

euskal etxekoK



Issue no. 50
YEAR 2001

The PNV-EA coalition
wins the election





EUSKAL ETXEAK

Issue 50 - YEAR 2001 URTEA

EGILEA AUTHOR

Eusko Jaurlaritza-Kanpo
Harremanetarako Idazkaritza Nagusia
Basque Government-Secretary General for Foreign Action
C/ Navarra, 2
01007 VITORIA-GASTEIZ
Phone: 945 01 79 00
A-Aguirre@ej.gv.es

ZUZENDARIA DIRECTOR

JOSU LEGARRETA

KOORDINAKETA ETA IDAZKETA COORDINATION AND EDITORIAL OFFICE

SILVIA ARROYO
BENAN OREGI

KOLABORATZAILEAK COLLABORATORS

DAVID RÍO
MIREN ELOSEGI
JOSEBA ETXARRI

ARGAZKIAK PHOTOGRAPHS

JON BERNARDEZ
MUNDO DEPORTIVO
JOSÉ MARTÍN AZARZOLA

ARGITARATZAILEA EDITOR

Eusko Jaurlaritzaren Argitalpen Zerbitzu Nagusia
Basque Government Central Publication Service

INPRIMATZAILEA PRINTING

GRAFO, S.A.
LEGAL DEPOSIT: BI-841-96

Laburpena

SUMMARY

EDITORIAL ■ EDITORIAL

- Basque society wants peace..... 3

HAUTESKUNDEAK ■ ELECTION

- The polls confirm Euskadi's confidence in Ibarretxe's platform..... 4
- Unprecedented participation..... 6
- The path is clear to form a government..... 7

PERTSONALITATEAK ■ PERSONALITIES

- The 'Universal Basque' award..... 8
- Six entrepreneurs receive the Korta award..... 8
- 'Con Mucho Gusto', a distinction for things well done 9
- Álava promotes the Vitoria Jazz Festival in Manhattan 9

ERREPORTAIAK ■ ARTICLES

- Robert Laxalt, the Basque who wrote..... 10
- Vitoria-Gasteiz, a city of the eighth century 12
- Aid for purchasing a home 14
- Bilbao Metropoli 30 proposes organizing an Expo..... 15
- A wish come true 16
- Humboldt the traveler 18
- Armani takes the measurements of the Guggenheim 19
- Musical ambassadors..... 20
- Basque cyclists reach the greatest heights 22
- Europe surrenders to the greatest Alavés in history 24
- SIT conference in Bilbao 25

EUSKAL ETXEAK ■ BASQUE CENTERS

- Euskadi left its mark on Mar del Plata..... 26
- Information on the Basque Centers..... 28
- News from Euskadi by e-mail 30

LABURRAK ■ NEWS BRIEFS

- News Briefs..... 31

BASQUE SOCIETY WANTS PEACE

Since the election held on May 13th, a new stage has been set for Basque politics and society. A new era that requires cooperation from everyone. This will to cooperate was best demonstrated in the series of conversations that we recently concluded with all Basque political parties with parliamentary representation, in an atmosphere of serenity. These conversations have been open, frank and illuminating, and have allowed us to exchange impressions and points of view on two issues: the structure of the new Government and an evaluation of the political situation.

Regarding the first issue, things have been greatly clarified. The People's Party (PP), the Socialist Party (PSOE) and Euskal Herritarrok (EH) have made public their intention to remain in the opposition. I hope their opposition will be a constructive one, for the sake of our Country. As for me, I have shown them my willingness to lead an open government, which will consider any contributions geared towards improving upon our initiatives to continue building a better society for Euskadi. We want to put special emphasis on balancing growth with solidarity. That is the model of our Country that we wish to present to Europe.

The only doubt that remains to be clarified is the participation of the United Left (IU) in this new era. I would like to make it clear that all alternatives remain open, and have expressed this to IU's General Coordinator. In any case, the deadlines have been established and I intend for us to have a new government by the first half of July, with an approved platform and a new executive branch operating by summer.

Once again, I would like to send a message of serenity, effectiveness and institutional normality to the Basque Country. We shall continue working to keep Basque society from coming to a standstill.

We have also discussed the political situation. All of the parties acknowledged that we have now been given a new opportunity for politics. We must all speak to each other because all of us must seek the paths to Peace, which are based on the defense of life, dialog and respect for Basque society. These are three principles that Basque society has embraced and asked us to follow.



The first is the commitment to the **Defense of Life and Human Rights**. Therefore, our priority objective will be to defend the liberty, safety and human rights of all persons using all means within our reach.

The next principle is **Dialog**. Only by talking will problems be solved. However, we must make it quite clear that normalized political agreements shall only be possible between those of us who share the defense of life as a basic fundamental principle.

Based on these two elements, we must construct a process of normalization, living together in an atmosphere of **Respect for the Will of Basque Society**.

However, to start upon this path, we must reestablish trust between us. Our commitment must be to reduce tension and create a more relaxed political and social climate. After that, we must proceed steadily. Without haste, but without stopping. We must be careful not to run faster than our legs can carry us, as we run the risk of tripping and falling. We all want peace as soon as possible. We mustn't get carried away, but we cannot remain still. We must all take advantage of this new opportunity to seek the Peace and political normalization that the society of the Basque Country has entrusted to us. ■

JUAN JOSÉ IBARRETXE

THE POLLS CONFIRM EUSKADI'S CONFIDENCE IN IBARRETXE'S PLATFORM

The PNV-EA coalition was the big winner in the May 13th Basque elections

Eusko Legebiltzarrerako hauteskundeetan EAJ-EA koalizioak arrakasta historikoa izan zuen. 33 eserleku lortu ondoren, jarduneko lehendakariak, Juan José Ibarretxek, aukera zabala du Jaurlaritza berria osatzeko. PPk 19 eserleku bildu zituen -nahiz eta Araban nagusitasuna galdu-, eta PSEk 14. EHk porrot handia izan zuen eta EBk emaitza hobeak izan zituen aurreko hauteskundeen aldean.

The majority of the Basque citizens who went to the polls en masse on May 13th decided to support the platform presented by the PNV-EA coalition. The final results gave this group 33 seats on the Basque Parliament, one more than the sum of the 19 won by the PP and the 13 by the PSE-EE. The *Lehendakari* of the Basque Government, Juan José Ibarretxe, will therefore enjoy a wide margin when putting together his new cabinet.

The breakdown of votes by

provinces has also been favorable to nationalist interests, as the PNV-EA block won the greatest number of votes in Bizkaia (Biscay), Gipuzkoa and Araba (Álava). In this last province, the nationalists even beat the results obtained by the PP-UA, the coalition currently governing Álava's institutions.

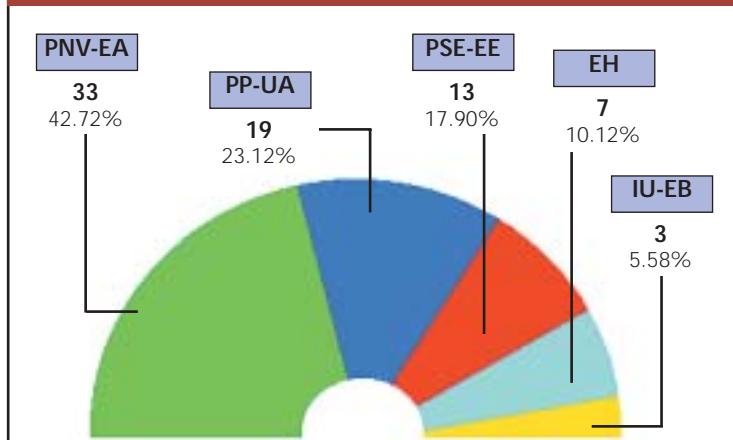
Regarding the other parties that achieved parliamentary representation, a significant blow was dealt to



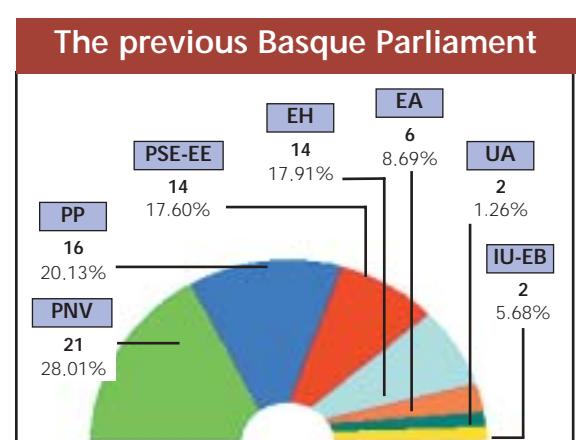
Xabier Arzallus, Juan José Ibarretxe and Begoña Errasti embrace after hearing the election results.

EH, which lost half of the 14 seats gained in the previous regional election. IU, on the other hand, is another political formation reestablished in this election, and will now have an another representative in parliament, in addition to the two seats gained in the 1998 election. The coalition led by Javier Madrazo

The new Basque Parliament



The previous Basque Parliament



won one seat in each province, regaining parliamentary representation in Gipuzkoa.

After a campaign marked by the strong division between nationalists and non-nationalists and the assassination of the president of Aragon by ETA, Basque citizens went to the polls en masse to continue with the policies of the party that has governed the Basque Country for the past twenty years. This was a vote for peace and hope, according to Juan José Ibarretxe, who has called for dialog among all the parties to confront this new era in the Basque Country, created after the May 13th elections.

