

# euskal etxeak



N.º 37 Year 1998



Eman ta zabal zazu



■ Rubial gets the highest distinction of Euskadi



■ The reconciliation of Chillida and Oteiza



■ Athletic Club  
Zorionak

# Summary **Laburpena**

## "EUSKAL ETXEAK"

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## 3 Introduction

## 4 Report: THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM IN EUSKADI

## 8 Interview: WILLIAM DOUGLASS TALKS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF BASQUE IDENTITY

## 10 News from the Euskal Etxeak: PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE BASQUE CENTERS. AMERICA OFFERS THE BASQUES A "TRAINERA".

## 14 Basque Villages: GERNIKA, A MEANINGFUL SYMBOL



## 18 News from Euskadi: THE PRESIDENTS OF CHILE AND SAHARA VISIT EUSKADI. RUBIAL IS AWARDED THE GERNIKA TREE CROSS. ARDANZA IN SLOVENIA.

## 24 Culture: Joint exhibition of Sorolla and Zuloaga. Chillida and Oteiza are reconciled.

## 28 Sports: The athletic turns a hundred years old



# Getting closer every day

It is more than obvious that the world of communications has experienced during the last few years dramatic changes, changes that can be described as real revolutions. The process of constant globalization is changing the perception of distances. The future that awaits us will have little in common with that of our parents. We are all getting increasingly closer to each other.

There was a time, not so very long ago, when leaving one's country meant not only changing habits, customs and ways of living, but also embarking on the adventure of the unknown, and parting completely with the land of the ancestors. Moreover, those who were born far from their parents' countries tended to view this distant motherland through rose-tinted

spectacles. Distance only increased and fed this ideal image. I was exiled when still in my teens, and I spent twenty years of my life in Venezuela and Canada, so I have experienced the effects of lack of communication and distance.

But there have been many changes during the last few years, and things will keep changing in the future. Telephone and international flights followed mail and steamboats, and now, in the threshold of the third millenium, the possibilities of telematic communication, which joins telephone, television and computers, seem to have no limits at all.

Nowadays increasingly popular systems such as communication via internet, allow us to cut distances down to amazingly low limits, and for prices which were unthinkable only a few years ago. The so-called computing "navigation" offers such easy coast to coast communication that very soon it is going to be unforgivable for families living in different continents not to establish the required devices to enable a continuous and stable communication.

## DATORREN UDAZKENEAN BIBLIOTEKA

Eusko Legebiltzarrak oraintsu jarri berri du indarrean Internet-eko web orrialdea. Honela, euskal herritar guztiak zuzen-zuzenean eta bertatik bertara legebiltzarrean eztabaidatzen eta erabakitzen diren lege eta egitasmoen berri jakin ahal izango dute.

Eskaintza honekin Eusko Legebiltzarrak bi helburu bete nahi lituzke. Batetik, euskal herritar guztiak zerbitzu aukerakoa luzatu, Euskadiko ikerketa-zentru, komunikabide eta gizarte-elkarte guztiak alde aurretiko informazioa eskuratzeko izan dezaten, ekimenen berri izan eta azter-lanean daudenak jakin.

Bestetik, gardentasunaren froga argi eta garbia eman, herritar guztiak informazio zuzena izan dezaten eta euren ordezkari politikoek osotzen duten Eusko Legebiltzar hau ahalik eta erakunderik hurbiltzat eta sinesgarritzat jo dezaten.

Zer esanik ez informazio hau guztia talde, elkarte eta erakunde guztiak eskutan jarriko dela, unibertsitate, alderdi politiko, sindikatu, komunikabide, herritar-elkarte, enpresa eta gainerako antolamenduen eskutan alegia. Eta, ez Euskal Herri mailan bakarrik, baita mundu osoan zehar ere, han-hemenka sakabanaturik bizi diren euskaldun guztiak ere hartaz baliatzerik izan dezaten.

Oraingoz, Internet-ez ikustatu ahal izango den informazioa Legebiltzarrean jostio politikoari dagozkion gaiekikoa bakarrik izango da baina, datorren udazkenetik aurrera, bertako liburutegiko altxor bibliografiko guztia ere aukeran jarriko da, erabateko ezagupen eta erabilpen publikoa izan dezan. ■



This easy communication provided by the new technologies makes it possible to have a more frequent and deep relation with relatives and friends living in distant countries. But moreover, it enables the users of all kinds of information independently of the place they live in.

The Basque Parliament has just opened a web page in Internet, where Basque citizens can find information about all the political, legal and administrative aspects corresponding to the parliamentary work. They can also ask for precise information, make suggestions, criticize the work of the deputies, ask them questions, follow closely their activities and use the internal database of the Parliament. This way, thanks to the new technologies, the Basque democratic institutions will

be even closer, if possible, to their citizens, and the Basques spread all over the world will share the same possibilities, in the same conditions, as the Basques living in the Basque Country.

I wanted to take advantage of the chance given to me by this magazine "Euskal Etxeak", to speak to the Basques living all over the world, and tell them about these new ways of access to our institution. However, these technological innovations cannot replace the direct contact and the human relations that this Chamber holds with the citizens. I wish to remind you that the Parliament is always open to every community of the Diaspora, and that everybody can visit it alone or in group. You will always be welcome here. Ongi etorri.

**Joseba Andoni Leizaola Azpiazu**  
President of the Basque Parliament

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THE MUSEUM HAS BECOME A REAL ENGINE OF BASQUE TOURISM

# THE GUGGENHEIM EFFECT



**T**he old and catching slogan “Euskadi, come and talk about us”, which has been so useful for the promotion of tourism in Euskadi, is about to become “Guggenheim Bilbao,

come and talk about it”, for this already widely known museum is attracting lots of visitors to Euskadi. This phenomenon is being referred to as the Guggenheim effect.

## Concha Dorronsoro

The Basque gallery has dwarfed even the most optimistic forecasts. In only four months more than 500,000 people have visited it, more than was expected for the whole year, and there are no signs of slackening in this tendency. Charter and private flights to the capital of Bizkaia have increased dramatically, Bilbao is starting to be considered as one of the main European cultural capitals, and the hotels and restaurants of the city have no vacancies. The museum has also promoted deep

changes in the Bilbao hotel business sector and some restaurant owners have even decided to open their establishments on Sundays to make the most of the flow of tourists.

Moreover, since the museum opened its doors last year on October 19th, it is not unusual to see planes from Germany, Switzerland, Italy, New York or Miami landing in Sondika. Many famous passengers came in some of those airplanes: Hollywood superstars such as Brad Pitt and Jonathan Pryce (Sean Connery was expected before Easter), and directors such as Jean Jacques Annaud and Oliver Stone,

high standing executives or simply wealthy art amateurs. More than three thousand personalities from the economic, social, political and cultural fields from all over the world have visited the Basque gallery.

At the same time, the Guggenheim museum is hosting great social events. The magnificent central atrium 55 meters high, the meeting place of the museum, has been chosen by many great commercial trade marks for the world presentation of their products, and there are constant requests from photographers and designers who want to do or show their works in Gehry's building.

The museum also offers the additional gastronomical attraction (something unavoidable when talking about the Basque Country), for its restaurant is presided by one of the most prestigious and innovative cooks of the moment, Martín Berasategi. This young man offers the visitors a menu that shows the extent of the importance given to cooking by Basque people. The restaurant is very successful both among the citizens of Bilbao and the tourists, and it is difficult to find a table in it without making a reservation months before.

### THE BASQUE TOURISM LIGHTHOUSE

The attraction of the Guggenheim museum has proved so strong that it has become the symbol of Euskadi. Photographs of the building are used as baits in every campaign to attract visitors to the Basque Country. As the Basque Tourism Consultant –Rosa Diez– said, it has become the lighthouse of Basque tourism. This expression is wholly justified. According to the latest data about last year, the number of foreign tourists has considerably increased (35% that becomes 57% in the case of Bilbao) in relation to the preceding years. The number of visitors coming from the United States and Canada increased by 35%; those coming from France increased by 14.4%, and the Germans by 8%. Moreover, the type of tourist visiting Euskadi is also changing, the so-called cultural tourism, wealthy and with free time, is increasing, as opposed to the economic tourism (people who come to attend conferences, international trade exhibitions, financial meetings, etc), who was more frequent until the moment, especially in Bilbao.

These data have not escaped the notice of the great tourist operators and travel agencies who include a visit to the famous museum in all their tourist offers. The institutional representatives of the tourist area have also come to see the Guggenheim museum as the best bait to attract visitors not only to Bilbao, but also to other regions of Euskadi. For instance the Centro de Atracción y Turismo of San Sebastián has organized a campaign with the slogan “Some days living like Donostia-



*The Guggenheim Museum has changed the appearance of the city.*



rras”, that includes not only reductions in hotels, restaurants and shops, but also a guided visit to the Bilbao museum. The great hotel chains are also aware of the phenomenon, and a short while ago we have been informed that the Hyatt chain from Chicago, which is one of the most powerful in the whole world is thinking of building a luxurious hotel in a site near the museum.

#### THE BIGGEST EXHIBITION OF CHINESE ART

The managers of the gallery, aware of the huge expectation created by the Guggenheim Museum –or should we say the Guggenheim phenomenon?– are preparing for next July the biggest exhibition of Chinese art of the history, which is at the same time the most ambitious and scholarly that the Guggenheim Foundation has ever undertaken.

The exhibition China 5 thousand years will show objects ranging from the third millenium before Christ to the present, hundreds of objects made of jade, bronze, fabric, calligraphy, enamel work, wood work, porcelain, pottery, lacquers, Buddhist sculptures and paintings. None of these pieces had ever left China and many of them had never even been exhibited in that country.

- **Guggenheim museoaren eraginez, Bilbo Europako kultur hiri garrantzitsuenetariko bat bihurtu da. Hau dela eta, milaka atzerritar dira Euskadira datozenak Museoak ikustera eta bide batez, Euskadi ezagutzera.**
- **Bilboko turismo eta ostalaritza egiturak aldatzen ari dira Museoak eragindako beharrei erantzuna emateko.**
- **Sektore ekonomiko berria sortu da Museoaren inguruan**

This collection has only been shown in the New York Guggenheim Museum. So this will be a unique opportunity to know the evolution of Chinese art and history. The latest archeological discoveries will also be present in the exhibition, for instance, there will be one of the 8000 terracotta warriors discovered in Xian in 1977 in the tomb of the first Chinese emperor. There will also be recent works including some corresponding to the socialist realism stage, and some reflecting the most modern trends imported from the West.

This exhibition, which will last from July to November, somehow breaks

with the dedication of the Guggenheim Foundation to contemporary art. The organizers intend to offer a global vision of culture based on a non-western cultural collection.

