

Issue 63 Year 2004

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Aguirre,

centennial
of the first Basque
President

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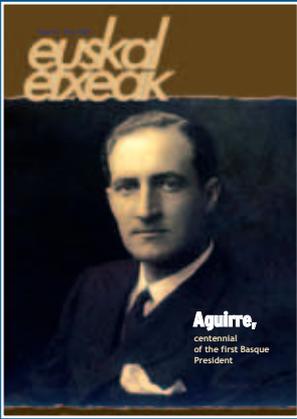
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JUAN JOSÉ IBARRETXE

José Antonio de Aguirre earned a prominent place for himself in the history of our country. This well deserved distinction lies not only in his political contributions, but also for having taken on the enormous responsibility that came with being Lehendakari in difficult times shrouded by war and exile. He holds a special place in our memory for his open disposition, his flexibility, his humanity and his sociability. We cannot talk about our recent history without talking about Aguirre. It is essential to read his books and writings in order to understand the terrible events that took place in our country only a few short decades ago.

Like many others, he was a man ahead of his time, a person who knew how to look beyond the horizon of his own lifetime.

Although better known for his political facet, Lehendakari Aguirre's life was infinitely richer and more noteworthy. He was deeply concerned with education, knowing only too well that an uneducated nation steeped in ignorance would be condemned to



Opening letter

Lehendakaria

corporate operations. Aguirre's vision of society and economic solidarity, of the relationship between capitalism and the workforce, has left an important mark on Basque nationalism, a point of reference which should be neither forgotten nor ignored.

Aguirre's life was full of trials and tribulations. There is probably nothing worse for a politician committed to his people and nation than to feel helpless as fascism and intolerance forced himself and thousands of his fellow Basques far from their country, their hopes and ambitions. Forced exile has a dramatic effect on a nation. This is the drama that Aguirre

experienced as yet another Basque, yet another supporter of the Spanish Republic forced to leave his home to take refuge in a foreign land. It couldn't hurt to recall that as Mayor of Getxo, Aguirre was one of the presidents of *Corporación Municipal*, which proclaimed the Republic in Euskadi. I often ask myself what our country and society would have been like if the Franco dictatorship hadn't destroyed freedom?

Aguirre, our first Lehendakari

disappear. He was an untiring athlete, an extraordinary husband and father, and was fully committed to society. Politically he was committed as a nationalist and a politician; personally, as a man and businessman. It may seem trivial but the fact that he was a company executive who proposed distributing profits among workers was quite revolutionary. Even today it may very well behoove us to rethink this perspective on business and



A passionate life

Gizon atsegina eta baikorra izan zen Jose Antonio Agirre eta Lekube, Euskadiko lehen Lehendakaria. Gaztetatik nabarmendu zitzaion politikarako grina: gogor defendatu zuen euskaldunen kausa eta bere ikuspegi aurreratuak Europan eta munduan kokatu zuen Euskadi.

Jose Antonio Agirrek ibilbide politiko oso zabala landu zuen: Getxoko Alkatea izan zen, Parlamentaria Errepublikaren Parlamentuan eta horren barruan Euskadiko Estatutua negoziatu zuen eta 1936 urriaren 7an aukeratu zuten Euskadiko Lehendakari, lehen Eusko Jaurlaritza osatu zuelarik. Gerra, erbestea eta garai zailak ezagutu zituen hala ere beti Euskal Herriaren eta demokraziaren alde jardun zuen. Agirre Lehendakaria 1960ko martxoaren 22an hil zen. Gizatasun handikoa, Jose Antonio Agirre politiko irekia izan zen eta beti gizalegez jokatu zuen, bai Euskadin bai erbestean, nahiz garai nahaspilatsu eta zailtan bizitzea tokatu. Abertzalea eta humanista, Agirre Lehendakariak ikuspegi kosmopolita eta irekia izan zuen, Europaren zalea, Euskadik Europan bere lekua eraiki behar zuela uste zuen. XX. mendearen berrogei eta berrogeita hamar hamarkadetan XXI. mendean indarrean jarraitzen duten planteamenduak eskaini zituen.

José Antonio de Aguirre Lecube passed away in Paris on March 22nd 1960. His funerals, held in both the French capital and Donibane-Lohitzune (Saint Jean de Luz), were the scenes of extraordinary demonstrations of mourning, support and recognition.

Aguirre was born on March 6th 1904 in the heart of the historic center of Bilbao, next to the Santos Juanes church. He was the eldest of ten children born to Teodoro Aguirre and Bernardina Lecube, a couple whose families hailed from Gipuzkoa. Aguirre's father was a lawyer and part-owner of a chocolate factory, thus enabling the couple to live quite comfortably. Teodoro Aguirre took part in Sabino Arana's legal defense in the proceedings brought against him for having congratulated the President of the United States for granting Cuba its independence.

The parents of the man who would become the first Lehendakari were native Basque speakers, enrolling their son for his first few years of schooling at the first *ikastola* to open in Bilbao, located in Plaza Nueva. There he studied music, a passion that was to accompany him throughout his lifetime. He was also a top-notch athlete, excelling in a variety of sports such as rowing, *pelota* and, most notably, soccer. He even played with Athletic de Bilbao, the soccer team that took the Spanish title.

José Antonio de Aguirre studied Law, but had to divide his time between studies and family obligations. His father passed away when José Antonio was 16 years old, and being the eldest son, he had to help his energetic, bright mother take care of the family business.



1. José Antonio de Aguirre, at the left-hand side of the picture, with sisters Maria Teresa and Encarna, brothers Juan Mari and Ignacio and his mother, Bernardina Lecube.

2. In Rio Grande, Brazil, October 9th 1941.

3. José Antonio de Aguirre and Mari Zabala's wedding on July 8th 1933 held at the Basilica of Begoña.

4. Aguirre with his children Aintzane, Joseba and Iñaki, and wife, Mari, in Saint Jean de Luz.

5. Rally in Estella on June 14th 1931.

After the proclamation of the Second Republic, Aguirre was elected Mayor of Getxo and later Deputy to the Spanish *Cortes* in every legislature, becoming the leading architect and spearhead of the Basque Statute of Autonomy. On October 7th 1936 he was named Lehendakari and created the first Basque Government with representatives from the parties active in the Popular Front: Socialist Party, Communist Party, Republican Left, National Basque Action and Basque Nationalist Party.

During World War II, Aguirre lived clandestinely in Europe and managed to escape the Nazi siege. He took exile in the United States with his wife, Mari Zabala, and his children Aintzane and Joseba.

Leader in war and in exile, José Antonio de Aguirre lived through difficult years for freedom, working tirelessly for the cause of democracy, Euskadi and the freedoms of the Basque people.

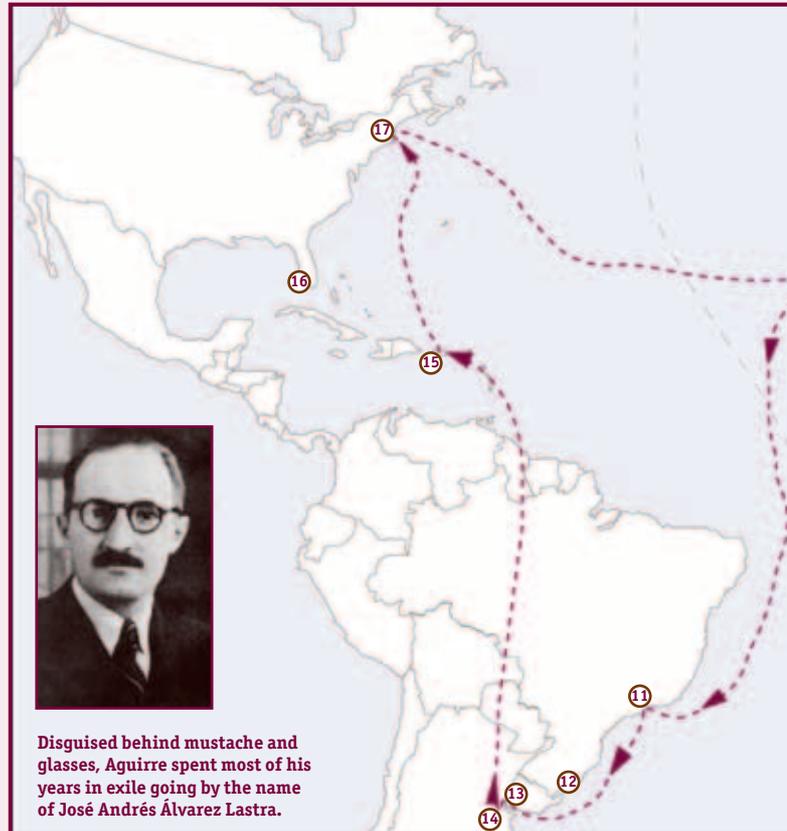
In July 1937, José Antonio de Aguirre was forced to leave Euskadi. This marked the beginning of an odyssey replete with incidents and calamities that took him through Europe and the Americas. His family followed suit, undergoing tragic and at times inconceivable situations. It would be a journey of no return, ending with the untimely death of the Lehendakari in Paris in 1960.

1937- In August the companies of Basque soldiers or *gudaris* abandoned the last strip of Basque territory through Trucios, Bizkaia, surrounded by Franco's troops. Aguirre drew up a farewell manifesto expressing his faith in the future of the Basque people. He then went to Santander and flew to Biarritz on the *Negus*, a plane owned by the Basque army. In Biarritz he met up with his wife and daughter, Aintzane, who had been evacuated when the Basque Government issued a decree for all women, children and elderly to leave Euskadi. A few days later Aguirre set up shop in Catalonia to head the Basque Government out of a villa in Pedralbes in the outskirts of Barcelona.

1939- On February 4th he crossed the border together with Companys, the President of Catalonia. Joining them were Manuel Irujo, July Jauregui and Catalanian leaders Josep Tarradellas and Nicolau d'Oliver. The seat of the Basque Government was established on 11 Marceau Avenue. From there the Lehendakari began the task of seeing to the needs of the more than 150,000 Basque refugees. When the second world war was declared, the Basque Government took the initiative to offer its collaboration with France and England.

1940- On May 8th Aguirre left Paris for La Panne, a Belgian city located fifteen kilometers from Dunkirk and three from the French border, in order for his family living in Lovaina at the time to be able to see his children Aintzane and Joseba, the latter born in 1938. The family visit put them in the middle of one of the most important battles of early World War II, and from that point the Lehendakari lost contact with nationalist leaders. The Nazi offensive against France and Belgium forced José Antonio de Aguirre and the group of Basques accompanying him to cross the border on foot, dodging bombs, and make their way to the last French town on the coast, Bray Dunes, where they would escape by sea. One of the bomb attacks killed José Antonio's sister Encarna, and his wife, Mari, was detained and accused of being a spy. Returning to La Panne, Aguirre decided not to put the rest of the group at risk, traveling alone to Brussels and then on to Berlin. He thought that the only place where the Nazis wouldn't find him was right in the heart of Germany. Meanwhile, he encouraged the rumor to be spread that he was in London.

