SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

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Edward Snowden is seeking asylum in Switzerland. What has he got to trade?

Could NSA leaker Edward Snowden find refuge in Switzerland? It is a notion that has been seriously discussed in Swiss political circles recently. Snowden does not qualify for political asylum, as he is not under immediate threat in Russia. But he could be granted legal immunity and invited to testify as a material witness if Bern decides to proceed with an inquiry into alleged US spying on Swiss territory.

In 2007, Snowden, working undercover in Geneva, claims to have witnessed a plot in which CIA operatives got a Swiss banker drunk, involved him in a traffic accident, and then tried to get him to give them secret information. The general consensus is that if Snowden comes to Switzerland, his extradition to the US would be unlikely.

While the idea of Swiss residency sounds intriguing, a number of obstacles make it unlikely. First, there is the question of how to get Snowden safely from Moscow. Snowden might be safe in Switzerland, but he would be an open target while travelling. Moreover, while Bern might be tempted to tweak Washington after its ferocious campaign against bank secrecy, there is little to be gained from permanently alienating the US.

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Swiss Update

Swiss tennis player **Roger Federer** (33) won his first **Shanghai Masters** title in China with a straight set of victories over 29-year-old French player **Gilles Simon**. "To win the biggest tournament in Asia is a treat," said Federer. "I got lucky to come through the first round after saving five match points. It's been a dream week."



President **Didier Burkhalter** joined 11 foreign ministers around the world in a joint declaration in favour of abolishing the **death penalty**. "The death penalty is incompatible with human rights," the Swiss government said in a statement last week. While Switzerland abolished the death penalty from its federal criminal law in 1942, it formulated a broader strategy

last year to promote global abolition, or at least a stay of all current ly planned executions, by 2025.



Portes du Soleil the massive Swiss-French ski domain has announced that it is to recruit **ski monitors** in an effort to reduce ski speeds. A spokesman claimed that many skiers, especially those with children, felt uneasy on the slopes. Skiers caught speeding or skiing dangerously would **forfeit** their ski passes.

Family-owned **hotels** across Switzerland are striving to compete with larger ones. According to *Swiss Info*, an estimated 40 to 50 hotels are expected to close in alpine areas over the next few years, largely because they fail to target their guests properly, said **Director of Tourism Jürg Schmid**. The challenges are mostly financial, as many smaller hotels cannot afford expansion or renovation, but factors such as this past summer's unfavourable weather could also be blamed.

On 30 November, voters will decide on a controversial amendment put forth by **Ecopop**, the Swiss environmental group. The initiative calls for boosting **birth control** in developing countries as a way to **curb immigration**, which it states shouldn't exceed 0.2 per cent of the Swiss population over three years. The campaign has over 120,000 signatures but faces tough opposition from the government, the business community and trade unions,

Le News online





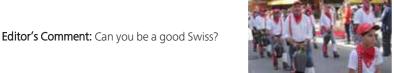




Last week's online only content at lenews.ch

Front Page: UDC open to immigration compromise.





Lifestyle: Flocons du sel in Megève - Restaurant review by Jonathan Haskell.



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The Snowden effect

Continued from page 1

What may prove more intriguing, however, is the potential benefit from the climate of paranoia resulting from Snowden's revelations. Whether he is perceived as a traitor or a patriot, it is hard not to conclude that the NSA 's indiscriminate dragnet for everyone's secrets seriously overstepped the mark. The abuse is all the more shocking because it comes from the US. "Everyone uses the internet to steal secrets," says Francois Stieger, a Franco-Swiss angel investor, who works with software companies collaborating with EPFL. "The Chinese do it. The French do it. What makes the US $\,$ special is that most major high tech companies are based there."

The NSA's recent actions seem even more unnerving given that Washington not only forced major companies to reveal customer information, but prohibited them from telling anyone. While paranoia about terrorism seems to excuse almost any abuse of power in Washington these

days, the NSA had clearly gone too far. It is at this point that Switzerland enters the picture. Washington may be able to force US companies to spy on clients, but the line stops at the Swiss border. The Swiss Data Protection Act is very clear on this. With more and more information moving to the cloud, Switzerland has become an attractive place to guarantee cyber security. After all, Switzerland is politically stable and in contrast to the NSA, the Swiss do believe in the rule of law.

Swiss companies are rushing to get ready for what they see as a new bonanza. Not least is Swisscom, which plans to have 70 % of its Internet infrastructure on its server cloud by 2016. The communications giant could find itself overwhelmed by a tsunami of clients – especially from the US – who are desperately searching for cyber security. Snowden may never actually return here, but Switzerland already owes him a debt of gratitude for creating a great business opportunity.

William Dowell



Regional

le News IN ENGLISH

Editor's comment

A global fund for reporting



tlast week's Women's Forum in
Deauville, many participants said they
wanted the private sector, governments
and society-at-large to respond more effectively
- fewer words, more action - to global
humanitarian and development concerns.

Whether clamping down on female genital mutilation or the need for companies to assume more socially responsible roles, there were at least two issues of particular relevance to Switzerland.

The first is that of aid workers and journalists operating in volatile humanitarian and conflict zones. What about their families if they are killed, executed or kidnapped? Or seriously injured? While the United Nations, ICRC and other major organizations have the financial infrastructure to deal with such incidents, the bulk of voluntary aid agencies and freelance journalists do not. In many ways, such individuals are risking their lives for our global conscience.

War insurance has simply become too expensive. It is time for donor governments and insurance companies to share the burden. This is where Switzerland – and International Geneva – can make a difference, notably to inspire donors, such as the European Commission's ECHO, to underwrite an insurance plan that is affordable for those operating in dangerous areas.

