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Euskara:

jalgi hadi mundura!



INTERVIEW WITH PATXI BAZTARRIKA:

"In three years' time, Basque will be taught in one hundred universities around the world"

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albisteak news brief

JANUARY

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE LEHENDAKARI: CASE DISMISSED

The legal proceedings that were brought against the Lehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe, at the beginning of this year in Bilbao, were shelved according to a decision taken by the court. The Cabinet of the Basque Government met urgently to assess the situation, which the Lehendakari himself described as "pointless".

GOVERNMENT BODIES, COMPANIES AND THE PUBLIC JOIN FORCES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES.

The Basque Office for Climate Change has presented its new initiative "Stop CO2 Euskadi", the aim of which is to bring together the private and public sector and the public at large with the aim of reducing CO2 emissions into the atmosphere.



The Lehendakari gave a news conference to give his appraisal of the decision to shelve the case

EUROPE PRAISES THE WORK OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN ITS PROMOTION OF THE BASQUE LANGUAGE

A report published by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages applauds the linguistic policy of the Basque Government, according to Deputy Minister Patxi Baztarrika.

The report also highlights the creation of the Elebide service of the Basque Government.

THE BASQUE ETXEPARE INSTITUTE OPENS ITS DOORS

The Basque Institute, Etxepare Euskal Institutua, set up in order to promote Basque language and culture throughout the world, has started

work. Its headquarters will be the Tabakalera building in Donostia, but until refurbishing work on the old tobacco factory has been completed, the institute will operate from its temporary offices on Calle Prim in the provincial capital.

THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES INFORMATION ON TOURISM IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

For the third year in a row, Basque hotels received more than 2 million guests in 2008. During the same period, the figures for rural tourism establishments were the highest ever recorded.

FEBRUARY

BASQUE GDP GREW BY 2% IN 2008

Following the meeting of the Cabinet of the Basque Government, the Deputy Lehendakari Idoia Zenarruza-beitia announced economic figures for 2008. These showed that Euskadi has not entered a period of recession and that its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown by 2%.

THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT PASSES A DECREE TO VALIDATE BASQUE LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS TOGETHER WITH OTHER EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS

Following a proposal presented by the Culture Minister, Miren Azkarate, the Cabinet of the Basque Government has passed a new decree that aims to convalidate Basque qualifications within the European framework.

CLAUDIO PALOMO AWARDED THE 2008 EUSKADI RESEARCH PRIZE

The Organic Chemistry Professor of the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Claudio Palomo, has been awarded the 2008 Euskadi Research Prize. Palomo is an industrial chemist and engineer and has worked in numerous plants throughout the world.

NEW "ANTI-CRISIS" MEASURES OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT

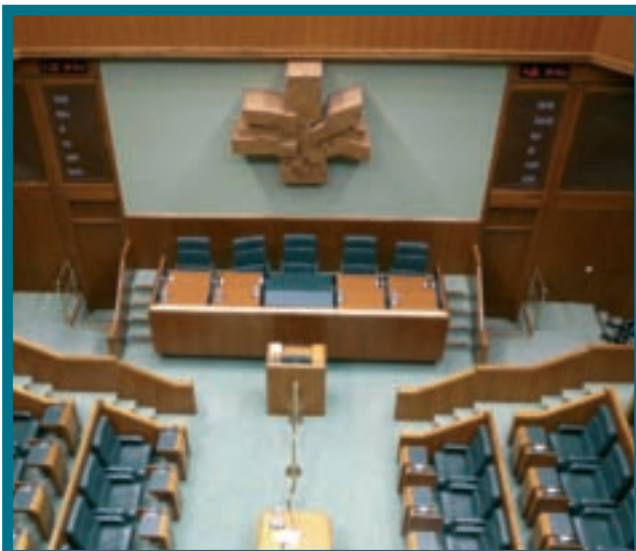
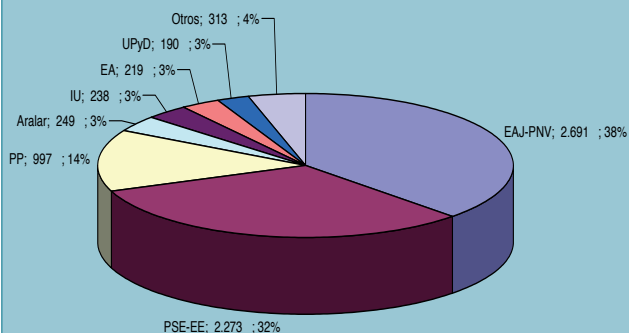
The Lehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe and the Ministry of Justice, Employment and Social Security, Joseba Azkarraga, presented a set of measures to help the companies and workers most affected by downsizing plans. There are two types of measures: on the one hand, financial aid for companies and, on the other, continuous training subsidies for workers.

MARCH

BASQUE PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

On Sunday March 1, elections were held to the Basque Parliament. EAJ-PNV received the highest number of votes, obtaining 30 seats, followed by PSE-EE which won 25 seats. The Basque Government spokesperson, Miren Azkarate, declared that "the results are known to everyone and on behalf of the Lehendakari the only thing I can say is that he is the clear winner of the elections".

COUNTING THE VOTES OF BASQUES LIVING ABROAD



Basque Parliament in Vitoria-Gasteiz



Group of young Argentineans and Uruguayans who visited the Basque Country in 2001 through the Argentinan Euskaraz program, together with members of the Basque Government.

Youngsters from the Basque Clubs in Argentina and Uruguay receive the EGA diploma from Lehendakari Ibarretxe.



Euskara, JALGI HADI MUNDURA!