Apart from the Chinese exhibition, the museum will offer four temporary exhibitions, one of them that of the Donostiarran sculptress Cristina Iglesias. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy the retrospective dedicated to Rauschenberg, which has already been shown in New York and Cologne, and is expected to be another great international artistic event that will take place at the end of the year. ■

## The gauze Virgin (Virgen de la Gasa)

Bestelako alaitasunagaz jasoten ditut zuek balduriko berriak. Biotzetiko ezkerak zeuentzat.

Although the news are from the Autonomous Community, I would like to know more, even if very briefly, about all of Euskadi. You will see what is best.

Eskerrik asko. Besarkadarik estutsuena zeuentzat

### SOMETHING FUNNY:

Is a mountain in Colombia that is made of salt. After centuries of digging a cathedral has been built in it. The virgin presiding the huge church is called the Gauze (gasa) Virgin, that is gatza, which means salt in Euskera. ■

Bollegitar'tar Joseba Mirena  
Quito (Peru)

## Ongi Etorriak

The Euskal Etxeak team wishes to welcome from these lines all the Basque priests and nuns spread all over the world, that will from now on be on the long list of subscribers of our magazine.

We hope you will find our articles interesting, and that they will contribute to bring your motherland closer to the places where you are developing your apostolic mission. At the same time we look forward to receiving your collaboration on any subject that you wish to share with us. ■

## Contributions for the Ameriketatik

### Kaixo, lagunak:

I have heard that some American Basques are planning to give a "trainera" to our dear Euskadi. I think that is an excellent idea, and I would like to contribute to this gift. Could you possibly tell me where I have to make my contribution? ■

Venezuelako euskaldun bat

## The answer from Euskal Etxeak

As you can see, this issue of Euskal Etxeak provides all the necessary information about this project. Anyway, all those wishing to contribute can address the Project Coordinator, Kim Vicente.

TF: (207) 353-6259

Fax: (207) 353-7984

The Atlantic Challenge Foundation

Box 236, Rockland ME 04841-0236

Contributions should be made this way:  
Ship's boy: \$ 100. Will get a certificate with his or her name, in memory of the event.

Sailor: \$ 250. Will get a certificate and his or her name will be engraved on the "trainera"

1st Officer: \$ 500. Will get a certificate and two names chosen by him will be engraved on the "trainera".

Captain: \$ 1000 (For associations and clubs). Will get an engraved tablet of the "trainera" mentioning their participation. The name will be engraved in the "trainera".

Admiral: \$ 5000. Will get a certificate, a tablet and a model of the "trainera". The name will be engraved on the "trainera".

Every contribution to this project will be mentioned during the inauguration ceremony. All donations will be deductible.

The donations by check should be addressed to the Atlantic Challenge Foundation, Trainera Project, indicating clearly the name and surname, telephone number and address of the donators. MasterCard and Visa credit cards will also be accepted. ■

In this section we would like to encourage all Euskal Etxeak readers to collaborate sending letters about anything that may be of interest to you, or letting us know your suggestions about the magazine.

If you are interested in sending us letters, please remember that they should not exceed 30 typed lines, and that they should be faxed to n° 34-45-1878832 in Vitoria.

We are looking forward to your collaboration.

## SUBSCRIPTION BULLETIN

*All those interested in receiving the magazine Euskal Etxeak, and those who have detected any errors in their personal data at its reception, can fill this form and forward it to the following address:*

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HE DIRECTS THE BASQUE STUDIES CENTER IN RENO UNIVERSITY

# Douglass: "The Basque Centers will have to attract the young generations if they want to survive"

**P**rofessor William Douglass created in 1967 in Reno University, Nevada, the most important Basque Studies Center in the world. For over 31 years he has studied the Basque communities of the world.

Douglass has no Basque ancestors and his interest in the subject has been accidental. In Nevada, where he was born, there are many Basques and he met some of them at school. But at the time the identity was not exposed in public. Reading Caro Baroja he became interested in a people that had always kept a distance from the rest of the world, and that spoke a unique and age-old language. He lived in Euskadi from '63 to '65 and since then his interest on the Basques has kept increasing.

**Edurne Domingorena**

**Your interest in Basque matters has infected the rest of the academicians. Would the continuity of the Basque Studies Center be in danger without you?**

The studies are completely institutionalized. I have held the position for 31 years and I am about to retire, but the program has a budget in the university. Our collection of books on Basque matters is one of the most important in the world. Academicians from all over the world come every year to the Center. The program is not in danger at all.

**What has been the role of the Basque communities and in what way have they affected Basque society?**

There is not only one Basque Diaspora, but many. We have to distinguish between countries and destinations on one hand, and periods on the other. This is why the study of the Diaspora takes a certain time, because there is so much to study.

The Diaspora was not born as an extension of the Basque Country, it was born with the individual decisions of thousands of people. Some of them were political refugees, and others were looking for better economical condi-

tions. There has not been a migratory policy. Last century, for example, people in the Basque Country feared that the country would become deserted, they were also concerned about the morality surrounding the emigrants, about the exploitation of the youngsters, about the recruiters that visited the villages, etc. But anyway the Diaspora was something important. The influence of the Diaspora in the development of the Basque Country has not been thoroughly studied yet, it is being studied now. A huge capital was brought here from the diasporas, as well as people and ideas.

**Do all peoples create communities abroad?**

Yes, to a certain extent. But the nature of the flow of emigrants has something to do with it. It was more difficult to create Basque associations in the United States than it was in Argentina because very few intellectuals and professionals came to this country. There were few educated people with the conscience of being Basque, who could write and read in Euskera, and so create a Basque atmosphere.

**But, do you believe that the wish of keeping their own identity is especially strong among the Basques?**

Among some Basques. It is like if



you ask: are the Catholics good? Well, some of them are. The same happens with every Diaspora. In the United States there are between 50 thousand and 75 thousand Basques, more or less. In a certain sense Basques are more organized than others. There are many more Irish than Basques, but the number of Basques that declare they are Basque is similar to that of the Irish.

For some time they did not express their identity, it was not made public, and therefore, it was not very well un-

derstood. Now many things have been published in English about the Basques, and being Basque is something to be proud of, and it is something special, for it is a minority. It is a positive distinction.

**But precisely what is the image of the Basques?**

There was a time when they were not liked. That was when the Basques were wandering bums. There were fights, the ranchers were violent against them. From 1890 to 1920 they were deprecated in the press and in the whole American West. They were compared to the Chinese and to their disadvantage. They were accused of spending years saving money and then going back to their land without investing in the country. However now they are admired. There are companies that give a job to any Basque who requests it just because he is Basque, for they are seen as loyal, hardworking and independent. There are all kinds of Basques, but this is how the community is seen.

**At the doors of the 21st century and with the cultural globalization, will it still be possible to talk about a Basque identity?**

That is one of the questions we discuss in the Congress. I can argue in favor and against. There will no doubt be an evolution towards new identities, new ways of forming them, consuming them and projecting them. I wonder if in the new millenium a boy won't rather face the screen of his computer, and study Euskera via Internet from his own room, take a virtual trip to Euskadi, see the new exhibition of the Bilbao Guggenheim, keep horizontal contacts with other people sharing the same interests in Reno, Buenos Aires, Sidney, Manila, Brussels, and also in Bilbao. There is the possibility now of creating a horizontal net among the Basques of the whole world, based on particular decisions of individuals who are not only consuming the Basque thing in their own way, but also forming their own identity in personal terms. This same boy may rather keep these contacts than dine with 60-year-old shepherds belonging to another generation and with a different mentality. The new media enable each of us to create our own ethnic world.

• «Euskal Etxeek gazteak erakarri beharko dituzte desagertu ez daitezen, horretarako gaur eguneko teknikak aintzakotzat hartuz».

• «Gazte batek agian nahiago izango du Interneten bidez euskaldunekin harremanetan jarri Euskal Etxean zaharrekin afaldu baino»

• «Euskal nortasuna indibidualki eratuko den prozesu bat izango da aurrerantzean»

**And what will the role of the Basque communities be in this context?**

I don't know. At present there are more Basque Centers than ever, but will they last? I think maybe they will, maybe not. What they have to understand is that they have to find the way of attracting the younger generations. This will be the great challenge facing all the Basque Centers.

One of the most positive aspects is the fact that with the present electronic,

economic and transport possibilities, the diasporas can become much closer to each other and to Euskadi. We have the means to strengthen those ties.

**What do you expect of the Congress that is going to be celebrated in Reno?**

Internationally speaking, I think we are going through a stage of great explorations. Nobody knows where we are headed to, and the Congress must include these matters. For instance, whether the Basque Centers will last.

I am going to analyze the creation of the new Diaspora. That is, the effort the Basque Government has made in order to have for the first time a policy for the Basque communities in favor of Euskadi. Cultural, political and economical links with the diasporas are being officially created. This is the first time in history that these links are being institutionalized, for now the means to do so exist. This is a novelty in the experience of the diasporas, and I will talk about the successes and the failures of this experience.

**Are you optimistic about the survival of the Basque communities, of the Basque identity?**

I am optimistic in the sense that if there are enough people in the world really interested in it, it will survive. And if not, I am also optimistic. For if there is no interest, why keep it? It makes no sense. So I believe there are no reasons to be pessimistic. ■

### THE UNIVERSITY OF RENO WILL STUDY BASQUE IDENTITY IN THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW MILLENIUM

An International Congress of Basque Studies will be celebrated in Reno (Nevada, USA) on 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th July, during the Basque Feast of the American West. The Congress has been organized by the Basque Studies Program of the University of Nevada, with the help of the Basque Government.

Prestigious professors from all over the world will take part in the Congress. They will analyze the challenges facing Basque society and

Basque communities in the new millenium.

William Douglass, the director of the Basque Studies Program, has coordinated this Congress. At the beginning the main subject was going to be the phenomenon of Basque emigration and the future of the Basque communities in different American countries, but finally other more global concepts such as identity, emigration, globalization and their consequences have been included. ■

# THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN ENTERS ITS SECOND HALF

Iñaki Agirre



*The Basque Communities Advisory Council during a meeting that took place in Vitoria.*

Now that the four-year plan has entered its second half, it is time to take stock and examine the progress achieved with the launching of this ambitious plan passed in the World Congress of Basque Communities celebrated in Vitoria-Gasteiz in 1995.

But this reflection should not stick to a simple examination of the achievements, it should also encourage people to make suggestions about what the next four-year plan (1999-2003) should be like.

However, before we tackle this second stage and start designing new horizons for the third millenium, let us go back a few years and remember the main axes of the plan of the Basque Government regarding the Euskal Etxeak. There were four action axes passed in that Congress: the maintenance of the structure and infrastructure of the Basque Centers; the promotion of Basque identity, its culture and language; the installment of efficient communication and information channels

with Euskadi, and the participation of the younger generations in the life and activities of the Euskal Etxeak.