The second is reporting itself. At one Forum session on media, panellists talked about data, advertising and web-hits. The participants, however, saw it differently. "We don't want data; we want good reporting and insight," noted one company director. This means credible "content" enabling readers to make informed decisions for their businesses and personal lives.

Apart from those with public funding, such as the BBC, most news organizations today have not found the right business plan. They're all cutting back on local and international reporting, including the New York Times, Le Monde and Le Temps. Only the big foreign stories get covered, while investigative reporting has gone out the window. "Data" is definitely part of the ever-expanding media platform, but this does not represent nitty-gritty "drag them into the court of public opinion" reporting, which remains indispensible for a healthy democracy. We still need trusted and experienced journalists for context, but also to keep governments, corporations and even the international aid community honest and accountable.

So who's going to pay for real reporting? The Geneva-based Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, which has received \$22.3 billion worth of donor and private funds to date, was created because we consider the eradication of such diseases in the public interest.

Why are we not thinking the same with regard to independent information, notably a Global Fund for Reporting to help journalists, broadcasters, film-makers, photographers and others do their job properly. That is, of course, if we consider being informed to be in the public interest and essential to our future, and the future of our children. Because if we don't, then we only have ourselves to blame.

Edward Girardet, Managing editor editor@lenews.ch

Genocide denial - a threat to the future

GENEVA 100 years have passed and the history of the 20th century's first genocide is beginning to weigh heavily.

Every year on 24 April, Armenians the world over commemorate the 1915 Armenian genocide at the hand of the Turks. This year is the 100th anniversary of this tragedy. In order to mark the occasion, the Armenian community of Geneva in close collaboration with the municipality, decided to install a discrete memorial. To be located in the Capital of Peace, this consists of candelabras raising inscriptions in several languages but with no direct reference to the genocide itself. Originally, the Ariana park near the Palais des Nations, seemed the perfect spot, given the UN's concern for human rights.

For the Turkish delegation, however, the plan has repre-



100 years on, the Armenian Genocide deserves universal recognition.

sented an unwelcome thorn in its foot. Having consistently denied the existence of the genocide, Turkey is refusing to tolerate any form of commemoration. As host to the world's most active location of multilateral governance, Swiss diplomacy is now finding itself in an uncomfortable situation. As part of its formal acknowledgment of the genocide in 2001, government Swiss authored one of the most beautiful texts ever written about

the genocide. Now, however, the Swiss federal Conseil d'Etat has declared itself concerned about protecting the absolute neutrality of international Geneva. As a result, it is reluctant to follow the municipality's lead. Meanwhile, the memorial – and what it represents – is starting to weigh heavily as Geneva waits to learn whether a worthy spot will be granted for this important memorial to what happened.

Arlette Zakarian

Apple's game-changer

Good news for consumers as mobile networks throttlehold is broken, or bad news if their choice of network operator is restricted?

Apple announced this week that its new iPad Air will contain a "soft sim" which allows the user to choose their preferred mobile operator based on service and price, and indeed to change from one provider to another at will.

According to UK tech site *The Register*, "It's a huge step, and if successful, the transition of the mobile industry will be complete. We'll have gone from a world where operators

choose what devices run on their networks, to a world where device manufacturers choose what network you can use on their devices – from a world where mobile networks were gatekeepers, to one in which Apple and (in all likelihood) Google and Samsung are the gatekeepers."

Currently only UK and US residents will be able to benefit from the innovation, which currently applies only to data and not voice traffic.

Sunrise, the Swiss telecom operator told Le News that to its knowledge, an introduction in Switzerland is not planned.



Spokesperson Markus Werner added: "Generally speaking, we think it should be watched critically if a device manufacturer with a high market share can determine which telecom operators are available on his devices and which not. For competitive reasons and from a customer's point of view, the customer should have an unlimited choice." Jeremy McTeague

IMPRESSUM



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National

The ICRC - Doing the impossible

GENEVA Earlier this month, Laurent DuPasquier, a 38-year-old Swiss national, was killed when a cluster bomb landed near the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Ukranian town of Donetsk. For ICRC Director of Operations, Dominik Stillhart, his death, the result of indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas, was "unacceptable" and in complete "violation of international humanitarian law."

What the incident highlights is the increasing danger for aid workers in war zones. According to the 2014 Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, last year saw a dramatic rise in crises across the globe with 51.2 million people displaced by conflict and other disasters, the highest since the end of World War II. It has also meant a sharp leap in funds needed: \$22 billion in 2013 as opposed to \$17.3 billion in 2012.

The killing further demonstrates a growing disregard by governments, insurgent groups and criminal gangs for the world's quarter of a million aid workers. Until the 1990s, many belligerents liked to have humanitarians and journalists operating on 'their' respective sides. Today, it is more convenient to kill or kidnap them. For Ewan Watson, a British ICRC spokesman in Geneva, "it's been a tough year with three colleagues killed."

The ICRC is not necessarily witnessing more humanitarian casualties. But new trends are emerging, notably a growing politicization of conflicts coupled with extremism, where international humanitarian law is not respected. "This is severely hampering our access to people in need," said Watson.

As a private Swiss organization mandated by the international community to safeguard the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC has maintained a unique role dating back to its founding in 1864. ICRC President Peter Maurer considers this a crucial part of International Geneva's efforts to pro-

mote "a more coherent response to global challenges." While most conflicts have dominated the ICRC's agenda for decades, he said, humanitarian action was initially developed to respond to "a temporary crisis." Now, it is about dealing with "poverty, armed conflict, inter-communal violence and crime undermining fragile states and societies."

"We consider the Geneva Conventions to be humanity's last stand," said Watson. "Our job is to protect and assist victims of conflict." This means remaining discreet so that people know we can be trusted."

