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Flabbergasted

I am an avid reader of the "Swiss Review" which my wife receives. I must say that as a Frenchman I was flabbergasted by some parts of the editorial in the August 2013 issue. In particular, Ms Engel's view that banking secrecy has contributed to Switzerland's stability. Of course, but at the expense of countries whose citizens – as account holders at your banks – are fraudsters, if not criminals. That must stop as the average Swiss person, as I well know, does not benefit.

BERNARD BUISSON, BY EMAIL

Little tolerance nowadays

I wish to express my gratitude for the article on Adolf Ogi. I am no supporter of the Swiss People's Party (SVP) in view of the way it has conducted itself in recent years. It has become a party of loudmouths, know-it-alls and, in

some cases, vitriolic individuals whose loathing is primarily aimed at the general public. The tolerance, respect and altruism demonstrated by Adolf Ogi are unfortunately rarely found. The SVP's ranting has done more harm than good to the party and politics over the long term. We are fortunate to have Dölf Ogi, and I hope that similar figures emerge and establish themselves in our national government. People like Adolf Ogi make me optimistic about Switzerland's future.

EUGEN RINGGER, BENKOVAC,
CROATIA

Utmost respect

I got to know Adolf Ogi in 1963 when he was "secretary of the Meiringen tourist office". His title would probably be "director of tourism" today. I followed the progression of his career from close quarters. I was President of

the Swiss Ski Pool from 1974 to 1976 as the representative of the Swiss ski team's equipment suppliers and he was Director of the Swiss Ski Association. I will never forget the negotiations, which although tough were always conducted in a friendly manner. Adolf Ogi really is as he is portrayed in this article. I have the utmost respect for him!

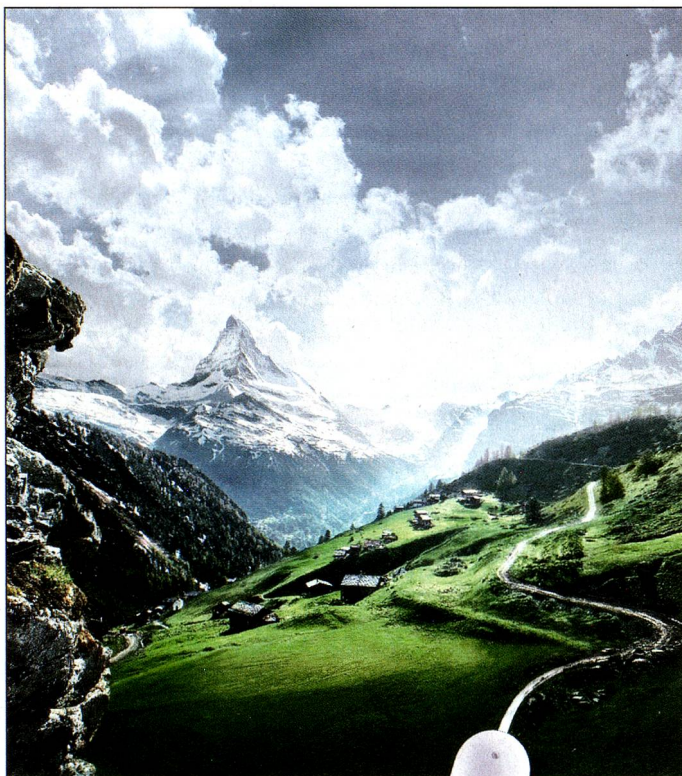
WERNER OERTLE, KAPOSVÁR,
HUNGARY

Sensible changes

I would like to raise the following question concerning the key focus article on tourism featured in the October issue of "Swiss Review": Do we still need a region that simply carries on in the way it is doing? If you consider and reflect upon the wide range of different opinions and viewpoints of those involved in tourism, just one question unfortunately remains in re-

lation to most arguments and strategies: Have they learned nothing from the unfortunate events in places such as Ötztal in neighbouring Austria? Do the majority of people really believe that the remedy for Swiss tourism lies in alpine fun parks, located over 3,000 metres above sea level, to which a greedy mountain railway lobby would prefer to transport two million visitors a year in future rather than just one million? Do hundreds of Chinese or Indian tourists have to fall from some cliff walk before people come to their senses? We need to move instead towards sustainable tourism and make visitors aware of current and future changes. There are so many alternative approaches and opportunities for shaping and establishing the tourism of the future now before the whole thing inevitably falls down around us!

ROLF OPITZ, MUNICH




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