The “Argentinan Euskaraz” program (Basque language in Argentina) was initiated more than 25 years ago, promoted by Basque institutions in order to ensure that our language is known far beyond our borders. Following the success of the first years, the results obtained in Argentina were echoed throughout the world, and consequently the plan was renamed “Euskara Munduan”.

Since the beginning, the program was promoted by the Linguistic Policy Department of the Culture Department of the Basque Government with the collaboration of the Department for Relations with Basque Communities, within the President's Department of the Basque Government.

The initiative operates on two fronts. On the one hand, the Euskal Etxeak offer Basque language classes and, on the



The Korrika 2009 through the streets of Necochea.

other, readership programs are organized in a number of different universities.

65 Basque clubs, the basis of the program

Basque clubs are the basis of the “Euskara Munduan” program. Today, Basque language classes are offered by 65 Basque clubs scattered throughout the world. The cost of the program, amounting to 220,000 per year, is financed by the Culture Department. Recipients of the grants include the 2,200 students who receive the classes and the 85 teachers (or trainees) who give them.

The success of this initiative is largely due to the care with which teachers are trained in each country. During their training, teachers increase their command of the language and improve their teaching skills. During the initial stages of their training, teachers improve their knowledge of the language “on line” and later they become more proficient with residential courses at bartenetegis (maximum immersion programs lasting several days). In the

“Euskal etxeak Euskara Munduan programaren oinarria dira. Gaur egun mundu zabalean 65ek euskara klaseak ematen dituzte”.

case of South America, bartenetegis are held over a period of ten days while in North America they are programmed to last just one week as participants generally have less time to take part in the program. These maximum immersion or intensive courses are held twice a year both in North and South America.

25 universities interested in Basque language and culture

The universities are another major area in which the Culture Department is engaged in an intense promotion of Basque at a world level.

Today, 25 universities in countries ranging from the United States and Sweden to the Philippines and Japan, among others, offer courses in Basque language



Youngsters from the euskal etxea in Mar de Plata during one of the Basque classes



and culture, thanks to an agreement signed with the Culture Department. The number of universities interested in this program is increasing on a yearly basis and almost 40 more universities expect to sign this agreement, which will allow them to offer courses in the Basque language.

The agreements that regulate these readership programs also determine the duties that correspond to each signatory (the Culture Department and the university in question). The university provides the infrastructure and the Culture Department supplies the didactic materials. Teachers are selected by the university itself while their salary is financed in equal amounts by both par-

“Unibertsitateek klaseak emateko azpiegitura eta Kultura Sailak lanabes didaktikoak eskaintzen dute”

ties. All teachers are university graduates and they must have the proper qualifications to teach Basque.

Students' motives for learning Basque vary greatly. These range from the curiosity felt by some about such an old and strange language as Basque, to an interest in this language awakened during a visit to Euskal Herria, including

an attraction for other areas of Basque culture, such as sports, music and gastronomy.

It is interesting to note that only 5% of the students of these readerships belong to the Basque community. This is eloquent proof of the level of interest that exists throughout the world in our language.

In the future, the Etxepare Institute will be responsible for developing these programs, which, without doubt, will contribute to increasing the prestige of our old, beloved language at an international level.



Patxi Baztarrika was born in Ataun (Gipuzkoa). He is a philosophy graduate from the University of the Basque Country. He has worked as a professional in the area of political administration at a local and national level. At this time, he is acting Deputy Minister for Linguistic Policy in the Basque Government.

PATXI BAZTARRIKA: "In three years' time, Basque will be taught in 100 universities throughout the world"

What objectives has the "Euskara Munduan" program achieved so far? What is there still left to be done?

In view of our recognition as a people in our own right at an international level, our objective is to share the Basque language with the entire world. Our aim is to place our language at the service of thousands of people who had to emigrate for a variety of motives, to different parts of the world. The



“Euskara Munduan” project offers members of the Basque Diaspora, who are the real ambassadors of the Basque Country throughout the world, the possibility of learning our ancient language. Thousands of people have joined the program and some sixty-five Basque Clubs have encouraged people to learn Basque. Moreover, year after year, dozens of people receive training to provide quality tuition in the Basque language.

“Euskal etxeetan ez ezik, euskara beste sektore batzuetan ere jakin-mina pizten ari da, bereziki unibertsitateetan”

Today, there are two main challenges: firstly, to consolidate this program not only quantitatively but qualitatively. In other words, teachers who make the effort to give classes in the Basque language must follow a process of continuous training in which the acquisition of new didactic and pedagogic skills will be a constant feature. This will be possible, especially, thanks to the human and economic resources provided by the Etxepare Institute.

Do teachers belonging to the Basque Diaspora see this as a valuable tool?

Beyond the Euskal Etxeak, Basque is arousing great interest in different areas of the world, especially in the universities. The interest in our language is not only growing, it is permanent, and therefore the Basque Government must respond adequately to the ever-increasing expectations and demands of the academic community.

How many teachers have been trained so far through the “Euskara Munduan” program?

At this time approximately 2000 people are enrolled in Basque classes and there are between 80 and 100 teachers.

To what extent are the new technologies and emerging social networks contributing to and influencing the “Euskara Munduan” program?





Until now they have been a great help and we must use them much more in the future. The Boga program came about as a result of this idea. This is a self-teaching tool that uses new technologies such as the Internet. The writer Anjel Lertxundi called the Internet "the eighth territory of the Basque language". In this sense, until now, all languages have been directly associated with a geographical territory. Due to globalization, borders are disappearing and now languages are used at a supra-frontier and supra-territorial level. For this reason, those languages that do not have a

"Euskara Munduan mundu zabalean euskara bultzatzeko oinarria izango da"

strong presence on the Internet are condemned irreversibly to marginality. Fortunately, this is not the case of the Basque language, which today has an important presence on the Internet. With "Euskara Munduan" and through the Boga program we are constantly adapting and increasing the possibilities for the Basque language in the world.