The ICRC has 13,000 staff world-wide, including 1,000 delegates, many from other countries. "Bern pays heavily for the ICRC, but it definitely gets its money's worth by cultivating smart Swiss in the field. They're an incredible asset," said Urs Boegli, a former ICRC head of media.

Today, however, many remain as fostering a growing trend of humani-



It's been a tough year with three ICRC staff being killed.

tarian professionalism. "There is a strong sense of identity with the ICRC's mission and a strong institutional memory," noted Watson. "This is what makes us essential."

Edward Girardet

UDC seeks to block Fribourg Islamic centre

The right-wing Swiss People's Party (UDC) of Fribourg is gathering signatures for a referendum to oppose an Islamic studies center at the University of Fribourg. The move comes at a time when reaching out to Muslim communities seems more important than ever.

That is certainly the opinion of Antonio Loprieno of the University of Basel, who has sought to put the project together over the past three years. "Now is the time for this centre to open. What's going on now in Syria and Iraq shows that it is high time to have a look at what academic institutions with a moderate or liberal view of Islam are saying."

The goal was to give local imams a better understanding of Swiss culture and society leading to better integration of Muslim communities.

The Centre for Islam & Society, or CIS, was scheduled to open this autumn but opposition in the



A respected seat of learning for centuries, now threatened by political xenophobia

Cantonal Council in September has delayed the project. Organizers expect it to start up by early 2015. "We want to ensure that this is a purely theological discussion, devoid of politics," said Loprieno. "This is an opportunity for Islamic scholars of all sects to be present. Only those who believe that their version of Islam is the only one will not be accepted."

The Centre has received approval from the University of Fribourg which, as with all Swiss universities, is publicly-funded. It has approved a yearly allocation of CHF 250,000 with a corresponding federal contribution to match. The question of tax payer sup-

port for such a project is one reason behind the opposition. Another is concern that the University of Fribourg's Faculty of Theology might lose its Catholic character.

Fribourg University Rector Guido Vergauwen, who has supported the project from the start, believes it will proceed as scheduled in January under the direction of Ethics Professor Hansjorg Schmid, who will begin the recruitment of moderate Muslim scholars and guest professors. Vergauwen said that he is "not worried that the UDC will get the 6,000 signatures required" for a referendum to overturn the project.

Initially, the concept behind the CIS was to train potential imams and to inform non-Muslims, whether chaplains, medical personnel, police officers or teachers, about this growing Swiss religion. The goal was to give local imams a better understanding of Swiss culture and society leading to better integration of Muslim communities. This last point remains, but the first has been modified. "The formation of Islamic theologians who could then become imams does not come into question," said Vergauwen, adding that the focus now is on purely theological studies.

Some in the Muslim community have pointed out that their tradition does not provide spiritual training for imams, although most have remained publicly silent on the issue. The elephant in the room is the widening schism between the two main strains of Islam (Sunni and Shia). So is the question about how many Muslim scholars, no matter how moderate, would have the courage to participate in the CIS project in today's poisonous atmosphere. The hope, said Loprieno, is that "it should be possible for Muslims to be integrated into non-Muslim societies without betraying their religion".

Pamela Taylor

Business & Economy

Swiss apprenticeships

BERN Switzerland, Germany and Austria, three countries where apprenticeship programmes are most prevalent, also have the lowest youth unemployment rates in Europe. Some policy makers are wondering if there is a connection and whether the focus on ever higher education is the best way to address youth unemployment.

Stefan Wolter, director of the Swiss Coordination Center for Research in Education in Bern, believes there is a connection although it has not been scientifically proven. "Thanks to the apprenticeship training system, Switzerland is also the country with the lowest mismatch between available skills and the skills required by employers."

Only ten per cent of Swiss secondary level students fail to complete their studies because the dual apprenticeship system allows them to move, while still in school, between academic and technical occupational fields. This has raised the image of apprenticeships far above the

days when they were seen as mainly an option for early school leavers or those interested in blue collar jobs.

The Swiss banking sector even funds the Centre for Young Professionals for fledging bankers and according to a report by the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology, "a vocational credential can land you in upper management or at Switzerland's universities of Applied Sciences."

When compulsory education ends at age 15, students must decide whether to pursue university or vocational training. By 16, they can sign a vocational contract with an employer who pays a monthly salary between CHF 800 and 1,000 a month for a two to four-year course. According to Wolter, the work they do more than reimburses the employer for the costs of the training. Foreigners can also do a Swiss apprenticeship, if they live locally.

Wolter notes that a unique aspect of the Swiss system is its mobility, even in rare cases where the student does



not get a job offer from the training company. "The transition to the next job is very smooth as employers regard the certificates as signalling skills that are useful." Everything else being equal, Wolter added, "preference is usually given to workers with apprenticeships."

The Organization of Swiss Abroad says there are more full-time vocational training colleges in Suisse romande and in Ticino than in German-speaking cantons. But nationwide, the number of young pursuing vocational training lags well behind those pursuing higher education.

That may change if a 2013-2014 study by the OECD of its 34-member nations has any impact. Reviewing the value of apprenticeships in a world increasingly focusing on higher education, it concluded that when implemented well, vocational education is the preferred strategy for helping young people enter the labour market.

Pamela Taylor

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Pierre Jéronimo, CEO.

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Education & Technology

Learn to shout louder - or learn

There are various schools of thought on how to learn French (or indeed any other language). Assuming that you do not believe that restaurant French is enough to get by in Suisse Romande, then you may be faced with deciding whether you, your partner, or colleagues should embark on a language course.

