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It seems a long time since I wrote the last editorial, and good and bad things have happened: The Pike River Mine disaster unfolded; over the holiday period many people died in road accidents and many drowned. Floods, earthquakes, wars, terrorist attacks – it is not a pretty picture. As far as I'm aware, no Swiss nationals died in these disasters – but this doesn't make them any less tragic.

The topic of today's editorial is choices, decisions we make every day. In fact we can't avoid making decisions, as even making no decision is making a decision.

Most decisions are decisions for something as well as decisions against something: I decide to have a cup of coffee, which is a decision against having a cup of tea. If you decide to go to Switzerland for a holiday it is a decision against having a holiday in Samoa.

Some decisions turn out only later to be wrong, e.g. if you are invited to a pot luck dinner and decide on a potato salad, only to find that half a dozen of your friends had had the same idea. Some wrong decisions you can't be blamed for can have more serious consequences, even if you arrived at them with best intentions.

However, we can't help making decisions that are plainly wrong; we all have moments when we are not thinking clearly and only realise what we did was wrong when it is too late.

The other day I mistook icing sugar for baking powder; luckily, I realised what I had done before the cake went into the oven, and I added some baking powder, too. The cake turned out alright, maybe a bit on the sweet side, but if I hadn't told you, you wouldn't have known.

I don't want to bore you with my wrong decisions; some are funny, some are ridiculous, some are infuriating, some are embarrassing. They mostly have no far-reaching repercussions, and the cat won't tell that she is on a tin of Ocean Fish again, the third in a row; she might get something different next week, and no lasting harm is done. I make dozens of wrong decisions; I don't even know whether they become more frequent with age, and I'm glad they go mostly unnoticed. If a wrong decision is obvious for all to see, let's not be self-righteous and let's not pontificate about them – rather think of our own wrong decisions that luckily went unnoticed and had no grave consequences.

Trudi

The books listed below are available for the cost of posting them. Please contact Trudi Brühlmann.

Alice Miller: Am Anfang war Erziehung
Alice Miller: Das Drama des begabten Kindes
Catherine Duttweiler: Kopp & Kopp
Stephen King: Dead Zone. Das Attentat
Norbert Golluch: Schmusehoroskop für den sehnsüchtigen Skorpion
Norbert Winistörfer: Ich mache mich selbständig
Al Franken: Kapitale Lügner
Howard Hughes: Milliardär und Mythos
Frank Mc Court: Ein rundherum tolles Land
Schweiz. Verband der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologie: Berufe der ICT
Torsten Tomczak & Christian Belz: Kundennähe realisieren
Urs Wiegering (hersg): Acapickels drücken sich aus!
Wolfgang Hirn: Herausforderung China
Andreas Lötscher: Von Ajax bis Xerox
Volker Pispers: Völkerkunde
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