## EUSKAL ETXEAK

When the World Congress was celebrated, a year and a half after the Law of Relations with Basque Communities and Centers Abroad was passed, there were 129 Euskal Etxeak spread over 16 countries in the planet. However at that moment only 21 of them, that is 16.2%, were officially acknowledged by the Government Council and appeared in the Basque Centers Register. Nowadays most of the Euskal Etxeak, 105 of the 138 existing at present (76%) have taken the trouble. On the other hand, the dynamism of the Basques living abroad as well as their wish to keep their links with their motherland is all too clear, as the creation of 9 new Euskal Etxeak in the two last years proves.

The Basque Government increased the generic grants to the Euskal Etxeak by 30%. These aids do not cover all the expenses generated by the activities organized abroad, but at least they help promote and encourage the most important ones. The computerization of the Euskal Etxeak and the creation of a telematic net have been a great success that has made it possible among other things, to reinforce the links between the Government and its direct speakers, and among the Euskal Etxeak themselves.

Nowadays the Government in Vitoria is elaborating an ambitious plan that will make it possible for the Euskal Etxeak to have access to loans on landed property in Euskadi. The loans will be used for the renewal of their infrastructures or for the purchase of headquarters. This project, which will probably be passed in September, will grant the selected centers access to loans at an interest rate of 4.75% payable in 10 years maximum and for a total value of 500 million pesetas for all the selected Euskal Etxeak.

## IDENTITY, BASQUE CULTURE AND EUSKERA

Lehendakaritza, the Culture Departement and the Adult Alphabetization Institute- HABA, have spared no effort to develop and complete the teaching of Euskera to all those who are interested in learning it. At present there are Euskera courses for children and adults in most of the Euskal Etxeak, and the results are very promising. In Argentina, there is an ambitious project, Argentinan Euskaraz, which started in 1990 and will last until 2000, for the training of Euskera teachers, that has required a lot of efforts and determination.



There are regular shipments of didactic material, books and videos about culture, literature or history of Euskadi and other matters that can be interesting for the Basque Communities abroad.

The possibility of producing Basque folk music CDs (compact disks) so that the dantzari groups can have a compilation of our most popular "danceable" traditional songs, and also learn to play xistu, is being studied at present.

## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Euskal Irrati Telebista-EITB announced during the World Congress that they were going to launch an international channel so that the Basques living abroad could receive news and programs from Euskadi, and therefore have a direct contact with our daily reality. This announcement deeply interested the attendants.

After the suitable investigations, ETB decided to join the televisions of Galicia and Catalunya, whose presence abroad is really important, in order to create an international channel via satellite, aimed at first to the Latin American public, and shortly after to North America and Europe. After overcoming several problems and material difficulties with our partners from Galicia, who have delayed considerably the implantation of the ETB international channel, this project, unbelievable only a few years ago, and of a great commercial complexity, has become at present a reality. However, the

Basque communities abroad do not receive the signal in similar conditions. In Mexico, Florida, Colombia and Peru the signal is received generally and on a daily basis; Argentina, a country with many cables, receives the signal but only broadcasts it to few places of its territory (Necochea, Tandil and a small part of Buenos Aires). The discussions and negotiations with the cable operators have been intense, and new possibilities are springing for the near future, especially in Uruguay and Chile, but there are still some difficulties to overcome. In the United States the access to the market is still complicated, and for the moment only one particular agreement has been reached in Boise (Idaho), and negotiations are being held with several public channels of other states in order to broadcast, if only partially, the Basque programs. Moreover, the Basques living in Europe will have the same possibilities through digital television.

## THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS

The most important chapter of the conclusions of the World Congress dealt with the youngsters and the need to make the new generations take part in the life and activity of the Basque Centers. This is in fact the question that is going to determine essentially the future of the Euskal Etxeak and, therefore, the continuity of the task our ancestors undertook with so many efforts.

The GAZTEMUNDU program, which started in 1996, was organized

in reaction to this concern. The program brings 60 youngsters from America to Euskadi in each edition. The main goal of this program is to give them the opportunity to know the present Euskadi, with its achievements and also with its problems. And they will transmit the image of the real Euskadi when they get back to their countries; an image that will probably be very different from the one they have received from their parents and grandparents.

These young people will have to take control of the Euskal Etxeak a little by a little, they will give them new sap and ideas, get in charge of the everyday problems and, to sum up, ensure that the movement lasts and improves in the next few years.

But this developments will not be possible without the involvement of all those who have interests in the matter. Until the present more than 80% of the actions foreseen in the Four-Year Plan have taken place, but all this will be useless without a process of continuing improvement, and constant reflection about the axes of our future policies.

It is our responsibility, the responsibility of each one of us, to give form and contents to these new possibilities, so as not to lose the fruits of a task that was undertaken more than a hundred and twenty years ago. From this platform I encourage everybody to form reflection groups in the different countries where there are Basque communities, and to start preparing and suggesting new projects and ideas for the 1999 Congress. ■

A REPLICA OF AN 18TH CENTURY FISHING TRAINERA WILL REACH EUSKADI THIS SUMMER

## AMERIKETATIK, THE GIFT FROM THE BASQUES IN AMERICA TO THEIR MOTHERLAND

**X** VIII. mendean euskaldunek arrantza egiteko erabiltzen zuten untzi baten itxura izango duen trainera bat oparituiko diote Ameriketara bizi diren euskaldunek Euskal Herriari. Ideia Estatu Batuetan bizi diren bi euskaldunei bururatu zitzaizen, baina

Ameriketako Hego eta Ifarraldean bizi diren euskaldunek ordainduko dute euskal erakundeen laguntzaz. "Ameriketatik" izeneko untzia Uztailan irtengo da Maine hiritik eta Euskadiko portu guztietatik igaroko da, Muskizetik Baionaruntz.



A "trainera" (traditional Basque boat), a replica of those used in 18th century by Basque arrantzales for the capture of anchovies and sardines: this is the tribute the American Basques want to offer to Euskal Herria. Two Basques living in the United States had the idea last spring. Now the dream has become a reality and the boat Ameriketatik is expected to be in Euskadi in July, coming from Maine in order to visit all the Basque ports, from Muzkiz to Baiona.

Basques from the north and south of the American continent are giving money for the project, which also has the support of Basque institutions. Xabier Agote, shipbuilder and expert on traditional Basque ships, and Ramón Cengotitabengoa, president of the Basque Studies Society in America, who found the suitable financing for the project, have spared no effort to make it possible.

The Atlantic Challenge –a prestigious school-shipyard in Maine– used some blueprints of a boat built in mid 18th century in the Mutiozabal shipyard in Orio, as well as the research done by Agote himself, as a guide for the building of this replica of a trainera. The works started in November, and we will be able to see again this boat that was the queen of the Cantabrian Sea from the French Landes to the border with Galicia, from the second half of the 18th century until it disappeared 150 years after with the coming of the steamboats.

### OAK, OAR AND SAIL

The Ameriketatik trainera is made of oak, she weighs about 700 kilos, and she is 11 and a half meters in length and nearly 2 meters in breadth. She is propelled by oars and has two sails. It is a very sturdy boat that endures

all kinds of weather conditions. The main feature of this boat, quick and easy to handle, is her steering mast that enables her to steer from bow to stern, and from starboard to port.

Her performance is very different from that of the present traineras, which are built for sporting competitions, for it was a boat used for the fishing of anchovies and sardines with nets, during a time when it was not necessary to leave the coast in order to find the shoals. With this trainera it was possible to fish even inside the bays. Anchovies were seen from the cliffs. In Hondarribia, for instance, people used to shout gorria!, for the sun shining on the anchovies formed red stains that guided the arrantzales toward the shoals.

### FROM MAINE TO BILBAO

The Ameriketatik is bound to arrive in Bilbao in July, and she will start from there visiting all the Basque ports. All oarsmen wishing to take part in the trip will have the chance to do so. The trip will be a gift from the American Basques to the land of their ancestors. But before coming to Euskadi the boat will be received in Manhattan Port, where she will play the leading role in an event including sailing around the Statue of Liberty. The trainera will also be present in the Universal Exhibition Lisbon'98.

Moreover, a cultural association called Alboala has been created in order to organize the future access to this boat and to the world of traditional ships in general. ■

# Mexico celebrated the canonization of saint ignatius Loyola



*The Culture Consultant of the Basque Government planted a sprout of the Gernika Tree in the college of the Vizcainas in Mexico.*

The Culture Consultant, M. Carmen Garmendia, chaired last March 12 the celebrations that took place in the Colegio de la Paz (Vizcainas) in Mexico, in memory of the canonization of Saint Ignatius Loyola (March 12 1622), who is the patron saint of this foundation. Garmendia flew to Mexico in response to an invitation issued to her by José M. Basagoiti, President of the School Foundation.

The Basque emigrants in Mexico created this school in 18th century for their daughters' education. Because it was a ladies school it was popularly known as "Las Vizcainas", and its true name, Colegio de San Ignacio de Loyola, was almost forgotten. We can't help but admire the advanced ideas of those Mexican-Basques who promoted at the beginning of the 18th century a school

of this description, in a moment when society did not acknowledge this basic right.

The Colegio de las Vizcainas is located in very center of Mexico D.F., in an impressive building of baroque style. At present it is still managed by a foundation led by Basque descendants. This foundation decided long ago to extend its educational task to the whole Mexican society, regardless of their origins. The school has now students of both sexes and has 1.050 pupils receiving elementary and secondary education.

The celebrations started at noon with a mass celebrated at the school chapel. Members of the foundation, teachers of the school, representatives from the Mexican-Basque Development Institute and from the Basque Center attended the mass, where 18th century unpublished songs that were found in the school files, were sung. At the end of the mass the group Fenix Americana, Ensemble vocal e instrumental de investigación musical novohispana, performed the old San Ignacio march, also dating from 18th century.

After the mass the Consultant planted a small sprout of the Gernika Tree in one of the school courts. Basagoiti and Artolozaga, who joined the school foundation the same day, accompanied the Consultant. This new sprout of the tree of Basque freedom was planted while a txistulari played the "Gernikako Arbola". ■

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## A BASQUE IN SPACE

Leopold Eyharts, born in Biarritz has become the first Basque to travel to space. Last January 29 the spacecraft that took him and two other Russian cosmonauts to the Mir orbital station was launched from Baikonour in Kazayistan. He stayed for three weeks in Mir station, where he took among a few other things his chistera (Basque pelota racquet) as a souvenir from home.