This is often a pretty straightforward decision. What is not so easy is deciding how it should be learned. Private tuition, traditional classroom teaching, immersion programmes and online courses are all basic options with a plethora of variations and combinations. And then how much time and money can you afford to spend?

According to Frédérique Diant, head of language training at Ecole-Club Migros, first find out what your personal learning style is. How do you learn fast and easily? Are you a visual or a kinetic learner for example? Migros is the largest language trainer in the country and it assesses all candidates to better advise what course and method will work best. Students can mix and match intensive classroom-based teaching (which are mainly in the evenings), with homebased or on-the-move learning methods, such as pod-club and web-cam one-to-one tuition.

Diant is forceful in arguing that we all learn better in groups, and explains that Ecole-Club's students are generally professionals, which allows teachers to take a more effective facilitation role than the more traditional directorial role. Language is the keystone of culture and so the organization has taken the novel step of offering free cultural talks on Fridays to people keen to learn and understand more than just the language.

Christian Graf of the Swiss-based language company, Boa Lingua, describes a very different approach. His company, which was established 25 years ago, organizes tailor-made courses for students in the country where the language is spoken. If you want to learn Swedish, then you will be sent to Sweden. Immersion is the key. Boa Lingua appoints a counsellor to each learner, assessing his or her abilities. The counsellor then helps put together a package that will suit the learner's aptitudes, budget and time availability.

The company does not deliver courses itself, but uses a network of



accredited partners. The counsellor remains in touch with the learner to monitor progress and to deal with any issues that may arise during the course. Learners generally live with a family, but accommodation in hotels or elsewhere can be arranged as required. Graf states that his clients range from college students needing to boost their grades or prepare for overseas study, to senior executives wishing to polish their language, or to learn specific business, scientific or legal language.

Time is one of the main constraints faced by adult learners, especially full-time employees. Looking to ease this pressure, Flying Teachers, sends its teachers to its students. The company primarily services the corporate market and it tailors its courses to meet the needs of specific businesses.

Edit Adrover, School director believes that people looking to learn a language need to choose a school that offers well-structured classes, which are goal-oriented and which quantify progress. This enables students to know how they are doing. "Schools need to teach students how to actually use what they've learned and turn theory into practice."

This sentiment is mirrored by Frédérique Diant. "What is important is to know how to learn. We learn better in groups, and we must remember the practicalities of learning – people are far more likely to turn up to a class than to an individual session."

"Speaking the language is the key to integrating into any society. It's really important," adds Edit Adrover. It greatly facilitates social interaction across the board. There is no downside to being able to communicate better. It is a matter of becoming more in tune with those around you. As Frédérique Diant advises, "first learn the melody of the language, then everything else will fall into place."

Jeremy McTeague

Education & Technology

Curious kids go on adventures

LAUSANNE Youth exchange programmes are an excelent way for teenagers to find their own way.

Youth exchange programmes offer a rare opportunity for a person, generally in their late teens, to travel, study and live in a foreign country for an extended period of time. They live as a member of a family and learn through immersion about their host country's culture. As $importantly, they act as \, amb as sadors \, for \,$ their own country. The key to a successful exchange lies largely with the teenager, but much rests too with his or her host family. Both parties need to be confident, well-adjusted and flexible in outlook. A thorough selection process is therefore vital in ensuring that the exchange is a fruitful experience for all concerned. This takes experience. Selecting a reputable and accredited Youth exchange programme is of paramount importance. Intermundo is the quality accreditation body for non-profit exchange organisations and it can advise on whether an organisation is of sufficiently good quality. Longevity of the organisation and non-profit orientation are good indicators. One of the first programmes, The AFS (formerly the American Field Service) was set up at the end of World War 1 by volunteer American ambulance drivers who wanted to improve international relations so as to avoid the repeat of such a catastrophe. And at the end of World War 2, Dr Rachel Andersen, established Youth for Understanding (YFU) to foster exchange and peace between the US and Germany. Subsequently, various other



reputable organisations such as Rotary have set up their own programmes. The scope of these programmes has expanded hugely, and all now offer opportunities for the young to live abroad in dozens of countries around the world. This year, YFU in Switzerland wants to especially further the exchange with South Africa, Paraguay and Lithuania. To promote these new programmes, Jerry Krattiger, the National director told Le News that YFU is offering for each country a merit-based scholarship to one candidate who can demonstrate eminent suitability for the programme. YFU also offers meansbased scholarships to suitable candidates for its other programmes. Nicole Rast at AFS confirmed that AFS also offers scholarships to those who cannot afford the full cost.

Timing is all important, so if you are considering an exchange programme for yourself or one of your teenagers, start researching now as applications need to be done well in advance and they take time to complete.

Costs of programmes differ between organisations and destinations, but taking a year-long programme in most countries outside Europe will cost about CHF 15,000.

Jeremy McTeague

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WHAT BEATS CHOCOLATE? Better chocolate!

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Cultural Fridays at the Ecole-club Migros



The history and use of plants in society

31.10.2014, 13h30-15h00

Meeting point: Welcome desk Ecole-club Migros, above Parking P3, Balexert





The history of olive oil and a tasting

07.11.2014, 10h00-11h30

Meeting point: Welcome desk Ecole-club Migros, 5 rue du Prince, 1204 Geneva





The Museum of Art and History

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Chez Vous

Organic hair colours: the alchemy of beauty

You've seen those green "Bio Suisse" labels at Coop and at Migros grocers and you recycle but have you heard of organic hairstyling?

"Bio Coiffeur" has become more than just a bio trend, or fad and it's not science fiction. Hair salons which use natural and organic hair colours and products are cropping up everywhere. There are more than 60 salons across Suisse romande alone and natural and organic colours and hair products, including styling gels, can now be found at big name stores as well as boutiques.