On June 1st Aguirre made it to Brussels by car with a Catalanian couple and a Basque Jesuit, taking refuge in the convent of San Francisco Javier. From there he took a train to Antwerp, while his family settled in Lovaina. The Panamanian consul, Guardia Jaén, provided him with false documentation stating that he was José Andrés Alvarez Lastra (with first and last initials coinciding with his own), Panamanian citizen, single, with a PhD in Law and landowner in the province of Chiriqui. Aguirre grew a beard and started wearing glasses to help conceal his identity. With permission from the Gestapo itself, he was allowed to travel to Germany. However, before leaving Belgium, Aguirre decided to visit his family in Lovaina, where he spent Christmas with his wife, children, mother and two brothers.



Disguised behind mustache and glasses, Aguirre spent most of his years in exile going by the name of José Andrés Álvarez Lastra.

STAGES OF EXILE: 1. Santander; 2. Biarritz; 3. Barcelona; 4. Paris; 5. La Panne (Belgium); 6. Antwerp; 7. Hamburg; 8. Berlin; 9. Sassnitz (Germany);

1941- On January 7th Aguirre took a train to Hamburg and began to record his impressions in a diary. Although he had no intention of publishing his writings, the manuscript crossed several borders concealed in either a sock or a doll's head. It would eventually become part of another more carefully written diary included in *De Guernica a Nueva York pasando por Berlín* (From Gernika to New York via Berlin), a book covering his experiences until May 28th 1942. This was the loneliest and most harrowing part of his exile. From Hamburg, Aguirre traveled to Berlin, where he suffered great hardships: "The streets are covered in snow. I can feel the damp through my old worn out shoes... I had a cheap meal. Then I walked through the streets of Berlin for nearly two hours looking at shop windows... This is the story of a poor man who lived like a rich man, or at least that's how it seemed."

During those months of political inactivity Aguirre took refuge in reading: "... mainly thoughtful reading that makes me consider problems and compare certain things to our own situation. This distracts me, shifting my attention from becoming too absorbed in intense worries." The pages from his diary written at that time reflect his state of mind during the seemingly endless wait for documents which would allow him to leave the country, coupled with a lack of news from his family: "This lack of communication is anxiety, imposition and slow torment... things are taking so long. If only wishing and hoping were enough to make things happen, just think of the amount of things I could do."

On March 1st Aguirre's wife and children finally made it to Berlin. In his diary he refers to his wife as *señora Guerra* (Mrs. War), *la viuda*



The journey of no return

10. Göteborg (Sweden); 11. Rio de Janeiro; 12. Rio Grande (Brazil); 13. Montevideo; 14. Buenos Aires; 15. Puerto Rico; 16. Miami; 17. New York; 18. Paris.

(the widow) or María, who was traveling with false documents as a widow born in Mérida, Venezuela. The ultimate goal was to go to the United States, but the family had to travel in several stages in order to get there. On May 23rd they went by car to Sassnitz, the last German port, where they boarded a ship to Göteborg, Sweden. "I breathed a sigh of relieve once we were on the Swedish vessel. Free at last! (...) Our documents were strange at all the hotels we checked into. Nowhere did it show that this widow and this doctor, with two children in tow, were married."

The family remained in Sweden until July 31st, when they were provided with the necessary passage and documents to embark on the merchant ship Vasaholm, which would take them across the Atlantic, but to Rio de Janeiro instead of the United States. On September 22nd Aguirre wrote in his diary: "Wasting so much time makes me nervous because in addition to spending a lot of money living out of hotels, it has also been a long time since I've been able to make contact with my countrymen, which is so important. (...) I am dragging out any possible solution or at least the chance to solve some of the terrible problems facing Basque families and countrymen living in Belgium, France, Euskadi, in Spanish prisons and even in Africa." On October 3rd they boarded the Itapé bound for Rio Grande do Sul, the Brazilian state on the Uruguayan border, whose capital city is Rio Grande. A week later they took a train to the border with Uruguay and made their way to Montevideo. This was when Aguirre stopped being José Andrés Alvarez Lastra and took on his real persona as Lehendakari. Awaiting him was the press, the Basque colony in exile and a spate of tributes.

"Fantastic welcome... My countrymen are so very dear. I take off my hat to all of them who suffer so greatly." He was received in a solemn session of the Parliament, and was given a reception in his honor by the President of the Republic of Uruguay, General Baldomir, attended by the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. On October 16th Aguirre disembarked in the Argentinean capital, Buenos Aires, where he was also received by cheering crowds, and the President of the nation, Roberto Ortiz. Washington recommended that the Lehendakari's arrival be carried in as discrete a fashion as possible, via Trinidad, Puerto Rico and Miami, thus obliging him to travel by plane in a series of stages. His wife and children sailed directly to New York. Aguirre took a train from Miami to Philadelphia and another one to the Big Apple, arriving on November 6th. The Aguirre family established their residence in White Plains, New York, where Aguirre worked as a History professor at Columbia University. The family remained in New York until 1946. During this time Aguirre took a number of politically motivated trips. The most difficult part of his exile had come to an end.

1942- In May Aguirre finished his book *De Guernica a Nueva York pasando por Berlín*. He visited several Latin American countries in the summer and fall: Guatemala, Panama, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. He gave conferences at different universities and took advantage of his stays to organize Basque exile communities in Latin America and to spread the ideals of Basque nationalism, democracy and equality. His third child, Iñaki, was born in New York in 1943.

1945- Aguirre flew to Paris aboard a US military plane. He also traveled to London, where he met with the Basque Government Office and with different figures from the Catholic Church.

1946- This year marked Aguirre's definitive return to Europe. After several months in Saint Jean de Luz, he settled in Paris. During this time he took a number of trips to Latin America. He inaugurated the new headquarters for the Basque center in Caracas, and visited both Havana and Mexico. On July 3rd 1951 the French Government gave the Basque Government 48 hours to move out of its Marceau Avenue headquarters since the building was to be turned over to the Franco regime. The Lehendakari moved into a small villa on Singer Street, with funding provided by Basque refugees residing in Latin America.

1954- spring Aguirre went back to visit the Basque communities in Venezuela, Mexico, Havana, New York and Washington. The following year he revisited Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. In Santiago de Chile he attended the First Christian Democrat International Congress in Latin America.

1956- The Basque World Congress was celebrated in Paris between September 23rd and October 1st. At the event the Lehendakari explained the work the Basque Government had carried out from the time of its creation on October 7th 1936.

1960- On March 22nd Aguirre died suddenly in Paris from a heart attack. Five days later he was buried in the Saint Jean de Luz cemetery.

A politician with vision

**Jose Antonio Agirre Europako ideiare
aintzindarietariko bat dela esan
daiteke baina horretaz aparte,
politikazalea zen, barru-barruan
politika berea sentitzen zuen gizon
horietakoa. Eusko Jaurlaritzako Kanpo
Harremanetarako idazkari nagusia eta
Agirre Lehendakariaren iloba den**

**Iñaki Aguirre Arizmendi bere
testuetan murgildu da eta bere
osabaren ibilbidea ulertarazi dezakeen
entresaka egiten saiatu da: ondorengo
lerro hauetan, beraz, ikerketa lan
honetan jasotako testu
interesgarrietako batzuk laburbiltzen
saiatu da aldizkaria.**

[IÑAKI AGUIRRE ARIZMENDI, SECRETARY GENERAL FOR FOREIGN ACTION, BASQUE GOVERNMENT]

José Antonio de Aguirre's European vision at a time when European institutions were only a pipe dream, his participation in politics and his active role in the international Christian Democratic movement, coupled with forced exile, put him in a privileged position to become involved in some of the new European tendencies created after the second world war. Iñaki Aguirre, Secretary General for Foreign Action of the Basque Government and nephew of Lehendakari Aguirre, takes an in-depth look at the rich biography of the first Lehendakari.

His world of personal relations in the Basque, Spanish and international arenas; his intense activity as Mayor of Getxo, while at the same time spearheading the pro-Statute movement among Basque Town Councils; his involvement in the Spanish Cortes in Madrid and later his role as Lehendakari; his affiliation and participation in the federalist movements of Europe; his thoughts on human values, general politics and particularly the future of Europe; his organizational skills and ability to create a government above and beyond partisan ideologies – although not without problems: these attributes are just some of the reasons why today Aguirre is considered one of the most highly accepted figures in recent history among the Basque people.

Along with his writings, are the activities he carried out and his surroundings, the "I and my circumstances" coined by Spanish philosopher Ortega y Gasset. Sometimes these were local or regional, other times national or even international. Therefore, I am going to concentrate on the more outstanding aspects of his personality and his political philosophy. In this sense, perhaps the first thing to look at is his own public confession regarding his personality "(...) because I'm not the type of person to say one thing here and another thing there. (...) I never try to avoid responding to accusations made about me." He went on to say: "I have just come back from visiting all of the nations in America and I may be the only person who

has the rare privilege of never having argued with anyone. Not with this man or that man or any man. No one. I can visit the different factions into which the republican cause is sadly divided and maintain contacts with all of them. And I plan on keeping them up. In these times, what triumphs in the chancelleries is the truth. Don't ever think of anything without it."

To Aguirre the approach to nationalism as a force for change and constant progress in defending the freedom of a nation and is therefore a struggle against absolutist concepts in general. In this sense, although its origins go back earlier than the nineteenth century, it is then that "the phase of liberation of people who want to live their lives got underway, a process that continues in this century and which will not end until justice is recognized for all those who see themselves as a people or nation with the legitimate desire to contribute to building a common culture and heritage (...). Such a wide array of peoples contributes to adding color to human splendor (...). The happiness of future society is dependent on solving this situation." But without excluding anyone, without egotistic demands that are only benefit the Basque people or certain political tendencies, because "if the final governmental acts are based on parties and not people, the difficulties seen so far will only become greater."

His concept of the task of politics is therefore universalistic: "we want freedom for our people, but we also want – whether free or deprived of freedom, but much more so if free – to open our arms up to all men, to all peoples in Humanity"; in another section he wrote: "Our nationalism has to be universal if we don't want it to become egotistic and stingy and become the cause of disputes between peoples."

State and suprapstate

If I had to summarize the thought of José Antonio de Aguirre in three phrases, they would be "Basque unity," "ability to decide one's own future" and "defending



Pictured above with Frenchman Robert Schuman, one of the founders of modern Europe. Berlin, March 23rd 1956

democracy around the world," the latter understood as a common right with room for improvement, as is everything else in this world.