The Basque cosmonaut is lieutenant colonel of the French Air Forces, trial pilot and a cosmonaut of the National Center of Space Studies. He is also a Knight of the National Order of Merit, and he has been awarded the Overseas and National Defense medals. In 1995 he was sent to the City of the Stars for training –that is a military base located 40 kilometers from Moscow where the Russian cosmonauts have their training center. Eyharts took advantage of this opportunity and now at the age of 40, the dream that has haunted him since he saw at the age of 12 the Americans that walked for the first time on the Moon, has come true. ■

# ON THE WAY TO GERNIKA

**A**urreko Euskal Etxeetan euskal hiriburuak ezagutu ditugu. Orain, berriz, pixkanaka pixkanaka herrietara hurbilduko gara. Asko dira Euskal Herrian ospetsuak diren herriak eta arrazoiak ere ugariak dira. Baina, bada bat guztien gaineratik nabaritzen dena, Gernika hain zuzen ere. Historikoki euskaldunentzat garrantzitsua izateaz gain, gaur egun bakea eta askatasunaren sinbolo bihurtu da. Horregatik, herriei eskainitako lehen kapitulu hau berarentzat izango da.

**N**ow that we have described the Basque capitals, we are starting a new chapter about Basque villages. And we start with one of the greatest symbols of Euskadi: Gernika.

**Koldo San Sebastián**

My grandfather took me to Gernika when I was twelve. We visited the Casa de Juntas, and when we were near the Tree he cut my racket short (too much culture for a young boy), as only the old Basque captains can: Egon ixilik! (Be quiet!). One day, I was also with my grandfather, I saw in a restaurant that does not exist anymore, a picture of a mendigoizale (mountaineer) respectfully facing the Tree. That image deeply impressed me. It impressed me in the same way as when the men bared their heads to the sound



of the Gernikako Arbola sung by the orfeón in the Plaza de los Fueros, in Lekeitio. So for many years Gernika was a kind of sanctuary, distant, a place to change of bus between Lekeitio and Bilbao. What a mistake! My mentor, Jon Bilbao, born in Cayey de Puerto Rico, whose family came from Mundaka, showed me the magic and taught me to look at the Saint Town and its surround-

ings with different eyes. He used to say that the Viking presence had been very intense there. Travelling to Gernika is always a great pleasure.

According to Lope García de Salazar, a daughter of the king of Scotland came to Mundaka. There she conceived and gave birth to a son. Mother and son lived then in Altamira de Busturia. When the young man is 22, he is cho-

sen by the Bizkaians as captain of their troops to fight against the son of the king of León, who had invaded their territory. He defeated the foreigners in the battle of Arrigorriaga, and was made Lord of Bizkaia by his men who called him "Jaun Zuria" (White Gentleman), because of his fair hair, which was nearly white, and his rosy complexion, uncommon among the Basques. But this is only one of the many versions about the origin of the Domain of Bizkaia.

Some people believe that Jaun Zuria was really a Viking who had come to our coasts around the 9th century. The fierce northern sailors would have sailed through the Mundaka River into Gernika. Their heritage, a brisk and supple type of boat. And something else. According to Jon Bilbao the great number of people with fair hair and light eyes in this part of the country is due, without any doubt, to the Viking inheritance. Professor Antón Erkoreka has published a book following the traces left by the Scandinavian men in our history: Baiona, Pamplona and mostly Mundaka River open up practically any hypothesis.

Jon Juaristi reminds us that certain writings and legends about Busturia could well refer to exiled Saxons of the Wessex and West Anglia dynasties that had been overthrown by the Vikings, and not to Scandinavian sailors. In any case, those visitors with yellow hair and fierce gestures entered Bizkaia bordering a very similar coast to the one they had left behind: the Ogoño bulk, Izaro. And they entered then a calm river, further away from Mundaka, that held a certain likeness, at least in the right margin, to a Norwegian fiord.

Anyway, when the Vikings came, there were already Basques here. The presence of man in that area goes back to the Low Paleolithic. Many prehistoric traces have been found in the region. In 1916 some cave paintings were found in Santimamiñe, in Kortezubi, which were painted by men of the magdalenic culture. Traces of the Solutrense were found in 1959 in Atxeta (Forua). The Roman presence in the region of Urdai-bai opens the first page of the story. There are votive inscriptions in the altar

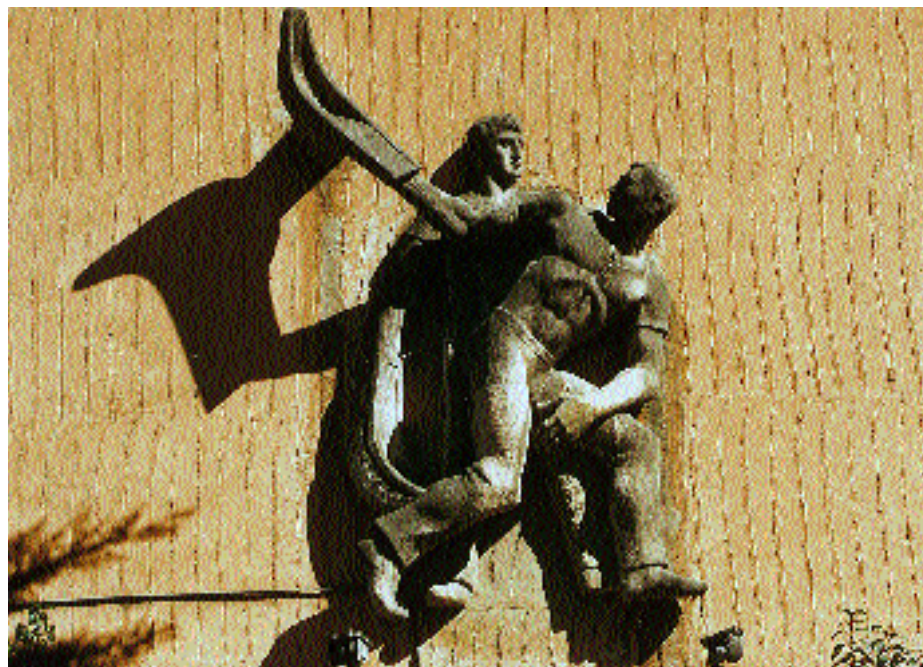


*The Casa de Juntas is not only a historical heritage, but it has a great symbolic value for all Basques.*

## • Vikingoen aztarnak ugariak dira Gernikan

of San Martin church and in the funeral stele of Trinity hermitage. A branch of the Roman road starting at Balmaseda went as far as Bermeo.

The Romans also exploited the red marble quarry in Ereño. With the disintegration of the Roman Empire Euskalerrria entered a dark period with no writ-



*The Jai Alai pelota court is the witness of important pelota matches.*



Many people come every Monday to the fair.

ten news that lasted 500 years. The Vikings came during that period.

But what is this land so full of history like? Urdaibai is framed by Cape Matxitxako (Bermeo) and Arbolitz Point (Ibarranguelua). Cape Matxitxako is the main geographic accident in the Basque coast, it is a natural spur that accidentally protects the entrance of the estuary. The limit of Urdaibai region heads upward from there through Burgoa mountain into Bermeo, continues through Garbola and Truende mountains until it reaches Sollube, in the intersection of Bermeo, Arrieta and Busturia. Then it winds through Kurtzegane and Sestretxa mountains into the lands of Errigoiti in Arriaga mountain. The border then goes eastward and forms an arch through Maiaga mountain, to return to the summit of Otxolarre. The south border is framed by Bizkargi and Oiz massifs. River Oka in its descent towards the sea has been the main designer of the landscape, opening at its feet a great valley facing north.

The Urdaibai inner lands form an intricate pattern of mountains and valleys. During the last five centuries the shape of this region has known great changes, especially because men used its woods in the ironworks or to build ships.

It is precisely in fishing and ship-building techniques where the inheritance from the Vikings seems more certain. As Rabot from France states "the

### • Astean behin egiten den azokak zentzu berezia du Gernikarrentzat

Basques learned from the Norman the art of fishing whales". On the other hand the boats painted in the 18th century stamps of the fishing ports are identical to some Viking boats rescued from the Roskilde Fiord. The heritage is even clearer in some of the words used for sailing techniques. Gwyn Jones, author of classical works on the Vikings, includes the Basque coasts in the usual routes of the northern men.

The Bermeo fishermen are some of the best in the world. They have chased the fish across the seven seas and it is not unusual to find their ships in Africa, Mar del Plata, Callao,... in most of the Spanish ports there are ships from Bermeo.

The isle of Izaro stands watch at the entrance of the estuary. It belongs nowadays to Bermeo. Centuries ago Bermeo and Mundaka fought for the possession of this rock. To put an end to the struggle, they decided that the isle would belong to the village whose trainer would arrive in the first place to the rock. The inhabitants of Elantxobe acted as judges. Bermeo won. The verdict did not please the inhabitants of Mundaka who called since then those of Elantxobe "makueses" (bad judges).

Since then every year in the morning of July 22, Saint Mary Magdalene's day, after a mass in Santa Eugenia church, a colorful flotilla sails to Izaro. The boat that carries the authorities stops next to the isle. The silence is complete. In a moment the ikurriña presides the place. The racket is impossible to describe. Songs, scarves, shouts, sirens. Some minutes later, after collecting the certificate, the major of Bermeo throws a tile into the sea, symbolizing that Izaro belongs this year again to Bermeo. Then they all go to Elantxobe, where the major is waiting to exchange the stick of command with the major of Bermeo. This will be the leader until he leaves the place. Then everybody goes to Mundaka to watch the dance of the aurreku of honor.

Jon Bilbao says that the first element in the word Mundaka, "Mund", means in Danish rivermouth. Apparently it was an important port long ago. At the beginning of this century Carmelo de Etxegaray wrote: "there are few fishermen there, and practically no one working in fields other than sailing". Many of the Basques who emigrated to the Philippine Islands came from this part of Bizkaia. The last Major of Manila, José Manuel Etxeita, was from Mundaka, and he is considered one of the most important writers in Euskera of the 20th century.

The cultural expressions of the neighboring Busturia are mostly rural,

but in those of Mundaka the streets take a leading role. This village offers one of the most curious examples of urban Shrovetide. A group of young boys do an "eskea": they give satirical verses in exchange of money and food. The boys are called "atorrak" because of the costumes they wear.

Busturia is mainly a farming village, but some small industries have gathered around it.

Sukarrieta is an old and small village. At the end of 19th century it started to attract tourists: a hotel was built in Txantxarramendi, which hosts nowadays the Oceanographic Institute. The tomb of Sabino Arana, the founder of Basque nationalism is also in Sukarrieta.

Our oldest reliable news are from the Bizkaian village of Forua. It is certain that the Romans occupied it when using the Gernika river as a refuge. The village name, which is clearly of Latin origin, "forum", hints at a commercial past.

Finally we reach Gernika. The Saint Town of the Basques is in the water meadows of River Oka. Maybe the sea reached the town in the past, and perhaps there was a little port there. That would explain the creation of a small trade area that became in 1366 a "villa" by decree of Don Tello Lopez de Haro, when the faction fights made it necessary to protect the villages, especially if they played an important role in the trade. Nowadays Gernika is still a flourishing trade center, with a weekly market fair. The town is also head of the region and, therefore, there are many lawyers living there.