So where does the interest in organics for hair come from? "Our clients want natural colours," explains Ludo Trouillet of Joyma Coiffeur et Nature in Paquis in

Geneva. According to Ludo, there is a big demand for natural products in Switzerland as people think more about where products come from and what goes into their bodies. "They have had either allergic reactions to the chemical stuff or they have recovered from a serious illness and don't want to take their health for granted."

"Chemical hair products are not for everyone," explained Marion Peillet of Kevin Kayne Coiffeur in Lausanne. Marion's shop started out using chemical colours and then began offering natural ones at clients' request. "Between 60 to 70% of the population dyes their hair."

"There is big demand for natural products," she says, "I spend at least 20

THE PARTY OF THE P

minutes with each client showing them different colours and solutions for their hair"

Hair stylists mix the colours themselves on the spot. Colours are hand-mixed to the client's desired shade. At Joyma, each mixture is registered in the client's file. Ludo learned how to make the colours in India.

Marie-Claude Schneuwly of Espace-Feeling in Neyruz (Fribourg), who has been cutting hair since 1985, switched from chemical to natural when she developed allergies to the chemicals she applied to her clients' heads. Since 2010 she has dedicated her salon to her clients' health and wellbeing. "It's nature in the hair!" she says.

There is a growing interest in general in Switzerland. Local television station, TSR reported four years ago that between 60 to 70% of the population dyes their hair. Marie-Claude puts that figure more at 70%. Even if Neyruz is a small village, her clients come from the larger region of Fribourg for her organic products. "There is a large network of people who come for natural hair treatment which includes the application of essential oils."

	Top 10 best selling books of the week PAYOT										
Rank	Title	Author	Published by	Genre							
1	Gone Girl	Flynn, Gillian	Phoenix	Fiction Paperback							
2	The Rosie Project	Simsion, Graeme	Penguin	Fiction Paperback							
3	Mad About the Boy	Fielding, Helen	Vintage	Fiction Paperback							
4	The Edge of Eternity [The Century Trilogy: Book 3]	Follett, Ken	MacMillan Publishers	Fiction Hard cover							
5	Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage	Murakami, Haruki	Harvill Secker	Fiction Hard cover							
6	Us	Nicholls, David	Hodder and Stoughton	Fiction Hard cover							
7	I Am Malala	Yousafzai, Malala	Orion Publishing Group	Fiction Paperback							
8	The Blood of Olympus. Heroes of Olympus. Book 5	Riordan, Rick	Puffin	Fiction Paperback							
9	Buried Angels	Lackberg, Camillai	Harper Collins Uk	Fiction Paperback							
10	Not That Kind of Girl	Dunham, Lena	Random House	Fiction Hard cover							

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Lifestyle

Montreux Art: Uncovering talent

Montreux Art Gallery, now in its tenth year, is a contemporary art fair with a juried selection of more than 150 exhibitors. The five-day programme of special events takes place in the Montreux Convention Centre, situated in the heart of Montreux. MAG expects 20,000 visitors this year.

Art fairs, a phenomenon of the last fifty years, are the centre of the modern-day art scene. The rigorous fair circuit developed in response to globaliof the art market, zation professionalization of the art world and overproduction of contemporary art. It also happens to suit the growing event culture, i.e. the scene. "We have many interesting people," says Jean-François Gailloud, director of MAG. "All of these people are stars in their business... we have a very good representation of art in Europe."

Drawn to its convivial atmosphere, visitors typically revisit the fair multiple times throughout the week to canvass the expansive show or to finalize purchase decisions. "The weekend is very important for sales," says director Marie-Hélène Heusghem. The estimated gross value of the art sold annually at MAG is two million francs and the highest recorded sale was CHF 150,000. MAG presents a good investment opportunity because collectors may acquire affordable works from emerging artists and galleries. "We are a contemporary art fair. Not like Art Basel where you have a whole stage with



Maran An, Dreaming Tree, mixed media on canvas

Picassos," says Gailloud, "We don't have these kind of pieces. It's for actual contemporary artists who live and work now in the real market."

Unlike larger commercial art fairs, MAG is unique for its accessibility and educational initiatives. This is an important distinction because fairs have changed the way that art is consumed. A mass commercial environment is prone to lose some of the physical nuances of art exhibition. MAG reconciles this by programming thematic exhibitions within the fair. These strive to be alternative and they highlight a different country each year. Coinciding with the bicentennial of Switzerland and Russia sestablishing

diplomatic relations, Russia is MAG's guest of honour.

Another thematic exhibition promotes eight emerging local artists. Their collective work spans all mediums, and is described by the directors as "highly contemporary." For those who think it important, MAG also has a VIP bar and lounge area. "There are always parties, all day, every day," Heusghem smiles. The official vernissage is open to the public and runs until midnight on Wednesday 5 November.

Tickets are CHF 10, CHF 5 for students and free for under-18s. To win free tickets see the back page.

Stephanie Twigg

Lest we forget



Support the Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Sunday

The Swiss Branch of the Royal British Legion was founded in 1947 and has been active in providing funds for war wounded, widows and orphans since

The branch currently counts some 180 members in this country and annually contributes around CHF 35,000 towards the 'Poppy Fund'. This is particularly important in this era of endless international conflict especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and the other Middle Eastern countries.

Poppies can be obtained at outlets throughout Switzerland with collection points in Geneva, Lausanne, Bern, Basel, Zurich and Ticino. Please seek out your nearest 'Poppy Point' or visit www.britishlegionswitzerland.ch and make a contribution. 11 November is not far away.

John McKillop

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Lifestyle

Cracking up ---

D.I.Y. Why can't I?