Looking at the present, I would venture to say that perhaps the most important thing is not defending the sense of identity, but rather a combination between this sense and the ability to plan society with other people's sense of identity, creating sociopolitical structures for attaining personal and social aspirations. Champion of universal principles, José Antonio de Aguirre denounced the attitude often held by major powers which see rights according to their geopolitical interests, or nations that defend the rights of peoples far from their borders and not those of the peoples within their own countries. "(...) The malice or convenience of powerful states forces all of those noble justice and rights principles to be applied outside of their own borders", or only the rights of states created already or granting such states more rights than they grant their own nationalities, or partial rights, like the right "to cultural autonomy, when there is no possible cultural autonomy without the corresponding political autonomy." To José Antonio de Aguirre, "the problem of nationalities will be resolved only with political freedom, that is, with by government itself and by the recognition of fundamental rights: the right to security." Therefore, he felt that "the problem of nationalities should, together with the problem of people and their rights, enter in the positive international arena, (...) omitted until now because the mere suggestion enraged countries interested in denying the reality of the problems...".

But for José Antonio de Aguirre this decentralizing trend was not exclusive to Third World peoples or others aspiring to a greater amount of freedom or even independence. In this changing world the problem was no longer "only one affecting backward peoples, but also advanced and progressive nations, which see no other solution for their future health and safety than to join a common supranational organization." He went on to say that "this path toward unity means the necessary cession of certain powers which correspond to the sovereignty of each state. Such a cession faces violent opposition in sectors which thrive on the memory of past

glories as if history were stuck in those times. A small Europe, so-called despite the one hundred and seventy million inhabitants, came into being to overcome these difficulties. In Aguirre's view "Our position has always been decidedly in favor of European integration, and within our possibilities we have collaborated from the beginning in bodies created to promote Europe, (...). However, like all problems associated with trying to restore freedom, there is no better solution than one's own efforts," without waiting for "I don't know what kind of illusory help."

José Antonio de Aguirre firmly believed that any political problem had an appropriate solution as long as there was political and popular will. He felt that nothing was unchangeable, that nothing other than people had absolute value and that any political structure was viable. In his words "In a Europe that wishes for peace and wants to have its own organization, it is inconceivable for there to be oppressed peoples among its nations. Federation is, therefore, a path to freedom because it gives rise to a commitment among equals. When significant changes are introduced to the old concept of state sovereignty, political philosophies geared to the future strive to sanctify and bring together the national freedom of peoples making it compatible with participation in the broadest areas of political and economic activity. Guaranteeing the future of nations, particularly the smaller ones, lies precisely in these larger suprastate structures (...). They must leave the domestic framework behind and enter into the international arena, serving the interests of the citizens."



Standing fourth from left.

Soccer player and concerned businessman

[IÑAKI ANASAGASTI]

It is not easy to find someone who knew José Antonio de Aguirre when he played soccer for Athletic de Bilbao. More than seventy-five years have passed under the bridge since then. I called Ibaigane, the company that owns the team, to ask them for the name of the club's longest-standing member, but since I don't have that information yet, I decided to look through my notes, now somewhat of a treasure.

José Antonio followed in the footsteps of the young athletes who came out of the Jesuit school in Orduña and were readily slotted into positions on the non-professional teams of the period. That's why it was so easy for Aguirre to sign up with Athletic de Bilbao. A number of young people who studied at the Orduña school also played on the same team, including Laka, Billabaso, Antón and Nacho Allende, and José Legarreta.

Aguirre played several games with Athletic's first team. His technique was good, a little slow but with excellent footwork, a trait common among students from Orduña, where they would practice the game against a wall or ball court with squads of half a meter or more.

José Antonio began playing with the Athletic Club de Bilbao in the 1923-24 season. That was the Athletic of Vidal, Sesúmagu, Lazarra, Rousse, Acebo... "It is very difficult, Mr. Aguirre, to leap from the front line of the Athletic Club to the front line of the Basque-Navarre team which has fallen upon you, Sir, to lead." Socialist leader Indalecio Prieto addressed José Antonio de Aguirre at the Spanish Cortes in 1931 with this cutting remark. Years later Prieto would rectify his rather unfortunate statement, acknowledging that Aguirre had managed very successfully to make the leap.

This is just one of the many anecdotes connected to the first Lehendakari's experience with the Athletic de Bilbao soccer club, one of the least known facets of his life.

On July 19th 1921 Aguirre became a card carrying member of the soccer federation for the Vizcaia Region, playing with Athletic de Bilbao during the 1924-25 and 1925-26 seasons. José Antonio was a midfielder, lined up with another man named Aguirre, known as "Aguirre-Begoña." Another one of his Athletic de Bilbao teammates was Indalecio Prieto's son, which helps explain the special affection the Bilbao-born socialist leader felt toward Aguirre.



Athletic de Bilbao soccer card, October 1921



View of the family business on Travesía de Tívoli in Bilbao.

During Aguirre's phase with Athletic de Bilbao, the team was going through a period of transition, failing to take a single title until 1930 – the previous title had been won in 1923. However, during this period new players including "Travieso," Carmelo Goyenechea and Félix Sesumaga came on board, taking the place of the Hurtado brothers, the Belausteguigoitia brothers and Rafael Moreno, alias "Pichichi" who had passed away.

In his writings, historian Hugh Thomas wrote that "Jose Antonio came from a middle-class Carlist family and owed much of his fame to his good looks and his budding talent as a player for the Athletic de Bilbao soccer club."

When he stopped actively playing soccer, Aguirre continued to be a great fan of Athletic de Bilbao. In 1933, then a deputy to the Spanish Cortes, he attended the championship league game played in Madrid and even spent a few hours at the hotel where Athletic de Bilbao was staying to visit goalkeeper Gregorio Blasco, who had sustained a major injury.

During the Spanish Civil War, Lehendakari Aguirre was one of the main promoters of the Basque soccer team, which donned the colors of the *ikurriña* on the playing fields of Europe and America. The team took second place at the Mexican championship, with all proceeds going to Basque refugee children living in Europe.

José Antonio Aguirre left soccer after completing his Law degree. For some months he worked as an assistant for the law firm of Don Esteban Bilbao and later opened his own office, where he worked with Julián Ruiz de Aguirre.

Humanistic businessman

With regard to Aguirre's business dealings, the chocolate factory "Chocolates Bilbaínos, S.A." was created in 1920 by four chocolate manufacturers, whose brands were: "Martina Zuricalday," "La



Aguirre had a rich and intense life, with friends and relationships from the Basque Country, Spain and around the world.

Dulzura," "Caracas" and "Chocolates de Aguirre," each holding a 25% share in the business. José Antonio was named Chairman when he reached legal age; his brother Juan Mari, moved into the position four years later. José Antonio became very busy with his work, especially in the area of public order. Nevertheless, he attended the Board of Directors meetings from time to time, consistently keeping abreast of the company's progress and later, in 1933, of the technical renovations carried out at the factory. His main focus, however, was on the social aspect of the business. Spurred on by their ambitious ideas concerning society, the Aguirre family, particularly company chairman Juan Mari, but also José Antonio, drew up a set of Rules of Procedure in cooperation with the company workers committee, which at the time was considered a major social breakthrough. The document was passed unanimously by the Board of Administration. In other words, it was not only the doing of José Antonio, as is commonly thought, but also of other praiseworthy members of the company Board of Administration. Juan Mari Aguirre provided me with the names of these people: Don Ramón Bayo, Don Juan Bayo, Don Pedro Menchaca, Don Policarpo Ibáñez, Don Dalmacio Angulo and Don Pelayo Trabudúa, representatives of the different brand names. The company was the second largest in Spain until 1937, when the firm began to fall apart under the pressure of the long, drawn out Franco occupation.

Pioneer of the idea of Europe

Jose Antonio Aguirrek ondotxo zekien Euskadik zaila izango zuela bere onarpen politiko osoa lortzea, Europako beste edozein herrialdeen modura. Estatista zen eta ezagutzen zituen horrelako helburu politikoek aukerak eta zailtasunak. Oso gazte hasi zen Agirre politikan, Primo de Riveraren diktaduraren azken urteetan, 1930. urtean, 25 urte zituela. 26 urterekin Getxoko Alkate izango da, 27 urterekin Madrilgo Korteetan Diputatu eta 32 urterekin Lehendakari.

José Antonio de Aguirre," according to his eldest son, Iñaki Aguirre, "was anything but naive. He knew only too well that attaining full political recognition for Euskadi as a European nation in the new political organization of postwar Europe would be extremely difficult. His first goal was to maintain Basque home rule, which had been granted during the Spanish Republic, and, if possible, increase it to a national and then European level. He conceived different constitutional formulas for Spain based on federate and confederate systems. He was a statesman who understood the possibilities but also the limitations of a project of such depth. He also knew that Euskadi could not remain outside of Europe, and that Euskadi would definitively lose everything if it did not get on board the European train."

It was at the headquarters of the Basque Government in Paris that the Basque Council was created, as was the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement. Aguirre decided that the latter would be headed by Salvador de Madariaga, prestigious Spanish liberal thinker and staunch believer in Europe, but with a centralist mentality, in order to see how far they could play the European card to unite anti-Franco groups of all types in overthrowing the dictatorship. "Because," added Iñaki Aguirre, "if the European integration experience was economically, socially and politically successful, sooner or later it would prevail over European countries still under

Europe as a political and economic horizon

"Aguirre and the European Horizon" is the generic, and perhaps somewhat enigmatic, title of a course offered through the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea summer course program. It is taught by Iñaki Aguirre Zabala, eldest son of the first Lehendakari and Chair of International Relations of the UBC/EHU.

José Antonio de Aguirre died in 1960, which means he was witness only to the first steps of European integration with the signing of the founding treaties of the European Communities in 1951 and 1957. This is the reason behind the course instructor's decision to use the expression "European horizon." As Professor Aguirre explains, "It was mainly a long-term anticipation of the future policy of Europe by visionary, courageous and generous people, the founding fathers of Europe, including Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, Alcide de Gasperi and Konrad Adenauer, among others. In any case, for us Europe is still out of reach on the political and economic horizon, even with the EU elections in June, the

Irish presidency, and the passing of the Draft Treaty establishing a European Constitution."

"During the World War II postwar period José Antonio de Aguirre left a clearly European mark and vision of the future on the Basque Government and on the democratic forces supporting the institution in general, championing the creation of a federation between the peoples of Europe. And although he did take part in the intellectual and political debate at the beginning of the project, he himself was witness only to the very inception of the European integration process. The project, which is now made up of twenty-five Member States, is a huge success for an economic and political adventure previously unheard of throughout world history. The adventure that began over half a century ago has now blossomed into the European Union, following the geographic European outlines and ideas familiar to Aguirre's generation," points out Iñaki Aguirre.