What are the future prospects for "Euskara Munduan"?

"Euskara Munduan" must be the cornerstone of efforts to foster the teaching of Basque throughout the world. Over the next three years, we must develop programs to promote Basque far beyond the Euskal Etxeak. However, we're not going to restrict ourselves to the Euskal Etxeak, we're going to expand our project in other areas. To do this, the academic world represents a great opportunity. Today, we have a presence in 25 universities throughout the world and 40 more are interested in Basque. We must answer this challenge in an adequate and satisfactory manner, in the first place, by responding to this demand and secondly, by doing everything well (by focusing on quality rather than quantity).

To sum up, the aim of "Euskara Munduan" is to secure a presence for the Basque language in one hundred universities throughout the world. This goal is not only realistic, it is perfectly realizable and, with the help of the Etxepare Institute, the Basque Government must be ready to see it through.

"We follow news about the political and cultural situation in the Basque Country. Sometimes with concern, others with hope, but always with interest"

Oihana Lugn Rodríguez is Swedish, but her father was born in Donosti. Víctor Criado is from Renteria, and the couple live in Stockholm. There, their great passion and livelihood is the theatre. Thanks to their work they often visit Euskal Herria, as they work with two companies: One is Basque, Yster, and the other Swedish, Ögonblickteatern.

- **A Basque man and a Swedish woman of Basque origin. How are you getting on in Sweden and how did you come to settle there?**

Victor: I arrived in Stockholm just over two years ago. I didn't know how I was going to adapt to the new habits, language and culture... In spite of the fact that the language is an obstacle that can be overcome with time and effort, it is nevertheless an enormous change, which in my case, I have gradually come to accept thanks to my wide circle of friends.

Oihana: I was born in Stockholm but my father is from Donosti. I have spent many summers between Donosti and Irun, where I have relatives. Since 1998, I have lived between the Basque Country, Spain and Sweden. During the early years of my relationship with Víctor, we lived in Madrid and Donosti, but I began to miss Sweden and we decided to try living here for a while. After just a few months we decided to settle down here, and we bought a house.

Just now I am working as assistant director in a theatre called Unga Klara in Stockholm. In my opinion, this is one of the most interesting theatres in Sweden. We are working on a new script entitled "Shall I console you now?" written by Ann-Sofie Bårány and directed by Suzanne Osten, a great Swedish theatre director. We're examining people's determination to survive. In the text, one of the characters asks the following question: Is it necessary to have contact with other people in order to survive?

- **What is your relationship with the Basque Country and how do you keep your Basque culture alive?**

Victor: Thanks to our work with the theatre, we can maintain our links with the Basque Country. This year, our company will perform in a number of different places (Irun, Elorrio...) and so we will be able to visit our home and family. I am *euskaldunberri* and sometimes, due to lack of practice, I feel that my Basque is getting rusty. That makes me very angry in view of the great effort I made, as an adult, in order to dominate our language, but I have several *euskaldun* friends here, in Stockholm, and we meet from time to time in order to speak Basque and rediscover our cultural heritage.

On the other hand, thanks to the Internet, I can follow news about Basque politics and culture - sometimes with concern, others with hope, but always with interest.

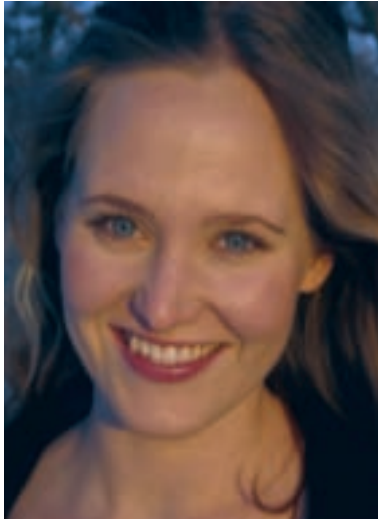
Oihana: There are many gaps in my knowledge about Basque culture, about the language, expressions, as I have never learnt Basque. My father always spoke to me in Swedish and I learnt Spanish by studying and working in Spain. I was born into a theatre group and its members came from different countries but the common language was Swedish.

I dream that one day I will learn Basque and by learning about the language, its construction, grammar and the origin of words, I will understand more about the living culture and history that is reflected in this language.

My father taught members of the group to sing in Basque. When we were on tour in Europe, traveling on the road, all the adults sang songs so that we, the three little girls in the group, could sleep. Later I learnt that the songs were in Basque, so I have had some contact, in my dreams.

For members of my Basque family, food has always been of great importance. I used to love learning, looking at and trying the fantastic dishes of my father and my grandmother.

Oihana: “Euskara ikastea nire ametsa da. Hizkuntza, gramatika eta hitzen jatorriaren bitartez kultura eta historia hobeto ezagutzeko”



Víctor: “Antzerkiari esker Euskal Herriarekin lotura estuak izan ditzazkegu”.

The time I have spent with them has had an influence, one way or another, on my upbringing and I can recognize some of your culture in me. By being with them and later when I began to make my own way in life, growing up and developing a relationship of my own, working and living there, I understand more about the complex question of what the Basque country and its culture represent.

- You both work in the theatre and in Sweden you work with the Ögonblicksteatern company and in the Basque country with Yster. What differences are there and how do you combine work with both companies?

