



euskal etxeak



N.º 43 Year 1999



The Acknowledgement of Euskadi Purpose of the 2nd Congress of Basque Communities



Somarrriba
won
Giro'99

The Lehendakari visited
Argentina and Uruguay

"EUSKAL ETXEAK"

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Bake, elkartasun eta justiziaren mendea

Bakea. Hori da egun hauetan elkarri opa egiten dioguna, Gabonetako espiri-tuz beterik. Baina aurten, bakea ez da nahi hutsa izan eta benetan gauzatu daitekeen zerbait bihurtu da. 2000. urte famatua hastear dagoenean eta milurteko berria aurrez aurre dugunean, gure ametsak gauzatzeko aukera dugu. Azkenaldiko historian, ez dugu inoiz bakea hain gertu eduki. Horregatik, gure aurrean dugun ikuspegia inoiz baino itxaropentsuagoa da, gairitu beharreko zailtasun eta sofrimenduak handiak badira ere.

Azken urtea, nahiz eta gogorra izan, itxaropenez beterik azaldu zaigu. Suetenaren urtea, hildakorik gabeko urtea izan da. Ez da urte erraza izan; zoritxarrez, zailtasunak, oztopoak eta sofrimenduak daude oraindik ere. Baina ezin dugu perspektibarik galdu, ez gara ezezkortasunean eta etsipenean galdu behar. Gaur, inoiz baino gehiago, ezinbestekoa da itxaropena berreskuratzea eta hainbeste nahi dugun bakea lortzeko helburuz, ilusio, baikortasun eta gogoz lan egitea.

2000. urtean behin betirako bakea, guztiontzako bake justua lortu eta sendotzeko gai izan behar dugu. Guztion artean eraiki behar dugun gizartean, bakean bizitzea lortu behar dugu, gure desberdintasun guztiak errespetatuz. Bai, ziur naiz Euskadin eta, oro har, Espainia osoan bakea oso gertu daukagula. XX. mendea ankerkeriaz beterik egon da eta, bukatzeaz dagoenean, konponezin ziruditen gatazka guztiz konplikatuetan, bakea lortzeko garrantzizko urratsak eman dira, azkenaldi itxaropentsu honetan. Irlanda edo Israel bezalako herrietan, poliki poliki, pazientzia handiz eta, batez ere, borondate handiz, bake prozesuak finkatzen ari dira. Horregatik, orrialde hauetan baikor azaldu nahi dut. Nire ustez, XXI. mendea, bakearen mendea izango da mundu osoan. Gainera, bakearekin batera, garrantzi bera duten baloreak zabalduko dira. XX. mendean ezaugarri batzuk oso positiboak izan dira: edonolako teknologi aurrerakuntzak hedatu dira, gizartearen atal handiek kultura eta heziketa lortzeko aukera izan dute, gero eta berdintasun handiagoa egon da, emakumeen iraultza burutu da; baina, zoritxarrez, gerrak, pobrezia, gosea eta lehenengo eta hirugarren munduen arteko desberdintasunak ere nagusi izan dira. Eta azken hauek desagertarazi behar ditugu. Benetan espero dut, denon artean, XXI. mendean elkartasuna eta desberdintasun guztien errespetua ezaugarritzat dituen mundu bat ekarriko digula; bertan, herritar guztiok, arraza, kultura, sexu edo jatorria kontuan hartu gabe, duintasun osoz elkarrekin bizitzeko aukera izan dezagun. Azken batean, miseria, gose, gerra eta pertsekuziorik gabeko mende bat izango delakoan nago. Eta ziur naiz ere, mundu horretan, aberastasunak hobeto banatzeaz gain, berdintasun, elkartasun, justizia eta ongizate guztiontzako errealitatea izango direla. ■



JUAN JOSE IBARRETXE

EUSKO JAURLARITZAKO LEHENDAKARIA / LEHENDAKARI OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT.

A century for peace, solidarity and justice

Peace. This is our wish for one another these days full of Christmas spirit. But this year peace is not merely a wish any more, it could become a reality at last. About to enter emblematic year 2000 at the threshold of the new millennium, our dreams have a great chance of becoming true. We had never in our recent history been so close to peace. Therefore the landscape opening up before us is more hopeful than ever, in spite of all the difficulties and suffering we still have to overcome.

We have gone through a difficult year, though it has also been a very encouraging one, a year of cease-fire and a year with no casualties. It has not been an easy year, the difficulties, the setbacks and suffering unfortunately still prevail. But we cannot lose perspective and give way to pessimism and discouragement. Today it is more important than ever for us to recover hope and work tirelessly with hope and optimism in order to achieve the peace we long for so much.

Year 2000 must be the year in which we manage to achieve and consolidate lasting peace, a peace that must be fair for all. We must be able to work all together to build a society where it is possible to live in peace respecting our differences. I am absolutely certain that peace is very close in Euskadi and in the whole of Spain. The twentieth century has been especially gory, however practically at the end of it some very complex troubles that seemed to have no solution have entered a very hopeful phase, with important steps towards lasting peace. Countries such as Ireland or Israel are consolidating their own peace processes step by step, with lots of patience and most of all with tireless determination. That is why I am optimistic. I believe the Twenty-first Century will be the century of peace in the world. And peace will bring about other values that are just as important. The Twentieth Century has witnessed all kinds of technological advances, access to culture and education for most of society, more equality and the women's revolution. But unfortunately it has also featured wars, poverty, famine and the differences between the first and third worlds. Those are things we have to banish. I hope we can work all together to make the Twenty-first Century a mutually sharing time span, respectful of the differences, where all citizens regardless of race, culture, sex or origin can live together with dignity. A century without extreme poverty, famine, wars or persecutions. A world where riches is redistributed, a more equal, just and sharing world where welfare reaches everyone. ■



THE DIASPORA WILL HELP MAKE EUSKADI KNOWN IN THE WORLD

Concha Dorronsoro

During the last fortnight of October Euskadi became the meeting place for nearly a hundred Basques from all over the world, which had been summoned by the Presidency of the Basque Government and came to take part in the 2nd Congress of Basque Communities.

75 people attended this reunion representing all 150 Euskal Etxeak spread all over the world, as well as the different Institutes and Foundations created in Argentina, Chile, the United States, Mexico and Venezuela. This was the second occasion the Basques from inside and outside Euskadi had of getting together in order to discuss the future and design a plan including the main policies of the Government in relation with the Basque communities abroad, for the next four years. As established by the Law of Basque Communities, passed in 1994 –the year the first Congress was celebrated– a Congress with the Diaspora shall be organized every four years.

As usual, during the days before the Congress, the representatives of the Basque centers visited some of the most symbolic sites of the Basque Country,

such as the Casa de Juntas in Gernika or the Loyola Basilica. They also met the representatives of the Basque institutions, such as the President of the Autonomous Parliament, the General Deputies of the three historic territories and the majors of the three Basque capitals. Moreover, the delegates from abroad held meetings with the directors of the Basque Technological Parks and of the Mondragón cooperative group, the first Basque industrial group. They also visited the main cultural infrastructures of the country: the Guggenheim Museum and Euskalduna Palace in Bilbao and the Kursaal in San Sebastián.

- **Euskal exiliatuak hartu zituzten nazioei omenaldi bat egin zitzaien.**

A GREAT INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The actual Congress of Basque Communities started on October 26th with an opening ceremony that took place at the headquarters of the Presidency (Lehendakaritza) in Vitoria, where the Congress was held. All the social institutions were present in the ceremony: representatives of the political parties, institutions, unions, business associations, the University, the culture, arts and media attended the celebration.

The central atrium of Lehendakaritza hosted over 500 people gathered to welcome the representatives of the Basque communities abroad, which were the guests of honor of the evening. Flanked by the guards of honor of the Ertzaintza and accompanied by its music band, they were received one by one by the Lehendakari, Juan José Ibarretxe, and by the directors of the Secretary of Foreign Action, who organized the Congress. Afterwards an act –broadcast by the international channel of ETB and followed by many Basques living abroad– took place, with moving moments, such as the award of the Lagun Ona Distinction to Professor

William Douglass, and the most important speeches.

Xabier Leizaola, President of the Venezuelan-Basque Institute "Eguzki" was the first speaker. In the name of all delegates from abroad he spoke of the wonderful opportunity offered by the Congress of turning the "painful event" of the 60th anniversary of many Basques' exile into a joyous celebration and homage to the countries which welcomed at the time more than 200,000 Basques.

He remembered some illustrious names such as the Ustariz Marquis, protector of Simon Bolivar during his stay in Spain, Saint Francisco Javier, Father Francisco de Vitoria, who worked in favor of autochthonous peoples, or Archbishop Juan de Zumárraga, who introduced printing in Mexico. Then Xabier Leizaola urged the attendants to keep alive the flame of the human ideals of justice, freedom and solidarity. "We Basques are not –he pointed out– land conquerors, but we do try to conquer minds with a sense of human dignity and solidarity".

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EUSKADI IN THE WORLD

Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe's speech was especially moving. He underlined the historical importance of the Congress "for our relations for the next century are going to be prepared here –he explained–. Therefore we are facing the huge responsibility of designing the guidelines of our relations for the next four years".

Then the Lehendakari listed the greatest challenges Euskadi will have to overcome as a people, and he pointed out that the role of the Basque communities abroad will be crucial in the process. According to Ibarretxe the first of the challenges is to go from the knowledge of Basque reality to the progressive international acknowledgement of the Basques as a people. "An acknowledgement –he explained– not only of our history and past features, but also of our knowledge, our technological advances,



- «Gure garapenari esker herri bat garela erakutsi behar dugu».



our productive quality and competence". The Lehendakari pointed out to the attendants the need to create international networks both in the economic sector and in relation to political supports through the worldwide association of Basque businessmen and the international association of friends of the Basques. This is in his opinion the second challenge we are facing.

In the third place he referred to the youth question as a common challenge for both Euskadi and all the Basque centers. "Basque population –Ibarretxe said– is growing older and, therefore, our future depends on our younger



- **Douglassek “Lagun Ona” domina jaso zuen bere bizitzan euskaldunen alde egin duen lanagatik.**



Before the Congress the delegates visited, among other places, the Casa de Juntas in Gernika, the Basque Parliament and the City Hall of Bilbao.

generations. We must teach them the values of our ancestors and prepare them to lead in the near future. We have a strong advantage to help us overcome this challenge: the fact that our young generations are better trained than ever before in our history.