Gernika is, with Donibane Garazi, one of the centers of Basque emigration. My great-grandparents signed before the Gernika notary their marriage contract, before travelling to Mountain Home (Idaho). Grandfather Melitón contributed to the marriage settlement 12,000 gold pesetas in sheep.

The Vikings also left their trace in the political organization. The Juntas Generales (general assembly) have a lot in common with the democratic organization of the northern peoples. According to the Fuero, the Lords of Bizkaia had to take oath in the parish



church of Santa Eugenia in Bermeo, after the assembly held under the Gernika Tree had finished.

Gautegiz de Arteaga is very close to Gernika. In the Middle Ages the village witnessed many bloody battles between the Abendaño and the Mugica-Butrón families. The Arteaga de Gautegiz family supported the Abendaño faction. Maria Eugenia de Guzmán y Portocarrero, who is historically known as Eugenia de Montijo, Empress of France, and the wife of Napoleon III, came from this family. On March 16 1856 the couple had a son, Imperial Prince Eugenio Luis Juan Jose Bonaparte.

When the news reached Bizkaia, on July 16 1856, the General Assembly declared him "Bizkaian descendant of clear blood". His parents accepted this title and a banquet was celebrated. In spite of all the intrigues planned against the Basque ambassadors named by the General Assembly, they were very well received and they were treated with gratitude and respect. The Emperor requested the certificate that declared that his son was Bizkaian, and also a copy of the Fuero de Bizkaia. Moreover, he

told the Bizkaian representatives that he had just ordered the National Factory of Sevres to make three great porcelain vases with the pictures of the emperors and their son. Those three vases are now in the office of the General Deputy of Bizkaia.

Not very long ago, the French architect Couvrechef came to Arteaga, sent by the emperors. He had been commissioned to rebuild their castle. He died in the Bizkaian village, and was replaced by another imperial architect, Ancelet. The gardens that surrounded the castle were designed by an Englishman named Newman.

The strategic location of the region was the cause of many struggles; but few of them were as cruel as a last civil war. The waters of Cape Matxitxako witnessed the battle of the "bous" during which the small fishing boats equipped with cannons of the Government of Euzkadi fought an unequal battle against the rebel navy. A little bit later, on April 26 1937, German and Italian airplanes following Franco's orders bombed and destroyed Gernika. Today the martyr Gernika wants to be above all a symbol of peace. ■



# THE PRESIDENTS OF CHILE AND SAHARA VISITED EUSKADI

**T**wo illustrious visitors, the President of Chile, Eduardo Frei, and his wife, Basque descendant Marta Larraechea, and the Secretary of the Saharaoui National Front, and President of the Republic of Sahara, Mohamed Abdelaziz visited Euskadi at the beginning of the year.

At the beginning of a busy day with dense political, economic and cultural contents, Frei was awarded the "Lagun Onari" distinction by Lehendakari Ardanza, because of his friendly attitude towards Euskadi. Both leaders referred to the historical and cultural relations uniting Basques and Chileans, and they remembered that sentence by Unamuno stating that "the world owes two things to the Basques: the Society of Jesus and Chile". President Frei said the distinction was a great honor for Chile, and the Lehendakari underlined the warm attitude Chile has always shown Basque emigrants. He spoke in favor of increasing the cooperation existing between both countries. As a first step in this direction, both presidents chaired the signature of a collaboration agreement in technologic and business matters.

From Vitoria Frei traveled to Bilbao, where he uncovered, with emotion and surrounded by many fellow countrymen, a head in honor of the poet and soldier of Basque descent, Alonso de Ercilla y Zuñiga, author of the poem "La Araucana". There is an inscription in the monument that says "The Basques to Chi-

le", for the idea came from the Chilean-Basque Cultural Association Alonso de Ercilla, which was founded by Basques that had lived in Chile, and has at present more than a hundred members. Afterwards Frei closed a business meeting in which Basques were encouraged to invest in that country.

But the visit had also a sentimental component, for the President's wife, who was visiting Euskadi for the first time, wanted to know her grandfather's motherland, and she was very moved, especially when she visited Deusto.

## THE BASQUES SUPPORT THE SAHARAN PEOPLE

The General Secretary of the Political liberation of Sahara and Rio de Oro Front, and also President of the Republic of Sahara, Mohamed Abdelaziz, visited Euskadi to receive the prize "Mirror of the world" awarded by the Sabino Arana Foundation. On his arrival he could experience the warm support his cause arises in Euskadi, for hundreds of people, including European representatives of the front he directs, members of every association in

favor of the Saharan people, and the representatives of the councils of several villages paired with his country, were waiting for him at the airport and they greeted him with shouts such as "Sahara askatu".

Abdelaziz held many institutional meetings during his stay in Euskadi, and he showed his gratitude for the Basque help during this 25 years of exile. "We are very honored to be here because the Basque Country has established many ties with the Saharan people. During all these years the Basques have been in the first line of defense of our rights", he declared. However, he requested the aid from the Basque institutions in order to ensure that the referendum on the independence of his country, which will be held on December 7 "is clean, democratic, just and transparent". The Secretary of the Front pointed out that the aid from the Basque people has made it possible to "create important links between the Saharan and Basque peoples, which could be reinforced, once the independence was reached, in order to work together in many different fields". ■

# LEHENDAKARI ARDANZA VISITS SLOVENIA

**E**sloveniako Presidenteak konbidatuta, Jose Antonio Ardanza Lehendakariak Esloveniako Errepublikara bisitatu zuen martxoaren hasieran. Bertan, Lehendakaria Milan Kucan Presidentearekin eta ekonomiako ministro guztiekin bildu zen harreman ekonomiko, komertzial eta kulturalen oinarriak finkatzeko asmoz. Eta bilera horietan hain zuzen ere, elkarren artean alderdi amankomunak dituztela ohartu ziren bi herrietako buruzagiak. Hau dela eta, mota guztietako harremanak sendotzea erabaki zuten hobeto elkar ezagutzeko. Elkarlan lan honi hasiera emateko, Esloveniako eta Euskadiko erakundeek hiru lankidetzak hitzarmen izenpetu zituzten gai enpresarial, industrial eta energetikoez.

Lehendakari José Antonio Ardanza visited the Republic of Slovenia at the beginning of March. Milan Kucan, President of the Republic invited Ardanza, who held meetings with the President of the Government and with all the ministers of the economic area. The foundations for future institutional relations with the Government of Slovenia, and for the promotion of economic, commercial and cultural relations were laid during these meetings.

Slovenia and the Central and Eastern European countries are practically unknown for Basque businessmen. For the last few years they have made great efforts to become international, but the Latin American countries have been their main targets. The aim of this institutional visit was to explore the possibilities offered by Slovenia, which seems to be the central axis of a potential market of more than 100 million people.

The Basque delegation was formed by the Industry, Farming and Fishing Consultant, by the president of Basque businessmen (CONFEBASK) and by representatives of some Basque industrial and energy companies and institutions.

Lehendakari Ardanza and President Milan Kucan realized in the course of their meetings that there are many things in common between the Basque and Slovenian peoples, and they decided to promote all kinds of exchanges in order to get better acquainted.

Slovenia is a small country with a population of 2 million people, it is located in the north of old Yugoslavia. It became independent in 1991. Its economy is very industrial and its per capi-



*Lehendakari José Antonio Ardanza met the President of Slovenia, Milan Kucan.*

ta income is about \$9000. The political and institutional representatives of the country are determined to integrate Slovenia in the western political and economic circles and they are in the middle of an intense process of negotiations in order to be part of NATO and the European Union.

The Slovenian authorities showed their gratitude for the immediate support they received during the first moments of their independence. As far as Euskadi is concerned, the representatives of the Slovenian Government were mainly interested, apart from the industrial and farming promotion policies, in encouraging Slovenian companies to contact directly Basque companies, for

they know this will benefit both parties. They were also interested in the tax and linguistic policies developed in Euskadi, and they wish to know more about the scientific and research policies.

During the visit of the Basque delegation three cooperation agreements were signed by Basque and Slovenian institutions in the business, industry and energy areas. Some Basque companies that are already present in Slovenia will have the opportunity to enlarge their business in that country.

The President of Slovenia, Milan Kucan accepted Lehendakari Ardanza's invitation and announced his intention of making an official visit to Euskadi in the near future. ■

The President of the first Basque General Council and President of the Socialist party received the highest distinction of the Basque Country

## HISTORIC SOCIALIST RAMON RUBIAL IS AWARDED THE GERNIKA TREE CROSS

The historic socialist leader, Ramón Rubial received from Lehendakari Ardanza the "Gernika Tree Cross", the highest distinction of the Basque Country, last February 17, exactly 20 years after the constitution of the Basque General Council, the pre-autonomic institution that was the embryo of the Basque Government, and that was chaired by Rubial.

During the ceremony, where the members of that first Council were present, Lehendakari Ardanza thanked this "great Basque" for his "dedication and love for the Basque People, and for his defense of democracy and freedom at a time when such defense meant taking a high risk". He also admired "his unyielding resistance and his loyalty towards himself and his ideals, which were both of them very hardly tried during the long years of prison, persecution and secrecy". Before he pinned the medal on his lapel, the Lehendakari ended his speech with a heartfelt "Thank you Ramón Rubial for all you have done for us, and thank you, most of all, for being the way you are".

The 91-year-old socialist veteran born in Erandio, who spent 20 years in prison during Franquism, said some moving words about "the anonymous women and men who helped recover the freedom which was taken from us by the winners of that dammed and cruel civil war". He also stated that the Basque self-government, which came out of that stage, must always be defended. ■



## The Basque Government awards five basque personalities the "Lagun Onari"

The Basque Government has awarded the first "Lagun Onari" prizes in acknowledgment of the work of outstanding Basques who have worked in their professions showing special dedication, determination and enterprise.

In this first edition the Government has awarded the prizes to Juan Arregui, the businessman from Alava, Luis Villasante, linguist and academician, Telmo Zarraonaindia, Zarra, the mythical football player, José María Ormaetxea, who promoted the Mondragón Cooperative, and Jose Angel Sanchez Asiain, who created the BBV.

During a very moving ceremony, Lehendakari José Antonio Ardanza pointed out that all of them have something in common: "they have pro-



From left to right Sanchez Asiain, Ormaetxea, Zarra, Villasante and Arregui listen to the words of praise spoken by the Government spokeswoman, M. Carmen Garmendia.

ved to us that excellence and simplicity, competitiveness and fair play, work and

solidarity, can not only coexist, but they need each other" ■

THE ALAVAN EXPORTERS OPEN A VIRTUAL SHOP

# INTERNET OPENS THE DOORS OF THE MAIN WINE CELLARS OF ALAVAN RIOJA

Sergio Juanena

**E**rrioxako ardoak munduko edozein jantokitan aurki ditzakegu. Eta orain, Interneten bidez, ardo horien ezaugarriak ezagutzeko eta ardoak erosteko aukera dugu.