Víctor: We worked with Ögonblicksteatern last summer in Umeå (Northern Sweden). It was a very interesting experience. No sooner had we finished the last performance than we had to rush off to Madrid to act in our version of “Le Misanthrope”. The contrast between one culture and another was huge but at the same time very rewarding. Working in two different languages (well three, really, as in the Swedish play there was a moment when I spoke in Basque), gives you a different perspective on life and the meaning of things.

Oihana: The Ögonblicksteatern project was temporary. Víctor and I are self-employed actors here in Sweden. The project was in the summer, it was a play performed in the open-air and directed by my father Juan Rodríguez, another Basque. It was a play with live music, dancing and theatre, subsidized by the government. This allowed us to invite people to the theatre free of charge in order to encourage people who do not normally or cannot go to the theatre to come and see us. That is something that I value greatly.

Yster is our theatre company in the Basque Country. In Sweden we work on a number of different projects with different people. As a result, at this moment in time, we have less time for our own projects there. What is marvelous about the projects we are doing with Yster is that we can create situations and conditions, speak and listen about what interests us. It gives you a lot of freedom and a lot of work at the same time, but I like that. I feel that I have learnt a lot from working in two countries. Without falling into generalizations, it is always a complex task to define the difference between the two types of theatre.

For example, if I ask someone for directions in Sweden, people can think about it for a long time before responding, while in Spain and the Basque Country, they start to answer almost before you have finished the question. The different pace of life is also reflected in the theatre.

- What stage are you at in your work today and what are your plans for the future?

Víctor: Right now I'm working on a research project that brings together actors from Stockholm with other emigrant and Swedish actors. It is an intense and interesting process; the questions we ask about what it means to assimilate other theatre cultures and how the theatre can reflect the multicultural reality of a society such as the Swedish one, are universal questions that have a relevance both in the Basque Country and throughout Europe.

I would really like to be able to do the same thing there some day. We are continuing our tour through the Basque country with Yster and in Spain with “Le Misanthrope”, with which we hope to enjoy a long run.

Oihana: This summer, Víctor and I are going to start to read theatre scripts and discuss which plays we are especially interested in doing right now.

We are going to organize a series of talks with our colleagues to talk about a number of subjects, analyze and “fly” with our thoughts, reflections and feelings.

We might organize a short workshop to put our ideas into practice or only to “fill the cooking pot” of our inspiration.

This will help us to develop a plan for the future with Yster. I would like to do a play with actors who can perform in Swedish and in Spanish (adding Basque would be wonderful but I think it is very difficult at this time) and to produce the same play for performances in Sweden and in the Basque Country.

And then we ask ourselves, if we do this play in the Basque Country, how are we going to get the material here, how are we going to tell the story, and if we do it in Sweden, what would we change, or would it be the same play, or a completely different one.

“What really hurts is to see how something as deep, elemental and vital as music can be lowered to an economic level”



Francisco Labaqui

- From Bragado Argentina
- Member of the Denak Anaiak Basque Club in Bragado
- Plays base guitar in the group Ejecútao Fernández

Music is a way of saying things that cannot be expressed with words, it is a safety valve, but it is also a means of transport that can take me to the furthest reaches of my subconscious, a universal language, the only one that allows us to communicate with everyone. Sometimes, rather than talking, it is better to play a song or improvise, to connect with a group of people so that we all become the music, become one, learn and seek that inexplicable feeling of giving birth to a song. Music covers so many fields that it would take days just to name them.

It is very difficult to categorize someone as a musician because, in my opinion, being a musician is something that covers so many qualities. As for myself, I like to consider myself a musician not only with respect to the ability to play an instrument but more than anything else, because of the effect music has on me. The love that it generates in me, the need, every day and at all times, not only to receive but also to create music, to detach myself, to get inside a bubble that protects me from everything around me and lets me shout, laugh, cry, anything, accompanying myself on the guitar.

I began playing the guitar when I was 14. I went to a teacher who taught me the main chords and then I began to pick out tunes and learn new chords on my own. Afterwards, when I was 16, I began to play the base guitar in a band and some years ago I started playing percussion. I like all instruments - they all interest me.

Music calls me and makes me go crazy, and although being a musician in Argentina today is risky - virtually a leap into the dark - I'm willing to run that risk, as I know that I'm going to make my living with music. Music keeps me going and I don't know what I would do without it, not in the material sense but rather at a psychological level.

I might consider myself a self-taught musician and that is something that helped me a great deal to develop an ear for music and enabled me to express myself freely, without following the established patterns. But on the other hand, I think that it is very important to study music and I'm going to do a music course as soon as I can.

Today, I see a lot of people who are trying to do music and that makes me happy, but on the other hand, I am aware of the business interests in music and that makes my flesh creep. It is painful to see bands and musicians doing songs that have been played thousands of times before, just to sign a contract and get some money out of it. What really hurts is to see how something so deep, elemental and vital as music can be lowered to an economic level, as the only thing you achieve by doing that is to pigeonhole something that in reality is one of the most unlimited and unfettered things in the world.

gazte txokoa



“We all have been to the Basque Country several times; we think it is a beautiful place”

“Noka” is three women composed music band of Basque descent from Chino





“We all have been to the Basque Country several times; we think it is a beautiful place”

“Noka” is three women composed music band of Basque descent from Chino (California): Andréa Bidart, Begoña Echeverria and Cathy Petrissans. Noka sings contemporary and traditional Basque songs, with a special in those about women. “Noka” is a familiar form of address, used only in speaking to woman. Today this term is used mainly in Basque origin migration villages like Chino.