The Basques have chosen democratic nationalism and dialog as the path to progress in the Basque Country. "The majority has said we want peace. We do not want deaths, or insults, or divisions; we want to make peace between us all, *abertzales* and *non-abertzales*, and the only way to do that is by sitting down and talking", said the *Lehendakari*, who thanked the Basques for the lesson in democracy they gave with their response at the polls. ■

BISCAY							
2001			1998				
	Seats	Votes	%		Seats	Votes	%
PNV-EA	12	335,945	43.77	PNV	9	224,542	33
PP-UA	6	181,404	23.64	PP-UA	5	139,161	20.4
PSE-EE	4	139,648	18.2	PSE-EE	5	125,834	18.5
EH	2	61,894	8.06	EH	4	100,377	14.7
IU-EB	1	43,701	5.69	IU-EB	1	42,714	6.2
EA				EA	1	41,096	6

GIPUZKOA							
2001			1998				
	Seats	Votes	%		Seats	Votes	%
PNV-EA	12	203,445	44.69	PNV	6	88,857	22
PP-UA	4	82,792	18.19	PP-UA	4	67,112	12.6
PSE-EE	4	74,042	16.26	PSE-EE	4	65,548	16.2
EH	4	64,409	15.25	EH	7	103,057	25.5
IU-EB	1	23,731	5.21	IU-EB	-	18,744	4.6
EA				EA	4	56,821	14.1

ALAVA							
2001			1998				
	Seats	Votes	%		Seats	Votes	%
PNV-EA	9	64,832	33.85	PNV	6	36,923	21.9
PP-UA	9	62,737	32.75	PP	7	45,470	27
PSE-EE	5	39,469	20.61	PSE-EE	5	28,670	17
EH	1	11,836	6.18	EH	3	20,567	12.2
IU-EB	1	11,430	5.97	IU-EB	1	9,606	5.7
EA				EA	1	10,718	6.3
UA	2	14,305	8.5	UA			

Data provided by the Basque Government's Department of the Interior

EVOLUTION OF THE VOTES CAST DURING THE LAST ELECTIONS

	93 National	94 Regional	95 Municipal	96 National	98 Regional	99 Municipal	00 National	01 Regional
PNV	287,908 24.44%	304,346 29.84%	310,659 28.36%	315,793 25.43%	350,322 28.01%	PNV-EA	347,417 31.32%	PNV-EA
EA	117,856 10.01%	105,136 10.31%	118,482 10.82%	103,628 8.35%	108,635 8.69%	397,580 34.69%	86,557 7.8%	604,222 42.72%
PP	175,758 14.92%	146,960 14.41%	160,702 14.67%	PP-UA	251,743 20.13%	203,255 17.74%	PP-UA	PP-UA
UA	16,623 1.40%	27,797 2.73%	21,586 1.97%	231,286 18.63%	15,738 1.26%	9,680 0.84%	323,235 29.14%	326,933 23.12%
PSE-EE	293,442 24.91%	174,682 17.13%	188,105 17.17%	298,499 24.04%	220,052 17.60%	219,451 19.15%	266,583 24.03%	253,195 17.90%
HB-EH	174,655 14.83%	166,147 16.29%	160,280 14.63%	154,853 12.47%	224,001 17.91%	228,169 19.91%	did not run	143,139 10.12%
IU-EB	75,572 6.42%	93,291 9.15%	79,816 7.29%	116,133 9.35%	71,064 5.68%	50,905 4.44%	62,293 5.62%	78,862 5.58%

UNPRECEDENTED PARTICIPATION

Maiatzaren hamahiruko hauteskundeetan parte hartzerik handiena izan zen demokrazia ezarri zenetik hona. Botoa ematera deitutako herritarren ia %80k erabili zuten eskubide hori Euskal Herriko hiru lurralte historikoetan.

The recent regional election held in Euskadi has made history for several reasons. One of the most important was the number of people who went to the polls to deposit their vote for the future. From the time they opened in the morning, voter participation records were being broken each hour. Finally, at the end of the day, the number of voters mobilized was found to be several percentage points greater than in previous elections. Almost 80% of the eligible voters answered the call, achieving the highest level of voter participation since democracy was restored in Spain.

By province, Biscay recorded the highest rate of participation (80.1%), ahead of Gipuzkoa (79.7%) and Álava (79.50%). All beat their highest previous records by ten points.

The increase in the number of people who went to the polls was also reflected in absentee voting,

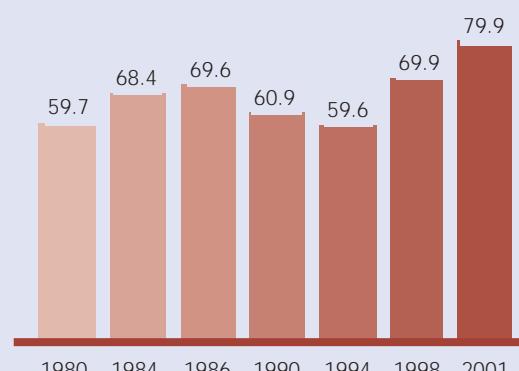
which tripled with respect to the 1998 election.

In this manner, the citizens of the Basque Country responded to the call by all Basque political formations, who had based their hopes of increasing the number of ballots in favor of their platforms by decreasing abstention.

The upward trend in voter participation was noticeable from

the beginning, though it was consolidated as time passed. It definitely surpassed the expectations of the Basque Country's Director of Electoral Processes, who had predicted 70% participation. Euskadi gave an unprecedented response to the call for regional elections. ■

Participation in regional elections (%)



Absentee votes in the election

	1998				2001			
	Total	Álava	Gipuz.	Biscay	Total	Álava	Gipuz.	Biscay
CENSUS	26,396	1,190	9,247	15,229	32,858	2,600	11,797	18,461
VOTES	6,545	485	2,624	3,432	10,552	903	3,939	5,710
PARTIC. (%)	24.78	25.26	28.38	22.54	32.1	34.7	33.3	30.9
PNV-EA	2,389	110	863	1,316	4,165	254	1,494	2,417
PP	1,343	192	447	704	2,898	386	987	1,525
PSE-EE	1,500	96	537	867	2,161	145	908	1,108
EH	522	31	265	226	625	43	306	276
IU-EB	256	11	110	135	384	39	140	205

EVOLUTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE BASQUE PARLIAMENT

1980 (60 seats)		1984 (75 seats)		1986 (75 seats)		1990 (75 seats)		1994 (75 seats)		1998 (75 seats)		2001 (75 seats)	
PNV	25	PNV	32	PNV	17	PNV	22	PNV	22	PNV	21	PNV-EA	33
HB	11	HB	11	HB	13	HB	13	HB	11	HB	14	HB	7
PSE	9	PSE	19	PSE	19	PSE	16	PSE-EE	12	PSE-EE	14	PSE-EE	13
EE	6	EE	6	EE	9	EE	6	IU	6	IU	2	IU	3
UCD	6	AP-PDP-UL	7	EA	13	EA	9	EA	8	EA	6	PP-UA	19
AP	2			CDS	2	PP	6	PP	11	PP	16		
PCE	1			AP-PL	2	UA	3	UA	5	UA	2		

The path is clear to form a government

Juan José Ibarretxe hasi da hitz egiten alderdi politikoekin Eusko Jaurlaritza eratzeko. Mapa politikoak aukera zabala eskaintzen dio EAJ-EAri, bakarrik gobernatzenko nahiz beste alderdi batzuekin itunak egiteko aukera baitu orain EAJ-EAk.

The wide margin of victory obtained by the PNV-EA coalition has left the current *Lehendakari*, Juan José Ibarretxe, responsible for forming the new government. He has already completed a round of conversations with the different political formations, though the spectrum created after the election could allow his majority coalition to govern alone. With the 33 seats obtained, his policies could prevail, as the seats won by the PP and PSE, the so-called 'constitutionalist block', add up to 32.

Ibarretxe has already announced that he will form a government "without grudges" and has discarded the idea of a possible pact with Euskal Herri-tarrok unless ETA lays down its arms. Along these lines, he said that in Euskadi "we are all needed" to open up a new era of dialog leading to a life of peace for all Basques.

From the United Left, Javier Madrazo has clearly chosen to sign a pact to support the PNV-EA in its new presidency, without discarding the idea of Socialist participation. However, the latter party has already announced that it will remain in the opposition.

The regulations of the Basque Parliament do not establish strict



deadlines for electing a *Lehendakari*, allowing the political parties an indefinite time period to negotiate the formation of the next Basque Government. ■

VOTES BY PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

BILBAO		
	Votes	%
PNV-EA	91,630	38.83
PP-UA	71,030	30.10
PSE-EE	43,122	18.27
EH	13,852	5.87
IU-EB	14,828	6.28

SAN SEBASTIÁN

	Votes	%
PNV-EA	46,244	38.40
PP-UA	32,045	26.61
PSE-EE	21,846	18.14
EH	12,426	10.32
IU-EB	7,429	6.17

VITORIA-GASTEIZ

	Votes	%
PNV-EA	41,521	29.13
PP-UA	50,248	35.25
PSE-EE	32,882	23.07
EH	7,363	5.17
IU-EB	9,503	6.67

BASQUE ELECTORAL LAW

In Basque parliamentary elections, the electoral system used is known as the D'Hondt Law, where the electoral districts are the "Historical Territories" (provinces). For each of the three Basque provinces, 25 members of parliament are elected.

In order to gain seats in Parliament, the candidacy must obtain at least three percent of the total number of valid votes cast in that district. Seats are assigned to each party in that province in accordance with the following rules:

- The lists of candidates are closed.
- After the votes have been counted, the lists are placed in order from the largest to the smallest number of votes received.
- The total number of votes for each candidacy is divided by one, two, three, etc.
- Seats are assigned to the lists receiving the greatest quotients.

If, upon assigning a certain seat, two or more candidacies obtain the same quotient, the tie is broken by increasing the number of decimals. Should the tie continue, the seat is given to the candidacy with the most votes overall. Once the number of seats has been established, they are awarded to the candidates by strictly following the order in which their names appear on the lists. ●

THE UNIVERSAL BASQUE AWARD

Pablo Mandazen ikerlariak zientzari eta hezkuntzari emandako 70 urteak esker-tzeko saria jaso zuen lehendakariaren eskuetatik.

The 'Universal Basque' award for the year 2000 went to the Navarrese priest Pablo Mandazen, more commonly known as 'Brother Ginés', in recognition of an entire life devoted in body and soul to science and humanitarian work in favor of the indigenous peoples of Venezuela. The recipient, who said he was proud to be Basque and happy about the "most precious award my people could give me", has dedicated 70 years of his life to serving education and research. Specialized in zoology, Mandazen founded and directed La Salle Science Society in Caracas. He arrived in this city in 1939 and claims to feel "grafted" to it.

Pablo Mandazen has received fifty international awards, but was especially excited to be honored as a 'Universal Basque'. This scientist, a native of the Navarrese town of Aezkoa, has always been proud of his status as an



euskaldun and never fails to promote the Basque people, whom he professes to love deeply, everywhere he goes.

A staunch defender of Basque immigrants in the Americas, Mandazen acknowledged his commitment to Euskadi during the awards ceremony. He also encouraged the creation of a Basque Center in Caracas. ●

Six entrepreneurs receive the Korta awards



Entrepreneurs Baltasar Errazti (Tecinmec Group), Ignacio Garmendia (Letag), Jesús María Aguirre (Jema), Donato Iribecampos (Condesa), Imanol Basañez (Pavimentos Alaveses) and José Ramón Ercoreca (Supermercados Ercoreca) received the José Mari Korta award from the

Lehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe, in recognition of their outstanding professional careers. Ibarretxe stressed the contribution of these men and the groups they represent to putting an end to the economic crisis that affected Euskadi during the 80's, and wondered if a nation capable of reaching its current situation of prosperity would also be able to achieve peace.