Tome from a long line of handymen and handywomen, and so does my husband. There is absolutely nothing these people can't do: they bake, garden and make jam; they build bookshelves, put in their own swimming pools; they sew, knit, make jewellery, do their own tiling... I can only hope that if I'm ever stranded on a desert island, it's with them, because we'll be sorted in no time. We'll be sitting in our fully-equipped modern huts, stylishly dressed and eating pineapple jam on fresh bread before the first monsoon.

Even the children will have made themselves iPads out of driftwood and pebbles. "Be a Maker," I'm always telling them. "Don't just consume!"

So here I sit, in the middle of this family who are always hammering, digging, stitching, stirring ... and yet somehow, the Handy gene has rejected me.

After years of trial (and some absolutely horrible errors), I can finally say that I'm a competent cook. But I still can't bake, and if it weren't for fondant icing, my cakes would look as dodgy as they taste.

Same with needlecraft. The downstairs storeroom looks like something out of Silence of the Lambs: in the eerie gloom (because I put the light fitting on skew) ... jerseys with gaping necks and overlong sleeves; pencil skirts that no human body could ever fit into; a dress for a strangely foreshortened child...

And upstairs: three sets of Ikea shelves that list to the left and cannot be trusted in a stiff breeze. When I finished each - feeling like quite a hero, I must tell you - I was left with a handful of screws that I still can't explain, despite following the instructions to the letter.



All this is very unfair, because nobody wants to be a Maker more than I do. Ilong for a hand made life. I want to be like Pa Ingalls, who made his log cabin out of trees that he felled himself. I want to hand-rear a sheep, so I can dye its wool using plants I've foraged for, then spin the yarn and make our carpets. But until I get the hang of the electric mixer, I think a floor loom may be beyond me.

I know that I should just move away from the toolbox. And the sewing machine. And the oven (every cake

I make only damages my self-esteem and frightens the children). But maybe Malcolm Gladwell is right, that the key to success in anything is 10,000 hours of practice. By my estimate, that's only about 500 ill-fitting pairs of knitted socks, 10,000 collapsed soufflés and 5,000 untrustworthy pieces of flat-pack furniture to go, before I get it right!

Robyn Goss is a South African writer, recently moved to Switzerland. You can read her blogs at www.robyngoss.com



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Lifestyle

on reflection

The Brain Project: a very expensive headache

By now, most of us have heard of the Human Brain Project, whose aim is to simulate the complete human brain using supercomputers. The project is largely funded by the European Union and overseen by the École Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne (EPFL). This roughly ten year project (2013 - 2024) will attempt to better understand the most complex organ in the universe and also simulate drug treatments for human mental diseases. If this sounds too good to be true it's probably because it is. The human brain contains around 86 billion nerve cells, each capable of creating thousands of interconnections with other nerve cells, with mind boggling permutations. But the brain is much more than the sum of its parts. Although a supercomputer could hypothetically unravel the way in which the brain does maths, how would a two-dimensional supercomputer simulate human emotion or language, for example?

A reductionist approach to attempt to mimic the most complex organ in the universe is destined to face significant challenge from many corners. In fact, the most severe criticism has come from within the neuroscientific community itself, in the form of an open letter addressed to the European Commission in July of this year, in which several hundred researchers complained of the way in which the project was being managed with threats even of a boycott.

In addition to the internal conflicts, the Human Brain Project is proving a costly headache for the EU taxpayer, with its one billion euro price tag. One of the lesser known facets of the project is the significant amount of resources devoted to the study of the mouse brain. This curiosity driven research (aka "basic research") is likely to yield interesting data, but its relevance to the human brain is highly questionable. The mouse brain weighs just half a gram compared with the one and a half kilo human brain and is definitely not a scaled down version of the latter. Mouse and man are separated by 70 million years of evolution. The effects of this evolutionary divergence are evident in differences between form and function of body systems, starting at gene level.

The general public is largely unaware of what "basic research" actually entails. However, a large survey funded by the European Commission, published in 2006 showed that a clear majority (68%) of EU citizens were opposed to basic research involving the use of animals.

Even more worrying for the citizens of Europe is the fact that such vast sums of money are spent on "interesting" research while human patients suffer as a result of budget shortages. A case in point is that of Professor Hugues Duffau, a French neurosurgeon and recipient of the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in his field, who has pioneered a technique for removing brain tumours in awake patients. His staggering success rate means that he is highly sought after to train teams of neurosurgeons in his technique. Professor Duffau has told me that resources in the EU are sorely lacking to adequately train neurosurgeons. He also told me that he had not received any funding, nor had he been approached by those responsible for the Human Brain Project.

Andre Menache



FILM REVIEWS By Neptune

GONE GIRL ***

This latest film by David Fincher (a versatile master of twisted thrillers such as Se7en, Fight Club or in a change of pace, The Social Network) is a gripping, thought-provoking work, harsh and well-acted. It may not be completely believable as far as the characters are concerned, but then it is an exaggerated metaphor for a lot of rotten, dysfunctional relationships. Ben Affleck plays the husband whose wife (Rosamund Pike) disappears, leaving behind her a trail of suspicions and devious clues. Police investigations follow, the ambitious parents get involved, and the insatiable media will not let up on the guilty-looking husband. Based on the best-seller by Gillian Flynn, it is both dark and entertaining and leaves one with a queasy feeling

(Photo: Fox-Warner)



THE SALT OF THE EARTH ****

Wim Wenders has a definite knack with documentaries. He brings them to life with both charm and intelligence, like his inimitable classic, *The Buena Vista Social Club*. Here, he retraces the steps of the renowned Brazilian photojournalist, Sebastiao Salgado, who has witnessed all forms of international conflicts and isolated peoples. Salgado does not just visit his

subjects, but goes to live with the natives, becoming a part of their lives, in order to better convey their dilemmas to the outside world through his striking photography. Wenders mesmerizingly narrates the film as he follows the master, accompanied by Salgado's son, Juliano, reporting on his life's work, his magnificent photos and his devoted wife. This is a film to see again and again, delving into the better side of ourselves.