Begona, for NOKA

Who are you and where are you from?

We are three Basque-Americans from Chino, CA. Two of us are first generation: both of Begoña's parents are from Orabidea in the Baztan Valley of Nafarroa; Cathy's mother is from Osses and her dad is from St. Esteben. Both of Andrea's grandfathers were from Iparralde (Ibarla and Azkarate)but her grandmothers were born in California to Basque parents.

Have you ever visited the Basque Country? What do you feel about it and when do you visit it?

We all have been to the Basque Country several times; we think it is a beautiful place. Andrea first visited the Basque Country with her family when she was 5 years old and would travel there periodically after that. Andrea enjoys visiting her family when she is there and loves to practice her Basque during her visits. Cathy also visited the Basque Country with her family when she was a child, and has been there on her own as an adult as well. Begoña went to the Basque Country with her

family when she was six and thirteen, and has returned there many times in the last twenty years to conduct research. A sociologist of language, she carries out ethnographic and archival work on how the Basque language is related to ethnic, gender and religious identity.

What type of music do you usually listen to?

Andrea listens mostly to Basque music. She also listens to country, folk and pop music by artists such as: Rascal Flatts, Joan Baez, Neil Diamond, Alison Krauss, Union Station, Dixie Chicks, and James Taylor. Begoña listens to a lot of Basque music, as listed below, as well as pop and folk music with strong story lines and beautiful harmonies (The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Carly Simon, James Taylor) and 70s and 80s dance music (ABBA, the Go Go's). In addition to Basque and American folk music, Cathy enjoys listening to jazz, especially Billie Holiday.

What do you think about Basque music and which are your favorite singer or group?

All of us tend to gravitate toward the Basque music we grew up hearing: Benito Lertxundi, Pantxoa eta Peio, Txomin Artola eta Amaia Zubiria. We also like listening to Jojo Bordagarai, Gozategi, Kepa Junkera, and groups we've more recently become acquainted with like Jean Bordaxar, Otxalde and Izarrak.

“Euskal Herrian askotan izan gara, leku ederra da”.

What is your opinion about Basque-Americans and their organization?

We feel lucky to have grown up in the tight-knit Basque-American community of Chino; a lot of our strongest friendships were forged here. The North American Basque Organization provides many opportunities for Basque-Americans to get to know each other, Basques from the Basque Country, and “basco-philes” whatever their ancestry. NABO and the Basque Clubs in the US provide many avenues to learn about Basque culture as well, which is very important.

What are your future plans?

Andrea and Begoña had a wonderful time touring in the Basque Country last summer, and we hope the three of us can have another NOKAtour in 2010. We also have given several concerts in California and Nevada, and would love to sing for other Basque communities in the US and Latin America. Semana Vasca--we are interested!

“Euskal musika entzuten hazi gara”





Young participants of Gaztemundu 2008 together with the Lehendakari

GAZTEMUNDU

2009

Eusko Jaurlaritzatik diasporako gazteei zuzenduta dagoen ekimen honek, munduko Euskal kolektibitateen argazki artxi-boaren kudeaketa eta Euskal Etxeak.net webgunea izango ditu ardatz nagusi aurten. Edizio honetan 45 gaztek parte hartu ahal izango dute, aurreko edizioetako kopurua nabarmen gaituz. Programa Uztailaren 12tik 24rarte burutuko da eta gazte bakoitzak 200 argazki bildu beharko ditu, material horrekin lan egin ahal izateko.

Once again, the Gaztemundu program, designed for young members of the Euskal Etxeak, has been announced. During their stay in the Basque Country, they will get

to know the economic, social and cultural situation of the country first hand.

This year, the program will run from Sunday July 12 to Friday July 24, so as not to coincide with the Udaleku, which is organized in the United States prior to these dates.

The program will be dedicated exclusively to the recently created Internet portal, euskal Etxeak.net, offering participants a monographic training course in which special attention will be given to data management (modifying, adding members ...), notifications (publishing news, blogs and events) and historical memory (publication of photographs, video and audio, cataloguing ...). The program will also focus on enabling participants to exchange experiences, and the

use of social networks, the oral testimony project. To do this, each applicant will collect a minimum of 200 photographs, audio files or videos in their respective club and present a study on the way these items are catalogued. This work will be completed and corrected during their stay in the Basque Country.

Gaztemundu was put into motion by the Basque Government in 1996 in order to encourage the involvement of young members of Basque communities abroad in the activities of the Euskal Etxeak and even form part of their management structure.

The provisional program for Gaztemundu 2009 can now be downloaded from the web site euskal Etxeak.net



Mikel Urdangarin Abasolo

- **Born in Amorebieta-Etxano, but resides in Vitoria-Gasteiz**
- **Has published six albums**
- **His latest disc is called Anek Idatzi dit Zutaz**

Being a musician

It is difficult to express in a nutshell what being a musician means to me, but the most important thing is for me to realize that I am doing what I feel I have to do in life. I think we spend half our lives wondering what the sense of it all is, what we have come to, what is our place in the world, if there is any future for any of us I would say that all these questions become an obsession, a continuous and sometimes merciless pounding in the brain. When I discovered that what I wanted to do was to dedicate myself to music, that I wanted to be a musician, I decided that I was going to do everything I could in order to achieve this goal, this dream. Then, the hammering in my brain diminished, attenuated and most of these vital questions began to carry less weight. Now, my backpack is much lighter. Every time I pick up my guitar, compose a song or write verse, I feel that I'm doing the right thing, that I chose the right path and that, although sometimes I get things wrong and fear steps in, it was well worth the trouble. Every time I rehearse with my friends, every concert I do, I feel that I am in the right place, that here is where I have to be.