At the beginning of his speech, the *Lehendakari* spoke of Joxe Mari Korta, the president of the Gipuzkoan employers' union murdered by ETA. Starting this year, the business-related awards will bear his name. ●

'Con Mucho Gusto', a distinction for things well done

April was the month for recognizing those who contributed to building Euskadi as a country of the future. In addition to the 'Universal Basque' and 'Joxe Mari Korta' awards, there were the 'Con Mucho

'Gusto' (With Great Pleasure) awards. These are given by the Basque Government's Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, directed by Josu Jon Imaz, to honor those companies who have succeeded in their projects and found a niche for themselves in the always complicated and competitive economic world.

Thus, the recently granted awards for the year 2000 have gone to three companies representing each of these three sectors. For industry, GKN Transformaciones Ibérica received the award from the *Lehendakari*, Juan José Ibarretxe, for having become the world's leading brand in the design, development and manufacture of transmission systems for the automobile industry.

The jewelry store Joyería Jolben, of Vitoria-Gasteiz, was given the trade award, while the tourism award went to the *Transbordador de Vizcaya*, more commonly known as the 'Puente Colgante' (Hanging Bridge), a historical and artistic monument since 1984, which transfers an average of six million passengers and 500,000 vehicles from one side of the Nervión estuary to the other each year. ●



ÁLAVA PROMOTES THE VITORIA JAZZ FESTIVAL AND RIOJA WINES IN MANHATTAN

Arabako Foru Aldundiaren eta 17 upeltegiren ordezkarien "Gran Manzana" dela-koa bisitatu zuten, nazioartean gehien ezagutzen diren Arabako produktuak han ere aurkezteko.

On April fourth, representatives of the Provincial Government of Álava performed an extraordinary act in the Great Apple, where they introduced the twenty-fifth annual Vitoria Jazz Festival, scheduled to start the second week of July. In addition to the institutional representatives, led by the president of the provincial government, Ramón Rabanera, Iñaki Añua, the director of the Festival, and a delegation sent by 17 wineries from the part of La Rioja located in Álava also visited the U.S., a major market for their products.

The presentation took place at the Birdland jazz club in New York, and was attended by more than two hundred people, including guests, organizers and the media. The provincial representatives took advantage of the opportunity to promote Vitoria-Gasteiz and Álava as a tourist destination, stressing their most international charms.

Among the 200 guests, the Manhattan party was attended by prestigious wine critics, chefs from certain fashionable restaurants and those in charge of Culture and Gastronomy for the New York Times. The wine tasting was a great success. There was also a musical performance by saxophonist Joe Lovano, who offered a sneak preview of what he'll be playing in Mendizorroza in July. ●



ROBERT LAXALT: THE BASQUE WHO WROTE

"Ni ez naiz euskal gaietako aditu bat, idazten duen euskaldun bat baino". Era apal horretan definitzen zuen Robert Laxalt-ek bere burua, Ipar Amerikako euskal diasporaren literaturaren aitzindariak eta lurralteko euskal azterlanen sustatzaileetako batek. Maiatzaren 23an hil zen Renon (Nevadan) Robert Laxalt. Estatu Batuetako euskal diasporak bere erreferentzia literario nagusiena ezezik, Ipar Amerikan euskaldunak ezagutarazi zituena ere galdu du.

Almost since childhood, Bob Laxalt had nurtured his particular 'American dream': to become a writer. There was a time when he considered it an impossible goal because, in spite of his university education, his family origins were quite humble (his father was the classic Basque shepherd in the American West); he lived in a small, semi-rural state like Nevada and knew nothing about the ins and outs of the literary world. In fact, for a long time, literature was merely a hobby for Laxalt, whose professional career mostly unfolded in the area of journalism. Ironically, his 'American dream' started to come true when he embarked on a physical and spiritual journey back to his Basque roots. In fact, it is quite

remarkable that his first trip to the Basque Country directly resulted in his first literary success, *Sweet Promised Land* (1957). This work, after being translated into German, French and Euskera (*Dominique: artzain xiberotar bat Nevadan*, 1988), was recently published in Spanish (*Dulce tierra prometida. Un pastor vasco en el Oeste americano*, 2000).

The origins of *Sweet Promised Land* date back to 1953, when Laxalt and his siblings managed to convince their father, Dominique, to make the trip to his native land, so often postponed. He had never returned since his arrival in America 47 years before. The Laxalts' stay in the Basque Country was not very long, barely one month, and basically covered only Lower Navarre and Zuberoa, but it left a deep impression on both men. For Dominique, it was an emotional return to his past. For Bob, it was his first direct contact with the world of his ancestors, and a culture and way of life that had been part of his family environment during his childhood and youth, but whose presence had been notably diluted by the 'Americanization' process affecting immigrants in the U.S. Therefore, it can be said that for Bob Laxalt, the journey became an instrument for him to learn about his roots, while also forming an unbreakable bond between him and the land of his ancestors. As Bob told me on one occasion:

"... the first time I went with my father to Euskal Herria, I fell in love with that land. I had grown up in the desert and found it difficult to imagine so much beauty. Also, I felt that somehow Euskal Herria had always been somewhere in my memory. I fully identified with that land and its people, who are charming, vigorous and frank".

Sweet Promised Land not only put an end to the invisibility of Basques in the U.S. (demographically, their numbers are much smaller than those of other immigrant groups), but also served as a tribute to the Basque shepherd. In fact, some sectors of American society saw Basque shepherds as mere foreign usurpers of western pasturelands and water. As Bob Laxalt himself readily admitted, "Socially, the Basques were one of the



Robert Laxalt's workplace at his residence in Nevada.

groups on the lower end of the scale, mainly because the majority worked as shepherds". His book became a symbol for many immigrants residing in the U.S., who fully identified with the story because of its ability to reflect both the courage to meet the challenge of adapting to a new country, and the love for one's roots.

After the success of *Sweet Promised Land*, Laxalt participated actively in the resurgence of Basque culture in North America, a phenomenon symbolized by the celebration of the First Western Basque Festival in Reno in 1959. This event served as a source of cohesion for the Basques in the area, while also providing them with a magnificent opportunity to publicly manifest their identity. He also participated decisively (along with Jon Bilbao and William Douglass) in the creation of the Basque Studies Program at the University of Nevada (1967), another key event for ending Basque invisibility in North America. In fact, this program (now called the Center for Basque Studies) is currently considered the main Basque culture and research institution outside of Spain.

In spite of his versatility as a writer, Laxalt consolidated his literary reputation through new works with fundamentally Basque themes. He brilliantly addressed the experiences of the Basque Diaspora in the U.S. in novels such as *The Basque Hotel* (1989) and *The Governor's Mansion* (1994), becoming the literary interpreter par excellence of Basque emigrants in North America. Laxalt also showed exceptional artistic talent while portraying the traditional Basque Country, in stories such as *A Cup of Tea in Pamplona* (1985) and *Child of the Holy Ghost* (1992). These works all decisively contributed to increasing interest in Basque issues by the American writers of the second half of the twentieth century, while also serving as a source of inspiration for other authors of Basque origin, such as Frank Bergon, Gregory Martin and Robert Laxalt's own daughter, Monique.

Robert Laxalt told me on more than one occasion that there were only two places in the world where he would like to die: Nevada and the Basque Country. Bob died in Nevada, his adopted land, a place he fully identified with and where he had received multiple awards. In any case,

and in spite of the inexplicable scarcity of translators into Basque

**"Amets amerikarra" delako
egi bilakatzen hasi zitzai
euskal sustraietara itzultzeko
bidaia egin zuenean.**



and Spanish that still affects most of Laxalt's books, the marvelous legend of his works will always keep the memory of the 'Basque who wrote' alive among us. ■

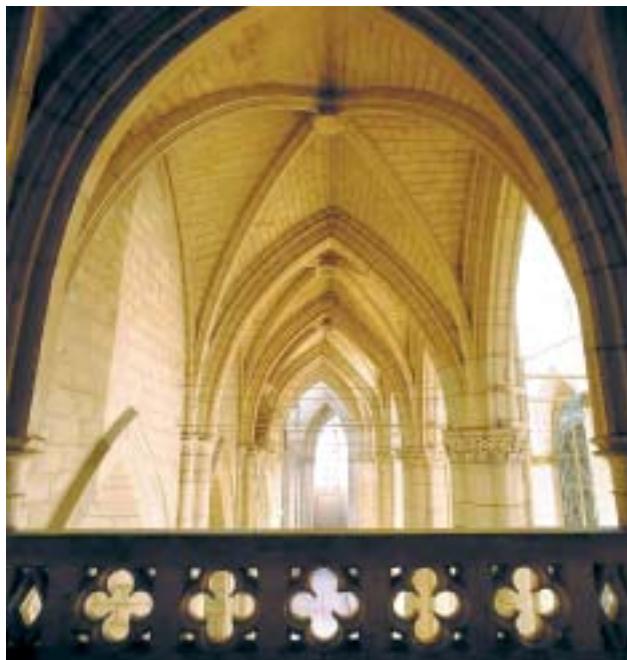
DAVID RIO

Professor of North American Literature
at the University of the Basque Country

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Robert Laxalt was born in Alturas (California) in 1923, to a family of Basque immigrants who arrived in the western U.S. from Iparralde at the beginning of the twentieth century. After completing his secondary education in Carson City, Nevada, Laxalt began his university studies in Santa Clara, California. This stage of his life was interrupted by World War II, during which he was sent to the U.S. Consular Service in the Belgian Congo. After the war ended, Laxalt graduated from the University of Nevada in 1947. At that time, he began his career as a journalist, publishing different articles in prestigious magazines such as National Geographic. From 1961 to 1983, he directed the University of Nevada newspaper. His link to this university extended into other spheres, including his special contribution to the Basque Studies Program (1967) and his work as a professor at the College of Journalism, starting in 1983. Robert Laxalt is mostly known for his renowned literary career, which includes 17 books and two nominations for the Pulitzer Prize for Narrative. In 1986, he was honored with the Golden Drum by the Municipal Government of Donostia for his contribution to making the Basque culture known internationally. ●

Restoration work at Santa María Cathedral uncovers the remains of an 8th-century city in Vitoria-Gasteiz

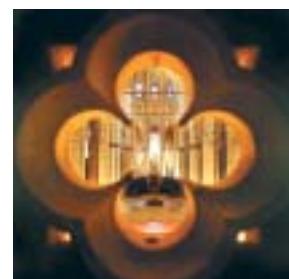


King Sancho VI of Navarre founded Vitoria-Gasteiz in the year 1181. That is, at least, the official version of the city's history, which may be quite inaccurate if the claims of the archeologists working in the city's old cathedral square can be verified. The restoration work taking place in Santa María has uncovered the remains of what may be a city from the eighth century or even earlier, from Roman times. Carbon 14 dating will be used to determine what period these remains belonged

Vitoria-Gasteizek aurten 820. mendu-rrena ospatzen badu ere, Santa María Katedralean egiten ari diren indusketek hankaz gora jar dezakete hiriaren historia ofiziala. Katedrala zaharberitzeko lanek hiri baten aztarnak utzi dituzte agerian. Hiri hori VIII. mendekoa izan daiteke; eta, hiri horren ezaugarrien araberak, bakarra Estatu osoan.

to. They were left by a primitive settlement built with mainly wooden architecture. The actual remains are splinters, which can be dated with a very narrow margin of error.