The course is designed to look back on the life and political legacy of José Antonio de

Aguirre on the centennial of his birth on March 6th 1904. However, it is also conceived as an opportunity to build on his ideas for the future peace and freedom of a united Europe and for the economic and political future of Euskadi in a united Europe. This perspective encourages today's witnesses, whether scholars or politicians, to take part in the course "Aguirre and the European Horizon."

Prospective course

The course, as we can see, is not exactly a course on History – although it is certainly present. Instead, it is a prospective course, in other words a chance to reflect on the politics of the future of Europe and on how stateless nations like Euskadi fit into the scheme of things.

The more history-oriented lectures will be led by the team of International Relations experts working with Professor Aguirre from the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea.



Members of the Basque Government Office at the 1945 Aberri Eguna.

the yoke of dictatorships. And these countries would then change governments and democratize – precisely what did eventually happen, although much later."

José Antonio de Aguirre's most visionary period was as a pioneer of the idea of a united Europe. His idea of Europe included the political recognition of all of nations, even those peoples caught between the threads woven by history. This period was seen as early on as 1943, when from New York he wrote a pragmatic doctrinal text for the European postwar period titled *Coordinación de nacionalidades europeas* (Coordinating European Nationalities). According to Iñaki Aguirre, "Aguirre's sights were set way beyond the present. Those were times of world war. In the wake of periods of crisis

circumstances conducive to democratic revolutions and major institutional changes are often set in place continent-wide; the collective future has yet to be built and everything seems possible. Following World War II, with all totalitarian dictatorships gone, or so it was envisaged, it was not inconceivable in a democratic Spain for there to be, for example, a confederation in which nations like Euskadi, Catalonia or Galicia could carry more political clout, together with other stateless European nations such as Flanders or Scotland. All of this would also be possible in a new Europe about to embark on a federally inspired unification process. It was, without question, an unrepeatable moment in history, during which Euskadi made its voice heard in both America and Europe in spite of enormous limitations. But the beginning of the Cold War, the persistence of the Franco dictatorship and the progressive narrow-mindedness of states and their monolithic concept of sovereignty would soon dash all hopes."

Mayor, Deputy, Lehendakari

Entre la libertad y la revolución (Between Freedom and Revolution) is the title of a book written by José Antonio de Aguirre just before the 1936 elections on what happened in the five year period from 1930 to 1935. In this extensive book the man who would become the first Lehendakari of Euskadi tells about all of his activities as politician, deputy and leader of the pro-statute of autonomy campaign in the constitutional framework of the Spanish Republic. At that time Aguirre was already

In the first lecture, Iñaki Aguirre will recall the personal relations that the first Lehendakari had with some of the pioneers of the "Idea of Europe" and with the founders of the European Communities.

Alex Ugalde will present the second lecture, explaining the evolution of Basque Europeanism from the period between the wars, when some Basque nationalist intellectuals were in favor of pan-European projects, to the post-world war period, when Basques actively participated in the European Movement.

José Luis de Castro, European specialist, is slated to give the third lecture, which will concentrate on both the past and the present. The talk will cover the more doctrinal or ideological aspects of José Antonio de Aguirre's federalists concepts, interpreted from the perspective of the current situation in Euskadi and Europe.

The program will be rounded out with a presentation by Scottish Professor Michael Keating, expert on the subject of nations in



Iñaki Aguirre Zabala, UBC/EHU Professor and Chair of International Relations.

Europe. Keating will approach this ongoing and age-old debate by looking at how states without nations fit into the European Union. Professor Keating, who is currently working for the European Institute in Florence, is the author of "Nations against the State," a book which focuses on the cases of Scotland and Catalonia and has become a bestseller.

The last two lectures will also center on contemporary issues and will be presented by two political figures.

Josu Jon Imaz, president of Euskadi Buru Batzar of the Basque Nationalist Party (EAV/PNV), will speak on "The legitimacy of José Antonio de Aguirre his political generation's Europeanism for Basque nationalism today." Josu Jon Imaz, former European Union deputy, is very knowledgeable on the subject of Europe and his personal commitment to the European project is widely known.

Lastly, Luc van den Brande, former President of Flanders – a country that enjoys full constitutional recognition in the federal structure of Belgium, will also take part in this course. Van den

Brande will discuss the place of peoples and stateless nations in the European Union. He is presently Senator in Belgium and Member of the Flemish Parliament and was a former member of the EU Convention on the Future of Europe responsible for drawing up the Draft Treaty establishing a European Constitution.

active in intellectual and European political circles with Christian and pro-European tendencies..

José Antonio de Aguirre's political experience began early on, coinciding with the end of the Primo de Rivera dictatorship in 1930, at the age of twenty-five. At twenty-six he was Mayor of Getxo, at twenty-seven, Deputy to the Spanish Cortes, and Lehendakari at the age of thirty-two. His record is

still hard to beat, although Landaburu, for example, was deputy when he was only twenty-five. "They were very young men. I refer to Aguirre's generation, as Leizaola used to, as 'the generation of 1930,' which was when they actually went into politics, not in 1936, like people often say nowadays." Iñaki Aguirre adds, "It was a generation of highly educated, well-read Basque nationalist politicians who also left behind a large amount of text, for the most part written during their long years of exile. It included my father, as well as Javier Landaburu, Manuel Irujo and Jesús Maria Leizaola, to name just a few of the leading nationalist politicians."

The generation of 1930 brought about the ideological modernization of the Basque Nationalist Party, which up to that point was still staunchly denominational, following the designs of the party's founder, Sabino Arana.

However, party doctrine needed to be adapted in order to bring it into the Christian Democrat fold, along the lines of parties created during the years leading up to World War II.

During that period José Antonio de Aguirre and his generation found their primary doctrinal sources in the social doctrine of the Catholic Church, in the abundant writings on social Christianity, and in the position of Belgian Cardinal Mercier on the German invasion of his country in the first world war, which was of huge doctrinal influence among the social



July 1937. A meeting with Catalanian President Lluís Companys and the Generalitat.



July 1937. Aguirre meets with Catalanian President Lluís Companys and the Generalitat.

democratic and nationalist circles of the time. Such inspiration would later nurture the Christian Democratic parties of Europe, bolstered by other contributors, such as the French philosopher Jacques Maritain, who Aguirre know personally. In New York years later, Aguirre would meet Paul Van Zeeland, an important figure in the history of Belgian Christian democracy. Together they took part in pro-Europe

events organized in New York by Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, founder in the period between the wars of the Pan Europe movement, precursor to what would later become a united democratic Europe.

Even to his political adversaries, José Antonio de Aguirre was seen as a skillful politician able to rally a consensus despite ideological discrepancies. Iñaki Aguirre underscores some of his father's most noteworthy political achievements:

"The first Basque Statute of Autonomy in history, outcome of his personal negotiations with Socialist leader Indalecio Prieto; presiding, in times of war and during his long years in exile, over a multi-party yet cohesive Basque Government; his political work in the Americas first and later in Europe geared toward attaining a minimum degree of unified action between supporters of the

Spanish Republic living in exile, at the time highly divided, particularly with regard to international organizations like the United Nations and pro-European movements; the personal impetus he offered in consolidating Christian Democratic parties in Latin America and in organizing an international Christian Democratic umbrella group in which they would have representation. In short, he was a man who knew how to work – and how to get other people with different or even diametrically opposed ideas to work together on causes he considered just."

Agirre
kontsentsuzalea zen,
irizpide desberdinen
arteko adostasunak
bilatzekoaren
aldekoa. Garai
haietako politikoei,
baita kontrakoak
zirenek ere, bere
trebetasuna
azpimarratzen zuten.

Activities for a centennial

The Basque Government organizes a series of official commemorative events



The Basque Cabinet of Ministers approves the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lehendakari José Antonio de Aguirre and the official commemorative logo.

March 6th will mark the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Euskadi's first Lehendakari, José Antonio Aguirre Lecube. Taking into account how important this event is for the Basque Country, as well as what Aguirre stood for and the continuity of his political and social ideas, a series of celebratory events has been planned over the course of the year.

Organized by the Basque Government, the events will focus on Lehendakari Aguirre – the man, his political career and his European facet. The Office of the President, together with the Department of Education, Universities and Research and the Department of Culture will be in charge of organizing and developing the various commemorative events.

In addition to the decision to pay tribute to the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Lehendakari Aguirre, the Basque Cabinet of Ministers has approved the official centennial logo. The various institutions sponsoring the different events – the Basque Government, Provincial and Town Councils, and private institutions – will be able to use the logo at their discretion.

The Basque Government will emphasize the personal profile of the Lehendakari, a deeply humanistic man, great politician and champion of the European project. Good-natured and optimistic, from an early age Aguirre stood out as a statesman, defending the Basque cause from a progressive perspective based on Euskadi's role in Europe and around the world.

Events and dates

Since the beginning of the year the Basque Government has been promoting activities either on its own or in collaboration with other organizations. Among the events already held was the unveiling of a sculpture in Plaza Moyúa in Bilbao, the publication of a book entitled "La vida del Lehendakari Aguirre" (The Life of Lehendakari Aguirre) sponsored by the Bilbao Town Council, and an exhibition put on by the



In Gernika Aguirre is sworn in as first Lehendakari .

Sabino Arana Foundation, scheduled for display in the Basque capitals. In addition, on April 14th Aguirre was given the posthumous title of honorary citizen of Getxo.

In the remaining months of 2004 further events are scheduled with a view to remembering Aguirre's political and pro-European profile: a meeting of the Basque Cabinet of Ministers in the town of Trucios to recall one of the chapters in Aguirre's life; the creation of a website with a calendar of associated events; the publication of the book *De Guernica a Nueva York pasando por Berlín* in Euskara; promotion of other publications, videos and CDs; summer courses sponsored by the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea; and an institutional act in Gernika recalling the swearing-in ceremony of the first Lehendakari, among others.

In addition, the Association of Basque Municipalities EUEDEL and Athletic de Bilbao soccer club have joined the ranks of centennial event sponsors. EUEDEL will be holding executive committee meetings in the towns significant in the life of Aguirre, and the soccer club will be organizing a game in honor of one of its pre-Civil War players.

As for the Euskal Etxeak around the globe, there is a full agenda of activities, including an event organized by FEVA in Buenos Aires.

Basque exiles in Uruguay

Xabier Irujo 1967an jaio zen Venezuelako erbestean. Filologia, Filosofia eta Geografia eta Historia ikasketak egin zituen eta duela gutxi "Euskal erbeste politikoa Uruguain (1943-1955)" izenburupean Nafarroako Unibertsitate Publikoan aurkeztua izan den bere doktoradutzako tesia defendatu du. Joseba Agirreazkuenaga katedradunaren zuzendaritzapean bildutako tribunalak cum laudea emateko erabakia hartu zuen.