Those who travel on luxurious Scandinavian ferries or those sitting at picturesque Munich restaurants will see an ample variety of wines from Alavan Rioja in their menus. In the best European, Japanese, American and Canadian markets, the wine cellars of Alavan Rioja are taking the first ranks of demand from hotel business owners and wine experts. Internet offers in its web pages an interesting view of the best known labels that give name to the wines.

The main Basque export group of wines from Rioja –Araex– has opened a virtual shop in Internet, where orders can be placed for vintage wines from all over the world. This interactive establishment informs the users of the net about the qualities of each year, and interesting information about Alava.

The main wine cellars of Alavan Rioja have united in Araex in order to attend trade shows and exhibitions such as Vinexpo in Bordeaux, Selections Mondiales in Canada, and London fairs. This powerful export group has sold last year more than 2.5 million bottles of red wines. These are the Bas-



*Javier Ruiz de Galarreta, director of ARAEX.*

que Wine cellars that can be found since April '98 in the Internet address [www.araex.com](http://www.araex.com): Valserrano, Solagüen, Viña Diezmo, Luis Cañas, Larchago, Don Balbino, Viña Lur, Muriel, Heredad de Baroja,

The Basque company Jet Internet, which is the main supplier of Internet for Spanish companies, has made it possible to design and plan the new virtual shop of Alavan Rioja. The users will find there different stands, information about the seasons, prices and descriptions that will help them chose their purchases, which will reach their homes no matter which part of the planet they live in, with the security protocol called SET.

But independently of this permanent presence of the Basque export group, there are other wine cellars of Alavan Rioja that are becoming increasingly relevant internationally. Such is the case of Faustino Martinez, Campillo, Marqués de Riscal, Martinez Bujanda and Viñedos del Contino.

Javier Ruiz de Galarreta is the managing director of Araex. He combines his management duties with constant trips to different European countries and to the Far East. "The wines from Rioja are some of the best in Europe. They are made according to very strict techniques and they are far better than many other traditional wines", explains the promoter of Araex.



*The 1997 vintage of Alava Rioja is excellent both in quality and quantity.*

### CHILLIDA AND RIOJA WINE

Some weeks ago Ruiz de Galarreta visited Helsinki and Stockholm with the prestigious cook José Miguel Urdangarín, in order to make a gastronomic demonstration of Basque cuisine. The north European cooks warmly received the culinary suggestions, and also the wines from Rioja. Several of these culinary experts visited Vitoria-Gasteiz and were shown in detail different aspects of the capital of Euskadi.

The Council of Rioja offered recently sculptor Eduardo Chillida a ceremony in his honor, and he chaired in Sweden the presentation of his work next to a stand with Alava Rioja wines of different vintages.

According to the Consejo Regulador de Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja (the council regulating the label Rioja), the sales of these wines have increased during 1997 by 15.11%, reaching the amount of 205.2 million liters. This is due to the constant impro-

vement of the quality of image, to a good marketing policy and to the abundance and good quality of the latest grape harvests.

The Germans are the citizens who consume a higher number of bottles of Rioja wine, followed by the British, Swedes, Danish, Swiss, Dutch, Americans, Norwegians, French and Japanese. According to Javier Ruiz de Galarreta, "the Euskal Etxeak spread all over the world are one of our best calling cards, for nobody doubts that their members are excellent wine and food tasters".

The director of Araex agrees with the president of the Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja, Angel de Jaime Baró, who says that the good results of Rioja wines in international markets are due to "the excellent microclimate existing in this region of the north of the Iberian Peninsula, to the unique process of elaboration and to the special conditions of the soil of its lands".

"The new shop we have opened in Internet is an excellent way of visiting our wine cellars of Alava Rioja –explains Ruiz de Galarreta– we trust that it will help us not only comply with the increasing demand of our wines, but also give men and women interested in wine all over the world the chance to compare and get to know new products". ■



*The main wine cellars from Alava Rioja are present in all the international markets.*

# BASQUE INDUSTRY IN LATIN AMERICA

Adapting to the new international market does not mean increasing the rate of exports, but achieving a deep knowledge of the foreign market and entering it as a natural market. The times of mere trade relations and sporadic exports of the eighties are finished.

When Basque industries are established in countries belonging to the European Union, it creates economic activity in the inner market, just as it does in any region of the Spanish State. Therefore, the challenge of the Basques is to choose raising countries from Latin America and Southeastern Asia, as well as the United States and Canada. Basque businessmen are determined to create economic activity on their own or with a local partner, provided there is profit for all parties.

During the last few years there has been an important increase of activity in Latin America, which has become a preferential area for Basque industry. The internationalization of Basque industry in this part of the world has had such a development thanks to the Foreign Action Cooperation Institutes existing in Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Venezuela, and also thanks to the net of SPRI agents established in Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Brazil and Cuba (the last two have been named recently).

The SPRI, Society for the Industrial Promotion and Rationalization, a public enterprise depending on the Industry, Farming and Fishing Department of the Basque Government, started in 1994 the internationalization activities in Latin America, when 4 investment projects proved successful. These four were followed by the other six achieved in 1995, the fifteen of 1996, the 28 of last year, and the 40 that are estimated for this year.

The most intense relations have been held with Argentina, Brazil,



*Gamesa is one of the Basque companies established in America*

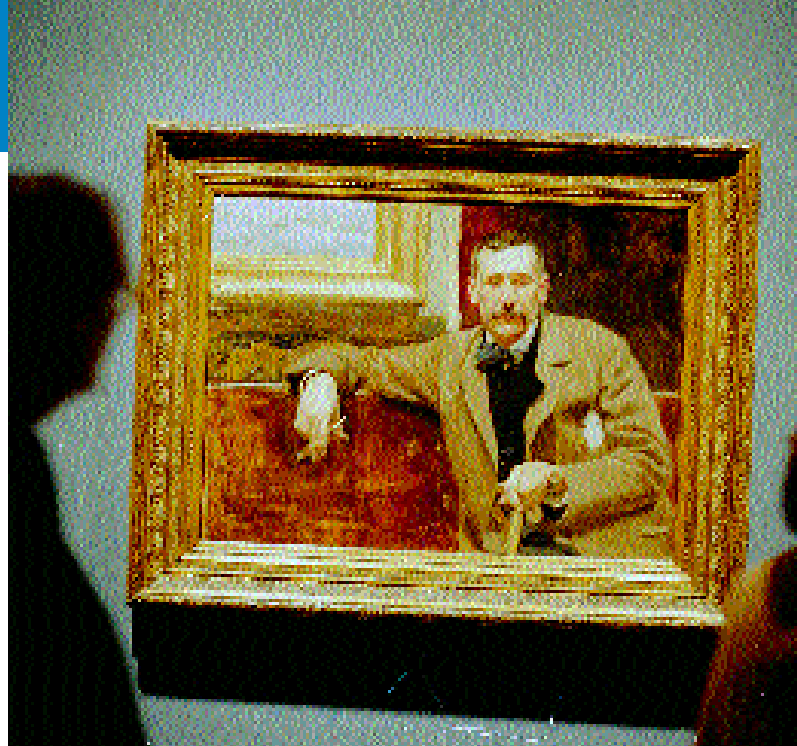
Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay, with very different projects, such as strategic alliances, industrial implantation or large facilities. The sectors of international activity accurately reflect the Basque industrial specialties, especially business equipment, ironworks, machine tools, aeronautics, energy, telecommunications, home electrical appliances, etc.

This year SPRI plans to promote strategic alliances between small and medium-sized Basque and Latin American companies. They expect to create about 30 alliances, which will increase the sales by 15 million dollars. This will pave the way for the direct establishment of Basque companies in this side of the American continent. During this year 5 companies are expected to create new factories in America.

In the subject of foreign investments in Euskadi there have been no positive results until the moment, but maybe some agreements will be reached this year. ■

## Basque economy surpasses all the forecasts

Last year-end figures have surpassed all the forecasts done by the Basque Government and by other economic institutions. According to the latest provisional data of EUSTAT (Basque Institute of Statistics), in 1997 the Basque GNP has increased by 4.2%, the biggest increase since 1989, and nearly one point above that of Spain (3.4). This improvement is due to the good behavior of industrial activity and exports during last quarter, especially in December. The Basque Government expects a growth of 3.8% for 1998. ■



## BILBAO WELCOMES THE ONLY JOINT EXHIBITION OF SOROLLA AND ZULOAGA

This is the first time a museum, the Fine Arts Museum of Bilbao, has received a joint exhibition of painters Sorolla and Zuloaga. This exhibition shows two opposing esthetic visions of late 19th century: one belonging to the black and pessimistic Spain of the '98 generation, that of Zuloaga, and the other more vital one of the regenerative artists, that of Sorolla. This way the dream of both artists of showing their works together has finally come true. Their wish could not be gratified during their lifetime, in spite of the efforts done at the beginning of the century by the Hispanic Society of

America, who tried to show their paintings in their New York headquarters.

The paintings, different from those shown usually in other exhibitions, came from about thirty national and international museums such as el Prado, the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, D'orsay in Paris, the New York Metropolitan and the Berlin National Gallery, among others.

Francisco Calvo Serraller was the commissioner of the exhibition that followed the artistic paths of both painters during the years when their careers intersected, so as to show the

opposing paths they followed. However the selected works also show the similarities in style which united Sorolla, the artist from Valencia, and Basque Zuloaga. There are even some paintings from Sorolla that seem to have been painted by Zuloaga and vice versa.

This extraordinary exhibition has attracted the interest of the public for 130,000 people have visited it. This figure is a historic record for the museum, an unprecedented success, and it had to last longer than initially planned. Moreover, a second edition of the catalogue had to be printed. ■

### LITERATURE IN EUSKERA CROSSES THE FRONTIERS

The literature in Euskera in going through one of its best moments and it has crossed its own frontiers when several works from prestigious Basque writers are being translated to many languages. The last example was that of Ramon Saizarbitoria, a very admired author in the world of Basque literature, whose latest novel, "Hamaika pauso" has been translated into Spa-

nish under the title "Pasos Incontables" (Countless Steps) and published by Espasa. This work, which was awarded in 1995 the Prize of the Critics, and which is considered by many experts the best Basque novel of history together with "Obabakoak" by Bernardo Atxaga, describes the last days of one of the last condemned to death under Franco's dictatorship. Saizarbi-

toria engrosses this way the list of Basque writers that have been translated to other languages. Atxaga, whose works "Obabakoak", winner of the National Prize of Literature in 1989, "Those skies" and "A Man Alone" have also been translated, is also on the list, and so are "Otto Pette" by Angel Lertxundi and the Children's tales by Mariasun Landa. ■

## CHILLIDA AND OTEIZA HUG EACH OTHER, ENDING THIRTY YEARS OF ENMITY

Zabalaga caserío, in Hernani, Gipuzkoa witnessed the historic hug of the two most representative Basque sculptors.

