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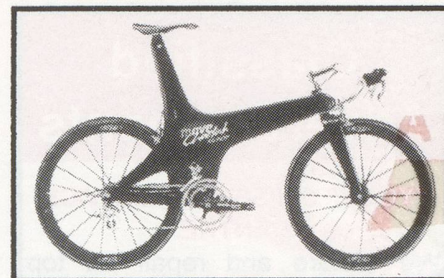
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Bern to lose its Bear-pit

A petition gathering up to 15000 signatures has been started by some animal rights activists in Bern to remove the bears from the centre of the city. For centuries the bear has been the emblem and the mascot of Bern, but the animal rights activists say that the animals are suffering through lack of space and stimulation and that they should be removed and sent to Germany to an animal park where they would find a more natural environment. Bern City authorities have recently spent approx. two and a half million Francs on renovations to the bear pit, and it is thought they are reluctant to lose the tradition of having the bears on show to the general public and the tourists.



The Lightest bike in the World

A so called bicycle-journalist, Simon Joller from Solothurn claims to have built the lightest bike in the world. "Move Cat Cheetah" weighs 5755 grams and is obviously constructed out of lightweight materials such as Carbon-fibre. The different parts have come from all over the world and have cost him Sfr.12,767. Complete, this bike would cost around Sfr.16,000, but it is not available on the market as yet.



The Bears at play

A controversy has broken out in Switzerland over the new 1000 Franc bank note. The note features the Swiss cultural historian from the 19th Century, Jakob Burckhardt, who critics say held anti-Semitic beliefs. The National bank says it has no immediate plans to withdraw the notes but expressed regret for Mr. Burckhardt's statements made in private correspondence during his lifetime. The bank's council is to discuss the problem later this month. (well, I'd love to know what Mr. Burckhardt looks like?, anybody with a spare note...? Ed.)

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