Born in exile in Venezuela in 1967, Xabier Irujo holds a bachelor's degree in Philology, Philosophy, Geography and History. He recently defended his dissertation at the Public University of Navarre on "Euskal erbeste politikoa Uruguain (1943-1955)". His thesis committee, chaired by Joseba Agirreazkuenaga, considered his work outstanding and Irujo graduated cum laude.

Irujo's thesis, the second at the Public University of Navarre to be defended in Euskara, focuses on a group of Basque exiles and Uruguayan nationals – descendants of earlier Basque immigrants – and their activities

associated with a very ambitious Basque Government Office in Uruguay. 600 members belonged to the Euskal Erria Basque Center in Montevideo in 1937; but it only took a handful of them to carry out a huge amount of work in both the political and cultural arenas. According to Xabier Irujo, "The Basque Office in Montevideo worked with the presidency and the ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs of the successive Uruguayan governments to keep Uruguay from allowing a dictatorship which had collaborated with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy access to the United Nations."

The Basque Office operated like a genuine Basque embassy in America. "in terms of its relations with the Uruguayan Government, the country's political parties (primarily *Unión Cívica* and *Partido Colorado*), and the United States secret service. It also worked with Basque Offices in other countries throughout Europe and Latin America. It played a role in the opening of Plaza Gernika in Montevideo in 1944 and was active in the First Christian Democrat International Congress in Latin America inaugurated by Jacques Maritain, held in Montevideo and organized by Senator Dardo Regules, loyal friend and champion of the Basque community."



Representative of the Basque community in Uruguay with Aguirre and Councillor Aldasoro.

The celebration of Basque Week in Montevideo in 1943 kicked off a period of intensive cultural activity. The Department of Basque Studies was created at the National University, as were the first chairs of Euskara and Basque Culture in America. GALEUZCA Uruguay came into being, as did the group Euskaltzaleak and the *Club del Libro Vasco*, sponsored by the Montevideo-based Euskal Erria Basque Center, which translated and published Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and Juan Ramón Jiménez's *Platero y yo* (Platero and I). This group of people also collaborated with the Montevideo cultural center, known as the *Ateneo*, and with the National University. "Basque culture in

exile owes a lot to such prominent Uruguayans as Carlos Vaz Ferreira, Raúl Montero Bustamante, Eduardo Berro García, Leopoldo Agorio Etcheverry, and to the sons and daughters of earlier Basque exiles including Carlos G. Mendilaharsu, José Mendiola, Miguel Bañales, María Ana Bidegaray Janssen and Héctor Tosar Herrecart, to name just a few."

Uruguay was a fertile ground for tenacious and hardworking Basques. "The country that saw the birth of the so-called *Generación de los Maestros Serenos* (generation of the quiet masters), which so enriched Latin American and European letters in the first half of the twentieth century, had a great sense of democracy," says Irujo, who adds that "it is one of those rare examples in history of the socialization of democracy and human values. It had a highly advanced education system and in many aspects is still an example today. Uruguay's criminal code, brainchild of José Iruretagoyena Anza, son of Basque immigrants who sought refuge in Uruguay after the second Carlist War, just to cite an example, is one of the first in the world to regulate euthanasia and abortion. And much the same can be said of the brilliant work of Eduardo Couture Etcheverry, also descendent of Basque immigrants, in the field of procedural law."

With regard to sociological make-up, "the group of Basque exiles," comments Irujo, "included people from all social classes. However, they had a strong political



Inauguration of Plaza Gernika in Montevideo, 1944.

affinity. The struggle for human rights and the historical rights for the Basque people in exile helped to consolidate the profound human relations that characterized the Basque diaspora. They recreated the extended family left behind in Euskal Herria, and the Basque centers became their new homes, creating genuine family bonds and sincere friendships."

Xabier Irujo's research covers the period ending in 1955, the year the Franco regime was finally admitted to the United Nations. However, as Irujo explains, this development was not what brought about the end of Basque exile in America. It could be better explained by the "rupture between the Basque Government and the U.S.

secret service in 1949, one of the Basque Government's primary sources of funding. The rise to power of General Eisenhower and the Republican Party, the policy of censure and foreign alliances favored by conservative senators MacCarthy and MacCarran, among others, coupled with the interests and reorganization of the newly created Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), brought an end to the strategic alliance with the Basque Government that had been in place since 1941."

Irujo concludes that after 1955 the Basque Government had to face the most difficult crisis of its exile – self-management – its economic base supported by an odd sort of 'loan' financed by the Basque centers or private donations from the exiles themselves. From 1951 to 1955 the political and cultural activities of the Basque Government Office in Uruguay steadily declined until all but disappearing by the end of the five-year period.

"Researching this period in the history of our people is a study on the solidarity of a nation, Uruguay, which in spite of political and economic interests, made a conscious effort to support the cause of justice and

human rights: the cause of the Basque people. My most heartfelt affection goes out to all of the men and women who so selflessly collaborated with the Basque Office in exile in Montevideo. Those are the people to whom I dedicate my thesis, and most particularly Carlos G. Mendilaharsu, the last witness to that generation."

*Uruguaira jo zuten
euskaldunak oso
maila sozial
desberdinetakoak
ziren baina politika
irizpidetan bat
egiten zuten*

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Oso erraza da www.hiru.com-en sartzea. Erraza eta aberasgarria. Horiek izan dira hain zuzen ere, interneteko ate berri hau martxan jartzerakoan Eusko Jaurlaritzak lortu nahi zituen helburuak. Bost eta ehun urte bitarteko pertsonentzat prestatua dago eta formakuntza indartzeko tresna dibertigarria izan daiteke edozeinentzat. Milaka bisita izan ditu iada.

The Basque Government has set into motion a website, www.hiru.com, aimed at meeting the growing needs of lifelong learning in today's knowledge society. Learning on a daily basis, having access to information on disciplines of all types and doing so in a clear and easy fashion is the challenge faced by the Department of Education, Universities and Research in order to successfully carry out this project. Hiru.com has already received thousands of queries since it was launched only a few months ago. Basque communities around the globe are one of the main target groups this project was designed to reach out to.

The Basque Government's decision to promote access to new technologies, specifically to the enormous possibilities offered by such a powerful tool as the Internet, has materialized in initiatives such as *Konekta Zaitetz*. This plan has proven to be extremely popular, making it possible for thousands of people to purchase computer equipment at reduced government-sponsored prices, and finally bringing computers into Basque homes. But equally as important as having access to computers is to have access to quality content. This is why the Lehendakari put forward three main areas of concentration for the forthcoming years: strengthening personal autonomy, encouraging critical thinking and promoting participation on the part of the public.



The new website launched in Euskadi is right in line with this new philosophy, combining fun material with information on a wide variety of areas and a full calendar of events and entertainment geared toward people of all ages. Hiru.com is the first effort to create a Basque education portal designed to provide online public education services based on free training content and a totally new format in Spain and Europe.



Hiru.com-en eduki osoa ikusi ahal izateko, nahikoa da helbide elektronikoa bat sartzea eta pasahitza lortzea.



Targeted at young and old, aged five to 100, anyone who logs on to hiru.com is bound to find something that catches their eye: from recipes to tourism to history, and always from an educational perspective.

Another feature that makes this new website interesting are the constant updates. Hiru.com is continually on the move with updated material based on the demands of our users – a club that is growing by the month. In February a record 12,000 had visited hiru.com.



ANJELES IZTUETA

Basque Minister of Education, Universities and Research

"Hiru.com is there to provide the public with answers"

How would you describe hiru.com?

It is a portal for learning, which we hope will grow into an education and training reference for the Basque people and make a decisive contribution to an educated, active and participatory public. This website will become progressively more interactive, more participatory, in terms of the content matter and sections offered, in order to provide the different sectors of society with the answers they need.

Can you also study languages at hiru.com?

The Basque Government wants to make a system of learning available to adults by which they can learn

the fundamentals of a language and feel encouraged to go on to take classes at language centers to further their skills; alternatively, the website can be used by people who are already attending language classes and want to reinforce their language skills at home.

The Vice-ministry of Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning is.

The creation of a special office in charge of working in the area of lifelong learning has allowed us to develop highly innovative subjects in the area of education, keeping a close watch on the guidelines set out by the European Commission.

Distance university to offer 18 seminars as part of Bergara campus summer course program.

The third edition of the summer course program at the Bergara campus of the National Distance University (UNED) is slated to include eighteen seminars in the areas of Social Sciences, Health and Psychopedagogy between June 22nd and July 3rd. The goal of the courses, as explained by UNED-Bergara President Juan José Álvarez, is "to contribute to lifelong learning, personal and professional advancement and to round out the UBC/EHU course offer." A course on the construction of the European Union will be offered in the area of Social Sciences; in Health, a course on psychological support in extreme situations, among others. Workshops on *bertsolarismo* or the importance of game are some of the subjects included in the area of Psychopedagogy.

For more information log on to: www.uned.es/ca-bergara.

Basque diaspora on debate at Udako Euskal Unibertsitatea

Udako Euskal Unibertsitatea has organized a course on the Basque diaspora to be held in Biarritz from July 5th through 9th. For five days participants will discuss issue associated with Basque communities living far from Euskadi, as well as the role they have and still play today in the various Euskal Etxeak dispersed throughout across Latin America, North America, Australia and Europe. The objective of the course is to analyze the specifics of the Basque diaspora today in the framework of debate on the transnational communities and migrations. One of the instructors taking part in the course is Benan Oregi, from the General Secretariat of Foreign Action of the Basque Government.

Registration deadline: June 27th. For more information log on to: www.ueu.org

The UBC/EHU to focus summer courses on challenges of the European Union

The University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea will center its summer course activities on the challenges of an enlarged European Union. The twenty-third edition, scheduled to commence on June 21st and run through September 11th, will bring together 6,000 students in 90 programmed activities at its campus at the Miramar Palace in Donostia-San Sebastián.

At a press conference organized to present this year's summer course program, Director Ricardo Echepare explained that one of this year's goals was "to diversify the content of the different activities and help generate a useful understanding of the problems and concerns that affect the general public."

The 90 activities include seminars, workshops, conferences and international gatherings which will cover topics of general interest,

including health, psychology, the family economy, stress, adoption and even soccer. Out of all of the courses, Echepare underscored a series dedicated to the new Europe, which will analyze the opportunities and risks of a newly enlarged 25-Member State EU. The drafting of a European Constitution, the challenges faced by a socially-oriented Europe and the pro-European perspective of Lehendakari José Antonio de Aguirre will be the topics of discussion and debate from July 7th through 9th, led by university professors Iñaki Aguirre (son of José Antonio de Aguirre), José Borrell, Jean du Bois de Gaudusson and Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz, among others. This political and economic vision for Europe will be rounded out by a session led by university students dedicated to European convergence.