Jorge Oteiza, 85, born in Orío, and Eduardo Chillida, 75, born in Donostia closed in that fashion long years of personal confrontation caused by their different ways of understanding art and life.

Oteiza went to Zabalaga, a 16th century caserío that hosts the so-called Chillida space, and in the company of Chillida he admired the sculptures exhibited there. The meeting was warm, they talked as two old friends that share lots of things and, finally, under the shadow of the work "Basarkada", they exchanged a brotherly embrace.

At the end of the visit both artists signed an agreement stating that "regardless of our differences there will always be a space and a time for peace". ■



## Philosopher Javier Echeverría Awarded the Euskadi Prize for Research

The Basque Government awarded Javier Echeverría Ezponda, the philosopher and mathematician born in Pamplona, the Euskadi Prize for Research '97. This time the prize has been given to an active Basque scientist.

Echeverría, whose parents emigrated from Navarre to Mexico, has deve-

loped his research in different European and American cities, and he is at present a research professor in the Philosophy Institute of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (superior council of scientific research) in Madrid. He is also the most important professor of Logic and Science Philosophy of the whole State. He has done many studies on the social and home consequences of the new technologies, and he is the author of "Telepolis" and "Domestic Cosmopolitans", which won the Anagrama Prize for Essays.

On receiving the award, endowed in this second edition with 6 million pesetas, Echeverría underlined the importance of the philosophers' contribution to science and progress. "Considering that to research is to make a better present, reconstruct the past and design the future, philosophy can contribute to progress on its own". The philosopher spoke in favor of plurality and cultural intermingling, and stated that all sciences depend on one another, and therefore, he renewed his engagement with "the development of institutions for philosophic, scientific and technologic research to keep promoting the progress of Euskadi and safeguarding interdependence, plurality and cooperation". ■

## Oscar did not reach Euskadi

It could not be. Montxo Armendariz, the director from Navarre, and his team almost touched with the tips of their fingers the Oscar of the Hollywood Academy for the best film not spoken in English with "Secrets from the Heart", but finally they did not get it. And the world lost the chance to hear the grateful words in Euskera. However this won't stop the film from continuing its triumphant march, maybe even in the United States, after having been awarded the Blue Angel Prize for the best foreign film by the European Academy in the Berlin Festival, several Goya prizes in Spain and the Prize of the Public in Chicago.

"Secrets from the heart", produced by Basque director Imanol Uribe and by the Basque Government has already conquered the hearts of thousands and thousands of spectators, and that is no small feat. ■



Basque aid takes an electric equipment to the poorest region in Colombia

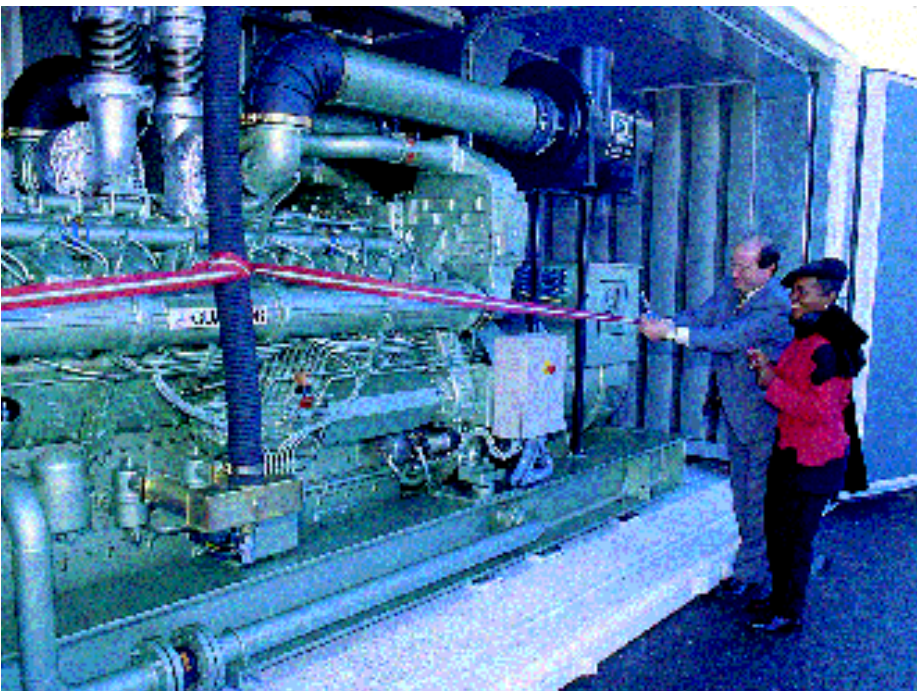
## UNGIA, THE LIGHT IS HERE

Ungía, a small village in the Colombian region of El Chocó, one of the poorest in the country, has now electricity thanks to a cooperation project launched by the Secretary of Foreign Action of the Basque Government, and with the collaboration of the Basque Energy Institute and the Basque company Guascor. Several months ago the whole population of Ungía and its region, about 15,000 people, started to get electricity in their homes, something that only 30% of the population had until they received the electric generation platform given by the Basque institutions.

The platform consists of a Diesel electrogenic group of 800 kw, integrated in a sound-proof cabin built, installed and started by Guascor company. The generation group is a tropical plat-

form, which means it has been adapted physically and technically to the surroundings where it is going to work. The platform can also work with other platforms, and in case the needs changed, it could be moved to another place.

In this occasion the aid from the Basque Country has reached one of the 20 villages of the poorest region in Colombia. Ungía has an extension of 1,990 square kilometers and it is located in an area where great mountain chains are followed by tropical jungles of difficult access, and flanked by huge rivers. These geographical conditions make it difficult to extend the transport and energy nets to the whole region. The population of the region is about 15,000 people, and half of them are farmers. ■



An electric generation platform manufactured by the Basque Company Guascor will take electricity to the homes in el Chocó.



A basque plan against drugs reaches more than a hundred thousand latin american children

More than a hundred thousand Latin American children aged between 8 and 11 are taking part in a program to prevent drug consumption. The Basque non-governmental organization Edex has promoted this program with the support of the Basque Government, the Central Government and the European Union. This same program was launched in 1989 in Basque schools.

At present the program "The Adventure of Life" is working in Ecuador, Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia and Argentina. And some other countries such as Panama and Chile are interested in including it in their school programs. The aim of the project is to help children learn to live without drugs and therefore their families and their surroundings have an important role to play in it. ■

## Young Basque Government Scholarship holders work all over the world as UNESCO volunteers

The Basque Government has granted scholarships to ten young Basques who will work as volunteers in several cooperation projects UNESCO is undertaking in different American and Asian countries. The project is the result of a cooperation agreement signed between this United Nations Organization, which deals with Education, Science and Culture, and the Basque Government. It will enable these young Basques to work at the UNESCO offices in the fields of communication, environment protection, and cultural promotion, as well as in humanitarian assistance.

The first group of young people, seven women and three men, have already gone to their destinations. This time they are going to Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Pakistan. The Basque Government has given each volunteer a grant for a total amount of 2 million pesetas for the whole year.

The contracts of the scholarship holders were signed in Paris by the Gene-



ral Director of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, and by the Vicelehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe. During the ceremony Mayor Zaragoza promised he would personally make sure "that this first batch is successful in substituting a little by a little the seeds of hate, confrontation and intolerance by those of understanding and love". The Basque Vicelehendakari on his side pointed out that in this project "Euskadi is offering the world the best trained youth of all our history, which is our biggest asset".

The scholarships granted by the Government in Vitoria are only a part

of an ambitious program of cooperation for development and aid of the poorest countries. This program is sponsored by the Basque institutions, which will set aside 4.5 billion pesetas -0.7% of their budget- this year for this purpose. One of the priorities of this program is precisely to promote the integration of young Basques in humanitarian aid projects organized by United Nations organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, ACNUR or PNUD. 200 people have already received these scholarships, and 25 of them will be working in international institutions. ■

## EUSKADI ENGAGED ITS WORD WITH



*In the picture, folk group Adivasi, from Gujerat (India) that enchanted the audience during the conference exhibiting the traditional folklore of their land.*

The Basque capitals witnessed in February a Conference of Solidarity with Asia, organized by the Basque Government, where prestigious speakers described the present problems of this Continent.

These were some of the Conference guests: the King, Lama Thubten Wanchen, director of the Tibet House in Barcelona, D. Khaled Salem, Arab press correspondent and university professor, and Monsignor Belo, who won the '96 Nobel Prize together with José Ramos Horta, for his work in East Timor in defense of the self-determination right of this little country invaded by Indonesia. ■



# Athletic Club

## A CENTURY IN SOCCER

Pedro Mari Goikoetxea

**B**izkaitar guztiak bihotzean daramaten Athletic taldeak dagoeneko ehun urte bete ditu. Ospakizunak handiak izango dira, baina dudarik gabe, iraganean izandako lorpen bikainak errepikatzea litzateke ospakizunik handiena.

Bilbao, a city open to the world through the sea, kept at the end of 19th century close trade and industrial relations with Britain. Therefore, there was an important British colony in the Bizkaian capital, and at the same time, many young Basques studied in Britain. This exchanges enabled the young men from Bilbao to discover "foot-ball", a game that soon found success in a society where the only entertainment was the Euskalduna pelota court, the Campos Eliseos, the Teatro Circo del Ensanche and the popular "Salón Olímpia".



*Official poster of the centennial, painted by Basque artist Iñaki García Er-güin.*

The young boys were thrilled by this new "sport", and according to the chronicles of the time, they were brave enough to challenge a group of British. The match took place on May 3 1894,

and during the half time break the British offered the Bilbao players roast chicken, we suppose wine was included too. We don't know for sure whether that was just a display of courtesy or rather strategy (it seems they were well aware of our weaknesses). Anyway, the match was just a walkover for the inventors of "foot-ball", who won 6-0. In spite of the crushing defeat, the players did not lose heart, and the seeds of this sport found fertile soil in this land. From that moment in the circles of the Café García and in the meetings of the Sociedad Gimnástica Zamacois, the idea of creating a team like the British ones started to take form. Juan Astorkia, a "sportsman" born in Bilbao and trained in Manchester, was the main promoter of this project, and he became a player and captain of the ATHLETIC.

As rivalry is essential in this sport, three teams were created in Bilbao: the ATHLETIC, the BILBAO F.C. and THE UNION. Although the first directing board of the ATHLETIC was not organized until June 11 1901, during the first board meeting year 1898 was considered the real date of



*The city does not forget the Centennial of its team.*

the foundation of the club. Surely those keen followers of the “big ball” could hardly imagine that the ATHLETIC CLUB DE BILBAO would reach the social support and the extraordinary list of victories it has achieved during this century.