Being a musician is like being a person. They go together. I, at least, cannot prize them apart. And music unquestionably offers you the opportunity to grow and improve as a person and to experience that union, of doing things better and better, of beginning a journey to an unknown place where hope and uncertainty are one and the same thing. And that is the way it should be. I didn't set out on that journey to look for stability and security, there are other options that provide you with those things, but I knew that that was the path to choose and not others. And that in itself is quite a lot. I feel that it is necessary to take risks in life, one must have faith in oneself and to know oneself very well. Paradoxically, that is the most difficult and longest road to take; looking closely at the way you think and feel and being honest with both. In every word and in every song, music offers me the opportunity to begin that voyage, which is always the same and always different, the opportunity to ask myself new questions and to seek new answers, to put myself to the test again.

Lastly, I would say that if music is the axis of my life, then this is due to my parents. They instilled a love of music in me and I am especially grateful to them.



IGOR CALZADA:

"I believe in the development of the Network Society as a means to overcome all the contradictions of our Basque City and in order to continue building this country"

Igor Calzada is a sociologist, well known for his research work. He teaches at the University of Mondragón and collaborates closely with the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada (USA). PhD in "Innovation, Culture and Communities" from the University of Helsinki (Finland) and the University of Deusto (Basque Country), he has received awards for his research on the Basque City/Euskal Hiria: The Basque Country and Social Innovation.



“Euskal Hiria Euskadi, Euskal Herria edo euskal diasporatik ulertzen dugun kontzeptuak berregiteko proposamena da”. “Internet lantegi kolektibo bat da. Guztiok sortzen ari gara”.

I consider that Web 2.0 and the current boom in social networks is not due to a change in the operating rules of personal networks, but because these may even change the nature of the identity of the Basque fact in the long run. The huge step that would have to be taken would be to begin to "facilitate" a Basque identity in constant production. In effect, I am referring to the importance of the Diaspora in this area. Not as mere repeaters but as producers of identity. Or shared identities.

How would you explain the concept of Euskal hiria/Basque City to someone living abroad?

Underlying the concept of Euskal Hiria is the need to reconsider what we understand by Euskadi, Euskal Herria, the Basque Country and the Basque Diaspora. Euskal Hiria could be a meeting point for all the different meanings that surround the identity that history has bestowed on us; maybe we could use it as a dispassionate term to describe the current reality from a local perspective, externally and in overall terms. The Basque City can encompass a number of different ideological beliefs and I am willing to stick out my neck and say that it can even respond to changes in infrastructures, demographic changes, productive-economic, social, cultural, technological changes and even transformations in the political-institutional conception. In other words, it represents what the Basque Country "might be" in 20 years' time. The changes that we are experiencing in this country are many and effectively include speaking about those people who do not reside in the Basque Country, but who "generate" an identity that is associated with feeling, emotion, memory, but also the real-time and virtual construction of the "Basque fact". What we know as the Basque Country, Euskal Herria or Euskadi, today, may be the Euskal Hiria of the future.

The new social networks are revolutionizing personal relationships. What advantages can these have in a community with a Diaspora as large as the Basque one?

From my viewpoint, I believe that the Basque City cannot be limited to the cybernetic approach of the Virtual Basque Country. It would be unreal. Not complete. This is due basically to the fact that the Basque identity in the Basque Country is produced in an on-site and communal manner. We cannot forget that.

In this sense, is there a danger that in the end we will live more in the network than in real life?

The Internet is a collective factory, which is producing a virtual world, a shared fiction that we are all generating. However, no one is trapped in the virtual world. In the end, we are all people behind these



screens; people who need to relate to the other people behind those cameras, touching them and speaking to them - that is what is really important.

The strategy of the Web 2.0 era (and perhaps even more so in this country because of its idiosyncrasies), in any area of activity, must be a hybrid approach. Success, as I have observed in USA and in Europe, comes from the correct definition and articulation of both worlds: Virtual and on-site.

What is totally clear is that this is irreversible process. We must jump on the bandwagon but we must

“Olatua hartu behar dugu, baina gure nortasuna, izaera eta beharrei moldatuz”

adapt this to our own identity, our way of doing things and our requirements. In this world, not everything goes.

Today it is said that the Internet is democratic and horizontal. How is it going to develop? Towards a greater level of control or will development itself make control possible?

What I want to say is that the Internet or the Network is presented as an irreversible reality, in which social networks and the Web 2.0 logic are altering the way we operate and interact. And I say this even though I consider that some structures may alter, change and modify in a not too distant future, provided that there is a unanimous support based on reliable information.

It is, for this reason, that the Web 2.0 approach and social networks are closely linked to the idea of the Basque City: a territory, region or country that can be anything our citizens might agree to create through permanent interaction in real time, with international networks.

Without doubt, it would be desirable for the logic of the 2.0 network to impregnate non virtual life. In other words, that we will change the way in which each one of us wants to build our country. Because, perhaps, in the end, we are not so far apart. I believe in the development of the Network Society as a means to overcome all the contradictions in our Basque City and in order to continue building this country.



The Lehendakari together with the Nobel Peace Prize-winner, John Hume in Northern Ireland.



The Lehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe next to Nobel peace prize winner, John Hume

Last February, invited by the Center for the Resolution of Conflicts INCORE and within the forum directed by the ex Northern Ireland politician and Nobel peace prize winner, John Hume, the Lehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe, gave a talk on "peace and dialogue in the Basque Country" in the town of Derry. Other well-known figures who have given talks there include the ex Secretary General of the UNO, Kofi Annan, Bill and Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and Romano Prodi, among others. Prior to the talk, Ibarretxe was received by the Mayor of Derry, Gerard Diver, and he had a meeting with the person responsible for the Program for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) of the European Union for Northern Ireland, Pat Colgan.