At the end of his speech, Lehendakari Ibarretxe talked about solidarity as the fourth and last challenge. He declared that Euskadi should be known in the world not because of the tensions it generates, but “as a small nation with a great calling to lead international solidarity and peace”. “We should prove –he ended– that although we are small, we have our own responsibility both concerning ourselves and the rest of the world”. ■



- **JOSU GARRIZ (México):** «We have to take advantage of the Gaztemundu Program to give way to the young generations in the management boards».
- **LUIS BASAURI (Chile):** «The generation of new centers should be spontaneous».
- **MARIA RUIZ DE ZARATE (Cuba):** «The celebration of Aberri Eguna should be promoted, especially among the young people».
- **IZASKUN SALSIDUA (United Kingdom):** «Each situation should be assessed individually. All centers do not require the same aids».
- **RAMON J. AROZARENA (Argentina):** «We should know what the Basque Government expects from the Basque Centers».
- **BEGOÑA CHAVARRI (Puerto Rico):** «Promoting tourism could be one of the functions of the Basque centers».
- **CARLOS SOSA (Argentina):** «If anybody is thinking of creating a Basque center because there is money, it will only bring about the reduction of the aids for the rest of the centers».
- **EMILIA DOYAGA (United States):** «We dream of the day when an International Center of Basque Culture is built in New York».
- **JOSÉ FELIX OLAIZOLA (Dominican Republic):** «The Basque center should be seen as a company: either it is financially independent or it goes under».
- **FRANCISCO J. GOGENOLA (Argentina):** «In order to know the situation of all Basque centers of the world a financial examination should be organized».

OUR FRIEND DOUGLASS

Professor William Douglass, anthropologist from Nevada University and a true expert on Basque subjects, which he has studied for many years, received the Lagun Ona Distinction during one of the most moving moments of the opening evening. Because of his dedication for the Basque people, the Lehendakari gave him the "Lagun Ona" (good friend) distinction, which is one of the most important awarded by the Government of Euskadi. The presidents of Chile and Uruguay, Eduardo Frei and Julio Sanguinetti are the only other two people who share with the professor this distinction.

William Douglass has developed his entire professional career at the University of Nevada. He began as assistant teacher of anthropology and from 1981 on he has been a professor in the Basque Studies Program. His first field works on Basque subjects took him to live during the early sixties, for three years, in villages in Bizkaia and Navarre. He has written many anthropological essays, but his most important work is certainly *Amerikanuak*, published in 1975 after a very hard research work, which had started eight years before. The Basque historian Jon Bilbao helped him with this important research.



After some brief words of gratitude and after mentioning all the people who helped him in any way to pursue his career, Professor Douglass, a veteran in this kind of congress, delivered a speech during which he described some of the achievements that the 1st Congress, which was celebrated four years ago, made possible. He also outlined some ideas to consolidate these achievements. Douglass spoke in favor of a common Diaspora policy with the collaboration of Navarre and certain institutions in Iparralde "for until now –he stated– the Basque Government has made most of the efforts, especially in the financial field". He also spoke in favor of promoting Basque self-awareness among the different communities of the Diaspora "I mean, –he explained– an orientation of the Basques living abroad towards the Mother Land, both in the case of the immigrants and in that of the descendants of old Basque colonies". ■



Professor William Douglass was deeply grateful for the "lagun Onari" award.

THE PERIOD TO PARTICIPATE IN GAZTEMUNDU 2000 IS OPEN

The General Secretary of Foreign Action has already sent the bases to participate in the program GAZTEMUNDU 2000 to all Euskal Etxeak in America and Australia. The applications must be sent before February 15th to the following e-mail: Benan-Oregi@ej-gv.es

The purpose of Gaztemundu is to give the young generations of the Basque communities the chance to have a direct knowledge of the Basque Country, to enable them to contact organizations, companies and people who work in Euskadi, and to promote contact platforms among the young Basques from inside and outside of Euskal Herria. ■

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT

IÑAKI AGUIRRE: " WE MUST CONTINUE DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF THE EUSKAL ETXEAK "

Since last July the General Secretary of Foreign Action of the Basque Government is headed by Iñaki Aguirre, a Basque born in Antwerp (Belgium) 42 years ago, who lives in Euskadi since 1990. Although his responsibilities at the head of the foreign Secretary are recent, he is very experienced in the field of foreign relations, for he was until very recently the director of relations with Basque communities, not to mention his previous work at the European Parliament. Aguirre will replace Andoni Ortuzar, who is at present devoted to radio and television (he is the General Manager of Basque Public Radio and Television).

Question: You come from the previous team inside the Secretary of Foreign Action. Does this mean that we should not expect many changes?

Iñaki Aguirre: That's right. I would like to continue the last few years' efforts, which have contributed to consolidate the actions undertaken abroad by the Government.



Q.- In regard to the Basque centers, which are the main operation outlines in relation to the Basque communities abroad?

I.A.- This is precisely what we have to define yet, with the participation of all parties. That is why we have celebrated the 2nd World Congress of Basque Communities in Vitoria, in October. We discussed many questions there: the future of the Euskal Etxeak, the model of Basque presence abroad, the role of the Euskal Etxeak in the foreign policies of the Basque Government

- «Kanpoko harremanak ezinbestekoak dira Euskadi bezalako herri txiki batentzat».



Because of his work, Aguirre knows the most important people. In the picture he is greeting Sanguinetti.

- «Euskal Etxeak arlo ekonomiko, politiko eta kultureko gaiak ezagutzera eman behar dituzte».

and the possibility of creating through them contact networks all over the world. Foreign support is crucial for a small country such as Euskadi. Certainly, a country with a population of two million people needs contacts in a global world in order to defend both its identity and its economy.

Q.- In your opinion what is the role the Euskal Etxeak should play in this context?

I.A.- I believe the Basque centers should think about their own future, I mean, they must decide whether or not they want to continue with the old model, which was good for a time I believe is gone. I believe it is crucial that they keep Basque folklore and culture alive, but this is not enough any more in order to defend the interests of Euskadi in the world. I am absolutely certain that economic and industrial relations between Euskadi and the countries with Basque communities will be among the main factors in the future. This could be one of the operating guidelines, for the

Euskal Etxeak could become contact points or information networks to create closer links with these countries. The cultural image of Euskadi could also benefit from a change. Until the moment the Euskal Etxeak have merely been showcases for folkloric aspects, but Basque culture has many more sides, ranging from information about the Guggenheim Museum to gastronomy, not to mention our sculptors or our writers. All this is an important part of our identity too.

Q.- What would you say has been the contribution of the Basque Diaspora to the country?

A.- For 150 years they have sustained the international image of the Basques so that the word "Basque" has a familiar ring. The image is good, for those people were and are very well integrated both economically and socially in the countries that welcomed them. An important part of the Basque emigrants found success, are very well placed and have invaluable contacts in all areas. I must say these contacts have made the work of the institutions a lot easier. This is a very important asset for a country such as Euskadi.

Q.- What is the responsibility of the Basque Government towards the Euskal Etxeak?

A.- In the first place we have to

point out that the Basque centers existed before there was a Basque Government, therefore they have always been autonomous and independent entities. So the Euskal Etxeak cannot become entities under the guidance of the Basque Government. However, we can design a relation framework where both parties are comfortable and that enables us not only to take effective actions abroad but also to improve the life and future of the Euskal Etxeak.

Q.- What would the pattern of those relations be like?

A.- It has to be an open and flexible pattern, for we are talking about very different realities. In many ways a Basque center in Venezuela has little in common with one in the United States, for instance, not to mention the Basque centers in Belgium or even in the Spanish State. There are centers more than a hundred years old whereas others started two years ago... I mean there cannot be a unique pattern. But we can establish a framework of common objectives. At the moment there are two senses in this matter: the expectations of the Basque Government in regard to the Basque centers and the expectations of the centers in relation to us. This matter is still open and we will keep thinking and defining it in common. ■



New Structure. The Secretary of Foreign Action of the Basque Government has a new directing board since last summer. We can see in the picture from left to right Iñaki Rica, Director of European Affairs; Josu Legarreta, Director for the Basque Communities; Iñaki Aguirre, General Secretary; Jose Mari Muñoa, the Lehendakari's commissioner; Mila Aguirre, Director of Cooperation for Development and Alex Aguirrezabal, Manager of the Brussels Office. ■



Ardanza, President of Euskaltel

Lehendakari José Antonio Ardanza has been appointed president of the Basque Telephone operator, Euskaltel.

Until a little while ago the ex Lehendakari worked as consultant for the Alavan company Tubacex. Euskaltel is a global telecommunications operator operating in telephony. In his new position he will cooperate with the delegate consultant of the firm and he will promote the development of Euskaltel window, a package integrating fixed telephone services, Internet and cable television. The Euskaltel Foundation is about to be born, in order to sponsor and patronize the Basque operator.

Euskaltel is already an expanding consolidated enterprise, for in only two years it has reached a market quota of 30%. The three Basque Savings Banks, the electric companies Endesa and Iberdrola, Telecom Italia, the Mondragón group and the Basque Government are among the company's main shareholders. ■

ANDONI ORTUZAR AT THE HEAD OF EITB

Andoni Ortuzar left a few months ago his position as General Secretary of Foreign Action of the Basque Government in order to undertake the highest responsibility in the public entity EITB. The new General Director is an old acquaintance for most of the Basques living outside Euskadi. While he was at the head of the Secretary of Foreign Action he made many trips to contact the Basque communities. Now at the top of the public radio and television, Andoni Ortuzar is determined to guarantee the presence of Euskera, to overcome the challenge of the new audiovisual supports and keep EITB "as a model of communication done by Basques and for Basques". ■



"as a model of communication done by Basques and for Basques". ■



Ibarretxe met the Presidents of Argentina and Uruguay, Carlos Menem and Julio M^a Sanguinetti.