For more information log on to: www.sc.ehu.es/cursosverano

Public University of Navarre summer courses to be offered in July and September

The activities planned for the third edition of the Public University of Navarre's (UPNA) summer program will be divided between the months of July and September. From July 19th through 29th seven courses on different subjects will be offered, although particular emphasis will be placed on the new perspectives of an enlarged Europe. Most of the courses will be taught by guest professors from other universities and other sectors not connected to the UPNA. The subjects offered will be: New forms of leadership in the knowledge society, Health in Africa; The automotive industry in Navarre: the impact of an enlarged European Union; Masters programs in European Higher

Education; The splendor of gastronomy: reality or fiction? II; In search of the biological basis of our identity: dialogues on cloning and the use of human embryos; and the Europe of the Romany: social policy for the Romany minority in an enlarged Europe.

On September 7th through 9th another course will take a look at violence and bullying in the middle schools of Navarre.

Registration deadline: July 16th 2004 (for July courses)

August 31st (for September courses)

E-mail address for further information: fundacion.formacion@unavarra.es

Compensation for Franco victims

The Basque Department of Housing and Social Affairs has now processed the dossiers submitted to request compensation set aside by the Basque Government for direct victims of the Franco dictatorship. According to the provisions laid down in Decree 280/2002 of 19 November, in order for people to be eligible for this allowance, all of the requirements listed below must be met:

- Be at least 65 years of age on November 29th 2002.
- Have suffered 'loss of liberty' for six months or more during the Spanish Civil War.
- Hold legal residence in Euskadi for at least one year prior to November 29th 2002.
- Provide original or certified true copy issued by competent authority proving periods spent deprived of liberty.
- Provide sworn declaration indicating that candidate has not received compensation from other government

agencies for the same purpose.

- If the person eligible for the allowance is deceased, such compensation may be paid to person's spouse, domestic partner or children if he or she suffers a disability and is collecting a non-contributory orphan's or disability pension

Following a series of amendments to the original compensation fund, the Basque Government increased the amount to be shared out to 21 million euros. The Department of Housing and Social Affairs has analyzed a total of 8,680 requests, out of which 2,529 fulfilled all of the conditions of the offer. Each beneficiary will collect 7,200 euros for six months spent deprived of liberty and 600 euros more for every additional six-month period, up to a maximum of 9,600 euros. 6,151 applicants were unable to fulfill one of the conditions mentioned above, in most cases a failure to produce proof of loss of liberty.

"Puente Colgante" transporter bridge, candidate for UNESCO world heritage site

The transporter bridge linking the shores of the Nervión River will be presented as a UNESCO World Heritage site candidate. "Puente Vizcaya," as it is known locally, is the world's first transporter bridge. This piece of civil engineering, symbol of the industrial age in Bizkaia and essential channel of communication for the life of the Greater Bilbao area, is located between the towns of Portugalete and Las Arenas (Getxo). It was opened on July 28th 1893 following three years of construction work led by its designer, Alberto Palacio. Since that time it has been of great use to Greater Bilbao. It is estimated that 650 million people have used the bridge over its 110-year-long lifetime, with a yearly average of six million pedestrians and 500,000 vehicles. Even today, in the twenty-first century, it continues to provide the same service. In July 1984 the



transporter bridge was declared a historical monument by the Basque Government.

The Department of Heritage of the Basque Department of Culture has presented the candidature to the Spanish Ministry of Culture, which will in turn present the proposal to UNESCO, the organization ultimately in charge of deciding whether the bridge will officially be put on the list of World Historical Sites.

New Basque offices around the world

A Basque Government Office has been in operation in Brussels since 1996 for the purpose of representing Basque interests in the city where decisions are made which affect the entire the European Union. From the outset it has been an office characterized by its dynamics and the team of young people working there. In 2002 and 2003 the Basque Government approved the opening of five new offices in Madrid, Mexico, Chile, Venezuela and Argentina.

The Basque Government Office in Madrid was set up to represent Basque interests in the Spanish capital, as well as contact representatives of other European communities and regions, keep abreast of the relations of the central government's foreign affairs with regard to matters concerning the Basque Autonomous Community, and help disseminate Basque Government policies and activities.

As for the Chile, Argentina, Venezuela and Mexico based offices, these countries are priority, owing to Basque Government backing of development projects and the mere number of Basque residents there. As put forward in the decrees which establish the creation of these offices, "the significance and volume of such activities calls for the creation of an Office of the Basque Autonomous Community for the purpose of consolidating" the cooperation projects and other activities affecting Basque communities abroad.

JOSE INA ETXEBERRIA *Broadcaster for Euskadi Gaztea*



Euskadi Gaztea, Euskal Irrati Telebistak gaur egungo musika zabaltzeko martxan jarri zuen irratia, komunikabide bat baino, fenomeno bat bihurtu da Euskal Herrian. Gazteen artean jarraitzaile ugari ditu eta bertan lanean ari den pertsonai famatu eta ezagunetako bat Jose Ina Etxebarria dugu, irratiko ahotsik ezagunena eta jarraituena.

Off the record

The most popular voice on Euskadi Gaztea radio has been on the air waves for more than fifteen years now, but until recently virtually nobody new what he looked like. Now that the journalist, broadcaster and disk jockey appears on E-Klipse@, a program broadcast on ETB TV channel 1, and travels from town to town hosting *diskofesta* events at different discotheques, Jose Ina Etxebarria is no longer an anonymous figure – especially to the 15 to 30 crowd.

His unhurried way of speaking and even his relaxed gestures give you the feeling that Etxebarria is not the kind

of guy who is easily ruffled. His style and demeanor have little in common with the furious rhythm and passionate tone he takes on at work. When he picks up the microphone he is a man transformed. "As soon as I hear the click," explains Etxebarria, "I know it's 'on with the show' and that I have to put everything I've got into it so that the people listening really enjoy what I'm doing. I walk on stage, crank up my voice, begin to howl and the other me just naturally kicks in." Four hours of live radio – from four to eight o'clock – plus taping a daily TV music video program and hosting a *diskofesta* or two per week is enough

to kill anyone, or at least make you never want to listen to music again.

"I have my way of handling it," confesses the broadcaster and disk jockey. "I've turned into a kind of sieve and I don't let anything I'm not interested in get through the little holes. When I'm not working I rarely listen to pop or rock music. I listen to classical or jazz instead. I think this mechanism is pretty common. When I got started some of my colleagues who had been at it for some time warned me that from that moment on I wouldn't be able to listen to the music I work with. And they were right."

Teetotaler and non-smoker, Etxebarria defines himself as a person who "gets high only on music, even though some people think of me as a total drug addict." Jose Ina has learned to take refuge in moments of silence, as he puts it "in the moments of silence everyone likes, in other words, the moments that give you peace and the other ones, the musical moments, which are just as important as the notes themselves. Time has taught me to enjoy

this second kind of silence. Before, when I listened only to rock & roll, I couldn't really appreciate it because the second type doesn't exist in rock. But it does in classical music or jazz."

His work before live audiences as disk jockey, commentator and host for diskofesta events, sponsored by EITB in towns across Euskadi, has made him more popular than he could ever have imagined. "It's been unbelievably successful but in a few months we'll stop doing them, partly because of the physical and mental exhaustion, but also because of the criticism we've been getting from people that think it's too commercial."

Joey Ramone, lifelong hero

Rock fan since the age of ten, at 36 he still confesses to be a hero-worshipper. "Mi lifelong hero is Joey Ramone, former singer for the Ramones, who died two or three years ago. He changed my life. when we were kids in my hometown, Ataun, we started becoming interested in other things besides soccer. The girls only had eyes for Los Pecos, Pedro Marín and Miguel Bosé. But the boys needed other escapes. That's when I discovered Los Ramones: leather jackets, torn blue jeans, sort of ugly and, besides, they didn't play sappy music. The group represented a change, a return to the beginnings of rock and none of that overloaded music played by groups like Pink Floyd. I listened to their fourth album "It's alive" every single day, and if there's anything I can owe my involvement in the music business to, it's that record."

Etxeberria's private record collection is large and eclectic. "I keep the oldest ones and the ones I listen to the least at my folk's house in Ataun. There are probably 4,000. And in Donostia I have about 2,000. Now I only buy classical music – Baroque, Bach, Haendel, string quartets, piano..." As far as the absolute best in international music today, Jose Ina thinks there is an interesting rock movement coming from Australia and the United States in the way of groups like The Strokes, The Vines, Chemical Bros and Jet.

“

“Laneko orduetatik aparte, ez dut rock edota pop musika jarraitzen. Jazz eta musika klasikoa entzuten ditut”

Aware of the enormous influence of the media, he still doesn't think he has much influence on the taste of his listeners and that the record industry rides on such a powerful wave that there is very little he can do to stem the tide. "I can surf it but if 90% of the people support a certain musician and 10% don't, then there's nothing you can do." He acknowledges that record labels can use incentives to bolster particular musicians. "The most common formula goes something like this: 'We'll buy advertising time from you if you play the music of so-and-so or such-and-such a group.' But that kind of formula doesn't work for a public radio station like ours. We get approached another way: 'If you publicize Alejandro Sanz, next week we'll give you exclusive access to the Van Morrison album.' When it's presented like that, we consider the offer."

Jose Ina thinks that in Euskadi it's a miracle that so much music is produced in Euskara. "If we keep in mind that

there are under three million of us here, and less than 40% who speak Euskara, we're dealing with a pretty limited market." However, according to Etxeberria's calculations, at least one new record comes out every week. "Selling 5,000 copies is a total success for Euskadi; only fifteen years ago you couldn't even release a record with such limited editions. La Polla Records used to sell 30,000 copies, which today is unthinkable." According to Jose Ina, the best selling CDs in Euskara are Benito Lertxundi, Fermín Muguruza and Oskorri. And among the younger musicians, Gatibu and Ken 7.

In José Ina's opinion, piracy is the reason behind the slump in record sales. "People who burn CDs at home are committing piracy. But I'm in favor of this kind of private piracy because there's a good chance the person will go out and buy the musician's next record if he liked the first one he copied. Industrial piracy is another thing, since it hurts a lot of people: the author, the record company, SGAE (Spanish Society of Authors Composers and Publishers), the organization that protects the rights of authors, designers, and so on. I also think that record companies should lower their prices. It's insane for a CD to cost 50 euros, but selling them on a street corner for a euro is also insane."