## A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

For lack of official competitions, the city teams played matches full of rivalry until in 1902 the ATHLETIC and the BILBAO decided to join their efforts in order to take part in national and international competitions. That was the beginning of the team BIZKAYA, which played this same year in May in Madrid, in a tournament organized to celebrate the coronation of King Alfonso XIII. The BIZKAYA defeated 5-1 the ESPAÑOL, 8-1 the Madrid NEW F.C. and 2-1 the BARCELONA, and so won the much coveted trophy. This was the opening of a long series of successes.

In 1903, and under the name ATHLETIC, once the BILBAO disappeared completely, they won the first official Cup. Many others came afterwards, up to 23. That is why there was

a time when people said that the final of the Cup was fought always between the ATHLETIC and another club. In this sense, as the poet said, “all times past were better”.

Apart from the mentioned 23 Cups, there were 8 league titles, and the team became the fourth of the Spanish soccer, after REAL MADRID, BARCELONA, and their subsidiary team, ATLETICO DE MADRID. They have not yet won a continental title, although they very nearly got it in 1977. That year, which was one of the most brilliant in the history of ATHLETIC, was also paradoxically the season with worst luck anyone remembers. After reaching a third position in the league, the Bilbao team reached the final of UEFA, but they were defeated by the Turin JUVENTUS, which was practically the Italian selection at the time. Moreover the defeat took place for the double of the goals in the contrary field in case of tie (1-0 and 2-1).

The ATHLETIC meant to make it up in a new Cup final, but the BETIS finally won the trophy after 120 minutes of match and after no less than 20 penalty kicks.

Fortunately the eighties started much better; there was the League Championship won in 1983, after 27 long years of drought in this competition. Next season was even better, for the “Lyons” won both the Cup and the League. When they came back they were received in due fashion. The “gabarra” sailed along the river to celebrate their success, and hundreds of thousands of supporters filled the riverbanks with red and white. It was an unforgettable scene and one that will be difficult to witness again.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Although the “gabarra” is anchored, the red and whites have reasons to celebrate. Few entities reach their first century showing pride in their pasts, keeping their identity signals and in good health.

The celebrations of the centennial started months ago, at the beginning of the new soccer season. However the most important acts are still to come. On April 25, the famous Italian tenor Luciano PAVAROTTI will perform in San



Mamés. At the beginning of May more than 330 groups of supporters of the ATHLETIC spread all over Spain, including the cybernetic group created through Internet, will celebrate a very special Congress in the Bizkaian capital.

On the last day of May the Brazilian selection, four times world champion, will play against ATHLETIC. This will be the first time they play against a club.

The Rolling Stones will be here in June, and there will also be many festivals, exhibitions, gigs, etc. To sum up, many acts of different descriptions, tastes, ideologies and sectors will unite to celebrate one common feeling: ATHLETIC.

To win a title would have doubtlessly been the best ending for the centennial. That is why, since the beginning of the season, lots of efforts have been placed in the direction of the King's Cup. The Bilbao players wanted to re-nact their love affair with that competition that has traditionally been favora-

ble to their interests. However the Mallorca eliminated them in quarterfinals, which was a big disappointment for the club and its supporters.

The ATHLETIC team hopes at least to have the Spanish Federation acknowledge the 1902 Coronation Trophy as the first official Cup. In that case the red and whites would have a total of 24 cups, and they would still be the Cup kings.

#### PRESENT AND FUTURE

For the last few years ATHLETIC and its city, Bilbao, are following similar paths. After overcoming a period of crisis they are busy laying the foundations of a hopeful future.

The club from Bilbao has at present a solid infrastructure. On one hand the Lezama facilities, built during the seventies, to provide both a training pitch

and a soccer school. These sport facilities, which are similar to those of a High Performance Center, are very well equipped, both from the point of view of staff and equipment.

On the other hand, we should mention the deep-rooted loyalty the club has found in the Bizkaian society, which provides an ample and faithful social support.

However, from the point of view of sport, ATHLETIC is not going through one of its best moments. For the last 13 years the club has been far for a Cup final, which is its favorite tournament. Lately the only available aim seems to be to reach a good classification in the league so as to take part in continental competitions.

The Bosman Law, which allows the free circulation of European soccer players, and the increasing number of foreign players in the Spanish League, have substantially raised the level of the rival teams. Doubtlessly, this makes it more difficult for a club that still boasts the unique feature of admitting only Basque players. This tradition, which some find admirable and others impossible to understand in a world that has become so mercantile, is a serious handicap for the ATHLETIC club, although it was described by the prestigious French newspaper L'EQUIPE as "a unique case in the soccer world".

The red and white club has two main objectives for this new century: the first one, which according to the managing board cannot be delayed any more, is the building of the new San Mamés, a bigger, more comfortable and modern stadium.

The second one, as important as the first one, is to improve the performance of the team. In the Europe that is being created a little by a little, it does not seem preposterous to foresee that the state championships may gradually give way to other competitions of a higher level. The Athletic club must take that direction, for the resources provided by a community of scarcely 3 million people, and with other clubs, is necessarily limited. Possibly the club from Bilbao will decide to open its doors to the Basque players of the Diaspora in the near future. ■

# Tuna with Peppers

A recipe by José Castillo

## INGREDIENTS

for six people

6 tuna slices of about 250 grams each  
 2 red sweet peppers  
 30 small green peppers  
 8 garlic cloves  
 oil and salt

## INSTRUCTIONS

Roast the two red sweet peppers, remove peel and pips, and cut into pieces.

Pour six oil spoonfuls into a pan and fry two garlic cloves. When they are soft add the peppers and fry for 5 minutes. Pour the contents of the pan into a mixer with two spoonfuls of cold water. Mix and put the resulting sauce aside.

Fry the green peppers in very hot oil, put them on a plate and add salt after they are fried.

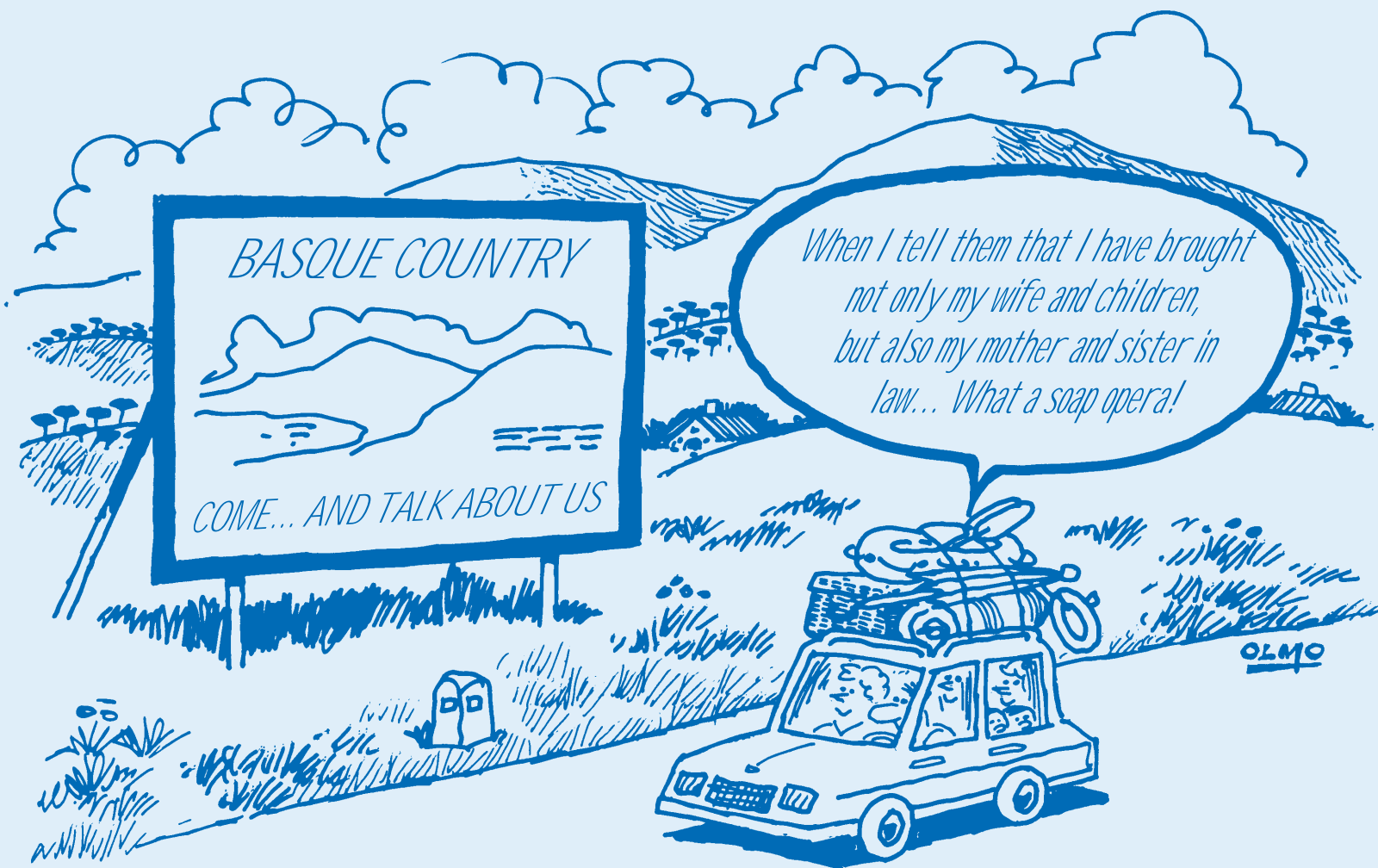
Place a clean old pan on the gas cooker, when very hot salt the tuna slices and rub them with new oil with the hands. Put them in the pan two at a time, and brown them in both sides (the tuna should be rare inside). Place them on a platter.

Afterwards place a pan on the cooker with 6 oil spoonfuls and 6 garlic cloves; when the garlic cloves are golden and soft take them out and put them on a plate. Put the oil on an earthenware saucepan. Put it on the fire. When the oil is hot, place the tuna slices side by side on the saucepan. After two minutes turn the



slices over and move the pan for about another two minutes. Pour the pepper sauce in the spaces between the slices and in the borders of the pan. Put the fried green peppers

around the pan and a fried garlic clove on each slice. Let it simmer for two more minutes, then put aside and cover for a little while so that it rests before serving. ■



## **“COME AND TALK ABOUT US WITH HUMOR”**

Euskadi's intense tourist promotion campaign known for its catching slogan "Come and talk about us" presents a real image of the Basque Country, a land full of contrasts, nice and welcoming people... and with a keen sense of humor. That is why the most prestigious humorists have been asked to tell us how they see us Basques. In this issue we offer humorist Olmo's funny vignette.