

Female officers in Swiss Army

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When everything is said and done, the problem does not lie with the leaders themselves. The fault is in the creation of these positions. We all know that unlimited wealth and power corrupts the mind of any person in a sense that the person loses total contact with everyday life. It may sound absolutely paradoxical, but a Leader in such a position is no longer fit to lead a nation.

We Swiss have recognised this fact many generations ago. No single person would ever be good and clever enough to govern our country single handedly. In fact, many Swiss believe that not even our seven Federal Councillors are clever enough to run our country properly, so how on earth could one person alone succeed where a team of seven wise men (and women) are actually struggling? Therefore, it does not come as a surprise that now and then pressure is put on the Swiss Government to increase the number of Federal Councillors to nine, eleven or even thirteen.

What is surprising though is the fact that no country with a "Leader" at its head has ever realised how much better the Swiss form of Government really is where no "Leader" in any form or shape is necessary or even remotely wished for.

DOUBLE-DECKER CABLE CARS

After the double-decker buses and trains, here are now the double-decker cable cars. The first to be installed in the whole world went to the Samnaun-Ischgl cable car company. Each cabin takes some 180 passengers.

The decision to go for double-decker cabins was the result of some long standing arguments between tourist interests and nature conservationists.

The cable car company, supported by the local authorities and the tourist office, wanted to build additional cable railways to provide access to the ski fields to more ski enthusiasts. The conservationists objected to more pylons and railway terminals to be built to spoil the landscape. And so a compromise was reached. The same cable car line carries now twice as many passengers without any further disfigurement to the landscape. Clever, but someone had to think of it first.

FEMALE OFFICERS IN SWISS ARMY



Looking at these attractive female officers, it would seem that life in the army might after all be much more pleasant for the new male recruits than it was in the old days, when we had to cope mostly with sadistic and vicious male lieutenants whose vocabulary was mainly reduced to one staple sentence: "Sie Schafs.... Sie". We are sure that these good-looking female officers will have nicer words at their disposal when addressing themselves to male recruits.

The presence of female officers is becoming more visible in the Swiss army. Under the new rulings, women can now attend officers' training schools alongside their male counterparts rather than in separate camps as in the past and so far the results have been very positive. The only remaining obstacle to full integration is the fact that women are still not allowed to participate in actual combat activities. However, the women have not given up yet and a move is under way to break down this last barrier by allowing women to participate on a voluntary basis.

Although most men and particularly male officers are still puzzled as to why women really want to volunteer for the armed forces and go through all these rigorous courses to become officers, they are learning to accept the inevitable, realising that women are from now on a part of the Swiss army. Maybe with more and more women volunteering, the whole Swiss army may one day be based on voluntary "conscription". This

would eliminate another field of inequality between men and women in an area where the odds are presently stacked against the men who must enter the army whether they like it or not.

GREENPEACE CASHES IN ON ATOMIC TESTS

The French atomic bomb tests on Mururoa in French Polynesia are a boon for Greenpeace Switzerland. Since France resumed its tests, Greenpeace Switzerland has seen its membership increase from 5,000 to 25,000. Whilst income used to be around 10 million SFR per year, Greenpeace Switzerland have announced a much much higher income for 1995 (how much exactly they would not say). The question is of course: will this level of support and amount of donations continue after the end of the present French test series?

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