

Banks in trouble

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KNIE STILL VERY POPULAR

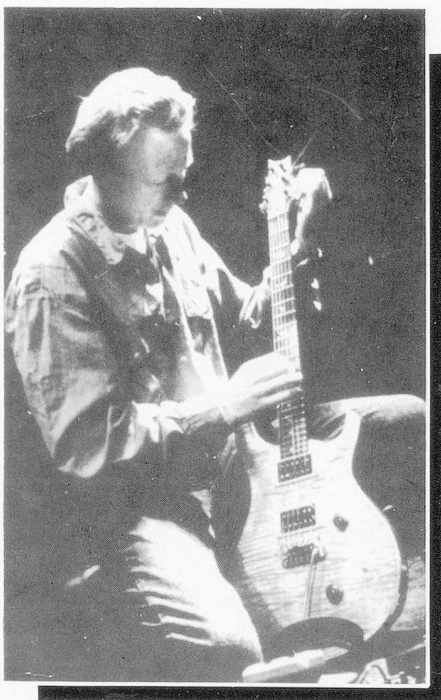
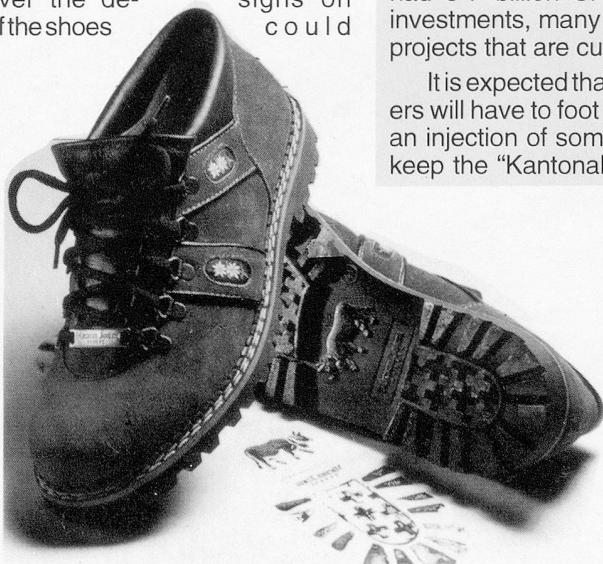
Its 75th tour started in Zurich with a tremendous success. Over 150,000 people attended the circus shows so far which represents an all time record. In fact, the attendance was 20% higher than the year before. So despite TV and all other modern forms of entertainment, Knie remains Knie, a show more popular than ever. Knie has also grown in size. There are now over 100 wagons to house the staff and the animals and it requires 2 SBB trains to shift the circus from one location to another.

LAST TANK

The Swiss army just took possession of the last of its 380 "Leopard 87" tanks. This delivery also represents the end of the tank production in Switzerland. Leopard 87 tanks were manufactured and assembled in Switzerland under licence. Strangely enough, the whole order which originally was priced at 3,6 billion SFR eventually cost 800 million SFR LESS than anticipated. Can you believe that!

SHOE MARKS

Another crazy idea: Walking shoes that leave behind prints of cows and Swiss crosses in the snow. Maybe housewives will be less angry with their husbands should they walk all over the clean, polished kitchen floor with these shoes. But then again, dirty shoe marks remain what they are, dirty shoe marks, however clever the designs on the sole of the shoes could be.



SWISS GUITAR HERO

Christy DORAN, 42, born in Dublin, son of an Irish father and a Swiss mother from Lausanne has made himself over the years a big name in the international jazz music.

After having left Ireland for the more affluent Switzerland, he decided to study music and picked as his instrument the guitar because "you can sling it over your shoulder and sing songs with it". He studied at the jazz school in Berne but since they had no guitar teacher, he could only concentrate on the theory and on the

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reading of jazz music. After the school principals saw him perform on TV, they asked him to become himself a teacher at their school. Still learning himself, Christy just managed to stay a step ahead of his own students.

Since then Christy Doran has become a legend in the jazz music world. He has performed with the biggest names in the field all over the world. He lives in Lucerne in a charming bungalow with his wife and children. But most of the time he is on world tours. Look out for him should he ever decide to perform in New Zealand.

BANKS IN TROUBLE

Another business activity that experiences some difficulties in Switzerland is the banking field. Several Banks are in great trouble. The "Spar und Leihkasse Thun" is in debts for over 170 million SFR, the "Rothschild Bank AG" in Zurich for some 100 million SFR whilst the "Kantonalbank Bern" announced that it had 5-7 billion SFR worth of doubtful investments, many of them with building projects that are currently in liquidation.

It is expected that the Bernese taxpayers will have to foot part of the deficit with an injection of some 500 million SFR to keep the "Kantonalbank" afloat. (Sound

very much like our own BNZ saga).

In Geneva the local branch of the Lloyds Bank of England has discovered a loss of 29 million SFR, apparently caused by one of its managers who has since fled the country and is currently the subject of an international warrant for arrest.

CHEAPER TAXIS FOR WOMEN

Following the lead of Bern and Baden, Winterthur has now also introduced cheaper taxi fares during the night for women travellers. Average discount is around 25%. However, the news item does not say if this applies only to women travelling alone or also when they are in company of a male passenger.