Otsailean Ibarretxe Lehendakaria Irlanda bisitatu zuen. Bertan "Euskadi: bakea eta elkarrizketa" hitzaldia eskaini zuen. Hitzaldi hau John Hume-k, Bakearen Nobel sariduna, zuzentzen duen Incore zentroak antolaten zuen. Incore gatazken konponbiderako institutua da.

In English and before an audience at the University of Ulster of more than 150 people, including political and religious leaders, university lecturers and conflict mediation experts, the Lehendakari pointed out that Basques "must learn from the past; ETA and the Spanish government cannot decide the future of Basque society in secret negotiations. The future of the Basque people will be decided freely by their men and women through pacific and democratic mechanisms". After declaring that his intention to "reformulate" the Basque conflict was worthwhile, the Lehendakari ended his talk by highlighting the need to learn from the errors of the past, without giving up "our determination to secure peace through pacific and democratic instruments".



The 5th circuit of contemporary dance begins

The 5th Circuit of Contemporary Dance which will take place between February 28 and November 28 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Agurain-Salvatierra, Amurrio, Amorebieta, Durango, Elorrio, Leioa, Bilbao, Andoain, Donostia-San Sebastián, Eibar, Lasarte-Oria, Tolosa and Zumarraga, was presented in Donostia.

Shows included on the Circuit have been programmed until the end of November, involving, logically, an increase in the number of companies, municipalities and performances. More than 50 will be offered in 2009 in a total of 16 locations. The interest in dance on the Basque cultural scene is unquestionable.

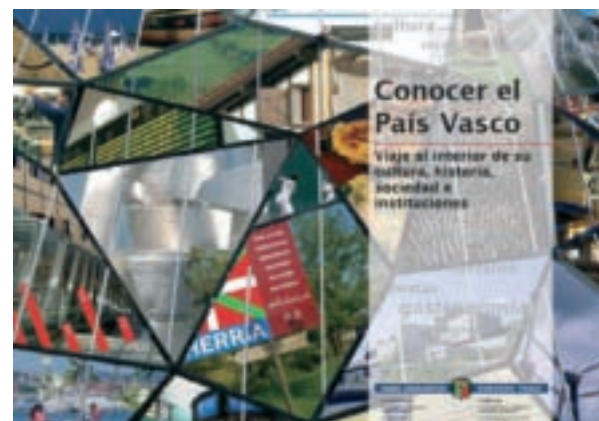
Therefore its presence continues to grow due to the efforts of so many programmers, who are totally committed to offering contemporary dance shows to the public, both on this Circuit and in their regular programming.

In this context, the Dance Circuit is a program that aims to support these

efforts and favor the ever-greater participation of the public, together with young artists and dancers, interested in exploring new theatrical languages.

"Get to know the Basque Country" can be downloaded free of charge

The book published by the President's Department of the Basque Government and the Departments of Culture, Housing and Social Affairs, written by Ramón Zallo and Mikel Ayuso entitled "Get to know the Basque Country, delve into its culture, history, society



Cover of the book "Get to know the Basque Country"

and institutions", can be downloaded free of charge from the Culture Department's web site.

The town of Biarritz will host the "bi harriz, lau xori" festival

Biarritz hosted the "bi harriz, lau xori" festival of contemporary Basque art on March 18-22. A large number of cultural events including dance, music, artistic creations and films (a new feature of this year's program) were produced during the festival.

The "Basque Team Desafioa" grant program is underway.



Mountaineers awarded the "Basque Team Desafioa" grants

Basque mountaineering announces the "Basque Team Desafioa" organized by bAT (Basque Team), designed to promote top-flight, non-professional Basque sport.

The Basque film "Ander" took part in the "Berlinale".

The film "Ander", produced completely in the Basque language and the first Basque film to deal with the subject of

homosexuality, was premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, the "Berlinale". The film was shown for the first time at the inauguration of the Zinegoak in Bilbao.

Joxean Arbelaitz has died

The culture promoter and euskaltzale, Joxean Arbelaitz, died unexpectedly on February 12 while doing sport. Arbelaitz led the Culture Department of Donostia City Hall and later was appointed Director of the Culture Department of the Basque Government.

The women's "trainera" boat-racing league is now a reality

This year will see the first women's "trainera" boat-racing league in the history of this sport. The main sponsor will be Eusko Trenbideak, which will be the name given to this new competition.

"Ahoz aho 2009" has started. The "Ahoz aho 2009" international festival, which is held in Ordizia and Tolosa in the province of Gipuzkoa, began on Thursday March 5. This year, artists from such different places as Cameroon, Germany, Israel, Venezuela, Chile, the Valencia region and, of course, Euskal Herria are taking part.

EUS

BASQUE SUMMER UNIVERS "Gure tresn



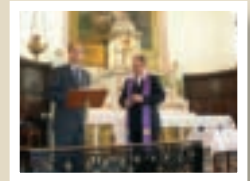
In Basque Institutions class, with the teacher Mikel Ezkerro.



The students, with the director of Euskal Echea and the coordinator.



The final lecture, "The Basque Diaspora", given by Mikel Ezkerro.



The blessing of the diplomas, in the chapel of the Euskal Echea in Buenos Aires.



In the school of Llavallol, under the shade of the Tree of Guernica.