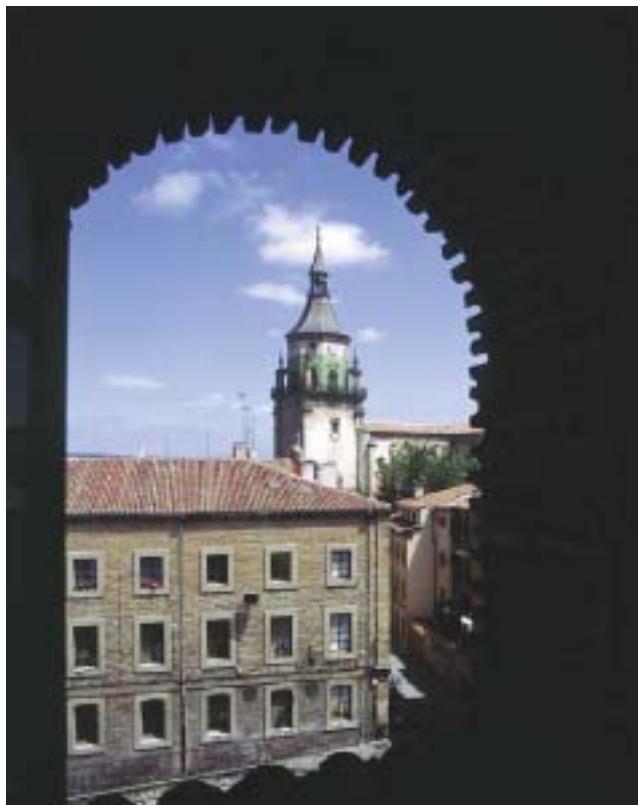
Prior to this discovery, some archeologists had found scattered evidence, such as swords and other instruments older than the official dates for the founding of Vitoria, which gave them hope of finding the remains of the ancient village. According to King Sancho the Wise himself, the locals called it Gasteiz.



So far, two crypts with early medieval sepulchres and some remains of Roman settlements have appeared. Thanks to rigorous working methodologies, much is now known about the ancient city: churches older than the current cathedral, a complex urban area next to the primitive city walls, and dense occupation of the hill where the cathedral is now located, with wooden constructions. The origins of Vitoria-Gasteiz may even date back to Roman times.



Prestigious Spanish and international specialists are participating in the Santa María project. The director of the Havana Museum has worked on the excavation with a team of South American archeologists, supervised by University of the Basque Country professor Agustín Azkarate. The scope of the archeological work has



favored recognition of this university's Archeology Area as an Associated Unit of Spain's High Council of Scientific Research (CSIC).

Recovery of the Old Cathedral

Construction of the gothic cathedral of Santa María started in the thirteenth century on a defensive wall that surrounded an ancient chapel and a series of buildings. Because of this peculiar location, the city's

origins are hidden under the cathedral, which has been shaky from the very beginning. Its huge columns, curving under the pressure,

barely sustain the weight of the construction. This nearly terminal illness caused a new cathedral to be built halfway through the past century. However, with time, it was clearly necessary to recover Santa María, a temple with a brilliant style that holds great architectural and sentimental value for the people of Vitoria. The Santa María Cathedral Foundation promoted the project, with support from all relevant institutions.

The restoration process, which will take ten years,

will be unique in that there will be guided tours open to the public. Visitors must wear hardhats, and the tours will adapt to different stages of the project, whether they involve reconstruction or archeological work.

Five billion pesetas will be invested to finance this 'rescue operation' to save a cathedral that, in previous centuries, was considered one of the most important in Europe, which even Victor Hugo compared to Notre Dame in Paris. The tours provide a unique opportunity to follow the project and participate in it through courses and workshops that teach nearly-extinct techniques and crafts. Work is already underway on publications, exhibits, etc. As the work progresses, there will be musical and theatrical activities and light and sound shows, as described in the master plan. The restoration project has been praised by the European institutions specializing in such matters, and its publication will be presented over the next few months in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Madrid and Rome.

The success that greeted the guided tours of the architectural and archeological sites has prompted different tourist organizations to design cultural routes that will tour the historical part of the city with the Old Cathedral as their base.

More than 25,000 people from Vitoria and visitors from 50 countries have already taken the Santa María tours. They all agree that it is a unique opportunity due to the personalized attention, historical explanations and, above all, the characteristics of a building that will soon be appearing in its own section of National Geographic. ■



**50 herrialdetako bisitariek
egin dituzte dagoeneko
Santa María Katedralean
programatutako ibilbideak.**

AID FOR PURCHASING

A HOME

Etxebidek, Etxebitzarako Euskal Zerbitzuak, lau urte betetzen dituen honetan aukera zabalagoa eskaintzen dizkie etxebizitza eskuratzeko Administrazioaren lagunza jaso dezaketenei. Aurten 4.281 etxebizitza esleitu dira, eta horietatik 648 zozkatu dira dagoeneko.



Etxebide is the Basque Housing Service, a complete information channel that the Basque Government's Department of Regional Planning, Housing and the Environment provides to the people of Euskadi. It supplies information on the financial aid programs established for the purchase, rental and renovation of residences, as well as existing officially-sponsored housing programs. In the year 2001, this service, which has been operating for four years, has offered a greater number of properties in an attempt to meet the Basques' ever-increasing demand for a first residence.

Through a complex computer network, all interested citizens are sent the requested information, as well as the necessary forms to apply for a home. From the time they register, whenever a new promotion begins, those applicants whose characteristics match the requirements listed are

automatically listed as possible recipients and are sent all information relating to the promotion.

The homes are awarded in a public drawing which can be attended by all persons meeting the requirements for participation in the promotion. The numbers previously assigned to each applicant are placed in a drum and drawn at random, as in a lottery. The homes are awarded to the holders of the lucky numbers. The Basque Government later studies the corresponding financial aid application, depending on the type of residence (public, officially sponsored, normal, etc.) and the needs of each applicant.

So far, a total of 2,570 persons or family units have found a home through Etxebide. However, the demand is enormous (there are a total of 82,000 applications) and the service has increased the number of homes available, of which 3,597 have yet to be awarded.

Application requirements

To be entitled to aid from Etxebide, applicants may not own a home. Their income must fluctuate between certain limits, depending on the type of house, and they must work or be registered to vote in the municipal district or functional area where the building is located.

The first advantage is that the flats available are much cheaper than those found on the free market. This is supplemented by the possibility of receiving aid from the Basque Government in the form of a reduced interest rate for the mortgage.

Some of the homes that become available through this program are reserved for persons with reduced mobility, those under 35 years of age and single-parent families with dependent children. ■

PROMOTIONS AWARDED

PROVINCE	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
ÁLAVA	493	85	369	893
BISCAY	-	380	292	672
GIPUZKOA	582	400	23	1,005
TOTAL	1,075	865	684	2,570

HOMES TO BE AWARDED IN 2001

ÁLAVA	1.394	8 PROMOTIONS	4 MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS
GIPUZKOA	1.083	19 PROMOTIONS	14 MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS
BISCAY	1.120	18 PROMOTIONS	16 MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS
TOTAL	3.597	45 PROMOTIONS	33 MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Data provided by the Basque Government's Department of Regional Planning, Housing and the Environment.

Bilbao Metrópoli 30 proposes organizing a World Expo in Bilbao



Elkarteak plan bat egin du hiriko itsasadarra bere onera ekarri eta Bilbo metropoliko ardatz bihurtzeko. Elkartearen ustez, Erakusketa Unibertsal bat egin beharko litzateke Bizkaiko hiriburua nazioartean hobeto ezagutarazteko.

In April, the Bilbao Metrópoli 30 association, which brings together 130 public and private institutions for the purpose of revitalizing the Biscayan capital, presented the document 'Bilbao 2010. The Strategy'. More than 300 experts participated in the writing of this report, which proposes an innovative future geared toward achieving the globalization of the city. For this purpose, four objectives were established, one of which was the possibility of holding a World Expo here in order to show the world the reality of Bilbao and to facilitate collaboration with other countries and economic agents. This would be a luxury showcase that would strengthen the international projection of an area undergoing a complete economic reconversion, which would also become a catalyst for a multitude of public and private initiatives.

However, organizing an Expo was only one of the ideas suggested by the association in this innovative document. Another ambitious proposal was to

***Metrópoli 30-ek
aurkeztutako beste
proiektu batek Bilboko
Alde Zaharra suspertu
nahi du.***

regenerate the Zorrozaurre peninsula, located right in the Nervión estuary. This would involve revitalizing a declining industrial area which offers a negative image of the city, transforming it into a center of research, technology and communication. This would be achieved through activities related to innovation, which would find a place in the heart of Bilbao.

Another major project proposed by Metrópoli 30 is the recovery of the old part of the city, which includes some of the most socially and urbanistically degraded areas. The plan includes a series of measures to broaden the range of cultural activities offered and promote activity in order to attract more population to the area.