During his visit to Argentina and Uruguay

THE LEHENDAKARI SPOKE IN FAVOR OF INCREASING ECONOMIC AND POLITIC COLLABORATION

Raquel Ugarriza

(DEIA special correspondent)

Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe's visit to Argentina and Uruguay in November had a double purpose: to increase the political and economical exchanges with these two members of Mercosur on one hand, and to strengthen relations with the important Basque communities living in both States. This journey was surrounded by circumstances that gave it a special importance. It was Juan José Ibarretxe's first official visit since he was elected Lehendakari by the Basque Parliament nearly a year ago. The visit took place when both countries were undergoing political changes, the transfer of power from one administration to another in the case of Argentina, and the celebration of presidential elections in Uruguay.

As a summary of this aspect of the visit the Lehendakari pointed out that the political leaders who will rule the destinies of Argentina and Uruguay during the next years have agreed to strengthen political and economic relations with Euskadi. Ibarretxe explained everywhere that Euskadi is willing to increase the political and economic collaboration, and he pointed out that the Basque people "is not troubled but peace-loving, hardworking and with a calling for universality"

During his stay in Argentina Juan



The Basque community warmly welcomed the Lehendakari.

José Ibarretxe was received in the Pink House by Carlos Menem, who was still the president at the moment. They exchanged their points of view about the Argentinean and Basque situations,

- **Argentina eta Uruguay-ko buruzagiek Euskadirekin dituzten harremanak sendotzeko konpromezua hartu dute**

they talked about joint projects and about the investments of Basque companies in the country. The elected president, Fernando de la Rúa was undergoing a surgical operation, which prevented him to see personally the Lehendakari. Finally Ibarretxe met the most important members of the De La Rúa team: Rodolfo Terragno, a key component of the new Argentinean President's cabinet. They both reached an agreement so that the Basque companies established in Argentina advise the Argentinean government in economic matters.

The Secretary of Foreign Action, Iñaki Aguirre, and the Director of Relations with Basque Communities, Josu Legarreta, accompanied the Lehen-

dakari during the visit. Ibarretxe was also received by the authorities in the Gobernación de Buenos Aires, the Palacio Municipal de la Plata and the Municipality Assembly of Bahía Blanca, as well as by the Argentinean deputies of Basque descent.

BUSINESS ASPECTS

The different meetings with Argentinean businessmen took a great part of the official visit of the Lehendakari. During one of the meetings José Ignacio de Mendiguren, General Secretary of the Argentinean Industrial Union (UIA), spoke in favor of starting a new stage in Argentinean economy similar to what has taken place in Euskadi during the last few years. He mentioned the need for a “planning of the economic pattern of the country”. During this

more industrial part of his visit, the Lehendakari supported with his presence the presentation of the Harbor of Bilbao as a strategic place for the entrance of goods in the European Union. He also visited the central offices of several Basque companies established in the country.

His two-day stay in Uruguay took place when the second round of the presidential election was impending. The hot struggle between the Encuentro and the Colorado (red) party made it very difficult to keep the appointments made with Tabaré Vazquez and Jorge Battle. The latter could not see the Lehendakari, who saw instead the vice-president of the Colorado party, Luis Hierro, and the president of the Blanco (white) party, Luis Alberto Lacalle. After the meeting with Tabaré Vazquez Juan José Ibarretxe had a



Homage to Artigas in Montevideo

Argentinean to the pot,

“Argentinean to the pot..., but also Basque”. Patxi Aguirre a “porteño”, whose father was born in Erandio, Bizkaia, and was exiled after the Spanish civil war when he was only a child, is a typical example of the Basque community who received the Basque delegation in Argentina and Uruguay in November. Argentineans and Uruguayans proud of their countries but also fully identified with their historical, cultural, linguistic and sentimental Basque heritage.

The number of first or second-generation Basques living in those two countries is decreasing steadily. However, a Basque from Euskal Herria on his first visit to Argentina and Uruguay would be surprised by the fervor with which these descendants of Basques from Baztán, the Gohierri, Gernika, Maule or Aiala keep alive the memory of their ancestors, adapt Basque folklore and traditions to their culture and learn again a language whose origin lies more than ten thousand kilometers away.

The Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe, his wife, Begoña Arregui, and the Basque delegation that visited Argentina and Uruguay witnessed a spectacular welcome from the Basque communities in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. The Basque National Week took place in mid-November in Bahía Blanca. The Basque Union of Mutual Assistance of Bahía turned a hundred years old, and the Basque community of Argentina decided to celebrate its annual reunion in this important port. The Lehendakari was the guest of honor in this double celebration.

The celebrations program of this National Week included the celebration of the reunion of all the Basque centers of the country, where the role of the Euskal Etxeak in the 21st century was discussed. The Lehendakari acknowledged in the presence of a thousand people the important work of the Basques in Argentina and he urged, especially the young people, who filled the premises, to keep passing on the values of their ancestors.



moving reunion with the President of the country, Julio María Sanguinetti, who has had a long relationship with Euskadi, and obtained in 1997 the "Lagun Onari" Distinction of the Basque Government.

But there weren't only high level reunions with politicians and businessmen. The Lehendakari, who was accompanied by his wife, Begoña Arregui, had the chance to get a closer look at these countries and learn more about their ideas. He also received the warm welcome of the Basque community and the Basque centers federations in Argentina and Uruguay. The Lehendakari's busy visit ended with the conferences he gave at the universities of La Plata, la del Sur (Bahía Blanca) and the Catholic University of Uruguay, as well as with the inauguration of a training project in Buenos Aires. ■



The Basque delegation had institutional meetings and they also took part in several acts organized by the Basque community.



but also basque"



FESTIVE ACTS

The festive acts were an important component of the National Week, and they filled with joy all premises of the Basque Union and a great part of Bahía Blanca. Excursions, dance exhibitions, kalejiras, tamborradas, exhibitions, concerts by Alaitz eta Maider, a young and successful group that came for this occasion from the Basque Country, completed a week where the young population played the main role. These same youngsters met the Lehendakari and his wife at the dance organized by the Basque Union, and they kept asking both of them to dance and pose for home photographs to fill the family albums.

Many Argentinean-Basques attended these celebrations, among them Patxi Aguirre, whom we mentioned before, who was chatting with his son, Martin, who lives in Euskadi. Martin Aguirre came some years ago to visit Euskal Herria, and he met his wife during that trip. Now he lives in Llodio, Alava, and he has two children, dearly missed by their

grandfather Patxi for most of the year. We would also like to mention, among the hundreds of people who took part in the Basque Week, the Uruguayan Juan Pedro Arín, who acted as a cicerone for part of the Basque delegation both in Argentina and in his own country.

The visit of the Basque delegation was made even more enjoyable, if possible, by the presence of many Basque descendants scattered all over the human geography of Argentina and Uruguay.

Brian Covaro, for instance, a young man from Patagonia, who has just obtained a degree in sociology by the University of La Plata, was taking notes during the Lehendakari's conference in this university. Brian, whose grandmother was from Tafalla and emigrated to Argentina aged three, wants to write his thesis on the difficult subject of Basque nationalism and the peace process.

For him and for all the people who made this visit to Argentina and Uruguay unforgettable, we wish from Euskal Herria peace and prosperity. ■

To the Grandfather i never met...

A text read by Maria Amelia Irastorza, from the Basque Union of Bahía Blanca during the acts celebrated with the occasion of the Basque National Week in the mentioned Argentinean city. We found it so moving that we are reproducing the whole text here.

It is strange, I have never seen you, however I know you so well! I know you were young and alone when you came, I can almost imagine your fear. I know you sowed thousands of seeds and that you only harvested a few of them; I know you were poor and that fire, hail, rain and drought, and sometimes the governments took away some of your harvests. But they could never take away, even when they were laughing at your outward ignorance, your honesty, your free spirit and your immeasurable sense of equality.

Sometimes I wonder which of those virtues exist and which are in danger of extinction. Then, a take your picture, the brown and wrinkled one I keep in my drawer, I hold it tight to take strength to face adversity and to avoid corruption... for "I need to remember: there is the origin of my feeling, my conduct and my nature. If I lose this memory I will become erratic optimism. For if I don't know who I am, how will I know what I am looking for? How will I know where I am heading to?"

I have never seen you, however I know you so well! My father was so like you! And I can see myself in your gaze: I know that is where I come from, and I know you were the result of that distant land that shaped your spirit...

That is why today I would like you to be able to look through my eyes and to discover looking around you that there is an unexpected harvest that has not been lost, that will never be lost. You would be proud to see that this house where you sometimes met some friends that had also left their home and family is now a hundred years old... and that many other have multiplied as ears in the fertile field of solidarity. It does not matter any more where those men are now, but the kind of men they were.



And your children... and your children's children, there are so many of us!

That is why I say today in your name to all those who share this spirit that if we feel small our surroundings will be so too. Our land will be as great as our dreams.

... It is time to go back home, but to go back in order to multiply our efforts: to live with no passion would be just the same as killing the sacrifices of those who were here before us.

... That is why it is time to go back and prove that EQUALITY, FREEDOM

and SOLIDARITY are some values we have really learned.

It is time to go back home. It is time to go back to give ourselves; and it is time to stop believing "all the miseries our eyes see: they only show limitations". We must look with our understanding and with the eyes of our soul: that way we will discover what we already know, and we will find at last the way to fly... ■

- **Bibliographical quotations:**
Eduardo Mallea, *History of an Argentinean Passion*.



RENO WAS A GREAT PARTY!

Koldo Ordozgoiti

The annual reunion of the North American Basque Organizations took place at the Louis Basque Corner Hotel in Reno.

More than thirty Clubs and Euskal Etxeak from all over the United States are represented in NABO, a federation born in order to spread Basque culture and feeling in the USA, as well as establishing closer links among the American-Basques and promoting Basque activities in this great American country.

During this reunion, the most important of the three celebrated yearly by NATO, Bob Etxebarria was reelected president and Pierre Etxarren, from California, vice-president.

Many subjects were discussed during NABO annual reunion apart from the usual economic and management balances: the Summer Basque Music Camp, very popular among the American-Basque population, the development of courses and activities in Euskera, the use of new technologies to broadcast the activities and information about the Basque population and, in

general, Basque heritage in the United States, the present and future of music and pelota, the possibilities of receiving Euskal Telebista in the West of the USA and finally, the recovery in auzolan –community work– of the Basque Shepherds Camp in Whiskey Creek.