The teacher Pedro Beramendi in a Basque History class.

ITY IN BUENOS AIRES. nak liburuak dira"

Buenos Airesen Udako Euskal Unibertsitatea ospatu da. Aurtengo leloa "Gure tresnak liburuak dira" izan da. Eskolen helburua argentinarrak euskal nortasuna eta historia ezagutu dezatela da.

"Partehartzaileek jakituriaz gain Euskal Herriarekiko maitasuna sentitu eta jaso zuten". "Munduko euskal etxeen ia erdia Argentinan dira"

A unique experience. Learning about Basque matters, awakening profound feelings.

Organized by the Cultural and Charitable Association Euskal Echea, classes were given in the First Basque Summer University in February.

A large number of people took part. Most of them were descendants of Basques and representatives of Basque Associations from cities such as San Nicolás, Chubut and La Plata, among others. There was great deal of interest in the subjects taught. The Origin of the Basque People. The Basque Mystery, History, Ethnology, Language and Culture, Art, Economy, Sports, Music, Religion, Dance, Gastronomy... But above and beyond the knowledge they acquired, participants gained something much more valuable: A profound feeling of love for the Basque Country, that faraway place which their grandparents or great-grandparents had spoken about with such nostalgia. Besides their long academic experience, teachers were able to transmit the warmth of their Basque roots and experiences. Their names: Mikel Ezkerro, Pedro

Beramendi, Belén Girasole, Mikel Huguet, Leandro Etchechury, Eduardo Torry, Cesar Gogorza, Itziar Aguirre, Adrián Gualdoni Basualdo, Pedro Tenti Alberdi, Javier Clúa and Valentín Galarde, with Enrique Aramburu as Coordinator. The classes were given at the Euskal Echea School in the centre of the city of Buenos Aires. In a visit to the School in Llavallol, in the interior of the province, the students had lunch, visited the old people's home and the Basque Museum. They even had the pleasure of taking a photograph under the Tree of Gernika. Two curious bits of information that reflect the importance of the Basque-Argentinean community. Almost half of the Basque Associations in the world are located in Argentina. And in a country with such an enormous passion for football, and several world championships under their belts, it became widespread as recently as 1920. Until then, the most popular sport was Basque pelota. With matches watched by more than 10,000 spectators and frontons in almost every village in the country.

GURE TXOKOAK



Horreo de Agarre, Bergara, Gipuzkoa





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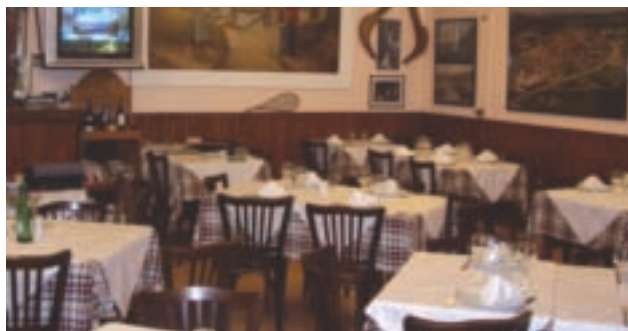
aurrera doan **herria**

a country on the move

EUSKO JAURLARITZA



GOBIERNO VASCO



Restaurante Rincón Basko Euzko Txokoa de Mar de Plata

Av. Juan B. Justo 2201, Mar de Plata (Argentina)

The restaurante Rincón Basko Euzko Txokoa was founded by Bingen Azarloza, from Amorebieta, on July 4 1967. In 1993, his sons José Martín and Jontxu took over the restaurant. It has been characterised for being faithful to traditional Basque cuisine: fish soup, cod "al ajoarriero", squid in its ink, fresh hake in green sauce, fresh hake "a la koskera", tripe "a la vizcaína", beans, tuna "marmitako", sea bream "a la vasca", grilled prawns or "al ajillo", cod "a la vizcaína", and so on. Many of their customers come from the city, but it is interesting to note that the Rincón Basko is also popular among visitors from this area, from the province, from different parts of the country, many of them with links to the different Basque Clubs, and foreign tourists.

The dining room is decorated in the Basque style. The lighting fixtures resemble small drums and there are also a large number of posters, paintings, pictures and Basque elements, which make customers feel that they are really in a corner of the Basque Country.

HADDOCK IN LEAK SAUCE WITH PRAWNS



PREPARATION:

Grease a pan with the butter, place the haddock and bake in the oven for 10 min. For the leak sauce, cut the leaks into very small pieces, cook these in a frying pan on a base of lard, add the stock, cream and a little flour to thicken. Take off the heat and with an electric beater fitted with two blades, beat until the sauce is even in texture, without lumps. Wash, peel and cut the two potatoes into thin slices. These will be fried later and used as garnish. When everything is ready, pour the leak sauce over the haddock and place under the grill for about three minutes. Meanwhile, sauté the prawns in olive oil for no more than two minutes, serve the haddock with the sauce on each plate and decorate with the prawns and thinly sliced fried potatoes. We'll leave it to the cook to decide about the seasoning

INGREDIENTS

(for 4 people)

Large haddock filleted without bones:

- four pieces of 300 gm each.
- Raw prawns: 600 gm.
- Leaks: four
- Butter: 200 gr.
- Fish stock: 1/2 liter.

(You can use vegetable stock)

- Cream: 1/4 liter.
- Olive oil: 200 cl.
- Potatoes: two
- Flour: 100 gm

Images to remember



On the right, Felix Arnaiz, born in 1891 in Santurtzi (Bizkaia), in Argentina in 1930

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMENTO?

If you do, and would like to see it published in this section, send it to the following address:

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