The objective of this whole strategy is to turn the Nervión estuary into the backbone of metropolitan Bilbao, making it an appealing meeting place for both the locals and the increasing number of people who come each day to visit the city. ■

A WISH COME TRUE

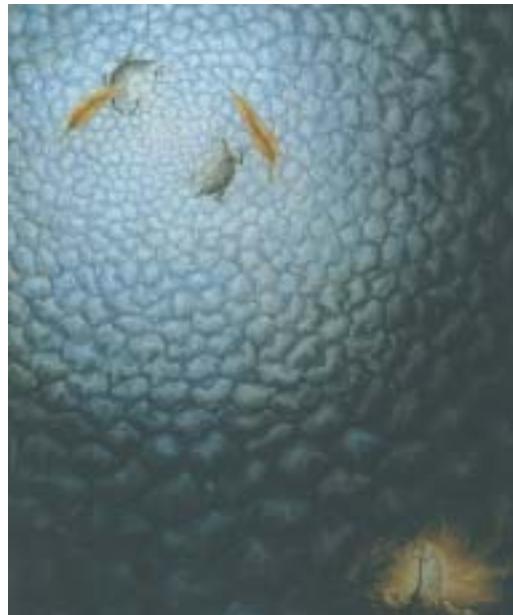
Sei hilabete barru amaituko dira Arabako hiriburu-ko Artium museoa -gaur egungo artea jasoko duen etxea- eraikitzeko lanak. Hurrengo urteko apirilean Artium museoak ateak irekitzen dituenean Gasteizk duen gogo bizienetako bat beteko da; alegia, etxe egokia izatea Estatuan genero horretako bilduma nagusienetako bat gordetzeko. Azkenean, erakustoki egokia izango du jendeak XX. mendearen bigarren erdiko euskal artea nahiz Spainiakoa ikusi ahal izateko. Horrela, Artium-ak bat egingo du azken urte hauetan Euskadik bizi duen kultura boomarekin.

Next April, Vitoria-Gasteiz will have a new arts center to add to those that have created a major cultural circuit throughout Euskadi in recent years. The Artium museum, housing one of Spain's most important contemporary art collections, will open its doors to the public. In this manner, a wish that began taking shape 50 years ago will finally come true for the capital of Álava. At that time, it became apparent that the Fine Arts Museum, where the collections were kept until now, was not the ideal building for exhibiting them.

On display will be 1,300 paintings, sculptures,



The News (1988), Charo Pradas.

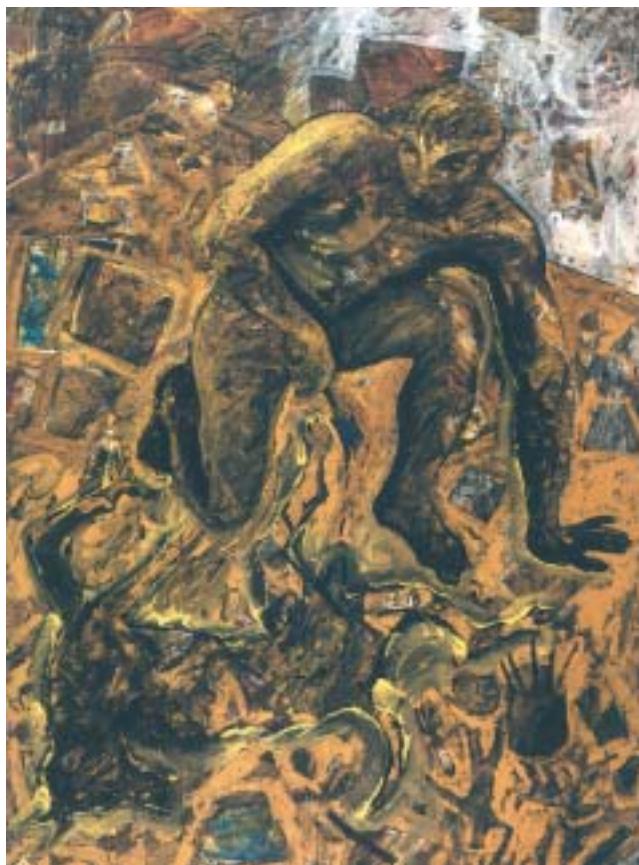


Compass (1986-87), Chema Cobo.

photographs and videos, which will mainly focus on the creations of the second half of the twentieth century. Earlier works will be merely testimonial, helping us to place the real stars of the collection within the historical evolution of contemporary art. Among the most important creators represented in the collection are great figures such as Picasso, Miró, Tapiés, Barceló, Oteiza and Chillida. The Basque art of the 50's will also be fully represented, with artists such as Larrea, Zumeta, Balerdi, etc.

However, the Artium is more than just an exhibition room. The idea of its director, Javier González de Durana, is for this building created by architect José Luis Cantón to become a great cultural and artistic center. There will be workshops where renowned creators will be invited to teach techniques to young artists eager to learn. It will be a place for creation, with the instruments and space necessary to turn the museum into a production workshop. Through an agreement with the University of the Basque Country, there are also plans to offer Master's degrees and organize seminars, lectures, workshops and meetings.

There will also be a place for the performing arts at the new Artium, which will be equipped with a stage. The building will also house two video rooms and a contemporary art library that will hopefully become the most important in Euskadi, gathering information not only on large exhibits, galleries and museums, but also



Le peintre avec pinceau bleu (1983), Miquel Barceló.

on small shows and centers all over the world.

The building will have a surface area of 14,000 square meters, of which 4,000 will be devoted to exhibits. In addition to the permanent collection, the museum will welcome approximately 15 temporary exhibits a year. These will range from the decisive figures of twentieth century art to the latest local, juvenile and avant-garde manifestations of today's artistic scene.

As far as acquisition policies are concerned, the collection will retain the main criteria that it started out with 50 years ago. Spain's situation of international isolation at that time contributed to a lack of works imported from abroad, which is why almost a hundred percent of the works are by Basque and Spanish creators. However, this philosophy will be altered in two ways. On the one hand, those responsible for the Artium tried to include pieces from before the war to serve as an introduction for the collection. On the other, the boundaries

will be opened through the acquisition of works by young foreign artists, broadening the geographical context of avant-garde artists from other countries.

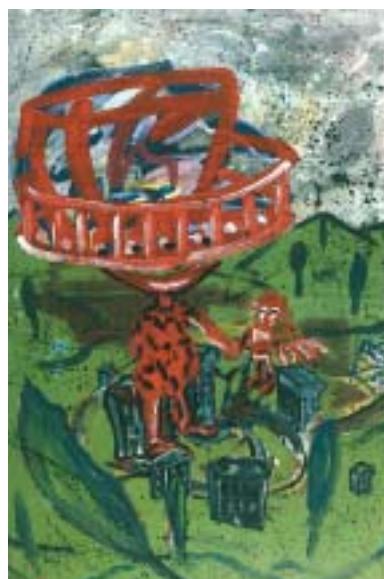
Separate collections

From 1942, when the Vitoria Fine Arts Museum was inaugurated, to the present, religious art, Basque *costumbrista* art (dealing with local customs) and contemporary art shared a building that soon became too small to house the increasing number of works. Almost from the beginning, it was apparent that space was needed to exhibit the works that were accumulating in the storage rooms. It was necessary to fragment the collections.

Over two years ago, construction on the Artium began in order to solve this problem. A site was chosen in the center of Vitoria for a building that would house the contemporary art collection, which had become one of the most complete in Spain, surpassed only by the Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid. Thus, the recently inaugurated Fine Arts Museum houses the Basque *costumbrismo* and nineteenth century art collections, while the religious art has been moved to the retrochoir of the new cathedral.

Institutional collaboration

All of the relevant government institutions have collaborated to make the Artium a reality. Its budget of over 2.5 billion pesetas was covered by contributions from the Basque Government, Spain's National Government, the Provincial Government of Álava and the Municipal Government of Vitoria, which granted the land where the building is being constructed. ■



Mother with child (1985), Juan Ugalde.



Series of modular columns (1986), F. San Miguel.

HUMBOLDT THE TRAVELER

2001ean 200 urte betetzen dira Alemaniako filologo eta politiko batek -Wilhelm Von Humboldt-ek, alegia- Euskal Herrira bidaia egin zuela. Eskola handiko ikerlari geldiezin hori Euskera ikertzeko behar zuen informazio bila hurbildu zen euskal lurraldera. Euskaldunen ohiturak eta kulturak txundituta, Humboldt beste bitan itzuli zen Euskal Herrira eta Europako beste filologo batzuei eman zien euskararen berri.

A tireless, curious and restless traveler, the German language scholar Wilhem Von Humboldt was in love with the Basque Country. In 1801, this friend of Goethe and Schiller first ventured into the land of the Basques. He was particularly attracted by the peculiarity of the *Euskera* language, which interested him greatly. At a time when the Euskal Herria territory was unknown to most Europeans, Humboldt became a great ambassador of the culture, language and customs of a nation that always amazed him because of its ability to preserve its own identity.

This German is well-known by *Euskera* scholars for his *Comprobación de las investigaciones sobre los primitivos habitantes de España mediante el bascuence* (*Verification of research on the primitive inhabitants of Spain through the Basque language*), which he wrote in 1821, introducing the Basque language to other European philologists. However, Humboldt also wrote an account of his impressions from his first trip to the Basque Country, describing everything that particularly caught his attention.

"The ordinary Basque greeting is 'Agur adisquidea' (Good morning, friend), accompanied by a handshake", wrote the German scholar, who was surprised by the harshness of the jobs performed by Basque women, which

**Humboldt-i harriarriak
iruditu zitzaizkion
euskaldunen kultura
ondarea eta ohiturak.**

were quite unusual for their gender in the early nineteenth century.

"Never in my life have I seen so many arduous jobs performed by women. (...) In Bilbao, while unloading ships, they carry the heaviest loads on their heads. Even in the forges, I have seen them occupied with the hammer and anvil".

Regarding the political system, Humboldt speaks very positively in his account of the way decisions were made by the inhabitants of the Basque Country.

"It is a pure and complete democracy. Nobody allows his will to be replaced by someone more capable; everyone decides on each issue for himself, and a member of parliament is only the agent of the majority of the votes in each community".

No less surprising for the German traveler were the cultural heritage and traditions of "a nation that has preserved for many centuries its primitive language and, to a large extent, its ancient regime and customs". Among the latter, Humboldt stressed the local ball game, which prevailed over social classes and sexual differences, bringing together the entire village.

As a conclusion from his journey, Humboldt indicates that it is cruel to keep the Basques divided by borders:

"Belonging to the same nation and speaking the same language, (...) they should be united. This is one of the cruelties that is given the least consideration in our wars, (...) the placement of a dividing wall between peaceful inhabitants". ■



Humboldt was pleasantly surprised by Euskadi.

ARMANI TAKES THE MEASUREMENTS OF THE GUGGENHEIM

Giorgio Armani diseinugile italiarrak sortutako lan garrantzitsuenen arteko laurehun daude ikusgai Bilboko Guggenheim Museoan irailera arte. Jostun entzutetsu horren 25 urteko lana aztertzen duen erakusketa paregabe horrek ikusmin handia sortu du ikusgai izan den lehenengo bi hilabeteetan.

Is fashion an art comparable to painting, the cinema, or sculpture, subject to being understood and treated as such? With a walk though the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, one can find an answer to this question. The building constructed by Frank Ghery has found room among its permanent modern art exhibits, oil paintings and watercolors, for a guest who is still one of the most influential creators of the last decades, in spite of the fact that he belongs to another professional sphere. He is the prestigious Italian fashion designer, Giorgio Armani, who has been exhibiting some of the most important pieces in his collections in Bilbao since late March.