Irrati saioaz aparte, herriz herri mugitzen den diskofestaren animatzailea da Jose Ina



MAITE ZABALA *Futbolaria*

Maite landed in Bilbao from her native town of Boise, and has become a media celebrity in Euskadi. With her profile, it comes as no surprise: *euskaldun*, soccer player – goalkeeper to be precise – and candidate for the Athletic de Bilbao women’s soccer team, which has taken the Spanish championship yet another year. Maite has been in Euskadi for several weeks playing with the club on a trial basis, but realizes it will be hard to work out her calendar on both sides of the Atlantic. Currently she is studying Political Science at the University of California and is committed to training young women goalkeepers.

Ameriketatik datorren futbol jokalaria

Jakina da euskaldunen artean dagoen futbol zaletasuna. Azken urteotan gainera, emakumeak euskal futboleko protagonista bilakatu dira, Añorga, Oiartzun, Leioa eta Athletic bezalako taldeak garaile izan baitira lehiaketa nagusienetan. Bizkaiko txuri-gorriek goi mailako Liga irabazi dute azken bi urteotan eta afizioa emakumezkoen artean ohizkoa ez den kirola babestera eta txalotzera iritsi da. Izan ere, Athletic-eko neskek lortu dutena herrialde honetan fenomeno soziala bihurtu dela esatea ere ez litzateke gehiegizkoa izango.

Baina zenbat eta gorago iritsi, orduan eta jokalaria prestatuagoak behar direla eta, Athletic-eko arduadunak Amerika aldera joan dira hango Liga profesionalak ematen dituen aukerak ikustera. Handik dator hain zuzen Maite Zabala, Boisen jaiotako neska euskaldun hau. 25 urte ditu, atezaina da, atezainen entrenatzaile, gaztetatik futboleantzia (inguru

haietan soccer izenez ezaguna bada ere) eta Zientzia Politikoak ikasketak egiten ari da egun Californiako Unibertsitatean. Pazientzi handiz erantzuten saiatzen da: izan ere, gure galderak kuriositatez beteta daude baina behar bada galdera berberak egin izan dizkiote Bilbora iritsi zenetik, bera ere, pertsonaia bilakatu baita telebistan eta beste komunikabideetan atera denetik.

Mendata, Nabarniz eta Gernikakoak ditu aita eta aiton-amonak. Ama Amerikan jaioa da baina bera ere euskaldun familikoa, beraz, euskara izan dute betidanik etxeko hizkuntza. Bere euskara etxean ikasitakoa dela esan bezain laister, azpimarratzen digu Boisen ikastola bat dagoela martxan eta hango euskaldun guztientzat oso albiste ona izan dela dio.

“Arreba eta ni gaztetandik hasi ginen futboleantzia, han soccer dena, futboleantzia jokatzen direnen guraso

gehienak europarrak bait dira. Behar bada hortik dator gure zaletasuna”. Amerikan neska futbolariak profesionalak izan daitezke eta hor dago hango eta hemengo egoeraren arteko desberdintasun handienetako bat. Maite bi urtez behin etortzen da Euskal Herrira eta ezaguna egiten zaio beraz, hemengo bizimodua. Halere, desberdintasun handiak ikusten ditu hemengo futbola eta hango soccer-aren artean “*Estatu Batuetan oso kirol fisikoa da, neska oso arinak dira eta lan fisiko handia egiten da. Hemen berriz jokalaria gogorragoak dira, jokoa hobeagoa da”.* Athletic-ek frogatzen du modura ekarri du honaino, Iñaki Etxeberriaren bitartekaritzari esker, baina egutegi desberdinak direla eta, ez dago ziur aukerarik izango duen hemengo Ligan jokatzeko.

Bere ahoz jakin izan nahi dugu zein diren Estatu Batuetako euskaldunak eta beste etorkinen arteko bereizitasun garrantzitsuenak eta erantzuna azkar atera da bere ahotik: janaria. “*Han denak dira kanpotarrak, beste tokietatik etorritakoak baina guk gure janari berezia dugu, nik ere Euskal Etxean ikasi nuen gure janariak prestatzen. Euskaldunok ez dugu ahazten gure familia nondik datorren, ez ditugu hemengoak ahazten”.*



Iban Ubarretxena, researcher at the City University of New York

Iban Ubarretxena New Yorkeko City Collage-eko Kimika saileko ikerlari eta irakasle da. Joan zen apirilari hasi zen lan berri honetan eta Alzheimer eta Parkinson ataletan kokatu ditu

bere ikerketak. Gaztea izan arren, urteak daramatza mundu honetan eta ospe handia duen Manhattango University of New York-en lan bikaina egin dezaketelakoan dago.

Iban Ubarretxena has always had a passion for understanding the mechanisms that exist in living organisms. Although his passion included different areas of biology, molecules and their chemical reactions are the basis. So, in 1988 he began studying Chemistry in Euskara at the Donostia-San Sebastián campus of the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea.

As of April 1st of this year, at the age of 35, Ubarretxena is now Professor Ubarretxena. He is teaching at City College of New York, has a 100 square meter lab at his disposal—with room for eight people—and a \$350,000 research budget. "My work consists of studying membrane proteins associated with

neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. My focus is mainly on studying their mechanisms of action and structures in order to design medicines and strategies for combating these diseases," I'm very excited about having this opportunity," said the young researcher, who left Euskadi thirteen years ago when he went to England to begin his studies in Biochemistry through the Erasmus program.

"I also think," he added, "that the overall experience of going to university in another country and living in a different culture with a different language helped to build my confidence and expand my horizons."

Also under the auspices of the Erasmus program he went to the

IBAN UBARRETXENA

Researcher

University of Utrecht in the Netherlands to finish his bachelor's degree in Chemistry. "And thanks to a pre-doctoral grant from the Basque Government I was able to continue my studies at the same university and earn my PhD. My time in Utrecht was really satisfying on a personal level and extremely beneficial to my scientific career. I'll never be able to thank the Dutch people enough for how well they treated me, especially my colleagues at the lab," Iban Ubarretxena went on to say.

His PhD was based on a study of the proteins that reside in cell membranes. "30% of cell proteins are of this type," he added, trying to explain the subject in clear terms. After finishing his doctorate degree in Biochemistry, he went to Yale University in the United States, thanks to another post-doctoral grant from Basque Government. "I continued to study membrane proteins for another three years. From a scientific perspective the experience was good and I have never had so much access to science resources and funding, but from a human perspective, there was a huge amount of competition within the department and the area of camaraderie left a lot to be desired.

His new five-year position in New York leaves the prospect of going back to Euskadi rather dim for the time being. In addition, Ubarretxena met Kakoli Mitra at Yale, a Bengali from Calcutta, who he married in New York in 2002 in a Hindu ceremony that lasted three days. "There are also a lot more options for her in the United States professionally. Plus, she can be closer to her own here since there are Indian supermarkets, temples and, generally speaking, a lot more support in terms of her culture than she would find in Euskadi".



Basque-Venezualans gather in Galdakao

The Basque-Venezuelan Association Simón Bolívar, under the leadership of Amaia Zenarruzabeitia, celebrated its annual gathering yet another year in Galdakao on April 24th. Over a hundred members met in the Biscayan town to crown the group's eldest member, Juan Korta, with the *txapela*. Born in Aulestia nearly 90 years ago, the once acclaimed *pelotari* was a key player at the Euskal Etxea in Caracas for many years, together with his wife, Milagros, and his children Jon and Alazne.

The event is always held on the first Saturday following April 19th, Venezuela's independence day and a date set aside to honor the nation's liberator, Simón Bolívar. Basque-Venezuelans now living in all corners of Euskal Herria met on April 24th this year, kicking off the event with the traditional *txikiteo*, which helps keep everyone in good spirits while waiting for mass to get underway at the thirteenth-century chapel of Andra Mari Elexalde. This year's religious ceremony recalled those who had passed away over the course of the year: Xabier Leizaola, Begoña Ibarguen, Pedro Iriarte and Polixene Trabudua.

The Sagardotegi Elexalde cider house has become an annual tradition, where guests enjoy local cider and a typical cider house menu: cod omelet, fried cod with peppers, T-bone steak, and for desert, cheese, walnuts and quince jam. This cider house strays a little from tradition, also serving a few casks of rosé and champagne (or water



Amaia Zenarruzabeitia, between Juan Korta and his wife, Milagros.



Members of the Basque-Venezuelan Association Simón Bolívar.

of Bilbao,' as the bubbly beverage is commonly referred to in Bizkaia).

Since a year can be a long time, the Association is thinking about meeting again, perhaps at Christmastime, as they have done on another occasion, to recall how they used to celebrate that time of year in Venezuela. According to Amaia Zenarruzabeitia – the group's pillar when it comes to

organizing events of this type – "the menu will consist of *pan de jamón* (homemade bread made with ham and raisons), ham haunch with pineapple rings, and *hallacas*, corn flour cakes filled with ground pork, chicken capers, olives, and a lot of other things, all wrapped up in banana leaves. Making *hallacas* is 'quite an art.' And then we'll all sing traditional Venezuelan Christmas carols like *Niño lindo* and *Din, din, din*."



COLOMBIA

The Bogotá Basque Center to publish book dedicated to Genaro de Gamboa

The Basque Center of Bogotá, founded a year ago by 180 members, is putting together a book dedicated to Basques which will focus primarily on Genaro de Gamboa and his generation. The initiative, backed by private funding from a group of the club's members, is part of the program designed by the Basque center's Board of Directors to strengthen the bonds between Euskal Herria and Colombia. At the same time, according to President Héctor Bahamon and Executive Director Francisco Espinosa, it will serve as

an instrument for spreading Basque culture.

The work, which is expected to go to press in August and will be available free of charge, will include chapters written by historians, writers, philologists, sociologists and experts in a number of different areas. Beginning with a chapter on prehistory, the book will then cover the history of the Basque charter of privileges or *fueros*, the background and events leading up to nationalism, and the first Basque Government in exile. The

book will also provide an overview of Basque literature, art, music, industry, education and tourism, and an analysis of the current political structure, the physical and human geography, and the Basque language. Another chapter will be dedicated to the cooperative system as a means of production and social phenomenon. Finally, the book will take a critical look at Basque migration, with particular emphasis on Basque centers in America, 'universal Basques' and the history of the Basque Center in Bogotá.


USA


JAIALDI: JULY 27-31, 2005

A festival that celebrates, with international input, every aspect of Basque culture, including sports, dance, song and music. Jaialdi is an easy word to remember and say; it describes a week of gathering and taking part in all or part of a truly memorable time.

PARTICIPANTS

Our complete website will be up in Spring of 2004, but participant applications and a schedule of events can be downloaded below. The dates are July 27-31, 2005. The location is Boise, Idaho, USA. The sponsor is Euzkaldunak, Inc. of Boise, Idaho, a social organization started in 1949. Euzkaldunak, Inc. is the home of the Basque Center, Oinako Basque Dancers, Botzeta Chon, Past Jaialdis, and Basque traditions, language, and customs.

