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Cinema in remote villages

The mobile cinema Roadmovie shows Swiss films in schools and halls in remote rural areas, such as Jussy, Bedigliora or Binn, where there is no traditional cinema. Films like "Vitus" by Fredi Murer, "Die Herbstzeitlosen" by Bettina Oberli or "Mon frere se marie" by Jean-Stephane Bron travel to rural areas, often with their directors or actors.

The directors enjoy meeting a mixed audience. Quite often the whole village turns up, and the following discussions are interesting. Whereas multiplex cinemas mushroom in the cities, the cinema scene outside the centres is less rosy.

It all began five years ago when a few young people with a vision packed a projector and a screen into a van and drove into the

mountains to show films. Funding came, from the state, cantons and private foundations.

To celebrate five years of "Cinema Roadmovie" a surprise film will be shown, open air, at the Laenta Hut above Vals (GR). The projector and the screen, 5,3m x 3m, will be carried up by mule.

Apart from well-known Swiss films, there is a German-Swiss co-production, a romantic comedy with the title "Only one Summer", and "Abessinienflug" the first sound-documentary of photographer and pilot Walter Mittelholzer from 1934, filmed when a plane was transported for the Ethiopian emperor. It shows a spectacular flight over the Alps, over Athens, Jerusalem, Cairo, Assuan – and a portrait of the emperor and his court. *swissinfo/tb*

Biotech companies create jobs

The Basel region has developed into a significant centre of the European biotechnology industry with rapidly growing new companies. Biotech companies are often considered somewhat disdainfully as the small brothers of the pharmaceutical companies. But their significance in the Basel region is increasing rapidly: The six biotech firms that are quoted on the stock exchange or are about to be floated have created 2100 highly qualified jobs over the last decade. The leader of this industry, Actelion in Allschwil, will pass the one-billion milestone this year and can boast a staff of 1620.

However, nascent companies still have trouble raising the necessary funds. There is also a lack of starting boosters such as affordable labs, e.g. at a university. It takes an average of ten years to develop a product. Revenue only flows into the company coffers once a product has been introduced on the market. *Basler Zeitung/tb*

Parental taxis create traffic jam

Many pupils of the International School in Aesch are driven to school every morning.

The result are traffic jams on the main street. 450 kids are currently enrolled at this English-language school.

The school tried to prevent traffic jams by providing 170 parking spaces and a special waiting loop, but there is much criticism: Parents everywhere are asked not to drive their kids to school; why should people from nations where everything gets done by car do the same in Switzerland? The nearest tram stop is only a few yards from the International School.

The School has encouraged parents to form car pools. Additional measures such as staggered lesson times or the introduction of a school bus are not being discussed at present; adjusting the traffic lights might have solved the problem. And more children than expected come to school by tram: about 30% now. *Basler Zeitung/tb*

Hope for the Swiss National Soccer Team

Loic Lassueur, 16 years old, from Picton, was one of the 32 junior soccer players who were invited by the Swiss Soccer Federation to show their talents at a training camp in Tenero in September.

Loic is coached by Winton Rufer. He played with the New Zealand team in Germany and Japan already. Who knows, he might lead the Swiss soccer team to victory one day!

Information from Loic's family



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