Thus, the museum has become a luxury catwalk, where flesh-and-blood models have been replaced by anonymous mannequins without heads, who sometimes hang invisibly from the ceiling. Clothing is transformed into an object of worship.

With this exhibition, the Guggenheim Museum is venturing into the world of fashion for the first time. The exhibit replaces a similar one that was on display in the emblematic Wright Building in New York. Through 400 of his men's and women's suits, Armani retraces 25 years of work as a designer. All the glamour of the world of fashion combines with the experience acquired by the museum during its short life in turning exhibitions into consumer products for an extremely broad audience.

The exhibition was designed by Bob Wilson, and the mood music was composed by the American Michael Galasso. He chose ethnic sounds to accompany the exhibit, including the *txalaparta*, a native touch for a universal exhibition.

In Bilbao, Giorgio Armani breaks with his reputation as a minimalist creator with a sober style. Most of the pieces exhibited correspond to his most



Baroque designs, with prints and embroidery, as well as his most luxurious suits, far from the cliché neutral colors.

The Guggenheim also features a room devoted to the celebrities who have worn Armani clothes in the movies or in spectacular ceremonies, such as the Oscars. Among those pictured are Sophia Loren, Richard Gere, Leonardo di Caprio and Michelle Pfeifer. ■

BALENCIAGA MUSEUM

The same day that the Italian Giorgio Armani celebrated a gala event prior to the inauguration of his exhibition at the art center in Bilbao, another important fashion-related event, in this case Basque, was taking place in the Gipuzkoan town of Getaria. Here, the first stone was placed to enlarge the building that will house the Balenciaga Museum. Here, it will be possible to admire 150 creations by the prestigious Basque designer who died in 1972.

The museum will be an entire complex devoted to Cristóbal Balenciaga, located in the Aldamar Palace, which belonged to the Marquis and Marquise of Casatorre, the grandparents of Queen Fabiola. It was also the place where the designer took his first steps in the world of fashion. Work on the building began in the year 2000 and, once the enlargement is concluded, is scheduled for completion in May, 2003. At that time, the palace will house the rooms exhibiting the permanent collection, as well as others for temporary exhibits. ●

MUSICAL AMBASSADORS

Euskadiko Orkestra Sinfonikoak arrakasta handia izan du Hego Amerikan egin dituen joaldietan. Munduko antzoki garrantzitsuenetako batzuetan jaso duen txalo zaparradak mugak zabaldutako dizkio musika talde gazte honi.

A year has passed since the Euskadi Symphonic Orchestra undertook its most ambitious project in 19 years of existence. This Basque musical organization, with pianist Joaquín Achúcarro from Bilbao as a soloist, made its debut in South America with five concerts in Argentina and one in Chile. The trip was an unqualified success, and has forced them to consider further tours in the Americas. However, they will have to wait until their busy schedule will allow them to respond positively to the invitations received after their triumphant passage through that continent. Their performances there received the fervent ovations and glowing

reviews in each and every newspaper in the cities they visited. Meanwhile, the orchestra will continue to act as a musical ambassador for Euskadi whenever it travels abroad. The concert season for the year 2002 is already taking shape, and the orchestra is expected to celebrate its twentieth birthday with a calendar that continues its policy of international openness.

The most international tour

In May, 2000, the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra went on tour with the greatest international projection to date. After 18 years and more than 2000 concerts, a group of 94 musicians, Joaquín Achúcarro and the musical director, Gilbert Varga, crossed the Atlantic to offer six concerts in Argentina and Chile, as part of the most important music festivals in both countries. The orchestra had already performed in Germany and Austria, but South America had become its most ambitious project. The idea was to familiarize audiences with its work and that

of certain Basque composers in a land traditionally linked to Euskadi by immigration.

The Basque Government's Department of Culture, the banking group BBVA, the Federation of Basque Centers in Argentina, the Euskal Etxeak in each of the cities visited and the Basque Institutes of Cooperation and Development in Argentina and Chile contributed to making this dream come true. After two years of organizational efforts, the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra harvested with its music what had been so difficult to sow.

The program prepared for the occasion included works by the Basque composers Arriaga and Ravel, as well as Tchaikowsky's 4th symphony, which could help the

Warm welcome

The orchestra's performances in South America were followed with great interest by the Basque communities residing in Argentina and Chile, who gave them a warm welcome. On some occasions, they went to the airport to greet them. The members of the orchestra also visited the Euskal Etxeak in each city where they performed. ●



The Secretary of Culture, Mari Carmen Garmendia, and Vice-Secretary Imanol Agote accompanied the orchestra in Santiago, Chile.

orchestra to achieve great success. Its first performance was at the San Martín Theater in Córdoba. The theater was completely packed for the orchestra's first performance in South America. The concert lasted over two hours and concluded with a strong ovation, with the entire audience on its feet.

The next day, the orchestra's success was confirmed in Rosario, at the Astengo Foundation Theater, where the orchestra offered its performance during the Mozarteum Argentino festival, one of the most prestigious in the country. However, this was just an appetizer what was to be the main course for the tour:

**Euskadiko Orkestra Sinfonikoak
inoiz ez bezalako arrakasta izan
zuen eta merkatu berria ireki
zuen Hego Amerikan.**

the concert at the Colón Theater in Buenos Aires, one of the five best auditoriums in the world, a major rite of passage for any performer.

The Colón at the OSE's feet

The performance in Buenos Aires was historic and memorable. The orchestra will never forget the welcome it received from the ever-demanding Buenos Aires audience

in a Colón that sold out its 3,500 seats. The Basque orchestra set an extremely high standard in the first of a series of concerts organized by the Wagner Association, just a week before the Berlin Philharmonic performed on the same stage. The 'cathedral' of the music world surrendered to the brilliant execution by the Basque orchestra, which offered a magnificent performance and was awarded by warm applause from a truly surprised audience. They passed the test with flying colors, with all sections working with the confidence, skill and expressiveness of a great orchestra.

This success increased the OSE's morale even more, if such a thing was possible. They dove into their last two concerts in Argentina with renewed excitement, with resounding successes in Bahía Blanca and San Juan.

The tour ended in Chile, with a performance at the Municipal Theater in Santiago. Once again, the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra was a great success, receiving lavish praise from the city's specialized critics. The expedition had come to an end. Behind them were 13 days of intense work, six performances, six hotels, five theaters and one auditorium, two countries, the passage of the Andes, 10,000 spectators, warm applause and standing ovations. Their triumph



brought them offers to return to South America, after the successful transatlantic baptism of the Basque orchestra. The tour had been planned as a way to familiarize audiences with the orchestra and the works of Basque composers. In addition to meeting both objectives, the orchestra won the favor of audiences and critics alike and opened up a new market. ■

Unbeatable reviews

The Chilean and Argentinean media praised the orchestra's performances in these countries. Headlines such as "An amazing evening" and "Exemplary renditions" were followed by extensive articles:

"The audience applauded warmly and the orchestra left us surprised and hopeful that, even in the midst of globalization, even the smallest regions can bring forth good results with their own identity" (*La Prensa*, Buenos Aires).

"The Euskadi Symphonic Orchestra is a true precision mechanism, with a notably balanced sound, adjusted to breathe like an organism before any rhythmic alternative" (*La Nación*, Buenos Aires).

"The adjustment, the skilled tuning, and the expressiveness shown by this group from the Basque Country can only be found in a musical organization with a highly qualified quality of sound" (*La Nueva Provincia*, Bahía Blanca). ●

Switzerland and Germany

On April 20, 2002, the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra ("OSE") will celebrate its twentieth anniversary with several tours. The Barcelona Auditorium and the National Auditorium in Madrid will be the stages chosen at the national level. Its most important performances will take place in August, when it will participate in two prestigious classical music festivals, the Tibor Varga in Sion (Switzerland) and the Schleswig Holstein (Germany), where it will travel with its director, Gilbert Varga.

In 2001, the OSE will participate in the two-week music festival in San Sebastián and the ABAO in Bilbao, and will continue recording its collection of music by Basque composers. ●

BASQUE CYCLISTS REACH THE GREATEST HEIGHTS

Frantziako Tourrak gonbitea egin dio Euskaltel Euskadi taldeari munduko etapa lasterketa garrantzitsuenean parte har dezan; eta horrela euskal txirrindularitza nazioarteko tropelaren gailurrera igo da. Mailarik altueran lehiatzeko talde bat izatea aspaldiko ametsa da, duela zortzi urte Euskadi Fundazioa sortu zenean hasi zena. Ordutik hona egindako lanak eta erabilitako ilusioak uste baino sari handiagoa jaso du; alegia, itzuli galiarraren irteeran egotea.

For the first time in the history of the Tour, a team composed entirely of Basques will participate in the mythical French race. This has been the Euskaltel Euskadi team's reward for its phenomenal career, and has prompted it to register its name among the 22 First Division teams in the list prepared by the International Cycling Union. These successes are the result of eight years of hard work by a group that started out with great hopes and few resources, but, through its efforts, has managed to earn recognition from the entire international cycling community. The team's inclusion in the Tour

is also a reward for Basque cycling fans. This year, they will have yet another reason to turn out en masse to watch the race during its passage through the Pyrenees.

Miguel Madariaga was the driving force behind the initiative to create a team composed of Basques in order to provide an outlet for the area of the world with the highest proportion of cyclists to inhabitants. The creation of the Euskadi Foundation, directed by Madariaga himself and subsidized through member contributions, was the first step in a project that was reinforced by sponsorship from the telephony company Euskaltel. This entity, presided over by former *Lehendakari* José Antonio Ardanza, has guaranteed sponsorship and contributed to providing the team with a budget (around 600 million pesetas this year) that allows it to compete with the very best. This season, the Basque Government has also reached an agreement with the team to have it promote Euskadi by including the words *Pays Basque* on its luggage in races held abroad.

However, in the face of all this progress, the

Tourrak Euskaltel gonbidatu du, Pantaniren Mercatone eta Cipolliniren Saeco alde batera utzita.



David Etxebarria is Euskaltel Euskadi's favorite for the Tour de France.

Euskaltel Euskadi team remains true to its philosophy. It now has more resources and greater recognition, but continues to fill its ranks with Basque cyclists. It banks on young talent, and is a focal point for the amateurs in the community who would like to make the jump to professional cycling. A large portion of its budget is used to keep the rising stars who are tempted by other teams. This season, the remainder was used to bring David Etxebarria into its ranks to lead the team.

