Zeitschrift: Helvetia: magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand

Band: 63 (1997)

Heft: [3]

Titelseiten

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

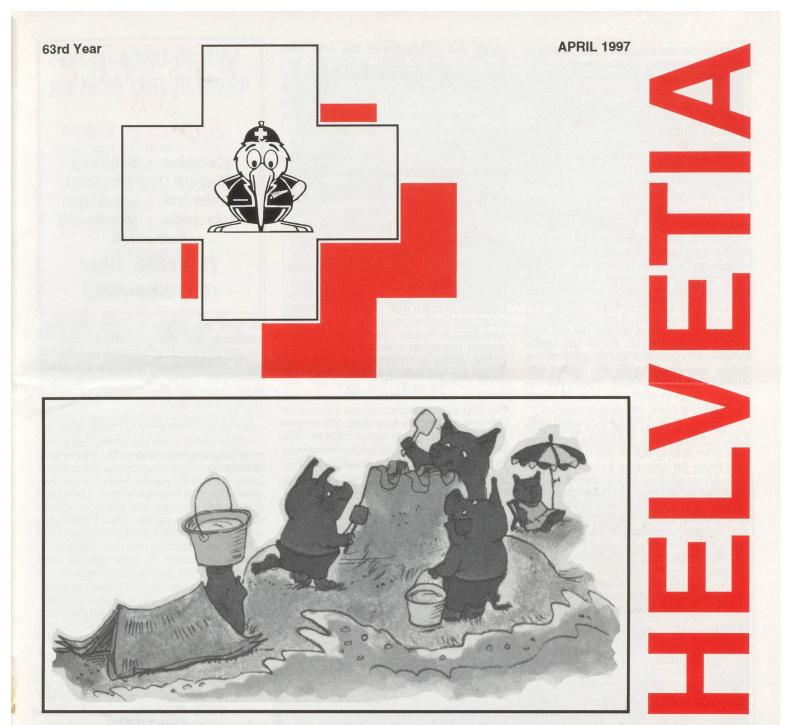
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées 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: 26.10.2025

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



EDITORIAL

Who ever said that objects are lifeless and totally devoid of intelligence? Nothing could be further from the truth. Objects have a brain and what is more, they have, without exception, a nasty streak in them. You do not believe me? So tell me then: have you ever seen an object trying to be nice to you, to help you and assist you? No, never. On the contrary, objects will do their darnest to be difficult, obstructive, annoying and down right uncooperative towards humans.

If you don't believe me, tell me why paper will burn anywhere else except in the fireplace, why shopping trolleys always try to go the wrong way, why the rain comes always after you watered the garden, why the rubbish bag, propped up by the wall, never falls against the wall but always away from it so that it can conveniently spill all its contents, why the shower mixer goes

from ice cold to boiling hot water in a space of a millimetre on a scale of almost 360 degrees, why smoke from your barbecue always gets into your eyes and keeps following you around as you try to escape it, why traffic lights always turn red when you are in a hurry but stay green when you have plenty of time, why the wind always blows your hair into your face and never away from it. The list could go on for ever.

Still not convinced that objects have an evil mind? Here are a few more examples.

What could be more innocent than a tiny pebble on the road? Nothing except until it sees you coming along. It does not matter how tight your shoes are, this little pebble will jump up at the right moment and wriggle itself into your shoe. Once inside, it will not be satisfied to sit there quietly in a corner: no, it will lodge itself right there where it hurts you most and any shaking on your part will not dislodge it from its

craftily selected spot. A further nasty twist is that no two pebbles attack you at the same time. No, the second pebble cleverly waits for you down the road just a few calculated paces away from the spot where you stop to get rid of the first one. Coincidence? Don't you believe it. It was all carefully planned to give you maximum annoyance.

Now let's take an ordinary looking metal-type nut. Its first trick is to place itself askew on its bolt and if by mistake you did not notice this and tried to screw it on, it will jam itself so tight that you will need hammer and tongs and a superhuman effort to yank it off its bolt again.

But its most diabolical trick is to disappear into the bowels of your car engine just as you try to fix it on its bolt. Instead of falling through the engine and land on the ground underneath your car, it finds a way to lodge itself somewhere in between engine parts, out of sight in a place totally inaccessible to ordinary humans. Short of turn-