Juan Mari Atutxa, President of the Basque Parliament was especially invited to the reunion, and he gave his greeting to the representatives of the United States Basques.

CULTURE AND FEAST IN RENO

The main annual reunion of NABO was celebrated during Reno Basque Week, Reno's Aste Nagusia.

A team of 110 volunteer workers lead by Kate Camino, president of the Reno Zazpiak Bat, had been working during the whole year in order to organize the biggest Basque festival of the Basques in USA. The result of all the efforts was a week crammed with reflection and cultural activities. The main subjects of the conferences and round tables organized for the week were: the present and future of Basque culture in the United States, the role of women in



the Basque community and the future of Euskera among the new generations of American-Basques.

But there were also activities that link culture and leisure. A Bertso Afaria, a poetical dinner, gathered bertsolaris from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean (Jonny Curutchet and Jesús Arriada from San Francisco, Jesús Goñi from Reno, Martin

Goikoetxea from Rock Springs – Wyoming, Oihane Enbeitia and Estitxu Arozena came from Euskal Herria, and Xabier Euzkitze, who was on vacation in the United States also attended the dinner). The film “Secrets of the heart” by the Basque director Montxo Armendariz was another of the attractive offers of the week.

Through the acts of the cultural week the Basques in Reno tried to introduce a new component, that of reflection and a space, that of culture in the National Festival of the United States Basques. The Basque Festival, which took place from Friday to Sunday, ended the Aste Nagusia 40 years after the celebration of the first Basque festival in the United States, organized in Reno in 1959 under the name Western Basque Festival. At present there are nearly 40 Basque festivals organized in different towns of the American West.

The most intense moments of the Reno Aste Nagusia took place during the weekend. The festival, Basque in origin, but in some ways typically American, congregated several thousands of people.

The celebrations started with the homage to the organizers of the Basque Western Festival of 1959, to the priests of the Basque community, in the person of Father Tillous and those who came before him and to anthropologist William Douglass, soul of the Basque Studies Program of the University of Nevada.

During the whole day dance groups, choruses, musicians and all kinds of artists performed at the main stage of Wingfield Park. Close by, Basque sports exhibitions were taking place. The choral group Donosti Ereski



form San Sebastián had been especially invited to the festival. With them, the kuxkuxu Txaranga from Urruña (Lapurdi) contributed to liven up the celebrations.

After dinner the party continued at the Flamingo-Hilton Hotel until the ear-

ly hours of the morning. The American-Basque fair took place there with the group Gaupasa from Boise.

Sunday started with a High Mass in Euskera celebrated by Father Martxel Tillous, the Bishop of Reno and several priests of Basque descent. During the Mass the choral groups Elgarrekin from San Francisco and Donosti Ereski, bert-solaris, dantzaris and the group Klika from San Francisco supplied the music.

Basque music, songs and dances enhanced a festive day, which ended with a crowded picnic in Wingfield Park.

Boise will host in July 2000 NABO annual assembly and the National Basque Festival of the United States. ■

- **Atlantico-ko bi aldeek bat egin zuten bi aldeetako bertsolariak izan ziren Bertso Afari bati esker.**

- **Estatu Batuetako lehenengo Euskal Festak 40 urte bete zituen.**
- **Etorkizunari begira eztabaida eta erreflexio une egokia izan zen Renoko bilkura.**
- **Euskal Festa Nazionalea eta Naboko Batzar Nagusia Boisen egingo da 2000. urtean.**

Ample sector of society responded to the Lehendakari's call to defend the Economic Agreement



Ibarretxe: "The Basque Agreement is not a privilege but a right"

Lehendakari Ibarretxe summoned an ample sector of Basque society to make public an institutional declaration in defense of the Basque Economic Agreement. This declaration was responding to the many appeals lodged by the central Government against Basque financial rules, and the corresponding files open in European entities. On that occasion, after the perusal of a text, which started stating that "the Economic Agreement is the crucial article of Basque self-government", Juan José Ibarretxe summoned all sectors of Basque society to express their support to the Basque fiscal system. Two months after, the Lehendakari appeared again before society to express in public his gratitude for

the support received by his initiative. Nearly 500 signatures from as many groups and institutions of every possible kind answered the Lehendakari's request: football clubs, sports federations, training schools, communication media, cultural and social associations and a long etc.

The Lehendakari underlined in his speech the great social support to the Agreement "which proves –he said– that Basque society is often more willing to reach consensus about basic elements than in the sphere of the political parties system". According to Lehendakari Ibarretxe the Government in Madrid and the European entities are not just questioning the application of the Agreement, but its very ex-

istence" and therefore –he explained– our capacity for making our own rules, having our own taxes and our own regulations on incentives to investment".

He also spoke in favor of preventing the conflict to be permanently in the courtrooms. In his opinion political agreements such as the Basque Agreement should not be judicially appealed. The best way to defend it would be to reach a compromise with the State and the European Union.

Juan José Ibarretxe insisted that the Economic Agreement is not a privilege but a right "and when we are defending rights –he concluded– we have to do it in the open, with no inferiority or superiority complexes". ■

Sidenor chooses México

The Basque Special Steels Company Sidenor has acquired 51% of the Mexican Companies Atlax and Metemex, investing 35 million dollars in the purchase.

With the control of these companies Sidenor reinforces its position in the world market and takes the fourth position in the special steel industries ranking, according to the directors of the company. This landing in Mexican soil will enable the Basque company to move

into other very important markets, especially in America.

Atlax, located in Apizako, 60 kilometers away from Puebla, features a modern steel industry, which reach a capacity of 450,000 tons of liquid steel. Metemex, on the other hand, is 15 kilometers from Puebla and it manufactures special steel bars with a capacity of 50,000 tons. After the new facilities are installed it will manufacture about 60,000 tons a year. ■



Good economic expectations for year 2000



Xabier Gabilondo

A Euskal ekonomiaren azterketa egin aurretik kontuan izan behar dugu azken bi urteak apartekoak izan direla eta Europako herrien ekonomia une honetan nolabaiteko dezelerazio prozesu batean dagoela. Hori guztia dela eta, lortutako maila berdintzea zaila izango da. Dena den, datuek diotenez, euskal ekonomia gorantz doa, inguruko ekonomiak baino gorantzago, hain zuzen ere.

Before we start analyzing the evolution of Basque economy during the first months of the current year, it would be convenient to make two previous considerations. On one hand, we must bear in mind that Basque economy moves in a context of a certain deceleration in the surrounding countries, which means that Euskadi won't be an exception. On the other hand we must-

n't forget that the two preceding years—especially 1998—have been extraordinarily positive, difficult to match in regard to the economic balance sheet they have thrown.

Once we have pointed out these two facts, we must say however that the growth forecasts for Basque economy still indicate higher levels of activity than the surrounding economies. So, if the official growth forecast for the GNP in Euskadi in 1999 is between 3 and 3.5%, that of the OECD countries is 2.2% and the European Union average is 2.1%. Now, if we leave estimations and analyze real data of the first quarter of the year, we can observe that the trend we were indicating is correct: Basque GNP has increased in the first quarter of 1999 4% in real terms, whereas the Spanish GNP has grown 3.6%, the French one 2.3% and the German 0.8%.

Basque industry has certainly, in spite of the comparative stoppage of activity, continued growing moderately. The growth has reached an average increase of production of 0.5%. At the same time, Basque exports have grown 2.2% in the first six months of 1999, especially exports to the European Union—the main Basque market—, which have increased by 11% during the same period.

UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES

In spite of the relative contraction of activity the data about unemployment are showing hopeful tendencies. Last financial year was also exceptional in relation to job generation and, consequently, unemployment rates were reduced (from 20.2% to 16.4%). According to the first data of this year, the trend continues.

During the first seven months of 1999 unemployment rates in Euskadi have reached 15%, more than two points less than at the same period of the preceding year. To put it differently, employment has grown 4.4% this year, until the present. There has also been a corresponding increase in the rate of occupation, which has surpassed in absolute terms the psychological barrier of 800,000 occupied population, a new occupation record in Euskadi.

According to the vice-Lehendakari of the Basque Government, Idoia Zenarruzabeitia, "this evolution, the fact that the unemployment rate has decreased in a half point during the first half of the year can be translated in absolute terms in the creation of about 25,000 new jobs at the end of the year. Then, the unemployment rate will be about 15%. The figure is cer-

tainly high, especially when comparing it to the European Union average and so we must continue considering job creation as our main priority in the next few years. However, having reduced our unemployment rate in more than five points in only one year and a half, shows certainly a good evolution"

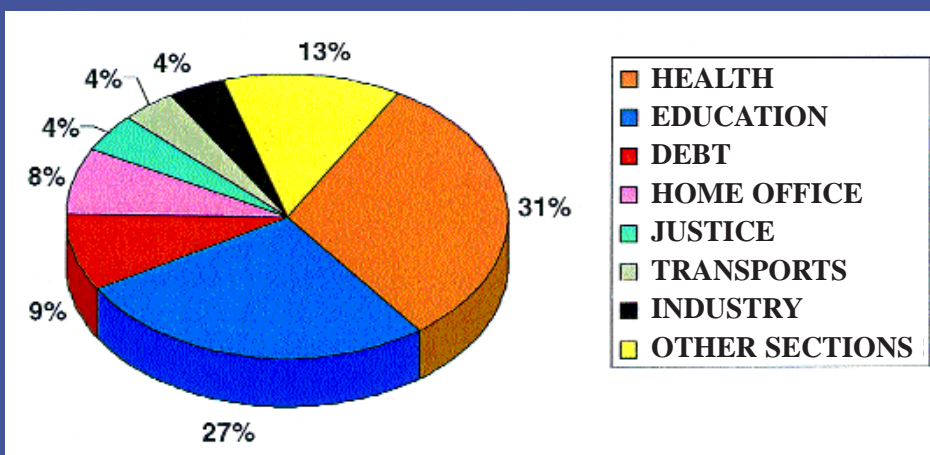
However there is in this context of big macroeconomic figures, a variable, that of prices, which is not behaving as we would wish, although during the last few months there has been a certain readjustment of Consumer Prices. Although inflation is reaching historic lows, mostly due to the low interest rates of the last few years, the immediate future presents a little uncertainty in regard to the evolution of the prices of energetic products, especially oil and its derivatives.