The presence of this cyclist from Abadiño, winner of two stages of the Tour with his previous team, ONCE, was undoubtedly yet another factor contributing to Euskaltel Euskadi's inclusion in the Tour.

If the arrival of the economic bonanza thanks to Euskaltel was important, the arrival of former cyclist Julián Gorospe as sports director was another turning point. Under his orders, the Basque team has come of age, with accomplishments that would have been unthinkable eight years ago. Last year, the team achieved nineteen victories, including triumphs in the overall finals of two races. This season, the good results came quickly. The Euskaltel Euskadi team already holds seven first place wins and one third, won by David Etxebarria in the prestigious Liège-Bastogne-Liège classic.

Another chapter in the team's history is now



Miguel Madariaga, Jose Antonio Ardanza and Julián Gorospe celebrate with a toast after finding out that their team will compete in the Tour.



The Basque team's work is paying off in the form of victories.

beginning. As a first division team, it will participate in the World Cup, and will also be included in the Tour de France starting July seventh in Dunkerque. Gorospe will call upon the team's 25 best men to surpass themselves in the world's most important race. Participating along with David Etxebarria will be Roberto Laiseka, winner of two stages in the Vuelta a España; Haimar Zubeldia, winner of the last Euskal Bizikleta; Iker Flores, who proved his worth last year, receiving the Tour of the Future award; and Alberto López de Munain, an all-terrain cyclist who could give us much to talk about during the Tour.

These are the reasons that led Jean Marie Leblanc, director of the Tour de France, to invite Euskaltel Euskadi, to the detriment of great teams such as Pantani's Mercatone or Cipollini's Saeco. ■



EUROPE SURRENDERS TO THE BEST DEPORTIVO ALAVÉS OF ALL TIME

Euskal taldeak 5 eta 4 galdu zuen UEFAren Kopako finalean Liverpool ahalguztidunaren aurka, baina gasteitzarren adoreak eta joko onak kritika bikainak eragin ditu kontinenteko komunikabide guzietan. Alavés-a estatuko futbol talde onenen artean sartu da.

The Deportivo Alavés made a grand entrance into European soccer history with its first participation in a continental competition. The Basque team was just one step away from being awarded the UEFA Cup, the second most important tournament in Europe, which follows the system of direct eliminatory matches. The team from Álava made it to the final, which was held in the German city of Dortmund on May 16th, after eliminating prestigious teams such as Germany's Kaiserslautern and Norway's Rosenborg, who are regulars in such matches.

In the final, after winning six eliminatory matches, the Alavés faced England's all-powerful Liverpool team, whose history and budget made it a clear favorite for

the precious UEFA Cup. Nobody, except the ever-faithful Alavés fans, expected to enjoy such an unforgettable final. The Basque

team, after a very nervous start, managed to score a 2-0, followed by a 3-2 and a 4-3, going into overtime with a 4-4 tie. Their efforts should have been more than sufficient to take the trophy back to Euskadi. However, a goal was scored at their own goal line just two minutes from the penalties, putting an end to the dreams of a team that had just paid an amazing tribute to offensive soccer.

We could ask no more from the Alavés or the game. With nine goals, it went on record as the final with the greatest number of goals in the history of the UEFA Cup. The tears of the Basque players were dried by the recognition of their fans, who gave them a warm welcome in Vitoria-Gasteiz. Among the fans was the *Lehendakari* Ibarretxe, who had words of true admiration for the players, who gave their all during the 118 minutes of the final.

The Plaza de la Virgen Blanca in Vitoria was too small to accommodate the nearly 20,000 people who went to celebrate their team's second-place victory at the European Cup. ■



Intelligent transportation systems analyzed at a conference in Bilbao

Bizkaiko hiriburuan SIT Europako II Batzarra izango da ekainean. Batzar horretan tamaina erdiko hirietako garraio arazoak aztertu eta eztabaidatuko dituzte.

From July 20th to 23rd, the Biscayan capital will host the Second European SIT Conference (SIT = Intelligent Transportation Systems), called *ITS in Europe - Bilbao 2001*. This conference will examine the prospects for mid-sized cities and solutions to their transportation and mobility problems. Specialized sessions with a small number of participants will be held to promote active participation, which will include municipal authorities, service providers, operators and customer

Biltzarrean Bilboko garraio bideak nola dabilitzan ikusteko aukera izango da.

representatives.

In addition to these sessions, there will be visits to see the latest technical innovations in transportation in Bilbao, and an exhibition showing the most promising, state-of-the-art applications offered by service providers. Naturally, it will also be possible to see the sights of Euskadi.

SITs make it possible to benefit from services such as quick determination of the best way to reach a destination, avoiding annoying traffic problems, and time-saving automatic payments for transportation and parking.

During the conference, it will be possible to see Biscay's intelligent transportation systems in action, such as the modern control centers for metropolitan traffic and Metro Bilbao, Eusko Tren's Intermodal Station and the provincial capital's trolley project. Also included will be RENFE and FEVE's railroad installations, the new terminal at the Bilbao airport and the traffic control center at the Outer Harbor.

For more information, please consult the web page that has been put at the disposal of anyone interested in the SIT conference, www.bilbao2001.itscongress.org, where you can also register to participate in the different sessions or sign up for the activities organized for this important event, which will take place in the main



economic and financial center of Euskal Herria. ■



Argentinako hiriaren irudi pintoreskoan,
euskal arkitekturaren eragin nabarmena izan duten hainbat etxe

EUSKADI LEFT ITS MARK ON MAR DEL PLATA



Name: Chalet Peralta Ramos **Date of construction:** 1930 **Location:** Alem 2886 and Castelli **Surface area of the lot:** 1,874.89 m² **Covered surface area:** 311.04 m² **Original owner:** Jacinto Peralta Ramos **Project:** Antón Gutiérrez and Urquijo **Construction:** Paulino and Máximo Gutiérrez.

José María Azarloza Argentinarra joandako euskaldun baten semea da, Mar del Platan jaiotakoa. José Mariak euskal arkitekturak bere jaioterriko zenbait etxetan izan duen eragina aztertu du. Euskal baserri klasikoaren arabera Mar del Platan egindako hainbat etxe jaso ditu inventario batetan. Irudiotan ikusten denez, ez dago zalantzarik.

Mar del Plata is a picturesque city in Argentina where numerous immigrant groups from different countries live together. As such, the city has adopted some of the identifying features of the people living there, who have all contributed to enriching the area's cosmopolitan flavor.

The local architecture has also been influenced by this phenomenon. Some immigrants, perhaps to help them feel closer to their birthplaces, built homes in their new country by adapting the structures to the typical architectural lines of their homelands.



Name: Villa Leonor
Date of construction: 1937
Location: Paunero 2456, corner of Falucho and Gascón
Surface area of the lot: 330.46 m²
Covered surface area: 241.56 m²
Original owner: Evaristo Jaime
Construction: Armando Spelanzón

Today, while wandering the streets of the city, one can still come across extraordinary constructions that were partially or completely influenced by Basque architecture. Unfortunately, some of these buildings, most of which were built in the 30's and 40's, have been demolished, but several magnificent examples still remain.

José Martín Azarzoa, a resident of Mar del Plata whose father emigrated to Argentina from the Biscayan town of Amorebieta, has researched these homes, some of which were photographed and appear on these pages. He stresses that the different professionals who participated in some of these constructions (architects, engineers, builders, draftsmen and planners) have made a name for themselves in the history of the city due to the important projects they completed.

Azarzoa visited each of these homes and talked to the owners of those that are still standing in order to complete his study, which was published in the Basque Week magazine at the Basque Center in Mar del Plata. Part of it also appears on these pages of 'Euskal Etxeak'. ■



Name: Dr. Santiago Baqué's chalet
Date of construction: 1930
Location: A. del Valle 2821 and Garay 120
Surface area of the lot: 918.69 m²
Covered surface area: Left: 181 m² Right: 191 m²
Original owner: Left: Santiago Baqué; Right: Felipe Gottheil de Luca
Project: J. E. Birabén and E. D. Lacalle Alonso
Construction: Paulino and Máximo Gutiérrez

Name: Chalet Maitagarri
Date of construction: 1930
Location: Alberti 102 y A. del Valle
Surface area of the lot: 468.72 m²
Covered surface area: 206 m²
Owner: Brenda Bassi
Project: Alula Badassarini
Construction: Alula Badassarini



BASQUE TRADITIONS TRANSFORMED INTO ART

Aratxu Giménezek natura erabiltzen du lehengaitzat egurrezko eta harrizko sortze lanak egiteko. Lan orien bitartez, bere jatorria bilatzen du, artisau olerki batean euskal herriaren kultura, tradizioa eta ohiturak gretsiz.

When asked to describe her art, the sculptor Aratxu Giménez wonders if it is possible to explain because it was born from a forest or a mountain. This Venezuelan of Basque origin interprets culture as a chain, which springs from nature and continues with legends and art. For this reason, she chooses the forest (wood) and mountains (stone) as the raw materials for her creations, which take shape to finally become a narrative and a tribute to her roots. In this manner, she humbly returns to the quarry, the cabinetmaker's workshop, the craftsmanship of the jai-alai basket, to symbols and ancestors and Basque mythological beings, to whom she offers her sculptures in a natural setting, on the earth and under the sky.

One of her works is *Izen Sakratua* (the sacred name), which was already exhibited at the collective exhibition entitled 'Aztarnak' (Footprints), at the Laurak Bat Basque-Navarrese



Center in Valencia. This creation is based on the *Maldan Behera*, by the Basque poet Gabriel Aresti. Its size, 220 centimeters (roughly seven feet) makes it look like a growing tree.

Most of the works by Aratxu Giménez are related to Basque mythology, legends and tradition. Thus, *Bizidun* is composed of two grapevine roots, with the four elements arranged around them, represented by handcrafted objects dancing counter-clockwise like an improvised *lauburu*.

In addition to popular legends, one of which inspired her to create *Biziak* (in alabaster stone), the sculptor now focuses her work on symbols. In this new stage, many of her creations are based on the ancient Basque numerical system. ■

S U B S C R I P T I O N S L I P

Anyone interested in receiving Euskal Etxeak Magazine free of charge, or who has noticed any errors in their address information, may fill out this slip and send it to us at the following address:

Secretaría General de Acción Exterior
C/ Navarra, 2 - 01007 VITORIA-GASTEIZ - PAÍS VASCO
A-Aguirre@ej-gv.es

First and Last Names:

Street Address:City:

Province/State:Code:

Country:Phone:

The women's volleyball team from the Basque Center in Rosario will tour Euskadi

Biscay, Araba, Gipuzkoa eta Euskadiko selekzioekin lehiatuko da ekainean txapelketa batean.

