, to become an old man".



UNICYCLE CHAMPION

Claudia Blatti from Cham (ZG) is only 11 years old but despite her young age, she is the undisputed unicycle world champion. She was the star at the recent unicycle world championship in Guilford, England, where she collected no less than 10 medals: 5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze.

She only started unicycling at the age of 10 when her grandmother gave Claudia her first unicycle as a present.

Claudia cycles everyday to and from school and, following her wins, several of her friends have now picked up the sport too. By now some 20 school children ride their unicycles to school every day.

One disturbing note though: Claudia refuses to wear a helmet and claims that so far she had been lucky not to have had any serious falls.

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