According to the vice-Lehendakari there are "solid reasons" to face the near future with a "moderate optimism, for the forecasts point towards an increase of activity in the Euro zone". ■



- **Datuen arabera 1999an Barne Produktu Gordina %3,5 igo da.**
- **Nahiz eta langabezi tasa handia izan, enplegua 4,4 puntu igo da azken urte honetan.**

A social budget



The Basque autonomous community has just passed its Budget for year 2000, a budget of nearly 861 billion pesetas. As it is becoming a habit, most of the economic effort of the Basque Government is for social needs, to guarantee the same opportunities for all citizens and to ensure social cohesion. Nearly 70 pesetas of every 100 are destined for social coverage: health, education, training, employment policies, housing promotion and access, and social salaries and aids. ■

Proposal: A Hymn for the Euskal Etxeak
Author: Jokin Arregui

<p>I</p> <p>Euskaldunaren histori zaharrak Badauka hainbat oroimen. Utzi zituen bere lurrairen Herrimin ta irudimen. Bihotzak berdin sentitzen bai du Kantaurin edo kariben Euskal Etxea sentipen horren Lekuko bihurtu zinen. Bidean bila bidetxur hortan Zutaz maitemindu ginen.</p>	<p>III</p> <p>Pilota joko dantza saioak Ta umetxoek jolasak. Hango usaina daukaten zenbait Ekitaldien urratsak. Atzerriratu batentzak dira Hain ezaguarri zehatzak. Era berean bihotzarentzat Zer bizipen aberatsak. Taupada oso berezia du Herriminaren arnasak.</p>
<p>II</p> <p>Ametz eginez bidetxur horrek Muga itxirik etzeukan. Euskaldunaren abots zaitugu Munduko hainbat lekutan. Herriminaren kandela xarra Beti daukazu zuk sutan. Argituz une berezietan Zure gailurraren puntan. Erakutsiaz Euskal Arbolak Zenbat sustrai txiki daukan.</p>	<p>IV</p> <p>Egun sentiko eguzkia ta Ilunbistako itzala. Euskal Herrian dugu mamia Euskal Etxean azala. Oreka horrek gure sustraira Beti eraman gaitzala. Xumetasunez arbaso haiek Sentitzen zuten bezala. Euskal Herria herri bat dela Munduak jakin dezala</p>

Author: Txomin Almendariz

AUTOR: TXOMIN ALMENDARIZ (SACERDOTE)
 PARRROCO DEL HIPODROMO DE LA RINCONADA

EUSKAL ETXEA Chika Trankorra

1. EUS-KAL-DU-NA- REU HIS-TO-RI-ZA- HA-ROAK BA-DARU KA-HAU-BAT I-REU
 2. A-HEIS E-GU- NEZ AI-DE-TAUR HO-ROK MUGA I-TAI-ROK E-TZEU
 3. BI-LE-TA-DE KO DAN-TA-SAT TO-RAK TA-UHE TXO-RAI JO-ZA
 4. ERGON SEU-TI- KO E-GUZ-RI-A TA I-LU-UIS-TA- KO I-TZA

1. HEU U-TZI AI-TU-EU DE-RE U-RA-REN HE-RI-I HUI-TI-RU-DI
 2. KAN EUS-KAL-DU-NA-REN A-BITSZAI-TU-GU HUI-DU-KOHAN-BAT I-E-KU
 3. SAK HAU-DU-SAT-NA DAI-KA-TEI-ZEL-BAT E-KI-TAL-DEA-DU-RA
 4. LA EUS-KAL-HE-RI-AU DU-GU MA-KI-A EUS-KAL-E-TXE-AU A-PA

1. HEU BI-HO-TAK BER-DIU SEU-TI-TZEU BAI-DU KAK-TAU-RIU E-SO-KA-KI-
 2. TAN HE-RI-I-MIA-A-REN KAU-DE-LA KA-RA BE-TIK DUGU KA-ZU-ZUK-SU
 3. SAK A-TZE-HA-RA-TU KA-TEI-PAT-DI-RA HAIN E-ZAU-GARRI-Z-PA
 4. LA O-RE-KA HO-ROK GURE-SUS-TAI-DA BE-TI-E-RA HAU-GAI-TA

1. REU EUS-KAL-E-TXE-A SEN-TI-REU HO-ROK LE-KU-RE-GOR-TU-ZI-
 2. TAN AR-GI-TUZ U-NE BE-RE-ZI-E-TAN ZU-RE-GAI-RO-BAR-REN RUA
 3. TAN E-RA-KU-TSI-AZ EUS-KAL-AR-BO-LAK ZEN-BAT-SUS-TAI-I-KU-DU
 4. LA XU-ME-TA-SU-NEZ AR-AR-SO HAI-EIC SEN-TI-REU ZU-TEA BE-ZA

1. NEU BI-DE-AU BI-LA BI-DE-TXUR HOR-TAU ZU-TAZ HAI-E-MIN-DU GI-
 2. TAN E-RA-KU-TSI-AZ EUS-KAL-AR-BO-LAK ZEN-BAT-SUS-TAI-I-KU-DU
 3. SAK TAU-PA-DA O-SU BE-RE-ZI-A DU HE-RI-I-I-NA-REN AR-NA
 4. LA EUS-KAL-HE-RI-A HE-RI-I-BAT DE-LA HUG-DU-AR JA-KIN DE-ZA

1. NEU.
 2. KAN
 3. SAK
 4. LA.

Handwritten signature: Txomin Almendariz

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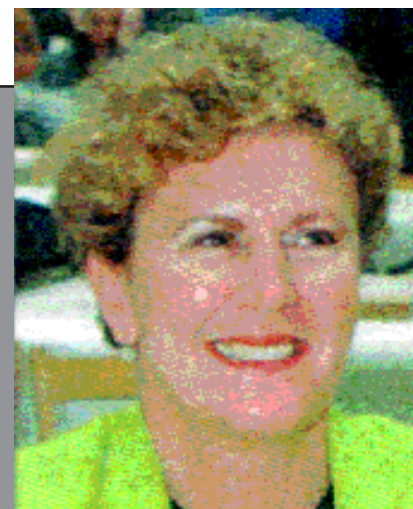
CONSOLIDATING COOPERATION WITH AQUITAINE

Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe and the president of the Regional Council of Aquitaine, Alain Rousset, decided in a reunion held in Bordeaux to constitute a permanent commission to develop common projects. They agreed to promote the High Speed Train Madrid-Bordeaux-Paris and its link with the Basque Y, as well as an international platform to group port, road and rail services for the Gulf of Biscay and Gascogne.

Irun, Fuenterrabia and Hendaye have created the first trans-frontier entity in Europe. This entity, which will have

speaking capacity in European institutions, will encourage cooperation among the three towns, which will function as a unique city.

On the other hand, the French Government has selected, together with four other similar experiences, the eurocity project Bayonne-San Sebastián, sponsored by the Gipuzkoa County Council and the Bayonne-Anglet-Biarritz district, as a pilot experience in trans-frontier cooperation. This axis wants to become a unique metropolis of European average size. ■



BEGOÑA ERRAZTI, NEW PRESIDENT OF EA

Begoña Errazti has been elected President of Eusko Alkartasuna after Carlos Garaikoetxea decided not to run for reelection. Errazti, an adopted Navarran aged 42, with a Geography and History degree, was elected by 64.5% of the EA convention delegates attending the 5th party Congress celebrated in November. During the same Congress, Euro-deputy Gorka Knörr was elected General Secretary. ■

KILOMETROAK crossing the ocean

For the first time the Gipuzkoan feast in favor of Euskera will be simultaneously celebrated in Euskadi and in America, more specifically in Rentería (Gipuzkoa), Boise (USA) and Arrecifes (Argentina).

A great celebration was organized at the Boise ikastola, mainly for children. Before the festival started, Nere Lete, the Renterian living in Boise who launched the only ikastola outside Euskadi, sent thank-you notes to the parents and teachers who chose years ago to have education in this language.

In Argentina, delegations from all over the country traveled so far as 800 kilometers in some cases, in order to attend the reunion in Arrecifes. There they walked along a two-kilometer circuit in favor of Euskera, accompanied by the dance group from Ugarritzak and the rock band "Indarrak". Boys and girls drew murals to send to Oreta Ikastola. ■





Durango, yet another success

Once again the Durango Basque book and record fair was very successful. 150.000 people visited the stands during the six days of exhibition and 400 literary novelties –80% of them in Euskera– and 90 records were presented. There was a wide diversity of genres and authors, which is very hopeful for the future. According to Josune Ariztondo, vice-consultant of Linguistic Policies of the Basque Government “the Euskera that is being used is becoming more and more clear and natural. This favors nearness and it opens up genre alternatives: it is also hopeful to realize

that the readers are becoming familiar with many writers, not just with prestigious authors”. This balanced situation could also be appreciated in the sales ranking. The ranking was lead by Joseba Sarrionaindia with a record-book of poems “*Hau de ene ondasun guzia*”, Arantza Iturbe with “*Ai ama*”, Jon Arretxe with “*Ostiralak*”, Lourdes Oñederra with “*Eta emakumeari sugeak esan zion*”, Joxean Sagastizabal with “*Gerturik daukagu odola*”. There were also other interesting books such as Jon Idigoras’s autobiographical book “*Juanita Gerrikabeitia’s son*” and “*Lisboako se-*

tioaren historia” by José Saramago. Juan Martín Elexpuru presented his erotic anthology, Gerardo Markuleta and Ibon Zaldúa their “*Ipuin euskaldunak*”, Harkaitz Cano “*Pasaia Blues*” and all the Euskadi Prizes of Literature of this year could also be found at the fair.

In the section of children and teenagers literature the series *Bambulo* by Bernardo Atxaga and the stories in Euskera and English published by Gara were exhausted several times. There were also other stories that sold very well such as “*Leo Ferguson*” by Igerabide and Olariaga, the collection “*Siberiako Treneko ipuinak*”, “*Nire Kuleroak*” by Anjel Lertxundi and Antton Olariaga and “*Hodei artean kulunkaturik*” by Carlos Gorrindo. But “*Conquest of the Pyrenees*” by Marcos Feliu, which was reedited, was one of the main jewels of the fair, especially for mountaineers.