At the initiative of the Euskal Etxea Zazpirak Bat in Rosario, Argentina, the women's volleyball team from this Basque Center will visit Euskadi in June to participate in a four-way tournament with teams representing the provinces of Álava, Biscay and Gipuzkoa. This competition, which will be held June 15th to 17th in each of the three provinces, was organized by the Basque Volleyball Federation, which has also scheduled an exhibition game between a Basque team representing all three provinces and the players from Argentina.

Zazpirak Bat managed to obtain institutional support from the Municipal Government of Rosario in order to make this trip, which will contribute to



uniting the two nations and creating sport and cultural links between Euskadi and Rosario.

The Rosario expedition will arrive in the Basque Country on June 14, and begin competing against the Álava team one day later. On June 16th, it will play against Biscay, and will complete the four-way tournament the next day with its game against the Gipuzkoan team. Later, it will end its visit with a match against a team representing the three provinces of Euskadi. ●

The American town will reinaugurate its jai-alai courts

Mountain Home prepares to celebrate the Basque element of its population in August

After the successful NABO Annual Convention held in Los Banos, California, May 25th, 26th and 27th, which brings together more than thirty Basque entities in the U.S., the Basque community will be meeting this summer in Mountain Home, Idaho. A series of activities and events have been scheduled for August 25th to commemorate the Basque element of the town and of Elmore County, of which it is the county seat.

The events include a meeting of representatives of Basque clubs and entities from all over the country, a festival, and sports and cultural competitions and performances. The local jai-alai courts will also be reinaugurated following restoration. The courts were built in 1911 by Basque immigrants who settled in this county, located one hour east of Boise.

For the members of the local 'Euskal Lagunak-Elmore County Basque Association', this event has special meaning. It acknowledges their hard work since the association was founded five years ago. "We started the club with the idea of caring for, preserving and ensuring the continuity of the Basques' rich historical contribution to the development and identity of this county", explains Jo Anchustegui, native of Mountain Home and

secretary of 'Euskal Lagunak'.

The town does indeed boast a rich history with strong Basque influences, which now belongs to everyone. One of the most intense, and possibly most emotional, moments will be the reinauguration of the jai-alai courts that Pedro Anchustegui built next to the Basque hotel of which he was the proprietor. The courts, now registered as a historical monument, are located one block away from another unique structure, the Bengoechea Building, erected in 1913 by another Basque immigrant, José Bengoechea. ●



YOU CAN NOW RECEIVE NEWS FROM EUSKADI BY E-MAIL

A couple of weeks ago, the Basque Government's Secretary General for Foreign Action implemented a new initiative to provide news from Euskadi to those living in other countries who need up-to-date information on the latest issues in the Basque Country. This new product is a supplement to the magazine you are now holding, and is also entitled 'Euskal Etxeak'. However, the novelty is that the new magazine will be sent to your home once a week. That way, you won't miss the most important element of communication: the immediacy of the information.

The mechanics of sending and receiving the new magazine are as simple as having a computer with Internet access and e-mail, which will be used weekly to send you four pages containing the most important news from Euskal Herria. In addition to economic, cultural, political, social, and other news, the magazine will include some permanent sections, such as recipes, a practical Basque dictionary and different curiosities.

Also, because the reader is the star of this newsletter, we would be delighted to receive any suggestions or issues that you consider important,

A newsletter prepared by the Basque Government's Secretary General for Foreign Action

Issue 0



The virtual 'Euskal Etxeak' magazine is born

This information comprises the first issue of the virtual 'Euskal Etxeak' magazine, which has been created to keep a large number of people informed of the latest news in the most important social, economic and cultural spheres in Euskadi. This newsletter, prepared by the Basque Government's Secretary General for Foreign Action, is intended to take advantage of the opportunities offered by new technologies to provide information on everyday life in this land to those who are now far away, whether they be Basques, descendants of Basques, or people with ties to the Basque Country. Your e-mail address is one of the many that will receive this first issue, though we hope to contact a much greater number of subscribers very soon.

The information is absolutely free and will be sent once a week by e-mail. However, far from being a mere recipient of news, you are an active participant in this project, as we would like for

you to actively collaborate by sending any ideas and suggestions you may have regarding this magazine. We would like for our product to increasingly satisfy the needs of our readers. You can therefore contact euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es, where you can also send the e-mail addresses of any friends or cultural, social or political centers in your community who would like to receive the magazine. We would also appreciate it if you would let us know whether the information has arrived correctly. We hope this initiative will provide us with the opportunity to establish bonds with those who love this land, and to share the enterprising, welcoming spirit of our nation with those who are just getting to know Euskadi through this newsletter.

Your address is one of the many that have received this first issue

in order to include them in the publication.

The virtual 'Euskal Etxeak' is intended to reach a large number of subscribers. If you are interested or want your friends, the cultural or political associations in your town, etc., to receive this newsletter, please e-mail us at the following address:

euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es

EITB RECORDS A TV COMMERCIAL IN BOLIVIA

Euskal Telebista has launched a new advertising campaign on its different TV channels with a commercial filmed in the Amazon jungle, on the slopes of the Andes.

Those responsible for filming the commercial needed twelve days to get the necessary images to put together an original and extremely beautiful promotional ad. Filming took place during the rainy season in the jungles of Amboró National Park in Bolivia. The heroes of the commercial are a group of 'Ayorero' Indians, a tribe now in danger of extinction, which lives in the suburbs of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the most important city in the area where the ad was filmed.

The images show the 'Ayorero' hunting in the Amazon jungle, surrounded by a magnificently beautiful virgin landscape which brings home the point of this ad: with the resources available to EITB, it can now reach even the most remote places on earth. ■



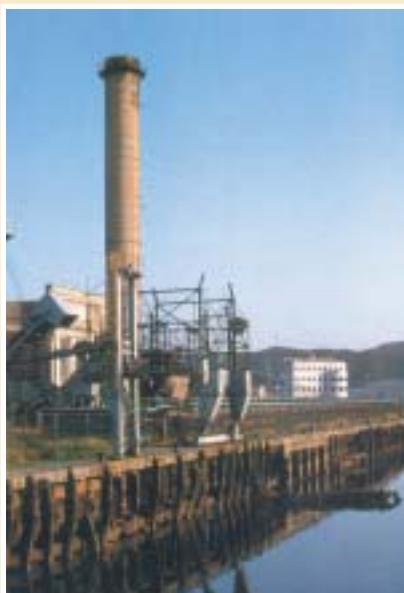
The company Chou Gyorui will market Basque fish in Japan

The Federations of Fishermen's Unions of Biscay and Gipuzkoa have reached an agreement with the Japanese company Chou Gyorui, which will market in Japan part of the tuna caught by the Basque fleet. The agreement, which was sponsored by the Basque government, will produce revenues of over 24 million euros in two years. This type of fish is highly prized in Japan, one of the most important markets in the world. ●

Nine Basque iron and steel plants unite to help the environment

Nine Basque iron and steel companies have created a group called Agrupación Acero y Medio Ambiente (Steel and Environment Group), which will jointly study and manage any environment-related innovations in this industrial sector.

These companies produce almost six million tons of steel and related products annually in their twelve industrial plants, and recycle more than seven million tons of scrap metal during



the same time period.

The group is composed of Acería de Álava, Acería Compacta de Bizkaia, Aceralia Perfiles Bergara, Aceralia Perfiles Olaberria, Aceralia Redondos Azpeitia, Aceralia Redondos Zumarraga, GSB Acero, Disenor and Tubos Reunidos. ●



SPRI celebrates twenty years of success

The Society for the Promotion and Industrial Reconversion of the Basque Country just celebrated twenty years of success. By 1999, the SPRI, which answers to the Basque Government's Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, had generated 361 billion pesetas (1.923 billion dollars) in business investments through its support programs. The implementation of these measures to promote industrial development made it possible to create 14,659 jobs during this period.

This volume refers to the balance sheets offered by the Garapen and Ekimen investment support programs. Today, a new initiative called Gauzatu is underway, with which the Department of Industry hopes to generate 25 billion pesetas in investments and 1,000 new jobs this year. ●

A Basque gallery participates in the Chicago Art Fair

For the first time, the prestigious Chicago Contemporary Art Fair featured a Basque art gallery. It was attended by the Atxerri gallery, which managed to take some of the most important works from its collection to the most famous fair in the Americas.

This gallery from San Sebastián attended Art Chicago with creations by the artists Xabier Laka, Jaume Plensa, Antonio Murado and Don Herbert. This fair is mostly attended by private collectors and museums from all over the world. ●

Iberdrola announces an investment plan worth 1.5 trillion pesetas

Shortly after the failure of its merger with Endesa, the Basque electric company Iberdrola has decided to continue expanding on its own, and has announced an investment plan worth almost 1.5 trillion pesetas. With this capital, the company is especially interested in consolidating its presence on the Spanish and South American markets, not only in the electrical sector, but also in gas, water, renewable energy sources and new technologies.

Iberdrola has considered a plan to reduce costs, which would allow it to increase its annual profits and, market permitting, get rid of its shares in the oil companies Repsol-YPF and EDP, as well as Telefónica, Telefónica Móviles and Cementos Portland. The value of its shares in these companies has been stated by Iberdrola as 283 billion pesetas, which it plans to use to cover part of the investments planned. ●

The Bilbao Trade Fair received a record number of visitors last year

The year 2000 was the best in the history of the Bilbao Trade Fair. During that time, it broke records for attendance (88,869 professional visitors), exhibitors (more than 3,000), revenue (3.677 billion pesetas) and profits (263 million pesetas), as a result of the 32 professional contests offered.

The Fair, which is now developing an ambitious plan to expand, beat the results obtained in 1998 by 11% (as a result of biannual exhibitions, data is compared between odd or even years). ●





This spring, the eleventh annual Korrika, the Basque Public School festival, Herri Urrats and Ibilaldia have again served as the main vehicles for demanding the standardization of the usage of *Euskera* and the utilization of an educational system in accordance with the identifying characteristics of the Basque people. Once again, the first of these events was a complete success. The Korrika is a race lasting eleven days, crossing more than 300 towns, with thousands of participants covering a total of 2,343 kilometers (1,405 miles), braving cold and rain to demand their right to receive, use and transmit one of their nation's most important values: its language. Members of Basque Centers from as far away as Uruguay and Argentina participated in the Korrika.

This year, the tenth annual Basque Public School festival was held in Bilbao, where approximately 70,000 people enjoyed different cultural events, such as theater and music, while demanding a 'quality, pluralistic and *euskaldun* education'.