(Photo: Filmcoopi)



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L'EDUCATION

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Sprained ankle whilst hiking; knee ligament injury whilst skiing; need to call Mountain Rescue? Would you know what to do? Learn how to deal with injuries and accidents in the mountains by joining our course split over two evenings. www. healthfirst.ch/first-aid-courses/42/42/ to learn more and to book your place or contact HealthFirst on +41 79 821 80 27

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Holy Trinity Church Geneva.

Geneva

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URGENT: 2-bedroom apartment with garden for rent in neighboring France, available 1 November

Lovely apartment with a garden, nice view on Jura mountains, fully equipped and furnished, 5 min by car to CERN, 20 min to Place des Nations, the United Nations and other International Organizations. 2 bedroom apartment with a spacious living room, equipped kitchen and a garden, TV, Wi-Fi, separated bathroom and WC, cave, parking place and garage. Situated in a nice and calm French village (Chevry, Ain), close to the UN, CERN, Geneva airport. Can be rented with or without furniture. Contact: +41 76 338 11 09



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Regional Events

le News

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Gland. English stories

5 November, 9h30 - 10h30 3 December, 9h30 - 10h30

It's story time in English at the Aux Mille Feuilles library. Kids of all ages welcome - with an adult. See the website for all dates. There is also a range of children's activities (in French) such as singing.

Bibliothèque Aux Mille Feuilles, Bâtiment communal, Grand-Rue 38, Gland, www.aux-mille-feuilles.org, Free entry



Chamonix, Photo exhibition: Wind Passengers

Until 16 November 2014

Do not miss this exhibition of photographs taken by photographers, Jérôme Maupoint and Olivier Laugero as they flew around the region in para-gliders. Sensational images of travel above the mountains. Experience vertigo above Mont Blanc's peaks on their flights over the Himalayas.

www.chamonix.net/english



Lausane. Scots Kirk International Bazaar

1 November, 10h - 16h00

Start your Christmas shopping early at one of the very best bazaars. Stalls to suit everyone: hidden treasure; silent auction; jewellery and accessories; DVDs and CDs; English books; toys and games; gifts; Christmas crackers; home baking; jams and chutneys; and fun for kids. Enjoy scones and tea in the tearoom or somethingfrom the BBQ. Proceeds to charity and church funds.

Avenue de Rumine 26, Lausanne www.scotskirklausanne.ch Free entry



Lausanne. Village Players. Amateur dramatics

Thurs 13 Nov. Bar opens at 19.30

CLUBNIGHT. Double Bill: A playreading and an amusing monoloque.

Trieste, Sunday 28 June 1914 written and directed by Christa Baan. Meet famous writers, James Joyce and Arthur Schnitzler, and a former girl-friend of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Am I who I am? written and performed by Trevor Johnson - I looked inside myself and here's who I found

Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Beau-Rivage 2, Lausanne. Free entrance. www.villageplayers.ch



Geneva. Jason Derulo -Tattoos World Tour

22 November at 20h00 – last European date!

Rap/Hip-hop/Slam artist, Jason Derulo is playing Geneva's Arena having released his highest-charting album and a slew of massive singles, each more catchy than the last. His Talk Dirty CD has so far seen the title track, along with "The Other Side" and "Wiggle" all work their way up the charts. He's sold over 45 million records worldwide and attracted over 1.3 Billion views on YouTube.

CHF 89 - 109. FNAC. Not yet on sale



Geneva. Sindy and Glocals Halloween Party 2014

Saturday 25 October from 22.00

The traditional Halloween party organised by the Glocals community will be held at Palladium this year. There is a costume competition. The entry price is CHF 25.- (or CHF 30.- if you show up without a costume!)

www.sindy.ch/Halloween-party-2014.htm



Annecy, Animation movie exhibition

All year round

Annecy has become The Capital of animated movies with its international festival held every June. Not so well known, but worth the visit, is that the town hosts a permanent exhibition (plus some temporary ones) at the Cinéma d'animation in the city centre near to the castle. See the first ever moving image created in 1908. Photo: CITIA, espace l'Illusion du mouvement © Pedro Studio Photo.

www.patrimoines.aggloannecy.fr/Cinema-d-animation



Geneva. CAGI's International Afterworks

6 November and 4 December

Approximately once a month CAGI (Geneva Welcome Center) organises after-work evenings. This is a great way to mix with the international and local crowd in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The next event will be a tour of the brand new MEG museum (Musée d'ethnographie de Genève) on 6 November. Mark your diary for the 4 December and we'll keep you updated.

"Michael Cochet, 022 546 14 07; event.cagi@etat.ge.ch www.cagi.ch/en"



Chexbres, Chabag Festival

14 until 16 November 2014

Experience music and dance from various regions between Switzerland and the Black Sea. Regional specialities from the various different countries will be served. A number of concerts will be held in venues such as the wine cellars and bars. Chexbres is perched over the Lavaux and enjoys what many would describe as the most magificent view in Vaud.

www.chabagfestival.ch/



Geneva. "A night in Atlantis" The Shipping Ball

Friday 14 November

The Hotel Intercontinental will be tranformed into the lost city of Atlantis for the Shipping ball, in favour of the Sailor's society, a charity which provides relief to seafarers and their families. There will be an underwater dining room, dinner, auction and a live band. To reserve a table contact Dawn Ingram, dingram@sailors-society.org; +44 (0)23 8051 5959.

http://www.sailors-society.org/events/shipping-ball-genevaa-night-in-atlantis/



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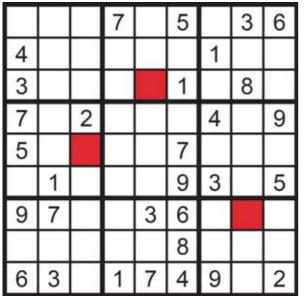
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Puzzles



SUDOKU

Easy

Mediun

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Win!