In music “*Bizkaiko Kopla Zaharra*” by Tapia, Leturia and Amuriza, “*Homo Sapiens*” by Su ta Gar and their recompilation 87-89 were at the top of the sales ranking. Children chose the record by the clowns Txirri, Mirri eta Txiribiton, recorded with the Euskadi Symphonic Orchestra. ■

Euskadi Prizes of literature

The Euskadi Prizes of Literature '99 were awarded to Anjel Lertxundi for “*Argizariaren Egunak*”, Andoni Egaña for “*Pausoa noiz luzatu*”, Bernardo Atxaga for “*Lista de Locos*”, Juan Garzia for “*Ipuin hautatuak*” Juan Kruz Igarabide for “*Jonas eta hozkailu beldurtia*”.

The Oriotarra Lertxundi received the award in Euskera because, according to the jury, he had achieved an “imposing novel” where several literary genres are used, and through the combination of reality and fiction, reason and madness, he does manage to define the men and women of today.

Andoni Egaña, twice champion of bertsolaris and born in Zarautz, received the Diffusion Prize with his first novel. This novel, according to the jury, “chains masterfully” the experiences of a Zarautz convent and those of a military group in Jaca during the revolt previous to the 2nd Republic.

The Prize for children and teenagers literature was awarded to Juan Kruz Igarabide for a book where fear is depicted in a new and pleasing way.

As for Bernardo Atxaga, he has become the first Basque author to win three Euskadi Prizes of Literature. This time it was the prize in Spanish language for a recompilation of fifteen alphabets on literature and storytelling.

Finally, Juan Garzia received the translation prize for his translation of 26 short stories by Jorge Luis Borges and for “pouring into Euskera the style and concept world of Borges, facing a rhetoric unknown in Euskera until now. ■



From left to right: Garzia, Egaña, Atxaga, Lertxundi and Igarabide.

Novelties

Basque subjects: Euskadi by Amilcar Garay

The Argentinean-Basque Amilcar Garay examines in this book different aspects of our customs, history, institutions, typical features, and the problems of the Basque people, including difficult matters such as the activities of ETA.

The first half of the book describes the life of the Basques in their natural habitat, and the second describes that of those who immigrated to American lands, where they found a second homeland. The author was founding vice-president of the Basque center Gernikako Arbola in Junin. ■

Basque songs

Eusko Ikaskuntza and the Archivo Musical Eresbil have been working for two years in a database of Basque songs, which could give its first fruits in year 2000. With this work, described by the author and singer Antton Valverde, as emblematic, they are trying to recover old songs in order to renew them and make them known to the public in general.

The starting point of the work has been a list of traditional songs based on existing collections. The list includes cards with information about the person who recovered the song, the date, the place, etc, for although the music in the central axis of this compilation, other aspects such as ethnography, folklore and literature have also been considered. This information will be completed with the melody and scores of each song. There are 2,500 cards for the moment, although the authors expect to reach the number of 6000. These cards will be published in Euskera, Spanish, French and English.

The project is multidisciplinary and its promoters expect the database to become an invaluable tool for researchers in different fields. ■

"Kutsidazu bidea, Ixabel" by Sagastizabal

The story "Kutsidazu bidea, Ixabel", by Joxean Sagastizabal, one of the most profitable books written in Euskera, faces now the challenge of new technologies. Alberdania and the Aurten Bai Foundation have published multimedia Ixabel, an interactive CD giving music and images to a humorous story, which has sold in only five years more than 40,000 copies. This multimedia version, the first adaptation of a Basque work to this technology is very useful for learning Euskera. The book is the autobiographical story of a young man aged 19 who goes to a caserío to learn Euskera, meets the difficulties of the language, and bumps as a city person against rural reality. All of it described with a great sense of humor. ■

"Footballsophy" by Xabier Azkargorta

The author, who coached several Spanish football teams, the Bolivian Selection and a Japanese team, has written a book, published by Alberdania, in which he finds common features in football and in life.

This Azpeltiarra, who became a hero in Bolivia when he managed to have their selection classified for the football World Championship, reflects with his usual sharpness and irony about the different aspects of the king of sports. ■

"Hau de ene ondasun guzia" by Joseba Sarrionandia

A record-book with the collection of 32 poems by Joseba Sarrionandia recited by the author. The book published by Txalaparta and Esan Ozenki also provides a revision of Basque music.

The record-book alternates poems and songs that are already a part of the Basque musical culture. The lyrics of the songs have been written by Sarrionandia and the music has been composed by prestigious Basque authors. The lyrics are reproduced in Euskera, Spanish, English, French and German.

Sarrionandia, a notable example of a militant period in literature, is one of the most prestigious Basque writers, and one of the most sought after by musicians. The writer, who was convicted for being a member of ETA, escaped prison in 1985 and lives since then in hiding. ■

Who is who in the Basque scientific community

Eusko Ikaskuntza-Society of Basque Studies has published a "Who is who" of Basque scientific community from 1918 until the present (Diccionario biográfico de Eusko Ikaskuntza 1918-1998) and a catalogue that goes through the publishing activity of the academic institution ("Catalogo de la actividad editorial 1918-1998")

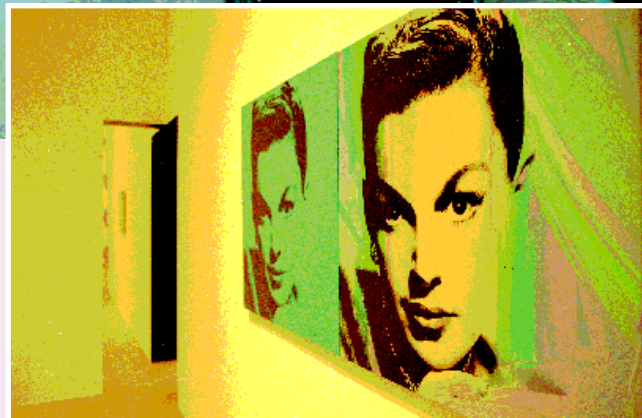
The first of the two books gives a profile of 150 researchers of the Basque Autonomous Community, Navarre and Iparralde, who have contributed during the 80 years of existence of Eusko Ikaskuntza to the development of the institution. The second work compiles all the writings published by this Studies Society. ■

"The patriotic pendulum" by Santiago de Pablo, Ludger Mees and Jose Antonio Rodriguez Ranz

"The patriotic pendulum" is the first volume of the official story of the PNV (Basque Nationalist Party), published by Editorial Critica of Barcelona.

The book covers the period from 1895 to 1936. The authors had access to the funds of the PNV files in Artea, although most of those files have information from 1936 on.

The authors found unpublished documents that complete and explain events, which were until now little known, such as the behavior of PNV during Primo de Rivera's dictatorship. They also found many personal letters from important politicians such as Luis Arana or Kizkitza. The negotiations with Lerroux in 1934, to support for the first time in history a Spanish Government in parliament are also documented. ■



Warhol and motorcycles at the Guggenheim

During its second anniversary the Guggenheim Museum is showing an extensive retrospective exhibition of the works of pop artist Andy Warhol. The exhibition shows the works of the artist since the fifties until the late eighties. *Andy Warhol: A Factory* examines the production of the artist in a multidisciplinary way in each of his three successive factories, where he gave birth to his oeuvre during three decades.

The exhibition offers an unprecedented variety of artistic and documen-

tary materials of this character, who became a forerunner in so many aspects and certainly the most versatile and original artist of the American culture after the war.

Moreover, the Basque museum offers the exhibition: "The art of motorcycle", a collection of 130 vehicles that describe the history of motorcycles as cultural icons of 20th century.

The exhibition features cycles since 1868 until the present and it means to be a chronicle of the evolution of tech-

nology and design in motorcycles. We can admire from the steam velocipede that was on the market in mid-19th century to the most revolutionary of present machines.

The exhibition had a splendid inauguration with the presence of cycle-loving actors of the importance of Dennis Hopper, Jeremy Irons, Laurence Fishburne and Lauren Hutton, as well as singer Bob Geldof, who entranced their fans riding along the streets of Bilbao astride magnificent motorcycles. ■



The Orfeón triumphs in Salzburg

The Orfeón Donostiarra had a splendid success at the Salzburg Festival with its performance during the premier of the montage designed by the Catalan theatre group "La Fura dels Baus" of the opera "The Damnation of Faust" by Berlioz.

The six performances of the Orfeón Donostiarra in Salzburg were received with long ovations, bravos and a standing audience. The critics

declared that with the innovative and avant-garde montage presented in the Festival and with the brilliant performance of the Orfeón the aesthetics of opera were entering the 21st century. It was the first time the Orfeón performed in Salzburg in the frame of the most important classic music festival in the world, but they have already received propositions to take part in future editions. ■

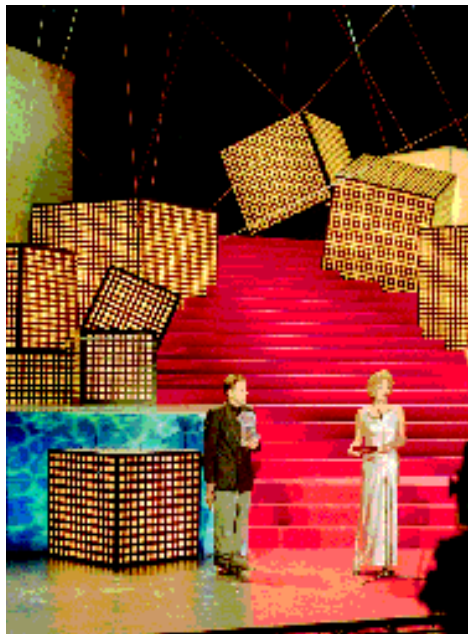
THE KURSAAL STARTS SUCCESSFULLY THE FIRST MONTHS OF ITS LIFE



The Congress Palace and Auditorium of San Sebastián opened its doors with the intention of becoming the economic and cultural engine of the city with its modern facilities, which can host all kinds of cultural and congress activities.

Designed by Rafael Moneo, the architect from Navarre, it has two auditoriums inside two glass cubes located at the mouth of River Urumea. The palace has a surface of 50,000 square meters apart from the two auditoriums with a capacity of 1,850 and 600 people each. Its restaurant is managed by the prestigious cook Martín Berasategi, and it has an exhibition hall of 1,000 square meters.

