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Bulldozing the Zurich youth drug scene

ZURICH authorities have launched a major anti-drugs drive by demolishing the city's autonomous youth centre, for the past two years the symbol of rebellious Swiss youth.

Under strong police protection, cranes and bulldozers have been tearing down the abandoned factory building, which was turned over to young protesters in 1980 in an attempt to defuse tension between them and the city authorities. The launching of the AJZ centre followed violent demonstrations against costly extensions to the Zurich Opera House and allegations by "counter culture" protesters that Swiss society had become callous and uncaring in its attitude to youth.

The AJZ venture began as a selfadministered meeting place, and inspired similar centres in several other Swiss cities. But it also became, in the words of the police, the number one centre for crime and drugs abuse in Switzerland.

During the first three months of this year alone Zurich police arrested or questioned nearly 200 suspected drugs dealers or traffickers – most of them operating in or around the AJZ centre. The suspects came from countries including Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Italy, Thailand, the United States, Israel and Switzerland (including a Swiss woman). But police admit that even despite these considerable successes the drugs scene at the AJZ centre continued to flourish.

"The reason, quite simply, is that we have been lacking sufficient personnel", a police spokesman explained to Zurich's *Tages-Anzeiger*. "We have an anti-drugs squad of 14 specialists, assisted by seven other police

Signs of spring in Zurich

- Tages-Anzeiger

officers. This group will soon be strengthened. But it takes three to four men to keep a single suspect under observation, and this team has to be relieved every six to eight hours. At this moment we have been unable to follow up 30 valuable tip-offs because we don't have enough people."

The spokesman, replying to criticism of apparent police inaction, said the public failed to understand "that we cannot simply pick up someone off the street and ask him where he gets his drugs from. In most cases the small man doesn't even know the name of the person he is buying from."

The spokesman said Zurich Airport also lacked sufficient specialist personnel to enforce proper control of the more than

20,000 passengers who pass through the airport on average every day. "Searching for drugs at the customs has become a needle in a haystack operation", he said.

According to police figures, Canton Zurich has nearly 5,000 heroin addicts alone, using some half a million francs' worth of the drug event day.

Newly-elected city Mayor Thomas Wagner told a public meeting: "The demolition of the AJZ youth centre doesn't mean that the drugs problem has disappeared. On the contrary, it is still the number one worry facing our city. The Zurich troubles of the past two years have left their traces. All-out efforts are now needed if the name of our city is to regain its once proud and positive reputation in the countries and continents of the world."

But with addicts now deprived of their AJZ centre and facing a determined anti-drugs drive by police, Zurich could be in for a tough, tense summer.

* * *

THREE British geologists have been presented with a major international award in Switzerland for their revolutionary research into oceanic evolution.

They are Dan McKenzie, reader in tectonics at Cambridge University, Drummond Matthews, reader in marine geology at Cambridge University, and Frederick Vine, professor of environmental sciences at the University of East Anglia, Norwich.

At a ceremony in Berne they were presented jointly with a Sfr 250,000 (£70,000) Balzan Prize by Swiss Interior Minister Hans Hürlimann. Mr Hürlimann said the three British researchers had made "remarkable and revolutionary scientific contributions to our conception of the earth's history."

Balzan Prizes are awarded annually by a joint Swiss-Italian foundation for "humanitarian achievements in the fields of the arts and sciences." Previous winners have included Mother Theresa and the late Pope John.

* * *

THE luck of the Irish has run out for Swiss soccer. On March 17 – St Patrick's Day – the Neuchâtel Xamax club was eliminated by Hamburg from the UEFA Cup competition, which has never been won by a Swiss club.

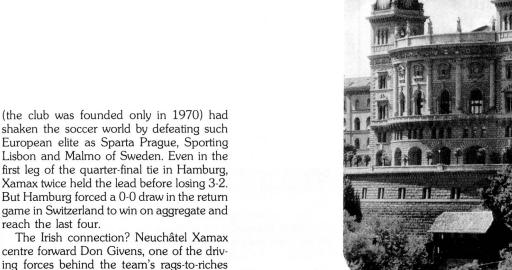
In previous rounds giant-killing Xamax



British scientists John Vine, Drummond Matthews and Dan McKenzie have received a joint £70,000 award in Switzerland (see this page).

. . reporting

from Berne



ing forces behind the team's rags-to-riches rise, hails from the emerald isle. It was Givens who scored the first shock goal in Hamburg and who then hit the post in the later stages of the goalless game in Neuchâtel.

The 32-year-old Irish international played previously with Manchester United, Luton, Queen's Park Rangers, Birmingham City and Sheffield United before opting for the continent when the Sheffield club was relegated to the 4th Division. He has a twoseason contract with Neuchâtel, but would like to extend his stay for another few years before retiring from the game and returning to settle in the Birmingham area.

How does he compare Swiss soccer with the game in Britain? "I would say that the best four clubs in Switzerland could compete very well at British level. But overall, footballers lead an easier life in Switzerland.

The fans are not so fanatic, and the players are under less psychological and physical pressure."

SWITZERLAND is to tighten its regulations on motor car exhaust emissions, Federal President Fritz Honneger has announced.

Speaking at the opening of the Geneva Motor Show, Mr Honneger said; "Since it has not been possible to work out on a Europe-wide basis regulations corresponding with our own conceptions, the government here is determined to strengthen controls concerning exhaust emissions".

The stringent new standards, which have been strongly criticised by manufacturers, will take effect from October of this year.

Mr Honnegger said the motor car had become "the number one means of transport but also the number one environmental problem.

He added: "It is the motor car which makes the most noise and takes up the most space. It is also the motor car which, after air transport, uses most energy per person. The motor car gives us certain freedom but it also endangers our freedom to live in an intact environment.

In the long term, said President Honneger, the motor car only made sense provided it is less harmful to the environment, and other means of transport are assured a proper place.'

SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including April 6

ivision tte	Pl 21	W 17	D 2	L 2	Gls 62:21	Pts 36	'B' Division Wettingen	Pl 21	W 12	D 8	L 1	Gls 42:20	F
h	21	12	8	1	36:14	32	Winterthur	19	13	4	2	44:16	
shoppers	21	12	7	2	44:16	31	Chênois	20	10	6	4	33:18	
nax	21	11	7	3	41:17	29	Grenchen	20	8	8	4	36:25	
n	21	10	6	5	39:26	26	Biel	21	7	10	4	33:28	
ung Boys	20	10	5	5	34:28	25	Lugano	21	9	5	7	40:32	
cerne	20	9	2	9	35:35	20	La Chaux-de-F	18	8	6	4	35:21	
sle	21	7	5	9	29:30	19	Mendrisiostar	20	9	4	7	32:41	
Gallen	20	7	3	10	26:33	17	Ibach	21	6	10	5	29:31	
evey	21	4	9	8	28:35	17	Locarno	21	7	6	8	40:32	
ırau	20	5	6	9	30:39	16	Fribourg	21	5	7	9	26:32	
ılle	21	4	8	9	23:37	16	Berne	21	6	5	10	31:42	
ellinzona	22	5	6	11	24:47	16	Aurore	20	4	6	10	18-46	
iusanne	21	4	6	11	23:36	14	Altstätten	21	2	8	11	17:38	
niasso ordstern	22 21	3 4	5	14 16	14:51 20:53	11 9	Frauenfield Monthey	21 20	2 2	7 6	12 12	18:40 17:30	

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.