The forms below have complete instructions on how, when and where to submit your application. These forms are in PDF format. For further questions, please e-mail your questions with either your fax or telephone number and the appropriate person from Jaialdi will contact you. The application is due by March 1, 2004. Jaialdi will select and notify the participants by April 15, 2004. Thank you for your interest.

participants application | schedule of events | contact

>> Download Acrobat Reader

Gearing up for the Boise Jaialdi 2005

Registration is now open at www.jaialdi.com to groups interested in taking part in Boise Jaialdi 2005 (*dantzaris*, musicians, etc.) scheduled for the weekend of San Ignacio (July 27th through 31st). This way the committee overseeing

the event can work on the process of selecting which groups will ultimately perform at the event next year. Jaialdi is celebrated every five years, bringing 50,000 people to Boise. So far the fiesta has been held in 1987, 1990, 1995.

Five new Basque centers in the process of registration and approval

Argentina, the United States and Canada will soon have new Basque clubs. In Argentina, the "Gure Etxea" cultural center in Trenque Lauquen is slated to open, following the footsteps of the "Centro Basko Argentino Gure Etxea" in the nearby city of Santa Fe. In the United States, the list includes the Colorado Basque Club (first one in the state) and the Genarrusa Center for Basque Studies, which recently opened its doors in Boise, Idaho. Lastly, Euzkaldunak of Quebec has begun the registration and approval process with the Basque Government, bringing the number of Canadian Basque clubs to two: Vancouver and Quebec, Montreal. The requests are expected to be approved shortly.



USA

Eusko Etxea of New York launches news website at www.EENY.org

Featuring a design by prestigious company IBLNews New York, the Eusko Etxea of New York has launched a news Internet site: www.EENY.org. "This is an electronic newspaper in which we want to feature all United States news related to the Basque people," says Luis Foncillas Etxeberria, president of Eusko Etxea of New York.

The goal of the website is multi-fold. It will offer information on anything Basque or about the Basque Country. There are sections including, "A Basque America" and "Eusko Etxea of New York." To put it more graphically, I would say that our intention is that every time the words "Basque" or "Basque Country" are heard in the United States media in an informative context, they should be immediately reflected on our website."

The new online newspaper will also feature a section on news produced in New York that will be useful to both the Basque tourists visiting the city and anyone interested in New York, as a great deal of world wide news originates there, and, of course, there is a section dedicated to Euskal Herria."

Luis Foncillas points out that "the EENY website is not meant to be a forum for discussion or creating politics; we want to echo the positive aspects about our country, and make them known to the world. That doesn't mean, of course, that we're going to ignore important political developments or that we think politics is a bad thing."



Web orriaren atal batzuren edukinak egunero berritzen dira; euskaraz, gaztelera eta ingelesez dago landuta eta laister frantzeseko bertsioari ekingo zaio.

Foncilla remarks, "EENY celebrated its ninetieth anniversary in the city last year, on the occasion of which I said that our intention was to have our organization become the point of reference of Basque culture in New York, and this website is one aspect of our personal commitment to this project. We obviously are not trying to compete with the established press – our goal is to be a complement to it."

The website, the contents of which are written in Basque, English, Spanish, and soon French, will be partially updated on a daily basis. It would not exist without the invaluable help and support of Navarrese-Basque entrepreneur Mikel Amigot, founder and president of IBLNEWS.

With offices in Madrid and New York, IBLNEWS has a

twenty-four hour information services in direct competition with CNN in Spanish, BBC World, and Yahoo in Spanish. This company creates and supports "digital news media" and other news productions for prestigious companies and institutions such as Microsoft, Vodafone, IBM, Intel, Icx, and NYU (New York University), among many others.

Facing a new millennium

To Mikel Amigot the Eusko Etxea website "has a special significance. We've taken on this project without skimping on effort and hours of work, approaching it from a perspective of love for the Basque land. We think that the state-of-the-art technologies and the latest concepts in journalism and online marketing we work with at our company can help project a new image of Basque people to the rest of the world, a more positive image that paints a more realistic picture."

Amigot says that working with the president of the Eusko Etxea on this project has been fascinating, adding that "in any case, this is only the first step. I think that at the age of ninety the Eusko Etxea of New York, with its new website has become the Eusko Etxea of the new millennium, giving way to a more informative, transparent, close and universal organization".

Among the challenges put forward for this year is to include more information in Euskara, thus contributing to the expansion of our language on the Internet.

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aurrera doan **herria**

a country *on the move*

EUSKO JAURLARITZA



GOBIERNO VASCO



Isaac Salaberria

Restaurante Fagollaga

Hernani (Gipuzkoa) [www.fagollaga.com]

As you enter Restaurante Fagollaga in Hernani, Gipuzkoa, an inscription on the wall reads '1903' - the year it opened. Last year Fagollaga celebrated its hundredth anniversary with a facelift to bring it more in line with the new creations of its chef, Isaac Salaberria, fourth generation at the helm of this temple of good eating.

When Fagollaga first opened its doors to the public - under the charge of Isaac's great-grandmother - it was a cider house and store, and even housed the local school. Grandma Joxepa began to make changes and twelve years ago her grandson started stirring up a quiet revolution.

The Fagollaga menu still offers traditional dishes: homemade croquettes, season fresh vegetable stew, and different types of game. "Flavors we're familiar with but prepared using new techniques," says Isaac Salaberria, who is looking into new recipes this season such as a desert made of strawberry compote, balsamic vinegar and rose petal ice cream.

Salaberria is experienced in lightly cooked dishes, enjoys a keen ability to distinguish flavors and select sauces, has an excellent eye for presentation, is a master of complex dishes and an expert in the use of herbs and spices. The fourth generation of Fagollaga has opted for modern and elegant cuisine.

Two years ago the restaurant was awarded a Michelin star. However, Salaberria thinks that an extensive article on Basque cuisine that came out in the "New York Times" has brought in many more American customers than the French restaurant guide.

SLOW BRAISED TUNA WITH "MARMITAKO" SAUCE AND CORIANDER

PREPARATION:

Sauce

Peel the potatoes, onions and tomatoes. Chop the onions, green peppers, leek and potatoes, and lightly sauté in a large saucepot. When the vegetables are slightly softened, drain the olive oil. Add the tuna cubes and the white wine. Allow the wine to cook down and cover the mixture with water (about four hand-widths). When it breaks into a boil, lower the heat and add the two tablespoons tomato paste. Let the mixture simmer over a low fire for around eight hours. Strain the broth and add salt.

Tuna

Cut the tuna into steaks and remove skin. Cut the steaks into 3 cm cubes. Cover with iodized salt and allow to sit for 10 minutes. Remove salt and braise the tuna cubes and garlic in olive oil for 9 minutos at 52°C. (This process simply involves putting the tuna in the olive oil, but making sure it is at the right temperature). Before serving, add a spring of coriander and two leaves of chive to liven up the sauce before adding the tuna cubes.



INGREDIENTS

For the sauce:

5 onions, 5 green peppers, 4 tomatoes, 1 leek, 4 potatoes, 2 tablespoons tomato paste, olive oil (0.4° acidity content), 1 liter white wine, tuna cubes.

For the tuna:

One tuna and iodized sea salt

For the tuna braise:

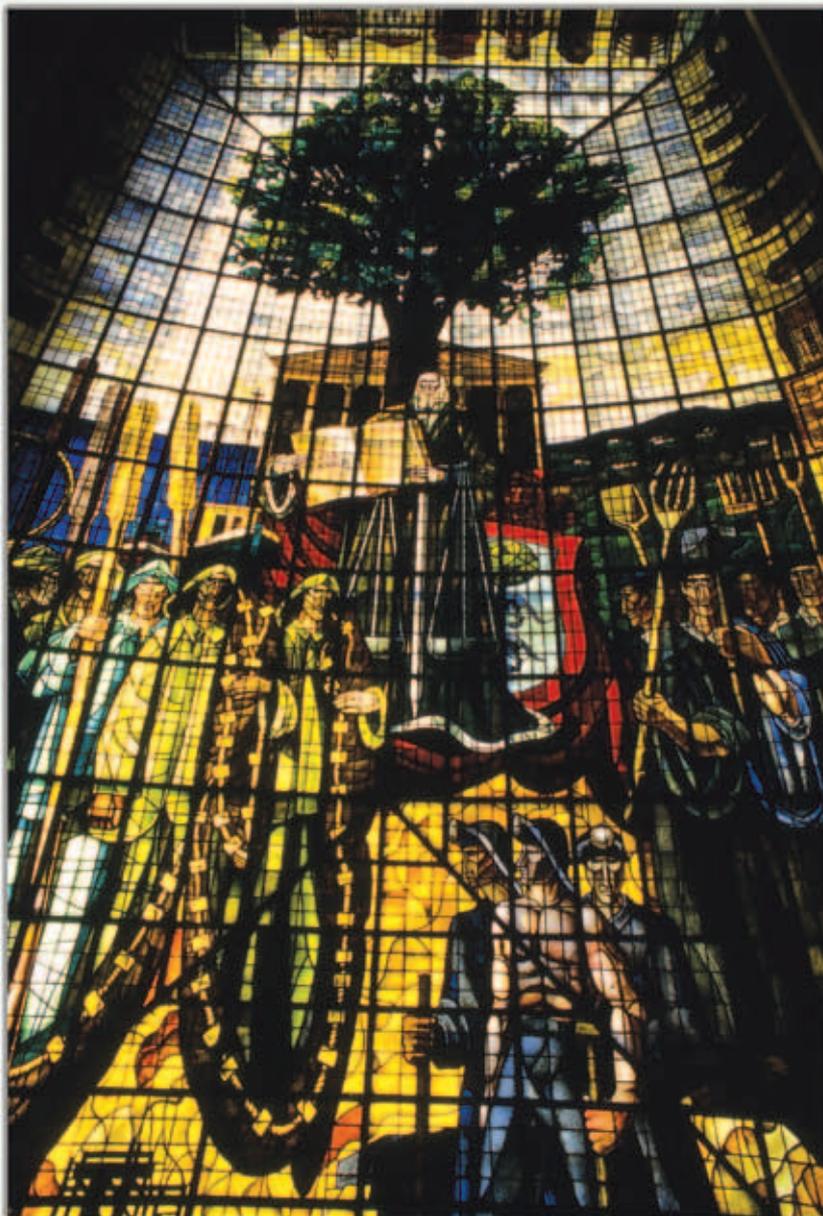
4 liters 0.4° acidity olive oil*
6 whole cloves garlic

Garnish:

Coriander and chives

* May be used again for preparing other dishes

PHOTO ALBUM



Stained-glass windows at the Assembly Hall in Gernika

DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES TO ADD TO THE ALBUM?

If you do and would like to see it published in this section, e-mail it to us at the following address: euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es