Three months after its inauguration the Kursaal has already reached 80% of activity. At the end of the year 100,000 people will have seen the premises, and there are already applications to use the auditorium until year 2004. The building has hosted performances during the Jazz Festival and many concerts that took place during the 60th edition of the Musical Fortnight. The quality of the acoustics has received excellent critics by prestigious directors such as Lorin Maazel. Moreover the Kursaal has hosted the world première of Roman Polanski's last film "The Ninth Door", with the presence of the director and the star of the film, Emmanuelle Béart. It has successfully become the new location of the San Sebastián Cinema Festival. ■



RESEARCH PRIZE

The Greek Professor of UPV, Jose Luis Malena received the Euskadi Prize of Research from the hands of Lehendakari Ibarretxe for his dedication to the study of the Mycenaean culture and, more specifically, for his discoveries, through the clay tablets recovered in the Mediterranean excavation sites. A great decipherer of Hellenic inscriptions, Malena is the author of many research articles and of 8 books related to these studies.

Malena, aged 53 and born in San Sebastián is the only person trying to reconstruct the Mycenaean texts in Greek from the second millennium before Christ. That is why, during his speech, the professor declared that this prize will enable him to continue his research more peacefully. "The acknowledgement –he said– of a whole life dedicated to the study of such a small and even superfluous period of Classic Antiquity in times when globalization on one hand and provincialism on the other, push away the Humanities in the crucial high education, this award granted to somebody who studies the most human of all letters, brings a breath of hope, a message that not everything is lost, even though university degrees are taken from us. ■



“Sabotage” in Artaza. A hilarious Napoleonic comedy entitled *“Sabotage”* has recently been shot in Artaza Palace in Leioa. The building, owned by the Basque Government has been chosen by the Ibarretxe brothers to give life to the characters in this story, which plays with fiction and history around the figure of Napoleon. ■

Agur Basarri

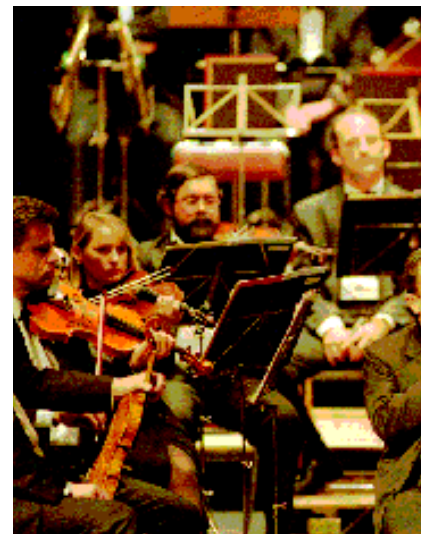
The great bertsolari Iñaki Eizmendi Basarri has passed away at the age of 86. Basarri has been one of the most important bertsolaris in 20th century. It was probably because of this illustrious Zarauztarra born in Errezil, that bertsolarism survived during the years after the war. He was a great reformer, proposing a more cultivated kind of bertsolarism, and taking it to the cinemas and theatres, raising therefore the social prestige of this art that is still growing at present. He rejected the personal and family confrontation among the bertsolaris themselves, and he changed the subjects talking of other areas of life. He even dressed in a different way than was the usual style among the bertsolaris. He introduced innovations in language, logic and chaining of ideas in the same stanza. He was also the author of a written theory on this aural activity. Basarri won the championships in 1935 and 1960. ■



Euskadi Orchestra

The Euskadi Symphonic Orchestra will go on a gig to Latin America in May. The Orchestra will offer from six to eight concerts in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, during the most ambitious gig organized in the history of this orchestra.

Among the activities programmed for year 2000, the orchestra plans to do a record with Xabier Lete, as they have already done with Benito Lertxundi. ■



Nobel Saramago in Bilbao

The Nobel Prize of Literature, José Saramago, visited Bilbao in order to present the translation to Euskera of his novel *“The siege of Lisbon”*, done by Jon Alonso.

The writer was surprised by the choice of this novel in particular, but at the same time he was satisfied of avoiding the cliché that his best novels are *“Memorial of the Convent”*, *“The year of the death of Ricardo Reis”* or *“Essay*

on blindness”. This is a complicated novel that did not find luck, but according to the author, it contains *“some of the best pages I have ever written”*.

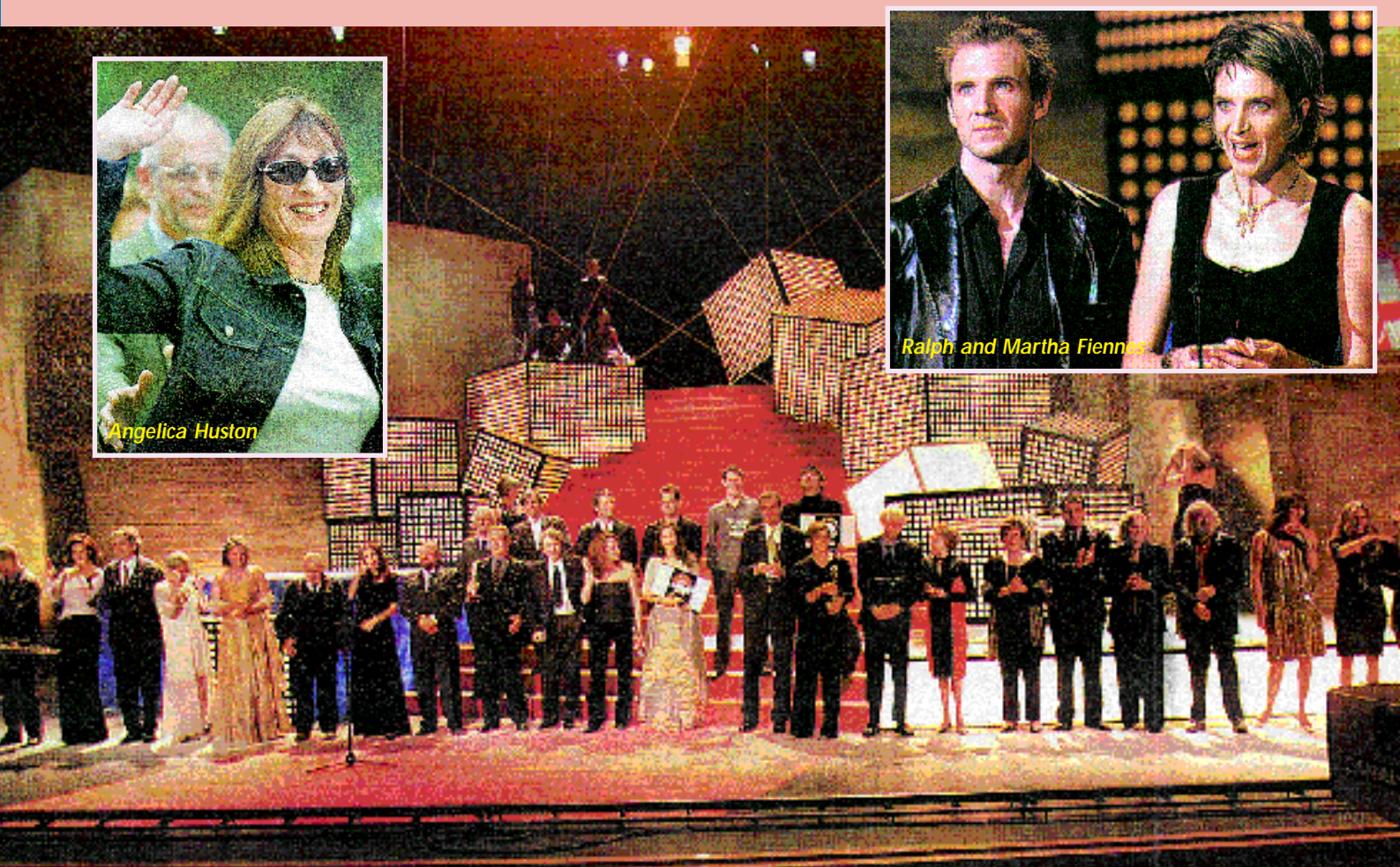
The translation of this novel is part of the project of the Association of Interpreters and Translators of the Basque Country, the publishing house Ibaizabal and the Basque Government, of translating to Euskera 100 oeuvres of universal literature. ■



Angelica Huston



Ralph and Martha Fiennes



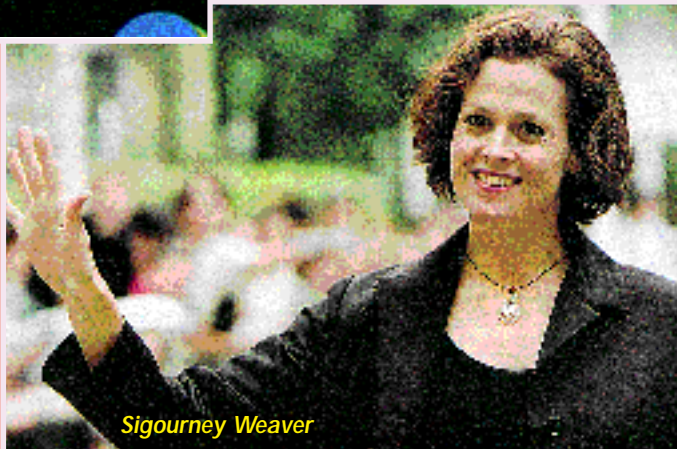
DONOSTI BECAME CINEMA



This year the Donosti Prize was awarded to two great ladies of universal cinema: Angelica Huston and Vanessa Redgrave; and to a splendid Spanish director, actor and scriptwriter: Fernando Fernan Gomez.



Antonio Banderas, Tippi Hedren and Melanie Griffith



Sigourney Weaver

There was a lot of expectation and a certain alarm concerning the new location of the Cinema Festival at the Kursaal Palace. But the agitation proved unfounded and the new Palace was another success to add up to the series of successes harvested by the Festival, which sees every year an increase in public, number of visiting stars, and what is most important, in the quality of the films shown.