Sudoku: Send us the three numbers in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.—The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

Codeword: Send us the three letters in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.— The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch

		1		2		3		
	7							2
		5	7	8				
6				5	1			
4								6
				9			3	
	1				8	9		
		9	5			4		
7				3		2	8	

	12		17		10		19		10		12	
19	3	25	18	13	12		20	18	3	4	11	5
	9		14		5		3		12	10	5	
9	3	15	23		25	18	2	15	5	21	18	24
			5		5		14		24		19	
18	21	5	1	2	14	7	6	3	15	13	4	5
	12		10		4		22		5		3	
10	2	14	13	10		22	13	3	20	2	4	1
	7		16		19		2		20			
26	11	2	16	16	23	2	6		5	19	10	1
	4	9	20		2		19		14	0	18	1
11	5	12	5	18	8		2	14	15	2	19	5
	14		19		8		14		5		1	

CODEWORDS

Each letter has been replaced by the same number throughout the puzzle. Simply decide which letter is represented by which number and complete the puzzle. To start off we're given you the first three letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
								J				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Z							K			

Spotlight

The Geneva International Film Festival: Tous Écrans

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the international 'Tous Écrans' festival will feature 131 film and TV shows from 6-13 November. The gathering will take over the heart of Geneva in Plainpalais's art nouveau Pitoëff community hall, where two projection rooms will promote 44 Swiss and two European premieres, plus eight international and 10 World premieres. Canada is this year's "guest" or featured country.

A new highlight, the "Film and Beyond" prize, will be awarded to French actor and screenwriter Jean-Hugues Anglade. Pitoëff will also host the works of artist François Moncarey, whose digital installations skilfully combine art, humanity, and recent technology. Other innovative installations will be featured, notably a drivein cinema in Pitoëff's courtyard. Here residents can sit in cars, especially brought in for the occasion, to watch an array of cult TV shows from the 1990s on the big screen. Viewers will be encouraged to envision and pitch their own series, with the best one to be announced during the festival.



Festival goers can further enjoy interactive stations and areas dedicated to digital culture, such as a conference room with Workflow, an international platform that attracts hundreds of professionals and is dedicated to audio-visual arts. They can also experience Oculus Rift, a 3D virtual reality headset considered the future of cinema. The trendiest local DJs will liven the midnight programme throughout the weekend. Tous Écrans has joined La Lanterne Magique and Mission Ciné to host family-friendly fare on Sunday, so that even the youngest aficionados can enjoy a taste of real cinema. www.tous-ecrans.com

Alexandra Torrealba

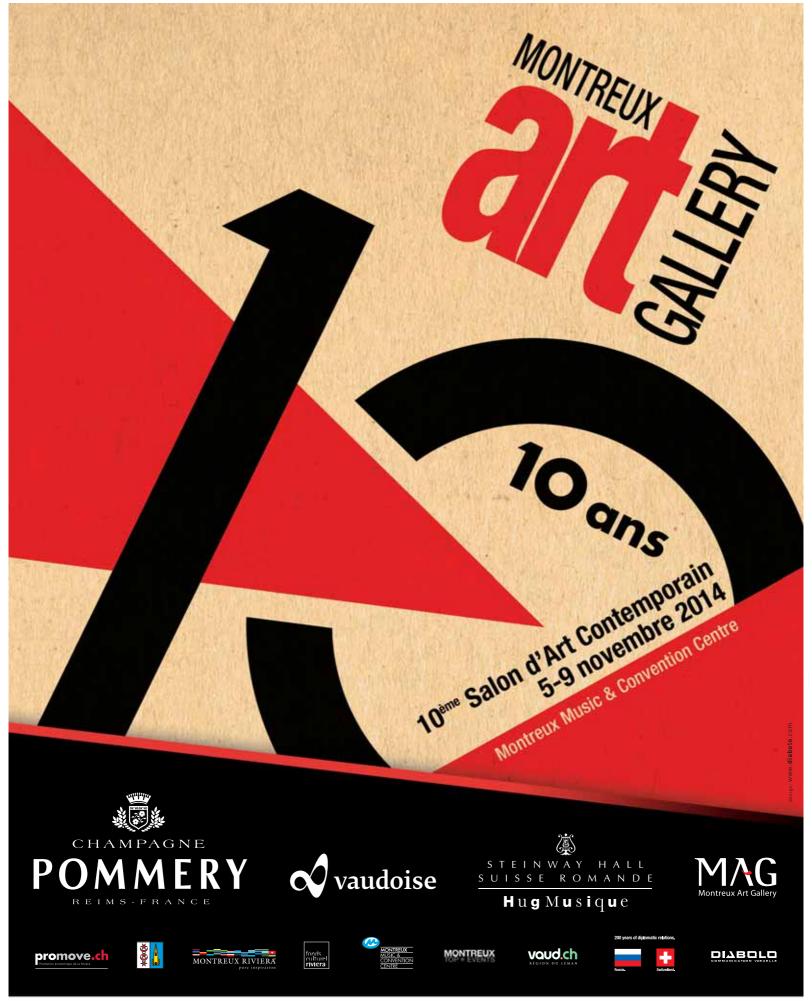
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