Euskadi Prizes for Sports

Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe awarded the '99 Euskadi Prizes for Sports. The Deportivo Alavés (Alavan Football club) received one of them for its evolution since its foundation in 1921. The Prize for Basque values was given to the Hondarribitarran golfer Jose Maria Olazábal and to the Vitorian mountaineer Juanito Oiarzábal, who became last April the sixth man on Earth to have conquered his 14th summit of more than 8 thousand meters high. The Prize to Dedication and Human Values was for the Azkoitiarra marathon runner Diego García and for one of the best climbers in the world, the Lazkaotarra Josune Bereziartu. Finally the Basque Mountain Federation received the Federation Prize. ■



From left to right: Diego García, Juanito Oiarzábal, Paco Iriondo, President of the Basque Mountain Federation, the Lehendakari and Josune Bereziartu.



A Basque lady wins the Giro

Joane Somarriba, from Bizkaia, is the first cyclist of the State to have won the Italy Giro, after suffering real agonies when she was declared by the physicians unfit for sports.

In 1991 she was urgently operated of a disk hernia, so that she could recover in time for the Barcelona Olympic Games. The operation did not work out and on top of being un-

able to take part in the Games, the physicians told her to forget all about cycling forever. Joane fled from the clinic in spite of the doctors' advice and her parents, in order to help her overcome her sadness, bought her a mountain bike, so that she could at least be a cyclist in the weekends. A little by a little this bicycle became a race bicycle, with the support of her parents and her boyfriend, cyclist Gonzalez Arrieta.

Joane Somarriba will remain in Italy for another year as the leader of Alfa Lum. ■

Clemente txuriurdin

Controversial Basque coach Javier Clemente was appointed in November the new coach of the Real Sociedad. Clemente has been a player in the Athletic de Bilbao, and later he coached this same team. Now he will train the Donostiarran team, a fact that has irritated some of the followers of both teams. However, Clemente has managed to gradually get the support of the supporters, especially after the results obtained by the white and blue team after a dreary start of the season. ■



No delays, please!

Juan Ugarte

Man has always lived in fear. Born of nature, he dreads it will finally swallow him again. He knows he is weaker than nature. Therefore, he has always sought salvation from supernatural spheres, he has tried to make alliances to protect him from nature. But to no avail, for the supernatural world, this huge and fascinating mystery, soothes him on one side, but deeply disturbs him on the other. There is no shelter for man to hide from his own fear.

Fear, always hunting man, is sometimes unleashed with special virulence and lack of control. This happens with the change of millenium. It happened near year 1000. It is happening now we approach year 2000.

Then, with a deeply religious culture, man feared the end of the world in apocalyptic terms. All would end in a blood and fire bath, everyone would be devoured by gaping earth and swept by unleashed seas. The trumpet summoned mankind to acknowledge their guilt in the Final Judgement. Amen. The end.

At present, more lay and unbelieving, man does not hear the pounding of the seven riders of the apocalypse, but he waits for the final catastrophe of the **2000 effect**. The same dogs with different collars. Technology instead of religion. Man fears, as he did in the past, the effect of his own incompe-

tence, the consequences of his extreme weakness, the desolation of his absolute loneliness. All the ruffian man has built to feel more secure, is getting out of control in this end of millenium, it is threatening to fall to pieces. Will planes fly that night? Will operation theatres work? Will all bank accounts –hopefully– be mixed up?

But apart from these collective fears that are common to all mankind, each person has his or her own personal and particular anguish. I, for instance, who practically do not use technology – I am writing these lines by hand- have a very personal fear, my own 2000 dread. It is like the return of a recurring nightmare that used to wake me when I was a child. I know from this moment that when dusk starts falling on 31st December, my hands will start to sweat, my heart will beat at breakneck speed and my breath will be uneven, anguished at the thought that whoever is charged of the universal chronology might have forgotten to wind up time and that the third millenium –God forbid!– should be late. Then all mankind would fall, like little puppets, into the abyss of nothingness in this last false step with which we will confidently abandon old 1999 and start trying to reach this new year 2000 with our feet. But God knows for what reason this New Year 2000 may have not come yet. Can you imagine the catastrophe? They will have an extra hour in the Canaries! ■

The century that remains

Javier Guillenea

The moment has come. About thirty years ago, one of the first things I subtracted apart from the compulsory accounts of the classroom, were the years that remained to reach year 2000. That wasn't a very original idea. I suppose millions of people have calculated it some time. The figures would reveal to many of them something they already knew: that they would reach year 2000 with all their ages exhausted. The subtraction told me that I would be too old to get into a spaceship and travel to a colony established in the newly conquered Moon. I thought it would have been better to have been born a little later so as to live my youth at the beginning of the new times.

I admit I was wrong in practically everything. Not in the calculations however, for I repeated them several times so as to be sure. But I was wrong in the rest. At almost forty I am not as old as I thought I would be then and spaceships don't leave Earth everyday to explore the Universe. Some do from time to time, but with no astronauts and they disappear in Mars, with less emotion than I expected then.

The next calculation is that of the remaining years until year 2100. Here I have fewer possibilities of being wrong. I shall be a little under 140 years old.

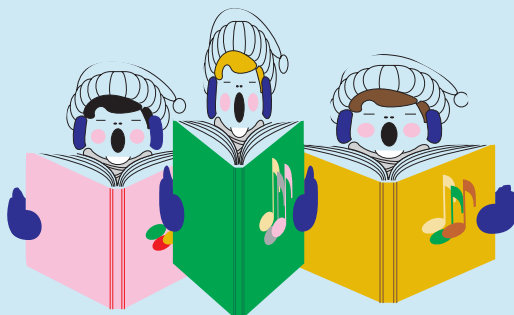
This is a fact I can be sure of and I don't even need my calculator, I must admit I have nearly forgotten how to do more complicated subtractions. I won't even be too old then, so I don't need to worry about the space trips I might be able to do. Maybe man will have trod in Mars by then, but I am not so sure, for I expected that to happen in the 20th century. I only hope space ships won't shake the soil too hard. I will be under there calculating the remaining centuries of my earthen age. ■



G a b o n K a n t a k

Haur eder baten bila

Haur eder baten bila
galbitza zoratzen
ta izarrak esan digu
galdetzeko hemen
Jaungoikoaren herri
maite Jerusalem
esan zaiguzu laister
Jesus non jaio den (bis)



Hator hator

Hator, hator mutil etxera
gaztaina ximelak jatera.
Gabon gaua ospatuzeko
aitaren ta amaren ondoan
ikusiko dek aita barrezka
amaren poza atseginez.

Eragiok mutil aurreko danbolinari
gaztainak erre artian (bis) txipli txapla pun.
Gabon gaua pozik igaro daigun.

Epel-epel gaur sukaldean
aitaren ta amaren ondoan
Jesus haurra jaio dela
alkarren maitasun sutsuan
gaurko gau honen argi biziak
pozten gaitu bihotzean.

Eragiok mutil...

Olentzero

Olentzero joan zaigu mendira lanera
intentzioarekin ikatz egitera
aditu duenean Jesus jaio dela
lasterka etorri da berri ematera.

Horra, horra gure Olentzero
pipa hortzean dula eserita dago
kapoiak ere baitu arraultzatxoekin
bihar meriendatzeko botila ardoakin.

Olentzero guria ezin dugu ase
bakarrik jan dizkigu hamar txerri gazte
saiheski ta solomo makina bat heste
Jesu jaio da eta kontsola zaitzte.

Horra, horra...

Olentzerok dakarzki atsegin ta poza
jakin baitu mendian Jesusen jaiotza
Egun argi honetan alaitu bihotza
kanpo eta barruan kendu azkar hotza.

Horra, horra...

Haurtxo txikia

Haurtxo txikia seaskan dago
zapi txuritan txit bero.
Txakur haundi bat etorriko da
zuk ez badezu egiten lo.

Amonak dio: "Ene, potxolo,
egin agudo lo...lo.
Horregatikan, ene, potxolo,
arren egizu, bai, lo...lo.

Lo...lo...lo

Carta al Olentzero

Dear Olentzero

This year I won't ask you to bring anything for myself, I believe I have everything, even more than I need. This year I am asking you to soothe a pain I have got inside, it has been with me for about four years now and I can't seem to get rid of it. The pain is quite extended and it has something to do with the people I belong to. The vast majority of us are trapped in the dynamics a few inflict upon us. We are tired and we don't know what to do or who to turn to. So, dear Olentzero, I beg you to give us a hand and to send them a sack of coal. Send black coal, as black as their black souls to those who have power

and knowledge and won't use them to reach peace.

Send black coal, as black as their black souls to the politicians who pass their arrogance as tenacity.

Send black coal, as black as their black souls to those who believe that those who think differently are enemies.

Send black coal, as black as their black souls to the artists of manipulation, to the professionals of confusion. Send black coal, as black as their black souls to the tyrants and exploitators.

Send black coal, as black as their black souls to gangsters, false Christians, apostles of white or red violence.

Send black coal, as black as their black souls to those who are indiffer-

ent to other people's suffering, to those who think, as Franco and Hitler did before them, that freedom is not for everybody.

Send black coal, as black as their black souls to those who believe they are in possession of the whole truth, the only truth, their truth.

Let us hope that with all this coal we can make a fire to keep us all warm, and that when the wind blows away the smoke we can "all together" find a way to start walking, each one bringing their possessions. ■

This letter was published in a web page called Basque Diaspora, written by Daniel Bilbao de Santa Rosa - La Pampa

Aniseed doughnuts

A RECIPE BY PEDRO SUBIJANA



INGREDIENTS

5 eggs
175 grs. of sugar
1/2 l. of oil
900 grs. of flour
1 small spoonful of baking powder
1/2 glass of aniseed liquor
Natural aniseeds
Grated lemon peel
Ground sugar, optional

PROCEEDINGS

Mix eggs and sugar in a bowl and add oil. Beat with a wooden spoon and add aromas: the half glass of aniseed liquor, the aniseeds and the grated lemon peel.

Add flour with baking powder and mix carefully until we form uniform dough. Pour a little oil over the table and beat the dough until it is elastic.

Cut the dough in small pieces and roll them into cigar shapes about 20 centimeters long with your hands. Then form the doughnuts.

Fry them in hot oil until they are golden everywhere. They can be sprinkled with ground sugar after they are taken out of the pan. ■